Colleges and Universities, News from Lamar University's College of Education and Human Development:

**New Doctoral Delivery Method Coming Fall 2011**

The Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership will change the schedule for doctoral students starting with the 2011 fall semester. The doctoral program faculty and students currently meet on campus seven weekends with two technology weekends featuring online activities. The new schedule will reduce the meetings from seven to five weekends (one per month) and increase the online delivery from two to four weekends (one per month).

Lamar University and the doctoral faculty are committed to supporting the full-time working practitioner students. This new delivery model will enhance the program while maintaining the same high quality and integrity students expect and deserve. In other words: Different schedule; same quality program.

**New Interior Design Faculty Member is a Good Fit**

J an Kimmons knew when she interviewed for a position last spring that Lamar University was a good fit. She joined the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences faculty as an assistant professor in the fall and will concentrate her substantial energies in the interior design program, having served previously in a similar capacity at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Her diverse background includes other career stops at institutions in Hawaii and New England. Additionally, she has developed and directed a number of study-abroad tours that have allowed her to thoroughly experience Europe, and, to a lesser extent, China.

"So why would a person who admittedly enjoys travel as much as she does decide to accept a position “back home” in Texas? “It was a matter of coming home, being near family,” Kimmons replied, adding that her children and mother all live within a reasonable driving distance from Beaumont. She also noted that, in spite of another Texas university’s interest in attracting her, she was convinced during her time on campus in May that “it was just a good fit.”

Amy Shows, the department’s chair, agrees. “Indeed, it is a good fit, and in a couple of ways,” she said. “First, it was a pragmatic fit for us because Dr. Kimmons has been deeply involved with CIDA’s (Council for Interior Design Accreditation) process. She knows some of the ins-and-outs of that pursuit, and that will be important for us as we work toward that goal for our program. But also, I think I can speak for other faculty members in saying that we all felt very comfortable with Jan’s personality from the beginning. She’s very personable and down-to-earth, which of course, is so important to the strong relationships we try to build with our students.”

Kimmons knows first-hand how difficult obtaining accreditation can be. “The accreditation process can be daunting sometimes,” Kimmons said. “But having already had a meeting where we were able to discuss some of the major pieces, I feel confident that we will be as successful here as we were in Kearney.”

While Kimmons essentially has taught all facets of the field, she says she especially enjoys courses that allow her to work with students on basic design, as well as commercial design with an emphasis on healthcare applications. And, not surprisingly, both of these are congruent with other important themes in her life.

With regard to her interest in health-care design, Kimmons is one of a growing number of designers who recognizes the practical challenges of attempting to care for a relative who is in life’s final stages. She has given extensive thought to conceptualizing the challenges that caregivers experience that could be significantly mitigated with better design and greater innovation. While her interest in the topic extends generally to the commercial environment, it is primarily focused on improving conditions in home residences.

Kimmons also is an accomplished designer and quilter, and speaks with a clear passion about that work. “I actually have not sat at a sewing machine for awhile, and I’m anxious to find time now that I’m getting settled here,” she said. “My life just doesn’t feel right if I can’t get my hands on some material and do something fun and creative.” She makes the point that her quilting design follows processes that are equivalent to what is found in qualitative research. Kimmons’ work has been featured at the International Textiles and Apparel Association’s convention and, though quilt design is her passion, she considers a vest she designed to be her most substantial contribution to the field. It won second place from the Design Educators National Online Exhibition in 2008.

Kimmons is currently organizing an 11-day trip to France that will take her and others to see Paris, Normandy and Nice, as well as other stops along the way. The trip is being evaluated for approval as a study-abroad course in 2011. People interested in joining the trek should contact Kimmons at janice.kimmons@lamar.edu.
Electronic Portfolio Research Begins in the Educational Leadership Department

Lamar University’s Educational Technology Leadership Program has been selected for Cohort VI of the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research. Other members of Cohort VI of the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research are: Bowling Green State University, Curtin University of Technology (Australia), Goshen College, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Northeastern University, Portland State University, University of Georgia, University of Michigan, University of Mississippi, Virginia Military Institute and Westminster College.

