

Globally Diverse

International student enrollment sets record

Greta Lemerond
UP contributor

Lamar University registered 1,402 international students for the fall 2023 semester, a new record for international enrollment for the university.

Hailing from 50 different countries and studying 64 different majors, this year’s international enrollment is a 38% increase from last year.

Mustapha Jourdini, executive director of the Office of International Education & Services, said the impressive numbers are due to President Jaime Taylor’s policies regarding international study.

“International student enrollment has quadrupled in the past two years because Taylor clearly understands the needs of international students and is putting in place resources to recruit and retain this richly diverse community,” Jourdini said.

Taylor said the Office of International Education & Services does their best to listen to international students’ needs and accommodate them accordingly.

“As an example, Dr. Jourdini discovered our international students were walking from the campus to



UP photo by Greta Lemerond

Mustapha Jourdini, executive director of the Office of International Education & Services, center, talks with international students Anh Pha, left, Sujan Bhattari, Dylano Bemelen and Ketan Chaudhery in the departments reception area in the Wimberly Building, Sept. 29.

their apartments late at night, after the campus shuttle had quit running,” Taylor said. “We found a donor that wanted to support our international students, and we were able to extend the hours of our shuttle service. This might seem like a small thing, but it was very important to our international students.”

Taylor also credited Dann Brown, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, for emphasizing international students’ priorities.

“When I arrived at Lamar University a little over two years ago, one of the first things Provost Brown told me was how important our international students were and

that we needed to provide more support for them,” Taylor said.

LU not only provides support for students during their academic career, but continues to support them after graduation, Jourdini said.

“Many of our international students become successful and get sponsored for work

visas, green cards, to become permanent residents, and even become U.S. citizens because of the set of skills and talents they develop while pursuing their studies at Lamar University,” he said.

For more information on international studies, visit lamar.edu/international-education.

Lamar leads in increased state formula funding

Press Release

Lamar University has earned the highest percentage increase in formula funding among all 38 colleges and universities in Texas.

Approved by the state legislature for the next biennium, this boost in funding demonstrates a growing alignment between the university’s goals and the state’s vision for higher education.

Lamar University President Jaime Taylor understands the importance of funding formulas from his previous work at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. Since assuming the presidency of Lamar University in 2021, Taylor said he has made formula funding a top priority in strategic planning.

“Funding formulas can play a crucial role in the long-term success of colleges and universities,” Taylor said.

Before the advent of funding formulas, state funding models were more subjective, and they often preserved longstanding inequities between institutions.

Allocations were typically determined through historical budgeting practices, political negotiations, or size of institution. By contrast, funding formulas provide a more transparent and predictable approach. State legislatures allocate funds based on specific published criteria related to student success or to important academic program objectives for the state.

According to Taylor, Lamar University’s success with the funding formula is due to its commitment to producing graduates in professional programs that meet the needs of Southeast Texas.

“We worked hard to prioritize the initiatives and programs that truly matter for Texas, which in turn helped us to se-

See **FUNDING**, page 2

Football wins conference opener

Lamar’s Marques Mayo, left, and Kevin Anderson, right, celebrate the Cardinal’s win over Houston Christian University at Husky Stadium in Houston, Sept. 30. It was the first time they opened conference play with a win since 2015. For a complete story, see page 5.

UP photo by Keagan Smith



Crochet club ‘hooks’ hobbyists

Der’Renee Matthews
UP contributor

Lamar University’s Crochet Club meets every Thursday at 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in 229 Setzer Student Center.

Computer Engineering major Emily O’Byrne is the club’s founder.

“We’re a club where people can come to hang out and talk about crocheting and knitting or other crafty interests,” she said. “We’re also going to be doing volunteer projects where we donate crocheted and knitted goods to hospitals and stuff like that.”

O’Byrne said she started the club to be able to connect with others who enjoy the hobby.

“I wanted to be part of a club but there wasn’t one here,” she said. “I had made enough friends that I knew would do it, that I just decided why not?”

O’Byrne’s interest stemmed from trying to find a way to fight boredom over the summer, she said.

“I started researching different projects and I was looking at social media,” she said. “I kept seeing all the people making their own clothes



UP photo by Der’Renee Matthews

Lex Burnett, right, demonstrates looping the wool to Samina Shaikh during a Crochet Club meeting, Sept. 22, in the Setzer Student Center.

and I was, like, ‘That is so awesome. I wouldn’t be able to do that.’ So, I researched it and then I just went for it.”

Samantha Hatcher said she joined the club to meet other people who crochet. Hatcher said her crocheting began when she had to make a pair of gloves for a school project.

“Then I went on a road trip with my mom when we were going to the Grand Canyon,” Hatcher said. “It’s a very long drive, so I thought crochet would be something easy to do during the drive.”

