

LOUISIANA  
**TECH**  
MAGAZINE

NO.22 | SUMMER 2009



# REACHING THE WORLD

Tech Goes Global

## **GOOD THINKING**

IDEA Place inspires tomorrow's students

## **GREAT STATE**

University's economic impact impressive

## **BEST LOOKING**

New video board amps stadium atmosphere



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY  
[www.latech.edu](http://www.latech.edu)



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## A WORD FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

As I write this letter, summer is bearing down on north Louisiana with little rain and temperatures in the upper 90s and low 100s. This heat, however, hasn't slowed things at Tech. Hundreds of students and their parents are visiting the campus for Orientation sessions, many camps are in session, and Louisiana Tech is alive with activity.

Renovations of the old Library/Visual Arts building, located between Keeny Hall and the College of Business, are well underway; the Center for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology (CeNIT) will relocate from its current home in the Student Center to this state-of-the-art facility in the near future. Another major project on the campus is the construction of a new surface watering system. With the amount of water diminishing in the Sparta Aquifer (our water source), Louisiana Tech is taking a proactive stance to do its part to conserve this crucial source of water by constructing a seven-acre pond located between the President's home and Hideaway Park. This pond will provide all of the surface water for campus, allowing us to continue to maintain the beauty of the campus without having to use drinking water to irrigate the flowerbeds and lawns. And for the students, additional campus apartments, located just across the bridge from the College of Business on Everett Street, are reaching completion and should be occupied this fall.

For Tech football fans, Joe Aillet Stadium continues to receive major upgrades—new chair-back seats on the west side and yes, a new state-of-the-art video board located in the north end zone. Both of these projects are underway. The old chair-backs have been removed and installation of the new ones should begin any day now. As for the video board, it is going to transform the game day experience! Construction of the largest video board in the Western Athletic Conference, with a display area of more than 1,400 square feet (25 feet tall by 45 feet wide) will be completed in time for the first home football game of the season on September 19 against Nicholls State University.

Speaking of football games, the Alumni Association invites you to join other Tech fans prior to each home game at the Argent Pavilion. Construction of this facility was completed during the 2008 season and it has proven to be the gathering place prior to the game, with restroom facilities, flat screen TV's, and always a good meal! For those of you who enjoy a little adventure, you are invited to travel with the Alumni Association and Louisiana Tech Athletic Club (LTAC) to the Tech vs. Navy football game on September 10-13.

Details about this trip, tailgate parties at all home games and at LSU, and all other alumni events can be found on the Alumni Association's Web site, [www.latechalumni.org](http://www.latechalumni.org).

I hope you and your family have an enjoyable summer and that you will have an opportunity to visit the campus soon – maybe during Homecoming weekend, October 16-17, or for another home game. (You can find schedules for all Tech sports at [www.latechsports.com](http://www.latechsports.com).) And stop by the Marbury Alumni Center to visit and have a cup of coffee, or just reminisce and look through some old Lagniappes. We'd love to see you!

Ryan W. Richard

*P.S. It's so important that we keep track of our 80,000+ active alumni and friends. That enables us to notify you of events in your area and special alumni activities, and saves on returned postage costs. And with rising postage costs, we are also using email more and more as a form of communication. To update or verify your address, phone, or email information, contact us at (318) 255-7950 or (800) 738-7950 or email [barbara@latechalumni.org](mailto:barbara@latechalumni.org). Thanks for helping us stay in touch!*

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## Tech on the World Stage

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*Tech physicists play a big role in proving it's a small world*

### » Scattershooting around the globe



**BIG PLAYERS:** Markus Wobisch, Dick Greenwood and Lee Sawyer know their way around the sub-atomic world.

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## FROM THE 16TH FLOOR

If this year were a movie, half of it would be “The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly,” and the other half would be “The Year of our Discontent.”

We’ve fought trying financial times for the State and for Louisiana Tech University, for sure. We’ve dueled with discontent in matters of money, which leads to uncertainty, which breeds doubt.

There have been bad days, for sure. Ugly ones.

But look around. Things the state’s budget issues and resulting gray areas did not cut were our stability and our unity. Education teaches us to weather storms, to find new ways of doing things, to rely on the community of each other. That, along with a reasoned hope, has made us only stronger.

Beyond the bad and ugly is the good.

In this issue of the Louisiana Tech Magazine, you’ll see one success story after another. And not success that hides the trials of what has been a trying financial year, but success that beams through it, in spite of it, and above it.

The cover story speaks to that very thing. Our campus is expanding, but you might not have known just how far. We’re all over the world. Our physicists are involved in a remarkable project based in Switzerland, a project whose principles are already paying off in the ways we use matter and energy.

Our professors are being published in international journals, presenting scholarship in South Korea and China, expanding educational alliances in Hungary and Germany and Tel-Aviv, receiving awards in Vienna and London. Students are studying in Honduras and Rome and Paris and Costa Rica.

The Tech family’s influence is global.

No one has forgotten any of the championships the Bulldogs and Lady Techsters won this year, but we’ve written about those too. We’ve recognized some older alumni and some change-making younger ones.

This issue even takes you on a quick tour of The IDEA Place, drops you by the Prescott Library’s archive center, and drives you a few laps around the growing city of Ruston.

As always, Louisiana Tech is changing. As always, we’re changing for the better.

*Daniel D. Reneau*

Daniel D. Reneau



## A DAY IN THE LIFE

with Tech Foundation president **JACK BYRD**

**JACK BYRD NEVER FELT THE NEED TO FILL THE SHOES OF HIS father, Jack Sr., a Baptist preacher who filled pulpits all over north Louisiana.**

“With over 60 years of ministry and having never found a person that didn’t like or love my father, I would have been a failure trying to live up to his accomplishments and service,” Byrd said.

But there are different callings, and different ministries. Four decades of success in dealing with finances seem to suggest that the younger Byrd found his. While his dad enjoyed growing gardens and congregations, the son has found his talent to be in other areas, like growing businesses and growing banks and, as his dad did, growing trust.

There are different kinds of ministries.

After 20 years as a CPA – the profession he trained for while a student at Louisiana Tech – he stepped into financial institution management. His days and long hours in banking reveal that his way is the old-fashioned, community concept: every customer needs to know the president by name.

“He’s extremely smart and capable, and that makes a lot of difference in his success,” said Bank of Ruston president Benny Denny, Byrd’s longtime friend. “But he really doesn’t take himself too seriously. And he’s got a sense of humor. That’s a combination people like to be around. That’s what makes him the best banker I’ve ever known.”

Byrd’s a banker, but without “banker’s hours.”

“Never had ‘em,” Byrd said.

His inspiration for work comes from the “level of expectation and achievement that it takes to please myself, and what it takes to please me is always greater than what it takes to please my stockholders and board,” Byrd said.

The same method applies to his helping Tech, a school he’s proudly indebted to. He met his wife on campus, and for years long after his graduation, in the infancy of the Lady Techsters basketball program, his mom and dad would come to all the home games, sometimes arriving two hours before tip-off.

“Everyone who knows him knows what a strong love he has for his school,” said Peggy, his wife of 39 years. “Tech’s been a part of our lives, since the day we met.”

He’s in his fifth term as president of the Tech Foundation, an organization whose purpose is simply to provide support for the mission of the University in all facets.

“I enjoy being associated with something that’s so important to the area and something that I love,” said Byrd, who’s lived only 30 miles away, in Minden, since becoming a CPA there right after his college graduation. “I just enjoy being associated with excellence and with an institution that gives so much to north Louisiana.

“Plus there’s all the University provides in the way of entertainment; we follow all the sports and really enjoy that,” he said. “For years I’ve enjoyed watching this University develop and grow. It’s a pride factor, I think. We all share a belief that the University is a cut above all the rest.”

Tech’s association with Byrd has been mutually beneficial, not a surprise considering his resume.

“Some people job hop, but Jack Byrd was always successful in whatever job he was in,” Denny said. “Look at his record: He always left a place on good terms, he left places better than he found them, and he created more success wherever he went.”

And, at least as far as Peggy knows, he’s never bounced a check.

“But if he did, he probably wouldn’t have told me,” she said, laughing. “Or he might have gotten it ‘fixed.’ He knows some people.”

One thing he doesn’t know might be the only drawback in serving on the Foundation of the school he loves.

“I get a lot of calls from people who think I would be able to go to Ruston and get somebody a scholarship or a preferred dorm room assignment,” he said. “I’ve learned to pass those calls along to people at Tech who might be people of influence. I don’t have any special privileges.

“I get requests for tickets too, if it’s a special game,” he said. “That’s kind of amazing.”

Byrd laughed. “All I can do,” he said, “is tell them where I bought mine.”

**6:15 a.m.** – Up, dressed, breakfast. “I’m a homemade bran muffin guy.” Reads The Times and the Minden Press Herald.

**7:45 a.m.** – At work. Alone, goes over a round of reports generated the evening before, now printed and ready for his review. “I’ve got a solid hour’s-worth of that.”

**9 a.m.** – The beginning of the ‘real’ day, with customers. Phone calls and customer problems, human resource issues, mail to be returned, meetings with department heads.

**12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.** – Lunch, “assuming I don’t have a lunch meeting at the bank. I eat a light lunch consisting of soup or salad from Subway most days. I stay away from all the fried stuff and the Subway doesn’t have any menu items that are fried so I am not tempted.”

**1:30 p.m.-closing time** – More time with customers; making sure all the ever-changing regulatory requirements are met; keeping up to date on all the changes in the business; planning for growth; more meetings.

**6 p.m.** – Start for home. “Six or 6:30. Pretty long days. I’ve had 41 year’s-worth of those.”



# What's the

m a t t e r

## Physicists play a big role in proving it's a small, small – and getting smaller – world

REMEMBER THE POSTER IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASS, THE ONE describing atomic structure? The poster of the atom, the nucleus made up of protons and neutrons, and electrons spinning around the nucleus?

Well, the world has gotten much smaller since you were in high school.

Protons and neutrons aren't matter's smallest object. Smaller is what's inside the protons and neutrons. And to find out what's inside, you need a really big machine, a ton of money, and thousands of scientists and engineers from 26 countries.

Physics faculty members at Louisiana Tech – Dick Greenwood, Lee Sawyer and Markus Wobisch -- are involved in such a project, a massive undertaking described as the "most complex, comprehensive project ever assembled on the planet." It's designed to re-enact the beginning of the universe, back to one-billionth of a second after the theorized Big Bang.

The practical payoff of the multibillion-dollar, multinational research project? To discover "how matter and energy relate," said Tech College of Engineering and Science dean Stan Napper, "so that we can design better materials, better medicines, and better methods for further research."

First, meet the Large Hadron Collider, the LHC. It's the world's largest atom smasher. By large, we mean a scope the size of Lincoln Parish, a 17-mile underground "racetrack" built on the border between France and Switzerland by CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. The LHC accelerates protons to near the speed of light, one beam one way along the racetrack, another beam in the opposite direction. By using intense magnetic fields, scientists control the beams and allow them to collide at two spots along the circular, 17-mile track. At the collision points, "parts" of the protons fly out.

"When a collision occurs, it takes large detectors to record the many resulting energies and sub-atomic particles that scatter," Napper said.

Greenwood uses the easy-to-visualize illustration of two stopwatches hitting each other head-on as if they were 18-wheelers traveling 100 miles per hour.

"The 'stopwatches' collide with incredible energy, and springs and parts start flying out," Greenwood said. "What we do is detect the parts flying out. We do that with complicated detectors – think of them as really big, huge microscopes. Then somehow, with computer programs that are extremely sophisticated, we can reconstruct how the 'stopwatches' are put together."

While the scientists haven't been able to actually "see" sub-atomic pieces called "quarks" or the Higgs (boson) particle, which is theoretically responsible for the existence of all other particles, Greenwood said the standard model of how the "stopwatch" should work, in theory, has held up under all experiments so far.

"But we know our model is only approximately true, just like the model of the atom in the '60s was only partly true," Greenwood said. "We're trying to refine the model and make it more precise and have a deeper understanding as we

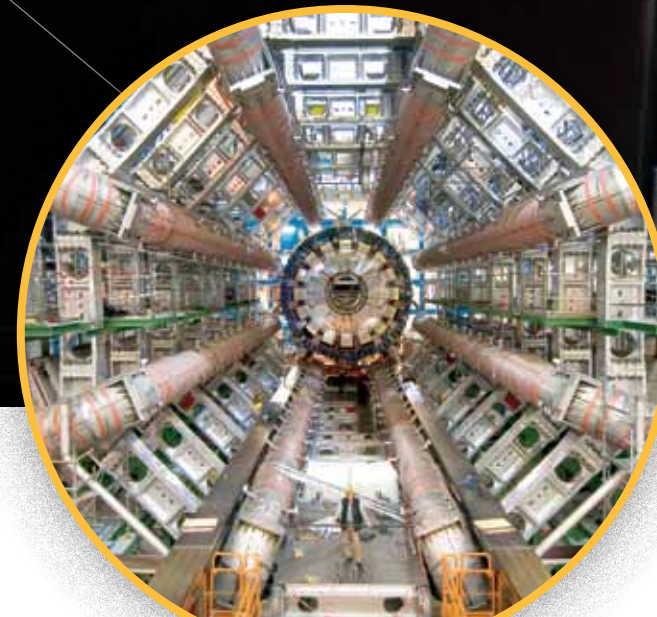
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View of the LHC machine in the Switzerland tunnel. Photographs courtesy of the ATLAS experiment at CERN, Maximilian Brice



Welding one of the final LHC interconnections. A welder works on the interconnection between two of the LHC's superconducting magnet systems, in the LHC tunnel.



Big Machine on Campus: Dr. Dick Greenwood walks by the on-campus computing system used to store data, a part of what makes Tech "a player on the international scene in terms of computing and physics."



experiment. The excitement in these experiments comes from finding the unexpected...if we knew exactly in advance what we would find, we'd have no reason to look."

Some common technologies have already resulted from this type of research: better MRIs for medical imaging; proton radiation therapy; computer storage and data analysis methods; advanced superconducting magnets; materials science – and a little something called the Internet. The computing done by Greenwood, getting the petabytes of data back and forth from Switzerland, wouldn't be possible without LONI, the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative, funded when Kathleen Blanco was Louisiana's governor.

"This helps make us a player on the international scene in terms of computing and physics," Greenwood said. "There is an unbelievably close connection between the fields of computing and physics these days."

While Greenwood is Tech's point man on the computing angle, Sawyer's expertise is more in the detector's development and analysis. Wobisch, Greenwood said, is a "guru" when it comes to

data and analysis.

To give scientists this shot at a better idea of the makeup of the universe and everything in it, \$10 billion was spent to make the LHC a reality. The machine is undergoing repairs this spring and summer at a cost of more than \$21.5 million; experiments should resume in the fall.

