

# HOLIDAY SPECIAL

# UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Lamar University

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December 3, 2025

## Cardinal Lights take flight

### Drone show kicks off campus holiday celebrations

**Rayna Christy**  
UP editor

Cardinal Lights, Lamar's annual Christmas event, was

held, Nov. 18 at the new intramural field and the Reaud Honors College. Students and the community gathered to kick off the holiday season

with various activities and ended the night with a drone show.

The turnout for this year was larger than last year's,

with rough estimates found by how many stuffed cardinals and bears were made throughout the night.

"We haven't gotten official numbers yet, but I was told they had 1,400 'build-a-bears,' and they were gone pretty early," LU President Jaime Taylor said. "Our first year, we had maybe 500 people show up. Well, this has to be around 3,000 or 4,000 because every kid doing a build-a-bear, and two parents, that's 4,000 right there."

The holiday atmosphere was strong with the choir and band playing Christmas songs, families taking photos with Santa and children enjoying bounce houses and games. Hot chocolate and cookies were available for everyone at the refreshment table, and food trucks lined Rolfe Christopher Drive.

All of these activities led up to ExxonMobil's presentation of a check funding the night and the traditional flipping of the switch, which turned off all of the lights in the intra-

mural field so that the drones could be seen flying up into the night sky. The drones depicted the names of the event's sponsors, holiday scenery and traditions, a big LU and a very festive cardinal with a Santa hat.

"I had the honor of putting (the drone show) together and just seeing how well it turned out," Hayden Jackson, coordinator of student engagement, said. "Being able to do something a little different than the traditional fireworks that pulled in a bit more elements was really fun and got more impact from the crowd."

Altogether, Taylor said that he hopes the community goes home with a better understanding of Lamar University.

"I hope they go home with (knowing) that Lamar is part of this community, and we just want to help this community and we just want to be a good partner," Taylor said. "I think everybody that comes out feels like 'This community is a good community.'

See **LIGHTS**, page 2



UP photo by Elijah Nelson

Drones formed the shape of a Christmas Cardinal, above, during the Cardinal Lights event, Nov. 18. LU nursing instructor Shannon Marsh, right, and her family won the lottery to flip the switch turning on the campus lights.



UP photo by Rayna Christy



The main staircase of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum.

### MWH hosts open house Dec. 6-7

#### Press Release

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum will host its annual Holiday Open House, Dec. 6 and 7 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The event will feature live music

See **MWH**, page 2

## CVB lists community events

**Caroline Otte**  
UP staff writer

The semester may be coming to a close, but the Christmas spirit is alive and well in Beaumont in December.

The Beaumont Convention and Visitor's Bureau lists multiple Christmas events happening this season.

The annual downtown tree lighting is set for today.

"The tree lightings are really fun because you get to see how there really is something for everybody to do in Beaumont, whether it's little kids, families, teenagers, college students or a single adult, it doesn't matter," Ainsley Thompson, Beaumont CVB marketing manager, said. "They all have a blast at events like that, and it's really cool to see the whole community come together, no matter your age or where you're from."

This year's tree lighting will include a drone show and multiple DJ performances, Thompson said.

"It's pretty crazy," she said. "The Christmas tree is huge, and it's really awesome to get to see it lit up for the first time."

The Beaumont Art Museum tree lighting is set for Dec. 4.



Courtesy photo

"All of these are really great because they're very family friendly," Thompson said. "But I think it's a great thing for college students to do, too. Just get a group of friends and go out there and bundle up. There's going to be activities for everybody."

The John Jay French Museum will host a candlelight tour, Dec. 6. Karli Stansbury, Beaumont Heritage Society's Museum Educator, said the organization is thrilled to welcome the community back to the Christmas Candlelight Tour.

"This event is a way for families to connect with Beaumont's past and celebrate the season together," she said. "From the cozy candlelit tour of the historic French home to festive crafts and caroling, there's something here to make everyone's holiday a bit more magical."

The Chambers House Museum will host a vintage holiday and Christmas market on Dec. 11.

"It's actually a vendor market, so

See **CVB**, page 2

## CVB from page 1

"There will be a lot of shopping to do there," Thompson said. "They have little small businesses from all over and they all come out and set up a big vendor square. It's really beautiful."

"It's so awesome to see that we've always had the festive spirit here in Beau-

mont, and I love getting to see how that was portrayed 180 years ago at these historic houses." The Jefferson Theatre will be showing Christmas movies through the month of December.

More information on all events is available at [beaumontcvb.com](http://beaumontcvb.com).

# UNIVERSITY PRESS

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice."

— T.S. Eliot

## NOTICE

The University Press can be read online at [www.lamaruniversitypress.com](http://www.lamaruniversitypress.com). For updates, follow us on Facebook, or on Instagram and X @uplamar.

## LIGHTS from page 1

"What I've noticed the last several years is at night, you'll see people coming off of Cardinal Drive, riding by the university, taking a look at the lights and then going home."

That's what makes me feel really good, that people love the lights and get to see it all during the holidays."

