First Lawrence Tech Day of Service Draws 50 Participants

By Melissa Grunow
Leadership Curriculum Coordinator

Raking leaves, trimming branches, cleaning out storage is simply spring-cleaning for some. But for 50 Lawrence Tech students, staff and faculty, it was how they spent a Saturday giving back to their community.

The first Lawrence Tech Day of Service took place April 4. Volunteers from the University spent the day at either Birney Middle School in Southfield or Looking for My Sister in Oak Park.

The participants at Birney cleared branches and debris from the school grounds to get ready for spring. The volunteers at Looking for My Sister, a domestic violence transition program, helped staff clear out and organize storage facilities containing donated items.

The Day of Service was a coordinated effort of the Office of Leadership Program, the Society of University Leaders (SOUL) student organization, and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

"The Day of Service was an historic step for the community outreach of LTU students and the community. I cannot wait for another event similar to this," said Phil Lucas, a freshman and SOUL officer.

The Day of Service kick-off took place in the Buell Management Building atrium with volunteer check-in and speeches by Kira Putt, regional coordinator of student engagement for the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and Tanisha McIntosh, residence hall coordinator for South Housing.

McIntosh's kick-off speech, which emphasized the importance of volunteer spirit and leadership, included a quote from Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

In his keynote address in the afternoon, President Lewis N. Walker talked about the importance of community service for leadership development.

About 40 participants spent the morning at Birney, and neighbors around the school expressed their appreciation.

"We were satisfied knowing our efforts would be appreciated by the students and faculty at Birney Middle School. However, a verbal expression of (continued on page 10)

Steel Bridge Team Heads to Nationals

For the fourth year in a row, Lawrence Tech’s Steel Bridge Team is headed to the national championships in Las Vegas after taking first place honors in the regional competition. The only difference was that this year the team triumphed in front of a supportive audience at Ridler Field House.

In early April, Lawrence Tech hosted the North Central Regional Conference steel bridge and concrete canoe competitions held by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Lawrence Tech didn’t compete in the concrete canoe race at Kensington Park the next day, which was won by Ohio Northern University.

Captain Nick Knust, Lindsay Bzymek, Greg Jackman, Jim Mazur and Lauren Meganck will represent this region at the national ASCE steel bridge competition May 22-23 at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Assistant Professor Elin Jensen is the faculty advisor, and two members of former teams, Chris Girard and Jacob Van Horn, also served as advisors.

This year’s steel bridge team put a lot of emphasis on construction speed and even held a demonstration in the Buell Management Building atrium in March for the experience of performing in front of an audience.

The hard work paid off with a time of 6:36, far faster than most of the other teams. Some fans started a rhythmic beat (continued on page 10)
Botzen Named Staff Member of the Month for March

By Beth St. Thomas
Staff Recognition Committee

The March Staff member of the month is Tamara Botzen, administrative assistant for the dean’s office in the College of Engineering. She was selected because many have noticed how she has achieved excellence in her work by taking on any challenge with a smile and a great attitude.

Botzen works on many projects for the dean’s office, including the completion of highly confidential contracts and scheduling meetings that seem impossible to schedule. She is also a team player and has even put together a community outreach event. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who may need it. “I enjoy working with the faculty, staff and students throughout the entire university. It’s a very pleasant environment,” she said.

Before coming to Lawrence Tech in 2006, she was the administrative assistant to the director of manufacturing at Entertainment Publications for 18 years.

She is the kind of person we like to have as a member of the Lawrence Tech community, and we are lucky to have her. Congratulations, Tammy!

The Staff Recognition Committee of the Staff Senate extends special congratulations to all those selected as the staff members of the month for the 2008-09 academic year and thanks all those who voted for their co-workers. Voting will resume at the start of the fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year.

Lawrence Tech Teams Score Well in International Math Competition

By Ruth Favro
Principal Faculty Advisor
Mathematical Contest in Modeling

Thirteen Lawrence Tech students on five teams stepped up to the challenge to solve one of two applied problems – designing a traffic circle or energy and the cell phone – during the international Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) that took place over four full days Feb. 5-9. Three of the Lawrence Tech teams finished in the second-highest category.

Rich Geyer, Neil Ganshorn and John Camardese, working on the cell phone problem, took up residence in S115 where the food was housed. They used a predator-prey strategy. This was their third MCM together.

Ze Cheng (second MCM), Matt Lanting and Paul Downen also haunted S115, as they used queueing theory for their solution to the traffic circle problem.

Warren Beard (fifth MCM) and Robert Beebe also used a queueing model to tackle the traffic circle problem.

Barb Linman and Russell Champoux also went around in circles (pun intended) to create an optimization model.

The all-freshman team of Kevin Meligan, Anna Vantsevitch and Ryan Hollingsworth worked on the cell phone problem, coming down from the third floor only when there was a call for food (on a cell phone, of course).

These teams combined intense research and teamwork with math, computer, physics/engineering and writing skills to compete against 1,675 teams from the United States and a dozen other countries. This year more than three fourths of the research papers were submitted from China.

Less than 1 percent of the papers were classified as outstanding, 18 percent attained a meritorious rating, and another 18 percent earned honorable mention.

The team of Geyer, Ganshorn and Camardese won meritorious honors, as well as the Ben Fusaro Award for the most creative approach to the cell phone problem.

Also winning meritorious honors were the teams of Cheng, Downen and Lanting, and Meligan, Vantsevich and Hollingsworth.

This year’s participants from Lawrence Tech have majors ranging through math, computer science, chemistry, psychology, computer engineering, civil engineering and architecture.

The Lawrence Tech Math Club, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and the Department of Natural Sciences sponsored the contest on campus. Professors Guang-Chong Zhu, Chris Carwright and Valentina Tobos served as faculty advisors.

Thanks to the faculty and staff of Arts and Sciences who contributed to the food and supplies for the weekend!
First Donley Scholar Has Ambitious Plans for an Engineering Career

“Honored, amazed and totally surprised,” That’s how Erica Walker, a junior in civil engineering, felt when she learned that she had been chosen as Lawrence Tech’s first recipient of the prestigious Donley Scholar’s Award.

Established by long-time Lawrence Tech donors Ed Donley, a 1943 graduate in mechanical engineering, and his wife, Inez, the full-ride scholarship is based on merit and financial need and is open to any prospective or current Lawrence Tech student in engineering. With a preference for a full-time student with racial, gender, or geographic diversity, the scholarship requires candidates to have a GPA of 3.75 or higher and an ACT score of 30 or higher.