Hatchers said she started a blan-

See **CROCHET**, page 2

“I don't love studying. I hate studying. I like learning. Learning is beautiful.”
— Natalie Portman

The University Press can be read online at www.lamaruniversitypress.com. For updates, follow us on Facebook, or on Instagram and Twitter @uplamar.

CROCHET from page 1

ket but never finished it. Ironically, as she talks, she is working on a blanket which features a picture of Hatcher and her grandmother.

“I put a picture into a website and it turned it into a pattern,” she said.

Hatcher, who is a student at the Texas Academy for Leadership in the Humanities, said her favorite project was an Abraham Lincoln doll she made for an English class project.

Blankets seem to be a gateway to crocheting. Lex, a social work major, said her grandmother taught her to crochet when she was 9-years old. Her first project was a baby blanket. As she talked, Lex was working on a baby blanket for her niece.

“I have these really big blankets that I made my freshman year of college,” she said. “I use them as couch covers in the dorms.”

Jasmine Garcia graduated with a degree in history in May and is now in graduate school. She said she decided to crochet to fill her free time over the summer.

“I had tried it before, and I just got so frustrated with it,” she said. “But since I had the free time, I was like, ‘OK, let me try it again.’ And that’s how I actually got the hang of it because I had more fun with it.”

O’Byrne said that as the club grows, she would like to have two types of meetings, an A and a B.

“You can choose if you want to go to one or both, or you just choose which ones you want to go to,” she said. “The A meeting will be where we all just come and we hang out together. We work on our own individual projects. And then the B meeting would be where we’re all working on the same thing.”

“So, if it’s for volunteer projects, we could all be working on a blanket, maybe individually making the granny squares so we can sew them together.”

O’Byrne said the group doesn’t have funding so participants should bring their own materials.

For more, visit their Instagram page @crochet_at_lu.



UP photos by Der’Renée Matthews
Members of Lamar University’s Crochet Club work on projects during their meeting, Sept. 22, in the Setzer Student Center.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

The student newspaper of Lamar University ©2023

Contributing Staff

Editor.....Maddie Sims
Managing Editor/Sports.....Keagan Smith
Photo Editor.....Brian Quijada
Staff.....Gracie Anderson,
.....Der’Renée Matthews, Carlos Viloria,
.....Greta Lernerond, Gage Gilliam,
.....Ella Gonzalez, Allison Arnold

Office ManagerJa’Leigh Cerf

Advisors Andy Coughlan and Stephan Malick
Member of Texas Intercollegiate Press Association

FUNDING from page 1

cure the highest percentage increase,” Taylor said.

While Lamar University’s performance in meeting formula metrics played a significant role, Taylor pointed out that the legislature also increased the overall funding allocated to the formula pool.

“This additional funding effectively doubled the percentage increase we earned compared to what we would have received based on our performance alone,” Taylor said.

Taylor specifically recognized Speaker of the House Dade Phelan’s leadership in securing the

additional funding that was allocated to the formula pool.

Mark Robinson, Lamar University’s Chief Financial Officer, emphasized the impact of the increased funding on the university’s financial stability and success.

“This boost in resources will enhance our financial reserves and give us more room to pursue innovative financial strategies that align with our mission.”

In addition to formula funding increases, Phelan and other state legislators successfully advocated for enhanced funding for the Hazlewood Legacy Reimburse-

ment and for increased support for health insurance costs. Phelan also secured funding for the establishment of a new Institute for Energy and Petrochemical Industries’ Engineering Needs at Lamar University.

Taylor expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Texas State University System.

“They have been a vital source of guidance and support, helping us to develop fruitful interactions with the legislature,” he said. “Thanks to them, Lamar University can effectively advocate for our needs and priorities.”

journalism • broadcasting • advertising
film • public relations • podcasting • speech



Department of
COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

YOUR
Moment
IS HERE



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Department of Communication & Media

409-880-8153

GOP priorities misplaced

Have you scrolled through your Twitter — sorry, your X — timeline lately? In case you haven't, here's a brief rundown.

Our planet is quite literally on fire thanks to a climate crisis which worsens by the day.

The income disparity and overall disconnect between wealthy and average Americans continues to widen.

The state of Florida is, well, doing Florida things.

In short, there's plenty of terrible stuff going on in this country that should probably anger you.

But hey, everything will be OK because the government will take care of business. Just not right now, because our ever-heroic conservative lawmakers are concerned about the things that truly matter — like the Senate's dress code!

Regulations about formal attire in the chamber were briefly relaxed recently, allowing senators like John Fetterman to don his signature basketball

shorts and hoodie while at work. No big deal, right?

Wrong. 46 GOP senators responded to the change by drafting a formal complaint addressed to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in which they asked for the loosened dress regulations to be repealed. Obviously, they're taking care of issues of the utmost importance.

