Lawrence Tech Plans Better Outcomes for Undergraduate Education

By Eric Pope
Tech News Editor

Lawrence Tech has increased its emphasis on leadership, teamwork and character education in the recent revision of educational goals for undergraduates approved by the Dean’s Council on Nov. 29.

The reassessment of this key planning document stemmed from the April 2005 focused visit evaluation of Lawrence Tech’s Student Outcomes Assessment program by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The purpose of redefining the University’s goals for undergraduates is to better assess and improve the students’ educational experience and prepare them better for both personal and professional pursuits, according to Provost Maria Vaz.

The university Assessment Committee, chaired by Walter Dean, rewrote the educational goals document. Other members of the Assessment Committee are Daniel Faoro, Rochelle Martin, Barry Knister, William Alininghaus, Nicole Villeneuve, Christopher Riedel, Peter Csaszar, Donald Carpenter, William White and Mary Thomas.

“We want our graduates to excel in their careers and as members of their communities,” Vaz said. “Leadership, teamwork, a strong character, and professional competence are important for success in any endeavor.”

The foundation of a Lawrence Tech education remains fundamentally the same. It is “a student-centered, comprehensive, teaching university with focused, technologically oriented professional programs.” Its mission is to “develop leaders through innovative and agile programs embracing theory and practice.”

“We also are concerned with the intellectual and ethical development of our undergraduates,” Vaz said. “Our Core Curriculum prepares them well for contributing to society both as citizens and enlightened professionals.”

The University has five goals for its undergraduate curricula:
• Application of Advanced Knowledge
• Fundamental Cognitive Skills and Abilities
• Leadership and Entrepreneurship
• Teamwork
• Character Education

In order to graduate, students must demonstrate knowledge, and expertise in applying this knowledge, in their fields. Students also must demonstrate effective use of technology and the ability to apply it in their fields.

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Faculty & Staff Campaign Starts

The 2006-2007 Faculty & Staff Campaign, “A Commitment to Our Students: Preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow,” is under way and expected to conclude by Dec. 31. Co-chairs are Lewis Frasch, interim associate dean in the College of Engineering; Al Turfe, lecturer in mathematics and computer science; and Diane Sobania, undergraduate application specialist.

Last year, gifts and pledges from the Lawrence Tech faculty, staff, and administration exceeded $132,000. That was 110 percent of the $120,000 goal. Participation by full-time employees was 71 percent.

Faculty, staff, and administration have contributed more than $350,000 through five 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. For more information, see www.ltu.edu/facultyandstaff/campaign.asp.

Lending a Helping Hand

Nabil Grace has been named Lawrence Tech’s first university distinguished professor by the Board of Trustees.

Grace is chair of the Civil Engineering Department and director of the Center for Innovative Materials Research (CIMR) at Lawrence Tech.

The university distinguished professor is the highest faculty rank at Lawrence Tech. It is awarded for exemplary achievements that have brought special distinction to the university. A university distinguished professor must demonstrate excellent teaching skills in addition to widely recognized accomplishments and extensive publications.

Grace is best known for his research on bridge design methods that take advantage of carbon-fiber reinforced polymers (CFRPs). Unlike steel that is typically used for structural reinforcement, CFRPs won’t deteriorate quickly when exposed to water, salt and chemicals.

Grace also is the principal investigator for a three-year, $899,996 grant awarded in September by Michigan’s 21st Century Jobs Fund to develop, implement and commercialize new materials and engineering practices that are expected to double the lifespan of highway bridges that use box-beam construction.

(continued on page 2)
Better Outcomes (continued from page 1)

Graduates will have the attributes of a well-educated person, including both breadth and depth of knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, mathematics and analysis, and the natural sciences.

Lawrence Tech graduates will be skilled in written and oral communication. They will be aware of the diverse basis of our culture and the foundations and development of American society. They will demonstrate creativity and critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills, and competence in mathematics and in the use of the scientific method and laboratory technique.

President Lewis Walker’s emphasis on leadership is reflected in the document, which calls for education that enables undergraduates “to exhibit entrepreneurial skills and to assume positions of leadership.”

Lawrence Tech graduates will have had experiences that promote a high level of professionalism and integrity, responsible decision-making, confidence in approaching opportunities, and pride in their abilities. Those experiences should lead to:

• Understanding of themselves and others, sensitivity to other cultures in the context of globalization, and interpersonal skills.
• The ability to analyze unfamiliar situations, assess risk, and formulate plans of action.
• Awareness of the importance of lifelong learning.
  • A global and societal perspective.
Undergraduates will have opportunities to develop the ability to work with others, including those unlike themselves, so that they can contribute to a diverse society. Both process and progress will be monitored in teamwork experiences.

