

## Lawrence Tech Students Witness History In the Making at Obama's Inauguration

Six Lawrence Tech students experienced the exhilaration as well as the many inconveniences of being part of one of the largest crowds in American history when they travelled to Washington, D.C., for Barack Obama's presidential inauguration on Jan. 20.

Tyson Delandsheer, Jennifer Guthrie, Fritz Belfort, Adam Dumas, Andrea Freile and Sydney Pea had represented the Democrats in the Lawrence Tech presidential debate on October 28. They won the debate that night and then won a free trip to the inauguration when their candidate won the election.

Freile and Pea posted blogs about their experiences, and some of their comments will follow in this story.

The once-in-a-lifetime experience started out with the group meeting on campus at 8 a.m. Saturday to allow plenty of time to make their flight to Reagan International Airport in Washington. After figuring out how to get to the right station on the Metro public transportation system, the Lawrence Tech group caught a shuttle bus to a hotel on the campus of Gallaudet College.

They left the hotel at 10 a.m. Sunday to make their way to the Lincoln Memorial for the big concert.

**Sydney Pea:** "We had to take three Metros to actually get there. We ended up getting off at Pennsylvania Avenue. We did a little 'Obama shopping' and headed to the Lincoln Memorial. ... We weaseled our way through the crowd so that we at least could see a TV screen.

"The concert overall was great. Some of the celebrities that turned up were Oscar winners. Singers [included] Sheryl Crow, Beyonce, Shakira, Usher, Herb Hancock, Josh Groban, John Legend, Heather Headley, Mary J. Blige, Garth Brooks, Stevie Wonder. The crowd was amazing, the energy was crazy. The concert was taped by HBO and will be shown on the premium movie package so you can catch it: "Yes We Can."

The students were up early on Monday to attend an open house hosted by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Lt. Gov. John Cherry at the Madison Building of the Smithsonian Institute. Along the way they got relatively close to the inauguration staging in front of the Capitol.



**Lawrence Tech students met with Michigan's governor and two United States senators when they attended the Michigan reception the day before the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Standing with U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow are (L-R) Tyson Delandsheer, Jennifer Guthrie, Fritz Belfort and Leslie Wilson of Student Affairs. In front are Adam Dumas, Andrea Freile and Sydney Pea.**

**Andrea Freile:** It was definitely a great networking experience. My team got interviewed by two television stations and three student reporters – not sure if we were on TV or in an article, but hopefully we were."

The Lawrence Tech students were media magnets at the reception because they were the youngest people in the room and represented the new generation of voters that President Obama reached out to.

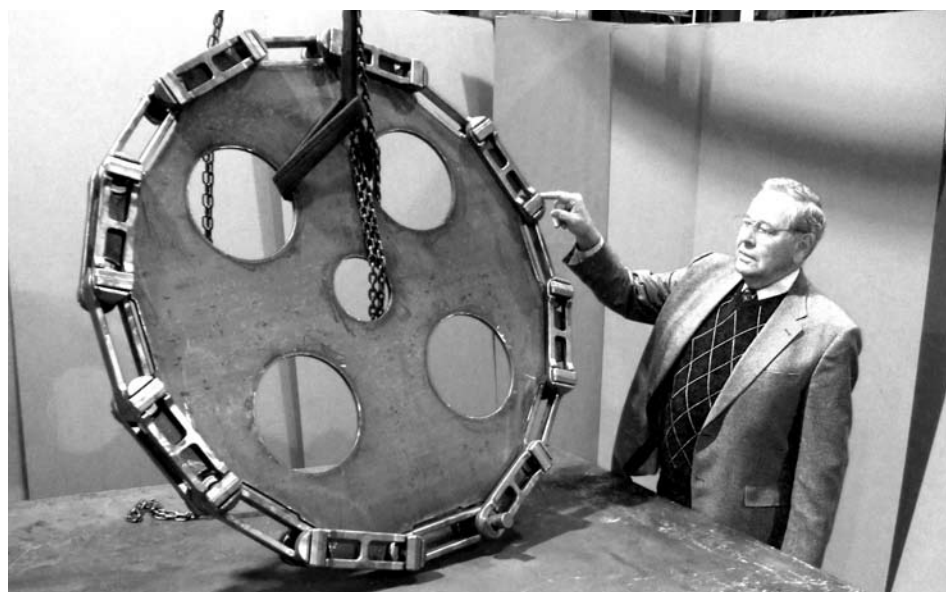
*The Detroit News* quoted Guthrie as

saying that she expects Obama to turn around the economy. "I don't expect it to happen overnight," Guthrie said. "I know this is a long process. But I expect things to start going in the right direction."

The Lawrence Tech group had two options for watching the inauguration on Tuesday – brave the cold and the huge crowds to be on the National Mall, or watch it on TV from Congressman John Conyers' office in the Rayburn Building.

The group that decided to go with

*(continued on page 2)*



**Lawrence Tech alumnus A. Leon Linton inspects a new drive sprocket that is part of an assembly capable of moving more than 2.5 million pounds of live load on a single conveyor.**

## Lawrence Tech Receives \$2.5 Million Donation from Alumnus

By Eric Pope  
*Tech News Editor*

A Memphis, Tenn.-based alumnus and entrepreneur has donated \$2.5 million to name the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Lawrence Technological University.

The donor is A. Leon Linton, the founder and CEO of Southern Systems Inc. (SSI) of Memphis, which designs, builds and installs custom conveyor systems for manufacturing and distribution facilities. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from

Lawrence Tech in 1962.

"The education I received at Lawrence Tech has been the backbone of all the activities I have done throughout my working life," Linton said.

