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.

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.

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

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.
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.

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.