Students Zero In On International Race To Showcase Hydrogen Fuel Cells

By Eric Pope  
Tech News Editor

Close to 50 Lawrence Tech students are nearing the finish line in their bid for a spot in the Formula Zero Championship, Student Edition, an international racing series for zero-emission, hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered vehicles. And they want to have one of the 2008 races held in the Detroit area.

Students in mechanical, electrical and computer engineering have joined Element One, a team that hopes to compete against universities from other countries in a race series that has been organized in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The first race will take place in England, and Formula Zero officials are now considering proposals for hosting three other races.

The racing competition is under the guidance of the Alternative Energies Commission of the worldwide governing body of major motor sports series and is supported by large corporations such as Shell Hydrogen.

Last month Formula Zero representative Kim Taylor came to Detroit for two days to explore the possibility of holding a Formula Zero race here in conjunction with another event, such as the State Fair or the Woodward Dream Cruise. She met with people interested in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles from Ford Motor Company, NextEnergy and DENSO America.

Taylor told the Lawrence Tech team that Detroit is definitely in the running for a race site.

But at this point Element One members are more focused on winning a spot in the race. The team submitted its preliminary design concept in May and must submit its final design concept by Dec. 22. This will include details of the complete vehicle construction, safety features and the electrical and

(continued on page 2)
Faculty & Staff Campaign Concludes This Month

The 2007-2008 Faculty & Staff Campaign, “Setting the Pace,” is under way and is expected to conclude by Dec. 31. This year’s goals are $150,000 in gifts and pledges and at least a 75 percent participation rate in honor of the University’s 75th anniversary.

Co-chairs are Kristi Webster, assistant director of admissions; Al Turfe, lecturer in mathematics and computer science; and Gabe Sauvie of enrollment services. “Each day you see firsthand the impact our University makes on the lives of our students,” the three co-chairs said in asking for the support of their colleagues. “As a technology-focused university, we must provide more labs and research facilities. Gifts from our employees are critical to our University and to our students.”

Last year, 273 new pledges, cash and renewals to the University from faculty, staff and administration reached $140,141. Participation by full-time employees was 70 percent and overall participation was 46 percent.

“This level of generosity shows that members of the faculty, staff, and administration at Lawrence Tech know firsthand that the University’s greatest assets are its students and employees,” noted Steve Brown, vice president for university advancement.

Faculty, staff, and administration have contributed almost $500,000 through six annual campaigns. This strong support has shown the external community that faculty and staff are committed to the University’s mission of delivering quality education to students.

Contributions can be earmarked for specific purposes such as the Formula Zero team.

Team leaders will contact everyone in their departments and offices. For more information, contact the University Advancement Office at ext. 2300 or advancement@ltu.edu.

CIMR Grant: $1 Million for Military Testing

(continued from page 1)

Under the ongoing agreement with ARL, Grace and his team of researchers have been working with TARDEC on applications for carbon fiber in a structural fabric frame to hold blast-resistant ceramic tiles.

Grace said the new environmental chamber could also be used for civilian projects, such as testing different types of concrete, steel, wood, composites, or hybrid beams used in bridges.

The environmental chamber will complete the plan for four major research components that Grace envisioned for CIMR when it opened in 2006. The research facility can test bridge components up to 100 feet long for stress under both static and repeated loads up to 1 million pounds of force. A fire chamber installed earlier this year can test structural components up to 2300 degrees Fahrenheit and approximate conditions at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Equipment for nanotechnology testing also was installed earlier this year.

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Don Ridler Field House

Enter the drawing for health and fitness prizes, Ipod Nano, Polar Heart Rate Monitors, Pistons Tickets, Tech Rec T-Shirts, Free Membership, and Dick’s Sporting Goods Gift Certificates.

Enter to win between December 3-7 Drawing for prizes on December 10

1 ENTRY PER PERSON PER VISIT, MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES

Alumnae and Women Students Network at High Tea

The importance of networking in the business world was a recurring theme at the annual High Tea luncheon for women graduates, students, faculty and staff. Provost Maria Váz (R) helped host the event and provided introductory remarks for the panel discussion between (L-R) Carolyn Dwyer of Contract Wallcoverings Inc., Rosemary Bayer of Sun Microsystems, Laura Stienzak of Siemens Corp., Karen Mitchell of DTE Energy and moderator Laura Clary of iDesign and Planning, LLC.

