

CARDINAL CADENCE

THE MAGAZINE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY

VOL. 50, NO. 1 | SPRING/SUMMER 2022



SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

4 TAYLOR MADE FOR LU 16 ERNESTO ALVAREZ JR. 24 LUM & NORMA HAWTHORN
30 BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK 38 THE DISHMAN FAMILY

| FROM THE **PRESIDENT** |



Since arriving at Lamar University just over ten months ago, Stacy and I have gotten to know so many students, faculty, staff members, and alumni—all of whom care deeply for this institution. I've been struck in particular by the relationship between our students and the Southeast Texas community. Our students work with alumni, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and local and regional industry through a wide range of transformative activities and experiences. But creating a community of learning like this doesn't just happen overnight. A healthy university inspires its future graduates to see their professional work as a part of something bigger and to commit themselves to helping others achieve the same kind of success. What's happening here is remarkable, and I'm honored to be a part of it.

This special double issue of *Cadence* is full of examples of alumni who support the University's core mission through intentional engagement with and service to LU. The recently founded Black Alumni Network, for example, came into being during a moment of crisis and loss for a group of young alumni, and now it offers mentorship to our current black students with a focus on networking and internships. Another alumnus, Ernesto Alvarez Jr., benefited from the relationships he made and the resources he found at Lamar University as a first generation Latino student, and now as a lawyer in the region he routinely returns to LU to share his own story and provide mentorship to first generation students.

As I learn more about what our alumni are doing in their respective communities, I've also come to realize that the entrepreneurial spirit that inspired the founding of this institution 100 years ago is very much alive and well in 2022. I hope you will read LaDonna Sherwood-Haley's story of trial, error and determination. A Beaumont native, Sherwood-Haley built a medical transportation company from the ground up, then decided to pursue a master's degree in public administration from LU in order to become even more adept at working in an industry that is so highly regulated. She is a wonderful model to other innovators who seek to reinvent themselves and their industries in response to unexpected challenges and opportunities.

I hope you are inspired by this issue of *Cadence*. Please continue to share your Lamar University story every day, wherever you go.

Sincerely,

Jaime R. Taylor, President



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| IN THIS ISSUE |

- 4** Taylor made for LU
- 7** LU 100 Project
- 8** Red and white in motion
- 10** Care on call
- 11** L-Raisers
- 12** Benny's adventures
- 14** Small business survival
- 16** AT&T partnership
- 18** Engineering in the lead
- 20** Artist Lynn Sweat donates papers
- 22** After school special
- 26** Red Day
- 28** Lum '63 and Norma Hawthorn '64: Endowing a legacy at Lamar
- 30** Ernesto Alvarez '11: New opportunities
- 32** Black Alumni Network
- 33** Juana Plata joins national team
- 34** Dream Makers
- 38** The Dishmans: The heart of a family
- 41** Cardinal love stories
- 42** LU in the Sky with Diamonds: Le Grand Bal 2022
- 44** Audit? Never fear, a Cardinal is near
- 46** Larry Eastepp '81: Focused on students
- 48** Faculty honored: David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award

CADENCE IS ONLINE! Find the latest issue—and back issues—of Cadence online at lamar.edu/cadence. And let us know if you would prefer to receive an email with a link to future issues rather than a printed copy by contacting alumni@lamar.edu.



50 Lifelong Cardinal fans

52 Kemble led by uniting

54 Cardinal Views

56 LU News

61 A beautiful spirit lives on through others

62 Class Notes

82 At the heart of it all: Joy

Cover photo: **Daniel McLemore**

| COLLEGE SNAPSHOTS |

13 Arts and Sciences

15 Business

17 Education & Human Development

19 Engineering

21 Fine Arts & Communication

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TAYLOR MADE *for* LU

A Q&A WITH PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY TAYLOR

by Shelbe Rodriguez



Cardinal Cadence recently sat down with Jaime Taylor, 16th president of Lamar University, and First Lady Stacy Taylor as they reflected on their first 100 days at Lamar University.

President Taylor

Q: During your first month as president, you spent time getting to know our campus community, meeting with student organizations, visiting with faculty and staff, and building community partnerships. How do you think the enthusiasm and connections that you have built so far will shape the campus culture for the future?

A: I wanted to create that community feeling and get to know the individuals at LU—faculty, staff and students—and to get everyone talking to one another without silos. That's my goal and the most important job as president. I then asked myself, 'How do we keep that going and protect that here at the university? How do we expand that out to the community?' As we move forward, I'd like to continue those thought-provoking discussions and get people to talk about topics that may be difficult because that's when the best ideas happen.

Q: Describe in your own words what it means to be a Lamar University Cardinal?

A: For me, being a Card means you're willing to take risks, take chances and you're hardworking. I see that among our campus community now. There seems to be a spirit of helping one another move forward to accomplish something that's bigger than yourself and I know the next generation of Cardinals will do just the same.

Q: What has been your most memorable moment in your presidency so far?

A: There's been a couple of moments. Admittedly, I have to say that the first time that I felt like a university president was at the first home football game when I had the opportunity to flip the coin at the start of the game. It seemed so surreal. I walked out on the field and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I'm the president here, this is amazing!' I'll never forget that moment.

Q: What's one important thing that you want students to know that they maybe don't already know?

A: I want our students to understand that in college, it's okay to make mistakes or fail even—that's a part of the college experience. In fact, if you're not going through some efforts where you do fail, you're probably not challenging yourself enough. It's much better to do that while you're in college so that you get comfortable with really putting yourself out there.



Mrs. Taylor

Q: How did you envision your first 100 days as a first lady and how has it compared to the reality of it?

A: Not knowing what to expect when I came in, it's going much better than I could have imagined. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming, and it's been amazing getting to know so many students especially. We've met what feels like hundreds of alumni, and from the moment we arrived, we've been invited into several homes and welcomed everywhere that we go. People are not only happy to see Jaime, but they are happy to see me as well, and that's a very warm feeling that you just can't fake.

Q: As first lady, our campus community has seen you frequently taking strolls in the campus quad, walking students to class and being hands-on at university events. What inspires you to take this unique approach in interacting with our campus community?

A: I really wanted everyone to know that while they are getting a new president, they are also getting me. Yes, I am the first lady, but overall, I'm just Stacy. I'm a mom to everyone, and I love hanging out with our students and experiencing their enthusiasm being at the university. It gives me an outside perspective of their campus experience, and it makes me enjoy this role that much more.

continued on next page

Mrs. Taylor

Q: Upon moving into the president's residence on campus, what's one item that has made your new house feel like home?

A: I'll admit, our first thought was to just grab a box and figure out where we could place things. Looking back, the first items that I grabbed were our family photos. We never envisioned leaving Tennessee, and we realized, 'Wow, we are away from individuals we've been around our entire lives.' Family is everything, and putting our family photos out and having them displayed in the family room was really important for us.

Q: What campus initiatives are you looking forward to leading in the future?

A: I really love being involved in the student events, but I've talked with several individuals on campus involving gratitude, mental health, anxiety and depression. There's a lot happening in today's society and in our little corner of the world, and I want to make sure that our students know that they have people to talk to and places to go for help.

Q: On Nov. 11, 2021, Dr. Taylor was formally invested as the 16th president of Lamar University, but what did the investiture ceremony signify for you?

A: Jaime's investiture ceremony was without a doubt my most heartfelt moment since being here. Reality really set in because years ago we thought, 'No way, we'll never do anything like this,' but never say never. We had our family and friends there, and the community came out in support of Jaime and the university. The hard work, support and love that went into that event was amazing.



CENTER FOR HISTORY & CULTURE

Collects Memorabilia

by Judy Linsley

Colors were maroon and gray, then red and blue until 1932 when the red and white were adopted along with a new mascot: the Cardinal



To celebrate LU's 100th anniversary in 2023, the CHC is sponsoring the "Lamar 100 Project," inviting the public to bring Lamar memorabilia—mementos, documents, photos, memory books, clippings, awards, testimonies—for donation or digitization. "We're interested in what people have tucked away in



The CHC kicked off the Lamar 100 Project in 2019 with an on-campus donation event and has continued collecting since on an individual basis. To date, they have treasures such as a 1927 South Park Junior College track letter, a 1938 Lamar Junior College football jersey and jacket, a

LU's Center for History and Culture wants your Lamar memories from whichever stage of Lamar's history they hail—South Park Junior College, Lamar Junior College, Lamar Union Junior College, Lamar State College of Technology or Lamar University.



items, or if they're digitized rather than donated, offer advice on proper storage and preservation of the originals. Everything collected by the CHC will be conserved and catalogued as the Lamar 100 Project and will ultimately become part of Lamar University Special Collections.



their closets or attics," said Judith Linsley, who is in charge of the Lamar 100 Project, "things they'd forgotten about and think no one wants. Well, we want them."

In return, the CHC will carefully preserve the



pair of 1970s drum major boots, and a 1970s jacket and shirt from the Cards (a men's spirit group), along with a number of snapshots, athletic programs and other interesting memorabilia.

The CHC plans more public events in future. In the meantime, collection efforts are ongoing, and Linsley urges the public to "share your memories with us."

For more information, contact jwlinsley@lamar.edu or call (409) 651-9802.

RED & WHITE *in motion*

Friends * Food * Fun * Cardinals Forever

by Elizabeth Newman







care on call

by Daniel Houston

Entrepreneurship is one of the most gratifying, yet challenging, ventures in the world of commerce. For the past 15 years, Beaumont native LaDonna Sherwood-Hailey '11 has successfully traversed that gauntlet with her medical transportation company, L&L Transportation, but it was not without its ups and downs.

Running her own company wasn't always in the plan. After graduating from college and finding it difficult to land a job with a set salary, she realized she'd have to engage the entrepreneurial spirit she inherited from her mother.

In 2006, she founded L&L Transportation, a non-emergency medical transportation company that provides 24/7 access to care for the elderly and indigent to and from designated facilities across Southeast Texas.

"A family friend started a company in Houston, and he motivated me to start this transportation company," said Sherwood-Hailey, "Transportation is a male-dominated industry, and many of my family and friends didn't believe we had the structure or stability to handle all the day-to-day operations."

She set her sights on proving her naysayers wrong, but starting a company from the ground up and becoming a Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership provider wasn't without its challenges. It would take two years to obtain the systems necessary for her transport vehicles, maneuver through the red tape of working directly with Medicare and Medicaid, and learn the ropes of annual contract renewal.

"The biggest challenge is the ever-changing regulations passed by the state," Sherwood-Hailey said. "And sometimes you just get

completely passed over for contracts. But perseverance was the key to completing the process, and every trial made us strong. Closed mouths don't get fed, and I'm the queen of sending letters and emails until something happens."

In 2009, while L&L was still in its infancy, Sherwood-Hailey returned to Lamar University, where she would graduate with a master's degree in public administration in 2011. The degree served to enhance her management skills, helping implement the best policies and practices associated with her business.

"One of the most important things I learned was a life lesson in time management, and I also learned how to better communicate and articulate the needs of my company to the state," Sherwood-Hailey said. "I loved the environment at LU, and I felt cared for, like my success was a priority. I wasn't just another student."

This past decade, L&L has transformed from an emerging company with two Chevy Good Times vans to a fleet of smaller, more eco-friendly vehicles, and the training provided to employees has expanded to include sensitivity training, workplace safety/etiquette and other elements that have become integral to the business. Sherwood-Hailey plans to continue working her way to help millions through L&L and her other enterprises, and encourages those interested in entrepreneurship to do the same.

"Ultimately, it's very rewarding to be a business owner," she said. "Always remember that if you don't put anything in, you won't get anything out. There's no substitute for hard work. Lastly, nothing beats failure but a try."

"I loved the environment at LU, and I felt cared for, like my success was a priority. I wasn't just another student."

—LaDonna Sherwood-Hailey '11

L-RAISERS: MAKING LIFE 'L ON VISITING TEAMS

While the L-Raisers are a growing group of students who occupy the first few rows behind visiting teams at sporting events to heckle, whistle and generally make life 'L on our opponents, all Cardinals fans are commanded...um, encouraged...to join in. Founded in 1994, the group will celebrate a 30-year milestone in 2024, but the taunts, battle cries and caws ring across boards and field as the Cards and Lady Cards meet their foes.

As a Cardinals fan, raise some 'L of your own at sporting events by wearing red—or painting yourself red—and make your presence known far and wide by loudly joining in the chants. Are you an L-Raiser? If so, we'll see you at the game.



**LET'S GO
BIG RED!**
let's go **LU!**



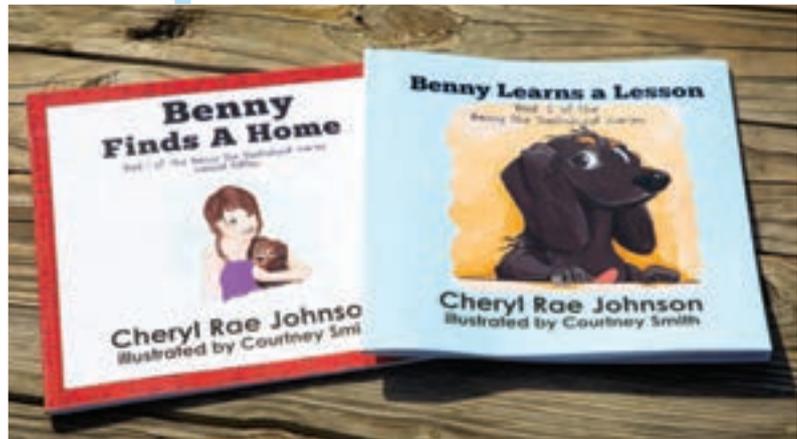
L-RAISERS! LET'S RAISE SOME 'L.

Fight! Lamar U Cardinals,
For Alma Mater fight.
Glory in the triumph
for the Red and the White.
Faithful to our colors,
we will ever be.
Fighting ever fighting
for Lamar U victory.
B-I-G R-E-D
Big Red, Big Red, Big Red
Let's GO Big Red!



Benny's tailwagging adventures continue

by Kristina Scott



Cheryl Johnson drew inspiration for her *Benny* book series from her youngest daughter's love for a miniature dachshund.

"When my youngest daughter was a teenager, she was dealing with anxiety and depression," said Johnson, an instructor of English and modern languages since 2003. "Although we had a family dog, my husband and I decided to let her pick out a dog for herself, a small dog that would be more a part of her."

Her daughter chose Bentley, who became the book's protagonist Benny, a little dog with a large personality the whole family adores and a huge part of Johnson's daughter's healing process. Very quickly after Bentley became a part of the family, the idea of children's stories started "swirling around" in Johnson's head, and she gradually started writing them down. In 2016, she attended

a writing conference in North Carolina to pitch her ideas to publishers. By the fall she had a publisher, Elk Lake Publishing, who decided to work with her on the book series.

She recently released the second book, *Benny Learns a Lesson*, in her children's series *Benny the Dachshund*. In this tale, Benny loves his new home, toys, peanut butter and after-school play time. But when Holly comes home sick from school one day, Benny learns an unexpected lesson as he and Holly both experience how they can do all things through Christ.

Young bookworms will also learn a few life lessons in the first book of the series, *Benny Finds a Home*, as Holly struggles to find friends, and Benny journeys to find a home. As readers follow the puppy in his search for a forever home, the story

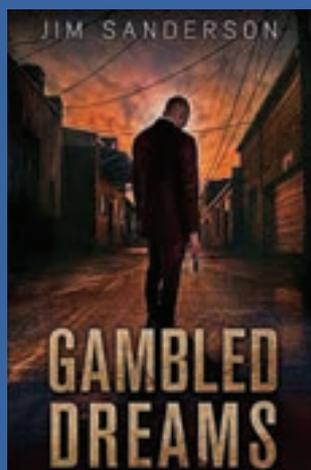
illustrates how God can use all his creations to show his love for humanity. This book is also an Accelerated Reader Program book, which allows students to select their books to read independently and then take a test to earn points so that teachers can track a student's progress.

Johnson is pleased the books have become part of the accelerated reader program but is mostly proud of how they emphasize the roles pets play in a household, from alarm clock and therapist to play pal, companion and friend.

"I have interviewed people with all kinds of pets—from horses to birds—and pets play such an important part in peoples' lives," she said.

Currently, Johnson is working on the third *Benny* book, *Benny Meets the Junction Boy*, and collaborating with other Elk Lake Publishing authors for a collection of romance fiction short stories. Her contribution will be set post-World War II and will be loosely based on how her parents met. This collection of short stories is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2022.

Both *Benny Finds a Home* and *Benny Learns a Lesson* are available for purchase at major booksellers.



Sanderson publishes thriller novel

Our resident mystery writer, Jim Sanderson, has added an eighth novel—this one a murder and suspense tale—to his oeuvre. *Gambled Dreams*, published by Moonshine Cove Publishing, is one of several of his novels characterized as “grit lit” by one reviewer.

In *Gambled Dreams*, gamblers, cons and prostitutes inhabit the night-time bar world of the early 1980s Odessa, Texas, oil boom. Colton Parker—with a wife, two young boys and a father-in-law—is a bouncer for a gambler and loan shark in this dark, hidden underbelly. Danny Fowler cruises this world looking for gay lovers. When he finds two mean ones, he ends up beaten to death and dumped on the road to an oil rig. Danny’s rich mother, Mina, doesn’t want Danny’s night-time life exposed, so she persuades the police not to investigate. But she hires a reluctant Colton Parker to track down Danny Fowler’s killers. Colton teams with Bullet Price, a retired prostitute, climbing up the bar-world social ladder. With help from a young prostitute and a gay tool pusher, Colton tracks down the two oil-field welders who killed Danny. But Mina wants them dead.

At the same time Sanderson, chair and professor of the Department of English and Modern Languages, debuted a new book, Brash Books republished three novels from Sanderson’s Jerri Johnson/Dolph Martinez series as one e-book, *Messing With Texas*. The first in the series, *Safe Delivery*, which Brash Books also republished, was a finalist for the Violet Crown Award. The novel follows Jerri Johnson, who is a former English teacher, turned bounty hunter, working for a bail bondsman, turned private detective. In addition to solving murders, Johnson strives to preserve her femininity and feminism in a male world.

Another in the series, *El Camino del Rio*, is a mystery that introduces Dolph Martinez, a U.S. border agent, whose investigation of a murder in the desert pits him against governments, the wealthy, a nun who practices voodoo and demons of his past. It was the winner of the Frank Waters Award. Sanderson followed it with *La Mordida* and the fourth book in the Johnson/Martinez thriller/mystery series, *Dolph’s Team*, which has been described as “partly border-town mystery and part road trip, reminiscent of *Lonesome Dove*.”



Wallace earns Distinguished Staff Award

The Staff Awards Committee honored **John-Michael Wallace**, simulation computer coordinator for the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, with the Distinguished Staff Award last spring. The distinction recognized his hard work and time committed to keep the School of Nursing online as it provided digital learning opportunities for its students during the pandemic and transitioned to fully remote testing. Wallace oversees IT support for the school, including audio/video setup, maintenance for the High-Fidelity Simulation Lab and Skills Lab, and maintenance for all life-like medical manikins. The addition of his position as a key administrator for the Examsoft digital testing software in the school made Wallace indispensable when LU needed to switch to a virtual footing.

“I grew up with many of the faculty and love the School of Nursing family that I am a part of,” he said. Wallace was one of five distinguished staff award recipients across the LU campus community.



LU Moot Court makes history

For the first time in Lamar University history, a Cardinals moot court team advanced to elimination rounds of the national tournament and a member of the team ranked as one of the best overall speakers. **Katey McCall '21** and **Ali Hamza** secured a bid during the fall semester to attend the American Moot Court Association National Oral Advocacy Tournament. Because of pandemic restrictions, all students competed

using Zoom.

Moot court competitions involve two student advocates arguing constitutional issues before a mock Supreme Court. Students are evaluated on their knowledge of facts of the case, the case law, presentation skills and court room demeanor. Ali Hamza ranked eighth as best overall individual speaker at the competition, which marks the first time that an LU student has received a speaker award at the national tournament.

“Regardless of the outcome, this marked the first time that a Lamar University team advanced to the elimination rounds of the national tournament,” said Craig Tahaney, instructor of political science and moot court advisor. “Overall, Lamar University had an incredible season despite unprecedented circumstances caused by the pandemic. In total, LU students received a total of 16 individual and team awards this season.”

Katey McCall graduated in May 2021 and is now attending law school at Texas Tech University School of Law. Ali Hamza will graduate in 2022 and plans to attend law school as well.

▶ **Biology major lauded for leadership**

The Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence awarded sophomore biology major **Line Ydi Recinos** the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visionary Leadership Scholarship. Recinos plans to become a pediatrician and is active on campus as a member of the Reaud Honors College, MEDLIFE and American Medical Student Association. She also volunteers as a translator.

▶ **Faculty Mentor of the Year named**

The Office of Undergraduate Research has named **Ozge Gunaydin-Sen**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, the 2021 Faculty Mentor of the Year. She rose to the top of the competitive process by her outstanding leadership in mentoring students through undergraduate research projects and professional development opportunities.

▶ **First Nancy Evans scholarship awarded**

Social work major **Aurora Maldonado '21** is the first student to receive the Nancy Evans Memorial Scholarship. The endowed scholarship, in honor of former First Lady Nancy Evans, was established in 2017 and is awarded to first-generation students. Nancy Evans Scholars are expected to commit to service leadership through ongoing civic engagement.



COSTS MAY BE UP AND REVENUE DOWN, *but hope and determination remain steady*

by Elizabeth Newman

Viviana Denova, a senior management major, had suspicions about how businesses responded to the financial challenges of COVID-19 responses but wanted data to tell the tale. She conducted research during the 2021 summer and fall semesters under the guidance of her mentor, Gevorg Sargsyan, assistant professor of finance in the College of Business. Her study examines the financial impact of COVID-19 on the dining and hospitality industries in Southeast Texas. Her research was made possible by a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, awarded through the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Denova used research methods to identify risk management practices and to diagnose challenges that businesses typically face during disasters and economic disruptions. Denova then gathered data by surveying local business owners. She studied the impact of COVID-19 on the reliability of suppliers, the quality of goods and services, and other vital financial factors. “The results are as I suspected,” Denova states. In the case of reliability in suppliers, Denova concluded that business reported a 85% decline. As for the quality of the goods and services, they saw a 66% overall decline. Employee satisfaction only saw a 40% decrease, but business revenue saw a 75% decrease, while expenditures/costs were increased by nearly 70%.

The second part of her research studied the effects of COVID-19 on business owners’ attitudes towards making new financial decisions. Denova asked businesses to rate their feelings on topics such as whether or not COVID-19 has improved their ability to complete new projects, identify new investment opportunities, and create new products and services. She received both positive and neutral responses. Roughly 52% of businesses responded that COVID-19 has improved

their ability to complete new projects. Denova said, “Perhaps these businesses are the ones who adapted and began offering curbside services. They saw success and feel very confident in that.” She also explains that a large portion of responses remained in the “neutral” category of her study. A little more than 41% of businesses are neutral when it comes to identifying or making new investments.

“This research has been such a great opportunity for me to gain skills that will be necessary to my success.”

— Viviana Denova

“These businesses are most likely hesitant to start new endeavors during such uncertain times,” she said. Denova observed a slightly more positive response when businesses were asked to identify whether they are likely to expand their business or not. While 42% remained neutral on this topic, nearly 53% agreed or strongly agreed that they are determined to do so.

Denova plans to continue her research in order to gain more accurate results and reach more businesses. She has already presented her research at two conferences at Lamar University during the fall semester, but she plans to continue to attend conferences outside of the university. Her hope is to refine her data and share the information to help businesses learn from the experiences brought on by the pandemic.

Denova said. “I have made several connections and developed relationships that I will cherish always. I discovered that the Southeast Texas economy is resilient to anything it may encounter.”



Job fair connects students to careers

Nine companies participated in Reese Construction Management's virtual job fair this past spring: Bartlett Cocke General Contractors; Bo-Mac Contractors, Ltd; G&G Enterprises Construction Corp.; Richard Industrial Group; Gulf Coast—a CRH Company; ISC Constructors, LLC; Mason Construction, LLC; Mustang Cat; and The ITEX Group. Student participants were construction management majors and MBA-construction project management concentration students.

COB faculty participate in 2021 Recovery and Resiliency Summit

At the April 9 LU Recovery and Resiliency: Recovering and Growing as a Community Annual Research Summit, College of Business professors **Enrique Venta, Gevorg Sargsyan, Paul Latiolais, Ricardo Colon and James Slaydon** gave two presentations: "Lamar University Economic Recovery and Resiliency Program" and "Financial and Risk Management Analysis of the Education Sector in Southeast Texas During Hurricane Harvey." Jorge Ayala, area director of AURO Economic Development Administration (U.S. Dept of Commerce), spoke on regional disaster recovery. The primary focus of the 2021 summit was to discuss recovering and growing as a community during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other disasters/catastrophes.



Jack Gill gives lecture at Landes Auditorium

Distinguished Alumnus **Jack Gill '58** visited the College of Business to give two lectures to marketing and management students April 19. Gill earned his degree in chemistry and engineering from LU before earning his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Indiana State University. His highly successful career as a scientist, entrepreneur, corporate executive, venture capitalist and university professor spans more than four decades of experience working in Silicon Valley. The former LU Foundation president has and continues to serve on a number of boards, including the LU College of Engineering's Advisory Council and the Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship.

He and his wife, Linda, have a passion for giving back through the Gill Foundation of Texas. They have continued to support the students of Lamar University in many ways through the years, and are members of Lamar's Legacy Society and President's Circle in recognition of their consistent and dedicated support of the university.

During his lectures, Gill spoke with students on topics that included entrepreneurship and career success, highlighting areas of focus that students can act upon as they graduate and move into the workforce. Students had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A at the end of each lecture.



Student Managed Investment Fund shows progress



Finance and economics students in **Gevorg Sargsyan** and **Dean Dan French's** class presented their 2021 Student Managed Investment Fund portfolio to a group of Lamar University officials and College of Business stakeholders in May. The Student Managed Investment Fund is intended to provide a hands-on learning experience in security analysis and portfolio management. It also familiarizes students with situations they would encounter in a typical investment management firm.

Throughout this semester, the students researched, reviewed and applied strategies to create a diversified portfolio following 25 companies. Sargsyan and French hope to continue this project each semester in order to grow the fund and provide further opportunities to their finance and economics students.

▶ Seawright recognized



Delvin Seawright (pictured third from left) received a certificate of appreciation for his service with LU's NAACP chapter and the Student Government Association. His contributions were highlighted at the Black Minds Matter event Feb. 24.

▶ Do honored



Celine Do received the **Dr. Melvin Brust Advisor of the Year Award**

April 7 for her outstanding work as the advisor to the Vietnamese Student Association at Lamar University. Do is also an academic advisor in the College of Business.

▶ COB commended

In May, LU's STAR Services named the College of Business as a Distinguished Partner for connecting students with its tutoring and mentoring services and increasing Cardinal Communities participation 760%. Assessments show that CC participants earned an overall average GPA 1.48 points higher than those who did not participate.

AT&T PARTNERSHIP HELPS LU TACKLE LEARNING LOSS

by Shelbe Rodriguez



Texas Speaker of the House and District 21 Representative Dade Phelan with LU Ambassadors

As many parents and educators can attest, student performance in math and reading suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of school closures and the transition to online learning, creating gaps that must be bridged. With dollars donated by AT&T in its continued support of student development and quality education, Lamar University and Region 5 Education Service Center are partnering to target and overcome learning loss in Southeast Texas.

“Since 2008, AT&T has committed over \$600 million to programs that help students across all 50 states,” said Leslie Ward, president of AT&T-Texas. “We are excited to partner with Lamar University to assist students and families in combating learning loss in Southeast Texas.”

The donation is critical. In reviewing a key statewide marker of educational proficiency (the 2021 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness,

“This is an investment in helping students in Southeast Texas become STEM ready, and we could not do this without the generous donation of AT&T to help us in accelerating our efforts to attack the area of greatest need: learning loss.”

—George Saltsman

or STAAR test), the Texas Education Agency found a decrease in academic performance with a larger decline in math than reading. Economically disadvantaged students experienced a greater learning loss in the two subjects as well.

“We were already hyper-focused on STEM education within our local districts, but we realized that the pandemic has created a huge gap in mathematics across Texas schools,” said George Saltsman, director of the LU Center for Educational Innovation and Digital Learning.

“This is a crisis right now in education, and it’s especially problematic in underrepresented demographics and

at-risk students.”

In support of these efforts, the LU collaboration with Region 5 ESC, which serves 33 school districts, six charter schools, 178 campuses and more than 90,000 students, will assist Southeast Texas school districts in improving student performance. In partnership with LU, the Region 5 ESC has been embedded in local districts for nearly 15 years, providing technical assistance across more than 70 programs and services. The new infusion of funding strengthens and expands the existing network. LU faculty and doctoral students also have taken an active role in volunteering their time to mentor and tutor students in local school districts.

“Lamar University and our community partner Region 5 ESC will remain committed to serving schools in Southeast Texas and ensuring that every child has the math skills needed for future success,” Saltsman said.

Nutrition, Hospitality and Human Services upgrades system

The Department of Nutrition, Hospitality and Human Services has installed a camera and video streaming system to enhance culinary arts experiential learning for students. The chef instructor, along with hospitality administration-culinary arts students, will record culinary demonstrations to amplify both the lecture and lab content. In addition, the system will allow for live video demonstrations and lab experiences through YouTube to further the outreach of the hospitality administration-culinary arts program. The camera and video system are one of the first steps toward initiating the development of an online hospitality administration-culinary arts program.

Mason STEM Initiative

The Becky and Chuck Mason Summer Scholar Program offers a paid summer teaching internship for STEM majors to ensure students gain both theoretical and practical classroom teaching and learning experiences by working with K-12 students. In summer 2021, five LU students participated in the program: one biology major, two mathematics majors, one physics and mathematics double major, and one physics and mechanical engineering double major. Each student participant was actively engaged in live class sessions, discussion and presentations, while also preparing a full inquiry-based STEM lesson plan with assessments on different STEM topics. Students taught their lesson at Pietsch-MacArthur Elementary to students synchronously.



College welcomes Jody Slaughter to team

The College of Education and Human Development has named **Jody Slaughter '85** as director of school and community partnership.

After earning her B.B.A. in accounting from Lamar University in 1985 and spending 16 years in the business world, a personal experience ignited Slaughter's passion for education, and she decided to make a career move. Her daughter's severe auditory processing challenges hindered her ability to learn in the classroom. When teachers told Slaughter her daughter would probably never learn to read or write, she didn't passively accept that assessment, and it was then that she committed herself to a career instructing and advocating for students with learning disorders. With a master's degree in educational administration from Sam Houston State University, she taught third grade in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district, working as a reading specialist and interventionist, ultimately becoming the director of state and federal programs for the district.

Slaughter continued her career working with federal programs for the Beaumont school district before being promoted to chief innovation officer. In this role, she was responsible for forming partnerships with charter schools to further the educational goals of the district. Most recently, she worked with the Bob Hope School system as its chief of schools before accepting the position at Lamar University.

"The COEHD has made an intentional decision to augment our relationships with schools and other community partners," said Robert Spina, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "It is clear that these partnerships need to be strategic, purposeful and clearly articulated. We look forward to Jody being a key

member of the team to help us accomplish these goals."

As the director of school and community partnerships, Slaughter hopes to form a strong support system for instructors and K-12 schools as LU students gain classroom experience before graduating to become teachers.

► Online MPH ranks high

The online Master of Public Health program has been ranked the No. 6 most affordable program in the nation by EduRef.net. The LU MPH program is housed in the College of Education and Human Development and is an exclusively online program that requires 42 hours to complete. It is designed for working professionals to complete the coursework at a convenient pace, and it prepares students for leadership roles in the public health field.

► Moore accepted as a McNair Scholar

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is federally funded and provides first-generation, low-income, minority college students with paid internships and mentoring to prepare for enrollment in graduate programs. Seth Moore, exercise science major, was accepted to the program and presented his project, titled "Identifying the Components of Motivational Music and Their Effect on Exercise," at the McNair Scholar Reception.

► Department welcomes new student success liaison

The Department of Nutrition, Hospitality and Human Services has appointed Marie Panchot as student success liaison and academic coordinator. Panchot will provide support to a complex department while ensuring excellence in student engagement, recruitment, academic success and retention. Encouraging outreach and assistance to students is achieved through effective collaboration with staff, faculty and other units across the campus to support student success.

IN THE LEAD

by Shelbe Rodriguez

**TOP IN STATE,
THIRD IN NATION
AHEAD OF RICE,
STANFORD
AND MIT**

20-YEAR NET INCOME



\$1,223,000
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
\$1,068,000
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
\$1,057,000
RICE UNIVERSITY
\$1,170,000
MIT



While real estate's philosophy may boil down to location, location, location, LU's College of Engineering hangs its hat on quality, quality, quality. That dedication to ensure that engineering graduates walk away with an invaluable college experience and the best return on investment has paid off, landing the college in the No. 1 spot in the state

of Texas and No. 3 in the country for 20-year net income, PayScale.com notes.

"It is incredible that Lamar University engineering graduates outperform those from schools such as MIT and Stanford, considering many of our students are first-generation college students," President Jaime Taylor said. "This speaks to the quality of education our College of Engineering provides and the support Lamar University faculty and staff provide to our students."

