



Class of 1958 Senior Class Officers

From left to right: Irvin Taunton, Treasurer; Delores Pittman, Secretary; Bill Mercer, Vice President; Edward Bitar, President

This fall, Tech's Class of 1958 will come together to celebrate its 50th reunion, Homecoming Weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 2. The year these Bulldogs graduated, a stamp cost four cents, Ferriday-native Jerry Lee Lewis' *Great Balls of Fire* was a number one hit and fellow crooner Elvis Presley sent thousands of fans to Heartbreak Hotel when he enlisted in the U.S. Army.



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MEET THE MILLENIALS

The First-Year Experience
supports a new class of Bulldogs

TAKING HIS PLACE

Bobby Rawle receives Tech's highest
alumni honor, the Tower Medallion

STEALING HOME

Lady Techsters wear the WAC crown

BULLDOG DETERMINED

What they lack in age, our young alumni
make up for in ambition



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www.latech.edu

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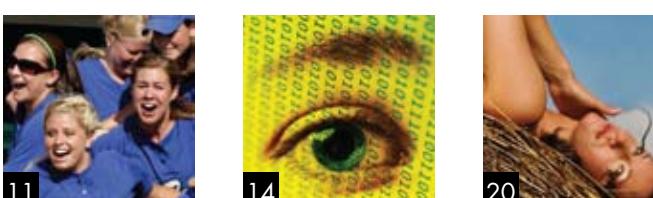
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Ryan W. Richard

PS. Please visit the NEW Division of University Advancement Web site at www.latechalumni.org for the most up-to-date information. Exciting changes to the Web site can be found on page three of this issue; I think you will be excited about the numerous new features.



FROM THE 16TH FLOOR

I REMEMBER WHEN I ARRIVED AT LOUISIANA TECH AS A TRANSFER STUDENT more years ago than I care to count. Having grown up on a small farm in Woodville, Miss., I knew little about Ruston; but I knew I wanted to be an engineer and that Tech would put me on a path to success. Like the freshmen who are the subjects of this magazine's cover story, I arrived on campus feeling excited and anxious. But, even back then, the amazing faculty and staff who served the University made me feel like part of the Tech Family. Today the mission of Tech's exciting First-Year Experience program is to make sure all of our freshmen feel the same way about the University. We believe that Tech's progress is directly connected to the successful transitions of our first-year students; if we make each freshman feel like a valued member of our Tech Family, we will make tremendous strides in our graduation and retention rates. You can read more about this program – and learn how to get involved – in the coming pages of this issue.

Many of you may remember that Bobby Rawle put up quite a fuss a few years back when we named him Alumnus of the Year. It didn't surprise me that Bobby, who is one of the most humble men I know, felt like the award should have gone to someone more deserving. I met Bobby as an undergraduate student, and over the years of our friendship I've come to expect his modesty. This year, when he found out he won the Tower Medallion Award, he suggested to Corre Stegall, our vice president of university advancement, that the award should have gone to a more deserving person. We had to agree to disagree! I know I speak for the entire Tech Family when I say that Bobby is a model alumnus and an exemplary human being. His hard work and dedication have made Tech a prominent player in economic development throughout the region. When Bobby served as director of the Enterprise Center, his vision and talent helped us to facilitate the rapid commercialization of Tech research. Indeed, Bobby is a person whom I feel fortunate to call a colleague and a friend, and I can think of no other alumnus who is more deserving of the 2008 Tower Medallion Award.

At commencement, I also had the privilege of awarding an honorary doctorate – the 25th in University history – to Mike McCallister, a most loyal and dedicated alumnus and a highly successful professional. Mike has been an instrumental source of support to Tech as we move forward in the vision set out in the strategic plan for this University to become a national research powerhouse by the year 2020. Through the generous support of Mike and Humana Inc., we are moving closer to that goal! Mike is living proof of the power that all alumni have to shape the future of Tech. (He spoke candidly about success with *Louisiana Tech Magazine*.) You'll be surprised to find out that this CEO doesn't work Saturdays.

Back in February, I was pleased to learn that one of our alumni, Kimberly McDaniel, was named as a top 10 young engineer by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Kimberly is proving herself a leader in her industry, as well as in her local community and on this campus. Not only has she served as a mentor in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in Detroit, but she also sits on the Board of Directors of the College of Engineering and Science Foundation. In addition to being a professional success story, Kimberly exemplifies Tech's tenets of loyalty and compassion. You can read about her achievements and those of her peers in our special feature highlighting the work of talented young alumni.

If any of you have driven through Ruston recently, you may have noticed a great deal of construction on campus. To borrow from the popular TV show, we are getting an extreme makeover. Our upgrades include an expansion of University Park, a new intramural center (complete with a rock-climbing wall), a new athletic track and many upgrades to basketball facilities. Best of all, I know Bulldogs will love tailgating this fall in the brand new Argent Alumni Pavilion, which will soon become a landmark gathering point for all home games. If you're in our neighborhood this summer, pardon our progress! Linda and I look forward to cheering alongside all of you at Homecoming. 

GET CONNECTED

IMPROVED UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT WEB SITE OFFERS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

WANT TO SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR NEW BABY? GET IN TOUCH with an old friend? Plan a homecoming reunion?

All of those tasks have just gotten easier, thanks to the Division of University Advancement which, this spring, launched a new Web site. Now all alumni can keep in touch with one another – and with Tech – via an upgraded Web site.

The Web site, www.latechalumni.org, makes donating to the University, locating former classmates and finding out about upcoming events more convenient.

"We have a ton of people who call looking for other alumni," says Ryan Richard, director of alumni relations. "Now we have an online directory, and the only people who can log onto the system are graduates, people who attended Tech or University donors."

Unlike other popular social network sites, the new system makes communicating with other Bulldog alumni not only easier, but also safer, says Neal Breeding, director of information systems and site Webmaster.



"Privacy is integrated into the system," Breeding says. "It's a protected area, and your open profile page is where you can add information."

Richard adds, "No one's information is on the Web site unless they want it out there."

Corre Stegall, vice president for university advancement, says the department conducted thorough research prior to completing the new Web site.

"This is a way our alumni can communicate with us and with one another," Stegall says. "It's a great means for them to stay connected to the University. I think folks are going to love it, especially when they find classmates they haven't seen or heard from in a long time."

New updates have also been added to the donation and events sections of the Web site. When alumni register for University events, an attendance list will be shown. Those who choose to donate to Tech will find an option to pledge a certain amount of money over time and an automatic withdrawal function that not only reminds them of the withdrawal, but also lets them decide when to have money debited.

"If we can get more alumni to give a little each month, we can advance more programs on campus, and the new system makes it easier," Richard says. "The Web site will notify you online that your credit card will be charged. It's also possible to tailor giving to specific colleges, endowments and scholarships."

Other updates to the site include message boards, groups, classifieds and class notes, which can include births, deaths and marriages.

Breeding adds that alumni who have profiles on other social networking sites, such as MySpace or Facebook, can link their profiles to the new site. Additionally, they can add links to photo sharing sites, such as Flickr.

"Alumni will be able to update their profiles on a daily basis," he says. "Alumni content will be changing daily."

To register or for more information about the site, visit www.latechalumni.org. 

"THIS IS A WAY OUR ALUMNI CAN COMMUNICATE WITH US AND WITH EACH OTHER. IT'S A GREAT MEANS FOR THEM TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY. I THINK FOLKS ARE GOING TO LOVE IT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY FIND CLASSMATES THEY HAVEN'T SEEN OR HEARD FROM IN A LONG TIME." - Corre Stegall



FIRST THINGS FIRST

THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM WORKS TO BOOST RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

"WHEN I FIRST STEPPED FOOT ON THIS CAMPUS, I CREATED AN INSTANTANEOUS BOND THAT WILL BE WITH ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. WHETHER IT IS 'MOVING THE CHAINS' AT A FOOTBALL GAME, SPENDING LATE NIGHTS AT THE LIBRARY STUDYING OR RUBBING THE TECH BULLDOG IN THE STUDENT CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY BECOMES MORE AND MORE A PART OF ME EACH DAY." - Dow Eldridge

ON SEPTEMBER 1, DOW ELDRIDGE STOOD BESIDE BULGING SUITCASES IN HIS NEW COTTINGHAM Residence Hall room, suppressed a rising lump in his throat and hugged his father goodbye. As his dad drove toward the Interstate, Eldridge realized, with a rush of excitement, he was, finally, a college freshman. No parents? No high school teachers? No problem. He'd spent his whole life hearing about "adults." Now, through the next four years of college, Eldridge would actually become one. At first, the accounting major, who grew up outside of Alexandria, thought like any average 18-year-old. Would people like me? He wondered. Would college be harder than high school?

"For the first time in my life, I was almost completely independent," Eldridge recalls, smiling shyly amid a blur of 'Net-surfing students in Tolliver Hall. "That was a bit overwhelming and freeing."

Only four students from his high school had enrolled at Tech – and four days stood between Eldridge and the first day of class, when he'd get his first taste of college and, more importantly, some answers. Raised "not to make a big deal about things," Eldridge thought pragmatically. He set to work unpacking clothes and re-arranging furniture. Then he left Cotttingham for the Joe Aillet Stadium to do something he'd wanted to do for more than a year: cheer on Bulldog football players from the hallowed stands of the student section. During that game, Eldridge met the girl who would become his girlfriend – and they're still dating. With one year of college and many football games behind him, he enters his sophomore year certain of three things:

1. Tech is my school.
2. Tech is my family.
3. Tech is a part of me.

"When I first stepped foot on this campus, I created an instantaneous bond that will be with me for the rest of my life," says Eldridge, an Honor's Scholar. "Whether it is 'moving the chains' at a football game, spending late nights at the library studying or rubbing the Tech Bulldog in the Student Center, the University becomes more and more a part of me each day."

Those are words that everybody in the Tech Family wants to hear. Eldridge credits Tech's inaugural First-Year Experience (FYE) program, launched in September 2007, with helping him make the critical leap from his parent's house in Deville to his new home at Tech. Along with learning how to study for exams, how to do his own laundry – with the detergent his mother recommended, of course – and how to plan an academic schedule, Eldridge has learned another reassuring lesson during his freshman year: Tech faculty and staff don't pay lip service to the notion of "Tech Family."

The FYE program represents Tech's response to the unique needs of a millennial generation of college students that enters university life with greater academic expectations than its predecessors. Eldridge is living proof of the program's shaping influence on a new class of college freshmen that is like none other that has come before it. How do millennials differ from previous Bulldogs? Well, while their parents may have slipped dimes in payphones to let Mom or Dad know when they had aced finals, Eldridge's generation doesn't phone home – it sends text messages.

Nationally, FYE programs are proliferating as universities are met with a population surge of millennial students and recognize the crucial role that the successful transitions of first-year students play in increasing both retention and graduation rates. While Tech has long provided strong support services to first-year students – orientation is a well-known example – the University has never before unified a complex infrastructure intended solely for freshmen. Through a common reading program, a ceremonious convocation, University Seminar classes, tailored advising and a symbolic medallion, the FYE not only helps students like Eldridge excel academically and socially, but it also teaches them to see themselves as important parts of the Tech community – links in the proverbial Bulldog "chain" – both now and after graduation.

(continued)

THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE: 2020 VISION

The strategic plan, Tech 2020, provides a roadmap for Tech to transition to a top public research university. The plan identifies three areas for strategic focus, two of which correlate to the First-Year Experience. Through the FYE, Tech is working to:

- support high quality education from birth through life; and
- enrich the learning outcomes for all students through highly integrated and interdisciplinary programs that encompass service learning and global awareness.

"We want to attract students and help them persist," says Dr. Linda D. Griffin, dean of student development.

Benchmark goals include graduation rates of 70 percent and first-year retention rates of 85 percent.

The FYE uses innovative programming to achieve these goals. Key components are listed below.