Donley Scholars agree to complete their degree requirements within four years, so they must be focused on their education and able to abide by the highest academic and professional standards.

Walker excelled in math and science at King High School on the east side of Detroit. She looked at several other universities, but Lawrence Tech won her over with its small class sizes, individual attention and professional focus. “I just knew I’d be happier here. I’m more comfortable raising my hand in a class that doesn’t have 700 people in it,” she said.

Walker said her long-term goals include being a field engineer, working her way up to project manager, and eventually forming her own company. She believes the business-focused curriculum of the College of Engineering’s entrepreneurial certificate program will prepare her for business ownership.

As a Donley Scholar, she will receive support and personal mentoring from President Lewis N. Walker, senior members of the University’s executive leadership team, and members of the University’s board of trustees.

“This one-on-one interaction not only provides extraordinary personal, career and academic counseling and networking, it challenges Donley Scholars to realize their full potential,” says Jerry Crist, a professor of chemistry who chaired the scholarship committee. “It’s also the desire of the Donley program to provide its recipients with special mentoring in selecting course and career objectives. Additionally, there will be opportunities provided for special summer educational experiences.”

Walker is looking forward to a summer internship with Kiewit Construction, headquartered in Denver. She was introduced to the firm at a career fair on campus last fall.

In March, she flew to Florida to meet the Donleys, who created and funded the undergraduate scholarship program that could be a stepping stone to a Fulbright or Rhodes graduate program.

New Name in the Engineering Building

A. Leon Linton (L) accepts a signed photo of the Lawrence Tech Department of Mechanical Engineering faculty from Chair Greg Feierfeil at the March 12 dedication ceremony for naming the department in his honor. President Lewis N. Walker applauds in the background. Linton is donating $2.5 million to Lawrence Tech to perpetuate the high quality of education he received when he earned his degree in mechanical engineering in 1962. He is the founder and CEO of Southern Systems Inc. of Memphis, which designs, builds and installs custom conveyor systems for manufacturing and distribution facilities.

Two Lawrence Tech Students Encourage Others to Take Advantage of NASA Internships

By Eric Pope
Tech News Editor

During the fall semester, Lawrence Tech was the only university outside Florida to have more than one intern at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral on the Sunshine State’s east coast. Now that they’ve returned, Heather Wilks and Julien Lamongie want other students to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

This is an exciting time to work at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). While still finishing up on the international space station program, the government agency is now focused on the Constellation space program that is scheduled to send a man back to the moon in 2014 and eventually launch a mission from the moon to Mars.

Wilks, a management major, got involved by following up on an email she received from the University about NASA's Kennedy Intern Program. Two weeks before the semester began, she received a call that an engineer manager needed a personal assistant.

She quickly switched to two online courses and also received course credit for the internship. Her NASA paycheck covered all her expenses.

Lamongie got his position through the Undergraduate Student Research Program. A computer science major, he worked on a three-person team that was part of a 60-member team writing code for the Constellation launch program. He took the semester off from classes, and a stipend paid for his expenses.

Wilks and Lamongie witnessed a launch to the international space station and would glimpse the world-famous launch pad every day. Even though they settled into a regular office routine, working at the Kennedy Space Center was an inspiring experience.

“You’re working with people who have a sense that what they are doing makes a difference. A lot of people there took pay cuts to work there,” Lamongie said.

“The people I worked with had a real sense of purpose. They were working for something greater than themselves,” Wilks said.

As someone who is just starting out in programming, Lamongie felt he learned a lot from working within a big organization that had very exacting standards. “Nothing was left to guesswork. Everything was documented with tangible metrics. It was a good learning experience,” he said.

As a management intern, Wilks also worked on the Constellation program. She was most impressed by how the managing engineer would get two people who didn’t like each other to work together on a project. “I learned how to delegate without pushing people’s buttons,” she said.

A third of the 15 interns during the fall semester came from Michigan. In addition to the two from Lawrence Tech, there were students from Eastern Michigan University, Lake Superior State University and Saginaw Valley State University.

Wilks recommends applying for internships during the regular academic year because the competition is much stiffer for summer internships.

“It was a huge opportunity and it was so worth it,” she said.
Rome Wasn’t Built in a Day

By Ron Jenkins
President, Student Government

I sometimes get asked what my political stance is. I truly hate answering this question because I know no one likes my answer. Some people even think it’s a joke. I’m not a Republican or a Democrat. I’m in the Green Party, either. Or the Constitution Party, or the Libertarian Party.

I’m an American. Isn’t that enough? I find it incredible that people can take on such a cutthroat attitude with others when the topic is politics. That’s why I hate discussing it – nothing good comes out of it. You either get pastors who shoot off their mouths so everyone in a 100-mile radius can hear, or you get the pseudo-intellectuals who think they know how everything should be because they memorized Plato’s “Republic” in high school.

All rationale seems to go right out the window, and everyone thinks they’re right. It’s either this or that in America… on or off, black or white, Democrat or Republican, young or old. You either believe in something completely and you support it 100 percent, or you’re an evil opponent (who must be destroyed, although very few in Americans have the guts to say that to someone’s face).

Since when is life so binary? If life were truly that simple, wouldn’t all our problems be solved already? Wouldn’t we live in a much cleaner, happier world? There is no such thing as a simple problem in politics, so how can there be a simple solution?

Everyone wants the easy way out. They want a quick fix to all the problems that plague us, and they want it 15 minutes ago. The citizens want a quick fix so they can go back to their lives completely unbothered by everyone around them, and the politicians want a quick fix so they have a leg to stand on when election time comes around.

Quick fixes are great, but as far as I can tell no one in America seems to realize that quick fixes don’t work. Ever. They’re a complete farce. I suppose the notion of quick fixes is easy to latch onto when your society has advanced so much technologically that half of the things you own are now voice-controlled. Don’t get me wrong, technology is awesome (I wouldn’t be a CompSci/CompEng major if I didn’t think so!) and we can get a lot of benefit from it, but it’s making all of us very lazy. Now we expect global social, economic and environmental factors to change as fast as an iPod changes audio tracks. It doesn’t work that way!

In case you think you’re immune to this line of thinking, you’re not. No one is, and that includes me. Humans, like electricity, follow the path of least resistance.

It requires very little effort to attach to a group that has all your quick fixes in one political package. I think, however, that humans have a much greater capacity than that, and we should be making use of it rather than perpetuating America’s 250-year-old political football game, where no progress is ever made.