Formula Zero: Lawrence Tech Team Seeks Race in Detroit

(continued from page 1)

hydrogen systems.

The team must also present a financial plan and signed agreements from sponsors. Participation in the racing season is expected to cost around $600,000.

Feb. 1, 2008, is the deadline for Element One to respond to the design jury’s requests for additional information.

Once their final plans have been approved, up to seven teams will receive the hydrogen fuel cells to be used for the racing season.

“It’s the technology of the future,” said Adam Flaster, one of the team members who met with Taylor. “And I like the challenge of competing with students from around the world.”

Formula Zero’s purpose is to publicize the potential of hydrogen fuel cells to provide a zero-emission solution for transportation. Generating public interest with a racing season will lead to financial support from corporate sponsors that want to publicize what they are doing to meet the growing demand for reduced emissions for vehicles.

“All these [racing] events are PR, or the racers wouldn’t get stickers on their cars,” said James Gebbie, a representative of Ford Motor Company who met with Taylor.

The Lawrence Tech racing kart will be capable of going 70 miles per hour, although it may be designed for a lower maximum speed.

The final design concept remains under wraps.

“We’re about 70 percent finished,” team member Camille Robbins told the Southfield Eccentric over the Thanksgiving break. “But it’s going to take some time and effort to meet that deadline. I’ve already told my parents this won’t be a normal holiday.”

Lawrence Tech got involved in Formula Zero when mechanical engineering student Mike Samaroo approached the organization in Amsterdam while he was studying in Germany on an exchange program.

Samaroo and other team members have attended several conferences on hydrogen fuel cells, including the third annual Fuel Cell Durability and Performance Conference in Miami last month.

The goal of the Element One team is “to change the way people think about energy and sustainability through high-performance, zero-emissions racing.”

For more information about the Formula Zero competition, go to www.formulazero.n1. The Element One website is www.ltufz.com.
Architecture Students Score in International Competition

A 2007 MasterClass Design Studio student team won honorable mention in the international Architecture Competition sponsored by the Spanish group, Arquitectum. The project was a theoretical investigation of a museum tower in lower Manhattan. In the photo (L-R) are MasterClass Design Studio coordinator Philip Plowright, Dean Glen LeRoy of the College of Architecture and Design, and the student team of Brian Leung, Nicholas Shango and Laura Roberts. On Nov. 9 the students and design studio faculty Rochelle Martin and Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies Virginia North traveled to New York to accept the prestigious award.

Dec. 21 is Deadline for 2008 Prism Submissions

The Artists' Guild is now accepting submissions for the 2008 issue of Prism, Lawrence Tech's journal of art and literature. Any member of the Lawrence Tech community — including students, faculty, staff and alumni — is eligible to submit original, creative works.

Accepted written works include poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction or novel excerpts. There are no restrictions on length, although the Artists' Guild may require permission to edit a piece to fit space constraints. Up to five pieces of written work can be submitted.

In addition, the Artists' Guild welcomes visual artwork. These submissions may be drawings, photography, digital images, paintings or sculpture. To submit a painting or sculpture, please submit a photograph of the piece. Each artist may submit up to five visual pieces. An artist can submit both written and visual work.

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There’s Good News for Students of Spanish

By Monica Stevens
Spanish Department Coordinator

Students who study Spanish are seeing their job prospects expand. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Spanish speaking population in Michigan grew from 323,877 to 392,770 between 2000 and 2006 – and this means business!

For the spring semester, Lawrence Tech students can take a traditional language course, Spanish 2; Business Spanish; or Spanish Masterpieces, which explores the literature and art of Latin America and Spain.

In an article published by the Detroit Free Press, Michigan State University economist Charles Ballard stated that the Spanish-speaking segment of the population “represents one of the few areas of growth in Michigan’s economy.” He cited U.S. Census projections that the Spanish-speaking consumer economy in the United States will have $928 billion in spending power by the end of 2007 and will surpass the economies of Canada and Mexico by 2010.

Mexico is Michigan’s second most important trading partner after Canada, and business is growing. The Mexican government is looking to open a branch of its Technology Business Accelerator (TechBA) international network in metropolitan Detroit to improve collaboration and strengthen links between the automotive industries in both countries. This would represent an investment of almost $2 million and the creation of approximately 250 jobs – mostly for bilingual employees, of course.

