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LAMAR UNIVERSITY Reunion

REUNION 2011

FORMER CHEERLEADERS AND FORMER HOMECOMING QUEENS

The Office of Alumni Affairs is planning reunion events for all former cheerleaders and homecoming queens on October 22, culminating with the homecoming football game, which will see the Cardinals square off against Central Arkansas.

If you cheered for Lamar or are a former homecoming queen, please visit Advancement.Lamar.edu/Reunion to be certain that you receive reunion information.

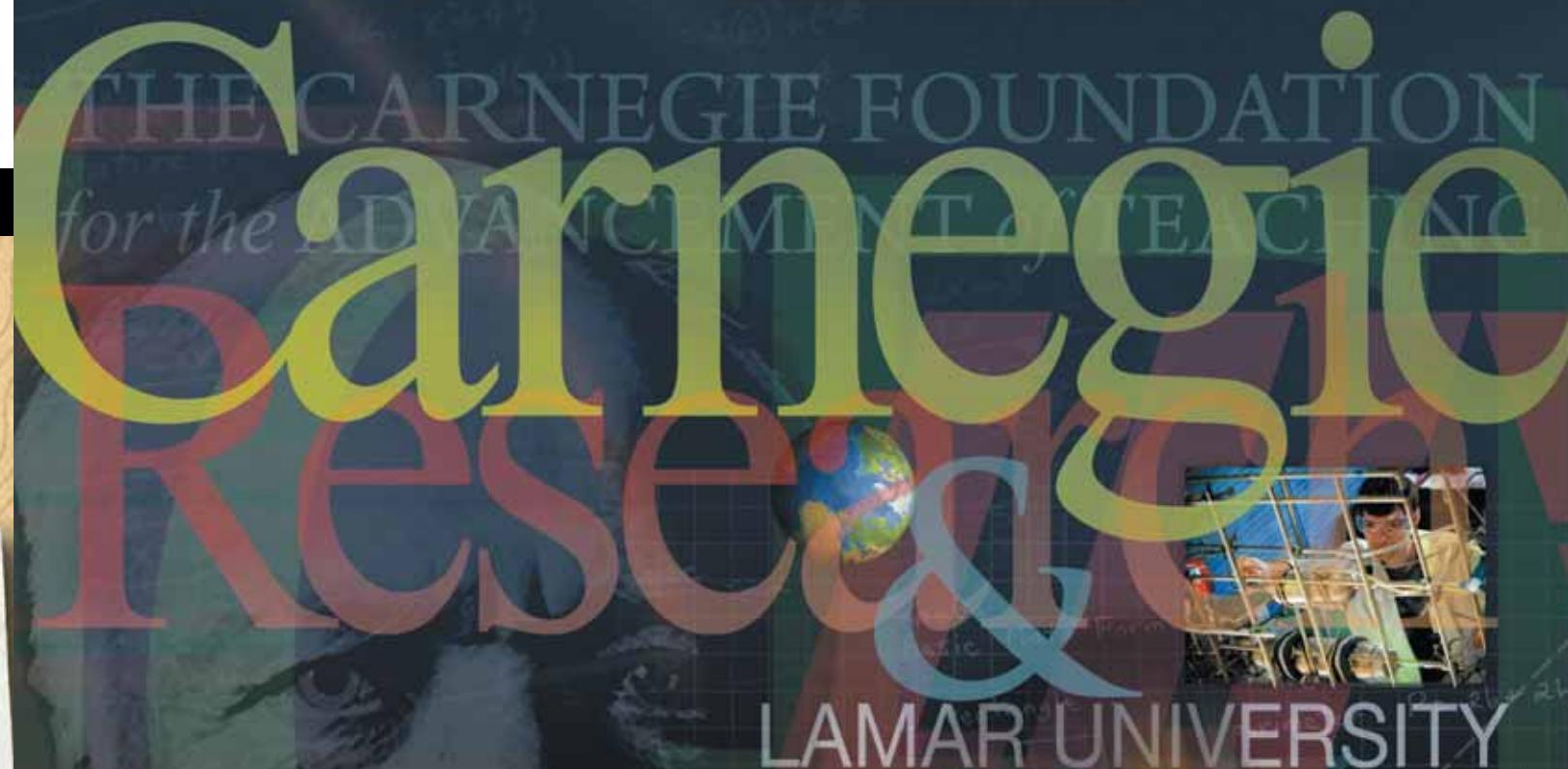
This year will also mark the first-ever all Alumni tailgate before the homecoming game. Visit Advancement.Lamar.edu/Reunion for the most current information.

GO CARDS!

SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 22, 2011

CARDINAL Cadence

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A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM APRIL 2011



THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION
for the ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Carnegie

Research & Innovation

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

**LU earns
Carnegie spot**

Football:
The historic return in pictures

Curtain rises:
Music renovation attracts applause



From the President

These are exciting and challenging days for Lamar University. Lamar passed a major milestone this spring when it was named a doctoral research university by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Being a doctoral research university—one of two in The Texas State University System, one of seven public Texas universities, and one of 27 public universities in the U.S. to have this classification—raises Lamar’s visibility and its prestige and qualifies the university for

opportunities we would otherwise be unable to pursue.

We are delighted to welcome Gregg Lassen to Lamar’s executive team as vice president for finance and operations. He joins Lamar with a track record of success. Gregg has served in higher education since 2000, most recently at UT-Tyler, and has nearly two decades of corporate experience to draw on as well.

These are challenging days for the State as legislators struggle to develop a budget for then next biennium. While the final figure is unknown, it is clear that Lamar will see a significant reduction in state support. Careful planning for the anticipated shortfall over the past 18 months has put LU in the best possible position and will enable the university to continue to move forward. Whatever the final reduction, we will deliver the highest quality instruction possible as we embrace research, scholarship and professional service and continue invest in areas that create opportunity for future growth.

And, despite the challenging economy, the alumni and friends of Lamar has continued to support the university through the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign. Donors have already given more than \$78 million to enhance LU for current and future generations. In this issue of Cardinal Cadence, you can read about several new gifts including: Ray and Mary Moore’s gift creating the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music; Byron and Connie Dyer’s gift creating the Byron and Connie Dyer Innovation Fund for the Department of Earth and Space Sciences; Mark and Janie Steinhagen’s gift creating the Janie Nelson Steinhagen and Mark Steinhagen Global Fellows Endowment in the College of Business; Henry and Fran Strait’s gift creating the H.D. “Tex” and Emma Strait Baseball Training Facility; Richard and Cathy Price’s gift naming the head coach’s office in the Athletic Complex; and Bart and Martye Simmons’ gift honoring longtime Coach John Payton by naming the John Payton Academic Success Center in the Athletic Complex.

With Cardinal Pride,

Simmons
James M. Simmons
President
Lamar University



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DEPARTMENTS

- 24 On campus
- 32 Arts & Culture
- 44 Athletics
- 50 Class notes



THE FACE OF THE CAMPAIGN INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

- 4 Global gift
Mark and Janie Steinhagen elevate MBA program through Global Fellows Endowment
- 6 Rock solid
Byron '57 and Connie Dyer create Dyer Innovation Fund to expand horizons of earth and space sciences faculty and students
- 8 Moore milestone
Ray '50 and Mary Moore's gift to music students inspires naming of Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music
- 10 Cardinal pride and tradition
Bart '78, '79, and Martye Simmons '78 honor Coach John Payton and help student-athletes
- 11 A long way home
Richard and Cathy Price encourage young people to achieve their full potential
- 12 Straits hit home run for Cards
Strait family honors Rex and Emma Strait's love of the game
- 14 DreamMakers
Alumni and friends are choosing to create vibrant legacies through a variety of endowments

LAGNIAPPE

- 22 Cardinal Views
- 36 Football is back
Fans enjoy historic season . . . see it in pictures
- 40 Reunion 2010 pics
- 42 Tailgating pics
- 68 Reunion 2010
Attention former cheerleaders and homecoming queens

FEATURES

- 15 Hall of Fame salutes Crump
Business applauds James Crump '62 as a global leader for PricewaterhouseCoopers
- 16 Sound and spirit soar
Singing the praises of a music building renovation that is more rebuild than revamp
- 18 LU economic impact tops \$310 million
Through a dynamic business complex and graduate advancement, LU helps ensure future vitality
- 19 Daniel Chen earns University Scholar acclaim
Chen's body of work wins him recognition
- 20 Seeing the invisible
Rafael Tadmor's enjoyment of putting the puzzle together leads to groundbreaking discovery
- 47 Distinguished alumni named
Community champion, special education pioneer and network broadcaster honored
- 62 Co-op to corporate
Lubrizol executive Larry Norwood '73 leads international endeavors
- 64 Through the fire
Before his election to the Texas senate, Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell '84 saw his life change forever in the Pentagon fire of Sept. 11, 2001
- 66 Around the world
Butch Smith '75 spotlights Grace Flight with a spin around the world





Attending a luncheon in their honor to celebrate creation of the Steinhagen Global Fellows Endowment in Lamar's College of Business are, from left, Bill and Mary Jane (Steinhagen) Benning, Janie and Mark Steinhagen and Kim and Roy Steinhagen.

abroad, accompanied by a College of Business faculty Steinhagen Global Fellow. They will participate in classes and seminars with other students, visit businesses and experience the culture of the country—all at an advanced level.

"We have a global economy, and this is an opportunity for some of our outstanding graduate students to make some trips and contacts and see and do some things that they normally wouldn't get to do. We're pleased to be able to be a part of it," said Mark Steinhagen, a long-time community and business leader and former Lamar regent. "We have always supported local activities, and there's nothing more important in Southeast Texas than Lamar University."

Throughout their lives, Mark and Janie Steinhagen have contributed time, talent and treasure to improve the quality of life in Beaumont and Southeast Texas. Their example inspires current and future generations to make a difference in the lives of others by becoming active volunteers and donors.

Mark Steinhagen is known for his achievements in the business community, and his leadership has contributed substantially to the success of Steinhagen Oil Co., founded in 1940.

"The thing that really sparked our interest to make a commitment, particularly to the College of Business, is the fine leadership that's been provided by (President) Jimmy and Susan (Simmons) and their entire team. They've done a wonderful job. Even though I went to the University of Texas, Lamar is important to this area and to us. Because of all the good things that are going on out there, we decided this was one thing we wanted to do."

Steinhagen has established a strong

legacy of leadership in economic development for the region, serving as president of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Beaumont and being active in numerous civic and community organizations.

His commitment to Lamar is exemplified by his service as a regent of the Lamar University System from 1979 to 1985 and his gift in 2001 to help create the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies. A Presidential Scholarship is named in honor of Mark, his brother and their father. Roy Steinhagen established the Janie and Mark Steinhagen Scholarship in Business in honor of his parents.

Also a key supporter of Lamar, Roy Steinhagen served four terms as president of the Lamar University Foundation. "Roy has worked hard out there and done a good job. That was part of our reason for taking a hard look at this program," said his father. "My background is in business, and when Henry and the team presented this idea, it appealed to us. We're pleased we were able to do it."

Most of Lamar's MBA students are full-time professionals, Venta said, and, because of the quality of the program, it also has attracted international students and students from other states. "Our international students make every class a global experience—a dynamic learning environment would be hard to reproduce elsewhere."

The Steinhagen fellowships provide a perfect fit—enabling the part-time students from the industrial and professional community the opportunity to study abroad over a period of two weeks, instead of a semester. Most attend classes at night while maintaining full-time jobs and supporting families, so they can't take a semester to study abroad.

Study will be intense with two-week courses of 40 hours per week, Venta said. Steinhagen Fellows also will have additional responsibilities when they return. "We expect that they will participate in presentations to the entire college. We hope they will take their experiences and infuse them into the student body."

MBA students have studied abroad for the past two summers and will do so again

in 2011. But support has been limited, and faculty members have been unable to participate because of budget constraints.

"We're excited about the Steinhagen Global Fellows endowment," said Bradley Mayer, associate dean of the College of Business and director of the MBA program. "Through study abroad, MBA students will benefit in both their personal and professional developments. It will give students a greater perspective of diversity and will increase their connectivity well beyond the region. The best way to gain an understanding of diversity is to visit other countries and begin to understand their cultures. Students who have experienced international study are eager to share their new perspectives with others when they return. The Steinhagen Global Fellows experience will allow the MBA program to extend its global reach by increasing the number of students who will be able to study abroad as well as increasing the various study-abroad offerings."

The Steinhagen endowment represents another mark of excellence for the College of Business, which has seen its MBA student population increase from 70 five years ago to more than 200. For the fifth year in a row, the college is listed among Princeton Review's 300 best business schools, of 1,600 in the country. It has twice been listed in the Aspen Institute's "Beyond Gray Pinstripes" survey, a ranking of universities focusing on ethics, corporate-social responsibility and sustainability. The college has been accredited for many years by the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business International – placing it among the top 25 percent in the nation and top 2 percent in the world.

Venta expressed appreciation to the Steinhagen family. "The most important thing is the trust they have placed in Lamar University and the College of Business," he said. "This is an important gift because, even though they are not graduates of Lamar, they believe this university is an important resource."

Global gift

The Janie Nelson Steinhagen and Mark Steinhagen Global Fellows Endowment will elevate Lamar's MBA program to 'next tier' of excellence

by Louise Wood

Lamar business students and faculty will have new opportunities to gain first-hand knowledge of the global marketplace, thanks to the Janie Nelson Steinhagen and Mark Steinhagen Global Fellows Endowment in the College of Business.

By studying and observing global businesses in foreign countries, they will witness the economic, cultural and political forces impacting the way business is conducted worldwide. Their experiences will benefit teachers and students alike to enhance teaching as well as learning.

"The importance of this gift is the fact that this is a globally competitive world, and our students need exposure to the whole world—beyond the world in which they live," said Enrique "Henry" Venta, dean of the College of Business. "This is one of the largest gifts in the history of the College of Business and represents a tremendous infusion of both monetary support and prestige. It will be a tremendous growing experience for us because globalization is very important to our program."

The fellowship will enhance the college's position in attracting top-notch graduate students to the master of business administration (MBA) program at Lamar, said Venta. "It moves us to the next tier of business schools and will help us differentiate ourselves. This gift will increase the size and scale of our graduate study-abroad program."

Beginning in summer 2012, five or six student Steinhagen Global Fellows will travel

Rock solid

Dyers support geology program

Connie & Byron Dyer

TOM DUBROCK

by Brian Sattler

The search for oil calls up images of wildcatters drilling on a hunch, but, in reality, it comes down to experience backed by hard-core analysis. Throughout his career, geologist Byron Dyer '57 was right more often than not, finding oil with great success on land and offshore—so successful in fact that he was inducted into the All-American Wildcatters in 1996.

Throughout his career, Dyer built on analytical skills sparked at Lamar to find pockets of the precious resource, eventually building a company that would become a major Gulf Coast producer.

Acknowledgement of Dyer's outstanding career has garnered him recognition by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Association of Professional Landmen, American Petroleum Institute and the Corpus Christi and Houston Geological Societies.

Byron and Connie Dyer have been married for more than 50 years. A geology graduate of the University of Texas, Connie serves on the advisory councils for the College of Natural Sciences and the Jackson School of Geosciences there. The Dyer family includes sons Jeff and John and his wife Christina, and their daughter Kelly and her husband Mark Gabrisch. They are blessed with six grandchildren.



Teaching today's students how to make decisions that pinpoint valuable resources demands not only the best from professors in the classroom and laboratories, but also in the field. Getting faculty researchers and their students into the field to gain first-hand experience takes resources of another kind—money. At times, budgets can be stretched painfully thin—and result in missed opportunities.

Such knowledge comes at a price—thankfully, it is made possible through the Dyer's generosity. Helping keep those opportunities alive through a million-dollar gift from Houstonians Byron and Connie Dyer, Lamar has created a fund for faculty travel to geologic areas of interest. The fund will help faculty and students participate in laboratory and field studies that will give them the experience they need.

"The Byron and Connie Dyer Innovation Fund is a tremendous gift to the people of Southeast Texas and a wonderful asset for the Department of Earth and Space Sciences," said Jim Jordan, chair of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences.

Their gift is funded by taking the annual required distributions from their Individual Retirement Account and in turn making a gift of like amount to the Dyer Innovation Fund. While the annual distributions are taxable to the Dyers, they realize a charitable tax deduction for their

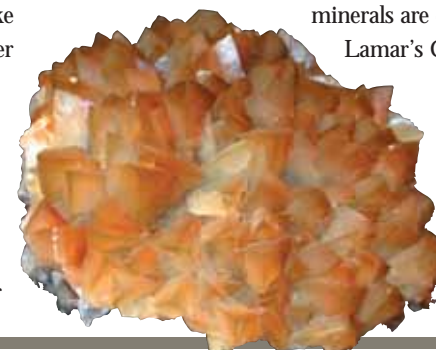
annual gift to the fund. At the time of their passing, the remainder of the IRA will go to the university to complete the Dyer Innovation Fund free of any estate tax or income tax consequences to their family.

"Byron's incredible career in oil and gas exploration has fueled his love for the incredible riches our planet holds—whether that wealth is black gold or crystal formations more beautiful than any cathedral," President James Simmons said.

The journal *American Mineralogist* credits Dyer with the discovery in 1957 of the mineral Chambersite, named after the Texas county in which it was first observed.

Dyers' admiration for the incredible range of geologic wonders of the Earth led him to help bring "the best mineral exhibit in Texas outside of the Houston Museum of Natural Science" to Lamar University, Simmons said. Dyer was serving as the vice chairman of the board of advisors for the Earth and space sciences department at the time and helped facilitate the relationship with the museum's world-class Cullen Exhibit that resulted in a stunning collection of "88 of the most fantastic minerals from famous mines around the world now on permanent loan to Lamar," Jordan said. The minerals are exhibited in the hallways of Lamar's Geology Building.

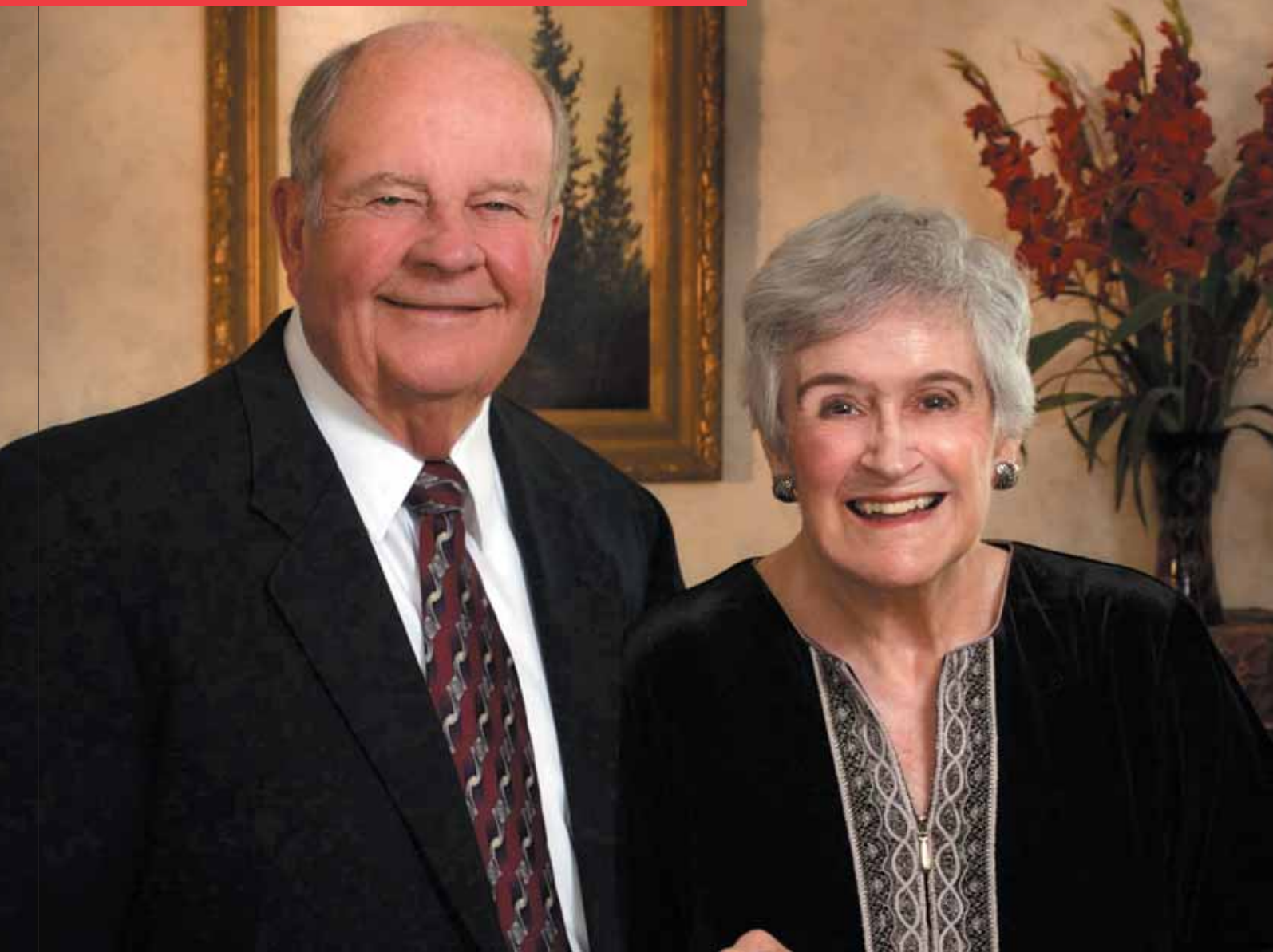
"The Dyer Innovation Fund will help our faculty travel to geologic areas of interest and participate in laboratory and field studies that will give them experience to share with our students," Jordan said.



Lamar's Earth and space sciences department has a long history of student and faculty interaction in research, and this profound gift will enhance this tradition, Jordan said. In recent years, Lamar faculty and students have traveled to sites in Panama, Australia, England and, of course, to American sites like Big Bend, the Four Corners and many others. These trips, which often include Lamar geology students, are vital to building thorough scientific understanding, Jordan said.

Likewise, scholarships help the department attract the best and brightest students, and retain geology majors who need a financial boost. In the past year, the department has tripled the number of majors in response to its energized atmosphere of student learning and faculty interaction.

The Dyers have been benefactors to many organizations, including Texas Childrens Hospital, The Methodist Hospital Foundation, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Literacy Advance of Houston, the Houston and Santa Fe Opera Companies and the Houston Geological Society. Now, Lamar University can count itself among the causes that have benefited from Byron and Connie Dyers' rock-solid support.



GARY CHRISTOPHER

Moore milestone

Gift establishes Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music

by Larry Acker

For more than 60 years, alumnus Ray Moore '50 has been an ardent supporter of Lamar University. Mary, his bride of 56 years, joins him in that passion, and together they have given their time, talents and financial resources to the university and to Southeast Texas.

Lamar University achieved exceptional prominence with the announcement of the naming of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, joining those at Rice, SMU, University of Houston and the University of Texas as one of only five named music departments or schools in the state.

The naming is a lasting memorial in appreciation for a \$2 million donation to the College of Fine Arts and Communication from Ray and Mary Moore of Beaumont. The gift brings the university's Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign total to more than \$78 million.

"We are most grateful to the Moores for their transformative gift, which will facilitate the continued growth of the music program and contribute to the outstanding musicianship of our students for many years to come," said Russ Schultz, dean of the college.

The naming honors the couple's love of the fine arts, in particular Mary's love of music.