George Washington warned us about the dangers of political parties. Somehow, he anticipated it. It’s unfortunate we didn’t listen. We’ve coagulated into two main parties and a number of small third parties, and each party thinks it has all the right answers. Nowadays politicians talk of compromise in Congress, but it’s hard to believe that’s actually happening when you see all those pork barrels rolling out of the Capitol building.

What I’m about to say will probably offend a lot of people, but I’ve never heard anyone else say it, and if this country is to become prosperous again it needs to be said. Americans need to grow up. Fast. Everyone in this country needs to realize – and truly believe – that there are no simple answers, that the road to prosperity is not one traveled at the speed of light. It takes time and requires patience.

The only way I can see that happening is with a zero-party political system. Yes, I am actually suggesting there be no political parties in America. But if there were no political parties, how would you gather the opinions of 300 million people, sort through each of them to keep the good and throw out the bad (who determines that, anyway?), decide on a plan of action, and then actually do it? And who’s truly fit to represent 300 million people? And how is this representation implemented? Get it now? There are no simple answers! We can’t just get rid of political parties. Perhaps there’s a more complex solution based on that notion that would work. But is anyone willing to take the time to figure that out? If so, they probably don’t work in Washington.

Americans need patience. To be fair, you didn’t need this article to tell you that. Just jump on I-696; you’ll get the picture. Unless you’re speeding, that is.

Lawrence Tech Joins Innovation Chase

Lawrence Tech is once again sending a team to Chicago to compete in the Innovation Chase against seven other universities that are part of the Kresge Entrepreneurial Education Network. Members of the team are (standing L-R) Gokul Butail, Tyler Mericle, and faculty advisor Don Reimer, associate director of the Entrepreneurial Program in the College of Engineering. In the front are Jasmine Jones, Thomas Philips and Sarah Thurmond.

MBA International Program Expands Options

Living and working in a global economy has become a fact of life, and Lawrence Tech’s College of Management curriculum is evolving to prepare graduates to be global thinkers and global leaders. To help achieve this goal, the faculty and administration are restructuring academic programs to ensure that they include a strong global perspective.

This redesign process began last fall with the development and launch of the new MBA International program, a degree containing significant global content that traces its roots to the College of Management’s master’s degree program in global leadership and management, developed in 2007 in cooperation with the Defense Acquisition University and the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command in Warren. This program provides senior civilian leaders in the military with educational opportunities comparable to those available to uniformed officers.

This summer the MBA International program will be offered in the evening, and new electives in global management, global technology and innovation, and international travel will be rolled out.

MBA alumni who want to enhance their opportunities to advance in a global economy can complete the second master’s degree in global leadership and management by taking 18 credit hours of additional coursework.

Sign Up Early for 2010 Tour of Italy

Students interested in Italian architecture, art, history and food are invited to participate in a nine-day tour of Italy in May 2010.

Participants will spend two days in Venice, two days in Florence and three days in Rome during the tour. The program fee is $2,380 and includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, a full-time bilingual tour director, sightseeing tours, some meals and visits to special attractions. The tour director will accompany the group for the entire tour, taking care of travel logistics and providing insights into each destination.

The tour is hosted by Education First College Study Tours, a company that Lawrence Tech has used for educational tours in the past.

Enrollment requires only a $95 down payment and is open to Lawrence Tech students. Early enrollment is encouraged as students will become eligible for a monthly payment plan, and the program fee continues to increase as the departure date approaches.

Contact Melissa Grunow at ext. 2414 or mgrunow@ltu.edu for enrollment information.
GREEK NEWS

Sigma Pi (Zeta Omicron)
It has been another great year for Sigma Pi Fraternity International at Lawrence Tech. Our fraternity has grown substantially to over 50 members and so has our campus involvement. Within the coming months our chapter will be hosting a couple of great events for our faculty and student body.

For Greek Day on April 25, our chapter will host our annual pig roast where we will have everything from tasty hotdogs and hamburgers to smothered BBQ pulled pork sandwiches. The pig roast is free to all Lawrence Tech students. We also will host our annual faculty luncheon. The luncheon allows our chapter to prepare a well deserved lunch for the hard-working professors and staff members at Lawrence Tech.

Lastly, our chapter is committed towards working to improve Lawrence Tech’s public image. Our organization is pushing to make improvements to the flood plain and the South Housing parking lot. Our brotherhood welcomes everyone to attend our Greek Day pig roast and strives to improve life on campus for everyone at Lawrence Tech.

— John Roe

Theta Tau
This year Xi Beta, the Lawrence Tech chapter of Theta Tau, hosted a regional meeting for the Great Lakes and Central Region chapters. Regional meetings are held every semester, and we were happy to be chosen to host it for the spring semester. Planning an event such as this was no easy task. Six members of Xi Beta were involved in planning and running the event, and because of their efforts it went down without a hitch. We had 40 people from ten different schools from all over the region come and participate. All involved enjoyed their time, much was learned, and concerns were addressed.

While Brother Simes and I ran and planned the majority of the event, this would not have been possible without the help of everyone who participated. This was a great experience for our chapter, and I hope that every organization has the opportunity to participate in or host such an event.

— Andrew “Glick” Monticello

Alpha Sigma Phi
The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi held their annual Black and White Ball on March 28. The formal event ran smoothly, and awards were presented to brothers with outstanding achievements. Joe Fox received the “Brother of the Year” award for displaying great character and terrific work ethic. Dan Samuel was rewarded the “Most Academic Brother” award for his 3.6 grade point average over a three-year span at Lawrence Tech.

The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi look forward to the upcoming Greek Day on April 25 and have high hopes after last year’s second place finish.

— George Mansour

Scholarship Recipient: Take Advantage of Opportunities

Abhishek Singh is the winner of the inaugural Academic Achievement Center (AAC) Tutor of the Year Award. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a student tutor who fulfills the mission of the AAC to educate, empower and inspire students to become independent and successful lifelong learners.

Abhishek received several nominations noting his deep subject knowledge and outstanding character.

Abhishek is from New Delhi, India, where he completed his bachelor of technology degree in mechanical and automation engineering at Indraprastha University. Abhishek won numerous awards in robotics and vehicle design contests at that university.

He is now in his second year at Lawrence Tech studying for a master’s degree in automotive engineering. Abhishek joined the tutoring staff at the AAC in March 2008 as an engineering, math and physics tutor, and he also tutors math for the AAC high school tutoring program.

Abhishek has industry experience both overseas and in Michigan, and is involved with the Element One team at Lawrence Tech, where he works with the vehicle dynamics group.

