



The old President's Home, photographed in 1912, is now the Ropp Center, a university faculty and staff club.
It was 1912, the year the Titanic set sail for New York, L.L. Bean launched its first catalog, Perry Como was born, Chevrolet designed its first car, the Girl Scouts were founded, Fenway Park opened, and Oreos took their inaugural dunk into milk.



Louisiana Tech University
Division of University Advancement
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LOUISIANA TECH MAGAZINE

VOL. I | NO. 11 | FALL 2003



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH
ON BLINDNESS

**THE NEED WAS
ALWAYS REAL**
Institute on Blindness opens

YOUNG ALUMNI
Making a mark after Tech

HOMECOMING
Friends, fans, honorees and a bird's-eye view

TOLLIVER HALL
From dated cafeteria to cyber central



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY
www.latech.edu

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A Word from the Alumni Director

With homecoming behind us and the school year in full swing, we bring you the first installment of Louisiana Tech Magazine—a new take on Alumni News—which you likely have received for years.

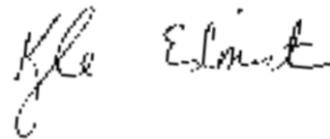
The Alumni Association and the division of marketing and public relations are working to improve communications with alumni and friends. Louisiana Tech's magazine has a unique role because it's one way we can regularly connect with alumni — 75,000 at latest count.

You will still get the magazine twice a year, but its new name will better reflect what's inside. We'll highlight significant national or international stories in which Tech is involved — the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness, for example. We'll keep you up-to-date on research and innovation springing from among the ranks of our students, faculty and staff. We'll work hard to feature what our alums are accomplishing around the globe. You will also receive a message from President Dan Reneau in every issue.

One editorial change to the new magazine format is that the “News About You” section is now a supplement to the magazine. Whether that section comes stapled into the magazine as it does this time or arrives separately, you will still receive “News About You” twice a year.

Meanwhile, we want to hear from you. Please let the Alumni Association know about significant events in your life. You can do this via our Web site, www.latechalumni.org, or you can mail us your information. We also welcome your thoughts, story ideas and suggestions for Louisiana Tech Magazine. Please send them my way by e-mailing kyle@latechalumni.org or writing to Louisiana Tech Magazine, P.O. Box 3183, Ruston LA 71272.

Thank you for your continued support of Louisiana Tech University and the Louisiana Tech Alumni Association.



ABOUT THE COVER

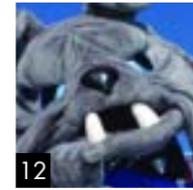
Ron Gardner is the director of Louisiana Tech's Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness located in Woodard Hall.



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FROM THE 16TH FLOOR

“NEARLY 12,000 STUDENTS ARE NOW PURSUING A
QUALITY TECH EDUCATION, THIS DESPITE OUR
ADMISSION STANDARDS BEING RAISED AGAIN.”

- Daniel D. Reneau, president

Right now let's look back at some of the reasons our reputation continues to grow. Apart from the fact that Tech puts “fierce commitment to students” at the very top of its priorities, the university just keeps adding to the ways in which it triumphs on so many fronts:

The Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness, begun as a program of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, is now part of our College of Education.

You will learn more about it in this magazine, but I need to say something here as well: This institute is profoundly important in a world where we cannot afford to waste anyone's talents and gifts.

And you can't talk about the institute without talking about Joanne Wilson. Founder of the Louisiana Center for the Blind and able champion of the institute, she didn't just open doors, she tore them off the hinges so that all of us, blind and sighted alike, could gain entrance to a more enlightened place. She is well-placed as the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration commissioner.

Other welcome news at Tech continues to be the explosion in new facilities and renovations. More than \$60 million in projects testify to the progressive spirit here: a renovated Tolliver Hall (open) and Ropp Center (open); a new Hale Hall (opening next year); University Park housing (beginning construction); and a long-hoped-for biomedical engineering building (in advanced planning stages).