"This extraordinary gift is the culmination of a lifetime of support from Mary and Ray Moore," said Lamar President James Simmons. "Not only does it ensure the generosity of this couple will always be remembered, but it also guarantees the musicians who graduate from this department will keep the music playing."

Schultz said the gift will "lift the department to new heights," allowing it to provide even greater academic programs and further enhance the support it gives to the other performing arts within the community.

"Future generations of music majors will benefit from the generosity of the Moore family and will identify Mary and her family as leaders in supporting excellence in musicianship and music education," Simmons said. "You have given much of your life to making beautiful music possible for the people of Southeast Texas, Simmons said to the Moores at the ceremony. "That legacy will grow ever larger through the work of the department that now bears your name."

An accomplished pianist whose passion for music helped infuse the Lamar arts landscape into the regional arts scene, Mary studied music at the University of Texas and took summer courses at Lamar. The founder of the Beaumont Civic Opera Buffs and past president of the Beaumont Civic Opera, she played in the Piano Ensemble of the Women's Club. She was a longtime member of the Beaumont Music Commission, Young Audiences of Beaumont, Symphony of Southeast Texas and the Junior League of Beaumont. Mary credits her mother, an original member of the Melody Maids, for instilling in her the love of music.

When asked about having the music department named for her, she said "I almost want to hide because I'm not sure I deserve it, but it's very nice to have such a wonderful honor."

A 1950 graduate and 2005 distinguished alumnus of Lamar, Ray is a prominent attorney, entrepreneur and businessman. A member of several university boards and committees, including Lamar's Investing in the Future campaign cabinet, Ray is co-founder of Moore Landrey L.L.P., CommunityBank of Texas, and co-owner and president of Idylwild Golf Club. He has been instrumental in the economic development of Southeast Texas through his involvement in and financial contribution to many area organizations and businesses.

"Education is one of the most important decisions in life. It enables you to do the things you want to do," Ray Moore said. "When I transferred, all 60 hours I accumulated at Lamar were accepted at SMU." At that time, Lamar only offered two-year degrees. "That's a testament to the quality education Lamar has always provided to Southeast Texas students."

”
Education is one of the most important decisions in life. It enables you to do the things you want to do.

—RAY MOORE '50

“

The music program at Lamar has been marking milestones for more than six decades as its students and faculty entertain, enlighten and enchant audiences across the region and around the world. With beginnings around 1950, the department awarded its first bachelor's degrees in 1955 and has offered master's degrees since 1975. As educators, teachers and band directors, music alumni have taught and inspired generations. Professional musicians worldwide trace their musical roots—and their inspiration—to Lamar.

"With the resurrection of football and the rebirth of the marching band, the music department has grown so rapidly the last two years it's been difficult to keep pace with all the new faces," Simmons said.

With the endowment support from the Moore family, the tempo and rich tradition of music education at Lamar University will grow even stronger. In harmony with that support is the recently completed building renovation that includes a stunningly beautiful recital and lecture hall, updated offices for faculty and staff, 18 sound-proof practice rooms, a piano lab, a computer lab, rehearsal hall and a state-of-the-art recording studio.

"This landmark occasion marks the dedication of the fourth named department on the LU campus," Simmons said. Other named departments are the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing, the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering and the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering.

"Having a named department and a complete renovation of the music building enhances the prestige of the faculty and students, particularly within the professional community of performing and educator musicians," said Schultz. "Generations of music majors will benefit from the generosity of the Moore family in supporting excellence in musicianship and music education."



John Payton

Bart '78, '79, and Martye (Sculley) Simmons '78 have made several gifts to Lamar University to inspire its students to succeed. The gifts they've chosen to make to the Investing in the Future campaign reflect their pride in LU tradition and a desire for students to be aware of LU's rich heritage. The couple established the George and Patricia Sculley Scholarship in Business, created an endowment for the College of Business and named the Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions in tribute to the beloved coach and to the record of achievement of many other coaches and players.

Their latest gift honors longtime Coach John Payton with the naming of the athletics academic center. The John Payton Academic Success Center serves as a resource to help student athletes excel in the classroom and achieve their personal goals of earning degrees. The gift champions the importance of succeeding in the classroom as well as on the playing field and was made possible by Bart's success as president of Tristar Producer Services Inc. Bart credits Payton as a seminal influence in his life. He still carries on his PDA a scanned copy of the invitation to play for the Cardinals that Coach Payton sent to him. "It reminds me of what I should live up to," Bart said. "I respect Coach Payton greatly."

Payton now serves as special assistant to

Athletic Director Larry Tidwell. He spent 13 seasons as an assistant football coach and remains an adjunct professor in the Department of Health and Kinesiology after retiring as assistant professor. He assists Tidwell as a consultant, a counselor to athletes and coaches and as a representative for the athletics department within the Beaumont and Southeast Texas communities.

Some 55 years after earning All-America recognition as a running back at Prairie View A&M University, the Cardinal Hall of Honor member continues to inspire students and athletes.

"Coach Payton has been a very loyal professor, coach, counselor and leader at Lamar University for 40-plus years, and he represents the Cardinal Nation in a first-class manner each and every day," said Tidwell.

Payton's 3,703 career rushing yards remain a Prairie View record. Before joining Coach Vernon Glass' Lamar staff in 1970, Payton won state championships as a basketball coach at Woodville Scott High School in 1957 and 1958 and another state title at Beaumont Charlton-Pollard in 1964.

His guidance has helped innumerable student-athletes apply a winning attitude in both their athletic and academic careers. "Get an education," Payton tells his students. "Go as high as you can go." Every student has talent, and you must be educated. We have a great institution here at Lamar. Our students

should take advantage of the many opportunities they have here, and, as Winston Churchill said, 'Never surrender.' The Academic Success Center is a masterpiece, and I can't get over the fact that Bart and Martye Simmons thought enough of me to give this to Lamar."

The John Payton Academic Success Center provides student-athletes with an academic counselor to discuss major selection, course scheduling and degree completion requirements in addition to regular mentoring services. Students receive letters to help coordinate their absences with their professors and to ensure they can make up missed work and reschedule test dates due to team travel.

Both Bart and Martye Simmons credit Lamar for equipping them for success in their professional and personal lives. "The mentors and experiences we had at Lamar helped us grow as individuals and gave us a professional foundation to achieve success for which we are very grateful," Martye said. "We know students today are enjoying and making the most of similar experiences. Whether or not they realize it at this particular time in their lives, they are part of a big Lamar family."

Today's student-athletes stand on the shoulders of dedicated and loyal Lamar Cardinals such as Coach Payton, allowing them to reach for an even brighter future—one Bart and Martye Simmons are happy to share.—CH

BRIAN SATTLER



Richard & Cathy Price

LARRY ACKER

A long way home

For Silsbee natives Cathy and Richard Price, their odyssey through foreign lands and the subsequent road home to Southeast Texas has been a long and exciting journey. Norway, Tunisia, Russia, Great Britain and Sweden are only a few of the points of interest in their tale of oil and gas exploration and oil field equipment production. A self-made man, without a college degree, Price has taken advantage of good fortune, the ability to recognize an opportunity, and just plain hard work to succeed. His success and the couple's desire to help deserving students achieve has translated into the academic success of several college students for more than a decade.

Their journey together began in school and in their hometown church, where they both sang in the choir. While he was studying at Texas A&M University, his initial ambition to become a Marine pilot was cut short when the Vietnam War ended. The plan for becoming a civil engineer also evaporated when he discovered he liked being married more than attending college. Price left school during his junior year and went to work for an oil and gas service company.

One of those golden opportunities arose when the company selected him for a management training program and promptly sent him on special projects to Moscow, Russia, and eventually to Norway where the couple resided for 11 years. Although he eventually accepted a position with another petroleum company, his drilling and

exploration expertise also led him to other exotic locales, such as Spain, Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Abu Dhabi. It was during this time that he helped develop and drill the first horizontal oil well from a floating drilling platform, a common practice in the industry today.

"Our first daughter was 2 years old when we moved to Norway, and our second daughter was actually born there," said Cathy. "It was a wonderful place to live and raise small children, but we realized we needed to get back to Texas to allow them the opportunity to form those bonds we enjoyed so much while growing up."

Upon their return to the states, Price and a partner founded Lone Star Mud Inc., an oil and gas industry company, in 1990 in Midland. Price sold his interest in the thriving company in 1999. Wise investments in oil and gas wells proved to be a profitable speculation, and that, coupled with a brief bout with cancer, prompted Price's retirement in 2000. These days, their time is mostly spent traveling and enjoying retirement. Trips to Europe for concert tours with their church choir are fairly regular occurrences, as are excursions to Costa Rica, their favorite sand-and-sun destination.

They also enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and keeping tabs on their "adopted" children, the students they financially support in their college endeavors. The Beaumont couple has established the Richard and Cathy Price Scholarship in Choral Music at Lamar, an obvious result of their church choir experiences. Along with

the formal scholarship, the Prices have supported the educational pursuits of several students for more than 10 years. They support deserving college students, some of whom are relatives, as well as the children of their church family. Their philanthropy also extends to funding special summer vocal training for their Lamar scholarship students at a renowned vocal school in Graz, Austria.

"We try to instill in the kids the desire to achieve so they can help someone else some day," Cathy said. "We take an active interest in the education of the kids we support because we want them to know that it isn't only their moms and dads that will be disappointed if they fail. Fortunately we haven't had to deal with that yet."

The Lamar football program is also a beneficiary of their benevolence. Impressed with head football coach Ray Woodard and encouraged by the excitement the return of football has created on campus, the Prices agreed to a naming opportunity for the head coach's office in the new athletics complex. According to Price, it's very important to them to support Lamar University because it's such a vital part of Beaumont and the region.

When asked if the fact that he never completed his college education was a motivating factor in helping so many students go to college, Price said, "I think so. It's getting harder and harder to achieve in this world without an education. God has blessed Cathy and me so much that we feel it's our obligation to help young people achieve to their fullest potential."—LA



JOE GAYLOR

Straits hit home run for the Cards

by Larry Acker



H.D. "Tex" and Emma Strait

The Cardinals baseball team can boast about having one of the best indoor training facilities in the Southland Conference with the completion of the H.D. "Tex" and Emma Strait Baseball Training Facility. The new complex located next to Vincent-Beck Stadium is a multi-purpose facility with AstroTurf, batting nets, bullpens for pitchers and batting cages. The 9,600-square-foot, climate-controlled facility bears the name of the longtime businessman and community leader and his wife in appreciation for a generous gift from Beaumont residents Henry '74 and Fran (Farinella) Strait '73 to the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign.

"This training facility is one of the best in the Southland Conference," said Jim Gilligan, head coach for Lamar baseball. "It is a great recruiting tool, and it's obviously advantageous when you can practice rain or shine."

Like many young men, "Tex" Strait joined the Army after Pearl Harbor. He married Emma in 1943 while on leave from Fort Knox. He was assigned to the 8th Armored Division and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, a pivotal battle in the history of World War II. Tex and Emma were both huge baseball fans. As a teenager, Tex traveled around Texas with his father, who played second base for semi-pro teams.

Emma's father was also a baseball player, so it's no wonder the Strait family developed such a love for America's

favorite pastime. Emma had a passion for the music of Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman and loved to dance. She recalled listening and dancing to Big Band music at the old Harvest Club where current LU President Jimmy Simmons was a frequent entertainer. With her unwavering support, Tex began his career in 1954 with Culligan Inc., eventually making his way to Beaumont where he bought the Culligan dealership in 1968.

The Straits were members of St. Anne Catholic

Church for 35 years and active members of the Catholic Adults Club. They were also involved with their community. Tex was a 30-year member of the Downtown Rotary Club, past president of the Sierra Club and a founding member of the Beaumont Literary Guild. He coached Little League baseball, winning the league championship in 1969. A respected businessman and a leader in the water treatment industry, Tex was a founding member of the Texas Water Quality Association and served on the national Culligan Dealer Advisory Council.

While Emma was a high school graduate and attended trade school, Tex accomplished all this armed with only a ninth-grade education and Emma's constant love and support. They instilled in their children the importance of an education, and they led by example, showing their children first

hand how to live and how to treat others. They were role models for their children and for everyone who knew them well.

"The donation we were honored to make would never have been possible had it not been for all the work and sacrifice of Mom and Dad," said Henry. "We are honored to stand on their shoulders."

Tex and Emma had been married 59 years when Emma died in 2002. Tex passed away 10 months later at the age of 83. Together, they raised eight children who gave them 21 grandchildren.



LARRY ACKER



The Strait Family

BRIAN SATTLER

DreamMakers

Through the years, many alumni and friends of Lamar University have chosen to establish vibrant legacies through endowments that support scholarships, programs and academics. The newly established permanent endowments listed below are the latest additions that will provide for the future of this great university and its students. An endowment can be established with as little as \$15,000. Awards are made from the interest earned on the endowment—effectively making the donation an eternal source of funding.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The **GLORIA SWARTS LOCKE AND CHARLES BLAKEY LOCKE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN THEATRE** was established by the Helen Caldwell Locke and Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Trust directed by Gloria and Charles Locke. Charles '44 and Gloria, now retired, were owners of the Forest Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery and the Memory Gardens Cemetery.

The **MIKE AND BETTE TURNER PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP** was established by Dallas residents Mike '71 and Bette (Woodward) Turner '70 in recognition of the quality education and social experiences they encountered while attending Lamar. Mike is a member of the Lamar University College of Engineering Advisory Council.

NAMED SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

The **CHARLES V. AND FRANCES W. ALBERTO SCHOLARSHIP** is the third endowed scholarship established by Charles and Frances (Wimberly) Alberto '56, '74. Charles is a retired director of employee and labor relations for the U.S. Postal Service. Frances is a retired teacher, and they live in Beaumont.

The **MYRA KEEN CALDWELL AND HERBERT KIMBELL CALDWELL SCHOLARSHIP** was established through the generosity of the Helen Caldwell Locke and Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Trust directed by Charles and Gloria Locke. This scholarship was given in memory of the parents of Helen Caldwell Locke.

The **SANDRA FRENCH CLARK SCHOLARSHIP IN CHORAL MUSIC** was established by Sandra (French) Clark '76. Clark is a trial lawyer with MehaffyWeber in Beaumont. She serves on the Lamar University College of Fine Arts and Communication Advisory Council.

The **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP** was established by former students of the electrical engineering department. Leading the efforts to raise the funds for this endowment was A. Scott McCauley '81.

The **CAROLE AND BOB GARNER SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS** was established by Tommy J. and H. Edward Garner in honor of their children Carole and Bob Garner. This is the second endowed scholarship established by the Garners, who recently relocated from Woodville to Keizer, Ore.

The **DR. HOWELL H. GWIN JR. SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY** was established by his mother, Elizabeth Smith Gwin, to honor his commitment to scholarship, teaching and academic service. Dr. Gwin began teaching at Lamar in 1962 and retired in 2007 as Professor Emeritus.

Three endowed scholarships, the **ALAN R. HEFTY SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**, the **CHERRIE MCVHEY HEFTY SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION** and the **MELVIN R. HEFTY SCHOLARSHIP IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING** have been established by Alan '69 and Cherrie (McVey) Hefty '70. Alan is president of the accounting firm Alan Hefty & Co. CPAs, and Cherrie is a retired Beaumont-area educator.

The **DR. BELLE MEAD HOLM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** was established by colleagues and former students of Belle Mead Holm, former LU women's athletic director and health, physical education and recreation department head.

The **FLOYD H. MIZE SCHOLARSHIP IN BUSINESS** was established by Floyd Mize '40, '58. Mize spent much of his career at South Dakota State University where he worked in student personnel and raised funds for student scholarships. Mize resides in Lufkin.

The **RENAISSANCE HOSPITAL SCHOLARSHIP** was established by the Renaissance Hospital Scholarship Foundation for undergraduate baccalaureate students in nursing. This gift was made possible at the direction of alumni Dr. Rocco '73 and Marilyn (Rogers) Morrell '74.

The **SOUTH TEXAS SECTION SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS SCHOLARSHIP** was established by the South Texas Section of the Society of Plastic Engineers for undergraduate and graduate students who are science and engineering majors interested in polymer research.

The **ENRIQUE V. VENTA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING** was established by his family to honor his lifelong dedication to the accounting profession. Born in Cuba, Venta moved his family to the United States in 1963. Venta's son, Enrique "Henry" R. Venta, has served as dean of the College of Business at Lamar since 2002.

ACADEMIC AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

The **BYRON AND CONNIE DYER GEOSCIENCES INNOVATION FUND** was established by Byron '57 and Connie Dyer to provide field study opportunities for the Department of Earth and Space Sciences. Byron was named a distinguished alumnus in 2009 and currently serves on the Earth and Space Sciences Advisory Board. The Dyers live in Houston.

The **THOMAS C. MAYS III PRESIDENT'S INNOVATION FUND** has been established by Thomas Mays '78 who was a member of the marching band under the direction of James Simmons, now president of Lamar University. Mays lives in Denver.

Hall of Fame honors Crump



From left, Amanda Crump, Jane-Page and James Crump '62, Jarret Crump and Stephanie Jordan

BRIAN SATTLER

James Crump '62 has been inducted into the Lamar University College of Business Hall of Fame in recognition of nearly 40 years as a global leader and managing partner at the Houston office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the world's most prominent accounting firms. The honor was bestowed to also acknowledge his dedication in sharing his expertise with the LU accounting department in an advisory capacity for a number of years.

"James Crump is, indeed, an individual worthy of this recognition," said Henry Venta, dean of the College of Business. "In addition to having accomplished much in the business world, he is involved in community and professional organizations that help today's youth become successful contributors to their respective communities."

Initially entering LU as a chemical engineering major, Crump admits that, as is the case with many young people embarking on their first educational pursuits, he was undecided about his future. Luckily, Crump encountered two instructors who were instrumental in helping him chart a path for his career. H.A. Barlow was an accounting instructor who had a passion for learning and who worked hard to instill that passion in his students, according to Crump. He noted that most accounting

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Be committed to the profession. Don't be looking for that next promotion because if you work hard that next promotion will come.

—JAMES CRUMP '62

“
majors from that era who eventually entered public accounting would probably cite Barlow as a major influence on their careers. Elvis Davis was a completely different type of instructor, and no less influential to the recent inductee. Crump says Davis was a strict academic who made students find out the answers for themselves, which was great preparation for aspiring young accountants.

Born in Nacogdoches, Crump grew up in Port Arthur. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and served in the Air Force before entering Lamar. After graduation from Lamar, he accepted a position with Price Waterhouse and quickly rose to the level of partner. Crump was one

of several executives intimately involved in the 1998 merger with another accounting powerhouse Coopers & Lybrand to form world-renowned PricewaterhouseCoopers, now the world's largest professional business services firm. Crump was in charge of the PwC Global Energy and Mining Group, working extensively with energy companies around the globe, including the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China.

Always eager to share his knowledge with young accounting majors just starting out in the field, Crump advises new accountants to "be committed to the profession. Don't be looking for that next promotion because, if you work hard, that next promotion will come." He added, "Your accounting degree is a license to learn even more about the profession."

Retired now after nearly 40 years with PwC, Crump stays busy serving on the board of directors for two companies, Copano Energy, a Houston-based mid-stream natural gas company, and Exterran L.P., a provider of natural gas compression services. An avid golfer who admittedly never seems to have enough time to be on the course, Crump keeps his hands in the sport through his membership in the Houston Golf Association, which coordinates the PGA-sanctioned Shell Houston Open.

James, and his wife, Jane-Page, reside in Houston. Jane-Page is president of Jane Page Design Group, an award-winning, full-service interior design firm. For more than 30 years, the creativity and uncompromising standards of JPDG have made the firm one of the most respected design firms in the industry. Published in numerous magazines and design books such as *Great Designers of the World*, JPDG has received an abundance of interior design awards for home interiors, kitchens, bathrooms, theaters and lighting design.—LA

To begin your own endowment or to add a gift to an existing endowment, please contact the Lamar University Foundation at (409) 880-2117.

Sound and spirit soar

Music Building renovation exceeds utility and embraces artistry

Glowing mesquite flooring, brushed stainless architectural accents and geometric “cloud” ceilings reminiscent of the shapes of the Sydney Opera House coalesce into a renovation that rebuilt the Music Building from the floor up. Fitting new concepts, needs and desires of music faculty into an existing footprint demanded creativity from the architects. After 24 months of planning and design and 18 months of construction, the final fanfare is a beautiful blend of form and function.



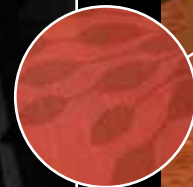
Large, soft white, triangular ceiling panels arc upward on one side of the hallways and, coupled with glowing recessed lighting, give the illusion of height while offering a unique visual statement.

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That’s my reward—to hear the excitement in someone’s voice who saw the ‘before’ and now sees the ‘after.’ It is a fine arts building, so we wanted to do something different there to enhance that sense.

—LYNN WHORTON, director, facilities planning, design and construction

“



Normal walls are 4 3/4 inches thick. Most walls in the building are now 15 inches thick, with layers of gypsum board, sound insulation and air space. The majority of doors used in the building are high-tech, specialized doors for soundproofing.



Engineering the changes required to open up the entry into the second floor to create an atrium with added glass presented a distinct design challenge.

The performance hall incorporates an in-the-round design with two main areas: a choral area, fixed seating and balcony so it can accommodate different applications. Each area has its own viewing screen for classroom use, and a flying wall can descend from the ceiling to provide a backdrop for a speaker.

More suspended geometric ceiling panels—clouds—in the Rothwell Recital Hall, the drapes for staging and the bowl for fixed seating helped the acoustics exceed even the consultant’s expectations for the overall design.

🎵 The floor of the second level had to be reworked for soundproofing, adding a solid surface and layers of gypsum board—required so that each of the practice rooms could be isolated.



For the Rothwell Recital Hall flooring, designers chose mesquite wood for its beauty and unique end grain cut as well as its enduring quality in combating wear and tear.



🎵 VLK Architects Inc. won the contract over several architectural firms because of its previous work on the campus’s Chemistry Building and other Texas State University System sites, its specialized background in education buildings, its experience in designing performance centers and music facilities, and its access to sound engineers and consultants.

LU economic impact tops \$310 million

The benefits of a university extend beyond the education it provides to include significant economic activities that enrich the communities it serves. A recent study completed determined that Lamar University generates economic activity of more than \$310 million a year.

