Greetings Alumni, Students, Colleagues and Friends! Did you know that the Wayne A. Reaud Administration Building and Honors College recently opened alongside the Center for Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship (CICE) which houses offices, labs, meeting space, training areas and an event center. The Student Setzer Center is currently undergoing a complete renovation including the “quad”. The new 70,000 square foot Science and Technology building is going up as I write. There are many other great things happening on campus, all designed to extend, attract, retain, and graduate prepared students to enter the workforce and be successful. Lamar University is rapidly changing and fast becoming a destination point for quality students at all levels and walks of life.

Within the College of Education and Human Development, our teacher education department is preparing a new curriculum and instruction M.Ed. degree with a start date of Summer 2018. We have a new chair of the family and consumer sciences department, Dr. Tammy Henderson, who comes to us from Oklahoma State University. Of particular note is a new initiative to improve Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in Texas and beyond thanks to a generous gift from Lamar University alumni Chuck and Becky Mason of Beaumont. This transformational gift, the largest ever to the College of Education and Human Development, has established the Becky and Chuck Mason Distinguished Faculty Fellowships in Science Education. The health and kinesiology department has successfully launched the MPH degree with an emphasis on health disparities. The family and consumer sciences department is planning a new M.S. degree in nutrition that will be delivered fully online. The clinical mental health program in the counseling and special populations department received provision accreditation from CACREP. The doctoral program in educational leadership was accepted into the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED). Three of the faculty members in the M.Ed. educational leadership program were recognized at the National Social Science Association Conference.

In the College of Education and Human Development, 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

FROM THE DEAN

IMPACT MAGAZINE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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On January 30th, the College of Education and Human Development in partnership with Academic Partnerships hosted the second annual Lamar University Cardinal Reception in conjunction with the Texas Association of School Administrator’s Mid-Winter Conference in Austin, Texas. In attendance were many students and alumni from a variety of the CoEHD’s educational leadership programs.

As in the past, the reception provided an opportunity for students and alumni to meet with administrators and faculty one-on-one to discuss their accomplishments and experiences since beginning the various educational leadership programs at Lamar University. Attendees left the reception motivated, excited with an extended network of professionals with similar interests and goals. Andrea Hall, teacher at Killeen ISD and a spring 2017 graduate of the principal certification program, stated, “While I came to the reception thinking I’d just enjoy some yummy hors d’oeuvres, I left with a lot more—motivation, relevant advice, and hope for my administrative future!”

Superintendent at Royal ISD and August 2017 graduate of the doctoral program in educational leadership, Stacy Ackley, added that he “had an awesome time,” and was thankful to the CoEHD “for providing the forum to catch up with fellow students who were able to share their successes and for the opportunity to meet new professionals and leave with an outstanding network of resources.”

The TASA Midwinter Conference is held annually and has become the most popular conference of the year for Texas school leaders because it provides a valuable opportunity to come together to discuss and share innovative practices, network with peers, address the administrative issues administrators face every day, and gain fresh insights.

Due to overwhelming support, plans are already in the works for next year’s reception. Our faculty and staff are excited about the next reception and look forward to inspiring and impacting students and alumni each and every day.
originally from the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia, Wendy Greenidge, assistant professor in clinical mental health counseling, knew at a very young age that she wanted to make a difference. "I distinctly remember the lack of mental health services while growing up on the island," Greenidge said. She has turned those memories into the driving force behind her personal and professional life.

Greenidge is able to decipher what would benefit her students the most while infusing her personality as well as her cultural interests into her work. "I want my students to have the skills they need to work with clients from different cultures and recognize that multicultural competence is not a destination; it's a journey," she said. Greenidge is a licensed mental health counselor, national certified counselor and certified family mediator.

As countries become increasingly diverse, it's important that future clinical mental counselors are equipped with the tools, strategies and skills they need to work with a multicultural population. Greenidge's research, published in both domestic and international journals, emphasizes the need to account for cultural variables when treating clients. For instance, while working with immigrants from the Caribbean, she introduces students and clinicians to aspects of culture that can be incorporated into treatment, such as music or poetry for those who may feel uncomfortable expressing themselves verbally. Then, clinicians shift from a sense of mastery to accountability, which "involves self-reflection of intentional and unintentional patterns of discrimination and engaging in appropriate actions to remedy these," Greenidge said. Utilizing her own independent spirit and passion for teaching, Greenidge inspires the same enthusiasm in others to change the status quo of how mental illness is seen and treated.

It's no secret that Greenidge's hard work and determination has contributed to her success. The Awards Committee of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) has recently selected Greenidge to be the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Teaching Award. ACES is the premier organization dedicated to quality education and supervision of counselors in all work settings. A former student who has been greatly impacted by Greenidge's teachings, nominated her for this highly valued award.

Greenidge's peers, colleagues and students rally around to celebrate her acceptance of this true honor. Awards will be presented at the ACES conference this Fall in Chicago, IL.

Every university must focus on engaging, keeping and contributing to student success. For Teresa Simpson, special assistant to the dean, her primary regard is on student recruitment, retention and success at Lamar University.

"The bridging of student affairs and academic affairs for student success has always been the focus," Simpson said. "I work closely with the dean, department chairs and provost's office to align our developed success pathways for our students with that of the university's strategic plan."

The guided pathways allow those students who need additional attention to develop their confidence. "Understanding the dean's vision on increased enrollment of the undergraduate student population is through the enhanced retention initiatives," she said. "(It is) being made available to our students and the promotion of our Cardinal successes."