OTHER SOURCES OF PRIDE AT TECH

- An academic honor code went into effect this fall, making Tech the first school in the University of Louisiana System to have such a policy. The new code will not only educate students and help them fine-tune their ethical development, it will also give their Tech transcripts more merit.
- In advancement, five professorships have been added through donations and state matching funds, bringing the university total to 100.
- Tech's emphasis on creative and performing arts has earned the designation of “unique area of excellence” at the university for Tech's School of Art, School of the Performing Arts, School of Literature and Languages, and the department of journalism, all within the College of Liberal Arts.
- Education's doctoral program in counseling won landmark accreditation from the American Psychological Association this past year.
- Our new SGA president, Jennifer Porter, began serving as the lone student member of the ULS Board of Supervisors, which not only makes her one of my bosses, but also gives Tech a powerful voice at the system level.
- Having garnered an award of almost \$1.4 million, a program teaming Tech students with K-12 teachers and their students is trying to make science, math and engineering more accessible.
- Our student debate team finished second in a national championship tournament, and Tech journalism students garnered many of the top awards at a seven-state competition.

- A \$265,000 grant from the National Science Foundation brought students from across the nation this summer to conduct nanotechnology research alongside professors at Tech's Institute for Micromanufacturing.
- Teaming faculty, students and the community, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology, CEnIT, has served as a catalyst for activities in technology-based commercialization and business development.
- In sports, the Lady Techsters basketball team went to the Sweet 16 with a new coach and only one senior, leading to expectations that the coming season holds more promise than ever. The Miami football game put Tech's name and face in 91 million homes, and the Michigan State game, well, that put a smile on all our faces.
- A cooperative alumni effort has remodeled and refurnished my office. I wasn't aware how shabby the office was until I was made to see the light. Apparently styles have changed since 1972 when this office was first furnished. Who knew? Now there are new drapes, furniture, lighting, a wooden floor and a beautiful oak wall unit. Even the adjoining conference room and hallway got makeovers. Donated labor, the generosity of Tech alumni, and Tech staffers made it all possible. I'm proud and thankful.

Tech has indeed had another good year, but it's been a hard year in the Legislature. It may be difficult for Tech to eclipse this remarkable year anytime soon, but that's the goal. Whatever cards we're dealt, we'll all be here, making sure Tech continues to triumph. 🏆

There's a feature on our newly designed university Web site called Tech Triumphs that showcases some of the many Tech graduates who have gone on to find continued success and fulfillment.

I want to steal the name of that feature and change one word from a noun to a verb.

Tech triumphs!

For the second straight year we have seen the blessings of good fortune team up with the fruits of hard work to yield three record enrollment categories for fall – overall enrollment, entering freshmen, and graduate students.

Nearly 12,000 students are now pursuing a quality Tech education, this despite our admission standards being raised again. This reinforces something you'll get tired of hearing long before I get tired of repeating it: Good students want to go to good universities. And here they are in droves to prove it.

Even so, after seven straight enrollment increases, I certainly never expected we would pick up almost another 700 students. That shouldn't have surprised me as much as it did, knowing Tech's reputation for combining a nurturing environment with a fierce pride in research and scholarship.

Another increase in admissions standards is planned for 2005. If that doesn't slow things down, you may hear those whispers growing louder about Tech putting a cap on its enrollment. We'll have to wait and see.



- 1 | A beacon at night: The newly renovated Tolliver Hall is open until 2 a.m.
- 2 | This innovative product design class devises marketable add-on products for the Segway™ Human Transporter.
- 3 | Sophomore journalism major Julie Miller, who writes a teen column for The (Shreveport) Times, interned this past summer at CosmoGirl magazine in New York.
- 4 | Angel Osuna, a master's student in biology from San Diego, shows a sixth-grader the wonders of a Tech lab.



Ron Gardner, institute director, and Mary Jo Thorpe, a master's student from Woods Cross, Utah, share a laugh.



"HISTORICALLY, BLIND PEOPLE AND BLINDNESS HAVE BEEN SEEN AS A TRAGEDY. THE REAL PROBLEM OF BLINDNESS IS NOT THE LACK OF EYESIGHT, BUT THE MISCONCEPTIONS."

