

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019 **SPECIAL EDITION**

COMMENCEMENT 2019

Spring 2019 Commencement; 400 Graduate

A power outage may have delayed the LIT Spring 2019 Commencement ceremony, but it did not dampen the spirits of the students who were prepared to take their next step in life. The outage at Lamar University's Montagne Center postponed the ceremony six hours. However, many friends and loved ones were still on hand to cheer on the students and proudly watch them cross the stage.

Commencement Speaker Mayor Becky Ames, elected to her fifth consecutive two-year term, advised the soon-to-be-graduates to "always do the right thing," use "determination and tenacity" in every endeavor and to remember their calling as "servant leaders" when they venture into the world.

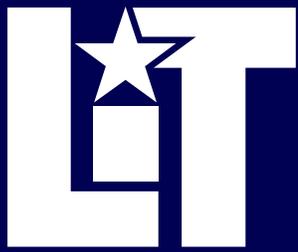
Congratulations to all these students for their amazing accomplishments!

BISD Students Join Ranks of LIT Grads

Twenty-nine Beaumont Independent School District (BISD) Taylor Career Center (TCC) students proudly attained Computer Support Specialist Certificates before even graduating high school during LIT's Spring 2019, 57th commencement ceremony.



With Commencement Speaker Mayor Ames headlining the ceremony, graduates, faculty and staff celebrated together on a day that could not be dampened by delays.



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MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 3, Deborah Brown
- May 4, David Mosley
- May 8, Monica Bradley-Pier
- May 9, Gregoria Salazar
- May 10, Miranda Phillips
- May 10, Timothy Storbeck
- May 11, Gwendolyn Walden
- May 12, Jimmy LeBoeuf
- May 14, Tena Cobb
- May 16, Carey Cuccia
- May 18, Patricia Culbertson
- May 21, Fadhili Tuguta
- May 23, Barbara Cummings
- May 25, Alys Marken
- May 26, Dianne Deranieri



LIT Student Success Learns From Industry Innovator GSU

LIT proactively searches for strategies to increase enrollment and improve retention for all students. Its focus on accomplishing TSUS Vision 2020 goals and 60x30TX targets is no exception. The Institute sent representatives from its Student Success division to learn from progressive and industry-leading minds at Georgia State University (GSU) during a recent Student Success Programs visit.

Dean of Student Success Dr. Angela Hill said “GSU is known for having high success rates of graduating low socio-economic and minority students. This identifies with our demographics as well as targets in 60x30TX and Vision 2020.”

Dr. Hill, along with Director of Financial Aid Linda Korn and STEP Project Coordinator Shanelle Lawson, left Atlanta with improvement strategies and questions to pose to employees.



Student Success staff tour the Georgia State University campus in Atlanta.

LIT to start local chapter of American Association for Women in Community Colleges



In his continued support of career advancement for LIT faculty and staff, Dr. Howard tasked the Teaching and Learning Center with chartering an LIT - American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) chapter. The [AAWCC](#) provides women with education, career development and advancement.

LIT Program Director Named Educator of the Year

Radiologic Technology Program Director Brenda Barrow was recently named the Sharon Coffey Educator of the Year by the Texas Society of Radiologic Technologists (TSRT). She was chosen from among about 825 active members of TSRT.

The announcement brought tears to the eyes of both Barrow and the presenter: former TSRT President and now Board Chair Brandon Smith, a 2013 LIT Radiology program graduate.



TRST Board Chair and former LIT graduate poses with Brenda Barrow following her award acceptance.

The Sharon Coffey Educator of the Year Award is presented annually to an educator in one of the many imaging fields related to Radiologic Technology. It is based upon the recipient’s experience, commitment to education and contributions to the radiology profession within the state of Texas, according to Smith.

THE
**PRESIDENT'S
NEWSLETTER**



Congratulations! You've taken the first step towards getting a degree that works...

**Marketing Moment:
May 2019**

The LIT “Get a Degree that Works” campaign began in late April with an emphasis on low enrollment programs this year, thanks to input from department chairs. A focus on GEDS and online courses have also been made a priority.

For instance, listen for radio commercials through Aug. 25, airing on top radio stations KIOC, KTCX, KQXY and KKMV, to include a total of 200-500 spots on each station. Most spots are scheduled to air between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays.