The lights are visible on Rolfe Christopher Drive,

Jimmy Simmons Boulevard and Jim Gilligan Way. The Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum is also decorated for the holidays. Holiday lights will stay up for

## MWH from page 1

with a dulcimer group, festive treats and children's activities in Santa's Craft Workshop at the museum's Visitor Center, located at 1906 Calder Avenue in Beaumont, before making their way across the street to see the historic McFaddin-Ward House shining bright with holiday cheer and twinkling lights.

Carolers will greet guests on the porch. Inside the home, visitors will travel back in time to an early 20th century holiday with the McFaddin family, touring the magnificently decorated first floor, while traditional Christmas music plays on the

Music Room's baby grand piano. Rooms will reflect the merriment and splendor of the season, with party atmospheres in the dining areas and gift-giving and games in the Library. Specifically selected objects, like sleighbells, a toy train and elegant party clothes, will be displayed throughout the house. Before departing, guests will have the opportunity to take photos with Santa on the front porch.

"Each holiday season, our curatorial department works to bring this magical time of year to life with a spectacular display of some of the collection's most remarkable pieces, particularly the gorgeous silver serving ware the McFaddin family once used to entertain their guests during the holidays," Victoria Tamez, McFaddin-Ward House curator of collections, said. "The McFaddins were known to entertain lavishly between Christmas and New Year's Day, opening their beautiful home to hundreds of guests. We are honored to continue that tradition each year with our Holiday Open House."

For more information, call 409-832-2134 or visit [mcfaddin-ward.org](http://mcfaddin-ward.org).

## SCRABBLIES by Dalia Osman

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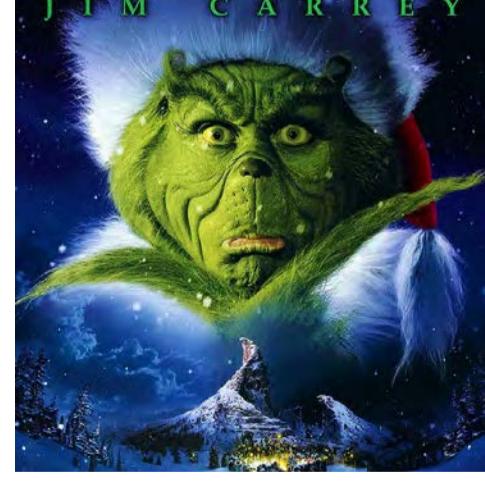
## FESTIVE FILMS FOR UNDER THE TREE

What makes a good Christmas movie? UP staffers make the case for their favorites.

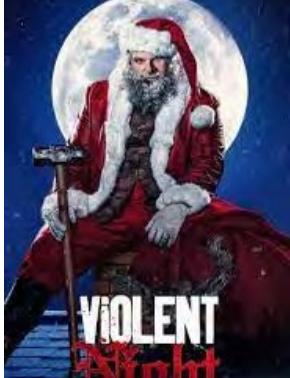


**"GREMLINS"**  
— A Christmas movie needs three things. The setting, mood, and a nostalgic feeling. What better movie than "Gremlins"? Set during Christmas, the movie brings in little creatures running around causing chaos and wanting attention while eating everything. What other movie could possibly better represent a family gathering during Christmas? — E.F.

**"CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS"** — This movie is the most underrated Christmas movie that I have ever seen. This was my overall favorite movie for years until I was allowed to watch rated R movies. This movie has it all: funny montages, Jamie Lee Curtis, and that warm feeling of Christmas morning. — R.R.



**"HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS"** — Ron Howard's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is messy, loud, and, honestly, kind of delightful. Jim Carrey goes all-in, and his energy keeps the movie fun, even when the plot wanders. It's not perfect, but the cozy vibes and nostalgic charm make it an easy holiday rewatch when you need a break. — B.C.

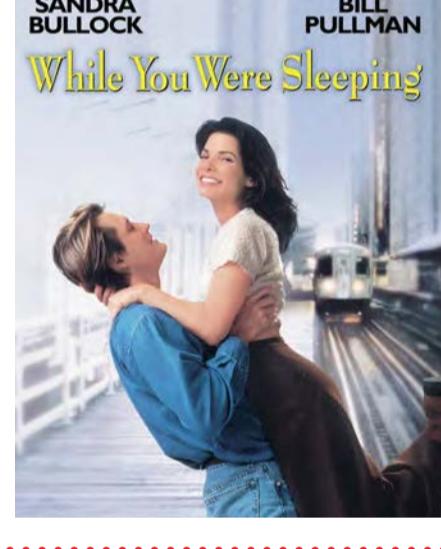


**"VIOLENT NIGHT"** — In "Violent Night," revenge is a dish best served cold. There's not many movies where a drunken, nearly immortal Santa (David Harbour) violently takes out mercenaries one second and joyously eats cookies the next. It's certainly not a traditional Christmas movie, but it's a fun watch with some friends. — E.W.

