

LU to create new college in January



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio
Nursing students practice patient care in the nursing building, Sept. 2. The program will be part of the new College of Nursing and Health Professions beginning in January.

Rayna Christy
UP editor

Lamar University will create a new college beginning in January. The College of Nursing and Health Professions will bring together health departments from multiple colleges into a single hub.

The college will include the departments of health and kinesiology, speech and hearing sciences, social work, nutrition, and hospitality and human services, alongside the School of Nursing.

“Bringing all of our departments together under one col-

lege helps to enable interprofessional education,” Joseph Tacy, interim dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, said. “We can then, being under one umbrella, work together to understand all members of the team when it comes to advancing health.”

The new college not only brings healthcare professions together but also aims to fulfill community needs.

“What we try to do with academic programs at Lamar is to ensure that, first of all, it’s unique, it’s needed, it fits the profile of Lamar, and most im-

portantly, that it is in line with what Southeast Texas wants and needs,” Brett Welch, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said. “The healthcare community came to us over the past couple of years with needs within different healthcare professions. We had a school of nursing, but they wanted to see that enhanced.”

After analyzing community needs, the university put in a legislative appropriations request for funding. These requests must be very specific, so the university focused on

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UP photo by Josiah Boyd
‘Taylor-ed Tuesday’ helps students dress professionally

Josiah Boyd
UP contributor

Lamar University’s Center for Career and Professional Development hosted “Taylor-ed Tuesday,” Sept. 2 in the Setzer Student Center.

Free ties, scarves and bow ties were handed out to students to promote the importance of professional dress and how that ties into career development.

The event featured LU President Jaime Taylor and Beaumont Mayor Roy West, among other faculty and staff, who showed students how to tie Windsor knots.

“First impressions matter,” Haley Tyson, CCPD director, said. “We have been here for 18 years and the number one thing our employment partners say is that they want students who look the part.”

West offered students words of advice while demonstrating how to properly tie a necktie.

“Learning these soft skills is important in the job market and in life,” West said. “Knowledge is power. You never know when your role in life may change, and people may expect something different from you. It is important to be equipped for anything, even if it is just tying a necktie.”

The fourth semiannual ‘Taylor-ed Tuesday’ aims to

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UP photo by Sydney Vo
Beaumont Mayor Roy West, top in green tie, and LU President Jaime Taylor joined members of the career and professional development staff for “Taylor-ed Tuesday,” Sept. 2. Students were given LU ties, scarves and bow ties with instructions of how tie them. Taylor, above, offered one-on-one instructions.

Convocation kicks off school year

Kami Greene
UP managing editor

Lamar University began the 2025-26 school year with President Jaime Taylor’s convocation address, Aug. 18, in the Neches Arena at the Montagne Center.

The center was filled with faculty and staff who were treated to lunch before provost Brett Welch kicked off the event by announcing the launch of a transformative initiative, the Col-

lege of Nursing and Health Professions.

“We are adding programs that reflect the evolving needs of our students and the world,” he said. “These are projects more than curriculum updates. They are declarations of our intent to lead, to innovate and to provide purpose driven education to our students, as is the goal with all our programs.”

Welch handed the podium over to Taylor, LU’s 16th president, for his

annual address.

Taylor highlighted the four guiding principles that were once ideas on the page but are now brought to life by staff.

The first principle defines who we are as a university, Taylor said.

“Our identity has always been woven into the DNA of Southeast Texas,” he said. “We were founded to prepare professionals to lead during

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Courtesy photo
Past study abroad trips include Brazil.

Study Abroad week begins Sept. 23

Regina Ruiz
UP contributor

Lamar University’s office of study abroad and student exchange will host its first Study Abroad Week, Sept. 22-30. The series of events are aimed to encourage students to explore international learning opportunities and to provide resources to make the experience easily accessible.

The weeklong event will include workshops, information sessions, a scholarship seminar, a passport application day and an expo featuring study abroad alumni.

Anh Phan, assistant director of study abroad and student exchange said the goal is to help students plan early and secure funding for programs abroad.