Other outstanding tutors nominated for this award were Josh Wagensomer, Russell Champoux, Ryan Munevar, Drushan Mavalankar and Erica Lundby.

Nominations Due April 30 for Donley Award

April 30 is the deadline for nominations for the Ed Donley Distinguished Graduate Award, which honors one male and one female graduating student for excellence in academic, community and campus leadership. The award is presented by the national board of directors of the Lawrence Tech Alumni Association.

Nominations are accepted from faculty and staff of Lawrence Tech. Students may also nominate themselves or a fellow graduating student. Nomination forms are available on-line at www.lawrencetech.net under “Awards.” Completed nomination forms can be submitted via interoffice mail, email, or fax to Dino Hernandez, assistant vice president for major gifts and campaign director. Contact him with questions at ext. 2306 or hernandez@ltu.edu.
Alum Invents Alternative to Sudoku

A delayed flight provided Jonathan Reid, BSCE’94, with the opportunity and inspiration to create Dezoito, a math puzzle thatdebuts in Tech News this month as an alternative to the popular Sudoku puzzle. While his plane sat for hours on a runway waiting for clearance in June 2008, Reid was doing the Sudoku puzzle in the in-flight magazine when he glanced at his laptop, which he had been using to review a development plan with a hexagonal-shaped boundary.

“The idea hit me that the hexagon shape could be subdivided into 8 sections and overlapped with other hexagons and diamond forms. The numbers 1-8 could be used to fill the hexagon shapes and the overlapping diamonds could have values totaling 18, or one half of the sum of the numbers 1-8,” Reid said. He quickly came up with a name for his creation – Dezoito, which is Portuguese for “eighteen” – and later filed a copyright submission.

Later that week, he came up with a format with 92 cells (compared to 81 in Sudoku) and a co-worker helped write a computer program to work out some of the bugs in the patterns and puzzle combinations. He was then able to use Excel macros to format and develop working puzzles – nearly 1,500 puzzles to date since the inception of Dezoito.

Recently he developed a Flash application that allows people to play a few puzzles over the internet at www.dezoitoapp.com.

Reid is supervising traffic engineer for Parsons Brinckerhoff in Atlanta, where he has worked for 13 years. Following his bachelor’s degree from Lawrence Tech, he earned a master’s degree in civil engineering from North Carolina State in 1999.

He currently leads the traffic engineering studies for the widening of I-75 through the northwest Atlanta region.

Despite living in the south, Reid still plays hockey and cheers for the Detroit Red Wings when they come to Atlanta to play the Thrashers. “There are more Red Wings than ‘home’ fans at these annual contests,” Reid said. “It feels like home at Joe Louis Arena South!”

University Seminar Encourages Students To Create Positive Change With Varied Projects

What’s the connection between building bluebird houses and inspiring creativity in children through scrapbooking?

Both are projects Lawrence Tech students have undertaken this year through University Seminar, which encourages the development of personal management skills students need to be successful in college and their eventual professions. Incoming freshmen typically take University Seminar in their first semester, and it introduces students to the University’s leadership curriculum.

During the spring semester the University Seminar Leadership and Service Learning Project led Lawrence Tech students to a local soccer center, Habitat for Humanity and the Islamic Center in Dearborn.

Charged with the task of creating positive change in their communities, the students decide on areas of interest, form groups with similarly-minded classmates and design their own service projects.

Intended to be the “practice” of the social change model of leadership theory, the project also helps students sharpen other valuable skills. In addition to managing time, working in groups and improving presentation skills, students research their various projects, identify community organizations or agencies they can partner with, and are responsible for the development and implementation of their projects.

Freshmen Cristene Bradburn and Eric Reinhardt were part of the group improving the bluebird habitat on Lawrence Tech’s campus. During the project, they did extensive research to determine the appropriate style of house to build and the best way to hang the houses to attract bluebirds.

“We learned a lot about birds and teamwork,” Bradburn said.

Overcoming some initial challenges, their team successfully built and installed three bluebird houses in the wooded area by the athletic fields.

For their service learning project, freshmen Justin Vail, Christopher Harris and Xavier Murphy coordinated a recycling effort at South Housing after determining the need for such a program. The students first publicized the effort by posting fliers at the housing complex and through word-of-mouth communication with their peers and roommates.

Harris, Vail and Murphy fashioned bins out of recyclable materials for aluminum, plastic, glass and paper. These bins were then placed on each floor of the housing complex, and a one-day recycling blitz ensued. After a day of collection, the three student volunteers then took all the recyclable materials to a Southfield recycling center, rather than leaving the work of transport to campus facilities staff. The bins created for this project are still in place – and still being used – at South Housing.

For his service learning project, international student Abdeljalel Almshre has been teaching twice-weekly Arabic lessons at the Academic Achievement Center. Attended by a variety of members of the Lawrence Tech community – including faculty, staff, students and even Southfield residents – these lessons are ideal for the beginning language learner.

Almshre discovered there is interest on campus after having several of his University Seminar classmates approach him with questions about how to greet, compliment or thank people in Arabic. A native of Saudi Arabia, Almshre saw an opportunity not only to share his language and culture but also to practice his English and public speaking skills.

The lessons have been so successful – and so enjoyable for Almshre – that he plans to continue the classes during summer semester and invites anyone interested to join in.

Dezoito
Jonathan Reid BSCE ’94
Dezoito #773
difficulty level:
Fill in the overlapping squares (black square in center) with the numbers 1-8 (no repeats); sum of the four numbers in diamonds (dashed lines) must total 18. Top, bottom, and side diamonds wrap.

Dezoito #1730
difficulty level:

For answers, additional puzzles, hints and other downloads, or to purchase a 160-puzzle book of Dezoito puzzles, visit www.dezoitoapp.com.
Aero Design Team Impresses Competition as ‘Comeback Kids’

By Andrew Gerhart  
SAE Aero Faculty Advisor

The sun was shining in Georgia and the grassy field surrounded by woodlands was filled with 43 student teams from around the world ready to compete in the annual SAE Aero Design Competition. Before beginning the eight rounds of flying with progressively more cargo weight, the teams were flying their planes with no cargo at all to earn a few extra bonus points.

After the first few planes flew with no apparent problems, Lawrence Tech’s entry rolled to the starting line with the engine roaring. The senior mechanical engineering students were not worried because their plane had flown beautifully in tests two weeks earlier.

