

TSUS schools set enrollment record

Press Release

(AUSTIN) — Lamar University and Southeast Texas’ two-year schools led the way as a record number of students enrolled at Texas State University System member institutions this fall.

According to preliminary data, total headcount enrollment across the system increased three percent, from 87,360 last fall to 90,071 this year.

Meanwhile, semester credit hour enrollment increased from 987,170 last fall to 1.02 million, a jump of three percent.

“As colleges and universities across Texas and the nation struggle to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, I’m proud that enrollment is up — in some cases, dramatically — across the Texas State University System,” said Chancellor Brian McCall. “This enrollment growth is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our campus leadership, faculty, and staff, who have developed new academic programs and support services to help more students enroll and succeed.”

Chancellor McCall also lauded the Texas Legislature and Gov. Greg Abbott for their ongoing commitment to TSUS institutions through the state budget.

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Spirited Siblings



UP photos by Brian Quijada
Julianna McManus and Dominique Roman rehearse a seance scene from “The Incredible Fox Sisters,” which open Oct. 26 in the Studio Theatre.

LUTD to present ‘Incredible Fox Sisters,’ Oct. 26-29

Maddie Sims
UP editor

It’s late at night as the wind howls and leaves fall from the trees. Three sisters set up a conjuring table to summon the spirits around them, unaware of the role they’ll play in American history.

Lamar University’s Department of Theatre and Dance will present “The Incredible Fox Sisters,” Oct. 26-29. Directed by guest artist Craig Johnson, the play tells the story of sisters who tour the United States conducting séances.

“They’re credited with being some of the founders of Spiritualism in the United States,” Johnson said. “They went from pretty much near obscurity to traveling around a lot of different theaters and doing different kinds of seances. Sometimes they were in people’s living rooms, sometimes in larger theaters.”

Spiritualism was a movement that was popular in the late 1800s in America. People sought to contact the dead, usually through a medium as they believed spirits could interact with the living. The movement gave rise to fraudulent practices as “mediums” would charge high fees for their services. The Fox Sisters were real-life people who became famous as they conducted seances around the country.

Johnson said his background not only includes theater, but he has also

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CJ Jeffcoat

MWH, LU’s CHC to host Swamp Pop event, Friday

Press Release

The McFaddin-Ward House and Lamar University’s Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast are hosting a unique outdoor event exploring the history and sounds of swamp pop music, Friday at 6:30 p.m. on the museum’s lawn.

The evening will feature a free public presentation, “Swamp Pop: History and Sounds of a Gumbo-Combo of Rock ‘N’ Roll, Country, and Cajun Music,” by Lamar University graduate student Rachel Stiles, followed by a Music at the McFaddins’ live performance from original swamp pop musicians including Jivin’ Gene and the band “Eazy”. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, and snacks as they gather on the grounds of the historic home. Gates open at 6 p.m.

A 2022-23 Fellow at Lamar University’s Center for History and Culture, Stiles is currently working towards her Master of Music in piano performance and has focused her research on the 20th century phenomenon of swamp pop — a regional rock and roll variant unique to Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. “The narrative surrounding the [swamp pop] genre has evolved

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Carter book signing set for Saturday

Greta Lemerond
UP contributor

Keith Carter has always been interested in the swamps of Southeast Texas, finding a spiritual quality to the way the trees’ canopies diffused the light.

Carter’s latest book, “Ghostlight,” is the culmination of a project several years in the making. Carter will sign copies of his 15th book, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday in the Dishman Art Museum.

Carter is Lamar University’s endowed Walles Chair in Fine Arts and has been taking artistic photographs for more than 50 years.

Dating back to his first published book from 1988, “From Uncertain to Blue,” Carter’s work focuses on finding the magic in nature and everyday life.

His latest series, “Ghostlight,” follows this trend. It is an anthology of monochromatic photographs featuring the American swamplands.

“A lot of times, I make photographs to see what things look like photographed, and I’d never seen that kind of environment photographed in a non-scientific, aesthetic way,” Carter said. “It’s a mouthful and it’s full of hubris, but I was trying to make art out of the most ordinary/extraordinary.”

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UP photo by Greta Lemerond

Photographer Keith Carter will sign copies of his new book, “Ghostlight,” Saturday in LU’s Dishman Art Museum.

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nary places.”

