Greetings Alumni, Students, Colleagues and Friends!

The past academic year has been exciting. A major accomplishment within the college was the completion of our strategic plan, the first strategic plan of this college. We now have a roadmap in terms of key core values and strategies to implement them. The core values identified and agreed upon by faculty, staff and students are diversity and multicultural competence, innovation, economic development, quality, success and equity. This year we began the implementation stage of the strategic plan. Even before we started the strategic plan, our faculty and staff also accomplished the creation of new curriculum. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences created a M.S. in Nutrition and our Department of Health and Kinesiology created a Master’s in Public Health. Other new programs are a M.Ed. in Special Education with a Concentration in Educational Diagnostician through the Department of Teacher Education, alongside a stand-alone Certificate in Educational Diagnostician. The Department of Counseling revised the M.Ed. in Counseling and Development to align with state licensure with a concentration in Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling. The School Counseling Concentration now provides the coursework requirements so that candidates can be eligible for both School Counseling Certification and Licensed Professional Counselor. Our leadership team has undergone a significant transformation. Our new associate dean is Rebecca Weinbaum. She will be working with our faculty members to enhance and promote scholarship portfolios. She leads the implementation of educational programing of the strategic plan and is working to develop interdisciplinary scholarship and educational programs. Our new department chairs are Jill Killough of Family Consumer Sciences, Dan Chilek of Health and Kinesiology and Diane Mason of Educational Leadership. Debra Troxclair serves as interim chair of Teacher Education and Wendy Greenidge serves as interim chair of Counseling.

Lastly, 2019 represents the 60th anniversary of the formation of the College of Education. 1989 represents the year that our college was established as the College of Education and Human Development. We will celebrate by honoring alumni, former and current faculty and staff.

Our mission is the foundation of everything we do. More than a simple tagline, we aim high to inspire, innovate and impact our students, our region, our state, and beyond.

As always, it is a great time to be at Lamar University!

Go Cardinals,

Robert J. Spina, Ph.D., FACSM
WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THIS POSITION?
As department chair over the last two years, I learned about the workings of a department. I wanted to broaden my perspective from one department to five departments working together. I am really inspired by the direction the college is taking over the last few years—in particular, our 2018 College Strategic Plan and the dean’s overall vision for the direction of the college. Our college faculty, staff, students and stakeholders came together from all departments to build this plan and there was an incredible synergy amongst us. Something that really excited me was the concept of interdisciplinary involvement—bringing in ideas from various departments, sharing knowledge and working together. As it turned out, this work confirmed that the role of associate dean would be a good fit. I would now have an opportunity to be a part of implementing a strategic plan and other exciting initiatives for economic development in the community. Today, I actually can say “I love this job.”

IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE COLLEGE?
I have always said as chair of the Department of Counseling, our greatest strength is the dedication and talent of our faculty and students. The faculty in our college are amazing and passionate about teaching. Over the last month as associate dean, this awareness has moved to a higher level. Graduation is a reflection of our strength. When I see students walk across the stage, I experience a sense of gratitude that we have the best faculty and amazing, dedicated students. I imagine I will continue to shed a tear or two at graduation.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR ROLE AS ASSOCIATE DEAN?
As a result of our strategic planning, we as a college learned that our educational programs can no longer work in silos. Our college is comprised both of education and human development programs. Our new initiatives range from nutrition to public health, mental health, educational diagnostician and teaching. It is challenging to identify pathways to bring a more holistic and integrated model to education and create a culture of collaboration, which can expand to K-12 schools.

Nationwide, educational programs are in jeopardy on every level, from grade school to college. To complicate matters, after decades, educators are still struggling to bridge the achievement gaps evident in Texas schools.

WHAT ARE SOME GOALS YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR NEW ROLE?
My number one goal is to begin the implementation of our new strategic plan. Secondly, in my experiences as a play therapist, I believe in the old saying that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” I hope to implement preventive programs to serve LU and the community. The Department of Counseling just received a $1.9-million grant providing funding through the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program for creating prevention crisis teams in schools.

As associate dean, I want to work closely with faculty toward other funding opportunities such as mentoring programs, peer support, mental health initiatives, and other creative activities. I love the direction our university is taking with technology and creating affordable and accessible learning opportunities.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the faculty and students in this role.
The College of Education and Human Development’s strategic plan process is now complete. A committee was formed in fall 2017 consisting of faculty, staff and students from within the college. The committee met as a collective group five times and each committee member was assigned to a task force, identifying opportunities and advancing recommendations to the overall committee. The committee was charged with the development of a comprehensive plan, including a new mission statement.