PayScale.com, an online salary information company, conducts an annual report that measures the return on tuition investment 20 years after graduation for hundreds of public and private institutions. The report also analyzes in-state and out-of-state tuition costs, graduation rates and the number of years it takes to earn a degree.

According to the 2021 report, the 20-year net income of engineering graduates from Lamar University is \$1,223,000—the highest in the state of Texas and No. 3 in the country. With the new rankings, LU surpasses larger institutions in the country such as Stanford University (\$1,068,000), Rice University (\$1,057,000) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (\$1,170,000) in 20-year net income.

In comparison, the estimated cost of a four-year degree at Lamar University is \$89,000, about a third of the cost at MIT (\$276,000), Stanford University (\$282,000) and Rice University (\$256,000), as reported by PayScale.com.



With multiple degrees across five departments ranging from bachelor's to doctoral levels, the College of Engineering continually aims to provide graduates with a clear path to steady employment and a solid income.

"We provide smaller class sizes and innovative curriculum, and our courses are taught by extremely talented and dedicated faculty. We pride ourselves in graduating job-ready engineers, and this is confirmed by the numerous employers that consider Lamar University's College of Engineering when looking for top recruits", said Brian Craig, dean of LU's College of Engineering.

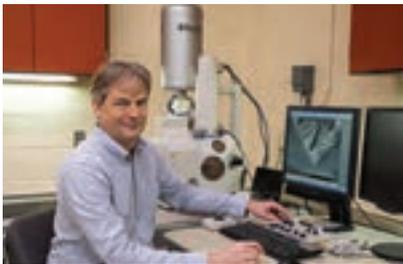
Josh Wilson '16 always knew he was destined to attend Lamar University as a chemical engineering major. His father and elder brother also attended LU for chemical engineering, and, as a third-generation Cardinal, he said the value of his engineering degree has been unmatched.

"The LU engineering program is so well respected in the Golden Triangle area and is recognized across the state and across the country. Although we're competing with larger institutions and individuals from larger institutions, LU engineering graduates still get the same job opportunities, if not better," Wilson said.

Wilson currently works at multinational chemical corporation Dow Chemicals as a senior production engineer. He initially landed a job with the company just months before graduating and said because of his experience in the College of Engineering, he was able to quickly transition into his role upon graduating.

"We have huge companies like ExxonMobil, Motiva, Dow Chemicals and so many others that come in to provide us with those networking opportunities, mentorships and internships, which gives us a huge advantage," he said. "I would tell any future Cardinals that an engineering degree from Lamar University is well worth it."

To see the full list of rankings for Best Value Colleges for Engineering, visit payscale.com/college-roi/major/engineering.



Bradley collaborates with DOE scientist

Kelley Bradley, assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering, participated in the Visiting Faculty Program at the Department of Energy Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the nation's largest multi-program science and technology laboratory. During the 10-week program, Bradley collaborated with DOE scientist **Nick Lavrick** at the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences. Their work focuses on 2-photon stereolithography, a highly advanced form of 3D printing that can manufacture microscopic objects.

"I've been very interested in this technology and the implications of being able to print structures with features down to 200 nanometers wide," explained Bradley. "Printing things this small opens up a completely new playing field."

The technology behind 2-photon 3D printing is not new, but commercialization of these devices has been recent. That, combined with the high cost to purchase one, makes them relatively rare. "I managed a nanofabrication facility for a number of years," Bradley said, "so I was familiar with the complicated processes that researchers go through to create micro-scale or nano-scale objects with 3D structure. This device can accomplish in a single print job what would otherwise require an entire facility."

Bradley and Lavrick conducted exploratory research to develop methods to actuate micro- and nano-scale 3D structures made with the printer. "The work is pioneering and explores an area that nobody else is investigating," Bradley said.

Engineering undergrads make their mark in research

Industry 4.0



Mechanical engineering recent graduate **Tyler Martin '21** has received a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. The program supports graduate students pursuing important research across the U.S.

Martin received one of 2,000 fellowships chosen from a pool of approximately 40,000 applicants. The fellowship includes \$34,000 distributed during five years as he works toward a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

Martin developed his interest in research during his second year at LU under the tutelage of faculty in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He quickly developed a fascination with the subject of metal additive manufacturing, a new technology set to revolutionize the field of manufacturing.

"Metal additive manufacturing is sometimes called 'Industry 4.0,'" explained Martin. "It has the potential to change everything we know about how we manufacture things." He is researching how to design stronger materials for extreme conditions, such as in space. "My goal is to eventually work at a national laboratory or NASA research group," he said. Martin is pursuing his Ph.D. at Rice University.

Groundbreaking treatment



The Advisory Board of the Office of Undergraduate Research selected mechanical engineering major and recent graduate **Dylan Palmer '21** to represent LU at the biennial Texas Undergraduate Research Day in Austin. Palmer was selected from 10 nominations and seven eligible finalists for his research, "Fabrication of Superhydrophobic Aluminum Surfaces."

The event took place virtually with more than 60 research projects reflecting the work of numerous undergraduate students and representing more than 30 academic and health-related institutions across Texas, both public and private, independent universities and colleges.

Palmer's poster, like the others presented at this premier undergraduate showcase, offers a synopsis of groundbreaking undergraduate research on a new surface treatment to combat corrosion. Using superhydrophobic micro-structures on aluminum sheets, Palmer tested the viability of laser etching as a method for creating surfaces that are resistant to corrosion.

"Corrosion is a huge problem in industry and engineering as a whole, as it represents millions of dollars lost every year spent replacing components that otherwise would have lasted," Palmer said.

"The purpose of this surface treatment is to prevent stagnation of water to the surface of aluminum parts." Palmer is pursuing his Ph.D. at Colorado School of Mines.

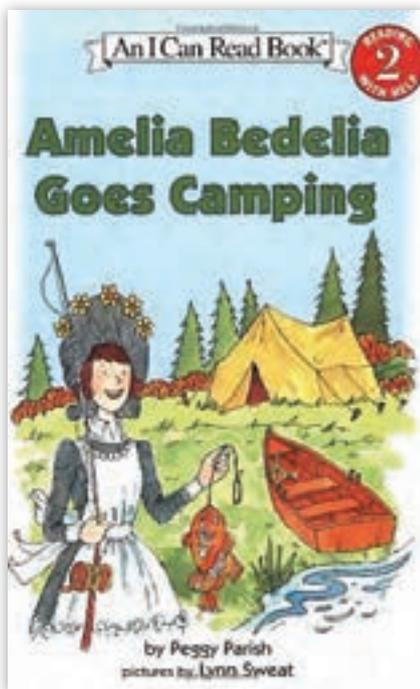
► **Innovative auditory system funded**
Traditional inspection for a compressor by human ear is challenging, given that the decibel level of a compressor exceeds 150 decibels, which is louder than a jet engine. Often, the excessive levels of noise prevent detection of new or abnormal sounds by the human ear. **Maryam Hamidi**, assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering, and **Jing Zhang**, associate professor of computer science, have received funding for their project "Deep Learning-based Auditory Anomaly Detection and Classification for Natural Gas Compressors, Phase 1. Their research aims to facilitate the development of an automated real-time preventive maintenance auditory system for natural gas compressors." LU's Center for Midstream Management and Science (CMMS) funded the project with \$50,000, and this award was recently augmented by \$40,000 from Well Checked Systems and CMMS.

► **NSF grant to improve online laboratories**
Selahattin Sayil, professor of electrical engineering, along with his project team, has received funding from the National Science Foundation's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education Program for a three-year term to improve the quality of electrical engineering online laboratories. The project, titled "Promoting Engaged and Active Learning Through Collaborative Online Lab Experiences," will implement various learning strategies in five electrical engineering courses in order to improve the quality of online labs. These strategies include how to accomplish teamwork, create a learning community to break down the sense of isolation online, integrate open-ended design experiences into lab work, and incorporate pre-lab simulations and pre-lab video demonstrations. Using active learning lab strategies, the project aims to improve students' self-reliance, as well as their critical-thinking skills and knowledge retention.

LU RECEIVES DONATIONS OF

Lynn Sweat papers

by Penny Clark and J.T. Robertson



Lynn Sweat '56, recipient of LU's Distinguished Alumni Award (1983), artist, writer and best known to young readers as the man who created the illustrations in the *Amelia Bedelia* book series, has donated a collection of papers

to his alma mater. The collection includes correspondence with artists and galleries, newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogues that will be housed in the LU archives.

Sweat, who was doing magazine illustration and design work in New York City when he entered the children's book world, illustrated *Birds without Words* in 1961. That book won an award from the Society of Illustrators and caught the eye of the publisher for *Amelia Bedelia*. His first *Amelia Bedelia* book was *Good Work*, in which, he says, he brought the character back to a more "cartoonish and wacky" look. He illustrated all of the *Amelia Bedelia* titles until the death of the author Peggy Parish in 1988.

Sweat, born in Alexandria, Louisiana, and raised in Nederland, Texas, credits his upbringing for much of his success. "My childhood was spent on the coast of Texas. My first memories are those of being close to nature, dragonflies, turtles, frogs, ducks, wild geese, birds and clouds. I always had a love for pencils, crayons and libraries. After I graduated from high school, my interest in art led me to study commercial

illustration in college."

Sweat's career has spanned more than illustrations, as he is also known for his paintings. As described by the Southeast Texas Arts Council: "a universal characteristic of his work is scintillating patterns of light falling across canvases that seem to glow despite their matte finish. His background in illustration and design is obvious in the bold compositions and focus on color theory. By limiting his subjects, he prevents the intrusion of visual chaos; the complex patterns of color and textured application of paint could overwhelm the recognition of form if too many were present. By abstracting his subjects, he captures them in symbol rather than in specific; the viewer can immerse themselves in the tone of the work without being distracted by the identity of the figures."

Sweat's advice to young emerging artists of today: "Take every opportunity to learn." His work can be found on his website at sweatlynn.com.

The Art Studio Inc. of Beaumont facilitated the donation to LU's archives.



Deaf studies and Deaf education alum publishes ASL book

Recent Deaf studies and Deaf education graduate **Shay Stegemann '21**, best known by her pen name **Shay Abigail**, has published a children's book focused on American Sign Language and the Deaf community titled *My Name is Maya*.

In the book, the main character **Maya** leads the reader through adventures of her everyday life being a young Deaf person. From drawing and playing outside, to dancing around in silly costumes, **Maya** doesn't let her hearing difference stop her from being herself.

Abigail said her inspiration for the book came just after meeting a young Deaf girl while volunteering at a camp for children with disabilities. "I met her when I was in high school, and she was the first Deaf child I met," she said. "She is the one who inspired me to learn ASL and advocate for communication access."

With the help of her mother and Lamar University ASL faculty like **Joseph Mann**, instructor of Deaf studies and Deaf education, **Abigail** was able to get the book published just days before she was set to graduate. "I wrote this book with adults and children in mind, and I hope that *My Name is Maya* will encourage its readers to learn more about ASL and the Deaf community."

The book is available for purchase on www.andonthisfarm.com.



Music alum performs at presidential inauguration

Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music alumnus Master Gunnery Sergeant **Scott Gearhart '94** performed in the January 2020 presidential inauguration ceremonies as part of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. The band provided music for the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol while seated directly beneath the inaugural platform. The band performed "Hail to the Chief" to honor President Biden, in addition to accompanying Lady Gaga for the national anthem.

Gearhart, who began his musical training at age 11, graduated in 1987 from Westbrook High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in music in 1994 from Lamar University where he studied with the late **Raul Ornelas**. He also has studied trumpet with **John Dewitt**, **Dennis Dotson** and **Richard Schaefer** in Houston and **Bobby Shew** in Los Angeles.

Prior to joining "The President's Own," **Gearhart** was a freelance musician and teacher in Houston. **Gearhart** performs with the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the White House, in the Washington, D.C., area, and across the country during the band's annual concert tour.

He performed lead trumpet for the Marine Jazz Orchestra's inaugural performance at the Kennedy Center and frequently performs concerts for the Marine Chamber Series. In 2004, **Gearhart** conducted clinics and performed the Harry James Medley, accompanied by the Lamar University Jazz Band in Beaumont, Texas, and in 2014 he played lead trumpet for the U.S. Marine Corps All Star Jazz Band. In 2015, he performed as a soloist once again with Lamar University at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention.

The Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every U.S. president since **John Adams**. Known as "The President's Own" since the days of **Thomas Jefferson**, the Marine Band's mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

► **Andre Favors** receives **TEXAAN Award**
The Texas Academic Advising Network, **TEXAAN**, selected **Andre Favors**, instructor in the Department of Communication and Media, to receive the Faculty Advisor Recognition Award, which celebrates individuals whose primary responsibility is teaching and who spends a portion of their time providing academic advising services to students.

► **University Press** wins 13 awards at **TIPA**
LU students from the University Press earned 13 awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association last spring. Out of the 13 awards, four earned first place for work published in 2020. **TIPA** is the oldest collegiate journalism organization in the country, celebrating 112 years this year. It currently has 60 member schools, both four- and two-year institutions.

► **Researchers** explore **COVID-19**
Eldre Beukes, post-doctoral researcher, and **Vinaya Manchaiah**, Jo Mayo Endowed Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences, studied the association between **COVID-19** and more than 3,000 U.S. tinnitus sufferers. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders awarded them \$397,800 to study relief efforts for those with the condition.

After School
Special LU ALUMNI

ART EXHIBITION

**8 ARTISTS 48 WORKS
SELECTED FROM 173
SUBMISSIONS**

Beaumont / Houston / Groves
Marshall / Magnolia / Port Arthur
Nederland / Gainesville Fla.
Nacogdoches / Dallas / Bridge City

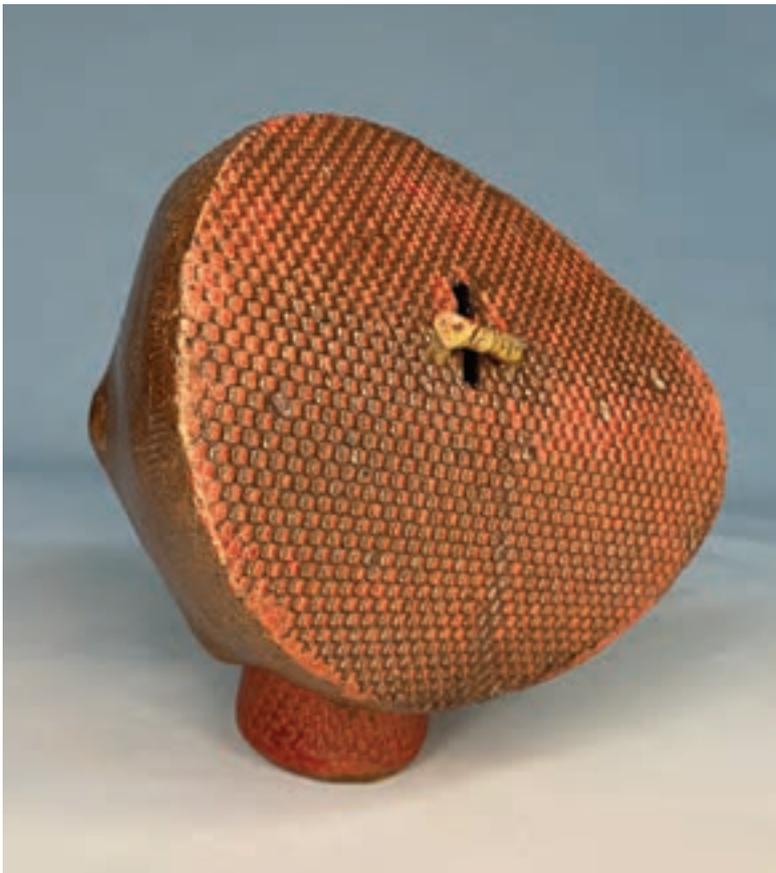
Learn about the artists
lamar.edu/dishman

JUNE 25-JULY 30, 2022 | OPENING RECEPTION JUNE 24, 2022 6:30 PM

Greg Busceme '79

- 1 Block Slot, 2022, 9x8 inches, salt fired ceramic
- 2 Yellow Beacon, 2022, 14x4 inches, low fire ceramic

1



2



1



2



3

Elizabeth Fontenot '13

- 1 No Place Like Home, 2021, 30x36x3 inches, reclaimed window, screen print and archival pigment print
- 2 Rising, 2021, 35.5x36x2 inches, reclaimed window, screen print and archival pigment print
- 3 Permissible Exposure Limits, 2022, 23x32x2 inches, reclaimed window, house paint, screen print and archival pigment print

1



2

3



Sunni Forcier '15

- 1 Anatomy of a Shadow, 2017-2019, installation of silver gelatin prints, Blaffer install, 2019
- 2 Anatomy of a Shadow, 2017-2019, installation of silver gelatin prints, individual print
- 3 Anatomy of a Shadow, 2017-2019, installation of silver gelatin prints, individual print

1



Audra LaCour '16

- 1 Untitled, 2021, 16x24 inches, Digital C-print
- 2 Untitled, 2022, 16x24 inches, Digital C-print
- 3 Untitled, 2022, 16x24 inches, Digital C-print
- 4 Untitled, 2022, 16x24 inches, Digital C-print

2



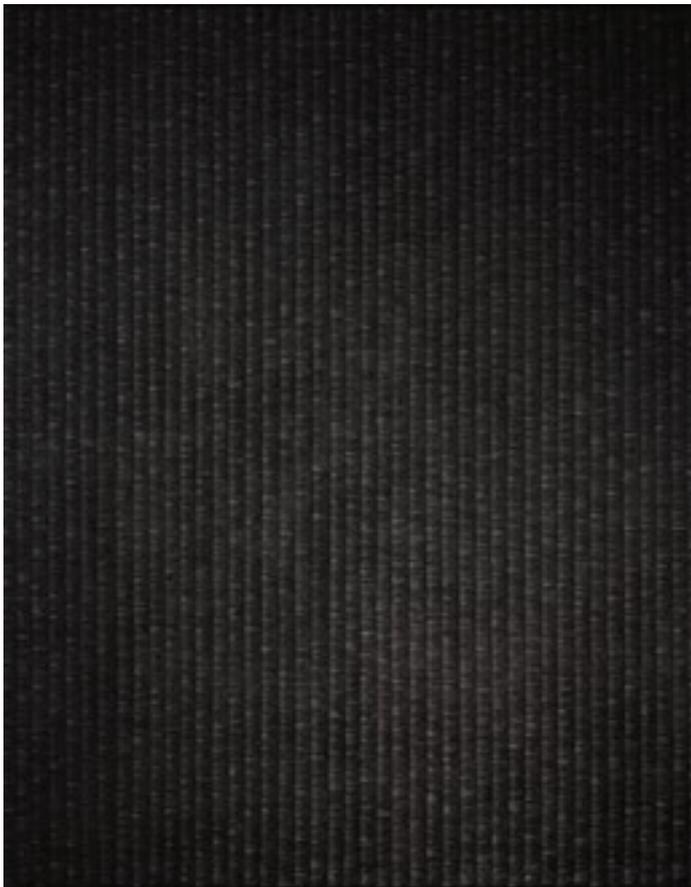
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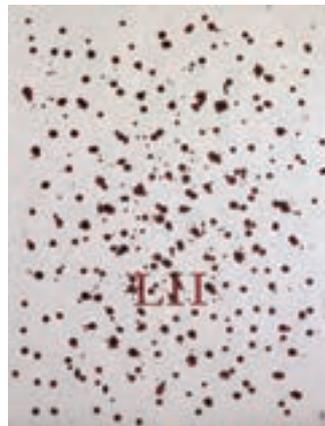
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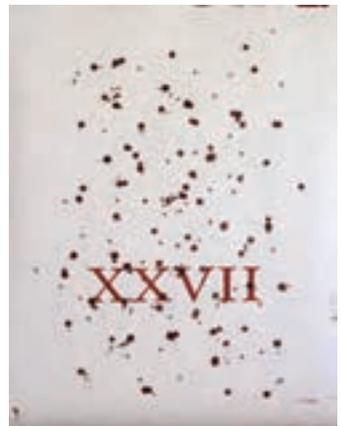
Justin LeBlanc '10

- 1 Billions of Dollars Paid But Ignored, 2020-2021, 64x80 inches, Painting
- 2 June 2018, 2019-2022, 45x60 inches, Painting
- 3 November 2018, 2019-2022, 45x60 inches, Painting

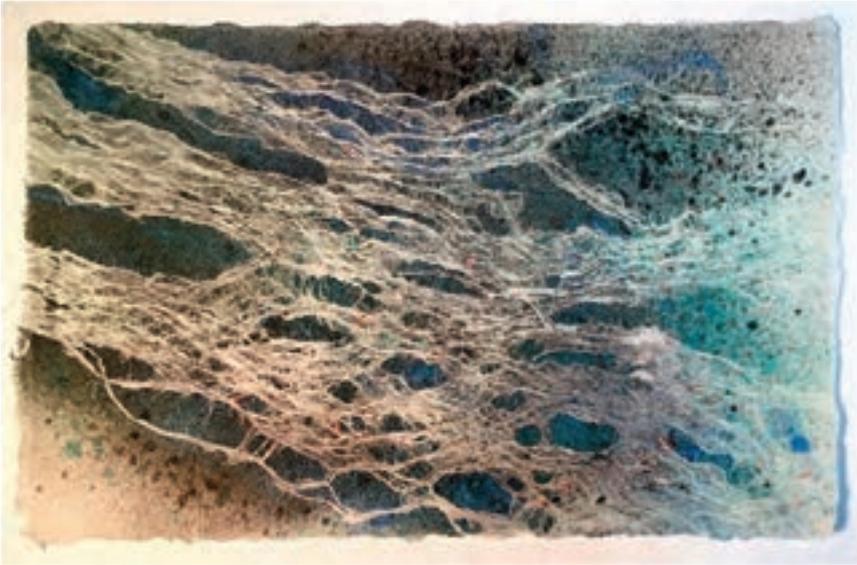
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3



1



Amy Richard '84

- 1 Energy Transfer-3 (2021) 11X17 inches, pulp painting on artist-made kozo paper_GROUP 1
- 2 Night Life (2021) 11X17 inches, pulp painting on artist-made kozo paper_GROUP 1
- 3 Energy Transfer-2 (2021) 11X17 inches, pulp painting on artist-made kozo paper_GROUP 1
- 4 Respiration-1 (2016) 10.75X8.5 inches, pulp painting on artist-made kozo paper_GROUP 1

4



2



3



1



Justin Varner '05

- 1 Skater Scab, 2021, 12x10x36 inches, Wood and Paint
- 2 Lexington Love Trap, 2020, 156x13.x5 inches, Wood and Paint
- 3 MoonPie, 2020, 11x 96x3 inches, Wood and Paint

2



3



Red Day 2021

Helping inspire the next generation of Cardinals

This past September marked a new first for LU. The campus hosted its very first Red Day, a 24-hour celebration of giving that showcases the generosity of the LU community. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, community members and Cardinal fans at home, at work, on campus and across the nation and globe, came together to make this special event happen and final numbers are in: More than \$124,000 raised in 24 hours from 477 total donors through 584 gifts—all to support LU, its students and its academic programs. This was an amazing inaugural event, and Cardinals made it happen!

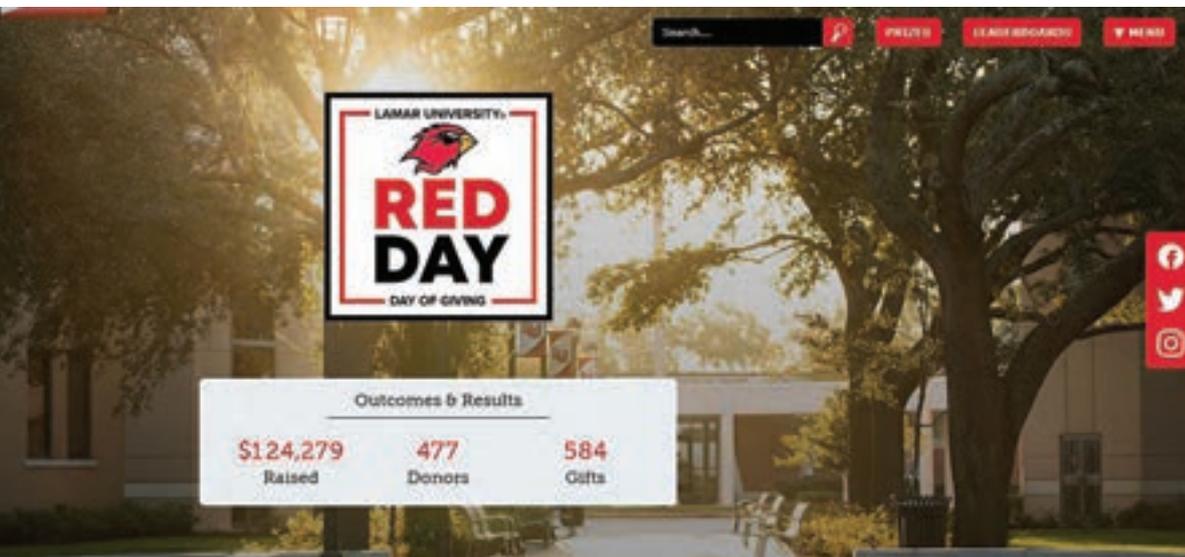
Between countdown challenges, total donor count triggers and new donor challenges, among other good-natured dares, the social media posts flew and generated even more engagement as the hours clicked by. The College of Business alums ended up topping the ranks at \$48,281 raised, but with a little social media organization, your college could knock them from the top spot this year. You can check out lamar.edu/redday for the stats to see how your college stacked up and make plans to challenge some of your classmates to see an even bigger showing this coming September.

Aron D. Arceneaux '09 headed an organizational team who stepped out to develop and execute a new concept for LU, and those who volunteered across campus to support the 24-hour marathon—and gave—were integral to its success. “As an alumnus and LU employee, I have experienced first-hand the power of being part of this special LU alumni community. It’s a community that cares deeply for and supports one another. This is why many of us come back to campus—and also why we give back. Red Day is LU’s 24-hour Day of Giving, when we can come together as one Cardinal Nation to collectively give back to support the current, and future, programs that mean so much to us.”

We wish a big Red and White thank you to each and every one who chose to give a gift to benefit their preferred program. Your generosity will provide real-world learning experiences, resources for urgent scholarships and emergency support, and also new opportunities for areas of LU that we love. Mark your calendar for the next Red Day Sept. 15-16 so we can top last year’s numbers. Cardinals are always reaching for that next highest branch.



Aron Arceneaux, President Jaime Taylor and First Lady Stacy Taylor



Special Shoutouts:

Daniel Cruz '18: *Cruz Events decked out the Red Day Command Center in Red & White*

John Worthington '08: *Classic Forms and Products sponsored the Red Day t-shirts*

Daniel McLemore '09, '20: *Developed and coordinated the Red Day livestream*

Each and every Red Day volunteer

Prizes

<p>🕒 7:23pm Challenge: \$10,000!</p> <p>\$10,000</p> <p>Beginning at 7:23pm CT (19:23) and ending at 7:33pm CT on Thursday, September 16, if a total of 10 gifts are made to the College of Business in those 10 minutes, it will unlock a \$10,000 challenge gift to the university courtesy of '88 LU Alumnus, Mr. Todd Hoffman.</p> <p>Sponsored by Todd Hoffman</p>	<p>🕒 9:17am Challenge: \$10,000!</p> <p>\$10,000</p> <p>Beginning at 9:17am CT and ending at 9:27am CT on Friday, September 17, if a total of 10 donors make a gift to any area of the university in those 10 minutes, it will unlock a \$10,000 challenge gift to the university courtesy of '74 LU Alumnus, Mr. Roland K. Rodriguez.</p> <p>Sponsored by Roland K. Rodriguez</p>
<p>🕒 100 Total Donors to the College of Engineering = \$10,000!</p> <p>\$10,000</p> <p>If 100 total donors make a gift to the College of Engineering between the hours of 3:00pm-5:00pm CT, it will unlock a \$10,000 challenge gift courtesy of '78 LU alumnus, Ed Gunderson.</p> <p>Sponsored by Ed Gunderson</p>	<p>🕒 College of Engineering Faculty and Staff Challenge</p> <p>An anonymous donor has funded a challenge to all faculty and staff in the College of Engineering, whereby your gift during Red Day will earn an additional \$10 designated for the College of Engineering. If all of you make a gift - 100%! - then there will be a further amount given to the College to bring the total commitment from this donor to \$1,000!</p> <p>Sponsored by Anonymous</p>
<p>🕒 New Donor Challenge</p> <p>\$5,000</p> <p>If a total of 100 new donors make a gift to LU during Red Day, it will unlock a \$5,000 challenge gift courtesy of '76 LU alumnus, Tom Hays.</p> <p>Sponsored by Tom Hays</p>	<p>🕒 "Tail End" Challenge - \$15,000!</p> <p>\$15,000</p> <p>During the tail end and final hour of Red Day, if 20 total gifts are given to any area of the university between the hours of 11:00am-12:00pm CT on September 17, it will unlock a \$15,000 challenge gift courtesy of '74 LU Alumnus, Mr. Roland K. Rodriguez.</p> <p>Sponsored by Roland K. Rodriguez</p>

Lamar University RED DAY DAY OF GIVING

Whitney Williamson @WWilliamsonMSEd

LU and University changed my life and I will forever be proud to be a Cardinal! Join me in giving back, today, on #LURedDay. Visit lamar.edu/redday to give. [pic.twitter.com/GP14ed916](https://twitter.com/GP14ed916)

16 Sep 4:27am

Lamar University RED DAY DAY OF GIVING

Bud Leonard Athletic Fund @BLAthleticFund

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LUM & NORMA HAWTHORN:

Endowing a legacy at Lamar

by Brooke Barnett

Giving back to Lamar University was a natural decision for alumni Joseph C. "Lum" Hawthorn '63 and his wife Norma (Paderas) Hawthorn '64. Both Lum and Norma were born and raised in Beaumont, and the couple has ties to Lamar that go back nearly 100 years.

Lum's father, Hubert F. Hawthorn, was a member of one of the first graduating classes of South Park Junior College, the 1920s predecessor of Lamar University. Lum's older brother, Hubert F. "Hub" Hawthorn Jr. also attended Lamar and was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. Lum followed in their footsteps, attending Lamar, joining Sigma Nu, and graduating with a bachelor's degree in history and government in 1963.

Norma also attended Lamar, graduating cum laude with a B.A. in English in 1964. During her time on campus, Norma was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, an organization that would play a meaningful role in her life for the next 30 years.

"Norma and I feel that we received an excellent education at Lamar, which served as a solid foundation for more advanced later studies," Lum explained. "Had Lamar not been located in our hometown, we're not sure we could have afforded to attend college and then go on to law school, as in my case, and to graduate school, as in Norma's case."

After Lamar, Lum graduated with a juris doctorate from the University of Texas. His career accomplishments included a position as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and serving as a state and federal prosecutor. Lum entered private practice in Beaumont in 1971, and he successfully practiced law until his retirement in 2021. His contributions to the field were acknowledged with many notable awards, including the preeminent "AV" rating by Martindale-Hubbell, which recognizes attorneys that have reached the highest level of professional excellence, skill and integrity.

During her college years at Lamar, Norma worked on campus in positions including switchboard operator and

student assistant to the university's president. After graduation, Norma taught in the Hamshire-Fannett school district as well as in Austin and Houston. She attended graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin, and she and Lum married in 1967. The couple has two children, Anne (Hawthorn) Newton of Austin, Texas, and the Honorable Zack Hawthorn of Beaumont, Texas, and six grandchildren.

After returning to Beaumont, Norma became an active member of her sorority's alumnae chapter and held a variety of positions during the next three decades. It was her position as chapter advisor that Norma most valued, as it provided her with the opportunity to work both with undergraduate students at Lamar and alumni from other areas.

"One of my favorite activities as chapter advisor was traveling to other areas in the state and across the country to attend conventions," she reflects. "Had I not attended Lamar, I would not have had the opportunities to meet and befriend so many women from a variety of areas and from a variety of fields."

With Lum's retirement in 2021, the couple decided to make a gift that would have a meaningful impact on the university that had played such a significant role for their family over the past century.

"We are grateful for all that Lamar has done for generations in our family, and we wanted to do something that would show our gratitude," Lum explains. "We wanted to enable others to take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities afforded by Lamar, just like we had done in our lives."

The Hawthorns made a generous donation of property located on Lake Steinhagen to the university. The proceeds from the sale of the land were used to create a scholarship for Alpha Chi Omega students and an endowment for undergraduate research in the College of Arts & Sciences. The Hawthorn Family Endowment for Student Support in the College of Arts & Sciences will help support the expanding area of undergraduate research at Lamar, and help cover the ancillary costs of such research.

"We chose the endowment for research efforts for undergraduate students because that was an area where there was a need," Lum says. "Undergraduate research is increasing at Lamar, and our hope is that the endowment will lead to an expansion of research efforts and that, as that expansion occurs, there will be further financial contributions to support this growth."

The Hawthorn Family Endowment will have a transformational impact on the College of Arts & Sciences, bringing new opportunities for undergraduate students at Lamar, contributing to innovative undergraduate research and empowering students to pursue their scholarly interests.