Discover, one of the world's premier science and technology news magazines, placed the LHC project at No. 2 on its list of Top 100 Stories for 2008. Besides helping to either prove or disprove the "Big Bang Theory," the experiments could help scientists better understand why some particles are massive and others are without mass, why there is matter and not antimatter, and whether or not other dimensions exist.

Also, particle physics and antimatter "went Hollywood" in the spring with the release of "Angels and Demons," a movie starring Tom Hanks and directed by Ron Howard. In the movie, based on a Dan Brown novel by the same name, antimatter created at the LHC is stolen from CERN and used to threaten the Vatican.

## Sometimes in the wings, sometimes on center stage, Tech continues to travel abroad and influence the world.

Read on as we go scattershooting around the globe with Tech professors and students.



Civil engineering professor **DR. RAY STERLING**, director of

Louisiana Tech's Trenchless Technology Center, gave the opening remarks at a United Nations workshop on planning for the effective use of urban underground space. Sterling is a nationally recognized expert on underground space use issues and president of the International Organization of Associated Centers for Urban Underground Space.

**JOSH BROWN**, honored by the Louisiana Senate as the first worldwide graduate of

nanosystems engineering, is working on his doctorate in micro/nanotechnology engineering from Tech and has worked as a contract researcher for the United States Army and as a contract researcher/patent licensee at Avoyelles Renewable Fuels.

Faculty of the College of Engineering and Science have routine collaborations internationally, including the following: **DR. YURI LVOV**



(left) with the Max Planck Institute in Germany; **DR. CHOKCHAI "BOX" LEANGSUKSUN** with Kohn

Kaen University in Thailand; **DR. BERND SCHROEDER** with the University of the Virgin Islands and the Technical University of Berlin; **DR. WEIZHONG DAI**



(left) with Xiamen U. in Xiamen, China.

In addition, Lvov was honored with the Best of Small Tech Award in the area of innovator for his work pioneering drug reformulation through polyelectrolyte nano-encapsulation, which has allowed stable nano and micro colloids of important cancer drugs. He extended the same approach for improvement

of cellulose microfibrils from recycled paper through polyelectrolyte nanocoating, thereby allowing increase of recycled fiber usage in paper. Lvov was featured on the cover of Pharma Focus Asia, alongside George Whitesides of Harvard, another of the nation's most prominent nanoscientists.



**DR. KEN REA**, Vice President for Academic Affairs and professor of

East Asian history, was one of eight China scholars invited to present a paper in Scotland. Joining scholars from Europe, Asia and the United States, Rea

presented, "Heroes and Villains in Early American Missionary Writings from Shanghai." A specialist in Chinese/American relations, Rea has published extensively in the field. His publications include four books and numerous articles in national and international journals.



Tech physics professor **DR. DENTCH GENOV**

contributed to research related to technology needed to make an "invisibility cloak," technology ranked No. 7 on Discovery magazine's list of Top 10 Stories for 2008. Researchers are creating laboratory-engineered wonder materials that can conceal objects from almost anything that travels as a wave, including light, sound and, at the subatomic level, matter itself.

**DR. DANIEL IMMEL**, assistant professor of music, was a finalist in the Vienna International Music Competitions. He presented a 50-minute recital in Austria, performing works from Mozart, Ligeti and Poulenc.

In the School of Human Ecology, **DR. TAMMY HARPEL'S** ultrasound research was published in an international journal on health; **DR. YEONSOO KIM** presented at the Korean Society for Gerontology in



Suwon, South Korea; and **DR. MARY MURIMI** (left) presented at the International

Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

From the College of Applied and Natural Sciences, assistant professor of biology **DR. YURI VOZIYANOV** collaborates with two Israeli scientists from Tel-Aviv University, Ezra Yagil and Mikhail Kaloot, in research to develop efficient,

safe and universal genome manipulation technology based on tailor-made variants of site-specific DNA recombinases. Knowledge acquired and technology developed will help researchers working in basic and applied biomedical fields to perform controlled genome rearrangements.

Tech International Student Office continues to assist students at Tech from about 70 different countries. **DAN ERICKSON**, Director of the ISO, returned in the spring from a two-week trip to China where he visited many universities to establish/increase Tech's recruiting of students from Asia.



**DR. VIR PHOHA**, Tech's 'top cyber gun,' had two invited international

presentations, first to the International Symposium on Advances in Computer and Sensor Networks and Systems in China, and also to the fourth annual International Conference on Computing and ICT Research in August in Uganda.

The College of Business and the Academy of Marketing Science are closer than ever; AMS moved its office from the University of Miami to Tech. AMS, with more than 1,600 active members, is an international, scholarly, professional organization dedicated to promoting high standards and excellence in the creation and dissemination of marketing knowledge and the promotion of marketing practice through a role of leadership within the discipline of marketing around the world.



COES Dean **DR. STAN NAPPER** visited Kazakhstan in 2005

and 2007; five students from Karaganda State Technical

University in Kazakhstan in turn visited Tech for a 10-day educational experience this past year.



COES faculty **DR. SUMEET DUA** (left) (computer science) and **DR. HENRY**

**CARDENAS** (mechanical engineering) visited Pole' Universitaire in Paris for a week of seminars and collaboration, and Tech hosted a visiting math professor from Pole', Director of International Agreements and Head of the Mathematics Department at Pole' University, Dr. John Cagnol.

**MARK GUINN**, professor of theater and production manager for Tech's University Theatre, taught stage combat workshops in London. A Certified Teacher and Regional Representative for the Society of American Fight Directors, Guinn is the founder and coordinator of one of the larger regional stage combat workshops in the United States, The Stage Combat Workshop at Louisiana Tech, an annual event hosted by Tech Theatre Players on campus. He is Professor of Design and Movement for Actors, and the Production Manager for the University Theatre.



**DR. COLLIN WICK**, assistant professor of chemistry, landed the cover of two internationally respected journals.

In the School of Forestry, **DR. GEORGE GROZDITS** received a "Doctor Honoris Causa" (Honorary University Doctor) degree from his alma mater, the University of West Hungary, in recognition of his internationally recognized expertise in wood, paper and nano-technology, his high level of scientific work and publication done over many decades, his wide range of public service, and his

education and research work done in cooperation with the Faculty of Wood Sciences of the University of Western Hungary.

And **DR. GORDON HOLLEY** and **BOGDAN STRIMBU** established research partnerships with the Romanian Forest Research Institute and investigated student exchange opportunities with the Technische Universitat Munchen, Germany; the Forestry School in Padua, Italy; and the School of Forestry in Bucharest, Romania while attending the Linking Forest Inventory and Optimization 2008 – International Union of Forest Research Organizations International Conference in Germany.

Also, Holley has coordinated a student service learning experience in Honduras for the last several years officially known as International Forestry & Natural Resources-Honduras.

The College of Liberal Arts has also invested much into study abroad trips. Locations and involved faculty include

the following: Art in Paris, **JONATHAN DONEHO** (left); Spanish in San Juan Costa Rica,

**DR. ANNE REYNOLDS-CASE**; History in Florence, Italy, **DR. JACE STUCKEY**; History in Russia, **DR. LAURIE STOFF**; Literature and Performing Arts in London, **DRS. KEN ROBBINS** and **DON KACZVINSKY**.



Three Nursing faculty, professors **DONNA HOOD**, **PAM MOORE** (left)

and **NORLYN HYDE**, served on a medical mission trip to Nicaragua.





**JAMES C. "JIMMY" LOVE, III**

*B.S. Civil Engineering, B.S. General Business, '62*

*Retired T.L. James and Co. Inc. Chairman of the Executive Committee and Secretary*

*Wife: Pat*

*Children: Jim, Beth, Daniel, Anne*

*Resides in: Ruston*

**JIM McCRERY, III**

*B.A. English & History, '71*

*U.S. Representative, 4th District, Louisiana, 1988-2008*

*Partner, Capitol Counsel, LLC, Washington, D.C., 2009-present*

*Wife: Johnette*

*Children: Scott, Clark*

*Resides in: McLean, VA*

**HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

Longtime Ruston businessman James C. "Jimmy" Love, III and former U.S. Congressman Jim McCrery, III were inducted into Louisiana Tech's Hall of Distinguished Alumni during spring commencement exercises on campus Saturday, May 23. Each received the Tower Medallion Award, signifying membership in the Hall. The prestigious recognition is awarded to Tech alumni who have distinguished themselves by exceptional achievement, community service and humanitarian activities.

**LOVE STORY: ALL FOR TECH**

Officially retired, Jimmy Love is still unofficially busy. For one thing, there are seven grandchildren. Two live just five minutes from his Ruston home. "That seems to be taking a greater proportion of my time as days go by," he said. "That's what it's all about." Ties to family and community have always been evident to Love, the oldest of six children born to Helen James and J.C. Love, Jr. He is one of 21 grandchildren of the T.L. James and Co. founders, one of several who worked through the company ranks to become a senior executive. The James business evolved into one of several second- and third-generation local businesses to impact the community in a profound and positive way. "We just did what our fathers and grandfathers did and fell in step with children and grandchildren of other business founders in

the community," Love said. "I grew up expecting to go to Tech and go to work for T.L. James while supporting a family and re-paying the community, church and schools for the opportunities I had growing up. I never gave any thought to doing anything else -- it was what was expected of me and I was very comfortable with that." In retirement he still does some financial consulting, remains deeply involved in Trinity Methodist church, and continues his half-century support of Louisiana Tech. When he opened a letter informing him of his selection to the University's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, he found it difficult to tell his wife Pat. Because of his emotions, he just handed her the letter to read rather than to try to tell her about it. "The Hall was, in my mind, something Tech did for 'other' people," he said. "I never thought it was something I'd be considered for. I opened that letter and was in total shock."

Those even slightly familiar with Love find his selection to the Hall less than even a mild surprise. He is Ruston through and through – "Ruston is home and we'll be here forever," he said – and he is just as much Louisiana Tech as he is his hometown. Love is a former Distinguished Alumnus Award winner for both the Louisiana Tech College of Engineering and Science and College of Business, is a Board member and Secretary of the Louisiana Tech Research Foundation, and is a Privileged Director of Tech's Foundation Board of Directors. He still helps some of the emerging businesses affiliated with Tech's Enterprise Center. "My philosophy in my involvement at Tech has always been that when I was growing up, things that gave me real advantages – my church, my school, my community – I really had nothing to do with starting or sustaining them," he said. "My sole motivation in getting involved after I graduated was to help sustain those things." "The education I got at Tech was second to none," he said. "I was in classes with people who went on to become very successful because of what Tech offered them. My goal has been to keep that going." Love met his wife at Tech. He spent a lot of time at Wesley Foundation and with his Kappa Sigma fraternity brothers at Tech. And in civil engineering, he developed a "brotherhood from going through the rigors of the stuff you have to go through to earn that degree," and through those times and those Tech years he was granted "fond memories and strong, lifetime relationships," he said. It's something he doesn't want today's student to give up on.

Clark is a Life Scout, with only Eagle to go. "Johnette is primarily responsible for those accomplishments, so I'm hopeful she'll get some sort of Eagle patch to recognize all the time and effort she's put in with these boys," said McCrery. Johnette would be "the Dr.," wife of McCrery, mom of Scott and Clark, and holder of a Ph.D. in Communications. It's a family that sets the bar high. And McCrery's high-water mark in scouting? "I spent two weeks in Boy Scouts before dropping out," he said. "But that was after achieving the rank of Webelo. In Cub Scouts." His professional career has been more accomplished. Following two decades on The Hill, McCrery today is a partner in a government affairs (lobbying) shop that specializes in taxes and health care, two areas McCrery spent quite a bit of time on during his 16 years on the Ways and Means Committee. "While I'm prohibited by law from lobbying until the end of this calendar year," he said, "I provide 'strategic consulting' services to the firm's clients." "I thoroughly enjoyed my career as a U.S. Representative, but after nearly 21 years in office, I was ready to leave public service and return to private life." He represented Lincoln Parish the first four years of his congressional career before the parish was moved out of his congressional district. But Tech always knew it had a friend in the capital in this 1971 graduate. "But I still haven't come close to giving back to Tech what I was given during my time there," he said.

*"Getting a college education is much more important today than it ever has been in this country. The jobs of the future here will require a higher level of education than the jobs of today, so if one wants to be successful in tomorrow's economy, he needs to do everything possible to advance his education."* - Jim McCrery, III

"With all the resources available today, you can get an education if you really want to," Love said. "It might not be as easy as it was a few years ago, but an education is even more important today. If you develop a work ethic and good attitude and get a good degree from a school like Tech, you won't have a problem. I'm not saying it's easy, but it can be done and it'll make you a better person for doing it."

**A SPECIAL 'REPRESENTATIVE' FOR HIS UNIVERSITY**

Jim McCrery received a lot of due recognition and earned numerous honors in nearly 21 years as a United States congressman. But his boys Scott and Clark, in public schools in McLean, Va., have already passed him on the Boy Scouts scale. And Dad will never catch up. Scott received his Eagle Scout award early this summer;

During the current economic downturn, McCrery reminds students that "getting a college education is much more important today than it ever has been in this country. The jobs of the future here will require a higher level of education than the jobs of today, so if one wants to be successful in tomorrow's economy, he needs to do everything possible to advance his education." Very active in extracurricular activities while a student at Tech – McCrery's in the Sigma Nu Hall of Fame! – he developed his passion for government by getting involved in student government, working to solve problems. "I think one of my dreams while a student was to become involved in making policy through elective office, preferably at the federal level," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that my experience at Louisiana Tech helped me to fulfill that dream." 🏠



# 15 YEARS



The IDEA Place celebrates 15 years of education, inspiration



THE LESSONS ARE DISGUISED AS “COOL KITCHEN CHEMISTRY” and “Swamp Safari.”

In one classroom, a child generates energy with a battery and an orange. Another student makes a lunar rover out of Graham crackers, Rollos and a chocolate bar. In another, the students are dusting items for fingerprints and searching for DNA matches.

This is The IDEA Place, 15 years old but always brand new to the young minds who keep coming here because they associate learning with fun, and with Louisiana Tech. Exhibits, camps, presentations and seminars are updated and combined and altered to meet the center’s purpose, which is to educate, to inspire, and to pay it forward.

Opened in 1994 in the heart of the Tech campus, this growing enterprise is part of the Science and Technology Education Center (SciTEC) established in 1991. Tens of thousands of children from across northern Louisiana, southern Arkansas, eastern Texas and beyond – more than 25,000 a year – have come here, benefiting not only from The IDEA Place and SciTec Classroom, but also from the Planetarium and the NASA Educator Resource Center.

“The IDEA Place is designed to stimulate the imagination of young minds, and I believe it does just that,” said David Gullatt, Dean of the College of Education. “The exhibits are selected to enhance both the science and mathematics curricula found in area elementary and junior high schools.”