Our Mission

The College of Education and Human Development at Lamar University generates a community of collaboration through innovative curricula, scholarship and service learning to inspire our diverse student population and to positively impact their lives and others in Southeast Texas and beyond.

Strategic Plan

A mind that is committed to living our mission through our

5 Founded Values

- Diversity and Multicultural Competence
- Equity
- Innovation
- Community and Economic Development
- Quality
NEW LEADERSHIP:
INTERIM DEPARTMENT CHAIR
WENDY GREENIDGE

Wendy Greenidge, interim department chair and associate professor in the Department of Counseling has more than 15 years of experience in the field of mental health counseling. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and holds several certifications in many subfields of counseling.

Greenidge is a Fulbright Scholar alumna with a strong interest in establishing and improving international mental health programs. Her research interests primarily focus on increasing utilization of professional counseling services through culturally appropriate interventions. More specifically, her work examines the psycho-cultural correlates of help-seeking in international populations and develops strategies for reducing the barriers to this assistance.

SHANNON WILLIAMS

Shannon Williams, assistant professor and new faculty member in the Department of Counseling, recently traveled to Vienna, Austria, where she attended the Mixed Methods International Research Association’s 2018 Conference.

At the conference, Williams received the MMIRA MAXQDA Dissertation Award for her dissertation titled “Select Conservative Christian Parents’ Experiences Following a Child’s Lesbigay Identity Disclosure: A Mixed Methods Hermeneutic Phenomenological Study.” This award recognizes beginning scholars whose dissertations have made outstanding contributions to the field of mixed methods research.

From among 14 nominees from countries around the world, Williams was chosen to receive the top honor for her study.

MOHAMMAD HAMZA

Professor Mohammad Hamza, who joined LU in 2003, won the prestigious Distinguished Faculty Research/Creative Activity Fellowship award. According to the Office of the Provost, the award purpose is to “recognize, reward and support faculty who have demonstrated outstanding performance in research/creative activity across an academic career.” This is the first time a faculty member from the Department of Counseling in the College of Education and Human Development has won this award.

His research topic focuses on Human Devastation Syndrome, a psychiatric disorder he coined in 2016 after his intensive work with Syrian refugees who fled genocide and devastation since 2011 and now are displaced all over the Middle East, Europe, Canada and the US. International and national media focused on HDS and the Syrian tragedy. They interviewed Hamza to know more about it. Hamza is a Syrian American professor of clinical mental health in the Department of Counseling, and a clinical and forensic neuropsychologist. In May 2018, he was invited as the keynote speaker by the SAMH Mental Health International Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, which was attended by over 2000 mental health professionals from all over the world to speak about trauma, genocide, PTSD and HDS.

He is a proud member of the Department of Counseling, loves Lamar University and was able to recruit more than seven top students to attend LU instead of other flagship or ivy league universities. All seven students are now finishing in the Reaud Honor’s College — three of which have been admitted to medical schools and one into a law school. Hamza believes Lamar University is a hidden secret with a beautiful community and outstanding faculty with hearts of gold.

ROBIKA MODAK MYLROIE

Robika Modak Mylroie, distance clinical professor, published an article in Counseling Today: Understanding the Connection between Nutrition and Mental Health along with Rachael Whitaker, University of Houston. Mylroie received a grant from the Association of Creativity in Counseling for a pilot study about school counselor advocacy for mental health-nutrition connection in schools. She will attend the ACC conference and present roundtables for this and with colleagues. Finally, she is one of the authors in the recently accepted article about social presence for the Journal of Human Services.

As a distance professor, Mylroie lives in Mississippi, where she previously worked in a clinical setting before becoming a middle school counselor. She has worked as an adjunct professor for LU as well as the lead field supervisor. After several years in this role, she served as a lecturer at Mississippi State University for three years before beginning full time with Lamar University with her current research involving childhood weight’s impact on children and the connection among nutrition, physical and emotional wellness.
The Department of Counseling has been awarded a federal grant by the Department of Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant program, IMPaCT, Integrative Mentoring Partnerships and Care Teams, was initiated in fall 2017 and the first cohort began working as IMPaCT interns in Spring 2018. We began with 26 students who lived throughout the state of Texas, including Beaumont and the surrounding areas, such as Houston, Killeen, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and El Paso. The interns have provided mental health services to youth of various ages through mentorships, psychoeducational groups and after-school programs. IMPaCT interns also have extended their work by working with youth in Hurricane Harvey affected areas, addressing their psychosocial needs due to the devastation caused by the storm. In addition, as the interns provide services to their communities, the program allows counseling students an opportunity to earn a $10,000 stipend as they take a collaborative approach to mental health for youth in the school and community. IMPaCT student interns focus on an integrated approach, create interdisciplinary teams, actively participate in peer mentoring and network within their community to explore additional behavioral health resources to address the unique needs of the youth at their school site.