"Norma and I feel fortunate to be able to express our appreciation to Lamar for giving us an excellent education by creating this endowment," Lum adds. "It is also gratifying to know that the endowment will help students receive the same outstanding education that we did."

The gift also established the Alpha Chi Omega Presidential Scholarship in Norma's honor. By funding scholarships for Alpha Chi Omega students, the Hawthorns' gift will help deserving sorority students fulfill their educational dreams every year.

"I understand the financial difficulties many young women at Lamar face in being a member of a sorority and also paying tuition," Norma explains. "I feel fortunate to be able to assist in meeting some of those financial needs by endowing this scholarship."

For the Hawthorns, this contribution was a significant way to continue their family's ongoing legacy with Lamar. Their gift ensures that future generations of Lamar students will benefit from the same outstanding educational opportunities that helped shape their own lives.

"We would encourage others who attended Lamar and feel as we do to support the university in any way they can," Lum concludes. "It is so very satisfying to know that your contribution will help a student have the same rewarding educational experience that you had and help pave the way for their success in the future."



ERNESTO ALVAREZ JR.

New opportunities for a new generation

by Brooke Barnett

From left: Ernesto Alvarez Jr., left, joins his mother, Norma, and father, Ernesto, to celebrate his sister Karina's graduation with her master's degree at Provost Umphrey Stadium..

As a first-generation college graduate, Ernesto Alvarez Jr. '11 credits his undergraduate experiences at Lamar University for setting him on the path to success that he enjoys today. The 2011 Lamar graduate was born in Cotija, Michoacán, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States as a young child.

"I am thankful to my parents for coming to the U.S. when I was a toddler. They came with a willingness to learn a new trade and opened a door to create a new life for our family," Alvarez reflects. "I am where I am today because of them, and because of a group of mentors that supported me during my time at Lamar and continuing throughout my career."

Alvarez grew up in Port Arthur, Texas, graduating from Memorial High School in 2008. He came to LU immediately after graduation, majoring in business. After taking some core business courses, he took a class in business law that kindled an interest in how laws shape our society. This interest led to him changing his major to

political science, a decision that he says changed the course of his career.

"The Political Science Department felt like the right place for me," he explains. "It prepared me for law school and gave me a taste of what I would ultimately experience. Dr. [Terri B.] Davis gave me wonderful insight about how the law works, provided crucial background on case law and gave me a push towards my first year of law school."

"The dedication of my professors during my time at Lamar was unmatched," he continues. "From mock LSAT practice exams to providing guidance and mentorship, my professors cared about my success as an individual, supported my goal of getting into law school and went above and beyond to help me prepare."

One of the biggest benefits of his time at Lamar happened almost by happenstance. Alvarez had expressed interest in studying abroad as a way of earning credit hours. Norma Zarzosa, a Spanish instructor in the English and Modern Languages Department, approached him about taking a trip to Spain to take college courses at a well-known Spanish university. She

encouraged him to change his minor to Spanish, assuring him that it would serve him well in his future law career.

“I grew up speaking colloquial Spanish, but I did not speak or write the language formally. Ms. Zarzosa’s advice helped take me to the next level and prepared me to communicate with clients in my law career,” he says. “It has truly opened doors for me all over the world. For example, I was recently able to represent a client based in Latin America that didn’t speak English, and I was able to effectively communicate and propose a successful litigation strategy.”

Alvarez earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, graduating *summa cum laude* in 2011 and receiving the school’s prestigious Plummer Award. He went on to attend law school at the University of Texas School of Law, graduating with his *juris doctor* degree in 2015.

“Lamar helped open doors so I could attend my dream law school. I didn’t graduate with debt, so I didn’t go into law school burdened with student loans. That was a total game changer. It allowed me to pick and choose what law school I could attend without worrying about accumulating more debt,” he adds. “I felt like Lamar gave me an important foundation to ultimately be successful in law school.”

After completing law school, Alvarez began practicing law at Orgain, Bell & Tucker, L.L.P. in Beaumont, before taking a position with Clark Hill PLC in 2019. In addition to specializing in commercial, personal injury and energy law litigation matters, he also serves clients worldwide in corporate and employment-based immigration matters out of Clark Hill’s Houston office. He was recently promoted from associate to senior attorney, and named as “One to Watch” in commercial litigation in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

“My long-term career goal is to continue to improve the skill sets that I work on every day. A lot of good can come out of the law. I’ve seen it first hand,” he reflects. “I enjoy working with clients, and on the immigration side, I value giving others the same opportunities that this country has allowed me to

“Lamar University is doing a tremendous job attracting first generation Latino students. It shows their dedication to reach a large, underserved community and to provide unmatched opportunities. I am proud of Lamar’s administration for reaching out to these students and opening doors. I can think of no better educational option out there.”

—Ernesto Alvarez Jr.



enjoy. I’ve also had a chance to represent and help large and small business owners involved in litigation, so I can really see the impact that honest, hard-working representation has.”

Since graduation, Alvarez has continued to spend time on LU’s campus to encourage first-generation college students. He served as the speaker at the Celebrating Hispanic Excellence Reception for the Division of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence in 2018 and at the *La Celebración Latina Primavera* in May 2021.

“Alumni can have a big impact on first-generation students by providing mentorship, answering questions and simply being there for them,” he says. “There is no point in climbing the ladder of professional success if you can’t lend a hand to those coming up behind you.”

One of the students who climbed the ladder behind Alvarez was his own sister, Karina. She earned both a bachelor’s of business administration in accounting and master of science in accounting, and was recruited from Lamar to work for one of the top accounting firms in the U.S.

“When you are in high school, you want to have the best college experience. I think Lamar is a great bet for high school students in southeast Texas and elsewhere.

Lamar’s educational offerings and my amazing experience there played a large role in my sister’s decision to follow in my footsteps. I know that her professors cared as much about her as my professors did about me,” Alvarez reflects.

With strong family ties to LU, Ernesto looks forward to continuing to pave the way for other first-generation students, including those whose families recently immigrated to the U.S.

“Lamar University is doing a tremendous job attracting first generation Latino students. It shows their dedication to reach a large, underserved community and to provide unmatched opportunities. I am proud of Lamar’s administration for reaching out to these students and opening doors. I can think of no better educational option out there.”

A safe space created for us, by us **LU BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK**

by Shelbe Rodriguez



For years, Aron Lavergne '17, Aliyah Thomas '16 and Weslynn Morris '17 envisioned a way to give back to students at Lamar University while keeping Black alumni connected to the institution. The group had discussed launching an alumni group several times and, although the vision was there, the timing was never right. That all changed, however, after the passing of their friend and fellow alumnus Olutosin Akintod '17 in December 2020. The group connected with LU Alumni Affairs in February the following year to create an executive board for what would later be named the LU Black Alumni Network.

Officially chartered in June of 2021, the LU Black Alumni Network comprises a 13-member executive board that focuses on providing support, resources, networking opportunities and mentorship to LU alumni and students. The network seeks to empower, connect and celebrate the Black community at Lamar University and unites LU alumni and students through the LU Office of Alumni Affairs.

Lavergne serves as the current president of the network's executive board and said the network will allow Black alumni to have a seat at the table and make their voices heard.



Front row from left: Weslynn (Taylor) Morris '17, Aliyah Thomas '16, Aaron Lavergne '17. Middle row from left: Krystal Equere-White '15, JR Richardson '92, Tondelyn (Donatto) Johnson '98, Lucky Nwaozuru '14, '17. Back row: Anthony Holmes '91

"This is a safe space created for us, by us, where we can all celebrate being Black alums" he said. "The network also has a mentorship piece to it, so this will help Black students get the most out of their college experience at LU."

The group's mentorship program will help connect current Black students with Black alumni across the globe. Mentors will provide support and guidance on how to navigate their college experience

or strategies for obtaining internships and post-graduate career opportunities.

"The goal of the mentorship program is to connect our Black students with Black alumni who understand their experiences," said Shannon Figueroa, director of alumni affairs. "The mentorship program is going to help encourage Black students and teach them about the importance of networking and completing internships in their field of study so they are better prepared to get started in their careers."

The group hosted the inaugural Black Alumni Network Homecoming Scholarship Gala last November to help establish the LU Black Alumni Network Scholarship to benefit LU students.

"I'm hoping that the Black Alumni Network will serve as a blueprint for other organizations to start on the alumni side," Lavergne said. "I see this as an opportunity for Black alumni and all alumni to be able to have a large voice with the university as a whole."

More information on the Lamar University Black Alumni Network is available by visiting lamar.edu/blackalumni. For more information on creating an Affinity Alumni Network, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs.



Plata Invited to El Salvador National Team Camp

by James Dixon

LU senior defender Juana Plata was named to the El Salvador National team during the 2021 season. Plata joins a growing list of names who have been selected to compete for their respective national teams under the direction of soccer Head Coach Steve Holeman.

“We are very excited for Juana and the opportunity she has to represent El Salvador,” said Holeman. “Being called into the full national team camp is an incredible honor, and I know she will do well. We wish her the best.”

Joining the program in Holeman’s third season, the Houston native has been a huge reason in the Cardinals’ most recent success. During her career, Plata has overcome injuries to play in 66 games, recording 61 starts.

During that time, the Cardinals posted a 46-25-4 (.640) overall record, which included a 24-6-2 (.714) mark in Southland Conference play before making the transition to the Western Athletic Conference. In addition to the wins, Plata also helped guide the Red and White to a 2019 SLC regular season and conference tournament title with a 10-1 (.909) league record and advance to the NCAA Championships.

“I’m extremely grateful for the coaches and my teammates who have helped me get to this point,” said Plata. “I’m very excited to enter this new chapter in my playing career.”

“The funny thing is, I don’t think most people know I’m part El Salvadoran,” said Plata. “I had a former coach that put me in touch with the national team coach, and that is when I realized this could be a possibility,” added Plata.

Plata took a leave of absence from the Cardinals during the season to participate in the national team training camp. According to the invitation letter, Plata is “expected to represent El Salvador in every FIFA event.”

A former district MVP at Houston’s Davis High School, Plata’s success on the pitch got started at an early age. During her rookie season, Plata took on a leadership role, receiving team offensive MVP honors. An all-academic selection as a prepster, Plata was looking for more than just a strong soccer program when she was deciding where to play her college soccer.

“I was definitely looking for a good program, but I also wanted to stay close to home so my family could see me play,” said Plata. “In addition to that, academics was a big deal to me. I was interested in the

marketing program at Lamar. Along with that, the coaching staff here was extremely welcoming and made me feel right at home.

“I’ve always known I wanted to pursue soccer further than just college, but I didn’t know to what extent,” said Plata. “I believe I’m ready for the challenge of playing for El Salvador. Teams notice if you play for a national team, and it brings recognition to your abilities on the field.”

“This is a huge blessing, and I’m thankful to Lamar for the opportunities I’ve received to improve myself and further my career, both on the field and in the classroom,” she said.

A former first-team All-Southland Conference and 2019 United Soccer Coaches All-Midwest Region Third-Team selection, Plata joins an ever-increasing number of Cardinals—the list has grown to 15 players—who have been invited to national youth team camps or qualified for their national teams since Holeman’s arrival in Beaumont. Most recently, Paloma Martinez was invited to the Mexican U-20 National Camp in October 2020 and former conference player of the year Esther Okoronkwo debuted with the Nigerian National Team in June 2021.

Dream Makers

We express our deep gratitude to the alumni and friends of Lamar University who have recently established endowments or made plans to endow gifts through estate plans. These gifts encourage students to pursue a college education and support faculty in creating innovative learning environments. An endowment creates a legacy that becomes a permanent piece of LU's history. To learn more about how you can endow a gift to Lamar, we invite you to visit our website at www.lamar.edu/development or to start planning a gift through your estate visit www.legacy.lamar.edu. In this issue of Cardinal Cadence, we are honored to recognize these Dream Makers.

by Karen Nichols

Michael and Cindy Lindsay endowed the **Michael and Cindy L. Lindsay Scholarship in Audiology** honoring Dr. James Connor Sullivan. The Lindsays have been partners with Lamar University for more than 25 years, establishing varied scholarships to honor former alumni and supporters. Michael is an attorney with Lindsay, Lindsay and Parsons Law Firm, and Cindy is a marketing and public relations director. They endowed this scholarship to benefit graduate students pursuing a Doctor of Audiology degree. The Lindsays credit Sullivan and his team in being instrumental in saving Michael's hearing, and the scholarship reflects the Lindsays' gratitude and recognizes Sullivan's commitment to education. Sullivan is a clinical audiologist in the Bobby R. Alford Department of Otolaryngology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Patricia and Floyd McSpadden's deep affinity for Lamar University and the community at large led them to endow the **Patricia and Floyd McSpadden Scholarship in Choral Music**. Patti's career was in elementary education and Floyd's in law. He was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1972. Both have been very involved in many aspects of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Patti is a founding committee member of the historic *Lamarissimo!* Concert Series. Both have been donors to and served on the Friends of the Arts, with Patti serving as president from 2001 to 2002. Most recently, they were honored at the 2022 Lamar University Le Grand Bal. Floyd served on the Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees and was president of the board from 2000 to 2002. In 2009, he changed career direction, joining Lamar University as its first director of planned giving until his retirement in 2019. Floyd and Patti additionally have named Lamar University in their estate plans.

Dr. John C. Schnick '68 graduated from Lamar State College of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. While attending Lamar, Dr. Schnick was a member of the marching band, and as a member of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, he served terms as the fraternity's secretary, vice president and representative to the

Student Government Association. Dr. Schnick was also a Lamar Ambassador. He joined the Hillcroft Medical Clinic in 1977 and practiced there until he retired. Through his estate, Dr. Schnick will endow the **William B. Schnick and LaDonna C. Schnick Scholarship**. In recognition of this gift, a rehearsal room in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music will be named the Irish Williams Rehearsal Room in honor of the woman who instilled in Dr. Schnick a love of music, and a plaque noting the same will be placed near the Bosendorfer piano he also will bequeath to Lamar University.

Paul Wheelington, along with family, friends and colleagues, established the **Shirley F. Wheelington Scholarship in Education** in memory of his wife. Shirley Wheelington '71, '88, attended Lamar University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Master of Education in Educational Leadership. She was a beloved educator for more than 30 years in West Hardin Elementary and both South Park and Beaumont school districts as a kindergarten teacher. She retired from Dishman Elementary in 2001.

Luanne Turco Jones '78 majored in marketing and graduated from Lamar with a Bachelor of Business Administration. While attending LU, she was a twirler, member of the Lamar Ballet Company and Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Additionally, Luanne was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta and Cap & Gown, as well as a candidate for Homecoming queen. She has had a lengthy career in technology and endowed the **Luanne Turco Jones Scholarship in Business**, supporting both graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Business.

Regina Rogers '14, attorney and former Lamar University System regent, endowed the **Georgiana "Georgie" Bass Volz Memorial Scholarship in Nursing** in loving memory of her friend Georgie Volz. Georgie lived most of her life in the Golden Triangle and spent her professional career as a public servant in the health and environmental fields. She also dedicated her time and effort to the Julie Rogers Gift of Life organization. Regina Rogers has humbly gifted her talent and treasures to Lamar University for more than 35 years. In 2014, Lamar

University honored her with the Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Fred Smith Jr. '59 has included a bequest in his will to create the **Celeste Kitchen Endowed Memorial Scholarship**. Smith shared that he is forever grateful for the encouragement and mentoring he received from Celeste Kitchen. Smith received his Bachelor of Science degree from Lamar State College of Technology with a major in sociology and a minor in science. After completing his master's degree in education at Sam Houston State University and his doctorate in education at Texas A&M University, his career in education spanned more than 30 years and included work as a teacher, counselor and principal.

Donald '76 and Geraldine Lapham '64 have had a connection to Lamar University for decades. Geraldine received a certification of completion for secretarial science and had a successful career at Dupont, Beaumont Works, before retiring after 37 years of service. Donald completed his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering specializing in instrumentation while working at Texaco and other local refineries. He also was manager of electrical and instrumentation for Chicago Bridge & Iron at the Beaumont location. Donald attended numerous engineering classes alongside three of his siblings, Susan (Lapham) Dufour '69, '71, '77; David Lapham '76; and Michael Lapham '77, '78. Geraldine's daughter, Julie (Joffrion) Farah '92 earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. Donald and Geraldine established the **Donald and Geraldine Lapham Endowed Scholarship in Electrical Engineering**, exhibiting their pride in having so many Lamar alumni in the family and recognizing the successful careers for which their educations prepared them.

In 2017 William '73 and Susan Thacker pledged a gift, and in 2021 the **William and Susan Thacker Scholarship** was established. William is a graduate of Lamar University's Master of Business Administration program with a 50-year career in the energy sector. William and Susan endowed the scholarship to provide opportunity to Lamar students who might otherwise find it difficult

to pursue a college degree, especially students in Southeast Texas, where Lamar serves a strategic role.

Joe '70 and Gloria '68 Koshkin endowed the **J. D. Koshkin Scholarship in Accounting**. Joe attended Lamar State College of Technology and, after earning a B.B.A. in accounting, subsequently completed training in the U.S. Army and passed the C.P.A. exam. He spent his career in public accounting, working in various roles with large multinational companies and retiring from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in 2006. Joe continues to serve and volunteer on various professional and community boards and committees. Gloria earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and began her career as one of the first special education teachers in the Port Neches school district before continuing her career with the Spring Branch school district in Houston as an elementary special education teacher.

Drs. David L. Hall and Jeannette G. Hall endowed the **LouAnn Asbury Endowed Scholarship Master's Program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling**. LouAnn Asbury '62 was born in and attended public school in Beaumont, where both her parents were teachers. She received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Lamar State College of Technology and later moved to Dallas to attend Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University where she earned her Master of Divinity in 1988. She was a Methodist minister in Arkansas and Louisiana for 11 years. LouAnn felt her true calling was in counseling, so she moved to Santa Fe, N.M., to pursue her Master of Counseling at Southeast College. After graduation, she became the first counselor at the Cancer Center at St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe. Her family shared that LouAnn was adored by many and touched countless lives as a minister, counselor and spiritual advisor, but her greatest accomplishment and source of pride were her two children, David and Holli.

Ivan D. "Denny" Robertson III '77 graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and soon after started working with Dow Chemical in Freeport.

After leaving Dow he moved to contract engineering for 23 years for three different firms in the Beaumont area. In 2009, Denny formed his own corporation, Process Plus Inc., focusing on project work and consulting. In 2021, when he endowed the **Ivan D. Robertson III Scholarship in Chemical Engineering**, he had spent the previous 12 years as lead process engineer on three major Diamond Green Diesel projects. Upon endowing the scholarship, he wrote he hoped the scholarship recipients "have a successful time at Lamar and in your career."

Todd Hoffman '88 and family endowed the **Michael W. Hoffman Scholarship in Management** in honor of his father. Michael Hoffman earned a Certificate of Completion in Diesel Mechanics from Lamar State College of Technology in 1970 and an associate degree in mid-management in 1977. Todd shared that his father, Mike, earned his degrees from Lamar and used what he learned to excel in his trade while always finding time to coach and mentor others along the way. People who worked with Mike describe him as hardworking, honest, committed, authentic, dependable, family-oriented and a man of faith.

Bill Urquhart '74 graduated summa cum laude from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and was co-vaedictorian. He was very involved on campus, participating in Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and serving as Student Government Association president from 1973-1974. Bill and his wife Becky shared they both appreciate the extra pressure stress adds to a student's pursuit of a college degree and want to help relieve it. Bill has provided in his estate to endow the **Bill and Becky Urquhart Scholarship**.

The **Locke Family Regents Scholarship** is the seventh scholarship endowed by Charles '44 and Gloria Locke and family through the Helen Caldwell Locke & Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Trust benefitting Lamar University. Their scholarships support the students of Lamar in the areas of theatre, dance, communication, engineering and business as well as scholarships open

to all majors. The family's ties to Lamar began with Charles who graduated from Lamar College with an Associate of Arts. Charles and Gloria's son David '76 earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management. Robert Cobb '78, husband of Ann Locke Cobb, graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. Charles and Gloria have also supported Lamar in many ways through Le Grand Bal and Friends of the Arts.

Lum '63 and Norma '64 Hawthorn created the **Hawthorn Family Endowment for Student Support in the College of Arts and Sciences**. The endowment will provide support for student development in undergraduate research in the fields of history and political science. Lum's father, Hubert F. Hawthorn, attended South Park Junior College, the predecessor to Lamar University, and Lum's elder brother Hubert F. "Hub" Hawthorn Jr. also attended Lamar. Lum graduated with a degree in history and government and was a Sigma Nu as were his father and brother. Norma graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority and the Order of Omega, a national Greek honor society. Lum and Norma are proud of the contributions Lamar University has made to the Southeast Texas community and for the education they, Lum's father and his brother received at Lamar.

The **Alpha Chi Omega Presidential Scholarship Honoring Norma Paderas Hawthorn** was initiated by the Alpha Chi Omega sorority and its then chapter advisor, Andrea Stephenson. When Lum '63 and Norma '64 Hawthorn learned of the honor, they generously endowed the scholarship. The Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega was founded Nov. 17, 1956, at Lamar State College of Technology, now known as Lamar University. While Norma was a freshman, she pledged Alpha Chi Omega. During her college years, Norma was employed by Lamar in positions ranging from relief secretary to switch board operator, was an active member of her sorority and served on the Lamar yearbook staff and as editor in chief. In 1969, Norma began an active membership in the Alpha Chi Omega Alumnae Chapter, holding positions as president and treasurer, and served for 30 years as chapter advisor at Lamar.

Tracy R. Timmons '98 earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from Lamar University as a first-generation college student. She was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers while majoring in civil engineering. When Tracy's mother passed away from diabetes during her sophomore year, she changed her major to health education. Tracy is currently a librarian at Houston Community College. She has chosen to include Lamar University in her estate plans and will establish the **Tracy R. Timmons Endowed Scholarship for Engineering Students** in memory of her late parents, Thomas and Aire Timmons.

Dr. John C. Price '66 pledged a gift to endow a scholarship. After his death in 2018, his wife, Jo Price, completed the pledge commitment and endowed the **Dr. John C. Price Scholarship in Biology**. Dr. Price graduated from Lamar State College of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and went on to earn his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. His career included an internship at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas, and residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital. During his service in the Vietnam War, he was stationed at an Army hospital on Okinawa. He went on to become chief of ENT/head and neck surgery and facial reconstruction at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio. After he retired, he continued to work with wounded warriors at Walter Reed.

Khin Khin Aung, along with other family and friends, endowed the **Dr. Kendrick Aung Memorial Scholarship and Design Award in Mechanical Engineering**. Kendrick Aung was a professor in the Lamar University College of Engineering teaching mechanical engineering from 2001 to 2020 and served as interim department chair in 2020. While at Lamar, Aung mentored more than 50 senior capstone design teams, several of which won prizes and scholarships in regional and national design competitions such as SAE Baja and the Texas Space Grant Consortium Design Challenge. In 2019, Aung was the recipient of the University Professor Award in recognition of his superior teaching, scholarship and service to the university.

Charlotte L. Stirling '77 graduated from Lamar with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. She spent 30 years in the mortgage and real estate industries before retiring in 2011. Tom Stirling '77 earned his Bachelor of Science in Geology from Lamar and ultimately retired from ExxonMobil. Charlotte and Tom met at Lamar and married in 1978. They have designated Lamar University Foundation in their wills with the intent to create two endowed scholarships for the benefit of Lamar University: the **Tom and Charlotte Stirling Scholarship Fund for the Arts** and the **Tom and Charlotte Stirling Scholarship Fund for Athletics**.

The **Catherine Edwards and Lum C. Edwards III Memorial Scholarship** was endowed by a group of family and friends led by Gerry (Wiggins) Edwards '92, Allison (Edwards) Brocato '85 and Carl Webber Ferguson Jr. Catherine Edwards '85 graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, was a Kappa Sigma Little Sister, attended Leadership Lamar and was a freshman peer advisor. After graduation, Catherine became a vibrant, caring and loving schoolteacher who cared deeply for her students. Lum C. Edwards III '89 graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. He served as vice-president of Edwards & Sherlock Insurance Agency and became a partner in 2012. Catherine and Lum's family shared they each were proud to graduate from Lamar and realized the importance of a quality education.

The Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees endowed the **Dr. Kenneth R. Evans Distinguished Faculty Fellowship** in honor of Evans' leadership and service as president of Lamar University from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2021. He was the 15th president of Lamar University. Prior to his service at Lamar, he was dean and Fred E. Brown Chair at the Michael F. Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma.

Ronnie '78, '80, and Krista '85 (Allred) Smith are "proud graduates of Lamar University." Krista earned a degree in elementary education, and Ronnie received his degrees in engineering—a

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering. Ronnie describes his engineering education received at Lamar as second to none, allowing him to succeed in starting and running a highly successful engineering company in the oil and gas sector. He proudly endowed the **Ronnie Smith Family Scholarship** so that others may have the opportunity to succeed in the engineering field.

Charles Gongre '67 commuted from Orange to Lamar State College of Technology for four years to earn a Bachelor of Arts in English. During his years at Lamar, he received several scholarships which helped make it possible for him to complete his degree. In his senior year, he worked as a student assistant in the Department of English and went on to receive a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in English. From 1973 to 1976, he was an adjunct instructor of English at Lamar University, and in 1977 he became an instructor of English at the Lamar campus in Port Arthur. When Lamar State College-Port Arthur became a separately accredited institution in 1987, Gongre was dean of Academics and Continuing Education Programs. He continued to teach English, eventually becoming the first full professor at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. Gongre endowed the **Dr. Charles Gongre Scholarship in English** and has directed additional funds to the scholarship through his estate plan.

Scott '81 and Jamie '84 McCauley endowed the **Thomas W. Oszczakiewicz Memorial Scholarship in Electrical Engineering**. Thomas Oszczakiewicz '69 graduated from Northampton High School in 1944 and enlisted in maritime service. He attended officer school in New York and for the next decade would honorably serve this country. Retiring from maritime service in 1953, he later began a career in the petrochemical industry and enrolled in Lamar State College of Technology. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and became a licensed professional engineer in the State of Texas. He founded Omega Engineering and throughout his career mentored many young engineers.





The heart OF A FAMILY

by Andrew Strange

The Dishman name is well known at Lamar University. Whether for the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, the George A. Dishman Sr. Presidential Endowment, or the Dishman Art Museum, named for Herb and Kate Dishman, the ties between LU and the Dishman family go back some 75 years when George Austin Dishman Jr. attended Lamar Tech.

The eldest of three brothers, George spent his early years working the family rice farm while attending Beaumont High School. Even in high school, George's mind had a tendency toward the business end of things.

"He was manager of the football team," said Judy Dishman, his wife of 64 years. "But he did not play, he was just the manager."

After graduating from Beaumont High School in 1947, George attended Lamar Tech where he studied business.

George was finishing his education at

Lamar Tech with his sights set on A&M when he met his bride-to-be. Judy said her courtship with George began when they were graduating high school and entering college. They married in 1952, eventually having three children: Austin, Melanie and Claire.

The young couple would endure a short time apart, however, when George was assigned to Hamilton Air Force Base in California after graduating from A&M with the rank of 2nd lieutenant.

After boot camp, George went to Germany where he spent another six months away from his wife before she and their newborn son, Austin, also moved abroad to be with George.

In August of 1954, the family moved back to the United States where George's uncle, Herbert Eugene Dishman, had a job opportunity in the oil industry waiting for him. This would be the start of George's multi-faceted career.

"Dad was an oil and gas land man," Austin said. "He bought mineral leases from people who owned land that the geologists were interested in."

George eventually started his own company with his brother and a geologist friend, The Prudential Drilling Company.

George wore many hats, working in oil and gas, banking and real estate. He was on the board of directors at First Security National Bank and served on the board of Conn's Appliances.

C&D Realty began as a project between George and his friend and colleague, C.W. Conn, and brought the first Taco Bell fast food restaurants to Southeast Texas.

George always maintained close ties with his alma mater and, in 1981, was appointed to the Board of Regents at Lamar University by Gov. Bill Clements. He and Judy established the George A. Dishman Sr. Presidential Scholarship in 1984 in honor of George's father, who served for many years as president of South Park Independent School District. The scholarship so far has helped 22 students complete their education. George's uncle Herbert Dishman Sr. and his wife Kate spearheaded the campaign to found the Dishman Art Gallery in 1983. Now the Dishman Art Museum, it stewards a permanent collection of more than 1500 objects. It has hosted hundreds of artists and thousands of art lovers since its doors opened in 1983 to inspire and educate. George received the highest honor bestowed on Lamar University



alumni when he was named Distinguished Alumnus in 2015.

In October 2006, in honor of his wife Judy, George endowed Lamar University's first named department, the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing, which marked a Lamar milestone.

"Dad wanted to do something out there (at Lamar) for mother," Melanie said. "But he didn't know what. I worked with Jimmy [Simmons] and Camille [Mouton] a little bit to come up with some ideas, and they arrived at that—not because mother was a nurse, but because her mother and her aunt, with whom she was really close, both were registered nurses." Judy's mother, Edna Horn Gay, for whom the Edna Horn Gay Learning Center within the school is named, and her aunt, Clara Louise Horn, enjoyed distinguished careers. James "Jimmy" M. Simmons served LU as president from 1999 to 2013 and Camille Mouton was vice president of university advancement.

Austin and Melanie both graduated from Lamar University—Austin in 1978 with a degree in accounting, and Melanie in 1988 with a degree in organizational communication.

Melanie said she had a wonderful

experience at Lamar both as a student and a 20-year employee, having worked in the Continuing Education division and for KVLU Public Radio as co-station manager for development.

"I had such a wonderful experience at Lamar," Melanie said. "And working there was a real pleasure for me because I enjoy the academic setting. I knew a lot of people on campus, and saw great things happen to Lamar while I was employed there. It's been a major part of this family, and it is a major job provider for the community and our institution of higher learning for this whole area."

Austin and Melanie have followed their father's example regarding work ethic.

"He believed in work, Melanie said of her father. "He would say, tomorrow I want you to get up in the morning...and you're going to come to my office and work. I have to give him a lot of credit for that. When I did grow up and had to go into the working world, I knew how to behave in an office and how to conduct myself in the business world. He gave me that, and it took me very far."

Austin said one of his greatest lessons from his father was the value of a job well done.

"If you were going to do a job for Dad, he wanted you to do it right," Austin said. "I worked for him for two or three years...and when I would come up with my ownership report, it had better be right. And that served me well after I got into the title insurance business. I made sure all my title examiners came up with the right answer and double checked it. That's the work ethic he gave me."

Austin said philanthropy is important to the Dishmans because it gives others a chance at opportunities they may not otherwise get.

Melanie said she has had good examples in her family and thinks it is important to give in places in one's community where it is needed.

"It feels good to give and it feels good to put it in places where it is needed," Melanie said. "And I think that as a family and expanded family, I see all of us trying to do that. If you make a place your home, I think it's incumbent upon you to try to give back in some way whether it's to Lamar or something that is close to your heart in this community—it's the thing to do." And Lamar University is certainly the stronger and the better for the heart and generosity of the Dishmans.



WILLIAMS



DARBY



COVINGTON



CONWAY

CARDINAL *love stories*

KIANDRA (BOWERS) '17 AND WESLEY WILLIAMS '15

In April of 2014, Kiandra and I finally met and spent our first day with each other like most sports couples do . . . watching the NBA playoffs! Our connection became instant and would grow from there. Kiandra was a star post for the Lady Cardinals basketball team, and I worked for LU video filming all sports, which worked out great because I rarely missed a game that Kiandra played. She finished her last year of LU basketball in 2018 with me watching in the stands, constantly cheering her on. Kiandra and I each graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication and were engaged in May of 2020. We married this past March—nearly eight years strong of Big Red Love!

REBEKAH '15 (FARLEY) AND WILLIAM COVINGTON '17

My husband, Will, is a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Every Wednesday night, they would play Ultimate Frisbee. Will had a Deaf brother, Steven Whitworth '13. Steven and I were both in the American Sign Language program, and we were both Deaf. He made an open invite to all of his Deaf friends to join Ultimate Frisbee. One night, I decided to go and was placed on one team while Will played on the opposing team. During the game, someone threw the frisbee, and it was flying toward me. As I ran to try to catch it, Will body slammed me out of nowhere. I didn't see him coming. He didn't see me either. He was trying to catch the frisbee as well. Seeing me on the ground, he felt bad.

However, he froze. He didn't know a lot of sign language at that time. He scanned around the field and made eye contact with his Deaf brother, Steven. In sign language, he used the ABCs to fingerspell "S-O-R-R-Y" to ask him what was the sign for sorry. Steven showed him. Will's first sign to me was "SORRY," and his first romantic gift to me were grass stains. Now, he's fluent in sign language, and we're madly in love. We've been married for almost five years now. In addition, I'm pregnant with our first child. The baby is coming in August! We've been working on our nursery room, and we're so excited to welcome this little one in our world! Thank you, Lamar, for being an awesome matchmaker!