Simpson said she came to Lamar University in 2004 and within her first year became the director of Career and Professional Development.

While working closely with the deans, they increased employer recruitment for the campus by 400% after her first year serving as director. "This role provided me the opportunity to ensure successful pathways through career and professional development efforts," Simpson said.

As a member of Beaumont's Rotary Club and being heavily invested in the community, she said seeing students engaged is critical for their leadership development as future community leaders.

Being a first generation college student, Simpson said the odds were against her. A high school volleyball coach became her first mentor. "Through her, I gained the confidence I needed to navigate the academic system and ultimately commit my professional practice to education and the students," she said.

In 1997 Simpson received her B.S. in literature from the University of Houston. She continued her education at Lamar University where she completed a M.Ed. in educational administration and a Ed.D. in educational leadership.

Simpson said she believes the goal of educators is to see students be successful. "We know our students can navigate the academic process, develop as student leaders and have critically important co-curricular experiences that allow them to grow in their leadership skills," she said. "I believe that one of the many things the dean and I share is our passion to be a strong dedicated team to student success."
Distance Clinical Professor Brandé Flamez

Brandé Flamez, licensed professional counselor and national certified counselor, was the recipient of the Dr. Judy Lewis Counselor for Social Justice Award and the recipient of the Association for Humanistic Counseling Leadership Award. The American counseling association released her most recent book called, A Counselor’s Guide to the Dissertation Process: Where to Start and How to Finish. She is currently finishing up two textbooks to be released in 2018.

As current president for the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, she was a delegate to visit Cuba and present a hands on workshop on using creative techniques to families in crisis. She recently had two proposals accepted to present at the ACA conference in March of 2018 in Atlanta. Flamez is the CEO and founder of Serving and Learning Together World (SALT) and in June and July she participated in six social change projects in Tanzania. She is currently working on social change projects in Turkey, Israel, and Haiti. In December she will help lead a delegation to Turkey and Israel with IAMFC.

Robert Carlisle, distance clinical professor, published a national study in the flagship journal for counselor education, Counselor Education and Supervision. His study, educational technology and distance supervision, was recognized by the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision as outstanding article of the year. Carlisle will accept the award at the annual ACES conference this Fall 2017.

Carlisle also published another 2017 study, How School Counselors Implement Social Stories: Results of a Qualitative Study, in The Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling.

Professor Mohamad Hamza

Professor Mohamad Hamza as part of his service obligations to Lamar University serves as the mental health chairman for one of the largest medical humanitarian societies that render mental aid to refugees across the world, the Syrian American Medical Society or as known to NGOs as ‘SAMS’. Under this volunteer service umbrella, he overseas the over teams of mental health professionals in four refugee zones in addition to working with his mental professional team members to create and deliver services to millions of refugees who suffered war trauma due to the Syrian tragedy since 2011. This year his newly coined term, human devastation syndrome; gained international reputation. As the news described it; a new mental health term that the world of psychiatry is paying close attention to. Hamza visits every summer refugees camps and work with other mental health professional to deliver services and build new ways of mitigating symptoms of psychologically devastating problems. He has also published in the prestigious Texas Defense Law Journal: The Voice. One of his publications was with one of his graduate students, Shelley Harris, associate professor at Texas A&M San Antonio, and a graduate student of clinical mental health counseling at Lamar University.

In the spring, the advisory board of the Department of Counseling & Special Populations suggested a panel presentation at residency on various ‘real world topics.’ It was exciting to see how the panel came to fruition for the first summer residency session. Dedicated advisory board members served on the panel giving students information and advice about a variety of topics including, but limited to: insurance and coding, interview tips, and various counseling specialties.
Teri Ann Sartor, assistant professor, is a licensed professional counselor and licensed professional counselor supervisor, nationally certified counselor, and a certified humanistic sandtray therapist. She taught counseling and psychology courses for Tarleton State University, Texas Wesleyan University, and Texas A&M University-Texarkana. Sartor’s clinical experiences include working extensively with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, and with juvenile offenders in incarceration settings. Sartor has served as an associate psychologist for the juvenile justice system, therapist for children’s advocacy, clinical director for a foster care agency, assistant clinical director for a university clinic, and a private practitioner. Her research interests include that of child and adolescent counseling, crisis and trauma counseling, ethics, and counselor supervision.

Jessica Martin, assistant professor, is excited to join the LU family. She is a native of North Carolina and is a graduate of University of Central Florida’s counselor education doctoral program. Prior to starting at Lamar University, Martin taught at the University of Central Florida and Wake Forest University. Additionally, she worked as a grant administrator for Winston-Salem State University, where she created a summer entrepreneurship program for youths with disabilities. Her research interests include: experiences and techniques for working with African American female mental health clients, the impact of race/ethnicity in the counseling process, and counselor identity development and training. She has been recognized by the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision and the American Educational Research Association Division E as an emerging leaders fellow.

The National Board for Certified Counselors Foundation recently selected LU Counseling Student, Judy Yolanda Morris, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth. As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Morris will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16-25).

Morris is both a student and graduate of Lamar University where she is pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program. This fellowship will allow Morris to further establish her identity in the counseling profession and stay abreast of any new laws and practices that will make her more effective in working with clients of different ethnic and/or racial backgrounds that are in need of mental health services.