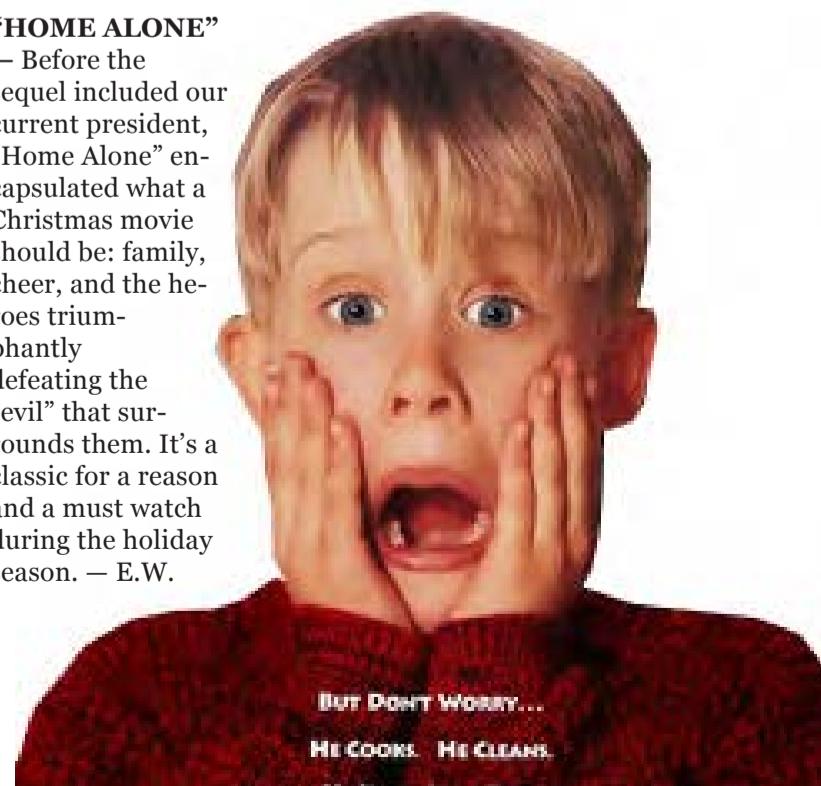
Compiled by Regina Ruiz, Emily Flores, Maria Rodriguez, Heather Harmon, Brynn Courts and Evan Wolford

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"** — This movie never fails to make me cry. It speaks deeply about not letting go of yourself and losing yourself to your career. Nowadays, the world seems to be dull with everything happening; this movie is a great reminder to stay in touch with your inner child. — R.R.

**"WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING"** — "While You Were Sleeping" is the best Christmas movie. It is filled with Christmas magic, met with the typical clichés of a rom-com. Only the holiday spirit could make the mistaken identity of a fiancée played by Sandra Bullock work. The same holiday spirit is what pushes two unsuspecting characters to fall in love with each other. A holiday classic, but with year-round re-watchability. — M.R.



**"ROCKY"** — "Rocky" is my favorite Christmas film. You might not think "Rocky" is a Christmas Movie, but then I argue that if "Die Hard" is considered a Christmas movie, "Rocky" should be considered one too. "Rocky" is the most festive movie because it has Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. — H.H.



**"HOME ALONE"**  
— Before the sequel included our current president, "Home Alone" encapsulated what a Christmas movie should be: family, cheer, and the heroes triumphantly defeating the "evil" that surrounds them. It's a classic for a reason and a must watch during the holiday season. — E.W.

BUT DONT WORRY...  
HE COOKS. HE CLEANS.  
HE KICKS SOME BUTT.

# FESTIVE FAMILY FARE

Gathering's non-traditional feast brings fond memories

**Commentary**  
Heather Harmon  
UP contributor

Christmas is the time to get together with family and friends and, more importantly, feast with the ones you love.

However, my family's festive gathering was not what one would expect.

Ever since I was young my family has gathered at my great grandmother's house, a tiny ranch-style house with a net patio on Howton Street in Houston. You could tell which is ours by the men smoking Newports and sitting on white painted benches outside in the chilling cold.

Big Mama died in 2024, but the tradition continues as we gather at what will always be her house. The inside of Big Mama's house is small and there was an old brown couch against the wall that was supposed to serve the 30-odd people, not including family members, who stopped by. The house is always full, but there is always room on the couch as visitors would leave as soon as they got a plate and a couple of cigarettes.

Big Mama's house was only designed to fit up to 12 people, so the house is always exceptionally stuffy due to everyone's body heat, with the smells of cigarette smoke and my uncle's "swamp water gumbo" filling the air.

For those who don't know, gumbo is a stew that originated in New Orleans, Louisiana that consists of chicken, sausage, rice, shellfish and spices.

However, because my family has health problems — due to age



The author as a young girl with "Big Mama."

Courtesy photo

and bad choices — our gumbo is watered down chicken stock with pieces of chicken and sausage swimming in what looks like rice and swamp water. Our gumbo has no seasoning and no shellfish.

My uncle is no cook, but as he lived with my grandmother, and still lives in the house, he was "voluntold" that he is making the gumbo. He makes it the week before and freezes it — "That way it can be fresh when it's time to eat" — so we always have to work our way around random ice chunks, like the Titanic crossing the Atlantic.