“Planning for study abroad takes time, and funding is often the biggest concern,” said Anh Phan, assistant director of Study Abroad and Student Exchange. “If students start early and take advantage of scholarships, fundraising, and financial aid, studying abroad becomes much more achievable.”

A “Study Abroad Fair”, will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Setzer Student Center Atrium. Students will have the opportunity to learn the different programs offered for summer 2026

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can us eto change the world.”

— Nelson Mandela

NOTICE

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nursing and healthcare, Welch said.

Among the funding needs to create the college, staffing needs have to be considered.

“To build a college, you have to have what we call faculty lines, which is money to hire faculty,” Welch said. “So, we’ll be able to bring in not only faculty but high quality faculty. We’ll be able to bring in consultants that will build high quality programs, and individuals who

will be liaisons between Lamar and local hospitals.

“You have to have that relationship with the community more so than you do in other programs. Liaisons to hospitals give students opportunities to have internships, clinical experiences and field experiences.”

In addition to high quality faculty and liaisons, future students also benefit from new programs over the next few years.

“What we’ll build is the medical laboratory science program, nurse anesthetist program, and we’re leaning toward an occupational therapy program,” Welch said. “In two or three years down the line, you’ll have these new programs for really high quality nursing and health professions, programs that people can graduate from and immediately gain high quality employment.”

The new programs will

allow Lamar to offer more options and appeal to prospective students, Tacy said. This will enable Lamar to help fulfill that community need by allowing students to learn in Southeast Texas and then work in Southeast Texas.

“I think that this is just an amazing opportunity for Southeast Texas to be able to offer programs in our region that will hopefully help solicit applicants and individ-

uals who want to learn and grow in this region and help to give back to Southeast Texas,” Tacy said. “I think, often, we have programs that are not available in this region, and then we have a drain of that wonderful potential as they leave and get educated in other regions.

“So, with bringing the education here, my hope is that they’re going to stay here to help give back to Southeast Texas.”

UNIVERSITY PRESS

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give students all the tools they need to succeed in their future career including the confidence to be their best selves, Tyson said.

“Our goal in Career and Professional Development is to ensure our students are confident and ready for their futures,” Tyson said. “We wanted to take the anxiety out of professional dress and make this a fun and informative experience.”

Students seemed to enjoy the event which was also attended by Lamar’s mascot.

“It was super engaging,” Kimberly Olguin, Beaumont sophomore, said. “I really liked learning about scarves and how to style them. It was fun to get a picture with Big Red in my new scarf.”

Kayla Hester, Chicago freshman, is a business management and administration

major and said the event gave her a glimpse of what her future is going to look like.

“I really feel like this event showed me something that I am going to need to know when I get in the workforce,” she said.

The Career Center is located in 102 Galloway Business Building. For more information, visit lamar.edu/careercenter.

SCRABBLES by Dalia Osman

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DISHMAN ART MUSEUM

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OPENING RECEPTION:

Saturday, September 20th, 2025
6 PM - 8 PM

Museum Hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm

Voice of the Enslaved

French Museum highlights Agatha Babineaux in new exhibit

Kami Greene
UP managing editor

The Beaumont Heritage Society's latest exhibition highlights former slave Agatha Babineaux and her journey to freedom in the exhibition "A Narrative of the Formerly Enslaved," on display through Oct. 3 at the John Jay French Museum.

The exhibition is organized by Dionne Babineaux, founder of the Museum of Undertold Texas History whose husband is Agatha's great-great grandson. Babineaux said the exhibit explores the complexity of life for the emancipation journey and recognizes places and historical events Agatha may have experienced.

"I wanted to be able to tell this story. as we see stories about what's not there," Babineaux said. "We read through these documents that are tough to read to find out these stories."

The exhibition comprises multiple panels that tell the story of Agatha's life which spanned almost a century. The information was compiled by Babineaux and also drew on an oral history interview with Agatha in 1937, part of the Texas Federal Writers Project.