Rebecca Weinbaum, has been the interim department chair for the Department of Counseling and Special Populations for the last year. The interim designation has been removed as she begins a 3-year term in academic year 2017-2018. Congratulations, Dr. Weinbaum!
T

he center for doctoral studies in educational leadership recently presented Barbara Ybarra with the 2017 Jane Irons Dissertation Award for the outstanding scholarship presented in her dissertation. Ybarra’s dissertation entitled “Data-Informed Leadership Practices and Student Achievement in High Poverty Schools in Texas” was selected by the committee in recognition of an outstanding dissertation in the field of educational leadership that contributes to the field and expands the knowledge of the profession. The Jane Irons Dissertation Award was established in 2011 as a way to honor the life and service of Dr. Jane Irons at Lamar University and provided outstanding service and direction through her mentoring of numerous faculty and students in writing for research, commitment to excellence in her work and the work of her students, and the pursuit of embodying the principles of educational leadership.

Ybarra received her doctorate in educational leadership from LU in December 2016 and was one of the first Apple Distinguished Educators to graduate from LU’s doctoral program. She has over twenty years of experience in education and currently serves as associate superintendent of teaching & learning at Bryan ISD and as an adjunct professor in the master’s digital learning and leading program at Lamar University.

T

he president of the National Social Science Association presented the 2017 David Marx Award for the National Journal Outstanding Article to Assistant Professor Donna Azodi, Clinical Instructor Daryl Ann Borel, and Assistant Professor Cindy Cummings, for their article, “The Effect of Practicum Field Experiences on Candidates’ Dispositions in an Educational Leadership Program.” The award was presented at the March 2017 NSSA conference Awards Luncheon.

Educational leadership professors provided two presentations at the April 2017 National Social Science Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Azodi, Borel, with Associate Professor’s Nancy Adams and Kay Abernathy, provided a presentation on impact of student selection of practicum activities in an educational leadership program. Borel, Azodi, Cummings and Assistant Professor David Wallace, focused on student perceptions of practicum experiences in an educational leadership program.

At the 2017 National Council of Professors of Educational Administration conference in San Juan Puerto Rico, Assistant Professor Tilisa Thibodeaux, Associate Professor Robert Nicks and Professor’s Gary Martin and Elvis Arterbury, provided a presentation regarding online principal program student perceptions and recommendations for improving the principal internship. Azodi, Borel and Martin’s presentation addressed using action research to guide the preparation of school leaders.

Barbara Ybarra

DONNA AZODI AND DARYL ANN BOREL

NEW LEADERSHIP

Diane Mason, Ph.D.
Acting Chair for Educational Leadership

Brett Welch, Ph.D.
Director of Center for Doctoral Studies

CENTER FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME

Kelly Brown, assistant professor, comes to Lamar University with an extensive background in education. Prior to joining the Lamar University educational leadership center for doctoral studies, she served as a full professor within the University of Louisiana System at McNeese State University. His education includes a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Texas A&M University, where he studied under the tutelage of the late Dr. John Hoyle. Faulk has been an educator for the past thirty-four years, and has taught at all levels of PK – 12, as well as the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also holds certifications in Texas and Louisiana, as a teacher, supervisor of instruction, and principal.

Neil Faulk is a member of several professional academic organizations including the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration and the Louisiana Council of Professors in Educational Administration of which he is vice president.

This is a great opportunity for LU’s program to be involved in the design and redesign of Ed.D. programs across the country. New members were chosen through an application process and evaluated by a CPED Committee composed of faculty members of current CPED institutions. The doctoral program in educational leadership went online in 2011 and has grown steadily, averaging 300 applications for around 45 openings in the next cohort, who upon completion of the program, earn the Ed.D. with a concentration in global educational leadership.

GROWING NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, MORE THAN 80 MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM

In Spring 2017, the board of regents approved the Center for Doctoral Studies’ proposal to add a global concentration to its Ed.D. in educational leadership. Our degree program is offered fully online, and the Center for Doctoral Studies has numerous students working globally as educational leaders. Currently, the program has students in Turkey, New Zealand, Netherlands, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Canada, Oman, Africa, Mexico, Italy, Bahamas, Dubai, Swaziland, Singapore, British Columbia, Australia and Japan.
Bob Spina, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, "The national recognition indicates that our faculty Department of Educational Leadership has achieved national recognition, with the first time being in 2012. According to successfully completing a program that is nationally recognized. Other accreditation benefits include potential and the use of data collected and analyzed for continuous program improvement. CAEP is the national organization that evaluates educational preparation programs. This recognition. “CAEP accredits preparation programs for a seven-year period. This is the second time the Lamar University in the Department of Educational Leadership, have been awarded "national recognition." CAEP is the national organization that evaluates educational preparation programs. This recognition incorporates an extensive review of evidence based on program content and alignment with national standards, rigor of course activities and internship, valid assessments verifying the degree of mastery of national standards for each student and the use of data collected and analyzed for continuous program improvement. It is a crucial element for out-of-state students who pursue certificate approval in their state based on successfully completing a program that is nationally recognized. Other accreditation benefits include potential participation in federally funded programs and being one of the few educational leadership programs in the state to receive this recognition.

CAEP accredits preparation programs for a seven-year period. This is the second time the Lamar University Department of Educational Leadership has achieved national recognition, with the first time being in 2012. According to Bob Spina, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, "The national recognition indicates that our faculty members are engaged in continuous program improvement and achieving the highest standards possible. As such, the program at Lamar University continues to be a leader within the discipline."

