President and Provost Named

By Bruce Annett

Lewis N. Walker was appointed president of Lawrence Technological University, effective July 1, by the Board of Trustees in a move affirming the University’s current course of dynamic change. One of Walker’s first actions was to name Maria J. Vaz as provost.

Walker and Vaz had been serving in those positions on an interim basis since Feb. 1 when Charles M. Chambers was named chancellor and Walker moved up from provost to take his place. Chambers became president emeritus on July 1.

Inauguration ceremonies for Walker will be Nov. 2.

“Dr. Walker is a seasoned and imaginative administrator who has provided dedicated leadership to Lawrence Tech for some 12 years,” Board Chairman Lloyd Reuss said. “He has participated in, and in many cases led, a number of the advancements that have distinguished Lawrence Tech during that time. We are pleased to recognize his important service to the University and to anticipate Lawrence Tech’s continued progress.”

Walker is the University’s sixth president. He joined Lawrence Tech in 1994 as provost, the University’s chief academic officer. In 2003, he took on the additional role of executive vice president, adding oversight of student services and business activities.

He holds three degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, including a PhD in electrical engineering. A registered professional engineer, he was principal investigator or investigator of numerous research contracts and has organized and presented many short courses and seminars on power system protection and power system dispatch operations.

Walker came to Lawrence Tech from the University of Iowa State University and Ohio State University. He served on nuclear submarines as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

John Boyse has been named chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He worked in research and research management at General Motors for more than 30 years, specializing in computer performance evaluation, computer modeling of solid objects, software architecture, and active vehicle safety systems.

By Eric Pope

Several professors were named to leadership positions at Lawrence Tech over the summer.

Lewis Frasch is interim associate dean of the College of Engineering. Frasch has taught at Lawrence Tech since 1984. His course work has covered thermal system design, thermodynamics, heat transfer, fluid mechanics, statics, and cost analysis. He has done outside consulting on industrial thermal fluid processes.

Frasch has engineering degrees from the University of Michigan, including a PhD in mechanical engineering. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Lewis Frasch
John Boyse

Boyse began teaching at Lawrence Tech in 2004 and was named interim provost.

Lawrence Tech Names New Academic Leaders

A message for the start of the new academic year from President Lewis N. Walker and Provost Maria J. Vaz.

Whether you’re a new or returning student, we’re delighted to welcome you to campus and the start of the fall semester.

Here at Lawrence Tech, there’s truly something for everyone — student professional organizations, Greek Life, club sports, entertainment, and events. We hope you’ll be an active participant and make the most out of your college experiences!

We also want to congratulate you on your choice to begin or continue your college studies at Lawrence Tech. Few universities match this one in bringing your classroom activities to life through real-world projects and applications.

If you’ve seen or heard the University’s print or radio messages, you’re familiar with our tagline, “The Future in the Making.” You’ll find that it’s more than a slogan — it’s a statement of our educational philosophy and the goal of all the effort you put toward earning your degree.

In the months ahead, you’ll also become more aware of the renewed emphasis we’re placing on making you a better leader — in life, in your profession, and in your community. Leadership has long been a hallmark of the Lawrence Tech education. We’re making it more so. Having developed your leadership abilities and potential will serve you long after you’ve walked across stage with your diploma.

You’re among the first to enjoy the A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center that officially opened in April and the quad landscaping completed over the summer.

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You’re among the first to enjoy the A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center, opened in April. For your convenience, all student services are now consolidated within this high-tech building. Over the summer, the academic quadrangle at the heart of campus was also completed. Enjoy this beautiful new area that has been completely redeveloped with outdoor seating, the Elliott Fountain, new walkways, an amphitheater, and new trees and landscaping.

There is more to your college experience than classes, labs, or studios. Plan (continued on page 2)
Curriculum Changes Aim at New Opportunities

Lawrence Tech is introducing three new academic programs that advance the University's goals of meeting the changing needs of Michigan's economy and opening up new career opportunities for graduates.