Carter said the idea for the photos came from visiting the “Baygalls” of Southeast Texas, swamp areas with bay trees, since his teen years. He was drawn to the eerie atmosphere of the swamps. “Most people don’t venture into them, and they’re not pretty to the eyes at first glance,” Carter said. “I felt they were ethereal, elegant, a little dark and mysterious, and kind of a universal look at the ecosystem of the planet. “I felt there was an almost spiritual quality to the topography and the way it looked, and the way light filtered through those canopies of dark, mysterious and brooding trees.”

Carter expanded out from there and traveled to five different states to take photos.

The Beaumont native says he has always been exposed to photography and was inspired to pursue it by the positive role models in his life.

“My mother was the head of a single-parent household, and she was a photographer of children, so I kind of grew up around it,” he said. “I was introduced to it at a young age, and I got interested in the latter part of my teen years.

“Good parenting encouraged me.”

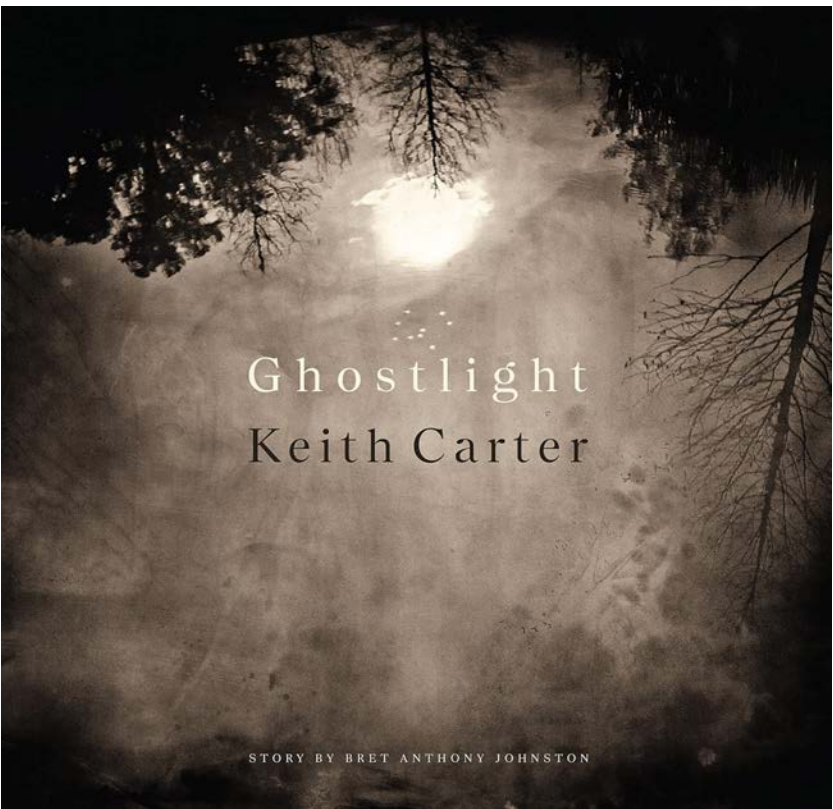
Carter said he encourages aspiring artists to research the history of their

medium, keep a clear head about pursuing art as a career, and above all, to love what they do.

“When I was 18, just starting, I thought it was a beautiful world out there,” Carter said. “Now, it’s been many decades since, and I’m no longer a young man. And I continue to think it’s a beautiful world out there.”

“Ghostlight” is available through the University of Texas Press. To reserve a book for the signing, which costs \$50, call 409-880-8959. The Dishman Art Museum is located at 1030 E. Lavaca on the Lamar University campus.

For more, visit keithcarterphotographs.com.



UNIVERSITY PRESS

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TSUS from page 1

Increased state funding in recent years has allowed TSUS to maintain or reduce tuition at all TSUS institutions.

Enrollment growth this fall was particularly strong at TSUS’s four Southeast Texas institutions.

Preliminary headcount enrollment increased 20 percent at Lamar State College Port Arthur, 19 percent at Lamar State College Orange, 10 percent at Lamar Institute of Technology,

and five percent at Lamar University.

These institutions have benefited from a significant boost in state funding over the past few years, allowing them to better serve their students, the workforce, and community.

The preliminary enrollment data were recorded on the 12th class day of the fall semester and are subject to change

when enrollment numbers are certified early next year.