Growing from less than 10 students in the first course in 2015 to over 200 students by 2017, students are attracted to the Digital Learning and Leading's core proposition of student-centered learning: Choice, Ownership, and Voice through Authentic learning opportunities. COVA is realized when we purposefully create significant learning environment that embrace learning at the center, or heart, of instruction. Learners in the DLL program build plans on to use technology innovations as a catalyst for change through practical application and synthesis in their own organizational settings. In the DLL program, learners manage disruptive innovation, lead organizational change and build significant learning environments in which they apply their innovation plans and move their ideas forward.

Assistant Professor Cynthia Cummings, Titans Thibodeaux and Clinical Instructor Dwayne Harapnuik have written several publications around the COVA + CSLE learning framework. Peer-reviewed journal articles include multiple articles in the International Journal of ePortfolios, two peer-reviewed book chapters in IGI Global in the handbook of research on digital content, mobile learning, and technology integration models in teacher education and in the handbook of research on mobile technology, constructivism and meaningful learning. The COVA + CSLE e-book will be available online in October of 2017. Cummings, Harapnuik, and Titans Thibodeaux have presented academic papers, workshops and at conferences and school districts, both locally and internationally, and have written several grants to support digital learning. We encourage all who are interested in learning more about COVA + CSLE to contact us in the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education and Human Development.

Back in 2015, at the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning annual conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, the president of the association, Trent Batson, posed the question, "If ePortfolios are so great, why aren't more people using them?" This question is now referred to as the Edinburgh Challenge, and for the past two years Assistant Professor’s Cynthia Cummings, Titans Thibodeaux, and Clinical Instructor Dwayne Harapnuik have been researching not only why people aren’t using ePortfolios but they have also been exploring what we can do to increase the use of ePortfolios.

This past July at the annual association conference at Portland State University, Cummings, Thibodeaux and Harapnuik presented their research, which reveals that students are more inclined to use ePortfolios if you focus on creating significant learning environments in which you give learners choice, ownership and voice through authentic learning opportunities. In addition, they shared a presentation on their original research on student perceptions of the COVA approach on ePortfolios and authentic projects in Lamar University’s Digital Learning and Leading M.Ed. Program. Thibodeaux and Harapnuik are involved in leading an international special interest group through the association that will be exploring the pedagogies and the practices of authentic, experiential and evidence-based learning, teaching and assessment. Approximately twenty individuals representing institutions across the world have agreed to work on a variety of SIG issues and Titans Thibodeaux and Harapnuik will be coordinating these efforts and will be reporting their progress at the next conference in 2018. Thank you to Academic Partnership who made the research and conference opportunity possible.
Under the direction of Professor Molly Dahm, five students in the hospitality administration program took off to northern Italy for a six-week international internship adventure. An alliance with the Marco Polo Institute of Mediterranean Culture and Tourism facilitated student experiences in Italian cooking, tourism, and culture. Traveling with a group from SUNY Schenectady, Lamar University students traveled to Nettuno, Bologna, Parma, Ferrara, Venice, and Cinque Terre. They remained in Asti, working in local restaurants and hotels for the last half of the journey. Also, to support from the College of Education and Human Development, the Sabine Area Restaurant Association and local chef Debbie Bando provided funding for this international educational opportunity.

Four students under the direction of Assistant Professor and Program Director Jill Killough, presented peer-reviewed poster sessions at the Texas Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Annual Conference & Exhibition:


Ten students traveled to London, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland, to study fashion and other decorative arts. Associate Professor and Program Director Jan Kimmons developed the study which provided students the opportunity to visit historic sites, retail settings, galleries and museums. At each, they engaged in activities designed to help them understand the evolution and modern state of the fashion industry. This expansive, multi-faceted view of the historical and modern features of these cultures will be invaluable to students as they embark on careers in the global economy.
**Family and Consumer Sciences News**

**GIFT OF LIFE COLOR RUN**

The Graduate Association of Interns and Nutrition Students participated in the October 1, 2016 Gift of A Life color run and wellness village providing education on proper nutrition as part of a healthy lifestyle. Attendees learned how to make wise nutrition decisions with options for a well-balanced diet.

**FACULTY TALK**

Professor Amy Shows presented the Faculty Talk, "Nutrition Outcomes that Matter: Themes for the Future." The presentation was hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research and covered common nutrition research themes, collaborative research efforts in nutrition, undergraduate students and nutrition research at LU, and themes for the future regarding nutrition research.

**TEXAS CHEFS ASSOCIATION**

At the Annual Meeting of The Texas Chefs Association, Chef Charles Duit, instructor in Lamar University's hospitality administration program, was named the 2017 Educator of the Year. Shea Alexander, a student in the program was named the 2017 Junior Culinaryian.

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**FCS FUN FEST - A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**

Faculty members and students hosted the department's first-ever FCS Fun Fest. Based on the innovative idea of Professor Molly Dahm, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences held a program-focused recruitment event. Students and faculty members from all FCS disciplines joined together to serve on the program which attracted high school students from the Golden Triangle and Houston areas. Guests left the event knowing if they desire working to make the lives of others thrive, they will find exceptional fulfillment in careers rooted in FCS.