"We are delighted that our Department of Mechanical Engineering, one of the university's largest departments, will now be further distinguished by carrying the name of one of its most successful graduates," said Lawrence Tech President Lewis N. Walker.

Linton was born in a rural Mississippi town on the Tennessee River about 90

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## Linton: Donates \$2.5 Million

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miles from Memphis. His family moved to Michigan when he was 12 after his father – a World War II veteran returned from Okinawa – took a construction job in Milford. After his father was transferred to another construction project, Linton finished high school in Ypsilanti.

While still in high school, Linton began a millwright craftsman trade apprenticeship and worked the night shift at a Lincoln-Mercury assembly plant. He expected to be called by the Army to serve in the Korean conflict following high school graduation, and in the interim



A. Leon Linton

worked in the millwright trade on the construction and installation of conveyor systems, machinery and automation equipment.

When the Army call hadn't come after two years, Linton took the advice of his mentors and enrolled in the mechanical engineering program at Lawrence Tech.

Continuing to work full-time, he took Lawrence Tech classes at night and on some Saturdays. By the time he completed

his bachelor's degree at the age of 28, he was a project engineer for Jervis B. Webb, now based in Farmington Hills, working on conveyor system installations in automotive plants.

"My evening courses at Lawrence Tech started paying real dividends very quickly," Linton recalled. "My ability to make physics calculations and solve basic problems expanded significantly to more complex issues. Other courses were teaching me about exciting materials and new methods that could be used in various equipment design applications."

After college graduation, Linton persuaded his employer to let him return to Tennessee and open a one-man office in Memphis. Five years later he went out on his own, and SSI quickly developed a niche market for the heavy-duty conveyor systems utilized in the manufacture and production of heavy trucks, construction equipment, military tanks, oil field pipe, aircraft, furniture, appliances and package handling.

The Bulk Handling Division of SSI operates as a general contractor in many states, from California to Florida, and is one of a very few companies in the United States capable of slipform, continuous-



## First Networking Reception at Lawrence Tech

On Jan. 22 more than 1,200 displaced workers with college degrees and representatives of more than 40 companies got together at the first of four networking receptions that are part of Lawrence Tech's "Recovery Starts Here" initiative. In the photo above, Lawrence Tech alumnus David Darbyshire, co-owner of DASI Solutions in Pontiac, talks to job seekers in Alumni Hall of the Taubman Student Services Center.

pour concrete construction of massive silos and related equipment associated with ethanol production, cement manufacturing, pet food processing and coal handling and storage.

Linton said he is confident Lawrence Tech will continue to thrive by maintaining its "theory and practice" approach to education, which he finds just as valuable in today's manufacturing environment as

it was when he graduated.

"Lawrence Tech has always been mindful of and catered to serving the needs of industry by providing a top flight education for graduates in the meaningful disciplines needed for industry to stay competitive and move forward," he said.

A prior honor for Linton was receiving the Lawrence Tech Alumni Achievement Award in 1968.

## Inauguration: Students Witness History

(continued from page 1)

the authentic experience got up at 2:30 a.m. The gates to the National Mall were supposed to open at 4 a.m., and they walked for an hour and a half looking for a way to get in.

**Andrea Freile:** "We finally saw an entrance with people waiting so we stayed and waited there. The cops announced that the doors were going to open at 7 a.m., not 4 a.m. – we were SO mad! ... 7 turned into 7:30 and then the news – we were standing in the parade line! So we waited there for no reason. Then we were told that the National Mall was full.

"We had no option but to go with our plan B. Since most roads were closed, it took us two hours to find John Conyers' office. When we got there we had to go through security (another half hour). By the time we were inside and found a room with enough seats for us to sit next to each other, our legs hurt, we were frozen, and

tired."

The inauguration experience concluded with the Michigan Dinner Dance Ball held at the National Museum of American History.

The Lawrence Tech students danced with Gov. Granholm, and a few stayed until midnight, even though they had to be up at 4:30 the next morning to catch their plane back to Detroit.

While the experience was harder than the students had anticipated, being part of an historic event was an unforgettable experience.

**Andrea Freile:** "Yes, I froze to death, walked like I never walked in my life, had my legs hurting, and was half asleep for the actual inauguration, but overall I was there – and that is an amazing feeling. I was there to witness history happen and share the moment with many others. So there were some negatives to the trip, but it was SO worth it!"

## Lawrence Tech Agrees to Credit Transfer from Motion Picture Institute

Lawrence Tech and the Motion Picture Institute (MPI) in Troy have signed an agreement that makes it easier for MPI students to transfer credits to the bachelor's degree program in media communication at Lawrence Tech.

Under the articulation agreement, MPI students who have successfully completed the film production program at MPI can transfer up to 21 credits toward a bachelor's degree in media communication at Lawrence Tech. These transfer students will take courses in the College of Arts and Sciences to fulfill the general education requirements for a bachelor's degree at Lawrence Tech.

"This collaboration with the Motion Picture Institute of Michigan adds another dimension to our dynamic degree program that is helping to meet the increased demand of the motion picture industry

in Michigan," Lawrence Tech President Lewis N. Walker said. "This provides a good way for students who have gained technical training in this field to complete a bachelor's degree."

According to Suzanne Levine, director of the media communication program at Lawrence Tech, students who have a gained a strong background in film production at MPI can better prepare themselves for the radio and television broadcasting fields by completing a bachelor's degree in media communication.

"Our media communication students will get internships with many of these film productions, and we continue to explore creative avenues to increase marketability and visibility for our students," Levine said. "Our program continues to evolve to meet the demands of the communication industry."

