

LU rolls out new scooter policy

Caraline Otte
UP staff writer

Lamar University’s Police Department is implementing a new campus policy on electric scooters. Chief of Police Hector Flores said safety is the first priority in creating the policy.

The new policy states that riding scooters in any campus building is prohibited. Scooters should not be parked inside buildings and should be left in bicycle racks.

Scooters must also be registered through Lamar’s parking office. There is no cost associated with registration.

If a student is in violation of the new policy their scooters will be confiscated and may held for up to 90 days.

Flores said the policy is a response to the increased traffic on campus.

“We saw an influx of scooters, and anytime we see a large number of things coming to campus, we try to make

sure that we mitigate risk,” Flores said. “A lot of campuses that have a high volume of scooter use have policies in place. So, we’re trying to just follow the best practice.”

LU President Jaime Taylor is often seen riding a scooter and said they are a great help for transportation around campus.

“There’s lots of students now that are buying scooters, which is awesome, because I

See **SCOOTERS**, page 2



UP photo by Caroline Otte
Jaylin Willis, Houston sophomore, rides his scooter by the Rec Center Patio.



UP photo by Regina Ruiz
Lamar University introduced its new rodeo team with Big Red’s Roundup, Sept. 20, at the Spindletop Boomtown Museum. The event featured bull riding, mutton bustin’ and various activities. For more, see page 3.

Out the chute

Group builds beds for children



UP photo by Josiah Boyd
LU student Alex Williams III, left, joins other volunteers during Sleep in Heavenly Peace’s “Build a Bed” event, Sept. 13, in downtown Beaumont.

Josiah Boyd
UP contributor

The noise of people banging in nails, screwing in bolts and wooden planks being cut filled the warehouse in downtown Beaumont.

More than 60 people had gathered for the monthly “Build a Bed” for needy children event, Sept. 13, organized by Sleep In Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit organization.

“Sleep In Heavenly Peace is dedicated to making sure no child sleeps on the floor in our city,” Jack Seely, SHP Beaumont Chapter president, said.

The national nonprofit began in Idaho when founder Luke Michelson heard his daughter say a few of her classmates didn’t have a bed to sleep in. Michelson organized a local event to build beds.

See **SHP**, page 4

STARS seeks coaches for spring

Evan Wolford
UP contributor

Lamar University’s Student Teaching and Retention Services department is hiring academic coaches for spring 2026 semester and will accept applications until the end of fall.

STARS offers services to help students with learning, including academic coaching and tutoring.

“The coaches are just here to help,” Sophia Ramirez, STARS student support specialist in academic coaching, said. “I really make sure that the coaches plan their sessions out so that it’s the best possible solution for the student that came to seek for help.”

Ramirez is responsible for hiring STARS academic coaches for spring 2026. Students can make between \$12 and \$15 an hour.

“We do pay our academic coaches — it’s the highest-paying job on campus,” Ramirez said.

Kennedy Bennett, Beaumont senior, has been a STARS academic coach for about eight months.

“What we do is help students with their time management, recalling stuff for tests, implementing test strategies,” Bennett said. “It’s not just for people that are on probation, and that’s the one thing I always want to tell people.”

According to the student’s needs, they may be guided to academic tutors which are located in 140 Galloway Business Building, Bennett said.

Bennett, who is a psychology

See **STARS**, page 2

University embraces AI challenges

Maria Rodriguez
UP news editor

Like everyone, Lamar University is dealing with the rise of AI and its role in higher education and society at large.

Ashley Dockens, associate provost of academic innovation & digital learning, defines artificial intelligence, or AI, as the development and use of computer systems that simulate human intelligence to perform tasks that typically require a person’s cognitive abilities.

“This includes skills like learning, reasoning, problem-solving and decision-making,” she said.

AI is an emerging technology that learns from our way of “thinking” and “acting,” Dockens said.

“Generative AI (GAI) is a subset of modern artificial intelligence that creates new, original content rather than just analyzing existing data,” she said. “Unlike traditional AI that might classify information or make predictions based on pat-

terns, GAI uses models trained on vast amounts of data to produce text, images, code, audio and even video.”

Generative AI can create original content from a user’s request.

“Generative models have been used for years in statistics to analyze numerical data,” IBM’s website states. “But over the last decade, they evolved to analyze and generate more complex data types.”

See **AI**, page 6



Ashley Dockens, associate provost of academic innovation & digital learning,

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Censorship is to art as lynching is to justice.”

— Henry Louis Gates Jr

NOTICE

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

SCOOTERS from page 1

think it’s a really nice way to get around campus, especially for athletes,” Taylor said. “It’s a pretty large campus, and it’s hard to get back and forth from different spots.”

Taylor said the main issue was scooters inside campus buildings.

“One of the issues was, I think students were riding them right up to the classroom door,” he said. “They’re going into buildings and parking them outside the classroom. You can’t

really do that.”

Flores said LUPD plans to expand scooter parking so students do not leave them in hallways.

“We’ll be adding the scooter racks, and they’re kind of like the ones we have at the Rec (Center), the round ones that you see outside,” Flores said. “They look nicer than regular bike racks.”

Taylor said he wears protective gear while riding his scooter and encourages all users to take

safety measures.

“I want to be safe and encourage people to wear a helmet, so I try to set that example,” he said.

Flores said he sees the scooter influx as a positive thing.

“It’s kind of cool to have scooters around,” he said. “The president has one and we just bought four police scooters.”

For more information on the new policy and registration, visit lamar.edu/finance-and-operations.



Lamar University President Jaime Taylor is regularly seen riding his scooter, saying “I think it’s a really nice way to get around campus.”

Courtesy photo

UNIVERSITY PRESS

©University Press 2025

Editor

Rayna Christy

Managing Editor

Kami Greene

Sports Editor

Aaron Saenz

Photo Editor

Carlos Viloría

News Editor

Maria Rodriguez

Contributors

Caraline Otte

Becca Wallage

Regina Ruiz

Advisors: Andy Coughlan and Stephan Malick

Member of Texas Intercollegiate Press Association
College Media Association

Dalia Osman

Heather Harmon

Isaac Sandoval

Maria Barahona

Carina Wyman

Travis Gibson

Evan Wolford

Marketing

Sydney Vo

Amy Phu

Advertising

Elijah Nelson

Content Managers

Adam Nguyen

Gerrod Fuller

STARS from page 1

major with a pre-med concentration, said coaching has given her valuable experience that will help her in the future.