**STUDENTS INITIATED INTO HONOR ORGANIZATION**

**BETA KAPPA THETA CHAPTER OF KAPPA OMICRON NU**

The initiation ceremony of the Beta Kappa Theta Chapter of Kappa Omicron Nu was held March 27, 2017 to welcome 16 undergraduate and six graduate students in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences as new members. KON, a national honor society for students in the human sciences, is dedicated to identifying and encouraging student excellence in scholarship, research, and leadership development.

Graduate students Bethani Lee, Miranda Mendoza, Connor O'Shaughnessy, Jacey Pickett, Grisel Sanchez, and Taylor Tull were honored as new members. The following 16 undergraduates were also recognized as new initiates: Wanda Carr, Bayleigh Chesson, Catherine Darby, Amani El-Zereini, Angelica Figueroa, Tiara Games, Samantha Guthrie, Whitney Hayes, Mekayla Howard, Holly Johnson, Lauren McMillan, Shannon Patronella, Lauren Rugg, Eryn Sherman, Cristina Villa, and Krystal Watson.

Tammy Henderson, department chair of FCS, was the featured speaker of the event; her words of inspiration encouraged students to soar high on their cardinal wings. Faculty advisors of the organization are Professor Amy Shows, Associate Professor’s Connie Ruiz and Janice Kimmons.

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**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences welcomes Professor Tammy Henderson, who was recently named department chair. Henderson conducts research in the areas of family policy, law, and diversity. She completed her doctoral studies in Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University and earned other degrees from Louisiana State University. She was a faculty member at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. Henderson has published over 40 articles and book chapters on grandparent rights and responsibilities, foster care, health policy, mentoring, and diversity and policies. She also has successfully managed $1,537,733.00 in grants and contracts over 2006-2014, excluding the NSF Grant for Hurricane Katrina transferred from Virginia Tech.

The Dietetics/Nutrition Cardinal Community more than doubled in enrollment last year. Professor Amy Shows, faculty mentor, describes the CC as a wonderful opportunity to network with new dietetics and nutrition majors. Students have opportunities to meet the FCS department chair and visit with professors to realize the multitude of career opportunities in the field. Students also meet the director of LU’s dietetic internship program to learn how to strategically plan for acceptance into competitive dietetic internships. In addition, dietetic interns spoke with students in the CC about their experiences as interns. Of the many other topics presented were those targeted at improving study habits and overcoming test anxiety. The year ended with Shows presenting students with nutrition survival kits for getting through final exams.

Congratulations to Molly Dahm, recently promoted to professor. Dahm, director of the hospitality administration program at LU, joined the FCS Department in 1996 after a successful career in both domestic and international hospitality operations. She has taught courses ranging from wine appreciation to graduate research. Her research interests and publications lie in the field of food and beverage management, diversity studies, and professional ethics. In addition, Dahm has been successful in furthering the university’s mission in international study, having established hospitality work-study internships in London and Italy. Above all, Dahm has sought to build a program presence that is modeled on professional service to the community.

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**FCS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Publications:


Scholarly Presentations:


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**OUTCOMES THAT MATTER: THEMES FOR THE FUTURE**


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**CARDINAL COMMUNITY**

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Congratulations to Molly Dahm, recently promoted to professor. Dahm, director of the hospitality administration program at LU, joined the FCS Department in 1996 after a successful career in both domestic and international hospitality operations. She has taught courses ranging from wine appreciation to graduate research. Her research interests and publications lie in the field of food and beverage management, diversity studies, and professional ethics. In addition, Dahm has been successful in furthering the university’s mission in international study, having established hospitality work-study internships in London and Italy. Above all, Dahm has sought to build a program presence that is modeled on professional service to the community.

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**FCS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Publications:


Scholarly Presentations:

Cade Johnson was a 2016 recipient of the Beck Fellowship. In the fall of 2016, he presented the results of his fellowship at the Beck Fellowship award ceremony. Cade performed his fellowship in the oncology department at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine on acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Cade will be working with Assistant Professor Shannon Jordan and Professor Rick Carter on an undergraduate research project fall 2017 which they plan to present at a professional conference upon completion.

Jorge Herrera was 2016 recipient of the McNair Scholarship. Under the guidance of Professor Rick Carter in Health & Kinesiology, he performed a review of literature regarding The effects of exercise on BDNF expression in healthy humans. BDNF is a is a neurotrophin expressed primarily in the hippocampus and contributes to the development of the nervous system by enhancing processes for neuron and long-term potentiation, cognition, and motor skill development, which collectively improve neuronal plasticity. It may be correlated to improvements in the treatment of depression and neurodegenerative diseases such as alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Jorge’s review examined the characteristics of physical activity that are best for successfully increasing basal BDNF levels in healthy subjects. In the fall of 2016, Jorge presented his work at the McNairs Research Symposium.

George Orebe, an alumni of Health & Kinesiology as an undergrad, is currently working at Beyond Fitness Triangle Therapeutics. He is the head sports performance coach and a medical exercise specialist. He graduated this summer with his Master’s degree in public health- from Health & Kinesiology’s new MPH program. Here is a quote from one of his clients, “My main goal was to get back to my active lifestyle. As my exercises progressed we went over to Beyond Fitness. I watched George train clients and his attention to making sure the exercises were done correctly plus his encouragement were great. That is when I decided to get a membership and sign up for personal training. George brings so much knowledge about the exercises and how they affect the body plus his enthusiasm make for a great workout. He is a true asset to Beyond Fitness.”