# TECH NEWS



**Editor** Eric Pope  
**Graphic Design** Sofia Lulgjuraj, Drew Melow  
**Editorial Assistant** Debbie Faes  
**Photography** Bruce Annett, Eric Pope, and others

All articles and advertisements must be received by 5 p.m. on the deadline day. Photos or artwork can be dropped off at the Office of Marketing and Public Affairs, M376, in the Buell Management Building. If you have story ideas or questions regarding this schedule, please call 248.204.2210 or email e\_pope@ltu.edu.

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**Deadline for next issue is Friday, March 6, at 5 p.m.**

# Chavis Develops Agenda for IT Service Delivery

By Eric Pope  
Tech News Editor

Tim Chavis has already built up a big “to do” list since taking over as executive director of Lawrence Tech’s Information Technology Service Delivery (ITSD) Department at the start of the new year.

He succeeds Bill Wachob, who is nearing completion of his doctoral degree in the management of information technology (DMIT) at Lawrence Tech and plans to pursue a teaching career. Wachob has been named director of IT special projects.

Chavis came to Lawrence Tech from the Henry Ford Health System where he was executive director in the information technology area. Prior to Henry Ford, he was the chief information officer at the Bon Secours Cottage Health Services in Grosse Pointe, where he worked in various IT and finance roles since 1989. He also worked with the IT unit of the Detroit Medical Center.

At Lawrence Tech, Chavis heads up a staff of 20 with half a dozen student assistants. His department is responsible for the campus network, the phone system, software applications, and all the computers issued to students, faculty and staff through the Help Desk.

One improvement coming soon is to complete an initiative budgeted by Wachob to increase the available bandwidth access to the Internet on campus. Chavis said that increasing the university’s Internet bandwidth will be an improvement but won’t necessarily resolve all the University’s Internet response issues throughout the campus since there are other issues to address.

“We have to go through the process of analyzing traffic on campus so that we

use bandwidth in the most cost-effective, responsible fashion,” he said.

Chavis and the IT Service Delivery staff are looking into the possibility of prioritizing the various types of bandwidth – perhaps giving a higher priority to classroom and business activities while giving a lower priority to recreational usage.

The University also recently had to relocate certain classes in the Science Building because of the high wireless demands in a concentrated area. Chavis said more work needs to be done in accommodating heavy wireless demands, not only in classrooms but in the housing units. Chavis said the wireless infrastructure is old and a major bottleneck but by having his staff analyze the usage and look at various technical solutions he hopes to come up with some practical options while using limited capital resources.

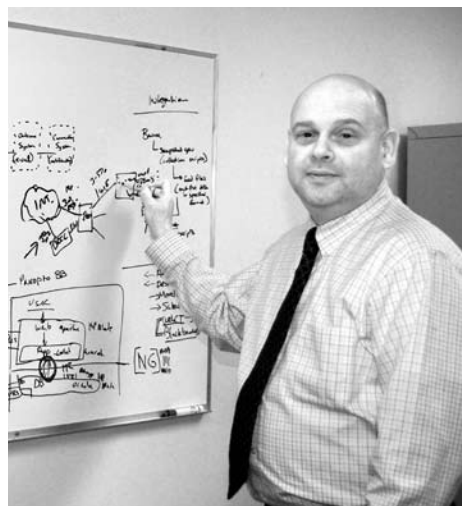
Another area of concern is the overload on individual computers when students and faculty have to run demanding software applications. Chavis has started a dialogue with the deans to determine what software is needed now and planned for the next couple of years so that hardware requirements can be met. Another possibility is having some software applications process on server-based solutions instead of the individual computers. Such a solution would create licensing issues to be resolved.

“There are a lot of moving parts with the laptop program,” he said.

Chavis said that network security will always be a bigger challenge at a university than he saw in health care organizations where access to the Internet and software applications is limited to only what each individual needs to perform his or her required tasks.

“In health care, people are used to having everything locked down, while at universities people are used to having things open,” Chavis said. “There will always be a balancing act between providing free and open access that people need to learn and to do their jobs versus securing the network so that we minimize the chance of being compromised.”

Chavis promises to communicate what IT Service Delivery is planning to do. “We are doing the analysis and figuring out the best way to do what we need to accomplish with the resources we have. There is not shortage of things to do,” he said.



**Tim Chavis is the new executive director of the Department of Information Technology Service Delivery.**



## MLK Peace March

*Lawrence Tech students, staff and friends assembled at nearby Hope United Methodist Church on the very cold morning of Jan. 19 for Southfield’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March. In the photo are (L-R) De’Andre Sims, Maureen Linnell-Pearl, Carol Vogt, Keto Rainey, Elijah Hartman and Xavier Murphy. Kneeling in front are Erian O’Neal and Sherri Kerby. The Lawrence Tech contingent joined the march up Civic Center Drive to the Southfield Pavilion where a program celebrating King’s legacy was held.*

## Black History Month at Lawrence Tech

In honor of Black History Month, Multicultural Support Services in the Student Affairs Department is hosting three film presentations and a lecture that will help the Lawrence Tech community reflect on the black experience in America.

The February Film Fest will be followed by a presentation by Patricia Coleman Burns, assistant professor at the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan.

Here’s the schedule:

- “Hip Hop – Beyond Beats and Rhymes,” M218, Feb. 10, noon.
- “Do It! A Documentary,” Lear Auditorium, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
- “Tim Wise and White Privilege,” Lear Auditorium, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
- “The Rhetoric Of Hope – The Intersection of Race, Class, Gender, Identity in Understanding the Black Experience in America,” a lecture by Patricia Coleman-Burns, Lear Auditorium, Feb. 24, 12:15-1:45 p.m.