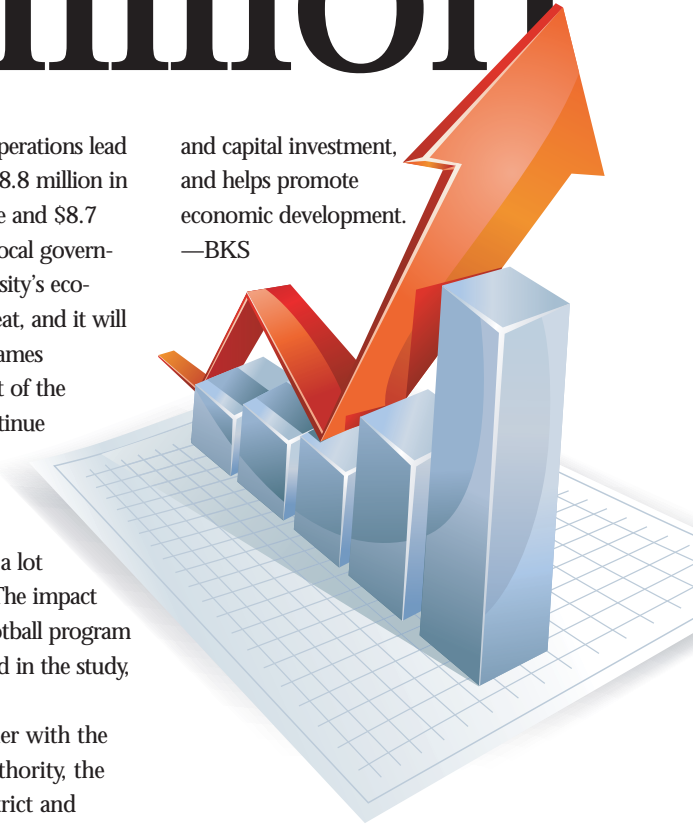


Ray Perryman

BRIAN SATTLER

Lamar's ongoing operations lead to fiscal gains of \$18.8 million in annual state revenue and \$8.7 million in taxes to local governments. "The university's economic impact is great, and it will grow larger," said James Simmons, president of the university. "We continue to set enrollment records, and we

and capital investment, and helps promote economic development. —BKS



just started the football program after a 21-year absence bringing a lot of visitors to Southeast Texas." The impact of the restoration of Lamar's football program was not included in the data used in the study, Simmons said.

"We were pleased to partner with the Lower Neches Valley River Authority, the Sabine Neches Navigation District and ExxonMobil to complete the first independent economic impact study of Lamar University," said Jim Rich, president of the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. "We now have specific numbers to describe the great importance Lamar University plays in the region and its potential for economic growth and prosperity. The attraction and retention of human talent, ideas, and new businesses fostered by a great university is the key to the future."

The benefits of a dynamic university go beyond the business activity and tax revenues generated, the report said. By providing for high-quality educational opportunities to support a dynamic business complex and career and personal advancements for graduates, Lamar University is helping ensure the future vitality of Beaumont, the surrounding region and the state of Texas. Lamar contributes a skilled workforce, cultivates entrepreneurship

Collecting and analyzing statistics that are valuable for decision-makers is the life work of Ray Perryman, founder and president of The Perryman Group, creators of the US Multi-Regional Impact Assessment System. The Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce asked Perryman to determine the economic activity Lamar University creates in Southeast Texas. Perryman collected data and, using models that summed the effects of operations and out-of-area student and visitor spending, derived estimates of the total annual impact of Lamar University on the local, regional and state economies.

Lamar employs more than 1,400 faculty and staff and generates substantial economic impact through employment, organizational operations, and student and visitor spending.

For the Beaumont-Port Arthur metro area, the total annual ongoing impact of Lamar University includes \$263.1 million in output and 3,878 jobs. Extending the study to the greater Southeast Texas region, the economic benefits rise to \$272.9 million in output and 3,976 jobs. For the state as a whole, Lamar University generates \$310.8 million in output and creates 4,260 jobs.

This economic activity also creates tax receipts to the state and local governments.

The Perryman Group

The Perryman Group (TPG) has performed numerous impact assessments for The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas Medical Branch, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the University of Kansas Medical School, Navarro College, UT Health Science Center, UT-Tyler, UT-San Antonio, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University, and many others.

In addition, TPG recently completed a study for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that examined the overall economic effects of achieving the goals of the "Closing the Gaps" initiative of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as a major pro bono study illustrating the effects of creating additional Tier One universities in the state.

LU honors Daniel Chen as University Scholar

Daniel Chen enjoys the collaboration that serves as a springboard to innovation and discovery.

The university honored Chen, a professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering, as the 2010-2011 University Scholar, the university's highest honor recognizing research and creative activity. "It is a career/lifetime achievement award, recognizing the recipient's body of work," said Stuart Wright, director of research in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Administration.

Chen's research interests range from air/water pollution control to process monitoring, simulation and control. He also collaborated with Carl Yaws, professor of chemical engineering, in writing three books on thermodynamic and environmental property data.

Because of university support and strides in research, Chen said, "We are in a better position than ever before to make Lamar a national name. I have developed a track record in the area of photo-catalysis, with interesting environmental and energy applications such as air-pollution abatement. Our research group has also produced nano-structured materials that can offer high surface areas for light harvesting and catalyst support."

Chen chose to use the \$5,000 stipend that accompanies the award to support his current research on titania-based nano-structural arrays and to facilitate collaboration with researchers from other institutions.

During a ceremony Sept. 24, Chen thanked his mentors, colleagues, friends and students. "It is always a privilege and pleasure to work with and learn from their expertise throughout all the brainstorming," he said. "To my graduate students, I express my sincere thanks for their hard work and dedication to make this possible."

"I have known Dr. Chen since I hired him as an assistant professor in 1982, and I am absolutely convinced that he is an



LARRY ACKER

Jack Hopper, Daniel Chen and Stephen Doblin

outstanding researcher/scholar and an indispensable key team player," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering.

As primary or co-primary investigator, Chen has secured more than \$3 million in 32 funded research projects from agencies ranging from the Department of Defense and Department of Energy to the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Agriculture.

"Dr. Chen has devoted his entire career to Lamar University and contributes significantly to the recent success of the chemical engineering department," said Thomas Ho, regents' professor and department chair.

Focusing on the application of Chen's research, Ho noted that his colleague has conducted air-quality studies that detected volatile organic compound leaks by using an infrared camera mounted on a helicopter that flew over the Houston Ship Channel, Texas City and Beaumont-Port Arthur areas. He said Chen also carried out a series of water sampling and treatment projects in collaboration with Sul Ross State University along the Rio Grande Basin to identify the extent and distribution of herbicide and pathogen pollution.

By working with ExxonMobil engineers,

Hopper and other Lamar faculty, the engineering department has received 10 consecutive grants to provide faculty training and software licensing in state-of-the-art modeling, simulation and control software "that benefit our students tremendously," Chen said. "The effort also led to more education grants from the National Science Foundation and garnered a solid reputation for our graduates."

Students under Chen's supervision have earned nine doctorates and 30 master's degrees. He has developed 10 courses and taught 15. "Teaching is, indeed, a rewarding activity for me," he said. "I have been working closely with the graduate students to help them grow professionally."

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, Chen grew up there and relocated several times while completing his education before earning his doctorate at Oklahoma State University in 1981. Active on campus and in the community, he serves as secretary of the Chinese Association of Southeast Texas and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas. Chen and his wife, Julie, an instructor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, have lived in Beaumont since 1982 and have two sons.—LW

invisible

Seeing the



by Mary Baswell

Rafael Tadmor insists that his perspective is no different than anyone else's. "I don't think I see the world any differently than anyone else, and I don't know what other scientists do for fun," he said, "but I know what I like to do for fun."

The avid runner and father of two enjoys reading the newspaper and watching basketball (his favorite team: Tel Aviv). But at a young age, Tadmor was shown the universe that exists under the microscope, and what he saw changed the way he viewed his world.

"As a child growing up in Israel," Tadmor said, "I had a few ideas of what I wanted to be when I grew up—a pilot, a scientist, or I wanted to have my own shop to sell watermelons. The last one was my dream. I thought that I could make a good living for my family this way."

A trip to Jerusalem as a very young boy was Tadmor's first exposure to science. "I saw archaeologists excavating parts of the city. They were digging out these very old and very interesting pieces of broken clay pottery.

Seeing that, I remember thinking, 'This is what I want to do.' I wanted to excavate things, and, like a puzzle, put them back together and see how they worked," said Tadmor.

"That trip was the most significant experience that steered me toward a career in the sciences, though I didn't quite see it like that at the time," he said.

"At that young of an age, there was no clear distinction between archaeology and any other type of science to me. Science was one big concept related to knowledge and the attempt to understand the world—to know how things once were and how they are now."

Then, when Tadmor was eight years old, his uncle, a microbiologist, showed him a colony of germs under a microscope. "When I saw these black dots, I was fascinated. I was seeing something 'invisible.' When grown-ups told me that the tiny dot in the night sky is actually Venus, a huge planet in the universe, or that germs existed, I thought, 'How could this be?'" Tadmor said.

"But, looking at the Petri dish in my uncle's lab, I was convinced they were there. The germs moved, they acted, they responded to my movement. It convinced me that what I was seeing was real. It was verification that the scientific understanding I had been taught was actually truth."

More than a decade later, Tadmor's curiosity inspired him to study chemical engineering at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

Once again, Tadmor's perspective would be shaped by unique circumstances. "My last year of undergraduate study took place during the Gulf War when Scud missiles were being shot at Israel," said Tadmor. "Not knowing if these were traditional or chemical warfare weapons, the government issued gas masks.

"Once, while studying for an exam, two classmates and I heard the alarm go off that meant missiles were targeting our area, so we took our masks and hid in the bathroom. So here we are, breathing through these masks and studying for an exam at the same time. It

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When grown-ups told me that the tiny dot in the night sky is actually Venus, a huge planet in the universe, or that germs existed, I thought, 'How could this be?' But, looking at the Petri dish in my uncle's lab, I was convinced they were there.

—RAFAEL TADMOR

“
was a very weird situation, but we thought it was great that we could stay focused despite the situation," said Tadmor. "Only later did we find out that the missile had flown just over our heads. We heard it, we knew it was close, but we had no idea how close."

Tadmor went on to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees from Technion and his doctor of philosophy in surface physics at the Weizmann Institute of Science, also in Israel, in 1998.

Eventually, Tadmor's love of engineering brought him from Israel to the United States, where he completed postdoctoral work in biochemicals at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In 2003, Tadmor accepted the position of associate professor in the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering at Lamar University. In 2004, his interest in the pinning phenomena exhibited by water molecules led him to write theoretical equations about the volume of contact angles of drops on surfaces. These equations are currently the only way to calculate these volumes.

In 2009, Tadmor and a group of his students performed groundbreaking experiments that changed the way science defines force and motion. The paper detailing the discovery was published in *Physical Review Letters*, one of the country's most prestigious scientific journals, bringing both Tadmor and Lamar unprecedented scientific recognition.

The ripple effects from Tadmor's research are difficult to predict. "When the apple fell on Newton's head, he wrote some rules of physics. He had no idea these rules would send satellites into outer space. He did it because he was curious, not because he knew where his findings would lead. The research performed here at Lamar may open doors to other fields of technology we are not even aware of yet," Tadmor said.

But it is his students' own scientific curiosity that is most inspiring to Tadmor as a professor. "Science is theoretical, so I encourage them to question everything," he said.

As a father to Daniel, 14, and Galia, 8, does he see the same spark of curiosity in his own children? "They grasp more than I ever did. They are much more curious, more wise," he said. Tadmor's wife, Maria, serves as associate professor of mathematics at Lamar.

In October, Tadmor was named the 2010 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, sponsored by



Fron left, President James Simmons, Valentin Andreev and Tadmor

Exxon Mobil, in recognition of his outstanding research and discovery. Tadmor was the first faculty member from the College of Engineering to receive the honor.

Tadmor's lecture drew comparisons from both the ancient and modern worlds, like Galileo, Newton and

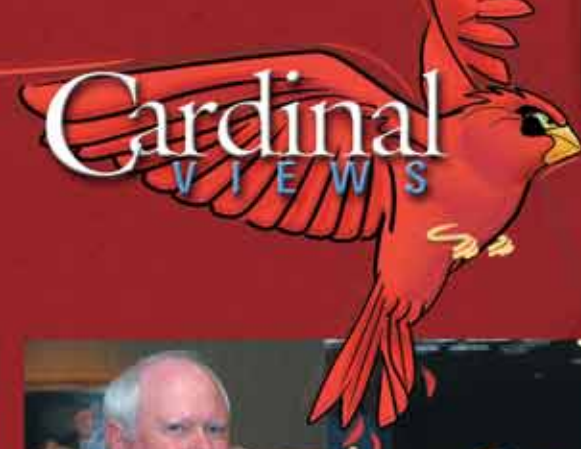
Einstein, to describe the evolving scientific definitions of force and motion; however, he also used pop culture references to distinguish between supernatural and scientific forces, including characters from *X-Men*, *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*.

Is this scientist also a fan of science fiction? "Oh, yes," said Tadmor, "I've seen all the *Star Wars* movies. My favorite characters are Hans Solo, because he was funny, and Darth Vader—he is a very intriguing character. In fact, I was once Darth Vader for Halloween.

"Actually, my son wanted to be Darth Vader, so we bought this realistic helmet-like mask that was very heavy and uncomfortable. I knew he wouldn't want to wear it all night, so we also bought a much simpler version. When we went trick-or-treating, by the second house, he asked to trade masks with me," Tadmor said.

"So I wore the giant helmet, and it was awful, but I was a true Darth Vader. I even had a sword fight with some sort of monster. It was very exciting."

Tadmor is currently participating in two collaborative research projects, one with the University of Georgia at Athens in the field of nanostructure surfaces, and one with Rice University in the study of the surface properties of graphene, a material that was the subject of the 2010 Nobel Prize in physics.



Many Lamar alumni and friends visited during a dinner to introduce newly appointed Chancellor Brian McCall

1. Frank and Nancy Newton with Melody (O'Reilly) Parsons '71, center 2. Libbie (Campbell) Nylin '64, left, with her husband Bill Nylin '65 and Charlene (Mathews) Leonard '55 3. Richard '75 and Cathy Price with Janice Trammell '85, '93, right 4. Juan Zabala '07, left, with Mitch and Michele (Yennie) Smith '88, center and Laurie (House) Ritchel '85 5. Dean Henry Venta with Bill '70 and Gay (Duckworth) Scott '80



Regent David Montagne '74, Student Government Association President Thaddeus Green, TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall and President James Simmons get together before the commencement ceremony Dec. 18, 2010.

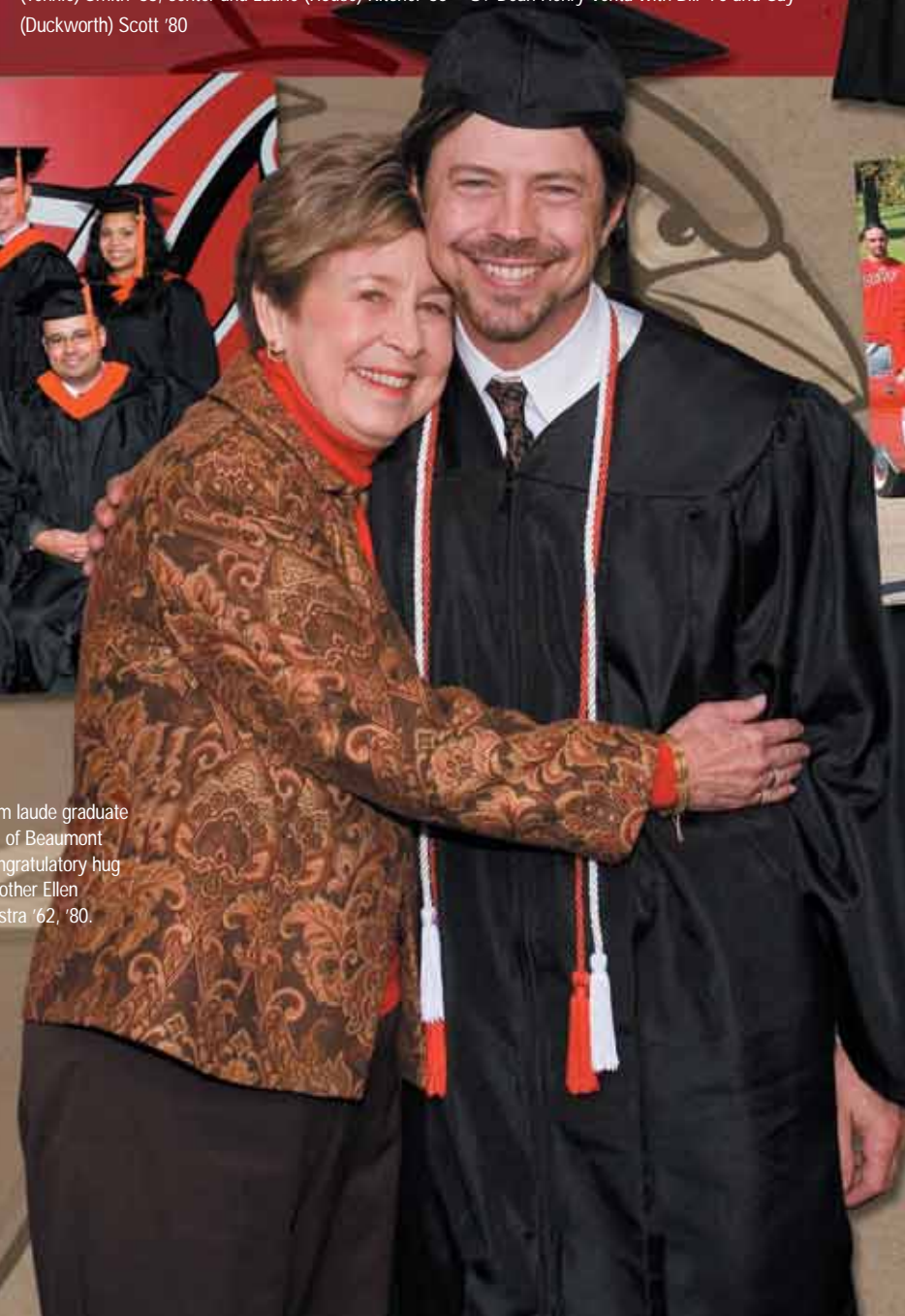


Anne (Nelson) Sweat '85 and Pattee Newman attend the opening reception for the tribute to Jerry Newman at the Dishman Art Museum.



December Lamar graduates included the first group of Army civil engineers enrolled at Lamar University in the Army Logistics Leadership Program based at the Texarkana Army Depot. The 11 participants from across the United States earned master of engineering degrees in industrial engineering. Pictured, from left, are, front row, Christopher Lyman, Forest Hill, Md.; Andrew Ruddick, Rockford, Mich.; Marc Loertscher, Midway, Utah; and Brian Schmitt, Texarkana, and, back row, Meghan Murphy, Planteville, Wis.; Eboni Crayton, Montgomery, Ala.; Dominic Pham, Davenport, Iowa; Nicholas Steinhauer, Loudon, Tenn.; Clinton Hanson, Texarkana; Joshua Arrington, Heber City, Utah; and Monica Tubbs, Birmingham, Ala.

December cum laude graduate Allen Rienstra of Beaumont receives a congratulatory hug from proud mother Ellen (Walker) Rienstra '62, '80.



Jim Gilligan '69 and his wife, LaVerne, await a ride down Jim Gilligan Way, the newly renamed former East Florida Avenue, after the ribbon-cutting by Jim Ishee, chairman of the Jim Gilligan Way Support Committee; Mayor Becky Ames; Big Red and President James Simmons.



At the podium, Juan Zabala '07, executive director of Alumni Affairs, thanks Beaumont City Council for a proclamation issued Oct. 5 to encourage citizens throughout the community to join the Red, White & You Homecoming celebration. Joining him were, from left, LU Ambassadors Brittnie Rodriguez, Megan Barrett, Catie Byerly, Jesi Courville; Sandra (Pete) Abbage '68, '81, '90; Tom Abbage '72, '74, '81; Henry Strait, '74; and Ray Woodard, head football coach.



Donna Wilsker, second from right, receives congratulations from nursing department colleagues Rachel Kilgore, Eileen Deges Curl and Dianna Rivers after Wilsker received Lamar University's Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award Nov. 10.



Steven Zani and President James Simmons present ExxonMobil's Kathleen Jackson with a poster promoting the 2010 Distinguished Faculty Lecture, which ExxonMobil sponsors annually.



Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Rafael Tadmor, Center, joins his chemical engineering department colleagues Thomas Ho, Devanna Campbell, Daniel Chen and John Gossage, from left, at a reception in his honor Oct. 11.

LU achieves Carnegie doctoral/research classification

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has included Lamar University in its prestigious list of doctoral/research universities, placing Lamar in the upper echelon of degree-granting institutions nationally.

Being a doctoral research university—one of two in The Texas State University System, one of seven public Texas universities, and one of 27 public universities in the U.S. to have this classification—raises Lamar’s visibility and its prestige, said Steve Doblin, provost and vice president for

academic affairs at Lamar. “It qualifies us for a variety of opportunities we would otherwise be unable to pursue,” he said.

“This elevation in Lamar University’s designation by the Carnegie Foundation from a ‘large master’s institution’ to a ‘doctoral research university’ is, in my view, a milestone in the history of our institution,” said Doblin. “The major factors considered in granting this classification are doctoral degrees granted and research funding attracted, so this is a real tribute to the hard work and productivity of our faculty.”

The Carnegie Foundation classifications identify meaningful similarities and differences among institutions. From its inception, the Carnegie classification’s purpose has been to assist those conducting research on higher education. Researchers need a way to reference the great diversity of colleges and universities in the United States, and classifications enable them to identify groups of roughly comparable institutions. The primary audience is the research community, including academic researchers and institutional research staff as well as other education analysts.

Record enrollment shows growth in on-campus students

Lamar University has set another all-time enrollment record. Official figures for the fall 2010 semester record 14,388 students—the largest enrollment in the university’s 87-year history.



Growth of more than 1,100 on-campus students contributed to the number, Smith said. This improves upon recent years, when Lamar’s enrollment growth has been attributable largely to its distance learning programs.

Even in light of tightened admission standards imposed last year, first-time-in-college freshmen numbers grew as well, up 6.7 percent compared to last year. Smith sees the return of Cardinal football and the marching band, the opening of Cardinal Village V, improved recruitment and retention efforts, new academic and campus programs, and the slack local economy as playing key roles in the increase.

The university is also seeing increases in other important measures of its incoming freshmen. The percentage of entering freshmen who graduated in the top quarter of their high school class grew to 37.2 percent compared to 34.1 percent two years ago. The percentage of entering freshmen with a 1010 or higher SAT score increased to 28.8 percent compared to 26.7 percent two years ago.



Ming-Yuan Wang, chair of the Tourism Management Department at KUAS, and Chihkang “Kenny” Wu, a hospitality faculty member at KUAS, recently visited campus as an initial step in an effort to create several joint programs with Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences, said Molly Dahm, associate professor and program director of hospitality management at LU.

LU partners with Kaohsiung University of Taiwan

Lamar University has joined Taiwan’s National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences (KUAS) to establish a variety of collaborative programs between the two universities.

Planned programs include two online master’s degree programs in family and consumer sciences (one with an emphasis in hospitality administration and one with an emphasis in event management), study abroad programs and a joint bachelor’s degree program.

“We want our students to study abroad and encourage them to do so,

but many of them cannot. If we can’t send our students out to the world, we’ll bring the world to them,” said Steve Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “In every discipline, an understanding of the world is important to success. That’s why we’re so committed to this.”

Doblin noted that the agreement with KUAS is the most recent among several collaborations Lamar University has undertaken with universities around the world.

Academic Open House welcomes high-ability students

More than 170 high-achieving high school juniors and seniors explored what Lamar University has to offer by attending Academic Open House last Nov. 13.

“This day is specially designed for high-ability students who are interested in talking with Lamar University deans and professors about their academic pursuits and competing for top scholarships,” said Jim Rush, director of academic services.

“These students owe it to themselves to seriously consider the competitive programs and generous scholarships we offer that might not be available to them elsewhere,”

Rush said.

High school juniors and seniors ranking in the top 15 percent of their class and/or with SAT scores of 1100 and higher are encouraged to attend the event each fall to learn more about LU’s academic offerings.