During these teamwork experiences, students will focus on a common goal, take responsibility for their own contributions as well as for the team’s product, and evaluate one another’s contribution to the team.

They will practice making decisions, reaching consensus, and resolving conflicts.

Undergraduates will have opportunities to develop their ethical and personal values, so that they can exercise their professional skills in the interests of society. They will have opportunities to learn the value of contributing to their community and to society.
Maslowski Has Practiced What He Preaches

By Richard E. Marburger  
President Emeritus

An impressive plaque displaying a portrait of Associate Dean Emeritus Richard S. “Mas” Maslowski and some well-chosen words was unveiled on Nov. 16. Mounted on a wall next to the Engineering Student Lounge, this plaque honors the contributions of an outstanding educator and administrator who has served Lawrence Tech for 40 years.

This plaque was conceptualized, financed and mounted with the combined support of the engineering faculty and staff and administrators at all levels.

The legendary career of “Mas” requires additional elucidation. The reason for this is that he launched innumerable programs and procedures that will last forever and, further, he is the prototypical Lawrence Tech faculty member who moved to stunning success as an administrator.

Lawrence Tech’s motto is “Theory and Practice,” and engineering faculty typically have been practicing engineers prior to entering the teaching profession. This provides them with great credibility with the students and injects great clarity into the lectures. Maslowski epitomizes this tradition because he has practiced what he preached.

He worked as an engineer with the Michigan Bell Telephone Company for ten years before joining the Lawrence Tech adjunct faculty in 1965. He became a full-time faculty member the next year and an associate professor in 1968.

In 1972, I became chief academic officer and had the privilege of appointing Maslowski as acting chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department. Two years later he was promoted to full professor and permanent chairman.

In 1989, Maslowski was named associate dean of engineering, an important position that he filled for 17 years until his retirement in June 2006! At that time, it was clearly appropriate that he be designated associate dean emeritus.

In addition to his proficiency as an administrator, Mas has always been a “hands-on” engineer. In the summer of 1975, for example, he acquired an Altair kit whose assembly he supervised. This was the first microprocessor-equipped PC with which we are acquainted.

He also made sure that all electrical engineering labs had lab manuals which were written by the faculty. He also introduced the practice of providing students with kits of parts for lab equipment so that necessary repairs are made quickly and easily.

“Mas” had a favorite class on control systems that he taught regularly. He also developed Lawrence Tech’s new biomedical engineering program that is extremely timely.

Those who have observed Maslowski in the classroom (or addressing audiences in general) have often wondered how he achieved the easy, fluent and articulate manner of presentation that he summons up with apparent effortlessness. The answers are as follows:

1. He is always completely prepared on the subject he is presenting.
2. He is deeply reflective and contemplative by nature.
3. He is passionately devoted to the idea of bringing the student as close as he can to his own level of learning, which is quite elevated.
4. He takes great interest personally in his students with the result that large numbers of graduates stop by the office year after year to renew acquaintances.

His command of engineering subjects and the associated mathematics has always commanded my admiration. The wide range of textbooks from which he has studied occupy many shelves in his office. His retentive mind has enabled him to reformulate the vast body of engineering, scientific and mathematical knowledge he has absorbed into clear and concise statements which, for 40 years, have drilled understanding into students as close as he can to his own level of reasoning.

The campus has been transformed by the $14.9 million A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center, the $20 million University Technology and Learning Center, the $12 million University Housing Center, the Center for Innovative Materials Research, as well as an extensively redeveloped and environmentally friendly and innovative campus quadrangle.

The campaign also attracted applied research agreements that resulted in federal and state partnerships unprecedented for a private Michigan university.

“I am delighted to be joining Lawrence Tech at this special time in its rich history,” Brown said. “I believe the university is poised to do even more innovative and extraordinary things in the near future, and I welcome the opportunity to be part of such efforts.”

Brown Named Vice President for Advancement

By Bruce Annett, Executive Director  
Marketing & Public Affairs

Stephen E. Brown has been named vice president for university advancement at Lawrence Technological University, effective Jan. 2, 2007.

