

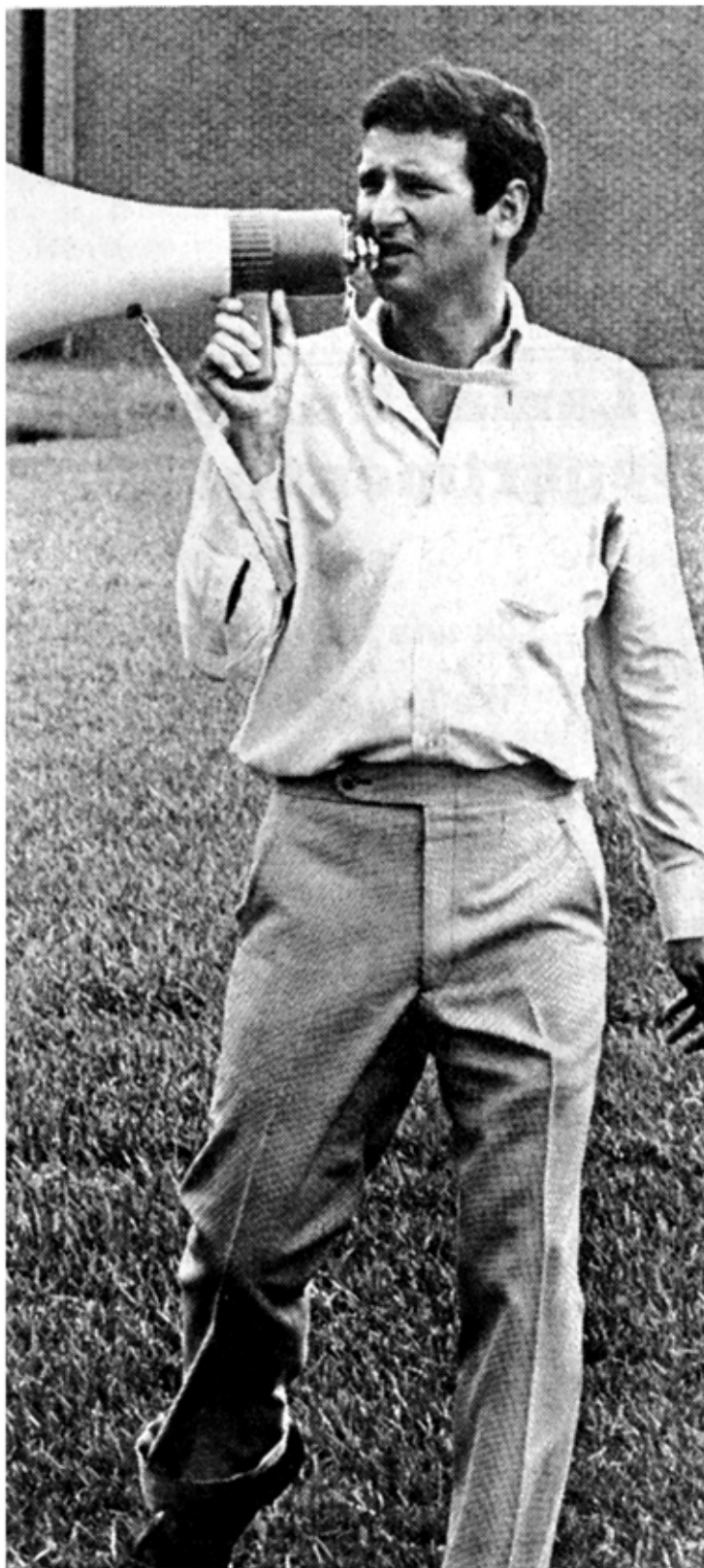


Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame

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Dr. James "Jimmy" M. Simmons

Stylish in the '60s, Simmons is known for his instrumental versatility.

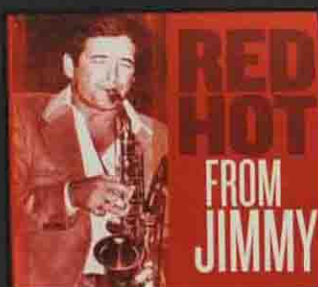


Jimmy Simmons solos on the bullhorn.



Jimmy Simmons leads Big Band with Wayne Dyess.

Saxman Simmons, immersed in his solo.





A day on the practice field.



Simmons directs the Pep Band.





Dr. James M. Simmons

Investiture as president of Lamar University, Nov. 4, 1999

Photo by Keith Carter, Wallis Chair in Fine Arts, College of Fine Arts and Communication,
Lamar University

SIMMONS: 'I am very anxious to see a new face on this university as we move forward'

OCT 31 1999

Continued from page 1A

President who has a history with Lamar looks to future

OCT 31 1999

By KHALIL E. HACHEM
THE ENTERPRISE

BEAUMONT — When the board of regents selected Jimmy Simmons as president of Lamar University in February, it sent a shiver of joy through the school and the community.

Simmons, the first hometown president, began his career at Lamar nearly 30



Jimmy Simmons will be sworn in as Lamar's president on Thursday.

years ago as a band director. He then became a music professor, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and interim executive director of institutional advancement. His musical talent and friendly personality made him popular in the school and the area.