Bill Holmes
Professor Emeritus

Bill Holmes started teaching at Lamar University in 1977 as an adjunct professor. In September 1990, he became a full-time professor in the Department of Counseling and enjoyed teaching tremendously until he became associate dean in 2007. Since retirement in 2017, Holmes was awarded the status of professor emeritus in May 2018.

Pauline Hargrove
Superintendent

Pauline Hargrove is the superintendent of Little Cypress-Mauriceville Consolidated Independent School District and an outstanding educator. Her experience spans 44 years as a public school educator, all in the same school district. Her tenure in the district is a testament to her love of children and the communities that she has served.

Hargrove was a cheerleader for the Lamar University Cardinals while she was completing her bachelor of science degree in elementary education. Upon graduation, she began her teaching career in LC-M CISD where she taught for 12 years before being promoted to the principal position at Mauriceville Elementary School. This principal experience was followed with appointments to the principalship at Little Cypress Elementary and later, LC-M High School.

Hargrove was appointed to the position of superintendent of schools for LC-M CISD in 2000 and has continued to serve as the superintendent throughout the past 18 years. Her involvement with LU has been constant during her 44 year career as she continued her education by receiving her superintendent certificate and her doctorate in education at Lamar University. She has also served on the advisory committee for the College of Education and Human Development for many years.

Among her numerous honors and accomplishments are Region 5 Superintendent of the Year in 2006 and Lamar University Hall of Fame inductee the same year. In 2002, Hargrove was an Olympic Torch Bearer and with this honor she shared the experience with all students in her school district by taking the torch to each campus and allowing students to hold it and discuss the principles of the Olympic Games. Even with an individual honor she found a way to make it a great learning experience for students. When asked, “What do you believe were your greatest accomplishments during your career?” she simply replied,

“I am most proud of the accomplishments of our students. It is a great feeling to witness the growth of students and know that you played a role in their current achievement and future success. It is also a great sense of accomplishment to follow the career of administrators who have served in the district that have become successful superintendents in other districts. Individual success should always be measured by the success of others.”

Hargrove will retire in December 2018 and looks forward to a less hectic schedule while having the opportunity to continue helping others. She is a product of the Lamar University’s College of Education and Human Development and we wish her well in her upcoming retirement.
Jeremy Thompson, a LU Educational Leadership graduate in 2017, received the Edgar L. Morphet Dissertation of the Year award from the International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership. His dissertation focused on determining the efficiency of Texas public school districts and the factors influencing the inefficiency of districts. In his study, school district efficiency was found to be significantly and positively affected by a district’s total student enrollment and total expenditures for instruction per student, and negatively influenced by the percentages of non-white and economically disadvantaged students as well as the percentage of teachers with master’s degrees. The results of this study have implications for policymakers, educational professionals and taxpayers.

Thompson is currently serving in his 14th year as the superintendent of Era Independent School District and has worked in public education for 23 years. Thompson also currently serves as an adjunct professor in the educational leadership and policy studies department at the University of Texas at Arlington. He has been highly involved in educational and humanitarian mission efforts in South Sudan in East Africa over the past several years.

Two Lamar University doctoral graduates, Barbara Ybarra and Christine Haynes with their dissertation chair, Kaye Shelton, presented their dissertation research studies in April 2018 at the annual meeting of the nationally recognized American Educational Research Association in New York City. This was a significant accomplishment as the AERA conference received more than 13,000 submissions this year and to be among the accepted papers is extraordinary.

In addition, Haynes’ paper, “Evaluating School Readiness for Learning in a Digital Age: Digital Learning Implementation Framework for Education,” was one of the highest rated proposals this year in the special interest group on the topic of technology as an agent of change in teaching and learning.

Haynes is an acting assistant principal/digital learning leader for a school in Adelaide, Australia. Ybarra is an associate superintendent of teaching and learning for Bryan Independent School District. Shelton is a professor of educational leadership in the Center for Doctoral Studies at Lamar University.

Digital Learning and Leading M.Ed. Professors Present in Canada

Each year there is an official theme and a key question or challenge that is posed at the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning annual conference. Cynthia Cummings, assistant professor, Tilisa Thibodeaux, assistant professor and Dwayne Harapnuik, clinical instructor, have been exploring ePortfolios and the learning environment for the past three years. In their ongoing research, they have found that if you focus on creating significant learning environments in which you give learners choice, ownership and voice through authentic learning opportunities people will continue to use their ePortfolios beyond the program of study. At the 2017 Annual AAEEBL conference in Portland, Cummings, Thibodeaux and Harapnuik presented their research on how the CSLE+COVA framework can be used to not only successfully increase ePortfolio persistence, but to serve as the foundational theoretical framework for the Masters of Education in Digital Learning and leading at Lamar University. The framework has also become part of the Reaud Honor’s College ePortfolio initiative.

