Faculty, Staff Contributors

02.13.08 SERVING LAWRENCE TECHNOLICAL UNIVERSITY SINCE 1932 Vol. 75 No. 6

Romney visit puts Lawrence Tech in national spotlight

Lawrence Tech received national and even international exposure when Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney held a rally on campus Jan. 13. Several hundred Romney supporters filled the Buell Building atrium, making it a highlight of Romney’s successful campaign in the Michigan primary. The former Massachusetts governor is the son of the late George Romney, a governor of Michigan who ran for president 40 years ago. Photos from the Lawrence Tech rally were in dozens of newspapers across the country, including The New York Times, and the University was mentioned in newspapers in Oman and Singapore. C-Span and CNN covered the event.

Leadership Curriculum Takes Shape With New Coordinator on Board

By Eric Pope Tech News Editor

The plan to make leadership an important component of undergraduate education at Lawrence Tech is accelerating now that Melissa Grunow has been hired as the University’s leadership curriculum coordinator.

Grunow started in the newly created position at Lawrence Tech in October after teaching in the leadership living-learning community at Miami University in Ohio.

President Lewis N. Walker made leadership development a top priority when he took the helm at Lawrence Tech in 2006. In the previous year the Leadership Program Committee developed and presented recommendations for a Leadership Curriculum to be implemented for all undergraduate programs. The Leadership Curriculum Implementation Committee (LCIC) was established to decide on the scope of the program and determine how it fits into the existing curriculum of the different colleges.

The committee is chaired by Assistant Professor Andrew Gerhart, who represents the College of Engineering. The other committee members are James Rodgers, Melissa Grunow

Get an Early Start on Financial Aid

Putting together a financial aid package for college is often stressful and time-consuming, but the best way to minimize the pain is to get in applications early, according to Mark Martin, director of financial aid at Lawrence Technological University.

Each year the process starts with submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a document that is also used for state grant and loan applications, work/study programs and many other sources of financial aid.

A student seeking financial aid needs to submit a FAFSA every year and can file any time after Jan. 1 for 2008.

Martin recommends completing and filing your federal income tax return as early as possible because it contains information often needed for various grant and loan applications. That’s the best way to make sure that the information on your financial aid applications matches what has been submitted to the IRS.

“The better the information is on your FAFSA, the better chance you have of getting through the approval process without time-consuming delays,” Martin said.

It is also important to file FAFSA before March 1, because that’s the deadline for applying for state-funded grant programs.

When applying for grants and loans, students should factor in three to five weeks for college financial aid offices to get the information from the federal government that is required for completing the application process.

According to Martin, students already in college should start making plans now for financial aid for the next school year. The first step should be to determine eligibility for scholarships from your college and other sources.

“A lot of people wait too long, sometimes until after their tuition bill is past due,” Martin said. “You can reduce the amount of stress involved if you apply early.”

He recommends conducting a scholarship search every six months. There are links for scholarship searches at www.ltu.edu/financial_aid/grants_scholarships.asp.

(continued on page 2)
Leadership: Curriculum Plans Accelerating

(continued from page 1)

College of Arts and Sciences; Gretchen Maricak, College of Architecture and Design; Richard Bush, College of Management; Jamie Hobart, director of the Academic Achievement Center and First-Year Programs; and Janielle Ostrowski, representing the Division of Student Affairs. An ad hoc member is Jacqueline Stavros, who teaches leadership programs at the graduate level.

An important role of the committee and its members is to work with faculty to resolve potential conflicts between the existing curriculum and the leadership curriculum.

“Faculty input is very important because they understand the students’ mindset and what they go through with their course load,” Hobart said.

Every two weeks Grunow meets with the LCIC and separately with Provost Maria Vaz.

According to Grunow, no other university has the leadership program that Walker has envisioned for Lawrence Tech. Other colleges have elective programs or a minor, but don’t require every student to be involved in leadership education in order to graduate. Only the three military academies take a comprehensive approach to leadership, which is considered an integral part of officer’s training.

The leadership curriculum will be implemented for each of the four college years as the current freshman class moves toward graduation in 2011. It is anticipated that not all of the students in this first class will be involved in all aspects, but in the future all undergraduate students will have to complete the leadership curriculum in order to graduate.