That gumbo is the nastiest thing I have ever had to eat in my life. I never understood how my family members could willingly eat such an abomination of a beloved Louisiana dish.

For the Christmas feast, if you can even call it that, my mother is also "voluntold" to make butter-

milk pies. Buttermilk pie is supposed to be creamy and flaky, but unfortunately, my mother's pie is dry as dust. Every year it is the same tasteless, thirst-provoking pie.

And don't even think about drinking water. The only liquid available is an old jug of Sunny-D that has been in the fridge since 2015. My family don't bother to buy a pack of water but they always managed to restock the cigarettes.

To top it all off we're always trapped in that cramped house until 1 in the morning, because whoever was parked behind us is never anywhere to be found.

It is not the usual Christmas party tradition, but it is our family tradition. Despite the headache they annually cause me, I can't wait to see my family during the holidays.

But I'll probably eat before I go.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Hues In Harmony

The Senior Thesis Art Exhibition, "Hues in Harmony" will be open from Dec. 5-15 at the Dishman Art Museum. The closing reception will be held on Dec. 12 at 3 p.m.. The Dishman Art Museum is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday and is free for the public.

### Study Abroad deadline

All Summer 2026 study abroad applications are due Dec. 15. Locations include England, Croatia, Germany, India, and France. Applications can be found at <https://lamar-studyabroad.viatr.com/authV2/welcome>.

### Campus Hours and Closures

In preparation for winter break, the Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall will be open until Dec. 12. Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, Panda Express, Crave, Cardinal Village C-Store and the Setzer C-Store will be open until Dec. 10. Brooks-Shivers BBQ and Cardinal Cafe will be closed after Dec. 3. These locations will not reopen until Jan. 16.

### Dorm Check-Out

Campus will be completely closed during winter break, meaning students will not be able to reside in their residence halls. Residence halls will close on Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. and will not reopen until Jan. 16 at 9 a.m.. While you may leave your personal items, there will not be access during the break if something is left in the dorm. You do not need to return your key or access card, but access cards will be disabled during the closure. Make sure to read the checklist sent to your email by Housing and Residence Life before leaving.

Compiled by Rayna Christy

**MUSEUM HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM - 4PM  
ON VIEW: OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**4-7PM  
DECEMBER 12TH 2025  
OPENING  
RECEPTION:**

**Hues  
In  
Harmony**

**BFA**

Senior  
Thesis  
Exhibition



## HOLLY JOLLY CAMPUS



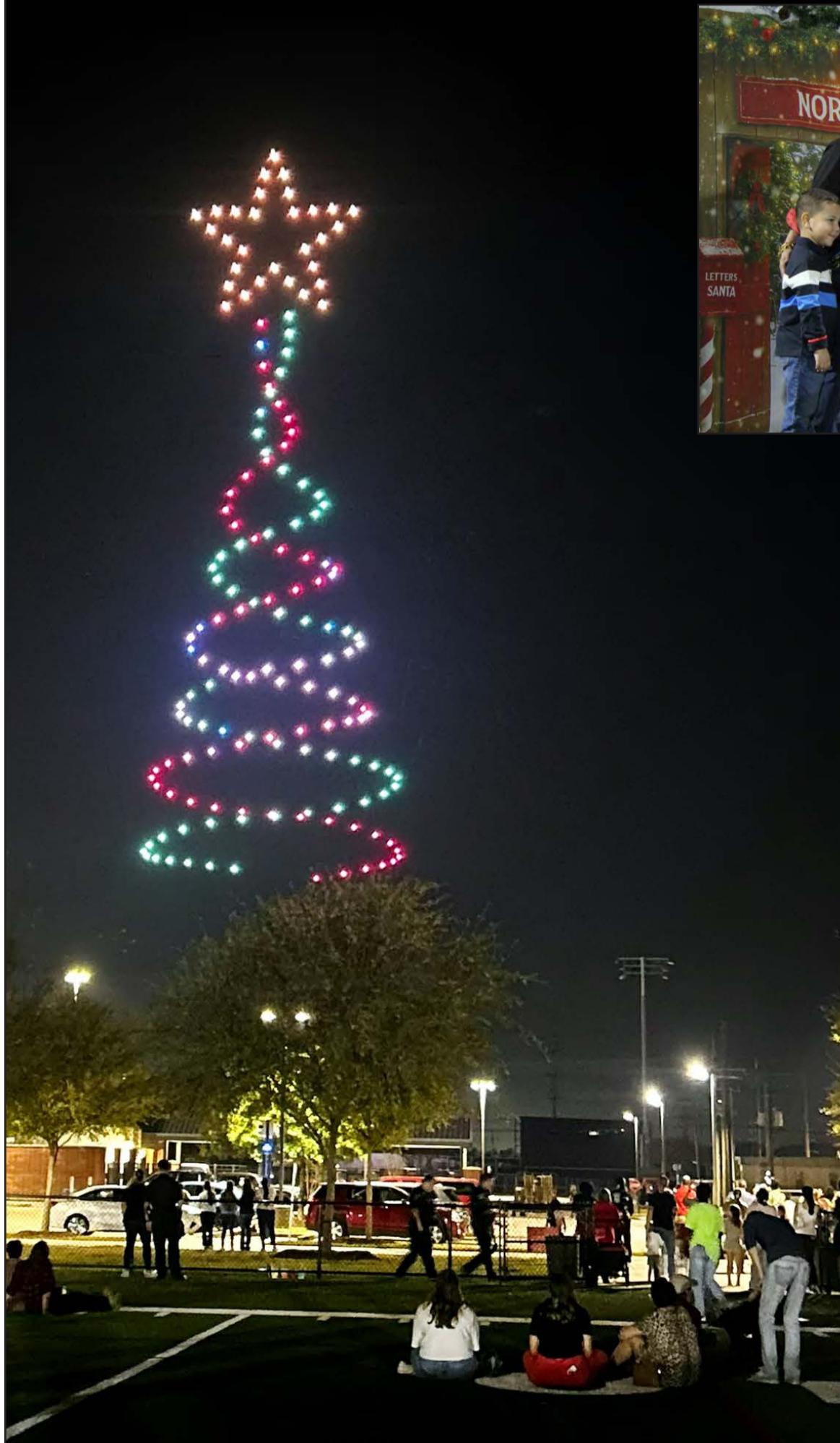
### Drone show shines light on festivities

