

## JAMES SIMMONS



As Lamar University's 14th president, James Simmons led the university into a new era of dynamic growth. He increased enrollment, reshaped the campus and inspired excellence.

Simmons is also well known as a musician - performing on clarinet, saxophone and piano - as well as an orchestra leader. Throughout his educational career, Simmons has attracted acclaim with groups ranging from his high school combo (Jimmy Simmons and the Corvettes), Jimmy Simmons Trio and other jazz ensembles to the Symphony of Southeast Texas.

Simmons was the first Southeast Texas native to lead Lamar. He graduated from Beaumont High School and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in Music from Memphis State University in 1964, his Master's Degree from the University of Houston in 1969 and Doctorate from McNeese State University in 1979. Simmons rose through the ranks at Lamar from band director, department chair, advancement executive and college dean. Throughout his Lamar career, Dr. Simmons has been known for his accessibility to students. He takes a personal interest in every student.

*"By any standard, Lamar University President James Simmons is a legend – a legendary educator, artist, motivator, innovator and leader who is blazing trails across the Southeast Texas landscape and into the future. President Simmons has made history at Lamar University, transforming momentum at the university into momentum throughout the communities whose quality of life, economic impact and very futures depend on this fine educational institution as their lifeblood."*

- Gilbert "Buddy" Low  
Partner, Orgain, Bell & Tucker Law Firm