As the school prepares for Simmons' investiture Thursday, support from community leaders, colleagues and area elected officials has deluged Lamar. They are banking on Simmons' popularity and intimate knowledge of the university to improve the institution's standing.

"He's got such wide experiences at the university and in the community which make him a valuable asset," said State Rep. Joe Deshotel, D-Beaumont.

Simmons, 57, described the selection as one of the highlights of his life. But he wasted no time acknowledging the challenges of leading the university into the second millennium.

"Lamar University is not a quick fix," Simmons said. "We are looking at a five-year plan to do the things we need to do."

Simmons readily admitted that he is sometimes frustrated by the speed at which change happens at a large institution. But he said he's already learning to deal with it.

Some of the challenges include increasing enrollment, renovating the aging school, and making more friends for the university, Simmons said.

Increasing enrollment, which has been hovering around 8,200, is the biggest challenge of all, Simmons said.

"Our population is growing older, and we don't have younger people moving into this part of Texas," Simmons said. "The fact that we remain constant has been impressive."

For Lamar University to increase enrollment, it would have to reach beyond the five-county area it currently serves, Simmons said. Lamar would have to promote its programs better to attract more students, he said.

The school's deans echo Simmons' goals and challenges.

"High enrollment of quality students is the life of the university," said Jack Hopper, dean of the College of Engineering and director of the Texas Hazardous Research Center.

The college plans to spend time with counselors at local high schools to recruit top students, Hopper said.

"We certainly need to be more aggressive in identifying a marketing plan to the university," said Gary Moore, dean of the College of Business. "If we're going to attract more students from the outside, we're going to have a product that sells."

Before bringing the students in, the university must be ready for them, Simmons said. Lamar is presently embarked on a 10-year master plan to renovate the aging facilities of the 76-year-old university. Paint on some of the buildings is peeling, cracks zigzag through the concrete, and residence halls are in desperate need of repair.

The \$21 million face-lift includes relocation of entire departments, demolishing buildings, landscaping and renovating student residence halls, said William Cale, executive vice-president of academic affairs.

Most of the money comes from the higher education assistance fund, which is provided by the state every 10 years.

Cale said the plan also includes a perimeter to define the boundaries of the university more clearly. Currently, the Beaumont campus, which abuts Martin Luther King Parkway on the east side, tends to melt into the South Park neighborhood.

Although, Simmons just began his new job in September, signs of improvement are already visible. The campus is cleaner; grass and trees are neatly trimmed, and construction workers are visible on the premises.

The university has hired

additional help to keep the campus clean, said Gerald McCaig, director of the physical plant.

McCaig said the department is appealing to students to keep the place clean, and that more ashtrays and trash cans have been added on campus.

"I am very anxious to see a new face on this university as we move forward with this master plan," Simmons said. "There is just a process you have to follow."

Thursday's investiture

Jimmy Simmons began his job as president of Lamar University in September. Thursday's event is for students, faculty, staff members and the community to formally recognize Simmons as president of the university.

The investiture ceremony, which begins at 3 p.m. at the Montagne Center, will be followed by a public reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. It also includes entertainment by Lamar music students and faculty, and refreshments.

The event is free and open to the public.



Scott Eslinger/The Enterprise

Like good ol' American jazz, Lamar president Jimmy Simmons has developed a distinct style, yet remained true to his roots.

Citizen Jimmy

Festival honors Lamar University president as 'Citizen of the Year'

Lamar University President Jimmy Simmons has been named Citizen of the Year for the 2000 Neches River Festival.

The announcement was made at a ceremony on April 26 at the Hilton Hotel in Beaumont. The honor, which was a surprise to the Beaumont native, is determined by the festival board of directors. Festival executive director Nancy Fertitta said that deciding who should receive the distinction each year is rarely an easy task.

The Citizen of the Year, "is somebody who is a well known, outstanding member of community and one who has contributed to the community," she said, adding that this year, "as always, (it was) a very difficult vote - there are so many truly deserving people in the community."

The thing that stands out about Jimmy is that he ... exemplifies integrity in every area of his life.
— Nancy Fertitta, responding to Jimmy Simmons; being named 2000 Neches River Festival "Citizen of the Year"

Regardless of a stellar pool of possibilities, Fertitta said that festival board members overwhelmingly agreed that Simmons — whose 30 year career at the university has run the gamut from music instructor to department head to dean

to his current position as leader of the entire Beaumont campus — was wholly deserving of this Festival-related honor.

"The thing that stands out about Jimmy is that he ... exemplifies integrity in every area of his life," Fertitta said.



Beaumont Enterprise - Nov 5, 1999

Beaumont - Lamar University - Faculty

EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ SERVICE

Simmons era dawns

Lamar University celebrates its 10th president

By KHALIL E. HACHEM
THE ENTERPRISE

BEAUMONT — Pledging a three-fold mission of education, research and service, Jimmy Simmons officially became the 10th president of Lamar University Thursday amid the pomp and circumstance of academic investiture.

Simmons, 57, who was born and raised in Beaumont, was the subject of high praise and even higher hopes from faculty, students and state and local officials.

"We could not be placing Lamar in more capable hands," said State Sen. David Bernsen, D-Beaumont.