Gullatt has stacks of post-field trip testimonials from teachers and students.

*“An extraordinary field trip...”*

*“Well worth the time to arrange and make the trip...”*

*“The trip was just what we needed to connect the outside world with the classroom...”*

“Remarks such as these from visitors only encourage IDEA Place coordinators to dream bigger about what can be done to stimulate young minds,” Gullatt said.

Sue McFadden enrolled her granddaughter in Space Camp in 2000, the first year the camp was offered. For the next six years, Erin was at an IDEA Place camp during the summer. McFadden’s grandson Dalton has attended five camps, and her other grandson Christopher has attended two.

Each day when she picked them up after camp, she heard the stories of “Body Basics” or “CSI Ruston” or “Outer Space-A Frosty Place.”

“It would take me 30 minutes to get them out of there because they wanted to show me everything,” McFadden said. “Their level of energy was way out there.”

“As their grandmother, I want to offer my grandchildren every chance to learn; I think one of my responsibilities is to help broaden their educational experiences, and The IDEA Place offers me a unique opportunity to do that.”

Pre-college students aren’t the only ones to be motivated and inspired here. Teachers take what they learn back to their

The IDEA Place is all about growing.

“The next 15 years will see SciTEC, including the IDEA Place, solidify its position as a national center for K-16 educational programs,” said Glenn Beer, director of SciTEC, The IDEA Place and NASA Resource Center. “SciTEC has earned a reputation across Louisiana as a premier center for professional development for teachers as well as model programs for K-12 students that have documented success in improving educational outcomes.”

The near future might also hold a new facility. Currently, IDEA

*“The next 15 years will see SciTEC, including the IDEA Place, solidify its position as a national center for K-16 educational programs. SciTEC has earned a reputation across Louisiana as a premier center for professional development for teachers as well as model programs for K-12 students that have documented success in improving educational outcomes.”* - Glenn Beer

undergraduate campuses. Even IDEA Place “veterans” who chose to attend universities other than Tech still return to the Ruston campus to help with summer camps.

Timenee Thomas, a student in kinesiology at Tech, came to her first summer camp while a student at Bunkie Middle School. Now she’s a camp counselor, and credits the camps with becoming her “push” into the education field.

“Helping kids is now a passion of mine,” Thomas said. “The IDEA Place and Louisiana Tech opened its doors to a positive cause, and I’m thankful for the opportunity to be part of it. I hadn’t always wanted to pursue a career in education, but understanding how beneficial the program is made me want to express this with our students, to let them know about all the opportunities they have through education.”

Educational activities through SciTEC have an economic impact on the area, too, generating more than 1,000 hotel room nights every year. In addition, approximately 20 students and graduate students are funded because of the programs.

Private and corporate support account for most of The IDEA Place’s operating expenses; more community support can help The IDEA Place grow in terms of services and exhibits offered. And

Place staff are spread out in Woodard Hall in three separate areas.

“Imagine a building with 30,000 square feet of exhibit space to expand the IDEA Place,” Beer said. “The building would include a new, state-of-the-art planetarium capable of presenting shows utilizing the latest in immersive technologies that would inspire future generations of scientists and engineers. On the second level, technology-rich classrooms and meeting spaces would facilitate the offering of summer programs for teachers and students—and for Tech students during the academic year. In addition, sufficient office, storage, and work spaces to accommodate our entire staff.”

Plans are in infancy and uncertain. But one thing appears certain: expansion and unity would ensure continued growth of the programs and services Tech provides.

“A building like this may well cost several million dollars,” Beer said, “but it would return many times that amount in funded projects and revenue over the next 15 years.”

“We should remember that The IDEA Place is also a great recruiting tool for Tech,” McFadden said. “When you engage and inspire young people, they will want to come back. It makes the children and their parents familiar with the campus and establishes a new generation of Tech supporters.”



# TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

## Louisiana Tech's economic impact is impressive, important

LOUISIANA TECH HAS LONG BEEN THOUGHT OF AS ONE of north Louisiana's most important and innovative economic engines.

In April, President Dan Reneau held a press conference to show just how powerful that engine is.

The results of an economic and community impact study, conducted by Applied Research Technology Corporation at Baton Rouge on behalf of the University of Louisiana System (ULS), showed that Tech has an annual, state-wide spending impact of \$462.5 million and is responsible for 4,745 non-university jobs each year.

Most impressive is the \$7.73 return that Tech generates from every dollar of state funding it receives.

The seven-month study, which began in October 2008, also revealed that of the 18,315 Louisiana Tech graduates over the past 10 years, 65 percent have stayed in the state and have earned more than \$973 million.

"Some of the most innovative research and most successful graduates in the country have emerged from our institution and made significant contributions to improving our state and our society," said Reneau.

The goal of the study was to determine the regional economic and quality of life effect that each of the eight ULS institutions has on their respective regions, and the system's collective impact on the state.

In addition to economics, the study focused on how Tech impacts the area through athletics, entrepreneurship, culture and academics.

"We often overlook the quality of life," Reneau said, noting the Louisiana Tech Concert Association, the IDEA Place and the School of Art as areas of cultural interest to the community.

"We often look at athletics as an add-on," he added. "It's a window where people can see us from, and it's an excitement for people. Athletics at the university is as American as apple pie. We will have three ESPN-televized games this year. Two of them will be played here, and this is the second year in a row we've had the highest student-athlete graduation rate in Louisiana."

As a result of on-campus events, the study found that nearly 120,000 people visit the campus annually, staying an average of three days per visit.

Louisiana Tech's student and staff populations, vendors, affiliated organizations, research centers, and community service programs contributed greatly to this study through their participation in surveys, interviews and other data collection methods.

Due to the economic challenges facing our state and the budget reduction the University is dealing with, Reneau believes that the entrepreneurship and academic sections of the campus will play large roles in attracting students.

"There's a tremendous spirit of entrepreneurship on this campus," Reneau said. "I can assure you that the fact that Louisiana Tech is the only SREB Doctoral II research university within 200 miles in north Louisiana will play an important part. We are also nationally recognized and have some world-class research centers, such as the biomedical engineering center and the Trenchless Technology Center."

Ruston Mayor Dan Hollingsworth said that the University is a boon to Ruston for more than monetary reasons.

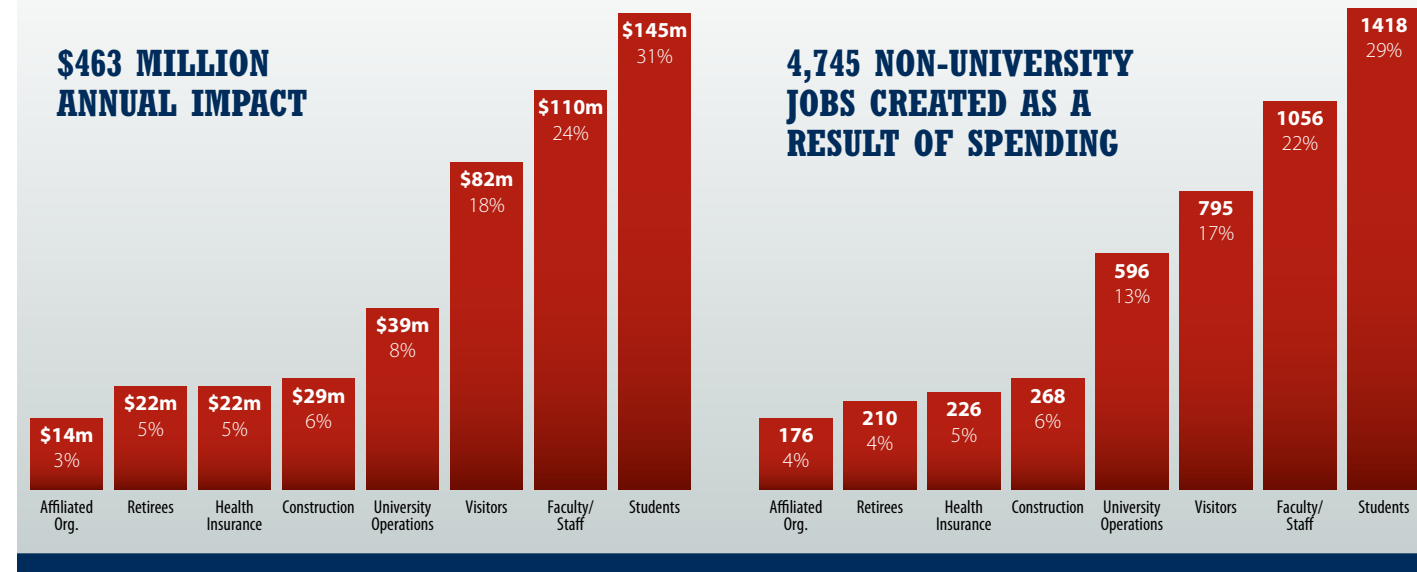
"I think we've all realized the value of the University in so many ways -- economically, culturally and others," Hollingsworth said.

"To quantify that shows how much of an impact that is, and if you look at the influence of the University as what it adds to the region, the impact is even more."

Dr. Les Guice, vice president for research and development, said that while the study revealed the results of the spending data, Tech has a national impact as well as state-wide.

"We're getting start-up companies in trenchless technology that are beginning to grow," Guice said. "In areas of nanotechnology, we are working with Louisiana companies, like the paper companies, to improve their technology, to improve their products."

For more information about the impact study results, visit <http://www.latech.edu/impactstudy>.



Thought about retiring in the shadow of your alma mater? If you want more information on returning to Ruston, the Ruston Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Ruston Lincoln Chamber of Commerce would love to tell you more! Call 318-255-2031 or visit [www.rustonlincoln.com](http://www.rustonlincoln.com).

## RETIRE IN RUSTON

### Come back to school without going to class

RUSTON IS "A PEACH OF A PLACE" TO GO TO COLLEGE -- OR to come to retire.

Development of over-55 retirement communities near colleges has become somewhat of a national trend. Dozens of these communities, made up of condominiums, town homes and single-family homes, have been developed with an affiliation to a nearby college, a public/private partnership that's helping both students and retirees.

A retirement complex called Capstone Village in Tuscaloosa, Ala., is on land owned by the University of Alabama. In Austin, Texas, students in the nursing program at the University of Texas gain hands-on experience by helping retirees at a nearby retirement village; though the complex and school are separate, a synergy's been found between the two.

The fit is natural: Young people available to help with housework, home care, and recreation. Summer programs, like a fitness pool, gym classes, even continuing education at the university for retired alums. Retiring in Ruston puts alums close to their favorite college teams, and games are only a mini-bus ride away. Residents have access to programs, seminars and facilities of the college, and students are afforded paid jobs or volunteer opportunities. Who knows the limit of mutually beneficial "deals" between retirees and their alma mater?

School's not always in session. But Ruston is! It's changed in the past 30 years, and all for the better.

While Ruston is still a small, charming college town, the I-20 corridor and Hwy. 33 corridor have exploded with new business and retail. There are more national chains, more great local establishments than you'd have imagined 20 years ago.

In nearby Choudrant is Squire Creek, the state's top-ranked golf course and world-class country club. Caney Lake, Lake Claiborne, Lake D'Arbonne and the Ouachita River are all less than 30 minutes away.

Cultural activities include the following: Celebrity Theatres, Ruston Civic Symphony, Dixie Center for the Performing Arts, Howard Center for the Performing Arts, Stone Theatre, E.J. Bellouq Art Gallery, Art Innovations, Visual Designs Gallery, and Piney Hills Gallery.

And of course there are Tech athletics, a full complement of on-campus classes designed for retirees, and the "feel" of youth and enthusiasm that flows from a college campus.

A vision of the future is being nurtured. Early in 2007, the City initiated a plan that will serve as a blueprint for Ruston's future growth. "Ruston 21" continues to develop with much community involvement. As a vital part of the town and area, Tech continues to play a big role in how Ruston's future is planned and plays out.

"The most important aspect of what makes Ruston great will be the same thing people remember about it when they were in school here: the people," said Kyle Edmiston, president/CEO of Ruston Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Ruston prides itself on Southern Hospitality; this will always be our greatest asset and greatest selling point."

Area architects have proposed some catchy concepts. Pursuit of those ideas depends on the interests of Tech alumni. If you're interested in more information on retirement in the Ruston area, don't wait—call today for information.



# THE DICKENS, YOU SAY?

That's right: Loan to library includes letters from timeless author

**KNOWN LARGELY FOR ITS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING** reputation and also for athletic successes fueled by the likes of University legends Terry Bradshaw and Karl Malone, Louisiana Tech can now boast of the most significant on-campus literary collection in the state.

On loan to the University are several manuscripts, all available for viewing at Prescott Memorial Library. The collection includes two letters written by Charles Dickens (one of them unpublished before now), a 17th century biography of Queen Elizabeth, and handwritten documents by Southey, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Thackeray, Ainsworth and Ruskin, and American greats Twain and Sandburg.

Jon and Lorna Kardatzke of Wichita, Ks., founders of that city's popular Museum of World Treasures, have loaned several noteworthy documents from their vast collection to Tech. Lorna's father, Frelsen Smith, was the university's first technical writing professor.

"We think it's wonderful that students are going to be able to enjoy and learn from these," Lorna Kardatzke said. "We're thrilled the manuscripts will be used for education and happy with what the library has done to show them off."

The notable loan had its beginning in the friendship of the Kardatzkes with Dr. Pat Garrett, former head of Tech's Department of English. Garrett was given a Twain manuscript by the couple; later, he suggested their loaning what has turned into an exhibit on Prescott's fourth floor.

"The Frelsen Fletcher Smith Memorial Collection will give Tech a cultural attraction which will testify to the worth of the humanities, an often neglected domain in our rush to new technologies," said Garrett.

The loan is a testament to education, but also to sentiment. "To be part of the Tech scene is really exciting for me," Lorna

Kardatzke said. "To have this connection to Tech is very important and special, and I will continue to bring signed manuscripts as long as they want them."