Grunow said that developing Lawrence Tech’s leadership curriculum will be a constantly evolving process with a combination of classroom instruction, seminars and learning experiences. The leadership curriculum likely will include:

- A leadership component in the University Seminar that all freshmen take. Leadership education was introduced this fall in the University Seminar and will be expanded in future years. The leadership component in University Seminar, more specifically, is a service-learning component that students participate in for six weeks after learning about the Social Change Model for leadership.
- A course on leadership models and practice during the sophomore year. Grunow is developing that curriculum in a pilot course she is teaching this semester.
- After going through an examination of their own leadership style in their first two years, students will build leadership portfolios of experiences both on and off campus during junior and senior years.
- In the junior year, the students will probably take a series of seminars or workshops, and leadership methodologies will be incorporated into other courses.
- In the senior year, the capstone course for majors will include a leadership component. “This will make Lawrence Tech distinctive from other universities,” Grunow said.

A big part of her job will be to implement the vision and goals of the leadership program in ways that don’t interfere with the curriculum requirements of the degree programs. She began by gathering information from all department chairs and deans and will seek to maintain a dialogue with the faculty as the plans for the leadership curriculum are developed.

She said the high level of cooperation between the colleges will make the task easier. “The culture here is more interdisciplinary than at public universities where academic silos often exist. That will make it easier to implement a university-wide curriculum,” Grunow said.

Another challenge will be to develop a program that is flexible enough to provide leadership education for transfer students who may miss one or two years of the program.

In addition to developing the overall leadership curriculum, she will work with professors on leadership components for specific courses.

For more information about the leadership program at Lawrence Tech, see www.ltu.edu/leadership. Grunow can be reached at mgrunow@ltu.edu or ext. 2414.

Southfield Chrysler Jeep Provides Presidential Car

Thanks to the gift of a lease from Southfield Chrysler Jeep, Lawrence Tech President Lewis Walker is driving a new Chrysler 300C full-size, four-door sedan. In the photo Southfield Chrysler Jeep General Manager Paul Steel (L) hands Lawrence Tech President Lewis K. Walker the keys to his new leased vehicle. Lawrence Tech students, faculty, and alumni are eligible for the “friends and family program” and can get a special discount at Southfield Chrysler Jeep. There’s also a $400 rebate for new college grads.

Break ing Records: Faculty and Staff Campaign

(continued from page 1)

demands upon all of us, it is uplifting to witness such a strong level of support from our own University family, especially as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary Year! We, in Advancement, are extremely thankful to the three co-chairs who worked hard to make these numbers a reality.”

This year’s campaign co-chairs were Kristi Webster, assistant director of admissions; Al Turfe, lecturer in mathematics and computer science; and Gabe Sauvie of enrollment services.

“This campaign was an opportunity for us to make a difference. We see the importance of giving where we work, especially in light of our 75th anniversary year,” the co-chairs said. “We truly believe in supporting faculty, staff and student programs and projects, which is why we agreed to serve as co-chair’s.”

In celebration of the conclusion of the campaign, President Lewis N. Walker will host a Faculty & Staff Campaign coffee-and-dessert “wrap-up” party to recognize outstanding team leaders and all University employee donors on Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. in the UTLC gallery.

The campaign co-chairs will also confer the sixth annual “Campaign Cup” trophy to the college with the highest faculty and staff participation as well as a fourth annual “Division Cup” trophy to the division with highest administrator and staff participation.

Special prizes for the top team leaders include a 20-inch LCD television, a high-definition digital camcorder and a Microsoft X-Box 360. In addition, a very special prize of a 4-GB Apple iPod Nano will be awarded to new donors of $75 or more in honor of the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the founding of Lawrence Tech.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our friends, all donors to the Faculty & Staff Campaign have been automatically entered in the grand-prize drawing for round-trip tickets for two to Sedona, Calif.

Hockey Blue Devils vs. Red Wings Alumni

March 29, 7:30 p.m.
Southfield Sports Arena
For Tickets & Information, Go to www.ltu.hockey.com
Braswell Named Staff Member of the Month

Tamara Braswell, the secretary in the University Housing office, has been named staff member of the month for January by the Lawrence Tech Staff Recognition Committee. Braswell has worked for University Housing since April 2003.

“Tamara’s most prominent quality is her willingness to go above and beyond to ensure that residents have a positive and rewarding experience living on campus,” wrote the person who nominated Braswell for the award.

Braswell’s job requires her to be “firm yet fair,” and it helps that she has earned a reputation for being approachable and genuinely interested in the concerns that students have.

“Students comment that she always remembers their name and why they were in the office the previous time,” according to the nomination letter.