The Texas State University System is the state’s first university system, with seven institutions serving more than 90,000 students from far West Texas to the Gulf Coast. Established in 1911, the mission of TSUS is to provide high-quality, affordable degree and credential programs to meet the needs of Texas’ diverse and fast-growing economy.

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Beck Fellowship deadline extended

The application deadline for the 2024 David J. Beck Fellowship has been extended. Students who are interested in summer research are encouraged to apply for this prestigious award and scholarship.

Beck Fellows receive full academic scholarships covering all tuition, books, fees and on-campus room and board and up to \$10,000 in funding for a summer project, which may entail research, an internship or international study.

Application forms are available at lamar.edu/forms/academic-affairs/david-beck-fellowship.

Center for Resiliency launches new SmartStorm initiative

The LU Center for Resiliency has launched a new distance learning portal, SmartStorm, that will provide useful and critical information for preparing for and coping with the effects of hurricanes, floods and damaging weather. Three courses will be available with certificates and a disaster preparedness backpack, while supplies last.

TALH's Joanne Yi selected as National Merit Scholar Semifinalist

Joanne Yi, a student at Lamar University's Texas Academy, has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a United States academic scholarship competition for recognition and university scholarships. The program is open to high school juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT and meet specific criteria, such as achieving a high score on the test.

"I had the release date marked in my calendar for a year but when it came around and I found out I was selected, I was nonetheless shocked," Yi said.

"I knew it would open a gateway of possibilities for me. Since it was also a goal I had set for myself, being able to accomplish it was very rewarding."

More than 1.5 million high school juniors take the qualifying test, and only 16,000 move on to become semifinalists, so roughly the top one percent in the country.

Finalists for the National Merit Scholarship will be announced in February 2024.

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significantly over the years," Stiles said. "As decades have passed, the genre has been subsumed into a broadened and popularized 'Cajun' music, and Southeast Texas artists' contributions have sometimes been underemphasized. I hope to highlight the history and accomplishments of our Golden Triangle swamp pop artists, as well as introduce — or reacquaint — people with some of this great local music."

An enthusiast for presenting new or forgotten works to the public, Stiles enjoys collaborative musicianship, particularly in her role as pianist and organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Beaumont. She's looking forward to hearing local legend Jivin' Gene — one of the most well-known swamp pop musicians as well as one of the main focal points of her research — play live at the event.

"Jivin' Gene is a great performer and has been for decades," Stiles said. "Most

people in Southeast Texas met him or know about him in normal ways — they saw him performing, heard his recordings way back when, or are connected through social circles — but I first learned about him through books, newspapers, and of course his greatest hits."

As a teenager, Port Arthur native Gene Bourgeois — aka Jivin' Gene — helped create the new genre music cooked up from a virtual gumbo of influences: country music, rhythm and blues, Cajun ballads, and rock 'n' roll. He says it all started when he was about 13 years old, and his brother brought home a guitar from a camping trip.

"I grabbed ahold of that guitar, and I couldn't turn it loose," Bourgeois said. "My friends and I formed a little garage band, and we started learning songs off old 45 records. The next thing you know, we added some more musicians, and I started playing clubs, and I started recording. I was very fortunate when I recorded

'Breaking Up Is Hard To Do' because it went national."

The 83-year-old singer, songwriter, and guitarist continues to share his unique sound at local venues throughout Southeast Texas and, more recently, at the iconic blues venue, Antone's Nightclub in Austin, where he performed for a packed house.

"I'm blessed to still be able to be called on to perform after all these years," Bourgeois said. "A lot of these people in the older age group love to hear the old songs and reminisce about their high school days and dating and dancing at the teen hops. It brings back a lot of memories, and it's amazing that our music is still being played after all these years. When you get involved as a musician or a singer, you're just addicted for life to it. I don't think any of us could ever really quit. We back off from it, from performing, but it stays in your soul forever."

The "Swamp Pop" event

on the lawn of the McFaddin-Ward House is part of the third Annual Museum Madness Weekend (Oct. 19-22). The Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont Children's Museum, John Jay French Museum, Edison Museum, Dishman Art Museum, Fire Museum of Texas, McFaddin-Ward House Museum, Museum of the Gulf Coast, Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum, and Texas Energy Museum are each hosting events for a fun-filled weekend in Jefferson County.