Since 2001, Brown has served as associate vice president for marketing and communications at Wayne State University. From 1994-2001, he was president of the Houston/Detroit offices of J. Walter Thompson (JWT) and prior to that held positions of growing authority at JWT and earlier with such firms as Ogilvy & Mather, Leo Burnett, and what is now Saatchi & Saatchi. Accounts he worked on include Kellogg’s, Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, Campbell’s Soup, and Goodyear, among many others.

“Steve Brown has had a remarkable career in the private and public sector, and I look forward to the contributions that he will make to Lawrence Tech’s development and marketing efforts,” said Lawerence Tech President Lewis W. Walker. “We’ve had very successful programs in these areas, and it is important that the University continue to forge the new relationships that enable us to better serve our students.”

Brown will head up the university advancement team that has just concluded a $46 million capital campaign that more than doubled its initial $20 million goal.

DON’T FORGET Submissions for the 2007 Prism are due Friday, Dec. 15  
WE NEED YOUR CREATIVE WORKS

Forms available in S207 or by email from slammers@ltu.edu.

Students: Be sure to submit your cover idea to our COVER CONTEST. The winning entry will receive $100!! Contest deadline is Dec. 20.
International Students Celebrate Thanksgiving

More than 100 students, staff and faculty attended Lawrence Tech's annual International Students Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 16 at Café Lawrence. The event was hosted by Provost Maria Vaz and Lisa Kujawa, assistant provost for enrollment management. The International Student Organization, Kathy Charbonneau of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, and International Student Affairs Coordinator Frank de Hesselle helped organize the event. In the photo above de Hesselle and some of the international students get ready to experience turkey with all the trimmings.

Anneberg inspires Girl Scouts to get tech-savvy

By Dianne Thomas
Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit

Girls who want to explore the possibilities for careers in science and technology couldn’t hope to find a better role model than Lisa Anneberg, associate professor of electrical engineering at Lawrence Tech.

With a Ph.D. in computer engineering from Wayne State University, she’d be an inspiration to anyone. And the fact that she’s also a life member of Girl Scouts makes her the perfect person to inspire the Girl Scouts who come to the Lawrence Tech campus for special programs offered by Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit in partnership with the university.

“I think it’s important to encourage girls to pursue careers in science, engineering, math, and computers,” Anneberg told the 40 Junior Girl Scouts who attended her Computer Fun and Internet Safety program in October. “In my classes at LTU only one student in ten is female. We want that to change!”

With assistance from her sister Karen Anneberg, another life member of Girl Scouts, and lots of input from participants, “Dr. Lisa” helped the girls develop an overview of computer use and hone their skills with timed games that highlighted the advantage of practice. A step-by-step lesson in creating and saving files helped fulfill the requirements to earn a Computer Fun badge.

A discussion of Internet safety also provided the girls and their parents an opportunity to share concerns about what can happen when a youngster goes online without supervision.

But the day wasn’t just about desktop computers. The girls had an opportunity to work with an oscilloscope, which they learned is used in many capacities from medical diagnosis to designing or repairing electronic equipment. Each girl was able to hook up her own oscilloscope and create a wave pattern.

The need for programs such as Computer Fun is as evident as their popularity. Anneberg’s October program for Junior Girl Scouts was booked to capacity within days of being announced, and a January 2007 program for Brownies sold out just as quickly.

Sara Lamers has had a collection of poetry, “A City Without Trees,” accepted for publication by March Street Press. The book will be available in 2007.

There is still time to submit your creative works to the 2007 Prism, Lawrence Tech’s journal of art and literature. Accepted submissions include original works of short fiction, short essays, poetry, photography, digital images, paintings, drawings, sculpture, and more. Additional information regarding acceptable submissions and the submission process is available on the submission form, which may be picked up in S207-E. Submissions are due to S207 by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15.

We’re also still accepting submissions for our cover design contest. The contest is open to all students -- one entry per applicant. The cover dimensions are 9 inches tall by 6 inches wide, and the cover is printed in color. The winning design will receive a $100 prize! Submit a hard copy of your design by Dec. 20 to Sara Lamers in S207. Include your contact information and an electronic version of the submission. Please contact slamers@ltu.edu for more information regarding either the contest or Prism submissions.

The deadline for the department’s essay contest commemorating Constitution Day is Dec. 15. All entries should be submitted to mckissen@ltu.edu. The essays should be 900 to 1,500 words, double-spaced, with MLA documentation style. First prize is $150; second prize, $100; and third prize is $50. The winning essay will be posted on the current Student Portal at www.ltu.edu.

