

Veterans Day events set for Nov. 6-15

Josh Patterson
UP contributor

Lamar University will host a series of Veterans Day events, Nov. 6-15.

Wilma Jackson, LU director of strategic initiatives, said the event aims to honor those who have served or are currently serving, and to celebrate their courage, dedication, and all that they do to make our country safe.

“We have a lot of veterans, and we have a lot of students

who receive veteran benefits,” she said. “So, it is a way to let them know we appreciate them.”

The events will begin with the Cardinal Care Resource Fair, noon to 1:30p.m., Nov. 6, in the Setzer Student Center Atrium.

Lunch on the Lawn will take place on the Dining Hall lawn from noon to 2 p.m., Nov. 11. In the case of rain, the event will be held in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center.

Stephen Malick, Student

Veterans Association faculty advisor, said the lunch will begin with a color guard ceremony.

“The Lamar University Police Department has a color guard which they’re going to come and present the colors,” Malick said. “It’s a moment of recognition of what our country is supposed to represent, and what it’s supposed to stand for.”

A competition to design a logo for LU’s Wall of Honor will be launched, Nov. 15. The Wall of Honor is located on the second floor of the Maes Building and

is dedicated to veterans and first responders.

“It’s beautiful, but we need some type of branding or logo to let people know the significance of the wall,” Jackson said.

The competition will be open to Lamar and local high school students to create a unique brand for the wall. The theme is “Not All Heroes Wear Capes.” The competition will include separate categories for college students and high school students. A group of judges will determine the winners. Three

winners will be named in each category, and monetary prizes will be awarded.

Malick said it is important to recognize the sacrifices and contributions veterans have made to the country.

“There’s a lot that goes into maintaining the military, and it’s a very difficult job,” Malick said. “So, to just take a day or an event to recognize their efforts, I think it’s just part of our duty.”

For information, visit lamar.edu/veteransaffairs.

OUR event set for Nov. 14

Josiah Boyd
UP contributor

Lamar University’s Office of Undergraduate Research will host the 12th annual OUR Fall Conference, Nov. 14, beginning at 8 a.m. in the Setzer Student Center.

The event will feature student research presentations, poster sessions, workshops and networking opportunities in various locations throughout the Setzer Student Center.

Guest speakers will present a series of lectures throughout the day in the Setzer Center Live Oak Ballroom. Humberto Hernandez, director of biology and chemistry at Texas A&M University-Victoria will present the first talk starting at 9:15 a.m., followed by Judge Gordon Friesz at 1:15 p.m., and Dashiell Corp engineer Talon Weaver, at 6 p.m.

E.J. McMillen, OUR administrative assistant, said the conference is good opportunity for students to be able to present their work, whether they are new to presenting research or have been through the conference presenting landscape often.

“I encourage students to present their work at the conference just to have an opportunity to show off,” he said. “These students are putting in these long hours, doing so much hard work, and I think it is just a really good opportunity to be able to have it seen by people, and potentially even win some prizes or awards for their efforts.

“Being able to show your work off to these professionals can really help get your foot in the door and make a

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Restoring the Past

History club works to preserve Pear Orchard Cemetery graves



UP photos by Heather Harmon

Members of LU’s History Club work to identify and preserve graves at Pear Orchard Cemetery.

Heather Harmon
UP contributor

Lamar University’s History Club has been working with Historic Sacred Spaces to preserve historically Black cemeteries in Beaumont. The group started working on Pear Orchard Cemetery in May.

Jessie Davis, a Beaumont genealogist and preservationist founded Historical Sacred Spaces in March 2022, while looking for her great grandfather’s grave. Davis said all she had to go off was that Lee Pritchett was a lumberjack and was possibly buried in Pear Orchard cemetery. Once she found his grave, Davis said she was appalled at the state it was in.

“I do family genealogy a lot,”

Davis said. “I was going to the Pear Orchard to look for my great grandfather. While I out there, I was captivated by all the WWI and WWII and Korean veterans that were there and something came over me.

“I called the Jefferson County Historical Commission and that’s when I asked what we can do to honor the veterans that were in all Black cemetery, and I started working on that project and from there I just couldn’t let it go.”

Davis needed assistance and recruited students from LU’s History Club.

Since May, the club has repaired headstones, and taken inventory. The group also has corrected ledgers

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UP photo by Regina Ruiz

Evan Wolford reads the information about Pandit Mehar Chand. The historic marker will be dedicated at a ceremony, Nov. 15, in Beaumont.

Historic marker to honor Indian-American Chand

Regina Ruiz
UP staff writer

A century-old story of perseverance and belonging will soon take its place in the Southeast Texas landscape as the Beaumont Heritage Society prepares to dedicate a new historical marker honoring Pandit Mehar Chand, one of the first Indian immigrants to

earn U.S citizenship.

The public dedication ceremony will be held Nov. 15 at 10 a.m. at 911 Crockett St., the site where Chand once operated a small store that served the local community.

The marker is part of the Texas Historical Commission’s Under-told Marker Program, which recognizes overlooked figures in the

state’s history.

Born in India in 1894, Pandit Mehar Chand came to the United States in 1913 in search of opportunity. Like many Asian immigrants of his time, he faced racism and legal restrictions that limited where he could live, work, and even who he could marry. After

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.”

— Oscar Wilde

NOTICE

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

LU events celebrate first-gen students

Lamar University will recognize and honor first-generation college students with a series of events, Nov. 6- Nov. 18. The events include a “Cardinal Care and First Gen Resource Fair,” Nov. 6, and a “Virtual First Gen College Celebration Event,” Nov. 8. The “First Gen Student and Alumni Lunch and Learn” will be held, Nov. 10, followed by “Coffee and Conversations, Nov. 12, and the “McNair Scholars Research Symposium,” Nov. 13. Lastly, “Friendsgiving” will be held on Nov. 18 to close off the celebration.