CONVOCATION: Held in September, Freshman Convocation marks the first event when members of the freshman class come together. It is designed to evoke thoughts of commencement, as students will not formally gather together again until they graduate. In fitting ceremony, students receive medallions to deposit in the Lady of the Mist as a symbol of their own investment in Tech. During Convocation, freshmen are introduced to President Daniel D. Reneau, athletic coaches, administrators and distinguished alumni.

UNIVERSITY SEMINAR: University Seminar introduces first-year students to Tech's history, traditions and policies in a welcoming, informal environment. Students who have not declared majors receive special advising and career counseling during University Seminar.

COMMON READ: All freshmen are encouraged to read a selected book before coming to campus; they then discuss the book in University Seminar. In 2007, students read *Who Moved My Cheese*. This summer, Tech's incoming freshmen are reading *The Freedom Writers Diary* by the Freedom Writers and Erin Gruwell, which inspired a major motion picture.



In September, more than 1,500 first-year students attended Freshman Convocation, an event meant to foster collegiality as well as reinforce important academic expectations. Here, members of the freshman class join together in saluting the American flag.

"This generation is very goal oriented," says Stacy Gilbert, director of co-curricular programs, which oversees the FYE. "They are very respectful of one another and of diversity, but they also have very high expectations for the quality of their education."

Tech is rising to meet these expectations through the scaffolding of a university-wide strategic plan – Tech 2020 – that aims to raise retention and graduation rates by the year 2020 to record-high levels. In turn, the FYE is working to build a university culture that understands advancement as dependent upon the successful transitions of these new students. And that, says Dr. Jim King, vice president for student affairs, takes a team effort. The Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Academic Affairs are tasked with jointly supervising the FYE.

"Our strategic plan states that our goal is to retain 85 percent of the freshman class," says King. "That's a tremendous goal that is almost unheard of in public education. Reaching that goal takes everyone working together and sharing the responsibility."

Last September, when Eldridge and his 1,591 fellow freshmen stepped onto Tech's campus, they became the University's first class to enter the FYE. Their needs covered everything from learning how to adjust to living away from homes in which they've enjoyed significant privileges – such as their own bedrooms – and learning how to make new friends, to learning how to adjust to the requirements of multiple professors, while deciding how to choose the right internships. (For millennial students, the career track starts in college, not after.) At the heart of the FYE is the notion that first-year students need to be embraced – not coddled – by mentors and advisors, so that they may more deeply integrate into the University community and feel, as Eldridge says, like part of Tech.

"Those first few weeks are critical in determining how well a student relates to the University and engages with the University," says Dr. Linda D. Griffin, dean of student development. "We are helping students recognize that Tech is their home, that it is a safe, welcoming place and that they are leaving one home to come to another."

Freshman Convocation remains one of the most visible ways Tech seeks to drive home that point – using the symbol of the Tech medallion. In September, first-year students gathered at Howard Auditorium and sat, excitedly, with the knowledge that they would not be together in the same room until four years later, when

"OUR STRATEGIC PLAN STATES THAT OUR GOAL IS TO RETAIN 85 PERCENT OF THE FRESHMAN CLASS. THAT'S A TREMENDOUS GOAL THAT IS ALMOST UNHEARD OF IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. REACHING THAT GOAL TAKES EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER AND SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY." - Jim King

they, hopefully, received their diplomas from President Daniel D. Reneau. To reinforce the goal of commencement, the event was intentionally designed to mirror graduation ceremonies. During convocation, all first-year students received a palm-sized bronze medallion emblazoned with the tenets of Tech, or the core values that form a moral compass for students and alumni. Clasping their diplomas, these students will also receive their medallions – a return on their

Howard Auditorium and into the Quad, where they eventually converged at the Lady of the Mist.

As they looked at the statue, they tossed their medallions in the rippling water. In turn, they began a Tech tradition meant to become a hallmark of both convocation and commencement: In four years, when they receive their diplomas, these students will also receive their medallions – a return on their

investment in Tech and a reminder that the University will always be a part of who they are, no matter where they are. For Jarica Johnson, a health information management major from Shreveport, the medallion's effect was powerful: "Looking at all of the words on the medallion made me feel proud that one day I'll be able to say, 'I'm a Tech graduate,'" she says. "I feel like I have important ideals to live up to."



Stacy Gilbert advises freshman Anna Olinde of Covington; Gilbert taught Olinde's unique University Seminar course for undeclared majors.

THE NEXT GENERATION

With palm pilots in their pockets and cell phones practically attached to their ears, the Louisiana Tech University class of 2011 is among the most technologically savvy in University history.

When these freshmen want to round up friends and head to the TONK for dinner, they don't knock on doors. They send messages on Facebook. And for this class, "my space" doesn't mean dorm room, it's a virtual social networking community replete with personal blogs and digital photos.

Meet the Millennial Generation, also known as Generation Y and the Next Generation.

Millennials don't remember a time when computers didn't come with built-in Internet capability. In fact, they don't remember a time without the Internet. And while their parents watched a president be assassinated on network television, members of the Millennial Generation watched a president get impeached – on cable, on televisions in their own bedrooms.

Born between the years of 1980 and 2000*, Millennials are reshaping higher education across the United States. The majority of their population graduated from high school this past May and is due to become college freshmen in September.

The First-Year Experience is one way that the University is responding to this new wave of incoming students who, along with their technological savvy, have higher expectations for their education, says Dr. Jim King, Vice President for Student Affairs. And with those expectations, they also bring increased levels of anxiety.

"For this group, coming to college is the first time they've had to share a room. They have a lot of uncertainty," King says. "Consistently, they report that they fear fitting in. First and foremost, they fear flunking out. All of the pieces of the First-Year Experience are designed to get them adjusted to college and comfortable in their learning environment."

These new challenges may have positive effects. For example, 10 years ago, students would have taken an "easy" professor to get a good grade, says Stacy Gilbert, director of co-curricular programs, which oversees the First-Year Experience. Not so today. These higher expectations promise to raise the caliber of the education Millennials receive.

"They are likely to become offended when they go into a classroom and a professor doesn't teach at a high level," Gilbert says. "If they are not satisfied with the lesson, they will make it known."

Here are some of the University's most recent demographics on today's first-year students.

- They are 54 percent male and 46 percent female.
- Their average ACT score is 23.2.
- At least 46 percent graduated in the top quarter of their high school graduating class.
- Their average high school grade point average is 3.3.

* *Generation Me*, Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D., 2006, Free Press



ALL SMILES

BOBBY RAWLE HAPPILY RECEIVES HIS GREATEST ALUMNI HONOR, THE TOWER MEDALLION AWARD

WHEN BOBBY RAWLE MOVED INTO HIS FRESHMAN DORMITORY in 1967, a man had not walked on the moon, the word “web” referred to something a spider did in its spare time and Tech had yet to become what Rawle would, eventually, come to call his “happy place.”

His happy place, indeed – in the four years that followed, he never missed a party or a game, Rawle says today, mentioning that his GPA reflected this zeal for life and earned him notoriety.

To President Daniel D. Reneau, Rawle is still the “person who had the most fun at Tech and still graduated.” (And Reneau should know. He advised Rawle’s Sigma Nu fraternity chapter.)

Yet, in the middle of all that ... ahem ... fun, Rawle managed to woo the woman he’d marry, the former Becky Howell. Less importantly, he adds that he earned a dual degree in business administration and industrial management by the time he moved permanently off campus in 1971.

“I had a great time, made long lasting friends and fell in love with a school that, somehow, in spite of me, was able to help me have a very fulfilling life,” Rawle says, from his home in Houston. “Whenever I think of Louisiana Tech, it makes me smile.”

Even so, that smile didn’t surface immediately when Rawle learned he won the prestigious Tower Medallion Award this year, symbolic of his election to Louisiana Tech’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

Not surprisingly, he tried, like always, to protest recognition of his work. The little voice inside his head began its characteristic muttering: “Here we go again, another award that should go to someone more deserving.” Rawle admits.

But this protest had a short shelf life, unlike the Rawle protest of 2005, when the former president of J. Ray McDermott put up quite a fuss at being named Tech’s Alumnus of the Year.

Well, not this time.

Or, if it is a mistake, as Rawle has humorously suggested, he’s taking an error in his favor and claiming his place in the Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

“It’s always an honor and a privilege to be recognized by your peers,” he says. “Terry Bradshaw, Karl Malone, Kix Brooks and Bobby Rawle; what a nice ring that has.”

In all seriousness, Rawle admits that, back when he served as director of Tech’s Enterprise Center, he often found himself

“I WANT ALL ALUMNI TO KNOW THAT I ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON THEIR BEHALF. SERVICE TO LOUISIANA TECH HAS ENHANCED MY LIFE BECAUSE IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD. ALSO, THAT DEFINITION OF SERVICE IS VERY BROAD. IT MEANS, WHATEVER YOU CAN DO, YOU SHOULD DO.” - Bobby Rawle



Flanked by family members, Bobby Rawle celebrates receiving the Tower Medallion Award at a graduation luncheon hosted by the Reneaus preceding spring commencement.

standing in the Marbury Alumni Center lobby and looking up at portraits of past Tower Medallion winners.

Only, he never thought that, one day, his face would be smiling down at him.

“To be considered a part of that group, much less than being included, is extremely humbling,” he says. “I want all alumni to know that I accept this award on their behalf. Service to Louisiana Tech has enhanced my life because it makes me feel good. Also, that definition of service is very broad. It means, whatever you can do, you should do.”

Rawle will be the first to admit that figuring out what one should do for the University can, sometimes, be a challenge. Case in point: His so-called “Aha!” moment came unexpectedly after he retired from J. Ray McDermott and a globe-trotting career that took him from Singapore to Dubai to London.

Back in Louisiana, while listening to Reneau explain Tech’s need to develop and commercialize intellectual property during a Research Foundation board meeting, Rawle felt the stirrings of a big idea.

Since he had retired early and “was driving his wife and eighth grade daughter crazy,” Rawle knew he needed to go back to work, pronto, he says.

So he walked out of the meeting with a job offer – sort of.

“I told Reneau that, if he was interested, I was the man for the job,” Rawle recalls.

Luckily, Reneau agreed. The former Sigma Nu advisor set his fraternity charge up with a new office and a new professional home at Tech. By going to work for his alma mater, the latter felt like he was making an important loop in the proverbial circle of life.

At Tech, his first task was to find a space in which to house technology businesses near campus. The task, Rawle says,

necessitated numerous walks around campus until he eventually walked to the Lincoln Parish Library. As fate would have it, Rawle checked out with more than books.

“When I was at Tech the first time, my friends would tell you that I fell in love often, including the last time that has lasted 36 years,” he says, alluding to the longevity of his marriage. “Well it happened again that I fell in love with the Lincoln Parish Library. Not only were we the same age, we were made for each other.”

But, like some of Rawle’s prior loves, she was promised to another. It took much finagling for him to win the building over to Tech. Naturally, Rawle credits his “pleasing personality” and “negotiating skills” with helping the University launch the Enterprise Center in 2005.

The year 2005 marked a turning point in Tech history and in Rawle’s life, but for far less celebratory reasons: That same year, he retired from Tech due to complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The progressive neurological disease may have limited Rawle’s ability to walk and speak, but ALS has been completely unsuccessful in suppressing his sense of humor. To make this point, Rawle joyfully recalls walking around campus and listening to people praise his work.

Again, not surprisingly, he tried to deflect their compliments. And, not surprisingly, his offerings of humble pie were declined.

“Later, I simply accepted their good wishes,” he says. “I would walk away and say to myself, ‘If they only knew how much fun I was having!’” 



WELCOME BACK SPOON

Former Lady Techster Teresa Weatherspoon's return to Louisiana Tech has been met with full-court enthusiasm.

"I'm absolutely delighted," says Tech President Daniel D. Reneau. "This is a great victory for us. I look forward to the future of Lady Techster basketball with 'Spoon' as a part of it."

Head Coach Chris Long shares Reneau's sentiment, and calls Weatherspoon's homecoming as associate head coach "a huge day for the Lady Techster program."