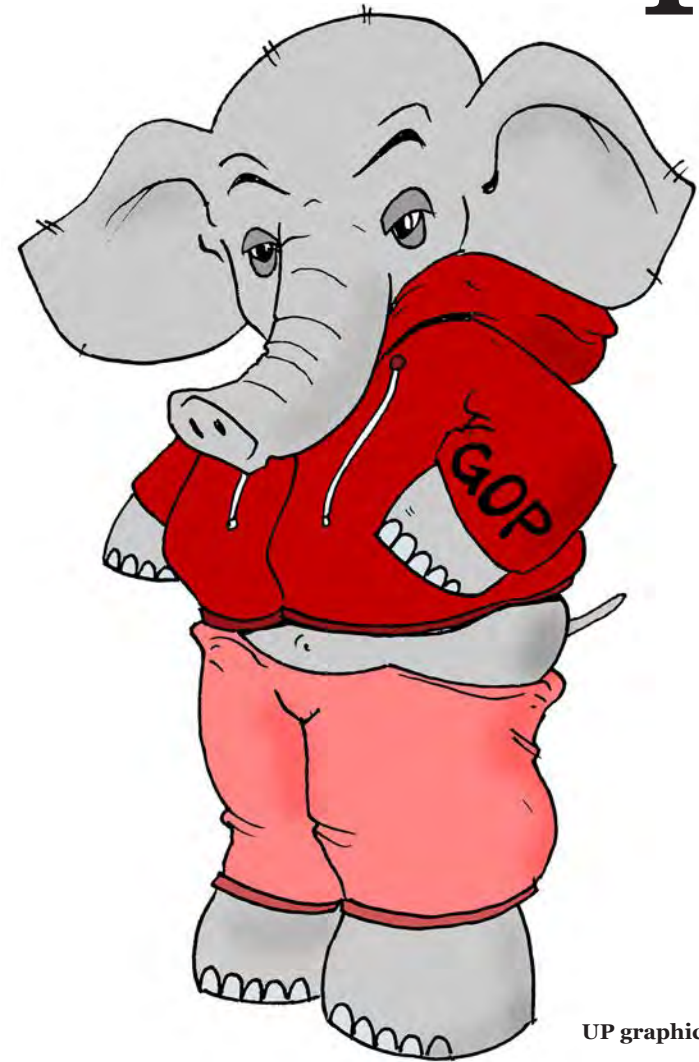
Some lawmakers, such as Georgia Republican representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, also complained about the changes via social media.

"Dress code is one of society's standards that set etiquette and respect for our institutions. Stop lowering the bar!" she wrote on Twitter/X.

Rep. Greene herself might want to reassess the standards of "etiquette and respect for our institutions." The conservative representative showed sexually explicit images of Hunter Biden during a House committee meeting last July.

While we're on the topic of sexually explicit images, one of Marge's conservative cohorts has been in the news lately for a rather raunchy first date. Colorado representative Lauren Boebert went viral for all the wrong reasons when a video of her being kicked out of a crowded public theater surfaced online.

In the CCTV footage, Boebert is seen taking pictures with her phone's flash on, vaping and, ahem, groping her date before the pair were asked



to leave for causing a disturbance.

This story has a heaping helping of hypocrisy, seeing as Boebert comes from the so-called party of family and Christian values.

Matters get even messier for Boebert. She issued multiple apologies in which she blamed her "public and difficult divorce" for her behavior, even arguing that her "actions did

not represent her values."

Her date, by the way, owns a Colorado bar which hosts LGBTQ+ and drag events — the exact type of events which Boebert vehemently demonizes and campaigns against in her political endeavors.

The irony is so thick that it could've been straight from a stage production, like the family-friendly "Beetlejuice" musical Boebert was ejected

from. Though, one must wonder whether she'd get handsy with a date during a show based on her own idiocy.

Take a moment to consider that conservatives like Greene and Boebert are responsible for running this country. Take another pause to consider how out of touch Republicans are with the issues that actually need addressing.

They are losing their minds over LGBTQ+ representation and themes of social issues in books that they now seek to have banned from libraries.

They are fighting to teach their own revisionist version of American history that whitewashes this nation's dark and prejudiced past.

They are embracing a presidential candidate who faces countless criminal charges and is under multiple indictments in a court of law.

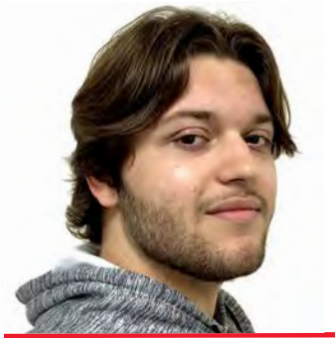
Meanwhile, an estimated 37.9 million Americans live in poverty, according to the U.S. Census. The effects of the climate crisis are prevalent across the globe.

As of Sept. 4, there had been 484 mass shootings in the United States in 2023 alone.

What are conservatives doing about the issues that actually matter?