Agatha was born into slavery in Carencos, Louisiana, in 1852 and was owned by her master, Augustin Guidry, for 12 years. She was the fifth child out of her eight siblings born to Clarisse Prince and Dick Richard.

One panel quotes Agatha saying, "My mama name was



courtesy photo

Clarice Richard" Agatha says in the display. "She come from South Carolina. Papa was Dick Richard, he come from North Carolina. He was slave of old Flacid Ouilbeau. My brothers was Joe, Nicholas, Oui, Albert, and Maurice. Sisters was Maud, Celestine, and Pauline."

When Agatha was young, her family was split across different plantations. However, visitations were allowed if slaves received permission from their master.

"If we go to dance on 'nother plantation, we have to have pass," Agatha said 1937. "De patterrollers come and make us show de slip. If dey ain't no slip, we git beat."

When the Civil War began, while the Union army was committed to bringing about freedom, many slaves were unsure and scared of what was to come.

"I see plenty sojers," Agatha said in 1937. "Dey fight at Pines ball go 'zing-zing.' Young marse have blue coat. He put it on and climb tree to see. De sojers come and think



UP photo by Kami Greene

Historian Dionne Babineaux, in white jacket, talks with visitors during a reception for "A Narrative of the Formerly Enslaved" at the French Museum, Aug. 7.

he a Yankee. Dey take his gun. Dey turn him loose when dey find out he ain't no Yankee."

However, by 1865, when slavery was abolished, Babineaux, who was 17 at the time, reunited with her family and began their life of freedom, or at least tried to.

During the early beginnings of freedom, there were still groups around trying to control and get rid of Black people, including the Ku Klux Klan.

"De Ku Klux kill," Agatha is quoted as saying. "Dey come to take my uncle. He open de door. Dey don't take him, but tell him to vote Democrat next day or they will. Dey kill my old uncle Davis. Dey shoot him. Den dey stand him up and let him fall down. Dey dare his wife to cry."

In 1872, Babineaux married Joseph Telesphore, who was the son of Edmond and Lucindy Babineaux, and they had eight children.

RELATED EVENT

A lecture titled "Reading and Republishing of the WPA Slave Narratives of Texas," hosted by Dionne Babineaux, will be held at 4:30 p.m., Sept. 11, in LU's Reaud Event Space.

By the early 1900s, Babineaux's children had moved to Jefferson County, and by 1911, Babineaux and her husband followed suit and moved to Beaumont. The couple were in their late 50s by this point.

The exhibition contains many historical facts and information that puts Agatha's life in context.

"What I hope people get from this exhibit is that even though people were enslaved, that was not the limit of their lives," Babineaux said.

The John Jay French Museum is located at 3025 French Rd. in Beaumont.

For more information, visit beaumontheritage.org/john-jay-french-museum.

CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE
OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS AND THE UPPER GULF COAST
at LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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September 11
"Reading & Republishing the WPA Slave Narratives of Texas"
Dionne Babineaux
4:30 pm, Reaud Event Space

October 23
"The Texas Lowcountry"
John R. Lundberg
4:30 pm, Tyrrell Historical Library

November 6
"For a 'Free World': Mexican Americans in Texas State Prisons during WWII"
George T. Díaz
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Art Studio exhibit spotlights mental health

Heather Harmon
UP contributor

The Art Studio, Inc. is hosting the exhibition “The Art of Mental Health” through Sept. 26. The exhibit features artwork created by people whose art deals with mental health issues.

“This is our third art of mental health event,” Greg Busceme, TASI executive director, said.

The idea for the show started two years ago when Studio board members from the foundation of Mental Health in Southeast Texas reached out to Busceme to use the studio space as a means for art therapy.

Busceme said The Art Studio is the ideal place to host an exhibition of this kind.

“Art is good venue for (self-care) because there are synaptic things happening in the brain because people are cre-



UP photo by Heather Harmon

The Art Studio's Jessica Jennings shows off “Feeling Blue” by Bailey Jones, part of “The Art of Mental Health” art exhibition on display through Sept. 26.

ating,” he said. “You feel better because you feel like your mind is creating a masterpiece.”