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 U.S. current affairs, argue whether or not the notion of a balance of power is being maintained today.

Humanities Happenings

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

Faculty Members have been busy outside of the classroom. Matt Cole, director of psychology, gave a presentation at Groves High School on “The Biological Basis of Addiction.” The presentation was part of the College of Arts and Sciences Speaker’s Bureau series through which Lawrence Tech faculty visit Michigan schools to educate and interact with students and teachers.

Corinne Stavish, director of the master’s degree program in technical and professional communication, has published a story in the anthology “The Storyteller’s Companion to the Bible Volume Eleven: The Parables of Jesus.” She also performed at the Detroit Institute of Art’s Noel Night Celebration on Dec. 2.


For information on Prism, contact Dr. Rick Warner, chair of the Visual and Performing Arts department.

Campus closing hotline/248-204-2222

Call this number for up-to-date info on Lawrence Tech’s status. Inclement weather may affect either day or evening classes at Lawrence Tech, but be aware that storm patterns vary widely and the University may not be affected by the pattern in your immediate area. WWJ-AM950 and WJR-AM760 are the radio stations notified if bad weather forces cancellation of classes at Lawrence Tech.

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Lawrence Tech Hosts Thanksgiving RoboParade

On Nov. 18 Lawrence Tech hosted the inaugural Thanksgiving RoboParade for robots built and programmed by students in grades 5-12. The event was believed to be the first of its kind in the world.

CJ Chung, associate professor of computer science, capitalized on a time-honored Detroit tradition as another way to get students hooked on computer programming at a young age. Chung is the founder of the popular Robofest competition, and this latest promotion for robot programming grew out of the computer camps he held on campus this past summer.

More than 100 students built and programmed 32 autonomous robots that followed a 58-foot parade route and the robot platforms were built with Lego RCX microcomputer bricks, and students added other materials to make their robot floats unique. The robots were programmed to follow the route and stop without any human help.

Some played Christmas music. Some featured turkeys, ducks, local sports teams, snowmen, reindeer, Santa, and Christmas trees. There was even a Santa Maria ship and a gingerbread house!

The last robot had a video camera that provided the audience with a robot's view of the parade.

President Lewis N. Walker welcomed guests. Lawrence Tech students Emily Trudell, Nathan Johnson, George Miller, Joe Long, Marcus Randolph, and Kaori Sakai helped staff member Lori Birman run the event.

The parade was viewed by more than 150 guests, including parade students and their families. Streaming video of the parade can be viewed at robofest.ltu.edu/movies/roboParade06.wmv.

Robofest Volunteers Needed

Students and faculty are needed to work as mentors, judges and in other volunteer capacities during the 2007 season of Robofest, Lawrence Tech's annual autonomous robotics competition for students in grades 5-12.

Top teams from 18 Robofest qualifying competition sites will compete in the World Robofest Championships on April 27-28, 2007, at the Ridler Field House. There are competition sites in Singapore, Korea, Canada, and four other states.

Volunteers will be needed at the championship competition on campus and at the qualifying competition at these Michigan locations:

- Delta College, University Center
- University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, Detroit
- St. Clair County RESA, Marysville
- Macomb Intermediate School District, Clinton Township
- Hillside Middle School, Northville
- Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor
- Canton Charter Academy, Canton
- Macomb Christian Schools, Warren
- Ann Arbor Trail Magnet School, Detroit
- Carman-Ainsworth High School, Flint

If you are interested in helping, please contact Robofest at LBirman@ltu.edu or 248-204-3566.

Lawrence Tech Student Honored by U.S. Navy Reserve

The U.S. Navy Reserve has recognized Lawrence Tech student Todd Brooks as one of five finalists for 2006 Reserve Sailor of the Year.

Brooks expects to graduate in May with a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology. He works at Ford Motor Company’s Vehicle & Body/Chassis Test Lab in Dearborn.

He was on active duty with the U.S. Navy from 1985 to 1991 and flew on submarine surveillance missions in the North Atlantic. He joined the Navy Reserve a few weeks after the terrorist attacks in 2001.

“When 9/11 hit, I had the desire to do something for my country, and my specialty was in critical demand,” Brooks said.

Assigned to a patrol squadron based at Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Me., he has served as an in-flight aviation electronics technician on counter-narcotics operations in South America and Central America.

In addition to the minimum of 12 weekends of service, Brooks spends four weeks of vacation on duty and serves another three weeks under a program where Ford makes up the difference between his regular and military pay.