"I'm so happy that Teresa is coming back home to be a part of the Techster program," Long says. "We have had the opportunity to visit with each other at length over the last few days and she has fire, passion and charisma that are unmatched."

With a resumé that boasts such accolades as two-time WNBA Defensive Player of the Year (1997-98), Kodak All-American, Olympic Gold Medalist and No. 1 holder in Tech history for career assists and steals, it seems as if Weatherspoon has done it all – that is except coach a college basketball team.

"[Long] really wants to bring this program back to the level of play that it's always known; the level that is demanded of a Lady Techster. That means a lot to me," Weatherspoon says. "There is no reason why – and Coach Long has said this numerous times – this program can't get back to where it used to be. He felt like the addition of me would help."

Tech Senior Associate Athletic Director Mary Kay Hungate agrees with Long's decision to bring Weatherspoon on the Techster staff to jump-start the team's career with her knowledge of the game – on the court and on the sidelines.

"There is no better person in America to help Coach Long and the Lady Techsters regain their position among the nation's elite," Hungate says. "Teresa understands the history and tradition of this program; she helped create it."

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

THE MONTH OF APRIL SAW NEW CONSTRUCTION ON THE LOUISIANA TECH Jim Mize Track and Field Complex.

Workers from Athletic Polymer Systems, a contractor based out of Corona, Calif., began an approximate three- to four-month process that includes removing the current track and installing layers of concrete, asphalt and a tartan surface.

Tech Director of Recreation Bobby Dowling said the project will cost \$970,000. Half of the funding for the project comes from the student athletic fee, and the other half is from a bond issue for recreation.

"This is another step in the massive facilities facelift that needs to happen in our athletic department," said Tech Athletics Director Derek Dooley. "The master plan will not only ensure compliance with gender equity issues, but will also allow our sports to competitively recruit against conference and regional rivals."

The Jim Mize Track is just another area of Tech Athletics that has been, or is scheduled to be, upgraded. The Thomas Assembly Center received a state-of-the-art maple wood floor in October, along with additional renovations to the men's basketball offices, video room and locker room.

J.C. Love Field, home of the Bulldog baseball team, recently added a new scoreboard and a newly constructed press box, while undergoing other maintenance upgrades. Currently new tennis courts are being constructed on the southwest side of the Jim Mize Track.

Track and Field Coach Gary Stanley has led his program to six women's indoor and outdoor conference championship titles in the past four years, despite the current state of the facility.

Stanley said the upgrade will help retain the successful direction of both the men's and women's programs.

"Every person in our program is so excited about this," Stanley said. "This is long overdue. A lot of alumni have called and said how happy they are. We're all just so excited to get a first-class facility." 



LADY TECHSTERS SOFTBALL TAKES 2008 WAC TITLE

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1995, LADY TECHSTERS SOFTBALL earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Techsters headed to the NCAA tournament after taking the 2008 Western Athletic Conference Title on May 10 at Rainbow Wahine Softball Stadium in Honolulu. By virtue of that title, Louisiana Tech (35-27) earned the berth – the program's ninth NCAA appearance.

"I'm so excited for this team," said Tech head coach Sarah Dawson. "I'm proud of the way our kids played; they fought all weekend. I was proud of how competitive they were. We found so many different ways to win these games. The kids believed in what we asked of them and they saw good results."

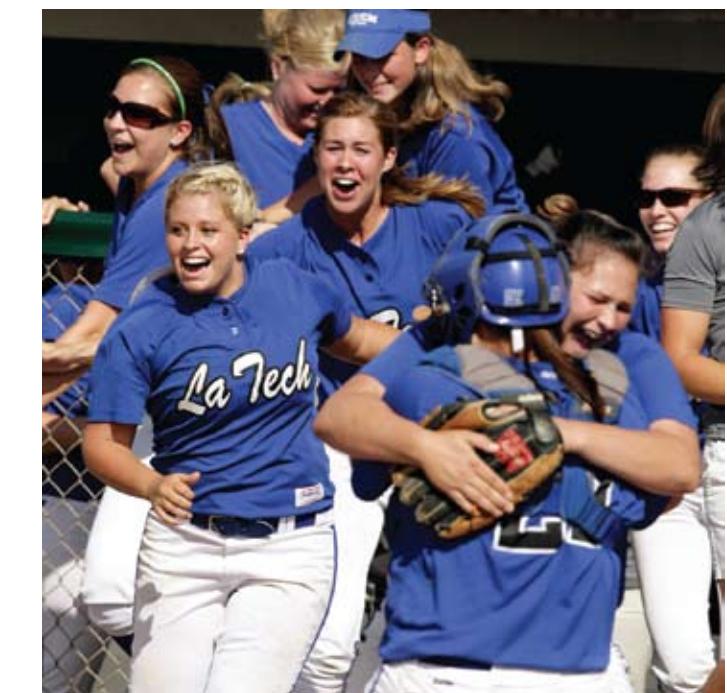
The victory was Tech's fourth over a Top 25 team in as many days as the Lady Techsters downed No. 22 Hawaii (2-1), No. 10 Fresno State and No. 17 Nevada.

Krissi Oliver, who was named tournament MVP, did more than just offensive damage for Tech in the championship game. The junior got the start in the circle and battled through six innings, scattering 10 hits and one walk while working her way out of numerous jams.

"At the end of last year we asked Krissi if she was ready to take on the role of hitter as well," Dawson said. "I knew when we recruited her she could hit. She looked us in the eye and said, 'Yes.' We told her it would mean working extra hard."

"Her pitching still comes first but she gets extra work with the hitters. I'm proud of her for balancing the two; it's not easy."

Dawson made a gutsy decision heading into the bottom of the seventh, taking Oliver out and putting freshman hurler Wanda Malone into the game.



Malone walked the leadoff batter but then retired the next three hitters, including recording a strikeout of Britton Murdock to end the game.

"It was the hardest decision we had to make this weekend," Dawson said. "It's hard to take your No. 1 pitcher out and bring in a freshman. After her success in the Hawaii series at home (earlier this year), Wanda learned a lot. She bought into what we were asking her to do. She came in here (this week) and pitched great when we needed them." 

TRACK COMPLETES STELLAR SEASON

SCORING A TOTAL OF 106 POINTS, LOUISIANA TECH WON THE 2008 WAC Indoor Track and Field Championships at Jackson Track in Boise, Idaho, edging opponent Hawaii by a final score of 122-121.

"This was a very different team than the one we had last year," said Tech head coach Gary Stanley. "Two months ago I thought we were a third place team. But these kids really stepped it up. Winning by one point taught them a valuable lesson and will help us in the future."

Seniors Nadia Alexander and Lasadies McClain both took individual championships; Alexander in the shot put with a throw of 52 feet, 10.25 inches and McClain in the 200-meter dash at 24.37 seconds. Freshman Chasidee Lewis-Baker took the championship in the 60 at 7.49.

On the men's side, junior Mike Coleman broke not only the school record in the men's 60 but also the arena record with a time of 6.68 for the championship and a mark that is tied for 14th in the entire NCAA. The time was also an NCAA Provisional Mark. Sophomore Al Fullwood took the



200 championship at 21.38, while Cory Denstel entered the championships around seventh on the conference list in the 800 before taking home the gold at 1:53.72. The Bulldogs finished fourth overall. 



MEET ME AT THE PAVILION

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS REINVENT THE FACE OF TECH TAILGATING

THANKS TO A TEAM OF FORWARD-THINKING BULLDOGS, tailgating is getting a substantial upgrade this year in the form of the Argent Alumni Pavilion.

Ready for use by fall 2008, the pavilion will be a steel frame structure with brick walls, covering an expansive 9,244 square feet – and conveniently located in the parking lot near the Thomas Assembly Center and Joe Aillet Stadium.

Kyle McDonald, president and chief executive officer of Argent Financial Group in Ruston, says that, in addition to being a much-needed permanent structure for tailgating, the pavilion testifies to the power of alumni working together in pursuit of a common goal.

“A lot of people are donating their time and effort, and that says something about the type of people who’d be willing to give something back to their alma mater,” McDonald says. “The design and development also speak for the quality of graduates produced by Tech.”

The pavilion’s interior boasts amenities any experienced tailgater could possibly need, including a well-equipped food serving area, extensive storage facilities, a large plasma screen television, a spacious seating section that can accommodate 500 football fans, a passive cooling system and the often overlooked essential – restrooms.

The design and construction of the pavilion is a group effort led by McDonald, Tim Brandon of Tim Brandon Architecture, Gary Moore, senior vice president at Argent, Benjie Winn of Winn Surveying and Engineering, Kenny Guillot, past president of the Alumni Association, David Lane Beard of David Lane Beard and Associates and John Allen, president of the Alumni Association.

Allen says the pavilion should give alumni a distinctive gathering point: “It’s going to be ‘meet me at the pavilion,’ as opposed to ‘meet me at the stadium or the TAC.’”

McDonald and his company are underwriting almost all the cost of the pavilion.

“It’s our way of giving back to the University,” he says. “We wanted something that would be meaningful – and that we could attach our name to – that would have a long tradition attached to it as well.”

Other alumni shared his sentiment.

“The alumni association wanted to find Tech alumni who would help put this pavilion together at an affordable price by donating as much of their services as possible. We wanted to help,” Brandon says. “This was an opportunity for us to show our talents, give something back to the school and, hopefully, open some doors for us.”

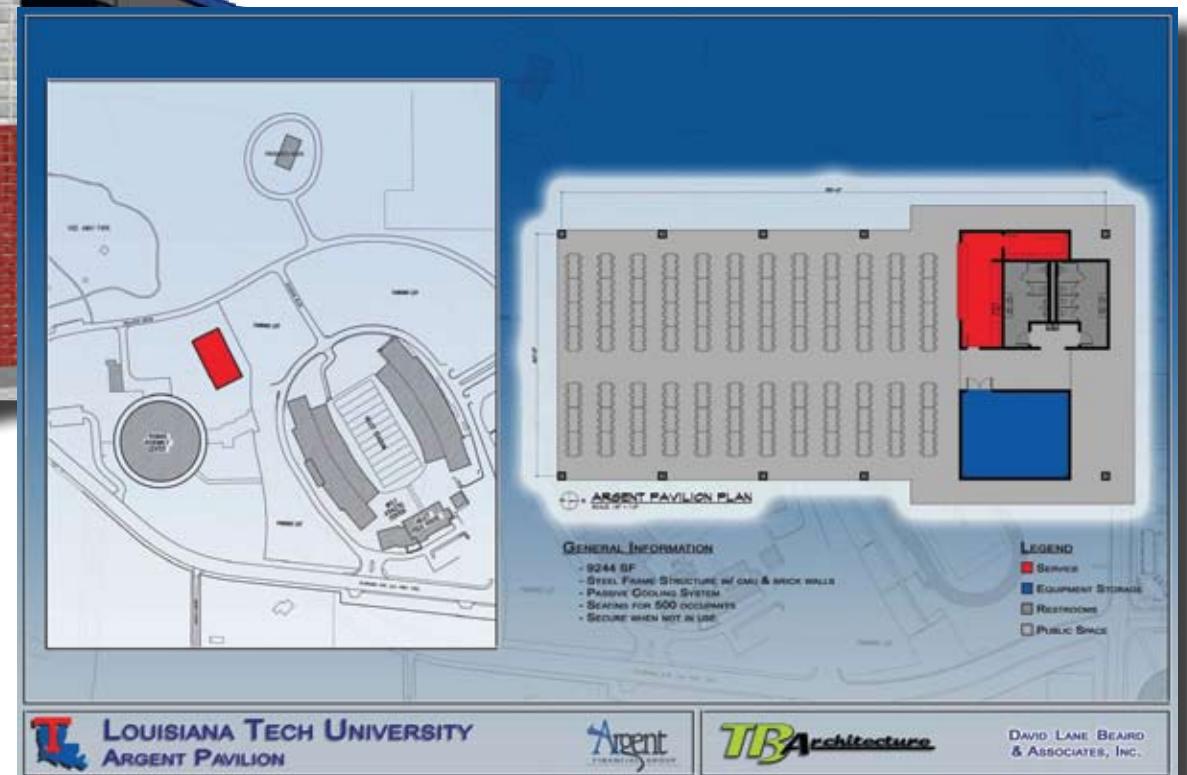
Beard, who also wanted to “give back to the university,” said the pavilion should be an additional means to help alumni keep connected to one another and to Tech.