Braswell has previous experience in customer service at a number of jobs, including the GM law library. She likes working at a small university because she “wears many hats” and gets to do many things.

Braswell designed and created a new access database for the Dean of Students office, and she also redefined several procedures in the University Housing office to provide better service on issues such as housing renewal.

She is usually the first person that students see when dealing with University Housing, and she works on room assignments and Banner accounts. Often she helps by directing a student to the person who can best respond to the specific problem the student is having.

“I would compare myself to the stage manager of a huge play production,” Braswell said. “I do a lot of things to get the job done, but at the end of the play it’s the students that shine and not me. I am just part of a large supporting cast here at Lawrence Tech.”

Other nominees for staff member of the month were Linda Rdella, an IT Service delivery technician; Tamara Botzen, administrative assistant for the College of Engineering; and the Campus Facilities staff.

The Lawrence Tech Staff Member of the Month Program recognizes full- and part-time staff for excellence. To nominate someone for this honor, go to www.ltu.edu/facultyandstaff/staff_senate.asp

Marching for Dr. King

Lawrence Tech was well represented when hundreds of people gathered on Jan. 21 at New Hope Church north of campus to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day march and program at the Southfield Civic Center. Among those representing Lawrence Tech were (L-R) Scott Trudeau, Jennifer Cunningham, Janielle Ostrowski, Leslie Wilson, Kevin Fino, Carlton Millender, Megan Fuhlman, Paul Caudle, Al McLaughlin, Tanisha Blackmon, Steven Russ, Sachin Magar, Jameil Hale and Saalai Saranyan.

Formula SAE Team Races Toward May Deadline

By Carolyn Snyder

Formula SAE team member

With deadlines quickly approaching, the Lawrence Tech Formula SAE team is working hard at completing their competition vehicle. The objective of the project is to conceive, design, fabricate and race a small, formula-style, autocross racing car.

The 2008 team consists of 25 members all working to complete their senior project. In addition to graduating seniors, the team also has a few younger undergraduate and graduate members who also play a critical role in the successful completion of the car. The team is led by graduating seniors James Wolak and Blake Frost with the guidance of previous team leaders James Browne and Keith Abrahamson and project advisor, Professor Badih Jawad.

Seniors on the SAE Formula Team include:

- **Chassis Engineering:** Shaun Bentley, Luan Bui, Blake Frost, Kevin Grasl, Michael Malaga, Seny Yee.
- **Suspension and Damping Engineering:** Tommy Beetham, Kevin Jacobs, George Ritter, Zach Volmering.
- **Drivertrain Engineering:** Brian Cox, George Florea, Mitch Holland.
- **Body/Seat/Closure Engineering:** Brandon Bansale, Brittnay Forgue, James Gliwa, Louise Ianielli.
- **Base Engine Engineering:** Rian Johnson, Randall Lowman, Scott Poirinos, Carolyn Snyder, James Wolak.
- **Electrical Engineering:** Jonathan Raszala.

The final competition will take place at the Michigan International Speedway May 14-18. The Lawrence Tech team will compete with over 120 other universities throughout the world.

During the competition, the team will compete in performance and high-performance endurance track trials in acceleration, skidpad, autocross, fuel economy, and endurance. Judges also consider each team’s presentation and engineering design, taking into account its problem-solving skills, innovative thinking and teamwork.

Each year students strive to improve upon the previous year’s designs, vehicle reliability and competition results. The 2007 team did just this with top-20 finishes in three events including autocross and skidpad.

The 2008 team is also striving for continuous improvement. New and innovative designs developed by the capable engineering minds of this year’s team will help to improve upon the reliable designs of last year’s team. And while we can’t let out all of our secrets just yet, we hope to see strong support for Lawrence Tech at the MIS in May!

¡Say It in Spanish!

Knowing a second language can boost your career and also spice up your daily conversation. Here are some examples. If you want to learn more, contact Spanish Department Coordinator Monica Stevens at m_stevens@ltu.edu or ext. 3509.

¿Hablas ingles? - Do you speak English? (A-blass een-gless?)

Igualmente - Same here.

(EE-goo-al-ment-eh)

¿Qué hora es? - What time is it? (Keh or-ah ess?)
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Recycling Groups Set Sights Higher

A new campaign to recycle paper, cans, plastic bottles and batteries has been launched by the Lawrence Tech Recycling Committee, the Alternative Energy/Recycling Student Group (AERSG) and the Office of the Dean of Students.