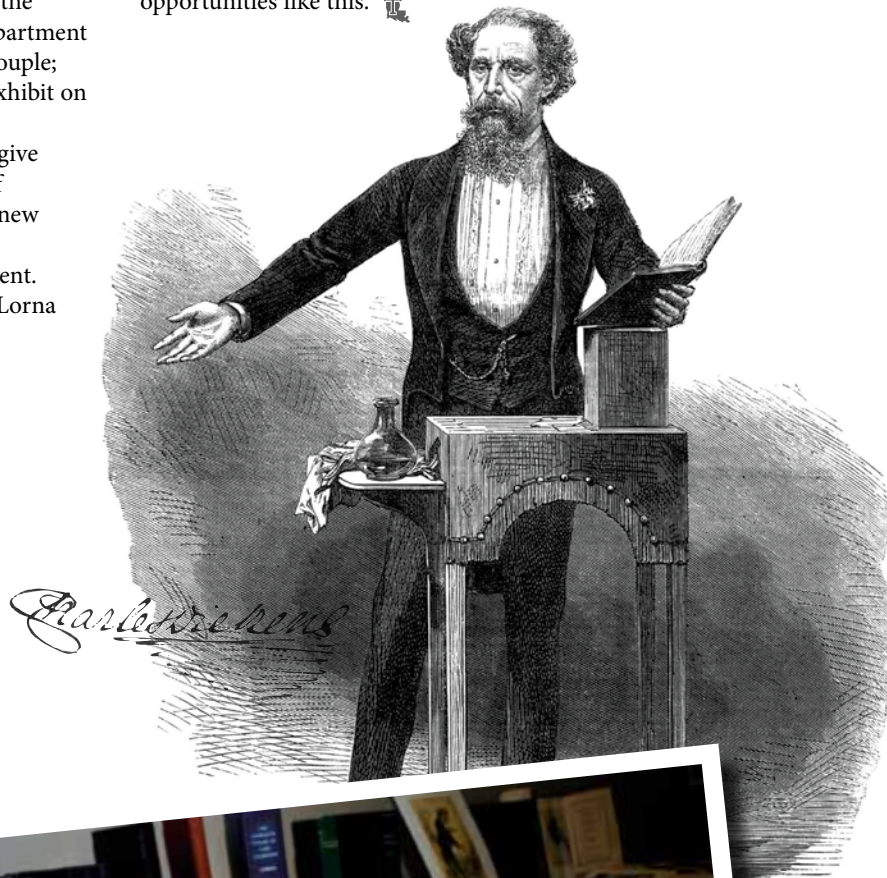
"We are thrilled to have this collection on loan at Tech and hope we can get more," said Donald Kaczvinsky, director of Tech's School of Literature and Language. "It's good for the students; they see a bit of Dickens' background, and I hope this is the start of a growing collection."

Dr. Rick Simmons, director of the Center for Academic and Professional Development and an associate professor of English, said the unpublished Dickens letter was written in January 1859.

"I've been in touch with Leon Litvack, one of the editors of the Dickens letters, and he was the first one to tell me that the letter was unknown," Simmons said. "He confirmed it and was really excited."

Simmons said Dickens was to be in Providence, R.I., the day before the letter was sent, but this new letter puts Dickens in Boston on the day he wrote it, which is a detail about Dickens' life that had not been known.

"To think that we have something here at Tech that no one has seen before is remarkable," Simmons said. "There aren't many opportunities like this."



From left to right: Dean Ed Jacobs, special collections librarian and archivist Peggy Carter, Lorna Kardatzke, and Jon Kardatzke



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S12	@ NAVY (CBS College Sports)	2:30 P.M.
S19	NICHOLLS STATE	6 P.M.
S30	HAWAII (ESPN2)*	7 P.M.
O9	@ NEVADA (ESPN)*	8 P.M.
O17	NEW MEXICO ST.*#	3 P.M.
O24	@ UTAH STATE*	2 P.M.

O31	@ IDAHO*	4 P.M.
N6	BOISE STATE (ESPN2)*	7 P.M.
N14	@ LSU	7 P.M.
N21	@ FRESNO STATE*	4 P.M.
D5	SAN JOSE STATE*	1 P.M.

\* WAC Games  
# Homecoming game  
All times are CST

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LA Tech Ticket Office • PO Box 3046 • Ruston, LA 71272



## Tech heads into meaty schedule

*New video board boosts game-day atmosphere*

Steak was at stake in April's T-Day Spring Game.

The Tech Red Team won, 21-0, over the Tech White Team, and earned a steak supper in the process. The White team settled for hot dogs.

And now Louisiana Tech's Bulldogs head into the real thing, a meaty 2009 season that begins Sept. 5 at Auburn. Other non-WAC road trips are to LSU and Navy.

The Bulldogs return the nucleus of last year's 8-5, Independence Bowl championship team, including 17 starters and all four first-team all-WAC performers in Phillip Livas, Daniel Porter, D'Anthony Smith and Antonio Baker. The incoming recruiting class was ranked as the second best in the WAC.

The team's not the only thing drawing excitement. New to Joe Aillet Stadium this fall is a state-of-the-art high definition video display board in the north end zone, much enhancing the game-day atmosphere.

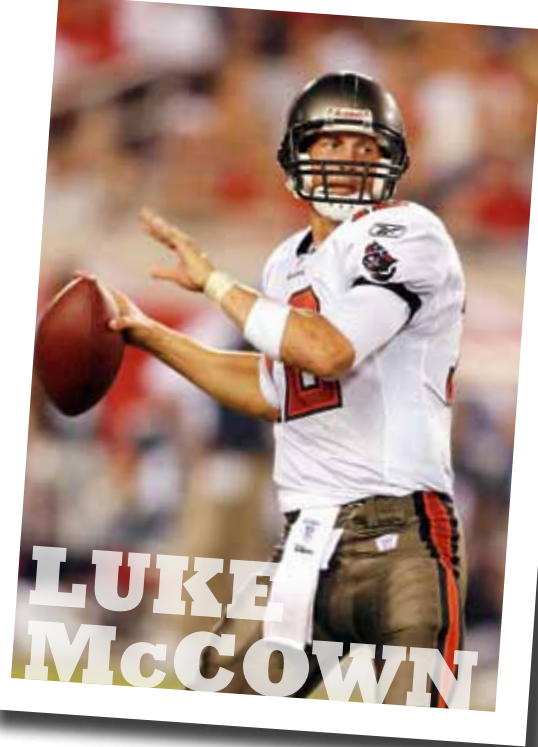
Installed by Daktronics, the world leader in large format electronic display systems, the board is the largest in the WAC. With a high definition display area of nearly 1,500 square feet (25 feet tall by 45 feet wide), the board is almost three times larger than the video board fans watched in Tech's 17-10 victory over Northern Illinois in Independence Stadium in December.

"In a continuing effort to serve our fans, we are thrilled that our dreams of a high quality board are now becoming a reality," said Tech Athletics Director Derek Dooley. "The immediate instant replays, pre-game and halftime entertainment, and state-of-the-art sound system will transform our game-day experience into the most exciting three hours of entertainment in north Louisiana."

The board will be funded through the University's partnership with Learfield Sports. The marketing revenue generated will not only fund the debt service on the project, but will also return additional revenue to the department.

"Not only will this new addition to Joe Aillet Stadium enhance the overall game-day experience for the LA Tech fan, but it creates phenomenal new opportunities for the sponsors of the program," said Mason Ellenberger, General Manager for LA Tech Sports Properties, a property of Learfield Sports.

"It will give the sponsors tremendous visibility for their products, services and initiatives. We strive not only to create an exciting game environment but to increase opportunities for our sponsors and advertisers to have every LA Tech fan as a customer."



**LA Tech has a long history of sending players to the NFL, including Hall of Famers Fred Dean and Terry Bradshaw. Going into training camp, here are Bulldogs active on NFL rosters.**

**HIRAM EUGENE** CB ('04)

Played 32 games for the Oakland Raiders.

**JOHNATHAN HOLLAND** WR ('03-'06)

Drafted in the seventh round by the Raiders in 2007.

**LUKE MCCOWN** QB ('00-'03)

Drafted in the fourth round in 2004 by the Cleveland Browns. Now plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

**RYAN MOATS** RB ('02-'04)

Drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the third round. Now plays for the Houston Texans.

**JOSH SCOBEE** K ('00-'03)

Drafted by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the fifth round in 2004. Is perfect on extra point attempts in his NFL Career (160 of 160).

**MATT STOVER** K ('86-'89)

Drafted by the New York Giants in the twelfth round of the 1990 draft, then started for Cleveland and Baltimore. Selected to the Pro Bowl in 2000 and holds the record for most consecutive PATs at 389 dating back to 1996.

**TRAMON WILLIAMS** CB ('03-'05)

In third season with the Green Bay Packers.

## WEATHERSPOON LEADS LADY TECHSTERS... AGAIN

As a player she led the Lady Techsters basketball team to a 1988 National Championship, was a two-time Kodak All-American and the nation's best player as a senior.

In April, she was named the team's leader again, this time as its coach.

Teresa Weatherspoon took over the program as interim head coach Feb. 9 and led the Lady Techsters to eight straight wins, from fifth to first in the Western Athletic Conference. The Lady Techsters won the regular season conference title and destroyed Conference USA regular season champion SMU 77-54 in the first round of the WNIT before finishing the season 21-13.

"This is an unbelievable honor," Weatherspoon said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would have the opportunity to play in such a historic place and then come back and be the head coach.

"I feel like I've come full circle; this is where my development as a player really started years ago and now I get the opportunity to share my experiences with these ladies. I'm extremely honored and grateful to the administration for having confidence in me to get the job done."

The combination of Weatherspoon's success on the sideline, legendary status as a player in the Columbia blue uniform in the 1980s, and reputation as one of the WNBA's all-time greatest players, made the decision an easy one for Tech administrators.

"I am absolutely delighted that Teresa Weatherspoon has accepted this position," said Tech president Dan Reneau. "She is a true Techster, a loyal alumna and a superb coach."



## MEN'S TRACK

Shreveport native Albert Fullwood won the men's WAC Outdoor Performer of the Year award for the second straight season. In the conference championships in Logan, Utah, Fullwood won the 200- and 400-meters and ran the anchor leg on the second place 4 x 400-meter team. Gary Stanley shared the 2009 Coach of the Year award for the Outdoor track and field season as well as the WAC's Indoor Coach of the Year.

## BASEBALL

Talk about a late-season rally. After starting WAC play at 1-7, the Bulldogs swept four at home from defending national champion Fresno State and finished 29-22 overall, 13-11 in league play. The second-place finish in the WAC is the program's highest finish since joining the conference in 2002. Wade Simoneaux and Co. turned their season around by winning 15 of its last 19 contests, a dozen of those against conference opponents. Newcomer Devon Dageford finished the year as the Bulldogs' Triple Crown winner



while breaking the program's single season home run record. The 6-2, 220-pound junior led the team with a .385 batting average, 23 home runs and 68 RBIs. He also ranked first on the squad with 59 runs scored, three triples, and a single season-record 168 total bases. He broke the old mark of 21 home runs when he hit a solo home run in a 4-3 win over Hawaii in the first game of the 2009 WAC Tournament in Honolulu. Dageford, who was a first team all-WAC honoree, would add his 23rd home run of the year in a loss to New Mexico State in the WAC Tournament. Teammates Chris Kersten and Patrick Thomas earned second team all-WAC honors.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Under the direction of second year head coach Kerry Rupp, Tech more than doubled its victory total from a year ago and finished 15-18 overall, 6-10 in the WAC. The 15 wins were the most since the NIT season of 2005-06 when the Bulldogs won more than 20 games. Losing only two seniors, the Bulldogs expect to bring back a very experienced team this fall which will include two of the WAC's top players in senior guard Kyle Gibson and senior forward Magnum Rolle.



## Waits wins WAC's Triple Crown

In only three short years, Amberly Waits has proven to be the most prolific offensive player in Lady Techsters softball history. The junior shortstop paced the team to a 34-23 record and a best-ever 12-8 record in the WAC, good for a fourth-place finish, while becoming the first LA Tech player to ever earn WAC Player of the Year accolades.

"We didn't just have one strong week to end our season," said coach Sarah Dawson. "We really dominated the whole last half of our schedule. And we did that primarily on the road. We finished with a winning record in WAC play for the first time in program history and went deep into the conference tournament. You can attribute a lot of our success this season to the veterans we had in our lineup."

Especially Waits, who'll return for her senior season with the same goal as her teammates: get to the NCAA Regional and see what happens. Waits carries an impressive résumé into her final season:

- Won the WAC Triple Crown: led the league in batting average (.444), homers (17) and RBIs (62).
- Shattered LA Tech single season records for home runs, RBIs, hits (82), batting average, total bases (155), slugging percentage (.934) and on-base percentage (.538).
- Set a LA Tech record with homers in four straight games (twice).
- Had 155 total bases and 28 multi-hit games and 20 multi-RBI games.
- After only three seasons is already the program career leader in batting average (.380), RBIs (129), triples (17), and total bases (358).
- Needs 30 hits, 24 doubles, 7 homers and 54 runs scored to hold Tech career record in those categories.

## Inaugural Louisiana Tech All-Sports Reunion Scheduled for Oct. 17

For a long time, Carrell Dowies has been a point man in putting together reunions for Louisiana Tech athletes.

But the shindig set for October 17 is by far the most ambitious.

The first All-Sports Reunion will be part of the 2009 Homecoming weekend. Dowies, coaches, alumni personnel and other friends of Tech have been poring through yearbooks in search of former athletes, coaches and assistant coaches.

"We're looking at more than 2,700 athletes," Dowies said.

The reunion is for men and women in all sports. All former athletes are invited to participate in this special time and to root for the Bulldogs against New Mexico State in Joe Aillet Stadium.

Details are being finalized and more information will be sent to former athletes soon. For certain, current plans are to meet, eat, and enjoy the game and the time together. So contact your former teammates and encourage them to meet you here!

First National Bank of Ruston will provide food. Dowies has already blocked 100 rooms in Ruston hotels and game tickets in a common section so the former athletes can sit together. All former Tech coaches will be specially recognized at the reunion. Current Tech coaches are assisting in trying to contact as many former athletes and coaches as possible.

Questions? Contact Adam McGuirt, Director of the Louisiana Tech Athletic Club (LTAC), at [adam@latechalumni.org](mailto:adam@latechalumni.org) or Carrell Dowies, Reunion Coordinator, at [dowiesc@bellsouth.net](mailto:dowiesc@bellsouth.net).

## Dynamic and a Dynasty

It's officially a dynasty. The Louisiana Tech women's track and field team continued their winning ways as Gary Stanley and Co. captured their fourth WAC indoor title in the past five years while also claiming their fifth straight outdoor title. The five straight WAC Outdoor titles is the second longest streak in league history behind only BYU, whose women won eight straight outdoor titles from 1991 through 1998. In all, the men and women's track teams sent more than 20 student-athletes to the 2009 Mideast Regionals in Louisville, Kentucky the last weekend in May -- the second most of any state school behind only LSU.



LOUISIANA TECH ATHLETIC CLUB

*Your Support.  
Their Effort.  
Everyone's Victory.*

## Membership Rising in Louisiana Tech Athletic Club

Success is contagious.

In every line of business, success breeds success, and the same is true for Louisiana Tech Athletics and the Louisiana Tech Athletic Club (LTAC).