Faculty collaborating on the Lamar team include Kay Abernathy, associate professor; Diane Mason, assistant professor; Sheryl Abshire, assistant professor; Cindy Cummings, clinical instructor; and Daryl Ann Borel, adjunct professor. Mason and Abernathy participated in the first meeting of Cohort VI at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis in September.

Across the country and around the world, at institutions of all kinds, students are creating electronic portfolios including portfolios for general education, the major, personal and life planning, freshman learning communities advising, graduation and professional credentialing. The use of eportfolios for multiple purposes is expanding at a rapid pace. The Educational Technology Leadership Academic Partnership master’s program faculty use Web 2.0 resources for electronic portfolios exclusively.

As the practice of creating eportfolios grows, research is needed to discover the impact of their implementation. Researchers design inquiries to determine the effects of portfolios on established and newly recognized kinds of learning, and educational environments. Research encouraged and supported by the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research advances the body of knowledge about impacts of electronic portfolio use on student learning and educational outcomes. Cohort VI of the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research will develop and field-test criteria for assessing a range of eportfolios, including those embracing rich media and social software, which exciting reflection and integration. The members of Cohort VI are interested in using eportfolios with those characteristics in a systemic way for assessment and inquiry into their effectiveness.

The cohort will constitute from fall semester 2010 through spring semester 2013. After examining the range of eportfolios exhibits used at participating institutions, cohort participants will create a set of criteria responsive to such exhibits. In a second iteration, participants will apply a set of criteria to eportfolios from each campus in a field-test of the viability of both concepts and rating practices. This developmental work will prepare for subsequent activity aimed at comparisons across institutions.

For more information, visit the Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research at http://ncepr.org/index.html.
Kinesiology Faculty Stay Busy with Research and Scholarly Activities

RICK CARTER, professor, and DOUG BOATWRIGHT, professor, published a research article titled “Oxygen Delivery and Acid-Base Balance” in RT for Division Makers in Respiratory Care, August 2010.

YUNSUK KOH, assistant professor, published his research, “Responses of Blood Lipids and Lipoproteins to Extended-Release Nicin and Exercise in Sedentary, Postmenopausal Women,” in the Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences, 65(9), 924-32, 2010. Koh also presented his research “Effects of Nicin and Aerobic Exercise on Glucose, Insulin and C-Peptide Profiles in Postmenopausal Women” at the 57th American College of Sport Medicine Annual Conference in Baltimore, and his abstract was also published in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, 42(S), S37-S38, 2010.

ISRAEL MIMENG, assistant professor, and Lorraine Killon, assistant professor, have been accepted to present “Strategies for Assessment of Learners’ Skills and Knowledge” at the upcoming state convention for the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) professional organization to be awarded at the December 2010 conference.

Kinesiology Grant Awarded

The Integrative Physiology Laboratory recently received a $62,000 grant for biochemistry laboratory equipment and support from Helena Laboratories.

Kinesiology Student Organizations

The Department of Health and Kinesiology Majors Club (H & K Majors Club) held its first meeting of the new school year. Scheduled on their agenda was registration of the club as a recognized organization on campus through the OrgSync system and election of officers. The students are anxious to get started and have scheduled their next meeting to discuss future events for the club. The H & K Majors club also welcomes any students from other majors. The faculty sponsors of the club are Lorraine Killon, assistant professor, and Lorraine Killon, assistant professor, and Yunsuk Koh, assistant professor.

Research Projects Abound in the Integrative Physiology Laboratory

Faculty and students in the Integrative Physiology Laboratory are currently investigating several research projects.

YUNSUK KOH, assistant professor, is working on research titled “Effects of a Single Bout of Aerobic Exercise on Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors in Overweight Postmenopausal Women.” He is also researching “Responses of Oxytocin, Apolipoprotein A and B, and CRP to Exercise and Nicin in Women.”

RICK CARTER, professor, is working on research titled “Effects of Acute Exercise on Energy-Regulating Hormones and Appetite in Men and Women.” He is also researching “Impulse Oscillography (IOS) Normative Data Assessment of Airway Resistance, Reactance, and Capacitance.”

DOUG BOATWRIGHT, professor, is working on research titled “Effects of Caffeinated Energy Drink on Resting Metabolic Variables in Collegiate Men.”