“I already learned a lot about different study strategies, and I felt like I could actually help students with that,” she said. “I’m trying to apply to medical school and being a peer educator is a

big art of the application and academic coaching is one of the ways to help me achieve that path. I’ve never been a peer educator before, and I wanted to challenge myself.”

Ramirez said she hopes students will take advantage of STARS free services.

“We’re just really trying to get all of the resources to be known throughout the stu-

dent body, because a lot of them don’t know that this is here for them,” she said. “And if they do, they think that they have to pay for it, (but) it is already included in your tuition.”

To apply to be an academic coach or to seek academic help, visit 109 Communication Building, or email starstutoring@lamar.edu.

SCRABBLES by Dalia Osman

©University Press 2025



DISHMAN ART MUSEUM

September 20th - October 31st, 2025

Museum Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm



UP photo by Rayna Christy

8 SECONDS!

Big Red’s Roundup features cowboys young and old



UP photo by Regina Ruiz

Rayna Christy
UP editor

The clang of the metal gate echoes through the arena as the bull exits the chute, the noise quickly turning into the thumping of hooves as the bull bucks.

Whether you’re cheering for the cowboy or the bull, the bleachers buzz with excitement as eight seconds nears. The buzzer goes off, and the audience impatiently waits for the score.

The Spindletop Boomtown Museum was transformed into a rodeo arena, Sept. 20, for Big Red’s Roundup. The event was hosted by the Lamar University Center for Resiliency.

The event introduced the new LU rodeo team, and included bull riding and mutton bustin’.

A resiliency showcase, car show, food trucks and a kids’ zone were held at the museum, and Running On Credit closed out the night with a concert at the Derrick Stage.



UP photo by Rayna Christy



UP photo by Rayna Christy



UP photo by Rayna Christy

SHP from page 1

By 2014, the small-scale project had turned into a fully recognized non-profit with nine chapters in the Midwest. In 2018 the organization received national attention from an unlikely source, Seely said.

“Mike Rowe from ‘Dirty Jobs’ started a web series called ‘Returning the Favor,’ and he did an episode covering SHP,” Seely said. “After that episode ran in January of 2018, SHP grew from just nine chapters to over 100 nationally.”

Seely was one of the millions who tuned in to watch the show.

“That next year I got some of my friends and church members together and founded our own chapter,” he said.

The Beaumont chapter has come a long way since its founding in 2019 in Beaumont’s First United Methodist Church, Hank Hamilton, founding member of SHP of Beaumont, said.

“When we first started, it was just a couple of us with tape measures and lumber in a parking lot making around 20 beds on any given Saturday,” he said. “We were proud of ourselves back then. We even predicted that we would build a hundred beds a year. Now, we do 100 beds a day.”

The group now operates out of a warehouse off Milam Street, equipped with the tools and space needed to build beds.

“When we moved into this building, we said there is no way we will ever fill up such a big space,” Seely said. “Now we have over 60 volunteers a month, and had to get a second warehouse to store all the bedding and materials.”



Gigi Mazzola, left, and her daughter Alex watch as Jack Seely demonstrates how to use a drill during Sleep in Heavenly Peace’s “Build a Bed” event, Sept. 13, in downtown Beaumont.

UP photo by Josiah Boyd

Senior Amber Simpson is president of Lamar University’s Rotaract Club president said several members had brought the event up at a meeting and they all decided to volunteer.

“That first time I was thinking, “This is pretty scary,” she said. “I had no experience with power tools, and I really thought there is no way I will be able to do this,”

However, after a few minutes of instruction, Simpson said she was confident and excited to get to work.

“They pulled me aside and took the time to show me how to use the sander properly, it really helped me calm down,” she said. “Now, every time I volunteer, I look forward to

using the sander and de-stressing while I give back to the community.”

Rotaract member Alex Williams III said the event gives him a better understanding of the need in the community. Prior to the experience, he said he had been oblivious to how many local children were without beds.

“That’s something that I took for granted, the stability of knowing where I am going to sleep tonight, and some kids do not have that,” Williams said. “Kids shouldn’t be worried about where they are going to lay their head. So, if me giving up my Saturday to make beds allows a child to not have to worry about that, it is a win for me.”

Hamilton said SHP enjoys working with student volunteers.

“Lamar students are some of the best,” he said. “They have the energy, the willingness to work and, most importantly, a heart for helping people.”

“There are givers and there are takers in this world, and the folks that show up from Lamar are givers who energize each other and everyone around them.”

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is self-funded and relies on donations and volunteers to serve the Southeast Texas community, Seely said.

“Each bed costs about \$250 to build,” Seely said. “Our goal, every time we do a build

event, is to make about a hundred beds. All our funding comes from the community; churches, outreach organizations, and corporate and business leaders who all come together and help make this possible.

“Every single person on our staff is a volunteer. Not one of us gets paid to be here and that is truly amazing to me. Every cent we are given goes back into our community.”

SHP hosts bed building events the second Saturday of every month at 2950 Milam St. in Beaumont. There are multiple shifts beginning at 8:30 a.m.

To register to volunteer and for more information, visit shpbeds.org.

GET INVOLVED AT LU!