What does this mean to our students of Spanish? Their ability to speak, read, write, and translate and be culturally acclimated will give them the advantage. They will be especially attractive to international corporations because of their education in two different business approaches. A study by Korn/Ferry International concluded that recruiters everywhere agree that in ten years it will be more important for executives to be at least bilingual.

Today, there are more than a 1,000 businesses owned by Spanish speakers just in Detroit, and at least 10,000 throughout the state, representing revenue of $2 billion. Many major U.S. companies have started advertising in Spanish, while others are also planning new marketing strategies that will reach the increasing number of Spanish-speaking consumers. Many American corporations are adding new subsidiaries, divisions and manufacturing facilities in Spanish-speaking countries – and this means that the demand for bilingual job seekers is growing.

Here are the Spanish courses for the spring semester:

- SPN 2923 - Spanish 2 (3 credits). Continuation course, expanding on conversation, translation, and cultural aspects of Spain and Latin America.
- SPN 3843 - Business Spanish (3 credits). Development of oral and written skills, with a focus on business vocabulary and culture.
- SPN 4843 - Spanish Masterpieces (3 credits). A new course on literature and art from Latin America and Spain.

Experimental Shelters

Lawrence Tech Adopts CATIA V5 Engineering Design Software

Lawrence Technological University has adopted CATIA V5 software with a retail value of $67 million that provides its students with access to an engineering computer-aided design (CAD) platform widely used in the aerospace and automotive industries.

The software came through the Higher Education and Training (HEAT) program, a joint initiative between ENGINEERING.com of Mississauga, Ontario, IBM and Dassault Systèmes aimed at delivering real-world, hands-on experience to engineering students. Lawrence Tech signed a licensing agreement with ENGINEERING.com prior to the start of the fall semester.

Lawrence Tech is one of the few colleges in the country that provide all undergraduate students with laptop computers. The CATIA V5 software has been installed on the laptops of more than 1,000 engineering students and is available to other students. Students can use the software when they are off campus.

CATIA, an acronym for computer-aided, three-dimensional interactive application, was developed by Dassault Systèmes for designing the Mirage fighter jet and is now used by Boeing, Ford, Chrysler and many other aerospace and automotive companies and suppliers. Architect Frank Gehry used CATIA to design the famous Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Spain.

CATIA V5 covers a wide range of engineering design activities, such as 3D modeling, engineering structural and thermal analysis, manufacturing simulation, HVAC design, engineering drawings, and engineering visualization and simulation. All of these areas represent practical skills employers seek, according to Steven Howell, interim associate provost at Lawrence Tech and former chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

“Companies that employ our graduates are asking for engineers familiar with this software,” Howell said. “And, with training, our students can easily become ‘bilingual’ with other CAD software.”

CATIA V5 has been very valuable to Lawrence Tech’s student team that has entered Formula Zero, an international competition to design and race a vehicle powered by a hydrogen fuel cell.

“Using material properties and parameters we have built into our design, we can run and develop simulations for vehicle dynamics, crash worthiness, and understand important properties such as center of gravity,” said Lawrence Tech student Raj Daftuar.

The CATIA software can also be used to enhance student learning at Lawrence Tech in areas outside of engineering.

“CATIA V5 moves beyond the old-fashioned standard of creating a box or cylinder and then removing or adding material to it,” said John Hayes, president of ENGINEERING.com. “More powerful software helps draw out the creativity within students, allowing them to capture the emotional content of their design quickly and easily.”

For instance, CATIA V5’s Imagine and Shape Module enables students to manipulate digital clay simply by pushing and pulling with the computer cursor. This higher functionality allows users to quickly create extremely complex surfaces and incorporate them easily into their designs.
Teaching and Learning Should Be Fun as Well as Challenging

By Kenneth J. Cook
Chair, Department of Engineering Technology

My teaching philosophy is to make learning fun, encourage creativity and teach complex concepts by applying them to real-world applications. After 40 years of teaching, I still have the enthusiasm of a new teacher. I am passionate and show students that I am excited about the things I teach.

I work to get to know each of my students to understand their life, work and educational experiences. This allows me to provide personalized instruction to help them learn. I am always available if a student needs help; I will meet a student at school or outside of school, many times very late in the evening. I believe I am more than a teacher – I am a mentor.