Bernsen, who attended Lamar, said he is committed to help Simmons achieve his goals, advancing the university into the next millennium.

"His selection is a great time in our community," said David Moore, Beaumont mayor. "Nothing would take place unless we build and work with the leader."

And when Simmons accepted his new responsibilities from the chairman of the board of trustees, he was joined by 1,500 people attending the Montagne Center ceremony

"Our strength is in our community," Simmons said in his acceptance speech. "Our

SIMMONS, page 6A

SIMMONS: 'We must work harder'

Continued from page 1A

three-fold mission — education, research and service — is an avenue for advancing toward our goals, and each aspect adds strength to the other.

"Our community in Beaumont and communities throughout Southeast Texas have in this hour an opportunity to both come alongside the university and to demand the very best from it."

Simmons called for addressing some specific short-term challenges as the university looks to its future. Enrollment has hovered around 8,200 in the past five years, and buildings and residence halls are in need of repair.

Fewer students live on campus, more students attend on a part-time basis and more are dependent on financial aid than ever before, said Simmons, the first home-grown

president and a popular musician in the area.

"We must work harder than ever to retain our students," Simmons said. "Tutoring, mentoring, and related services must be readily available to help our students meet success."

Lamar University has embarked on a \$20 million plan over five years to renovate academic buildings and give the campus a face-lift. Also, more than \$25 million in privately funded academic endowments continue to grow, offering more scholarships, said Simmons, who started his career at Lamar University nearly 30 years ago as a band director.

"A scholarship can often make the difference in a dream unfulfilled, or a dream realized for many students," Simmons said.

Increasing enrollment and renovating buildings are not the only plans on Simmons'

mind. He said Lamar plans to create a center for entrepreneurial studies in the college of business, reopen Lamar's biology research facility on Pleasure Island and create a state-of-the-art clinical skills laboratory in the nursing program.

"We will continue to enhance our research capability and to expand our distance learning," Simmons said.

"Our great strength lies in our people and in our community, both the campus and the region."

Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame

Dr. James "Jimmy" M. Simmons



Pete Churton/The Enterprise

James Simmons was named Newsmaker of the Year by the Press Club of Southeast Texas.

LU president is Newsmaker of Year

By ANDREA WRIGHT
THE ENTERPRISE

BEAUMONT — The Press Club of Southeast Texas honored Lamar University President Jimmy Simmons as its 1999 Newsmaker of the Year Saturday recognizing him as the individual who had the most significant positive impact on issues and events in the region.

The nomination, confirmation and induction of Simmons, a local boy who became a popular teacher, administrator and orchestra leader, dominated much of the headlines

More awards

Members of area media earn honors ...

PAGE 4A

and news coverage in 1999.

"This is truly an honor," Simmons said as the award was announced at the conclusion of a banquet and Excellence in Media awards to members of the media.

"I must give credit to our wonderful (communications) staff, for their work ... and thank the Press Club for the

communications scholarships the organization awards Lamar University," said Simmons.

Press Club President Louise Wood presented the award to Simmons as "...the right man at the right time...You spur others on but never raise the bar higher for others than you do for yourself.

"Ultimately your accomplishments will touch us all — as well as future generations of Southeast Texans," said Wood.

Simmons, 57, took over the position of Lamar University's 10th president last year,

NEWSMAKER, page 17A

April 9, 2000. Cover page.

NEWSMAKER: Top honor goes to university's hometown president

Continued from page 1A

describing the selection as one of the high points of his life. Simmons is the first hometown president of the university, and was a highly popular choice throughout the community.

Lamar has undertaken a \$20 million plan over five years to renovate academic buildings and give the campus a face-lift. Also more than \$25 million in privately funded academic endowments continue to grow, offering more scholarships. Regents, faculty, administrators and students welcomed Simmons as the one to lead the school through what is seen as a new, but demanding, period of growth.

Some 200 attended the annual event, now in its ninth year, honoring Simmons and four other top newsmakers: Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray, Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith Jr., community leader and philanthropist Regina Rogers and Beaumont Independent School District Superintendent Carrol Thomas.

Excellence in the Media awards, presented in 39 different categories, were given for achievements by print and broadcast journalists and public relations professionals.

The Beaumont Enterprise won 27 awards, including 11 first-place trophies. The Examiner won four awards, including two first-place awards. The Port Arthur News won five. The

Some 200 attended the annual event honoring Simmons and four other top newsmakers: Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray, Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith Jr., community leader and philanthropist Regina Rogers and Beaumont Independent School District Superintendent Carrol Thomas.

Boy Orange County News, The Record, Beaumont Journal and University Press all won first-place awards.

In the television awards categories KFDM-TV, Channel 6 swept a number of categories, winning first-, second- and third-place awards. Channel 6 was honored with a total of 15 awards. KBMT-TV, Channel 12 won three awards, one of them first place for spot news.

Radio stations KJAS in Jasper and KLVI and KVLU in Beaumont were also honored in the broadcast categories.

Lamar University led the public relations categories, winning seven awards, three of them first place. The Beaumont school district won five awards, one in first place.



Marvin Stamm, Sharon Montgomery and Jimmy Simmons, at April 10, 2003, performance with Norwalk Symphony Orchestra.