Spring Open House introduces an even broader range of students to the benefits of attending Lamar University.

Simmons addresses state budget mandates, campaign success

One recent challenge for Lamar University is its role in responding to the \$18-billion to \$22-billion deficit facing the state. Already, a number of belt-tightening measures have been taken in order to meet the mandated 5 percent reduction in the 2012-2013 biennial budget, President James Simmons said. This reduction follows a 5 percent cut announced in early 2010.

The university has implemented an

array of cost-saving measures to increase efficiencies in order to meet the reductions while maintaining high-quality services and instruction. Among these measures are restructuring some offices, a freeze on some positions, tightening department budgets, raising thermostats across campus and other cost-saving efforts.

“While we have done everything we can to reduce costs,” Simmons said, “some of the

cuts will have to be offset by tuition and fee increases. We understand that tuition increases are difficult, but we remain a great value in higher education with a tuition price lower than our peer institutions.”

Even during this challenging time, Simmons said, donors to the Investing in the Future comprehensive campaign have enabled LU to reach the three-quarters mark with more than \$78 million raised toward the \$100 million goal. “These gifts translate into scholarships, faculty and facilities,” Simmons said. “Lamar would be a much different place without the support of our donors.”

Another recent milestone underpinning Lamar’s success is the re-affirmation of the university’s accreditation by the Council on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the “stamp of approval” that university programs meet or exceed national standards.

“I believe we educated SACS on quality online programs,” Simmons said. Lamar is a national leader in the online delivery of public education and graduates more master of education students than any other university in the country.

“Online distance education is a fast-moving, exciting domain, and Lamar is at the head of the pack,” Simmons said. Through the university’s academic partnership program and traditional Blackboard courses, more than 4,000 students are exclusively online.

Growth in research was another milestone, Simmons noted, with \$12 million in research underway at the university. “We are a long way from where we began several years ago with \$3 million,” he said.



Faculty notes

Sandra Harris, professor and director of the doctoral program in educational leadership, has been selected to receive the 2011 Living Legend award by the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration (NCPEA). Harris is in her seventh year on the Lamar faculty. She served as a teacher, principal and superintendent during the early years of her career . . . The Texas State



Left, Ron Blatchley, and Keith Carter

University System honored professors **Keith Carter** and **Pamela Saur** as new regents' professors, the system's highest faculty award. A professor of art, an internationally acclaimed photographer and a faculty member since 1989, Carter holds the Walles Chair in Visual and Performing Arts. A faculty member since 1988, Saur is a professor of German in the Department of English and Modern Languages. The honor of regents' professor is conferred on professors who demonstrate excellence and exemplary achievement in teaching, research and publication, and services . . . Regents of The Texas State University System adopted a resolution designating **Professor Joseph "Joe" Pizzo Jr.**, who retired in May 2010 after more than 46 years of service, as distinguished professor emeritus of physics, a title he will hold in perpetuity. The resolution describes Pizzo as "an engaging instructor who punctuated his lectures and laboratories with captivating demonstrations and exhibits that translated the esoteric to the common for his students," earning him the reputation as a master teacher. Pizzo's reputation for instructional excellence reached the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he twice served as a visiting professor of physics . . . **Theresa Hefner-Babb**, assistant professor of library services, is one of 34 librarians nationwide to be selected for participation in the Association of College & Research Libraries Immersion Program. This is an intensive, 4-day interactive training course designed to enhance the ability of academic library and information professionals to meet the needs of the higher education community. In addition to Lamar University, institutions whose librarians were accepted for participation include Harvard, Michigan, Clemson, Massachusetts, Iowa, Emory, and William & Mary . . . **Ruhai Wang**, associate professor in the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, has recently been appointed as an Overseas Agreement Professor by the Harbin Institute of Technology. HIT is one of China's finest national engineering universities and is especially well known for its aerospace and national defense engineering programs. Wang was invited to assist the Harbin Institute in developing their interplanetary/deep-space communication program . . . **James Curry**, assistant professor of industrial engineering, received funding from the U.S. Army for his proposal to offer a master's degree in industrial engineering to outstanding civilian employees of the U.S. Army Logistics Leadership Center in Texarkana. This program is being offered via distance education technologies, and the first cohort graduated in December.

University System honored professors **Keith Carter** and **Pamela Saur** as new regents' professors, the system's highest faculty award. A professor of art, an internationally acclaimed photographer and a faculty member since 1989, Carter holds the Walles Chair in Visual and Performing Arts. A faculty member since 1988, Saur is a professor of German in the Department of English and Modern Languages. The honor of regents' professor is conferred on professors who demonstrate excellence and exemplary achievement in teaching, research and publication, and services . . . Regents of The Texas State University System adopted a resolution designating **Professor Joseph "Joe" Pizzo Jr.**, who retired in May 2010 after more than 46 years of service, as distinguished professor emeritus of physics, a title he will hold in perpetuity. The resolution describes Pizzo as "an engaging instructor who punctuated his lectures and laboratories with captivating demonstrations and exhibits that translated the esoteric to the common for his students," earning him the reputation as a master teacher. Pizzo's reputation for instructional excellence reached the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he twice served as a visiting professor of physics . . . **Theresa Hefner-Babb**, assistant professor of library services, is one of 34 librarians nationwide to be selected for participation in the Association of College & Research Libraries Immersion Program. This is an intensive, 4-day interactive training course designed to enhance the ability of academic library and information professionals to meet the needs of the higher education community. In addition to Lamar University, institutions whose librarians were accepted for participation include Harvard, Michigan, Clemson, Massachusetts, Iowa, Emory, and William & Mary . . . **Ruhai Wang**, associate professor in the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, has recently been appointed as an Overseas Agreement Professor by the Harbin Institute of Technology. HIT is one of China's finest national engineering universities and is especially well known for its aerospace and national defense engineering programs. Wang was invited to assist the Harbin Institute in developing their interplanetary/deep-space communication program . . . **James Curry**, assistant professor of industrial engineering, received funding from the U.S. Army for his proposal to offer a master's degree in industrial engineering to outstanding civilian employees of the U.S. Army Logistics Leadership Center in Texarkana. This program is being offered via distance education technologies, and the first cohort graduated in December.



Brian McCall and Pamela Saur

Grant boosts nursing student success

Nursing program students are benefitting from additional resources targeted at improving their classroom success.

The JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing was awarded a two-year grant that focuses on keeping more students in the nursing program and increasing the number of graduates, especially those who are minorities and international students.

The grant project, called Students Understanding Course Content Essential for Success in School (SUCCESS), received \$258,204 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and an additional \$25,820 from Baptist Beaumont Hospital.

"We are trying to improve the nursing workforce within the community by putting more nurses into our hospitals," said Eileen Deges Curl, Dishman Department of Nursing chair and SUCCESS principal project director. "One of our goals is to have a nursing workforce that reflects the community in which the nurses live and work."

Gerald Bryant, chief nursing officer for Baptist Beaumont Hospital said, "Providing funding to our local university will provide health benefits to the entire community. It is imperative that we are proactive in preparing for the forecasted shortfall of nurses in Texas. Statistics reveal that by the year 2012, nurses in their 50s are expected to become the largest segment of the nursing workforce; accounting for almost one quarter of the RN population. As many of these nurses are preparing to exit the healthcare arena, Lamar and Baptist Beaumont Hospital have partnered to make sure that quality nursing is available in Southeast Texas."

SUCCESS will consist of tools and resources for student retention used previously by other universities while building on traditional Lamar practices. Online resource modules, Skills for Academic Success seminars, academic workshops and a resource center will be available for students needing assistance with complex content. Laptops loaded with nursing software will also be available for nursing students to check out to help them improve classroom performance.

The Lamar University nursing department received one of six grants awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under the Nursing Innovation Grant Program. Lamar qualified for the Best Practices category in Clinical Education Competitions in which award selections were based on project quality and reviewed by several higher-education faculty members from across Texas as well as a Texas Board of Nursing member.

"Our methodology set Lamar apart from other universities for this grant," said Gina Hale, Dishman Department of Nursing retention coordinator and SUCCESS program manager. "We really had some innovative and creative ideas that were based on sound educational practices."

LU leads the nation



The report by the American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training published in last August's issue of Chemical & Engineering News revealed that Lamar University once again led the nation in master's graduates in chemical engineering.

Lamar University
The Massachusetts
Institute of Technology
Southern Cal, Cornell
Texas A&M
North Carolina State
Georgia Tech
Stanford

Master's in nursing ranks among most affordable in nation

Lamar University is "getting it right" by offering one of the nation's most affordable online graduate programs in nursing, according to an online education consumer group that ranks nursing and healthcare schools for cost and credibility.

"Lamar is a top example of a public university that is using distance learning to make healthcare education physically and financially accessible to Texans in these hard economic

times," said Vicky Phillips, a spokeswoman for the Vermont-based consumer group.

The web site GetEducated.com ranked Lamar as the No. 2 most affordable distance degree for Texas graduate students seeking nursing education online. Its online students who live in Texas pay a low cost of about \$11,005 for a distance master's degree from LU, according to reviewers for the consumer group. (Out-of-state online students pay a higher cost of about \$22,475.)

"The distance healthcare master's degree offered by Lamar University and reviewed by GetEducated cost less than half the average of competing degrees in the same accreditation class," said Phillips, GetEducated's chief online education analyst. "Lamar's distance-learning-degree programs are laudable examples of a publicly

funded higher education institution 'getting it right' by providing affordable online degrees to working adults."

GetEducated's online education review team found that the average cost for a regionally accredited online nursing master's degree, including tuition and distance-education fees, was \$20,216. The online education research firm's "Best Buy" degree rankings for online master's are based on a review of 24 regionally accredited graduate schools that offer 44 different distance nursing master's.

"Providing an affordable graduate-level degree in nursing administration and nursing education is important as the need for master's-prepared nurses has reached a high point," said Eileen Deges Curl, chair of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of

Nursing. "MSN-prepared nurses provide leadership to direct healthcare agencies to meet current and future needs. Nurse educators prepared at the MSN level are essential in order to have adequate numbers of faculty to teach students to become nurses in order to meet the predicted shortage of nurses in the United States."

"Hot career areas" include health law, healthcare management, emergency services, pharmacy studies, dietetics and nutrition, and clinical practice.



LU named a Best Business School by Princeton Review

Lamar University has once again been recognized as an outstanding business school by The Princeton Review. The education services company features LU in the 2011 edition of its book "The Best 300 Business Schools." The university has been included on the list since it began in 2005.

"This shows that even though we're a regional school, we're a national school in terms of the quality of the education we provide," said College of Business Dean Enrique "Henry" Venta.

According to Robert Franek, Princeton Review senior vice president of publishing, "We are pleased to recommend Lamar University to readers of our book and users of our site, www.PrincetonReview.com, as one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA. We chose the 300 business schools in this book based on our high opinion of their academic programs and offerings, as well as our review of institutional data we collect from the schools. We also strongly consider the candid opinions of students attending the schools who rate and report on their campus experiences at their schools on our survey for the book."

One of the strengths of Lamar's MBA, Venta said, is the way it pulls into the same classrooms working professionals, bright recent college graduates and international students.

"We feel that's the way to learn—a dynamic environment full of a diversity of cultures and perspectives where everyone learns together," Venta said. Traditionally, MBA courses at Lamar have been offered in the evening to better fit the schedules of working professionals. This spring, two early-morning classes from 7 to 8:15 a.m. have been added to accommodate the program's growing number of course offerings and to provide students with more scheduling options.



At the podium

TSUS chancellor keynotes winter commencement

Lamar University conferred 1,014 degrees during two ceremonies at winter commencement Dec. 18 in the Montagne Center. **Brian McCall**, chancellor of the The Texas State University System, delivered keynote addresses.



BRIAN MCCALL

BRIAN SATTLER

Graduates hailed from 11 countries, 20 states outside Texas and 216 cities and towns in Texas. The degrees include doctor of engineering and one doctor of philosophy in chemical engineering.

When TSUS regents appointed McCall in April 2010 to serve as chancellor, they turned to a legislative leader with a solid track record of accomplishments. In the Texas House of Representatives, he chaired the House Calendars Committee and was a member of the Higher Education Committee. Texas Monthly magazine named him one of the 10 Best Legislators of the 2009 session. Previously, McCall served as president of Westminster Capital Corp., an investment firm focused on acquisitions primarily in software and technology.



RICHARD WILKINS

NASA lecturer focuses on radiation

Lamar faculty and students learned about space operations and the risks associated with particulate radiation for both human and robotic exploration of space from **Richard Wilkins**, director of the NASA Center for Radiation Engineering and Science for Space Exploration. Wilkins is also an associate professor in the electrical and computer engineering department at Prairie View A&M.

Engineers learn about designing compounds

Lamar engineering students and faculty participated in an invited lecture by **Luke Achenie**, professor of chemical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic, on computer-aided molecular and product design, an emerging research area that addresses the systematic design of compounds with desired physical and chemical properties.



LUKE ACHENIE

BRIAN SATTLER

Bridges to Life founder addresses violent crime trauma

John Sage, founder of the Bridges to Life prison rehabilitation program, spoke Oct. 28 during a program presented by the Lamar University Honors Program.

Sage, who also serves as executive director of Bridges to Life, has spoken at Lamar several times to report on the continued growth of the program, which began in Beaumont. Although he has spent most of his professional life in real estate and finance, Sage has earned honors for his efforts on behalf of Bridges to Life. In 1993, Sage's younger sister, Marilyn, was murdered. The two killers were apprehended and sentenced to death.

"After several years of trauma, rage and grief, this life-changing experience inspired John to found and direct Bridges to Life in an effort to empower victims and rehabilitate prisoners," said Bridges to Life spokesman Jesse Doiron, an instructor of English and modern languages at Lamar.

Bridges to Life, a faith-based, non-profit charity, takes victims of crime, members of their families and other volunteers into prisons in an effort to reduce recidivism and, thereby, effect a consequent reduction in crime, Doiron said. Since 2000, Bridges to Life has experienced significant growth, with more than 11,000 inmate graduates, 800 volunteers and programs in 30 prisons throughout Texas, he said.



JOHN SAGE

LARRY ACKER

LU, ExxonMobil present Rob Gardner in public lecture

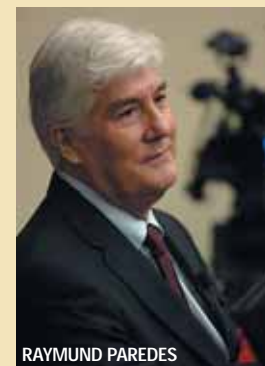
The College of Engineering hosted the Academic Lecture Series Oct. 25 with support from ExxonMobil. **Rob Gardner**, manager of the Economics & Energy Division Corporate Strategic Planning Department for Exxon Mobil Corp. discussed "The Truth About Energy."



ROB GARDNER

A career that began with Mobil Oil in Louisiana evolved into work for Mobil Natural Gas in the new, expanding natural gas marketing organization during the growing deregulation of U.S. gas markets. Beginning in 1990, Gardner began a decade of international assignments in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) marketing area. He held positions in Indonesia, Qatar, Japan and Singapore. He then returned to the U.S. and began a series of management assignments in ExxonMobil's Gas and Power Marketing's Houston organization in both the domestic U.S. and international areas. The group he manages today is responsible for preparing ExxonMobil's Energy Outlook.

LU hosts Commissioner of Higher Education



RAYMUND PAREDES

BRIAN SATTLER

Lamar University welcomed **Raymund Paredes**, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education, Dec. 8 to meet with higher education and K-12 leaders in Southeast Texas. The discussions included proposed funding changes for Texas colleges and universities as well as the progress Texas has made on increasing the number of Texans going to college and new initiatives to increase the percentage of college students successfully completing a degree. Also, the Southeast Texas P-16 Council discussed new developmental education initiatives at Lamar University. The university's distance learning division is seeking K-12 input on new online courses and how to implement them to best help K-12 schools meet education and reporting goals.

Paredes' goals for closing the gaps begin early with an increased emphasis on the importance of early childhood education and cognitive development. The goals include creating a college-going culture in every pre-K-12 school in Texas, increasing the rigor of the high school senior year, and aligning high-school exit standards and college-entrance standards. At the higher-education level, Paredes' goals include increasing state and federal financial aid, overhauling developmental education and increasing transfer rates from two-year to four-year institutions. Concurrently, he seeks to improve the quality of undergraduate education and increase graduation rates while improving educator quality for pre- and in-service teachers.

South African ambassador speaks about multiculturalism

Eric Bost, ambassador to the Republic of South Africa from 2006 to 2009, spoke Oct. 20 as part of Lamar's Cultural Enrichment Series.

Bost has worked with the United States and the United Nations on projects including domestic and foreign relations, AIDS relief and nutrition and consumer services. In January 2009, he was named vice president for global initiatives at Texas A&M University. His roles include providing leadership for the university's international and globalization programs.

Bost discussed the importance of multiculturalism in gaining international perspective. "We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dynamic individual speak on our campus. By the time they leave his lecture, I believe our students will understand the importance of getting involved in international relations. Working for America in an overseas capacity is beneficial, not only for our students, but also for the country's image, economy and global stability," said Dominic Beggan, assistant professor of political science and member of the university's Cultural Enrichment Series committee.



ERIC BOST

BRIAN SATTLER

Nursing earns statewide innovation award

Faculty members of the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing have won the statewide 2011 Teaching Innovation Award from the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education. The group recognized the department for a disaster planning simulation focusing on communication, teamwork, collaboration, quality and safety, said Eileen Deges Curl, chair of the department. The award carries a \$2,000 cash prize, which the department will match.

LU's nursing faculty team, led by LeAnn Chisholm, instructor of nursing, collaborated with faculty members from Lamar Institute of Technology to provide the third annual interdisciplinary simulation experience for LU nursing students and LIT allied health students. "Since 2006, Lamar University faculty in the JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing have been in the forefront in Texas in the use of high-tech mannequins to simulate different clinical situations to effectively teach students," Curl said.



GREGG LASSEN

New VP joins admin team

Gregg Lassen has joined LU's administrative team as vice president of finance and operations. He comes from the University of Texas at Tyler, where he had served as executive vice president since 2006 with a portfolio that includes all

business affairs and student affairs functions.

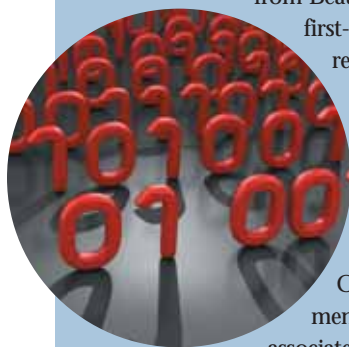
"Gregg brings a track record of success and a lot of experience to the position," said President James Simmons. "He has served in higher education since 2000 and has nearly two decades of corporate experience to draw on as well.

"He is not only adept at managing the financial and business operations of a major university, he is also a life-long learner who has continually enlarged his own world through education," Simmons said. "I am very pleased to welcome such a champion of higher education to the administrative team."

Previously, Lassen worked at the University of Southern Mississippi and University of Phoenix, where he began his career as a faculty member in the Sperling School of Business. He became a department chair and was associate dean before moving to Southern Miss. Higher education is a second career for Lassen; he spent 18 years in the energy industry, with assignments including financial and commercial management, regulatory affairs, business development, negotiations, marketing and auditing in a large corporate environment. He holds a doctorate in international affairs from the University of Southern Mississippi and a law degree from the University of Houston.

Beyond the classroom

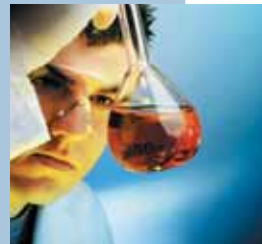
Kathlyn Doss, a senior computer science major from Beaumont, earned the first-place award for a research paper presented at the prestigious Association for Computer Educators in Texas (ACET) conference in October. Her faculty mentor, **Stefan Andrei**, associate professor of computer science, describes the research topic as a promising and novel method. The paper, "An Automatic Induction Proof for Program Termination Analysis," was the result of 10 weeks of research during the summer through support of a National Science Foundation grant, with **Kami Makki**, associate professor of computer science as principal investigator . . .



Xiongtao Yang, Ph.D. student in chemical engineering, won the 2010 Process Develop Division Student Paper Award for his study, "Dynamic Simulation and Optimization for the Startup Operation of an Ethylene Oxide Plant." His manuscript has been published in *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research*, with co-authors and faculty mentors **Ku-yeon Li** and **Qiang Xu** . . . **Howell Wright**, a recent graduate of the doctoral program in educational leadership, was selected as the 2010 Edward W. Chance Dissertation Award winner by the National Rural Education Association for his dissertation, "The Role of the Superintendent in Closing the Achievement Gap in Diverse Small School Districts" . . . **Jay Prigmore**, a May baccalaureate graduate of the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering, presented a paper, of which he was first author, titled "An IGBT-Based Electronic Circuit Breaker Design," at the 2010 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) Power Engineering Society July meeting. The Power Engineering Society is the third-largest professional society in the IEEE and provides a meeting and discussion ground for energy professionals worldwide. Prigmore's paper was accepted under review as a regular paper rather than a student submission, the latter of which



would be presented in a student-only section of the meeting. Prigmore is pursuing a doctorate at the School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering at Arizona State University . . . The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry honored three undergraduate students and four graduate students as winners in the department's first student research poster competition. Twenty-two students presented their posters Sept. 8. Winners shared \$1,500 in prize money, said Paul Bernazzani, department chair. Undergraduate winners are **Jack Cochran** of Newton, Beaumont, second place; **Joseph Trapasso**, Beaumont, second place; and **Andrea Kelley** of Beaumont, third place. Graduate winners are **Cindy Dozier** of Vidor, first place, and **Raghavendra Pasupula**, **Jayanthi Sampathi** and **Sravan Kovvuru**, all of India, who won second and third places and honorable mention, respectively. The competition was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Sabine-Neches local section of the American Chemical Society and the Lamar University Student Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers . . . Fourteen undergraduate students presented the findings of their year-long research projects at the 11th annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium. The event is designed to help scholars prepare for presentations at national conferences and to allow them to share their work with family and friends, said **Daniella Medley**, LU's McNair Scholars Program director. The 2009-2010 McNair Scholars at LU are **Joshua Davis**, criminal justice/sociology, and **Jade Paredes**, psychology, both of Beaumont; **Julio Espassa**, computer science/mathematics/electrical engineering, Cameroon, Africa; **Leslie Billot**, social work, Fannett; **Jasmine Banks**, political science, Fort Worth; **Brittnee Rodriguez**, psychology/pre-med, Groves; **Humberto Hernandez**, biology, and **Felicia Wenah**, exercise science, both of Houston; **Adam Smith**, sociology, Mauriceville; **Beverly Paris**, applied arts and sciences, Nederland; **Karla Obregon**, psychology/pre-medicine, and **Carolina Ramirez**, political science, both of Port Arthur; **Leanna Martin**, history, Riverside, Calif.; and **Mary Baswell**, English, Vidor.



LU raises admissions standards for Fall 2011

As part of a continuing effort to enhance the academic environment at Lamar University, undergraduate admission requirements will rise for students entering the university in or after Fall 2011.

"We want to do our best to attract and retain good students and have found that having appropriate admissions standards is one way to do that," said Kevin Smith, senior associate provost. "These steps are part of a long-range plan to enhance admissions standards to stay competitive with our Texas public university peers."

To qualify for unconditional admission to Lamar University, students must have graduated from an accredited high school with at least 14 credits in specific college-preparatory courses and must achieve a certain class rank and SAT or ACT score.