SETX Food Bank honors LIT for community service

EVP and Provost Dr. Kerry Mix accepted a community partnership award for LIT’s volunteer participation with the Southeast Texas Food Bank. Also present: VP of Finance Bonnie Albright and Instructor Dr. Tom Noyola.

ECHS Signing Day Ceremony Earns AP National Coverage

LIT created a trend with the original TWC CTE signing day. Many schools around the state began to follow suit, including Beaumont Independent School District (BISD) Early College High School. The event was heralded by the media and picked up by the Associated Press (AP) for nationwide coverage.



Approximately 100 students committed to ECHS.

Approximately 100 dual enrollment students from the fourth cohort of the Early College High School (ECHS) met in the MPC, inked their contracts and pledged to commit to four years of excellence. The AP reported, the event drew “comparisons to the signing day ceremonies where athletes make their college choices official.”

Beaumont ECHS Principal Melanie Pharis said, “They’re choosing a challenging path, to take high school and college courses at the same time. By being accepted, they are receiving up to 60 semester credit hours at no cost to the student or parents.”

The goal, Pharis and Dean of Strategic and Workforce Initiatives Dr. Miranda Phillips said, is for every student to get an associates degree from LIT.



Tiffany Parker named May Employee of the Month

Tiffany Parker was this month’s pick based on her overall efforts to increase her students’ engagement by promoting the Process Operating Program as well as establishing and advising the Process Operating Club. Nominated by Dr. Worry, the program director noted that Parker sponsored the club and has “helped make it a very active group.” She raved that

“Tiffany is an incredible instructor and is well-liked by the students.”

Dr. Worry said that Parker further spends her off-time attending plant tours with students several times each semester and hosting industry speakers. Worry added, the instructor goes above and beyond what is required and passionately shares her knowledge. Parker was excited to discover that she was selected as LIT’s May Employee of the Month.

LIT brings home gold from SkillsUSA state meet

Fourteen faculty advisors accompanied 54 talented LIT students as they competed recently in Waco.

Congratulations to all, and especially those who brought home 38 medals: 11 Gold, 11 Silver and 16 Bronze medals. The 38 medals proved to be a 26.8 percent increase in overall wins.

“We are proud of our students’ improvement each year,” Dr. Howard said.

The 11 gold medal recipients will be moving on to compete at the SkillsUSA National Conference from June 24 to 28 in Louisville, Kentucky.



Fifty-four talented students competed for LIT.



Radiologic Tech students placed 2nd and 3rd.

Depression Awareness Event provides cheer

The Depression Awareness Event in the MPC educated students, faculty and staff about resources available for those suffering from the illness, but it also brought some much-needed stress relief during one of the most difficult times of the year.

The event, which proved to be a success, was arranged by Speech faculty member Donna Burnside and her class.

Although water soaked the LIT campus, no one could keep students away from an event that proclaimed “puppy petting” as a certified stress reliever before finals. Also available were food and games, including painting, musical chairs, a slide, washers, water train line and guest speakers.



Students got the chance to pet dogs to ease stress.



Playing washers in the MPC raised students' spirits.

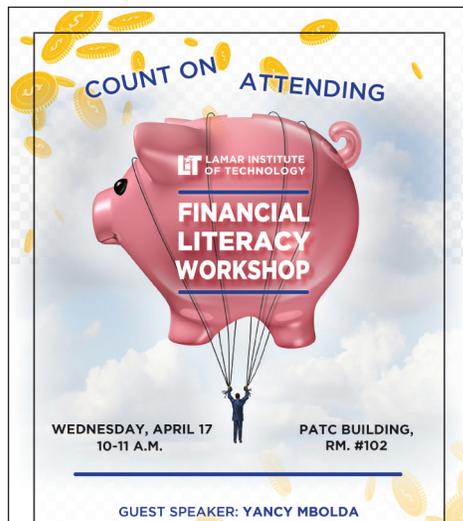
Continuing Education hosts seminar on radiologic technology

The Radiological Technology (RT) Student Organization and LIT co-hosted a Continuing Education seminar and lunch in late April. Discussed were the benefits of open MRI, workplace violence, trends in dental radiography and more.

Presenters included RT's Brenda Barrow, Melissa Cropper, Perry Anderson, Sheryl Nance, RN's Maddie Bearden and Mary Goodwin, as well as RDH and DMD Dr. Kristina Mendoza. The eight hours of Continuing Education were approved by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.