In hindsight, it's no wonder the Senate dress code was changed. It wasn't so John Fetterman could wear a hoodie and shorts — it was so Republicans could continue showing their rear-ends.

Commentary



Keagan Smith
UP sports editor

Fight against misinformation vital

Misinformation is on the rise, and it isn't going away anytime soon. In the past few years, social media has grown extensively, and so too has fake news. It seems we are never more than a click away from fake news masquerading as fact.

The COVID-19 pandemic was an extreme case of misinformation spreading like wildfire. Even during the first few months, social media companies were working to fact-check posts, even removing content which encouraged people to go

against government policy. According to newamerica.org, 59% of posts on Twitter (now X) which were previously flagged by the system were still visible on the app, without any written warning.

One particular post made by Rudy Giuliani, President Donald Trump's former attorney, advocated using hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19, which is known for treating malaria. This post was since deleted, but still contributed to the chaos.

While social media platforms worked to take care of intentional misinformation, it did not consider paid misinformation. Kaveh Waddell, a journalist for Consumer Reports, studied this phenomenon by creating advertisements for a fake organization. Through the organiza-

tion's social media, Waddell intended to spread misinformation about the disease to see what would happen.

The advertisements called it a hoax, encouraging readers not to do anything differently and to not give in to fear. One even advised drinking "small daily doses of bleach." All of the ads he made were approved by Facebook's algorithm. This shows the difficulty of monitoring misinformation while still seeking to allow free speech.

There were also many social media posts promoting protests against the lock-down. In April of 2020, a protest was held in Michigan which was coordinated through social media.

While social media can be used to advocate for changing the world for the better, there are still dark corners of the internet where people can come together to spread misinformation and create dangerous situations.

In terms of a global pandemic, misinformation is incredibly dangerous. This also extends to politics, especially in the United States.

Former president Donald Trump was arrested, Aug. 24, and charged with attempting to

reverse his defeat in the 2020 election. When his mugshot was released, Trump claimed the polls showed an increased support for his presidency among Black Americans, saying it has "quadrupled or quintupled," according to cnn.com.

However, four of five national polls showed only a three-percent increase in Black voters for Trump, the fifth showing Black American's support for Trump decreasing, within the margin of error.

Additionally, Trump claimed his former vice president, Mike Pence, was down 10 or 15 points when he was rerunning for governor in 2016. Public polls during the time refute this, as while he was facing tough circumstances in the election, he was never down that many points.

Trump is a master of misinformation. He claims the 2020 election was rigged in President Joe Biden's favor, but research shows that is not true. Trump claims he won Alabama by 45 points, but actually only won about 25.5% of the state during the election. He also lost Georgia by 11,779 votes, as compared to Trump's claim of "just a couple of votes." Despite claiming an increased number of votes in South Carolina from

the 2016 election, he only had an 11.7-point margin, which was about 2.6 points smaller than it was in 2016.

In terms of world leaders and global issues, there is viable and statistically proven data. But, amongst the good, there's a lot of bad, and it can be hard to distinguish the two. The massive playing field of social media doesn't do us any favors. It also doesn't help that politicians consistently offer opinions about their opponents to gain political favor, but when challenged on the veracity of those opinions, they claim "media" is challenging their first amendment right to freedom of speech.

When we reach a point where factually changing someone's opinion leads us to be labeled as disrespectful, or mean, or even oppressive, then the ability for logical discourse is lost.

If misinformation cannot be challenged, then we are left with a society full of ignorant and gullible people. It's critical for everyone to do their own research before they believe anything on the internet. And it is even more incumbent on those of us who do our research to stand up against the tide of "fake news."

UPeditorial

Service key to century of survival

It was refreshing to see so many faces on campus for the 100th birthday of Lamar University. Not only students, faculty and staff but also hundreds of people from the wider community.

With this being the centennial year, Lamar's presence in Southeast Texas should grow to reflect the years of service and education this university has provided.

Looking across the crowd, there were many pillars of our community whose lives were enriched by their time at Lamar, and in turn their service has enriched our community.

Let this serve as an example to our current student body on how they will each create their own legacy. We must band together as one and learn from the people who came before us.

Today's students can set precedents for the next generation. We call on all students to go out and serve our community, if not in Beaumont, then each of our home towns.

Volunteer at a local food bank or animal shelter. Get a group of friends together and hand food out to the homeless, or donate a sum of money or supplies to a local charity.

Look in our childhood closets and donate the clothes and toys we no longer use to children who would greatly appreciate them. Help an elderly person cross the street.

Let's show the Southeast Texas community that Lamar and its students are ready and willing to continue to be a strong presence and lead into the next century.

Commentary



Maddie Sims
UP editor

Letters Policy

Individuals who wish to speak out on issues should send a letter fewer than 400 words in length to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 10055, Beaumont, TX 77710, or drop letters off at our office in the Communication Building. The writer's name, address, telephone number and ID number must accompany each letter. Letters received without this information cannot be printed. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, style and possible libel.

Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily those of the UP student management. Letters by the same writer on the same subject will not be published. Poetry and religious debates will not be published.

The opinions that appear in editorials are the official views of the University Press student management as determined by the UP Student Editorial Board. Opinions expressed elsewhere on this page are the views of the writers only and are not necessarily those of the University Press student management. Student opinions are not necessarily those of the university administration.

From the Archives

1977 fall fashion soft, layered

As Lamar University celebrates its centennial, the University Press is dipping back into its archives to see what students of the past were reading. With Paris Fashion Week taking place, we decided to look back at our 1977 coverage.

By Annette Petrusa
September 9, 1977

Paris fashion this year is, as always, a lively and delightful contradiction, a mixture of classic design and brilliant new inspiration, subtlety and outrageous fantasy as flirtatious, scintillating and totally captivating as Paris itself.

The collections for fall/winter '77 show everything from ultra-romantic designs reminiscent of 18th century opulence to futuristic-looking balloon dresses, pants, clean-lined and alive with color.

Skirts are supple, full dirndls, in keeping with the general '77 theme of soft, fluid movement.

Skirt lengths vary, some staying below the knee as in the American collections, others (such as Kenzo's creations) ranging in length from one to five inches above the knee.

Whatever the length of the skirts and dresses may be, legs are shown off as an important fashion accessory, whether sleeked into colorful tights, snuggled into heavy knit stockings in bright colors and patterns, or eased into boots of satin or leather trimmed with fringe.

Almost every designer from Yves St. Laurent to Kenzo, Castelbajac, Hechter—and especially Karl Lagerfeld for Chloe—has fallen in love with the collar.

We see it overflowing into voluminous cowls, tying up

Pierrot-style, falling all the way to the shoulder in soft folds, or wrapping around gracefully into bows.

All-American sports clothes have been translated into Paris high fashion in "Les Trainings," collections of sweatsuits, sweatshirts, and other traditional athletic gear modified for chic street and leisure wear.

"Les Trainings" feature sweatsuit looks everywhere with drawstring tops and pant cuffs, always with a vest—either quilted or designed with fleece outside for a new, richly textured look.

The ski jacket is turned into large, puffy down-filled parkas. "Les Trainings" introduce Paris' latest color news with icy pastel shades of blue, coral, rose and shrimp for winter wear.

The layered look is still "on top" in outerwear. Coats are hooded and accented with knit caps and hats and piles of scarves and shawls around the face and wrapped around the shoulders down to the waist.

Sweaters are very important to the new Paris look. They have a definite soft touch, with mohair, angora and the brushed knits leading the yarn selection.

There is a strong emphasis on texture seen in the frequent use of cable knits, and especially in the exquisite look of pointelle and honeycomb stitches.

Sweater colorations are truly striking for fall with the introduction of icy pastels.

Sportswear highlights the classic silhouette, as seen in Cacharel's soft two-piece jersey ensembles with V-necks.

There is a great deal of English influence in this part of the collections, as seen in the frequent use of tweeds and plaids in soft dirndl skirts with genteel silk blouses and



CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS FROM PARIS — Kenzo shows a unique approach to the fall look, adapting Paris' soft fabrics and colors to the striking new silhouette of his balloon dress (left), while Cacharel redefines the soft wool jersey dress with a rich cowl neck and an easy-belted waist (right). Muted color and icy pastels are the latest Paris color messages.

man-tailored jackets.

Evenings in Paris this fall and winter are romantic, with Chole leading the way in a collection of Casanova-inspired lace and silk blouses with portrait collars.

Yves St. Laurent sees sheer drama for nights with glossier skirts and pants shot with gold and topped with elegant, modified peasant blouses.