The recent Independence Bowl championship won by the Bulldog football team and Western Athletic Conference titles won by the Lady Techsters basketball team and the Lady Techsters indoor track team have sparked an increased interest in supporting Tech Athletics.

LTAC is the athletic fundraising arm of the Division of University Advancement, existing to raise funds to support more than 350 student-athletes in their pursuit of academic and athletic excellence. In 2007 there were 660 LTAC members (formerly known as CHAMPS). Currently there are more than 1,200 members. The goal for 2009 is 1,500 members.

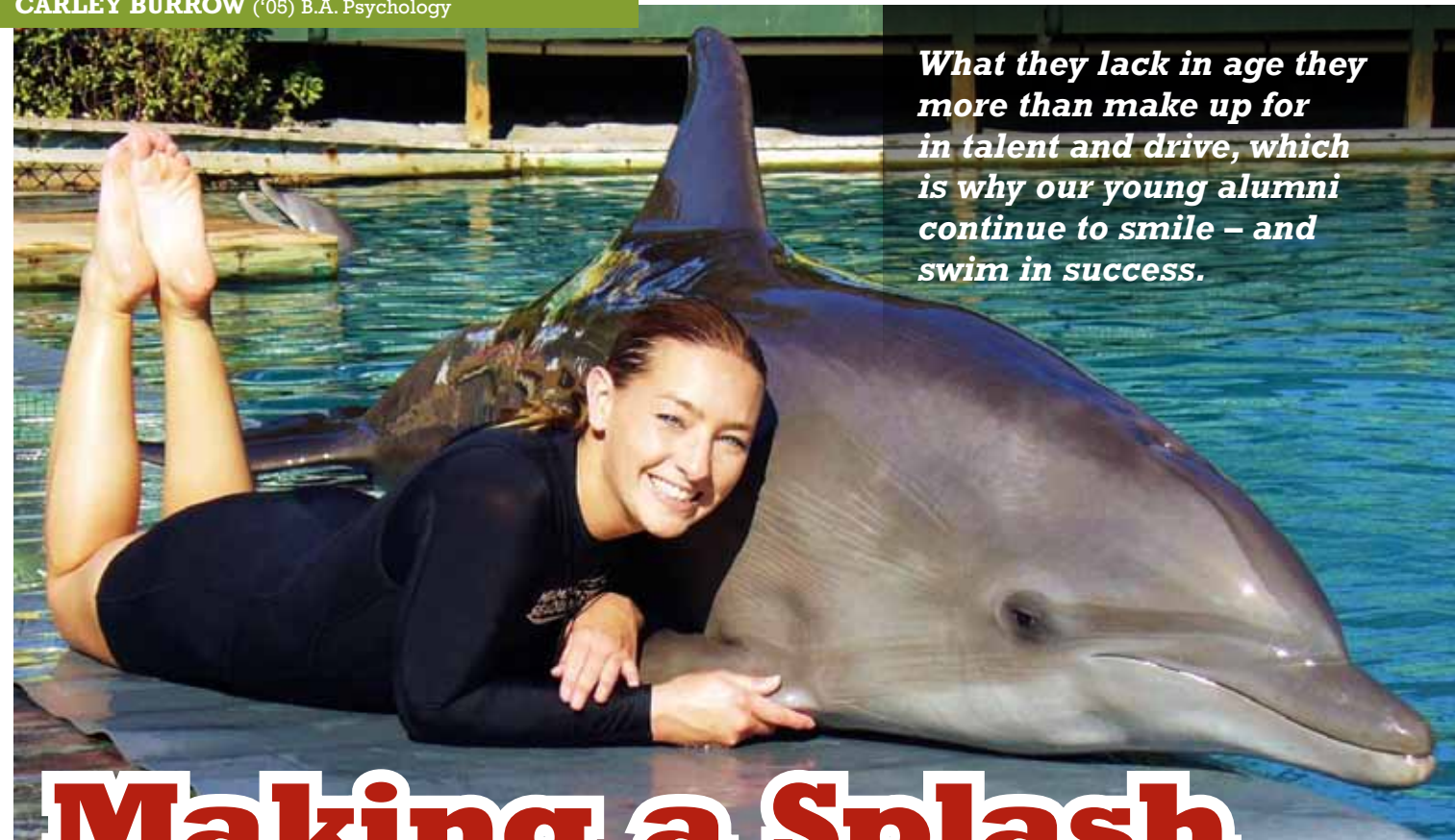
"The key to the continued growth of Tech Athletics is establishing a larger base of supporters" said Adam McGuirt, Director of LTAC. "There is strength in numbers, and we need every fan of Louisiana Tech Athletics to join LTAC and continue elevating the entire athletics program."

There are more than 65,000 active Louisiana Tech alumni. If each gave just \$10 per month, Louisiana Tech Athletics could invest more than \$7.8 million annually in its student-athletes.

The payoff for fans and proud alumni? More wins on the field and on the courts, more excitement around your University, and more success by confident student-athletes after graduation. The more support a program has, the more all of us win.

LTAC membership comes in many different forms and can be had for as little as \$100 per year or \$8.34 per month. Any and all fans of Louisiana Tech Athletics are encouraged to join LTAC and can do so online at [www.latechalumni.org/ltac](http://www.latechalumni.org/ltac) or by contacting Adam at 800.738.7950.





*What they lack in age they more than make up for in talent and drive, which is why our young alumni continue to smile – and swim in success.*

# Making a Splash

## SWIMMING WITH THE MAMMALS

It took one trip to SeaWorld before she was even in elementary school for Carley Burrow to find her dream job.

SeaWorld was dolphins flying. Dolphins pulling girls through the water. Dolphins balancing girls on their noses.

"I went and asked the trainers how they did what they did," Burrow said. "They said to get a degree in psychology, that it would help me understand behaviors and how to condition behavior. They told me to get scuba certified. And they told me to keep trying."

And so, she did. She had to learn to swim and read and drive first, but the goal was always the same: to get into the water with the dolphins.

After graduating from Louisiana Tech, Burrow, an Evangel High graduate from landlocked Shreveport, got an internship at the Miami Seaquarium. That grew into the job she'd envisioned. For the past four years she's been training dolphins, swimming with dolphins and performing four or five shows a day, five days a week, just as she'd dreamed of doing when she was a little girl.

"It's even more fun than I thought it would be," said Burrow, 26. "This is so rewarding. Two weeks ago, for the first time, I witnessed a dolphin being born. We start working with them right then, when they're little babies. This is the best."

During the half-hour shows in the Whale and Dolphin Stadium or the Flipper Stadium, she's basically showing off with the dolphins. She might hold a canvas while a dolphin, brush in its mouth, paints. Or she might stand on a platform while the dolphin performs a "flyover." Or she might be on the catapulting end of a Rocket Ride, where the dolphin swims fast from behind a dog-paddling Burrow, catches her feet with his nose and pushes her into the air so she can dive back into the water.

"You can't have this role forever; your body will wear down eventually," she said. "But there are other jobs at the park. We'll just have to see. Right now, this is what I want to be doing."

Psychology classes helped her, but so did her four years of cheerleading at Tech. All those basket tosses and pyramids and mid-air somersaults. A gymnast as a teen, Burrow found the practice to be priceless. Interacting with the dolphins, "you have to have a lot of body control and body awareness."

Her friends these days have names like Panama (pictured with Burrow), Sundance and Zo and Onyx and Indigo, a bottlenose dolphin whose mom was a star in the hit movie "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective." Her favorite is Lii, a Pacific white-sided dolphin who, she said, is "rock solid. He's awesome. He always wants to do his best and please his trainer. I don't have to worry about anything with him. And he's the cutest dolphin in the world."

## BRAVELY ON A MISSION

Stacy Conville is a doctor on a mission.

For one, she's trying to root her Atlanta Braves to their first division title since 2005.

"I'm still bitter about their letting John Smoltz go to Boston," she said about the Braves' offseason loss of her favorite player.

She's also rooting for medical advancement in multiple sclerosis, which she was diagnosed with in her second year as a medical student at LSU. And finally she's looking each day for new ways to serve, not only her patients but God.

"He's never failed me," she said.

It was in her sophomore year at Louisiana Tech that Conville, then with no major, felt a call through her faith to serve in missions. Her advisor suggested she pursue medical missions because of her healthy passion and GPA.

"So I chose Animal Biology as my major, took the Medical College Admission Test, and the rest is history," she said. "I chose family medicine because I wanted to be able to treat all ages and any disease I might encounter on the mission field."

Travel is not the best option right now.

"As my MS has progressed, my mobility has definitely been affected and I find that MS and the international mission field do not work well together. So I've just done a few short-term mission trips since becoming dependent on a cane or wheelchair for balance and mobility," she said.

"MS has also affected my workload as I had to change to mainly outpatient work a couple of years ago," Conville said. "My neurologist told me I wouldn't be able to keep that pace much longer. After a couple of years, I finally took his advice and made the change."

While research continues to find the cause of and treatment for MS, Conville has maintained her Ruston-area practice and moved ahead, much as she did when she was a very actively involved student at Tech.

"I was a member of various honor societies and such, but the majority of my time was spent at the BSU (now BCM)," she said. "My best friendships to this day started back at the BSU at Tech."

Her advice to future Young Alumni?

"Take responsibility for yourself and don't wait for someone else to do it for you or blame others when things don't go the way you planned," she said. "Respect others and be humble. It's a lot easier to humble yourself than to be humbled. Every choice you make has a consequence so choose wisely."

"Is that Dr. Phil enough for ya?"

Her sense of humor is evident even when she talks about the once mighty Braves, no longer the team to beat in the National League East.

"I guess the loyal fan answer would be to say we will take back our division! But since I barely recognize half our frequently changing roster this season, I can't say that emphatically just yet."



**STACY CONVILLE** ('98) B.S. Animal Biology, LSU School of Medicine ('02), LSU Family Medicine Residency Lake Charles ('05)

## SAINTS JOB IS HEAVEN

He grew up with three goals. Each involved the saints.

Listening in his elementary school days to Jimmy Swaggart on the radio made little Stephen Parker Pate want to be a traveling evangelist, complete with choir and tent revivals. Then he saw the New Orleans Saints on TV and wanted to work for them. Finally,



**STEPHEN PARKER PATE** ('05) M.S. Education

he went to a Louisiana Tech Lady Techsters basketball game and wanted to work for one of the biggest Tech saints of them all, coach Leon Barmore.

He scored on two out of three, and that's not bad.

Today Pate works for the Saints, helping to coordinate game days and special events in the Superdome. But the only traveling revival he was ever part of was Barmore's, first as the team's Video Coordinator, later as a graduate assistant for Barmore's successor, coach Kurt Budke. He ended a six-year tie to the Techsters as administrative coordinator for former coach Chris Long.

"I grew up in Bienville Parish and was a huge Lady Techsters fan all of my life," said Pate. "I was surrounded by wonderful people in the program; we all took care of each other. It was a real family... we traveled all over the country together, and we really developed a close, lasting relationship."

He spent a year as the Director of Basketball Operations Manager at the University of Southern Mississippi for the Lady Eagles, then another year as an Event Coordinator with SMG, the management company that runs the Louisiana Superdome. The Saints hired him from SMG; he's heading into his second season with his home state's flagship NFL team. He assists other departments in the Saints organization with special events both at the Saints Headquarters and offsite. Those programs help the Saints reach out to the state all year long.

"When I was a kid I wanted to work for the New Orleans Saints in any capacity, but even my mother, who never shot down a dream I had, felt like that might be an unrealistic goal," he said.

Despite those doubts early on in Castor, Pate is living his dream because another dream came true first.

"Louisiana Tech made my career," he said. "The one thing I can tell you is that the Lady Techsters program has weight in the sports world. We may take it for granted in Ruston, but outside of it, we have a very good reputation."





**FRIENDS OF LPB HONOR  
'LOUISIANA LEGEND' BRADSHAW**

*Four-time Super Bowl champion and a Louisiana Tech favorite son Terry Bradshaw was among those honored in April at the 19th annual Louisiana Legends Awards Gala hosted by Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) and by Gov. Bobby and First Lady Supriya Jindal, honorary co-chairs.*

For the past 19 years the Louisiana Legends Gala, held at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge this year, honors the best and brightest of Louisiana's sons and daughters who have distinguished themselves in a variety of disciplines and have brought honor to the state.

The evening included a silent auction with packages donated by the Honorees themselves, including autographed helmets and a football by Bradshaw.

Begun in 1990, the Louisiana Legends Awards Gala is a fundraising and public awareness project that draws support and participation across the state from citizens who appreciate the many fine instructional, educational and cultural programs LPB provides. All proceeds go toward the purchasing and creation of quality programming for public television in Louisiana.

Joining Bradshaw as honorees were former CEO of the United Negro College Fund William H. Gray; business leader and philanthropist Joy Nalty Hodges; longtime Louisiana legislator and educational leader Jimmy D. Long; and acclaimed author and former editor of The Wall Street Journal Ken Wells.

The evening began with a private reception at the Old Governor's Mansion for the Honorees, their special guests and major sponsors of the Gala, who are known as Gala Stars.

The event continued at the Old State Capitol, featuring an elaborate champagne cocktail reception and buffet, and a magnificent six-tier cake, each tier dedicated to the specific accomplishments of each Legends Honoree.

The awards ceremony carried into the House Chamber, where guests were entertained and inspired by five presentations, each as unique as the people who gave them. Mike Futrell, assistant chief administrative officer to Mayor Kip Holden, presented keys to the city to each Honoree. President and CEO of LPB Beth Courtney and Jim Nickel emceed the ceremony as the Honorees were presented with a Baccarat crystal award symbolizing the honor. The Honorees and guests were led out by the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church choir performing "Oh Happy Day," and into the Senate Chamber for the concluding dessert reception.

**SALUTE TO SIMONSEN**

The final act of Lt. Col. Dan Simonsen at Louisiana Tech before his Air Force retirement will be the thing he'll miss most about his three-year assignment as commanding officer of Tech's Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Detachment 305.

"The last thing we do during the school year is to give the oath of office at graduation," he said. "I'm going to miss the standing ovation those young men and women receive each year. It reminds me of how patriotic folks are around here."

Simonsen too deserves applause. His future airmen and administration praise him, and neither will have far to go should they need him in his "retirement." That's because he'll become a Tech student and pursue a graduate degree in history. He'll also move across the street to Ruston High and take over the school's Junior ROTC program.

"After 23 years, and my being from Louisiana, it just felt like it was time to stay home," he said. "I'm proud of the young men and women we've commissioned here. And this sounds hokey, but I'm proud to be a part of the Tech family. I've won some awards, but at the end of the day, it's about being part of a great team and it's about when you get those young people to raise their right hand and say, 'Repeat after me.' That's mission accomplished."