Marvin Stamm, Maestra Diane Wittry, Jimmy Simmons and Sharon Montgomery, at April 10, 2003, performance with Norwalk Symphony Orchestra.



CARDINAL Cadence

VOL. 33 NO. 2

A PUBLICATION OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY
MEMBER OF THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

MARCH - MAY 2005

LU
RED
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& YOU

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Homecoming



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REVIEW:

A fantastic musical ride

By Lela Davis

Jimmy Simmons & Friends, translated, meant a stage full of top music educators and professional musicians, each one a master of his own sound.

They brought down the rafters at Lamar's revered McDonald Gym Feb. 25 and gave its metamorphosis to a new recreation center a fantastic musical ride toward success.

Simmons' baton pulled from those friends the sweetest whisper of a simple riff to the almost impossible brilliance of an entire section, all in the good name of jazz. He coerced such over-the-top music from John Calderon '98 on guitar and from Charles Prause and Freddie Titus '83, '86 on piano that the strings and the keyboard sang after the songs were over.

Prause not only wore the white pants, he wore them right; he sat at the keyboard like every jazzman since time began.

Sharon Montgomery -75, who opened with *I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good*, is some kind of red-haired jazz voice. She can belt out a song; cry out a song; wring out a song. All good. You love them all because in one way or another, love's what jazz is all about. Her *When I Fall in Love* said it all.

Billy McQueen, senior music major, rattled the drums on *In the Still of the Night* and Travis Harris '90, band director-musician from Denton, described *My Beautiful Love* on the trombone. Lanny Marshall '99, retired from the U.S. Air Force Band, also added to the Friends on trombone.



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Saxophonist Don Rollins '83 joined the concert from Tennessee. Rollins, Grammy-winning composer of *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere*, recently signed a new publishing contract with Warner/Chappell Music in Nashville.

The red and white stage trembled with the excitement of *Pennsylvania 6-5000* played with all the bells and whistles of the Big-Band era.

The room, also red and white, shook just a little when Becky Barksdale '84 of Los Angeles played guitar and sang with unbridled enthusiasm.

Don't Get Around Much Anymore followed by some stormy blues and a great *Satin Doll* by Titus on the piano.

One of the highlights was David Jernigan '90, Port Neches Middle School band director, playing *I'm Getting Sentimental Over You*.

The amazing excellence of the evening grew from the melding of top musical educators and musicians from across the country with the baton of Dr. Jimmy Simmons, a jazz performer who has music in his soul and who feels his jazz-ism as deeply as he feels his leadership at Lamar University.

Editor's note: Lela Davis '41 of Beaumont is a veteran journalist, now retired, who was entertainment editor of The Beaumont Enterprise for 30 years.



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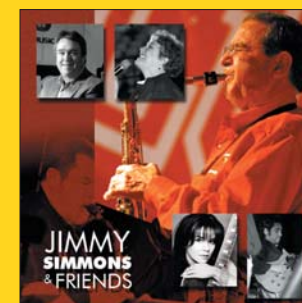
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Jimmy Simmons & Friends CD in production

You may have missed the concert, but there's no reason to miss the music.

The great songs and sounds heard live will soon be available on CD. Order one for yourself and another as a gift for a fellow music-lover. Whether you're a jazz listener, blues fan or a devotee of the American songbook, you'll enjoy hearing these classics reinterpreted by Lamar alumni musicians at the baton of our own President Jimmy Simmons.

Jimmy Simmons & Friends Compact Disc
A special collection of live concert performances and session recordings

\$20 each
(includes shipping, handling and sales tax)
Orders may be placed on the web site
www.lamar.edu/alumni



Billy Tubbs '58 takes a nostalgic turn on the stage at McDonald Gym, where he graduated from Lamar and enjoyed a legendary coaching career.

(A) Becky Barksdale '84 of Los Angeles, guitar and vocals.

(B) Sharon Montgomery -75 of Houston, vocals.

(C) John Calderon '98 of Houston, guitar

(D) Band leader Jimmy Simmons, saxophone.

(E) Don Rollins '83 of Dickson, Tenn., Mike Smith '72 of Lumberton and Jim Boone '64, '74 of Colmesneil, saxophones.

(F) Byron Balentine '79, left, and John Stevens preside over the live, remote broadcast of Jimmy Simmons & Friends on Lamar public radio KVLU.

(G) Eileen (Hall) Law '87 and Dana Melancon enjoy the music and the ambiance at the concert.

(H) Assistant registrar Judy (Carr) Ford '96 and her husband, Terry, were among a large contingent of Lamar faculty and staff enjoying the evening.

(I) Gene '61, '80 and Elizabeth Arnold give a swinging salute to McDonald Gym.

(J) Susan (Williams) Simmons '68, Nick Lampson '68, '74 and Debbie (Marrell) Bishop '72 share memories of McDonald Gym.

(K) Anne Fisher Winslow '89, seated in foreground, enjoys the Jimmy Simmons & Friends concert, joined by her daughters, Caroline (Winslow) Munroe, left, and Kathleen (Winslow) Morgan, right, with Leslie Brown standing behind them, and Patrick and Stephanie Quirk, far right.