## Lawrence Tech Joins Michigan Campus Compact

Lawrence Tech has joined the Michigan Campus Compact, which promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens by creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service learning and civic engagement.

As a result of this membership, anyone employed or attending Lawrence Tech can use the programs and services of Michigan Campus Compact. For information on grants, recognitions, scholarships and educational opportunities, go to [www.micampuscompact.org](http://www.micampuscompact.org).

Currently, 41 institutions of higher education in Michigan – just about half – are MCC members.

Several members of the Lawrence Tech staff and administration will serve as primary contacts for specific issues involved in Lawrence Tech’s membership

in the group:

Community Service: Melissa Grunow, leadership curriculum coordinator.

Government Relations: Mark Brucki, executive director of economic development and government relations.

Chief Academic Officer: Provost Maria Vaz.

Faculty Service-Learning: Associate Provost Steve Howell.

On Campus Press: Bruce Annett, executive director of marketing and public affairs.

Institutional Research/Grants: Mary Thomas, director of institutional research and academic planning.

Students wishing to learn more about the opportunities available at Lawrence Tech through the Michigan Campus Compact should contact Grunow at ext. 2414 or [mgrunow@ltu.edu](mailto:mgrunow@ltu.edu).

## Lawrence Tech Lends Support to the MLK Day of Service

A group from Lawrence Tech joined almost 500 volunteers from throughout southeast Michigan to lend a hand at 20 different community agencies during the Martin Luther King Annual Day of Service on Jan. 19.

The MLK Day of Service project is a nationwide initiative to use the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day that brings together people who might not ordinarily meet, breaks down barriers that have divided individuals in the past, and leads to better understanding and ongoing relationships.

Lawrence Tech participated with volunteers from University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-D), Henry Ford Community College, Madonna University and the United Way of Southeastern Michigan.

Lawrence Tech participants were freshmen Amanda Sweet and Anna Spens; Phyllis Jones, administrative assistant in University Advancement; and Melissa Grunow, leadership curriculum coordinator and Lawrence Tech's representative on the Day of Service Planning Committee. All four volunteers served as site leaders for the day.

"Although Lawrence Tech joins with others from the city of Southfield to participate in the march every year, the MLK Day of Service takes the commemoration of Dr. King's legacy one step further," Grunow said. "It brings people together. It creates unity. It creates a sense of understanding and respect for those less fortunate."

Lawrence Tech volunteers participated in such activities as constructing

affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity; sorting and packing donated food items for Gleaners Community Food Bank; painting and cleaning at Maybury Elementary School; and preparing food baskets and chatting with clients at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

"Once I got to the volunteer site I was amazed to see how many people were there and took their time to volunteer. Just seeing the number of people that showed up, aside from the actual volunteer work that we did, was an inspiration and it really touched my heart that so many were willing to give some of their time to others and to the cause of giving back to the community," said Sweet, who served as the site leader for Maybury Elementary.

After volunteering, participants returned to the UM-D campus for an afternoon program during which Lawrence Tech President Lewis Walker spoke about the importance of volunteer work and how it develops character and leadership. Representatives from the other universities and the United Way also spoke during the closing ceremonies. Participants also could blog about their experiences using laptops loaned by Lawrence Tech.

"We'll definitely participate next year," Grunow said, "and I anticipate the number of volunteers will grow every year as well. Service learning is a not only a major University initiative because of the Leadership Program, it's a nationwide commitment that is heavily encouraged by President Obama."

"Besides," she said, "it's a lot of fun being a part of something that is so big."



The Lawrence Tech volunteers who participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service on Jan. 19 are (L-R) Phyllis Jones of University Advancement; freshmen Amanda Sweet and Anna Spens; and Melissa Grunow, leadership curriculum coordinator.

## GREEK NEWS

### Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon is happy to announce its 22nd Annual Volleyball Blast on March 21. Volleyball Blast is a six-on-six volleyball tournament hosted by the Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter here at Lawrence Technological University. The event is held in the Don Ridler Field House and starts at 9 a.m. Team registration is \$30.

The goal of the event is to help raise funds for a charitable cause and to promote community involvement. The event is set up to be fun and enjoyable for all. There are two brackets, recreational and competitive, depending on your team's skill level. There are many different options for you and companies to donate to this event.

In the past Sigma Phi Epsilon has donated to Lupus and the Spinal Cord Society and has raised well over \$30,000 for these organizations. In 2003, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Youth AIDS partnered in the fight against AIDS. Since then Sigma Phi Epsilon chapters around the country have raised thousands of dollars and vol-

unteered thousands of man hours in the process.

An estimated 12 million people between the ages of 15 and 24 are now living with HIV/AIDS. The youth of the world are the hardest hit by this disease, but they are also the key to overcoming it. YouthAIDS is a global initiative implemented by Population Services International in December 2001. YouthAIDS programs are designed to help educate and protect the youth of America. Through mass media, music, fashion and sports, YouthAIDS programs promote abstinence and safer relations in 70 countries around the world.

Please join us in helping to promote the message of YouthAIDS by contributing to the cause. Your donations and team registration support can help us to rid the world of HIV/AIDS disease. Food and drinks will be provided at the event, so please come and show your support March 21st in the Don Ridler Field House beginning at 9 a.m. For any questions, contact Kevin McLarney at 586.855.6893 or volleyballblast@michigantheta.org.



Lawrence Tech President Lewis N. Walker (L) spoke about the importance of volunteering and leadership at the annual MLK Day of Service program held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Other speakers were Michael J. Brennan, United Way president and CEO (standing); Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, president of Madonna University; and Donald J. Bord, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UM-D. (United Way Photo)

## EL CLUB DE ESPAÑOL (SPANISH CLUB)

In view of the success of Lawrence Tech's new minor in Spanish, the students have decided to organize a Spanish Club, where they can share travel stories, enjoy music, films, games, and Mexican and Spanish food, and interact with students who share their same focus on the international environment.