In July 2018 at the Annual AAEEBL Conference at Capilano University in British Columbia, Canada, Cummings, Thibodeaux and Harapnuik presented their research on the CSLE+COVA framework addressing the conference challenge of getting students to engage in reflective practice. Their presentation focused on how a simple change in focus is all that is needed to shift the learning environment emphasis from content delivery, information retrieval and information regurgitation to authentic learning opportunities that offer a genuine context for learning.

When you create a significant learning environment in which you give your learners choice, ownership and voice through authentic learning opportunities getting students to authentically reflect on their learning experience is no longer challenging, it is simply part of the CSLE+COVA process. When learners work on authentic learning opportunities they are given the opportunity to not only find but develop their voice, reflective practice happens automatically. Authentic learning opportunities lead to authentic and reflective practice because it is much easier for the learner to reflect on something that is genuinely meaningful than it is to reflect on a work project or simulation. The presentation was well received and several individuals reached out to Harapnuik to explore these ideas further.

Additionally, Thibodeaux and Harapnuik continued their co-leadership of the AAEEBL pedagogies and practices special interest group and met with individuals representing institutions across the world who agreed to a more specific focus for the SIG of building the international network and sharing best practices. Thibodeaux and Harapnuik will be coordinating these efforts and reporting their progress at the AAEEBL conference in 2019.
The statistics surrounding the teacher shortage in both statewide and nationally highlight an issue that is supported by literature regarding the deficiency college and university faculty and administration encounter while attempting to attract students to teaching positions in STEM related fields. Brett Welch, doctoral program director and associate professor, Neil Faulk, assistant professor, and Mamta Singh, associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education were awarded a Mason STEM grant in the amount of $12,000 that will be used to assist in the recruitment of non-education STEM students into STEM-related teaching disciplines.

As a result of this grant’s support, three workshops will be held for non-education STEM majors at Lamar University. These workshops are intended to serve as a means for reaching out to a population who may not be aware of the STEM-related opportunities available to them in the field of education. While still maintaining the long term goal of holding a career in a STEM profession, attendees will be exposed to alternate career opportunities.

Earl Parcel, principal at Martin Walker Elementary in Copperas Cove Independent School District, has earned the E. Jane Irons Outstanding Dissertation Award, established in 2011 as a way to honor the life and service of Jane Irons on the occasion of her retirement. Irons was one of the original faculty members in the Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Lamar University providing outstanding service and direction through mentoring numerous faculty and students’ research, writing, committing to excellence in her work and the work of her students as well as embodying the principles of educational leadership. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding doctoral dissertations in the field of educational leadership, in both P-12 and post-secondary levels, that contribute to the field and expand the knowledge of the profession. The title of his dissertation was, “Examining K-12 Teachers’ Acceptance of Learning Management Systems,” with J. Kenneth Young, associate professor, served as his dissertation chair.

In February 2017, J. Kenneth Young, associate professor, completed his tenure on the executive board of the Southwest Educational Research Association and later that same year was named to the executive board for the International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership. Established in 1947, the council is the oldest organization in the United States representing professors of educational leadership, and is committed to serving the interests and needs of professors of educational leadership and practicing school leaders. Council members have opportunities for professional growth and development through several publications and conferences sponsored by the organization. Young will serve as a board member until 2021.

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New Leadership

New Opportunities

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Jill Killough, has recently accepted the role of department chair. Killough has a productive history at LU and brings energy and enthusiasm to the position.

Killough, a registered and licensed dietitian, started her career at LU in 1999 as the Dietetic Internship Program clinical instructor. In 2008, she became the program director of LU’s Dietetic Internship. In this role, she provided an environment conducive to learning in highly-specialized rotation experiences through networking with practitioners in the dietetics and medical communities. Killough effectively aligned the program mission, goals, and objectives with that of the department and university. She has coordinated multiple education activities, including directing the progress of interns in supervised practice, facilitating program public relations and recruitment efforts, serving as academic advisor to interns, implementing ongoing assessment procedures, and monitoring completion of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics requirements to maintain accreditation status.

In addition to her strong administrative skills in the internship program, Killough has served on numerous university committees. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Nutrition and Services for Seniors, and is on the Christus St. Elizabeth Diabetes Education Advisory Committee. She is published in the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences and the National Social Science Journal. She also has made numerous peer-reviewed presentations at the national and state levels at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

As a part of her vision serving the department in her new role, Killough is dedicated to student recruitment and retention, leading the faculty in program accreditation and continued program improvement and building strong community partnerships.