(L) Robert Duty '69, center, visits with engineering faculty members Victor Zaloom, left, and Hsing-wei Chu.

(M) Don LaBiche, regent Kent Adams and Joe Domino '75, from left, join hundreds of other Lamar alumni and friends attending the Jimmy Simmons & Friends concert.

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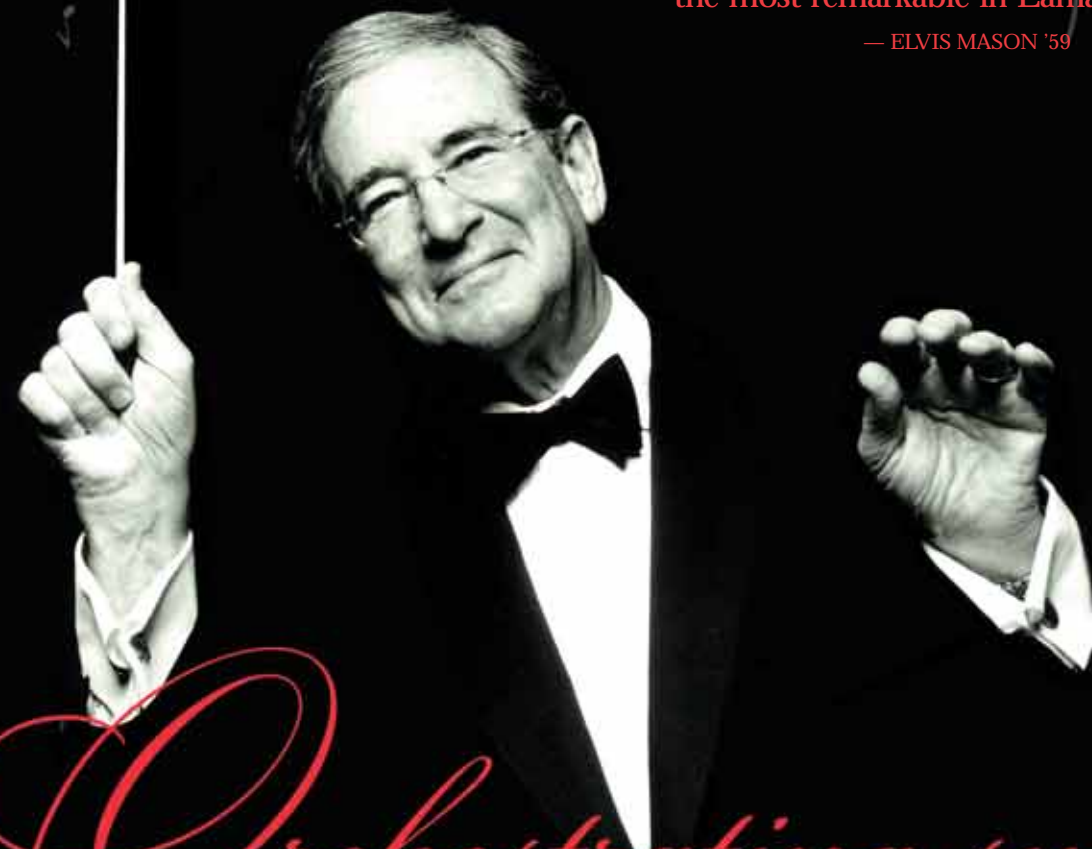


Orchestrating
success pg. 6

Investing In The Future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Goal: \$100 Million pg. 4

“The transformation at Lamar and the esteem in which it is held today is due to Jimmy Simmons and the team he assembled. His legacy will be the most remarkable in Lamar’s history.”

— ELVIS MASON '59



KEITH CARTER

“When I first met him in his role as president, the easygoing but very sincere, very concerned nature got my attention right away,” said Dan Smith '69, retired chairman and CEO of Lyondell Chemical Co. and a member of the campaign cabinet. “His enthusiasm for the university comes through in the first five seconds.”

A man whose modesty is genuine, Simmons seemed truly surprised when a study to test the feasibility of a campaign revealed that everyone interviewed believed Lamar University needed and deserved a comprehensive campaign and that it HAD to happen while he was president. With the perspective of an alumnus whose relationship with the university spans more than five decades, campaign Honorary Chair Elvis Mason '59 put it this way: “I had lost hope for Lamar to reach its potential until Jimmy Simmons became president. The transformation at Lamar and the esteem in which it is held today is due to Jimmy Simmons and the team he assembled. His legacy will be the most remarkable in Lamar’s history.”

His full partner in Lamar’s transformation is his sweetheart and first lady Susan (Williams) Simmons '68. Although he didn’t graduate from Lamar himself, – he joined Lamar’s faculty in 1970 – Jimmy often says he “did the next best thing by marrying Susan,” a devoted Lamar alumna. She has spent countless hours helping mold campus interiors and exteriors into the vistas and spaces current students and alumni can claim with pride.

Today, Simmons could bask in his success as a musician and as a president, but his energy and drive to improve things plays on. “He has a clear vision of where he wants to take the university,” Smith said. “In my experience in the business world, I’ve seen that most leaders lack a clear vision. A truly successful leader clearly knows where they want to go. They may not know all the hows and whys to get there, but they clearly know where they want to go. With their enthusiasm, they can aggregate people around them who bring all the other skills to make things happen.”

