

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 1, Kathy Richard
- Aug. 3, Joul Ghorayeb
- Aug. 8, Stephanie Lanoue
- Aug. 8, Virginia Walston
- Aug. 9, Edgar Neely
- Aug. 10, Regina Drake
- Aug. 10, Bradd Henry
- Aug. 10, Irma Moulton
- Aug. 11, Deena Boland
- Aug. 12, Lisa Bland
- Aug. 12, Nicole Freeman
- Aug. 14, Lisa Harrell
- Aug. 15, Brent Campbell
- Aug. 15, Robert Sanders
- Aug. 15, Christopher Williams
- Aug. 18, Donna Burnside
- Aug. 21, Melissa Armentor
- Aug. 25, Robert Sweeney
- Aug. 29, Sheryl Nance
- Aug. 29, Jonathan Pratt

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

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Convocation, Opening Day fun set for Aug. 21

Exciting, fun and big changes have been prepared to make Fall Convocation unlike any other Opening Day held at LIT. Festivities will start at 8 a.m. on August 21 in the Paul & Connie Szuch Multi-Purpose Center Conference Room for all employees. Do you have a favorite sports team? If so, you are invited to wear your team gear, as the theme of Teamwork & Success will be highlighted by interactive presentations and hands-on training.



Entertaining activities are set for Opening Day 2018.

In an effort to ramp up Opening Day engagement, **Dr. Kimberly McLeod** of Creative Energy, LLC will lead a highly interactive presentation on cultural awareness and team building. Lamar University Police Department's Corporal **Jarrod Samford** will coordinate the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Training, which will place participating employees in life-like active shooter scenarios. Teamwork and cooperation will be essential in successfully completing this exercise. Incoming Lamar State College-Orange President **Dr. Thomas A. Johnson** will speak, and LSCO Director of Learning Technology **Dr. Mary Sizemore** will attend as my mentee as part of the Texas Academic Leadership Academy led by Sam Houston State University.

Presentations will conclude at 4 p.m. for most employees. Personnel considered essential for Student Services and the Cashier's Office will be released after the lunch break.



Dr. Thomas A. Johnson

LSCO President Johnson to visit LIT Campus on Opening Day

Dr. Thomas A. Johnson, who will assume his presidency at Lamar State College-Orange (LSCO) on September 1, will be my invited guest on Tuesday, August 21.

Texas State University System Chancellor **Dr. Brian McCall** named Dr. Johnson as the sole finalist for LCSO on July 25, and I am honored to have him on our campus for Opening Day activities.

Stephanie Lanoue named August employee of the month

Applied Sciences Instructor **Stephanie Lanoue** was named Employee of the Month for August 2018. Lanoue, who was nominated for the prestigious Minnie Stevens Piper Award for Teaching Excellence, has seen a 10-fold increase in student enrollment in her program and maintains great communication and availability.

Vidor ISD Freshman Science Teacher **Amanda Balla** is a former student and said Lanoue's reach goes far beyond the walls of LIT.

"She is a passionate educator, and that passion inspires students to become lifelong learners," Balla said. "There is an excitement and energy in her classes that motivate you to want to be there and do well. She is personable and treats you as a friend and not just another student. She cares about your potential and future."



Stephanie Lanoue
Instructor II, Applied Sciences

ALUMNI *Spotlight*



Determination drives Cameron Love

The gaps between Hurricanes Ike and Rita didn't leave much time for people in effected areas to recover. Devastation and destruction reached more than the Love family's home in LaBelle, Texas. As they tried to rebuild, Cameron Love's parents nearly depleted their children's college fund by 2010.

"I felt college was a lost dream because of the trials (I) experienced (at that time) in life. But I persevered and prayed," Love said.

Love used the remains of his college fund to purchase a car so he could work at a local deli and save for college.

In 2013 he felt college was finally a possibility and took a step that would change his life forever.

"LIT was the first place I turned to, knowing they offered a degree that suited my abilities and dreams," Love said.

Love's passion was design and drafting. He enrolled in Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD). **After graduating from LIT in 2015**, he became a full-time draftsman, and soon after he was named head of the company's drafting department.

"LIT taught me always to push myself to the limit and continue to learn more each day. And for that I am thankful," Love said. "Overall, LIT has changed my life drastically, and it has given me a chance to excel in my career as a student and a professional."

American Dream is possible at LIT

A New York Times study shows poor students have a better chance to become rich adults at LIT.

LIT placed 21st out of 690 two-year colleges in overall mobility, representing the likelihood that a LIT graduate can move up two or more income groups, an astonishing 30 percent. This is, according to a study from "Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility," the Equality of Opportunity Project*.



Process Operating students Aaron Nichols and Alicia Ramsey

We also ranked among the highest in 2 year public and private not-for-profit colleges in median individual income at age 34—for men: \$49,200, and total: \$34,400. The school also ranked in the top for average income percentile, and the share who end up in the top 5 percent, 10 percent and 20 percent. A poor student has a 19 percent chance to become a rich adult after graduating from the college.

LIT President Dr. Lonnie L. Howard said, "This New York Times article is enlightening and proof-positive of our long-term commitment to our school:



To promote LIT as the vehicle for anyone wanting to pursue and enjoy a lucrative career in growing industries, proving the American Dream is truly alive and well at LIT"

*"Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility", by Raj Chetty, John Friedman, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner and Danny Yagan, The Equality of Opportunity Project

LIT Instructor's kindness goes above & beyond

Random Act of Kindness Day has always been a special time of the year for General Education and Development Studies Instructor Donna Burnside.



FAMILY
SERVICES
of Southeast Texas

She's participated as long as she can remember, but this year Burnside chose a different vehicle—her Public Speaking class. The recipient was Family Services of Southeast Texas, a nonprofit with the mission to strengthen and empower families, individuals and communities through accessible counseling services, shelter services, education and advocacy.