After the architecture designs for the pavilion received an immediate stamp of approval from Tech President Daniel D. Reneau and Vice President of University Advancement Corre Stegall, Brandon and his team set to work creating a pavilion that would complement the campus.

“We feel like the architecture matches the stadium. It blends well and shows Tech colors and the current architectural style of that area,” Brandon says. “It will anchor the tailgating experience.”

In addition to tailgating, the multi-purpose pavilion will be used for social and fundraising events for students or colleges. 

“A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE DONATING THEIR TIME AND EFFORT, AND THAT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO’D BE WILLING TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THEIR ALMA MATER. THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT ALSO SPEAKS FOR THE QUALITY OF GRADUATES PRODUCED BY TECH.” - Kyle McDonald



2008 SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 6	at Kansas
Sept. 20	SOUTHEASTERN LA
Oct. 1	at Boise State*
Oct. 11	at Hawaii*
Oct. 18	IDAHO*
Oct. 25	at Army
Nov. 1	FRESNO STATE* (HC)
Nov. 8	at San Jose State*
Nov. 15	UTAH STATE*
Nov. 22	at New Mexico State*
Nov. 29	NEVADA*

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-2008-
BULLDOG
FOOTBALL

WAC
WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



PUTTING CYBER SECURITY EDUCATION ON A NATIONAL RADAR

LAST YEAR, LOUISIANA TECH AND LOUISIANA STATE University launched the Ruston-based Center for Secure Cyberspace to support the U.S. Air Force's Cyber Command Center at Barksdale Air Force Base.

But as the Air Force equips a new generation of air men and women to meet this new – and sometimes confusing – mission, it faces a major challenge: the lack of a uniform cyber security curriculum.

Enter Lt. Col. Dan Simonsen, Air Force ROTC commander and Tech professor of aerospace studies. His original curriculum, "Cyberspace and the Air Force Mission," is well on its way to becoming a teaching touchstone in national cyber security education. After receiving the 2007 Air Force Association's ROTC Curriculum Development Award, Simonsen sat down with Louisiana Tech Magazine to answer key questions about cyberspace and cyber security.

How do you define the words cyberspace and cyber security?
The Department of Defense considers cyberspace to be a domain characterized by the use of electronics and electromagnetic spectrums to store, modify and exchange data through network systems associated with physical infrastructures. From a personal point of view, I think of cyberspace as technology – sharing information and storing information back and forth. Cyber security is literally keeping that information safe.

What is the U.S. Air Force's role in protecting American cyberspace?

We provide sovereign options to our national leadership in the arenas of air, space and cyberspace. Cyberspace has been described in our national cyber security policy as the nervous system that keeps our country going. The Air Force's role is a subset of our national security strategy; when we deliver those sovereign options, we want to be able to operate in cyberspace, not only from the aspect of keeping our military information available, but also providing our national leadership avenues to operate in cyberspace.

Can you name a misconception that Americans have about cyber security?

One of the misconceptions that I believe some folks have about cyber security is that there's nothing they can do about it.

Are there simple ways that we can protect our personal computers from threats?

Passwords. When I say passwords, I mean a password that is not easily deduced. Don't use passwords that are derived from your name or your children's names. Use random combinations of letters and numbers. For a good password, come up with a phrase, such as "I love Louisiana Tech." Then add the year you graduated – ILLT1986.

Speaking of threats, what are a few common types of cyber warfare threats that you can name?

Some of the common cyber warfare threats relate to lack of virus protection. Malicious software can function like a Trojan Horse – you let the enemy in. For example, let's say you see a pop-up ad that says, 'Click here you may have already won!' If you click on it, you may have won a virus.

Have you learned anything that has surprised you since you began teaching classes in cyber security?

I've been surprised by how long we have been dealing with cyber security threats and how expensive it is to fix them. For example, there was a virus in July 2001 that targeted the White House's Web site. It affected more than 300,000 computers and cost our economy \$2.4 billion to correct.

How do you want your U.S. Air Force ROTC students to understand their role in cyber security when they have finished your class?

Not only is our core mission operating in cyberspace, but we have a mission that encompasses cyberspace. Cyberspace isn't a separate issue. We need to make sure that cyberspace is fully integrated into our planning. Sometimes cyberspace may be the best way to carry out a mission.

What are ways in which students can get involved as professional fighters of cyber warfare?

If a student wants to become a professional warrior via cyberspace, one of the best ways to do that is through the U.S. Air Force's ROTC program, which can launch careers in cyber warfare. Students who are interested in earning degrees in cyber security can do that right now at Louisiana Tech. It is an area of study that is rapidly expanding.

WE "READ" YOU LOUD AND CLEAR

This past March, the Louisiana Tech Department of Marketing and Public Relations, in cooperation with the Louisiana Tech Alumni Association, conducted an online survey in an effort to gauge the perceptions and opinions of our readers about various aspects of the *Louisiana Tech Magazine*.

We'd like to thank all of you who participated in this survey. Your input was very helpful and it will assist us in producing the best alumni magazine possible.

Here is what you had to say:

Are the articles in the *Louisiana Tech Magazine* of interest to you?

Yes **94.8%**

No **5.2%**

How much of the *Louisiana Tech Magazine* do you read?



How would you rate the following aspects of the *Louisiana Tech Magazine*?

Writing/Editing



Photography



Story Selection



Design



Print Quality



Organization of Content



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Average ■ Poor

What do you like best about the *Louisiana Tech Magazine*?

"I like almost everything in the magazine. It allows me to catch up on what is going on at the University. Now that my son is at Tech I read it with greater interest."

"Seeing news about former classmates and friends that I may have lost touch with."

"Being able to feel like I'm still in Ruston and a part of Tech."

"I really like to read about the new things happening around campus."

"Human interest stories, whether they are about alumni, students or athletes."

If you were in charge of the next edition of the *Louisiana Tech Magazine*, what would be the one change that you would make?

"Make it more personal. Show accomplishments of faculty and students and include more photographs of daily activities. Entice us to be back on campus."

"More candid information on the athletic programs and how they fare vs. WAC competition and how they are being improved. More alumni profiles."

"A little more news about all departments. Competitions won, grants won, publications, news about instructors, etc."

"More student events and spotlights."

PAGING DR. McCALLISTER

FROM HUMANA INC. TO HONORARY DOCTORATE

MIKE McCALLISTER DOESN'T WORK WEEKENDS. At 25, when he found himself running a small Louisiana hospital, the young accountant became scrupulous about balancing his personal life with his professional responsibilities.

As Chief Executive Officer of Humana Inc., McCallister proves it's possible to twin productivity with a balanced life. Even better, the proud father of two (and an avid golfer and reader) always has time for Tech.

"When I speak publicly, I always get the question, 'What did you learn in college that you found useful at work,'" he says, from his office in Louisville, Ky. "At Tech, I learned that you have to show up, you have to be accountable and you have to learn how to live on your own."

But McCallister believes in returning favors; he has worked tirelessly to support Tech's efforts in advancing research and technology for nearly a decade. President Daniel D. Reneau recognized McCallister's support at Spring Commencement by awarding him an honorary doctorate. In turn, McCallister became the 25th person in University history to receive the honor.

"This award feels like a form of appreciation for my involvement in Tech," he says. "I am honored. It was not something I expected."

He never expected to become bulldog-determined in advancing Tech either. But in 2000, when McCallister became CEO of Humana, he received \$1 million from the Humana Foundation for a donation to a university of his choosing.

So he called Reneau and asked, "Can this be of use to you?" The answer to that question, of course, was a resounding, "Yes."

"There is a strong connection that I feel with Tech," McCallister adds. "I think the engineering school has been a



significant piece of leadership in Tech's place in the academic world. Humana does a lot of business in the state of Louisiana. We've made it a point to be citizens everywhere we do business."

When it comes to lending a helping hand to Tech, Humana means business, quite literally. The company, under the direction of McCallister, most recently helped to fund the building of the Humana wing of the Biomedical Engineering Building, which houses the business incubator. These infant companies are reshaping the economic landscape of northern Louisiana through the gains of high technology.

Modestly, McCallister says he was glad to help.

"The incubator concept has been successful in getting people to buy into and take advantage of the research that happens at Tech, and then to turn that research into business opportunities," he says.

But this CEO isn't all work and no play. Indeed, most people are usually surprised to hear that he turns his cell phone off at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays, shuts his office door and goes home to have a quiet dinner with his wife.

"People will try to keep you from this – they'll try to schedule weekend meetings, give you 20 reasons why you can't take your one-week vacation," McCallister says. "It's a constant battle. This was one of the most important lessons I learned in my career."

Learning how to say, "No," is essential, he explains, even for Fortune 500 executives.

In a career spanning 34 years, McCallister has "maybe worked five Saturdays," he estimates. What makes him proud? Not surprisingly, McCallister says Humana's success is the answer to that question.

"I have 23,000 people working here," he says, "and we are all performing at a very high level!"



A PUBLIC PULPIT

After an unexpected tragedy, the Rev. Brady Boyd (Journalism '89) found himself playing dual roles as a pastor and public relations professional.



photographer then shared the photograph.

"I knew what they needed," he says. "Nothing I said was crafted. I shot from the hip and spoke whatever came to mind. I wanted to appear open and honest."

At no time did Boyd appear more open than in January when he invited the parents of all the shooting victims – killer included – to come together at the site where their children died.

Boyd wasn't spinning a cool media story. His motive? He wanted to help the families heal. Years spent counseling the grieving had taught him that parents may find solace by visiting the places where their children died.

"Believe it or not, they were both concerned for each other," he says. "I had no idea if it would be a total train wreck."

But it wasn't. The national press seized on that meeting as a comforting symbol of the congregation's capacity for forgiveness.

Indeed, in many ways, Boyd feels as if he spent his whole life training for the events of December. That training began in 1984, when he arrived at Tech to study journalism. Like many freshmen, Boyd felt slightly overwhelmed by the new demands of college life.

Yet, by the time he received his diploma from President Daniel D. Reneau in 1989, he had made a name for himself in the University's journalism department, where Boyd held dual jobs in sports information and at The Tech Talk, serving as sports editor for the latter.

"Brady was not only a good student, even then he was a good person, and fun to teach," recalls Wiley Hilburn, journalism department chair. "Just having him in the campus paper's newsroom was fun for me and for his fellow students."

It surprised no one that, after graduation, Boyd landed a job at Shreveport's KWKH. The gig paid \$14,000 annually, but the station had earned industry respect as the former broadcaster of the Louisiana Hayride, a program that had helped launch the careers of Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash.

After the radio station, Boyd went to work at Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport as an English teacher and coach, before moving from journalism to full-time ministry.

In retrospect, both of his seemingly disparate professions revolve around human needs. And through each, Boyd believes he has gained a deeper sense of gratitude.

"Human life is fragile," he says, more than eight months after the shootings. "We should honor it, and not take anything for granted."

FROM BATHTUB TO BUSINESS



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Stuck in Dallas traffic, Niven Morgan had one thought: "It's got to get better than this." Once home, he tried to figure out how to sell a container design to a local retailer, and remembered a recent gift of bath salts. Niven knew that bath salts would be the finishing touch for getting his product from idea to market; so he put his name on the prototype and, unexpectedly, launched his own original bath and body products line aptly named Niven Morgan, used today by everyone from Dolly Parton to Dr. Phil – well, his wife.