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lasting impression.”

First time presenter Ayna Arif, senior psychology major, and Priya Rathore, junior biology and physics major, will present their project which focuses on the bioremediation of industrial mine wastewaters using an algae known as *Galdieria Sulphuraria*.

“I’ve always been interested in conducting research within my major, so when (Priya) asked me to partner up, I saw it as a great way to gain experience in the research field,” Arif said.

Students will present their research for 15 minutes, and the sessions are open to all to attend.

Evan Wolford, junior film major and first time OUR Fall conference participant, said his research covers an area that is not represented enough.

“I am going to be presenting my research, and making a case, that Kendrick Lamar was censored during his performances at the 2016 Grammy Awards and the 2025 Super Bowl half-time show,” Wolford said. “Just because my topic is not math or science related does not mean it is not important. This is history, and analyzing how and why he was censored is important in learning how we can do better in the future.”

Arif said preparing for the conference has helped her improve more than just her research.

“I am going to be honest, I

can be a pretty shy person and public speaking is hard for me,” she said. “But the more I practiced my presentation, the more comfortable I became speaking in front of people.”

The OUR conference will give students a chance to mingle and network with professors, peers and industry leaders.

Lunch will be provided for all attendees who register in advance, followed by a banquet dinner at 5:15 p.m.

“It’s going to be a very engaging and fun conference,” McMillen said.

To register, visit lamar.edu/undergraduate-research, or in person, Nov 14, starting at 7:30 a.m. in the SSC Live Oak Ballroom.

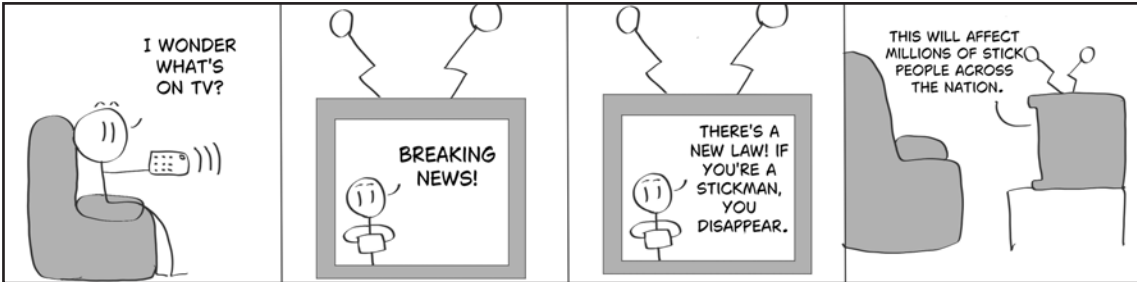
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HAMIL-TEN

Celebrating a decade of the hit Broadway and cultural sensation

RAP, REVOLUTION AND REPRESENTATION

Regina Ruiz
UP staff writer

“Hamilton” has transformed the world of Broadway since its 2015 debut. Using hip-hop, R&B and traditional show tunes to tell the story of founding father Alexander Hamilton, the show quickly became a cultural phenomenon, redefining what a musical could sound like — and who could see themselves in it.

From the start, “Hamilton” broke tradition. Its rap-driven score introduced younger audiences to the stage while blending modern music with 18th-century history. The mix drew in fans who might never have stepped into a theater, proving Broadway could expand beyond its traditional base.

The musical also challenged long-standing casting norms. Actors of color were chosen to portray America’s historically white founders, creating a vision of the past that connected with the present. The decision made the show more inclusive and set a new precedent for theater companies across the country.

Beyond Broadway, “Hamilton” sparked renewed interest in U.S. history. Teachers incorporated its lyrics into classrooms, and educational programs partnered with the production to bring thousands of students to see the show. For many, it was their first exposure to live theater.

The show’s reach extends far beyond the stage. Its cast recording topped charts, streamed around the world, and built an international fan base. When a filmed version arrived on Disney+ in 2020, millions of viewers were able to experience the production from home, marking a turning point for Broadway in the digital age.

A decade after its debut, “Hamilton” remains a milestone in musical theater. Its fusion of hip-hop and history, combined with groundbreaking casting, has ensured Broadway will remain relevant for a new generation.



Feature package by
Rayna Christy
and
Regina Ruiz

The room where it happens

Is it better to watch at home or in the theater?

Regina Ruiz
UP staff writer

When “Hamilton” premiered on Disney+ in July 2020, it brought one of Broadway’s hottest tickets to millions of living rooms around the world.

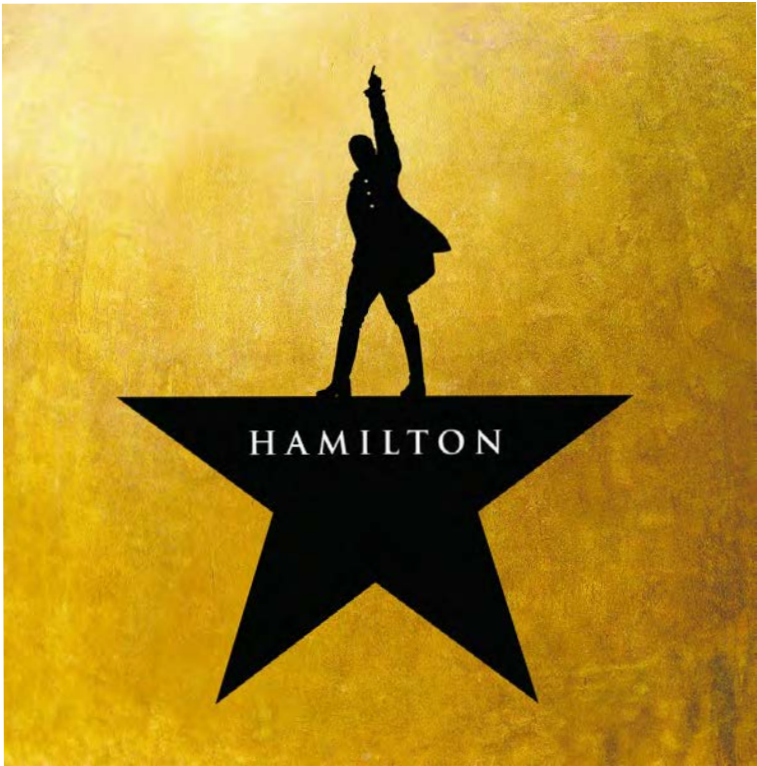
For many, it was the first time they could experience Lin-Manuel Miranda’s groundbreaking musical without waiting months for a seat or paying hundreds of dollars for a ticket. But while the streaming version opened the doors to a wider audience, longtime “Hamilton” fans argue that nothing compares to seeing the show next to people who appreciate the play as much as they do.