CHRISTY (LINDSEY) '91 AND JEFF DARBY '88

I met Christy in October 1987 while I was a senior and she was a first-semester freshman. We met through mutual friends at a real "romantic" venue (a fast-food place on Nederland Avenue in Nederland). We agreed to go on a double-date the next night: the Port Neches-Groves vs. Nederland football game! As I was from Groves and she was from Nederland, that could have been our last date (the school rivalry dates back to 1925). We sat on the Nederland side, and I cheered for PN-G; she thought I was a jerk (maybe she was/is right). It must have been "divine intervention:" the game was a tie. We went on another date the next week. And then another, and . . . I got my B.A. in history the next May. We got engaged in August 1988 and married Dec. 17,

1988. Christy graduated with a B.S. in elementary education in May 1991. We have three daughters who are all Lamar alumnae: Lindsey (B.A., December 2016), Catherine Bardwell (B.S., May 2019, and B.S., July 2020) and Melissa Mondragon (B.S., December 2020). Our sons-in-law are also Lamar alumni: Raul Mondragon (B.S., May 2020) and Jordan Bardwell (B.S., May 2021). I have been an Investigator with the United States Government since 1989 and a national, state and regional union officer for almost 25 years. Christy is a math teacher at Nederland High School.

PHUONG (LE) '12 AND CODY CONWAY '10

During the summer of 2011, I made the decision to enroll in a study abroad course the Biology Department hosted to study tropical marine biology and watershed ecology in Belize. Little did I know, Cody attended the same course in 2009. We connected through a mutual friend who attended both times (once as an undergrad and then again as a master's student) and hit it off from there. Belize sparked our love of seeing the world and all its natural wonders. Our love of wildlife and photography has brought us to so many countries. Pictured in our photo was our trip to Komodo Island in Indonesia with one of the wild Komodo dragons. I currently work locally as a veterinary technician at an animal hospital, and my husband works in the natural gas field. We together have a little menagerie of animals and travel in our spare time.

Submit your Cardinal Love Story at lamar.edu/cardinallovestory

Lamar University®
LU in the Sky with Diamonds
 Le Grand Bal 2022

Performing on silks, from left, student Haley White Mosely and Travis Prokop, associate professor of dance



- 1** Andy Coughlin and Ramona Young '09
- 2** Traci '15 and Dr. Wagdy Rizk
- 3** Wafa '08 and Fred Vernon '12, '13
- 4** Scott and Tammy Crutchfield, left, with Lee and Scott Mann
- 5** Dalton '65 and Myra Babineaux, Bret and Monica Babineaux, Danny and Charlene Babineaux, Russel '81 and Gracelyn Miller '92
- 6** Honorees Patti and Floyd McSpadden with Betsy, artist honoree, and Earl Hines
- 7** Donald and JoEllyn Jowers, left, with Jennifer Job and Daniel Doyle '13, '16
- 8** Dean Terrebonne '11, Amy Lovoi '13, '15, Rusty Chimeno '87, Paula Lovoi '68, '93
- 9** Laura Escamilla '05, '06, Genevieve Brassard '09, Lara and Jamie Strawther, Aron '09 and Mandy Arceneaux '10, Bryan Brassard '05, '19
- 10** Omair '14, '16 and Humza Arfeen, Dr. Qamar and Kelli Arfeen '91, Catie and Richard Shafer
- 11** Andre Ramos-Woodard '17 and husband José
- 12** Dennis Kiel, Brandi Hamilton '21



Lamar University Friends of the Arts hosted Le Grand Bal in-person this year with the theme LU in the Sky with Diamonds. Laura and Craig Escamilla chaired a 21-person committee to create this psychedelic celebration of the Beatles in support of fine arts programs within the College of Fine Arts & Communication. The March 26 event honored lifelong art lovers and LU advocates Patti and Floyd McSpadden, who have made invaluable contributions to the arts at Lamar and throughout Southeast Texas. The evening began with a silent art auction in the Dishman Art Museum before continuing in the Setzer Student Center with dinner and dancing. The 2022 artist honoree is Betsy Burleson Hines, who taught piano for 28 years in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music and performed with the Symphony of Southeast Texas for 40 years as well as at countless events throughout the community, bringing joy to thousands. This year, Le Grand Bal, with more than 25 underwriters and friends, raised \$84,000 in support of fine arts students.



AUDIT?

*Never fear,
a Cardinal
is near*

by Elizabeth Newman



83%

of accounting students secure employment prior to graduation



accounting majors
job placement rate
nearly 100%

JOHN HALLMARK '96, B.S. in Accounting
Assurance Partner, BDO USA in Houston, TX



John Hallmark grew up in Nederland, and when the time came he decided to pursue his degree at Lamar University. He says his decision to come to LU was largely because of the ability to start a new chapter in his life while staying close to family. He loved the diversity of the people, culture and ideas that he found at LU, and

it helped shape and prepare him to branch out further into the world.

Hallmark was inspired by his mother to pursue accounting. She impressed upon him that C.P.A.s made a good living and taught him skills that she gained from her own tax preparation business. He also learned vital information from working professionals that he met through his membership in Beta Alpha Psi, an honor organization for financial information industry students and professionals. He made further connections through the many opportunities provided by the college and by the faculty who encouraged him to be active in building his resume before graduation.

He graduated with several job offers and chose a position with Melton & Melton, an independent, Houston-based public accounting firm. Hallmark said that choosing a firm like Melton & Melton allowed him more personalized experiences with his peers, mentors and clients. "Finding a place that offers those types of experiences is vital for a professional just starting out," he said. He appreciates this opportunity at BDO, sharing that it is a firm that serves the mid-market and therefore a wide variety of clientele of all sizes, which, he believes, allows a professional just starting out to gain a diverse set of skills and experiences.

Hallmark said that outside of academic knowledge, being comfortable with technology is becoming a vital skill set in the industry. Additionally, he is looking for individuals that are truly engaged in the profession. "When I am interviewing, I love to see and hear an interest in the position they are applying for. Someone who has taken the time to research the company and share what they have learned really shows that they care about the position they are applying for."

Hallmark remembers his time at LU fondly and is passionate about continuing the tradition that BDO and so many other firms have of recruiting Cardinals. He says that the students from the College of Business stand out as individuals with not only excellent academic knowledge, but also an incredible work ethic that is often unmatched. "BDO has recruited at Lamar University for a long time and will continue to do so because of the high caliber of student we are able to connect with. Our partners are always excited to hear when we are getting students from LU. We know that they are going to put in the effort," he said.

CHIP MAJORS '93, B.B.A. in Accounting
Managing Partner, Wathen, DeShong & Juncker, L.L.P.



Chip Majors came to Lamar University to pursue his degree in accounting. He chose LU because of the excellent reputation of the College of Business and his desire to become a C.P.A. “When I was in junior high, I expressed my liking of math and computers. A family member confidently told me, ‘Then you need to be a C.P.A. because they’re smart

and like math.’ Well, I had half of the requirements anyway, and what I lacked in smarts, I’d make up in sheer brute force effort. That’s when I decided to be a C.P.A.,” he says. Majors considers himself lucky to have known that he wanted to pursue accounting before beginning his college career.

As a student, Majors participated in various social and business organizations, including Pi Kappa Alpha, Beta Alpha Psi and Leadership Lamar. He also spent time volunteering. These experiences helped instill the confidence he needed to succeed later in life. “Believe it or not, I am a recovering introvert. Looking back now, the campus involvement through various organizations and the experience gained through various leadership opportunities I accepted were invaluable.” Majors also credits H.A. Barlow, an accounting professor from 1952 to 1994, for helping him establish a really solid financial and accounting foundation. Majors said, “Barlow was a patient and gentle man that wasn’t afraid to challenge me with high expectations. When necessary, he would express kind disappointment when I let him down by not meeting those expectations.”

That patience is echoed in the advice that he gives to aspiring C.P.A.s now. “This profession requires technical ability and experience. The experience can only come with time, so be patient and invest your time and energy into developing a solid technical foundation. Once you identify an industry or service you are passionate about, pursue it with determination and vigor, and you’ll then be able to provide exceptional service and advice to your clients,” he said.

Majors also shared that he looks for those who have that long-term foresight when he is recruiting. He looks for students that will fit well in the firm’s culture and who share the same core values of integrity, competence, objectivity, service and community. “They need to have a strong professional ambition and be ready to embrace accounting as a lifelong career, not a transitory job,” he said. Wathen, DeShong & Juncker offers flexibility and work/life balance as well as competitive pay and benefits. The company seeks to engage and develop its employees through continued training and mentoring.

GREG FOSTER '92, B.B.A. in Accounting
Audit Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP



His grandfather’s love for numbers inspired Greg Foster to pursue accounting, and after beginning at LU as an accounting major, his introductory accounting courses helped confirm his choice was the right one. He continued to learn about the profession through events hosted by the Beta Alpha Psi fraternity, as well as from his professors. Foster gratefully remembers H.A.

Barlow and is proud to be part of the professor’s legacy of teaching and mentoring future accounting professionals. Many alumni would visit or speak to Barlow’s classes, and Foster remembers the respect and admiration they had for Barlow.

Foster had the opportunity to meet and interview with several firms before his graduation in May 1992, and shortly after marrying his wife, Elizabeth, whom he met at LU, he chose to begin his career with Deloitte. “I chose Deloitte due to two primary reasons—the people I met in the recruiting process and the opportunity to work for one of the leading public accounting firms,” he said. Deloitte is the largest professional services firm in the United States. The company’s culture is inspired by leading by example, and it is a firm that is continually evolving its approach to rewards, recognition and well-being for its employees. Foster said, “Through our recent ‘We are Deloitte’ effort, we are providing more than \$1 billion of additional investments in our people to reflect our appreciation for all they are doing and our confidence in our bright future.”

When recruiting new talent, Foster looks for students with a record of academic success and skills in areas such as analytics, project management, technology, strategic thinking and communications. But beyond those areas, he also looks for future professionals who have a desire to continually grow and learn and take advantage of the opportunities Deloitte provides. Deloitte assigns mentors to their interns who provide support on strategy and career coaching, as well as support on day-to-day questions. “Interns and professionals at Deloitte are also offered many opportunities to work in an environment where they are continually learning and growing both personally and at the team level,” Foster said.

Foster reflected that taking responsibility is one of the best pieces of advice he can give to a young professional just starting in the field. “One piece of advice I consistently provide is to take ‘ownership’ of your direct work and your team,” he said. “Focus on doing your best and taking responsibility in areas you are directly assigned while also remembering that you have collective ownership and responsibility with the rest of your team for the audit or project everyone is working on together.”

These alumni are only a few of the many professionals that successfully recruit Cardinals into rewarding careers. More than 30 financial firms meet and talk with students each year at recruiting and other events such as Meet the Firms and the Etiquette Dinner. A significant number of students begin their careers with those initial conversations, and, in addition to accounting firms, many other industries regularly recruit and hire LU grads, with more than 100 industries included in those that actively recruit on campus each year.



TOP GOAL:

Helping ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDENTS

by Andrew Strange

Lamar alumnus Larry Eastep '81 is chairman of the advisory council for the College of Arts and Sciences. From assisting students in securing internships to setting up interactions between business professionals and pre-professional students, Eastep's goal is to help students.

After earning his B.S. in criminal justice in 1981, Eastep graduated from the University of Houston Law Center and served as an assistant district attorney in Jefferson County before becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Texas, based in Tyler, Texas. He then transferred to the Southern District in Houston where he retired from the Department of Justice in 2011. Eastep now runs a litigation practice in Houston.

Looking back on his time at Lamar, Eastep recalls fondly his involvement in Greek life as a member and president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, but really emphasized his enjoyment of LU sports.

"The Lamar basketball team, during the time I was at Lamar, did not lose a home game," Eastep said. "We were

a national power. So, it was obviously very exciting as a student to go to those games at McDonald Gym and, later, in the Montagne Center.”

Eastep said he also attended the 1981 LU versus Baylor football game when the Cardinals beat the Bears 18-17 on Baylor’s field.

“I was a brand-new graduate at that point in time,” he said, “but it was still a pretty special memory.”

Eastep said he attributes his ability to stand and speak before courts and juries to his experiences at Lamar.

“I was president of my fraternity from 1978-1979,” Eastep said. “In 1979, for the first time, Lamar instituted a school-wide rush process for new rushees into the Greek system. The library was still fairly new in 1979, and there was a large event on the eighth floor.

“I spoke for my fraternity, and it was the first time I spoke in front of a large crowd—there were two or three hundred people. And I found that not only could I speak in front of a large crowd, but I was very comfortable doing it. And of course, becoming a trial lawyer later, it was very empowering in my legal career that I could stand up in front of juries and talk. And I link a lot of that back to that night on the eighth floor of the library.”

Eastep said his best advice for aspiring lawyers is to work hard, study hard and strengthen one’s writing skills.

“One thing I wished I would have done once I got into law school was to have taken more English classes to strengthen my writing skills,” he said.

Eastep said his involvement as chairman of the advisory council of the College of Arts and Sciences is not simply because he graduated

from the college but also because of his and his siblings’ history at Lamar. Additionally, he, along with his sisters and registered nurses Ann Schaeffer ’05 and Deborah Keith ’79, established a scholarship in nursing honoring their parents, the Howard and Syble Eastep Scholarship in Nursing.

“Both of my sisters went to Lamar and have degrees from the nursing program,” Eastep said. “A lot of my involvement in the College of Arts and Sciences is that my family has a scholarship we honored our parents with for their 50th anniversary in 1999. And I am still very active with the scholarship that our family sponsors there at the School of Nursing.”

This is the first time there’s been an advisory council for the College of Arts and Sciences under the leadership of Dean Lynn Maurer, and it is a collaborative effort between Eastep and Lamar, he said. The majority of council members are either Lamar alumni, professionals who have planted roots in Southeast Texas, or supporters of Lamar University.

Eastep said his number one goal as chairman of the council is to help the students in the college in any way possible.

“I came from a working-class background in Beaumont,” he said, “and my education means everything to me.

“And I know Lamar still has a lot of students like I was that come from working-class backgrounds and may even be the first in their family to go to college. And a lot of them, like I did, are working full time. So we are trying to help students who are on that path so that they have a good experience at Lamar, and so that we can help them, whether they are going directly into the workforce or they are going into professional school.”

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YOUR
Moment
IS HERE

DAVID J. BECK

Teaching Excellence Award

Celebrating Quality, Fostering Innovation and Growth

by Casey Ford

Memorable voices from the beginnings of recorded history have equated education with freedom, from Epictetus to Tolstoy, from Friedrich Schiller to Sojourner Truth, from George Washington Carver to Maya Angelou. We remember the great teachers in our lives because they have given us the permission, the space, and the ability to think, to solve problems, to set ourselves free from tyranny, ignorance, and the myriad forces that would keep any of us from touching our dreams. Lamar University distinguished alumnus David J. Beck '61 recognizes, through his friendship and donorship to our academic community, that great teachers preserve and design freedom one word, one idea, one student at a time.

For quite a few years now, Beck's gift to the Lamar University Foundation has awarded undergraduate fellowships to academically

outstanding students whose projects and internships have encouraged and energized the entire university community. In 2017, he expanded his gift to include the David J. Beck Teaching Excellence Award. The first two fellows—Ashwini Kucknoor and J. Kenneth Young—are testaments of the ideals to which educators aspire. Past LU President Kenneth Evans named these as “pedagogical prowess, a passion for teaching, and genuine interest in student success.”

Kucknoor, associate professor of biology, recently said, when asked about the impact the Beck fellowship has had on her scholarly life, that “the award was like icing on a great cake. But you keep doing what you love, regardless.” She also says that it raised the bar for her as an educator, so that she always looks for ways to continue evolving and “keep going beyond.” Kucknoor's passion

for her students and for their research has only intensified since she was awarded the fellowship. She believes her key role in her students' lives is as a mentor: she cites Benjamin Franklin, who said, “teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” She feels that teaching is always a joint venture, collaborative in nature, and that what the student brings to the shared experience matters as much or more than what the teacher brings. Her role, then, as a teacher or mentor, is to make a space where students are empowered to build and manage their own learning. What the Beck fellowship reinforces is the idea that while excellent teachers' styles and subject matter differ widely, what they share is an ability to connect with their students. Microbiology and genetics are indeed highly scientific subjects, but Kucknoor says they could not be more personal—they are subjects that

literally live inside of us. She believes the humanity of their highly technical research is what allows her and her students to form collegial bonds and foster real, lasting learning. “I help them put the science inside their own stories,” she says. Many of her students, including Carlo Vanz, who nominated her, have gone on to pursue doctoral degrees, and she believes that this is what the Beck fellowship honors, that her students' successes are the best indicator of her own.

Three of his doctoral students nominated J. Kenneth “Ken” Young, associate professor of educational leadership and the most recent Beck fellow, so as he looks back, hindsight shows him that the impact of the award has everything to do with relationships. He says he would not have sought the fellowship on his own, but because he wanted to honor his students, he accepted their nomination.

In fact, Young feels that his entire discipline, the teaching and learning of leadership, is relational. He says, “Teaching is leadership—its complexity lies in the balance of authoritative knowledge, empathy, creative problem-solving, and prioritizing others over self.” He appreciates that his winning the award is good for the College of Education and Human Development, which he champions. Recently he accepted the position of doctoral program director, a role that he hopes will allow him to translate his innovative ideas in the classroom—where he has consistently been an early adopter of new

pedagogies and technologies—to the larger program. Young embodies and engages in exceptional, relevant and relational leadership, modeling it not only for the educational leaders he is making of his students, but also for his colleagues, many of whom are adjuncts and would benefit from support and mentoring to navigate new teaching positions. His ethos is that he practices what he preaches, and the evidence of this is revealed in his students’ professional accomplishments and in the evolution and expansion of his own work. Not only does the Beck fellowship reward teaching

excellence, it also propagates opportunities for Young and other fellows to take their teaching to new heights and to make deeper impacts.

The fellowship says to teachers that they have done well; this is, no doubt, not something they hear as often as they should. It assures teachers that their work—the work of lifting others and giving them the tools to define their own freedom—has been seen and appreciated. Both these stellar teachers share two key qualities: they are each exceedingly humble, giving their students as much credit for the fellowship as themselves,

and they each perform an overwhelming amount of service to their disciplines and to the university. Each one is an innovator, and each has an impressive vita full of accomplishments, publications, and accolades, but each would also say that their achievement is most truly measured, not by their receipt of the generous Beck fellowship, but by the success of their students in the world. In these fellowships, David J. Beck’s greatest gift to the academic community is in spotlighting and celebrating those relationships and successes.



Sfeir Credits Beck Award with Advocacy, Time and Insight

Natalie Sfeir '19 is a speech and hearing sciences alumnus and is currently a speech-language pathologist and clinical fellow at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. During

her year as a Beck fellow, Sfeir traveled abroad and stateside researching dementia-friendly spaces to see how they develop and to investigate their challenges and the change they make in communities. Looking back, she believes the greatest outcomes of that experience have been how it confirmed her calling, gave her time to explore options inside that calling, and made her into an advocate for adults with cognitive communication disorders. Traveling to other states and countries brought new awareness and perspectives she could not have accessed without the Beck funding. Sfeir was mentored through her fellowship by Ashley Dockens, associate professor of speech and hearing sciences and director of audiology, and Karen Whisenhunt Saar, clinical instructor and director of SLP clinical services. She credits those faculty members with the ways they built relationships together through a shared desire to help others. As a student, Sfeir expressed a sincere desire to honor her Beck experience—which increased her own gratitude and empathy—by changing the lives of people who are in need, whose lives have not been easy. As an alumnus working in adult acute care speech pathology, that is precisely the path she is on.



Shipp Champions the Energy of Relationships

William H. Shipp IV '17 is an alumnus of the chemical engineering department and currently works in Seattle as a technical advisor for Shell. According to Shipp, though, his day-

to-day work depends as much or more on soft skills as it does technical knowledge, and the development of those skills is what he remembers as key to his year as a Beck fellow. Of course, the research was all highly technical—Shipp researched new materials for supercapacitors at Tongji University in Shanghai—but the bigger takeaways, for him, were the challenges and opportunities of cooperation and collaboration with colleagues from different cultures and with vastly different language. Today, the things he learned in China about the relational aspects of research translate now to his work as an engineer who also teaches, trains, mentors, and supports a sales network, communicating daily with other professionals from a diverse cluster of industries and backgrounds. In perhaps the truest spirit of the Beck awards, Shipp expressed a desire during his Cadence interview to focus less on his accomplishments and to instead exhort other people to apply for the fellowship and for other academic awards. He said, “I encourage everyone to go for it—even if you don’t feel you’re at the pinnacle of academic success, if you can find your passion and talk about it exuberantly and expertly at length, you are a worthy candidate for awards like this one.”



LIFELONG CARDINAL FANS

by James Dixon

In a relationship that began 15 years ago, Roger and Susan Conn McCurry '82 have been married for 13 years. Throughout their lives, they have a shared passion for Beaumont, Lamar University and Cardinal athletics. If you come to any LU men's or women's basketball game, they are front and center cheering on the Cardinals.

"I was raised here and went to school here, when a lot of my friends went to UT or A&M, because that was the 'thing to do,'" said Susan. "But, I wanted to be here. My dad would always tell me that Lamar is a good school. I liked Beaumont, so I wanted to stay, and that's what I did.

"When I was a student, it was the same time Norman Bellard, Clarence Kea and B.B. Davis were playing. That was the year we advanced to the Sweet 16. It was at that time that I really started to watch basketball. After Norman graduated, he came back to Beaumont and was hired by my father. I went by the office one day and saw Norman working there. He was a star to me. I eventually worked in Norman's department, and we became friends and would talk about basketball a lot. That is really how it got started," added Susan.

Roger was also a student at LU, while working full time. A true fan of basketball, he has always supported the Red and White.

"I've always been a sports fan, and I've always followed Lamar," said Roger. "Even back then, if I didn't come to a game, I was getting the newspaper the next day and checking the box scores. I could tell you their stats, who the leading scorers were, and I've just continued to follow Lamar."

The link to LU is a generational connection that reflects a love for the university as a whole, and not just its sports teams.

"I'm not sure of everything my parents have done with the university, but my parents were heavily involved with the education department because their mothers were teachers," said Susan. "Daddy got his master's degree here and was a distinguished alumni. He loved Lamar!" Susan's parents, C.W. Conn Jr. '69 and Dorothy Ann Conn, endowed the Conn Chair in Gifted Education and established the C.W. Conn Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Business. LU named C.W. Jr. a distinguished alumnus

in 1982 and inducted him into the College of Business Hall of Fame in 2003. He served as regent from 1989 to 1992 and as LU Foundation president from 1987 to 1990.

"When Tic Price took over the men's program, he really let us get to know the guys. I really enjoyed that because I love kids and getting to know who they are. That has been special to us, and we've had a lot who have stayed in touch," added Susan.

Fans who attend games at the Montagne Center can see the positive mark the McCurrys have left on athletics through the state-of-the-art videoboard and scoreboard that hangs in the arena. Current and future Cardinals recognize it firsthand every time they walk into the locker room, its renovations owed to the McCurry's generosity, but that LU love extends to the entire community.

In conjunction with LU's collaboration with Pietzsch-MacArthur Elementary School, the McCurrys purchased 900 new bicycles for each student of the school as a Christmas gift. The following year, they invited LU student-athletes to accompany them and more than 100 Beaumont school district elementary students to pick out toys for Christmas.

"That is something that came from my parents," Susan said. "Daddy would always say the community got him to where he was with his business, because Conn's started here, and he wanted to help the community out. It was something they always did, and I guess that really impressed upon me, it has become something that I want to do."

In 2019, walking in her father's footsteps, Susan received the highest honor bestowed on an alumna by the LU Office of Alumni Affairs and was named a distinguished alumna—a tribute to her love of LU and her community.





Good for Lamar, good for all:
**KEMBLE LED
BY UNITING**

by Jeff Spoeri



Early in 1977, Lamar University president John Gray stepped down after his second term leading the institution, and a national search began to find his successor. That search led to Roswell, New Mexico, and the campus of New Mexico Military Institute, where a thoughtful, innovative graduate of and faculty member at West Point, C. Robert “Bob” Kemble, a World War II veteran, was in his fifth year as superintendent. He had righted the financial ship at NMMI and, intrigued by a new challenge, came to Lamar to interview for the presidency.

Kemble took the job, and for the next decade he was instrumental in setting a direction and course for Lamar University that in many ways persists to this day. Committed to building relationships and encouraging collaboration, Kemble brought together disparate communities, both on campus and around the world, to move Lamar into the national and international higher education conversation. “We were a very regional university, in that 70% to 80% of the student body came from within 100 miles,” Kemble said he discovered upon arriving in Beaumont, “but the second-largest contingent was international students—people who were interested in Lamar because of oil, business, offshore drilling, that sort of thing.” He set to work managing and uniting these two extremes into a cohesive university population, while enhancing Lamar’s reputation within and beyond Southeast Texas.

Guided and assisted by university and community leaders like longtime banking executive Elvis Mason ’59, Gulf States Utility Corp. CEO W. Donham Crawford, commercial real estate developer and

founder of Texas State Optical Ben Rogers L.L.D. ’88, and Lamar regent A.H. “Bob” Montagne, Kemble set to work. “The first focus,” he said, “was to address immediate needs in finance, business, the oil-related industry, and then move to long-term planning.” He is quick to point out that he could not do this alone. “With such local support from truly influential leaders, I earned their trust pretty quickly and [set] on a course that they could all understand: ‘What we do for Lamar is good for our area and therefore good for us.’”

Kemble served as Lamar University president until 1984, at which point he moved into the role of chancellor of the Lamar University System. Throughout his tenure, he focused on building consensus and advancing the university through broad engagement. “If I had one forte,” Kemble remarked, “it was listening very carefully to other people’s views and interests and then bringing them together.” This was true not only in the LU faculty and the broader Southeast Texas community, but internationally as well.

In 1978, Kemble was invited, along with educational leaders from Wisconsin and Florida, to visit China to observe and review their higher education activities. “They always allowed me to have the last question in meetings,” Kemble recalled, “because the first time they asked, ‘Any more questions?’ I said, ‘Yes, what can we do for you?’ which everybody thought was a good ending.” During their last visit, though, at a university in northern China, Kemble’s final question was actually an invitation to form a sister university relationship with Lamar. This led to exchanges of faculty and students between Texas and China for several years and helped to reinforce Lamar’s status as a university welcoming to international collaboration. Kemble even navigated the tricky challenge of working with both the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan. “I called our Chinese faculty together one evening and said, ‘I’m bringing people both from PRC and from Taiwan,’” chuckled Kemble, who was concerned about their reaction, “and they told me, ‘Forget about it – we’re all Chinese.’”

Kemble takes great pride in helping

to build the athletics and arts programs at Lamar as well. He remembers Lamar sending several athletes to the 1984 Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles and the success of Cardinal teams in baseball, football and men’s basketball, the latter highlighted by trips to the NCAA tournament in 1979—where, he wistfully recalled, “we ran into Michigan State and a guy named Magic Johnson”—and 1980, when Big Red advanced to the Sweet Sixteen. With fond recollections of coaching legends like Jim Gilligan, Billy Tubbs, and Larry Kennan, Kemble’s support of LU athletics continues to this day. Music also became a particular passion for Kemble and his wife Helen. “I have wonderful memories of the band with Jimmy Simmons. Students would say, ‘We’re going over to Houston to play in the Dome, and we may lose the game but we’re going to win the half!’”

After leaving Lamar in 1986, he and Helen returned to New Mexico, where Gov. Garrey Carruthers appointed him to head the brand-new Department of Public Safety. As he had done so often in his career, Kemble successfully brought together seven different agencies into one cohesive unit to benefit the people of New Mexico. He left that role in 1990 and, after several years consulting throughout the country, Kemble retired for good in 2007. His wife of 58 years, Helen, with whom he has five children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, passed away that same year, but today at age 96, Kemble remains active, taking frequent walks around his neighborhood at the base of Sandia Peak and maintaining his support of LU through the C. Robert Kemble Presidential Scholarship, established in his honor in 1986, and the Robert Kemble Award, which is given annually to the outstanding male graduate of Lamar University. Always deflecting credit and acknowledging that, as he put it, “I’ve been blessed with a lot of people who have helped along the way,” Bob Kemble’s commitment to Lamar University is still felt today, some four decades after his presidency.



Close friends, former students and many family members gathered in the Richard L. Price Auditorium Dec. 4 at a reception hosted by the Office of University Advancement to honor former LU Professor Richard Price on his 90th birthday. Price addressed the crowd on the joys of living to the age of 90.



Rotary Goes to Work participants enjoyed Kim Steinhagen's tour of the many public artworks and exhibits within the Science and Technology Center Feb. 9.



Clark Fertitta shared his experience working in accounting and tax law for ExxonMobil during a lecture for students as part of the College of Business Executive in Residence Speaker Series Feb. 2 in Landes Auditorium: Clark Fertitta '04, Dean Dan French and Associate Dean Toni Mulvaney.



LU inducted five stellar sports standouts into the Cardinal Hall of Honor Feb. 19, covering four decades of LU athletics and three different sports: from left, Kade Harrington (football, 2013-16), Kurt Phoenix (football, 1976-79 and track & field, 1980-81), Sandra Thomas (women's basketball, 1974-78) and Jesse Dickson (football, 2010-13). Not pictured: Larry Tidwell (women's basketball coach, 2007-13).





Bernie '95 and Stephanie Daleo '96, Jeremy and Nicole Saba, Tab and Ashley Bryan, Gillian and Will Jenkins, Dawn and Gene Isabell



Rusty Chimeno '87, '11, Ty Coudrain, Rebekah Maxwell '11, Laura '05, '06, and Craig Escamilla '06, '09, Beverly '77 and Fred Escamilla, Dean Terrebonne '11



Pairings co-chairs Omar '04 and Katie Bitar with chairs Monica and Jimmy Broussard



John Adair, Don Shaver '76, Terry Garth

Chef Mark Binder prepared a five-course dinner paired with the PlumpJack family of wines from Napa for 135 wine and food enthusiasts Jan. 14, 2022, in the LU Events Center. The event netted \$61,000 for the Dishman Art Museum.



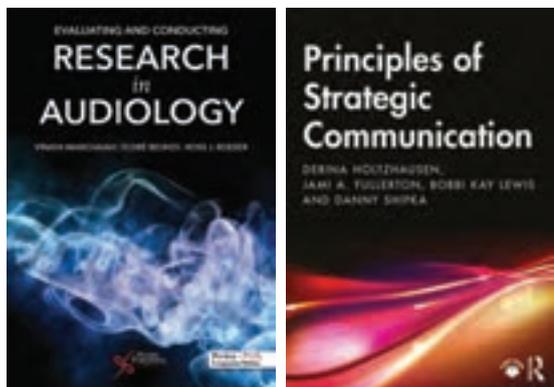
Alumni enjoyed the inaugural History Alumni Museum Meet Up June 19, 2021, to visit the Pompeii Exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science followed by brunch before capping the day with a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and Kinder Building: Mathew Hebert '12, Kevin Broussard '12, Jacob Melancon '18, and Valerie Majors-Penner '99, '18, and guests.

Viewing the Ramses Exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and brunch at Ginger and Kale in Hermann Park drew alumni and friends for the second annual History Alumni Museum Meet-Up April 2, 2022: from left, Taylor Blount '18, Valerie Majors-Penner '99, '18, Kevin Broussard '12 and Rebecca and Christopher Boone. Follow the Lamar University History Department on Facebook for future events or check for email from the LU History Department.



LUTV Productions premiered the documentary "They Will Talk About Us: The Charlton-Pollard Story" at the Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont to an audience of more than 350 people in February. In the film, a young documentarian interviews a reluctant historian about the origins of the oldest Black neighborhood in Beaumont, Texas.

IN PRINT



Manchaiah and Beukes author first-of-its-kind text . . .

Vinaya Manchaiah, Jo Mayo Endowed Professor in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department, and post-doctoral researcher Eldre Beukes, along with Ross Roeser, the Howard B. and Lois C. Wolf Professor for pediatric hearing at the University of Texas at Dallas/ Callier Center for Communication Disorders, have co-authored *Evaluating and Conducting Research in Audiology*. The book is the first research methods text that is specific to the field of audiology and designed for audiology graduate students as well as practitioners.

. . . Wright collaborates with international scholars on book . . . Stuart Wright, chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, has coedited the book *The Demise of Religion: How Religions End, Die or Dissipate*. Wright also authored several chapters, including chapter one, "How Religions End: Terms and Types" and chapter nine, "State Actions in Western Democracies Leading to the Dissolution of Religious Communities." "We've really only scratched the surface," Wright said. "I hope that future generations of scholars will benefit from the groundwork we have laid." Wright worked with Carole Cusack, a professor at the University of Sydney, and Michael Stausberg, a professor at the University of Bergen, to explore different aspects of religious demise across multiple cultures. The case studies from contributors in the U.S., England, Sweden, Japan, New Guinea and France tell stories of religious dissolution due to failures of leadership, murders and suicides, lack of economic resources, schism, government raids, conversion to missionizing religions and the natural death of a church's members, among other causes . . .

Holtzhausen authors third book . . . Derina Holtzhausen, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and one of the founding scholars of strategic communication as an academic discipline, has authored a third book, *Principles of Strategic Communication*, along with fellow authors from the School of Media and Strategic Communications at Oklahoma State University. Designed to support the paradigm shift in media and communication, the book presents the basic tenets of strategic communication and its foundational disciplines of advertising, public relations, marketing communications, journalism and organization theory and communication. The book "emphasizes strategic decision-making and execution based on research and planning. Real-life case studies and industry insights include international examples, exposing students to diverse ways of thinking and problem-solving," wrote Frauke Hachtmann, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in her review of the textbook.