I got to Tech via Louisiana State University (LSU). I went to LSU for one semester. Almost everyone who pledged my fraternity at LSU had grown up in Shreveport. I wanted a new college life. At the time, my sister lived in Ruston, and her mother-in-law was dean of admissions. I transferred to Tech not knowing a soul. And it was a fantastic place.

After graduating I spent several months interviewing with many types of companies. I had a few job offers, but nothing was a perfect fit. I finally accepted a job in Dallas working in sales for a chemical company. I spent 11 years with this company, and the experience was great. I did start my company on the side. Working weekends and nights was the only way I could have made this transition.

My company, Niven Morgan, sells bath and body products and candles. We have about 700 accounts throughout the country. You can find our products almost everywhere. Recently, we have started selling in some of the Ritz-Carlton's gift shops.

The idea hit because I was trying to figure out how to get a container that I had made into a local chain store. I was thinking, 'What would help this sell?'

Someone had given me bath salts. I thought that bath salts would be the finishing touch. I put together a whole line of bath products and showed it to the store. I put together a higher-end product line and used my name instead of the prototype.

The exact same day that the idea hit me, I went to the Yellow Pages and found everything I was looking for. I met with manufacturing companies in Dallas. I set up the company name and tax number. I incorporated immediately. I didn't do a business plan. I realize now that if I'd written a business plan before I started my company that I probably wouldn't have done it.

I knew that I wanted to go into business for myself. So, I sold my stock that I had invested in other companies. I decided that, instead of investing in other companies, I should invest in my own company. The gamble was the same. I knew that I would work hard, and I knew that I could do it. I had zero experience in this industry.

I am a problem solver; we do an awful lot of product development, so I am working on that daily – that can be anything from burning a candle to trying new hand soap. I review customer orders and reports. I work with each department in my company. I like to stay in touch with my customers and to visit with them.

A typical day for me is spent floating around the floors to make sure all of our packaging is up to standards. I see every detail of this company that most people wouldn't see. I know if a tape gun needs tape. I know if we're low on boxes. I know if we're not making enough candles.

The best part of my job is freedom. It's the freedom to leave when I want, to travel and to control the product. I own the company myself, and I have the freedom to make more mistakes than anybody.

I have a strong need and desire to know what my customers want and what they need. I can only achieve this goal by listening. I know that loyalty and customer service are the keys to my success in my business. I also know that it is very important that I know what is going on in my office. I work very closely with my employees to ensure that each department is running smoothly.

I don't work five days a week; I work seven. If I'm awake, it's on my mind. I wish I could leave work at work. I know that this is what life is like for entrepreneurs. It's very important for people to understand that the freedom part of this job is amazing, but the stresses that come with owning your own company are huge.

I've never thought of myself as an entrepreneur, but I do think of myself as a professional business owner. I knew I had to work hard and be successful because I no longer had a job with a paycheck. But, now that I am referred to as an entrepreneur, I would have to say that I went into a survival mode to be successful.

Right now, I feel that the market is very difficult. I sell my products at wholesale prices to stores, but consumers are smart and they are watching how they spend their money. I think that in the future we will see our customers supporting product lines that provide their stores with great products, great customer service and products that are attainable by all. I also think it is a difficult time for new products to enter the market. Retailers are staying with products they know.

Staying in business is tough, but I don't see that as a challenge. I see that as a reality. Day to day, my job is a challenge. I have to balance each area of my business and hope that I am making correct decisions. If I make a mistake, it is my mistake. I try not to think about challenges as challenges. Instead, I try to think of them as obstacles that I have to overcome to move forward. And I know that I will always have these obstacles, but I also know that I will move forward.

I have had such a wonderful life that I feel I have had many triumphs. On the business side, I would say my greatest triumph is that I took a dream and made it a reality.

I don't consider myself to be grown up. I'm very responsible. I work very hard, but I do not feel like an adult. I guess my company still feels so new, and I still feel like the kid who just started a business.

If I've learned one thing in life, it is: To *live* life.

NOT A NUMBER

What they lack in age they more than make up for in talent and drive, which is why our young alumni have made great advances in their chosen fields. From taking fabulous photographs – and tracking everything from trends in fashion to trends in traffic patterns – these women have turned their biggest goals into paying careers. Less than ten years out of Tech all of them inspire their fellow Bulldogs to dream big, and then, to make those dreams a workplace reality.



**KELLY
MOORE**

Class of '01
B.A., Music

GLADLY LEARN, GLADLY TEACH

Since launching her own studio 10 years ago, Kelly Moore's innovative and avant-garde style of photography has made her one of the most sought after photographers in Louisiana.

"I am crazy and I don't follow the rules," she declares. "Every shoot I go on, I push myself to find something different that I've never done before. It's all about keeping yourself excited and being original and fresh."

When she's not seeking a new environment in which to shoot a signature portrait, Moore has taken the initiative to share her artistic know-how with fellow photographers through specialized workshops that have garnered her industry respect within the competitive field of event photography.

In one workshop, *Love Addict*, Moore helps budding photographers hone their styles, generate fresh ideas and utilize their equipment to its fullest potential. As if that wasn't enough, she also hosts workshops aptly named *Give Me Moore*, which provide one-on-one instruction for those who need photography tips ASAP. Plus, this year, she helped coordinate *Love Affair* – a women's only seminar held in scenic Bald Head Island in North Carolina. With the help of three other fierce female photographers, Moore gave participants hands-on training and inside knowledge on how to launch their own photography businesses. For aspiring photographers, she offers this tidbit pro bono: "Do whatever it takes to get your edge on the market."

It's no wonder, then, that this Bulldog's photographic aptitude is in high demand all over the world. These days, her assignments take her everywhere from New York City to the Bahamas. Even so, Moore happily calls Ruston her home and still, she says, bleeds red and blue.

"My husband and I both graduated from Tech, so it's a special place in our hearts," she adds. "We were really involved with the Baptist Campus Ministry and we had wonderful friends who we still keep up with today."



**KIMBERLY
McDANIEL**

Class of '03
B.S., Civil Engineering

ROAD WARRIOR

In her first civil engineering job, Kimberly McDaniel traded stiletto heels for steel-toe boots and worked the 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. shift. That's right, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

"For four months, I drove to a site, which was located on the side of the Interstate, and watched a crew dig a hole in the ground," she says, from her home in Troy, Mich., where she lives with her husband. "Every 20 minutes, a crew member would hand me a soil sample to test."

This year, McDaniel's dedication to her field paid off when the National Society of Professional Engineers named her as a top 10 candidate for its "New Faces of Engineering Program." The program singles out the brightest young engineers in the nation.

"It's pretty surreal," McDaniel says. "Initially, I was surprised."

McDaniel's days are still spent roadside. After giving birth to her first child, William Henry McDaniel, in May, she works as a lead traffic engineer for Spalding DeDecker Associates, a civil engineering firm. Her daily grind revolves around transportation, but McDaniel occasionally consults with non-transportation clients and does "a lot of traffic engineering impact studies."

Her toughest professional challenge?

"Fighting that I'm so much younger than all the people I work with; it's hard to earn credibility," she says.

At Tech, however, McDaniel has earned her due, especially in the College of Engineering and Science, where she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation. To future engineers, she advises that they follow her example and take the opportunities that come, including those that, like McDaniel's first job, necessitate major lifestyle changes.

"Even if it doesn't seem right at the time, if it's related to your field, you will benefit," she says. "Little opportunities give you connections you need to get the bigger ones."



**JULIE
MILLER**

Class of '05
B.A., Journalism

NEW YORK MINUTE

Checking Facebook or MySpace while at work is a covert operation for most. Chatting about celebs and their latest exploits and fashion faux pas – merely water cooler conversation. But, as an associate Web editor for *Seventeen Magazine*, Julie Miller gets paid for doing both.

After graduating Tech in 2005, Miller crammed her worldly goods into two suitcases and migrated north to the Mecca of journalistic endeavors, New York City, where she freelanced as a writer for four months before landing the job of her dreams at *Seventeen*.

"My daily grind involves obsessing over and interviewing teen heartthrobs, updating the site with new content and maintaining our social networking pages," Miller says. "There's always something new going on, which I love. One second I could be dishing out advice in a column to our readers, and the next I could be getting beauty advice from a celebrity in the conference room."

Her greatest challenge?

"I had to learn how to balance work and personal time," Miller says. "I learned it's OK to turn my Blackberry off on nights and weekends."

Even though Miller is writing advice columns for the teenage masses these days, she still has a few helpful hints for the college crowd, and especially for aspiring magazine writers.

"It's all about networking. Use your four years in college to form relationships with people who can help you in your career when you get out," Miller says. "Choose a major that makes you happy. Chances are you're going to have to work long hours. If work is going to be such a huge part of your life, you might as well make it something you love."

Although she's swapped the basement of Keeny Hall for a New York apartment, Miller hasn't forgotten her humble Bulldog beginnings.

Her best memories include, "hanging out with my roommate Jordan and our group of friends, running between the Lagniappe and Tech Talk offices and going to Monroe for 'special occasions.'"



Pictured from left to right: Rachel Lee, Bronson Cheramie, Cody Harger, Matt Myers, Heath Tims (faculty advisor), Kelly Crittenden (faculty advisor), Melody Sahuque

that was more of a reason for participating in the project than the environmental aspect.

Led by faculty members Dr. Heath Tims, Dr. Kelly Crittenden and Dr. Michael Swanbom, the five students designed and constructed a three-wheel, 90-pound car that burns one gallon of gasoline per 430 miles.

They competed in the combustion engine category during the marathon held in April at the California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. The Shell Eco-marathon attracted entrants representing 36 high schools and universities.

Not only were students expected to design and construct a prototype vehicle, but they also had to finance the project. The Blue Diamond was constructed for a total cost of \$1,700.

"This was a big learning process for all of us," said Tims, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering. "Five students went through a pretty hands-on project and saw it through in a quality matter. That is a very rare experience."

The team is looking for more members and plans to re-enter the competition with a new prototype vehicle in 2009.



EDUCATION PROFESSOR RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Lajeane Thomas, a Louisiana Tech professor of education, has been ranked among the Top 10 people who have had a profound impact on educational technology in the last decade.

eSchool News' editors and advisory board chose its "Ten Who've Made a Difference" in educational technology and calls those on the list "ed-tech movers and shakers."

Thomas shares the Top 10 with people such as Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, One Laptop Per Child Chairman Nicholas Negroponte and Linda G. Roberts, former special White House advisor on educational technology. She is the chair of the accreditation standards committee with the International Society for Technology in Education. ISTE CEO Dr. Don Knezek also received this honor.

"Being a chair with ISTE all of these years has provided me with the opportunity to touch a lot of people because of the standards that were developed," Thomas said. "People all over the world have contributed to these standards. We collect opinions and ideas through the Internet, face-to-face presentations and feedback sessions at different conferences."

Thomas is passionate about technology in education because, she said, it cuts across the curriculum.

"We have the ability to reach beyond one subject area," Thomas said. "Whatever the subject area – science, social studies, math – technology is used as a port for education in those areas."

eSchool News said it chose Thomas due to her leadership in creating the nation's first set of standards, which define what students should know and be able to do with technology. In 1998, the National Education Technology Standards for students were released, and the NETS for teachers and administrators were released shortly afterwards.

Last year, ITSE released an updated version of the standards for the students, and a revised version of the NETS for teachers will be released in June 2008. New NETS for administrators should follow in June 2009.

eSchool News is a monthly newspaper which provides news and information to help K-20 decision-makers successfully use technology and the Internet to help schools and colleges achieve their goals.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS MEET AN ECO-CHALLENGE

A group of Tech engineering students placed 12th in the Shell Eco-marathon, a competition that challenges students from across the United States, Canada and Latin America to create a prototype fuel-efficient vehicle.

Their prototype, nicknamed "The Blue Diamond" because of its Tech-blue body color, is capable of traveling at a speed of up to 40 miles per hour and is large enough to hold one person.

The team included Bronson Cheramie (mechanical engineering, '10), Cody Harker (mechanical engineering, '10), Rachel Lee (biomedical engineering '11), Matt Myers (mechanical engineering '10) and Melody Sahuque (nursing '10).