The plane leapt forward and gained altitude quickly—too quickly. The angle was too sharp, the wings lost their lift, and the plane went into a nose dive. The crowd gasped as the plane barreled into the ground, leaving a crater in the red clay. The Lawrence Tech plane weighed only 12 pounds, yet was designed to lift an additional 26 pounds.

The competition began April 3 with a presentation accompanied by a written report. Lawrence Tech did well, starting out in 14th place out of 43 teams with a score that was only 3 percent lower than the team in seventh place.

The goal was to design a plane that is close to the ground and short from nose to tail to allow for a larger wing, while avoiding the dire consequences of having a plane that’s too short. The Lawrence Tech plane weighed only 12 pounds, yet was designed to lift an additional 26 pounds.

The competition began April 3 with a presentation accompanied by a written report. Lawrence Tech did well, starting out in 14th place out of 43 teams with a score that was only 3 percent lower than the team in seventh place.

After the crash in the first flight, the Lawrence Tech team determined that the plane’s controls had been knocked out of alignment during transportation to Georgia, something not visible to the eye. Although most planes are made from balsa wood and foam, the Lawrence Tech plane has a Kevlar body, the same material used in bullet-proof vests.

Because of sound designing and testing, the Lawrence Tech plane was still mostly intact, with damage confined to the front. During the four hours it took to fix the damage, Lawrence Tech’s team missed the second and third rounds and dropped to 23rd place.

Much to the surprise of the spectators, Lawrence Tech was back on the starting line for the fourth round. The plane flew with 10.9 lbs. The “comeback kids” had arrived, moving up nine places.

In the fifth round, Lawrence Tech moved into the top 10 when the plane successfully flew with 15.3 pounds.

Since the rain predicted for Sunday could have canceled any further rounds, the Lawrence Tech team decided to go all out in the sixth round. They increased the payroad to 22 pounds, which would give them bonus points for getting close to their predicted weight. The plane lifted off, but was about 3 feet beyond the 200 feet take off zone. No points.

On Saturday night the team could only hope for acceptable weather on Sunday as they made some adjustments to try for 22 pounds again.

On Sunday, the rain held off long enough for two more rounds. In the seventh, Lawrence Tech plane got in the air with 22 pounds and the green flag went up to indicate a 200-feet take off. But the judge was being lenient, and the pilot was already throttling back the plane because he knew the 200-foot take off zone had been exceeded. No points.

Only a few planes were left in the field for the final round before the rains came. Lawrence Tech successfully lifted off with 20 pounds aboard—the fourth heaviest load in the competition. That accomplishment moved the team from 23rd to eighth place, and only 3.6 points out near 200 points behind the team in fifth place.

Lawrence Tech was the only team in the top 16 that did not get the first round bonus points and was one of a few teams in the top ten that did not get any prediction bonus points.

The University community should be very proud of its 2009 SAE Aero Design Team, which finished first among Michigan teams. The team members successfully designed a plane that could withstand excessive forces and loads and still be lightweight and aerodynamically sound. And just as importantly, they overcame adversity and worked as an extraordinary team to earn Lawrence Tech’s best finish ever.

Sharing a Touch o’ Green

Lawrence Tech’s faculty and staff celebrated St. Patrick’s Day a few days early at Café Lawrence on March 12. Wearing the green was a big part of the occasion, and in the photo Varvara Burden of the president’s office (R) paints a shamrock on the cheek of Dorrie Frontera of the student affairs staff. Left is Judy Sullivan of campus facilities, who won the prize for the best St. Patrick’s Day costume.

Prism Artists’ Showcase is May 1

The Prism Artists’ Showcase will be held May 1 from 3-5 p.m. in room M336 of the Buell Management Building. It will feature brief presentations by artists and writers whose work appears in this year’s issue of Prism. Writers will read their published work and visual artists will speak about the composition of their artwork. This is an opportunity for an “inside look” at the creative process.
Students Play Major Role in Preserving Historic House

By Eric Pope
Tech News Editor

Two Lawrence Tech students majoring in architecture and construction management are playing a role in architectural history at a Bloomfield Hills house designed by America’s most famous residential architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Seniors Justin Butler and Doug Metiva both spent last summer working on restoration projects while living at Affleck House, and they plan to return again this summer. Butler worked on the house with another student, Steven Loiselle, in 2007.

The 2,350-square-foot Affleck House is one of Wright’s smallest commissions in terms of size and was considered a home for a family of modest means. A construction model was displayed in the Museum of Modern Art prior to its completion in 1941.

In 1978, Affleck House was donated to the University by Mary Ann Lutomski and Gregory P. Affleck, the children of the original owners, Gregor and Elizabeth Affleck.

Lawrence Tech maintains the home as a powerful teaching tool for students in the College of Architecture and Design. The restoration work done by Butler and Metiva is reminiscent of Wright’s own Taliesin Fellowship program for students who repaired and remodeled his homes in Wisconsin and Arizona during his lifetime.

In coming up with restoration projects, Butler and Metiva have worked closely with Associate Dean Joseph Veyser and Facilities Coordinator Brian Raymond of the College of Architecture and Design.

Butler said the university administrators have given him and Metiva a lot of responsibility for planning and performing restoration projects. “We told them what we wanted to do on the house, and they allowed us to go at our own pace,” he said. “They had trust in us.”

Restoring the house’s tidewater cypress siding was last year’s major project. After replacing rotten planks up to 30 feet long, the students refinished the siding using a special recipe provided by Akzo Nobel Coatings for Sikkens stain sealer. The biggest challenge was to replicate the original color of the siding.

The students replaced sections of the substructure for the siding, working on scaffolding underneath a section of the house built out from a hill. They rebuilt stands for copper boxes used as planters.

Dealing with wasps and bees that have nested around the house was an occupational hazard.

When they return this summer, Butler and Metiva will repair water damage from a leaky roof in the bedroom wing. Once again, a major challenge will be to match the original shades.

By living there, Butler and Metiva eliminated the musty smell of a vacant house and improved the house’s condition in numerous small ways, according to Raymond.

“The neighbors were pleased to see us living there and sometimes provided cold drinks while we were working,” Metiva said. “A lot of people came by and appreciated the opportunity to tour the house.”

The two students have worked with blueprints for the house, and Metiva said it is instructive to see what went into building the original house and what has been changed from the original plans.

Change was a constant for Wright and his houses. Mrs. Lutomski remembers that when Wright visited a few months after her family’s house was completed “one of the first things he did when he walked in was pick up a saw and cut off the end of a built-in bookshelf that made the space for our piano a little tight.”

Wright enjoyed designing houses to fit unique settings. “Find a site on which no one else can build,” he wrote to original owner Gregor Affleck.