A boldly beautiful evening-

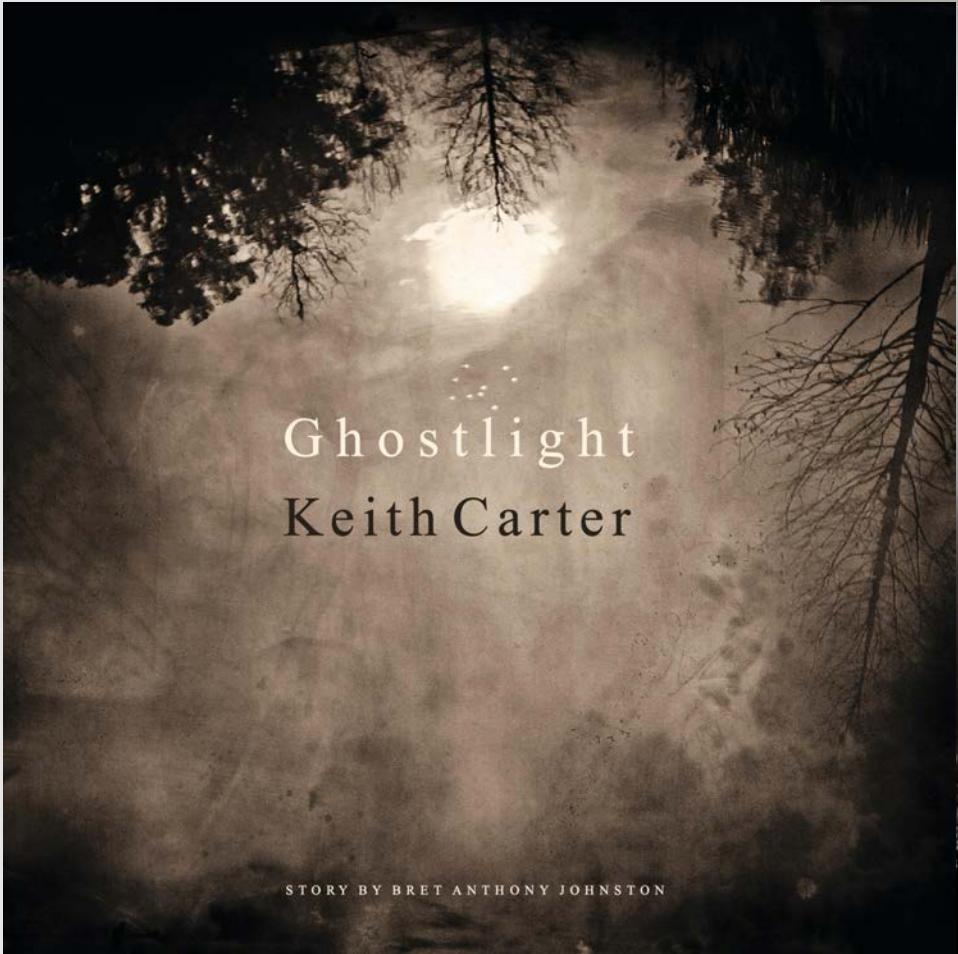
wear finale comes from Issey Miyake with striking black gowns "cut" with spectacular geometric inserts of pink, green or purple.

Compiled by Ja'Leigh Cerf

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.



STORY BY BRET ANTHONY JOHNSTON



Right: Keith Carter, Cathy Spence

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



CARDINAL CENTENNIAL



Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall prepares to cut the ceremonial cake during Centennial Fest, Sept. 17, in front of the Setzer Student Center. Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan is to McCall's right and LU President Jaime Taylor is pictured far right. UP photo by Brian Quijada

Southeast Texas turns out to celebrate LU's 100th

Keagan Smith
UP sports editor

Lamar University President Jaime Taylor commemorated the school's 100th anniversary with a speech at the Centennial Fest celebration, Sept. 17, in the Quad.

"Our founders understood the significance of higher education and envisioned an educational institution where innovation could thrive, paving the way for generations of leaders to find their footing in Texas," Taylor said. "Today, as we celebrate 100 years, I think we can declare with confidence that we've not only fulfilled, but surpassed the dreams of our founders."

Lamar has become a center of excellence which has transformed Southeast Texas and beyond, Taylor said, adding that the university has grown with the community throughout the years and adapted to meet its changing needs — all while graduating leaders in a diverse array of fields from law, business, engineering and more.

"We instill in our graduates essential skills and critical thinking, transforming them into agile professionals who are ready for an ever-evolving world," Taylor said. "Adaptability is absolutely key. Yet, even as we prepare our graduates for long term success, we also equip them with the skills that make them immediate assets to their first employers. This is our legacy, and it continues to drive us forward."

"As we move forward, let's remember that our history is intertwined with the larger community. We are part of a community and a state that values higher education and invests in its future."

Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall took the podium after Taylor. He congratulated the Lamar community on becoming one of just 14 Texas universities to celebrate its centennial anniversary.

"You can't go anywhere in Texas without seeing the impact of Lamar University," McCall said. "In school districts across Texas, thousands of teachers, counselors and principals call Lamar their alma mater. Many of the state's and the nation's best engineers, who literally built Texas, honed their skills on this campus."

McCall also said Lamar's enrollment is up 14% over the past five years. In the last year alone, that figure is up 5%, bucking national trends.

Texas Speaker of the House and District 21 Representative Dade Phelan concluded the program. He said Lamar recently became the state leader in higher-education formula funding, which will allow the university to continue growing throughout the coming years.

"Lamar University, in our backyard, is creating the workforce of tomorrow, not just in the state of Texas, not just in this country, but around the world," Phelan said "I could not be more proud to be a part of it."



A crowd of more than 1,300 people gathered in Lamar University's Quad during Centennial Fest, Sept. 17, to celebrate the school's founding in 1923.



The Lamar Color Guard perform alongside the band during Lamar University's Centennial Fest, Sept. 17, in the Quad.