Audiences describe the viewing experience as electric. From the moment the lights dim to the final scene, the energy of a Hamilton performance reverberates through the theater.

The Disney+ version, filmed in 2016 with the original cast, captures the production from multiple camera angles, offering a perspective even the best seats can’t provide. Close-ups highlight subtle facial expressions, and sweeping shots showcase Andy Blankenbuehler’s choreography in a new light.

Still, the streaming experience lacks the unpredictability of live reactions — the spontaneous energy amongst the audience, the hushed silence before a pivotal moment, the thunder of applause after a showstopping number.

Whether at home or in a theater, “Hamilton” has reshaped musical theater and captured the imagination of audiences worldwide. The Disney+ version may have preserved it for future generations, but for those who have sat in a theater and felt the music pulse through the walls, the viewing experience remains unmatched.



WHO LIVES, WHO DIES, WHO TELLS YOUR STORY

Exploring connections between ‘Hamilton’ and journalism

Rayna Christy
UP editor

Everything we do, every thought we have and every word we speak is a story. No matter if we get out of bed and just go through the motions of life, it is our story. As journalists, our job is to find other people’s stories and be the ones to tell them.

On Sept. 5, the hit Broadway musical “Hamilton” made its debut on the big screen with a limited run in theaters. Celebrating 10 years of the show, dubbed “Hamil-Ten,” the showings included not only the musical but also previously unseen interviews with the cast. Fans rushed for tickets to see it on the big screen.

As a journalist, I was struck by Hamilton’s wife, Eliza, and her closing song.

At the end of “Hamilton,” viewers hear Eliza reflect on everything she has done to tell Alexander’s story. In effect, Eliza is a journalist reporting to the audience. We have seen his life play out and now, like a good feature writer, she fills in the gaps with her reporting.

As journalists, we do not aim to get recognition for our own name. The copy we write takes us out of the story and inserts the reader into the world of someone entirely different. Yes, our name sits in the byline. However, our name does not lie in the words we share.

In Hamilton’s case, his story is most told when he dies, and that is sadly the case with many. We often regret not sharing the smaller stories — the stories of kindness, of generosity, of selflessness — until the person is no longer here to share it themselves. Journalism allows us to lessen that regret.

We sit and watch at the ready, waiting for just the right person to cross our path. We find a story worth telling, a life worth sharing. We sit with our pen and reporter’s pad open to the next blank page, awaiting the person’s quotes, planning out in our heads just how the story will look on paper. We return to the newsroom, ecstatic to make the story a reality and to share the valuable information we have collected.

In that sense, Eliza is musical theater’s great journalist. She tells the story.

Find your Eliza in your local journalist and sit down for a chat. You live a story worth telling and journalists will share it in AP Style instead of song.

HISTORY from page 1

that contained errors. The task of preserving the cemeteries in the summer heat have been a challenge, club president Jaqueline Sanchez said.

“It was getting hot over the summer,” she said. “The weather was just not on our side, because then it would rain, like days before, and it would be really muddy.”

Jasmine Garcia, former club president, said believes the ledgers caused the most issues in the preservation process.

“We have a ledger and there’s some inconsistencies with the name spellings, they’re very sporadic,” she said. “So, it’s kind of hard to determine (who is who) based off the ledger. We found someone’s headstone, and we found where they’re at. Then someone will have nothing, they won’t have a headstone. It’s just grass. So, it’s kind of hard to navigate where people are.”

Historic Sacred Spaces has also been working to preserve

the Blanchette Cemetery and the Nona Cemetery.

Davis said money and time are the biggest obstacles in the preservation process. Davis registered Pear Orchard and Blanchett cemeteries as historical sites. Davis said the work is her passion project and although she’s able to carry on her work with HSS through donations, she has found it difficult to restore the cemeteries with little help.

“I think the most thing is the financial part of it because the markers are not free,” she said. “Those markers are basically a thousand dollars. When we did Pear Orchard, we had to raise money. Then when we did the Blanchett, someone paid the thousand dollar donation.

“And when we did Nona, someone else did the thousand dollar donation, so thank god we were able to get that without having to raise money.”

Davis said the preservation

requires a lot of people.

“You know, we’re lifting headstones — that’s not easy to do,” she said. “Some of the headstones of the soldiers have slumped down in the ground or fallen over.”

Davis said the reason the cemeteries are in such disarray is due to the lack of care and lack of passion for families to come back to the cemeteries.

“Our grandparents, they were just trying to make it,” she said. “They were in the thick of the segregation war, racism, all those things they were dealing with and fighting on that front. And then they have to deal with somebody dying and a place to bury them, and not only that, but you have to have enough money to bury them.

“I think the lack of passion is just like I said. What our ancestors and our forefathers were going through at the time, they were fighting a heavy battle just to prove they were human.”