Students were motivated to design and build a fuel-efficient car because of the rising cost of gasoline and, also, out of a genuine curiosity about mechanics.

"This is a new and interesting problem," said Sahuque.

"As people, we are interested in how things work. For us,

VINCE DOOLEY SPEAKS TO SPORTS MARKETING STUDENTS

Vince Dooley, former University of Georgia football coach and athletics director emeritus, was the guest speaker in Louisiana Tech's College of Business' Leadership in Sports Administration class. The class is taught by Derek Dooley, Vince's son, Tech's head football coach and athletics director.

The class, which capped enrollment at 130 students, has featured a number of guest speakers who have already covered various aspects of sports marketing and administration. These have included:

- Jason Fierman – marketing publications director for the athletic department at Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge. He spoke on building the brand, visual imagery and capitalizing on national championships.
- Charlie Jones – former member of the San Antonio Spurs who has worked in evaluating talent and placing a value on each free agent or player eligible for a draft.
- Brett Huebner – associate athletic director and CFO at the University of South Florida. His topic was turning around the athletic department and growing it from an afterthought to a major college power and presence on campus in less than five years.

Each speaker has focused on specific aspects of sports administration and leadership and has brought their expertise and experiences into the classroom. Vince Dooley continued that approach by adding real-life application of the academic material in the course.

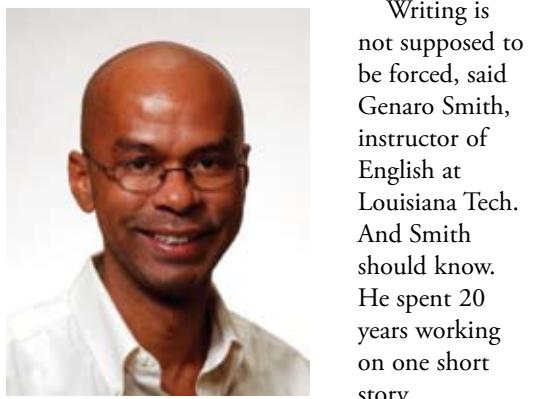
Highlights of Vince Dooley's career include:

- 2001 Amos Alonzo Stagg Award for contributions to college football and athletics. Previous winners include Ara Parseghian and Charles McClendon.
- Coached the University of Georgia to more than 200 victories and 20 bowl games in his career, which is highlighted by a national championship in 1989.
- Chaired the NCAA Rules Committee from 1994 to 1999.
- In 2004, the U.S. Sports Academy presented Dooley with the Carl Maddox Sport Management Award, an award given annually to an individual for contribution to the growth and development of sports through management practices.

The sports administration minor is designed to develop students' career interest and ability to effectively market and manage sports business organizations including professional organizations, university and college athletic departments, large scale secondary school athletic departments and non-profit sports institutions. The minor provides instruction in basic marketing and business principles with the emphasis on sports contexts. It is open to students of all majors.



ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR WINS AWARD FOR SHORT STORY



Writing is not supposed to be forced, said Genaro Smith, instructor of English at Louisiana Tech. And Smith should know. He spent 20 years working on one short story.

His patience not only brought about the story "Dailies" but also earned Smith second place in the Santa Fe Writers Project Literary Awards Program, along with a \$1,500 cash prize and publication on www.sfwp.org.

At the age of 13, Smith came up with the idea of "Dailies," a story about a grieving father who witnessed his two sons dying on the set of *Twilight Zone: The Movie*.

The story is based on the actual 1982 helicopter accident on the set of the film, which took the lives of two child actors, as well as actor Vic Morrow. Smith's story talks about the 20 years that a grieving father re-watched the accident on a videotape he requested from director John Landis.

"The idea came to me in 1982 after I had watched the news every evening, following the court hearings to see if John Landis was going to be acquitted of all charges," Smith said. "The story stuck with me for over 20 years, and I always knew I would write a short story about it, but the thing is, you're not supposed to force it. You're supposed to let it come to you, to let it happen ... basically, know your time and place."

Although he appreciates the recognition, Smith said there is a more in-depth meaning to his short story, an understanding he hopes readers can remember.

"The impression I want people to have is what it means to grieve the loss of your children, to feel this father's pain as he ascertains for 20 years what went wrong on the set," Smith said. "I want people to understand how unnatural it is for parents to outlive their children, how there is something wrong in that, and so for over 20 years, this man blames himself."

Smith has also earned first place in the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation competition at the University of Virginia in Richmond and received a Louisiana Division of the Arts Fellowship.

TOP DAWG AWARDS YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

A total of \$16,500 in cash and prizes was awarded to the first, second and third place teams during the final round of the sixth annual Top Dawg Business Plan Competition in May.

The Robot Wars team, comprised of Karren Lovelady of Columbia, Heath Hemphill of West Monroe, Blake Hosli of Harahan, Noah Bergeron of Houma and Daniel Scoggin of Alexandria won first place and \$4,000 with an online, live-action, warfare game featuring tank robots.

Second place, which included a cash prize of \$2,500, was awarded to Cellar Door Theater's James Lanius of St. Francisville and Adam Tidwell of Monroe. Cellar Door Theater is a theater-based community center.

The SuperCap Power Management team of Joseph Cannon of Martin and Steven Bearden of Vivian won third place and \$1,500 for energy storage technology.

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

Jones Walker, a law firm serving local, regional, national and international business interests in a wide range of markets and industries, recognized the team which was the most entrepreneurial through the \$2,000 Jones Walker Entrepreneurial Spirit Award. This award went to Uniform Rack's team: Michelli McKnight and Sallie Martin, both of Ruston.

AVIATION ALUMNI PREPARE STUDENTS FOR WORKFORCE



Louis Waller, Andrew Jones and Jess Grigg interview an aviation student Wednesday.

Six Louisiana Tech aviation alumni returned to their alma mater in March to assist current aviation students in real-life training for the interview process.

Jess Grigg, Louis Waller, Eron Borne, Adam Juckett, James Durden and Andrew Jones conducted mock interviews for 26 aviation seniors.



The Robot Wars team, from left to right, includes Karren Lovelady, Blake Hosli, Noah Bergeron and Daniel Scoggin. Heath Hemphill, the fifth member, is not pictured.

Team TPSI, a tire pressure monitoring system, with Karl Matsumoto of New Orleans, Ling Wu of Hong Kong, Jeff Nelson of Pineville and Amanda Hollingsworth of Fayette won the \$2,000 Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Most Improved Plan award. Proceeds generated by the Ruston-Lincoln Parish Business Awards Breakfast, a collaborative event of the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Tech's College of Business, fund the award.

Grigg, a 1988 aviation graduate, is a captain with United Parcel Service, as is Waller, a 1987 graduate and the 2007 College of Liberal Arts Alumnus of the Year. Juckett, a 2005 graduate, represents corporate airlines, and Durden, a 1992 graduate, works with FedEx. Borne is a 1999 graduate and the first officer with Continental Airlines, and Jones is a 2006 graduate and first officer with Mesaba Airlines.

"We resurrected this from an idea by one of our most distinguished alumni, Bill McNeese," Grigg said. "He came with another graduate (in the 1980s) to conduct mock interviews to help students. We want to give them the competitive edge."

The mock interview consisted of a written test, an interview with alumni, and, if the candidate was interested in piloting instead of aviation management, a simulator test.

Grigg said most students, instead of being hired by smaller airlines, are being immediately picked up by larger companies, and, therefore, the competition is more intense.

"We provide a private debriefing of specific items of why they would or would not get hired," he said. "(Students) really need constructive criticism and to find out what they need to fix, (such as) slumping or repeating questions."



COACH DOOLEY DOUBLES AS ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

This March, Louisiana Tech University President Daniel D. Reneau made an announcement Bulldogs have been waiting to hear: Head Football Coach Derek Dooley will now serve as the University's athletics director.

Dooley became athletics director this month after Jim Oakes stepped down from the position of athletics director in June.

"I think this is an excellent selection," Reneau said. "He has all the talents and all the abilities to lead us into the future of a new era."

2007-08 RETIREES:

Ms. Patricia A. Bearden (25 years)
Food Services Specialist, Cafeteria

Ms. Dorothy Faye Currie (33 years)
Food Services Specialist, Cafeteria

Dr. Jo Ann Dauzat (16.5 years)
Dean, College of Education

Ms. Loretta R. Dennig (5 years)
Financial Aid Counselor/Scholarship Coordinator, Financial Aid

Ms. Mertrude A. Douglas (34 years)
Director of Multicultural Affairs, Student Affairs

Ms. Jean Dumas (23 years)
Administrative Coordinator, Registrar's Office

Ms. Francene Ethridge (32 years)
Food Services Specialist, Cafeteria

Dr. Paul N. Hale (38 years)
Associate Dean of External Programs, Academic Director & Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Director of TTC, College of Engineering & Science

Dr. Ruth Ellen Hanna (41 years)
Interim Academic Director, Mathematics & Statistics, College of Engineering & Science

Ms. Susan E. Jennings (21 years)
Instructor & Greenhouse Manager, College of Applied & Natural Sciences

Ms. Sandra D. Kane (40 years)
Administrative Coordinator, Intercollegiate Athletics

Ms. Judy Kay Lee (14 years)
Administrative Coordinator, Telecommunications

Ms. Sylvia Marie Lonadier (18 years)
Accounting Specialist, Comptroller's Office

Ms. Bettie L. Merritt (16 years)
Custodian, Housing

Captain Bobby Raymond Merritt (28 years)
Police Captain, University Police

Dr. John D. Mills (3.5 years)
Assistant Professor, College of Applied & Natural Sciences

Mr. Danny R. Murphy (33 years)
Maintenance Superintendent, Buildings & Grounds

Ms. Cheryl B. Myers (29 years)
Director, Career Center

Ms. Carrie N. Outley (28 years)
Custodian, Housing

Ms. Rita A. Pepper (26 years)
Production Specialist/Assistant Advertising Specialist, Tech Talk

Ms. Linda L. Ramsey (27 years)
Associate Professor, College of Applied & Natural Sciences

Dr. Sarah M. Regan (3 years)
Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Sim B. Shattuck (26 years)
Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts

In his first season as head football coach, Dooley improved the Bulldogs' standing in the Western Athletic Conference by three games with a 4-4 conference record. He will remain as head football coach in addition to his duties as athletics director.

Reneau said the decision to promote Dooley to athletics director was an easy one considering his enthusiasm for improving Tech athletics across the board and not solely within football. Dooley's passion for progress and his ability as a fundraiser helped in the decision making process.

After only two months on the job, Dooley raised more than \$500,000 to renovate the football locker room and parts of the Charles Wyly Athletic Center and Joe Aillet Fieldhouse.

"I appreciate the confidence President Reneau and our administration have shown in me," Dooley said. "We are embarking on an unprecedented strategic plan for Tech athletics, and I am excited about the opportunity to help elevate all of our programs within the department."

Dr. Lester A. Singletary (5 years)
Assistant Professor, College of Business

Dr. Linda E. Sivils (41 years)
Interim Director & Associate Professor, College of Applied & Natural Sciences

Dr. Charlotte S. Stephens (7 years)
Professor, College of Business

Ms. Carolyn T. Sumrall (13 years)
Library Specialist, Prescott Memorial Library

Dr. Sally E. Thigpen (8 years)
Associate Professor, College of Education

Dr. Lajeane G. Thomas (28 years)
Professor, College of Education

Ms. Bobbie A. Thurmon (31 years)
Laborer, Buildings & Grounds

Dr. Robert K. Toburen (37 years)
Professor, College of Liberal Arts

Ms. Denise Williamson (30 years)
Administrative Coordinator, Intercollegiate Athletics

Dr. Li-He Zou (18 years)
Professor, College of Engineering & Science

Active Employees Who Passed Away:
John L. Goodwin
George Hallums
Russell B. Hennessey
Galen W. Rockett
Lamar E. Rogers, Jr.
E.H. Williams

Dear Tech Supporter,

We are embarking on an unprecedented era in Tech Athletics. Never before has our institution been so fully committed to investing in all of our programs. Tech 2020-Athletics provides an aggressive road map that will ultimately elevate all of our sports to a competitive level that will make everyone in the Tech family proud to be a Bulldog.