 **Division of Student Affairs**

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24
Ready, Set, Résumé! • 12:40pm-1:40pm • SSC Cypress 125
Knife Skills Class • 2:15pm-4:30pm • SSC Cedar 160

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25
Free STI Testing • 10am-4pm • Gentry Hall
8-Ball Pool Tourney • 5pm-9pm • Rec Center

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26
CAB Fashion Show • 7:30pm-10pm • SSC Atrium

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27
Cardinal Family Tailgate • 7:30pm-10pm • Plummer Lawn
Free for the whole family! Sign up at lamar.edu/parents

MONDAY, SEPT. 29
Homecoming Court Info Meeting • 3:30pm • SSC 260

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30
Nutrition Talk 2.0 • 12:45pm-1:45pm • SSC San Jacinto 218
Homecoming Court Info Meeting • 12:45pm • SSC 260
Patio Night Pancake Party • 7pm-9pm • Patio at the Rec

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1
Homecoming Court Info Meeting • 3:30pm • SSC 260
Free Swimming Lessons • 6:30pm-7pm • Indoor Pool

THURSDAY, OCT. 2
Homecoming Court Info Meeting • 12:45pm • SSC 260
Battleship • 6pm-8pm • Indoor Pool

FRIDAY, OCT. 3
Homecoming Court Application Closes • Noon
• Sign up on LUHub •
CAB Mystery Event • 7pm-9pm • Follow @LamarUCAB

TUESDAY, OCT. 7
Pottery at Patio Night • 7pm-9pm • Patio at the Rec

MONDAY-THURSDAY EACH WEEK
Free Group Fitness Classes
Meditation, Belly Dancing, Toning, Cycling, & More
See schedule at lamar.edu/recsports

 **See event details & more on LUHub!**

**SEE FOR YOURSELF**

**COMMUNICATION & MEDIA**

COMMUNICATION@LAMAR.EDU**409-880-8153**



‘Ugly Lies the Bone’ tackles war trauma

Regina Ruiz
UP staff writer

In the rehearsal room, the actors lean into silence, testing the weight of pauses and the rawness of words that mirror real human pain. The play they’re preparing isn’t lighthearted or whimsical — it’s about scars, survival, and the slow process of starting over.

Lamar University’s department of theatre & dance will present “Ugly Lies the Bone,” Sept. 25-28 in the Studio Theatre.

Lindsey Ferrentino’s contemporary drama, directed by Alan Brincks, explores the struggles of Jess (Gracie Parsley), a war veteran returning home to Florida after sustaining severe injuries in Afghanistan.

Ferrentino’s script blends real-world touchstones — from NASA’s final shuttle launch to early experiments with virtual-reality rehabilitation — with intimate, fictionalized portraits of trauma and healing. For Brincks, that balance makes the play a natural fit for Lamar’s season.

“When we look at shows, we ask, ‘Is it a good script, what can the students learn from it, and what will the audience take away?’” Brincks said. “This play has challenges for the actors, opportunities for student designers and meaningful conversations for the community. It’s contemporary, it’s raw and it’s timely.”

Working on “Ugly Lies the Bone” is both challenging and rewarding, Parsley said. Playing Jess has required significant research into the realities of burn survivors.

“It’s difficult to capture



UP photo by Travis Gibson

Gracie Parsley, left, plays Jess and Shelby Eason plays her sister Kacie in “Ugly Lies the Bone.” The play will be presented in the Studio Theatre, Sept. 25-28.

the physicality of someone who’s endured that kind of pain,” Parsley said. “But it’s also rewarding, because these are real, lived experiences for people. It makes me want to honor that truth in performance.”

Shelby Eason plays Jess’ sister, Kacie. She said the play deals with weighty issues that are a challenge to interpret but she finds balance in the support of the ensemble.

“This play can take you to a really deep and heavy place,” Eason said. “But knowing I have this group around me, people who pick me back up, makes it possible to go there. We’re telling a

story that’s bigger than us.”

Brincks said cast and crew approached the sensitive themes of war and trauma with care. Students consulted research and also invited a Lamar history professor and military veteran to speak about her experiences. The rehearsal room, Brincks said, became a place of both artistic exploration and empathy-building.

Ferrentino’s script, though grounded in specific realities, also leaves space for interpretation, Brincks said. He encouraged his actors and designers to bring their own ideas to the table.

“Theater isn’t about one person dictating everything,”

he said. “It’s an ensemble art form. My job is to shape, but also to let students exercise their own creative voices.”

The production has also provided technical challenges, with set, lighting and sound working together to create the immersive world of Titusville, Florida, giving students professional-level experience in collaboration and storytelling.

Beyond the stage, Brincks said he hopes the play sparks conversations about veterans’ experiences, PTSD and resilience.

“Visibility matters,” he said. “For people who’ve lived through these struggles, seeing them represented on-