The family of Lt. Col. Dan Simonsen (right) presents him with a shadow box filled with medals, ribbons and career field specialty badges he earned during his 23-year career, plus an American flag flown over Louisiana Tech. Shown (from left) are sons Andrew (Army ROTC Cadet) and 2nd Lieutenant Mitchell Simonsen, daughter Taylor Victoria, and wife Serena.

**TOP DAWGS TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS**

Persevering and resourceful business students split a total of \$11,000 in cash and prizes in the annual TOP DAWG Business Plan Competition.

First place, \$4,000: The Oilfield Diagnostics team of Karren Lovelady and Noah Bergeron, with a new form of offshore pipe and platform inspection.

Second place, \$2,000: Blue Green Fuels, an alternative bio-fuel feed stock or oil that will be used to create bio-diesel; the team included Jeremy Pardue and Klark Kent.

Third place, \$1,000: The Brute Force team of Colin Hosli, David Richard and Mark McKee, for an innovative product line of "automated spotting" power lifting equipment.

In addition to the cash awards, the Louisiana Tech Enterprise Center sponsors incubator space valued at \$4,500 for six months to the first, second, and third-place teams.

Jones Walker Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, \$2,000: To Unitext and Blake Hosli and Shasta Phelps for an electronic notebook and textbook reader for college students.

Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Best Presentation Award, \$2,000: The Oilfield Diagnostics team.

Proceeds generated by the Ruston-Lincoln Parish Business Awards Breakfast, a collaborative event of the Ruston-Lincoln

Chamber of Commerce and the Louisiana Tech College of Business, fund the award.

Supporting sponsors for the TOP DAWG include the Louisiana Tech College of Business, Louisiana Tech College of Engineering and Science, and the Louisiana Tech Student Activity Grant.



**WILEY AND HIS WORDS RETIRE**

He's racked up his share of campus parking tickets in 41 years.

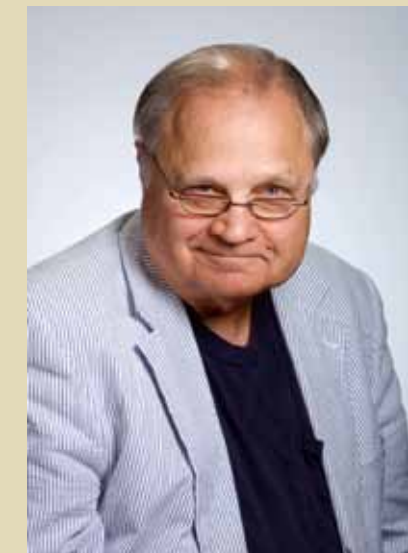
He's had his run-ins with administration, his run-ins with area media, and his face on television hundreds of times as the unofficial spokesperson for Louisiana Tech, bearing news sometimes bad but more often good.

And finally, he's had fun. And he's had a big hand in making a difference. And he's had the undying loyalty of nearly every student he's come in contact with while sweating out deadlines in the basement of Keeny Hall.

Wiley Hilburn, head of the University's journalism department and news bureau for more than four decades, retires in August.

"I'm really kind of embarrassed I've been here 41 years because it is so long I feel like some sort of curiosity, some kind of dinosaur they've found somewhere out west," he told The Tech Talk, the school newspaper he grew into an undeniable voice of its own in the 1960s, not just an on-campus mouthpiece for faculty and administration.

Wiley was a teenaged sportswriter for his hometown newspaper, The Ruston Daily Leader, and was its editor at age 21. For years he was an editorial writer for The Shreveport Times, and his "Fragments" column has appeared for decades in both The Times and The News-Star in Monroe.



In 2001, Hilburn became one of only two journalists inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame.

He is a fixture at Tech sporting events, a Bulldog and Lady Techsters fan who wears his heart on his sleeve. He is a regular for coffee and conversation at Ruston's Huddle House, a sure bet

at least once a week to forget where he parked his car or even what car he's in, and a professional journalist who thinks words and phrases and ideas whenever he's breathing.

He's also a teacher who, in the classroom, presented his passion for writing with honesty and tempered enthusiasm, the latter being because writing right is hard. Not all students could do it well enough to make a living at it. But all students could learn to write better if they accepted the Hilburn-taught theory that you keep learning every day, that it's about writing what you know, and that it's about hard work.

Now he gets time off to write exactly what he wants, to watch his beloved Chicago Cubs, to enjoy the comfort of no deadlines and no papers to grade. He can do that with the satisfaction of knowing he left it all on the Tech journalism field. He might have lost his car or his hat or a grade book or two through the years, but he never lost a student. He never lost a single one of those who truly loved the words, who truly wanted to learn how to write words that could make a positive difference.



**2008-09 RETIREES**

**Dr. John Clyde Adams** (32.5 years)  
Professor, Applied & Natural Sciences

**Mr. Edward Charles Barnes** (28 years)  
Laborer, Physical Plant/Grounds

**Mr. Alvin Barron** (14 years)  
Painter, Physical Plant/Buildings

**Dr. Philip Charles Cook** (40 years)  
Professor, Liberal Arts

**Mr. Gerald W. Douglas** (25 years)  
Associate Professor, Liberal Arts

**Mr. Sevin J. Dugas** (20.5 years)  
Associate Professor, Liberal Arts

**Ms. Kay G. Ellender** (8 years)  
Instructor, Liberal Arts

**Ms. Martha H. Garber** (18.5 years)  
Research Associate, Applied and Natural Sciences

**Ms. Charlotte G. Geter** (43 years)  
Administrative Coordinator 3, Disability Services

**Ms. Sandra Hammons** (23 years)  
Procurement Specialist 3, Purchasing

**Mr. Wiley W. Hilburn, Jr.** (41 years)  
Professor/Director of News Bureau

**Ms. Sallie R. Hollis** (34 years)  
Associate Professor, News Bureau

**Dr. Janie H. Humphries** (22 years)  
Professor, Applied & Natural Sciences

**Mr. Gentry D. Jackson** (15 years)  
Laborer, Physical Plant/ Grounds

**Dr. Karen R. Jacobs** (28 years)  
Associate Professor, Liberal Arts

**Ms. Beverly Kay Johnson** (13 years)  
Associate Director, Student Financial Aid

**Ms. Sue B. Jordan** (30 years)  
Administrative Coordinator 1, Bookstore

**Ms. Mary Lee Lockhart** (27 years)  
Custodian Supervisor, Physical Plant/  
Custodial

**Ms. Vicky J. Long** (11 years)  
Custodian Supervisor, Physical Plant/  
Custodial

**Ms. Jamie Ann Mitchell** (25 years)  
Custodian, Housing

**Ms. Annette W. Owen** (23 years)  
Administrative Coordinator 3, History Department

**Ms. Maxine M. Perry** (29 years)  
Food Service Specialist 3, Food Service

**Mr. Stephen A. Quinnelly** (29 years)  
Director of Judicial Affairs, Student Affairs

**Mr. Willie L. Robinson** (31 years)  
Custodian 1, Housing

**Dr. Raymond L. Sterling** (13 years)  
Professor, Engineering & Science

**Mr. Robert Tibbit** (32 years)  
Maintenance Repair Master, Physical Plant/Buildings

**Ms. Judy Gail Tubb** (7 years)  
Instructor, Liberal Arts

**Ms. Marilyn K. Verrett** (4 years)  
Instructor, Liberal Arts

**Dr. Elizabeth A. Wibker** (30 years)  
Associate Dean, Business

**Ms. Birdie L. Williams** (32 years)  
Food Service Specialist 2, Food Service

**Mr. James R. Williams** (22 years)  
Administrative Coordinator 2, AFROTC

**Dr. Charles W. Winstead** (34 years)  
Professor, Applied & Natural Sciences

**Dr. Natalia V. Zotov** (19 years)  
Professor, Engineering & Science

**TECH'S EFFICIENT 'ECO CAR' MAKES TOP 10 AT SHELL ECO CHALLENGE**

Developed by a student and faculty team from the College of Engineering and Science, Louisiana Tech's Eco Car placed in the top 10 of the Shell Eco Challenge.

The team increased the car's mileage from last year by 50 percent and this year got a healthy 696.7 miles per gallon.

Last year, Tech placed 12th in the competition; the car got "just" 430 miles a gallon then.

The competition took place at the Fontana Speedway in Los Angeles; more than 500 students from 44 colleges and high schools in North America met there to see who had designed and built this year's most fuel efficient car.

The Tech team also built a second car that was designed to travel long distances on small amounts of fuel in an urban or "stop and go" city environment. The Tech team was one of only three teams to design a car for this 'urban' competition.

COES dean Stan Napper was very proud of the students' hard work.

"I am pleased that more students were involved this year, that more sponsors supported the development costs this year, and that the teams accomplished greater success," said Napper.

Napper said he was especially pleased with the Tech team's camaraderie and professional friendship with their fellow competitors.

Dr. Heath Tims, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, advised the student team and traveled with the group to California. He said new innovations are already planned for next year's competition.

For more information about Tech's eco cars, go to [www.latechecocar.com](http://www.latechecocar.com).

**SOMETHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN**

Vacant a dozen years, the second-oldest building on the Louisiana Tech campus is being renovated for a futuristic role.

In roughly 18 months, the University's original library and later its Visual Arts Building will open as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center. Erected in 1926 in Colonial Revival style, the "brand" of the campus, the building will serve as a gateway to Tech's new Enterprise Campus, not only in its physical location but in the types of collaborative and innovative activities to prosper inside.

"Architect Mike Walpole did a superb job of creating a high quality space that preserved the historical character of the building while creating a 21st century learning environment inside," said Les Guice, Tech's vice president for research and development.



The building was first the University's Prescott Library, housed today in Wyly Tower. Current Tech president Dan Reneau can speak to what an inspiration the building was then. "As students, my wife Linda and I often pretended to study there in the early 1960s when we were dating," he said.

It was remodeled in the '60s to house the art program, and its name

changed from Prescott to the Visual Arts Building, or VAB. In 1998, the structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Only the Ropp Center, built in 1911 as the home of the University president, is older.

Fifth-year architectural students at Tech, under the direction of Tech professor and associate dean Bill Willoughby, designed a project that linked the existing College of Business building to the VAB. The project grew into its current state and will end "not as a standard state government square building with ceiling tiles and all that," said Tech director of support services Sam Wallace, "but as a building with character that's going to stay true to the 1926 architecture."

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center should be just as one faculty member hoped it would be when suggestions were taken for the renovation: "... a seamless transition and connection between the historic architecture of Tech and the state of the art technology and mission housed within."

The one-story building is set on a high basement capped with a cast concrete belt course. The brown and red brick resembles the textured effect found on colonial buildings. Pavilions on each side are connected by a hyphen to the central block. The swan-neck doorways and large round arch windows help give the building an elegant but soft and unthreatening look. Twelve-over-twelve-end pavilion windows and other decorative accents add to the building's character-defining features.

The ceiling tiles are gone and the building's original curved barrel plaster ceiling will again be exposed. The cupola, removed from the roof in the 1940s, will be replaced.

"The architect has designed a state-of-the-art, technologically rich, flexible facility inside a renovation of one of the campus' most historic buildings," Willoughby said. "There's a medley of workspaces, such as labs, workrooms, and specialized classrooms. Unique to any other building on the Louisiana Tech campus, there will be a tiered-seating auditorium added to the existing structure for special multimedia presentations by faculty, students, and distinguished speakers.

"Once complete," Willoughby said, "the facility will represent the very best of Louisiana Tech University: an institution that respects its traditions while it innovates for the future."

**A (WEB) SITE FOR TECH EYES**

Make it a habit to visit your alumni Web site regularly. Go to [latechalumni.org](http://latechalumni.org) and stay up to date on all Louisiana Tech news and events.

Remember to look for a couple of newer features. For instance, for more News About You, as featured in this issue, check out the News About You/Class Notes section of the site.

You can even blog or read the blogs of others. You'll need your Constituent ID, which is accessible at [latechalumni.org/loginhelp](http://latechalumni.org/loginhelp). (It's also above your name on the mailing label if you received this magazine by mail.) A step-by-step guide, with screen shots, will help you from there.

**LIKE OLD TIMES FOR OLD SOULS - AND NEW ONES**

Soul Tech, the first original black organization on the Tech campus, is planning something between a reunion, a revival and a re-organization.

Formed in the early 1970s, the club wants to return to Tech, probably under a different name and with new membership. Original members have organized a reunion for Homecoming weekend, Oct. 16-18. You don't have to have been a member of Soul Tech to attend; all interested students and former students are welcome.

Tentative plans are for a meet-and-greet Friday, the Homecoming football game Saturday, and a church-oriented activity Sunday. Go to [latechalumni.org](http://latechalumni.org) and click on "Homecoming 2009" on the screen's right side for more information.



Paul LeMaire (left), now a junior in Construction Engineering Technology, and Dr. Heath Tims were main cogs in the Eco Car's success. Hanging on the wall in the background: the team's '08 car.



# FOUNDATION

SPOTLIGHT

Members of the Louisiana Tech University Foundation offer private gifts for a pure and public cause: to support the educational mission of the University. For information on how to be a part of the Foundation's distinguished history, call 1-800-738-7950.

## NEW COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS LEAD EFFORTS TO GARNER ESSENTIAL PRIVATE SUPPORT



### DEBBIE VAN DE VELDE

- Associate Director of Development
- College of Business
- At Tech in this part-time position since January '09; 15 years in development, most recently at the University of Missouri.
- Phone: (318) 257-3741
- Email: [debrav@latech.edu](mailto:debrav@latech.edu)
- Web site: [www.latech.edu/cob](http://www.latech.edu/cob)

"Moving forward under the direction of Dr. James Lumpkin, the College of Business hopes to break ground soon on our new building. This building will serve as a centerpiece of the campus and a source of pride for students, alumni and friends of the University. Private funds are necessary for the successful completion of this state-of-the-art facility. We encourage our supporters to give generously to the 'Building Distinction Capital Campaign.' By working together, we can continue to 'Build Distinction' for the College of Business at Louisiana Tech University."



### CATHERINE FRASER

- Director of Development
- College of Engineering and Science
- At Tech since August '08, from a position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.
- Third generation Tech grad, granddaughter of former Tech coach L.P. "Eddie" McLane.
- Phone: (318) 257- 4971
- E-mail: [cfraser@latech.edu](mailto:cfraser@latech.edu)
- Web site: [www.latech.edu/coes](http://www.latech.edu/coes)

"Dean Stan Napper's goal for the College of Engineering and Science is to be 'the best college in the world at integrating engineering and science in education and research' and he is accomplishing that goal. Tech's integrated science and engineering curriculum is drawing attention and acclaim all across the country, and our graduates are among the most sought after in this area. Our students work at MIT, NASA, the U.S. Air Force, the Corps of Engineers and the largest oil, gas and chemical companies in the world. Our alumni are making a difference in the world and the work to find new energy sources and reverse climate change and I am honored to be a part of this team. I hope that you will support our efforts and help us stay competitive by making a gift to the College of Engineering and Science."

