



February 1, 2019

Greetings Alumni, Students, Colleagues and Friends!

In 2019, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of the College of Education at Lamar University and the 30th anniversary of the college's current name Education and Human Development. We have much to celebrate as we look back on the accomplishments of our predecessors, current faculty, staff and students, and with a bright optimistic view as we move into the future. Since 2007, our college has become the largest provider of online educational programs in Texas with more than 12,000 alumni. Each department has selected a *Crystal Star Alumni* based on outstanding achievements to their discipline since graduation to recognize this evening. We also will recognize our dedicated staff and faculty with the initiation of the inaugural *Lena Mae Francis Staff Award* and the *Ruth Olcott Faculty Award*.

In addition to celebrating the past, we look to the future as we completed a new college-wide strategic plan, the first one for the College of Education and Human Development. 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 begin the implementation stage of the strategic plan with new and updated educational programs created in the college, including

- M.S. in Nutrition
- Master's in Public Health
- M.Ed. in Special Education with a concentration in Educational Diagnostician
- Certificate in Educational Diagnostician
- Revised M.Ed. in Counseling and Development with a concentration in Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling to align with state licensure. The School Counseling concentration now provides the coursework requirements so candidates are eligible for both School Counseling Certification and Licensed Professional Counselor.

With our staff, administration, dedicated students and all stakeholders, the future is bright. Please visit our webpage at [lamar.edu/education](http://lamar.edu/education) and social media outlets frequently to learn about the next 60 years of accomplishments! As always, it is a great time to be at Lamar University.

Go Cardinals,



Robert J. Spina, Ph.D., FACSM



# *Program*

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

**Presentation of the *Crystal Star Awards***

**Presentation of the *Lena Mae Francis Staff Award***

**Presentation of the *Ruth Olcott Faculty Award***

**Presentation of the *College Award***

**Closing Remarks**





# Crystal Star

Department of Counseling

## Amber Woods

Director, Crisis Services and Adult Intake at Spindletop Center



Amber Woods '14 currently serves as the director of Crisis Services and Adult Intake at Spindletop Center. Since graduating, her many accomplishments, recognition and wide-reaching impact attest to her strong interest and commitment to not only the counseling profession, but also to the mission and values of the College of Education and Human Development. She has demonstrated great leadership, innovation and excellence in her field. Woods is an alumnus of Leadership Beaumont and the proud recipient of the Chamber of Commerce's 40 Under 40 Award. She provides mentoring to youth members in Southeast Texas which connects them to community and educational resources in an effort to establish and sustain optimal physical and mental health, helping them identify healthy life goals. Woods has demonstrated effective leadership within her place of employment, the LU community and throughout Southeast Texas. She leads and inspires community members and leaders in her quest for integrated health care and holistic wellness.

# Crystal Star

Department of Educational Leadership

## Jay Killgo

Superintendent, Vidor ISD



Jay Killgo, Ed.D. has served as the superintendent of Vidor Independent School District since July 2012. Prior to being named to this position Killgo worked as principal at Vidor High School for five years and Hull-Daisetta High School for two years. During his 22 years working in education, he taught in Jasper ISD, Tomball ISD and Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD. His administrative experience began with Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD. Killgo earned his doctorate in educational administration at Lamar University in 2010. Prior to this, he received his master's in Educational Administration in 2003 at LU. His undergraduate degree was attained at Sam Houston State University in 1995 with a history major and English minor. Killgo has been married for 20 years to his wife Jennifer and also has two children-Taylor Killgo, 19 years old, a freshman at Texas State University, and Averi Killgo, 12 years old. His hometown is Jasper, Texas.

## Crystal Star

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

### Kayla Fisher

CEO, Green Light Restaurants



Kayla Fisher is the owner and CEO of Green Light Restaurants. Together with her husband, Scott, they have built four concepts that have contributed in advancing the culinary scene in Southeast Texas. After meeting at Lamar University, the couple married in 2008 shortly after graduation. They have four beautiful children ranging from ages 3-15, which keep them young, busy and laughing. As a young entrepreneur and LU alumna, Fisher is passionate about LU's role in our community. In her spare time, she works with our students to offer them hands-on insight into the business world and food service management. She believes that in order to stay innovative and relevant in the industry it's important to travel and broaden your horizons. When not traveling, she enjoys watching her kids play sports, running and reading a good book. Fisher is a 2008 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies and went on to complete her MBA at LU in 2012.

## Crystal Star

Department of Health and Kinesiology

### Allen W. Jackson

Regents Professor, Health and Physical Education, University of North Texas



Allen Jackson, Ed.D. a lifelong Texan, received his Bachelor of Science (1973) and Doctor of Education (1978) degrees from the University of Houston and earned his Master of Science in Health and Physical Education in 1974 from Lamar University. He joined the faculty at the University of North Texas in 1978 and has remained there for a total of 41 years. He currently serves as Regents Professor and was chair of the Department of Kinesiology Health Promotion and Recreation for seven years between 2009 and 2016. Jackson's academic career has included presenting or co-authoring more than 100 presentations at professional meetings, publishing more than 100 articles in refereed journals and two textbooks and receiving approximately \$2 million in external funding. He was selected as a fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine and the National Academy of Kinesiology and served as a member of the Science Board for the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition from 2008 – 2011.