I encourage creativity, team work and leadership. For example, I structure my senior project class to have students brainstorm product ideas, conduct a market survey and complete a patent search. They design, develop, construct and demonstrate a working model. An engineering cost analysis, manufacturing feasibility and a marketing plan is done. Each student is required to give oral presentations throughout the course. This class is made up of teams from many disciplines (mechanical, electrical, manufacturing, and construction). The teams work in the classroom as well as outside the classroom; the members must resolve their personal and project issues within the group. The class teaches the students to use all of their previous knowledge, to think for themselves, and to work with others to solve problems – just like in the working world.

When students get frustrated or the class needs a break, I will introduce some magic tricks to break the tension. To help students to expand their thinking, I ask them about everyday things, i.e., what’s division, where does pi come from, what makes a computer work, etc.

Students are not just students to me. They are people with great, bright futures. I want to leave students with a lasting impression of what they accomplished at Lawrence Tech and have them remember what they learned and incorporate this into their everyday lives.

My goal is to help students think beyond today. I want them to see that they can do more than they ever realized.

Lawrence Tech Grad Overcomes Adversity To Complete His First Detroit Marathon

By Eric Pope
Tech News Editor

Lawrence Tech grad Tim Grzankowski, 22, of Warren has always wanted to compete, but he didn’t get his chance until this fall when he entered the Detroit Marathon in the handcyclist division.

Grzankowski was born with arthrogryposis, a rare disease that stiffens joints and muscles and drastically limits mobility. He underwent surgery when he was two years old and now walks with the help of knee braces.

His difficulty with walking didn’t hold him back in the classroom. In May he earned a bachelor’s degree in computer engineering from Lawrence Tech, graduating summa cum laude.

Convincing prospective employers that he could work effectively in spite of his handicap was another challenge that Grzankowski conquered, according to Interim Dean of Students Kevin Finn, who worked with him in the Office of Career Planning.

“Tim is an extremely determined person, and I watched him persist when employers were nervous that he could not make it as an engineer,” said Finn, who also ran in the Detroit Marathon this year. “He fought prejudice with the greatest tool of all – a very warm heart that is extremely contagious.”

Shortly after commencement, Grzankowski landed a job with Vector CANtech in Novi where he works in the diagnostics group on automotive electronic systems. He had interned with the company during his final semester at Lawrence Tech.

Grzankowski used to shoot basketballs and hockey pucks while growing up, but he was never able to compete. That changed in August when he spent an entire monthly paycheck to buy a $3,200 Quickie Shark handcycle. He had become a fan of Lance Armstrong while following the Tour de France bicycle race, and was determined to enter a marathon as a handcyclist.

From the end of August until Oct. 21, when the Detroit Marathon was held, Grzankowski hand-cranked his bike about 10 miles every day. On race day he quickly made friends with other handcyclists, who gave him tips and encouragement.

He finished the 26.2-mile course in 2:33:33, averaging better than a mile every six minutes and finishing 13th out of 17 in his division. His personal goal was 2:36.

The race lived up to its advance billing for Grzankowski. “It was very exciting,” he said. “It was very encouraging to have all those people along the way cheering you on.”

His next goal is to race in the Cleveland Marathon in May, and he plans to return to the Detroit Marathon next October.

Cook Mixes Magic with Education

Ken Cook has always brought a theatrical flourish to his classrooms at Lawrence Tech. In addition to his careers as an engineer and a college instructor, Cook has performed as a magician since he was in high school. Business has taken him all over the world, which has given him the opportunity to put on magic shows in 35 countries, as well as all but one of the 50 states.

“Teaching and magic go together like Einstein and relativity,” Cook said.

Cook was already an experienced magician when he enrolled in classes at Lawrence in 1960. He began teaching as an adjunct professor soon after graduation and kept it up through several career changes.

He was manager of medical engineering at William Beaumont Hospital before starting up the research group at a machine tool company that was later purchased by GTE. For more than 20 years he traveled extensively for GTE.

In 1998, he became executive vice president and chief engineer at Vultron/Trans Industries in Auburn Hills. He became chair of the Engineering Technology Department at Lawrence Tech in 2006.

The holder of 25 patents, Cook is a registered professional engineer and a certified clinical engineer.

Dearest to his heart is his capstone course, Senior Projects, in which students conceive of a product, do patent and market research, engineer and manufacture it, and then complete a business plan and demonstrate the final product.