Applicants ranked in the Top 10 percent of their high school class have no minimum SAT or ACT score requirement.

Under new admissions standards, those in the Top 11 percent to Top 25 percent must have a minimum score of 18 on the ACT or 850 on the SAT (combined math and critical reading). Applicants in the second quarter of their high school class must have a minimum of 20 on the ACT or 930 on the SAT. Those in the third quarter must have a minimum of 24 on the ACT or 1090 on the SAT.

Under new admission standards, applicants in the fourth quarter of their high school class, those who were home schooled and those graduating from schools that do not provide rankings will have their applications evaluated on a case-by-case basis.



Anglers win regionals and \$50,000 in prizes for club

The team of Matt Morrison, a senior from Silsbee, and Danny Iles, a sophomore from Hemphill, led all three days of competition at the National Guard FLW College Fishing Texas Division Regional Championship on Sam Rayburn Reservoir. The pair weighed a six-bass catch of 12 pounds 6 ounces for a three-day total of 51 pounds 4 ounces to win a top prize of \$50,000, which includes a Ranger boat and outboard wrapped in Lamar's red and white for the winning club and \$25,000 for the university. The team also qualified for the National Championship. "Our goal coming into this was to win it, and we accomplished that," Iles said. The top five teams from each regional championship, 25 teams total, will advance to the 2011 National Guard FLW College Fishing National Championship that will be hosted by Murray State University on Kentucky Lake, April 7-9, 2011. The National Championship is a three-day televised event.

Mentoring program a finalist for Texas Higher Education Award

Lamar University's African-American Male Professional Connections Mentoring Program was one of 10 finalists for the 2010 Texas Higher Education Star Award. The award recognizes programs that work diligently to provide valuable services to Texas and its people by helping to close the gaps in education.

"Research shows that if a student identifies with a university, then he is more likely to stay at the institution, follow through to graduation and become a productive alumnus," said Oney Fitzpatrick, interim associate provost for student retention and program overseer and mentor. "The idea is to get these students to develop a sense of community on campus and to recognize that there are people here who care about them and want them to be successful."

The program services about 50 students per semester by offering informative guidance on campus resources like scholarships and services, financial and graduate school planning, study skills and the opportunity to work with mentors in the community, including medical doctors, church pastors, business owners, university faculty and upperclassmen.

Biology major named LU's third David J. Beck Fellow



Elisabeth Maxwell, a sophomore biology major from Beaumont, is the 2011 recipient of Lamar University's most prestigious undergraduate award, the David J. Beck Fellowship.

David Beck presented Maxwell with an engraved medallion and certificate in a ceremony Nov. 29. She also will receive a full scholarship for one year—including tuition, fees, books and on-campus

room and board—and funding to pursue a summer project proposed as part of her application packet.

Maxwell, 20, plans to participate in a two-month internship with the South African Shark Conservancy to further her goal of becoming a marine biologist. She had researched the internship previously but set it aside because she could not afford it. With the David J. Beck Fellowship, she will be able to pursue what she describes as the perfect opportunity for the career she plans.

"One of the cool things about this internship is that you get to participate in all the activities they have to do as a non-profit. It's not just doing research, but it's how you get this kind of organization going and keep it going," Maxwell said. "They do a lot of work with other agencies and the fishing industry and governmental institutions to work together on issues like overfishing and pollution."

A unique undergraduate fellowship program, the David J. Beck Fellowship was made possible by a generous gift to the Lamar University Foundation from David J. Beck, a 1961 LU graduate and founding partner of Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Houston. A distinguished alumnus, Beck created the fellowship to reward academic excellence and to allow top students to further challenge themselves.

"The fact that we have this fellowship says that Lamar University puts the students first. It gives students an opportunity that they would otherwise never have," Maxwell said.

The event also included a presentation from the university's second Beck Fellow, Michael Zarzosa, a biology major from Lumberton, about his summer spent performing research in Ambergris Caye, Belize. Zarzosa collected and analyzed samples from dogs to determine the prevalence of common parasites that could be transferred to humans. He expects the research experience and the related academic paper he plans to produce to help him achieve his goal of obtaining his doctorate in veterinary medicine and a Ph.D. in public health.

Beck Fellows work with a faculty mentor to complete their summer projects. Maxwell and Zarzosa both selected Ana Christiansen, associate professor of biology, as their faculty mentor.

LU welcomes Dishman director



Jessica Dandona

Lamar's Dishman Art Museum is more than a building filled with paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures. For Jessica Dandona, the museum's new director, it is a gathering place for the community. "The role of the museum in our society is to provide a forum to talk about ideas," said Dandona, also an assistant professor of art.

Sanderson's *Faded Love*

Jim Sanderson's second collection of short stories, like many of his other literary works, takes place deep in the heart of Texas. "As Hemingway said, 'Write what you know,'" said Sanderson, professor of English.

He took the collection's title – *Faded Love* – from the Bob Wills song of the same name, with the clichéd sentimentality written into the story-line, said Sanderson, who sums up the stories in one word: twice-bitten. Ink Brush Press published the book in October 2010.

The story cycle follows an interconnected set of characters through hard living and

When she was a child growing up in Michigan, her father was an avid antiques collector, and her mother owned a shop that sold local artists' works. "I grew up surrounded by art and antiques," she said.

As an undergraduate at Brown University, she initially wanted to study international relations, but she had an epiphany while studying Gothic cathedrals in an art-history class. Dandona was so moved by their beauty that she decided to change her major course of study.

The young scholar graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in the history of art and French studies before moving to Quebec for graduate research in 18th-

missed opportunities in the pursuit of impossible dreams, with some of the characters showing up from Sanderson's novels and his first story collection, *Semi-Private Rooms*. Andrew Geyer, author of *Siren Songs from the Heart of Austin*, writes: "The characters Sanderson weaves in and out of these sometimes side-splitting, sometimes gut-wrenching stories are the people whose poignantly rendered lives resonate long after the last page has been turned."

Thompson talks Teddy

J. Lee Thompson, professor of history, understands the interesting looks he receives when he tells people he is a British historian. "It's the same way I look at Britons who tell me they are American historians," said the Austin native, "It's a look that says, 'Why are you doing that?'"

After authoring four books rooted in

century architectural history as a Fulbright Fellow at Université Laval. She earned her doctorate in the history of art from the University of California at Berkeley.

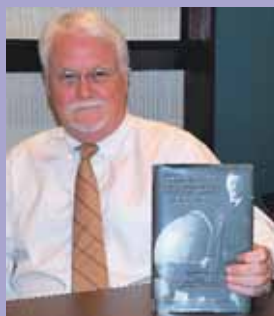
A true Francophile, Dandona is fluent in French and has been traveling to France on a regular basis since she was 14. As an undergraduate, she spent a year at the Sorbonne and the School of the Louvre.

"Dr. Dandona is a significant addition to our program," said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "She brings to us a tremendous background in art history, as well as an understanding of the relationship of the Dishman Art Museum to the academic setting."

Dandona looks forward to directing the museum and plans to host exhibits with broad appeal, such as a showing of contemporary comic-book art and a quilt exhibition. "Art is essential," she said. "It allows us to see our world anew."

British history, Thompson details in his fifth book Theodore Roosevelt's 15-month African hunting expedition in what he calls "a vignette" of this time in the president's life. *Theodore Roosevelt Abroad: Nature, Empire and the Journey of an American President* was published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2010.

"There's a saying that Roosevelt wanted to be the groom at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral. He liked being the center of attention, and people either loved him or hated him," Thompson said. "His larger-than-life presence made the research fun."



MICHELLE CAITE



Dave Steinmeyer, retired Air Force trombonist and former leader of the Airmen of Note, was featured guest for the *Lamarissimo!* jazz concert Oct. 5 to open the series' 21st season. Steinmeyer took the spotlight with the Lamar Jazz Ensemble for such standards as *Just Friends* and *Getting Sentimental Over You*. An Air Force musician 28 years, he performed at the White House for seven presidents and recorded with such stars as Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughn and Joe Williams.

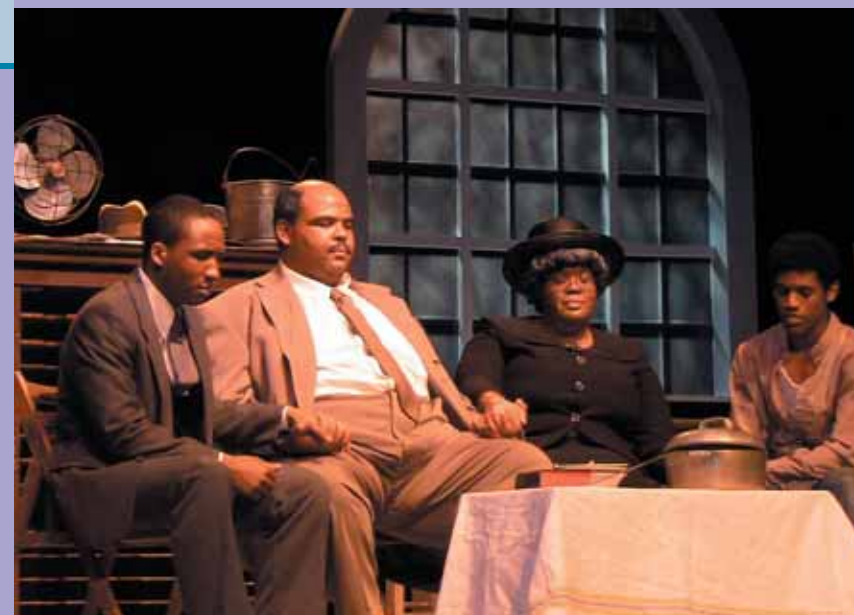
Colleagues in creativity

The work of three artists, friends and colleagues came together in *The Specious Instant* Jan. 10-Feb. 18 at the Dishman Art Museum with works by Steve Hodges '63, Justin Varner '05 and Jakob Christmas '02.

Hodges, a longtime art faculty member who died Aug. 18, 2010, was Christmas' and Varner's teacher and quickly became a mentor to both. They critiqued

one another and collaborated extensively. The exhibition featured Varner's charcoal drawings and Christmas' and Hodges' oil paintings. "The show is a clear example of cross-pollination, of the mutations that wind their way circuitously through separate and distinct

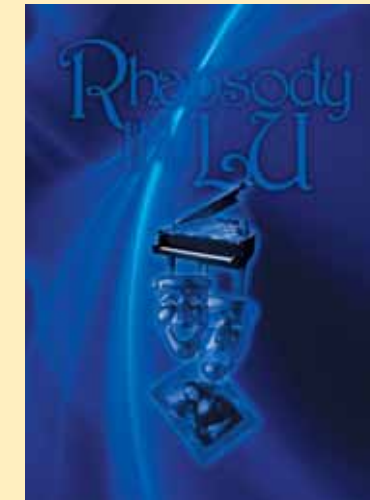
bodies of work, each informed by the other," Christmas said. "It is a chronicle of artist/friends/peers in dialog and the sometimes conscious, but mostly unconscious, effects on the resulting creative output."



JOEL GROTHE

As part of its fall season, Lamar Theatre presented *A Lesson Before Dying*, based on the novel by Ernest J. Gaines and adapted for the stage by Romulus Linney. In this scene, Thaddeus Green of Orange, guest artist Christopher Murray '10 of Beaumont, Amber Belton of Houston and Kristen Davis of Houston pray together in jail before the impending execution of Jefferson (portrayed by Davis) for a crime he did not commit. Ron Zank, visiting instructor of theatre, directed the play.

ArtsNotes



Lamar's Friends of the Arts orchestrated a *Rhapsody in LU* March 19 when they presented **Le Grand Bal**, a gala evening of art, fine dining, dancing and entertainment. The black-tie event honors **Judy and James Black** of Beaumont for their contributions to Lamar, the community and the arts. Le Grand

Bal, now in its 37th year, is the major annual fund-raiser that benefits the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Michele (Yennie) '88 and **Mitch Smith** are event chairs. Activities included a reception and silent art auction from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Dishman Art Museum, with a gourmet buffet, dancing and entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Montagne Center . . . The Dishman Art Museum hosted **The Gulf Print Storm**, billed "a printmaking extravaganza," Nov. 15-20. Organized to promote fine-art printmaking, the conference featured exhibitions, demonstrations, lectures and live printmaking events. It was the only event of its scale on printmaking to occur on the Gulf Coast, said **Xenia Fedorchenko**, associate professor and guest curator. Attracting artists and students from Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas, it was the first of what organizers hope will be a triennial national event, Fedorchenko said . . . Presenting annual awards Feb. 13, the Southeast Texas Arts Council honored recently retired art professor **Meredith "Butch" Jack** as Outstanding Arts Educator; the late **Ruth and Rex Goode** for Outstanding Support of the Arts; and retired history professor **Naaman Woodland Jr.** for Outstanding Support of Humanities . . . **Michael Saar**, reference librarian and assistant professor of library science, directed the Beaumont Community Players' production of *Art*, presented in February and starring **David Hooker '68, '74, Glenn Teeter** and **Keith Huckabay**.



“When I reflect on my life and how I have arrived at this point in time, I see a great number of steps—some short and some very tall. . . . In those reflections . . . I remember Jerry helping me onto many of those tall steps, pulling me up, whether I was ready or not.” —**Kyle Young** '90, Bellaire, Texas



“Jerry’s impact on my life reaches far beyond subject matter, painting technique or artistic endeavors . . . His words of wisdom and encouragement are a permanent part of my being.” —**Amy (Koski) Richard** '84, Gainesville, Florida



“Jerry’s genuine interest in every student in his class, to help them grow and develop their own visions and goals was an inspiration . . . I never ceased to stand in awe of Jerry’s vast knowledge about art and his wisdom about the whole of life.” —**Betty (Allen) Iles** '59, '65, '94, Lumberton, Texas

REMEMBERING . . . Newman

The legacy of Professor Jerry Newman—a mentor, friend and father to his students for more than four decades—came to life full circle as more than 50 of his proteges paid him tribute with an awe-inspiring exhibition in the Dishman Art Museum. “Jerry had a very, very devoted following,” said guest curator Lynne Lokensgard, University Professor of Art and Newman’s colleague and friend of more than 30 years. Lokensgard coordinated the exhibit with Newman’s wife, Pattee, who, the curator said, selected the artists and created the impetus for the show. “When he passed away (in 2008), so many students came to pay tribute to him that we had the idea of organizing this exhibition as a more formal way for them to pay their respects and to display the tremendous influence he had on their lives,” Lokensgard said. “He will be missed for his kind nature and ability to instill a love of art in his students.” Titled *A Homecoming*, the exhibition showcased more than 100 drawings, paintings and sculptures in a variety of styles. Newman taught at Lamar more than 40 years. “It was just wonderful, and Jerry would have been so honored,” Pattee Newman said. Here are some of the reflections on Jerry Newman’s legacy.

“Exactly 46 years ago, I walked into Jerry Newman’s class as a freshman art student . . . Little could anyone have known the profound impact this encounter would have on my life and career. Jerry, who was in the early stages of his teaching career, had the patience and wisdom to work with a talented but raw 19-year-old. My father died that same year, and, in many ways, Jerry became a surrogate father, as well as mentor . . . Jerry was my great teacher . . . His enormous spirit fills my studio today.” —**John Alexander** '68, Amagansett, New York

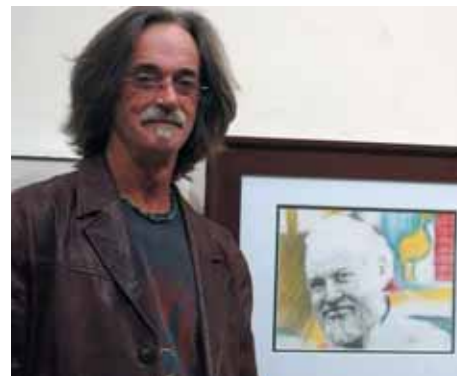
“I met Jerry when I was a young student, insecure and uncertain about what to study and what to do with the rest of my life . . . He took me under his wing . . . and taught me most of what I needed to know about art, but also about what is important in life and love, about commitment and perseverance . . . Just like him, I became a professor of art at a university, returning the gift he gave me to other young students.” —**Richard Davis** '66, Denton, Texas



“Jerry taught me that making art never has to end . . . He showed me that the creative process is reflected beyond the realms of art . . . He taught me how to approach living.” —**Mike Kennaugh** '86, Houston, Texas



“When I draw, I feel the crisp, white paper beneath my fingers. The texture is comforting, and with this familiarity, the smooth charcoal lines flow across the plane. As these lines appear, the words of my teacher admonish me to ‘keep it light’ . . . ‘think about every little stroke.’ . . . Not only did Mr. Newman teach us to paint; he taught us important life lessons . . . His legacy continues each time I hear him tell me to ‘keep it light.’” —**Angela (Robin) Osborne** '81, '95, Port Neches, Texas



“Newman sculpted everything I do as an artist . . . (He) helped define the person I am today. He is everything I do.” —**Scot Meents** '92, Port Neches, Texas

“To this day, Jerry inspires me to get up early and stay up late doing what I am so privileged to be able to do—paint . . . He challenged me at every level . . . no matter what I accomplished . . . all I could ever get from him was, ‘Hey, boy, you’re coming along.’ I realized many years later, this was Jerry’s way of saying, ‘I love you.’ . . . Jerry was able to inspire each of us in our own personal way.” —**Bruce Tinch** '72, Arlington, Texas

“Jerry Newman took a bunch of obstinate, small-town incognizants and patiently showed us how to create and appreciate art. He taught us to focus on the essentials of the image and gave us the discipline and freedom to explore.” —**David Miller** '82, The Bronx, New York

“Mr. Newman was, and still is, the driving force behind my art. I still hear his words of wisdom every time I pick up a brush or pencil. Mr. Newman cared for me like a son, and

“My drawing teacher was gifted in that he could teach you how to draw if you wanted to learn. He was a soulful person too . . . and imparted some of that, as well. He and I were very close, and that proximity exists for me today in my art and in my life.” —**Paul Manes** '72, '82, New York, New York

I cared for him like a father. He is the reason for every success in my life since the day I met him.” —**Calvin Carter** '00, Jasper, Texas

“Never confrontational, always questioning, always asking for more exploration, he determinedly forced me, sometimes kicking and screaming the whole way, to experiment with color, shape and movement . . . I am grateful for his insistence in stretching my imagination and for his firm hand in enlightening me.” —**Kim (Chen) Allen** '76, '95, Lumberton, Texas



“His influence has gone from the lessons of a teacher to being a core element in my creative ability. To this day, after creating hundreds of pieces of sculpture and casting many tons of bronze, art feels like oil painting.” —**David Iles** '73, Denton, Texas

“Perhaps (Newman’s) greatest gift to me was his advice to me when he said, ‘If you’re going to paint cowboys, you need to step in cow dung.’ I like to think he taught me that life ain’t a dress rehearsal; you need to live it like it’s a command performance.” —**Red Allen** '90, Beaumont, Texas

“This was a kind man who took great satisfaction when his students succeeded . . . Many times, we never saw him coming but felt his presence . . .” —**Mary Grace (Bookman) Levacy** '01, Beaumont, Texas

“Newman pointed out the path and then walked it with me. He still does.” —**Laura Lee (Burchfield) Scott** '95, '04, Beaumont, Texas

FOOTBALL



A sea of red. A field of green. A rainbow arching over a sold-out stadium. Bagpipes. A parade of players. Marching band, dancers, twirlers, flag corps. Flyover and fireworks. Fans walking blocks to get there. Tailgaters emitting captivating aromas and camaraderie. Reunions: football, Techsans, Cards, Marching Band, Class of 1960. Red, White and You—and Get Your Red On. Football is back. Cardinal spirit soars. Next season: A new altitude.



FOOTBALL





MARCHING BAND REUNION 2010



FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYERS REUNION 2010



CARDS AND TECHSANS REUNION 2010



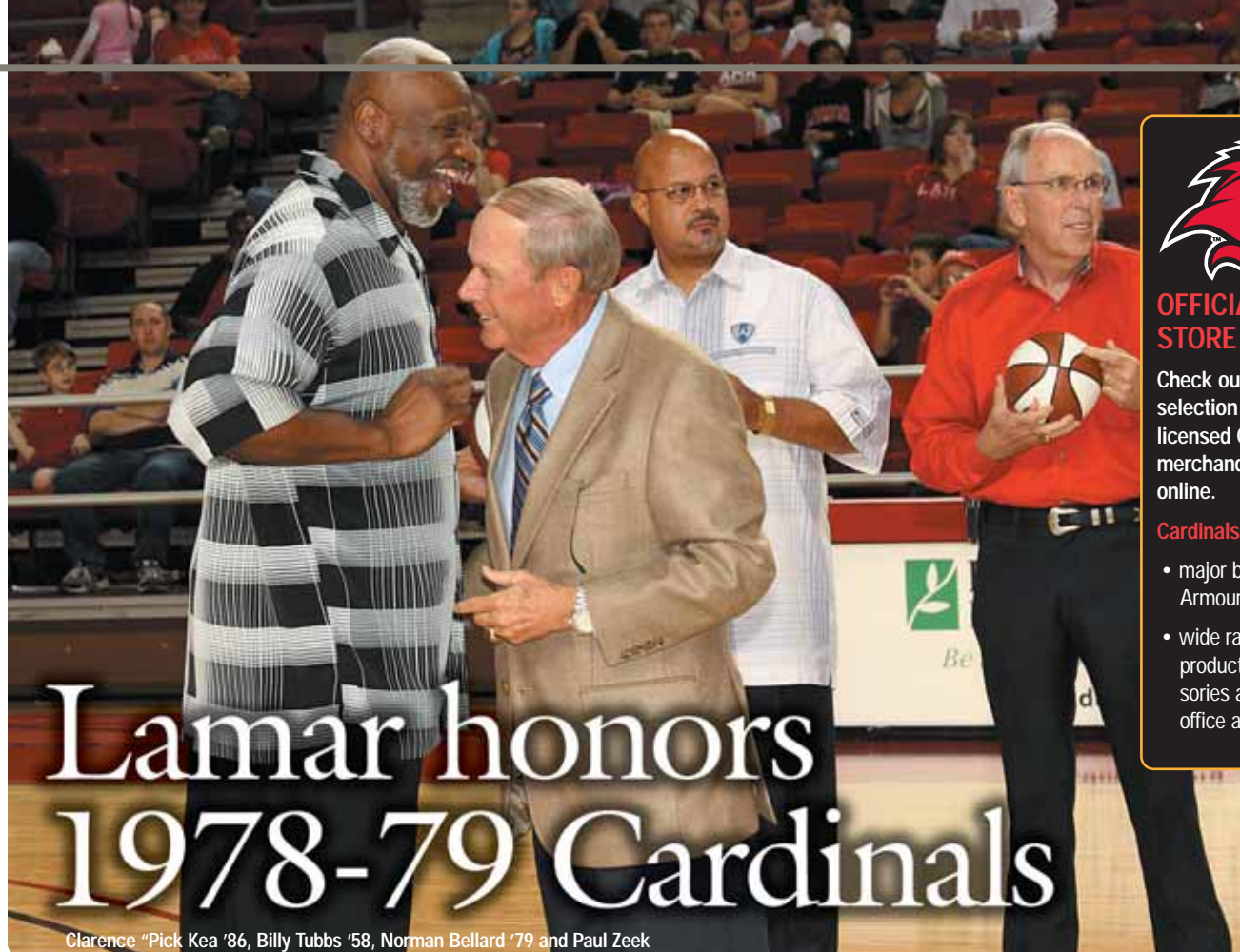
CLASS OF 1960 REUNION 2010



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Lamar honors 1978-79 Cardinals

Clarence "Pick" Kea '86, Billy Tubbs '58, Norman Bellard '79 and Paul Zeek

The 1978-79 basketball season saw the first team in school history advance to the NCAA Division I Tournament. Coached by Billy Tubbs '58 and assistant Dennis Walsh, the team included B.B. Davis -81, Clarence "Pick" Kea '86 and Norman Bellard '79—three former players who remain actively involved with Lamar today. Those Cardinals went 23-9 overall and 9-1 in the Southland Conference and set a standard for what became the most successful run in Lamar basketball history.