Analysis reveals LU's significant economic impact

Lamar University's overall estimated annual economic impact in Jefferson, Orange and Hardin counties is approximately \$246.7 million, according to a demand-side economic impact analysis conducted by Hanover Research for the 2018-2019 school year. In addition to the nearly \$250 million overall economic impact, Hanover found that LU's externally funded spending supports 2,590.4 jobs in the area. The broader impact of all spending by LU and its students, not just expenditures funded by out-of-area sources, is higher at \$608.9 million. Moreover, a total of 3,749.4 jobs are supported by all of LU's expenditures. This impact on the area stems from direct spending by LU and its students, which totals \$412.5 million. Representing a key subset of growth output, Lamar University's operating, capital and student spending generated an estimated \$201,609,208 in labor.

Lamar University makes a significant economic contribution to the Texas economy via increased economic mobility and earnings power for its graduates. LU graduates in 2019 had a median income of \$53,924—\$22,690 higher than the median state salary for individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent. Based on median annual earnings for a graduate degree holder in Texas, LU's 4,035 bachelor's, master's and doctoral graduates in 2018 represented a total of \$78 million in annual income state-wide.



LU earns national accreditation

The Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation has awarded full seven-year accreditation to Lamar University's Principal and School Counselor Educator Preparation Programs. "The university made a clear case for quality in its leadership and counseling programs that meet critical school needs with a wide reach across the State of Texas," said AAQEP president and CEO Mark LaCelle-Peterson.

The standards- and evidence-based process serves two broad aims: accountability and continuous improvement. "We value the external review and accreditation process because it ensures a quality product for our educators preparing to enter the workforce," said **Bob Spina**, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "More than 4,800 Texas school principals and counselors are enrolled in these certification programs at Lamar University. Through the accreditation process, we know that our program is preparing them for the work ahead."



LU teams with Corps of Engineers

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to produce a series of three graduate courses on "Engineering with Nature," which introduce and explore the concept of engineering that takes advantage of natural environmental features, such as using oyster reefs for surge protection or marshes to protect from hurricanes.

"We want to encourage our students to embrace the idea of using 'gray' and 'green' building concepts together," explained **Liv Haselbach**, chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "At its best, this type of engineering both protects us and restores our natural habitat." Anyone with a bachelor's degree in engineering may take the courses, which are taught in a hybrid model, allowing students to participate remotely for lectures.

"In developing such a series of courses, Lamar University has formalized and advanced its intent to support sustainable engineering to a significant and impressive degree," noted Todd Bridges, a senior research scientist with the Engineering with Nature Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Senator named midstream honoree

The Center for Midstream Management and Science has named Texas Sen. Robert Nichols '68, R-Jacksonville, a "Profiles in Midstream" honoree. The center honors those whose instrumental work benefits the midstream industry, and Nichols is recognized as a founder of the center.

"It is strategic thinking of leaders like Senator Nichols that enables us in our effort to build the Midstream Center into a problem-solving cornerstone of the midstream industry, clearing house and developer of innovative midstream technologies, and ultimately a thought leader in the midstream sector," said **Thomas Kalb**, director of the center. "We are proud to have him on our team at Lamar University. His knowledge of the midstream industry, that part of the state's energy infrastructure that transports, processes and stores produced oil and natural gas, enabled him to recognize the fact that this complex system was a bit of an orphan in the energy-focused academic world."

FACULTY: STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Thibodeaux named dean of Reaud Honors College and TALH

Lamar University named **Tilisa**

Thibodeaux, an award-winning educator, celebrated teacher and distinguished researcher, dean of the Reaud Honors College and Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities. She joined the faculty in 2015 as an assistant professor in the digital learning and leading M.Ed. program of the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education and Human Development. In 2018, Thibodeaux became the coordinator of the program while simultaneously serving as the director of digital literacy for the Reaud Honors College beginning 2017.

"The Reaud Honors College and the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities students are passionate and persistent. I have been uniquely inspired by their intrinsic capacity to learn and impact the world around them," said Thibodeaux. "As dean, I will connect and build a relationship with every student. I will bolster and promote undergraduate student research, rigorous academic learning experiences and support service leadership on our campus and in our community to help each student reach their fullest potential."

"Tilisa is an innovative, creative and dynamic educator," said **Brenda Nichols**, senior provost and vice president for academic

affairs. "She is an educational leader and instructional coach, the ideal candidate to develop the Reaud Honors College and TALH program, two very distinct and important programs here at Lamar University."



Forret named distinguished lecturer, wins national award

The American Association for State and Local

History named **Jeff Forret**, professor of history and graduate director, winner of its 2021 Leadership in History Award in the large press category for his book, *Williams' Gang: A Notorious Slave Trader and His Cargo of Black Convicts* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). A national award program for books that preserve and interpret state and local history, the Leadership in History Award was established in 1945 to build standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. Forret was recently honored in March 2021 as Lamar University's Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.



Washington named TEPHAN of the Year

The Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors

Association (TEPSA) Region 6 named **Kathryn Washington**, assistant professor of educational leadership, its 2021 TEPHAN of the Year. Each of the organization's 20 regions recognizes a school leader for outstanding service each year. "I was humbled to be chosen," said Washington. "I believe to be a leader in education you must have a servant's heart. I serve for the love and not the recognition. When you love what you do, it does not feel like work. I relied on TEPHA for professional development, networking with other principals from across the state and even for legal advice," said Washington. "It is an honor to serve this great organization and to help the next generation of leaders succeed." Region 6 includes 66 school districts and charters in 15 counties.



O.U.R. names 2012 Faculty Mentor of the Year

The Office of Undergraduate Research has

awarded **Ozge Gunaydin-Sen** as 2021 Faculty Mentor of the Year. The lifetime achievement award recognizes excellence in leading undergraduate research projects and creative activity and for mentoring undergraduates in various programs at Lamar University. Gunaydin-Sen, associate professor and interim chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has mentored many outstanding undergraduate students

at LU, including McNair Scholars, Office of Undergraduate Research scholarship recipients and Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows. "Gunaydin-Sen's continual support and persistence in stewarding undergraduate and graduate research renders various collaborative research opportunities, advanced skills that are required in a professional setting and full-ride scholarship offers into highly ranked Ph.D. programs," said **Cristian Bahrim**, professor of physics and acting director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "We warmly congratulate Dr. Gunaydin-Sen, who is so deserving of this distinction."

Between 2017 and 2020, Gunaydin-Sen's students have placed first or second in the annual Texas STEM Conferences, the annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Exhibitions and the annual Chemistry and Biochemistry Poster Competitions. Two of her students presented their works at the National American Chemical Society meeting, and one of her students presented at the regional conferences for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers. One of her master's students interned with Research Experiences in Solid Earth Science for Students, which is a National Science Foundation and UNAVCO-supported group in Colorado. Collaborative research with other Lamar University departments allowed one of Gunaydin-Sen's students to be co-author on a peer-reviewed paper.



Grant helps students at risk of not completing their degrees

An interdisciplinary team of LU professors secured a \$600,000 grant to support 400 students forced to quit school due to the impact of COVID-19. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant awarded the total in two \$300,000 installments.

"The pandemic has been difficult for students across the world, but within Southeast Texas the financial challenges have been exacerbated by recovery from multiple natural disasters," said **Judi Mann**, assessment and planning and co-principal investigator.

"More than 600 LU students within 30 credit hours of completing their undergraduate degrees have been forced to abandon their educational goals and career aspirations. They've had to go out and support themselves through underemployment," said **Mamta Singh**, associate professor of science education in teacher education in the College of Education and Human Development and lead principal investigator on the grant project. "With these funds, we are supporting these undergraduate students to finish their degrees so that they can pursue professional dreams."

Between \$500 and \$2,500 will be provided to eligible candidates at LU with financial support in the form of a scholarship (tuition & fees) during the final year of their degree programs.

Project investigators include **Stacey Knight**, nursing; **Robert Worley**, sociology, social work, criminal justice; **Cynthia Stinson**, nursing; **Francisco Badua**, accounting and business law; **Freddie Titus**, teacher education/professional pedagogy; **James Curry**, industrial engineering; and **Nicki Michalski**, communication.



Honors Student Association Co-Chairs **Madison Taylor**, sophomore, biology pre-physician assistant, and **Annabelle Broussard**, sophomore, chemical engineering

White House recognizes Honors Student Association

The White House and AmeriCorps have recognized LU's Honors Student Association with the President's Volunteer Service Award and bronze medallion for their dedicated community service, including organizing relief efforts, helping rebuild a new Hope House for pregnant homeless women, and notably at the Southeast Texas Food Bank.

With compassionate hearts and community spirit, Honors Student Association members gave back this academic year in so many ways: Hurricane Laura Relief in Orange, Texas; Southeast Texas Food Bank; Hope Clinic; Cardinal Pantry Food Drive; Food Service Project with the Lamar chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers; Nutrition & Services for Seniors; and at LU's Big Event.

"Nothing discouraged our students from caring about others and wanting to contribute, however they could, to make a difference—not a pandemic, not a hurricane, not a winter freeze," said **Meghan Rapp**, coordinator at the Reaud Honors College.

ACCOUNTING ACHIEVES FIRST

Lamar University's graduate accounting program is the first such program in Texas to become a STEM-designated degree offered by a public university. The concept of the STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, designation is to identify academic programs that educate students for occupations in which they use science, math or technology to solve problems and drive innovation to generate new ideas, develop new products and services, and form new organizations.

In January 2021, LU accounting faculty reviewed the CPA Evolution Project of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The project addressed the CPA exam requirements and skill set needed for future CPAs and proposed a core-plus-discipline change to the Uniform CPA Exam, effective January 2024. This change will require candidates sitting for the CPA exam to demonstrate proficiency in the core areas—accounting, tax and technology—plus skills in one of three disciplines: tax compliance and planning, business analysis and reporting, or information systems and controls. The American Accounting Association evaluated the accounting curricula to determine how data analytics, IT audit, cybersecurity, blockchain and other related topics were being incorporated therein and proposed a CPA Evolution Model Curriculum.

In December 2021, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepted the accounting faculty's proposal to address the changes to the CPA exam and accounting curriculum and approved the Master of Science in Professional Accounting as a STEM-designated degree.

Dan French, dean of the College of Business, stated, "Being a STEM-designated graduate accounting degree recognizes the dynamic changes in technology platforms and emerging technologies in the global corporate community as well as provides our students with a foundation in quantitative, data analytics and technology skills to be successful in this global environment. Moreover, a STEM-designated degree is attractive to international students since under Optional Practical Training, foreign students who graduate from U.S. universities may stay and work in the U.S. for one year after graduation; however, those who complete STEM degrees may extend OPT for an additional 24 months, resulting in a 36-month OPT."



Online nursing program designated best in nation

The Princeton Review has recently recognized the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing's online Master of Science in Nursing program as being among the nation's best. The ranking is based on flexibility, affordability, access to innovative technologies and global opportunities. **Cynthia Stinson**, department chair, said, "We are nationally accredited and have received commendation for the last six plus years from the Texas Board of Nursing for outstanding pass rates on the national qualifying exam. It highlights that we put our students first and have great faculty, staff, advisors and supportive administration."

LU ranks in Top 10

It's always a great time to be a Cardinal and the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings give yet another reason for future Cards to flock to Lamar University. According to the 2022 evaluation, Lamar University is the No.9 best public university in the state of Texas. "These rankings stand out from our other education rankings due to their emphasis on academic research," said Robert Morse, chief data strategist at U.S. News in a statement. **Dann Brown**, associate provost for academic affairs, said, "Lamar University is committed to providing our students with outstanding academic programs and co-curricular experiences as we promote their achievement of personal and professional goals." The top best public colleges and universities in Texas, as listed by U.S. News and World Report are as follows: 1. University of Texas at Austin, 2. Texas A&M University, College Station, 3. University of Texas at Dallas, 4. University of Houston, 5. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, 6. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, 7. University of North Texas, Denton, 8. University of Texas at Arlington, 9. Lamar University, Beaumont.



R.N. to M.S.N. program ranks No. 2

The Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing has been named as one of 2021's best online registered nurse to Master of Science in Nursing degree programs in the nation by EduMed.org, which assessed programs on affordability, curriculum comprehensiveness and proper accreditation. This lands LU's School of Nursing in the No. 2 spot in the national ranking. The LU online R.N. to M.S.N. track was created for registered nurses who want to teach the next generation of nursing students or for the registered nurse who wants to be in an administrative position.

"I am so very proud of this national recognition. This track was actually implemented to meet the needs of our students who are returning to school, but may also be working full time or have other responsibilities," said **Cynthia Stinson**, JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing associate professor and department chair. "It highlights that we put our students first and have great faculty, staff, advisors and supportive administration." In addition to the online R.N. to M.S.N., LU offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing as well as online tracks R.N. - B.S.N. and a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

LU ranks among most diverse

U.S. News & World Report has ranked LU as the fifth highest on the diverse index among public universities in Texas and in the top 14% among other ranked, national institutions. U.S. News developed this ranking by analyzing ethnic categories from each institution's fall 2019 undergraduate student body and generating a diversity index between 0 and 1 based on the data. The fall 2019 demographics depict Lamar University as a Predominantly Minority Institution (PMI) with a majority of enrollees as African American, Hispanic or Asian. Lamar University's index of .68 exemplifies the institution's ever-present mission for diversity and inclusion.



Lamar University renews partnership

The American Association of Port Authorities and Lamar University have renewed their agreement to deliver advanced education to future port industry leaders through LU's fully online Master of Science in Port and Terminal Management. The agreement updates and renews the Memorandum of Understanding initially entered into in June of 2016, reflecting a shared commitment in the preparation of port and marine terminal industry leaders for future challenges and opportunities.

Headquartered in Washington D.C., the AAPA is the unified voice of the seaport industry in the Americas, representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America. The AAPA's Professional Development Board, chaired by Noel Hecagaba, deputy executive director, Port of Long Beach, led this initiative for the Association. "Lamar University's Center for Port Management fulfills our industry's long-standing dream of having an academic venue to gain both the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to successfully prepare the next generation of port leaders," Hecagaba said.

The CAPM is the first of three university Signature Centers, which also include the Center for Resiliency and the Center for Midstream Management and Science.

COB hosts Cooper

Charlie Cooper '83, founder and C.E.O. of Americom Marketing, spoke to students Sept. 28 as part of the College of Business Executive in Residence Speaker Series. Cooper, who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, has over 20 years of experience in marketing, sales, media, and company ownership. One of his most notable companies is AmeriCommerce, an ecommerce software platform, which won the 2010 CODiE Award for the Best eCommerce Solution and was later acquired by Capital One in 2014. Another company, Americom Marketing, serves a diverse group of industries including many local companies. Cooper has hired many Cardinals over the years and, as a business owner himself, helping young alumni begin their careers is just another way that he gives back to LU students and graduates.



Lucy Tsado co-authors cybersecurity careers book

Cybersecurity is about the protection of digital assets. From identity theft and social media hacks to cloud security and malware attacks, **Lucy Tsado**, assistant professor of criminal justice, said the need for cybersecurity and digital forensics is growing daily.

As professor of criminal justice at LU, Tsado focuses her research on cybersecurity, cybercrime and digital forensics. Just this February, her research culminated in the publication of a new book, *Exploring Careers in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics*. The book was a collaborative effort between Tsado and Robert Osgood, who serves as director of Digital Forensics and Telecommunications at George Mason University. "Almost every day now, you hear of a cyberattack. Cybersecurity is a whole field where we talk about how to not only prevent digital criminal behavior, but also how to address it, investigate it and preserve evidence," Tsado said. "Cybersecurity is a very big career field right now in the United States. As we all know, there are a lot of cyberattacks going on and in response to that, we need people to gather information, which falls under digital forensics."

Both Tsado and Osgood describe their book as a one-stop shop for students and advisors, providing information about education, certifications and tools to guide them in making career decisions within the field. In the book, the two also detail how to help students and administrators understand the opportunity that exists in the cybersecurity and digital forensics field. "This is a very wide field, so we want our students to figure out where they fit in this field and jump right in," Tsado said. Attending conferences, joining cybersecurity competitions, game-a-thons or earning a certification in cybersecurity are just a few of the things that Tsado suggests for those interested in the field to gain experience. "This is an opportunity for students who are studying criminal justice, accounting, engineering, business, psychology – you name it. From computer engineering all the way down to lawyers, we have a place for almost anyone in cybersecurity," said Tsado, who also has an accounting and management information systems background.



Fan helps develop advanced structural materials

The National Science Foundation has awarded **Zhe Fan**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, a total of \$177,460 for his engineering research initiative in complex concentrated alloys. "The success of this project could be beneficial for the development of advanced structural materials at high temperatures,"

Fan said. "These materials can be used in applications such as the oil and gas industry, heat exchangers, nuclear reactors, gas turbines, etc."

FACULTY LEAD THE WAY

Martin co-authors textbook . . . **Gary Martin**, professor in the Educational Leadership Department, recently co-authored the 5th edition of the university text, *School Leader Internship*, which is being published by Routledge Publishers. Martin's co-authors are Richard Flanary, former deputy director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals; Arnie Danzig, professor emeritus at Arizona State University; and Margaret Terry Orr, professor at Fordham University. The textbook is used at universities around the nation by principal preparation program internships. Since the first publication in 2005, the text has been a best seller for courses involving a principal internship . . . **Governor appoints LU nursing chair to board** . . .

Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed 14 people to the Texas Health Services Authority Board of Directors and among them is **Cynthia Stinson** '75, JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing associate professor and department chair. The Texas Health Services Authority is responsible for coordinating the implementation of health information exchange in Texas for a term set to expire on June 15, 2023. With 47 years of experience in the field, Stinson serves as the only medical nurse on the board . . . **Bartlett publishes flash fiction** . . . *Mystery Tribune* has featured a story by Daniel Bartlett, instructor of English and modern languages, at *mysterytribune.com*: "Neighbors: Must-Read Noir Flash Fiction," in which a new property owner confronts trespassers. In addition, he has published short fiction in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Mystery Magazine* (formerly *Mystery Weekly*), *descant*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Chiron Review* and *Crab Creek Review*, among others . . .

Andre Ramos-Woodard work acquired by museum . . . The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, recently acquired three pieces of art by **Andre Ramos-Woodard** '17, LU alumnus and visiting instructor in the Department of Art and Design, along with a commissioned work currently on exhibition through February of 2023. "The installation I just completed is in the photography gallery of the Kinder Building, which is one of the most recent editions to the museum's gallery spaces." The exhibition, titled "Interventions," revolves around photography and the many ways artists manipulate photographs. Ramos-Woodard's featured work is a 16.5 ft. by 14-ft. mural titled 'Air Gerald (BOOMSHAKALAKA),' and is part of a series of works titled 'BLACK SNAFU' that are part of the museum's permanent collection . . . **Dyrhaug invited to pour iron in Germany** . . . The Moritzburg Museum in Halle, Germany, has invited **Kurt Dyrhaug**, professor in the Department of Art & Design, to its first iron pour in August. With more than 30 years of experience in creating iron pour events for communities and universities, Dyrhaug explained that he was excited about the honor of coordinating this event. "Community members are always excited to watch the melting and pouring process. It's also great to work with a good group of artists. I enjoy the camaraderie, working, teaching and learning with other artists. Cast iron sculpture is heavy, hot, magnetic and an exciting medium to work with" . . . **Two LU nursing professors earn state research award** . . .

The Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education has selected **Cynthia Stinson**, JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing associate professor and department chair, and **Ruthie Robinson**, director of Graduate Nursing Studies, to receive one of the organization's most prestigious awards—the 2022 State Research Award—for their research focusing on "Compassion fatigue and resiliency during the COVID-19 pandemic," a problem currently plaguing the nursing field. The State Research Award is given to one institution among all schools of nursing in the state of Texas . . . **Greschner receives Phi Kappa Phi award** . . . The National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi selected **Debra Greschner**, instructor of voice for the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music and a founding faculty member of the Vocology Certificate Program in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, to receive the Love of Learning Award. The \$500 award will help Greschner continue her research into the art songs of French composer Félix Fourdrain (1880-1923). Fourdrain, who studied and taught at the Paris Conservatoire, received recognition during his short life for his operas and was a prolific composer of songs. Greschner, who has written articles about Fourdrain for the *Oxford Grove Music Online* and the *Journal of Singing*, is compiling a performance guide for the complete catalogue of his songs.

EMERSON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER OPENS



The College of Engineering hosted representatives from Emerson Solutions and Scallon Controls for the dedication of the Emerson Advanced Technology Center Nov. 4. The training center is located in the Center for Industrialization, Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship on campus and reflects Emerson's commitment to close the gap on process operations and instrumentation skills shortfall. The goal is to reduce the time it takes for a new engineer to become fully capable and operational on the job. In addition, the center can provide development training for workers already in the field.

The center is the result of a more than \$1.5 million investment in LU's training capabilities and houses two Performance Learning Platforms—fully instrumented and operable process skids that provide hands-on training—and TerminalManager™ software teaching students how the industry manages the entire terminal business process. The space also features four DeltaV™ distributed control system process trainer panels, allowing students to learn control system fundamentals in a safe and controlled environment, as well as lifecycle services and support for LU's engineering labs that host Emerson equipment.

"The Emerson Advanced Technology Center gives our graduates a competitive advantage in the job market and adding additional value to the process industry by producing more job-ready engineering and technology graduates," said **Brian Craig**, dean of the College of Engineering. "The Emerson ATC will provide the backbone for many of our advanced certificates and vastly improve our ability to upskill or reskill the incumbent workforce in our region through our Golden Triangle Industries and LU Engineering Partnership. We are thankful for our ongoing friendship with Emerson and their local impact partner Scallon Controls and are excited to see these relationships strengthen."

LU honors Mexican-American Veteran from Southeast Texas

The second World War took place between 1939-1945 and most of the 16 million Americans who served have died. Out of those WWII veterans who served, only 200,000 are still living, and **Patrick S. Aguilar** is one of them. He served as a sergeant in the Army Air Corps from 1942-1945.

Current history graduate student **Tishia Hubert** found herself immersed in her Latin American History class in 2020. "As a veteran myself, I have always been intrigued by WWII and with my professor's influence, I decided to address the lack of recognition that the Mexican-American community receives in Southeast Texas," Hubert said. She and fellow classmates of **Joseph Akers** and **C.J. Delgado** wanted to honor Aguilar's contribution to history. Hubert participated in an oral interview with Aguilar; Akers created a curriculum of Mexican American studies; and Delgado added the youth aspect to the community. Hubert worked to find ancestry and military records to piece together Aguilar's family and service history. "Professor Boone and Lamar University have been most gracious in helping us to succeed in honoring Aguilar and his family, along with the Mexican American community's contributions to Southeast Texas," said Hubert during a reception Nov. 14.



Seated from left, Mr. Aguilar's great-grandson, Rebecca Boone, Sgt. Patrick Aguilar and Tishia Hubert with, standing from left, Joseph Akers and Cesar Delgado.



Qian awarded grant to build green infrastructure system

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded **Qian Qian**, professor of civil and environmental engineering, a total of \$448,625 to use in the improvement of water quality in the Gulf of Mexico. The project, "Conjunctive Deployment of Distributed Stormwater Infiltration and Bioretention Infrastructures to Mitigate Flooding and Related Non-point Source Pollution in Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas," will build two green infrastructure systems—one on campus at Lamar University. "The outcome of this project can change the willingness to adopt, fund and implement green stormwater infrastructures at a large scale in Southeast Texas. This can inspire the next generation specializing in coastal flood resiliency," said Qian. Qian will lead the project as principal investigator, along with chair and professor of civil and environmental engineering **Liv Haselbach** as co-principal investigator.



ExxonMobil celebrates successful recruiting

ExxonMobil U.S. Recruiting presented the College of Engineering with a grant check to acknowledge the university's role in providing a constant source of quality engineering hires for the company.

"Throughout the challenges and changes the pandemic brought to the past couple of years, we continue to see the value of hiring Lamar University students," said **Carl Jenkins '06**, ExxonMobil team

captain for Lamar University. "LU graduates are practically trained and can stand up to any graduates from bigger schools."

Brian Craig, dean of the College of Engineering, said, "ExxonMobil has a long history of supporting a number of LU College of Engineering's initiatives, and we very much appreciate this support. We take pride in preparing our engineering students to be more job-ready when they graduate through our advanced, yet practical, curriculum, labs, centers and an aggressive engineering internship program. The end result is engineering graduates that are highly sought after in our region, state and nation."

Center for Midstream Management and Science joins international organization

The board of directors of the International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association has approved the LU Center for Midstream Management and Science's application to become an academic member of the international organization. As one of four universities in the organization and the only academic member in the U.S., LU joins Gubkin University (Russia), Ghent University (Belgium) and Cranfield University (United Kingdom).



The center is the only one in the world solely focused on midstream and has funded more than \$900,000 of research in more than 25 projects led by LU faculty focused on solving practical technological and operational problems faced by the industry.



A beautiful spirit LIVES ON THROUGH OTHERS

by Lauren Wilson

When Doug Williams, a doctoral student in the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, arrives at a Champions of Education Coffee Social to meet the family behind the Dr. Gabriel A. “Tony” Martin Memorial Scholarship, he is unsure what to expect. Looking around the event, most groups are made up of only a handful of people—all, that is, except for the family of Tony Martin, represented by fourteen siblings, in-laws, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, all excited to meet Doug.

As Martin’s sister, Theresa Battaglia, explains, “We have a large, very close family, and we are all so proud of Tony.” Her statement rings true, as each family member has stories to tell of Martin’s life and legacy, of his beginnings as a high school teacher and coach, of his career spanning more than 20 years at Lamar University from faculty to administrator, and of how he was beloved and respected by everyone who knew him.

Martin’s family, many of whom are educators themselves, are especially proud of his instrumental role in shaping

the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education and establishing the department’s doctoral program, the very same program in which Doug Williams is

“I felt uplifted knowing that my pursuits led me to this program, Dr. Martin’s legacy, and his wonderful, supportive family.”

— Doug Williams

now earning his Ed.D. For Williams, this was a deeply meaningful experience. He shares that “meeting Dr. Martin’s family, learning about him and his passion, and reflecting on my own (at times) tumultuous academic and professional journeys, I felt uplifted knowing that my pursuits led me to this program, Dr. Martin’s legacy, and his wonderful, supportive family. I am truly honored knowing I am privileged with carrying on his legacy in my work, now and throughout my career.”

As Battaglia tells it, the family felt equally honored to meet Williams, describing the event as a “wonderful opportunity to meet such a delightful man.” Of Williams,

she said, “We look forward to following his career path and watching him excel in his field. He has a love and compassion for this field just as Tony did, so we know that he will do a fantastic job and make Tony proud.” The day was special to the family, she says, not only as a chance to meet their scholarship recipient, but also as a moment to reminisce and celebrate Martin’s life, stating, “I believe that they needed to talk about him, and this was a wonderful way to express their love and respect.”

THE CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION COFFEE SOCIALS,

organized through the Division of University Advancement, allow donors and students to meet each other and through that fellowship get to know the spirit that motivated the gift and the student, or students, who gladly receive it. To request an in-person or virtual meeting for your scholarship or endowment, please contact Lauren Wilson at (409) 880-7590 or lschuldt@lamar.edu.



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.

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50s

Beverly (Draper) Taylor '58, B.B.A. secretarial science, earned her master's degree and retired as an ER nurse for Tomball Regional Hospital. Her late husband, Denman '57, B.S. mechanical engineering, built a natural gas compressor in New Mexico and worked for Dresser Industries and CLECO. She lives in Cypress.

60s

Don Moseley '61, B.S. mechanical engineering, competed in and finished the Santa Fe Triathlon in 2019 at the age of 80. He lives in Santa Fe, N.M., with his wife, Mary.

Gene Meyer '63, B.S. mechanical engineer, retired from Kinder Morgan where he was a project manager. He lives in Katy with his wife, Gwen.

Margaret (Pugh) Bostic '64, B.S. speech, M.S. health and physical education, is a volunteer at YWCA Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont.

Harvey Cappel '66, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a published author, co-owner of Chemic Engineers & Constructors, owner of Racelectric Engineering, a TDI windstorm engineer and volunteer eighth grade robotics instructor. He lives in Texas City with his wife, Betty.

Peter Nimmo '67, B.S. civil engineering, is a professional engineer and owner of Nimmo and Associates. He and his wife, Elizabeth live in Conroe.

William Glenn Smith '67, B.A. government, '70, M.A. government, holds an Ed.D. and is retired after a career as a superintendent for the Port Arthur school district. He received the 2020 Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer of the Year award. His wife, **Karen (Brownlee)** '67, B.A. French, holds an Ed.D. and is retired after a career as director of bilingual education/ESL in the Port Arthur school district. They live in The Woodlands.

Robert Nichols '68, B.S. industrial engineering, is a District 3 Texas senator, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and owner of Robert Nichols Enterprises. He and his wife, Donna, lives in Jacksonville.

Minnie (Mearlon) Melton '69, B.S. speech and hearing therapy, earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling and retired as an educational diagnostician from Beaumont school district. She is an anger management resolution therapist with Peachtree Consultant Agency, and she and her husband, James, live in Beaumont.

70s

Rebecca Harrison '70, B.A. history, '93, M.B.A. business administration, is an Advanced Placement U.S. history teacher at Woodrow Wilson Early College High School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. She lives in Beaumont.

Guy Berger '72, B.S. geology, retired from CB & I Federal Services as a science manager. He lives in San Marcos.

Judy Hammond '72, B.S. communication, is in her 31st year with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Richard Palmer '72, B.S. civil engineering, earned a master's degree and doctorate in civil and environmental engineering. He served as a University of Washington faculty member for 29 years and joined the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2007. He served as the director of the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, which he founded in 2012, before retiring in 2021. He and his wife, Elaine, live in Seattle, Wash.

Joyce (Johnson) Scott '72, A.A.S. business data processing, is C.E.O. of Superb Speakers and Trainers in Rio Rancho, N.M., where she and her husband, George Thomas, live.

Jerry Bailey '74, chemical engineering, is chairman of Bailey Petroleum, Well Grounded Energy and Vanguard Energy Corp. He is also the CEO of BCM Energy and MCW Energy Group, director and president of Petroteq Energy, and president of Bailey Golf Tours. He lives in Houston.

Barbara (Jobe) Phillips '74, C.C. office administration, retired after a career as public affairs manager of Valero Port Arthur Refinery. She lives in Groves.



Donald Potter '74, A.A.S. refrigeration and air conditioning technology, is president of American Air Systems. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Betty.

Catherine (Lovelace) Skelton '75, B.S. elementary education, is a teacher at Nederland High School. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Gary.

Jessie Bowie '76, B.B.A. marketing, '86, B.B.A. accounting, retired after a career as a claims adjuster and director at Texas Property & Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association. He lives in Leander with his wife, Christi.

Claudia (Robertson) Hicklin '77, B.S. home economics, is a pre-k reading teacher for Learning Hands Preschool at Hillcrest Baptist Church. She and her husband, **Thomas** '74, A.A.S. police science, live in Beaumont.



Deborah Oliver '77, B.S. elementary education, retired as an ESL-RTI teacher at Lumberton Early Childhood School in May 2021. She lives in Beaumont.

René Rangel '77, B.A. Spanish, holds a master's in bilingual education and retired after a career as a coordinator for support services in the Santa Rosa school district. He lives in Santa Rosa with his wife, Maria.

Ted Seago '78, B.S. music education, '86, M.M.Ed. music education, earned a doctorate in education in 1993 and is headmaster of Paideia Classical School in Willis, where he and his wife, **Johnnie (Wilkinson)** '81, B.S. communication, live. Johnnie earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in 1992 and a doctorate in educational leadership in 2013. She is founder and program director of Family Education Foundation.

The State Bar of Texas appointed U.S. District Judge **Michael J. Truncale** '78, B.B.A. economics, as federal judge liaison to the state bar's board of directors and to the Fifth Circuit Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions (Criminal). He and his wife, Denise, live in Beaumont.

Tom Long '79, B.B.A. accounting, is co-CEO of Energy Transfer Partners and executive vice president and CFO of Regency Energy Partners LP. He and his wife, **Meg (Price)** '79, B.S. elementary education, live in Frisco.

Manuel Moreno '79, B.S. communication, is head tennis coach and teacher at J. Frank Doble High School in the Pasadena school district, and a recipient of the U.S. Tennis Association-Texas Section's Lloyd

Sessions Educational Merit Award for 2020. He lives in Galveston with his wife, Rebecca.

The State Bar of Texas appointed **Hyattie Simmons** '79, B.S. government, chair of its Pattern Jury Charges Committee on General Negligence, Intentional Personal Torts and Workers' Compensation. He earned his law degree in 1984 and is presiding judge of the city of Combine's municipal court. He and his wife, Tina, live in Dallas.

After 42 years of teaching, **Trubie Smith Jr.** '79, B.M. music education, '86, M.M. music education, retired as band director for Vidor Junior High School in 2021. He and his wife, **Dianna (Liles)** '75, M.Ed. special education, live in Vidor.