In that course and others, he shows his students that solving problems depends on a logical method of analysis. An engineer must identify the assumptions he or she has made, figure out the data required to test those assumptions, and then set up the test procedures that will produce the necessary data.

While the principles of engineering are universal, Cook has found that students have different learning styles. “As a professor, you have to evaluate the human side and come up with different teaching approaches that will get students over the hump,” Cook said.

Instead of a final exam in his Senior Projects course, Cook performs a two-hour magic show for his students.

“The magic of life goes on,” he said.
Staff Senate Sponsors Giving Tree

The Staff Senate Community Outreach Committee is once again sponsoring a holiday Giving Tree for the Southfield Goodfellows. Gift tags have been placed on the Giving Tree in the Buell Building atrium, and gifts can be dropped off at the Giving Tree gathering on Dec. 7 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. There will be hot chocolate and cookies to celebrate the holiday spirit. Members of the Staff Senate are, in the back row (L-R), Gabe Sauvie, Brian Raymond, Cliff Johnson, Mary Power and Frank deHesselle. In the front row are Nancy Bunton, Phyllis Jones, Varvara Burden, Beth Giorada and Joyce Genat.

Greek News

Alpha Kappa Alpha

The Pi Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. presents its newest member, Erica Walker, who was welcomed into our illustrious sisterhood on Nov. 11. She is a junior, majoring in civil engineering and is also the vice president of NSBE. Erica participated in her first community service project with her beloved Pi Delta chapter, “Coats for the Homeless,” where we collected over 50 coats for the Cass Shelter of Detroit.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded in 1908 at Howard University. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was one of the first college sororities for women. The organization is a sisterhood composed of women who have consciously chosen this affiliation as a means of self-fulfillment through volunteer service.

Candidacy for membership into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is open to women of high ethical and scholastic standards who are pursuing or have completed courses leading to a degree in an accredited college or university. In January 2008, Alpha Kappa Alpha will celebrate 100 years of service.

ARISE! Dedicates New Home in Buell Building

An open house dedication ceremony was held Nov. 16 for the new home of ARISE! on the Buell Building atrium level. President Emeritus Richard Marburger came up with the name as an acronym for the Autonomous Robotics Institute for Students and Educators, which organizes Robofest, the Thanksgiving RoboParade and the Mini Urban Challenge to get students involved in computer science at an early age. In the photo, ARISE! Director CJ Chung and Bloomfield Hills homeschooleler and Robofest veteran Jim Giantz hold the ribbon, which was cut by a robot programmed by Giantz, while automotive engineering student Ashish Gollapalli records the historic event. The program included performances by the Hillside Middle School Choir.

Euler Symposium Explores Wide-ranging Topics

By Ruth Favro
Professor of Mathematics
Math Club faculty advisor

Leonhard Euler (pronounced “oiler”) was one of the most gifted and prolific mathematicians the world has known. His life spanned the eighteenth century, and he worked in Basel, Switzerland (where he was born), Berlin, St. Petersburg, and probably all points in between on his travels. He worked on an enormous variety of topics in mathematics and physics, and even naval science and music.

In honor of the International Year of Leonhard Euler’s 300th birthday (2007), the Lawrence Tech Math Club sponsored the Euler Symposium, a contest held over two days in mid-October for the best 10-minute student talks on any facet of Euler’s work or life.

Eight students gave lively and interesting presentations, ranging from complex analysis to number theory, infinite series, graph theory, music and life history. An extra treat was the talk given by Electrical Engineering Professor Lisa Anneberg of the ECE Department on Euler and engineering. (Faculty talks were not eligible for a prize, however.)

Ten-minute talks are difficult, but the students stayed focused on their topics while giving enough background and description to make it understandable, and fielded questions well. Jason Janicki, brought a fold-out plastic polyhedron as a model, saying, “I knew I’d have a use for this one day.” Erik Jongard brought his guitar and amp, but no sound – the battery needed to be charged.

The presenters and audience were treated both days with pizza and pop, courtesy of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department (MCS), with an extra treat on the second day: ice cream from the Arts and Sciences ice cream social at the fireplace, conveniently located next to the presentation room.