Affleck House is considered a daring solution to the problems presented by the site. Sleeping spaces are recessed below grade while living spaces cantilever over a ravine. Skylights and floor wells provide natural ventilation. The house is faced with cypress siding and red brick and has polished concrete floors and interior walls of ship-lapped cypress.

Affleck House is in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and is one of the 50 most significant structures in the state, according to the Michigan Society of Architects.

Aided by donors, the University completed a wide-ranging restoration of the house and grounds in 1990. But maintenance and restoration are never-ending tasks at many historic buildings, and that’s especially true for houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Lawrence Tech’s Outreach Efforts Earn Carnegie Recognition

Lawrence Tech has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for its expanding community engagement and outreach efforts.

The community engagement classification is a recent addition to the Carnegie classification system for U.S. colleges and universities. Universities apply by submitting required documentation describing the nature and extent of their engagement with the community. This approach enables Carnegie to address elements of institutional mission that are not represented in the national data on colleges and universities.

Lawrence Tech is one of nine universities in Michigan – and only 119 nationwide – to receive the Carnegie designation in 2008 for both curricular engagement and outreach and partnerships. It is the only technological university in Michigan to earn that distinction.

“We have made community service an essential element in our leadership curriculum,” said Lawrence Tech President Lewis N. Walker. “Our students and faculty are helping to revitalize Michigan’s social fabric by working with a variety of community groups, and we believe these efforts enhance the educational experience at Lawrence Tech.”

Beginning with the class of 2011 – the entering class in 2007 – comprehensive leadership experiences strengthen each undergraduate program during all four years of college. Students practice what they have learned about leadership in the classroom by volunteering and leading projects for community and civic organizations.

With the exception of the three military academies, no other American college offered such a comprehensive approach to leadership education for all students when Lawrence Tech launched its leadership curriculum in 2007.

In its successful application, Lawrence Tech also cited 15 outreach programs and partnerships, including:

- University High School, where Lawrence Tech faculty developed college preparatory courses with an emphasis on technology and provide ongoing support to the Ferndale Public Schools. The first senior class had a 100 percent graduation rate in 2008.
- Kids’ Farm, which was established with support from the American Architectural Foundation to teach agricultural skills to inner-city children.
- The university’s entrepreneurial summer camp for middle school and high school students, which was developed with support from the Legacy Foundation and the Kern Family Foundation.
- Math Counts, a middle school math competition developed in partnership with the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.
Lawrence Tech Students Practice Urban Design Detroit’s East Side

A loft space at Gleaners Community Food Bank on Detroit’s east side was the scene of an exciting academic exercise known as a charrette over a single weekend in February. Students and faculty from Lawrence Tech, the University of Michigan, and the University of Detroit Mercy engaged community residents in far-reaching discussions about future plans for their neighborhoods.

The charrette produced an ambitious agenda of potential projects for the client, the Villages Community Development Corp. (CDC), which seeks improvements for six neighborhoods. The list included alternative energy sources such as wind turbines along the Detroit River, a diagonal greenway connector linking the neighborhoods, improved transportation such as a light rail line along Jefferson Avenue, and new housing and commercial spaces created by the conversion of underutilized warehouses.

Dean Glen LeRoy of the College of Architecture and Design clearly relished the dynamic give and take with students and the free flow of ideas. “It’s important for architecture students to get out of the classroom and into the community where new ideas and new projects can make such a big difference,” he said. “You need to talk to residents in order to get an understanding of what will work and what won’t.”

A project that could have occupied an entire semester was jammed into a single weekend of intense work. The students found that the tools they had gained in class – such as the ability to sketch quickly – were essential for the rapid flow of proposals and counter-proposals.

“It was like a sprint,” said student Josh Maddox. “But it was pleasant to step back and see how we came in completely cold on Friday and had some viable ideas by Sunday.”

“In a charrette you see the community’s perspective. They’re telling you what is important to them,” student Matt Hamrick said. “It was my first experience with people talking to us about real problems.”

It’s an experience all students should have, according to student Philip Lyzenga. “I found out how much people care about their neighborhoods, and how badly they want them to survive and prosper,” he said. “It looked like a gloomy area to me at first, but then I saw how much hope they had.”

Groundbreaking Research Puts Emphasis on People

The rise and fall of Detroit and its population have been studied by urban designers all around the world, but Lawrence Tech Assistant Professor of Architecture Constance Bodurow is concerned that they often don’t see the proverbial forest for the trees – or in this case the people instead of all the vacant buildings and empty lots.

“There is a morbid fascination with Detroit, especially for international urbanists,” said Bodurow, who is both an architect and an urban planner. “They see the city of Detroit, Bodurow has created models of social density – population and employment – that she overlays with an inventory of physical density: infrastructure including greenways, buildings, and historical and cultural resources.

Her project showcases data that can help the community coordinate social, economic and environmental goals – three major components for sustainable design and planning.

Bodurow believes urban designers should focus attention on areas like southwest Detroit where the population is growing. “We need to first value places where the people are concentrated,” she said. “When you model social density and then overlay it with the inventory of physical assets, you can start making better decisions about proposed projects and investments.”

Bodurow’s research partner is Calvin Creech, an adjunct professor who teaches GIS for the Department of Civil Engineering. “Working with Calvin has enriched and expanded my research project,” Bodurow said.

The grant funding also pays for a part-time research assistant, Jordan Martin, a fourth-year architecture student.

By Jon Zemke
Metromodemedia.com

Architecture graduate students from Lawrence Technological University have a vision for not only the Mellus Newspapers building, but the whole block it sits on in downtown Lincoln Park.

The class is part of Lawrence Tech’s College of Architecture and Design. It used the historic structure as an example of adaptive reuse and advocated for its renovation. City officials are pushing to demolish the building, but a grass roots group of local residents, the Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance, is advocating that it be reused and invited the class to use it for their semester project.

The 15 Lawrence Tech students came up with recommendations for the entire stretch of downtown along Fort Street. The plans call for creating a variety of art spaces, from galleries to youth art centers.

“You couldn’t think about that building without thinking about downtown and that block around it,” says Jim Stevens, an assistant professor of architecture at Lawrence Tech.

Suggestions included adding more trees and green space, along with renovating the block of buildings (80 percent of them are vacant) into modern, open spaces that respect the original architecture and urban attributes. The idea of adding more community-based organizations would attract more foot traffic and customers to the adjacent businesses.