TASI administrative assistant and artist Kris Movva said art plays a vital role in mental wellness.

“Everything you do in terms of art, is a culmination of your decisions and what has made you, you,” she said. “Every decision you make is not random, as much as people like to think, the color choices, the subject matter, the style, you may not think about it but subconsciously you chose that.

“You can create art within the mess. If you take a ball-

point pen and scribble on a sheet of notebook paper, there’s an embodiment to it. It activates a center of your brain and takes away the angst that you might feel.”

Busceme said The Studio received some funding to help with the monthly group related to mental health and art therapy, but that funding was recently a victim of federal cuts. However, he said The Studio will continue to host the group and the show because it is important to the community.

“The Art of Mental Health’ is more about expressiveness and showcasing people in a physical world and what goes on with them,” he said. “That’s a big transition, to make a visual representation of your feelings and share them with the world, but that’s the point. If you get people to become aware of themselves, they find it easier to handle themselves and become more independent.”

Movva said when she was younger, art provided a way for her to cope with stresses in her life.

“It was always my outlet,” she said. “Growing up, I would always have doodles in my calculus notes, or if I had a bad day I would go home and draw to where it was almost compulsive. I may not be a working artist, but I want to be around it because it means so much to me.”

Submissions for the exhibit were open to all ages and skill levels.

“There’s no age limit really in art, if a 6-year-old wants to get into the show, she’s on the wall”

Busceme cited artists and teacher Robert Henri’s quote, saying “Art is a state of mind; art is a byproduct of the state of mind.”

The Art Studio is located at 720 Franklin St. in Beaumont. For more, visit artstudio.org.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

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Red Day 2025

Lamar University will host Red Day, its annual Day of Giving, from Sept. 18-19. This virtual event raises money for different areas of the university through matches and challenges and is open to the public.

Big Red's Roundup

The Lamar University Center for Resiliency and the Lamar Rodeo Team will host Big Red's Roundup from noon to 10 p.m., Sept. 20. The event, held at

the Spindletop Boomtown Museum, will feature a car show, professional bull riding, live music and other activities. Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children 12 and under. LU students can attend the event for free with their student ID.

Coffee and Connect

The Lamar University Center for Career and Professional Development will host Coffee and Connect from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 16. The event will be held

in the Setzer Student Center Live Oak Ballroom and will allow students to meet with industry professionals.

Food Truck Rally

The Cardinal Activities Board will host a food truck rally on Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cardinal Park. The first 250 students to attend will receive a free meal voucher.

Temporary Library Location

The Mary and John Gray Library will re-

main closed throughout the fall semester for renovations. All of their services have been temporarily relocated. Circulation services can be found in the old Student Health Center near the tennis courts and communications building. Computer lab and printing services have been relocated to the Setzer Student Center, rooms 271 and 273. The IT Help Desk and Cardinal Connect Laptop Loaner Program are also available in SSC 271. Starbucks is housed beside the Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall.

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 **Division of Student Affairs**

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Free Swimming Lessons • 7pm-8 pm • Indoor Pool

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11

9/11 Memorial Stair Climb • 8am-Noon • Rec Center
CAB Food Truck Rally • 11am-1pm • Cardinal Park
Ping Pong Tournament • 5pm-9pm • Rec Center

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Student Leadership Conference
9am-4pm • Science Auditorium

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Coffee & Connect • Noon-1:30pm • SSC Ballroom
Uno Tournament • 7pm-9pm • Patio at the Rec

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Sound Bath Meditation • 4pm-4:45pm • Rec Center

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Pool Party • 5pm-8pm • Cardinal Village Pool

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

Mindful Meditation • 4pm-4:45pm • Rec Center

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Walking tours explore Beaumont tales

Maria Rodriguez
UP news editor

The Beaumont Heritage Society is hosting “Styles, Scamps, and Scandals,” a guided walking tour through downtown Beaumont, every Friday and Saturday through the end of October.

The tours last approximately 50 minutes and cover historical downtown buildings and the stories behind them.