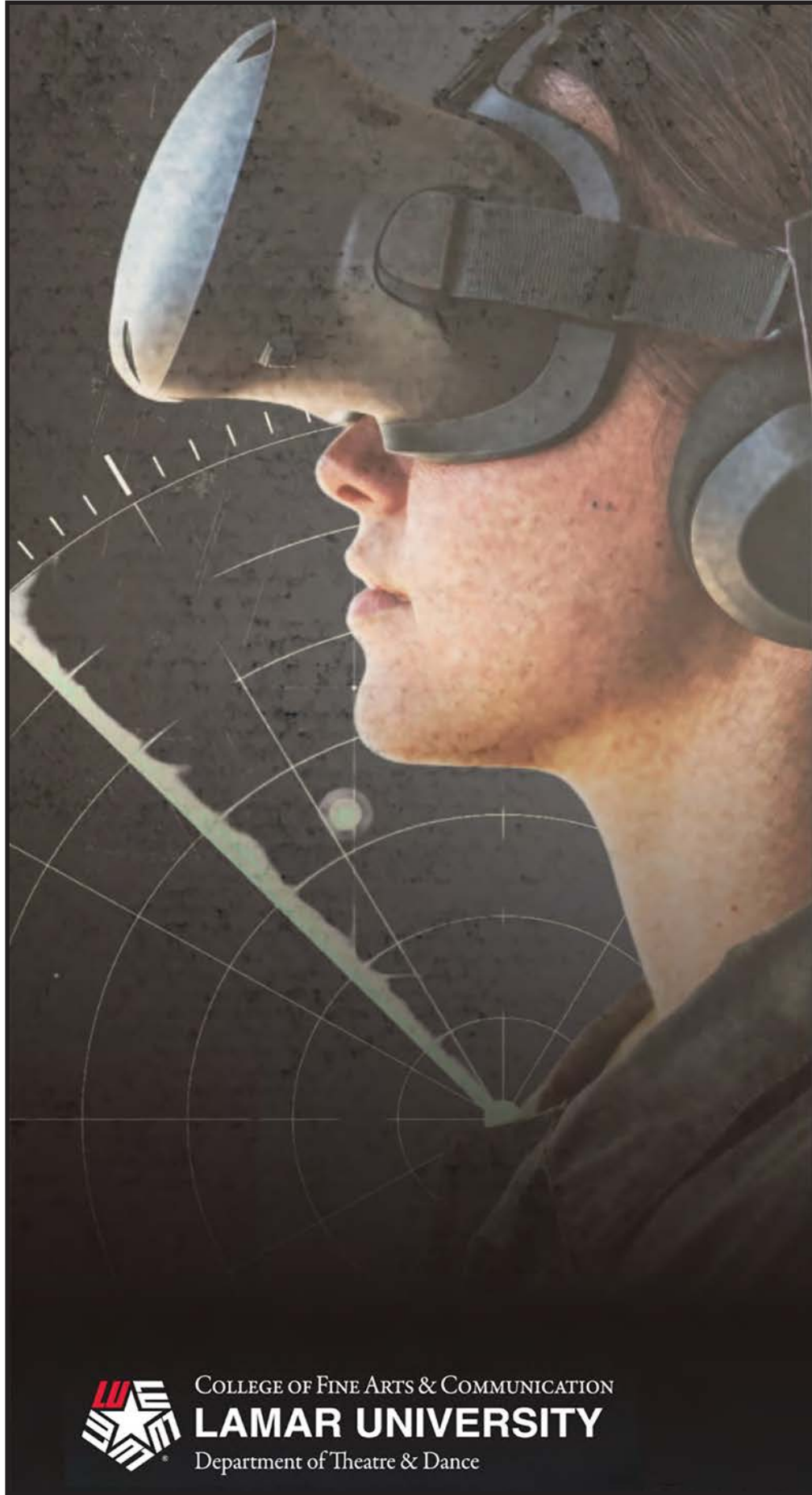
stage shows that others believe their stories are important enough to tell.”

For the actors, the lessons go beyond acting. Parsley said she hopes audiences walk away remembering that honesty is the only way to move forward — “With yourself and with others.”

Brincks described the production in four words: “healing through forward motion.”

“It’s why we do theater — to create empathy, to see the world through someone else’s perspective,” Brincks said. “That’s the story we’re telling together.”


For more ticketing information, visit lutd.ludus.com/index.



a play by Lindsey Ferrentino

UGLY LIES the BONE

SEPTEMBER 25-28 IN THE STUDIO THEATRE
DIRECTED BY ALAN BRINCKS
TICKETS: LAMAR.EDU/LUTDTX



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

— Education and Entrepreneurs —

Students’ business is all in the details

Kami Greene
UP managing editor

According to Google, 17% of college students run their own business and 16% plan to start their own company post-graduation.

Student entrepreneurs Christoper Love and Jordan Promise are adding to that statistic with their business, Refining Auto Detailing.

“Originally it was one of my ideas that I came up with,” Love, Cleveland, Mississippi junior, said. “I had a passion for detailing cars, and I wanted to bring it to life and truly make a business out of it.”

Not wanting it to be a solo business, Love asked Promise to be his business partner in the fall of 2024, and business has been on the incline, Promise said.

“The first step was making a business plan and figuring out what all we needed,” Love said. “We started re-searching the best materials to get, like the Shop-Vac and the pressure washer. Then we started looking at chemicals that are high quality.”

The pair began planning their financing and prices, and deciding how they were going to schedule customers.

“As soon as we came back from De-

cember break, we hit it in January,” Promise said. “It started off a little slow with trying to get our names out there and trying to get clientele, but after our first five washes, it started going up from there.”

Staying true to the pairs business name, clients are not just limited to a standard outside wash, although that is an option. Promise and Love offer three different car services to choose from.

“We offer the purified wash, which is our basic package; a transform, which is our most popular; and a refined package, which is a showroom-ready type of detail,” Love said. “These range from interior vacuums, exterior washes and wax — and we’re learning ceramic coating right now as well, so we’re trying to include that into our packages.”

Rather than having a set price, quoting customers based on the condition of their car has proven to be better business.

“Quoting works out a lot better not only for us, but also for the customer because we’re able to be a little bit more flexible with people who have a budget but are in need of a detail,” Promise said.

Balancing their education while being young entrepreneurs can be a challenge,



UP photo by Kami Greene

Jordan Promise, left, and Christopher Love work for their detailing business, Refining Auto Detailing.

especially when business and education collide.

“Sometimes it can get a bit overwhelming, especially since we work on our customers time, not necessarily our time,” Promise said.

A wash may fall on a day where they have tests or have a shift at their second job, but if that is the only day that works for their customers, they will figure out a way to make it happen, Promise said.

“At the end of the day, we always have fun with our washes so I can’t really complain, but it does step on us just a little bit,” Love said.

As the duo expand they plan to incorporate a paint corrections service.

Although the business started on campus, Promise and Love are hoping to make it sustainable and open their own shop one day.

For more information, visit refiningautodetailing.com or visit their website refiningautodetailing.com.

AI from page 1

Students can find GAI programs, such as Microsoft Copilot, helpful when searching for ideas, Christy Black, LU data management officer and staff innovation liaison, said.

“I always like to think of it as something that people can use to get those ideas, to help draft emails,” she said. “It always gives you an initial draft, and then you always have to vet the output. Think of AI as something that you always have to make sure that it’s giving you the most accurate information, and that you have to vet it using your critical thinking skills.”

AI is beneficial for students, staff and faculty, Dockens said.

It’s essentially a tool for creation and reasoning, capable of producing realistic

and novel outputs that didn’t exist before but are based on original human creations,” she said.

AI can also help students understand concepts they may not be familiar with, Dockens said.