“He really has the ability to draw people together, and that’s an uncommon trait, a real gift to be able to get people energized and working for something,” said Jerry Reese '66, retired founder of Bo-Mac Contractors Ltd. and a member of the campaign cabinet.

“Jimmy has done a fantastic job of picking the right people for the right jobs,” Aldredge said. “The orchestra is tuned up, and it is performing fantastically.”

Simmons’ appearances as a talented musician are always played before a packed house. He still performs regularly at *Lamarrissimo!*, *Lullaby of Broadway* and other campus productions, in “gigs” with faculty and friends, and in special concerts like “Jimmy Simmons and Friends Encore” held in the Montagne Center May 3, at which Lamar’s landmark campaign, with a \$100 million goal, was announced.

His achievements as president have made him a symbol of leadership and a bright future for Southeast Texas and for The Texas State University System. Under his leadership, an outstanding campaign cabinet gladly signed on to help complete the transformation begun by Simmons by raising more than \$46 million to date toward

the \$100 million goal.

“Dr. Simmons has excited something in everyone who has any interest in Lamar University,” said Greg Thompson, co-chair of the campaign committee with Aldredge. “You go around the campus, and you see it is a beautiful place now. The dorms are second to none. The cafeteria is second to none. And the education is now realized to be second to none. People are excited about the possibility of investing back into Lamar University and making it grow better.”

Academically, Simmons continues to enhance the university with new programs like construction management; endowed departments in nursing and electrical engineering; and the new research and sponsored programs office. To support enrollment and enhance campus life,

Simmons has guided the process to return football to the university, in part, he jokingly says, because of “the 350-piece marching band.” A new partnership with Higher Education Holdings has garnered national attention and is permitting Lamar to offer high-quality master’s degrees in educational leadership to teachers and administrators across Texas. This kind of innovation comes naturally to a man who can play jazz in totally new ways.

One response to such innovation has been the steady growth, from 8,149 in fall 1999 to 10,379 in fall '07, a trend that has picked up tempo despite the damage wrought on the region by Hurricane Rita in 2005. During this crisis period, Simmons shone brightly, bringing together a team that

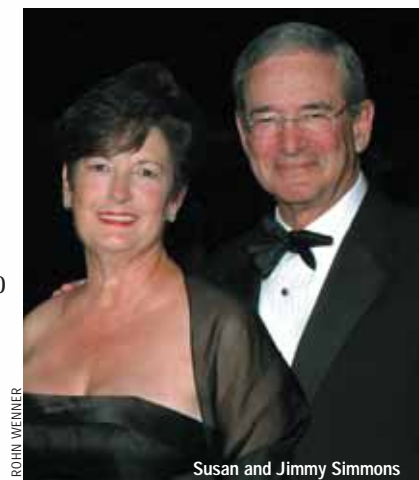
restored the campus and, with the hard work and sacrifice of the entire campus community, salvaged a semester that seemed lost.

Not lost on the community is Jimmy and Susan’s dedication to Southeast Texas. During the years, the couple has been devoted to community activities and organizations — from the Neches River Festival, Symphony of Southeast Texas and Art Museum of Southeast Texas to the Rotary Club of Beaumont and Junior League as well as arts, athletics and other endeavors at Lamar.

“Susan is right there with him,” said Sheila (O’Hara) Reese '65, an advocate for Lamar and wife of Jerry Reese. “They make a wonderful couple to lead Lamar. They’ve been a partnership.”

Susan has played a leading role in the campus renaissance, drawing on her considerable experience in the real estate business. “She’s been very involved in the landscaping, and it’s just beautiful now,” Sheila Reese said. “She’s been right there with him on decisions on the dorms, the dining hall, and the Sheila Umphrey Center. She’s always opening her home for different events, and I think she makes almost every meeting and luncheon and dinner that he makes. She’s been a really good first lady of Lamar.”

When the history of Lamar University is written, Jimmy Simmons will hold a singular place. Future presidential searches at Lamar and elsewhere may find the job description reading, “University seeks talented musician with excellent conducting skills ...” Of course, the people of Lamar know there is only ONE Jimmy Simmons and, luckily, he is ours.



ROBIN WENNER

Susan and Jimmy Simmons

to do with the skills and intuition needed to work with a myriad of musicians, different instruments and complicated scores to create harmony and sensational sound.

Though Simmons played clarinet and saxophone early on, (Jimmy Simmons and the Corvettes was his claim to fame), he honed his keyboard skills as an undergraduate at Memphis State. Now with decades of concert experience, when Jimmy Simmons walks on stage, baton in hand, and stands before the orchestra, he is calm, confident and enormously likeable.

The orchestra members – as well as his academic team - know that what he seeks is what each of them wants—to make beautiful music on stage and on campus. This gift, displayed so well by his musical life, is the gift of leadership. The ultimate “music man,” Simmons is someone people like and want to follow. He solves problems and creates harmony with a seeming effortlessness and a gentle touch that is embraced and appreciated.