Burnside said her class distributed 50 Subway sandwiches and 300 bottles of water to the "women and children who were going through a difficult time in life. We wanted to treat them to a healthy lunch."

Subway #431 in Orange donated the sandwiches, while Burnside and her students purchased water. The day made a huge impact not only on the recipients, but the students.

"I believe Donna Burnside's outlook is refreshing and reflects the humanity and compassion displayed regularly at our institution," Dr. Howard said. "We hope her message will resonate not just throughout our campus, but in the community."

Demolition marks new era in Student Success at LIT

All that remains of the demolished T1 Building at Lamar Institute of Technology is rubble and an unscathed copper plaque that holds the history of 59 years and thousands of students.

In its place a new \$6.1 million Student Success Building will be erected. Demolition of the building, located behind Cecil Beeson, began in late June with an estimated completion date set for June 2019.

Building T1 was one of the campus' oldest facilities, built in 1959 as part of Lamar University. Before the construction of the PATC Building, T1 was also home to Process Operating and Instrumentation classrooms and faculty offices. Ownership was transferred to LIT in 2001, according to Allison Martin, LIT Property Accountant. The construction of the Student Success Building will complement renovations on building T-4, which commenced on July 2.

"The total project cost including demolition is \$7,417,590," LIT Vice President for Finance & Operations Bonnie Albright said.

The building will house Financial Aid, Student Government Association, Advising/Outreach, Student Activities, Career Services, Admissions, The Testing Center, Teaching and Learning Center with Online Learning and Adjunct suite. These departments have been located in Buildings T1, T4 and T5. Also included are a multipurpose room, computer lab and indoor and outdoor gathering spaces for students.

The current plaque outside T1 will be "retired," Albright said. It contains a list of the 1959 Board of Regents, architect, college president and chancellor. A new plaque will be installed in the building with updated information.



Demolition of the T1 building begins.



The original dedication plaque from the 1959 building dedication.



Youth Master Camps

We wind down another exciting Summer of Youth Master Camps with a Water Ecosystem camp, scheduled from July 20 - Aug. 2. All the participants enjoyed learning about Crime Scene Investigation during our "Who Dun It" camp in July, taught by Ira Wilsker and Dennis White.



If you would like your pics placed on the President's Wall send selfies, cute pet moments and photos from your unique vacations.

Do you want coverage of your event or have a story you would like to see in the newsletter? Contact Chris at celliotl@lit.edu or Rhonda at rmitchell@lit.edu.

CAMPUS

August 2018: Student activities

August 17: Summer Graduation

While there is no graduation ceremony, students can pick up their diplomas from the Wimberly Building on the Lamar University Campus on August 21.

August 27: Scavenger Hunt

Mega Bytes Café
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Scavenger hunt pickup
FREE popcorn, coffee and drinks

August 28: Pizza with the President

Mega Bytes Café
Noon - 1 p.m.
Get involved. You can find out more about LIT's Student Government Association (SGA) and come meet me. You bring the conversation, and I'll bring the pizza!

August 29: Student Involvement Day

Mega Bytes Café
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Explore opportunities to get involved and meet SGA officers and the Student Activities Coordinator. Plus interact with other organizations. Learn about campus activities and volunteer opportunities while enjoying free ice cream!

August 30: Donuts with the Dean

Mega Bytes Café
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Grab a donut before classes and enjoy a brief conversation with Dr. Miranda Phillips, Dean of Student and Academic Success.

August 31: How "sweet" it is to be an LIT Student

CB 105
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Stop by the Office of Student Life/Activities to get a treat, and drop off your scavenger hunt findings to be entered for a prize.



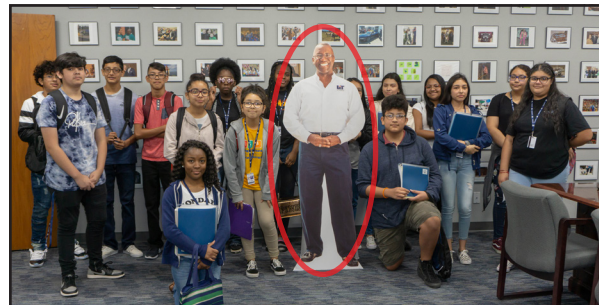
Steven Ambriz of Merrill Lynch led the discussion for Generations In The Workplace, hosted by the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and SETX YPO in the MPC.



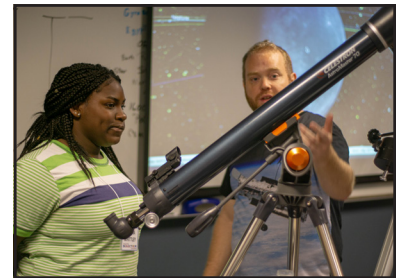
Students build robots at the STEM Camp.



Dr. Anita Archer led the discussion as the keynote speaker for the Region 5 conference.



Beaumont Early College students toured the President's Office on their campus visit and enjoyed a selfie with my smiling double.



The Origins of the Universe Camp gave students the chance to work with powerful telescopes.



Forklift training for our community

Nine students recently participated in free, all-day forklift training, offered through our Safety Awareness Institute. A grant by the Texas Mutual Insurance Company covers costs. Forklift operators are certified under OSHA standards, and a certification is valid for 3 years.



Marketing Moment: August 2018

Here's your Marketing Moment for August 2018. LIT is embarking on an extensive radio campaign that targets low enrollment programs, including: HVAC, Health Information Tech., Real Estate and Homeland Security. Listen to your favorite stations like KKMY, KAYD or KCOL to find LIT.

Thanks for all you do!