Built in 1905-1906 in the distinctive Beaux-Arts Colonial style, the McFaddin-Ward House reflects the lifestyle of the prominent family which lived in the house for 75 years. The museum features free tours, educational programming, year-round events, a carriage house, and gardens.

MWH is located at 1906 McFaddin Ave. in Beaumont.

For more information, call 409-832-2134 or visit mcfaddin-ward.org.



Rachel Stiles



Jivin' Gene Bourgeois

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The S'Park Plug

...the S'Park Plug...

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WRITE ON.

SPACES BETWEEN

‘Liminal’ spotlights Spence’s photos at Dishman

Gracie Anderson
UP staff writer

It is early in the morning; fog hangs slightly above the ground and the sun is just starting to rise. Birds awake from their sleep and take to the sky. A peaceful breeze blows through the grass as the sun creeps higher into the clouds. The sounds of insects buzzing past and frogs desperate to catch them starts to fill the air. It is the perfect, picturesque landscape.

This is what one finds in “Liminal: Photography by

Cathy Spence, on display at the Dishman Art Museum through Nov. 4.

“Liminal describes the space or time between, on the edge,” Spence said. “The space between the edge of night and the edge of day, between winter and spring.”

During the pandemic, Spence started walking at Cattail Marsh and other wetlands in the early mornings.

“I was walking nearly every morning during the shutdown,” Spence said. “Right when the sky was starting to light up, but the sun hadn’t risen yet, that’s when I started my walks. I didn’t just see the landscape that we know, the marshes. I could see within the landscape, back to the European settlers.”

She started taking photos of what she saw on her phone, capturing the changing light and its effect on the landscape.

“Wherever we go nowadays, we always have our phones on



“Pasture #1” by Cathy Spence is on display in “Liminal” at the Dishman Art Museum through Nov. 4.

us,” she said. “So, naturally when I saw the land, I took my phone out and started taking pictures. I liked the idea of the fog both hiding and illuminating the subjects.”

As the series grew, Spence started taking her camera on her walks.

Spence said she draws inspiration from painters such as J.M.W. Turner, James Whistler, and Claude Monet, artists whose landscape paintings changed the way the public thought of that style of art.

“Early landscapes were inspiring for me, as well as nature,” she said.

Cattail Marsh and Wetlands is a local national park that Spence feels is unique to Southeast Texas and the coastal region. Spence said that Texas landscapes often feature bluebonnet fields and the hill country, but these photographs represent something completely different.

“Anyone could go out to the mountains and get pictures of

them and the hills,” she said. “I feel like I’m cheating since I live so close to such a beautiful place.”

While anyone could go and visit the place where the photographs were shot, no one will be able to see the land exactly how it was photographed, Spence said. The exact time of day, where the light catches the morning sun just right, only exists for a few moments before it is gone again. It’s constantly changing, she said.

“You think of it as looking all the same as you walk out there,” Spence said. “But the more you look, the more you realize just how much it changes second to second and day to day.”

Over recent years, photography has become a more commonplace and highly desired form of art. It brings the same, if not more, challenges as traditional landscape painting.

“Photography is like a

sculpture, the idea of chiseling it away to make something beautiful,” Spence said. “At the beginning, when I first got into photography, I had many limitations. I had to work with what photography could do. It’s as much to do with what you’re leaving out as what you’re actually composing within the frame.”

Spence has previously exhibited two other bodies of work, “Saints and Satyrs” and “Crooked Eye”, which were both portrait-based projects.

“This project is nothing like the ones I usually do,” Spence said. “I like to dip my toes into several different projects at a time. I’ll probably still be doing landscapes, its hard (not to) if you’re out and see something like this.”

The Dishman Art Museum is located at 1030 E. Lavaca on the Lamar University campus. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, noon-4 p.m. For more, visit lamar.edu/dishman.