Eta Sigma Gamma Helps Others

The purpose of Eta Sigma Gamma is to further health teaching, research and service for its members. Each member participates in 10 or more community-service hours at different service organizations including the Crisis Center of Southeast Texas, Buckner Children’s Center, Triangle Ads Network and Toys for Tom. Members also participate in teaching health at Beaumont ISD schools as part of the “Communities in Schools” program. Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate health majors or minors who meet certain requirements.

Kinesiology Achievements and Honors

JACOB FRANKS, exercise science and fitness management major, received the Plummer Award for the Highest Male GPA (3.94) for the December 2009 commencement class.

Award for the Highest Female GPA (4.0) for the May 2010 commencement class.

WENDY PARRISH, kinesiology teaching/coaching major, received a $750 scholarship from the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) professional organization to be awarded at the December 2010 conference.

BLAKE PEVEO, exercise science and fitness management major, received the second Coach John Payton Scholarship from the Department of Health and Kinesiology.

LORRAINE KILLON, assistant professor, received the 2010 Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award.
News from the Center For Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership

The doctoral students and graduates have been busy getting hired, getting promoted, presenting papers and publishing research.

YVETTE BEAUGH GARNER (Cohort 1) has been hired as an assistant professor of elementary education in the Department of Education at McNeese State University.

VONDA WASHINGTON (Cohort 7) was recently named the new principal at McAuliffe Middle School. “I guess my superintendents have a lot of faith in me as the school is currently an academically unacceptable school,” she said. “However, I look forward to the challenges and successes of the school year.”

THOMAS PRICE (Cohort 1) is the superintendent for Splendora ISD. The school district nominated Price for the Texas Association of School Board’s Superintendent of the Year. He was also selected as a TASA Mentor Superintendent, Region 6 Representative for the Commissioner’s Cabinet, board member on the State Board of Texas Association of Mid-sized Schools and board member for the State Board of Academic Decathlon. Additionally, Splendora ISD was a finalist for the HUB Excellence in Education Award.

JOHNNY BRISENO (Cohort 4) is the new principal of Harby Junior High, Alvin ISD.

LYNDA BAHNSEN (Cohort 7) has been promoted to principal of Eugene Field Elementary School in Beaumont ISD.

STEVEN BEAGLE (Cohort 6) has been named interim high school principal for Nederland High School.

MIKE GONZALES (Cohort 7) is the new assistant superintendent for Port Neches-Groves ISD.

NANCY LEFFEL CARLSON, E. JANE IRONS and PAM E. MONK, were awarded the David Marx NSSA 2010 Award for best authors for the National Social Science Association Journal, 2010, for their trilogy of articles about the impact of Hurricane Ike on teachers, counselors, and school administrators in Journal 35(1).

THOMAS PRICE (Cohort 1) gave three presentations for TASSP Summer Leadership Institute in San Antonio and Fort Worth titled “Expanding College and Career Pathways,” “What Every Board Member Needs to Know about Instruction” and “Brother to Better in Four Semesters.” He also presented at the TASSP/TASA fall convention in Houston on College and Career Pathways.

HOWELL WRIGHT’S (Cohort 5) article titled “The Role of the Superintendent in Closing the Achievement Gap in Diverse Small School Districts” has been accepted for publication in the fall issue of Planning and Clamping.

CHARLES STEWART (Cohort 3) presented an article titled “Re-designing Transitional Math at SOWELA Technical Community College” at the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) conference in Austin. Stewart is the chair of the Liberal Studies and Education Department of SOWELA in Lake Charles, La.

RANDY HOYER’S (Cohort 5) article titled “A Look at the Technology Culture Divide” was published in the e-School News journal. This article can be located at www.e-schoolnews.com/2010/03/31/a-look-at-the-technology-culture-divide.

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Hospitality Administration’s Fall Dinners
Create a Stir

The reservations-only establishment is packed with patrons enjoying entreés that include tenderloin of beef with bleu cheese, double-cut pork chops with a guava barbecue glaze and pan-seared chicken breast with sundried tomato and basil butter. But the dinners aren’t at a fancy restaurant in Beaumont. They’re enjoying fine dining at Lamar University in the atrium of the Family and Consumer Sciences Building.

Under the direction of Molly Dahm, director of the hospitality administration program, and Charles Druit, an instructor in the program who is also one of the area’s most renowned chefs, students participate in preparing and serving four evening meals to a group of 50 to 60 diners.