Tubbs, now special assistant to the president at Lamar and consultant for athletics, remembers the 1978-1979 Cardinals as both a misjudged and underestimated team.

"A lot of people thought we were a cocky and arrogant team," said Tubbs, who compiled a 121-89 record over two stints as Lamar's head coach. "What they failed to grasp was that it was simply a very confident team—one that played with a lot of pride and a lot of emotion. It was a team that expected to win and to do big things."

Not only did Tubbs' confident Cardinals qualify for the Big Dance, they performed a stunning Texas Two Step over 18th-ranked and highly favored Detroit in the first round. The Cardinals' 95-87 shocker delivered that night in Murfreesboro, Tenn., may never have occurred, Tubbs disclosed, had it not been for a little offseason politicking he instigated.

"The previous season, we finished in a tie with McNeese State for the conference championship, and we both had good clubs but neither one of us went anywhere (in the playoffs)," said Tubbs. "After that happened, I convinced Hig (J.B. Higgins, then Lamar's director of athletics) and Dick Oliver (then

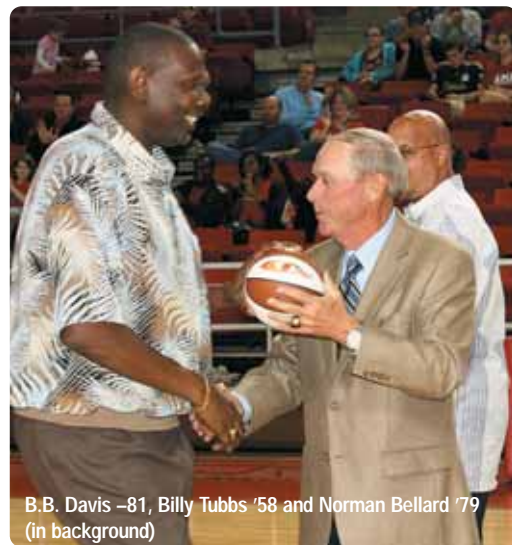
commissioner of the Southland Conference) to go with me to Chicago where the NCAA presidents were meeting, and we lobbied for an automatic bid for our conference.

"Once the NCAA granted a bid to our conference, our players were determined to be the first team to win it."

Not only did the brash Cardinals win it, they won it in a runaway—by a three-game margin

over Louisiana Tech and Southwestern Louisiana.

"It was a wonderful thrill to me to have the opportunity to coach those young men," Tubbs said. "They were a fun bunch to be around, and I still cherish the memories they left me with."—RW



B.B. Davis -81, Billy Tubbs '58 and Norman Bellard '79 (in background)

Cards score



Lamar men win fifth straight SLC cross country title The men's cross country team captured its fifth consecutive Southland Conference title with a dominating performance this past fall at Bayou Din Golf Club. The Cardinals finished with 38 points, well ahead of runner-up McNeese State's 70 points. The Cardinals had three runners earn all-conference honors by placing in the top 10. Bob Ahimbisibwe, last season's SLC Freshman of the Year, led Lamar with a second-place finish. LU's Matt Johnsen was third in 24:50.1, while Tallam Kipruto was seventh in 25:13.3 . . .

Men's cross country has Freshman and Newcomer of the Year Two members of the cross country team received major accolades from the Southland Conference.

Matt Johnsen was named Freshman of the Year, while junior transfer Tallam Kipruto was tabbed as Newcomer of the Year. Johnsen was the top freshman finisher at the Southland Conference Championships, placing third to help Lamar win its fifth consecutive men's championship. Kipruto, a transfer from South Plains College, won his first three races in a Lamar uniform. He placed seventh at the SLC meet . . . **Former Silsbee star Jeremy Johnson transfers to Lamar** Jeremy Johnson, one of the most highly sought after quarterbacks in the nation, is transferring from West Virginia to play football for Lamar University.

Women's cross country earns national honor The women's cross country team was named as a 2010 Division I All-Academic Cross Country program by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

The Lady Cardinals had a cumulative GPA of 3.45 and a GPA of 3.23 for the fall semester. Lamar had three runners, Sam Walkow, Nora-Beth Saunders and Elzbieta Gawron, with perfect 4.0 grade-point averages. Other members of the team were Taylor Cloy, Katrine Vaesel, Angela LaBorde, Emily Carpenter, Daisy Cantu, Tessa Denis and Sharon Sason.



JEREMY JOHNSON

Tidwell to coach national team of the Bahamas

Hopes to qualify for Olympics

Women's basketball Coach and Athletics Director Larry Tidwell has accepted an invitation to become head coach of the Bahamas senior national women's basketball team.

"This is certainly a very prestigious honor to represent the country of the Bahamas as their head coach at the highest level," Tidwell said. "I am very committed to get their senior team back to a level that competes for championships with the ultimate goal of being in the Olympics."

Tidwell noted the team will compete in the Caribbean Championships, the Centrobasket Championships, the FIBA Americas Championships, the Pan-American Games and other FIBA-certified tournaments during Lamar's offseason.



LARRY TIDWELL

Former LU star Sarbaugh named Manager of the Year

Mike Sarbaugh '93, who starred at shortstop for Lamar University over the 1986-1989 seasons, was honored recently as the 2010 Minor League Manager of the Year.

Sarbaugh, who has spent 21 years as a player, hitting coach and manager in the Cleveland Indians' organization, was voted to receive the prestigious award after guiding the Class AAA Columbus Clippers to both the International League title and the Triple-A national championship.

"Mike has been successful at every path he has taken as a manager," said Chris Antonetti, Cleveland's general manager. "His ability to relate exceptionally well to every player, to teach and develop and consistently win are attributes that make him an excellent candidate as he continues moving through our system."



MIKE SARBAUGH

SLC honors Lamar student-athletes

66 athletes attain GPAs of 3.00 or higher

Lamar student-athletes found success on the playing field and in the classroom during the fall 2010 semester as 66 Cardinals were named to the Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll.

The fall honor roll includes student-athletes who took part in men's and women's cross country, football, volleyball and women's soccer. The honor roll recognizes student-athletes who maintained a minimum 3.00 grade point average.

Lamar's total of 66 was tied for the fourth most among the 12 member institutions, while the 13 LU student-athletes who posted a perfect 4.0 grade point average ranked second among all SLC schools.

"We know the importance of academics, and we're especially proud that the overall GPA for our student-athletes was a 3.0, and that includes all 17 sports," said Athletics Director Larry Tidwell.

He credited Helene Thill, Rose Hubbard, Rob McDermand, Tommy Collins and tutors for "an outstanding effort in achieving this high plateau of academic excellence."

Student athlete graduation rate sixth in state

The NCAA Division I student-athletes continue to show record graduation rates, the organization announced recently.

In the statistics released on graduation rates for Texas student-athletes who enrolled as freshmen from 2000-01 through 2003-04, Lamar University ranked sixth in the state at 73 percent.

Private institutions dominated the four top spots, with Rice, Southern Methodist, Texas Christian and Baylor taking the lead. The highest ranked state school, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, achieved a 78 percent four-year graduation rate for its student-athletes. Lamar's graduation rate also exceeded those of Texas A&M and the University of Texas.



Court named for Billy and Pat Tubbs

Perhaps no name is more synonymous with the storied Lamar University basketball tradition than Billy Tubbs. That name, along with his wife of 52 years, Pat, became a permanent part of the basketball legacy Feb. 19 when the Montagne Center floor was named "Billy & Pat Tubbs Court" in their honor.

Tubbs, who played at Lamar from 1955-57 under Jack Martin, is now in his 27th year of service to his alma mater. Just the 28th coach in NCAA history to record 600 career wins, Tubbs currently serves as special assistant/consultant to the president.

"Billy Tubbs is a legendary figure in the basketball community and has left a lasting legacy at Lamar University—first as a player, then coach and finally athletics director," said President James Simmons. "His success as the men's basketball coach could not have been possible without the loving support of his wife, Pat, so it is only fitting that the playing court in the Montagne Center bears their names."

The ceremony took place during the annual basketball players reunion weekend and honored Tubbs' 1978-79 team, the first in school history to advance to the NCAA Division I Tournament.

Naming honors Coach Gilligan

Jim Gilligan's way has proven to be a reliable formula for Lamar University baseball through 33 seasons and almost 1,200 victories.

So, it was appropriate that Beaumont City Council voted unanimously this past summer to rename a section of East Florida Avenue to Jim Gilligan Way in honor of the head coach, who ranks sixth among the NCAA's active coaches in career victories.

Jim Gilligan Way extends from Martin Luther King Jr.

Parkway and past Vincent-Beck Stadium to University Drive.

Gilligan is a Lamar graduate, having earned a bachelor's degree in 1969 and a master's in 1970.

In coaching the Cardinals for 33 seasons, he guided LU to 10 Southland Conference championships, two SLC zone titles, four conference-tournament championships—the most recent in 2010—and 12 NCAA Regional appearances.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: Vernon Durden



Vernon and Johnnie Durden

Vernon '04 and Johnnie Durden '00 haven't been sidelined by retirement. While most people look forward to slowing the pace, this China couple has embraced a life of giving back and setting a positive example for many young people in the Golden Triangle. During their brief periods of relaxation, they prefer to saddle up either on their Harleys for a cross-country jaunt or on their champion Tennessee Walkers for a lazy afternoon ride through the pasture.

"Once you retire and people find out you have all this time to give, somehow your name gets to the top of everybody's list," Vernon said. "But, what we found out is when you're helping people, the time spent is good quality time, and we just enjoy that so much."

From their small horse ranch west of Beaumont, the Durdens offer their time and talents to the community by serving on numerous advisory boards and mentoring organizations. The walls and tables of their home are dotted with plaques and awards as mementoes of their outreach. The majority of their time is spent mentoring young adults in organizations such as Ben's Kids Brighter Futures Mentoring Program, 100 Black Men of America and Lamar University's AAMP program, an academic success and leadership development program for African-American male students.

Vernon is a mentor for the Ben's Kids organization, which matches at-risk students with advisers who help them make positive personal choices. Each mentor in the organization invests his or her time to help a young person improve his or her life through character

development, guest speakers, and athletic and community service activities. Lamar's AAMP program is another opportunity Durden embraces because it enables him and other mentors to align themselves with students pursuing advanced education. He's also active as president of the Beaumont chapter of the 100 Black Men of America group, one of fastest growing of the 116 chapters nationwide that work to educate and empower African-American young men and teens. In addition, Vernon is president of the board of the Southeast Texas Food Bank, on the board of the United Way of Beaumont, and regional chair for the Southeast Texas region of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Johnnie is a member of the The Links Inc., an international non-profit corporation of professional women of color in 270 chapters nationwide. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations committed to enriching, sustaining

and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African-Americans. As a member of Top Ladies of Distinction, she helps teenagers plan their career goals and futures. She also serves as a member of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas advisory board, Communities in Schools and is a substitute teacher for the Beaumont school district.

Included on their walls are their Lamar University diplomas—among their most valued recognitions. Vernon earned a certificate in industrial electricity and electronics before joining ExxonMobil in 1970. He continued his education periodically throughout the years, but became more serious about finishing his bachelor's degree when Johnnie enrolled at Lamar and began pursuing her degree in earnest. Vernon has also served on the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board.

On being selected a distinguished alumnus, Vernon said, "I can think of no better time in the history of Beaumont to be associated with the growth and progress of Lamar University, one of our greatest assets. This recognition is both a surprise and distinct honor that I will treasure the rest of my life. As an alumnus, there is no greater honor."

Johnnie completed her bachelor's degree a year before retiring in 2001 as an auditor at DuPont. Although they completed their formal education late in their careers, Johnnie said, they did so to be an example to nieces and nephews and the young people they are mentoring. "Our thought was," Johnnie said, "if we are going to speak to these kids about the value of an education in their lives, we had better walk the walk ourselves."—LA

"I can think of no better time in the history of Beaumont to be associated with the growth and progress of Lamar University..."

—VERNON DURDEN '04

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA: Grace England



One of the first students to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Lamar, England went on to earn her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of North Texas and her Ph.D. in child development and special education at Texas Woman's University.

England has worked as a consultant for U.S. Department of Defense Dependents Schools worldwide and for a variety of school districts in Texas. She has participated in educational training sessions around the world and presented at conferences across the country and internationally. She currently serves as an educational consultant for the Spring Branch school district and as an assistant professor of education at University



Grace and Bill England

of St. Thomas in Houston.

England credits Lamar with providing a supportive environment, encouragement and opportunities that opened the door to valuable experiences as a teacher, administrator, special educator and professor. She still recalls the words of her professor in her first education class at Lamar: "We of one generation must teach those of another generation how to live in yet another generation.' That magnificent challenge became a guidepost for my career."

Working with both children and with future teachers has been rewarding. "In special education there's another component, and that's working with the families," she said. "I have such a respect for families and how they accommodate and maneuver their lives so they can give the children they have the support they need."

Grace England said she was "overjoyed" by the honor. "It gave me an opportunity to think back to

the beginning of a really exciting career and to recall all the people at Lamar who boosted me along the way in ways that I now can genuinely appreciate and respect."—BG

"It gave me an opportunity to think back to the beginning of a really exciting career and to recall all the people at Lamar who boosted me along the way in ways that I now can genuinely appreciate and respect."

—GRACE ENGLAND '55

Grace (Davis) England '55 has touched countless lives as a teacher, special education administrator, college professor and educational consultant.

A trailblazer in the field of special education, England has been recognized as Professional of the Year by the International Council for Learning Disabilities and has been commended by the Texas Senate for her work. She became director of special education for Klein school district, a fast-growing, Houston-area district, just days before passage of a federal law mandating appropriate public education for children with disabilities. At Klein, she led an effort to establish one of the first Early Childhood Intervention programs in the state to provide services such as speech therapy and physical therapy to infants and toddlers with disabilities to better prepare them for school. To her long list of honors, England adds the title of 2011 distinguished alumns.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS: Bill Macatee



Bill Macatee with 2010 U.S. Open champion Rafael Nadal

Bill Macatee '78 has become a familiar face and voice of authority at some of the biggest sporting events in the world.

From the Masters and PGA Championship in golf to the U.S. Open, French Open and Wimbledon in tennis to play-by-play for weekly NFL broadcasts, Macatee is a veteran television sports broadcaster with unparalleled versatility. With CBS Sports since 1995, Macatee provides insightful coverage of some of the most prestigious golf and tennis tournaments internationally each year. In addition to his NFL responsibilities, he has handled play-by-play for college basketball, including the NCAA Tournament, and hosted CBS Sports Spectacular events for skiing, figure skating, and track and field.

His many successes in sports broadcasting build on the dedication and hard work he showed even before he began his studies at Lamar. Macatee got his start in broadcasting as a teenager doing radio newscasts in El Paso. While in college in San Marcos, Macatee became weekend sports anchor at the NBC affiliate in Austin. That led to a job at Beaumont's KBMT as sports director and led Macatee to transfer to Lamar to complete his degree in speech. At 21, with a full-time job and full course load, Macatee said he was "stuck between being a kid and being a grownup."

Macatee said he was impressed then and is pleased now by all Lamar has to offer, including the quality of its teaching and the diversity of its student body. "It really prepared me for traveling internationally and having a broad world view. During my career,

I've been lucky enough to do play-by-play in everything from golf to sumo wrestling to the NFL," Macatee said. "So much of the preparation for the life and the career I've had comes from my time at Lamar."

After graduation, Macatee moved on to television stations in Kansas City and Dallas before joining NBC at age 26, becoming the youngest network sportscaster in the industry. With NBC, he covered events including the World Series, the Super Bowl, Wimbledon and college bowl games and served as sports correspondent for "The Today Show." With the USA Network, he anchored coverage of numerous sports specials and major events, including the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. He served as co-host of CBS coverage of the 1998 Olympic Winter Games from Nagano, Japan. In addition to his work with CBS, Macatee currently is an executive producer and anchor with cable's Tennis Channel.

Macatee said he is proud to be a Lamar University graduate and is honored to be recognized as a 2011 distinguished alumnus. "This is significant for me. It's the first thing I've asked my family to attend," Macatee said. "I'm proud of the growth of the university. It's grown not just in scope but in its prominence nationally."

Macatee said he thought back to his Lamar days often while teaching sports media for two years as an adjunct professor at Chapman University, where his daughter, Caitlin, is now a student. He also serves on the advisory council of Lamar's College of Fine Arts and Communication. Macatee makes his home in Newport Beach, Calif., and Dallas.—BG

"So much of the preparation for the life and the career I've had comes from my time at Lamar."

—BILL MACATEE '78

We hope you enjoy reading about former classmates. If you have news to share – a position announcement, milestone, achievement, wedding, baby – or know the whereabouts of a lost alumnus, we want to hear from you.

Send us your news:

Write to Cadence, P.O. Box 10011, Beaumont, TX 77710,
e-mail cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8421.

40s

Tommy Walker '48, A.A. general studies, earned a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine. He lives in Eugene, Ore.

The Port Arthur Evening Sertoma Club awarded the Service to Mankind award to **Herbert Stafford Jr.** '49, A.A. general studies.

50s

Howard Graff '51, A.A. general studies, '53, B.S. biology, is retired and lives in Hamshire with his wife, Carvelynne.

James Bolton '54, B.S. physical education, is a retired sales executive and lives in Port Arthur with his wife, Jimmie.

Charles Alexander '58, B.A. history, and his wife, JoAnn, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and live in Hamilton, Ohio. He earned his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Texas. He is distinguished professor of history emeritus at Ohio University.

Tom Willard '59, B.S. chemistry, earned a doctorate from Tulane University and is professor emeritus at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., where he lives with his wife, Barbara.

60s

Larry Drayer '60, B.S. electrical engineering, and his wife, **Anna (Hopkins)** '60, B.S. speech, celebrated their 50th anniversary. They live in Austin. Both of his brothers, **Jerry** '60, B.S. electrical engineering, and **Phil** '67, B.S. electrical engineering, are Lamar graduates.

John Hunt '60, B.S. secondary education, earned his master's in zoology and botany from Stephen F. Austin State University and his educational doctorate from Baylor University. He is professor of curriculum and instruction and science education at Mississippi College in Clinton. He lives in Pearl, Miss.

Joe Wilson '60, B.S. geology, is retired from Hood Packaging Corp. and lives in Tyler with his wife, Judy. He has served as a volunteer at various national parks.

Don Henderson '62, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree from Texas

sumer sciences, live in Silsbee.

Sam Dell Olio '63, B.B.A. marketing, works for Texas State Bank in Galveston, where he lives with his wife, Miriam.

Ken King '63, B.A. history, earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He lives in Flower Mound with his wife, **Dorothy (Curtis)** '66, B.S. elementary education.

Robert Tolar '63, B.S. mathematics, earned a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a doctorate from Texas A&M. He is a professor at College of the Canyons in Valencia, Calif., where he lives with his wife, Debra.

Margaret (Pugh) Bostic '64, B.S. speech, '75, M.S. health and physical education, and her husband, Leroy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a traditional wedding ceremony Dec. 4, 2010, at the Botanical Gardens in Beaumont, where they live.

Richard Dalton Sr. '64, B.S. geology, earned a master's degree from University of Oklahoma. He works for Acadia Exploration Corp. as a consulting geologist. He lives in Houston with his wife, Sharon.

John Gilbert '64, B.S. industrial engineering, earned a master's degree from Purdue University. He has been principal of the John Gilbert Co., a national healthcare executive search firm, for 17 years and lives in San Luis Obispo, Calif., with his wife, Marian, who is a concert pianist.

Betty (Wade) Merwin '64, B.S. elementary education, '81, M.Ed. elementary education, retired from a 34-year teaching career and lives in Everton, Ark.

Ike Porter '64, physical education, is a minister, author and recording artist. He lives in Port Arthur.

Herman Weber '64, B.S. government, earned a master's degree in public administration from Cornell University and retired as personnel director for the city of Pasadena, where he lives with his wife, Loretta.

Harold Baker '65, B.S. chemistry, earned a doctorate degree from Tulane University. He works for Luminex Corp. as a senior scientist in Austin, where he lives.

Sally (Pearson) Montague '65, B.S. elementary education, was an educator for 35 years, retired and is living at Lake Livingston with her husband, Bruce.

Clinton Smith '65, B.B.A. general business, and his wife, LaVerne, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2010. He is retired from the Texas

Department of Transportation. They live in Beaumont.

Bill Worsham '65, B.S. physical education, '72, M.Ed. secondary education, retired as athletic director from Lamar State College-Port Arthur after 42 years in education. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Port Arthur.

Ken Buss '66, B.B.A. accounting, owns a computer business and lives in Carrollton with his wife, **Carolyn (Minter)** '65, B.S. elementary education, '76, M.Ed. elementary education.

Dr. Sam Showalter '66, B.S. biology, recently celebrated 40 years in dentistry. He and his wife, **Gail (Cawley)** '70, B.S. speech, live in Nederland.

Jim Tarbett Jr. '66, B.S. electrical engineering, '70, M.E.S. electrical engineering science, works for JAT Engineering Inc. and lives in Beaumont.

Carole (Cobble) Wills '66, B.B.A. secretarial science, is head of school at the Briarwood School in Houston, where she lives with her husband, **Jim** '66, B.S. mathematics, '68, M.S. mathematics.

Sandra (Thomas) Baker '67, B.S. elementary education, retired as a teacher in the Garland school district after 37 years. She lives in Sachse with her husband, Bob.

Helen (Pate) Reynolds '67, B.A. English, earned a master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas, retired from teaching and lives in Nederland.

Donna (Lemmon) Sherrick '67, B.S. music, retired from teaching and lives in Lumberton.

Bill Stoehs '67, B.B.A. management, earned a master's degree in business from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is retired and lives with his wife, Catherine, in Hudson, Fla.

Michael Wilson '67, B.S. sociology, '71, M.B.A. business administration, lives in Savannah, Ga., with his life partner, **Leo Monroe Jr.** '94, B.S. interior design.

Merri (Beatty) Biser '68, B.A. English, and her husband, Roy, celebrated their 40th anniversary in June. They live in Houston.

Karen (Rowland) Richardson '68, B.S. music, '77, M.M. music education, retired as a teacher of gifted and talented elementary students and lives in Beaumont with her husband, **Ronnie** '70, B.S. graphic design, '82 M.Ed. counseling and development. He retired as a coordinator of guidance and counseling and high school art teacher.

Robbie Bates '69, B.B.A. accounting, works for Bailes Bates and Associates as a certified professional accountant in Sugar Land, where he lives with his wife, Mary.

Pat (Sherburne) Groben '69, B.S. chemistry, works for MEMC Pasadena. She lives in La Porte, with her husband, Scott.

Barbara (Fullerton) Smith '69, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in educa-

tion from Stephen F. Austin State University. She retired and lives in Anahuac.