Beginning this fall, students can obtain a master's degree in mechatronic systems engineering, a bachelor's degree in media communications, or a minor in energy engineering.

The Master of Science in Mechatronic Systems Engineering (MSMSE) program provides engineers with advanced scientific and engineering knowledge in an emerging high technology field. Degrees in mechatronics have become popular in Europe and Asia, and Lawrence Tech's offering is unique in Michigan. As an interdisciplinary, high-technology degree in the engineering of controllable mechanical systems, the MSMSE synergizes knowledge from specific areas of mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, and mathematics and computer science.

A Bachelor of Science in Media Communications will prepare Lawrence Tech graduates to take advantage of the job opportunities created by the explosion in the number of news and entertainment outlets, ranging from network and cable television to online magazines and other Internet formats.

This unprecedented growth has led to raised expectations for media professionals. College graduates seeking entry into the field must possess an exceptional mix of analytical and communications skills and a hands-on understanding of media technology.

The new minor in energy engineering is designed to provide mechanical engineering students with a better understanding of alternative or renewable energy sources, traditional fossil fuels, nuclear energy, energy management, and conservation.

In addition to core courses in alternative energy fundamentals, applied thermodynamics, and energy resources and technologies, students can choose from more than a dozen electives.

Marburger Awards Recognize Achievement

The Richard E. and Mary E. Marburger Excellence in Achievement Awards are presented each year to a member of the staff, faculty, and administration at Lawrence Tech in recognition of outstanding service and achievement. The program was established as a lasting commemoration of Richard Marburger's presidency at Lawrence Tech. Recipients receive a plaque and $1,000 honorarium. President Emeritus Marburger (R) and then-Chancellor Charles Chambers (L) helped present this year's awards. The 2006 recipients are (L-R) Carl Knoll, who provides IT systems support at the Edward Donley Computer Center; Assistant Professor Valentina Tobos, who teaches physics; and Scott Trudeau, assistant director of student recreation.

President and Provost Named

(continued from page 1)

Hartford, which he had joined in 1982 as dean of engineering and professor of electrical engineering. He also served as special assistant to the president. He has published numerous technical papers and has lectured in Brazil, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, and in several European countries.

“Lawrence Tech has talented students, a dedicated and innovative faculty, loyal alumni, generous donors, and a tremendous leadership team in place,” Walker said. “I look forward to sustaining this momentum and helping this great university continue to evolve to address the needs of our graduates, the corporate community, and Michigan’s new economy. Higher education has never been so vital to meeting the challenges we face as a region, state, nation, and world.”

Vaz joined the Lawrence Tech faculty in 1983 after completing her doctorate in physics at Kent State University. In 1992 she was named chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and in 1994 became associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1998 she was appointed associate provost and dean of graduate programs. She also has served as interim dean of both the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering.

“Dr. Vaz has held numerous leadership positions at Lawrence Tech, and we are very fortunate to have someone with her breadth of experience and accomplishment to fill this key position,” Walker said. “She has led the development of many initiatives that have helped Lawrence Tech affirm a leadership role in this region.”

Vaz played a major role in many of the initiatives that took place during Walker’s tenure as provost. Her efforts led to the formal establishment of Lawrence Tech’s Master of Science Education degree in 1997 and its first doctorate program in 2001. She shepherded the development of the Master of Educational Technology, Bachelor of Science in Media Communications, and Bachelor of Science in Chemical Biology.

Vaz also has overseen Lawrence Tech’s partnership with Ferndale Public Schools to launch and develop programs for the innovative University High School.
Architecture Students Study in Paris

Seventeen undergraduate and two graduate students in Lawrence Tech’s College of Architecture and Design visited the Palais Royal during a trip to Paris from July 28 to Aug. 28 that was part of a fall-semester design studio course. Lawrence Tech’s Paris program provides students with an international perspective on architectural history, culture, and urban architecture. Students visited museums, cathedrals, parks, and historic sites as part of their study of the physical framework of a world-class city. Their fall assignment is to prepare plans for a proposed building at a site they selected in Paris. The trip was led by Glen LeRoy, dean of the College of Architecture and Design, and Edward Orlowski, chair of the Department of Architecture. Professor Philip Plowright will lead the fall portion of the design studio.