“What I think is interesting is you can go in from a class where you’ve had a hard topic— you sort of get it, but you sort of don’t,” she said. “You can (say) to something like AI, ‘OK, explain quantum physics to me like I’m five years old,’ and it will give you a different way to look at it.”

Critical thinking is still important when using AI because one has to make sure the information is correct, Black said.

“Even if you love something it created, taking the time to make sure it sounds like you, that it represents what you meant for it to say, that it’s correct,

is always going to be important,” Dockens said.

One danger associated with AI is misinformation, Dockens said. Users should remember that it is a literal assistant.

“If your instructions are not very clear, it’ll go in a direction you don’t expect it to,” she said. “You might not realize it, depending on how it’s responded, you have to treat it very literally. This is exactly, precisely what I need you to do to get the good output from it.”

AI taking over jobs is a concern, Dockens said, but showing employee value minimizes the risk of losing jobs.

“You need to know how to use it, to show that you’re sort of superhuman,” she said. “I could do all these things by myself, but if I use AI, I can do this much more. But this is why I’m still important — showing that value.”

Dockens said AI can also aid students

with disabilities, such as rapidly suit various needs.

“One of the best ideas that I have seen come from AI is that you can very quickly alter things about an assignment to assist with very specific needs,” she said.

AI will continue to increase in popularity as a tool to help users build ideas, Black said.

“It’s a starting point of learning,” she said. “It’s going to be one of those things that we eventually utilize every day, just like we do our phone.”

Similar to the internet, AI is going to be a part of daily life we take for granted, Dockens said.

“I think it already is integrated into a lot of our things without us really thinking about it,” she said.

For more, visit lamar.edu/lu-online/artificial-intelligence.

Orange County Special Angels Rodeo

2nd Saturday in November Annually

Upcoming Events:

September 27, 2025
Annual Auction Dinner
6 - 10 pm

November 8, 2025
Rodeo Day
10 am - 2 pm

Volunteers Needed!

Buddies

Carnival Game
Workers

Photographers

Scan for our
website!





Breaking Barriers

First gen Hispanic student Becerra leads by example

Maria Barahona
UP contributor

For Emmanuel Becerra, being the first in his family to attend college is more than a



UP photo by Maria Barahona
Emmanuel Becerra gives a presentation during a recent Latino Medical Student Association meeting on campus.

personal milestone, it's a responsibility. Born in New Rochelle, New York, Becerra was raised in Nederland, the senior biology major is the son of Mexican immigrant parents. He said their sacrifices are the driving force behind his educational journey. "My parents definitely made me try really hard in school," Becerra said. "They kind of forced me to study, since they didn't have the same opportunities I have. They made me the person I am."

A pre-med biology major, Becerra said he chose Lamar University for its strong biology program and proximity to home. He said he is using his time on campus to lay the groundwork for a career in the medical field. But his ambitions go beyond his own success, he said, and he is determined to open doors for others. As president of the Latino Medical Student Association, Becerra helps guide undergraduates who hope to pursue healthcare careers in nursing, dentistry, physician assistant programs, or medicine. "We basically just help students who want to make a career in the medical field," he said. "We give them mentorship and resources."

Becerra said he understands firsthand how mentorship can shape a student's path. "When I came to Lamar, I had no idea what I was doing," he said. "From where I started to where I am now, I've learned a lot. I feel like I have knowledge I can pass on to students who were like me when I first got here and didn't know a lot."

Sophomore Leyda De La Rosa, also a first-generation Mexican American student, said Becerra's work ethic motivates her to stay focused on her own goals. "Since the first time I met him, I've seen his dedication toward school," she said. "He has shown me how to prioritize getting my diploma in the medical field."

Junior Daniel Torres, a longtime friend, said Becerra is hard working, humble and ambitious about the things he

wants to do in life. "I see the determination in his eyes every time I see him," Torres said. Becerra's volunteered for the LMSA presidency when he saw the organization beginning to lose momentum. "It was something that me and a group of friends founded and that I was proud of, and I didn't like to see it go down," he said. "So, this semester, I decided to take over and bring up the club a little bit and help other students."

Becerra said he hopes he can provide practical and inspiration guidance to Lamar University's first-generation and Hispanic students. "I think being a first-generation Hispanic student means a lot," Becerra said. "It's an opportunity that was given to me that has not been given to my parents."

Emmanuel Becerra proves that student success is not just about reaching personal goals — it's about lifting others along the way.

September is Deaf Awareness Month

Heather Harmon
UP contributor

September is Deaf Awareness Month and Diane Clark, former chair of LU's Deaf studies and Deaf education department, said there are many misconceptions about the Deaf community. "I want people outside this department to understand Deaf people can do anything except hear," she said. "I want people here at Lamar too be able to interact comfortably with Deaf people, and realize their strengths and abilities are equal to a hearing person on campus."

Many in the Deaf community feel invisible and underappreciated, Andrew Ramirez, president of Signing Cardinals and an ASL major, said. The hearing community sometimes sees the Deaf's inability to speak as a disability and instead of providing the necessary tools they are treated as if they are invisible and broken. Clark said Deaf Awareness Month helps the hearing community recognize the experiences of the Deaf community and understand the differences in how they approach the world. "For example, I never turn the radio on in the car," she said. "People ask me, 'How can you drive in the car (when) it's so quiet?' But I think what I really want hearing people to know is its good that you like sound, that's fine. But you don't need sound to be a fully functioning human being. "All too often, when Deaf babies are



UP photo by Heather Harmon
Christo Budidharma, left, and Andrew Ramirez said Deaf Awareness Month aims to dispell misconceptions about the Deaf community.

born, society wants to 'fix them' and make them as hearing as possible. That is often very damaging to a young child. I think it's better to accept that child as Deaf child."

Ramirez said a lot of interpreters only focus on communication skills, like they are language robots without any Deaf culture advocacy, or even looking at the language. "They're just like, 'OK, here's English, turning it into ASL,' he said. "(The Deaf) don't feel that safe connection. We don't want to feel shackled to where we're having to obey the interpreter, because were meant to be a team and develop a relationship."