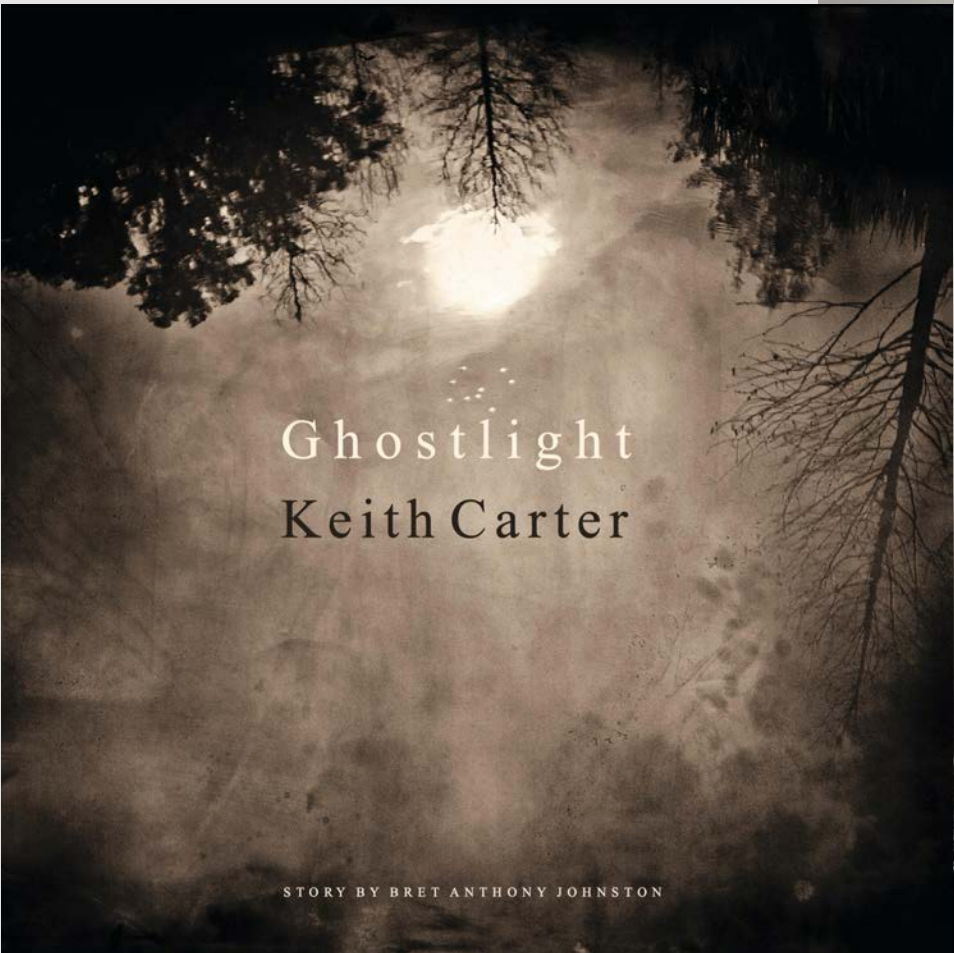
Photographer Cathy Spence’s latest exhibition, “Liminal,” is on display in the Dishman Art Museum through Nov. 4.

UP photo by Gracie Anderson

KEITH CARTER BOOK SIGNING

October 21, 1–3 p.m. Dishman Art Museum

Join us to celebrate the release of Keith Carter’s new photography book, *Ghostlight*. Carter, the Walles Chair Professor of Photography in the LU Department of Art & Design, has spent a lifetime exploring humanity’s landscape through his artistic lens. *Ghostlight* captures the other worldly spirit of swamps, marshes, bayous, and fens.



Right: Keith Carter, Cathy Spence

For details and to reserve a book, please call 409-880-8959.



From the Archives

From pin-ups to portraiture

Compiled by
Ja’Leigh Cerf
UP archivist

Lamar University is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It is a time to look to the future. But sometimes, it’s fun to look at the past. A search



February 18, 1953

Pin Up Shoots it Up for W.W.
By Frank Cricchio

Hi, gang. This is the first of a series of pin ups that will be featured in The Redbird the rest of the semester. (That is until I get drafted.)

Each week there will be someone different. You can cut the picture out and pin it on your wall or just admire the girl when you see her on the campus. If you wish, I’ll put the original “pin Up” in one of the display windows in the union. Jeanette Greer, our first pin up, is a sophomore business major from groves.

Her main interest at the moment is recuperating from Wester Week.

Her Vital Statistics are: HEIGHT, 5’4”; never read a Kinsey report, or been 20 years old; EYES, blue; likes to dance; HAIR, blond; enjoys shooting six-guns and “loves bunny rabbits.”