## LOUISE EWING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION



Randy and Rosemary Ewing

Randy and Rosemary Ewing of Ruston recently established the "Louise Ewing Memorial Scholarship Fund" at the Louisiana Tech University Foundation. The scholarship, named in memory of Randy's mother, will support education majors who intend to remain and teach in Louisiana after graduation.

"Rosemary and I are interested in providing support for deserving students who probably could not be in school without some help," said Randy. "We would like to think that in a few years there are teachers out there

in classrooms that got there due to a little help."

Randy, President of Ewing Timber and former President of the Louisiana State Senate, and Rosemary have long been advocates and supporters of education in north Louisiana, the State, and the region.

## EVA CUNNINGHAM FUNDS FOURTH PROFESSORSHIP

Eva Cunningham, a 1945 Tech business administration graduate, recently established her fourth professorship at Louisiana Tech University through the Louisiana Tech University Foundation. The new professorship will benefit the College of Engineering and Science and is designated to programs and activities that improve math and science education and increase the number of students pursuing math and science degrees.

Eva shares an interest in promoting math and science education with her former employer, Exxon. As an Exxon retiree, Eva is eligible to have her gifts to the Tech Foundation matched on a three-to-one basis by the ExxonMobil Foundation. In this manner, she was able to fund the professorship by leveraging her gifts with corporate matching funds and state matching funds available to the endowed professorship and chair program.

Eva has a long history of generously supporting Tech. In addition to faithfully providing annual gifts that have supported various areas of the University, Eva has previously created professorships that benefit the Library (honoring her sister Mary Jo Cunningham Magee Ross and brother-in-law Thomas Jackson "Jack" Magee), Interior Design (honoring her brother and sister-in-law Lee V. "Herc" and Betty Cunningham), and the College of Education.

## JEANNE MCNAUGHTON ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Jeanne McNaughton (Social Work '55) recently made a gift of \$30,000 to the Louisiana Tech University Foundation to establish the Todd McNaughton Memorial Scholarship in the College of Business in memory of her late son.

The fund will provide financial assistance to students enrolled in the Department of Economics and Finance in the College of Business. The recipient of this scholarship will preferably be a male student from the Shreveport area majoring in economics.

Todd McNaughton was a 1987 graduate of Louisiana Tech with a bachelor's degree in economics from the College of Business. Todd had just completed his MBA degree from Auburn University in 1988 when he was tragically killed in an automobile accident.

"Todd loved Louisiana Tech, and this scholarship allows his memory to live on while providing hope and support to other students who are struggling to pursue their dreams," stated Jeanne McNaughton. Jeanne's late husband, Milton, also attended Louisiana Tech and shared the family's love and support for the University.

Dr. James Lumpkin, Dean of the College of Business, said, "We are certainly grateful and very appreciative for the generosity this gift provides to the students in the Department of Economics and Finance. Scholarships are the foundation of recruiting and retaining excellent students in the College."

## HAYES TRACK SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



Robert Hayes

Bob and Nell Hayes of Lake Charles recently established the "Robert Hayes, Jr. Endowed Track Scholarship" through the Louisiana Tech University Foundation. The scholarship was created in honor of their son Robert, a 1998 graduate of Tech and a former all-conference distance runner for the men's track team who now teaches in Boise, Idaho. The scholarship will benefit a member of Louisiana Tech's long distance team each year.

"This scholarship is a great way for Mr. and Mrs. Hayes to honor Robert," said Tech track coach Gary Stanley. "It is extremely important to Louisiana Tech and will have a great impact on our track program." Bob was also an all-conference distance runner for the Tech track team during the early 60s and later served as track coach and athletics director at McNeese State University. Bob and Nell both graduated from Louisiana Tech in education.



## WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Do you have news to share in the News About You section? We want to share the stories of your accomplishments and milestones. Photos are always welcome, too. Submit your information for News About You online at [www.latechalumni.org](http://www.latechalumni.org) where you can then click on "News About You."

**MARTIE J. CORDARO**

A 'ROYAL' DAWG

**HOMETOWN:** Ruston.**NOW RESIDES IN:** Omaha, Neb.**DEGREE:** B.A., Marketing, '98

**HOW I GOT TO TECH:** Living in Ruston I chose to attend Tech to earn an education degree to go on to a career in coaching baseball.

**WHEN I KNEW I'D GO INTO ATHLETIC MANAGEMENT:** Sometime in 1997-98 while working for then Louisiana Tech University Head Baseball Coach Randy Davis.

**EXPLAIN THE JOB OF A GENERAL MANAGER OF A BASEBALL TEAM:** In Minor League Baseball the job of General Manager is different from Major League Baseball where they handle all player personnel decisions. In the minors, GMs handle all business operations including: Sales, Marketing, Community and Public Relations, Media Relations, Finance, Stadium Operations, Merchandise, Major League-affiliate Relations. We are a Sales and Community Relations-based business.

**WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT PRO BALL AT THE AAA LEVEL THAT WOULD BE SURPRISING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND FANS:** While our level of Baseball is just a phone-call from the Major Leagues, we are still grassroots in terms of our Sales and Community Relations endeavors.

**MEMORIES OF TECH:** Many good memories...from many professors and friends to my early days working in baseball. Also, serving as a ballboy during the Andy Russo/Karl Malone Dunkin' Dawg era to watching Gravy's baseball teams win league championships and play in NCAA tournaments are top-of-mind.

**MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED AT TECH:** Take advantage of opportunities when they are presented to you and persevere through all hardships as they too shall pass.

**ABOUT THE BAND I WAS IN AT TECH:** Stonybridge. It was all original rock 'n' roll. At the time, it was what's now college alternative rock. We played an 11-state area; all the guys in the band went to Tech. I played drums.

**HOW BEING IN A BAND HELPED ME IN MY CAREER:** It gave me real-world experience in media relations, marketing, public relations, public speaking, and 'collection.' It was most definitely a great education in experience – not just textbook experience. At the time did I know it would help me? Yes, but I couldn't pinpoint anything at the time. I was originally in education to be a baseball coach and ended up getting into marketing. That's when everything from playing music and running a business/band, all those experiences made sense.

## 1955

**Charles L. Gandy**, electrical engineering, has been inducted into the National Security Agency Hall of Fame. He made significant contributions to the fields of signals intelligence, information assurance, and counterintelligence. His work in research, development, and deployment of quick reaction capabilities greatly strengthened cryptologic community support to the highest levels of government.

## 1957

**Ronald 'Ron' Harrell**, petroleum engineering, chairman emeritus and advisor to the Board, Ryder Scott Co., and chairman of Kerogen Resources in Houston, has completed his term as President of the Engineering and Science Foundation and will continue to serve on the Board for another year as past president.

## 1961

**John G. 'Pete' Ball**, chemical engineering, principal and co-founder of XRoads Solutions Group in Dallas, was elected to a three-

year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation. He was also elected to the Investment Committee. He is on the Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business entrepreneurship advisory board.

## 1963

**Wayne E. Fortson**, pre-med (master's zoology 1969), will be inducted into the Kilgore College Hall of Fame on October 24, 2009. He has been the school's team doctor for more than 20 years. He received his medical degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

## 1965

**Sandra Sanders Salley**, psychology, has been selected by Super Lawyers Magazine as being in the top 5 percent of the attorneys in Louisiana for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. She and her daughter are partners in Salley and Salley in Metairie and focus primarily on family law.

**John W. Wood, Jr.**, electrical engineering, has been elected to the Board of Directors of FLIR Systems, Inc. for a term expiring at the Company's 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. He has also been appointed to serve on the Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.

## 1966

**Andrew J. Hodges, III**, business administration, has been appointed to the Red River Waterway Commission by Governor Bobby Jindal. He is a self-employed oil and gas producer and will serve as an at-large member.

## 1967

**Terrel J. DeVille**, sociology, received the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries' Distinguished Service Award. One of the highest honors bestowed by UMA, the Distinguished Service Award is given to those who are characterized by leadership and proven commitment to the advancement of the association.

## 1968

**M. John Baker**, chemical engineering, chairman and CEO of SunCoast Energy III in Houston, has been elected Treasurer of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation for 2009-10. He will also serve as Chairman of the Investment Committee.

## 1969

**E. Elton Calhoun, Jr.**, mechanical engineering, was named Citizen of the Year by the Victoria, Texas, Chamber of Commerce. He is president of Regional Steel Products.



**J. Michael 'Mike' Pearson**, civil engineering, CEO of Orion Marine Group in Houston, was elected Chairman of the Awards and Recognition Committee for the

Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation.

## 1972

**A. C. Hollins, Jr.**, construction technology, the Assistant General Manager and Director of Site Operations for National Security Technologies (managing the Nevada Test Site facilities) in Las Vegas, has been elected Vice President of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation for 2009-10. He will be President for 2010-11.

**Arne Melson**, mechanical engineering, will retire from SWEPCO in the summer of '09. He was plant manager at the company's Pirkey Power Plant near Hallsville, Texas.

**Randall E. Null**, chemical engineering (doctorate biomedical engineering 1976), has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors Advisory Board of GateKeeper USA, Inc. He is an independent consultant in Homeland Security, focusing on Security and Information Technologies; he works with leading companies in the industry, such as L-3 Communications, General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin.

## 1973



**Gary A. Moore**, accounting (master's accounting 1974), has been promoted to President of Argent Trust. He has served the company for 11 years, most recently as Senior Vice President

and Shreveport Regional Manager, and has a total of 28 years in the trust and investment management field.

## 1974

**Jack W. Ramsaur, II**, business management and entrepreneurship (master's business administration), has been assigned as the mobilization assistant to the commander of the Air Education and Training Command

**PAT COBB**

A DOCTOR IN THE 'DAWG HOUSE

**HOMETOWN:** Ruston**NOW RESIDES:** Billings, Mont.**DEGREE:** B.S., Zoology, '81, (M.D. Tulane, '85)

**TITLE:** Managing partner, Hematology-Oncology Centers; President, Community Oncology Alliance

**HOW I GOT TO TECH:** Are you kidding me? My grandmother, who ran the dining halls at Tech for years, and all but one of her siblings graduated from there. My grandfather was Tech chief of police. Both of my parents are Tech grads and all three of my

brothers are Bulldogs. I went to elementary school at A.E. Phillips. I really didn't consider going to college anywhere else.

**WHEN DID YOU KNOW THAT MEDICINE WOULD BE YOUR CAREER?** I always had an interest in science. Dr. James White from the botany department helped me sharpen that interest when I was at Ruston High by introducing me to the practical aspects of the scientific method. I looked into biomedical engineering when I was a senior in high school. Dr. Reneau was the head of the department then, and he asked me if I thought I might want to go to medical school some day. He wisely steered me to the premed curriculum (probably after seeing my math scores).

**HOW TECH PREPARED ME FOR MY CAREER:** Premed students are a toxic mix of stress, obsessive behavior and self-doubt, all fueled by large doses of caffeine. The professors at Tech were so supportive, encouraging us to work hard so that we were ready for the rigors of medical school. My non-premed courses, like sociology, psychology and literature, gave me insights into how people think. Physicians focus so much on the technical aspects of medicine, but it's the training in the humanities that have proven to be just as important in dealing with cancer patients every day.

**AVERAGE DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ONCOLOGIST:** I get to the office about 7 a.m. and look over any new information that came in overnight. Since I head up our political advocacy group, I have to check the news from Washington and answer emails from other physicians. Hospital rounds are next, followed by seeing 12-20 patients in the office until about 4:30 p.m. Then it's back to the hospital to check on patients, followed by a meeting with my practice manager to go over business aspects. I'm usually home by 7 p.m.

**IF I WEREN'T A DOCTOR, I'D PROBABLY BE:** I still dream about being a major league umpire. I really love baseball and call high school games occasionally in Billings. I know it may sound weird, but umpiring a baseball game is one of my great relaxations.

**THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB:** I treated a 19-year old woman for acute leukemia almost 10 years ago. She was close to death when she came in and had a very difficult time tolerating the chemotherapy for the two years it took to get rid of the disease. She moved away from Billings a few years later and I had lost contact with her, but this year at Christmas she sent me a picture of herself holding her newborn daughter in her arms. Stories like this one keep me going every day. Although I may have one of the toughest jobs around, I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing.

at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Air Force Maj. Gen. Ramsaur is a command pilot with more than 5,300 military and 4,500 civilian flying hours.

**Ginger Clarke Williams**, advertising design, recently shared her passion for the "fine art of giving" during the Women in the Know conference in New York City, sponsored by the 1,000-member Women's Jewelry Association. Her 78-year-old jewelry business, Clarkes Jewelers in Shreveport, is one of 2009's top 100 elite jewelers and one of the top 50 designer retailers in the United States.

## 1975

**William 'Bill' Brown**, civil engineering, vice president for Engineering for Tidewater Inc. in Metairie, was elected President of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation for 2009-10.

**George 'Geep' Moore**, civil engineering technology, owner and construction consultant specialist for Moore-Built Construction and Restoration, Inc. of Elm Grove, has been elected to a three-year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation.