Stan Spooner '79, B.S. industrial technology, is an instructor at the Lamar Institute of Technology. He and his wife **Denise (Wallace)** '91, B.S. elementary education, live in Beaumont.

80s

Pam (Fazio) Bemis '80, B.B.A. accounting, retired as administrator of finance for the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. She and her husband, Roger, live in Beaumont.

Marigay (Sonnier) Hodges '80, B.S. home economics, is an ESL teacher at Hillcrest Elementary in the Nederland school district. Her husband, **James** '80, B.S. government, '97, M.Ed. administration, works at Farmers Insurance and owns Jasper County Autoplex. They live in Jasper.

Betty (Baker) Reynard '80, B.S. secondary education, '82, M.Ed. administration, is president of Lamar State College-Port Arthur. Her husband, **David** '60, B.S. biology, owns a dental practice. They live in Beaumont.

Colleen (Nevill) Silva '80, B.S. biology, earned a medical degree and is the medical director of Breast Health Center in the Department of Surgery at U.T.M.B.'s League City Campus. She is a professor in the Department of Breast Surgical Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She lives in Galveston with her husband, Michael.

Marilyn (Arline) Smith '80, B.S.W. social work, retired after a career as executive director for the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Tim.

Jeff Branick '81, B.S.W. social work, holds a law degree and is county judge for Jefferson County. He received the Salute to the Real American Heroes 2020 Award from LIT for his work in emergency management. His wife, **Sherrie (Booker)** '81, B.S. art, is a freelance art director. They live in Port Neches.

Todd Dunkleberger '81, B.B.A. management, is a customer service support manager at Entergy Texas. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Judy.

Wally Mathews '81, A.A.S. radiologic technology, retired in 2020 after working in diagnostic imaging at various hospitals for 39 years. He and his wife, Terri, live in Beaumont.

Elizabeth Palmarozzi '81, B.S. biology, holds a D.O. in osteopathic medicine and is currently the founding dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Auburn University. She lives in Auburn, Ala.

Greg Conway '82, B.B.A. accounting, owns Problem Solved in Lumberton, where he and his wife, **Lauren (Gunter)** '85, B.B.A. accounting, partner and principal of Lauren G. Brooks & Associates P.C., live.

Ronald Franklin '82, B.S. electrical engineering, '94, M.E.M. engineering management, serves on LU's electrical engineering department advisory council and is vice president of manufacturing for South Hampton Resources Inc. He and his wife, Candi, live in Whitney.

J.P. Gandhi '82, B.S. electrical engineering, is a supervisory patent examiner at the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office. He lives in Boyds, Md., with his wife, Varsha.

David Hutto '82, A.A.S. industrial electricity and electronics, retired from TPC in Port Neches, where he and his wife, Maureen, live.

Christi (Winn) Rollins '82, B.S. biology, is an environmental investigator for the City of Houston Health Department. She and her husband, Joseph, live in Houston.

Terence Welch '82, B.S., electrical engineering, is CEO and managing partner of Sinclair Belgrave Energy in The Woodlands, a technology-driven oil and gas company that finds oil in depleted oil fields. He and his wife, Janelle, live in Decatur, Ala.

Ernie Wiggins '82, B.B.A. marketing, is an account manager at Viiv Health Care Pharmaceuticals. He lives in Edmond, Ok., with his wife, Deborah.

Art Adams '83, B.B.A. business administration, is director of operations at TravelCenters of America. He lives in Wesley Chapel, Fla.

Gerald Garcia '83, B.S. electrical engineering, who also holds MSEE and MSPM degrees, is now a senior engineer with the Lower Colorado River Authority. He and his wife, Molly, live in Austin.

Belinda (Walker) Roccaforte '83, B.A. psychology, also holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in school psychology. She retired after 30 years working as a psychologist. Her husband, **Gregory Roccaforte** '85, B.S. mechanical engineering, also retired this year. They live in Houston.

Brenda Brooks-Coleman '84, B.B.A. general business, is principal of Port Arthur Alternative Campus. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership, and she and her husband, Bradford, live in Port Arthur.

Tim LaBonte '84, B.S. criminal justice, is a rolling owner controlled insurance program manager at U.T. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He lives in Houston.

Mike Montanari '84, B.S. electrical engineering, is vice president of channel development for Schneider Electric. He and his wife, **Rebecca (Townsley)** '85, B.A. history, live in Franklin, Tenn.



Marcia (Miller) Stevens '84, M.Ed. supervision, retired as superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Beaumont. She and her husband, **The Honorable John B. Stevens** '74, B.A. government, who earned his law degree from the University of Houston and is criminal district judge for Jefferson County District 58, live in Beaumont.

Evita Tezeno '84, B.S. art-graphic design, is an artist with work included in the African American Museum of Dallas and the Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar. She lives in Dallas.

Bobby Tingle '84, B.B.A. marketing, is the circulation director for News and Tribune. He lives in Jeffersonville, Ind., with his wife, Lynda.

Steven Woosley '84, B.S. mechanical engineering, works at Veolia Nuclear Service. His wife, **Linda (Saia)** '87, M.Ed. engineering, is a fuel design engineer at Energy Northwest. They live in Pasco, Wash.

Richelle Brewster '85, A.A.S. mid-management, holds a B.S. in criminal justice and an M.A. in accounting and is an internal revenue agent for the IRS. She lives in Missouri City.

Bill Darling '85, B.B.A. finance, is secretary-treasurer of the Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners and market president of Hancock Whitney Bank Trust and Asset Management. He and his wife, **Christine (Petkovsek)** '85, B.S. communication disorders, '87, M.S. audiology-speech language pathology, live in Beaumont.

Chi-Huey Huang '85, M.E. engineering, holds an M.S. in electrical engineering and is a financial services professional at New York Life Insurance Co. He lives in Cupertino, Calif.

Lisa (McKee) Judice '85, B.S. fashion retailing and merchandising, is a diagnosticians secretary at C.O. Wilson Middle School in the Nederland school district. She lives in Port Arthur.

Deborah (Westmoreland) Vickers '85, B.S. elementary education, is a dyslexia intervention teacher in Katy school district. She lives in Richmond.

Yolanda (Johnson) Avery '86, B.S. dance, '91, M.Ed. counseling and development, is the Fine Arts Department head at Abraham Lincoln Middle School in the Port Arthur school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Alton.

Nancy (Phillips) Ervin '86, B.M. music, is an executive assistant at Manor Park, independent director for Damsel in Defense and pastor's ministry assistant at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church. She lives in Midland with her husband, James.

John Landis '86, B.B.A. management, is a U.S. Navy veteran and retired engineer for the Railroad Commission of Texas. His wife, **Rebecca (Clark)** '81, B.S. nursing, is owner and president of Tri-County Home Health. They live in Kountze.

Mariviana Stout Leinoff '86, B.B.A. accounting, owns Hempalot Farms. She lives in Jonesboro, Ark.

Joseph Malbrough '86, B.S. communication, owns The UPS Store on Cobb Parkway in Smyrna, Ga., and was recognized as one of the Top 30 Small Businesses in 2021 by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. He is an ambassador for the Chamber and board member of the Smyrna Area Council. He and his wife, Cara, and their two sons, Evan and Jared, live in Smyrna.

Danny Miller '86, B.S. computer and information sciences, is the founder of Bleakwood Enterprises and chief information security officer and interim director of the Texas Division of Emergency at Texas A&M University at Galveston. He lives in College Station with his wife, Jayne.

Usha (Balaratnam) Beckman '87, B.S. chemical engineering, has retired after a career as an engineer for ExxonMobil Corp. Her husband, **John** '82, B.S. communication disorders, '87, M.S. audiology/speech-language pathology, is an audiologist and founder of Beckman Audiology Center. They live in Port Arthur.

Sherry (Tomplait) Jackson '87, B.B.A. accounting, retired after a career as an accounting manager for the City of Orange. She lives in Port Arthur with her husband, Billy.

Karen Land '87, B.S. criminal justice, is director of client services at Veteran Service Center. She and her husband, Paul, live in San Antonio.

Julie Pope '87, B.S. secondary education, is senior vice president of human resources at Dialogue Semiconductor. She lives in New York.

Linda (Ingham) Tait '87, B.B.A. accounting, '02, M.B.A., retired in 2020 as director of Lamar State College-Port Arthur's Small Business Development Center. She owns Living Word Christian Store and lives in Port Neches.

Chad VanDevender '87, B.S. psychology, B.S. biology, holds a D.C. and is a teacher at Vidor High School. He lives in Vidor with his wife, Gina.

Lance Bradley '88, B.B.A. accounting, is an attorney at The Bradley Law Firm and is also co-owner of The Pompano Club, Walters and Bradley Property, Swedes Construction, Waltley Rentals, and Neches River Wheelhouse. He lives in Port Neches with his wife Tina and children Kaden and Kendal.

Katrina (Dal Santo) Davis '88, owns Application Factory Inc., a software development firm providing worldwide custom and packaged solutions to Global Fortune 500 industrial companies that introduce standards, control and efficiency into field operations. She lives in Beaumont.

Nancy (Geoffroy) Hamby '88, B.S. elementary education, is a seventh-grade ELAR teacher at C.O. Wilson Middle School in the Nederland school district. Her husband, **Garry** '95, B.S. industrial technology, works at Superior Energies. They live in Nederland.

William Lamson '88, B.S. industrial engineering, is an architect at Bert Lamson Design and is also co-owner of The Pompano Club and Neches River Wheelhouse. His wife, **Pansy (Falcon)** '88, B.B.A. accounting, is an accountant at Total Petrochemicals USA. They live in Groves.

John McElroy '88, B.S. political science, is a federal public defender for the Eastern District of Texas. His wife, **Sarah (McDonald)** '02, B.M. music, is a research attorney in the Ninth Court of Appeals. They live in Beaumont.

Alicia (Powell) Fontenot '89, B.S. elementary education, retired as a kindergarten teacher in 2021 after a 32-year career in education. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, Louis.

Carol (Patteson) Hebert '89, B.S. communication disorders, '90, M.S. audiology. Is the public affairs manager for Valero Refinery in Port Arthur. Her husband, **Michael** '95, B.B.A. management information systems, '06, M.B.A., is a maintenance area supervisor at Total Petrochemicals USA. They live in Nederland.

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed **Stephen Lee** '89, B.B.A. finance, to serve on the Texas State University System Board of



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 | PHOTOS BY: BRANDON GOUTHIER

LU alumni and friends gathered to pay tribute to exceptional Cardinals Friday, May 7, 2021, at a special awards ceremony honoring the 2021 Lamar University Distinguished Alumni Award recipients: Keith F. Giblin '86, Larry Norwood '73, Shannon (Pier) Allen '01, '13 and Christopher L. Bates '08.

Regents for a term to expire in 2027. He is chairman, president and C.E.O. of First Financial Bank-Southeast Texas and he and his wife, **Jami (Archer)** '97, M.Ed. administration, live in Beaumont.



MONCLA

Executive director for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas Foundation **Kimberly Moncla** '89, B.F.A. graphic design, has earned the CFRE designation from Certified Fund Raising Executive International. She lives in Beaumont.

A 34-year coaching veteran, **Steve Roccaforte** '89, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is assistant coach for Texas A&M basketball. He lives in Bryan.

Mark Wales '89, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a marine engineer, drafter and sailor with OM Ships International. He lives in Houston.

Paige (Evans) Wing '89, B.S. elementary education, '09, M.Ed. counseling and development, retired as principal of Lumberton Intermediate School in 2021 after a 32-year career in education. Her husband, **Kevin** '95, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '03, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Lumberton Early Childhood School. They live in Lumberton.

Denise (Dixon) Davis '90, B.B.A. accounting, earned her M.B.A. and is chief financial officer and assistant superintendent of business and finance for Port Arthur school district. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Port Arthur.

DeMonica Gladney '90, B.S. criminal justice, earned a law degree and is senior counsel at ExxonMobil Corp. She lives in Houston.

Tamra Smith '90, B.S. elementary education, teaches first grade at Highland Park Elementary School in the Nederland school district. She lives in Nederland.

Edeska Barnes '91, B.S. criminal justice, is chief juvenile probation officer at the First Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department. He lives in Jasper.

Charles Gardner '91, B.G.S. liberal arts, is general manager at The Grounds. He lives in Katy.

Janet (Street) Fontenot '92, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches in the Nederland school district, where she lives.

Percy Kennedy '92, B.B.A. marketing, is a long-term care account manager at Novartis and published author. He lives in Humble.

90s



BROWN-REED

Octavia Brown-Reed '90, B.S. secondary education, '97, secondary education, teaches seventh-grade ELAR at Abraham Lincoln Middle School in Port Arthur school district. She and her husband, Travis, live in Beaumont.

Chris Schuldt '92, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a criminal investigations division captain at the Beaumont Police Department. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Kelly.

Tracy (Broussard) Soileau '92, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse in labor and delivery at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, where she and her husband, **Jeffery** '95, B.S. criminal justic, live.

Monte Barrow '93, B.S. kinesiology, is athletic director and football coach at Nederland High School and recipient of the Bum Phillips Coach of the Year Award. He and his wife, **Amber (Reeves)** '98, B.S. family and consumer sciences-food and nutrition, live in Nederland.

Christy (Thompson) Black '93, B.S. political science, is an academic advisor in the Undergraduate Advising Center at Lamar University. She and her husband, **Jason** '95, B.S. family and consumer science-hospitality administration, who is general manager of Pappadeaux, live in Lumberton.

Lorri (McGee) Bonin '93, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches second grade at Bridge City Elementary School. She lives in Orange with her husband, Brooks.

Michael Graves '93, B.A. sociology, holds a master's degree in divinity and is an ESL teacher in the Goose Creek school district.

In his 33rd season in professional baseball, **Mike Sarbaugh** '93, B.S. kinesiology, is third base coach with the Cleveland Indians and appeared in the move Major League 2. He lives in Shillington, Pa.

Theron Williams '93, owns Expert Appraisal Group, which specializes in automobile, RV, boat and motorcycle appraisals in Livingston, where he and his wife, **Dana (Woods)** '91, B.B.A. general business-law, live. She earned her law degree in 1995 and is a trial attorney with her own firm, The Williams Firm.

Yoshi (Tezeno) Alexander '94, B.B.A. office administration, is health director for the City of Port Arthur, where she and her husband, Glenn, live.

Sunshine (Ogden) Copeland '94, B.A. English, is a librarian for Orangefield school district. She recently received the Bravo Award from Orangefield ISD Board of Trustees for being an outstanding grant writer. She lives in Orange with her husband, Robert.

Michael Day '94, A.A.S. respiratory therapy, holds a master's degree in health informatics and is a clinical specialist in respiratory therapy with the Mayo Clinic. He lives in Cave Creek, Ariz.

The City of Beaumont honored **Tracy Ballard-Arline** '95, A.A.S. business computer information system, '00, B.B.A. human resource management,

for her 20 years of service as an advocate for residents with disabilities. She is a marketing and fundraising consultant for Imagine Enterprises and C.E.O. of Social Butterfly International. She and her husband, **Ralph** '88, B.S. secondary education, who teaches at Central High School, live in Beaumont.



BRADLEY-LEWIS

Bradley Lewis '95 owns the food truck and catering business Kreole Soul. He and his wife, April, live in Humble.

Terry Savoy-Hadley '95, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. She lives in Port Arthur.

Jeff Ross '95, M.S. psychology, '11, M.B.A. business administration, is senior executive director for Buckner Children and Family Services. His wife, **Christina (Fratus)** '93, B.S. psychology, '96, M.S. psychology, works at the Center for Behavior Studies. They live in Beaumont.

Terry Johnson '96, general studies, is assistant basketball coach at Purdue University. He lives in West Lafayette, Ind.

James Molina '96, B.S. political science, is a legislative correspondent with the staff of Mike Turner in the U.S. House of Representatives. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer (Stilley) Warren '96, B.B.A. marketing, is vice president of corporate marketing for Indeed. She lives in West Lake Hills.

Danielle (Olivier) Jackson '97, B.A. political science, '03, M.A. English, holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction and is principal of Kempner High School in the Fort Bend school district and field supervisor for the LU College of Education and Human Development. Her husband, **W. Scott** '94, B.S. criminal justice, '04, M.B.A. business administration, works for Howco Group. They live in Sugar Land.

Joseph Pace '97, B.S. political science, B.S. sociology, '04, M.A. public administration, is city manager of Wharton, where he and his wife, Lori, live.

Luther Thompson '97, M.Ed. administration, is the student success coordinator for Port Arthur school district, where he lives.



LU Alumni Night at Classic Movie Night at the Jefferson

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021 | PHOTOS BY: SELFIE BOOTH

LU Alumni Night Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, drew a crowd of alumni and friends for the City of Beaumont's Classic Movie Night at the Jefferson to watch a showing of Remember the Titans. Attendees received a free LU beanie.

1. LU Ambassadors Obinna Emeh and Yesenia Loera Romo '21
2. Evie Clifton, coordinator, Office of Alumni Affairs, and Gary Brice, instructor of mathematics

Molly Villarreal '97, B.S. civil engineering, is a water utilities engineer for the City of Beaumont. She lives in Port Arthur.

Jennifer Webb '97, B.B.A. marketing, is senior vice president of lending with FivePoint Credit Union in Nederland. She lives in Port Neches.

Holly (Bertrand) Woollen '97, B.A. English, '17, M.Ed. educational leadership, is curriculum coordinator for Lumberton school district, where she and her husband, David, live.

Emily (Everett) Allen '98, B.A. political science, '04, M.Ed. educational leadership, is assistant principal of Lumberton Middle School. She and her husband, Raymond, live in Sour Lake.

Suzonne (Holmes) Crockett '98, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, also holds an Ed.D. in development

education administration and was appointed dean of academic studies at Lamar State College-Orange. She lives in Orange with her husband, Ronnie.

Ashley Landry-Breaux '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, owns the dance studio, Ashland's Affirming Arts Studio Inc. in Beaumont, where she and her husband, Charles, live.

Cherry Moore '98, owns My Bella Vita Travel, which as hosted more than a thousand heritage tours and custom vacations in Calabria and throughout Southern Italy since 2007. She and her husband, Guiseppe Mannella, live in Lumberton.

Mark Sowders '98, B.B.A. marketing, B.B.A., communication, is executive marketing director with MFE Rentals/Enterprises. He and his wife, Deanna, live in Beaumont.

Luther Irvin '99, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, holds a master's degree and teaches at West Orange-Stark High School in the West Orange-Cove school district. He lives in Silsbee.

Curley Johnson '99, B.G.S. general studies, is a salesperson at Johnson & Johnson and registered agent at The Great Vision Group. His wife, **Tondelyn (Donatto)** '98, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches at Janowski Elementary in the Houston school district. They live in Pearland.

Melissa Oliva-Rosa '99, B.A. Spanish, '06, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Memorial High School. She lives in Port Arthur.

Brad Schroeder '99, B.S. kinesiology, is a coach and teacher in Warren school district, where he and his wife, Connie, live.

Josh Smalley '99, B.A. history, earned his master's degree in education and is athletic director and head football coach at Orangefield High School. He and his wife, **Kimberly (Fittz)** '97, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '10, M.Ed. administration, who is director of primary curriculum and instruction for the district, live in Orangefield.

Jeremy Watzlavik '99, B.S. communication, '17, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal of Little Cypress Junior High School. He and his wife, Kristi, live in Orange.

00s

Joshua Barmettler '00, B.S. computer and information sciences, is a desktop support manager for Traditions Health in College Station. He and his wife, Kari, live in Bryan.

John Byars '00, B.S. geology, is vice president of Point Energy Partners. He lives in Godley with his wife, Desha.

Melanie (Musemeche) Claybar '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a librarian at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She lives in Orange with her husband, Joey.

Jennifer (Dennis) Gauthier '00, B.B.A. marketing, '05, M.Ed. educational leadership, is the director of technology in the Orangefield school district and was awarded the Bravo Award for her work with the COVID-19 response. She and her husband, **Cory** '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, live in Orange.

Georgine Guillory '00, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is president of the Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners, the first woman to hold the position. She has served as a commissioner since 2003 and lives in Beaumont.

Charlotte Junot '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '09, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Helena Park Elementary in the Nederland

school district. She lives in Nederland.

Ramona Locke '00, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is Lady Bruin basketball head coach at Westbrook High School in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont.

Jason Morgan '00, B.S. kinesiology, holds an M.Ed. in educational leadership and is principal of Lumberton Intermediate School. He was named TEPSA 2021 National Assistant Principal of the Year for Texas. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Janet.

Rebecca (Mathews) Peveto '00, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '05, M.Ed. counseling and development, is head track coach for Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. She and her husband, **Eric** '94, B.S. political science, who owns Peveto Law Firm, live in Beaumont.

Caroline (Bonesteel) Williams '00, M.S. audiology, holds a doctorate in audiology and is the owner of Texas Mobile Hearing. She lives in Austin with her husband, Mark.

Tracy (Lindsey) Fletcher '01, B.G.S. general studies, is an algebra teacher at West Orange Stark High School in the West Orange-Cove school district. She lives in Kountze.

Dennis Johnson '01, B.A. French, teaches at Port Acres Elementary in the Port Arthur school district, where he was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. He lives in Beaumont.



Lisa (Tullos) Miller '01, B.S. communication, is chief operating officer of Mobiloil Credit Union. She lives in Vidor.

Buffie Spell '01, B.A. history, teaches at Nederland High School. She lives in Nederland.

Trent Stelly '01, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a control systems engineer at Fluor Corp. He lives in Richmond.

Robert Wilson '01, B.G.S. general studies, '13, Ed.D. educational leadership, is an associate principal at Silsbee Elementary and member of the Texas School Safety Center Board. He lives in Silsbee.

Erica Gauthier '02, B.B.A. general business, '13, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Central Middle School in the Nederland school district, where she was named a 2020-21 TEPSAN of the Year. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Bryan.

Jerry Gibson '02 M. Ed. secondary education, also holds an Ed.D. in professional leadership and is superintendent of Galveston school district. In 2020, he was named Region 7 Superintendent of the Year. He lives in Galveston with his wife, Tammy.

Christopher Kovatch '02, B.S. criminal justice, is senior vice president of commercial lending for Texas First Bank. He and his wife, Christine, live in Orange.

Frank Pecorino '02, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president of commercial lending at AccessBank Texas. He lives in Wylie with his wife, Diana.

Kara (Hammonds) Smith '02, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a third grade teacher at Highland Park Elementary in the Nederland school district. Her husband **Colt** '04, B.S. kinesiology, is an engineer at Iron Mountain. They live in Nederland.

Debbie (Charlot) Anderson '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. She lives in Port Arthur.

Jennifer (Askew) Balsamo '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a math teacher at Central Middle School in Nederland, where she and her husband, Jeremy, live.

Clinton Caywood '03, B.S. criminal justice, is a game warden for Texas Parks and Wildlife in Jefferson County. His wife, **Tiffany (Vincent)** '97, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches at Hillcrest Elementary in the Nederland school district, where they live.

LaTonya Chapman '03, B.B.A. management information systems, is office manager and consultant with JM Tax Service and LMC Consulting. She lives in Port Arthur.

Chris Davis '03, B.B.A. general business, is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch & Co. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, **Kristin (Adams)** '07, B.S. family studies, and four children.

Belinda (Richardson) George '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '15, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of Homer Drive Elementary School in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Melvin.

Lori (Foreman) Hepburn '03, B.G.S. general studies, '09, M.Ed. administration, '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, is an adjunct professor in the LU Department of Educational Leadership and assistant principal at Central Middle School in the Nederland school district. She lives in Port Arthur

with her husband, Colin.

Lauren (Bachelot) Martin '03, B.S. family and consumer sciences-interior design, owns K&K Designs and The Laurels, an event venue in Beaumont, where she lives.

LaCarla (Spears) Pitre '03, B.G.S. general studies, is a laboratory tester for ExxonMobil Corp. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Eric.

Sommer (Di Dio) Reynolds '03, B.S. political science, is assistant principal of Little Cypress Elementary School. She and her husband, **Danny** '98, B.S. kinesiology, '04, M.Ed. administration, live in Orange.

Dennetta Starks '03, B.S. chemical engineering, '05, M.B.A. business administration, is quality assurance manager at Goodyear Beaumont Chemical Complex. She lives in Beaumont.

D'Juana Thibedeaux '03, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, holds a master's in educational administration and is a fourth-grade teacher at DeQueen Elementary in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. She lives in Port Arthur.

Collier (Christian) Thompson '03, B.B.A. management information systems, and her husband, Brian, welcomed their daughter Molly McKean last year. Collier is a clinical field specialist for Natera. They live in Lakewood, Co.

Jacque (Bennight) Wenske '03, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher at Shadycrest Elementary in the Pearland school district, where she and her husband, Travis, live.

John West '03, B.S. criminal justice, is a U.S. Army veteran and teacher at Cook Middle School in the Cypress-Fairbanks school district. He lives in Katy with his wife, Demetria.

Jacquelyn "Jackie" (Lee) Cox '04, B.B.A. management, is a safety inspector with ExxonMobil in Beaumont, where she lives.

Texas State University recognized **Josh Daspit** '04, B.S. political science, assistant professor of management at Texas State University-San Marcos, with a 2021 Presidential Award for Excellence in Service. He recently published "*Family Firm Heterogeneity: A Definition, Common Themes, Scholarly Progress and Directions Forward*" in *Family Business Review*. He lives in Buda.

Jordan Foster '04, B.B.A. accounting, is president of Peyco Southwest Realty Inc. He and his wife, **Catherin (Calfee)** '05, B.S. nursing, live in Arlington.

Danielle LeBlanc '04, B.B.A. general business, earned her law degree and is a realtor with Keller Williams Realty of Southeast Texas. She owns LeBlanc Land Services. She lives in Beaumont.



Amber (Chase) '22 and Ryan Dollinger '14



Gloria Locke and Dawanna Jones '06, '11

LU Alumni Advisory Board members attend the President's Suite Reception before the football game on Sept. 25, 2021.

Jessica (Bres) Prince '04, B.G.S. general studies, holds a master's degree in public administration and is chief deputy clerk with the Jefferson County District Clerk's office. Her husband, **Jay** '19, B.A. chemistry, B.S. mechanical engineering, is owner of Gulf Coast Injection. They live in Beaumont.

Trazarra (Chargois) Stelly '04, B.S.W. social work, holds a master's degree in criminal justice leadership and management and is a community supervision officer at Jefferson County Adult Probation Services. She lives in Beaumont.

Kevin Barbay '05, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is an offensive coordinator and quarterback coach for Central Michigan University. He lives in Mount Pleasant, Mich., with his wife, Kacie.

Tara (Beard) Duval '05, M.B.A. business administration, is senior information developer for SolarWinds Worldwide. She lives in Austin.

Amanda (Steeves) Hebert '05, B.B.A. finance, owns Selah Vacations, a travel agency specializing in Disney, Universal Studios, all cruise lines and inclusive resorts. She and her husband, **Joe** '03, B.A. English, live in Denham Springs, La.

Kal Kincaid '05, B.S. industrial technology, is president of AGC of Texas. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Lisa.

Bettina (Oten) McKinney '05, B.B.A. marketing, is principal of Highland Heights Elementary. She and her husband, **Leon** '11, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, live in Humble.

Maronda Parrott '05, B.S. family and consumer sciences, owns Advancing Brilliant Leaders Effectively in Dallas, a college prep program. She lives in Dallas.

Yasheka "Sheka" (Broussard) Roy '05, B.S. nursing, earned her master's in nursing in 2015 and her doctorate in nursing practice in 2021. She is a registered nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas and lives in Beaumont with her husband, Derek.

Quinton Virgil '05, B.B.A. accounting, is associate principal of Manvel High School in the Alvin school district. He lives in Pearland with his wife, Elizabeth.

Brixey Blankenship-Cozad '06, B.S. family and consumer science-family studies, co-owns The Movement Performing Arts Studio in Port Neches, where she and her husband, David, live.

Charlie Cloudy '06, B.B.A. finance, '13, M.S. accounting, is an accountant at Lawrence, Blackburn, Meek, Maxey & Co. He and his wife, **Roxanne (Homuth)** '05, B.B.A. marketing, live in Port Neches.

Tina (Corfield) Dierschke '06, B.B.A. accounting, is director of finance for the City of San Angelo, where she and her husband, Kevin, live.

Lori (Kimball) East '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches kindergarten at Hillcrest Elementary School in the Nederland school district. She lives in Orange with her husband, Christopher.

Brady Flores '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '11, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal of Kingwood High School in Humble school district. He and his wife, Amy, live in Humble.

Rebecca (Laird) Gutierrez '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher at Central Middle School in the Nederland school district. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Francisco.

Britni (Nichols) Hidalgo '06, B.B.A. economics, '13, B.S. nursing, '20, M.S.N. nursing, is clinical director of labor and delivery for Christus Southeast Texas Health System in Beaumont. She and her husband, Joshua, live in Port Neches.

Chris Lanier '06, B.B.A. accounting, is a C.P.A. at Brammer, Begnaud, & Lattimore CPAs and Consultants. He lives in Port Arthur.

Robert Muse '06, B.S. industrial engineering, is co-owner of The Pompano Club and Neches River Wheelhouse. He lives in Port Neches

with his wife, Misty.

William "Eric" Peevey '06, B.S. kinesiology, is athletic director for Little Cypress-Mauriceville and was honored as an Orange Texas Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow in 2021. He and his wife, **Amy (Johnson)** '09, B.G.S. general studies, who is manager of Johnson Mini Storage and owner of Cotton Patch and Company, live in Bridge City.

Amber Placette '06, B.A. English, is curriculum coordinator for Little Cypress Junior High School. She lives in Orange.

Carrie (Hebert) Strong '06, B.S. fashion retailing and merchandising, is a human resources manager at FivePoint Credit Union. She and her husband, Kerry, live in Nederland.

Tawne (Glaze) Thibodeaux '06, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their son Maxxis June 27, 2021. She teaches at Lumberton Intermediate School. They live in Nederland.

Erik Angelle '01, B.B.A. finance, '07, B.B.A. accounting, is a C.P.A. and partner with Brammer, Begnaud & Lattimore CPAs in Port Arthur. He lives in Beaumont.

Ann (Smith) Bertrand '07, B.S. communication disorders, '09, B.A. history, teaches in Duncanville school district, where she lives.

Trapper "Ross" Guidry '07, B.B.A. management, co-owns B.G. Absolute and B.G. Assets. He lives in Port Neches.

Macey (Joubert) Jackson '07, B.A. interdisciplinary studies, earned a master's degree in educational diagnostics in 2012 and principal certification in 2018 and teaches in Vidor school district. She and her husband, Dustin, live in Vidor.

Derek McWilliams '07, B.B.A. management, is marketing coordinator at DuPont Goodrich Federal Credit Union. He lives in Beaumont.

Lindsey (Cauthen) Minter '07, B.S. biology, B.A. music, holds a Ph.D. in

biomedical sciences and is principal of career services at Baylor College of Medicine. She lives in League City with her husband, Andy.

Luyen Pham '07, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches at Houston Elementary in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. She lives in Port Arthur.

Latoya Plummer '07, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, holds a doctorate in physical therapy and is a therapist at Encore Rehabilitation. She lives in Diberville, Miss., with her husband, Johnathon.

Daylyn Turner '07, B.B.A. finance, is vice president and general manager of JK Chevrolet Subaru. He lives in Beaumont.

Ashley (Adams) Whitehead '07, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a second grade teacher at Helena Park Elementary School in the Nederland school district. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Paul.

Randy Edwards Jr. '08, B.B.A. marketing, crafts beer as a partner in Buckstin Brewery in Nederland. He and his wife, Briann '12, B.S. nursing, live in Port Neches.

Carrie (Warr) Hackbarth '08, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, owns Soiree & Vine in Nederland, where she lives with her husband, Michael.

Angie (Dunham) Humble '08, B.G.S. general studies, teaches fifth grade at Lumberton Intermediate School. She lives in Lumberton.



HUMBLE

Emily (Helmke) LeBlanc '08, A.A.S. nursing, is a school nurse at Central Middle School in the Nederland school district. She and her husband **Eric** '08, A.A.S. nursing, '11, B.S. nursing, live in Port Neches.

Terra (Creekmore) Louvier '08, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a second grade teacher at Hillcrest Elementary in the Nederland school district. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Eben.

John Miller '08, B.B.A. management information systems, is president of 5 Under Golf Center. He and his wife, **Catie (Byerly)** '15, B.B.A. management, live in Beaumont.

Jeanne (Ward) Mullican '08, B.S., '11, M.S., kinesiology, earned her doctorate in kinesiology in 2021 and is a clinical instructor of health and kinesiology at Lamar University. She and her husband, David, live in Beaumont.



Ashleigh Roberson '08, B.S. criminal justice, graduated from the Sheriff's Academy last June and lives in Houston.

Julie Wenah '08, B.S. political science, earned her law degree and a master's degree in public administration and is associate general counsel for Facebook. She was selected to the Women in Product board of directors. She lives in Inglewood, Calif.

Courtney (Mitchell) Woods '08, B.S. communication, '09, M.B.A. business administration, is director of leadership development at ADP. She lives in The Colony.