"I actually love taking historic tours when I'm a tourist in other places," executive director Shelby Brannan said. "So, the tours are modeled after some walking tours I've taken."

The tours will feature the history of Beaumont and highlight notable figures, tour guide and historian Katherine Leister said.

"It's not so much a cut-and-dry history of Beaumont from beginning to finish," Leister said. "It's more of a highlight of the more entertaining and colorful aspects of Beaumont history."

The balance of history and scandals means the tours have something for everybody, Brannan said.

"It's not just about the buildings," Brannan said. "It's about the people who lived in them, and it's about the people who worked in them. It's about the people that built them. So yes, (buildings) on their own, in their architectural styles, have a story to tell. But it's also about our community, and that's what makes preservation so important, and that's why the power of place is so important."

Through history, one gets to understand how cities came to be, Leister said.

"Whenever I was younger and growing up in Beaumont, I really thought Beaumont was just the most boring place," Leister said. "But when I learned more about the kind of people who lived here, what they've been able to accomplish, what they've done, those inspiring stories — I think when you learn the history of what Beaumont was, it helps us trace the path for what is possible in the fu-

ture.”

Brannan said the Heritage Society aims to help people to absorb the history of Beaumont.

“Our mission is always to educate and engage,” she said. “We want to engage you in the history that we have downtown. We want you to engage with the material, and we want you to imagine what could be possible if we all worked together to turn downtown back into the destination that it could be.”

The tour will offer an inside look at a Beaumont many residents may not know, Leister said.

"It was just about showcasing some of the more colorful aspects of Beaumont history and also some lesser-known stories," she said. "For instance, the Beaumont race riot in 1943, a lot of people are kind of familiar with it, but it was something that I never really knew about it until just a couple years ago, when I really started diving deep into Beaumont history."

The buildings are chronicles of the city's history and must be protected so the city can build on its past, Brannan said.

“Preservation and heritage tourism is such an incredible driver of economic development,” she said. “I would love people to come down and imagine the possibilities of what can be done if we all set our mind to preserving these spaces.”

The tours were created with locals and tourists in mind.

"We are lucky that now this is a tourist initiative, too," Brannan said. "We are attempting to be an economic driver. We want people from out of town coming to downtown Beaumont for this."

The theme “Styles, Scamps, and Scandals,” draws inspiration from the people who contributed to Beaumont’s rich history.

“One of the people who was largely responsible for putting Beaumont on the map is Pattillo Higgins,” she said. “We do feature him in the beginning of our tour, and he was quite the char-



UP photo by Maria Rodriguez

Tour guide Katherine Liester stands in front of downtown Beaumont's Dixie Dance Hall. The building, which used to be the Dixie Hotel, is one of the stops on the Beaumont Heritage Society's new Walking Tour, which will be offered every Friday and Saturday through the end of October.

acter himself. We had some really particular things about him; you'll have to come on the tour to hear."

Not everyone is aware of what surrounds them, and the tour seeks to clarify that, Leister said.

"I mean, downtown is such an interesting place today," she said. "People like going down there, but it's really hard to imagine the history of it, because there's just so little guidance

for what you're looking at when you're down there."

Brannan said the tour is perfect for anybody who's ever been curious about where they live.

"I would say, if you don't think this tour is for you, challenge yourself," she said.

Tours begin at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at beaumontheritage.ludus.com.