New recycling bins have been set up around the University, and small paper recycling bins will be distributed to each department. Seven AERSG members and ten international students, will be doing the legwork for the effort.

"This is a campus-wide effort, and we look forward to keeping everyone involved in this new endeavor toward making the Lawrence Tech campus sustainable and green," said Marilyn Hotaling of the library staff and Associate Professor Lisa Anneberg, co-chairs of the Lawrence Tech Recycling Committee.

They said that in order for the new campaign to be successful, everyone in the Lawrence Tech community must make the effort to put recyclable items in the bins instead of throwing them away, while at the same time keeping unrecyclable items out of the bins.

Collection and sorting will be done in the Recycling Room in the Taubman Center.

Money collected from returnable beverage containers will go into the Student Government General Fund.

The AERSG and international students will check bins and collect paper, cans and bottles from each department weekly or as needed. Batteries will be collected on an as-needed basis.

Large recycling bins will be located in:
- Buell Building: atrium, Café Lawrence, and library.
- Science Building: lobby near vending machines, and near the elevators on the second and third floors.
- UTLC: third and fourth floors near studios T310 and T410.
- Architecture Building: student lounge near the vending machines in and the studio areas on the third and fourth floors.
- Ridler Field House: at the vending machines near the front entry.

If you have any questions or problems, contact any of the following: Marilyn Hotaling, ext. 3000; Lisa Anneberg, ext. 2539; Campus Facilities, ext. 3800; or the Dean of Students office, ext. 4100.

Classroom Competition Celebrates Euler’s 300th Birthday

By CJ Chung
Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science

If we are motivated, we can learn more. As an educator, I believe one of the best ways to motivate students is to introduce competitions in class.

In the fall 2007 semester in my Intelligent Systems class, we had a special classroom competition to solve the traveling salesman problem that searches for the shortest route to visit a collection of cities and return to the starting point. Despite an intensive study by mathematicians, computer scientists, operations researchers and others, it remains an open question whether or not an efficient general solution method exists.

This problem was chosen in order to celebrate the 300th birthday of Leonhard Euler, a mathematician from Switzerland who was one of the first to address this type of problem.

The classroom competition was made more difficult by an additional constraint: a list of paired cities that must be visited consecutively. Students were asked to use either branch-and-bound-based A* algorithms or Evolutionary search algorithms learned in class to solve the “NP (nondeterministic polynomial time) Hard” problem. The competition was held Dec. 4.

Erica Stephens won first prize with a flawless program using an A*-like algorithm to solve all five test cases. Additional prizes went to Nathan Lucas for his solution for the 14-city problem and Ghassan Tahhan for his solution for the 51-city problem.

Humanities Happenings

The Artists’ Guild has extended the deadline for entries to the Prism Cover Contest. Students may submit designs to Sara Lamers in S207-E by 5 p.m. Feb. 15. Please contact Senior Lecturer Sarah Lamers (slamers@ltu.edu) or Artists’ Guild President Elsida Konakciu (ek000164538@ltu.edu) for more information.

Professor Corinne Stavish will be a featured storyteller at The Ark in Ann Arbor on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Professor Gonzalez Munevar will be speaking at the “Imagining Outer Space 1900-2000” conference in Bielefeld, Germany, in February. His paper is “Self-Reproducing Automata and the Impossibility of SETI.” In January, Munevar gave a presentation at the fourth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society in Boston. His paper was “Humans vs. Machines in the Exploration of Space.”

At a Jan. 31 ceremony, Will Schumacher of the Society of Physics Students and Ron Jenkins of both the Honors Society and the Society for the Dramatic Arts cut the ribbon to officially open the College of Arts and Sciences Student Organization Center in S115. The room is now available to all student groups sponsored, wholly or in part, by the College of Arts and Sciences, including the American Chemical Society, the Artists’ Guild, the Association of Computing Machinery, the Athenium (Philosophy Club), BMES & Mich Bio, LTU Scholars, the Math Club and the Psychology Club. Schumacher helped draft the original proposal presented to A&S Dean Hsiao-Ping Moore.

Home, Sweet, Home for Student Organizations

The Media Communication program is sponsoring “Don’t Get Me Started,” a web-based show for Lawrence Tech students and faculty. Media Com students will write, tape and edit original ideas, concepts and comedy skits. If you would like to contribute, contact Media Communication Director Suzanne Levine at slevine@ltu.edu or ext. 3551.