Anne (Lebouef) Anderson '09, M.Ed. administration, is executive director of curriculum and instruction for the Texas City school district. She lives in Bayou Vista.

Jeffrey Daniel Auchenbach '09, B.S. chemical engineering, '14, M.Ed. education technology leadership, teaches physics and engineering at Bridge City High School. He and his wife, Marie, live in Bridge City.

Cecelia Brumsey '09, M.Ed. educational administration, is principal of Roberson Middle School in Spring school district, where she lives.

Angie Campanello '09, M.Ed. school administration, is assistant principal at Tisinger Elementary in Mesquite school district. She lives in Forney.

Joanna (Evans) Clark '09, M.S. theatre, is C.E.O. of Take a Bow Film. She lives in Athens.

Beth Gallaspy '09, M.A. English, is an adjunct instructor in LU's College of Fine Arts and Communication. She lives in Beaumont with her partner, Peter.

Robyn (Voight) Lovett '09, B.F.A. studio art, B.A. history, teaches art at Orangefield Junior High School. She was named the Texas Association of Student Councils Middle Level Advisor of the Year at TASC Middle Level Annual Conference in 2020. She and her

husband, **Michael** '08, B.S. studio art, live in Vidor.

Stephanie (Adcock) McLeod '09, M.Ed. educational administration, is Texas state director of iTeach Texas. She and her husband, Jason, live in Argyle.

Terry Morris '09, B.G.S., is a computer science teacher at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School where he was the Region 5 Teacher of the Year in 2019. In 2020 they were awarded the 2020 University Interscholastic League Sponsor Excellence Award. They live in Orange.

Jana Davison Rolling '09, B.B.A. accounting, '12, M.Ed. teacher leadership, is principal of Sheldon Elementary School in Sheldon school district, and her husband, **Nicholas** '10, B.B.A. finance, owns Rolling Motors. They live in Houston.

Janai Sanders '09, B.S. criminal justice, '18, M.S. criminal justice, is a police officer in the Houston school district and owner of Jaye's Joy Catering & Meal Preps. She lives in Houston.

10s

Garret Bromley '10, B.S. family and consumer sciences–dietetics, is research quality coordinator at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he and his wife, Michelle, live.

Brittney (Zenos) Carter '10, B.S. nursing, holds a master's degree in nursing and is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Texas Children's Hospital. She lives in Rosharon with her husband, Matthew.

Shelley (Terrell) Cowart '10, B.B.A. accounting, is director of accounting at Lamar State College–Port Arthur. She lives in Port Neches with her husband, Doyle.

Amy (Pumphrey) '10, B.B.A. marketing, '16, M.B.A. business administration, and **Phillip Dillow** '08, B.B.A. finance, B.B.A. marketing, '11, M.B.A. business administration, welcomed their son Phillip Lee II June 28, 2021. He is a sales manager for Patriot Security Systems, and she is coordinator of marketing for the Division of Student Engagement at Lamar University. They live in Port Arthur.

Blake Ford '10, B.G.S. general studies, is head baseball coach for Splendora. He and his wife, **Meagan (Wells)** '12, B.B.A. marketing, live in Kingwood.

Adrienne (Meengs) Hamilton '10, B.B.A. general business, '11, M.B.A., is a subcontract administrator at S&B Engineers and Constructors. She and her husband, Andrew '15, B.B.A. marketing, live in Tomball.

Christopher Hubbard '10, B.B.A. management, is a business administrator for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Texas Southern University. He earned his M.B.A. in 2014 and lives in Spring.

Jeffrey Johnson '10, M.Ed. educational administration, is principal of Mesquite Academy in Mesquite school district. He lives in Forney.

Sandra Juarez '10, B.S. family and consumer science–food and nutrition, '19, M.S. nutrition, married **Steven Frederick** '13, B.S. geology, June 26, 2021. Steven is a manufacturing engineer for Helena Laboratories, and they live in Sour Lake.

Cody McGuire '10, M.Ed. administration, is athletic director and head football coach for Bridge City High School. He lives in Bridge City with his wife, Rachael.

Richard Merriman '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Raines Academy in Katy school district. He lives in Katy.

Brian Mulvahill '10, B.M. music, is sales operation manager at Mometrix Test Preparation. He and his wife, **Josmery (Ramirez)** '09, B.M. music, live in Beaumont.

Felicia Kane Nichols '10, M.Ed. administration, earned her doctorate in organizational leadership in 2018 and is superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Beaumont. She lives in Beaumont.

Jay Prigmore II '10, B.S. electrical engineering, holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and is a technical program manager for Google. He lives in Oswego, Ill., with his wife, Brittany.



Christina (Tran) '10, B.B.A. marketing, B.B.A. finance, and her husband, Ty Riley, welcomed their son James Liam Feb. 20, 2021. Christina is an accountant with G.P. Industrial Contractors Inc. They live in Port Neches.

Elizabeth Schubert '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Stroman STEM Academy in the Victoria school district. She lives in Victoria.

Ashley (Gooden)-Stewart '10, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, holds a master's degree in public administration and is the C.E.O. & founder of The Baby Stewart Foundation. She lives in Texas City with her husband, Carylton.

Meagan White '10, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Klein Virtual Academy. She lives in Cypress.

Rachelle (Berry) Wilmore '10, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, '12, M.S., kinesiology, earned her doctorate in physical therapy in 2015 and is a physical therapist with TIRR Memorial Hermann. She and her husband, Willie, live in Rosharon.

Daniel Alvarez '11, M.Ed. teacher leadership, '13, M.Ed. school counseling, is a school counselor in the Elgin school district. He has written and published two books: *Using the Art of Origami in School Counseling* and *Using Art-Based Lessons and Activities in School Counseling*. He lives in Austin with his wife, Eunice.

Gabi Blanco '11, Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities, owns Buckstin Brewing Co. in Nederland, where she and her husband, Justin Buchanan-Lopez, live.



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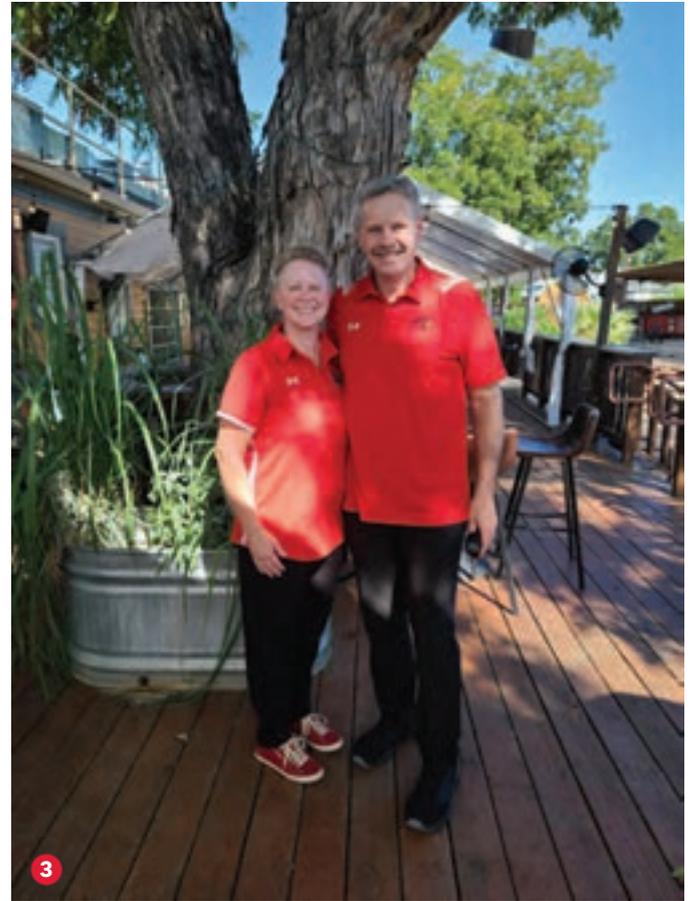
**SAN ANTONIO
PRE-GAME PARTY**

San Antonio-area LU alumni gathered at The Cherrity Bar before the LU vs. UTSA football game in San Antonio for a pre-game party.

- 1 Jeff Spoeri, associate vice president of University Advancement with Martin Benoit '88, alumni board past president 2005-2006
- 2 Alora Berry '13 and Abraham
- 3 First Lady Stacy Taylor and President Jaime Taylor



2



3

Stevi Braswell '11, B.S. nursing, recently earned her master's degree as a family nurse practitioner in 2020. She lives in Port Neches.

Amber (Alexander) Clark '11, B.G.S. general studies, and her husband, Gregory -10, own Legendary Inspection Group in Beaumont, where they live.

Drew Davidson '11, B.B.A. finance, is an estimator at Ohmstede. His wife, **Kristen (Stills)** '11, B.B.A. management, is an inside sales representative at BeAed. They live in Beaumont.

John Flowers '11, M.Ed. administration, is principal of High School Ahead Academy in Houston school district. He lives in Cypress.



HAYNES

Miles '12, B.S.W. social work, '14, M.P.A. public administration, and **Rachel (Davis) Haynes** '11, B.B.A. accounting, welcomed their son Daxton Anthony April 4, 2021. They, along with their daughter, Evelyn Elisabeth, born May 18, 2019, live in Beaumont. Miles is business development manager for Americom Marketing LP, and Rachel is an accountant with Moran Enterprises Inc.

Kristi Lewis '11, M.Ed. administration, '18, Ed.D. educational leadership, is principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School. She lives in Port Arthur.

Rebekah Maxwell '11, B.B.A. retail management, holds a master's degree in international marketing and is social media consultant at ReStep Marketing and market manager of Beaumont Farmer's Market. She lives in Beaumont.



MINICK

The Conference on Crimes Against Women honored **Matthew Minick** '11, B.S. political science, with the 2021 Ignite Award, which recognizes law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors and counselors combatting domestic violence and sexual abuse. He earned his law degree in 2014 and is county attorney for Hardin County. He and his wife, **Katlrina (Harbuzi)** '10, B.S. political science, '11 M.P.A. public administration, live in Kountze.

Roberto Molina '11, B.S. mechanical engineering, is production team lead with BP. He earned a master's degree in petroleum engineering in 2014 and an M.B.A. in 2022. He lives in Cambridge, Mass.

Dylan Moses-Bennett '11, B.S. communication, owns Always Big Balloons in Houston, which provides Houston and Southeast Texas with luxury balloon décor, backdrops, props and full-service party planning. She lives in Houston.

Paige Parker '11, B.S. communication, is an instructional math coach at Anderson Elementary in the Fort Bend school district. She lives in Sugar Land.

Shukella Price '11, M.Ed. administration, holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership. She lives in Spring.

LaDonna Sherwood '11, M.P.A. public administration, is owner of L&L Transportation. She lives in Beaumont.

Jessica (Brown) Sutton '11, B.B.A. management, '12, M.B.A., is an account manager at Outsource in Houston, where she lives with her husband, John '12, B.S. exercise science and fitness management.

Ryan Taylor '11, M.B.A. business administration, was an active duty coast guardsman stationed in Port Arthur before working for Goldman Sachs for three years and then becoming a licensed nursing home administrator. In 2013, he also was commissioned as a Marine Corps officer in the reserves and served as a motor transport platoon commander for a light armored reconnaissance battalion and training officer for a medical battalion before decommissioning in 2018 as a captain. He and his wife, Andrea, live in Scotts Valley, Calif.

Lauren (Stewart) Thiem '11, B.B.A. marketing, is a realtor at Re/Max Beaumont. She and her husband, David, live in Beaumont.

Tiffany Aguilar '12, B.G.S. general studies, is a special education teacher in Goose Creek school district. She and her husband, Nathan, live in Harlingen.

Amanda Blumenberg '12, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, married Kevin Schrepel July 13, 2021. They live in Wylie. She teaches sixth and seventh grade at Armstrong Middle School in Plano.



Kaye Williams '91, '93, J.R. Richardson '92, Lila (Creamer) Stevens '01, Tea (Nguyen) Do '08, and Daniel Cruz '18 volunteered to judge the student tailgating contest entries.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING PRE-GAME PARTY

Alumni celebrated homecoming during a pre-game party at the Montagne Center before the LU vs. Jacksonville State football game Nov. 13.

- 1 Former Cheerleaders came to honor Dr. Tamerla Chavis, Homecoming Grand Marshal Tamerla Chavis '83, Julie (Woods) Spencer '82, Terri (Halcomb) Riley '82, Darrell Hebert '84, Gary Hebert '81, Cindy (Madden) Nepinsky '83, Mark Rees '84, Stephanie (Gaspard) Szalach '83, '86
- 2 Mandy (Dowden) Arceneaux '10 with future cardinals Jenna and Jonah Arceneaux
- 3 Lonnie Turner, Aiden Harrison, and Sandra (Lavergne) Turner '94
- 4 Ariana (Jones) Bates '17, '21, Phyllis (McAfee) Thibodeaux '00, '06, and Chris Bates '08
- 5 Candice (Cormier) Moore '05, '13, Susan (Brough) Cormier '87, Ta'quisha Radford '16, '20, ?, Andrea Benford '15
- 6 Sharita Gardner '12, John Rollins '12
- 7 Sharon (Johnson) Sanders '95, '09, Tina (Gamble) Johnson '05, Carmen (Pratt) Savant '08, Patrick McDonald, Diann (Palmer) Brodnax '99, '14
- 8 Lila (Creamer) Stevens '01, Margeaux Stevens, Mark Stevens
- 9 Iran '90 and Renee Chavis
- 10 Cheryl (Boyd) Linscomb '79, '84, Bobbie Brentlinger '79, Kristen (Still) Davidson '11, Roman Davidson, Maridale (Adams) Still '79, '12, '17, Randy Still '80, Jennifer Linscomb, Amy (Linscomb), Lakich '13, Valerie Lakich and Andrew Lakich
- 11 Travis Reed '06 and Octavia Brown-Reed '90, '97
- 12 Members of the Cards and Techsans reunite at homecoming | Sarah (Atwood) '79 (Techsan) and Patrick Bardwell '92, Sheila (Goodwin) Humphreys '77, '79 (Techsan), Sue (Barrett) '77 (Techsan) and John Robicheaux '77 (CARDS).



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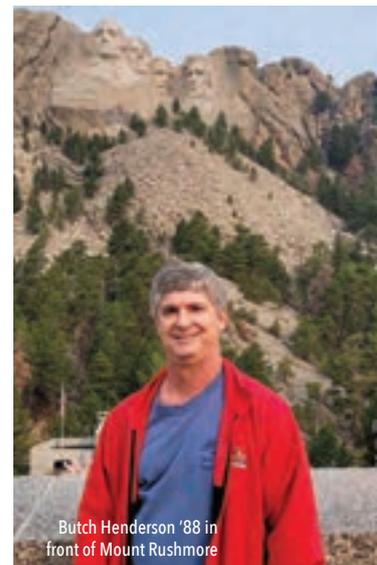
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CLASS NOTES



Marita (Mueller) '72 and Donald Duesler '71



Butch Henderson '88 in front of Mount Rushmore

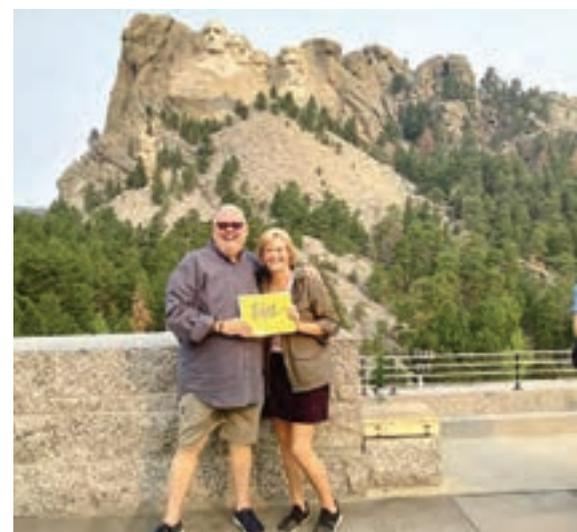
CARDINAL ADVENTURES

IN EGYPT OCT. 28-NOV. 6, 2021

Alumni and friends traveled to Egypt, with LU's travel partner, TRIPS Inc. They explored the treasures of the Nile River, saw sand-covered tombs, austere pyramids and towering Pharaonic temples. They visited the Valley of Kings in Luxor where Tutankhamen's tomb was unearthed and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.



Marita (Mueller) Duesler '72, Eula Sonnier, Mary E Wilkinson



Brian Doughty, president of TRIPS Inc., with Laurie (House) Ritchel '85, LU alumni travel programs coordinator

IN THE BLACK HILLS AND BADLANDS, SOUTH DAKOTA, AUGUST 2021

Travellers visited Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Monument, Custer State Park and Deadwood. They rode an authentic 1880 steam train on a trip through the Black Hills and visited an active mammoth dig that is the largest in the world.

Dwayne Burks-Green '12, B.G.S. general studies, owns DJ Waynehead Entertainment, which provides DJ services for corporate and non-corporate events in Houston. He lives in Humble.

Tabitha Davis '12, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Sterling Aviation High School. She lives in Manvel.

Leanne (Boozer) Fuselier '12, B.S. nursing, is a clinical nurse recruiter for Christus Southeast Texas Health System. She lives in Orange.

Chadrick Gilkerson '12, B.S. kinesiology, teaches high school in the Newton school district. His wife, **Karrie (Goodwin)** '15, B.S. nutrition, dietetics and hospitality, is a teacher at Southside Elementary School in the Cleveland school district. They live in Newton.

Zairinia (Cruz) Gray '12, B.S. criminal justice, welcomed her son Wyatt Christopher March 22, 2021. They live in Liberty.

Carissa Guidry '12, B.S. communication, is a second grade teacher at Lakeview Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. She lives in Groves.

Tammy (Powers) Herrera '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '15, M.S. criminal justice, owns Alyssa's Kisses, a pay-it-forward mission store that donates angel gowns for burial attire made from wedding dresses to families in loving memory of her and her husband Michael's first grandchild, Allyssa. They live in Wharton.

Michael James '12, B.G.S. general studies, is a professional basketball player for AS Monaco Basket in Europe, and has played for the Phoenix Suns and Brooklyn Nets. He lives in Vancouver, Wash.

Kelley Lester '12, B.B.A. management information systems, works for Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth and lives in Burleson.

Chelsea (Barnard) Major '12, B.A. English, holds a master's degree in humanities and Pearl House Collective,

an independent pop-up and online bookshop. She lives in Meridian, Id., with her husband, Chase.

Sebastian Myladiyil '12, M.Ed. counseling and development, holds a master's degree in moral theology. He is a four-time published author and pastor of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Greenville and Rosedale, Miss., and the St. Francis-Assisi Catholic Church in Shaw, Miss.

Skylar Slaughter '12, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a teacher at Staff Sgt. Lucian Adams Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district and was selected Region 5 ESC 2021 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. She lives in Orange.

Amy (Strother) Strickland '12, B.A. English, is a teacher. She and her husband, Jeffrey, live in Jasper. She earned a master's degree in English in 2017 and a master's degree in educational leadership in 2019 and teaches high school English in Jasper, where they live.

Kathryn (Vincent) Tucker '12, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, holds a

master's degree in library science and is librarian at Kuehnle Elementary School in the Klein school district. She lives in Cypress with her husband, Jason.

Fred '12, B.B.A. accounting, '13, M.S. accounting, M.B.A. business administration, and Wafa Vernon welcomed their second daughter, Leyana Freddie, last June. They live in Beaumont.

Michelle (Rodriguez) Ayala '13, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is assistant principal of Lamar Elementary School in the Harlingen school district, where she was also named Region One 2021 TEPSAN of the Year. She and her husband, **Jonathan** '18, B.B.A. management, live in Harlingen.

Jay Ashby '13, M.Ed. administration, is director of The Lift in the Abilene school district. He lives in Abilene with his wife, Kate.

Lacy Brown '13, B.S. health education, '16, M.B.A. business administration, is chief sanitarian for the City of Port Arthur's Health Department. She lives in Port Arthur.



CASTELAN

Tania Castelan '13, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a real estate agent with Connect Realty. She lives in Beaumont.

Selwyn Chopin-Sanderson '13, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a program coordinator at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He lives in Houston.



DART

Devan Dart '13, B.G.S. general studies, '17, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Oak Forest Elementary School in Vidor school district. He and his wife, Emily, and daughter Myla live in Vidor.

Alex Edgerly '13, B.S. biology, holds a D.D.S. and owns Edgerly Dentistry. He lives in Orange with his wife, Mallory.

Matthew Fry '13, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is director of operations for Pleasant Grove school district. He lives in Texarkana.

Congratulations to **Heather Gallier** '13, B.A. English, '18, M.Ed. school counseling, and **Keffer Rhodes** '18, B.B.A. general business, B.B.A., entrepreneurship, on their May 8, 2021, marriage. Heather is a counselor at James Bowie High School in Austin school district. They live in Austin.

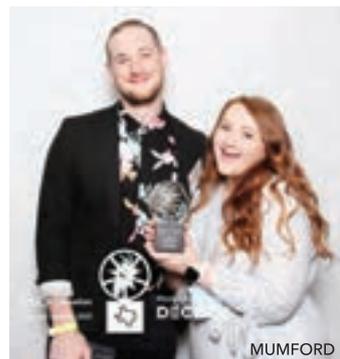
Gladys Garcia '13, B.S. communication disorders, '15, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech-language pathologist in the Victoria school district. Her spouse, **Sean Murphy** '15, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer at INVISTA. They live in Victoria with their son, Dylan.

Shorr Heathcote '13, M.Ed. administration, is executive director of human resources for Midlothian school district. She lives in Midlothian.

Megan Hebert '13, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Christus Southeast Texas-St. Elizabeth Hospital. She and her wife, **Dana (Gonzalez)** '12, A.A.S. nursing, live in Beaumont.

Jesi (Courville) Jones '13, B.S.W. social work, is an operations manager at Courville's Catering and Special Events. She lives in China with her husband, Blake.

Nathan Mistric '13, B.B.A. entrepreneurship, '21, M.B.A., is an outside sales account manager at M&D Supply. His wife, **Megan (Fournier)** '13, B.G.S. general studies, is director of client services at Nutrition and Services for Seniors. They live in Nederland.



MUMFORD

Gwendolyn Mumford '13, B.F.A. studio art, '16, B.S. graphic design, and her colleagues won an AMA Crystal Award for her graphic design work for AIG Travel. She lives in Houston.

Jennifer (Horton) Nowak '13, B.A. American Sign Language, is an ASL teacher at Fulshear High School in the Lamar consolidated school district. She lives in Katy with her husband, Cody.

Brittany Parsels '13, B.S.W. social work, holds a master's degree in social work and is director of family violence programs at Family Services of Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont.

Meagan Phillips '13, B.S. communication, is a professional celebrity makeup artist. She lives in Beaumont.

Belinda Richard '13, B.S. sociology, '20, M.E. clinical mental health counseling, is a commander at the American Legion Auxiliary and outreach specialist in the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. She lives in Beaumont.

Will Robbins '13, B.A. political science, earned a B.A. in philosophy in May 2021 as a seminarian for the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont and is now living in Rome while attending the Pontifical North American College and studying theology at Pontifical Gregorian University.

Jordan (Miller) Roberts '13, B.S.W. social work, is a case manager at Buckner Children and Family Services. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Stephen.

Samon Tahir '13, B.B.A. human resource management, '15, M.B.A. business administration, owns Digital Couture Marketing Agency, which provides social media management and training for small businesses. She and her husband, Hammad, live in Katy.

Brittany (Moore) Thompson '13, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and her husband, **Cody** '13, B.B.A. management, had their second daughter, Raegan Grace, March 30, 2021. Brittany teaches first grade at Silsbee Elementary School and Cody is a field operations professional at Halliburton. They live in Silsbee.

Lauren Van Gerven '13, B.S. communication, '15, M.B.A., is a business development manager at Pioneer Golf. She lives in Austin.



WILLIAMS

Brooklyn Williams '13, B.A. communication, earned a master of ministry degree in Christian counseling from Grace School of Theology in May 2021. She is executive director of John R. Adolph Ministries and lives in Beaumont.

Christine Zabala '13, B.A. English, B.A. history, earned her master's degree in literature in 2015 and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction in 2021. She is an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma, and lives in Oklahoma City.

Alejandra Aldrete '14, M.Ed. administration, is curriculum specialist for the Bilingual/English as a Second Language Title III Department for Brownsville school district. She serves as a member of the Texas Southmost College Board of Trustees and lives in Brownsville.

Janna Bartz '14, B.B.A. human resource management, is the owner of The Golden Cup coffee shop. She lives in Nederland.

Mordecai Brownlee '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, is president of Community College of Aurora in Colorado, where he and his wife, Daphne, live.

Jada (Edwards) Botley '14, B.S. biology, is a first grade teacher at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. Her husband, **Darwin** '12, B.S. health education, is a pharmacy technician at Walgreens. They live in Port Arthur.

Danielle (Sonier) Breland '14, B.S. nutrition, dietetics and hospitality, is the lead career and technical education teacher for the Katy school district. She lives in Katy with her husband, Cameron.

Hallie (Baker) Clark '14, B.B.A. finance, is a buyer for Motiva Enterprises. She lives in Nederland with her husband, Ricky.

Casey Dean '14, B.S. computer science, mathematics, '15, M.S. mathematics, was promoted to vice president of software engineering at Goldman, Sachs and Co. He lives in Plano.

Jacob Devillier '14, B.B.A. management, is assistant vice president of operational support at Neches Federal Credit Union. He lives in Buna.

Kasie (Murf) Dockens '14, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and her husband, Jason, had their second child, Jack Mitchell, Jan. 4, 2021. Kasie owns Frozen Grapes, a custom screen printing and embroidery business. They live in Beaumont.

JoAnn Fey '14, Ed.D. educational leadership, is the superintendent for the Midlothian school district. She lives in La Coste.

Kate Grant '14, B.S. kinesiology, is a physical education teacher/coach at Caldwell Elementary School in the Beaumont school district. She lives in Beaumont.

Cody Hebert '14, B.B.A. management information systems, is a hip-hop artist from Port Arthur. He lives in Houston.

Sarah Irwin '14, B.S. political science, '16, M.P.A. public administration, earned her law degree in 2019 and is an attorney with Thomas J. Henry Law. She and her spouse, **Alora Berry** '13, B.S. communication disorders, who is a dog trainer with Off Leash K9, live in San Antonio.

Taylor (Cox) Jones '14, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, and her husband, **Dustin** '11, B.S. mechanical engineering, had their son Paul Brady, Jan. 19, 2021. Taylor teaches seventh and eighth grade math at Leon High School, and Dustin is a mechanical designer with Charlie Mike Precision, a

CLASS NOTES

firearm safety trainer and manufacturer. They live in Marquez.

Allison Kondo '14, M.S. applied psychology, married Jordon Holmes May 22, 2021. She is a utilization review coordinator for Steward Health Care System. They live in Port Bolivar.

Loni Lilley '14, B.S. graphic design, teaches art at Boulter Middle School in Tyler school district. She and her fiancé, Matthew, live in Tyler.

Shishir Mahmood '14, M.E. mechanical engineering, is a radial aerospace engineer at Good Year Tire & Rubber Co. He lives in Danville, Va., with his wife, Iffah.

Jordan (Bodin) McFarland '14, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a third grade teacher at Highland Park Elementary School in the Nederland school district. Her husband, **Aaron** '13, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is an electrician for IBEW Local Union. They live in Nederland.

Laura (Hicks) Olvera '14, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, '21, M.Ed. administration, is an educational administrator in the Fort Bend school district. She lives in Houston with her husband, Ryan.

MariAnne Ortega '14, B.S. psychology, is senior recruiter at Imagen Technologies and director of new chapters for the Alpha Eta Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. She lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Kacy Rodgers '14, B.A. English, is a college prep reading and writing educator at Spring Woods High School in the Spring Branch school district. She lives in Houston.

Clarissa Rodriguez '14, M.Ed. administration, is assistant superintendent of teaching and learning for Taylor school district and lives in Rio Hondo.

James Smith III '14, M.Ed. administration, is chief operating officer for the Dime Box school district. He lives in College Station with his wife, Dara.

Brooke (Crowell) Tanton '14, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '16, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech language pathologist in the West Hardin school district and Kountze. She and her husband, **Stephen** '19, B.S. mechanical engineering, live in Lumberton.

Ezekiel Turk '14, B.S. kinesiology, is a physical education teacher at Hillcrest Elementary in the Nederland school district and was voted Teacher of the Year. His wife, **Elise (Johnson)** '13, B.S. family studies, '16, M.Ed. clinical mental health counseling, works at Family Services of Southeast Texas. They live in Nederland.

Lauren (Robinson) Washington '14, B.A. psychology, earned her master's degree in social work and is a social worker with Aldine school district. She and her husband, **James** '13,

B.S. kinesiology, who teaches physical education at Pugh Elementary School, live in Houston.

Carissa (Hill) Allen '15, B.S. communication, '18, M.Ed. administration, teaches at Meadows Elementary School where she was selected to represent Meadows Elementary in the Fort Bend school

district as the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators Teacher of the Year. Her husband, **Chadwick** '14, B.G.S. general studies, '16, M.S. criminal justice, is a P.E. coach at Cypress Falls High School. They live in Richmond with their sons, Caysen and Chayse.

Katelynn Ashabranner '15, B.B.A. general business, is the executive

pastor at Encounter Church. In 2020 she welcomed baby Berit to the world. She lives in Groves with her husband, Robert.

Sandra (Pascua) Bellard '15, B.S. interior design, teaches at Memorial High School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. Her husband,



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Quentin '04, B.B.A. management information systems, holds an Ed.D. in instructional systems design and technology and is interim director at the Center for Teaching and Learning Enhancement at Lamar University, and assistant coordinator of online course development at LU's Division of Distance Learning. They live in Beaumont.

Summer (Detwiler) Bernhardt '15, B.A. biochemistry, '19, B.A. chemistry, is a research technician at ExxonMobil Corp. in Baytown. Her husband, **Troy '06**, B.B.A. finance, is senior vice president at First Liberty National Bank. They live in Baytown with their daughter, Winter.

Susana Cardenas '15, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse at Christus Southeast Texas–St. Elizabeth. She lives in Beaumont with her partner, Alejandro.

Trevon Davis '15, B.S. criminal justice, is a probation officer for the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. His wife, **Franchelle (Hill) '16**, B.S. communication, is head girls track coach at Summer Creek High School in the Humble school district. They live in Houston.

Savanah (Desmarais) DeLuna '15, B.G.S. general studies, is a special education teacher and head volleyball coach at Bridge City High School. She and her husband, Kegan, live in Bridge City.

Sharri Diggles '15, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is principal of Edwards-Johnson Memorial Silsbee Middle School. She lives in Beaumont.

Timi (Bialose) Dobe '15, B.S. computer and information sciences, was promoted to technology management consultant for Accenture in May 2021. She and her husband, **Michael '12**, B.B.A. accounting, '15, M.S. accounting, who is a staff auditor for Crowe LLP, live in Plano.

Karrie (Goodwin) Gilkerson '15, family and consumer sciences–nutrition and dietetics, teaches at Southside Elementary School in Cleveland school district. She and her husband, **Chadwick '12**, B.S. kinesiology, who teaches at Newton High School, live in Newton.

Hillary (Haynes) Gravett '15, B.B.A. marketing, is social media manager for the Orange Convention and Visitors Bureau. She lives in Orange with her husband, Gregory, and daughter, McCartney.

Mallory Horton '15, B.A. history, is an English teacher at West Orange-Stark High School in the West Orange-Cove school district, and a sponsor of the high school's Anime Dream Team. She lives in Orange.

Pravan Kurre '15, M.E. industrial engineering, is an Azure Cloud engineer at Microsoft Corp. He lives in Bellevue, Wash.

Joseph Todd Lafleur '15, B.S. criminal justice, is an investigator with the Office of Inspector General in Baton Rouge, La. He and his wife, Angela, live in Prairieville, La.

Kori (Harrison) Lunceford '15, B.S. political science, teaches English at V.R. Eaton High School in Haslet, where she and her husband, Greg, live.



Aly (Sanders) Melancon '15, B.S. nutrition, dietetics and hospitality, is assistant manager at The Springs Wedding Venue. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Skyler.

Ray Nunez '15, B.B.A. management information systems, is a branch manager at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. He and his wife, Katrina (Cruz) '15, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, live in Beaumont.

Amber (Fulkerson) O'Brien '15, B.S. nursing, is a nurse at Tennova Healthcare. She lives in Dublin, Ga., with her husband, Charles.

Vaughn Ogrydziak '15, B.S. chemical engineering, is reliability manager at Roseburg Forest Products in Coquille, Ore., where he lives.

Lauren (Stafford) Richardson '15, B.S. biology, holds a Ph.D. in cell biology and anatomy and is a visiting postdoctoral scholar in the Texas A&M University

System. She lives in Winnie with her husband, Alex.

Stephanie (Bermudez) Richings '15, B.S. psychology, '18, M.S. speech-language pathology, is owner of Stephanie Richings Photography. She and her husband, **Cody '14**, B.S. criminal justice, live in Beaumont.

Ashley (Patterson) Salazar '15, B.A. social work, earned a master's degree in social work in 2017 and is a human resources recruiter at Lamar University. She and her husband, **Enrique '17**, B.S. chemical engineering, live in Beaumont.

