

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 4, Stephen Hudnall

Jan. 11, Melissa Daigle

Jan. 12, Widad Abdelwahab

Jan. 12, Luke Bourgeois

Jan. 17, Bishell Appu

Jan. 18, Rebecca Cole

Jan. 19, Elder Celestine

Jan. 19, LaSonia Latulas

Jan. 20, Peter Whittaker

Jan. 22, Pat O'Connor

Jan. 24, Lisa Griffin

Jan. 25, Randle Dry

Jan. 26, Earl Pittman

Jan. 28, Brenda Barrow

Jan. 30, William Holton

Jan. 30, Christine Marsh

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

VOL. 2 • ISSUE 1

LIT and BISD sign Groundbreaking NextGen agreement

NextGen, a groundbreaking agreement recently signed between LIT and Beaumont Independent School District (BISD), gives eligible high school students the opportunity to earn technical certificates at Taylor Career Center (TCC) via dual enrollment so they are better prepared to launch successful careers. The Institute was selected by BISD, and the terms and conditions of the signed memorandum of understanding for 2019-2020 will be effective Fall 2019.

"I spoke about 'My Vision' for a partnership with the Taylor Career Center in 2016," Dr. Lonnie L. Howard said. "However, NextGen has surpassed anything that I could have ever imagined."

Programs offered for Fall 2019 will include: Advanced Engine Technology, Automotive Collision Repair, Child Care and Development, Computer Support Specialist, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Computer Drafting, Graphic Design, HVAC, Veterinary Technology and Welding.

An advisory committee, comprised of the college's Dean of Strategic and Workforce Initiatives Dr. Miranda Phillips, the TCC principal and Career Technical Education Director, will oversee the new partnership. Dr. Phillips said this agreement could add up to 600 students in the next two years.



Dr. Howard signs revolutionary memorandum of understanding as BISD Board members Denise Spooner, Dr. Vernice Monroe, Angela Bransford, and A.B. Bernard look on.

Institute receives \$18,500 donation for utility linemen technician scholarships

How do you find solace after the death of a child? Therapy for Beth and Robert Krebs came in the form of establishing a tribute to, and legacy for their fallen son — the Gene Graham Safety Foundation For Life.

The foundation was formed in 2010 through a partnership between family members and Gene Graham's employer and friend, Terry Radley. It has raised over \$132,000 since it was created. The development office recently awarded \$18,500 in scholarships to 13 students in the Utility Line Program for the Spring 2019 semester. Graham was just 21 years old in 2009 when he was electrocuted in a work-related accident.

The program was also able to purchase a new utility truck thanks to \$45,000 in Perkins Fund allocations.



Over 100 scholarships have been made available to linemen students since 2011 thanks to \$132,850 in donations.



This new utility truck will assist students in reaching their goals of becoming certified linemen.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Fire Academy cadets show off firefighting skills

For the first time in over a year the Fire Training Grounds were in use, and our Fire Academy edged a step closer to having a permanent home again! The grounds were the backdrop for the Academy's Night Fire Event training in December.

The training grounds were destroyed during Hurricane Harvey, when the catastrophe flooded the training area and fire trucks. During the Night Fire Event the cadets demonstrated to family and friends the skills they have learned at the Academy.

Medical Billing & Coding School named to national list of 100 Most Affordable Programs

The Medical Billing & Coding School has been named one of the country's 100 most affordable programs, according to MedicalFieldCareers.com in the most recent accolade for our college.



LIT is proud to offer affordable tuition to students.

Website owner Matt Bromley said, "Our rankings for the Top 100 Affordable Medical Billing and Coding Programs showcase the schools on many factors other than just the school's affordability. We factored in student-to-faculty ratio, program accreditations, graduation rate and others. Our methodology gives what we think is a list of the best schools at the most affordable cost to the student."

MedicalFieldCareers.com is an online educational resource for aspiring students in healthcare-related education that shows how to find healthcare career training, certification requirements, and salary and employment outlooks by state and region.

Allied Health and Sciences Department Chair R. Peter Whittaker expressed delight upon hearing the news. "We are so pleased to be included in MedicalFieldCareers.com listing... This is particularly meaningful since this listing focuses on many factors, and not just our low cost."