We need you to be a part of the TEAM! No successful program can be made by one coach, one supporter, or one player. It takes a collective effort from every member of our family.

That is why we have created LTAC – it is YOUR CLUB for YOUR PROGRAM! Your donation to LTAC will help fund scholarships and projects that directly impact winning. Every dollar counts and every dollar makes a difference.

It is time to show everyone what can be accomplished when the great Tech family, our TEAM, comes together to support our student-athletes. Let's all be a part of the solution.

Thank you for your support.



Derek Dooley
Athletics Director
Head Football Coach



LTAC: LOUISIANA TECH ATHLETIC CLUB

CHANGING THE FACE OF TECH ATHLETICS

As new Athletics Director Derek Dooley began to formulate plans for the future of all of Tech Athletics, he became convinced that a new name and new direction were essential for the critically needed fundraising program that must be successful. The NCAA Champs Life Skills Program is an obvious confusion; that program is being greatly enlarged on the Tech campus under the direction of Coach Ed Jackson, possibly leading to more confusion. With new direction, new benefits, and a great new attitude of excellence in all sports, the new LTAC provides great opportunity for the Tech Family to actively support athletics.

Louisiana Tech University is on track to be one of the nation's top research universities. One complementary component of every top research university in the United States is a highly competitive athletics program. That's the goal – making Tech a leading research university with an eminent sports presence.

Tech 2020-Athletics, the carefully developed strategic plan, provides an aggressive road map that will ultimately elevate all 16 sports to a competitive level that will bring pride to the entire Tech Family. Facility improvements and enhancements are currently underway; the new tennis complex is nearly complete, as is a bowling facility in the Lambright Center. Also, the new track is under construction. Pat Patterson Park at J.C. Love Field has just been revamped with additional chairback seating, a new scoreboard, and a beautiful and highly functional press facility; and women's softball has a great new scoreboard, as well.

The plans for improvement are many, and excellence is expensive. LTAC NEEDS YOU! Every dollar makes a tremendous difference for Tech Athletics. Funds donated to LTAC are directed through the Louisiana Tech University Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, and that makes your LTAC gift tax-deductible as allowed by the IRS.

DONATIONS TO LTAC WILL BE DIRECTED AS FOLLOWS:
SCHOLARSHIPS: In addition to tuition and books, fully-funded scholarships provide quality on-campus housing and nutritional meals.

FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS: Facilities are instrumental in providing the support for Tech's student-athletes to succeed in the classroom and in competition. Equally important, facilities are critical assets (or liabilities) in recruiting quality talent.

COACHES SALARY SUPPLEMENTS: Salary supplements make it possible for Tech to attract quality coaches by matching market value.

SPECIAL EARMARKS OR PROJECTS: Anyone wishing to donate to a specific sport or special project may do so and still receive credit toward an LTAC membership.

As a member of LTAC, you will begin earning priority points that will be used to determine post-season ticket priority and other purchase options. For every \$100 you contribute to LTAC, you receive one (1) point. Points are awarded each year and accumulate. To honor past contributions, points will accrue from the past five years, beginning with 2003 donations.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO LTAC:

CASH OR CHECK DONATIONS: Make checks payable to LTAC and mail to P.O. Box 1190, Ruston, LA 71273-1190.

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS: Go online at www.latechalumni.org and click on the "Donate to LTAC" link.

AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT: Call for more information.

PLEDGES: A pledged donation can be paid in monthly or quarterly installments. Call Adam McGuirt for information.

GIFTS-IN-KIND: LTAC accepts gifts in the form of products or services that would normally be purchased by the athletic department.

STOCKS AND SECURITIES: Consider donating stocks, bonds, or other securities; you may be able to avoid capital gains taxes while you make a difference for Tech athletics!

PLANNED GIFTS: Make LTAC a beneficiary of your estate, a life insurance policy, or even consider an insurance policy with LTAC as the owner.

For information about these and other options and assistance in making your gift, please call Adam McGuirt, Director of LTAC, at 800.738.7950 or 318.255.7950, or e-mail him at adam@latechalumni.org.

NEWS ABOUT YOU

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Do you have news to share in the News About You section?

Have you changed jobs, received a promotion, started a company? Written a book? Received an award? Made a scientific breakthrough? Exhibited your work in an art show? Retired?

News About You is just that. We want to share the stories of your accomplishments and milestones. Photos are always welcome, too. Submit your information for News About You by logging in to the new alumni Web site www.latechalumni.org where you can then click on, "News About You?"



KELVIN COCHRAN

HOMETOWN: Shreveport, Louisiana

NOW RESIDES IN: Atlanta

DEGREE: 2004, M.A. Industrial/Organizational Psychology

HOW I GOT TO TECH: It was job related. I was working for the City of Shreveport, which had a tuition reimbursement program. The city paid for 50 percent of my degree. I had already developed a great love for organizational and industrial psychology, which led me to Tech's Barksdale campus.

WHAT I DO NOW: I am the fire chief of the City of Atlanta Fire and Rescue Department. The department is twice as large as Shreveport's fire department, where I served as chief for more than eight years. The City of Atlanta recruited me to come here. It was a very unusual opportunity that rarely comes along in fire service.

HOW I'VE APPLIED MY KNOWLEDGE OF PSYCHOLOGY TO FIGHTING FIRES: I am institutionalizing concepts of strategic planning and decision making. These are concepts that I was taught at Tech. It is my goal to create a consistent leadership culture. Before I came here, I was preparing for an appointment in the Department of Homeland Security. But I decided that being a fire chief in a city like Atlanta would be more exciting for me than going to Washington, D.C.

ON THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD FIRE CHIEF: I've written 12 articles and two chapters on leadership/management – and the fire chief of the future – for fire service leadership manuals. A strong fire chief is a leader who loves the fire service, loves people, and has a strong vision for how we can bring the fire department's mission to citizens each day.

HOW I GOT INTERESTED IN FIRE FIGHTING: There was a fire across the street from where I lived, when I was five-years-old. When I saw the Shreveport fire fighters put it out, I was hooked.

ADVICE TO COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS: To reach a full vision potential, you have to complete your higher education goals. If you fall short the first go around, you have to get back up and go back until you finish it.

ADVICE TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO ENTER MY FIELD: You just need to go for it. If you love helping people, fire fighting is a great profession. You will be able to touch the lives of your community each day.

MY TOUGHEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE: Managing people. If I didn't have to deal with personnel issues, it would be wonderful. But when you are equipped to deal with those issues, they're a lot easier. Tech taught me how to manage human resources very efficiently.

MEMORIES OF TECH: My professors were all brilliant professionals and teachers.

IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN LIFE, IT IS: Never give up on your dreams; the more education you have, the further you can go.

1936

Julia Sansing May, home economics, was honored at the Community Foundation of Brazoria County's Philanthropist of the Year dinner. May and her late husband, Bill, were among the first couples to move to Lake Jackson, Texas, and she was one of the first elementary teachers in the city. She established the Julia Sansing May Endowment at the Community Foundation to give scholarships to Brazosport College students who also are parents. Louisiana Tech's new Baptist College Ministries was named in honor of her and the Mays for their contributions.

1957

Jerry D. Hunter, mechanical engineering (master's mechanical engineering 1961) has been appointed by Gov. Bobby Jindal to the Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board. He is owner of Hunter Farms in Delhi.

1965

Richard M. "Dick" Fowler, accounting, will be retiring after 35 years from Texas Industries, Inc., where he was vice president, finance and chief financial officer for the Dallas-based company.

Sandra Sanders Salley, psychology, has been recognized as a Top Louisiana Attorney for 2008. She is a partner with Salley & Salley, LLC in Metairie.

1968

Charlotte Strain Lenox, math education, recently retired after 18 years as an information technology business manager at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

1970

O.K. "Buddy" Davis, journalism, won a first place award for sport news story in the 2007 Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press

Managing Editors writing competition. His story was about the death of former Grambling State University Football Coach Eddie Robinson. Davis is sports editor at The Ruston Daily Leader.

Jeff Hawley, accounting, has been promoted to first vice president of investments at Wachovia Securities in Monroe.

Dennis Shockley, history, recently published a book *How We Lived: A Pictorial History of the Places Oklahomans Have Called Home*. It was designated as an official Oklahoma Centennial Project by the Oklahoma Centennial Commission.

1974

Peggy Jackson Wolstencroft, elementary education (master's elementary education 1978) has been named director of development in the office of institutional advancement at Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, Penn. She will be responsible for the cultivation and solicitation of major support consistent with the focus and strategic direction of the university.

1976

Barbara Carothers, interior design, has been named an associate in the firm of RATIO Architects, Inc. She is director of interior design for the large Midwestern firm with offices in Indianapolis and Carmel, Ind. and Champaign, Ill.

Johnny Eason, history, has been named the federal security director by the Transportation Security Administration for the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. He has more than 30 years of federal service. He joined TSA in 2004 as assistant federal security director for Baton Rouge.

Linda Webb Killen, physical education, was named Louisiana Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2007-08.



SHARILYN GASAWAY

HOMETOWN: Shreveport

NOW RESIDES IN: Little Rock, Ark.

DEGREE: 1989, B.S., Accounting

HOW I GOT TO TECH: My older brother went to Tech – he played basketball there for four years. So I was at the University all of the time. I loved the atmosphere and the people.

WHY I CHOSE MY MAJOR: I took an accounting class in high school and liked it. Some things click for people and accounting made sense to me. I like numbers and, it turns out, accounting is a people business, which is perfect for me.

AFTER GRADUATING: I graduated in November and worked at a sports medicine clinic in Shreveport until getting married in July. Then I went to a year of law school, but I realized it wasn't for me. After that, we moved to Fort Lauderdale and I went to work for Arthur Andersen which, at the time, was one of the "Big Five" accounting firms. I was with Andersen for 8 years. I worked in Fort Lauderdale for three years and then transferred within the firm to a location closer to home. I've been in Little Rock ever since.

WHAT I DO NOW: I am the Chief Financial Officer for Alltel Corporation. I am responsible for all of the finance and accounting functions within Alltel including treasury and capital markets, budgeting, internal audit, accounting, tax and operational support. We have \$8 billion in annual revenues and serve more than 12.5 million customers.

HOW MY WEEK BEGINS: Mondays are my busiest days. Our executive management team meets for an hour with our marketing team to understand weekly sales progress and any changes in competition. Then we, as a team, talk about any issues, as well as our initiatives for addressing them. I'm always responsible for making sure everyone knows where we stand financially compared to our budget. And we have a lot of interaction with our new owners – since we have recently become a privately-held company. It's a constant cycle of information.

ON LANDING MY DREAM JOB: Amazed especially when I think about all of the things that fell into place for me to get such an opportunity. God really is good. I was mostly working on the Alltel account with Arthur Andersen, so I got to know the company and, more importantly, the people who worked there pretty well. They asked me if I'd take a spot. I came in as director of general accounting and moved my way up. I spent most of my time as controller. When our former CFO left, I had the opportunity to take this position. I'm very fortunate that I was in the right place at the right time and that our board of directors was willing to take a chance on me.

SOMETHING PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT ME: An accountant can be a people person.

MY GREATEST NON-PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: My kids! I have seven year-old twins, a girl and a boy.

ADVICE TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO ENTER MY FIELD: There are a lot of opportunities in accounting. So much of the time, people really focus on going into public accounting. But realize that there are just as many opportunities in private accounting as there are in public accounting.

MEMORIES OF TECH: It's all about the people I met there.

I KNEW I WAS GROWN UP WHEN: I got my own checking account and started paying my own bills.

IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN LIFE, IT IS: To always do the right thing. Demonstrate integrity, honesty and respect – your future will fall into place.