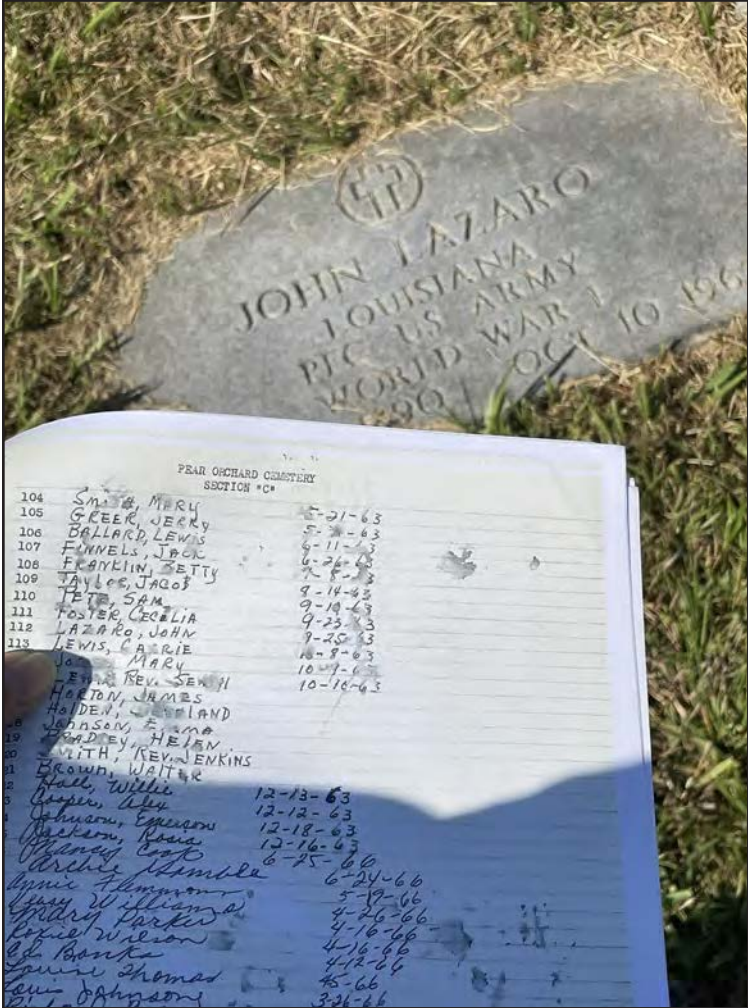
The cemeteries are privately owned, and the owner should be responsible for keeping the grass cut and keeping the trees trimmed, Davis said.

Davis and HSS colleague Sandra Castile have sought to bring awareness of the Black cemeteries in Beaumont through college lectures, Facebook and newspapers. Davis recruited the Boy Scouts to place a sign at Pear Orchard.

Davis said she hopes more people will be willing to help her cause and hopes people won’t turn their backs on the dead. She plans to expand preservation to the historically Black cemeteries to Beaumont’s North End.

“It’s vital for us to stay engaged and do the work,” she said. “We want to work with Lamar (students) and get with the Greek life to come out here and help with documentation.”

To volunteer or for more information, visit the Historical Sacred Spaces Facebook page.



UP photos by Heather Harmon

A ledger, above, is used by members of LU’s History Club to identify and preserve graves at Pear Orchard Cemetery. The club works with the Historic Sacred Spaces to document cemeteries in Beaumont.



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NEW LOCATIONS COMING SOON

PAWS IN PERIL

Beaumont Animal Care puts a pause on animal cruelty

Kami Greene
UP managing editor

Beaumont Animal Care officers received an anonymous tip that animals were being bred for dogfighting, Sept. 30, on Pine Street in Downtown Beaumont.

“They heard reports of dogs fighting, and they could see what looked like malnourished dogs that were being housed in improper conditions,” Viviana Lopez, adoption and marketing coordinator, said. “One of our officers did go out to the scene, and that’s when she was able to see exactly how many animals were on the property, and the condition they were being kept in.”

BAC officers seized four litters of dogs, 32 dogs in total. Twenty dogs were under a year old, and the rest were all adults, Lopez said.

Lopez said the officers found evidence associated with dogfighting, such as weighted collars, injectable antibiotics and treadmills.

Prior to the seizure, Lopez said law enforcement gave the owners notice about the excessive number of dogs that were housed on their property, but the issue remained.

“Within the city limits of Beaumont, you’re only allowed to have eight animals, and so (the officer) was trying to give (the owner) time to correct that issue, and



UP photo by Kami Greene

Beaumont Animal Care employee, Faith Harmon plays with Tutti Frutti at the facility on Pine Street in Beaumont. The dog was rescued during a recent raid on a suspected dog fighting facility.

correct their housing and rehome them,” Lopez said. “Unfortunately, when she went in for her recheck, she said the conditions actually seemed to have worsened, and none of the dogs had been rehomed. So that is when she decided to get a seizure warrant for the property.”

The seizure hearing hap-

pened on Oct. 7, when Jefferson County Justice of the Peace Ben Collins Sr. granted Beaumont Animal Care full custody of 32 dogs. However, due to prior issues concerning capacity, it has put a strain on the shelter’s ability to house more animals.

“We’re almost always at our max capacity, so we definitely didn’t have room to

welcome 32 dogs, especially some of them that didn’t get along with other dogs,” Lopez said. “We worked a lot with our rescue partners, sponsors and adopters. Luckily, everyone in our community was really great and understanding.”

While the 20 dogs that were under a year old were sent to a rescue and are not

available for adoption through Beaumont Animal Care, there are still 12 adult dogs available for adoption, Lopez said, adding that anyone interested in adoption requires a vet check, references, and home visits.