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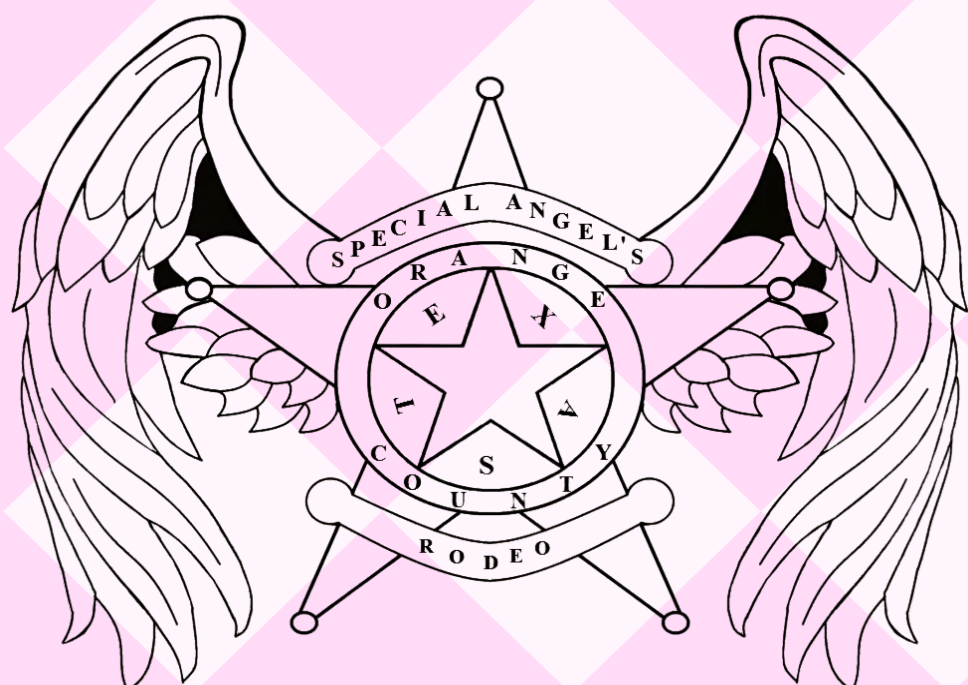
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and financial aid opportunities available.

The “Gilman Scholarship Session,” held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 23, in the 120 Neches Room in the Setzer Student Center, will help students with their application for the Gilman Scholarship, a federal program offering up to \$5,000 for Pell Grant recipients. The session will be led by Lamar University career adviser Nicole Kyles-Burton, who is the university’s official Gilman adviser and a former recipient of the award.

A “Study Abroad Reception” will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 24, in the Live Oak Ballroom. Faculty leaders will answer questions about upcoming programs. The event will also include a reception featuring alumni sharing their experiences through photos, research and creative projects.

“Passport Day” will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 25, in the SSC’s Live Oak Ballroom. The event is held in partnership with the Jefferson County District Clerk’s Office and students may apply for passports on site, a step Phan said is often overlooked but is essential for students considering study abroad.

Senior marketing student Samina Shaikh, who recently studied in South Korea, said having all the resources consolidated in one week is a major benefit.

“As someone who had to go through each of these steps individually, it’s really nice to see everything brought together,” she said. “You don’t have to search for the information — it’s all provided.”

A virtual information session will be



LU students clown around outside a telephone box during a study abroad trip to Brighton, Engand, the destination for another trip in 2026.

held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 26. A link is available through a QR code available during the week’s activities.

The Office of Study Abroad will conclude the week’s activities with a “Brew and Browse” event which will allow students to meet the staff and learn more about how to make their study abroad experience possible, Phan said. The event will be held in the department’s office in 117 Wimberley Building from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kimberly Riley, senior administrative assistant for Study Abroad, said the office hopes every student has the opportunity to travel internationally at least

once during their college career.

“Our message to students is, don’t think it’s unachievable,” Riley said. “With planning, support and the right resources, studying abroad is within reach.”

For more information, visit lamar.edu/studyabroad.

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an oil boom, and technology today is no different, even if the region’s needs have evolved, we continuously fine tune our degree programs to meet the changing needs of our region, and the singular focus is a considerable strength.”

Lamar students obtain more opportunities and are able to grapple with the real situations in Southeast Texas

business long before they get a diploma — and it’s working, Taylor said.

Taylor said his second guiding principle places students as the focus of every decision from the biggest projects to the smallest details.

Notably, Taylor announced that Lamar University is now an “Opportunity University,” a new classification system introduced by the Carnegie

Foundation. The award recognizes 28 schools nationally who offer the highest post-graduation earnings in relation to the university’s accessibility.