Radiologic Technology Program Director Brenda Barrow doubled as a keynote speaker at the seminar.



Students learned the importance of saving and staying debt-free in the Financial Literacy Workshop.

Students benefit from financial fitness workshop

Guest speaker Yancy Mbolda, an investment advisor representative, discussed financial literacy in the last of a series during #FinancialAwarenessMonth. He also gave people advice about how to save money and budget for household, loans and other expenses.

The seminar was part of a series presented by the Student Government Association (SGA) on valuable financial information and workshops, plus provided help for students completing financial aid forms.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Dr. Worry made an appearance on local television stations to offer advice after regional plant fires.

Dr. Worry offers expertise on plant safety to local TV station

TV channels KBTB and KFDM interviewed Process Operating Technology Director Dr. Valerie Worry in the aftermath of several area refinery fires. She discussed procedures at our school for training future process operators and said our program emphasizes safety.

Student Bailey Seal was also interviewed. Facilitated by our Marketing Department, the news reporter came to LIT at 1 p.m., and the story aired later that evening on the 5 and 9 p.m. news.

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.

SEEN AROUND

CAMPUS

Team "LIT Up for a Cause" raises over \$5,000!

Led by Business Technology Department Chair Lauri Arnold-Calder and GEDS Department Chair Dawn Katz, team LIT Up for a Cause surpassed its \$5,000 goal for Relay For Life Jefferson County, raising \$5,062. The team won the Rising Star Award for the greatest increase in fundraising over last year—a whopping 338 percent jump. It ranked No. 7 in all of Jefferson County for money raised, enlisting 30 participants in an effort to find a cure for cancer.



Bill Sizemore's mural of Hurricane Harvey relief efforts earns recognition

A heart condition prevented Bill Sizemore from helping out after Hurricane Harvey. Then the perfect opportunity arose. Kelly Trahan, a member of the Bridge City Volunteer Fire and Rescue, knew his neighbor and friend was an artist and asked him to paint a wall that was signed by first responders who came to the area.

Sizemore began in May 2018, and finished before Christmas. The mural depicts first responders' activities in Bridge City. "I've never done anything to that scale," said Sizemore. "I paint in acrylic, pencils, pen and ink, and markers."

Recently Fire and Rescue president Buddy Hanks presented Sizemore with a certificate of appreciation.



LIT Up for a Cause team members (from left): Kara Booth, Dawn Katz, Amber Calder, Lauri Arnold-Calder, Ella Calder & Kandi Calder.



Ella Calder sports a purple painted butterfly.



Dawn Katz is accompanied by Wei Zhang, GEDS Math Instructor.



Renee Celeste, GEDS Adjunct Instructor, enjoys the beautiful weather while walking.

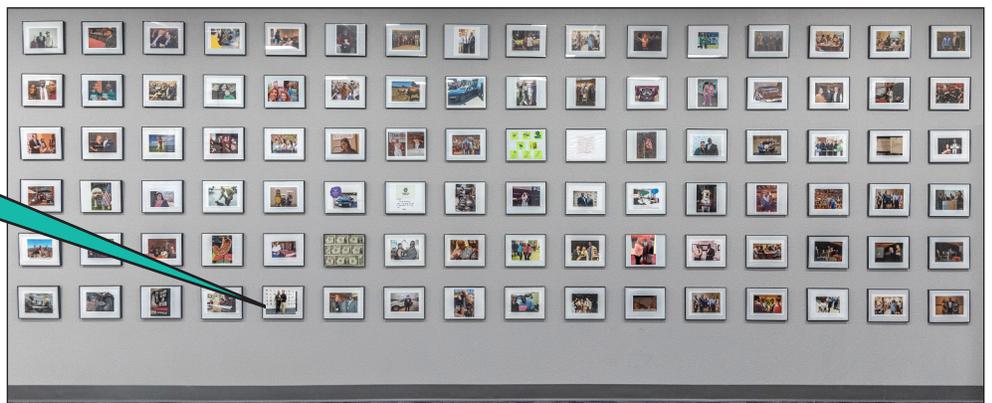
The Eagles' Nest for Student Success construction is showing progress. The roof is complete and windows are being installed.



Featured photo from the President's Wall.



Clint Vannoy presents Dr. Howard with a sentimental American flag.



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

Thanks for all you do!