We would like to invite everyone interested in Spanish and Latin American language, food, music and culture to join us once a month (dates to be announced). Please contact Spanish Club President Erik Slagter (es000374158@ltu.edu), Club Vice President Allie Sowa (asowa@charter.net) or Student Representative Keri Beertema, (kbeertema@ltu.edu) to sign up and join our club.

¡Nos vemos en la reunión del club! (See you at the club reunion!)

## Baja Team Prepares for SAE Competition in Wisconsin

By Justin D. Hardy  
*Baja SAE team member*

SAE Baja is a collegiate engineering competition where college students have to design and build an off-road vehicle. To level the playing field, a 10-horsepower engine is mandatory for all teams. That restriction forces teams to be creative with gearing, suspension and chassis design in order to be competitive.

The Baja competition is sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and this year's competition will be held in Burlington, Wisc., June 11-14.

The competition is based on a point system and the vehicle is scored in many categories, including appearance, design, engineering, braking, acceleration and hill climbing.

This year's SAE Baja team consists of nine men in mechanical engineering who are committed to designing and building a vehicle that will do well in competition.

Devon Eyerman is the team leader and a rear team member. He is currently on the dean's list while working as a co-op at Herkules Equipment Corp. Upon graduation he plans on entering the aeronautical field.

Kurtis McFarlane is the chassis team leader. He is currently a member of Pi Tau Sigma, and working at DADCO as an engineering intern. He plans to work in the defense field upon graduation.

Michael Waters is the front team leader. He served in the Marine Corps for six years before coming to Lawrence Tech to finish his education. He will be entering the field of alternative energy after graduation.

Justin Hardy is the rear team leader. He is a regular drag racer at Milan Dragway. Upon graduation he plans on

entering the field of nuclear energy.

Nathan Campbell is a member of the front team. He is currently a member of the American Society of Engineers. He works as an intern with Unisys Corporation while he completes his final year of school.

Curtis Hargitt is a member of the rear team. He is involved in a full-time internship at Hi-Lex Automotive as a product engineer. He has many Michigan mechanic certifications from past work as a mechanic.

Jake Horgan is a member of the front team. He is currently working for Dell Marking Systems as a developmental/design engineer. He is currently on the dean's list.

Dave Myzienski is a member of the chassis team. He plans on working in the automotive field after his graduation.

Ali Tarraf is a member of the chassis team. He currently works at HAG Company as a mechanical engineering co-op. He also has experience as an automotive mechanic.

The advisor for this year's team is Joseph LaRose, an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He is currently employed by Ford Motor Company in research and development. His research emphasis is on vehicle cross functional design and optimization.

The team would like to thank DENSO, Master CNC, George Placinta, Eaton, Toyota, Lockrey Manufacturing, Lee Kesh, Neapco Drivelines, Briggs and Stratton, RPM Gearboxes and Shield's. New sponsors are always welcome.

For details or fund-raising suggestions, contact Eyerman at [devon.eyerman@gmail.com](mailto:devon.eyerman@gmail.com) or call 734.564.8963.



Members of Lawrence Tech's SAE Baja team are (L-R) Curtis Hargitt, Dave Myzienski, Ali Tarraf, Jake Horgan, Mike Waters, Kurtis McFarlane and Justin Hardy. Kneeling in the front are Nathan Campbell and Devon Eyerman.

## Engineering Honor Societies Install New Members

Lawrence Tech's engineering honor societies installed their new members at the fall initiation banquet held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren in December.

Members of the honor societies are among the top students in the College of Engineering at Lawrence Tech. They have demonstrated academic excellence as well as outstanding moral and social character.

Undergraduate initiates of Chi Epsilon, the national civil engineering society, are Aaron Bonin, Marc Kasabasic, Andrew Lobbestael, Timothy Stoian, Nancy Todd and Ian Wagner.

Current officers of Chi Epsilon are Mark Herder, president; Michael Mitchell, vice president, Cody Telgheder, treasurer; Alena Weiss, secretary; Clarice Westman, associate editor; and James Rowley, marshall. Incoming officers are Richard Graham, vice president; and Timothy Stoian, marshall.

Undergraduate initiates of Eta Kappa

Nu, the international honor society of electrical engineers, are Christopher Antovski, Nathan Boos, Erica Harris and Robert Reichel. The officers are Lindsey Mehlberg, president and secretary; Stephen Dage, vice president; and Peter Schroeder, treasurer.

Undergraduate initiates of Pi Tau Sigma, the national mechanical engineering honor society, are Michael Seaton, Candace Hurston and Lance Lamson. The officers are Andrew Maurer, president; Brian Beltowski, vice president; and Mark Stanek, secretary.

Undergraduate initiates of Tau Beta Pi, the national honor society for all engineering students, are Nathan Boos, Bryan Beltowski, Stephen Dage, Erica Harris, Lance Lamson, Peter Schroeder, Timothy Stoian and Jeremy Woyak. The officers of Tau Beta Pi are Joshua Smith, president; Chelsea Colbert, vice president; Matt Trublowksi, treasurer; and Jason Hefter, secretary.

## ATTENTION, CREATIVE MINDS!

Lawrence Tech's Artists' Guild has extended the deadline for the *Prism* cover design contest! The winner will receive a cash prize, and his or her design will become the cover for the 2009 edition of *Prism*. The contest is open to any currently enrolled Lawrence Tech student who is not an Artists' Guild member.