“This is a powerful validation of your work,” he said. “It’s a validation of who we are.”


Taylor highlighted the recruitment and enrollment team as they have delivered

what he called incredible results for the first time in 12 years, with undergraduate enrollment being up last fall as well this fall.

“Higher education in the United States is changing in a big way right now, and it’s also facing real crisis of credibility,” he said. “Many universities are struggling financially, and the public is questioning the value of a

four-year degree more than ever — but that is not our story. We stand strong, financially sound and laser focused on our mission to serve Southeast Texas.

Taylor also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of faculty and staff, saying he is committed to investing in the staff. The assembled crowd applauded as he announced a 3% merit raise.




a play by Lindsey Ferrentino

UGLY LIES the BONE

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CARDINALS TAME COYOTES

LU beats
4th-ranked
USD in home
opener, 20-13

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

Following a road defeat at North Texas last week, Lamar University’s football team came roaring back by humbling the University of South Dakota Coyotes in their home opener.

The Cardinals beat 4th-ranked USD 20-13, Sept. 6 at Provost Umphrey Stadium. The back-and-forth game came down to the final two minutes, which ended in a Lamar defensive stand.

The Coyotes jumped out to a quick 10-0 lead after a strong first drive and a Cardinal turnover. After that, Lamar would only allow three points the rest of the game.

The momentum flipped when the Cardinals recovered a muffed USD kickoff,



LU photo by Carlos Viloria

LU quarterback scores a touchdown on a QB sneak during LU’s 20-13 win over South Dakota at Provost Umphrey Stadium, Sept. 6.

placing them in an immediate scoring opportunity. The defense was on display all night, forcing three turnovers. The flipped possessions put Big Red in scoring positions to take the lead with 9:51 left in the ball game.

The Cardinals’ defense really showed its might when the Coyotes got the ball back with two minutes left in the fourth quarter trailing by

See **FOOTBALL**, page 8

Summer sports wrapup

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

Lamar University’s men and women sports teams may have finished their spring seasons but sports news continued over the summer with many athletes recognized in their fields.

Among graduating football players, running back Khalan Griffin received a mini-camp invite from the Las Vegas Raiders and receiver Sevonne Rhea received a mini-camp invite from the Carolina Panthers.

In volleyball, outside hitter Maja Malinowska represented Poland at the U21 FIVB World Championship. Malinowska will return to the Cardinals this fall.

Former LU golfer Cody Branch won the Waterloo Open in Iowa, which earned him \$50,000.

Lamar Baseball finished their season third in the conference but went 0-2 in the SLC Tournament. Pitcher Riely Hunsaker was selected on day two of the MLB draft by the Chicago Cubs. Pitcher Peyton Havard was signed by the Philadelphia Phillies.

Lamar’s track and field teams both finished second at the SLC Meet. The Cards brought home six golds, six silvers and seven bronzes, along with 22 all-conference finishes. Eight athletes qualified for the NCAA West Regional Meet. Lamar’s Mariam Buenanueva Saleme was selected by Argentina to compete in the World University games.

The cross-country team hired a new head coach in August. Matt Lepine. Lepine was previously an assistant at the University of Minnesota.



UP photo by Aaron Saenz

LU President Jaime Taylor cuts the ribbon to unveil the new intramural field, Aug. 18.

LU’s unveils intramural field

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

Lamar University held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new intramural field, Aug. 18. The ceremony included speeches by Lamar leadership and a preview of the marching band’s game day routine.

Lamar University President Jaime Taylor said the intramural field, located next to the Reaud Administration Building, will benefit the Lamar community.

“I thought about it a little bit and I started thinking, ‘Who would benefit from a turf field out here,’” Taylor. “And the first one was the marching band. It’s hard on the ankles, knees, practicing on our parking lot and it’s hot. This would be great for the marching band.”

Taylor said moving practice to the field also frees up the parking lots for students.

The location is also convenient for students to use.

“You’ve got the dorms right here, and if you had an intramural field here where everybody in the dorms could see it, well that would be an amazing thing for intramurals,” he said. “The field intramurals played on used to be the golf practice facility. Well, then, the golf team would get a practice facility back.”