Commuter Student Lounge Opens in A&S

The opening of the new Commuter Student Lounge is part of an increased level of activity for Commuter Student Services, which is part of the Office of Student Activities.

The new lounge is located in S202 in the Science Building, just across the bridge from the Taubman Student Services Center. A grand opening reception with refreshments will be held there on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The lounge will start out with comfortable chairs and couches. A refrigerator and microwave will be added later. Suggestions for other amenities should be sent to Coordinator of Student Activities Leslie Wilson at lwilson@ltu.edu.

Wilson said Lawrence Tech is responding to several national surveys and studies that show most universities don’t offer the services that commuters need. That is particularly important at Lawrence Tech where 80 percent of students commute.

A pleasant place to study and relax between classes was a priority for commuters at Lawrence Tech. “Commuters told us the atrium was too loud. They need a quiet place that is comfortable,” Wilson said.

A second initiative is a series of day trips that will provide the opportunity for commuters and their families to socialize. Students with families can bring up to three guests, while single students can bring one guest.

Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio, is the destination of the first trip Saturday, Oct. 14. The cost of $20 for Lawrence Tech students and $25 for guests includes bus fare, admission to the park, and refreshments on the way back.

The bus leaves at 9 a.m. from Lot C and will return by midnight. The trip is limited to 56 people.

Three other Saturday trips are planned:
- Chicago shopping, Nov. 11.
- Northern Border Underground Railroad tour, Feb. 10.
- Meijer Gardens outside Grand Rapids, April 14.

Day Trips brochures and liability waivers can be picked up at the Office of Student Activities on the second floor of the Taubman Student Services Center.

In the future, the Commuter Student Services Office will sponsor workshop sessions on issues facing commuters, such as child care, health care, elder care, and maintaining a good balance between school, work, and family.

For more information, please visit: www.ltu.edu/student_affairs/commuter.asp.

Lawrence Tech, Macomb, Extend Transfer Credits

Lawrence Technological University and Macomb Community College have enhanced their joint relationship to include a new associate of baccalaureate studies degree.

Under the revised articulation transfer agreement, students who earn an associate of baccalaureate studies (ABS) degree at Macomb Community College are assured that all course credits will transfer to Lawrence Tech. Students at Macomb Community College who declare their intention to earn the ABS degree at Macomb also can enroll at Lawrence Tech after they have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours.

The original agreement between the two institutions enabled students to take their first two years of bachelor’s degree studies at Macomb and then transfer seamlessly to Lawrence Tech.

“Macomb Community College is very innovative and has been a leader in developing new programs. We are very happy to partner with MCC,” said Lawrence Tech President Lewis N. Walker.

“Communities served by MCC have long provided large numbers of Lawrence Tech students. This expanded partnership will make it easier for many people to get started on a bachelor’s degree at Lawrence Tech.”

Michigan Tuition Grants Rise by $100

The state of Michigan has increased the maximum award under the Michigan Tuition Grant program by $100 to $2,100 for the coming academic year.

The budget bill recently signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm provides funding for the Michigan Tuition Grant program not in her initial budget proposal.

Eligible students will be notified by the state of their eligibility and changes to their award amount. Disbursements of $1,050 per semester will occur upon receipt of the state roster by Lawrence Tech, according to Mark Martin, director of the Office of Financial Aid.

For more information, contact the DTE One-Stop Center, which is on the 300 level of the A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center, at 248-204-2280 or finaid@ltu.edu.

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Academic Leaders
(continued from page 1)

Kenneth Cook has been chair of the Department of Engineering Technology. He has taught in the evening program since 1965 while also pursuing a career in the business world. Most recently he was executive vice president and chief engineer for Vultran/Trans Industries. Cook’s popular senior projects class has helped several students earn patents and sell their inventions commercially. He has some 25 patents of his own.