Lopez said she encourages members of the community to report any suspected incidents of animal cruelty to BAC as well as the Beaumont police department.

“If you see something, say something,” she said. “If no one would have said something, animals would have still continued to be put into harm’s way and the cycle would have just continued.”

Anyone interested in adopting an animal can visit the shelter at 1884 Pine St. in Beaumont. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. They are also open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An online adoption application is also available at beaumonttexas.gov/167/Animal-Care.

However, if adoption seems too big of a commitment, fostering is also available, Lopez said.

“We are always looking for space for animals,” she said. “With five to 20 animals coming in each day, we’re grateful for any extra space we can get.”

For more information, call 409-838-3304, or visit Beaumont Animal Care on Facebook or Instagram.

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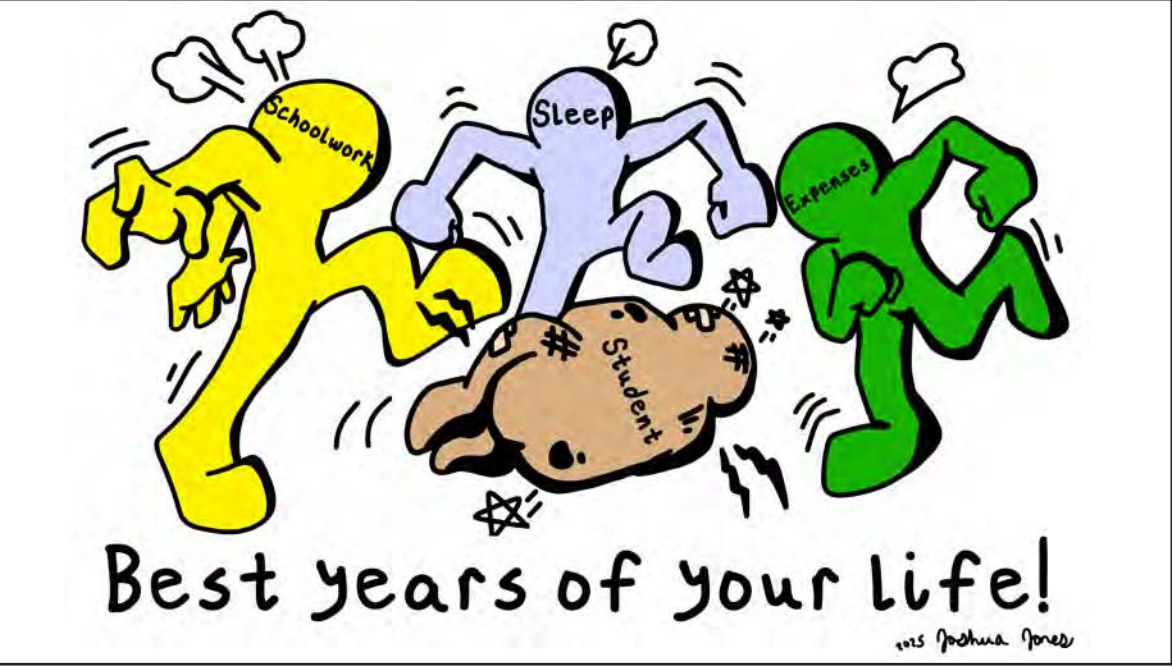
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Opinionated arts

Students Daniel Webber, Kevin Flanagan, Johnesia Davis and Joshua Jones from Eric Johnson's graphic design class decided to try their hand at editorial cartooning about the trials of campus life. From the stress of university life to parking and even the library renovation, they turned a sharp eye to current events.



FALL & RECOVERY

A woman with long, dark, flowing hair is captured in mid-air, performing a backflip. She is wearing a black dress and has her arms outstretched. The background is a solid purple color.

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Meeks shares ‘American Dream’

Maria Rodriguez
UP news editor

Photos pass a family’s stories from one generation to another.

Donna M. Meeks is exhibiting her work in the exhibition, “American Dream,” at Galveston College Art Gallery through Dec. 1.

Meeks, Lamar professor of painting and drawing, has been working on the exhibition since 2017. “American Dream” explores her family photos through a series of paintings.

“All the imagery in ‘American Dream’ is based on family photo albums and images of my familial history, not necessarily my personal history,” Meeks said. “It’s also kind of a reconstruction of things that never happened.”

In the collection, “American Dream 19” features images of photos of Meeks, her grandmother and her mother from different time periods. “In that image, my grandmother is about 17-18 years old, my mom is about that age, and then I’m about seven, eight years old,” Meeks said. “There was never a time in history when we could have been young together.”

Meeks is using photos and combining the, to make images of the past that never existed, using AI functions in Photoshop. She then paints over them.

“I’m lifting the figures from other photographs, and I’m putting them into a new space,” she said. “Then I’m using linear perspective in my knowledge of drawing to create believability using these tools.”

Her research consisted of going through the family’s photos, but sometimes Meeks had to go further, she said. “American Dream 3” features her grandmother with two pilots at Bowman Field in Louisville, KY, in 1919. Her research revealed that the airmen were Eddie Rickenbacker and Bert Acosta.



UP photo by Maria Rodriguez

“They were the two most famous World War One American pilots in the war,” Meeks said. “Then in 1919, they invented this thing called Air Mail.”

Air mail was used to fly letters that could be sent overseas. Rickenbacker and Acosta flew the first transcontinental air mail flight, making a stop in Louisville that isn’t documented, Meeks said.

“Except in my grandmother’s photo album, there’s two photos,” Meeks said. “There’s her with the pilots, and there’s a photo of the plane parked at the newly made airfield. On the back, it says, ‘Rickenbacker and Acosta just flew a transcontinental flight in this plane.’”