“The value of the experience is that students get a full, real-life experience of planning the menu, preparing foods, present the food and having diners who give comments and ideas,” Dahm said. She noted that it is somewhat common for hospitality programs to have an actual hotel or restaurant outlet for their hospitality and nutrition majors to gain this kind of food-service experience. The department established a regular event 11 years ago to allow students to put into practice the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom.

Two classes work in tandem. Students working in the “back of the house” preparing the meal are enrolled in Commercial Foods Production I (FCSC 2324), while students working the “front of the house” serving the guests are enrolled in Quantity Foods Management (FCSC 3360). The 20 students are graded during the evening’s event as part of the teaching process, but it’s not as rigorous an evaluation as a final exam.

The dinners are extremely popular because of the excellent cuisine and service. It’s a great value too at $16 per ticket. The fall dinner was sold out in one day, according to Stephanie Simmons, senior administrative assistant for the department. “The dinners represent a great community-relations opportunity for us,” Dahm said. “The event started with just our own Lamar employees and students, but then it extended beyond that as their friends began to ask about coming.”

While the dinners are limited to the fall semester due to course scheduling, Dahm noted that the wine-tasting event held during the spring semester is similar in nature and also highly popular. “While patrons come in order to enjoy a nice event at a very reasonable price, they also recognize that they are participating in something of educational value to our students and that they are supporting Lamar,” she said.

One student preparing for the dinner emphasized the event was helping her gain an understanding of the necessity of time management. “I have to make sure that everything is cut-up within a certain time, that it’s refrigerated, that it’s in the oven, and then kept in warmers until about 15 minutes before serving,” she said. “Then we’ll put it back in the oven. It’s all got to be timed correctly for the food to look and taste as good as we can make it.”

What diners have to say about the dinners! Without exception, all of the comment cards returned indicated a positive experience. Patrons’ comments included:

“Portions were large. One appetizer was plenty!”

“The wines were perfect with the food.”

“Food service was all well done. Servers very personable.”

Two Education Faculty Members Receive University Merit Awards

RICHER GACHOT, assistant professor and interior design program director in the Depart-
ment of Family and Consumer Sciences, and SANDRA RICHARDSON, associate professor of Professional Pedagogy, received 2010 University Merit Awards in honor of their outstanding performance in the classroom. A university-wide committee selected them from candidates nominated by committees from Lamar’s colleges.

While scholarship and service to the university and community are an important consideration in granting the Merit Awards, the most important criteria for selection are classroom performance and interaction with students, said Stephen Dobinl, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Gachot is now completing his sixth year at Lamar. He earned a bachelor’s degree in film studies from Denison University in Columbus, Ohio, a master of architecture from Columbia University and a master of arts in architectural history from the University of Texas, where he is now completing his doctorate in architectural history. In addition, he studied in Paris at the Sorbonne and the Paris School of Architecture.

“New course technologies, oral histo-
ries, case studies, computer imaging and a relentless emphasis on creativity have contrib-
uted greatly to his instructional successes,” Dobinl said. “Of particular significance is his commitment to student research and study abroad.”

With funding from a Lamar Research Enhancement Grant, Dobinl said, Gachot has guided several undergraduate research projects and, as a mentor in the McNair Scholars program, supervised an undergrad-
ate student in designing a Lego ice cream concept car. On the graduate level, he has directed, supervised and coached many students. He has organized and led study-abroad trips to

New York and Paris, emphasizing architec-
ture and design.

“Richard is a dedicated teacher who tirelessly works toward program improvement,” said Amy Shows, department chair. “I admire his ability to get students involved in meaningful projects and study abroad.”

Hollis Lowery-Moore, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, agrees. “Mr. Gachot’s expertise is greatly respected by his students, and he has developed or redesigned most of the interior design courses,” she said.

Gachot has worked “diligently and collaboratively” to improve Lamar’s interior design program, Dobinl said, and has spearheaded the program’s efforts to receive Council of Interior Design Accreditation.

He is an active and productive scholar whose resume includes a book, a book chapter, other publications and many professional lectures and exhibitions. Active in profes-
sional organizations and campus committees, he has immersed himself off campus in the Beaumont Main Street and Envision Bea-
umont programs.