Anthony Sky has been named chair of the Department of Natural Sciences. Sky began teaching chemistry at Lawrence Tech in 1991 and just concluded his doctorate program since 1999. He earned his doctorate from the University of Maine and did postdoctoral work at the University of Notre Dame.

CHAMBERS TRIBUTE
Set for Sept. 29

A “Toast & Roast” tribute to President Emeritus Charles M. Chambers will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn on Friday, Sept. 29, from 6-10 p.m.

Chambers served as the fifth president of Lawrence Tech from July 1993 until January 2006 and chancellor until July 2006. He oversaw the largest expansion of facilities and the highest level of fundraising in the University’s history. During his tenure Lawrence Tech emerged as Michigan’s preeminent private research university and became the state’s first wireless laptop campus.

Beth Chappell, president of the Detroit Economic Club, will be the mistress of ceremonies, and educational, civic, and political leaders will offer personal commentary and observations about the president emeritus. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Charles and Barbara Chambers Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Individual tickets are $175. Friends and corporate partners of Lawrence Tech can support this event through a variety of sponsorships. For information about sponsorships, contact Dennis Howie, interim vice president for university advancement, at 248.204.2300. For tickets, contact Debbie Farina at 248.204.2307.

Get a Head Start on Your Professional Career

The Office of Career Services offers a comprehensive 10-week career preparation program that provides students with the necessary career management skills to effectively identify and compete for employment opportunities related to their academic major.

“Find Your First Professional Job” begins Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 12:30 p.m. and will continue on consecutive Tuesdays through Nov. 14.

Career Services works with partnering employers to provide coaching and support for achieving co-op and internship goals. Topics include exploration of opportunities, cover letter and resume development, interviewing, networking, professional image, and the use of technology in achieving career goals. Each student will be assigned a personal career coach from the Career Services staff who will assist with career management issues and prospective co-ops and internships.

The fall schedule includes:
Fall Career Fair, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2–5:30 p.m.
AIAA Career Networking Reception for students seeking careers in the fields of architecture and interior design, Friday, Oct. 13, 2–5 p.m.

Energy Job Fair for students interested in careers involving energy or power generation, renewable energy, and/or energy management, Thursday, Oct. 26, 2–5 p.m.

Fall Co-op/Intern Expo, Thurs., Nov. 9, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

To register for “Find Your First Professional Job” or for more information about the upcoming career fairs, contact the Office of Career Services (C404) at 248.204.3140 or ltuocs@ltu.edu.
Bridge Ranks High on Aesthetics

Lawrence Tech finished first at the regional level of the 2006 National Student Steel Bridge Competition and then finished 10th out of 45 teams at the national finals, ranking third in aesthetics. The student steel bridge project is a competition sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to demonstrate knowledge of steel and design principles in a group setting. In the 2006 competition, the students had to design, test, fabricate, and build a one-tenth scale model of a replacement bridge over a simulated river and parkway. The Lawrence Tech team members were Lance Hollweg, Jonathan Weaver, Mike Bellini, Mike McNutt, and Captain Chris Girard.

The Lawrence Tech team used a space truss that spanned the bridge on either side and incorporated plate connections used for ease of assembling. Lawrence Tech defeated the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Michigan Tech, the University of Akron, and Case Western Reserve in the regional competition. Its construction time of 12 minutes and 35 seconds was the fastest, while its four-person construction team was the smallest. By taking first place in all categories, Lawrence Tech qualified for the national competition at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

The Lawrence Tech team didn’t do as well in the national competition because a problem during the construction phase resulted in multiple penalties. Nevertheless, the team was third in aesthetics, the best placement ever for Lawrence Tech. The team finished fourth for lightness, sixth for efficiency, and 10th for stiffness. The overall 10th place finish was the second best in the university’s history.

Grant Promotes Entrepreneurship Education

Lawrence Tech has won a $50,000 Fellowship Grant from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) funded by the Kern Family Foundation. The University is one of 12 Midwestern institutions to participate in the Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN).