Entries can be submitted until 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20, to Senior Instructor Sara Lamers in S207-E. For entry forms and entry criteria, contact Artists' Guild President Elside Konakciu ([ek000164538@ltu.edu](mailto:ek000164538@ltu.edu)), Vice President Ireli Khani ([ix000253204@ltu.edu](mailto:ix000253204@ltu.edu)) or Lamers (ext. 3553, [slamers@ltu.edu](mailto:slamers@ltu.edu)).



Representing Tau Beta Pi at the fall initiation banquet of Lawrence Tech's engineering honor societies are, left to right, Professor Richard Johnston, Jason Hefter, Bryan Beltowski, Lance Lamson, Peter Schroeder, Timothy Stoian, Matt Trublowksi, Nathan Boos, Stephen Dage, Erica Harris, Jeremy Woyak, Joshua Smith and Associate Dean Lewis Frasch. (Photo by Ken Cook)

# Humanities Happenings

By Melinda Weinstein, *Chair  
Department of Humanities, Social  
Sciences and Communication*

The Spring Semester is an exciting time for students and faculty in the Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Communication.

As part of the College of Arts and Sciences exciting new initiative, *Your Lawrence Tech Quest*, Arts and Sciences students Christina Minta and Yasser Alwan have come together to form a new organization, the Al Farabi Café, which brings together American and international students for intense dialogue about contemporary and ancient philosophical issues.

The group hopes to spark curiosity, to ring a bell in ears accustomed to the names of western thinkers and philosophers. Students come together from various backgrounds for civil discussions that bridge the barriers of language and culture. American and international students alike feel less intimidated and can ask questions that might seem inappropriate in more formal environments.

Al Farabi meetings alternate between a dynamic debate style and a more restrained Socratic approach. Discussion topics are chosen and a moderator selected at the start of each meeting.

The group is inspired by the tenth-century Persian philosopher, Muhammad Al Farabi. Born of Turkish origins in Karasan, Al Farabi did his higher education in Bate Al-Hikmah (House of Wisdom) in Baghdad. Though he

was a devoted Sufi Muslim, his mentor, Yuhanna ibn-Haylan, was a Catholic Chaldean. Al Farabi was highly influenced by Greek philosophy and is considered to be one of the chief commentators on Aristotle. His knowledge was encyclopedic. He was a master of many languages, including Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Greek.

Al Farabi Café meets every Thursday at lunchtime, 12:30-2 p.m., in M212. All are welcome.

The Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Communication is hosting a weekly “HSSC Majors tea” in S225 beginning Tuesday, Feb. 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Come meet other HSSC majors (humanities, media communication, psychology and English) and faculty. HSSC majors or anyone else interested in majoring or minoring in an HSSC program are welcome.

Writing Practice is back! Free Writing Practice meets every Thursday from 3-4:30 p.m. in M108. If you need help in avoiding “banned errors,” want to improve your sentences, and wish to improve your writing fluency before you take the Writing Proficiency Exam, please plan to come to Writing Practice regularly.

Some writing skills take time to master; they cannot be learned in a short, one-day workshop. Writing Practice is a concise writing class that addresses students’ more serious writing problems and provides the experience and time to improve them.

The textbook for Writing Practice is “Sentence Combining Workbook,”



## Celebrating Chinese New Year at Lawrence Tech

*On Jan. 27 more than 200 people joined the Chinese New Year celebration at Café Lawrence organized by Chinese students and the Student Affairs staff. The students wrote nametags for their guests in Chinese characters. In the photo, Professor Sonia Henckel is at the head of the line being served by Chinese students (L-R) Mai Zhang, Taojie Hua and Yake Wang. Everyone also received a little red envelope – traditionally used by Chinese parents to give their children small gifts for New Year’s – that contained candies and tickets for the raffle that was a highlight of the event.*

Altman et al, second edition (2007), ISBN 978-1-4130-1977-3, which is available at the Lawrence Tech Bookstore and online. For further information, contact Joyce Munro, director of English Proficiency Programs, ext. 4125 or munro@ltu.edu.

### Faculty Notes

Poems by Senior Lecturer Sara Lamers have been selected for publication by the following journals: *Plain Spoke*, *The Fourth River*, *Connecticut River Review*, *The Pinch*, and *The Hurricane Review*. Her manuscript, “Something Fierce Beds Down,” was a semi-finalist for the University of Wisconsin Press’ Brittingham and Pollak Poetry Prize.

In May, Assistant Professor David Huntsperger will present a paper at the “Poetries of Numerousness: Singularities, Movements, Idealities” conference at Grant MacEwan College. The paper’s title is “Visionary Multiplicity: The Polyphonic Poetics of William Blake and Susan Howe.”

In June, Assistant Professor Rachel Azima will present a paper at the biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. The paper’s title is “Postcolonialism, Ecocriticism, and Native Studies in Leslie Marmon Silko’s ‘Garden in the Dunes’ and Gerald Vizenor’s ‘The Heirs of Columbus.’”

## Remlinger and Simmons Recognized as Outstanding Staff Members

By Beth St. Thomas  
*Staff Recognition Committee*

The Staff Recognition Committee of the Staff Senate would like to congratulate Lori Remlinger as the November staff member of the month and Elizabeth Simmons as the December staff member of the month!

Remlinger started at Lawrence Tech in October 1998 with the College of Architecture and Design as assistant to the dean and in July of 2007 transitioned into the College of Management as the finance administrative assistant and doctoral programs administrative assistant. She was attracted to this new position because of her passion for finance, taxes and accounting.