Carrie (Cloy) Sanders '15, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '21, M.S. accounting, M.S. management information systems, is staff accountant at Cavett Turner Wyble in Beaumont. She and her husband, Daniel, live in Groves.

Anna (Bedford) '15, B.S. graphic design, and **Reagan Stanley '13**, B.B.A. general business, B.B.A. management, welcomed their son Rhett Lyndon July 4, 2021. They live in Rosenberg.

Jessica (Pierpoint) Thevis '15, B.B.A. general business, '17, M.B.A. business administration, is a cost analyst with Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. She and her husband, Chad, live in Beaumont.

Kaylynn (Thomas) Tkachev '15, B.M. music, is a client success associate at Charity Footprints. Her husband, **Artur '17**, B.S. chemical engineering, is director of marketing and Europe, Middle East and Africa product applications at InVitria. They live in Denver, Colo.



LU alumni and student ambassadors volunteered at the Southeast Texas Foodbank Sat., Oct. 9, 2021, to prepare food boxes for area senior citizens.

CLASS NOTES

Chloe Tucker '15, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '18, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor for Bridge City High School. She lives in Bridge City.

Quinessa Williams '15, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is principal of Cater Elementary in Temple school district, where she lives.

Lauren (Schuldt) Wilson '15, B.A. English, holds a master's degree in Victorian literature and is senior administrative associate at LU's Division of Diversity and Intercultural Affairs. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Derek.



ZABALA

Danielle (Ellis) Zabala '15, B.S. psychology, earned her medical degree in May 2021. She and her husband, Kevin '16, B.S. psychology, live in Oklahoma City.

Johanna (Figlia) Aguilar '16, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '18, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech language pathologist at Spindletop Center. She and her husband, **Eric** '15, B.S. nursing, live in League City.

Shawntelle (Hillman) Allison '16, B.B.A. human resource management, is a teacher in the Phillis Wheatley School of Early Childhood Program in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. Her husband, **Brandon** '02, B.G.S. general studies, holds a master's degree in educational leadership and is an assistant principal at West Orange Stark Middle School in the West Orange Cove school district. They live in Beaumont.

Pankaj Bhowmik '16, M.E.S. electrical engineering science, is a digital design engineer at Marvell Semiconductor Inc. in Gainesville, Fla., where he lives.

Christopher Burdette '16, B.S. kinesiology, is a teacher and coach at East Chambers Elementary School. His wife, **Robyn (Winkle)** '16, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is director of advising and recruiting at Lamar State College-Orange. They live in Groves with their daughter, Laurel.

Taylor (Stockton) Cihan '16, B.B.A. accounting, '17, M.S. accounting, is a senior auditor with Deloitte in Houston. She and her husband, **Erman** '15, B.S. mechanical engineering, married April 23, 2021, and they live in League City.

Lindsey Darby '16, B.A. political science, earned a master's degree in public relations in 2021. She lives in Irving and is a campaign manager for First Page Sage.

Rebekah Drummond '16, B.B.A. marketing, B.B.A. retail management, '17, M.B.A. business administration, and **Matt Hunt** '17, B.S. mechanical engineering, married June 26, 2021. She is administrative manager for Southwest Marine Construction. They live in Lake Charles.

Tre'Chele Dukes '16, B.S. communications, holds a master's degree in professional communications and digital media and was recently an adjunct professor at Texas Southern University. She lives in Rosharon.

Cody Elenz '16, M.S. kinesiology, holds a doctor of chiropractic degree and owns Southern Hills Chiropractic. He and his wife, **Andrea (Dearing)** '16, M.S. environmental engineering, live in Kempner.

Clayton Farrell '16, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Hallsville Junior High School and lives in Longview.

Hector Flores '16, M.P.A. public administration, '20, Ed.D. educational leadership, is chief of police for the LU Police Department and associate vice president and dean of students in the LU Division of Student Engagement. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Elvira.

Brianna Graffagnino '16, B.S. family and consumer sciences-family studies, teaches at Little Cypress Junior High School, where she was named Teacher of the Year. She lives in Orange.

Ayah Hamza '16, B.S. chemistry, earned her doctorate in osteopathic medicine in May 2021. She lives in Fort Worth.

Haley Hebert '16, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '18, M.S. speech-language pathology, is a speech language pathologist at Sava Senior Care. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Nick.



BURDETTE

Adam Henke '16, M.Ed. educational leadership, is principal of Mt. Peak Elementary in Midlothian school district. He lives in Waxahachie.

Jasmine (Morris) '16, B.B.A. management, B.B.A. marketing, and **Dominique Johnson** '14, B.A. chemistry, welcomed their second child Dominique Charles-Morgan Jr. in June 2021. Jasmine is a senior administrative assistant at Texas Southern University, and Dominique is the administrative manager for Incognito Spa Clinic. They live in Missouri City.

Jacob Martin '16, B.B.A. management, earned his law degree and is an attorney at JTM Tech Law. His wife, **Harley (Rayburn)** '17, B.B.A. marketing, is marketing communications manager at Burdge and Associates Architects. They live in Malibu, Calif.



MEJIA

Juan Mejia Jr. '16, B.B.A. economics, married Alexandra "Ali" Swee April 10, 2021. He is an associate of public affairs for Cornerstone Government Affairs. They live in Beaumont.

Colton Morris '16, B.B.A. management, '19, M.B.A., is associate director of stewardship and development at the Diocese of Beaumont. He lives in Port Neches with his wife, Kelsey.

Maci (Reeves) Morris '16, B.S. biology, teaches science at Nederland High School. Her husband, **Levi** '16, B.S. mathematics, is a math teacher at Nederland High School. They live in Groves with their daughter, Amelia.

Joseph Reed '16, B.S. electrical engineering, is a marketing coordinator at Sam Houston State University. He lives in Winnie.

LaTasha Richard '16, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, is a project manager at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and program specialist at Flexup Staffing. She lives in Dallas.

Lacey (Laurents) Salois '16, M.Ed. clinical mental health counseling, is a licensed professional counselor at Hill

Country Counseling Associates. She and her husband, **Jeremy** '15, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, live in Bandera.

Michael Slaughter '16, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is assistant principal at Wylie High School and a member of the Texas School Safety Center Board. He lives in Wylie.

Grant Tatum '16, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is assistant principal at C.O. Wilson Middle School in Nederland school district. He and his wife, **Katherine (LaFleur)** '15, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, '17, M.S. speech-language pathology, who is a speech pathologies for Magnolia Manor, live in Port Neches.

Meagan Thierheimer '16, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is librarian of Adams Elementary in Port Arthur school district. She and her husband, Justin, live in Port Neches.

Kara Timberlake '16, B.A. English, B.S. communication, and **Shelby Brannan** '18, B.S. theatre and dance, own Envie Media. She is marketing and communication manager for the McFaddin-Ward House Museum and lives in Beaumont.

Vanessa (VanDomelen) Walkley '16, M.S.N. nursing, is an associate professor and lab coordinator for the George Fox University School of Nursing. She lives in North Plains, Ore., with her husband, Tim.

Kade Weaver '16, B.S. criminal justice, is an inmate guard at Travis County Sheriff's Department. His wife, **Lyndsey (Dumesnil)** '17, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a kindergarten teacher in the Leander school district. They live in Leander.

Esmeralda Adame '17, Ed.D. educational leadership, is founder and host of the podcast Persistence in Adversity and C.E.O. of a consulting firm in Mission, where she lives.

Nicolette (Tate) '17, B.B.A. management, and **Travis Clarke** '16, B.S. construction management, welcomed their son James April 18, 2021. Travis is project manager for Forde Construction Co. They live in Hockley.

Megan (Brown) Cochran '17, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is an academic advisor for Undergraduate Advising at Lamar University. She lives in Lumberton with her husband, John.

Brittany (Sumner) Combs '17, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is the athletic coordinator at Copperas Cove Junior High School. She and her husband, **Tyler** '17, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, live in Copperas Cove.

Dr. Kelli Creel '17, B.S. chemistry, earned her dental degree in 2021. She lives in Sabine Pass.



From left, Aaron Lavergne '17, president; Kelsi Caicedo '15, mentorship coordinator; Jasmine Toliver '17; professional development coordinator; Terry Savoy-Hadley '95, membership coordinator; Taylor Haynes '17, secretary; Aliyah Thomas '16, vice president/Homecoming chair; J.R. Richardson '92, public relations coordinator; Weslynn (Taylor) Morris '17, treasurer; Lucky Nwaozuru '14, '17, Homecoming coordinator; and Bryson Wilson '17 public relations coordinator

▲ **BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK SCHOLARSHIP GALA**

The Lamar University Black Alumni Network hosted a scholarship gala during Homecoming at the Compro Event Center Nov. 12, 2021.

▶ **BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK HAPPY HOUR**

Members of the Lamar University Black Alumni Network gathered for their "Grad Vibes" Happy Hour Sept. 9, 2021, at Prospect Park in Houston.

LU Black Alumni Network officers, back from left: Lucky Nwaozuru '14, '17, Homecoming coordinator; Bryson Wilson '17, public relations coordinator; front, Jasmine Toliver '17, professional development coordinator; Taylor Haynes '17, secretary; Aliyah Thomas '16, vice president and Homecoming coordinator; Aaron Lavergne '17, president



Joseph Trahan, Fred Vernon '12, '13, Terry Savoy-Hadley '95, A.J. Turner, and Stacey Lewis Jr.

▶ Members enjoyed good food and fellowship during happy hour Oct. 28, 2021, at Sugars Deep South Cuisine and Jazz Bar.

Weslynn (Taylor) Morris '17, treasurer; Terry Savoy-Hadley '95 membership coordinator; and Aliyah Thomas '16, vice president and Homecoming coordinator



Himanshu “Danny” Jaysukhbhai Dhami '17, M.M.E. mechanical engineering, is a design engineer for Rectorseal. He lives in Tomball.

Jamie (Deaton) Dillon '17, B.B.A. human resource management, is a human resources staffing coordinator for Wellpath. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Jacob.

Sara Dodds '17, B.S. political science, earned her law degree in 2021. She lives in Beaumont.

LaTonya Goffney '17, M.Ed. administration, is superintendent of Aldine school district and serves the Texas Association of School Administrators as vice president, its first African-American female officer. She lives in Humble.

Madison Hardy '17, B.S. chemical engineering, married Chris Taff May 1, 2021. They live in Beaumont.

Lauren (Lovejoy) Hubbert '17, B.S. kinesiology, is assistant Lady Hawks soccer coach for Pleasant Grove school district. She played in the UWSL with the Houston Aces, winning a national title in 2018. She and her husband, Micah, live in Texarkana.

Crystal Kampen '17, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Wheat Middle School in the Cleburne School District. She lives in Cleburne.

Johnny Ray Lively '17, B.S. communication, is pursuing a degree in meteorology. He and his wife, Haleigh (Turley), live in Port Neches.

Cutter McDowell '17, B.B.A. finance, is territory sales manager for Techstar. He lives in Friendswood.

Skylar Murphy '17, B.S. psychology, '18, M.P.H. public health, is an EHS business coordinator with International Paper's Corporate Center of Excellence. She lives in Orange.

Michael Newman '17, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, '21, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is a teacher. He and his wife, Brittany, live in Baytown.

Manisha Patel-John '17, B.S. chemical engineering, is co-founder and owner of LuluCartoons, a custom art company that provides personalized, hand-drawn illustrations to customers worldwide. She and her husband, Vivek, live in Katy.

Ciara (Deharde) '17, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and **Kagen Rose** '16, B.S. nursing, welcomed their son Nicolas Jack May 6, 2021. Ciara teaches second grade at Heights Elementary School, and Kagen is a registered nurse at University of Texas Medical Branch. They live in Santa Fe, Texas.

Eric Spaulding '17, B.B.A. marketing, '18, M.B.A. business administration, earned his law degree in May 2021. He lives in Flower Mound.

Carlee Stork '17, B.S., kinesiology, married Matthew White July 17, 2021. She teaches at Middle School South in

Barbers Hill school district. They live in Baytown.

Christina Torres '17, B.S. health education, holds a B.S. in nursing and is a registered nurse at CHI St. Luke's Medical Center. She lives in Houston.

Rebekah (Wells) Woodard '17, B.S. corporate communication, '21, M.B.A., is an admissions counselor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her husband, **Adrian** '18, B.M. music education, holds a master's degree in music education and is assistant band director/jazz band director at Cleveland High School. They live in New Caney.

Kinney (Mitchell) '17, B.S. psychology, and Julian Vandevender welcomed their daughter Lorelei on June 15, 2021. Kinney is a qualified mental health professional with the Spindletop Center. They live in Vidor.

Mason Vizena '17, B.B.A. marketing, is an outside sales representative for United Rentals. His wife, **Savanna (Porter)** '18, B.B.A. marketing, is an inside sales representative for the company. They live in Nederland.

Laurel (Rugg) Zepeda '17, B.S. family and consumer sciences–family studies, is substitute teacher for Angleton school district. She lives in Angleton with her husband, **Aaron** '19, B.S. mechanical engineering.

Emily (Jacobs) Aguilar '18, B.A. modern languages, teaches Spanish at Beaumont Early College High School. She and her husband, **Ramiro** '18, B.S. mechanical engineering, live in Beaumont.

Travis Anderson '18, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, earned his doctorate in podiatric medicine to become a foot and ankle surgeon after completing a three-year surgical residency. He and his wife, Danika, live in Northville, Mich.

Blake Ballard '18, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical maintenance engineer with Steel Dynamics Inc. He lives in Robstown.

Breanne Bell '18, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, and her fiancé, Carson Kilgore, welcomed their daughter Sloane Olivia May 6, 2021. Bell teaches third grade reading at Port Acres Elementary School. They live in Nederland.

Jerome Berglund '18, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal of Mesquite Horn High School. He and his wife, Leigh, live in Mesquite.

Shelby (Dryden) Brannan '18, B.S. theatre and dance, and **Kara Timberlake** '16, B.A. English, B.S. communication, own Envei Media. She earned a master's degree in strategic communication and innovation in 2020, is executive director of the Beaumont Heritage Society and lives in Winnie with her husband, Rodney.

Brian Bonner '18, B.S. civil engineering, is design engineering assistant III with the Texas Department of Transportation in Conroe, where he and his wife, Sydney, live.

Charleen Chelette '18, B.B.A. marketing, '19, M.B.A. business administration, is marketing coordinator for Exceptional Emergency Center in Beaumont. She lives in Port Neches.

Brooke Chilla '18, B.S. political science, is an attorney with the Johnson & Autry Law Firm in Grand Forks, N.D. She lives in Kulm, N.D.

Cindy (Whitfill) Colichia '18, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, owns Larry's Refrigeration & A/C in Nederland, where she lives.

Daniel Cruz '18, B.G.S. general studies, owns Cruz Events, which offers décor services for a variety of events. He and his life partner, Adam, live in Nederland.

Celine Do '18, B.B.A. management information systems, is an academic advisor for the Lamar University Undergraduate Advising Center. She lives in Groves.

Laura Fiedler '18, B.A. modern languages, earned her M.B.A. in 2021 and is an HR business partner at G20 Technologies in San Antonio, where she lives.

Brianna Forward '18, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, is a pre-k teacher at William B. Travis Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. She lives in Newton.

Edreauanna Fowler '18, M.Ed. administration, teaches fifth grade science at Lakeview Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district and is on the Spindletop Center Board of Trustees. She lives in Port Arthur.



Eric Godeaux '18, B.S. nursing, is a family nurse practitioner. He lives in Beaumont.

Karli (Flurry) Horne '18, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches third grade at Lumberton Primary School. Her husband, **James** '17, B.S. civil engineering, became a Texas licensed professional engineer June 2, 2021. They live in Lumberton.

Colby Hughes '18, B.S. mechanical engineering, is an automation engineer for Champion Technology Services Inc. in Lake Charles, where he and his wife, **Devan (Ficken)** '15, B.S. family and consumer sciences–family studies, live.

Alejandria (Avila) James '18, B.S. chemical engineering, is an environmental investigator for the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. Her husband, **Jacob** '14, B.S. physics, mechanical engineering, works as a benefit specialist for Globe Life-Liberty National. They live in Baytown.

Saumnya Lewis '18, M.Ed. administration, is principal of Miller Middle School in San Marcos school district. She lives in Nolanville.

Whitney Liekis '18, M.Ed. administration, is campus testing coordinator for Dallas school district. She lives in Midlothian.

Dalton Locklear '18, B.S. mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineer at Entegris. His wife, **Kelsey (Patrick)** '15, B.S. nutrition, dietetics and hospitality, is a territory manager at Aytu BioScience. They live in Cedar Park with their daughter, Emma.

Alvin Lugod '18, M.S. criminal justice, is a specialized populations officer for Nebraska State Probation in Lincoln, Neb. He lives in Omaha.

Taniquia Ned '18, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches third grade at DeQueen Elementary in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. She lives in Port Arthur.

Layne Miguez '18, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, married Emma Wheeler May 29, 2021. They live in Beaumont.

Marc Owens '18, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the Port Arthur school district, where he was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. His wife, **Tatiana (Morales)** '93, is executive director of curriculum and instruction in the Port Arthur school district. They live in Port Arthur.

Hannah Richardson '18, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, married Jeremy Binagia June 13, 2021. They live in Port Neches.

Robert Root '18, B.S. political science, earned his law degree in 2021. He lives in Lumberton.

John Rugg '18, B.B.A. general business, married Mallory Haynes Feb. 27, 2021. They live in Beaumont.

Ryan Sherer '18, B.B.A. management, earned his law degree in May 2021. He is an associate attorney for The Daws Law Firm and lives in Nederland.

Shelby (Whitehead) Smylie '18, B.S. chemical engineering, is an Federal Communications Commission contact engineer at ExxonMobil Corp. She and her husband, **Calvin** '20, B.S. industrial engineering, live in Lumberton.

Justin Soza '18, B.S. criminal justice, is a lieutenant in the command staff of the El Campo Police Department. He and his wife, **Paige (Wesselski)** '17, M.Ed. administration, live in El Campo.



THOMPSON

Vesta (Aery) Thompson '18, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, is a social studies teacher at Vidor Middle School. She lives in Vidor with her spouse, Richard.

Corina Thornton '18, B.G.S. general studies, is assistant softball coach at East Central High School. She lives in Universal City.



WOODARD

Adrian Woodard '18, B.M. music education, and **Rebekah Wells** '17, B.S. communication-corporate, '21, M.B.A. business administration, married June 25, 2021. She is an admissions counselor for the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and he is assistant band director and jazz band director at Cleveland High School. They live in New Caney.

Tammy Tran '18, B.B.A. advertising communication, '21, M.B.A., is a loan specialist at Amegy Bank. She lives in Houston.

Salman Ashrafi '19, B.S. mathematics, is an engineer at TIV. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Sania.

Shelby Bickham '19, B.S. criminal justice, and **Jordan Curl** '20, B.S. biology, married June 14, 2021. She is a traveling leadership consultant for Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. They live in Lubbock.

Angelica Childes '19, M.Ed. administration, teaches fourth grade at Greenville County Schools and was a finalist for South Carolina Teacher of the Year. She lives in Greenville, S.C.

Courtney Cross '19, M.Ed., educational technology leadership, is assistant principal of Galloway Elementary in Mesquite school district, where she lives.

Jazmin Dorsey '19, B.B.A. accounting, is a senior associate for engagement finance at Ernst & Young. She lives in Port Arthur.

Carly Duplant '19, B.M. music education, married **Eric Rose** '13, B.M. music, '21, M.Ed. administration, June 26, 2021. She is head band director at Vidor Junior High School, and he is head band director at Central Middle School in Nederland school district where they live.

Amy Guerra '19, M.Ed. school counseling, is a counselor at Cypress Springs Elementary in Dripping Springs school district. She and her husband, Juan, live in Kyle.

Kyndel (Spoonmore) Kyler '19, B.G.S. general studies, married Garret Kyler in 2020. They live in Beaumont, Texas.

Suman Luitel '19, M.S. civil engineering, is a structural engineer with BR Architects & Engineers in Richardson. He lives in Irving.

Sydney Merunka '19, B.B.A. management, is a sales development representative at ForgeRock. He lives in Austin.

Josh Nzeakor '19, B.B.A. marketing, is a professional basketball player for Atenas Cordoba Griego in Argentina. He lives in Mesquite.

Tracie Purnell '19, B.S.W. social work, earned a master's degree in social work in 2020. She lives in Houston.

Cheyenne (Ross) Shell '19, B.S. chemical engineering, and her husband, Chad, welcomed their daughter Chloe Elizabeth May 26, 2021. They live in Vidor.

Monica Strohschein '19, B.S. communication advertising, is a digital media specialist at KPS3. She lives in Reno, Nev.

Emily (Hughes) Thomas '19, B.S. family and consumer sciences-nutrition and dietetics, and her husband, Stormy, welcomed their son River Watson July 19, 2021. They live in Spring.

Deja Williams '19, B.G.S. general studies, is an assistant teacher at the Cooperative Children's Center. She lives in Seattle, Wash.

Bailey Wilson '19, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, a business development representative for Quorum Software, married **Beau Gilbert** '14, an account manager for Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, June 26, 2021. They live in Lumberton.



WILSON

20s

Kayla (Clifton) Adams '20, B.B.A. management, is a purchase order coordinator for Cat5 Resources. Her husband, **Tanner** '15, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, works in inside sales for Coastal Welding Supply. They live in Nederland.

Courtney Ard '20, B.S. communication, is marketing coordinator for DuGood Federal Credit Union. She lives in Lumberton.

Raj Ataya '20, M.S. criminal justice, holds an M.B.A. in entrepreneurial finance and international business and is a game warden for Texas Parks and Wildlife in Orange County. He lives in Beaumont.

Estibi Azpilicueta '20, B.S. chemical engineering, is a utilities engineer with Merck. She lives in Harrisonburg, Va.

Jordan Batson '20, M.Ed. educational administration, is head coach of the Lady Tigers in Dripping Springs school district. He lives in Dripping Springs.

Malorie Becker '20, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, married **Hunter Clark** '17, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, July 8, 2021.



BECKER

Hunter is a delivery driver for UPS, and Malorie teaches kindergarten at Little Cypress Elementary School in Orange, where they live.

Grace Belaïre '20, B.B.A. management, is a program coordinator for the Center of Midstream Management and Science at Lamar University. She lives in Port Neches.

Sheri Brezeale '20, M.Ed. administration, is executive director of communications for Midlothian school district and serves as the district's education foundation executive director. She lives in Midlothian.

Edward Doan '20, B.S. chemical engineering, is a materials, process and delivery engineer at Proctor & Gamble in Martinsburg, West Va., where he lives.

Francesca Gaspard '20, B.A. interdisciplinary studies, teaches third grade at Hillcrest Elementary School in Nederland school district, where she lives.

Triple jumper **Tylen Guidry** '20, B.S. exercise science and fitness management, competed at the 2021 NCAA Track and Field Championship in Eugene, Ore., earning a 19th-place finish in the nation and Honorable Mention All-America Honors. He lives in Sugar Land.

Taylor Havard '20, B.G.S. general studies, married Nathan Huckaby in 2021. They live in Nederland.

Arthur J. Harmon III '20, B.S. communication-broadcasting, is master control operator for KFDM-TV Channel 6. He lives in Beaumont.

Seyedsaeid "Saeid" Hosseini '20, D.E. civil engineering, is project engineer at NOVA Engineering and Environmental. He lives in Beaumont.

Katrina Kelly '20, B.A. music, teaches at Alexander Middle School in the Pearland school district. She lives in Houston.

Brandi (Anderson) Lopez '20, B.S.W. social work, is a patient navigator for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. She lives in Beaumont with her husband, Jesus.

Chaston Miller '20, B.S. communication studies, married, **Kaitlyn** '20, B.S. university studies multidisciplinary. They live in Groves.

David Mire '20, M.Ed. administration, is assistant principal of Orangefield Junior High School. He lives in Bridge City.

Elohor Okene '20, B.S. chemical engineering, is a production engineer at Dow Chemical Co. She lives in Port Arthur.

Former LU soccer forward **Ijeoma Esther Okoronkwo** '20, B.G.S. general studies, debuted with Nigeria's national team during a WNT Summer Series International friendly match at BBVA Stadium in Houston last June. She lives in Houston.

CLASS NOTES

Rodney Randle Jr. '20, B.G.S. general studies, is a defensive back for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League. He lives in Beaumont.

Waylon Randolph '20, M.Ed. digital learning and leading, is a criminal justice teacher at Wunsche High School in the Spring school district. He lives in Spring.

Bonnie Ruten '20, B.S. physics, and **Christian Dick** '19, B.S. mechanical engineering, married July 3, 2021. They live in Roanoke.

Alfredo Jimenez Sanchez '20, M.Ed. educational technology leadership, is a teacher at Tyrrell Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district, where he was named a 2021 Teacher of the Year. He lives in Port Neches.

Misty Shamsheer '20, B.G.S. general studies, is a teacher at Port Acres Elementary School in the Port Arthur school district, where she was named a 2021 Rookie of the Year. She lives in Groves.

Ashlyn Sherer '20, B.S. nursing, is a nurse in the progressive care unit at Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. She lives in Nederland.

Casey Smith '20, B.B.A. management, B.B.A. human resource management, earned her M.B.A. from Lamar University in 2021 and is associate director of human resources for the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont. She lives in Orange.

Alisha (Fletcher) Smith '20, B.A.A.S. applied arts and sciences, teaches health science in Humble school district. She and her husband, Justin, live in Huffman.

Erial Smith '20, B.S. health education, founded Erial's College Mission in Dallas, a non-profit organization that donates school supplies, toiletries and scholarships to college students who need them. She lives in Dallas.

Elizabeth Talley '20, B.S. speech and hearing sciences, married her middle school sweetheart, **Colby Fore** '20, B.M. music performance, Aug. 8, 2020. They live in Spring.

Emily Taubert '20, B.S. nursing, married **Kaleb Sparks** '19, B.S. nursing, December 19, 2020. They live in Port Neches.

Logan Thompson '20, B.B.A. finance, is a confirmations analyst for Motiva Enterprises. He lives in Houston.

Sarah Truncali '20, B.S. mathematics, and **Gavin Gilbreath** '20, B.S. electrical engineering, married June 18, 2021. She teaches at Bridge City High School. They live in Orange.

Heidi Bouzas '21, M.B.A. business administration, is a supply chain analyst, and she lives in Houston.

Makayla Brown '21, B.S. nursing, is a registered nurse in the ICU at Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital. She and her fiancé, Alex Corbello, live in Orange.

Lindsey Cormier '21, B.S. psychology, is a case manager with Lone Star Social Services. She lives in Orange.

Jill Culp '21, B.S. biology, teaches biology at Bridge City High School. She lives in Bridge City.

Abel Daily '21, B.S. criminal justice, is a jailer and correctional officer with the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. He lives in College Station.

Sydni Doiron '21, B.B.A. management, married Chase Gordon '21, B.S. biology, May 22, 2021. They live in Groves.

Kara Ficken '21, B.B.A. accounting, married **Alexander Exum** '21, B.B.A. finance, May 22, 2021. They live in Silsbee.

Madison Foster '21, B.S. nursing, married **Austin Krautz** '20, B.S. construction management, May 22, 2021. They live in Port Neches.

Jeffery Gilchriest '21, M.S. criminal justice, is a drug treatment specialist for the Bureau of Prisons. He and lives in Groves.

Oris Granger '21, B.S. industrial engineering, is an operations engineers at L3 Harris Technologies. He lives in Richardson.

Julianne "Julie" (Longlois) Hanson '21, B.S. interdisciplinary studies, teaches sixth-grade math at Little Cypress Junior High School. She and her husband, **Luke** '20, B.S. communication, live in Orange.

Dominique Leh '21, B.S. communication-broadcasting, is a multimedia journalist with KBMT 12NewsNow. She lives in Kirbyville.

Danae Licatino '21, B.S. civil engineering, works at the Texas Department of Transportation. She lives in Groves.

Zane Morgan '21, B.S. chemical engineering, is an associate process engineer with WestRock. He lives in Lumberton.

Ron Robertson '21, M.Ed. educational leadership, teaches special education and is head wrestling coach for B.F. Terry High School in Lamar school district, where he lives.

Chelsea Savoy '21, B.S. chemical engineering, is a process engineer of microelectronics at IBM. She lives in Bridge City.

Caitlyn Urban '21, B.S. family and consumer sciences—nutrition and dietetics, married Colton Fontenot '21, B.S. mechanical engineering, May 29, 2021. They live in Beaumont.

Viviana Yzquierdo '21, B.S.N. nursing, is a trauma nurse with Memorial Herman Hospital. She lives in Dayton.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN THE WORK PLACE

Lamar University partnered with the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to offer a professional development event for alumni and area business professionals called Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace on Thursday, July 22, 2021. The guest speaker was Jacqueline Gunner, senior personnel generalist with the City of Beaumont.



Paul Howell '12, '16, Landon Richard '22, Nicole Kyles-Burton '17, '19, and David Williams '22



Evie Clifton, coordinator of Alumni Affairs; Jacqueline Gunner, guest speaker; Karen Nichols '83 and Atoshi Podder, MBA student.



Sadia Afrin Shorna and Atoshi Podder, MBA students



Krista Hunter, executive director of Beaumont Chamber Foundation, Joshua Davis '11, '15, '19, and Heather (Smith) Kugler-99.



We've been off on adventures again with health and safety protocols securely in place. In 2021, alumni and friends visited South Dakota and Egypt while making memories that will last a lifetime. And the next two years will be the perfect time to get out and explore, whether you are looking for a bucket list trip or just want to stretch your legs again—we have something for everyone.

Visit our page at lamar.edu/cardinaladventures to see everything coming up this year and a list of what we're planning for 2022 and 2023. Maybe a visit close to home to explore Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on our Canadian Maritimes tour sounds like the perfect destination? Or choose a once-in-a-lifetime trip to see the Passion Play presented during a tour of Germany, Switzerland and Austria? Or perhaps something closer to home like Montana's Glacier National Park or the fall foliage in Vermont.

More than just a vacation, a tour with our vendors combines spectacular itineraries with fun and interesting companionship. All the details are taken care of so you can just relax and soak up the experience.

Cardinal Adventures trips are open to all travel enthusiasts including alumni, faculty, staff, friends and family members who want to take part in our exciting and educational travel opportunities.

Let's Explore the World Together!

Canadian Maritimes

July 2022

Glacier National Park

July 2022

Switzerland, Germany, Austria

August-September 2022

Vermont

October 2022

Visit lamar.edu/cardinaladventures for more information.

At the heart
of it all:

Joy



“Participating in the Mardi Gras parade was one of the most fun and rewarding experiences I’ve had in the Showcase! I had never marched in a parade before so getting the chance to represent Lamar in an exciting, energetic way by doing something I love was incredibly enjoyable.”

—Kamryn Knafelz

The Showcase of Southeast Texas Marching Band descended on New Orleans Feb. 24-27, 2022, to celebrate Mardi Gras and show off Cardinal Spirit by marching in the 6:30 pm Friday Krewe d'Etat Parade. Under the direction of Eric Shannon, the LU marching band performs for thousands of fans and alumni each year at home football games and select away games as well as at major exhibitions.

The band practiced its musical selections for the Big Easy even before the fall football season ended, debuting "Blinding Lights" by The Weeknd at LU's final football game against SFA. The Showcase performed three original drum cadences by LU's percussion professor, Francisco Perez, as well as "Cold Hearted" by Paula Abdul, and "Do Watcha Wanna," a New Orleans-style favorite by Rebirth Brass Band.

"And at the heart of it all is joy," said Shannon, director of athletics bands, associate director of bands and associate professor of music. "I suppose that's the number one reason we're taking this trip, actually: joy. To teach our students how to use their skills as musicians to spread joy to others."

The students experienced the full pageantry of Mardi Gras, both as performers on Friday evening and during free time on Saturday.

"I was the center snare for the Mardi Gras trip and will be serving as drum major for The Showcase of Southeast Texas next year. The trip to New Orleans was amazing! It's one thing to watch a parade, but it is so surreal to be performing in one of the best parades in the United States. After the parade was over and we could finally relax, it was so much fun to explore the city and eat good food. I hope The Showcase can return to New Orleans again before I graduate," said Jacob Murphy. "This trip is a reward to our students for their efforts as marching band members," said Shannon. Those efforts include more than 120 hours of rehearsal per student each season. Add in time spent traveling and performing, that time doubles to about 200 hours per student or 32,000 combined for the entire band. "It gave them a once-in-a-lifetime experience of carnival season in New Orleans," said Shannon. "It also helps market and recruit for LU in the state of Louisiana. We want to create opportunities for our students to grow and learn about the world with music as the vessel, and this is a great opportunity for that."



"My favorite thing about the Mardi Gras trip is seeing everyone having a blast during the night of the parade. I will never get past how overjoyed the audience members are when we have our dance break in our Cold Hearted tune and give them beads. I also really enjoy being able to attend parades with my friends the Saturday after to collect my own treasure of novelty items." — *Mckenzie Guillory*





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Mystery Photo
Do you have a clue?

We don't know who they are but we do know they were having fun! Do you recognize the Cards in this photo and can you name the year? Help LU Archives put names to faces.

Courtesy The LU 100 Project