Memories show up not just in the finished paintings, but also revealed themselves as Meeks created the work. Another version of “American Dream 3” features embossed stars, a memory from Meeks’ childhood

“My grandfather was a printer,” she said. “When I was five or six years old, his gift to me was one of those rubber stamp print sets to inspire me to be a printer. I remember playing

with it, so when I bring back embossed stamps, that’s kind of me remembering that first gift.”

Meeks said she views this show more as a motivating factor than a challenge.

“I’m a goal-oriented person, and when I have a goal, I meet a goal,” she said. “I’ve known about the show for more than a year, and so that gave me something to work towards.”

This “American Dream” series has been something Meeks has thought about for a long time.

“I was having dreams about people standing up, people who are gone, and getting together in a single image,” Meeks said. “So, I was dreaming about it long before I made it happen.”

By combining the landscapes, buildings and people from the past, Meeks has intertwined her family’s long history.

Galveston College Art Gallery is located in FA-31, 4015 Ave. Q in Galveston. Admission is free.

For more, visit gc.edu/artgallery. For more about Meeks’ art, visit donnammeeks.com.



Donna Meeks, top, stands in her teaching space in Lamar University’s art building. “American Dream 3,” above, is part of her latest exhibition at the Galveston College Art Gallery through Dec. 1.

ORANGE

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A circular photograph of two men wearing cowboy hats and western attire, smiling and looking at each other. One man is holding a lasso.

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New Starbucks opens in Gray Library

Carina Wyman
UP contributor

Gray Library is under construction, but work has advanced enough that Starbucks has moved from its location adjacent to the dining hall to the library’s ground floor. The new location has a large, clean and polished storefront. The soft opening for the restaurant was Oct. 3. The grand opening was held on Oct. 14 and featured a ribbon cutting and samples of various drinks and food items.

Kenya, a Starbucks employee, said she was excited when they cut the ribbon. “There were so many people, and it made me feel like we were truly supported,” she said. “The best part of working here is meeting old and new faces and the interaction between the workers — we have become like a family.”

Analiese Wallace, Nederland sophomore through the Texas Academy, also expressed excitement about the new location.

“The new Starbucks is a better environment to study in and it’s been a great place to meet with and talk to people,” she said. “I love the tables to sit and study, and the variety and options of coffee are great.

“At the ribbon cutting, it was great to try some samples from the Pumpkin Loaf to Nitro Cold Brew. It was fun seeing all the people there excited for the new Starbucks, and to hear (LU President Jaime) Taylor speak on how it will be a great new space for students.”

Starbucks is currently hiring student employees. Candidates should apply in person.

CHAND from page 1

being driven out of California by laws barring Asians from owning land, Chand moved to Beaumont, where he started anew as a rice farmer, night watchman and small-business owner.

Despite discrimination, Chand built a life with his wife, a Mexican immigrant, and raised a large family. For Chand’s grandson, Danny Chand, the recognition is both emotional and deeply personal.

“I’m just supremely pleased and happy,” Danny Chand said. “I don’t know if I could overstate it. I was so happy that they reached out to me to apply for the marker in the first place.”

Chand, a political science professor and immigration scholar at Kent State University, said the process began after he discovered his grandfather’s presidential pardon while cleaning up after Hurricane Harvey. His research led to a 2023 Beaumont Enterprise article about his grandfather — a story that later caught the attention of the Jefferson County Historical Commission.

“They were the ones who suggested that I put in the application,” he said. “I was very pleased to see that it was accepted.”

Pandit Chand was a really tough guy, Danny Chand said. “He was a very small man — smaller than me, and I’m only five-seven — but he worked so hard for the vast majority of his life,” Danny Chand said. “He was resilient and loving. He and my grandmother had 15 children, and he managed to have strong relationships with all of them.”

Although he never met his grandfather, Chand said he has learned much from family stories. Those lessons, he said, still resonate today.

“My grandfather loved this country,” Chand said. “Despite all the obstacles and adversity he faced, he never stopped loving America. He passed that on to his children.”

Kate Hambright, chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, said Pandit Chand was an incredible young man.

“His story is one of perseverance, hardship, and, frankly, stubbornness,” she said. “He faced one roadblock after another, but refused to give up on his dream.”

Danny Chand said he hopes the marker will encourage compassion toward modern immigrants.

“When we look at his story and what’s happening today, we should keep in mind he wasn’t much different from many people trying to immigrate now,” Danny Chand said. “I hope his story fosters compassion.”

The Beaumont Heritage Society and Jefferson County Historical Commission emphasized that Pandit Mehar Chand’s legacy represents the courage and determination of countless immigrants who helped build the community.

Shelby Brannon, Beaumont Heritage Society executive director, said the story holds timeless relevance.

“These are the people who helped build America,” Brannon said. “Stories like Chand’s remind us that the pursuit of the American dream is something shared across generations.”

For Danny Chand, who once served as editor of the University Press, returning to Beaumont for the dedication feels like coming home.

“Lamar opened so many opportunities for me,” he said. “I always say, if you cut me, I bleed Lamar red.”

For the Chand family, the unveiling will also serve as a reunion — a chance to honor their patriarch and the enduring values he passed down.

“We’re all just very, very happy,” Danny Chand said. “It’s validation — not just for my family, but for every family who’s ever chased the American dream.”

For more information, visit beaumontheritage.org/event.



Courtesy photo

Danny Chand holds Pandit Mehar Chand’s pardon from Franklin Roosevelt. Pandit will be honored with a historic marker unveiling Nov. 15.

HERITAGE



BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY



Happy Hour

Join the Beaumont Heritage Society!



networking opportunity!

November 20, 2025

Tyrrell Historical Library

695 Pearl Street.

5:30p.m. - 7:30p.m.

\$10 per person – 21+



Drinks are complimentary with tour admission

GET INVOLVED AT LU!