Recently, there has been a surge the interest in learning ASL and with that there has been increased Deaf representation within media. However, some of the representation is seen as inherently disrespectful, Christo Budidharma, graduate student and instructor, said. The movie "CODA" is about a hearing girl who is a "child of Deaf adult." However, Budidharma said the film is not an accurate representation of a coda because the lead actress was not a coda. "They do have deaf actors in that movie, but to have an actual coda playing the role of the CODA in the movie, you would have to find an actor or actress who also has deaf parents and so grew up as a CODA to play the CODA." Budidharma said. With the surge of interest in ASL, members of the hearing community

often use YouTube tutorials to learn the language but often this results in the wrong signage. "Some people watch YouTube, and think they're learning ASL, but really what they're doing is learning signs and they're putting them in English word order, and it's like, you're not really learning ASL," Budidharma said. "If you want to learn ASL, you've got to really get involved in it. Maybe take some college courses."

Budidharma said some people think sign language is easier to learn than spoken. "It depends on how you look at it," Budidharma said. "Some people look at a spoken language and think it's more complicated and more complex than a signed language — but they're wrong. There's no difference between learning sign language and spoken language. Just don't learn it from TikTok and don't learn it from YouTube. Take classes."

Ramirez said the Deaf studies and Deaf education staff hope the younger generation of Deaf students will feel encouraged to stand up for themselves and fight for equality and inclusion in society. "We still have a lot of barriers, and we will forever have barriers," he said. "We want equality and people still see us as lesser than. Today, we're still fighting to become successful, to become equal to the hearing community, to have equal access, to have support systems similar to what the hearing community has."

Smart Cookies Welcome!

STUDENT PEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
10AM - 4PM

91.3
KVLU
PUBLIC RADIO

Join us for **FREE** cookies & juice and a tour of the station.

2nd Floor, LU Theatre Annex
More info at 880-8164

WE WANT YOU!

if you are interested in writing, photography, graphic design, advertising, or social media...

The UP is the place for you!

UNIVERSITY PRESS
YOUR student newspaper
lamaruniversitypress.com

Pair of shows to spotlight student art

Kami Greene
UP managing editor

Student artists will have two chances to submit their artwork for public display in two upcoming college exhibitions.

The Beaumont Art League will host the “Lamar Student Show” from Oct. 11 through Dec. 3, and the Stark Museum of Art will host its annual “College Juried Art Exhibition,” Nov. 8 through Dec. 20.

BAL will accept entries Oct. 1-4 in their gallery, located at 2675 Gulf Ave. League members will also be in LU’s art building on Oct. 1 and 2 to accept submissions.

The Stark Museum is currently accepting digital submissions through Oct. 19 starkmuseum.org/college-juried-art-exhibition.

The Art League exhibit will open with a free reception, 7-9 p.m., Oct. 11.

“It’s a chance for the public to meet each artist and talk about their piece,” gallery manager Matthew Beer said. Artist and Art Museum of Southeast Texas curator of collections Dario Bucheli will judge the exhibit, and the top three students will be awarded a cash prize.

“First place receives \$125, second place is \$100, third place is \$75 and honorable mentions are awarded certificates,” Beer said.

All student work will be for sale.

“This is also a show for (students) who just learned how to put their artwork in a gallery to also sell it,” Beer said.

The Stark Museum show is open to college students in Jefferson County, Orange

County and Calcasieu Parish. Student artwork must be able to hung on a wall, created while they were in college and cannot exceed 50 by 50 inches. If the art is sculptural, it must fit within a frame and be no more than six inches deep.

“Student’s do not have to be art majors,” Rebecca Johns, Stark director of education, said. “We have a juror who looks over the entries and selects a group of them for the exhibition.” Once the digital submissions are judged, the selected works will be hung in the Museum.

“We have paintings, drawings, pen and ink, we’ve gotten some graphic design entries,” Johns said. “(Previously) there was a game design person who created some sort of character, so it doesn’t necessarily have to be painted work. It can be whatever. If you’re creative, you can submit your work.”

The juror will look for artists with a high skill level and an artist statement that ac-



UP photo by Kami Greene

LU student Nyah Greene, above, looks at artwork on display at the Beaumont Art League. BAL will accept entries for its Lamar Student Show, Oct. 1-4.

companies the artwork, Johns said.

The best of show will win a \$500 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials, and each of the honorable mentions

will get a \$100 gift certificate. Regardless of if a student’s artwork is included in the exhibit, feedback from the juror will be given to all entrants, John said.

“They’re going to tell you what they’re thinking and give you suggestions on how the entry could be improved,” Johns said. “That’s one of the ways they’re helping to develop aspiring artists is to help them get some constructive criticism and move forward.”

Entering work in exhibitions like these helps aspiring artist become comfortable for their future in the art world post-graduation, Eric Johnston, LU assistant professor of studio foundations, illustration and graphic design, said.

“It’s pregameing for what’s to come,” he said. “It prepares

you to photograph your work, meet collectors that are collecting work, think about presentation, how they frame their work — and it also looks good for not just the student, but also for the department.”

Having strangers look at and critique their work makes students more aware of their work, Johnston said.

“It helps them think about the work itself,” he said. “They might say, ‘Well, I’m happy with this work as it, but now that I know that I have to present it to the general public, I may want to go back in and make some changes and perfect that work’ — and that’s always been good.”

For more information, visit beaumontartleague.us and starkmuseum.org. The Stark Museum of Art is located at 712 Green Ave. in Orange.



Courtesy photo

Stephanie Chadwick left, stands with the Stark Museums 2024 College Juried Art Exhibitions best of show winner, Taylor Balsano from Lamar.



ART & DESIGN



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA



DEAF STUDIES & DEAF EDUCATION



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY



MUSIC **SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES** **THEATRE & DANCE**

COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COLLEGE AT
LAMAR.EDU/COFAC

LU ropes in new rodeo team

Rayna Christy
UP editor

Dirt kicks up around the arena, creating a dusty haze that only enhances the scene unfolding.