Sandra Richardson teaches mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences and profes-
sional pedagogy in the College of Education and Human Development – disciplines joined by her professional interest in math education. Richardson earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Dillard University and master’s and doctoral degrees in mathematics education from Purdue University. She was

the 2009 recipient of the State Advisor of the Year award given by the Texas State Teachers Association.

“Dr. Richardson’s courses are considered by all to be extremely well designed, and she has set high standards for students in the master’s programs,” said Vicki Neequa, chair of the Department of Professional Pedagogy. “She maintains the same high standards in her undergraduate courses.”

As student comments and course evalua-
tions attest, Dobinl said, she is a popular and highly skilled classroom instructor. She is “genuinely concerned about the students’ education,” one student wrote. Another said Richardson “challenged me in the way few professors have ever challenged me.”

Richardson developed a new capstone course in mathematics for those seeking secondary teacher certification, Dobinl said, as well as two courses in Lamar’s Academic Partnership program that enables educators to study online and earn master’s degrees in admin-
istration and teacher leadership. Richard-
son founded and directed the Lamar Achieve-
ment in Mathematics Program Enrichment Camp for talented high-school-aged students from under-represented groups and co-chairs MathFest and the Celebration of Teaching.

Richardson also serves as faculty sponsor of the Lamar University Mathematics Club, Phi Mu Epsilon and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Richardson has established a solid re-
search foundation, Dobinl said. She has pub-
lished in peer-reviewed journals and research grant reports and has delivered national and international presentations. She has success-
fully authored or co-authored 12 grants totaling almost $1.3 million. She holds members-
ship in an array of professional societies and associations. She has been a faculty senator, a mentor for the Honors Council and the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities and chair of the University Admissions Committee.

“Dr. Richardson’s strengths include pre-
paredness, high expectations for all students, accessibility to her students and professional-
ism,” Lowery-Moore said. “Dr. Richardson plays an important role in recruiting more teachers because of her teaching strengths and enthusiasm for her subject.”
The Department of Professional Pedagogy welcomes new faculty

Tanya Goldbeck, assistant professor, joined the department full time in the fall of 2009, after having worked for several years as an adjunct professor. As an educator for more than 40 years, she specializes in motivating children to be all that they can be. She works with future teachers, parents and professionals to simplify ways of determining learning strategies that lead to success. Her approach is to create ideas and build and develop these strategies into activities. Applying these techniques to the classroom engages the university student to think and create ways to teach so that learning takes place. Goldbeck is also a licensed professional counselor and educational diagnostician.

Vanessa Sikes, assistant professor, joined the department in the fall of 2009. She received her doctorate from the University of Houston-Downtown in educational psychology. She is actively involved in many professional organizations including Kappa Delta Pi. At the local level, she is an associate counselor of the Lamar chapter. At the national level, she is a board member of the Educational Foundation. Her research interests include new teachers in high-need schools, teacher community and comparative education. She is very happy to be at Lamar and enjoys working with students as they build a solid foundation for careers in teaching.

Debra Troxclair, assistant professor, joined the department in the fall of 2009. She earned a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi in special education with an emphasis in gifted education. Troxclair has taught at the University of South Alabama, Southeastern Louisiana University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Additionally, she has been adjunct faculty at St. Thomas University-Houston and the University of Houston-Downtown. She has more than 20 years of elementary classroom teaching experience in schools in the New Orleans and Houston metro areas, and has supervised summer programs for gifted learners in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Currently, she serves on the Professional Standards Committee and Univer sity Networking Committee of the National Association for Gifted Children and edits the newsletter for the Counseling and Guidance Network for NAGC. She is involved in leadership of the Special Interest Group for Creative & Gifted Readers of the International Reading Association and has online web seminars available at the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented website.

Jill Yoo, assistant pro fessor, joined the department in the fall of 2010. She received her doctorate degree from the University of Texas at Austin in educational psychology, specializing in learning, cognition and instruction. She received her master’s degree in program evaluation from the University of Texas, also. As a former elementary teacher, she enjoys sharing her knowledge and experiences with Lamar students to help them become well-prepared future teacher leaders. Her research interests are in the areas of flexibility in teaching, teaching expertise and applications of learning theories to instruction.