Students, faculty, staff and their families enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while holiday lights lit up Lamar during the annual Cardinal Lights festivities, Nov. 18.

Local organizations hosted tables and games for all to enjoy while the LU band played Christmas songs during the event which was sponsored by ExxonMobil.

LU nursing instructor Shannon Marsh and her family were given the honor of flipping the switch which shut the lights off at the intramural field allowing the drone show to light up the sky, creating holiday shapes, honoring sponsors and ending with our own LU hanging in the night sky.

Photo story by Rayna Christy and Elijah Nelson



# Is Kringle Christmas Kriminal?

Commentary  
Kami Greene  
UP staff writer

He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake.

Santa Claus is a Christmas icon based on the fourth-century bishop St. Nicholas.

While Nicholas was known for his generosity and miracles towards those in need, Claus seems to have some hidden motives behind his holly jolly facade.

In the song, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," it is said that Santa, "Sees you when you're sleeping and he knows when you're awake," confirming he is watching children at all times especially during the holiday season to see if they've been naughty or nice.

It is not only Santa who is watching the children, he sends out his elves, who work for free, might I add, to report on the behavior of children.

This is wrong for three reasons.

Reason one, it is normally frowned upon, and some may say illegal, for old men, regardless of their status, or little elves to be watching young children 24/7. That is a safety issue and it should be a concern for parents.

The second reason is that it teaches kids bad habits like only being on their best behavior when there is a reward on the line, completely disregarding the spirit of Christmas and the idea that it is better to give than to receive.

The third reason is the concept that Santa knows if you've been bad or good, al-



UP graphic by Kami Greene, generated by Microsoft Copilot

luding to the blasphemous idea that Santa is on the same level as God, where he can make judgements on the behavior of young children.

Aside from the confirmed child surveillance and the blasphemy allegations, Santa also possesses the skills of a highly trained burglar.

He sneaks in through the chimney to put presents, if you're good, or coal, if you're bad, under the tree. Then he helps himself to cookies and milk after his successful home invasion.

If your home does not have a chimney, he forges a key out of "magic," and shrinks himself to go through the keyhole. Or, he enters through an un-

locked window and walks right in like he owns the place.

On a random Tuesday night, if such actions were to occur, the police would've been called immediately. But those same alarms are not sounded when it comes to this Christmas criminal.

Some may argue that it doesn't make Santa a trespasser because he is an invited guest. Any guest I've had knocked on my front door or rang my doorbell and has waited to be invited in. They do not slip in through my chimney.

Teaching kids to be OK with someone sneaking into your home because they are there to bring you gifts is dan-

gerous. Santa shouldn't be an exception either.

Let's not forget Claus' violation of labor laws.

While Claus gets to relax in the North Pole, his elves are working tirelessly, 364 days a year, day and night, to make toys for children with no pay. To make elves work for free in this economy is diabolical.

However, there is a rumor that Santa's elves receive some form of compensation like having a room to sleep in and Christmas cookies to eat. I am not sure if prisoners are given cookies while in the pen, but it still seems criminal to work long hours without overtime and the pay being nothing but a naptime and a cookie.

Presumably, the reason Santa gets away with not paying his employees is because they are classified as independent workers, which does not give them the same benefits as regular employees.

However, if your brand is being a jolly man who is giving and generous, why are you not giving your employed elves at least a Christmas bonus for their hard work in prep for the holidays? Hmmm, Santa?

Whether you believe Santa is naughty or nice is a matter of opinion. However, clearly Santa is a Christmas criminal, and justice needs to be served for all his loyal Christmas minions.

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**NEW LOCATIONS COMING SOON**

# Latinos celebrate 'Three Kings'

**Maria Rodriguez**  
UP news editor

Families gather to celebrate and exchange gifts during Christmas, marking the end of the season. However, the season sees additional celebrations in parts of Latin America.