Professors Greg Feierfeil and Donald Carpenter, who have been named Kern Fellows, will assist the University in fulfilling its vision for entrepreneurship. The grant provides funding for program administration and key program components. The University will have access to vital resources from institutions affiliated with NCIIA and KEEN.

“Implementing the fellowship grant will establish a new vision for entrepreneurial education at Lawrence Tech and launch a university curriculum and campus-wide culture that will provide the entrepreneurial skills necessary for all graduates to be professionally and personally successful,” Carpenter said.

In fulfilling this educational vision, the professors will focus on coordinating entrepreneurial efforts; nurturing the University’s entrepreneurial culture; expanding the entrepreneurial program and increasing student participation; fostering enterprise opportunities; and building program sustainability.

H2Bot Wins Awards

One of the world’s first robots powered by a fuel cell took third place for Lawrence Tech in the 14th Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition (IGVC) held at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in June. The field of 41 included university teams from Canada, Japan, and India. Lawrence Tech’s H2Bot team consists of students and faculty members from mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, and computer science. According to a search on Google, the Lawrence Tech H2Bot is the world’s second fuel cell robot, preceded only by a robot toy developed by a Japanese company in June 2005. Team members are, (L-R) Brace Stout, Marcus Randolph, Bill Gale, Dave Daraskavich, Brett Richardson, Associate Professor CJ Chung, Jacob Paul Bushon, Nathaniel Johnson, MaryGrace-Soleil B. Janas, Tim Helsper, Mark Henke, and John Girard. Missing from the photo: Team Captain David Bruder and Danielle Johnson.
Humanities Happenings

By Betty L. Stover, Chair
Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Communication

To all new students: Welcome to Lawrence Tech. To all returning students: Welcome back! The new academic year brings several changes to the department.

We welcome Kathy Tiell as assistant professor of psychology. Tiell received her Ph.D. from Wayne State University in clinical psychology. She will be teaching one of our introductory psychology courses and an elective, clinical psychology, during the fall semester.

Jason Barrett is returning for the 2006-07 academic year, teaching in the social sciences section of the department. He received his PhD from the University of Michigan in American history. He will be doing preliminary work on an inter-college video-gaming program for the University.

Our new director of English as a Second Language (ESL), Kathy Charbeneau, hosted the department’s first annual International Student Picnic on the field house lawn in conjunction with the Star Spangled Southfield fireworks display on June 28. Eighteen students, faculty, staff, family, and guests enjoyed Middle Eastern food and other dishes to pass. A pick-up soccer game was inevitable when someone brought along a soccer ball.

Director of Psychology Matthew Cole received the VITRIC Faculty Award. He will be developing “Introductory Psychology” as a hybrid online course. Look for the course on our spring schedule.

Sara Lamers spent the summer months pursuing the publication of her poetry manuscript “A City Without Trees.” She is taking over the advising for the University’s literary magazine, Prism, this year. Watch this column for information about submissions. If you’re interested in joining the editing team this year, contact her at slamers@ltu.edu.

Gonzalo Munever gave two presentations in July at the Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas, which took place at the University of Malta. His talks were titled “A Philosopher’s Critique of Intelligent Design” and “Intelligence and Evolution.”

Marvin Stern’s article, “When No One Returns to the Cave,” has been published in Oxford Magazine.


Corrine Stavish was teller-in-residence at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tenn., for a week in June. She also attended a conference at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, where curricula are being developed with Lawrence Tech and Berkley High School.

As part of that effort, she will present a Diversity Seminar on campus on Sept. 26, telling the story of the amazing rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II. The full schedule of the Diversity Seminar Series can be found on the Lawrence Tech website.

Write Essay, Win Prize

Lawrence Tech's Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Communication is holding an essay contest to commemorate “Constitution Day,” which is Sept. 17.

Lawrence Tech students are invited to write on the following subject:
The framers of the constitution wanted to prevent a concentration of power in any one entity. Therefore, in creating the constitution, they devised a doctrine known as the “separation of powers,” which divides power among three branches of government: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Each of these branches has certain powers that can be “checked” or limited by another branch: a system known as “checks and balances.”