The class also advocated making Fort Street friendlier to pedestrians by reducing the speed limit, adding more on-street parking, planting more trees on the sidewalk and median and installing crosswalks. The street is so large and car-dominant that it bisects a surprisingly intact traditional downtown.

The Mellus building is now a vacant structure at 1661 Fort Street. The 1940s building originally housed the local community newspaper, The Lincoln Parker. It’s named after William S. Mellus, who owned a number of community newspapers in the downriver area. The front of the single-story building is wrapped in porcelain enamel, giving it a mid-20th century feel. It earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.
Element One: Successful Trip to South Carolina

(continued from page 1)

Proponents of hydrogen as an alternative fuel source were thrilled to see the kart navigate a race course set up in a parking lot. Even though it wasn’t an actual race, the demonstration before a large crowd served as a shakedown cruise for the vehicle that had been substantially rebuilt since the first Formula Zero race in Rotterdam last August.

The team dealt with an overheating problem and also replaced a part that broke during the test runs. “That’s what racing is all about,” Fletcher said.

The kart has reached a top speed of 36 miles per hour on the course’s short straights, and that’s one area where the team continues to look for ways to improve. The team plans to challenge the land speed records for hydrogen fuel cell karts, perhaps as early as next month.

“Any acceleration is very comparable to a sporty car,” said Adrian Snyder, the student team leader of Element One and a senior majoring in mechanical and electrical engineering. “We know we can do better. We believe it’s capable of doing 60 or better.”

The South Carolina trip was a tremendous success for the team because one of its goals is to change the way people think about energy and sustainability through high-performance, zero-emissions racing. Team members hope to increase industry support for and public awareness of hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Last year the Lawrence Tech was one of six universities in the United States and Europe that qualified for the Formula Zero racing series.

The kart’s unique carbon-fiber body took first place in the design competition and was featured in Popular Science. The body was designed by students in the transportation design program of the College of Architecture and Design.

Steel Bridge Team: Heading for the Nationals Again

(continued from page 1)

to show their appreciation as the five teammates worked like a smooth-running engine to assemble the 20-foot structure in the fastest time of the day.

But there were some tense moments for the Lawrence Tech team. A bolt had been dropped, one member of the construction crew had stepped over a restraining line, and the bridge failed to meet one of the required measurements. It looked like the team from Michigan State University might come out on top once all the penalties were added.

But the three penalties only added 45 seconds to Lawrence Tech’s official time, and 7:21 was good enough for first place in construction speed.

The Lawrence Tech team also finished first in display, stiffness and efficiency. Its bridge was second in the lightness category and third in economy. The University of Michigan finished second overall, and Michigan Tech was third.

Knust said the team plans to eliminate a few pieces on the bridge that aren’t necessary and reduce the weight below 140 pounds on the structure that can support 2,600 pounds.

“We want to make it lighter and faster to assemble,” Knust said. “We need to improve some on our construction speed [for the nationals].”

Jensen said the team was very well prepared for the regional competition. “The bridge was very well designed, and the execution on the project was impressive from start to finish,” she said.

Day of Service: 50 Volunteers from Lawrence Tech

(continued from page 1)

gratitude by one of the neighboring homeowners shouting, ‘thank you, thank you!’ from her back door really made us beam with pride,” said Leslie Wilson, coordinator for student activities.

“I really enjoyed the process of servicing the community. I felt I did something that could make others live better and I also gained satisfaction from this event,” said Taojie Hua, sophomore and SOUL member.

The rest of the participants went to Looking for My Sister, which provides transitional housing, life skills training and career planning, among other services. Volunteers helped organize and relocate donations, a task that the understaffed organization could not have accomplished on its own.

According to the United Way, the volunteers’ efforts totaled 200 hours of community service with an estimated value of $4,000.

In addition to providing much-needed service to the community, the Day of Service also strengthened the camaraderie between students from different organizations.

“I enjoyed the Day of Service because I got to know new people who I would never have met otherwise. Also, I got to joke and have fun with the friends I already have,” said junior Katherine Stevens.

The event was the first of possibly many campus-wide opportunities organized by SOUL, a new student organization committed to inclusive leadership through community engagement.
Students Discuss Big Ideas at Al Farabi Café

By Eric Pope
Tech News Editor

There’s an old saying that you shouldn’t discuss religion or politics in polite society, but that’s not the case at Al Farabi Café, a new student organization that makes a point of discussing topics that are hard to broach in casual conversation.

Every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in room M212 off the atrium in the Buell Management Building, Associate Professor Philip Vogt and about a dozen students meet for 90 minutes of debate and discussion on weighty subjects involving religion and philosophy. While American partisan politics don’t come up very often, the larger issues involved with democracy and other forms of government are fair game.

“We’re able to discuss religion without people getting defensive. We respect each other,” said Christina Minter, an officer of the group and a senior majoring in psychology.

Al Farabi Café is a reincarnation of the Atheneum, a Lawrence Tech student group that focused on philosophy. The new format opens up discussion to a broader range of topics and cultural perspectives outside western European traditions.

The group takes its name from the tenth-century Persian philosopher, Muhammad Al Farabi. Although he was the chief commentators on Aristotle. His knowledge was encyclopedic.

The group is very diverse, attracting students from Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries, India, China and Malaysia. There are Chaldeans and African Americans. Participants come from all four colleges.

“People are afraid to ask cultural questions for fear of offending people [from other parts of the world], and here you can ask without having that fear,” said Yasser Alwan, a computer science graduate student from Saudi Arabia who is the group’s first officer. “But it’s important to ask questions because people tend to be ignorant about other people’s faiths. This is an easy way to learn … and become more sensitive to others on religion and race.”

The group had a lively debate on Middle East politics when Israel mounted its military offensive against Hamas in Gaza earlier this year.

Minter said the debating and conversational formats help participants become better speakers who can organize their thoughts and marshal their arguments better. The group is encouraged to find the flaws in the arguments that are presented.

“We step out of our comfort zones and become better speakers. It helps you find flaws in your own speaking patterns” she said.

Al Farabi Café recently started a Facebook page, billing itself as “a Socrates cafe styled discussion group modeled after the writings of Al-Farabi.”

Over 300 students from Eastover Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills brought youthful enthusiasm to the Architecture Building gallery for three days ending April 1 when they constructed a “Green Box City” with some help from Dean Glen LeRoy and several students of the College of Architecture and Design.

Green Box City is an educational program promoted by the American Institute of Architects to increase an understanding of urban design by combining art, architecture, creative thinking, city planning, design, construction, fun and learning.