Division of Student Affairs

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6

Free Swimming Lessons • 6:30pm-7pm • Indoor Pool

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

Cardinal Care Resource Fair • 12pm-1:30pm • SSC Ballroom

Badminton Tournament • 5pm-9pm • Rec Center

Canoe Battleship • 6pm-8pm • Indoor Pool

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

Service Saturday: Bed Building at Sleep in Heavenly Peace

8:30am-12pm • 2950 Milam in Beaumont

MONDAY, NOV. 10

First Gen Lunch & Learn • 12:30pm-1:30pm • SSC Neches 120

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

Veterans Day Lunch on the Lawn • 12pm-2pm • Dining Hall Lawn

Ace the Interview • 12:40pm-1:40pm • SSC Cypress 125

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Coffee & Conversations • 8am-10am • Cherry Lobby

Emotional Wellness @ Work • 12:40pm-1:40pm • SSC Cypress 125

Free Swimming Lessons • 6:30pm-7pm • Indoor Pool

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Free Professional Headshots • 1pm-4pm • Galloway 102

Canoe Battleship • 6pm-8pm • Indoor Pool

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

Bus Trip to SFA for Football Game • 2pm • Setzer Center

Reserve your seat on LUHub!

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

Free STI Testing • 10am-4pm • Gentry Hall at Cardinal Village

Cardinal Lights • 6pm-8pm • New Intramural Field

MONDAY-THURSDAY EACH WEEK

Free Group Fitness Classes

Yoga, Belly Dancing, Toning, Cycling, & More

See schedule at lamar.edu/recsports



See event details & more on LUHub!

Volleyball runs win streak to 9

LU sweeps Nicholls; tied for 3rd in SLC

Press Release

Behind a well-balanced attack, the Lamar University volleyball team finished strong to secure a sweep, 25-16, 25-12, 25-20, over the Nicholls State Colonels, Nov. 1, in McDonald Gym.

The Cardinals extended their winning streak to nine to remain in a two-way tie for third place in the Southland Conference, one game out of second and two out of first place.

"We're just trying to stay in the moment," head coach Ariel Apolinario said. "We're not going to take it for granted. It's part of the process — the highs and the lows. Today was a good day. We had multiple athletes performing at a high level on both sides of the ball."

"Our serving pressure, once again, was good. Moving forward, I think we put ourselves in a good place so we can have a chance."

LU has four games remaining in the regular season. Three of the four are against teams that are ahead of LU in the conference standings.

"I'm looking forward to the competition and the challenge," Apolinario added. "I think that our group is ready to go out there and battle."



UP photo by Gerrod Fuller

The Lady Cardinal volleyball team celebrates a point against Nicholls State in McDonald Gym, Nov. 1



UP photo by Aaron Saenz

Ashton Rainey competes at the SLC cross country championship, Oct. 31

X-country earns 4th, 8th at SLC

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

The Lamar University men and women's cross-country team competed at the Southland Conference championship in Natchitoches, La., Oct. 31. The men finished fourth and the women finished eighth.

Ashton Rainey led the women with a seventh-place finish at 20:57.63 at 6k. The finish was good for first team all-conference honors.

"It was really special because I'd been training alone pretty much all season, and to have all that work finally pay off meant a lot," Rainey said. "Last year I got 38th, so seeing that improvement and making our new coach proud felt amazing."

Rainey said she was happy she could lead the team.

"I've been trying to be a good leader this year because I really love the girls on the team," Rainey said. "Training on my own gave me the confidence to push myself and be the best leader I can be for them."

Andres Padron was the men's top finisher at 23:42.90 at 8k, good for 14th place. This earned Padron second team all-conference honors.

Padron said the race was tough toward the end after being pushed by the flow of the race, but hearing his coaches and teammates cheer for him gave him the strength to push through.

"The last 2-3k was tough, especially after I made a hasty move — but I pushed through," Padron said. "The support from my coaches and teammates made a huge difference, and I'm proud I could represent the school the way I wanted. The best is yet to come for this team."

The Cards next race is Nov. 14 at the NCAA Regional Championship in Fayetteville, Ark.



UP photo by Aaron Saenz

Andres Padron runs in the SLC championship, Oct. 31



UP photo by Arabella Castañeda-Garcia

LU's Dance Team rehearse in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center.

Dancers aim at nationals

Arabella Castañeda-Garcia
UP contributor

From athletic events, community appearances, to the competition stage, the LU Dance Team, made up of 26 women, showcase their skills, school spirit and dedication at any given opportunity.

The LU Dance Team was previously a part of the Spirit Team, which combined cheer and dance. The two separated into their own independent teams in 2010.

Dezja Brown, a Lamar alumna who was on the LU Dance Team from 2016 to 2020, is the current coach of the team.

"I was on the dance team for four years, and it was one of the best experiences I had," she said.

Brown began coaching the team in 2022 after the team reached out to her, and said it's been a drastic change comparing the team when she was on it to now.

"They are getting a bit more engagement with students, engagement with the community, than I feel like we did when I was on the team," Brown said.

During her time as a team member, Brown said the most members they had were 22, and since she began coaching, the team has expanded.

"When I first started coaching here, I had a team of 13 and this year I have a team of 26," she said. "It's really exciting to see the growth and see people interested in our program."

As the team has changed over the years, the goals and expectations they hold high for themselves haven't. They prioritize respect, team moral, team culture, and most importantly, being high spirited for the university, Brown said.

Senior Amiyah Beverly, a third-year captain, said that her main goal for this year is for her team to become closer with each other along, with winning a first-place trophy at nationals.

"I really want to be bonded so that when we're dancing, people can tell that we are a team," she said. "I'm really aiming for a first-place ring this year, and I feel like with this team we can really do it. We all have been on the same mindset the whole year so far."