The competitor and her horse easily clear the first barrel, making their way around the second and third before taking off towards the gate.

The sound of the buzzer completes their run, and the crowd waits patiently for the next barrel racer to enter the arena.

This is what fans can expect as Lamar University rodeo team kicks off its inaugural season, Sept. 26-27, at Panola College in Tatum.

“We want to be competitive with our current students,” Gene Theodori, LU associate provost and head rodeo coach, said. “In the ideal situation, both barrel racers we have — and others who make it along the way — will qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo. That will be held in June in Casper, Wyoming. So, that’s what these kids do. They compete all year to qualify.”

While the rodeo team currently has a small number of members, Theodori said they plan to grow membership and expand the events they compete in.

“We’re in the early stages

of building this team,” he said. “We only have a couple students right now. But my hope and my plan is to really work this upcoming year to get the word out, publicize the fact that Lamar has formed a rodeo team, and begin to recruit student athletes to come here to Lamar to compete.”

Alongside publicizing the team, Theodori said he is also searching for sponsorships and donors. These funds will help create scholarships.

“We’ll be trying to attract students who currently compete at the Texas High School Rodeo Association,” he said. “There will be opportunities to recruit students from the junior colleges and two-year schools who are currently competing.

“It’s going to take a lot of work, but I think we’re up for it.”

Before the creation of LU’s rodeo team, Theodori said rodeo athletes often had to go elsewhere to continue their career and education, often to McNeese.

“There’s a lot of rodeo talent here in Southeast Texas, and those kids had to go to other universities to work on their degree and to rodeo,” Theodori said. “Now, we’re giving them the opportunity to stay close to home and provide them a world-class edu-



UP photo by Rayna Christy

The members of Lamar's new rodeo team, Sarah Morton, left and Gracelann Brown, are introduced to the crowd during Big Red's Roundup at Spindletop Boomtown Museum, Sept. 20.

cation here at Lamar University. Now, we don't have to go across the river to McNeese.”

Theodori said people don't have to know how to rodeo to get involved. LU has a club to help interested students learn about the sport. He said he is working to provide ways for students to try out events and practice.

“What I’m doing this semester is working with local stock contractors to set up some practice times,” he said. “We could get the kids who haven’t rodeoed to go and

meet with the stock contractors and learn a little bit about what it takes to ride a bronc, what calf roping entails, and all the other events.”

Beaumont and Southeast Texas hosts pro rodeo events throughout the year, but Theodori said college is different.

“If you haven’t seen college rodeo, it’s a sight to see,” he said. “You have that competitive spirit. You have colleges and universities competing against each other for the title

of champion at that rodeo.

“It’s kind of like watching a pro football game versus a college football game. The atmosphere is a little different. If you’ve been to a professional rodeo and you haven’t seen college rodeo, come check it out.”

The team’s closest event will be at McNeese in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Oct. 24-25.

For the rodeo team’s full schedule and more information, visit lamar.edu/rodeo.

Vball sweeps home tourney

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

Lamar University hosted the Lamar Invitational, Sept. 19 and Sept. 20, in McDonald Gym. Texas Southern University, Cal State Fullerton and Abilene Christian University joined the Cardinals in the four-team tournament.

The Cardinals swept the field to take top honors.

The Cards defeated the Cal

State Fullerton Titans in four sets with sophomore Maja Malinowska leading the offense with 15 kills and two blocks.

The thriller of the tournament came against TSU. After going down 2 sets to 1, the Cards won two straight sets to win the match. The comeback was fueled by freshman Daniella Udegbugnam and her 14 blocks — the second highest block total ever recorded in a five-set match in Lamar history.

The final match was a 3-0 sweep of ACU.

The Cards were dominant, with freshman Gabby Baker being named the tournament MVP for her 57 digs across the three games. It is the first time since 2019 that the Lamar volleyball team has gone undefeated in its own tournament.

The Cardinals next match opens Southland Conference play in Edinburg against UT-Rio Grande Valley, Sept. 24.



UP photo by Sydney Vo

LU's Keeley Nellis digs out a shot against Texas Southern University, Sept. 19, in McDonald Gym.

Malone, Huff earn all-SLC honors

Juniors Kendric Malone and Andrew Huff were named Southland Conference Players of the Week, Sept. 15.

Huff received defensive honors while Malone received the special teams honor. It marks the second consecutive week Lamar has received both honors.

The Cardinals went on the road and defended their national ranking at

Texas Southern, Sept. 13, defeating the Tigers, 31-7 after building a first half lead and never trailed.

Lamar's special teams blocked two punts which were recovered for touchdowns and blocked a first half field goal when the score was still close.

Malone was credited with both blocked punts. One which came at the end of the TSU's opening possession and was scooped up by Nyir Jones for

20 yard touchdown.

Early in the second quarter, Lamar's defense forced another stop and again Malone broke through for the block which was recovered by Joshua Robinson.

Huff recorded four stops, including two unassisted tackles, and was credited with 1.5 sacks for 12 yards in losses. He was one of two Cardinals with 1.5 sacks on the day.



UP photo by Sydney Vo

Adrian Hahn Vadstein, left, Andres Padron and Geovany Cisneros led LU's men to a second place finish at the NSU XC meet Sept. 12.

XC teams open season at NSU

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

The Lamar cross country team opened their season at the Northwestern State Cross Country Opener, Sept. 12, in Natchitoches. The race previewed the Southland Conference meet which will be held Oct. 31. The races were 4k for the women and 6k for the men.

The women were led by junior Ashton Rainey who finished in fifth place with a time of 14:31.6. Sophomore Anna Eichsen finished at a 15:56, which was good for 19th. The two top-20 finishes propelled the Lady Cards to a third-place finish. Stephen F. Austin took home the team title.

The men's top-three finishers were all within eight seconds of each other. Leading the group was junior Adrian Hahn Vadstein with an eighth-place finish while running 19:01.78. Trailing him was senior Andres Padron who finished in 19:06.01, good for ninth place. Rounding out LU's top three was senior Geovany Cisneros, coming in at 11th place in 19:09.59. The men placed second behind Stephen F. Austin.