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

The department welcomes Mildred Piert as academic coordinator. The new position, developed by Tammy Henderson, professor, is designed to provide support to a complex, interdisciplinary department, ensure excellence in student engagement and provide assistance in the areas of recruitment, retention and matriculation.

After earning an associate degree from Lamar Institute of Technology, she was hired by LU as student records assistant senior. Five years later, Piert was promoted to graduation coordinator for undergraduate students. Being the FCS academic coordinator allows her to work closely with students in a variety of ways including welcoming new students to the department, assisting them with self-registration, schedule changes and establishing the groundwork as faculty members provide quality academic and career counseling.

EXTENDING INFLUENCE OF LU STUDENTS ACROSS TEXAS

The thesis projects of two graduate students in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences were selected by peer-review to be presented as poster sessions at the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Conference and Exhibition:


HITTING THE MARK: ON-TARGET TEACHING

In August, 2018, Eunjin Kwon, assistant professor, was recognized as one of only three Lamar University faculty members to earn the Teaching Today’s Student Certificate over the 2017-2018 academic year.

Kwon attended ten training sessions offered through the Provost’s Kick-Off, Lamar Lunch and Learn and the LU STEM Teaching and Learning Conference. Recipients of the certificate culminated their training with the completion of a capstone project requiring the faculty member to design, or redesign, a course using the outcome-based course design skills learned in the certificate program. Kwon is excited about the course she redesigned and taught in the Fall, 2018 semester: Hospitality Industry Marketing.

As a junior faculty member, Kwon found the training helpful and appreciated the learning opportunity, stating it supports the faculty member in being more confident in the classroom. Kwon finds teaching to be very rewarding and enjoys helping students excel in the classroom, in research settings and in the workforce.
The initiation ceremony of the Kappa Beta Theta Chapter of Kappa Omicron Nu was held March 27, 2018 to welcome 12 Family and Consumer Sciences students as new members. The national honor society, is dedicated to identifying and encouraging student excellence in scholarship, research, and leadership. Faculty advisors of the organization include Shows, Ruiz and Janice Kimmons, associate professor. Graduate students Adetokunbo Olaotan Adedokum, Emily Cardwell, Emlyn Ngiratmab and Mercedes Overton were honored as new members. The following eight undergraduates also were recognized as new initiates: Israa Altimawi, Rachel Asteris, Lauren Camacho, Jenora Haynes, Shay Mitchell, Haruka Noguchi, Ron Nguyen and D’Arrion Young.

New initiates were eligible for the Kappa Beta Theta Chapter Scholar Award and scholarship which was presented to Ola Adedokum. The keynote speaker of the ceremony was Lori Moody, an inspirational speaker and teacher, who holds a Master’s in Family and Consumer Sciences from LU and an advanced certificate in Women’s Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In her presentation, Moody encouraged initiates to be lifelong learners and credible leaders, and to leave a positive legacy so they live intentional lives to enrich themselves and impact others.

In 2016, under the impetus of Amy Shows, professor, and Jill Killough, department chair, a new Master of Science degree in nutrition was proposed as an online program. This proposal is now a reality as the 36-hour, fully online program was approved by the Texas Coordinating Board in May 2018. Shows serves as the program director as the degree is designed to meet the expanding needs for higher education in the nutrition field, bridging the gaps between formal education and professional practice as it prepares the program graduate to be a powerful part of the solution to numerous nutrition challenges.

The courses, developed by Shows, Killough, Connie Ruiz, associate professor, and Jau-Jiin Chen, professor, reflect evidence-based nutrition guidelines and have a community nutrition focus. The program is designed to enrich knowledge and skills of future nutritionists, dietitians and other professionals in nutrition practice, thus enhancing the ability of health care practitioners to provide an integrated and cohesive approach to meeting the needs of clients.

The program offers two tracks: a general nutrition track and a dietetic internship track. Courses include nutrition education and counseling; complementary and alternative nutrition therapies; nutrition in pregnancy and infancy; nutrition in aging; food, culture and health; weight management; eating disorders; sports nutrition; nutrition research; the energy nutrients; vitamins and minerals; and a nutrition capstone. Applicants who hold a bachelor’s degree in nutrition or dietetics have no leveling courses while those with undergraduate degrees from other areas may be required to take up to 24 hours of leveling courses, which also can be obtained online. The dietetic internship route is limited to those graduate students matched into Lamar University’s nationally accredited Dietetic Internship Program.