Associate Professor Alan Moore and Assistant Professor Shannon Jordan from the Department of Health & Kinesiology presented their poster entitled, “Submaximal Exercise Responses Before and During Long Duration Space Flight,” at the National Conference for the American College of Sports Medicine, Summer 2017 in Denver, CO.

On Oct 1, 2016, students staffed a health & wellness booth at the 5K color run in downtown Beaumont. Students in the class shared information about the benefits of exercise. They also gave each person an estimate of their body fat percentage and body mass index in order to determine their risk for cardiovascular disease.

This summer, the Master’s in Public Health program was accepted into the initial accreditation process by the council on education for public health. The program will be working with CEPH to continue this accreditation process and hope to finalize the accreditation in 2019. This is a unique opportunity for the health faculty at Lamar University. Currently, there are only two CEPH accredited online MPH programs in the state of Texas.

Exercise science majors competed at the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine Quizbowl in Waco, TX. This was the first year we took two teams instead of one team. Students answer questions in a Jeopardy style format regarding anatomy & physiology, cardiopulmonary physiology, electrocardiography, nutrition, and many other topics related to kinesiology. LU attends this meeting each spring semester, we always perform well, and many times, we score higher than some other pretty big named schools in Texas.

Associate Professor Alan Moore and Judith Hayes (NASA-JSC) co-chaired a scientific session titled Space Physiology at the 88th annual meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association. The AsMA meeting was held April 29th - May 4th in Denver, Colorado.
FREDDIE TITUS
by Brian Sattler

2017 JULIE AND BEN ROGERS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

2017 JULIE AND BEN ROGERS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

A n “ambassador for mankind,” Freddie Titus, assistant professor of teacher education, took a different path when he discovered the joy of serving others over self. Titus, assistant professor of teacher education in the College of Education and Human Development, will be honored as Lamar University’s 2017 Julie & Ben Rogers Community Service Award recipient. The Rogers family established the award in 1979 to encourage Lamar University faculty and staff to volunteer their service and talents to the community. The Lamar University Foundation maintains the endowment that provides for the award.

After graduating with a B.S. in mathematics in 1983, he worked as a teaching assistant and quickly realized teaching was his calling. He completed a second bachelor’s degree, this one in industrial engineering, in 1986. “I really enjoyed working with people,” he said. “I love it when the light goes on with people when they learn something new. I love being a part of that experience.” He went on to earn a Master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from McNeese State University (1993) and an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction - math education from the University of Houston in 2010.

Tapped as Student Government Association Faculty member of the Year, 1998-2010 and in 2013, he was also honored as a Living Legend in Recognition of Outstanding Leadership in 2015 by the ExxonMobil Black Employee Success Team. Titus serves as the National Pan-Hellenic Council advisor providing guidance to the student leaders of four sororities and four fraternities on the LU campus, helping them “develop leadership across campus,” he said. “The impact of developing leaders results in increased academic achievement and involvement across campus.”

“Dr. Titus is notably known as a hard-working, dynamic educator… however, his pursuits as a community service leader are equally acclaimed,” wrote LU alumnus Dr. Justin Henderson in a nomination letter for the award. “He excels in four prominent areas of community service: general community, educational groups, community service with Lamar University, and community organizations.”

Titus is the founder and director of the Psalm 150 Gospel Choir and the Psalm 150 Youth and Young Adult Retreat. More than 30 years ago, Titus and other students joined together to sing for a Black history program. “We practiced in the piano room in the lobby of Brook-Shivers Dormitory,” he said. “That’s how it started. Then churches started asking if we could come sing. The nugget was that they fed us after church. With college students, food is the key.” Titus sees the choir as an effective way to help LU students adjust to the challenges of university life, especially first generation college students. “College is challenging,” Titus said. “Without support it becomes very difficult to find your way in a system that you don’t know.”

Titus “actively uses his choir ministry as a tool to assist college-aged students,” Dr. Henderson wrote “identifying methods for adjusting to college life, learning applicable, spiritual principles needed for successful college experience, leadership development, and as a outlet to maintain a connection with desired religious activities.”

Inspiring African American youth to aspire to college-level education is an underlying goal of Titus’ Psalm 150 Youth and Young Adult Retreat. “We give young African Americans the opportunity to experience college life way before that time comes,” Titus said. “It helps them think about that experience and what it would be like for them when they stay in the residence halls, see the campus and go into the classrooms.” “On the national front, Dr. Titus has worked in various leadership roles in the National Baptist Student Union Retreat,” Rev. Blue wrote “serving as faculty advisor, mass choir coordinator and seminar leader over the years.” Titus has spoken on “Music Ministry Matters,” “Effective Music Ministry,” and “Remembering the Hymns.”

Titus’ community service in the university is extensive and student-focused. Since 2010, he has served as a board member of the African-American Male Program (AAMP), a professional networking, mentoring and leadership development program for freshmen. He as mentored two students each year in the AAMP program, served as a mathematics tutor each semester and a summer bridge program speaker for three years.

Titus is the director of LU’s National Pan-Hellenic Council College Mentoring Program. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board selected the Council to develop a mentoring program serving African-American freshmen and sophomore students, and Titus has seen improved retention and graduation rates among the students being mentored.