The judges were Professors Jim Rodgers and Jason Barrett from the Humanities, Social Sciences and Communication Department, and Professors David Bindschadler, Christopher Cartwright, and Guang-Chong Zhu from the MCS Department. The judges had a hard time deciding how to rank the students, but finally came up four categories for prizes:

• Junior/Senior/Grad math talk: George Placinta (complex analysis), first.
• Sophomore math talk: Rich Geyer (perfect numbers), first; John Camardese (infinite series), second.
• Freshman math talk: Alex Lane (Knight’s Tour), first; Jason Janicki (polyhedra), second.
• Freshman general talk: Erik Jongeward (music), first; Bryan Dage (music) and Dan McGee (life history), tied for second.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, and thanks to the College of Arts & Sciences and Student Government for their support! For all who wanted to present but could not, you may get another opportunity. As one of the best activities the Math Club has undertaken, it could happen again next year!
Enter our Glowing Green Giveaway!
For rules and details on how to enter, visit
www.michiganfirst.com. First prize is a Holiday Entertainment
Package featuring a flat screen TV, a PlayStation 3 and a Circuit
City gift card!

Don’t Miss Our Exciting Events during
December Brights 2007

Glowing Green*

Friday, December 7 — 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and
Saturday, December 8 — 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Holiday Shopping Boutique – Purchase items from a variety of specialty
vendors. Gift wrapping services available. Come see Santa on Saturday!
Bring your own camera. Evergreen Branch open Saturday for new
accounts and loans.

Wednesday, December 12 — Noon – 7 p.m.
Simmons & Clark Jewelers “Sparkle Fest” – Shop for that special gift for
that special someone. Financing available through Michigan First. Use
your Michigan First Credit Union VISA® card and get an additional 10% off your purchase.

Saturday, December 15 — 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Meet Santa and his LIVE reindeer! Kids get a free photo with Santa.
Clowns, face painters and a storyteller, too! Refreshments will be available
for purchase. Evergreen Branch open for new accounts and loans.

Wednesday, December 19 — 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
“Give the Gift of Life” Blood Drive, hosted by The American Red Cross
and Michigan First Credit Union. For details on how to register, visit
www.michiganfirst.com or call 248-443-4600.

*For details, please see Credit Union or visit www.michiganfirst.com

Call: 248-443-4600, 313-345-7200 or 800-664-3828
Click: www.michiganfirst.com
Visit: One of our convenient branches, including our Evergreen Branch.
The Lawrence Tech Blue Devils raced out to an 8-2 record at the start of the hockey season that has generated a dramatic increase in support from the University community. Close to 500 fans were on hand Nov. 17 when the Blue Devils handily defeated visiting Albion College at the Southfield Sports Arena. The game was preceded by a pep rally at Shields Pizza that drew a crowd of more than 100. The evening also served as a coming out party for Blue, the new Lawrence Tech mascot.

On the ice, the Blue Devils are off to the best start in the hockey program’s history. Entering the Thanksgiving break, the team was ranked fourth out of 26 teams in the powerhouse-loaded ACHA North Division.

“This is going to be the year that will turn the corner for LTU Hockey,” predicted Blue Devils Coach Kevin Gee.

With their sights set clearly on the National Championship Tournament, the team has taken positive steps toward that goal by downing perennial powerhouses Calvin College and Oakland University. “We’re learning how to win those games against tough opponents,” Gee said. “It’s a delicate process, but you’ve got to learn how to win the close ones.”

The coach said the team also learned something in the two losses. “We know we can play with Northwood, and we beat ourselves in the Saginaw Valley game,” he said.

Overall, Coach Gee has been very careful to attribute this year’s success to a total team effort. But he did point out that some key players have made a difference, most notably junior goaltender Matt Beck, whose league-best 1.99 goals-against-average and .939 save percentage have made things much easier for his teammates.

“He’s exactly what we needed,” Gee said. “He’s very calm in net, very sound technically, and the guys love to play in front of him. Having him there makes it much easier for me to coach.”

The team has also shown a great deal of depth on offense, with eight players chipping in at least 12 points in the first 10 games.

Gee is also happy that the Blue Devils have been well received at the box office. “The Alumni and Spirit Night turnout was fantastic,” he said. “It’s great to have fan support finally. Our guys are working hard to put a good product on the ice, and our boosters and volunteers are making sure the entertainment experience is there.”

The Blue Devils have two big home games against Oakland University on Dec. 7 at 9:30 p.m. and Northwood University on Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

As always, tickets can be purchased on game day at the Southfield Sports Arena gate, and parking is free. For more information, see the Blue Devils’ website at www.ltuhockey.com.