"Día de los Reyes Magos," or Three Kings' Day, is celebrated on Jan. 6. The holiday honors the journey of the wise men Balthazar, Gaspar and Melchior to visit baby Jesus.

The wise men learned about the birth of Jesus and followed a star to Bethlehem to visit him. They arrived with gifts for baby Jesus, such as gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Families gather to celebrate the religious holiday with gift-giving and traditional feasts.

Typically, in the U.S., Santa Claus brings gifts for children who have been nice throughout the year on Christmas Eve. During Three Kings' Day, in countries such as Mexico, the wise men bring gifts to children similar to the biblical story.

The children write letters and place them in their shoes. Some children leave water and food for the king's camels. They then place their shoes near the entryway, and the gifts are left in the shoes. This represents when the three kings brought gifts to baby Jesus.

During Christmas Eve, a porcelain baby Jesus is put to bed in the nativity scene.

Baby Jesus lies in the Nativity scene until Candlemas, Feb. 2, but preparations

begin on Three Kings Day. The staple food of the traditional feast is Rosca de

Reyes, known as King's Cakes.

The Rosca is a sweet, or-

ange-flavored bread topped with dried fruits, representing the jewels on the three kings' crowns. The round shape symbolizes God's eternal love. Hidden in the cake are figurines of baby Jesus.

The birth of Jesus was a threat to Herod the Great's throne, so he ordered the death of all the Jewish male children, known as the Massacre of the Innocents. The hidden baby Jesus figurines represent when Mary and Joseph hid Jesus from Herod's persecution.

The slicing of the Rosca by a knife represents the danger that baby Jesus faced during the persecution.

The tradition is that whoever receives a slice of the Rosca with a baby Jesus must provide tamales and host the gathering on Candlemas.

People have resorted to slicing a thin piece or hiding the figurine in their mouth to avoid making tamales, as it's a labor intensive process. However, it is believed that whoever gets the figurine will have good luck for the year.

Candlemas closes the holiday season, as baby Jesus is presented in clothing and taken to mass. The holiday season lasts 40 days, representing the length after Jesus was presented in front of the church after his birth.

Although the holiday has ties to religion, it has evolved into different cultural celebrations. Families gather to celebrate, spend time with each other, and remember the meaning behind the holidays.



UP photo by Maria Rodriguez

A typical "Día de los Reyes Magos" diorama built in Latin American homes for the holiday.

# CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR

*At the John Jay French Museum*

*December 6, 2025*  
*5:30pm - 7:30pm*



**BEAUMONT Heritage Society**

## setzer STUDY center

Finals are near, and we're here to help you finish strong! Study rooms in the Setzer Student Center are open and available to reserve.

Starting December 1, the SSC is open until midnight to give you extra time and space to prepare.

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# Season of Song & Shelter

## ‘Las Posadas’ celebrates power of community

**Regina Ruiz**  
UP staff writer

As December arrives, streets across Latin America fill with the soft glow of candles, the sweet scent of tamales, and the sound of familiar songs echoing into the night.

For nine evenings leading up to Christmas, families and neighbors come together to celebrate “Las Posadas,” a beloved tradition that blends faith, community and festivity in a way that has endured for centuries.

Rooted in Catholic tradition, “Las Posadas” — meaning “the inns” or “lodgings” — recreates Mary and Joseph’s search for shelter in Bethlehem. The ritual dates back to the 16th century, when Spanish missionaries introduced it as a way to teach the story of the Nativity to Indigenous communities. Over time, it evolved into a unique celebration that combines religious devotion with music, food and hospitality.

Each night from Dec. 16 to 24, a group of “peregrinos” — pilgrims — carrying candles or lanterns walks from house to house, singing a traditional litany that reenacts Mary and Joseph’s plea for shelter.

At each door, hosts respond in song, turning them away until finally one home opens its doors, symbolizing the inn that welcomed the

Holy Family. Once inside, the procession transforms into a fiesta filled with laughter, prayer and plenty of food.

Children eagerly await their turn to break the brightly colored piñata, often shaped like a star with seven points representing the seven deadly sins. With every swing, they are reminded of the triumph of good over evil.

Meanwhile, adults sip “ponche navideño,” a warm fruit punch spiced with cinnamon and cloves, and enjoy dishes like tamales, buñuelos and atole.

But beyond the food and festivity, “Las Posadas” represents something deeper: the value of welcoming others.

“It’s not just about religion — it’s about community,” Maria Lopez, who hosts a “posada” every year in her neighborhood in Guanajuato, Mexico, said. “We open our doors to friends, family, even strangers. It reminds us to share what we have.”

In modern cities and Latin-American communities across the U.S., “Las Posadas” continues to thrive. Churches, schools and cultural centers host public celebrations, often blending old traditions with new touches like mariachi music or neighborhood pot-lucks. For many families, it’s a way to preserve heritage

while bringing people together during the holiday season.