A baton is raised. Suddenly, from cacophony comes brilliant symphony as dissonance dissolves into harmony. This happens not by chance, but by design. The maestro marks cadence, and a certain magic results.

When Jimmy Simmons discovered his love of music — and his talent for it — he could not have imagined the qualities that make a world-class musician would translate into the ideal attributes of a university president.

“I marvel at the changes that have come about over the past eight or nine years,” said Mike Aldredge '65, general partner, Mill Creek Land & Cattle Co., and co-chair with Greg Thompson of Investing in the Future: The Campaign for Lamar University. “When Jimmy first took office, I wondered how it was going to work out—someone going from the band to the front office. I didn’t realize how much a university could be like an orchestra.”

The story of the path from respected jazz musician to band leader, faculty member and ultimately university president has a lot

Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame

Orchestrating the future

There was music. There was magic. And there was a star-studded overture to Lamar University's future. The Jimmy Simmons & Friends Encore jazz concert May 3 brought more than 2,200 students, faculty, alumni and friends together in the Montagne Center for a spectacular evening of entertainment. Little did they know the crescendo was yet to come. With First Lady Susan Simmons, the chair of the event, at his side, Simmons announced a goal of \$100 million for Lamar's first-ever comprehensive fund-raising campaign, with \$46 million already raised. On the eve of the all-star event, campaign lead donors and university officials gathered to toast this historic effort at a dinner in the University Reception Center. The world-class musicians who performed on stage for the Encore admire Simmons as their teacher, their band director and their mentor. Now, all of Southeast Texas—and beyond—admires him as the maestro who orchestrated an unprecedented new beginning for Lamar University.



From left, Richard Parr, Kevin Roy '85, Sonny Perkins and Linda Domino, front row, with Larry Beaulieu '77, Vernon Pierce and Joe Domino '75



An appreciative audience of more than 2,200 filled the Montagne Center for the Jimmy Simmons & Friends Encore concert.



Mary Donnelly Haskell, with John Stevens Sr. -48 during the KVLU live broadcast of the concert.



President Jimmy Simmons, First Lady and concert chair Susan Simmons '68, campaign honorary chair Elvis Mason '59 and co-chairs Mike Aldredge '65 and Greg Thompson join Camille Mouton, vice president for advancement, on stage for the announcement.



Jimmy Simmons solos.

A | Sandy and Dan Smith '69 with Camille Mouton

B | First Lady Susan Simmons '68 with Phil '67 and Karen Drayer

C | Longtime friends George Dishman '49, Elvis Mason '59 and Mark Steinhagen

D | Richard and Cathy Price

E | Campaign honorary Chairman Elvis Mason '59, center, and co-chairmen Mike Aldredge '65, left, and Greg Thompson

F | Chancellor Charles Matthews and his wife, Julia, TSUS regent Trisha Pollard and her husband, Randy, and regent Michael Truncate '78, and his wife, Denise.

G | W.S. "Bud" Leonard '50, '53, '76, Billy Tubbs '58 and Doug '74 and Janis (Frank) Matthews '77.



A



B



C



D



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John Calderon '98



Chris Coleman '76



Sharon Montgomery -75



Mike Krepper '76



Lanny Marshall '99



Mary Donnelly Haskell



Don Rollins '83



Gary Weldon '74

Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame



CDs produced capturing the magic of the Jimmy Simmons & Friends Homecoming 2005 event and the Jimmy Simmons & Friends Encore 2008, A Tribute to Raul Ornelas.





Jimmy Simmons displays the award honoring him as a Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia "Signature Sinfonian" on Feb. 19, 2011.



Accepting 2009 CASE District IV Joseph Savoie Chief Executive Leadership Award.



Opening Convocation address to LU faculty and staff.



Susan and James M. Simmons



Press Club names Newsmaker of the Year and of the Decade

Excellence in the Media award winners for 2010 announced

By Jennifer Trahan
Staff Writer

Winners of the Press Club of Southeast Texas' 20th annual Newsmaker of the Year and Excellence in the Media awards were announced Friday, June 3, at the annual media banquet. This year's banquet also featured the Newsmaker of the Decade award. For 2010 Newsmaker of the Year, Mike Getz was honored for his work on a Beaumont Independent School District petition to include a referendum on the May 2011 ballot to change the BISSD board's electoral system from seven single-member districts to five single districts with two at-large positions. It was placed on the ballot and when Beaumont voters went to the polls, the referendum was passed with 54 percent of the vote. Getz was also elected to the Beaumont Ward 2 City Council seat in the May municipal elections.

Other contenders for the title were the now-retired West Orange-Stark football coach Dan Hooks, Port Arthur Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince, Lamar University women's basketball coach and former athletics director Larry Tidwell, and Lamar University football coach Ray Woodard.

For Newsmaker of the Decade, Lamar University President James Simmons was chosen from the group of 10 previous winners. Simmons was awarded Newsmaker of the Year both in 1999 and 2009, and is the only person to earn the award twice since the start of the program.

Simmons was elected by club members for his extraordinary leadership at Lamar University over the past decade, which has seen major improvement to the facilities, academics and research, more than \$80 million raised in the university's



Photo by Scott Estinger

2010 Newsmaker of the Year Mike Getz speaks to the Press Club of Southeast Texas.

paign, expansion in enrollment despite two major hurricanes, and the much-celebrated return of college football to Lamar.