“There is a sense of camaraderie that you won’t experience anywhere else but in the military,” he said.

Brooks was selected from 43,000 Navy reservists to be considered for organization’s top honor. As part of the selection process, he spent a week in April at the Pentagon and visited the White House.

All five finalists received the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their achievement.

“It was the honor of a lifetime, to say the least,” he said.

Brooks, 39, lives in Waterford with his wife Brenda and 17-year-old son John, who is considering military service prior to going on to college.
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Crunch Time at Ridler Field House

Staying fit has become easier at the Ridler Field House with the addition of several pieces of exercise equipment from LifeFitness—a cable-motion, dual-adjustable-pulley weight machine; a core-training leg raise machine; an abdomen crunch bench; and two LeMond RevMaster stationary bicycles. Sharmil Madathil, an automotive engineering graduate student, demonstrates how to use the crunch bench.

Recycling Committee Sets Sights High

The Lawrence Tech Recycling Committee wants the University community to take recycling more seriously.

The first step is to get faculty, staff, and students into the habit of recycling paper, according to committee co-chairs Lisa Anneberg, associate professor of electrical engineering, and Marilyn Hotaling of the library staff.

Currently Lawrence Tech recycles office paper, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, and phone books that are picked up every Tuesday. The university fills 22 recycling bins with just over three tons of paper a month.

That’s a start, but the committee co-chairs believe the Lawrence Tech community could easily recycle twice that much paper and paper products.

“A lot of paper is dumped in the trash,” Hotaling said.

To help get the message out, the committee recently distributed recycling posters designed by Rachel Cronover.

The committee asks that every office have a recycling container. Paper recyclables from these containers can be taken to six large collection bins at the following locations:

- Buell Building – loading dock, outside.
- Engineering Building – loading dock, outside.
- Science Building – basement, inside near elevator (authorized personnel only).
- Architecture – basement, inside near beverage machines.
- Taubman Center – Recycling Room.
- UTLC – basement, inside near exit door.

The Recycling Committee looks to expand within the next year, with the next step being a program for recycling pop and soda cans.

“Eventually we want to go to a completely recycled campus,” Hotaling said.

If you have questions or comments, contact Anneberg, ext. 2539 and anneberg@ltu.edu, or Hotaling, ext. 3000 and hotaling@ltu.edu.

Challenge Grants Offered for Senior Projects

Lawrence Tech’s National Alumni Association is continuing its commitment to academic excellence through the support of matching “Challenge Grant” Awards for student senior projects.

To be eligible, the student senior project must receive some of its funding from sources outside the University. Applicants must complete the “Request for Alumni Association Support” form — see www.ltu.edu/curentstudents/alumni_support.asp — and submit it via mail or email to the Office of Alumni Relations (M345) no later than Dec. 31.

Applicants may be invited to also make a presentation to the National Alumni Association Board of Directors at the February 2007 meeting. Awards will be made later that month.

If you have any questions, contact Dino Hernandez or Debbie Farina at ext. 2308 or alumni@ltu.edu.

Blue Devils Soccer Team Ends with 7-4 Record

The Lawrence Tech club soccer team celebrated its 15th year as a university program with another winning season, finishing with seven wins and four losses.

Coach Eric Peterson and assistant coach Nate Johnson, both former Lawrence Tech soccer players, guided the Blue Devil soccer team. Senior Taylor Bohannon was captain.

The Blue Devils played Oakland Community College, Oakland University, Eastern Michigan University, Kettering University, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The competition was tough, and the outcome of many games came down to the final minutes of play.

Strong defensive play by the Blue Devils was shown throughout the season. The Blue Devils finally brought out some real offensive power and showed their true capabilities in the final game of the season, netting eight goals against a strong Kettering defense.

Thanks to all the fans who came out and supported the team this year. Also a special thanks to this year’s departing seniors: Jeremy Dunaj, Taylor Bohannon, Nate Johnson, James Lutzke, Aaron Bauer, Andrew VanHouten, and John Parker.

Back-to-Back Basketball Champions

The Liberators defeated the In Scott We Trust team on Nov. 30 to win the championship of the Lawrence Tech intramural basketball league for the second year in a row. Ten teams competed during the 12-week season. Members of the winning Liberators team are, in the back row (L-R), Mike Lawson, Jon Banks, Jeremy Hoerauf, and Brandon Varilone; and in the front row, Steve Sawicki, Dave Duckworth, and Brian Conway.