Employee of the Month for January 2019 is Schronda Clark



Schronda Clark, five-year Mega Bytes worker.

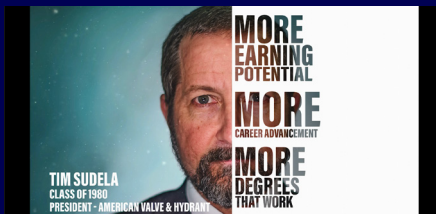
Schronda Clark learned that she was named employee of the month in front of her coworkers in the Mega Bytes cafeteria. The group was ecstatic, one coworker exclaimed she was the first food services worker to win the award.

Clark has served students, faculty and staff in Mega Bytes for five years and takes customer service to heart.

"I love talking with students, faculty and staff," Clark said. "I think that's the best part of my job – speaking with students especially. We have students from all walks of life. They come in here with some of their needs, and I try to give them encouragement. So getting this award was awesome. I was not expecting it."

Clark was selected by Dr. Howard for performing outstanding work consistently.

Marketing Moment: January 2019



The marketing department introduced video pre-roll, or advertisements that play before other videos on websites like YouTube, in its repertoire for its Spring 2019 marketing campaign. Analytics show that the videos targeting parents of students and adult learners are significantly out-performing the 76 percent national average in video completion rate, with completion rates of 86 and 80 respectively.

Exygon Health & Fitness Club Owner Travis Dugger speaks to Student Success classes

Exygon Owner and President Travis Dugger recounted an amazing success story during his recent appearance before Dr. Leigh Smith's Student Success classes. He was greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm in class, and later, on social media, as he discussed the importance of hard work and leadership in everyday life.



Exygon Owner and President Travis Dugger poses with Dr. Leigh Smith's Student Success class.

Dugger's story is refreshingly inspirational. He started in the fitness industry in 1989, filling water jugs and cleaning tennis courts. Dugger moved to Southeast Texas five years ago to manage both clubs, and recently bought them with his wife Heather. Previously, he managed a health club in Utah.

Math Instructor Brian Hurlbut retires after almost 20 years at LIT

From humble beginnings on an Iowa farm, retired Math Instructor Brian Hurlbut eventually earned three degrees, including an MBA, relocated to Houston to work on the Apollo space programs, and moved to Southeast Texas eventually to teach Math at Lamar University in 1981. He joined the college in 1983 as an adjunct instructor, moving to full-time instruction in 1999.



Retired Math Instructor Brian Hurlbut.

Hurlbut leaves with more than memories; he leaves a legacy. Along with his lifetime of achievements that include many authored and co-authored publications on Apollo 14 and 15 missions, he has won awards: "Who's Who Among American Teachers," two Excellence in Teaching awards, LU Regents Award and an NISOD Excellence Award. He also authored "LIT's Compass Math Review Packet," sold in the bookstore.

Hurlbut established numerous scholarships at the institute, including the \$10,000 Cynthia Hurlbut Endowment, a \$5,000 Wipplewill Endowment in honor of his mother and several other smaller ones via churches, individuals and organizations. We wish him the best of luck in this new chapter of his life!



Pizza parties awarded to classes donating most canned goods to nonprofit

The student chapter of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (SCADHA) and Instructor Donna Burnside's Speech class enjoyed the fruits of their labors in December, winning free holiday pizza parties, courtesy of the SGA! The student dental chapter and speech class contributed the most canned good items to the recent SGA food and blanket drive and were proud recipients of the holiday parties.

Speech Instructor & Civic Engagement Chair for the General Education Department Burnside, led the charge for her class' donation of an astounding 3,000 non-perishable cans of food, plus coats & blankets. All donations went to Some Other Place in Beaumont in perfectly timed holiday projects.

This was just another great example of school spirit while helping a great cause. Great job, students!

Three AHSC faculty members graduate with Master's degrees

Bryan K. Neal, Instructor I in Applied Sciences; Stacy L. Taylor, Instructor II in Respiratory Therapy Program; and Samantha G. Robinson, Instructor I, Radiologic Technology Program, all were honored with various Master's degrees.