“Lori is very meticulous and highly

organized,” one of her co-workers wrote in nominating Remlinger for staff member of the month. “I can count on her to do everything with integrity, diligence and professionalism.”



*Elizabeth Simmons (L) of the College of Architecture and Design and Lori Remlinger of the College of Management have both been named staff member of the month.*

Remlinger acquired her interest in finance by working in the field with her father for many years. It is not all work for Lori, since she also enjoys activities such as traveling, billiards, ballroom dancing, relaxing and spending time with her husband, Harold, and daughter, Hannah.

Simmons works in the library as a visual resources coordinator, spending most of her time in the Architecture Resource Center in the College of Architecture and Design. She joined the staff at Lawrence Tech in October 2006. Her focus is visual resources content for architecture and design, and she has had the opportunity to do a large digitized project for that collection.

“Under Elizabeth, the Architecture Resource Center has become a very

busy place where people can come to get questions answered, learn about equipment and resources,” a co-worker wrote about the December staff member of the month. “They can count on support for an improved classroom experience.”

Simmons has also collaborated with two authors and is in the processes of creating a book on food safety.

Congratulations again to both Remlinger and Simmons for making noticeable changes in our workplace!

The Staff Senate would like to recognize the other nominees: Tanisha McIntosh, Bridgett Bailiff, Norma Julka, Sherri Kerby, Leslie Wilson and Donna Kress.

Visit [ltu.edu/facultyandstaff/monthly\\_member.asp](http://ltu.edu/facultyandstaff/monthly_member.asp) to vote for the January and February staff members of the month!

## Slovenian Student Comes to Lawrence Tech to Pursue His Dream Career

Though only in its second year, the Lawrence Tech transportation design degree program has already attained a great amount of success and visibility. The program is receiving international exposure, partnering with world-renowned companies, recruiting top talent, and has industry executives excited to see student work.

One such success was being featured at the 2009 North American International Auto Show. After receiving a short-notice invitation to have a large display, three students worked over the winter holiday to create the boards. Sophomores Taylor Manuilow and Chris Nichols worked on their parts on campus, and freshman Gregor Duler completed his portion of the boards while at home in Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia.

Because the project required the transmission of large files from another continent, a special website was set up for the students to upload and download the data. Duler posted his finished, high-resolution work on the website, where it

could be retrieved and put onto the final boards by Nichols and Manuilow. They were all able to communicate with each other and give feedback using online video messaging.

This situation is representative of the way things work in a global environment – people are often communicating across the world in different time zones to accomplish large tasks in an efficient manner. The students gladly accepted the opportunity to get real-world experience and completed the boards in less than a week and a half.

Duler, 24, is the program's first international student. He came to Lawrence Tech after being contacted by Transportation Design Program Director Keith Nagara and hearing about the exciting opportunities the new program presented. Though he always had a passion and aptitude for transportation design, he didn't know that designing vehicles was a viable career option. Instead he opted to study wood science at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia's



## Big Hit at the Auto Show

*Lawrence Tech's Element One team and its racing kart powered by a hydrogen fuel cell helped attract attention to the DENSO exhibit at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January. In the photo above, team member Ian Williams discusses the racing kart with a young admirer. DENSO has sponsored numerous teams at Lawrence Tech, including Element One.*

capital city. When he heard about Lawrence Tech's program and scholarship opportunities, his dream finally came true.

"I couldn't believe that that was actually happening – I was ecstatic and I told everybody I knew! I was so happy that I was getting an opportunity to study something I love so much," Duler said.

It's an abrupt change in his career plans, but he is excited to be a part of an industry that still provides many opportunities. Actually, a late career change isn't unusual in the field of automotive design – the average age of transportation design freshmen across the world is 28!

Duler is also adjusting to life halfway around the world from home. "Of course I miss my family a lot, but I try not to think about it. I'm here with one purpose: to finish school so I can have a career in a field I am passionate about."

Overall, he loves being in the United States and at Lawrence Tech. "I especially like how the professors put in effort to help students and how they encourage questions and curiosity."

Duler took it upon himself to create a poster to display at his high school at home in Slovenia to attract new students.

He stays busy by participating in many activities on campus. He particularly enjoys playing intramural basketball, and any free time he has is spent in the studio working on his current class project, designing a Ford vehicle for an African country.

Along the way, he's making many friends on campus and amazing those

who meet him with his talent and personality. "Greg is a great addition to our program and campus, and he's also a great ambassador," Nagara said.

When asked about his decision to enter the automotive industry in the current economic climate, Duler remains very optimistic. "Times like these require someone to step up and make a difference, and I want to be that person," he said.



*While working from home in Slovenia over the Christmas break, Gregor Duler helped create Lawrence Tech's transportation design display at the North American International Auto Show.*

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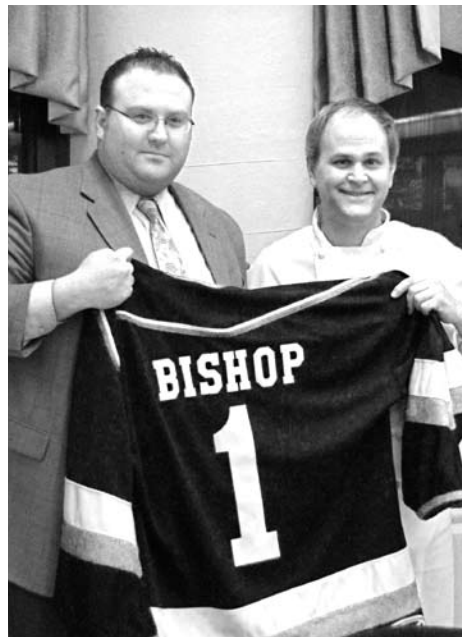
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## Blue Devils Build Momentum for 2009 Playoff Run

The Lawrence Tech hockey team has put together its best season yet, with a 15-6 record and a top seed in the playoffs for the North region, widely recognized as the most competitive in the American College Hockey Association.