As candles flicker and voices rise in unison with the familiar refrain, “Entren santos peregrinos, peregrinos, reciban este rincón” (Come in holy pilgrims, pilgrims, receive this corner) — the true meaning of “Las Posadas” shines through.

It is a celebration not only of faith, but of warmth, generosity, and the enduring power of community.



Photo courtesy of Regina Ruiz

Children celebrate “Las Posadas” in traditional outfits.

### Final Exam Schedule – Fall 2025

Exam Date	Class Period		Time of Exam Finals Exam Prep Day (No finals before 5:00 pm)
	W only	M, W	
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
	8:40 p.m.	8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	
Thursday, December 4, 2025	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
	11:10 a.m.	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
Friday, December 5, 2025	8:40 p.m.	8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	
	9:10 a.m.	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	
	12:40 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
Monday, December 8, 2025	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
	10:20 a.m.	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	
	3:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, December 9, 2025	7:05 p.m.	8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	
	9:35 a.m.	8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
	2:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	
	3:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, December 10, 2025	5:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
	7:05 p.m.	8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	
	11:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
	1:50 p.m.	11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	

FEB. 19 - 22

MIDDLE  
TOWN



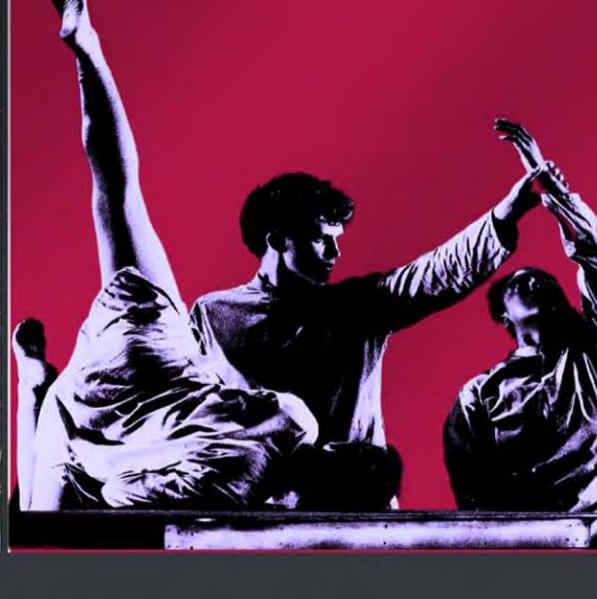
APR. 9 - 12

NEXT  
DRAFT:  
STUDENT  
WORKS  
SERIES



APR. 24 - 25

DANCE  
UNLEASHED



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION  
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Department of Theatre & Dance

SPRING 2026 SEASON  
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# Football ends with playoff loss

## Press Release

ABILENE, Texas – Abilene Christian jumped out to a 24-0 first half lead and Lamar University managed to trim the deficit to 10 in the third quarter but could get no closer falling to the 10th-

seeded Wildcats, 38-20, Saturday afternoon at Wildcat Stadium.

The loss ends Lamar's season at 8-5 overall (.615) following the first 13-game season in program history. The 2025 season marked Lamar's second NCAA FCS

Playoff appearance and the first since 2018.

The Cardinals racked up 361 yards of offense on the day, 266 of that came through the air. Sophomore Aiden McCown completed 15-of-31 passes for 266 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed

for 47 yards on 14 carries with a score.

Senior Izaha Jones hauled in three passes for 91 yards and caught one of the two touchdowns passes (77 yards). The other reception went to Jaydn Girard late in the game.

Lamar's defensive effort was led by Edward Gilds and Etelridge McKinney (each with seven tackles). Kristian Pugh, Paul Omodia, Andrew Huff and C.J. Miller each recorded six tackles.

ACU took a 14-point lead after scoring on its first two possessions – the first drive ending on a 14-yard rush and the second on an 18-yard completion from Stone Earle to Raydrian Baltrip. The Wildcats got the ball back moments later following a sack-fumble but the Cardinals' defense came through in a big way forcing a field goal.

After falling behind by 17, the Cardinals responded with a strong kick return from Kyndon Fuselier, McCown then hit Devin Gibbs on a crossing route for 26 yards followed by a 12-yard run

from Xavier Coleman, unfortunately the drive stalled on the ACU 24 as the Wildcats got a stop on 4th-and-1.

Trailing 24-0, the Cardinals' defense came up with what appeared to be a momentum-changing play following a Calen Holmes interception on the ACU 25. The Cardinals took their new lease on life and moved the ball down to the Wildcat one but the drive stalled as ACU kept Lamar off the score-board.

Big Red managed to get the ball back with 1:31 remaining and took full advantage of the opportunity. McCown had the Cardinals knocking on the door four plays later. McCown punched it in from one yard out to get Lamar on the board.

After getting stopped on their first possession of the second half, Lamar left no doubt on the second possession as McCown hit Izaha Jones on the right side who made one move and was off to the races for a 77-yard touchdown pass. Unfortunately, Lamar could get no closer.



UP photo by Gerrod Fuller

The Cardinal defense swarms the McNeese attack during the Nov. 22 matchup at Provost Umphrey Stadium.