Titus has mentored undergraduate students conducting research and has served as a student presentation judge for the Office of Undergraduate Research Expo. “Working with people has always been in my spirit,” Titus said. Titus has also brought his mathematics skills as he has worked with students in preparing for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and has worked with teachers in developing ways to teach mathematics using manipulatives to engage students to move concepts from concrete to abstract.
MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP IN AUSTRALIA

Professor Dorothy Sisk, provided a three hour workshop on mindfulness practices to 50 participants at the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children in Sydney, Australia, on July 20, 2017. The workshop was based on the book co-authored by Sisk, and Michele Kane from Northeastern University in Chicago, Ill.

The participants were introduced to the art and science of mindfulness focusing on two very different individuals who have made a phenomenal contribution to the understanding and use of mindfulness in medicine, business and education, Thich Nhat Hanh a monk and Jon Kabat-Zinn a physician. The participants represented teachers, administrators and psychologists from twenty-three different countries. Sisk was one of the founders of WCGTC in 1975 and a former president and executive administrator and editor of their journal "Gifted International."

IMPACTING GIFTED EDUCATION

Associate Professor Debbie Troxclair and Professor Dorothy Sisk, impacted the field of gifted education as they steered students through completion of the gifted education concentration strand within the Teacher Education Department's M.Ed. teacher leadership master's degree program. Since fall 2016, roughly 20 students completed a series of courses which provided them an opportunity for in-depth learning about teaching gifted children as they earned their master's degree in teacher leadership. In the capstone course for this program, these students explained their growth in learning about how to teach gifted learners. Coursework is not a requirement for teaching gifted learners in Texas so students, because of their passion and commitment to teaching, are now "overqualified" and ready to assume or increase the leadership roles they play in their districts in advanced academic programs thanks to the courses in this program. As these students completed their capstone course, they reflected on the learning acquired in their program of studies.

Ms. Stewart continues, “...Another area of growth that I did not anticipate was my knowledge of gifted/talented students. After twenty years in a GT classroom, I thought I knew it all! How ignorant I was! The GT strand was filled with the most rigorous courses in the program, and those are the courses that I enjoyed the most. From creating conceptual curriculum for gifted learners to examining relevant, critical issues in gifted education, I became so much more qualified to do the job I was hired to do for my district. I have (and will continue to) utilize the resources that became available to me during that strand. I purchased Barbara Clark’s Growing Up Gifted: Developing the Potential of Children at Home and at School, and I will continue to use it as a reference for the many situations I deal with in my job.”

The number of graduate students enrolled in graduate courses in gifted education is usually low because this population of learners is relatively small when compared with students in general education. Teachers in Texas are not required to complete coursework, but many seek additional training in this area because they are committed to the children they work with and want to be the best teachers for these learners. Even though the number of teachers who enroll in these courses in gifted education is small when compared to the numbers in other degree programs, the impact made by those courses on the graduate students, the teachers these students assist in leadership roles and the gifted children themselves provides a huge ripple effect on those individuals and within society at large. Often, without support and intervention, much human potential is wasted as the gifted learners fail to optimize their potential. These teachers who teach gifted learners themselves are autonomous learners who see the need to learn more about the children under their care. Many thanks to the Academic Partnership recruiters who connected these teachers with the M. Ed. Teacher Leadership master's degree program offered by Lamar University.
The transformational gift, the largest ever to the College of Education and Human Development, will establish the Becky and Chuck Mason Distinguished Faculty Fellowships in Science Education. The gift will be used to address the critical shortage of quality science educators in education. "The major issue we are facing is a shortage of talented and engaging STEM teachers in the classrooms of Texas and the nation," said Bob Spina, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "Too many classrooms are going without qualified teachers in science, technology, engineering and math disciplines."

STEM education helps students develop skills in critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, entrepreneurship and more, Spina said. "This problem must be solved. If we don't solve it there will be a lasting drag on the economy of Texas and the nation" he said.

Charles "Chuck" Mason Jr. graduated from Lamar University in 1972 with a degree in biology and represents the third generation at the helm of Beaumont-based Mason Construction, having joined the company in 1970, and served as its president since 1980. Inspired by his tough but effective biology professor Russell Long, Chuck quickly learned to embrace the "scientific approach" and eventually found that approach "paid off in making solid business decisions, although it did tend to drive co-workers crazy."

Becky Mason graduated from Lamar University in 1971 with a degree in education, oversaw safety and human resources for the company for many years. Mason Construction is a leading petrochemical and industrial construction contractor. "We have long believed that Lamar was a key influence in our development as well as the development of Southeast Texas," said Becky Mason. "Both as students at Lamar and as people active in the community, we've found that we continually look to Lamar as a resource and an inspiration. When they approached us with the idea of developing a program to recruit and train science teachers, it seemed like an ideal fit, given our two backgrounds," she said.

The Mason’s reside in Beaumont and have two children, Charles E. "Chad" Mason III and Kristin Lenoir, and have four grandchildren. Kristin and her husband Alexander reside in Houston, and Chad and his wife Lauren reside in Beaumont where he carries on the family tradition, serving vice president of administration for Mason Construction.

The Masons have been active in United Way, Beaumont Community Players, Symphony of Southeast Texas, Junior League of Beaumont, Young Audiences of Southeast Texas and the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, to name a few. In addition to their volunteer efforts at Lamar University, the Masons endowed the first privately funded Mirabeau Scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships the university offers. They have generously supported faculty research and development, as well as numerous scholarships, the Cardinal Club, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and Human Development, and the College of Business, and many other significant projects and goals of the university.

"Chuck and Becky are among the most consistent benefactors of Lamar University, both in terms of their involvement and their generosity."

