

# *Distinguished Alumni*

AWARDS

*6:30 p.m.*

*Friday, April 5, 2024*

*Lamar University Event Center*

*Mary and John Gray Library*



*Lamar University  
Alma Mater*

**Lamar, to thee we're singing,  
Voices raised on high.**

**We will forever love thee,  
Laud thee to the sky.**

**We will ever need thee  
As our guiding star.**

**To us, you'll always be  
Our glorious Lamar.**

*Gilbert Rhodes Smartt, professor of mathematics  
at Lamar College from 1945 until 1951,  
wrote the words and composed the music  
to the alma mater in 1951  
to celebrate Lamar College becoming a senior college.*

*Lamar University  
Distinguished Alumni Awards  
Friday, April 5, 2024*

Special Recognition.....Juan J. Zabala '07  
*Vice President for University Advancement*

Lamar University Update .....Dr. Jaime R. Taylor  
*President*

***Special Performance by the LU Honors Saxophone Quartet:***  
*Ethan Courts, Joseph Landrum, Cameron Montgomery, and Brody Renshaw  
under the direction of Rick Condit, Professor of Music and  
Director of the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra*

***Presentation of 2024 Distinguished Alumni Awards***

Dr. Charles E. Breithaupt '75, '79 ..... Dr. Alberto Ruiz  
*Dean, College of Education and Human Development*

Dr. Stephen C. Head '73, '75 ..... Dr. Dann Brown  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Carmen (Angelle) Jordan '90 ..... Juan J. Zabala '07  
*Vice President for University Advancement*

Edwin E. Vallery '79 ..... Dr. Freddie Titus '83, '86  
*Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Community Relations*

Closing Remarks .....Shannon (Copeland) Figueroa '02, '03, '07  
*Director of Alumni Affairs*

Alma Mater..... Faith Singh  
*Voice of Lamar Scholar*



## *Dr. Charles E. Breithaupt*

Charles E. Breithaupt currently holds the position of executive director at the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) and is also an associate vice president at the University of Texas at Austin. In this dual role, he leads the largest governing body in the nation for interscholastic academic, athletic, and music competitions, overseeing education-based competitions for nearly 5,300 elementary and secondary schools in Texas.

A graduate of Buna High School in 1972, Breithaupt earned his Bachelor of Science in 1975 and Master of Science in 1979, both in Health and Physical Education from Lamar University. He later achieved his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. With a career spanning 48 years in public education,

Breithaupt served as a teacher, coach, director of athletics, and principal in Southeast Texas before his appointment as the executive director.

Under Breithaupt's leadership, significant changes and additions have been made to UIL programs, including the implementation of a six-conference alignment, centralized football championships, and the introduction of various new activities such as student congress, essay competitions, film festival, robotics, mariachi, military marching championships, the Game Day state spirit championships, and water polo. He has prioritized student safety by initiating the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, consisting of medical professionals across the state, to develop protocols safeguarding student participants.

Breithaupt's contributions to high school activities have been recognized through inductions into various halls of fame, including the Texas Basketball Hall of Fame, Texas High School Football Hall of Fame, Texas High School Coaches Hall of Honor, Texas High School Athletic Directors Association (THASDA) Hall of Fame, Southeast Texas Coaches Hall of Honor, and the City of Palms Classic Hall of Fame. He was also named one of the top 100 coaches from the past 100 years for the 100th anniversary of Texas high school basketball.

Acknowledged for his service, Breithaupt has received awards from the National Football Foundation, Texas High School Athletic Directors Association, and Varsity Brands. He has received the State Award of Merit from the Texas Girls Coaches Association and the NIAAA/THSADA Award of Merit. Additionally, he has been a two-time recipient of the NIAAA Citation Award by the THSADA and has received two Lone Star Emmy Awards as executive producer of the Fox Southwest High School Spotlight Show.

Breithaupt serves on the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation (TILF) Board of Directors, contributing to the growth of scholarships for UIL academic state meet participants attending colleges or universities in Texas. Under his tenure, the TILF endowment has increased from \$8 million to over \$22 million.

Apart from his career in education, Breithaupt is the author of five books focused on significant events in Southeast Texas. He also holds the position of visiting professor at Texas A&M University.

Breithaupt and his wife, Debbie, residents of Georgetown, Texas, are actively involved at First Baptist Church. They have one daughter Deah, who is married to attorney James Twine, and they have two granddaughters, Reagan and Bristol.



## *Dr. Stephen C. Head*

Stephen C. Head served as the fourth chancellor of Lone Star College (LSC) from 2014-2023 and retired after 39 years of service. He served as president at three different campuses, executive vice chancellor, and taught undergraduate and graduate classes. Head served on numerous local, regional, state, and national boards and organizations during his career. He most recently served on the State of Texas Community College Finance Commission, which developed a new financial model for community colleges. Upon his retirement in July 2023, he was named chancellor emeritus by the Board of Trustees.