Jennifer Kay received her B.S. degree from LU in 2014, completed LU’s Dietetic Internship Program in 2015 and graduated with her master’s degree in 2016. In June 2018, Kay was named the Preceptor-of-the-Year by the dietetic interns. Each year, students in this program experience numerous rotations as they are provided hands-on instruction by practitioners in areas including clinical dietetics, community nutrition, nutrition education and counseling and food service administration. The local award is given annually to the individual identified by the interns as providing an excellent experience and being an outstanding mentor. Kay is a Registered Dietitian with CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Bariatric Center.

In accepting the award, Kay stated the preceptor experience is exciting and rewarding. It has given her the opportunity to “give back” to the university. She describes the internship as a fantastic program that provided her the best quality education possible. Kay was surprised, honored and humbled by the award. She sees the role of preceptor as a “win-win” situation and encourages other practitioners in the area to consider getting involved in this role.
Imagine a mother and daughter graduating on the exact same day with the exact same degree – this is exactly what happened to Melissa McMillan and daughter Lauren McMillan. On December 16, 2017, the two received their bachelors degrees in Family Studies at the College of Education and Human Development commencement ceremony.

Their is truly an inspirational journey of triumph over tragedy. When Lauren was 10 years old, she and Melissa were involved in a life-threatening automobile accident that left Lauren paralyzed from the neck down. Although the wreck forever changed them, neither Lauren nor Melissa was broken in spirit. Instead, they found themselves determined to reach goals that were important to them. While Lauren faced many obstacles, Melissa also had hurdles to overcome as she wore many different hats including caregiver and mother to Lauren and her two younger siblings.

After Lauren graduated from Lumberton High School, she and Melissa attended Lamar State College-Port Arthur and in 2013 the two graduated with associate degrees. In 2014, Lauren and Melissa enrolled at Lamar University. In the fall semester of 2015, the two were hit by another vehicle and Lauren again suffered critical injuries that caused her to be airlifted to a Houston hospital. This forced Lauren and Melissa to withdraw from the university and it took about a year for Lauren to recover and, with the mother and daughter returning to LU in the fall of 2016.

Lauren and Melissa developed friendships with many of the faculty members at LU saying professors shared in their happiness through various successes. In addition, the two credit LU’s Disability Resource Center as being extremely helpful and accommodating. Finally, the two appreciate Katie Wagstaff, who has worked as Lauren’s personal nurse for more than 15 years and accompanied her to many classes, as being vital in helping Lauren reach her goals.

Some highlights of their time at LU include Lauren being inducted into the Beta Theta Chapter of Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society and the field experience course the two took, which provided internship-type experiences at Advanced Pediatric Care. Melissa likes to encourage others to set goals and then keep going. And Lauren...she is beginning to think of pursuing her next degree!
NEW LEADERSHIP: DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Daniel Chilek is the department chair and an assistant professor in Exercise Science and Fitness Management. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Physical Education at Lamar University and continued to pursue his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University in Exercise Physiology and Statistics. After teaching at Texas A&M, the University of Pan America and Mississippi State University, he returned to LU in 2001 to initiate the exercise science program. He has served as the graduate coordinator and the coordinator of the Exercise Science Program where he works today.

PROFESSOR RECEIVES TEXAS HONOR AWARD
The Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance recognizes the 2017 outstanding Texas educational professionals in the fields of health, physical education, recreation and dance. The awards were presented at the 94th Annual Convention on Dec. 1, 2017 in Fort Worth. The Honor Award was presented to Barbara L. Michiels Hernandez, professor. This award is one of the association’s most esteemed honors. It is given for significant contributions to health education through excellence in teaching; outstanding administrative achievement; significant contribution to research, professional literature and creative endeavors; strong leadership in professional organizations at state, district, and national levels and outstanding community service.

QUIZBOWL COMPETITION
The Department of Health & Kinesiology fielded two teams for the quizbowl at the Texas Chapter American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in spring 2018. Team members were Exercise Science and Fitness Management majors: Cade Johnson, Shelby Gilchriest, Zoey Parker, Drew Anderson; and Nutrition majors: Angelica Figueroa and Elissa Bradberry. Scorekeepers include Frederick Donahey, Chemical Engineering major, and Amanda Parson, Exercise Science and Fitness Management major. Both Lamar University teams placed in the top 10 out of 30 teams from universities across Texas. The quizbowl challenges students to recall information from their coursework in biology, nutrition and exercise science in a Jeopardy fashion competition.
NEW LEADERSHIP:
INTERIM DEPARTMENT CHAIR
DEBRA A. TROXCCLAIR

Debra A. Troxclair, associate professor, has 20 years of experience teaching at the K-12 level as well as training graduate students in gifted and special education at the university level. Troxclair earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and her graduate degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Gifted Education from the University of New Orleans. Her doctorate in Special Education was earned from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Troxclair started her career in K-12 schools in Louisiana and Texas, and has supervised summer programs for gifted children for more than 20 years. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented, the Council for Exceptional Children TAG Division and is an active member of the National Association for Gifted Children.