Bryan Neal



Stacy Taylor



Samatha Robinson

Pat Calhoun receives 2018 Rogers' Award, donates \$1,000 prize

We want to congratulate Foundation Executive Director Pat Calhoun, who represented LIT as the recipient of the 2018 Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award. He was one of four recipients of this community service award. Lamar State College - Orange, Lamar State College - Port Arthur and Lamar University each selected a recipient from their institutions. He was honored at a ceremony on Dec. 13 at the Lamar University Reception Center.



Pat Calhoun poses with his wife Patty after he receives Julie & Ben Rogers Award.

Outside of his duties at LIT, Calhoun is active in the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, The ExxonMobil Community Advisory Panel, the Beaumont Children's Museum, St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School and Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas. He's been a resource for these organizations in fundraising roles as well as community relations roles. Local philanthropist Regina Rogers presented the certificate of appreciation to him.

It is the 31st year this prestigious award has been bestowed to recognize and honor a Lamar faculty or staff member who has contributed selfless public service, devotion and commitment to the community. Calhoun will receive an award of \$1,000, which he plans to donate to LIT scholarships. This is such a well-deserved honor.

**Do you want coverage of your event
or have a story you would like to see
in the newsletter?**

**Contact Chris at celliott@lit.edu or
Rhonda at rmitchell@lit.edu.**

FALL 2018 **GRADUATION**

Lenny (In Trouble) spreads cheer around the LIT Campus

From PATC to the Cashier's Office in Cecil Beeson, to the Police Academy and Allied Health, a mischievous, wily elf named Lenny popped up around campus, stealthily avoiding capture by a number of staff, faculty and students.



Dr. Howard deemed Lenny's seemingly random appearance on the campus exactly 10 days before Christmas rather curious and significant. The number "10" could symbolize the college's "Shared Vision" to reach a goal of enrolling 10,000 students within 10 years, or by the year 2028.

Regardless of the spirited tomfoolery and naughtiness Lenny the Christmas elf brings, social media was engaged. One poster humorously noted, "(We) have to dispatch two patrol units to catch him." Another quipped: "I hope Lenny finds his way to the cashier's desk and marks 'PAID' on my husband's tuition bill."

Save the date for the 12th annual LIT Shoot-Out Fundraiser

It's not too early to submit entries for this fun sporting clay shoot on Sat., March 23 at the 1-in-100 Gun Club in Lumberton! Proceeds will benefit the Foundation and student scholarships. Register here: <https://www.lit.edu/foundation/shootout>. For more info, contact Foundation Executive Director Pat Calhoun at 409-839-2956 or pcalhoun@lit.edu; or Event Coordinator Jean McFaddin at 409-782-8963 or plumnearly@msn.com.



Eleven students from the Medical Magnet Program at Beaumont United graduated with Nurse Aide certifications. Dr. Howard joined them and 60 of their classmates before the ceremony to celebrate.

Three hundred students graduated with degrees or certificates for Fall 2018, a **13.2 percent increase** over Fall 2017. Among them were 11 students from the Medical Magnet Program at BISD. These students earned Nurse Aide certificates, making them ready to enter the workforce before they even graduated high school. Dr. Howard recognized their accomplishments in his opening remarks.



LIT Nurse Aide graduates get ready to go from the waiting room to the ceremony on the arena floor.



Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Paramedic students prepare to walk the stage at graduation.



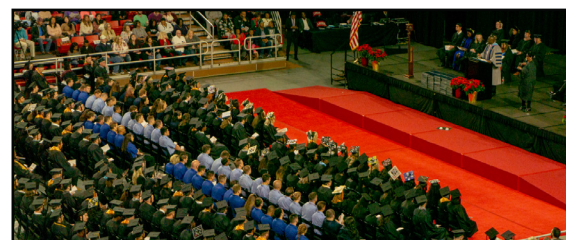
Dean of Student and Academic Success Dr. Miranda Phillips welcomes students.



Fire Academy Cadets are ready to see their hours of training, studying and hard work pay off as they graduate.



Commencement speaker Joe Tortorice (Jason's Deli CEO) and Dr. Howard.



The 300 students graduating is a 13.2% increase over last year.

Thanks for all you do!