Head Coach Kevin Gee (L) awards an honorary Blue Devils hockey jersey to Brent Bishop, director of food services at Café Lawrence, at the inaugural "Dine with the Devils" fund-raising dinner.

The Blue Devils are poised to make a run at their first ever national championship berth on the strength of solid goaltending and consistent offensive output. Citing improved talent from years

past, Head Coach Kevin Gee believes his 2008-09 crew is the best team he's had at Lawrence Tech, with by far the best chance of making it all the way.

"We've got a great mix of older, experienced guys who've been here, as well as a talented group of young guys that are hungry for wins," Gee said.

On Jan. 17, the Blue Devils played their final home game of the season against Hope College, a disappointing 4-3 loss, in front of a near-capacity, record crowd at the Southfield Sports Arena.

"We had a chance to win," said Gee. "They were right there all night, hung in there and competed right up until the end. Hope is one of the best teams in the country year in and year out. I'm happy with the way they played. We can play with anybody, we've proven it."

The game was preceded by one of the most successful fund-raisers in team history, the inaugural "Dine with the Devils" dinner, made possible by Brent Bishop and the Taher food service team at Café Lawrence. The event featured the Lawrence Tech hockey players as servers for over 200 guests and students. President Lewis Walker attended and praised the efforts of the Blue Devil hockey team and staff.

The Blue Devils had one more series on the road against Calvin College and Saginaw Valley State before they depart for the regional playoff Feb. 13-14 in Grand Rapids.

## Lawrence Tech's Volleyball Team



Players on this year's Lawrence Tech Volleyball Team are (L-R) in the back row Abby Schroeder, Kaitlin Eisen, Angela Bates, Valerie Tetro, Laura Saler, Tiffany Platt and Britinie Lomason. In the front are Kelly Sucaet, Gena Briolat, co-captains Katrin Bosch and Shannon Braun, Katelyn Fortin and Anna Vantsevich. The team is practicing twice a week in preparation for tournaments at Central Michigan University on Feb. 28 and at the University of Michigan March 14. The players are also planning a rematch of last year's game against members of the hockey team.

## A Good Cause Provides Motivation For a New Marathon Runner

By Melissa Grunow  
Leadership Curriculum Coordinator

Blistered toes. Sore quads. Stiff joints. Wind-burned cheeks. Chapped lips. Swollen hands and feet. Shin splints. Torn muscles.

Sub-zero temperatures. Blizzards. Pouring rain. Darkness. Ice. Slush. Traffic. Barking dogs. Thunder. Lightning. Snow-covered sidewalks. Unforgiving winds.

I've endured hundreds of miles in these conditions, and I have hundreds more to go. Why? Because I'm a runner. But that's not the only reason.

I am training for the Vancouver Marathon on May 3 as a member of Team in Training, a group of endurance athletes who raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. I have committed to training a total of 586 miles and raising \$4,500 for this very important cause.

I run to remember those who have suffered. I run for those who cannot. I run for those who have hope of someday running again.

I run for my uncle, Paul Rummmler, and my aunt, Mary Rummmler, who lost their lives to leukemia.

I wasn't always a runner. It was less than two years ago when I decided to jog around the track for the first time before lifting weights. I made it two laps – only a quarter of a mile – before I stopped, bent over and gasped for breath. As someone who has struggled for years with my weight, I knew this feeling of defeat well. I also knew I could overcome it.

I started running daily, gradually building up muscles and endurance. I ran my first 10K race, the Detroit Turkey Trot, on Thanksgiving Day in 2007. Since then, I've run a series of 5K and 10K races. In October, I ran the Detroit Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile race that goes over the Ambassador Bridge into Canada and back through the Windsor Tunnel. It was, by far, the hardest thing I'd ever done.

I felt victorious when I crossed the finish line, but it was overshadowed by some lingering sadness from the day before when I had attended my Uncle Paul's funeral. He had died that week from leukemia and pneumonia.

The Team in Training was everywhere that day, proudly donning their trademark purple shirts and cheering each other on. That's when it clicked for me. I don't think it was a coincidence that I ran a half marathon the same week my Uncle Paul died. I don't think it was a coincidence

that those purple Team in Training shirts stood out to me.

So, I signed on and made a training and fund-raising commitment to better the lives of those fighting blood cancers and to provide support for research so that we someday may find a cure.

I've received an overwhelming response to my fund-raising campaign, and so far have raised about half of my total goal. I am seeking contributions to help me get to the finish line. Your donation is 100 percent tax deductible and 75 percent of all funds raised go directly to continuous research, patient assistance, and support systems.

Every donation matters! Contributions can be made through March 15 online at [pages.teamintraining.org/mi/vancouver09/mgrunow](http://pages.teamintraining.org/mi/vancouver09/mgrunow) or if you prefer to write a check, please email me at [melissagrunow@yahoo.com](mailto:melissagrunow@yahoo.com).

You can also follow my training and fund-raising progress by visiting my blog at [teamintrainingprogress.blogspot.com](http://teamintrainingprogress.blogspot.com).

A fund-raising benefit for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training will take place 6:30-9:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward in Ferndale. Ferndale's new billiards hall is co-owned by the late former Dean of Engineering Laird Johnston's son Chris Johnston, his wife Krista, brother Grant, and friend Brian Reedy.



Melissa Grunow often has to run through the snow at night to keep on her training schedule for the Vancouver Marathon in May.