In front of Jeanette’s house there is a sign that reads, “Speed Limit 30 MPH.” The State Officials haven’t figured out ’til this day why everyone stops at this speed sign. Jeanette’s picture has brought new evidence to the case. — Agree? If you like the idea of a “Pin Up of the Week,” when you see me let me know.



October 28, 1955

Witches Howl At Halloween—And men howl at Jo Ann Albert, this week’s Pin Up. Jo Ann is a freshman secretarial science major from Port Arthur.

She tips the scales at 107; and, when standing with three inch heels, she is 5’5 1/2’ tall.

With her brown hair and

education. And privacy wasn’t an issue, apparently.

Photographer Frank Cricchio earned a degree from what was then Lamar State College in 1957. While here, he practiced his craft by shooting pin-ups for The Redbird, the school’s student newspaper.

Cricchio, who died in 2021, went on to be an internationally recognized portrait photographer, even being recognized by the United Nations.

If you are interested in Cricchio’s professional career, the Museum of the Gulf Coast is hosting “Frank Cricchio: A Life

in Photography’ through Nov. 8.

But he got his start by turning his lens on his female classmates. And they were happy to model for him.

Let’s step back to the ’50s and check out some of Cricchio’s pin-up features:



October 21, 1955

Carolyn’s nuckle or Carolyn’s knee. Oh! Where will Carolyn’s dimple be? Carolyn Reese is this week’s Pin Up.

She is a freshmen education major from Orange who loves to travel and to dance. Carolyn stands 5’4” tall and tips the scales at 110. Her vital statistics are 34-24-36. She is a resident of West Hall, Section B, Room 103. Call anytime after 4 p.m. and she will tell you — who me? —

*Copy by Cricchio;
Photo by Ed Pearson.*

April 29, 1955

Liz Likes Letter ‘S’ Wants to be Secretary

Liz Benton, this week’s Pin Up, likes “S’s.” She likes shrimp and strawberry short-

cake, sewing and swimming, Southern Belles and Shirts and Skirts, sophomores (that’s her classification) and secretaries (she’s running for junior class secretary).

Liz, who stands 5’9”, is sophomore vice president and also a member of Nu Phi Mu and Management club. She sells toys at Grady’s Toy store (and all the little boys and girls just adore her!). She’s a rarity among Redbird Pin Ups. Liz goes steady, with an “S” of course, Carl Schreiber.

She likes to cook and bake, especially cakes (’cause cake mix is so easy to use). She feels she might be a trifle dense, for she doesn’t understand the Kinsey report at all, but she’s happy.

Smiling Lizzy-Beth was “tickled pink” to be chosen Pin Up; James and Ed were “tickled pink” to be able to photograph (35-21 1/2-37) her.

Photos by James Bruce and Ed Pearson



March 11, 1955

Jo Ann Smiles Prettily, Poses Before Leaving on Band Tour

Miss Jo Ann Ruff, with her toes in the air and her body curled around, is still able to smile for the photographers

for this week’s pin up.

Jo Ann, who intends to get her C.P.A. (“can’t pass accounting”), is a freshman accounting major from Beaumont. Her vital statistics are 34-23-34 1/2.

Jo Ann is a member of the Revelers, La Petite and a majorette in the great Lamar Tech band.

The things she loves best are dancing and playing games of chance at Monte Carlo. She also enjoys riding the rolling coaster and the loop-o planes. In the field of sports she loves to ride horses. When asked if she has ever been thrown off, she replied, “No, I’ve never been thrown off a horse, but ohhhhhh that bucking barrel.

Her favorite food is enchiladas and chile. She says that they taste best at two in the morning after dancing at the King’s ball. (I wonder).

If you are a boy that is tall, enjoys dancing, has a good personality, polite and well mannered, with average looks, you may call 4-2420 and Jo Ann, “the upside down kid,” will answer.



Photo by Frank Cricchio

Photo by Frank Cricchio

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served as the manager of a large historic house museum.

“Dealing with old houses, which is where a lot of the action takes place with real people in the 19th century and their stories, is something I’ve done a lot of work on,” he said. “I’ve also worked on Halloween programming, particularly 19th-century ghost stories, and adaptations of that.”

“The Incredible Fox Sisters” was written by Jacqueline Bacchus in 2015.

“A lot of times, when you’re doing a new show, you’re trying to fulfill what this script is trying to do, and it’s trying to do a number of different things,” Johnson said. “It’s a spooky story, but it’s also quite funny in a lot of places, (which makes you wonder) ‘Hey, is any of this really true or not?’”