Located in the north Houston metropolitan area, LSC is one of the largest and most prominent community colleges in the nation. The college enrolls over 85,000 students each semester, employs over 6,000 individuals, and has an annual budget exceeding \$500 million. The college features seven comprehensive campuses, an online campus, two university centers, and 10 community-based centers providing academic and workforce programs. Under Head's leadership, LSC became a recognized leader in higher education that offers quality educational opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.

Head attended Lamar University from 1970-1975 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 and Master of Arts in 1975, both in History. He received a fellowship to attend Texas Tech University due to the efforts of his department chair at Lamar University, and subsequently earned a Ph.D. in History. Head attributes his successful academic and professional career to the preparation and experiences at Lamar University, and especially the encouragement and rigorous expectations of the faculty and staff. At Lamar University, he learned the value of reading, writing and critical thinking that shaped his own professional and personal life in a positive manner. In his various roles at Lone Star College, he successfully pursued a partnership with Lamar University so that more students could pursue a quality education close to home.

As chancellor of LSC, Head focused on student access, equality, success, and completion. Academic quality, workforce programs in alignment with community needs, and collaborative agreements with educational, business, civic and charitable organizations were also a focal point for Head. He viewed the college as a critical contributor to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the community.

Head remains active in several local, state, and national organizations that support the community college mission. He resides in The Woodlands, Texas with his wife Linda who continues to work at Lone Star College. The couple has four successful children, and four grandchildren.



## *Carmen (Angelle) Jordan*

Carmen (Angelle) Jordan graduated with a Bachelor in Business Administration in Finance from Lamar University in 1990, and she is a 1987 graduate of Nederland High School in Nederland, Texas.

Jordan joined Origin Bank as executive vice president in 2018, and currently serves as regional president for the greater Houston area. She ensures the highest level of credit quality for all segments (including commercial and industrial, energy, real estate, and private banking), while balancing growth with the appropriate level of risk. Since her time at Origin Bank, the Houston market has quadrupled loans and doubled deposits

while improving overall credit performance and profitability. Her areas of expertise include merger and acquisition finance and energy service lending. Jordan also serves on Origin's corporate loan committee covering Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Under her leadership, Origin Bank was awarded the Top 100 Places to Work in 2022 and 2023 by the Houston Chronicle and was recognized as the 2022 recipient of the Values Award.

Prior to Origin Bank, Jordan served as Houston market president of IBERIABANK. As market president, Jordan guided Iberia's loan growth in Houston from \$400 million to \$1.4 billion in five years while successfully navigating the bank through one of the most difficult energy downturns in history.

As chief lending officer of Encore Bancshares from 2009 - 2012, she achieved significant growth while also contributing to improving the credit quality of the bank and its regulatory rating, resulting in a stock price appreciation of over 300% in three years.

Jordan is a nationally recognized leader in banking. She was twice named as American Banker Magazine's Top 50 Women in Banking in the US. She has also received numerous awards for her achievements in diversity, including the Most Powerful and Influential Women in Texas by the National Diversity Council, as well as the Top 15 Business Women of Houston by the National Women's Council. In April 2024, Jordan will be inducted into the Texas Bankers Hall of Fame.

Jordan is actively engaged with Lamar University, where she has served as past chair of the advisory board of the College of Business, the Lamar University Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees, is a member of the President's Circle, and has established a scholarship benefitting first-year students.

Jordan currently serves on the board of Nativity Academy, which is a non-tuition based Christian school in Houston serving low-income students. Previous non-profit involvement includes the Executive Women's Partnership, Fort Bend County Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Holocaust Museum Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Houston City Club.

Jordan lives in Sugar Land with her long-time boyfriend, Donni Leaycraft, and has two daughters, Kelsey and Kendall.



## *Edwin E. Vallery*

Edwin E. Vallery began at Lamar University as a freshman in the fall of 1975. In 1979, he graduated from the College of Business with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. His student activities included membership in the Finance Association, Morris Hall Dorm Council, and Black Students Alliance where he served as vice president from 1976 - 1977.

After graduating, Vallery worked for Shell Oil and its affiliated companies in various accounting and finance roles. During his employment, he served as Shell's representative on the Houston Minority

Business Council. He enjoyed an outstanding 40-year career at Shell Oil Company.

In Fall 2019, after completing his last assignment with Shell, Vallery contacted the Lamar University Development Office wanting to establish a tuition assistance scholarship in the College of Business. In 2020, he added College of Business scholarships for book assistance, to accompany the tuition scholarships. Then, in spring of 2021 and spring of 2022, his philanthropy expanded to awarding scholarships to students in three campus organizations: the National Association of Black Accountants, the Collegiate 100, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Currently, nine students from the three organizations benefit from the Edwin E. Vallery Scholarships. However, his involvement goes beyond financial support. Edwin has developed a strong relationship with the students. He regularly meets, mentors, and conducts workshops with the students.