Robert Sutton Jr. '69, B.B.A. marketing, is owner of Sutton Enterprises in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Brenda.

70s

Ron Beaumont '70, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree from Stanford University and is chief executive officer for Hypercube in Lancaster. He lives in Grandview with his wife, Linda.

Larry Mills '70, B.B.A. accounting, is principal officer for Funchess, Mills, White and Co. in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Maryann.

Barbara Richards '70, B.S. home economics, is in her 37th year as an educator and teaches high school career and technology at Homer Hanna High School in Brownsville. She lives at Rancho Viejo.

Bill Scott '70, B.S. government, was honored with the Boy Scouts of America 2010 Society Award. He lives in Nederland with his wife, **Gay (Duckworth)** '80, B.B.A. accounting.

Lannie Tucker '70, B.S. health and physical education, earned a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and a doctorate from Texas Woman's University. She retired from teaching and is a flight attendant for American Airlines and lives in Euless.

Bill Caughman '71, B.S. biology, is a sales representative for Wyeth Pharmaceutical. He lives in Sugar Land with his wife, Patsy.

Sue (Russell) Dismukes '72, B.B.A. secretarial science, retired from the city of Beaumont human resources department after 35 years of service. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Tom.

Diana (Cline) Schneider '71, B.S. speech, '81, M.Ed. counseling and development, was one of 12 teachers in Texas presented with the 2010 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities awards. She teaches in the Hardin-Jefferson school district and lives in Beaumont.

Doug Simpson '71, B.S. biology, '73, M.S. biology, is president and chief executive officer of Corgenix Medical Corp. in Broomfield, Colo. He lives in Boulder with his wife, Cathleen.

Ellen (Hamblett) Wahlberg-Carlisle '71, B.S. home economics, is assistant director for special nutrition programs for the southwest region of the U.S. Drug Food and Nutrition Service. She lives in Dallas with her husband, Charlie.

Steve Bayless '72, M.B.A. business administration, is principal officer for Bayless Consulting. He lives in Katy with his wife, Lou.

Lamar offers trip to Normandy, Paris Journey inaugurates new travel program

Lamar University has initiated its Alumni and Friends travel program beginning with a May 2011 nine-day trip to Normandy and Paris, which filled up quickly.

Through the new LU program, travelers will encounter the life, people, history, art, architecture, food, wine and culture of the destination region and city. Trip

"Making great trips available for our alumni and friends is one tangible way we can say 'thank you' for the terrific support they have given to Lamar University,"

— JUAN ZABALA,
Executive Director of Alumni Affairs



organizer Alumni Holidays International has conducted trips for universities across the globe for nearly 50 years. A campus director travels with each group, and expert English-speaking guides conduct daily tours. Plans include spring and summer trips in 2012, which will be announced in the next issue of *Cadence*.

"The expertly planned itinerary balances the benefits of group travel with leisure time, and best of all, participants will travel amid the camaraderie of Lamar University alumni and friends," said Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement. Participation in the program is not limited to Lamar University alumni, Mouton said.

Lamar alumni, faculty and friends from Beaumont, Houston, Dallas, Louisiana, Missouri and California will travel to Normandy, where travelers will visit the historic and scenic Honfleur on the Seine. From there, they will travel to the Caen Memorial, one of the best World War II museums in the world, and visit the Omaha Beach Memorial. They will tour the Place de Vieux Marché in Rouen where Joan of Arc was put to death, Bayeux where a beautiful tapestry depicts the events leading to the Norman invasion of England, and a pilgrimage site in Lisieux as well as a cheese facility there. Normandy is the Cradle of Impressionism so another highlight of the trip will be a visit to Giverny, the site of Claude Monet's pastoral home, colorful gardens and studio. The tour ends in Paris where travelers will see the Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and numerous other historical sites, as well as the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay and other wonderful museums.

Tours include accommodations at first-class hotels, extensive meal programs and abundant time to sample authentic regional specialties at featured local restaurants.

For questions about the new Alumni and Friends Travel Program, call the University Advancement office at (409) 880-8419.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

All events require reservations.
(409) 880-8921 • (800) 298-4839
Alumni@lamar.edu

●

Thursday, April 14, 2011 | 5:30pm
Austin Area Alumni Reception
Top of The Oasis

●

Friday, May 6, 2011 | 5:30pm
Baseball Tailgate
Vincent Beck Stadium

Lark (Wiltshire) Bernini '72, B.S. secondary education, is production coordinator for the TV series *Brothers and Sisters* and was in Beijing for six months working on the movie *Karate Kid*. She lives in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

John Corrent '72, B.S. oceanographic technology, is owner and manager of Structural Illusions. He lives in Sandy, Utah.

Annette (Parigi) Fehrenbacher '72, B.A. mathematics, is a retired teacher and lives in Vienna, W.Va., with her husband, Robert.

Phil Gerik '72, B.S. secondary education, works for Region 12 Education Service Center as a field agent. He and his wife, **Cathy (Neumann)** '72, B.S. speech, live in Waco. Their son, **Matthew** '01, B.S. communication, also is an alumnus.

Quenton Jackson '72, B.S. mechanical engineering, is territory sales manager for Monsanto in Senoia, Ga., where he lives with his wife, Joyce.

David Lewis '72, B.S. environmental science, '78, M.S. biology, received the Big Thicket Association's R.E. Jackson Conservation Award Oct. 9 at the Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center. He is a retired chemist and avid mycologist.

Lana Parker '72, B.S. elementary education, is named 2010-11 School Board Trustee of the Year by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association. She is school board president in Port Neches-Groves, where she lives.

Betty (Gaspard) Peebles '72, B.S. speech, teaches in the East Chambers school district. She lives in Hamshire with her husband, Corky.

Jerry Whittredge '72, B.S. chemical engineering, is retired and lives in Tampa, Fla.

Keith Chatham '73, B.B.A. management, owns Precision Fit Golf in Kerrville, where he lives.

Billy Curl '73, B.S. music, '78, M.M.E. music education, retired as assistant superintendent of the Port Neches-Groves school district after a 37-year career in education. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, **Barbara (Copeland)** '87, M.E. elementary education, who teaches at Ridgewood Elementary School in the same district.

Jane (Borell) Dunn '73, B.S. mathematics, was chosen as Region 5 Teacher of the Year among secondary teachers. She teaches in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district and lives in Orange.

Candice (Zummo) Haggard '73, B.S. health and physical education received a Wayne Reaud Excellence in Education award. She teaches eighth grade at Central Middle School in Nederland and is in her 37th year of teaching. She lives in Nederland.

David Lightfoot '73, B.B.A. marketing, '74, B.B.A. accounting, is manager at Luminant Energy in Dallas. He lives in Rockwall with his wife, Linda.

Charles McFarland '73, B.B.A. accounting, is a manager for Halliburton in Houston. He lives in Katy with his wife, Cindy.

Faye (Montagne) Parish '73, B.A. mathematics, '94, M.Ed. secondary education, is the secondary mathematics coordinator for Bridge City school district. She lives in Orange.

Deborah (Gill) Queen '73, B.S. elementary education, was elected to the board of the Texas Forest Trail Region for the 2011 fiscal year. She is executive director of the Beaumont Botanical Gardens. She lives in Silsbee.

Tweed Scott Chouinard '74, B.B.A. marketing, is owner of Texas Cool Wear, an author and professional speaker. He lives in Cypress.

Warren Clark '74, B.A. government, earned a law degree from Texas Tech University and works in Amarillo, where he lives with his wife, Cynthia.

Nelson Fernandes '74, B.S. electrical engineering, is senior project engineer for AK Steel Inc. in Rockport, Ind. He lives in Newburgh, Ind., with his wife, Elizabeth.

Paula (Welch) Quick '74, B.S. elementary education, '85, M.Ed. secondary education, is superintendent of Burkeville schools. She lives in Jasper with her husband, **David** '70, B.S. secondary education, who is retired from ExxonMobil and also taught in the Burkeville district.

Bill Urquhart '74, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree and law degree from Indiana University. He is president of International Chemical and Polymer and lives in Estes Park, Colo.

Terry Weatherford '74, B.S. electrical engineer, retired from ExxonMobil and lives in Nederland with his wife, Wanda. They have three children, Wesley, Traci and Tiffany.

Robert Cuddy '75, B.S. health and physical education, is a certified instructor for Raytheon Technical Services in Wichita, Kan., where he lives.

Victor Higginbotham '75, B.S. art education, is creative director for Victor Higginbotham Creative in China, where he lives.

Donald Hilton '75, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and works for Commonwealth Engineering and Construction as director of engineering in Houston. He lives in Chappell Hill.

Ronnie Melancon '75, B.S. physical education, is branch manager for Helena Chemical Co. in Winnie. He lives in Nome.

Vivian (Rogers) Skillman '75, B.S. elementary education, completed training to be a foster grandparent. She lives in Beaumont.

Robert Smithson '75, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree in history from the University of Dayton. He lives in Spring.

Sharon (Womack) Woolley '75, B.S. home

economics, teaches in the Bridge City school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, Thomas.

Kathy (Girolamo) Attaway '76, B.S. elementary education, '83, M.Ed. educational leadership, is assistant professor of educational leadership at Lamar University. She lives in Village Mills.

Karen (Williford) Lee '76, B.S. music education, retired as a middle school choir director. She lives in Orange with her husband, **Dale** '72, B.A. history.

Tom Noyola '76, B.S. criminal justice, '05, M.S. applied criminology, is Tech Prep/ESL coordinator for Lamar Institute of Technology. He lives in Groves with his wife, Mayra.

Maggie Perkins '76, B.B.A. office administration, is lead human resources specialist for Valero Services in Port Arthur. She lives in Beaumont.

Anita (Prince) Watson '76, M.Ed. supervision, is retired from the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Ron Borel '77, B.B.A. accounting, is chief financial officer for Triangle Waste Solutions in Port Arthur. He lives in Orange.

Benjamin Eaglin '77, B.S. health and physical education, works for Valero Energy. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Beaumont.

Tommy Goth '77, B.B.A. management, '80, M.B.A. business administration, is senior vice president financial advisor for UBS in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, **Sherry (Jones)** '78, B.S. elementary education, '86, M.Ed. school administration. She is a retired educator.

Paul Krenning '77, B.B.A. general business, is operations coordinator for BASF in Beaumont. He lives in Hamshire with his wife, Tina.

Don Phippen Sr. -77, business, and his wife, Jo Ellen, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28. They live in Beaumont.

Lee Romero '77, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law and is an assistant district attorney in Conroe, where he lives.

Rosemary Banda '78, B.S. criminal justice, is logistics manager for Crown Logistics. She lives in Porter.

Diane (Ramby) Daniels '78, B.S. elementary education, '89, M.Ed. school administration, retired as superintendent of the Kountze school district at the end of a 32-year career. She lives in Kountze.

Robert Noffke '78, B.S. industrial engineering, is industrial technology manager for BP Amoco Chemical Co. He lives in Athens, Ala.

The Texas Elementary Principals and

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where he lives.

Toni (Passmore) Anderson '79, B.M. music, earned a master's degree in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory and a doctoral degree from Georgia State University. She published a book, *Tell Them We Are Singing for Jesus: The Original Fisk Jubilee Singers and Christian Reconstruction, 1871-1878*. She lives in LaGrange, Ga.

Charles McBride Jr. '79, B.S. communication, '88, A.A.S. computer electronics and robotics, teaches science at West Brook High School in Beaumont. He lives in Port Neches.

Larry Moon '79, B.S. chemical engineering, is principal officer for Zephyr Environmental Corp. in Austin, where he lives with his wife, Ann.

Glen Weldon '79, B.S. electrical engineering, is global manufacturing advisor for ExxonMobil in Baytown. He lives in Houston with his wife, Kathryn.

Iris (Laday) Williams '79, B.A. English, '79, M.Ed. supervision, is retired and lives in Beaumont.

Tadarell Woods '79, A.A.S. industrial electricity, '80, B.S. industrial electricity, is analyzer technician for Oxy Vinyls in La Porte. He lives in League City with his wife, Hyacinth.

80s

Terry Ingram '80, M.Ed. educational leadership, and his wife, **Susan (Teel)** '72, B.S. elementary education, retired from the Beaumont school district. They live in Frisco.

Mike Kiger '80, B.S. health education, is head network tester for CenterPoint Energy. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Spring.

Sam Kittrell '80, A.S. law enforcement, '89, B.S. criminal justice, retired as chief of the Orange Police Department after serving as chief since 1987.

Tom Morris '80, A.A.S. drafting technology, is principal electrical/instrument designer for NANA WorleyParsons. He lives in New Orleans with his wife, Paula.

George Navarro '80, A.S. law enforcement, '94, B.S. criminal justice, is police chief for

the Bridge City school district, where he lives with his wife, Sandra.

Bruce Olson '80, drafting technology, is manager of M-M Design in College Station, where he lives.

Kathy (Fitzgerald) Turner '80, B.A. sociology, is a provider resiliency trainer for the Army. She lives in San Antonio with her husband, David.

Babe White '80, A.A.S. industrial electricity, '81, B.S. industrial technology, was inducted into the Epsilon Pi Tau International Honor Society for Professions in Technology in Nashville. He is a senior systems analyst for space station training facility at Johnson Space Center in Houston. He lives in Dickinson with his wife, **Yvonne (Collins)** '79, certif. nursing.

Franchette (Bertrand) Bledsoe '81, B.S. elementary education, '91, M.Ed. school administration, is a principal in the West Hardin school district in Saratoga. She lives in Sour Lake with her husband, Thomas.

Cliff Bolton '81, B.G.S. general studies, '85, A.A.S. industrial electricity, is a systems analyst at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Dena.

Elizabeth (Evers) Braun '81, B.S. mechanical engineering, has published her first novel, *Tampico's Gold*. She lives in Ludwigshafen, Germany, with her husband, Thomas.

Charlotte (Dominy) Edwards '81, B.S. elementary education, earned a master's degree in elementary education from Stephen F. Austin State University and teaches in the La Porte school district. She lives in Baytown.

Judy Lehner '81, B.S. health and physical education, '86, M.Ed. counseling and development, is counselor at Hamshire-Fannett Middle School. She lives in Beaumont.

Kathy (Williams) Smith '81, B.A. English, '09, M.Ed. administration, is director of special programs in the Hardin school district where she taught English and Spanish for 29 years. She lives in Liberty with her husband, David, who works on Alaska's North Slope. They have two sons.

Doug Farmer '82, B.S. mechanical engineering, earned a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University and works for INVISTA as a senior research associate. He lives in Greensboro, N.C.

Connie (Hembree) Galloway '82, B.B.A. accounting, is accounting manager for Advanced Pharmacy in Houston. She lives in Missouri City.

Kathleen (Hood) Haskins '95, B.A. English, teaches language arts for Ehrhart School in Beaumont, where she lives. She won the inaugural Warren Adler Short Fiction Competition, and her story is included in the book by Warren Adler, *An Anthology of the Warren Adler Short Story Contest Winners*.

Charley Lowe Jr. -82, health and physical education, works for Eastham Forge in Beaumont, where he lives.

Steve Lucas '82, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president of Wells Fargo in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Robin.

Mark Martin '82, B.S. health and physical education, '94, M.Ed. school administration, is principal at Hamshire-Fannett Middle School. He and his wife, **Robyn** '02, B.G.S. general studies, have two daughters, Kirstey and Kortney, who are attending Lamar University.

Cynthia (Boutte) Thibodeaux '82, A.A.S. business data processing, and Mike Thibodeaux celebrated 25 years of marriage June 8 with a Caribbean cruise. They have two daughters, Courtney and Tayla. They live in Beaumont.

Terry Welch '82, B.S. electrical engineering, earned a master's degree in business from Northwood University. He is site manager and vice president of operations for BP America in Decatur, Ala. He lives in

Madison, Ala., with his wife, Janelle.

Robert Griggs '83, A.A.S. drafting technology, is senior technician for International Specialty Products in Port Neches, where he lives.

Aaron Patterson '83, B.M. music education, works for the Pasadena school district as an elementary music specialist at Garfield Elementary School. He lives in Houston.

Driscoll Staley '83, B.S. electrical engineering, works for Invista as maintenance manager in Victoria, where he lives with his wife, Cynthia.

Naomi Arabia '84, B.S. elementary education, teaches math in High Island, where she lives.

Bill Dixon '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is senior staff systems engineer for Lockheed Martin. He lives in Coatesville, Pa.

David Dornes '84, B.S. sociology, works security for Allied Barton. He lives in Beaumont.

Linda Eddy '84, B.S. elementary education, teaches at Dishman Elementary in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont.


Paul Loftus '84, M.S. psychology, is an industrial/organizational psychologist for Paul Loftus & Associates in Montreal, Canada, where he lives with his wife, Avy.

Marcia (Miller) Stevens '84, M.Ed. educational leadership, was honored as the first recipient of the Capital One Community Spotlight award, which recognizes a local business leader who has had a significant positive impact. She and her husband, **The Honorable John B. Stevens Jr.** '74, B.A. government, live in Beaumont.

Robert Bartlett '85, B.B.A. marketing, is district sales manager for AstraZeneca. He lives in Plano with his wife, Diane.

Ross Boothman '85, B.M. music education, '06, M.Ed. school administration, is president-elect of the Texas Music Educators Association. He lives in Lumberton, where he is high school band director.

Lou (Orton) Burgin -85, nursing, is student admissions assistant senior for Lamar University. She lives in Vidor.



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Cards in Atlanta

Alumni living in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida gathered Nov. 6 for a pre-game reception hosted by the Office of Alumni Affairs to cheer on the Cards vs. the Georgia State Panthers in the Georgia Dome.



1. From left, Doris (Brown) Thorn '60, Virginia (Sheffield) Seelbach '73, Wayne Seelbach '70, Stan Thorn and Chris Farnie '88 2. Alva Primm, left, Camille Mouton, vice president for university advancement, and Phil Primm '67 3. From left, Vern Berwick, Thad Patin '79, Cynthia (Puckitt) Thomas '78, Robert Thomas and Joseph Malbrough '86 4. From left, Juan Zabala '07, executive director of alumni affairs, Marion Phillips III '84, Michelle Bonds and Bobby Flores '77 5. From left, Alex Hashemian, Nikki Hashemian, Chris Farnie '88, Hash Hashemian '08 and Nazy Hashemian 6. From left, Spenser Decuir, Larry Decuir '81 and Austin Decuir

Janet (Mills) Coon '85, B.B.A. economics, owns Brentwood Country Club. She lives in Beaumont. Her daughter, Michelle, is a Lamar student.

Deirdre Davenport '85, B.S. secondary education, earned a master's degree in counseling from Prairie View A&M University and teaches in the Beaumont school district, where she lives.

Tim Funchess '85, B.B.A. finance, is Jefferson County treasurer. He lives in Beaumont.

Donna Gunter '85, B.S. communication disorders, earned a master's degree in education from the University of South Carolina. She is founder of OnlineBiz.com. She lives in Orange with her husband, Eric.

Bill Herrera '85, B.S. industrial technology, owns Water Resources Co. in San Antonio, where he lives.

Betty (Hammock) Martin '85, B.B.A. personnel administration, is an educator in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, John '91, B.S. kinesiology, who is an educator in the same district.

Terry Price '85, B.S. physics, '90 M.S. mathematics, earned a doctorate from Washington State University and is instructor of physics at Lamar University. She lives in Lumberton.

Clancy Weeks '85, B.M. music education, earned master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Houston. He is a published composer of band literature, with more than two dozen works in print. He lives in Tomball with his wife, Molly. They have a son, Leo.

Joey Breaux '86, A.A.S. industrial electricity, '89, B.S. industrial engineering, is owner of Alamo Cleaners in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Elizabeth.

Joey Hebert '86, accounting, is installation manager for US Remodelers in Houston, where he lives.

Wayne Moore '86, B.B.A. general business, '90, M.B.A. business administration, is administrator at Christus Hospital St. Mary in Port Arthur. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Karen.

Cheryl (Allred) Nelson '86, B.S. elementary education, '93, M.Ed. educational leadership, '10, Ed.D. educational leadership, is special programs coordinator in the Lumberton school district, where she lives with her husband, Steven.

Willie Simmons '86, B.S. industrial engineering, works for Entergy as a senior engineer. He and his wife, Jennifer (Stelly) '89, B.B.A. personnel administration, live in Nederland with their daughter, Morgan, and son, Mason.

John Valastro '86, B.S. kinesiology, '05, M.Ed. educational leadership, is assistant superintendent of the Lumberton school district, where he lives.

Steven Beagle '87, B.S. kinesiology, '95, M.Ed. school administration, is principal of Nederland High School. He lives in Nederland.

Lisa (Whitten) Brasseaux '87, B.S. secondary education, '10, M.Ed. administration, earned a grant from the Texas Computer Educators Association. She is a science teacher and robotics coach at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange.

Donna (Peterson) Weeks '87, B.B.A. marketing, works for WinCo Industrial and Marine in The Woodlands, where she lives.

Eric Dengler '87, B.S. computer and information sciences, is an administrator for Encompass Home Health for the Houston region, where he lives.

Jeannine (Estrade) Hoffman '87, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Houston. She lives in Tomball.

Daniella Irle '87, B.S. kinesiology, is senior associate athletics director for internal operations and senior women's administrator for the University of North Dakota. She lives in Grand Forks, N.D.

Jane Ledet '87, B.S. fashion retailing and merchandising, is a freight-payables analyst for Chevron Phillips Chemical in The Woodlands, where she lives.

Gary Martel '87, B.S. kinesiology, earned a master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University as well as a superintendent's certificate. He is superintendent of the Diboll school district, where he lives with his wife, Susie. They have been married 26 years and have two daughters.

Mark Williams '87, B.S. kinesiology, was named coach of the year on Beaumont Enterprise's Super Gold Baseball Team. He lives in Evadale.

Ronda (Greig) Zowarka '87, B.S. chemical engineer, is environmental, health and safety expertise leader for Dow Chemical Co. in Port Lavaca. She lives in Bloomington with her husband, Joe Gregory.

Bob Caruthers '88, A.A.S. industrial electricity, is informational technology manager for Delta Industrial Construction Co. He lives in Beaumont.

Patricia (Charles) Fontenot '88, B.S. psychology, is director of substance abuse services for the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission. She lives in Beaumont.

Laura (Miller) Sattler '88, B.B.A. general business, is owner of Beaumont Dealers Auction Inc. in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Scott. Their daughter, Catherine, is a Lamar student.

Bret Babineaux '89 was selected to play with the U.S. team, USA Classic Eagles, at the World Rugby Classic in Bermuda. He is vice president of Air Comfort in Beaumont. He lives in Lumberton.

Lockwood Cox '89, B.S. secondary education, '06, M.S. biology, teaches in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district. He lives in Buna with his wife, Kimberly '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '07, M.Ed. school administration.

Donnis (Payne) Henderson '89, B.M. music education, is owner and educator for Kindermusik with Donnis. She lives in Hallsville with her husband, Anthony.

Herbert James Jr. '89, B.S. criminal justice, is a community supervision officer for Jefferson County. He lives in Port Arthur.

Dolly Jernigan '89, B.S.W. social work, is a licensed social worker and lives in Kirbyville.

Patonah Kassin '89, B.S. mathematical science, is an educator in Malaysia, where she lives.

Brad Oden '89, B.S. kinesiology, is principal at Shiner High School. He and his wife, Cecelia (Garbade) '90, B.S. kinesiology, live in Shiner.