“It’s educating people a little bit about not only the sisters, but of Spiritualism in the United States and how that took off. Hopefully, it will also touch people in a way so that as they’re learning, they’re thinking about the lives of women in the 19th century who didn’t have many options.”

Johnson has been working



Guest director Craig Johnson, below, rehearses the cast of “The Incredible Fox Sisters,” which open Oct. 26 in the Studio Theatre. The play is set in the 1880s and the cast wear rehearsal skirts to simulate the costumes they will wear.

UP photos by Brian Quijada

with set designer Lee Barker and embracing a minimalistic, yet still stylistic design. Costumer Tanner McAlpin worked on creating hoop skirts for the women, which gives it a “Gone with the Wind” style, Johnson said.

Julianna McManus, who played the lead in “Athena” earlier this semester, plays the youngest sister, Kate, who is shy, playful, and likes to stick by the rules.

“I relate to this character the most because I’m also very quiet and I like to stick by the rules,” she said. “‘Athena’ was more in your face and a little bit scarier. For other shows as well, I don’t really relate to them as much as I relate to Kate. I also love the spooky element. My favorite holiday is Halloween, so this is everything to me.”

Dominique Roman plays Margareta (Maggie) Fox, the middle sister.

“Overall, she’s very sassy, charismatic and a little aggressive at times, but not more than necessary,” Roman said. “I

would say that I connect to Maggie on a little bit of a different level. You can tell that she’s on the outskirts. Sometimes she likes it and sometimes she wishes they would include her a little bit more. I feel like that’s a message people can relate to.”

“I feel like she becomes a little bit of the black sheep of the family.”

Bailey Jenkins plays three ensemble characters: the spirit Mr. Split Foot, Quaker Isaac Post, and writer JFC.

“Mr. Split Foot is creepy,” Jenkins said. “He’s going to be portrayed by a puppet. I saw him today for the first time and he’s pretty scary. There’s Isaac Post who’s from Minnesota. I love learning a new accent, but it was exhausting. JFC is a writer and he’s portrayed as

this famous person, which is fun to do.”

Shelby Eason plays the Fox Sisters’ mother, as well as several other characters.

“The mother is kind of the foil,” she said. “She’s the one who wants the girls to stay home, she’s sick and dying of brain fever. Her daughters are about to run off and go do all these things and she is completely against it.”

The play is a perfect was to spend Halloween weekend, as audiences watch the Fox Sisters commune with the dead. Or do they?

“The Incredible Fox Sisters” runs Oct. 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at lamar.edu/lutdtix.



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UP photo by Brian Quijada
Cardinal defender Arely Alaniz, 18, fights for possession against the TAMU-Commerce Lions, Oct. 15, at the Lamar University Soccer Complex.

Soccer 2 games from SLC title



UP photo by Brian Quijada
Maddie Janolo celebrates after scoring the tying goal against TAMU-C.

Brian Quijada
UP photo editor

The Lamar University women’s soccer team tied 2-2 with the University of Texas A&M-Commerce Lions, Oct. 15, at the Lamar University Soccer Complex.

The Cardinals continue their 12-game undefeated streak and are now 7-0-1 in Southland Conference play.

The match started off slow for the Cards. Their typically-strong defense, which had allowed just three goals over their last 12 games, let an

early shot go by in the 31st minute and fell behind 1-0.

Lamar’s offense only managed six shot attempts in the first half.

“The big difference was the wind blowing (against us),” said Lamar head coach Nathan Kogut after the game. “We’re gonna sit back and absorb some pressure. They scored on a really weird free kick, but we had our chances in the second half.”

Things picked up in the second half when Alana Clark scored with a tap-in goal in the 59th minute. Lamar main-

tained possession for most of the second half, evidenced by their 21 shots compared to the Lions’ four.

Unfortunately, their effort wasn’t enough and the Lions scored on the counter attack in the 80th minute to pull ahead, 2-1.

Despite trailing late, the Cards did not give up. With five minutes remaining, Maddie Janolo scored an equalizer.

“I just saw an opportunity to go forward,” Janolo said. “I saw Cariel (Ellis) grab the ball, and I pointed her to split

me in, and I just took the opportunity to hit it.”