She is a physical education teacher at Judson Magnet Elementary School in Shreveport.

of marketing experience.

1979

Candace McConnell Simmons, home economics (master's home economics 1980), has joined the Shreveport law firm of Cook, Yancey, King and Galloway as marketing and recruiting director. She has more than 20 years

NEWS ABOUT YOU

the curriculum and instruction department and all the principals. He has 20 years of experience in school administration and public relations.

1980
Saif Humaid Al Falasi, petroleum engineering, has been appointed as Group General Manager for ENOC. He brings more than 26 years of experience in spearheading exploration and production process in the United Arab Emirates region.

Stephanie DeFreese Walker, political science, has been selected to serve on the BankTrust of Brewton's (Ala.) advisory board. She is the director of St. Stephen's Episcopal preschool. She serves on the Brewton City School Board, where she has served as chairman for the last eight years.

1981
Mark Bodron, marketing (master's finance 1982, accounting 1984), was selected for inclusion in the 2008, 25th anniversary edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of employee benefits law. He was also recently elected chair of the Gulf Coast Area TE/TE Council. He is a partner in the employee benefits and executive compensation group of the international law firm of Baker Botts, LLP in the Houston office.

Stephen R. Brunner, petroleum engineering, has been named chief operating officer for Constellation Energy Partners in Houston. He has more than 25 years of experience operating oil and gas properties both domestically and internationally.

Jennifer Law, business administration, has joined the Fayetteville (Ark.) Advertising and Promotion Commission as the director for the Clinton House Museum. Her primary duty includes promoting the Clinton House Museum as a premier destination for visitors, groups and special events.

1982
Phillip O. Bickham, business management and entrepreneurship, is senior warden at the Ferguson Unit (maximum security prison) in Midway, Texas. He has nearly 23 years with

the Texas Department of Criminal Justice system.

1983



Robert Stennett, master's business administration, has been selected as executive director of the newly-formed Ben Hogan Foundation in Fort Worth, Texas. He will be responsible for overall fundraising and cultivating affiliations with corporations and such logical partners as the PGA Tour.

1984

John C. "J" Byram, III, agricultural business, has been promoted to vice president at Louisiana Land Bank in Monroe.

1986

Tamara Gilbertson Testa, architecture, has been named as associate with the firm Corgan Associates, Inc. in Dallas. It is one of the largest U.S.-based architectural and interior design firms with expertise in corporate, aviation, medical and education design, and accounting.

1987

Lori Jackson Fanning, math education, has been named principal of Hillside Elementary School in Roswell, Ga. She is pursuing her doctorate in education at the University of Georgia.

1989

Dwayne Hamilton, civil engineering, has been named office manager of the San Antonio office, Halff Associates, Inc. He has been part of the Texas engineering community for 19 years. He will be responsible for the operations and expansion of the San Antonio office including the growth of its water resources, civil engineering, planning and surveying services throughout.

John-Henry Pearcy, master's counseling, has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who for*

Excellence for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of armed services. He is a former Lieutenant Colonel for the United States Air Force with 28 years of experience. He and his wife, Hyo-Suk, live in Papillion, Neb.

Orrene Mack Traylor, business education (master's counseling and guidance 1997), became a National Board Certified Teacher in early childhood through Young Adulthood Counseling in December 2007. She is a counselor for the Mountain Home (Ark.) School District.

1992

Paul S. Bryan, architecture, was the recipient of the 2008 Architects League of Northern New Jersey Trustees Award for his contributions to the League magazine, *Leagueline*, the past two years. He has been employed with LAN Associates in Midland Park, N.J. since 1997 as project manager for several school referendum projects.

Jerry Johnson, master's graphic design, has received Troy University's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. The Sullivan Award recognizes recipients for their excellence of character, humanitarian service and spiritual qualities. Johnson is chair of the Troy University Department of Art and Design.

Alicia Ruddock Rourk, nutrition and dietetics, has recently accepted a job at Synergy Home Care as a diabetes clinical specialist in Lafayette.

1993

Patrick J. Badon, professional aviation, has accepted a job as first officer at Southwest Airlines. He and his wife, Cindy Crowell Badon, elementary education 1992, live in Mandeville.

Patrick D. Fountain, industrial organizational psychology (doctorate marketing 1999), was recognized for outstanding service by the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences in 2007. He is the current vice president of the Association of Collegiate Marketing Educators and the president of the Career Guidance Network of Oklahoma. He is a professor of business administration

and service-learning director at East Central University in Ada, Okla.

1995

Kevin Norton, animal science, has joined the staff of the Ashley County Cooperative Extension Service as an extension agent in agriculture in Hamburg, Ark.



Jarett Rodriguez, business management and entrepreneurship, has earned an Executive MBA through the LSU Flores MBA program. He is employed as project manager and business manager for the Stephenson Entrepreneurship Institute at LSU's E.J. Ourso College of Business.



Patrick A. Smith, marketing, has been named senior vice president, North Alabama Marketing by Alfa Insurance. He will be responsible for more than 250 agents and nine district managers

in the northern portion of the state. He will work out of the company's headquarters in Montgomery, Ala.

1996

John D. Slayter, wood utilization, was promoted to United States sales manager for OSB and wood fiber products for Hexion Specialty Chemicals.

Misty DuBois Slayter, English education, has become an assistant principal of Bolton High School in Alexandria – Louisiana's first digital curriculum high school.

1998

Philip A. Cole, II, animal biology, is a general surgery resident at the University of South Alabama. He and his wife, Kimberly Payne Cole, early children education, will live in Mobile, Ala.

Tammy Morrell Harris, master's counseling and guidance, has passed the state licensure exam for licensed professional counselors. She is a staff curatrix for Louisiana Guardianship Services, Inc. where she is a court appointed



DR. MICHAEL ROBINSON

HOMETOWN: Shreveport

NOW RESIDES IN: Odessa, Texas

DEGREE: B.S. Chemistry, 1967

FURTHER EDUCATION: M.S. Chemistry, 1969, PhD. Organic Chemistry, 1973, Louisiana State University

HOW I GOT TO TECH: I wanted to be an astronaut and Tech was not only a technical institution, but it also had a U.S. Air Force ROTC program. I eventually washed out and wound up in chemistry. Chemistry was my hobby; as a kid, I used to blow

things up!

WHAT I DO NOW: I am the Ellen and Bill Noel Distinguished Professor for Energy Research and the Chemistry Chair at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. I have received several patents – and have several pending patents – for my research in biofuels. In April, I was awarded the Hearst Energy Award for Technology. I was also a finalist for the President's Research Award at UTPB.

HOW I'D EXPLAIN MY RESEARCH TO NON-CHEMISTS: We're converting biomass into liquid fuels, mainly through hydrocarbons. Nobody else is doing this research right now; other research has focused on making ethanol out of biomass and using up our food chain. But our research uses materials you can't digest as food.

WHY I BECAME INTERESTED IN BIOFUELS: I started this research in 1978, while I was working on cancer research at Purdue University. At this time, we were in the midst of an oil crisis. I was lecturing to my organic chemistry class in the spring and challenged my students with a problem. The problem was, that, when making ethanol, you're throwing one third of your carbons away as carbon dioxide. I said, 'What some of you bright chemists ought to do is keep those six carbons together and remove the oxygen. Instead of having a solid, you'll have a liquid, which would be called hexane.' Of course none of the students picked up the challenge. As I was walking down the hall I thought, 'That was a good idea. I wonder if anyone has ever done that before?' At the time I was working on anti-cancer drugs and after that day, literally, my career totally changed in terms of research directions.

ON THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF TEACHING: The students. I knew I wanted to go into teaching when I was a graduate teaching assistant at Tech. I found that, in teaching some of the laboratories, I got enjoyment out of students seeing the proverbial light and understanding the tasks and concepts.

MY TOUGHEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE: There are a number of professional challenges. Some are introducing new programs to the university. Sometimes it's writing good research grants to compete for millions of dollars. They're all just different flavors.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY JOB: It's not the pay. It's the enjoyment of teaching students and seeing new understandings.

MEMORIES OF TECH: One thing I really like about north Louisiana, and particularly the Ruston area, is the piney woods. Out here in the desert, we don't have anything like that!

guardian for interdicted developmentally disabled/elderly persons.

1999

D. Christopher Daniel, political science, was recently named as a shareholder in the law firm of Deaton & Daniel, P.A. in Flowood, Miss. He was also appointed by

the Department of Defense to serve as the Mississippi State Ombudsman Director for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and was also selected as the 2008 Young Lawyer of the Year by Mississippi College School of Law.

NEWS ABOUT YOU

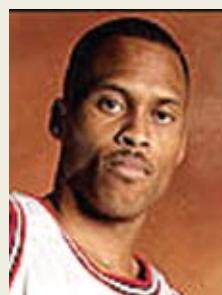


Michelle Sabathier Daniel, psychology, was selected as the chief financial officer and administrator of Community Place, a non-profit long-term care facility in Jackson, Miss.

2002

Christi Conti-Holloway, English, is currently pursuing an education specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn. She is a teacher for the Gainesville City Schools in Georgia.

2004



P.J. Brown, general studies, has joined the Boston Celtics basketball team. This is his 15th season in the National Basketball Association.

Genevieve Nissen Waller, English (master's English 2000) was awarded the South Carolina's Young Lawyer of the Year award for 2007-08. She was also appointed to the Public Service Project Team by The Chair of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division.

2000

Marcus Bouler, marketing (master's business administration 2002), has been promoted to commercial lines underwriter at Burns and Wilcox's Houston office.

Christopher Donner, management and Spanish, was recently promoted to senior manager of Global Development at Brinker International in Dallas. He will oversee all development in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East for the Chili's, Macaroni Grill, On The Border and Maggiano's restaurant brands.

Charity Joi Spears, merchandising and consumer affairs, is an admissions recruiter for Warner Southern College in Orlando, Fla.

2001

Tre Bischof, journalism, has recently accepted the position of publisher with Hattiesburg Publishing, Inc. in Hattiesburg, Miss.

2006

Elizabeth Griffin, family and child studies, has joined the staff of Historic Crenshaw Hall as Event Planner. Crenshaw Hall, a 200-year-old former plantation home, is Raleigh, N.C.'s newest venue for weddings, corporate meetings and social events.

2007

Geoffrey Clark, computer information systems, is the information technology administrator for Big Red in Charleston, S.C.

Jennifer Ann Robinson, industrial/organizational psychology, has joined North American Group in Oklahoma City as a human resources generalist.

Jena Erin Sharpton, communication design and speech/theatre, works for the North Louisiana Area Health Education Center in Bossier City. It is a non-profit group providing educational programs for students interested in the medical field as well as Continuing Education for health care professionals.

Jamie Roberts Chelette, graphic design, has been promoted to product manager for Berry Plastics Tapes and Coatings Division. She and her husband, Brian, live in Stonewall.

Nicole Broussard Napoli, journalism, recently accepted a job with the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology as the publications specialist. She will be responsible for writing feature stories for their quarterly magazine ASTROnews. She and her husband, Matthew, mechanical engineering 2004, live in Arlington, Va.

2005

Michael James Pennison, environmental science, is pursuing a doctorate in cellular and molecular biology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He received a \$9,000 award to assist his research in helping to develop a novel treatment of advanced colorectal cancer.

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Bo and Monica Lockard
James W. Moore
William H. Page

R. Glenn Pumpelly
Mary E. Veazey
Sherwood and Virginia White

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

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"THERE'S PROBABLY NEVER BEEN A MORE EXCITING TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LOUISIANA TECH FAMILY! WE SHOULD ALL TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE AMAZING PROGRESS OUR UNIVERSITY IS MAKING. IT'S BEEN MY HONOR TO SERVE YOU AS PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION THIS PAST YEAR, AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY AND TO MEET SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE. THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING YOU. NOW, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO SUPPORT TECH; YOU CAN'T MAKE A BETTER INVESTMENT!"

- John Allen ('73), Alumni Association President



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