"I feel it is important to engage with the students, so we can share ideas and they can envision success. Many of the scholarship recipients have stated, in some form, they aspire to one day give back by helping others and their community," Vallery said. "That is fuel and inspiration for me to keep the engine of my philanthropic program running - full steam ahead."

Vallery is a member of the Lamar University Legacy Society, the President's Circle, and the Black Alumni Network. Vallery is also an active member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Houston's Sunnyside community. Along with his worship, he served as the parish bookkeeper. Currently, he is the accountant at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Houston's historic Fifth Ward. "For many years I have enjoyed working and worshipping at S.S.J. Parishes (The Society of St. Joseph)," Vallery said.

He currently resides in Missouri City, Texas, and is the son of Joseph Melvin Vallery, Sr. and Odelia Lazard Vallery.

## *Past Recipients*

Gilbert T. Adams, Sr.  
Patricia A. Adams  
Mike Aldredge  
John E. Alexander  
Shannon (Pier) Allen  
Orlando A. Alvarez  
Christopher L. Bates  
Larry Beaulieu  
David J. Beck  
Hester Briscoe Bell  
James E. Bell, Jr.  
Norman J. Bellard  
David E. Bernsen  
E. Randolph "Randy" Best  
J. Angela Blanchard  
Brent W. Bost  
Merlin P. Breaux  
Jack B. Brooks  
Keith D. Carter  
Gilbert A. Castro  
Tamerla D. Chavis  
William "Bill" C. Childs  
Rena F. Clark  
Sandra French Clark  
M. Herring Coe  
C. W. Conn  
Yolanda Lee Conyers  
Clara Brown Cooper  
Carolyn Honea Crawford  
Charles R. Cutler  
Will D. Davis  
M. Bonner Denton  
Joseph D. Deshotel  
George A. Dishman, Jr.  
Joseph F. Domino  
Phillip M. Drayer  
Myrna (Pirnack) Dunnam  
Vernon G. Durden  
Byron F. Dyer, Jr.  
Grace Davis England  
Wilford Flowers  
Mary Jo Lampson Ford  
Paul D. Fregia  
Charles L. Garrett  
Anthony D. George  
Keith F. Gibling  
Jack M. Gill  
Jim Gilligan  
H. Stephen Grace, Jr.  
John E. Gray  
Mary Honea Gray  
Andrew Green  
Carl R. Griffith, Jr.  
Dan S. Hallmark  
Ann Die Hasselmo  
Marvin E. Hayes  
George J. Hirasaki  
Madelyn Davis Hunt  
Robert "Bob" S. Jones  
Sarah Pickens Joseph  
M. Celeste Kitchen  
Nicholas V. Lampson  
Bob Q. Lanier  
Larry W. Lawson  
Alvin L. LeBlanc  
W. S. "Bud" Leonard  
Joan A. LeTulle  
John H. Long  
Allen J. Louviere  
Don M. Lyle  
William "Bill" F. Macatee  
Debra S. Maffett  
Becky Dickson Mason  
Charles "Chuck" E. Mason, Jr.  
Elvis L. Mason  
Douglas W. Matthews  
Susan Conn McCurry  
Robert "Bob" L. McDill  
Frank G. Messina  
William "Bill" B. Mitchell  
Jack W. Moncrief  
Ray M. Moore  
Stephen "Steve" F. Moore  
Glen W. Morgan  
Dewey F. Mosby  
Sina K. Nejad  
Larry D. Norwood  
Thomas H. Odiorne  
Paula Tate O'Neal  
J. Pat Parsons  
Roosevelt Petry, Jr.  
J. Pike Powers, Jr.  
Don Pumphrey  
Jorge Quijano  
Charles C. Ramsey  
Wayne A. Reaud  
Jerry Reese III  
Anita L. Riddle  
Ellen Walker Rienstra  
Clarence L. Ross, Jr.  
Lawrence L. Schkade  
Charles L. Schmucker  
William "Bill" F. Scott  
Don S. Shaver  
Elaine Norman Shellenberger  
Mary Frances Sherlock  
J. "Bart" Simmons  
Hyattye O. Simmons  
Susan Williams Simmons  
James P. Singletary  
Dan F. Smith  
Michele Yennie Smith  
Bette A. Stead  
Robert A. Swerdlow  
Joseph V. Tortorice, Jr.  
Billy D. Tubbs  
Fred R. Vernon II  
Homer L. Walles  
J. Donald Warren, Jr.  
William "Pat" P. Weber  
Julie M. Wenah  
Milton S. Wing  
Robert "Bob" J. Wortham  
F. Randolph Yost