Using an example from United States current affairs, argue whether or not the notion of a balance of power is being maintained today, 219 years after the U.S. Constitution was signed.

Send submissions electronically by Monday, Dec. 4, to mckissen@ltu.edu. The essays should be 900 to 1,500 words, double-spaced, in MLA documentation style. The winners will be announced at the end of the fall semester, and the winning essay will be posted on the Current Student Portal at www.ltu.edu. First prize is $150; second prize, $100; and third prize, $50.

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

By Eric Pope

Lawrence Tech's robot dog soccer team is attracting lots of attention for Lawrence Tech both on and off the field of competition.

In June, Lawrence Tech seniors Steven Kryskalla of Rochester and Emily Trudell of Waterford competed in the RoboGames in San Francisco with four Sony AIBO robot dogs that they had programmed under the supervision of CJ Chung, associate professor of computer science.

AIBO stands for artificial intelligence robot. These dogs use a 64-bit CPU that receives input from an on-board camera and various sensors using Wi-Fi connections. These dogs are not remote-controlled devices, instead they have been programmed to dance and play soccer.

The Lawrence Tech team took first place for a synchronized dance routine in which one robot dog transmits commands to two others for coordinated arm and leg movements and blinking LEDs. They went unchallenged in the soccer competition when the team from San Francisco State University withdrew, and then scored at will in a demonstration with remote-controlled goalies.

The team’s success attracted extensive coverage from Fox 2 News, Channel 7 News, The Detroit News, and several other newspapers. In San Francisco, the Discovery Channel interviewed team members.

Trudell and Kryskalla wrote all of the software to program the robot dogs to dance and to play soccer.

“It is really a competition of the software,” Trudell said. “A lot goes into programming the robots, which outplayed the remote-controlled robots at the San Francisco competition. It has been a long development, but it has been a great learning experience and I am looking forward to the coming year.”

The Lawrence Tech team plans to compete in the International RoboCup soccer competition in Atlanta next summer.

The AIBO robot dogs are part of an individual directed study program offered by the Department of Math and Computer Science. Majors in computer science who are interested in joining Lawrence Tech’s AIBO team should contact Professor Chung at chung@ltu.edu.
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By Christina Span
ALoETERA team member

Lawrence Tech is raising the roof in its bid to win the Solar Decathlon 2007 that will culminate in October 2007 at a “solar village” of energy-efficient homes to be built by college students on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In January 2006, Lawrence Tech was one of just 20 universities chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to compete in designing, building, and operating highly energy-efficient, solar-powered homes.

The challenge is to build an 800-square-foot solar-powered home that not only supports its own energy needs through solar power but also generates enough additional energy to operate an electric car. To meet the challenge, about 50 Lawrence Tech students representing different academic disciplines have formed Team ALOeTERRA.

As the design of ALOeTERRA’s home progresses, smaller groups have been created to tackle areas of the design requiring further development. One such area is the roofing system, which has been entrusted to three junior architecture students, Nathan Brantley, Carlos Lopes, and Steve Nielsen.

The roofing team is excited to have the opportunity to build their design, an experience not normally included in the architecture curriculum. As architecture students progress through the sequence of design studios, they are introduced to an increasing number of practical problems, but not to the degree required for the Solar Decathlon competition. Lopes replied, “You can’t look at the problem as a problem, but as a solution.”

Team ALOeTERRA has just ended a highly productive summer session dedicated to design development. The team will continue to work together in the fall to create construction documents that will be used to build the home.

Construction is slated to begin no later than January 2007 to ensure that the team has enough time to build and test the home before it makes the journey to Washington, D.C.

For more information about the 2007 Solar Decathlon competition, including contest specifics and the list of colleges Lawrence Tech is competing against, visit the Solar Decathlon website at www.solardecathlon.org.

To learn more about Lawrence Tech’s progress in the competition, as well as upcoming events and information about how you can become a member of Team ALOeTERRA, look for the team’s monthly newsletter, the ALOeXAMINER in your mailbox, or visit us on the Web at solar.ltu.edu.