Our editing lab and Media Communication workroom is in the final stages of installation in T131. It promises to be a creative technical hub where media communication students can fully apply their training.

SODA will be presenting “Death of a Salesman” as its next production in April. Anyone interested in participating (actors, costumiers, makeup artists, stage crew) should contact the faculty adviser Kathy Charbeneau at charbeneau@ltu.edu.
Blue Devils Face Trial by Fire

After winning 13 of their first 17 games, the Lawrence Tech Blue Devils suffered through a six-game losing streak that finally ended on Feb. 2 at the Southfield Sports Arena when they defeated the Lansing Community College Stars, 8-4.

The unpredictable Lansing team had soundly beaten Lawrence Tech in Lansing the previous week, 7-3. But the Blue Devils were well prepared, energetic and hungry for a win on home ice in front of an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

Sophomore forward Mike Smartt provided a big offensive boost with two goals and two assists, and Captain Andrew Aulerich added three assists. Junior goaltender Matt Beck made 31 saves in his first start in nearly three weeks. “He has been hurt and he has been battling hard in practice trying to work through it, but sometimes you’ve got to relax and try to have some fun,” Head Coach Kevin Gee said.

Gee had expected the second half of the season to be an uphill climb for the Blue Devils, since they had to face a much tougher schedule that included top-ranked Hope College and Grand Valley State University in three straight games. The team also had to adjust to the loss of three regulars and the addition of new faces.

“I knew we’d have a tough go, but I thought we’d come out of that road swing three and three. The losses to Oakland and then to Lake Superior in a shootout really took their toll on our morale. Then we had the flu go through the locker room, and it was really tough for us to find any energy for a few weeks there, myself included.” Gee said.

It would seem that the Blue Devils have turned the corner as they prepare for the regional playoffs. They played well in their last few outings and got a lift from the return of forward Rich Parkinson and the addition of Jesse Edwards, a Wagner College transfer.

“Jesse will help us right away. He’s an experienced player with a ton of skill and grit. He plays hard and he plays on the edge, which is exactly what we need right now,” Gee said.

For more information about the regional playoffs, which begin Feb. 15, go to the Blue Devils’ website at www.ltuhockey.com.

Blue Devils Notebook

Tom Beetham has continued to provide consistent goaltending, facing over 50 shots in back-to-back starts against Hope College and Grand Valley. Although he’s been nursing a sore hip, Beetham has managed a 7-5 record with a 3.94 GAA and .912 save percentage.

Defensiveman Ben Sultana is the top scorer among defensemen with eight goals and a team-leading 25 assists for 36 points. Sultana's defense partner Dan Baker is also having a strong year, with six goals and 20 assists from the Devils' blue line.

Junior Forward Andy Kruczynski is leading the team in scoring for the fourth straight season, with 24 goals and 15 assists for 39 points in 24 games played.

With a huge improvement over his 11 points in the 06-07 season, sophomore Mike Smartt has shouldered the offensive load for the Blue Devils, scoring 18 goals and adding 18 assists for 36 points in 25 games played.

Captain Andrew Aulerich broke his month-long dry spell with three assists against Lansing Community College on Feb 2. Aulerich hadn’t registered a point since he had a pair of assists at IPFW on Jan 4.

Curling Team Has Some Success At Regionals

On Jan. 12-13 eight members of the Lawrence Tech Curling Team participated in the College Curling Great Lakes Regional Championship at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

The team of Lead Adam Witting, Second Dan Witting, Vice Skip Sarah Witting and Skip Jessica Aguilar finished in seventh place out of 14 teams. They won their first match again Northwestern, but then were taken out of the running for the gold by Ohio State in a very close match that ended in an amazing comeback by the Lawrence Tech team that just fell short. In the bracket for the bronze, this Lawrence Tech team beat Illinois State but was taken out of the running by the University of Tennessee.

This gave the Aguilar team the chance to watch the other Lawrence Tech team. Skip Ryan Smith, with Vice Skip Brittany Forgue, Second Jill DeGowske and Lead Chelsea Colbert also played wonderfully. After getting off to a rocky start on the first day, the team woke up the second day ready to rock and roll. The team won both of its matches that day and finished first in its bracket.

Both teams are going to Chicago in March for the College Curling National Championship, and a third Lawrence Tech team may come along. The curling club practices every Sunday from 5-7 p.m. at the Detroit Curling Club in Ferndale. Anyone is welcome to come and try out the sport. If you would like more information, contact Jessica Aguilar at ja000214204@ltu.edu.

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