Texas Governors’ School is Closing the Excellence Gap

The Texas Governor’s School held its 27th year at Lamar University in June 2018 directed by Dorothy Sisk, professor at Lamar University and Uzeyir Ogurlu from Harvard University as the assistant director. The 90 students who attended the three-week residential camp came from throughout the State of Texas. These high potential and gifted students took three academic courses in STEM and the humanities, as well as one activity class in drama, team sports, musical ensemble and dance.

More than 50% of the students will be the first college graduate in their family and the TGS focus was on providing a taste of college life at Lamar University. Each year at least 10% of the students graduate high school and enroll at Lamar University. The students take a leadership skills and behavior scale as a pre-test and post-test measure. The scale provides indices for self-concept, motivation and leadership.

TGS is funded by the Texas Workforce Commission in the amount of $100,000, Capital One Bank for $10,000, the Carol Tyrrell Foundation for $6,000 and individual donors at $15,000. David Beck, Jack and Linda Gill and Ida Pyle have individually funded the program since its early years as well. All three have provided leadership seminars and, attend and support the student seminars.

More than 2,500 students have attended TGS and now serve as college professors, authors, researchers, administrative assistants, classroom teachers and administrators among other professions. This past year, we had the son of one of the 1993 attendees, so the legacy is passed down in families in which three or even four siblings have attended over the years. Many of the students come from schools in which they are not fully challenged and during the first week there is a gap between students from the tremendous variety of schools, but that gap closes over the three weeks as the students work together and stimulate one another in academics and leadership.

Freddie Titus, associate professor, was the keynote speaker for the 100 Black Men of Greater Beaumont Scholarship and Awards Banquet in April. This men’s civic organization and service club’s mission is to educate and empower African-American children and teens. Titus’ message, “Empowering Tomorrow’s Leaders Today,” centered around education as the critical element, focused on providing our future leaders access to a high-quality, 21st-century education, with real-life application. Empowering our youth today requires the support of educators, administrators, community leaders, parents and businesses all working together. It is imperative to expose students to the global economy and inspire them to pursue their passion. Titus reminded the audience that many of them hold the key to the empowerment of our young leaders.

The Master of Teacher Leadership Program in the Department of Teacher Education provides an option for graduate students to take courses in gifted education. This gifted option within the Teacher Leadership Program was recognized as one the best online gifted programs in 2018 by BestColleges.com.
Mamta Singh, associate professor, received the 2018 Distinguished Teaching Faculty Fellowship Award and 2018 Advisor of the Year Award. Singh’s undergraduate student Shanetta Williams was awarded Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to conduct research on “Pre-Service Teachers’ Awareness and Attitude Towards Environmental Education,” and won a first place research presentation award at the Lamar University 2018 Expo. At the exposition, Williams’ research topic was “Assessing Elementary Pre-Service Teachers’ Science Content Knowledge and Teaching Readiness.” Singh, along with her colleague, participated in teacher recruitment, preparation and retention workshops organized by Texas Education Agency. They also conducted a summer workshop for in-service teachers.

Fort Bend Independent School District announced Lamar University graduate, Laura (Olvera) Hicks was chosen as the 2018 Campus Teacher of the Year. Selected by her peers, Fort Bend ISD states that she represents the best in her field. Hicks was a Lamar University graduate in 2014 with an interdisciplinary studies degree and certified as a EC-6th grade teacher.

Roycesietta Allen was voted the 2018 Teacher of the Year by the staff at Wheatley School of Early Childhood Program. Allen graduated from Lamar University in December 2010 with an interdisciplinary studies degree and was certified as an EC-6 grade teacher with her career beginning in 2012. In her second year of teaching, her principal selected her as Rookie of the Year. The committee selection is based on good attendance, overall school involvement, students’ academic success and community involvement.
The Nutrition Cardinal Community attracts students interested in foods, nutrition and dietetics. Amy Shows, faculty mentor, describes the CC as a wonderful opportunity to network with students interested in these topics as majors as well as those just interested in nutrition and health. Students interact with graduate nutrition students and learn about LU’s Dietetic Internship Program, which allows students in the CC to strategically plan for acceptance into competitive dietetic internships and graduate nutrition programs, if so desired. Students in the CC also learn about resources at LU for improving study habits and overcoming test anxiety.