The students built a scale model of a city made from recycled materials that illustrates city planning and architectural principles based on energy conservation and sustainability. The building models had solar panels, green roofs, roof gardens and water conservation systems. Students decided their buildings would be made with reclaimed bricks or other recycled materials. The houses were situated in the streetscape so that their solar panels were facing south to take maximum advantage of sunlight.

“Perhaps some of these students will decide to make a difference through careers in architecture, urban planning or alternative energy,” LeRoy said.

Part of Eastover’s Green Box City will be on display May 1-3 in downtown Plymouth during the Green Street Fair, which promotes the benefits of green, organic and eco-friendly products and services.

“We have teamed with the Bloomfield Hills Schools and ITC Holdings because we all want to promote environmental awareness and green design,” LeRoy said. “The kids learn about how a city is constructed and some of the ways to make a city more environmentally friendly.”

Elementary Students Build Green Box City at Lawrence Tech

Students from Eastover Elementary School received some guidance in the construction of their Green Box City from (L-R) Dean Glen LeRoy and students Luke Wojewuczki, Christine Sass and Gonzalo Ara-Ruiz of the College of Architecture and Design.

Marburger Awards to Be Presented April 28

The 2009 Mary E. and Richard E. Marburger Fund for Excellence in Achievement Awards will be presented at an April 28 reception in Café Lawrence from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Dessert and punch will be served. The winners receive a $1,000 honorarium and a commemorative citation.

The Marburger Awards Committee has selected the following winners for 2009:

- Staff Person of the Year: Tamara Braswell, University Housing.
- Faculty Member of the Year: Ruth Favro, Math and Computer Science.
- Administrator of the Year: Bruce Annett, Marketing and Public Affairs.
Many Benefit from 100 Days of Fitness

By Will Dyer
Student Recreation Intern

As our campus recreation intern, I had the opportunity to design 100 Days of Fitness, a 100-day, 100-mile program to help our Ridley members get a jump-start in the new year on developing a better and healthier body.

The program was a big success with 18 participants. At the start participants filled out questionnaires, weighed in and had their body fat levels taken. The participants were then given handouts with 100 shoes to be marked off, which were placed in the 100 days folder at the front desk. After the participants worked out, they would then mark off how many shoes they earned that day.

Participants earned two shoes for attending fitness class, and one shoe for each of the following activities: tennis activity (30 minutes), ping pong (60 minutes), biking (30 minutes), running or walking (1 mile), stair climber (30 minutes), elliptical (30 minutes), cross trainer (30 minutes), weight lifting (30 minutes), jumping rope (15 minutes), and heavy bag/Speedbag (15 minutes).

A tracking chart was located on the wall behind the front desk, so the participants could see who the competition was and be motivated to work even harder to get to the finish line.

Prizes went out to the first finishers in the different divisions, but everyone will receive a T-shirt for finishing. The 100 Days program ends May 5, so if you're reading this, you still have time to finish!! Congratulations go out to:

- Faculty winner: Steve “Marathon Man” Howell, who won a one-year field house membership.
- Alumni winner: Chris “Calves” Jurczak (one-year field house membership).
- First female student to finish (and first overall): Val “Green” Tetro, who won a $50 gift card to Dunham’s.
- First male student to finish: James “S4” Oh ($50 gift card to Dunham’s).

I would like to thank all of our participants, our field house staff, Scott Trudeau and Al McLaughlin for their hard work in making this program successful. You Rock!

Work Hard Or Go Home!

Multiple Skills Required for Table Tennis Doubles

Table tennis is so entertaining because it defies the laws of geometry. As anyone who has played in a rec room fully understands, a ping-pong table simply isn’t big enough to accommodate four people. The key skill that every doubles team must master has nothing to do with shot-making or defense. Rather, it’s having the agility to get out of the way of your partner.

In doubles table tennis, partners must alternate shots. That means the goal of any team is to sow confusion in the enemy – to make it so the player whose turn it is has to get through his/her partner to do so. The highlight of a doubles match is when partners kick, trip or smash into one another!!

On March 21 Student Activities held a 10-team, double-elimination tournament at the Field House! We’d like to thank all the participants that showed up ready to play! Our champions were Greg Pilch and Bill Navas. The team of Yake Wang and Brett Blake finished second, and Youssef Alharbi and Majid Akhoudr were third.

— Will Dyer

Un-Legit was the winning team in the White Division of Lawrence Tech’s Intramural Basketball league. Members are (L-R) Scott Boelema, Marques King, Kevin Thornton, Mike Chinuka, Nick Wallis, Andy Walerski and Andrew Post.

Intramural Basketball Is a Valued Tradition at Lawrence Tech

By Will Dyer
Student Recreation Intern

Another season of intramural basketball at Lawrence Tech has wrapped up – no more bundling up to make the drive or walk over to the field house, fighting the below-freezing temperatures, to play on Tuesday and/or Thursday nights.

Nobody seemed to care about how much playing time they got. Points didn’t matter that much and even winning or losing seemed to be only a little push. It was more about having fun and spending time with friends and hopefully getting that Lawrence Tech Intramural Championship T-shirt at the end of the season.

During the first few possessions of the game, everyone has a smile on their face, players are making small talk and everyone is having a good time. Once the game picks up a little bit, you’ll notice some players take intramurals more seriously than others. Some eye-rolling occurs and small talk transforms into smack talk.

It seems the most anticipated break is halftime, when very few words are exchanged about basketball. Those three minutes become time to talk about what you did over the weekend and what your plans are while you try to stretch out the leg cramps and re-hydrate.

At the end of the game, win or lose, most players leave the gym with a sense of accomplishment. Those 40 minutes of running a basketball court not only gives players a great workout, it reminds them of how special basketball is.

We’d like to congratulate our two champions this past session: Bordon Gergstrom and Un-Legit. We’d like to thank all the teams and players that contributed to another great season of intramural basketball here at the field house.

Big thanks go to our referees – Alan Craighead, Andy Walerski, Kevin Thornton, Sean Xu, Jason Zheng, Phil Lucas, Joe Fox and Roger Blanton – and of course Scott Trudeau for putting the season together.

We’d also like to congratulate everyone who participated in our first annual Lawrence Tech basketball all star game. Kevin Thornton was named MVP for his 10 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks. Matt Koster won the free throw contest by making 30 out of 30. Will Mack won the three-point contest, and Will Mack won the hot shot contest.

If you’re looking for something to do next year, remember that love of basketball you have. Come on out to the field house – there’s always a spot for you on a team!