Kathy Portie '89, B.S. communication, '94, M.A. visual arts, is sports editor for Big Bear Grizzly newspaper in Big Bear Lake, Calif., where she lives.

Charlette (Hope) Roddy '89, B.S. sociology, earned a "Back to School" grant from Dollar General for books and technology. She is librarian at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School and lives in Orange.

90s

Tammy (Burr) Astley '90, B.S. secondary education, and **Dennis '89**, B.S. electrical engineering, live in Galena, Ill.

Lydia Bahnsen '90, B.S. elementary education, '00, M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal of Eugene Field Elementary School in Beaumont, where she lives.

Michelle (Bieljeski) Barnette '90, B.S. elementary education, '10, M.Ed. administration, is owner and director of The Clubhouse in Nederland, where she lives with her husband, Barry.

Rodney Cavness '90, B.S. kinesiology, was a finalist for the Superintendent of the Year award from the Texas Association of School Boards. He is superintendent of schools in the Port Neches-Groves school district. He and his wife, Tanya, live in Beaumont.

Gina Giblin '90, B.A. sociology, earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law and works for the Giblin Law Firm in Dallas, where she lives.

Eddie Hernandez '90, B.S. kinesiology, teaches in the Vidor school district. He lives in Port Neches, with his wife, Cheryl (Toups) '84, B.B.A. accounting, who is business manager

for the Port Neches-Groves school district.

Stefani (Haynie) Kubena '90, B.S. elementary education, teaches second grade in the Deer Park school district. She lives in Pasadena with her husband, Jeffery.

Charlie Sassine Jr. '90, B.S. biology, is plant protection specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in McAllen. He lives in Corpus Christi.

Kevin Stone '90, B.M. music education, '08, M.M. music, is director of bands in the Barbers Hill school district. He lives in Baytown.

Karen (Legnon) Gilman '91, B.S. communication, is associate director of communications for the Diocese of Beaumont, where she lives.

Dean Lackey '91, B.S. mathematics, is district general agent for Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Co. He lives in Round Rock.

Lane Martin '91, A.S. law enforcement, '94, B.S. criminal justice, is chief of the Orange Police Department and lives in Orange.

Lisa (Pierce) Stewart '91, B.S. elementary education, teaches in the Bridge City school district. She lives in Port Neches.

Janna (Smith) Fulbright '92, B.S. communication, is public relations and marketing specialist at Spindletop MHMR, working specifically with the Spindletop Foundation. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, John.

Percy Kennedy Jr. '92, B.B.A. marketing, is an account manager for Novartis. He lives in Humble.

Robert Patten III '92, B.B.A. marketing, is engineering project manager for Verizon in Richardson. He lives in Dallas.

Ken Pepper '92, B.S. chemical engineering, '99, M.E.S. engineering science, '10, Ph.D. chemical engineering, works for Chicago Bridge and Iron as process engineering manager in Beaumont, where he lives with his wife, Angie.

James Richardson II '92, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, works for Siemens as an account executive. He lives in Round Rock.

Valerie Yaklin-Brown '92, B.F.A. graphic design, M.A. visual arts, is an adjunct professor at Lone Star College-Montgomery. She lives in Magnolia with her husband, David.

Teresa (Harrison) Camp '93, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree in special education from Grand Canyon University in 2006. She is director of student services in the Hull-Daisetta school district. She lives in Thicket with her husband, Shelby.

Ava (Hamilton) Caughrean '93, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree from the University of Houston and is executive director of Grace Hospice of Oklahoma. She lives in Tulsa, Okla.

Cardinals on the wing

▶ **BILL MCAFEE '82** has lived and worked in Antarctica periodically since 1992 managing the Information Technology and Communications Department at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station for eight of those years. Here, he shows the Red and White, standing in -20F weather in an LU cap his parents sent to him. He spends four months each year at the Pole during the austral summer.



▶ **MELANIE DISHMAN '88** enjoys a chance meeting with actress Molly Shannon during a visit to New York City this winter.

▶ **SKYLAR ROWLEY**, a general studies major from Orange, left, and **JOSETTE (TAYLOR) HUGHES '93** stop to admire the Eiffel Tower during the KVLU-sponsored, eight-day tour of London and Paris Sept. 23-30, 2010.

Send Cadence your photos as you travel the globe.

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E-mail: high-resolution file to
cynthia.hicks@lamar.edu

eHarmony in Pasadena, Calif. She lives in Santa Monica, Calif.

Ashley (Holt) Guillory '06, B.B.A. general business, teaches third grade at St. Anthony Cathedral School in Beaumont. She lives in Nederland.

Lisa (Reid) Hansen '06, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '10, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Keith.

Christyne Harris '06, B.B.A. finance, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law. She lives in Lumberton.

Tabitha (Nash) '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and Mario-Antonio Herrera married June 19, 2010. They live in Houston.

Kimberly (Cessac) '06, B.S. biology, '08 M.S. biology, and Karl Huch married May 29, 2010. She is an environmental analyst with Lower Neches Valley Authority. They live in Beaumont.

Stephanie (Kelsey) Kemmerling '06, B.S. nursing, earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Texas-Health Science Center and is a family nurse practitioner. She lives in Beaumont, with her husband, Andrew '08, B.S. chemical engineering.

Jessica (Spinks) LeDet '06, B.B.A. finance, teaches English as a second language in the Houston school district. She lives in Humble with her husband, Anthony '05, B.B.A. finance.

Tyran Lee '06, M.S. deaf education, has been appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas School for the Deaf Governing Board for a term to expire Jan. 31, 2013. He is an American Sign Language instructor for Lone Star College at Cy-Fair. He lives in Humble.

Jan (Prejean) Lopez '06, B.G.S. general studies, teaches in the Nederland school district, where she lives with her husband, Shannon.

Zenobia Ozen '06, B.B.A. human resource management, is business office manager of Kaplan College in Beaumont. She lives in Port Arthur.

Joel Pace '06, B.S. industrial technology, and **Dana '08**, B.A.A.S. had a son, Jude, June 22, 2010. He is a manufacturing engineer for American Valve and Hydrant Manufacturing in Beaumont. She teaches in the Hardin-Jefferson school district, and they live in Sour Lake.

Subash Paudel '06, M.E.S. civil engineering science, is senior structural engineer for Cameron International Corp. in Houston. He lives in Cypress with his wife, **Pratistha Pradhan '07**, Eng.D., civil engineering.

Brittany (Broussard) Robinson '06, B.G.S. general studies, teaches in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Brett.

Shafi Shaik '06, M.S. chemistry, is a research and development scientist for Pharmaceutics International in Hunt Valley, Md. He lives in

Frederick, Md.

Roshan Balasubramanian '07, M.E.M. engineering management, works for R J Engineering Systems Inc. as manager of global projects in Houston, where he lives with his wife, Sudhamani.

Megan (Kelly) Begnaud '07, B.B.A. marketing, is employer relations coordinator for Christus Health Foundation. She and her husband, Aaron '06, B.B.A. general business, live in Groves.

Jennifer (Moore) Camp '07, B.S. communication, earned a law degree from the South Texas College of Law. She lives in Beaumont.

Lindsey Cauthen '07, B.S. biology, '07, B.A. music, is a graduate research assistant for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where she lives.

Angela (Boatner) '07, B.B.A. human resource management, and Christopher DeMore celebrated their first wedding anniversary in Key West, Fla. Christopher is a member of the armed forces. They live in New York.

Yvette (Beaugh) Garner '07, Ed.D. educational leadership is assistant professor of elementary education at McNeese State University. She lives in Lake Charles.

Gladys (Aguirre) Hall '07, B.A. Spanish, teaches in the Beaumont school district and lives in Vidor.

Britnie Hanks '07, B.S. nursing, works as a registered nurse for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she lives.

Marty (Boudreaux) Hooks '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Goose Creek school district. She lives in Deer Park with her husband, **Tobey '06**, B.S. mechanical engineering.

Amanda (Henry) Jureidini '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches kindergarten at West Orange-Stark Elementary and lives in Orange with her husband, Elias.

Jennifer (Vardell) Kahla '07, B.S. sociology, is a field accountant assistant for JV Industrial Companies in La Porte. She lives in Baytown with her husband, Josh.

Sivasanthosh Komirelly '07, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process simulation engineer for Cape Software Inc. in The Woodlands. He lives in Houston, with his wife, **Santhoshi '08**, M.E. electrical engineering.

Shaston Marks '07, B.S. kinesiology, is head women's basketball coach for Lone Star College in Kingwood. He lives in Houston.

Billy McQueen '07, general studies, crafts drums for national musicians as well as teaching as an adjunct professor at Lamar State College-Port Arthur and private lessons at Lamar University. He plays for two Houston churches and is the drummer for the Houston band Doppelganger. He lives in Houston.



KVLU anticipates summer 2011 trip to Canadian Rockies

Lamar University public radio station KVLU-FM has plans in place for a trip through the Canadian Rockies July 18-26, 2011.

Being organized in conjunction with Collette Travel, the trip will take travelers through some of the most scenic vistas on the North American continent, traveling through British Columbia from Vancouver to Calgary and staying in some of the finest resorts, including the renowned "Castle in the Mountains," the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, said Melanie Dishman, KVLU co-manager for advancement.

"For the sixth year in a row, KVLU is pleased to sponsor another exciting travel adventure," Dishman said. "We put a lot of thought into what kind of trip we wanted to offer for this year, and Canada was at the top of the list."



Palak Naik '07, M.E.S. electrical engineering science, works for Constellation Energy as an analyst for application development. She lives in Houston with her husband, **Darshankumar Trivedi '07**, M.E.S. electrical engineering science.

Kailas Patil '07, M.Ed. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer for Liftmoore, Inc. He lives in Houston.

Mustafa Rampurwala '07, M.E. mechanical engineering, is an engineer for Smith International Inc. He lives in Houston.

Kartheek Thalakanti '07, M.E. chemical engineering, is a process engineer for AMEC in Houston, where he lives.

Jonathan Vernon '07, B.S. political science, earned a law degree from South Texas College of Law. He lives in Houston.

Edolia (Alexander) Anderson '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Port Arthur school district, where she lives with her husband, Demar.

Kim Ballenger '08, B.G.S. general studies, teaches and coaches at Humble school dis-

trict, where she lives.

Shamyra Bessard-Barry '08, B.S.W. social work, lives in Beaumont with her husband, Melvin.

Amy (Dunlap) '08, A.A.S. nursing, and Donald Blanding married Oct. 16, 2010, and live in Flora, Miss.

Crystal Brunson '08, B.S. communication disorders, is a speech language pathology assistant in the Houston school district, where she lives.

James Carnley '08, B.S. computer science,

Co-op to corporate

by Beth Gallaspy

from Lamar. In 1969, Norwood went to work for Lubrizol as a co-op student. He has been with the company ever since.

"I really liked the company," Norwood said. "They offered a lot of challenges and opportunities to do different things as a co-

has paid off. Norwood is not the only person in Lubrizol's senior management team who got his start with the company through cooperative education. The chief executive officer was a co-op student from Texas A&M, and the chief operating officer was a co-op from Cornell. The company's strong management and marketing dominance recently prompted Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway to acquire Lubrizol for approximately \$9.7 billion. With significant operations in Texas and Ohio, Lubrizol continues to use co-op students from Lamar, among other Texas universities, and from universities in the Midwest.

Staying with one company for an entire career and moving up through the organization was fairly common for people who, like him, started their careers in the early 1970s, Norwood said. With changes in the economy and globalization, however, such a practice is more unusual today. Norwood cites globalization as one of the biggest changes he has seen during his career.

"I guess I started doing work in China as a younger engineer in the early 1980s when the country first started opening up to international investments. It's been interesting to see how much the chemical industry has grown globally," Norwood said. "Another major change has been the advances in technology—the use of computers, electronics, distributed control systems in the day-to-day operations. From a technology perspective, things have changed very rapidly."

Lubrizol produces a variety of lubricant additives to improve the performance of transportation and industrial lubricants and fuels. These products have changed over the years in response to auto manufacturers' desires to enhance engine efficiency, reduce emissions, improve fuel economy or increase equipment durability. The company also has diversified into advanced specialty polymers used in consumer and industrial applications, such as thermoplastic urethanes, performance coatings and various components used in personal care products.

Because of his vast experience in the industry, Norwood was invited to join Lamar's College of Engineering Advisory Council. "His expertise in the chemicals

business and the lube oil additives business is excellent," said Jack Hopper, dean of LU's College of Engineering. "He understands Lamar and understands the industry, so he's been an extremely valuable addition to the advisory board."

Norwood said he looks forward to working with the council and with Hopper, who was one of his professors, to further strengthen Lamar's engineering programs and develop additional graduate education offerings in engineering. He enjoyed his own time at Lamar, particularly the friendships he made and the dedication he saw from professors to take extra time to help students learn. "We had a pretty good time there. When I first started attending Lamar we had some pretty good basketball teams," Norwood said. "I think my fondest memories are about the friendly campus atmosphere and interactions with other students and the professors."

Norwood and his wife, Cynthia (Smesny) Norwood '72, married while attending Lamar. They will celebrate their 40th anniversary this year. The couple met on a blind date in high school and continued dating as college students. Cynthia, who majored in history at Lamar, teaches classes around the country on making traditional hooked rugs using techniques that date back about 200 years. Her interest in the art and craft began as a hobby and evolved into a business, Norwood said. She even wrote a book on the topic, published in 2008.

The Norwoods enjoy interests such as golf, gardening, downhill skiing and attending orchestra performances. Norwood said he also enjoys fly fishing and woodworking. Ever the engineer, he also likes experimenting with electronics. He has built his own computers on several occasions.

In the years ahead, he sees his biggest professional challenge as grooming his successors to ensure continued strong leadership and forward momentum for his company. "This is an issue facing a number of companies. People my age are moving through their careers and are working to develop the next generation of leaders, to make sure the next guy is ready to take our place."



LARRY NORWOOD

As corporate vice president of operations for the Lubrizol Corp., Larry Norwood '73 is no stranger to international travel. The specialty chemical company headquartered in Wickliffe, Ohio, has facilities in North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Australia and Asia, and Norwood oversees the operations of all of them, a responsibility that requires monitoring things first-hand at times.

Earlier this year, Norwood visited Nanjing, China, for an official contract signing ceremony with the construction and engineering companies that will build a new facility for Lubrizol in Zhuhai, China. Another business destination offered some enjoyable excursions in Normandy, France. The company has facilities in the cities of Le Havre and Rouen.

The travel has made Norwood's work more interesting and, on occasion, more challenging. "It's always interesting to get an opportunity to meet different people and see how different cultures approach things," Norwood said.

Norwood can trace his opportunities for a career with such a global reach directly to his roots at Lamar University. After he graduated from Liberty High School, three of the factors that attracted Norwood to Lamar were its strong engineering program, reasonable tuition and good cooperative education program. Norwood knew little about Lubrizol when it came up as a possible co-op assignment. But, with facilities in Houston, it wasn't too far from home or

op student. I liked the way they treated employees. When I graduated in 1973, I went to work for them full time."

Then and now, co-op students alternate one semester in classes with one semester in paid employment related to their studies to provide practical professional experience. As a chemical engineering major, Norwood found Lubrizol, which was then a small specialty chemical company in Houston, a good fit.

"It was a company that, as long as you proved you could handle responsibility, they gave you responsibility early in your career. I had the opportunity to work in a number of different areas. That was interesting and exciting," Norwood said.

The company's philosophy of building reciprocal relationships with co-op students

BRIAN SATTLER

Through the fire:

From military man to statesman

by Brian Sattler

Life changed forever for Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell '84, his wife, Mel, and their son, Matt, when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

In that terrible instant, Birdwell was thrown to the ground and engulfed in flames that ravaged 60 percent of his body. Of his burns, nearly half were third degree in severity. After 39 operations and months of hospitalization and long rehabilitation, he has traded his Army career for the role of statesman as Texas senator in District 22, covering the counties of Bosque, Coryell, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro and Somervell.

The son of life-long educators, he participated in the Reserve Officer Training Corps programs and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice under the tutelage of Lamar mentors Jim Love, Robert Frazier and John Altemose. "Lamar was very good to me," Birdwell said. "It was a very good fit."

When he graduated in 1984—the morning ceremony took place in the old McDonald Gym—he was sworn in as an officer that afternoon. Two days later, he was on his first military post learning the art and science of war. His career would take him on assignments around the world, including combat with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Battle Group in the Battle of 73 Easting inside Iraq where the lead elements of the 7th Corps hit Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard on Feb. 26, 1991. His Army career was well on track.

"When Sept. 11 occurred, Mel became both mom and dad to our son Matt and the sole decision-maker in the family because I was incapacitated," Birdwell said. "There is a tremendous burden in being both caregiver and parent and being faced with decisions not really knowing the long-term implications."

"There were some hard moments for both of us for a lot of days," Birdwell said.

On one of those days Jack Elwood, an associate pastor of the church the Birdwells attended, visited Birdwell in physical therapy. "I was at fixed bayonets with pain, looking at it every day 24/7. When 60 percent of your skin is missing, you're dealing with pain on a moment-by-moment basis," Birdwell said. "Pastor Elwood said 'God doesn't waste our pain.' It wasn't until about six months later when my returns to the hospital were becoming less frequent that I began to see what he meant."

On one visit, Birdwell's physical therapist asked him to visit with the family of a newly arrived burn patient. At first he was reluctant, wondering what he could share. "I visited with the family for about an hour, and, when I stepped out of the room, the little light bulb came on," he said. "I realized how God could use our experience to help other folks."

Birdwell's medical journey would continue into 2005, and he knew from a medical perspective that his military career was over. He would have to retire with 20 years of service. The big question was what was next. "My plan didn't work out the way I wanted it to," he said, "but I realized that we could comfort others as we had been comforted as Second Corinthians tells us to do."

Together, Brian and Mel started Face the Fire Ministries, sharing their story with burn survivors and their families. They also raise funds to help offset the costs associated with keeping families intact while one member, often the primary breadwinner, is being treated. Expenses can mount quickly, from temporary housing to child care. It takes a lot to just make ends meet. The ministry has also provided funds to medical facilities specializing in the research, treatment and care of burn injuries.

"The financial gifts we've been able to provide to burn survivors and wounded servicemen and women have been able to help defray the costs of their displacement from home," Birdwell said.

Beyond the vital financial support, the ministry gives survivors and their families the ability to "talk with someone who's walked that same dark path and knows the emotions and things you're going through. It's a great opportunity to do what scripture tells us to do and to comfort others as we were comforted."

Along the way, the couple, with co-author Ginger Kolbaba, wrote *Refined by Fire: A Family's Triumph of Love and Faith*, which chronicles their life-changing ordeal. "It's a story of the Lord's grace more than anything else and what life is like in a burn center," Birdwell said.

Birdwell was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received at the Pentagon and at his retirement received the Legion of Merit Award, the capstone of a long and successful military career.

Today, Mel manages the work of the ministry while he serves the people of Texas in the Senate in a very challenging session with big issues such as overcoming a massive budget shortfall. Other challenges include redistricting, voter identification, security and immigration, as well as various issues specific to the many regions of Texas.

Birdwell is a proponent of limited government, a term he sees "as a statement of jurisdiction, not just a measure of how many employees or the size of your state budget. It is a measure of the jurisdiction we are exercising on people's lives on a day-to-day basis."

"Ultimately, those 49 words of the Declaration of Independence are most important," Birdwell said. "We are a people 'endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,' and then the phrase right after is the charge to us as elected officials and 'to secure these rights governments are instituted among men,'" Birdwell said. "My primary duty is to be here to protect you from government. To protect your rights, to protect your ability to go out and succeed or to go out and fail and learn from that failure."

"I always ask myself the question, 'Is what you're asking government to do going to expand opportunities by removing an obstacle or will it put another rock in their rucksack?'"

A native Texan and resident of Granbury, Birdwell was elected in a special election to fill the unexpired term of Senator Kip Averitt. Birdwell ran unopposed on the November ballot and was elected for the full term.

Although calamity could easily have weighed him down, he is quick to credit faith, family and friends with helping him triumph over the trauma and once again find fulfillment in serving others.

» facethefire.org

Around the world

by Brian Sattler

Butch Smith '75 and two colleagues completed a flight around the world last summer in a 300-m.p.h. twin-engine Beechcraft King Air to raise awareness for Grace Flight, a non-profit organization providing free air transportation for medical and humanitarian purposes.



"It is our goal to remove the transportation burden from patients so they can get to specialized medical treatment not available to them locally and focus on getting well," Smith said. "Many of our patients do not have access to conventional transportation or are too ill to drive or fly commercially. Grace Flight of America relies completely on volunteer pilots and donations from individuals, foundations, clubs and corporations."

"Our global circumnavigation flight was an incredible adventure," said Smith who, when he's not flying with Grace Flight, pursues business opportunities through McRight-Smith Capital, LP, a private equity company.

A 1975 history graduate of Lamar University, Smith built a career in marketing and financial institutions. Smith was one of the first speakers in the College of Business' Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies speaker series.

"To our great surprise, we know that hundreds and hundreds of people followed the flight. It is very gratifying, and more than a little humbling to know that these good folks, and their friends, were introduced to Grace Flight and its compassionate mission."

The flight, which originated in McKinney, took the three

to Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, Germany, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Japan and Russia. Plenty of time was allotted to visit sites in the many countries, Smith said. Many of the stops during the 42-day trip were locations of particular interest to Smith, who graduated Lamar with a degree in history.

"I have many mental movies of the trip," Smith said. "One day that comes immediately to mind is the flight to Petropavlovsk, Russia. We left Nagoya, Japan July 15 in rain and low clouds. Our wonderful Japanese handlers managed all the arrangements perfectly, then lined up in a row and held a formal bow as we took off.

"Handling was a little different at our first stop in Russia (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk) with lots of soldiers, border security guards and customs officials, all with the most extraordinary hats. After refueling and a shocking

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"Hundreds and hundreds of people followed the flight. It is very gratifying, and more than a little humbling to know that these good folks, and their friends, were introduced to Grace Flight and its compassionate mission."

—BUTCH SMITH '75

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amount of paperwork, we left for the over water flight ending at our final stop for the day, Petropavlovsk, 900 nautical miles away.

"As we arrived and crossed from ocean to the Kamchatka peninsula, a low cloud deck obscured the mountains and active volcanoes below. The approach to landing was 'interesting' with rapid-fire Russian-accented



EGYPT

English from the controllers who gave altitude assignments in meters and wind speeds in kilometers per second. It was fairly challenging to fly a low-ceiling approach in an air control system so different from our own over such remote and unforgiving terrain.

"We broke out (of the clouds) to land on a 10,000-foot runway completely surrounded by hills and tall, green trees. As we taxied over a mile through dark woods chilled by mist and fog, we spotted aircraft revetments to the left and right filled with MIG and Sukhoi fighters. The Russians appeared to be just as amazed by us as we were by them."

Grace Flight of America flew more than 1,600 missions last year and is on track to increase that number by 50 percent this year, Smith said. The more than 1,300 volunteer pilots and aircraft owners who serve with



ISRAEL

Grace Flight provide their time, equipment, and fuel and operating costs with no reimbursement. Grace Flight, a non-profit corporation headquartered in Addison, Texas, works with hospitals; care facilities; and social, community, and religious workers to identify people whose access to critical care is hampered due to location or transportation difficulties. All Grace Flight services are provided free of charge to those in need.



CHINA

Butch Smith, standing; Glenn Smith, left; and Mark David