The Future Teachers Cardinal Community is set up to connect students interested in pursuing teacher certification with others on the same path. During the weekly meetings, the focus is on helping the students develop connections with each other, as well as discussing degree-related information and offering assistance with navigating other courses and university deadlines.

The Health and Sport Lifestyle Cardinal Community introduces and expands students' knowledge relating to physical education, exercise science and health. Teacher and student mentors work to provide a safe and professionally nurturing environment. A peer group formed by students with the same interests, provides moral support while navigating the discipline. This Cardinal Community helps individuals transition from LU students to working professionals in the community.

Have you ever considered how you can make a lasting impact on the College of Education and Human Development? There are ways to make a transformational gift to benefit the college while also providing for family and other charitable interests. Current gifts can be in the form of appreciated stock, a life insurance policy, real estate and cash. One technique currently being used by a number of alumni and friends of the university is the IRA charitable rollover. Current federal tax laws allow a donor over the age of 70 ½ to direct a distribution from their IRA to a qualified charity up to $100,000 per year. The distribution is not considered a taxable distribution and may satisfy all or a part of the annual required minimum distribution from the IRA. While not considered a charitable contribution, the distribution from the IRA to the charity is not taxable to the donor. Deferred gifts to benefit the College of Education and Human Development may include a bequest through a will, a beneficiary of an IRA, annuity or other deferred investment. There are a number of deferred giving techniques such as a charitable gift annuity and a charitable remainder trust, which can provide lifetime income to the donor with the remainder going to benefit the designated charity.

All of the charitable giving options referenced above can be instrumental in making a huge impact on current and future generations of students and faculty in the College of Education and Human Development. We encourage you to consult your tax and legal advisors when considering a deferred gift. We would be glad to work with you and your advisors to explore ways to achieve your planning goals.
The college celebrated American Education Week, Monday, Nov. 13, 2017 with an event recognizing Southeast Texas educators and invited area teachers and administrators to a reception. American Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

The college invited teachers and administrators to join in the celebration featuring guest speaker HD Chambers, superintendent for Alief Independent School District, on the “State of PK-12 in Texas.” Superintendent Chambers has devoted the past 30 years to public education in Texas. Prior to taking on the leadership role as superintendent of schools for Alief in the spring of 2011, Chambers served as superintendent for Stafford Municipal School District. He also has taught in the Aldine ISD and served in various administrative roles in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.

He serves on many boards as a member and an officer, and was the only superintendent to receive the Friends of Public Schools Ambassador of the Year in 2013-2014, Superintendent of the Year for Region 4, 2014 and the Region 4 Special Honoree Award for 2015. Region 4 serves a seven-county area composed of 50 school districts and 50 charter schools, representing more than 1.1 million students, 84,000 educators and 1,600 campuses. Chambers also received the Children at Risk Voice for Children Award as well as the Rhosine Fleming Outstanding Counselor Advocate Award from the Texas School Counselor Association.

He obtained his bachelor’s degree from Lamar University, a master’s degree from Sam Houston State University and his superintendent certification from Stephen F. Austin State University. He and his wife, Leah, are the parents of two children, Rachel and Trey.

THE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

This new leadership initiative within the college consists of successful students representing their major for the advancement of the college and their futures. The purpose of the council is to offer a gateway for the students and the dean to communicate as well as to provide professional development skills for the leaders of tomorrow. The council represents the dean on events such as student recruitment, employer relation events and student success initiatives through the year.

What advice would you give to incoming Freshman?

ANGELICA FIGUEROA, PRESIDENT, NUTRITION
Never lose sight of why you chose this path.

JASMINE FIGUEROA, VICE PRESIDENT, KINESIOLOGY
Don’t be afraid to get help.

JOEY PATRICK, SECRETARY, EXERCISE SCIENCE & FITNESS MANAGEMENT
Really talk to and get to know their peers, classmates, and instructors.

D’AVION WHEATFALL, COLLEGE SGA SENATOR, 4TH - 8TH MATH
Pick a concentration, that pertains to their interest and not one that takes less time.

MELISSA EHRLICH, EC - 6 GENERALIST
If they want to be a teacher, volunteer in a classroom if they get the opportunity.

ALLY WRAY, HEALTH
Don’t be afraid to ask for help.

CATHERINE DARBY, DIETETICS
Start volunteering, getting a job and making professional connections now!

FAITH SIMS, EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
It may seem overwhelming, but don’t give up because it becomes easier as you get use to it. You will be glad you stuck with it in the end.
SAVE THE DATE

02 | 01 | 19

The College of Education was formed in 1959
The College was renamed Education and Human Development in 1989

Let’s Celebrate!

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EDUCATION