After a tough battle against the second-best team in the conference, Lamar ended the match with a 2-2 draw.

The Cardinals are now 12-2-2 overall in regular season play and still lead the Southland with a 7-0-2 record.

“We have two games left,” Kogut said. “We win two games and we win the conference title. That’s our goal.”

The Cards will go up against the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islanders in an away game, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m.

Cardinals win 4th straight, top SLC at 4-3

Keagan Smith
UP sports editor

Lamar University football picked up their fourth straight victory with a 30-24 win over Southeastern Louisiana at Strawberry Stadium in Hammond, Louisiana, Oct. 14.

The Cardinals, fueled by a 30-point outburst in the first half, crashed the Lions’ homecoming festivities and remained a perfect 3-0 in Southland Conference play.

It was another efficient outing for quarterback Robert

Coleman, who completed 17 of 22 passes for 257 yards and two touchdowns. He added an additional 34 rushing yards on seven attempts.

Coleman’s primary target on the day was wide receiver Sevonne Rhea. The sophomore tallied 133 yards and two touchdowns on just six receptions.

Lamar’s second-leading receiver, Beaumont native Andre Dennis, hauled in five catches for 86 yards.

The Cardinals’ bruising halfback, Khalan Griffin, rushed 23 times for 74 yards, while Major

Bowden carried the ball six times for 22 yards and a score.

Both teams traded field goals early in the contest, but Southeastern scored their first touchdown with five minutes to go in the first quarter. The Cardinals tied the game again, 10-10, when Jalen Freeman forced a Southeastern fumble and K.J. Gilbert returned it 60 yards to the house.

Lamar safety Kevin Anderson started the second quarter with an interception at the 50-yard line to end an opposing drive. On SELA’s next possession,

the Cardinal defense made another crucial stop on 4th-and-five in their own territory — this time, Siale Suliafu sacked the quarterback.

The Cards’ offense took the field and drove down to the Lions’ four-yard line. Bowden punched in a rush attempt and gave Lamar their first lead of the game with seven minutes remaining until halftime.

It was the start of a scoring flurry for the Cardinals. LU struck again on their next drive when Coleman hit Rhea for a 35-yard TD. Lamar got the ball right back after Camden Grogan intercepted a pass, and Rhea snagged a 37-yard pass for another TD on the very next play.

The defense forced another fumble just before halftime, recovered by Caleb Williams. In the span of just seven minutes, Lamar had blown the game wide open and held a 30-10 lead as they headed to the locker room at intermission.

LU’s offense had just played their best half of the season. Unfortunately, they lost a step in the second half and didn’t score again throughout the remainder of the game — an issue which will surely come up in film study this week.

Southeastern Louisiana, fighting to avoid falling to 0-7 on the year, began to show signs of life in the third quarter. They scored a touchdown late in the third, then again on their following possession to begin the fourth.

Suddenly, the Lions were within striking distance of a late

comeback. Lamar’s defense showed signs of fatigue but came up with a key stop when it mattered most. On what would be SELA’s final drive, two Cardinal defenders made the tackle and forced the Lions to punt on fourth-and-five.

Lamar held the ball for the final four minutes of the game and ran out the clock to secure the 30-24 win.

Notably, Lamar’s victory resulted in Southeastern Louisiana’s first 0-7 start since the 1971 season. The Lions, perennial playoff candidates, are still a better team than their record may imply — this was truly a statement win for the Cardinals.

Very few people, if anyone, predicted Lamar would sit first place in the Southland standings at any point this season. Yet here they are — a perfect 3-0 in conference play and riding a four-game winning streak as they head into their bye week.

Has first-year head coach Pete Rossomando caught lightning in a bottle? It’s too early to say for certain. But, the Italian might just be cooking something here in Beaumont, because recent results have certainly been encouraging for the Cardinal program.

Lamar will have a valuable extra week of preparation before their next game against the conference’s other Cardinals, the University of Incarnate Word. The game kicks off at 3 p.m., Oct. 28, at Provost Umphrey Stadium in Beaumont.

The matchup is the “Black-out” game and fans are encouraged to dress accordingly.



Photo courtesy Lamar football
Lamar Cardinal wide receiver Kyndon Fuselier runs after a catch against Southeastern Louisiana at Strawberry Stadium in Hammond, Louisiana, Oct. 14.



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