The field is also lined with a walking path open to students and members of the community at large.

“All of the sudden, I got a win for the marching band, a win for the students at the parking lot, a win for intramurals, a win for golf and a win for the community,” Taylor said. “That’s five wins. How do you get five wins out of one thing?”

Ben Kern, director of recreational sports, said the field provides an opportunity for LU intramural and club sports to flourish.

“We have some very rainy weather here down in Beaumont, both in the fall and spring semesters and in the summer and the winter,” he said. “Historically, the outdoor sports of our intramural program were frequently halted due to weather and field conditions. Now we’ll be able to provide a more consistent game schedule, cementing our program’s foothold within the robust programming of our community.”

“Our outdoor sport club teams now have a place to practice, and host matches against other university club teams, a place that feels like a true home field. It also provides an opportunity for cheer and dance to practice on a field that’s similar to the football field.”

The space will be available for student organizations to reserve for events, from movie nights to field days, Kern said.

“This space will serve as another hangout spot for students,” he said. For more information, or to reserve the field, visit lurecwell on Instagram.



UP photo by Aaron Saenz

Lamar University’s marching band, the Showcase of Southeast Texas, performed during the opening ceremony for the new intramural field, Aug. 18.

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seven. With Provost Umphrey Stadium crowd rocking the stadium, all the pressure was on the Coyotes. The defense held and didn't allow South Dakota to get a first down, which allowed LU to run out the clock.

The game is Lamar's highest ranked win in program history.

"It took everyone," Coach Pete Rossomando said. "It took everybody on the team, everybody on the sideline, everybody in the organization."

Rossomando said he told his players a win would require discipline and effort through all four quarters.

"Our guys just kept fighting," he said. "I'm sure everyone was doubting, but I've always felt this is an incredible group of young men. This is the best team we've had. It's a resilient bunch."

The win catapulted the Cardinals to 14th in the nation in the FCS Triumvirate Poll.

The Cards are back in action next weekend at Texas Southern University. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. in Houston.



UP photo by Carlos Vilorio

LU running back Joshua Robinson scores a touchdown during LU's 20-13 win over South Dakota at Provost Umphrey Stadium, Sept. 6.

MWH to host lecture on Howard Hughes, Sept. 18

Press Release

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum will kick off its fall 2025 Lecture Series, Sept. 18, with "Howard Hughes and the Creation of Modern Hollywood," a free public presentation by Jeffrey Richardson at 6:30 p.m. in the museum's Visitor Center Lecture Hall.

Howard Hughes was an aviator, industrialist and eccentric, but he was also the most important movie producer during the golden age of Hollywood. Richardson, executive director of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum and author on the subject, will

show how Hughes used his enormous wealth to revolutionize the industry, onscreen and off. From starlets to scandals, it is a story of sex, violence, movies and money told through one of the most colorful characters in American history.

"Howard Hughes was a native Texan and true Renaissance man," Richardson said. "Yet his tenure as a motion picture producer is the least known and least understood aspect of his remarkable life. With Hughes, the truth is always stranger—and far more fascinating—than anything Hollywood could

have created."

With an extensive background in museum management and historic preservation, Richardson assumed the role of executive director at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum in March, where he looks to build upon the organization's remarkable history and legacy.

"I am honored to be the executive director of the McFaddin-Ward House," Richardson said, "and I am excited to be the first lecturer for the fall 2025 season."

In 2019, Richardson wrote "Howard Hughes and the Creation of Modern Hollywood," the first

in-depth profile of Hughes and his impact on the film industry. He is also the author of "Colt: The Revolver of the American West" and has appeared as an expert commentator on over a dozen television programs, including "Mysteries at the Museum," "Pawn Stars," "Storage Wars" and "History Detectives."

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

The museum is located at 1906 Calder Ave. in Beaumont. For more information, call 409-832-2134.



Courtesy photo

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum will present a free lecture about Howard Hughes' influence on Hollywood, Sept. 18.



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