Junior Paige Padia, social president of the dance team, said she prioritizes the team's morale, and her goal as a leader is to create more ways her teammates can rely on each other.

"I want to come up with something that we can do to know that we have each other to lean on — to make sure our mental health is where it needs to be, because if our mental health is not where it needs to be, then, we're not going to perform at our best," she said.

Both Beverly and Padia said spring semester is when their schedules become packed due to school, work, and the team. The spring semester is also when they have their most important events such as nationals, their spring show, and tryouts which are on May 17.

Brown said the tryout process is invitation only.

"So, you have to come to one of our recruitment clinics which are really fun," she said. "You dance with us and I watch the dancers and see how they interact and their skill set. If the team sees potential in you, you'll get an invitation and come to the tryouts in May."

The dance team will host a prospect day, Nov 8, that allows anyone interested in joining the team to shadow the members during a game day.

"Students interested in our program will get to come to the football, shadow us, and see what a full game day is like," Brown said. "They'll come see us for our morning practice and all the football events that we have to do. This helps them decide if this is truly a fit for them, and it also prepares them for collegiate dance in general."

LU Dance Team is open to all students and anyone can join at any time, not just incoming freshmen.

"Just do it — if you love to dance, or if you've even never danced before, go out there and do it," Beverly said. "You never know what the outcome will be of that decision."

Brown said she encourages everyone to attend the spring show.

"It's something that the community doesn't really get to see us do, because usually we're just on the sidelines and doing these appearances," she said. "But it's truly an art form, and you get to see why a lot of dancers tried out, because there are several different genres of dance that they get to showcase."

For more information, contact Brown at 409-880-724 or email at dbrown69@lamar.edu.

From Titanic to Mary Celeste

Maritime Archaeologist to delve into undersea mysteries at MWH

Press Release

Maritime archaeologist, television host and award-winning author James Delgado will take a deep dive into fascinating undersea mysteries, storied shipwrecks and underwater exploration during “Lost, Unknown and Then Found: The Great Museum of the Sea,” a free public lecture presented by the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the museum’s Visitor Center Lecture Hall.

The ocean is the largest museum on earth with more than one million lost ships resting in its depths, some dating back millennia, and Delgado has spent decades working around the globe in this mesmerizing world through underwater exploration.

“In my nearly five decades of archaeological investigation, exploration and discovery, what emerges is a powerful story of people, and especially of the role of the ships and shipping in humanity’s spread across the globe,” Delgado said. “The sea is the highway by which some of the greatest migrations in history took place; it is our greatest battlefield, our largest graveyard, the source of much of our food—and it is the largest and greatest museum of our history.”

Delgado has worked on some of the most famous shipwreck sites in history, including the Titanic, the lost fleet of Kublai Khan, the USS Arizona, the fabled “ghost ship” Mary Celeste and the atomic bombed fleet at Bikini Atoll. His expeditions have

solved long-lasting maritime mysteries, bringing closure to families and connecting the modern world with powerful, human stories from the past.

Delgado has also been responsible for bringing back the first images from some of these wrecks, most recently the hangar deck inside the carrier USS Yorktown, sunk in the Battle of Midway in 1942.

“What stands out most is that moment when you first see a shipwreck emerge from the darkness; there is a certain ‘ghost town’ element that is both compelling, and yet it also makes you want to look away,” Delgado said. “What is revealed may be a ship lost but never forgotten, like Titanic, or something that no one has seen for centuries, if not millennia. For me, it has been a life-long quest to explore and learn from that which is buried beneath the ground or the sea.”

During his 46-year career, Delgado has served as executive director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, as both executive director and president of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University and as director of the Maritime Heritage Program for the National Park Service and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

He also hosted the popular television documentary series, “The Sea Hunters,” for its full six-season run. He subsequently helped create the popular National Geographic international television series “Drain the Oceans,” which still runs on Disney Plus and the National Geographic Channel.



James Delgado explores the wreck of Sub Marine Explorer in the Panamanian Pearl Islands.

Courtesy photo

“My career has involved working as an archaeologist in the field — digging on land, on beaches and underwater — as well as diving and exploring with scuba, in submersibles and with deep-sea robotic vehicles,” Delgado said. “I’ve also worked in museums, as a teacher and as a public servant, including being a park ranger. I have been fortunate to share what I have learned—and to learn—through interacting with people. While the work has reached billions, especially with broadcasts, my favorite is the one-on-one when I meet people and hear from them. That is what I look forward to the most in Beaumont.”

Delgado holds a doctorate in Archaeology from Simon

Fraser University. He has published actively in leading archaeology and history journals and has written, co-authored or edited 36 books on archaeology and history, most recently “The Great Museum of the Sea: A Human History,” released in July 2025.

“I went into archaeology because I am fascinated by the past and how archaeology can bring new evidence and forgotten stories to light,” Delgado said. “The key moment when maritime archaeology took hold was in May 1978 when I watched the long-buried hull of the whaling ship Niantic emerge from the mud and sand landfill in downtown San Francisco, in the shadow of skyscrapers and blocks from the sea. Sealed by

mud, part of it was still loaded with goods from the California Gold Rush, some of them well-preserved. You might say it was love at first sight.”

McFaddin-Ward House Museum lectures are free and open to the public, but space is limited. Doors open at 6 p.m.

For those unable to attend, the full lecture will be available for viewing on the museum’s YouTube Channel (youtube.com/@mcfaddinwardhouse), Facebook (facebook.com/McFaddinWardHouse) and website (mcfaddinward.org/about/videos) after the event.

The museum is located at 1906 Calder Ave. in Beaumont.

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

MUSEUM HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM - 4 PM

ON VIEW: OCTOBER 5TH - 15TH

4-7PM

OPENING RECEPTION:

DECEMBER 12TH 2025

Hues In Harmony

BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition

DISHMAN art MUSEUM