Explore what our honors students have created during their time at LU!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Honors Scholars Day

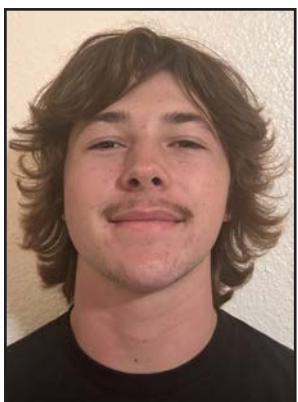
presented by the

REAUD HONORS COLLEGE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Lamar University
Mary & John Gray Library, 8th Floor

CAMPUS VOICES

A college student’s life is pretty busy, but it’s important to get away from the stress of classes. What do you do in your free time?



Cole Majors
Anahuac freshman

Usually, I hang out with my friends and also hit up the Rec a lot, play basketball a lot, volleyball, and lift.

cars, even if it’s a little Honda Civic that costs \$2,000 — you could find yourself a project car and build it out. You could get that pride and joy that you built something.



Talea Ellegan
Richmond sophomore

I like to go to other colleges, hang out with a few friends, go to kickbacks, or go to Galveston.



Logan Love
Fredericksburg freshman

I do a whole lot of stuff. I go out with friends sometimes. I spend quite a bit of time studying. Other than that, I just mostly try to find stuff to do. I don’t like sitting in my dorm doing nothing.

I’ll go to the pool, I’ll go play volleyball, I’ll go to the Rec and work out — anything just to get me off my butt.



Aaron Johnson
Manvel freshman

In my spare time, I like to go to the Rec Center and play pool. I feel like that’s a way to relax, plus I get to meet new people.



Gabriela Garcia
Bayamón, Puerto Rico freshman

I like to watch movies. I’m a movie person. I love to watch random shows and random movies. They can be scary; they can be sci-fi. I am into scary movies and I’m definitely into dystopian movies, those are some of my favorites.



Reese Rodger
Silsbee freshman

I like to go build a robot. There’s a Vex U competition for Robo cars that I spend all my free time on.



Jaiyden Williams
Beaumont freshman

Probably workout. Most of the time I work, though. And when I do have extra time, probably homework or whatnot.



Uma Meghana
Krishna, India graduate student

I’m actually a classical dancer from India. So, whenever I get time, I love dancing. I don’t do classical dance but I

April Mahan,
Vidor freshman

In my spare time, I like to read dystopian books or do makeup for the salon that I work at.



Edwin Rodriguez
Pasadena junior

I like to go work out at the Rec Center. That’s something that keeps me sane from going crazy from other work. Honestly, it helps clear my mind. If it wasn’t for that, honestly, I’m not going to be here.



Payton Larkin
Crockett freshman

I really love playing volleyball at the Rec Center. They have a great court and people. A good community, also. I really love it. So, I’m happy now.

just do some hip hop or something like that, when the TV is on.



Arip Nur
Bandung, Indonesia doctoral student

I really love playing volleyball at the Rec Center. They have a great court and people. A good community, also. I really love it. So, I’m happy now.



Carlos Vilorio
UP contributor

In my spare time, a lot of my friends get together and we play Dungeon & Dragons. It’s a lot more fun than how people put it off to be.

Compiled by
Carlos Vilorio
UP contributor

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE & DANCE SEASON
2023-2024



AN UNEXPECTED, QUIRKY COMEDY

The Incredible
FOX SISTERS

A PLAY BY **JACLYN BACKHAUS**
DIRECTED BY **CRAIG JOHNSON**

OCT. 26-28 – 7:30 PM
OCT. 29 – 2:00 PM



**FALL &
RECOVERY**

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

NOV. 10 – 7:30 PM
NOV. 11 – 2:00 PM, 7:30 PM



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Department of Theatre & Dance



For tickets, visit **lamar.edu/lutdtix**
or call **(409) 880-2250**



LU running back Major Bowden celebrates his second touchdown of the game against Houston Christian University at Husky Stadium in Houston, Sept. 30.

UP photo by Keagan Smith

Cardinal football wins conference opener

Keagan Smith
UP sports editor

Lamar University football opened Southland Conference play with a 21-19 win over Houston Christian University at Husky Stadium in Houston, Sept. 30.

It was a hard-fought victory for the Cardinals, who begin the conference slate in the win column for the first time since 2015.

“The kids have been resilient all year,” head coach Pete Rossomando said. “We played a good football team, so proud of these guys for continuing to battle. That’s two in a row now, so hopefully we get some momentum.”

The Cardinals had a productive night on offense and produced 412 total yards. Quarterback Robert Coleman played his best game of the season thus far, completing 19-of-30 passes for 294 yards and two touchdowns, earning Southland Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors.