—Juan Zabaia, Vice President for University Advancement
Walk us through your career. How did you get here?

Upon finishing my degrees, I moved to Middle Tennessee State University where I taught in the Psychology Department for about four years. It was during that time, I was promoted to associate professor and then offered a job in Beaumont in 1976 at the Community Mental Health Center. I started teaching about that same time in 1977 at Lamar University as an adjunct professor. In September 1990, I became a full-time professor in the counseling program and enjoyed teaching tremendously. I taught full time at LU until 2007 when I became associate dean. While teaching, I became very active in the faculty senate. I served and chaired the faculty issues committee then became vice president for two years and president for two years. I have really enjoyed being an administrator and being responsible for accountability, accreditation and assessment as associate dean. I worked to resolve issues and conflicts among faculty and departments. Some of the most rewarding work is just interacting with faculty and assisting departments in maintaining the spirit of cooperation and professionalism. To put it in theological terms, I felt God opening some doors and I had the faith and courage to step through those doors. It’s been an unbelievable experience, and I feel so fortunate.

Recall some early memories and the people who helped you along the way.

My colleagues were of great assistance helping me to where I am today. Specifically, a dean of our college, LeBlond McAdams, was one of the most encouraging, and it was because of her encouragement that I first ran for faculty senate. Even as a student, my colleagues made comments that guided me to want to develop counseling skills. For example, while in theological school, one day after a class in sermon delivery a colleague came up to me and said, ‘Bill, that was so good I feel like I can come talk to you about anything.’

What do you hope for the future of higher education and specifically the College of Education and Human Development?

I hope, first of all, that they continue to move forward as a cohesive unit and see a close professional relationship among the departments. I think we have some outstanding people who will continue to cultivate, support and develop faculty who will be a positive influence on programs.

What is your legacy?

I hope my legacy around here would be a spirit of collegiality that people say, ‘oh yeah, that’s the way Bill used to do things’—a warmth, appreciation and a willingness to really respect each other. Being real, people of integrity, genuine and open, I think those are key ingredients for not only counselors, but faculty and administrators.

What motivated you most throughout your career?

It has to do with change and wanting to help implement, encourage and facilitate growth. The images of Mighty Mouse, The Lone Ranger, Superman—whether we know it or not, we identify with those images. Somehow early on, I took to those images of people who were helpers and encouragers and helped solve problems. That has motivated me tremendously. Of course the role of faith in my life is very important—just believing again that there’s purpose, a reason for being here.

How would you describe yourself in one word?

I hope it would be helpful.

What is your favorite quote?

I have several, but one in particular I use frequently is ‘He who has a why to live can bear with almost any how.’ —Friedrich Nietzsche

What motivated you most throughout your career?

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How would you describe yourself in one word?

I hope it would be helpful.
250,000 PEOPLE LOST POWER

On August 25, 2017, Harvey hit Port Aransas and Port O'Connor near Corpus Christi with 130 m.p.h. winds. The category 4 hurricane left 250,000 people without power.

HIGHWAYS BECAME WATERWAYS

On August 26, Harvey moved on to Houston. It remained there for four days. Two reservoirs overflowed. The highways became waterways. Between 25 and 30 percent of Houston’s Harris County was flooded. That is an area as large as New York City and Chicago combined. It was home to 4.5 million people.

26 INCHES IN 24 HOURS

On August 29, Harvey made landfall for a third time as it hit the coastal cities of Port Arthur and Beaumont Texas on the border of Louisiana. It dumped 26 inches of rain in 24 hours totaling more than an average year’s rainfall in just 5 days. It flooded Port Arthur, a city of 55,000 people. Water entered one third of the city’s building, including the shelter. Beaumont was without drinking water for days after the storm.

TEMPERATURES ROSE

On August 31, an Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas, ignited. The chemicals required refrigeration to stay inert. When the storm disabled the cooling equipment, temperatures rose and the chemicals ignited.

HOMES DAMAGED AND DESTROYED

As of September 5, 2017, Hurricane Harvey damaged 203,000 homes, of which 12,700 were destroyed. There were 507,000 people who registered for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The agency delivered 80 tractor-trailer loads of emergency supplies.

The Harvey Heroes group was an initiative created by Vice Provost Brenda Nichols. Students who complete 40 hours of community service and do two readings on the benefit of volunteering and giving back will received three credit hours added to their academic transcript. They receive these credits tuition and fee free. Roughly 300 LU students are participating in Harvey Heroes and are volunteering in people’s homes, Southeast Texas Food Bank, the Humane Society, Meals on Wheels, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, to name a few.

“Lamar University is right in the cusp of where everybody is needing help. So it just makes sense for this great campus to lend out a helping hand.”

—Michael Mitchell, Student

“As Lamar University Students we’re called to make our community better. And when our community is hurting this badly, we need to go and help.”

—Katie Deaton, Student
Starting in September, the divisions of education and fine and applied arts at Lamar Tech will be raised to the status of schools. Dr. Ruth Olcott, who has headed the Department of Education and Psychology will continue in this post, and will also be promoted to dean of the School of Education. Other departments in this new school include those of home economics and health education. Greatly increased enrollments made the reorganization advisable.

New requirements, higher standards and a new name were the three topics the college of education addressed in Fall of 1969. The college, formally known as college of education has a new name, college of education and human development. Adding “human development” to the title was felt to more accurately define the programs. This title better includes home economics, physical education, sports medicine and teacher preparation.
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