# Crystal Star

Department of Teacher Education

# Lena Mae Francis Award

Staff Award | College of Education and Human Development

## Aja Baise

Second Grade Teacher, Sallie Curtis Elementary, Beaumont Independent School District



Aja Baise is currently a second grade teacher at Curtis Elementary in the Beaumont Independent School District. She is in her third year of teaching and feels blessed to work with her BISD colleagues and teach her students. In 2016, Baise earned her bachelor's degree from Lamar University and is currently enrolled in the Educational Administration Master's Program. While earning her undergraduate degree, she developed academically through coursework, internship opportunities and developed as a leader through serving as a member of the education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi, where she eventually served as president. She looks forward to continuing to grow as an educator by utilizing the skills that she is learning as she furthers her education.

## Dimples Jones

Director, Certification and Testing, Lamar University



Dimples Jones began her career 17 years ago in the College of Education and Human Development. She accomplished many tasks, beginning as an office associate/administrative associate sr. in the TExES office, working her way up to the graduate certification officer and continuing in her current position as the director of certification and testing. As a proud alumna of Lamar University she obtained her Associate of Arts in office administration and her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in educational technology. Jones cares deeply about the commitment of the Certification and TExES Department, focusing on serving, assisting and providing for our undergraduates, alternative certification and graduate students who are seeking to become educators and administrators. In addition, she serves and volunteers on many committees within the college and university. Jones resides in Beaumont, Texas and enjoys traveling, reading and spending time with her family.



# Ruth Olcott Award

Faculty Award | College of Education and Human Development

## Kaye Shelton

Professor, Educational Leadership, Lamar University



Kaye Shelton, Ph.D. is a professor of educational leadership in the Center for Doctoral Studies in the College of Education and Human Development. She is certified as an online instructor, teaching online since 1999, and an online education consultant. Shelton holds a M.S. in Education emphasizing Online Teaching and Learning from California State University-East Bay and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from the University of Nebraska. Winner of both the Blackboard and eLearning Exemplary Online Course awards, she has published more than 40 articles and book chapters in the field of online education, including a book entitled *An Administrator's Guide to Online Education*. Involved with research in online education since 1997, Shelton has spoken at numerous conferences and workshops as well as advised peer institutions regarding the creation of an online education program and the best practices for teaching online and faculty support. Recently, Shelton has been involved in the international use of the Quality Scorecard for the Administration of Online Programs as it has been adopted by institutions in Latin America.

# College Award

College of Education and Human Development

## Randy Best

Founder and Chairman of Academic Partnerships



Randy Best is the founder and chairman of Academic Partnerships and other mission-driven organizations focused exclusively on the delivery of affordable and accessible higher education globally. For the past 20 years, Best has been solely committed to business initiatives in the education sector, focusing on the welfare of children and expanding access to higher education. His successful efforts to help a small public university suffering from storm damage and declining enrollments to go online nine years ago and grow, led to the founding of AP. Prior to entering the education sector, Best has built successful companies across a broad range of industries. Best holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Lamar University.

**1959**  
College of Education at  
Lamar State College  
of Technology was formed



Home Economics Club

**1989**  
College of Education  
was renamed to College of  
Education and Human Development



First Counseling Cohort

**2011**  
Department of Counseling  
was created

**2015**  
Dean Robert J. Spina

**1959**  
Existing Departments:  
Home Economics  
Physical Education  
Professional Development  
& Graduate Studies

**1970—1980**  
Dean M.L. McLaughlin

**1984—1988**  
Dean Dennis P. McCabe

**1989—1991**  
Dean Charles M. Hodge

**2000**  
College Student  
Enrollment: 1,534

**1999—2004**  
Dean R. Carl Westerfield

**1965—1969**  
Dean W. Richard Hargrove

**1971**  
Lamar State College of Technology  
was renamed Lamar University



**1980—1984**  
Dean James O. Schnur

**1992—1998**  
Dean LeBland  
McAdams

**2004—2014**  
Dean Hollis  
Lowery-Moore

**2014—2015**  
Dean William  
R. Holmes

**1959—1963**  
Founding Dean Ruth Olcott



**1990**  
Department of Educational Leadership  
was created

**2004**  
Ed.D. program  
initiated

**2007**  
LU partnered with  
Academic Partnerships



**2015**  
College Student  
Enrollment: 4,991





2018-2019 DEAN'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**THE COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**



Lamar University® .... generates a .... *community of  
collaboration*

through

**INNOVATIVE  
CURRICULA** ,

**SCHOLARSHIP**



**SERVICE  
LEARNING**

*to inspire our diverse student population and to  
positively impact their lives and others in* **SOUTHEAST TEXAS**  
and beyond.

All of our success stems from the incredible work and dedication of  
the college and the roads it has paved for all of us in the past. —Angelica Figueroa, President





COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**