The Cards are back in action at the nationally recognized Chili Pepper Festival in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Oct. 4.

CLIMBING TO FITNESS

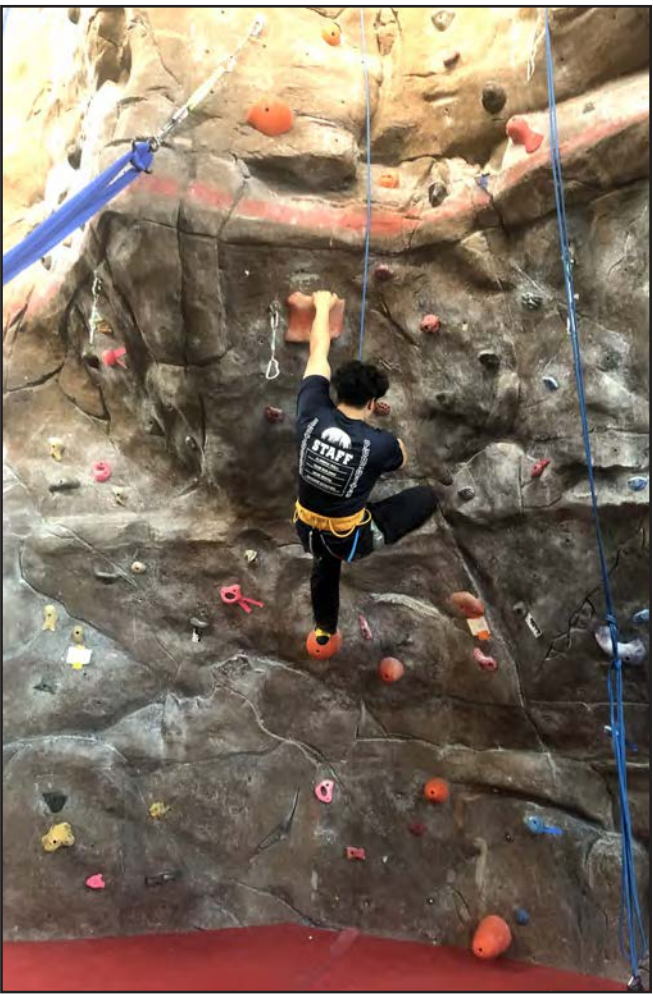
Rec Sports offers fitness, club options

Carina Wyman
UP contributor

Recreational sports are a great way to exercise in a low-stakes and fun way. Lamar University offers a variety of activities for students to participate in, from sports clubs and rock climbing to group fitness classes like Zumba. No matter one’s skill level or interest, there is something for everyone. Sports clubs compete against other schools. Catherine Doan, president of the women’s soccer club, said Lamar’s sports clubs are inclusive and close-knit. “Sport clubs in general have the benefits of playing against other colleges and traveling, but without too much cost and commitment as (an) NCAA D1 team,” Doan said. “Sport clubs are also 100% student run and self-funded, so budget is a high priority.” Sports clubs are student-funded, so there are fees and typically a tryout process. Intramurals sports are played

against fellow Lamar students. A variety of sports are offered, including intramural table tennis, pool, badminton, flag football and air hockey. Outside of traditional sports, the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center offers various other activities, including a 1,850-square-foot climbing wall, an indoor pool, and various workout equipment. James Boucher, outdoor pursuits program manager, said the rock wall has different levels for different skill sets. “To determine the skill level, we employ the Yosemite Decimal System, or YDS,” he said. “It’s based on the idea that walking on the ground would be 0 on terms on difficulty. Any technical rock climbing would be 5, which breaks down to smaller numbers, with 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and climbs all the way up to 5.15. It is based on physical and technical difficulty, but it is unfortunately rather subjective. The easiest climb we have here is 5.6, and the hardest we have is a 5.12.” Nathan Shipley, Buna fresh-

man, is a climbing enthusiast. “Safety is the most important aspect of climbing, especially when belaying,” Shipley said. “You need to make sure that all of your gear is tight, functioning properly, and that you know how to use it. When you are climbing, especially when on smaller holds, you need to make sure to not injure your fingers.” Belaying is the process of securing ropes to the rock face. Shipley said Lamar offers a belaying certificate. “Before you get the certification, you are required to take an hour-long course, in which you learn about safety checks, tie specific knots, and other aspects of belay technique,” he said. In addition to outdoor pursuits, the recreational center is currently offering Zumba, belly dancing, toning, cycling, kickboxing, meditation, trampoline, circuit training and swimming classes. To join a club or to find out more about recreational sports, visit lamar.edu/students/student-affairs/recreational-sports.



UP photo by Carina Wyman

A student climbs the rock wall in the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center.



UP photo by Sydney Vo

The Cardinals celebrate a score against ETA&M, Sept. 18.

Soccer draws first two SLC games

Aaron Saenz
UP sports editor

The Lamar soccer team opened Southland Conference play against East Texas A&M, Sept.18. The match finished in a 2-2 draw. The game was at a standstill the first half, with neither team being able to score, but the game erupted in the second half. In the 59th minute, LU

junior Marissa Gross scored when East Texas failed to clear a corner, allowing Gross to poke in a right-foot shot. Sophomore Sydney Williams provided the assist. The next three goals were scored in a 10-minute span. Junior Anneliese Switzer doubled LU’s advantage in the 66th minute after finding the left side of the goal. However, the East Texas

Lions quickly evened up the game Lions scoring twice in the next three minutes. The Cardinals (3-4-3, 0-0-2) played the University of Incarnate Word, Sept. 21, in Houston. The Cards took a 2-0 lead before UIW rallied to end the match in a 2-2 draw. The next Cardinals’ home game is Sept. 25 against Houston Christian University. The game kicks off at 7 p.m.



ART & DESIGN



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA



DEAF STUDIES & DEAF EDUCATION



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY



MUSIC



SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES



THEATRE & DANCE

COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COLLEGE AT
LAMAR.EDU/COFAC