For the Excellence in the Media awards, members of the press submitted more than 600 entries in various categories from nine counties in Southeast Texas, which were then sorted through by judges across the country and winners were selected.

All together, The Examiner left the event with a total of 30 awards bestowed upon the newspaper's reporters, graphic design personnel and contributing writers and photographers.

Managing editor Jerry Jordan was awarded three first-place awards. Two were awarded in investigative categories for the coverage Jordan, with the help of Universal Gold and Bullion owner Mike Fuljenz, has provided the community regarding the traveling gold buyers that have set up in the area at various times, giving pennies on the dollar for residents' valuables. Jordan also received two second-place awards and six third-place awards.

James Shannon, current editor of the Business Journal, received a first-place



category, as well as a second place and two third-place awards.

Copy editor Joshua Cobb won a first-place award for the feature page design layout category, a second-place award and third-place award.

The Examiner's sports editor Chad Cooper received first-place and second-place recognitions. Cooper was also awarded another second-place award with designer Amber Vasquez for The Examiner's annual Southeast Texas High School Football Guide.

Independently, Vasquez also won a second-place award and two third-place awards for her work in layout and graphic design.

Staff writers Jennifer Trahan and Lucy Biebel each took home second-place recognitions. Trahan won in the special reports category while Biebel won in business.

Orange County Editor Jennifer Johnson won a third-place award in the investigation category. Examiner contributors Melanie Dishman

publisher Don Dodd. "The annual newsmaker banquet and awards ceremony is a time to accept the recognition from our peers, but equally as important, to reflect on what we can do better in the year ahead."

"As I say year after year, though we accept and appreciate the awards, the real recognition comes in our continued double-digit growth in readership," Dodd added.

Examiner who entered the Excellence contest walked away with recognition for their efforts," he said. "I believe that is a strong statement to the talents and abilities that the employees of this newspaper have, and I am extremely pleased to have them as part of this staff."

"I am very proud of all entire staff of The Examiner," said The Examiner's CEO and

and David Block also received second-place awards.

As a whole, The Examiner's staff won third place in the Overall Excellence category.

Jordan said the recognitions received by The Examiner show the effort the staff has put into the paper.

"I was very pleased that everyone at The

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Getz, Simmons named top newsmakers

The Press Club of Southeast Texas honored Mike Getz as the 2010 Newsmaker of the Year on Friday, June 3 at its 20th Annual Awards Banquet. Lamar University President James Simmons was honored as Newsmaker of the Decade.

Getz was chosen by a vote of Press Club members from a field of five finalists as being the Southeast Texan who had the most significant positive impact on issues and events in 2010. While Getz was a strong figure in the unsuccessful effort to stop the demolition of the former South Park High School, it was his leadership to change the way the Beaumont Independent School District trustees are elected that garnered him the most attention.

Getz led the charge and secured more than 10,000 signatures to include a referendum on the May 2011 ballot to change the Beaumont ISD board's electoral system from seven single-member districts to five



Getz



Simmons

single districts with two at-large positions, like that of the city's council delegation. Getz and other leaders of the political action group called BETTER

(Beaumonters Embracing Transition Toward Election Reform) met the signature goal in one of the biggest grass roots political efforts in the area. In a massive citywide campaign, the group held numerous petition drives and Getz himself spent nearly every weekend collecting signatures or going door-to-door to garner enough signatures by the August 2010 deadline.

Last month, 54 percent of Beaumont voters approved the proposal for two at-large members. In that same

election, Getz won the Ward 2 seat on Beaumont's City Council.

The other newsmaker finalists were former West Orange-Stark football coach Dan Hooks, Port Arthur Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince, Lamar University women's basketball coach and former athletics director Larry Tidwell, and Lamar University football coach Ray Woodard.

Simmons was selected by the club members as Newsmaker of the Decade for his extraordinary leadership at Lamar University during a decade in which there have been major improvements in facilities, academics and research, more than \$80 million raised in the university's first-ever comprehensive campaign, expansion in enrollment despite two major hurricanes, and the much-celebrated return of college football to the university. Simmons is the only Newsmaker of the Year to receive the honor twice. He was honored in 1999 and in

2009. Press Club members voted for Newsmaker of the Decade from all Newsmakers of the Year between 2000 - 2009.

Winners in the annual Excellence in the Media contest sponsored by the Press Club of Southeast Texas were also announced at the banquet. Judges across the country chose winning works from more than 620 entries submitted by news media, public relations, academia, public affairs, corporate communication and public information professionals from the nine-county region.

Proceeds from the contest and banquet support the Press Club Memorial Scholarship for communication students at Lamar University. After many years of awarding scholarships directly, the club established the endowment in the LU Foundation in 2002, and it has grown steadily to become the largest endowment supporting students in Lamar's communication programs.



**PRESS CLUB
OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS**

FIRST PLACE

2011

**NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR
DECADE**



DR. JAMES SIMMONS





"The Grandest Band in the Land" finesses its formation.



Jimmy Simmons solos, and Barry Johnson conducts at historic concert before TMEA in 2001.