# Lee, Jr. fires men's hoops to 90-46 win

## Press Release

Rob Lee, Jr. came out with the hot hand, Nov. 28, as he dropped 26 points and drained eight 3-pointers to help lead Lamar University to a 90-46 victory over Our Lady of the Lake at the Neches Federal Credit Union Arena at the Montagne Center.

Lee, Jr. became the first Car-

dinal to make eight 3-pointers in a game since Brandon Davis in 2012.

The Cardinals jumped out to a 22-2 lead after scoring 17 unanswered points.

LU knocked down three straight from beyond the arc, beginning with a trey from Andrew Holifield, to increase the lead to 22 points.

Behind a 9-0 run, the Cardi-

nals boosted their lead to 33 points.

During the run, Eian Lowe and Errol White grabbed one steal each that transitioned to a three from Lee, Jr. and a fast-break layup by Cody Pennebaker, respectively.

Later in the opening half, the Cardinals put together a 12-0 run that included four points from Braden East and a pair of

three-pointers from Lee, Jr.

East closed out the first half with a dunk to give the Cardinals a 43-point lead at the break.

LU knocked down eight 3-pointers in the first half, shooting 56 percent from the field.

East grabbed 10 rebounds to lead all players at the break as the Cardinals tallied 31 boards in the first half.

The Cardinals took their largest lead of the contest with 11:52 in the second half when White tallied a steal that led to a Jayden Barrs layup to put LU ahead by 55.

Seven different players scored during the second half as East tallied eight points.

The Cardinals continue their homestand by taking on UL Lafayette at 6 p.m. Wednesday.



ORANGE COUNTY

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R O D E O



CONGRATS CARDINALS ON A GREAT SEMESTER

# Strengthening Southeast Texas, Together

The Center for Resiliency (CfR) is dedicated to ensuring Southeast Texas thrives, and our recent initiatives prove that we are stronger when we work together. We recently connected local leaders at our Community Resilience Showcase at the historic Spindletop museum, partnering with Big Red's Roundup to unite non-profits and government agencies. We also advocated for community interests during the City of Beaumont's Infrastructure Focus Group, ensuring that future city planning supports the diverse missions of local organizations. Finally, our team gathered cutting-edge strategies at Disaster Expo USA, bringing national best practices on preparedness back home to our region.

None of this—from fostering local dialogue to acquiring global knowledge—would be possible without our generous community supporters. We are deeply grateful for your partnership, which empowers us to build a safer, more connected Southeast Texas.

## Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council- ADAC

American Red Cross

Beaumont Police Dept.

Ben Rogers Visitors Center

Big Thicket National Preserve

Bikers Against Child Abuse BACA

Catholic Charities SETX

City of Beaumont

City of Orange

Communities Unlimited

Communities Unlimited Inc.

Connected Path Recovery

Dream Center

Garth House

General Land Office- GLO

Health & Human Services

Houston Circle of Hope

Jasper Newton Long Term Recovery- JNLTRG

Land Manor Wellness

## Legacy Community Health

Life Share Blood Mobile

Mayor Roy West

National Marrow Donor Program- NMDP

Pathways of SETX

Salvation Army Beaumont

SBP

SETX Crime Stoppers

SETX Regional Planning Commission

SETX Work Force

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Some Other Place

St. Vincent de Paul

Stable Spirit

Texas A&M Extension

Triangle Area Network- TAN

Wesley United Methodist Church

Workforce Solutions



## Meet Our New Team Members



### James Guzman Community Resilience Training Specialist

A seasoned professional with over a decade of experience in nonprofit and emergency management, James joins us following a distinguished career as a Salvation Army Officer. Recognized with the 2021 Comcast Hispanic Hero Award, he brings expertise in shelter operations, trauma response, and disaster preparedness. He is dedicated to cultivating partnerships across government and industry to strengthen connection and preparedness in Southeast Texas.

### Mallory Leger Administrative Assistant III

With over five years of experience in operations and process improvement, Mallory joins the team to optimize administrative workflows. Currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Business Administration at Lamar University, she specializes in managing complex schedules and leveraging technology to enhance team performance.



### Dr. Nina Gjoci, Ph.D. Associate Director of Research & Data Management

Dr. Gjoci joined the CfR in September, bringing a rich background in Media and Communication. Previously teaching at Howard University and CUNY, she is the author of \*Amending our Pasts and Futures\* (Lexington Books, 2025). Her research focuses on the intersection of public memory, media, and policy.

## Research Opportunities

### Now Open: 2026-27 "Building Resilience" Research Fellowship

Applications are now being accepted for the Center for Resiliency's signature Faculty Research Fellowship.

Application Window: November 3, 2025 – January 12, 2026.  
Theme: Building Resilience in the SETX Region.

We are seeking proposals from faculty and staff that identify effective solutions and success stories in community resilience—ranging from economics and infrastructure to history and culture. Fellows will conduct community-based, high-impact research designed to help the region prepare, respond, and recover from adversity.

**For more information go to:**  
<https://www.lamar.edu/center-for-resiliency/>



CENTER FOR RESILIENCY

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**