**MARIBEL TUTEN CHILDRESS**

'PRINCIPAL' PRINCIPAL

**HOMETOWN:** Ruston**NOW RESIDES IN:** Springdale, Ark.**DEGREE:** B.A., Elementary Education ('90), M.A., Elementary School Counseling ('93), EdS, Educational Leadership (University of Arkansas).**HOW I GOT TO TECH:** I was a hometown girl and wanted to stay in my hometown community.**AFTER GRADUATING:** I traveled for Kappa Delta Sorority as a Chapter Development Consultant and then began my teaching career at Hillcrest Elementary School in Ruston.**WHY I CHOSE EDUCATION:** It was just the perfect fit for me. I'd been teaching all of my life - beginning with my little sister and cousins, then gymnastics and swimming lessons, elementary school students, and now teachers, too. I just love teaching!**WHEN AND WHY I DECIDED I NEEDED TO MOVE FROM THE CLASSROOM TO ADMINISTRATION:** I really never made that decision and hope that in many ways I am still in the classroom, just a bigger one. I was teaching 2nd grade in Springdale when my assistant principal received a promotion to principal of another school in our district. My principal asked me if I would consider applying for the open position. I declined. A week later she asked again. I declined again because my life's goal was really to teach young children until I turned 80. A week later she asked a third time, encouraging me to consider the benefits of working with and making a difference in the lives of 600 children a year vs. a single classroom of 25. She said, "Try it and if you don't absolutely love administration, you can always go back into the classroom the next year." She was right. I absolutely loved it and still do 12 years later. Every morning when I wake up, I can't wait to get to work and do the best job I can to support my students and their teachers.**WHAT DOES A PRINCIPAL DO THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY I THOUGHT OF PRINCIPALS WHEN I WAS A STUDENT?** Principals can and do have lots of fun with their students. It's OK for them to smile and laugh and play right along with them. I really enjoy getting to know each of my students on a personal level. I also had no idea how much work they had to do behind the scenes!**WHAT'S MY FAVORITE PIECE OF TECH CLOTHING I STILL HAVE:** My cap and gown. It is hanging in my office right now. I wear it from time to time around school as a reminder to my students of the importance of graduating from college and focusing on academic success. I also love to wear my Tech soccer T-shirt. We have a large soccer program at my school (12 teams last school year) and when I wear my Tech soccer T-shirt, the students think I played college soccer. Of course I didn't; Tech didn't even have a soccer program back in the late 80s.**SOME OF MY BEST MEMORIES OF TECH:** The people - throughout my college years I was surrounded by great people, both students and teachers. And my sorority - my experience in Kappa Delta gave me lots of great experiences; there were certainly lots of fun times, but the leadership experiences I got have also had a great impact on my career.**Rebecca Sadler**, nutrition and dietetics, received the Julio Figueroa, MD Founders Award from the National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana. She is a renal dietitian at Fresenius Medical Care-Ochsner in New Orleans.**1976****Barbara L. Carothers**, interior design, has passed the LEED AP exam. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design and is the foundation of the "green building" movement. She is

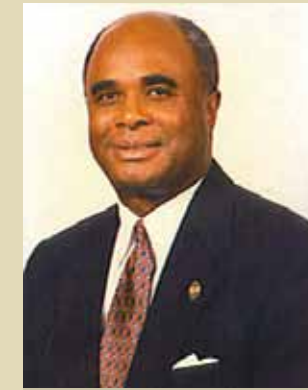
associate and director of interior design for RATIO Architects, Inc., a large Midwestern firm with offices in Indianapolis and Champaign, Ill.

**Randy Crouch**, health and physical education, is the new head football coach and athletic director at Little Cypress-Mauriceville in Orange, Texas.**Jere Nash**, electrical engineering, recently published his second book with co-author Andy Taggart, "Mississippi Fried Politics: Tall Tales from the Back Rooms" (Red/Blue Publications, 2008), a collection of political anecdotes, editorials, speeches and photographs from a colorful cast of Mississippi's political figures. Their earlier

history book, "Mississippi Politics: The Struggle for Power," 1976-2006 (University Press of Mississippi, 2006), will be released in a second edition containing new materials in the fall of 2009.

**1977****Steve Blackwelder**, electrical engineering, electrical manager and senior electrical engineer, Hunt, Guillot and Associates in Ruston, has been elected to a three-year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation. He was also elected to the Nominating Committee. Steve served 12-plus years on Tech's Electrical Engineering Advisory Board before term limits were implemented. He is a past chairman of that board.**John Matson**, petroleum engineering, senior director and a leader in PFC Energy's Upstream and Gas Group in Los Angeles, has been elected to a three-year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation. John resides in Houston.**David Scalfano**, civil engineering, has been named a 2009 Distinguished Alumni by Louisiana Tech University's College of Engineering and Science. He is owner and principal engineer of Northlake Engineers in Lecombe and has also been elected to a three-year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation. He was also elected to the Awards and Recognition Committee.**1979****Tommy L. Thompson**, petroleum engineering, has been appointed vice president, Horizontal Drilling, for Atlas Energy Resources, LLC. His primary responsibilities will include the oversight of Atlas Energy's horizontal drilling efforts, particularly in the Marcellus Shale in southwestern Pennsylvania.**1980****Hilton Nicholson**, electrical engineering, has joined SIXNET in Clifton Park, N.Y. as president and CEO. SIXNET is a leading manufacturer of innovative, open, wireless and wired data

products. He has been elected Secretary of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation for 2009-10. He just completed two terms as Treasurer and Chairman of the Investment Committee.

**1983****Roger McClellan**, accounting, received his one star rank as Brigadier General. He is the Joint Force Land Component Commander for the Arkansas National Guard.**Eddie McGough**, industrial engineering, senior vice president, Global Manufacturing & Technical Operations, at Alcon Laboratories in Dallas, has been elected to a three-year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation. He is the 2009 Distinguished IE Alumnus.**1984****Barrett P. Broussard**, psychology, has been named vice commander of the 349th Reserve Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif. He is a command pilot with more than 8,000 flying hours (183 in combat) in various aircraft. In his new post, he will assist the wing commander of the largest Reserve Associate Wing in the Air Force to provide combat ready crews and support for the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, and KC-10 Extender aircraft.**1985****Arie Freeman, Jr.**, industrial/organizational psychology, has been named Teacher of the Year in Georgia. He is a teacher at Thomson Middle School in Warner Robins, Ga. and also a minister at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.**Gary W. Hubbard**, civil engineering, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Ouachita Independent Bank. He is manager of Hubbard Investments, LLC and served as the 2008 President of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce.**1986****Lee Sherrill**, electrical engineering, area manager, Metso Automation, Monroe, has been elected to a three-year term as Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation.**1987****Donny Crowe**, photography, has been elected to the University Photographers Association of America Board of Directors.**1989****Dorothy Deona Martin Austin**, English education (master's industrial/organizational psychology 1992, master's counseling 1994), recently earned certification as a National Certified Counselor and National Certified School Counselor. She is a counselor for Winn Parish School Board in Winnfield.**RAYMOND HICKS**

RETIRED - BUT STILL WORKING, STILL EDUCATING

**HOMETOWN:** Opelousas**NOW RESIDES IN:** Shreveport**DEGREE:** M.A., Counseling, '71**AFTER GRADUATION:** Continued my career in higher education at institutions in Texas and Louisiana until my retirement in 2008. During that time I held positions as counselor, professor, student development administrator, academic administrator and college president.**WHY I CHOSE THAT CAREER:** I wanted to be involved in a career that would allow me to make a contribution to the personal development and academic success of young people during their pursuit of a college education.**WHAT GOT ME INVOLVED IN THE ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EXACTLY WHAT THAT IS:** The Alliance for Community Development, Inc. (ACD) is a nonprofit organization that I started in 1991 as a way to give back to the community. The purpose of ACD is to implement programs designed to improve the education and quality of life for students from urban communities in Shreveport. Currently, we are operating a Service Learning Program for young males in middle school.**HOW THE PUBLIC CAN HELP THE ALLIANCE:** Partner and collaborate with ACD by making a financial donation or an in-kind contribution, sponsoring an activity, advocating for local and state government support, or volunteering time to help achieve the program's goals.**SOME OF MY BEST MEMORIES OF TECH:** Teacher-student relationships (very caring faculty), positive learning environment, outstanding library services, resources, and staff (professionals and students).**MY ADVICE TO INCOMING FRESHMEN:** Attend all classes, spend a lot of time studying and preparing for classes, get to know your professors, don't be afraid to ask for help, make friends with students from diverse backgrounds and cultures, take time to enjoy the college experience and develop a sense of loyalty to your school.**Sharilyn Smith Gasaway**, accounting, has been elected to the Board of Directors of J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. She was most recently Executive Vice President - Chief Financial Officer of Alltel Corp., the Little Rock, Ark. based Fortune 500 wireless carrier.**Felicia Davis Gavin**, accounting, has been named corporate vice president of finance and general manager of DiamondJacks Casino and Hotel.**John Henry Percy**, counseling, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of military service. He enjoyed a distinguished 28-year career in the

service of his country and now aspires to work with the youth in juvenile centers to develop their leadership skills and motivate them to pursue careers.

**1990****Woodrow Hood**, speech, has been named dean of the Shuford School of Performing Arts at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. He joined the faculty in 2002 as an associate professor of theater arts and chair of that department.**Bruce A. Rew**, electrical engineering, has been elected as vice president of engineering for Southwest Power Pool, Inc. of Little Rock. He will manage SPP's engineering functions, including planning for expansion of the electric transmission grid. He will also manage SPP's responsibilities as a provider to other utilities.**1991****Shane McDowell**, accounting, has passed the Texas bar exam. He attended law school at Southern Methodist University and is currently employed with a law firm in the Dallas area.**Bradley D. McKinney**, accounting, has been selected for partner at accounting firm Marks Paneth & Shron LLP in Manhattan, N.Y. He



specializes in tax and financial planning with a particular focus on the real estate industry, and provides advisory and consulting services to high-net-worth individuals, family owned businesses, senior executives at publicly traded companies and real estate professionals.

**Christie Hughes Rice**, early childhood education, recently attained National Board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She is a fifth grade teacher at Albritton Elementary School in Hamburg, Ark.

1992

**Raymond G. "Rusty" Russell**, finance, has become co-leader of the corporate, securities, mergers and acquisitions practice team at Adams and Reese, LLP in Jackson, Miss.

**Robin Carol Thomas**, chemical engineering, was recently promoted Operation and Inventory Planning Director at Chemtura Corporation for their Antioxidant and Ultraviolet Stabilizer Business Unit in West Lafayette, Ind.

1994

**Don R. Arrington**, civil engineering, recently became a partner at the Monroe civil engineering firm S. E. Huey Co. He brings more than 15 years experience as an engineer.

1995



**Stephen B. Crawford**, civil engineering, has been named vice president at Halff Associates, Inc. in the Fort Worth, Texas office. He helped lay the groundwork for many floodplain-

related services in and around Grand Prairie. His experience also includes land development design. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Certified Floodplain Manager in the state of Texas and is the author of several technical papers on floodplains and wetlands.

1996



**Todd A. Jackson**, civil engineering, has been named vice president at Halff Associates, Inc. in the Austin, Texas office. He joined Halff in 1996, where he shortly assumed management responsibilities for the

Subsurface Utility Engineering Department. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Missouri and Louisiana.

**John Rogers**, marketing, was inducted into the Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame at the annual Jim Wetherington Hall of Fame Banquet in North Little Rock. This event recognizes former Boys & Girls Club members from North Little Rock who have become responsible adult citizens and community leaders. Due to the success of their business ventures, John and his wife, Angelica, started the John and Angelica Rogers Scholarship Foundation. Through this foundation, numerous NLRHS graduates have attended college. He continues to donate his time and resources to local programs such as this Boys & Girls Club, NLR Police Athletic League and the NLRHS Wildcat Foundation.

1997

**Robert F. Vinet**, mechanical engineering (master's mechanical engineering 1999, civil engineering 2003), has been awarded the Louisiana Engineering Society's 2009 F. Hugh Coughlin Young Engineer Award. The award is given annually to an engineer under 35 years old who has demonstrated high-degree capabilities in engineering. He is a vice president with the firm of Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., managing its Shreveport office.

1998

**Ryan T. Smith**, civil engineering, has been named Dallas office manager at MACTEC. He is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers and the Prestressed/Precast Concrete Institute, is a U.S. Army Ranger and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas and California.

1999

**Jennifer Nelson Lane**, theatre, is adjunct professor at University of Montevallo, Ala., teaching arts administration and stage management and is the State Screening Auditions Coordinator for Alabama Conference of Theatre/SETC.

2000

**Timothy S. Harrison**, political science (master's history 2002), received a Master of Arts Counseling from The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at its 36th Commencement on May 2, 2009.

**Marcus Lane**, theatre, is assistant professor of theatre and head of Movement Training at the University of Montevallo, Ala. He is a freelance director and actor during the summer months. He is Vice Chair of the Alabama Conference of Theatre.

**Harry W. Wilson, Jr.**, business management and entrepreneurship, was promoted to major by the Louisiana Army National Guard 256th Brigade Special Troops Battalion. He is a full-time guardsman assigned as the operations

and training officer at Camp Minden, a training site in Minden.

2001

**Betty Lenox**, general studies, has signed with the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA. She has played in the WNBA for nine years.

2002



**Kimberly Deal Husband**, accounting (master's business administration 2009), has been promoted to senior vice president at Argent Financial Group and its subsidiary, National Independent

Trust Company. She will continue to oversee compliance and risk management functions for NITC.

2004

**Christopher Todd Campbell**, curriculum instruction, was honored at the recent National Science Teachers Association Conference with the acclaimed Viernier Technology Award. As a teacher at Simsboro High School, he is known for utilizing data-collection technology in science class to improve student learning.

**Michael A. D'Aguiar**, forestry, earned a commission to second lieutenant with the Louisiana Army National Guard after graduating from the accelerated Officer Candidate School at Fort McClellan in Aniston, Ala., March 20. He will join the 527th Engineer Battalion as a platoon leader for the 1020th Vertical Engineer Company in Marksville.

2005

**Robin Pollard Baldwin**, mechanical engineering, mechanical contact engineer in ExxonMobil's Baytown, Texas facility, has been elected to a three-year term as an Associate Director of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation.

**Stephanie Boyles**, architecture, has received her certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for New Construction. She is an intern architect for Dale & Associates Architects in Biloxi, Miss.

2006

**Chris Ferchaud**, architecture, has met the requirements to become an LEED Accredited Professional, which means he has demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles. He is a project coordinator with TBArchitecture in West Monroe.

# STAY CONNECTED

JOIN THE LOUISIANA TECH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TODAY



*As the incoming president of the Louisiana Tech Alumni Association, I encourage you to become a member of this outstanding organization. Your membership helps make possible alumni events, the printing of this magazine, and your access to the great Web site that helps you reconnect with classmates and receive all kinds of Tech information. The Association also awards scholarships to 15 sons and daughters of Tech alumni each year...and these are just representative of the countless benefits of your membership. Join today by completing the form below or log on to [www.latechalumni.org/dues](http://www.latechalumni.org/dues).*

*Lomax Napper ('01, '02)  
Alumni Association President*



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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| Sean F. Cangelosi        | Steven & Joy McMahan | Harold & Andrea Tryon      |

*These names have been added to the lifetime roster since the previous issue of the magazine.*

Please cut along dotted line and send to the following address or join online at [www.latechalumni.org/dues](http://www.latechalumni.org/dues).

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# LA TECH VS NAVY

Let's meet in Annapolis! The Louisiana Tech Alumni Association has planned a fun-filled weekend of football and more when Tech visits Navy. Join us, make some memories, and cheer the defending Independence Bowl champion Bulldogs on against the Midshipmen.

**Thursday, September 10**  
Reception

**Friday, September 11**  
Annapolis and U.S. Naval Academy Tour  
Lunch on your own in Annapolis

**Saturday, September 12**  
Pre-game event  
Tech vs. Navy



**Host Hotel: Hilton at the Baltimore International Airport**

*For more information visit [www.latechalumni.org/navy](http://www.latechalumni.org/navy) or contact Ryan Richard, Director of Alumni Relations, at (318) 255-7950.*



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