Izaha Jones paced Lamar’s receiving corps with seven catches for 101 yards, followed by Andre Dennis’ four catches for 62 yards and a touchdown. As for the running backs, Kham Griffin rushed for 74 yards on 17 carries, while Major Bowden finished with 81 all-purpose yards and two total TDs.

However, the Cards wouldn’t have downed their

Southland Conference rival without the gritty shown by the defense. A handful of crucial moments shaped the outcome of the game, such as Lamar’s early statement stopping their opponent inside the five-yard line on HCU’s opening drive.

There was no shortage of late-game heroics, either. In the fourth quarter, the Cardinals denied a two-point conversion attempt which left the Huskies trailing on the scoreboard. On HCU’s final possession, Lamar’s Kybo Jamerson sacked the quarterback on fourth down to preserve the win.

While the Huskies jumped out to a 3-0 lead, the Cardinals responded with 14 unanswered points in the second quarter.

Bowden ran a wheel route out of the backfield and hauled in a pass for a 41-yard touchdown reception. Then, Coleman found Dennis open across the middle for a 16-yard score.

In the third quarter, HCU marched 93 yards downfield on a 17-play drive. However, the Cardinal defense held strong and forced the Huskies to settle for a field goal.

To begin the game’s final frame, Bowden took a five-yard rush across the goal line and gave Lamar a 21-6 lead. Houston Christian would score twice in the final eight minutes, but their comeback was stymied by the Cardinals, who went on to win, 21-19.

Now, the Cardinals have

won two consecutive games for the first time since their 2019 campaign.

Rossomando, in his first season at Lamar, said it felt great to earn his first Southland Conference victory.

“We almost tried to give it away at the end, but the kids did a great job of fighting — especially the defense at the end. It was an awesome job to go out and get the W.”

Lamar now has a 1-0 record in SSLC play (2-3 overall). The Cardinals’ next contest is against Northwestern State University at Provost Umphrey Stadium in Beaumont, Oct. 7.

The game will be streamed on ESPN+ and 560 KLVI. Kick-off is at 3 p.m.

What We Do:

writing **consultations** for student writers and researchers across disciplines at every level

in-person, synchronous, and asynchronous **sessions** with LU writing coaches who are excellent graduate/undergraduate writers and peer collaborators

faculty **resources** across the curriculum: workshops, class visits, course support

lamar.edu/writingcenter
WRITE ON.



Students play basketball in the Sheila Umphrey Rec Center, Sept. 28.

UP photo by Gage Gilliam

Intramural Sports offers various tournaments

Gage Gilliam
UP contributor

Lamar University’s intramural sports has more than a dozen sports and tournaments for students to keep fit and compete this fall.

Sports include 7-on-7 Flag Football, 6-on-6 Cricket, Indoor 5-on-5 Soccer, and a multitude of pop-up tournaments filled with fun and excitement, including 8-Ball Pool, 9-Ball Pool, Air Hockey and Badminton.

“Intramural sports are an outlet for the students,” Jason Harrington, coordinator of intramural and sports clubs, said. “Your primary goals are to attend Lamar, get an education and a degree, but you also have to have something else to take your mind away from that as a stress reliever.”

Participation in an intramural sports is free.

Students interested in participating in Intramural Sports should set up an account online at imleagues.com, and Harrington said students are encouraged to visit or call the office, located in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, for additional help or questions.

“All pop-up tournaments can be signed up on the spot while the tournament is going on,” he said.

Students can either form their own

teams or join other teams needing players.

Tyler Grey, head of the Lamar University Fitness Club, said he signed up for the 7-on-7 Flag Football league.

“I’m super excited, flag football is one of my favorite intramural sports on campus, but there’s a sport or pop-up tournament for everyone’s interest,” he said. “We try and enter as many tournaments as our member will participate in.”

While the flag football deadline has passed, students can sign up to be added to a wait list.

Harrington said there has been an increase in teams for volleyball and flag football compared to last fall and he is hoping for continued growth.

Deadlines are approaching for Cricket sign-ups (Oct. 6 at 8 a.m.), and indoor soccer (Nov. 3 at 8 a.m.).

Tournaments are also approaching with 8-Ball and 9-Ball Pool tournaments (Oct. 9-12), Air Hockey (Oct. 18-19), and Badminton (Oct. 23-25).

Harrington said a new sport, Teqball, was offered earlier in the semester.

“It’s soccer skills on a curved table tennis table, but you play it like spikeball where you get three hits over the net,” Harrington said. “We had a great turnout for it and plan to offer it again.”

For more information, call 409-880-8331, or visit lamar.edu/recsports.



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY



The College of Fine Arts & Communication prepares you to become a leader in your field.

Collaborate

Innovate

Create

Check out our concerts, art exhibitions, dance and theatrical performances!

lamar.edu/fineartscomm

(409) 880-8137
201 Theatre Arts Building

  **[/lamar.cofac](#)**
[@LamarCOFAC](#)