- Ron Gardner, director for the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness

"Historically, blind people and blindness have been seen as a tragedy," institute director Ron Gardner said. "The real problem of blindness is not the lack of eyesight, but the misconceptions."

The institute, officially opened in March 2003 in the College of Education, is addressing what Gardner and others say is a desperate need to expand the development of blindness professionals and erase backward notions about blind people.

"We're in the College of Education for a reason," he said. "Our students are here to learn to be teachers."

The college now offers a master's degree in educational psychology with a concentration in orientation and mobility (O&M), as well as a master's of education with certification in teaching blind students.

Both blind and sighted students are enrolled in the master's programs. That, said Gardner, is a matter of note; until recently many similar programs across the nation barred blind students.

Additionally, the graduate program at Tech is the only one in the state that has the O&M component. Sighted students must wear sleep shades – specially designed blindfolds – to learn cane travel. They get some of their experience through classes at the Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) in Ruston.

Brown said her O&M experience taught her that she is no different from blind students when it comes to being apprehensive about new challenges.

"That makes me a better teacher now," Brown said.

The institute has a twofold mission: to equip both blind and sighted graduate students to become professionals who work with blind children and adults, and to conduct and coordinate research geared toward removing social and employment obstacles that often confront blind people.

"Our institute is based on the philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind – that it is respectable to be blind," Gardner said. "The institute is also dedicated to taking blind people from dependence to independence."

The institute grew from the recognition of a need. It was nearly a decade ago that Jo Ann Dausat, dean of the College of Education, had a revelation while supervising a student teacher in an elementary classroom.

"She had wonderful visual aids, was doing everything perfect," Dausat recalled. "But her eyes kept darting from me to a blind student. I realized he was not benefiting at all from these visual aids, plus he was distracting the other children."

"I stood back and asked myself, 'What have we as an institution done to prepare her for that challenge?'" The answer came quickly, Dausat said. "Shamefully, very little. It hit me we better be looking for professional development opportunities for teachers already out there."

Soon Dausat sat down to talk with two other women: Dr. Ruby Ryles, who would work for the institute and who is the mother of a blind son, and Joanne Wilson, now U.S.

Rehabilitation Services Administration commissioner and then-director of the LCB in Ruston.

"I knew we had a resource here that we were not accessing for our students," Dausat said.

With Wilson's support and Tech President Dan Reneau's ardent belief in the concept, the institute was born. It was helped along when the Louisiana Legislature made an appropriation through the LCB, which then made awards to Tech.

The institute and the LCB maintain a close relationship, Gardner said.



Students make their way around Tech's campus.

THE NEED WAS ALWAYS REAL. NOW **THE DREAM** IS TOO.

It took a journey under sleep shades and a good cry before Christine Brown saw the light about blindness.

In 2001, Brown, who is sighted, earned a master's degree in educational psychology with a concentration in orientation and mobility. That degree, from the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech, prepared her to help blind people gain independence and meet their potential.

"The expectations for blind people have been set too low for too long," Brown said.

Brown, now a teacher of the blind at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, underscores a point that the institute is trying to make.

JOANNE WILSON

HONORARY DOCTORATE

Joanne Wilson, who is blind, rose above her own personal challenges to give bright futures to hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities.

In recognition of her service to Louisiana Tech, outstanding professional achievement and contributions to the community, Wilson, commissioner of the nation's Rehabilitation Services Administration, was awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities degree during Tech's spring 2003 commencement.

Wilson founded the Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) in Ruston – the state's first center for helping blind adults adapt to living independently – and was a driving force behind the establishment on Tech's campus of the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness.

Wilson "has brought honor to our state and nation and has opened doors of education and opportunity to countless blind people," Tech President Dan Reneau said.

Prior to her appointment as RSA chief by President George W. Bush in August 2001, Wilson was director of the LCB.

Her passion for improving rehabilitation and education services in Louisiana led her to establish eight additional programs to increase the employment potential of Louisiana's blind citizens.

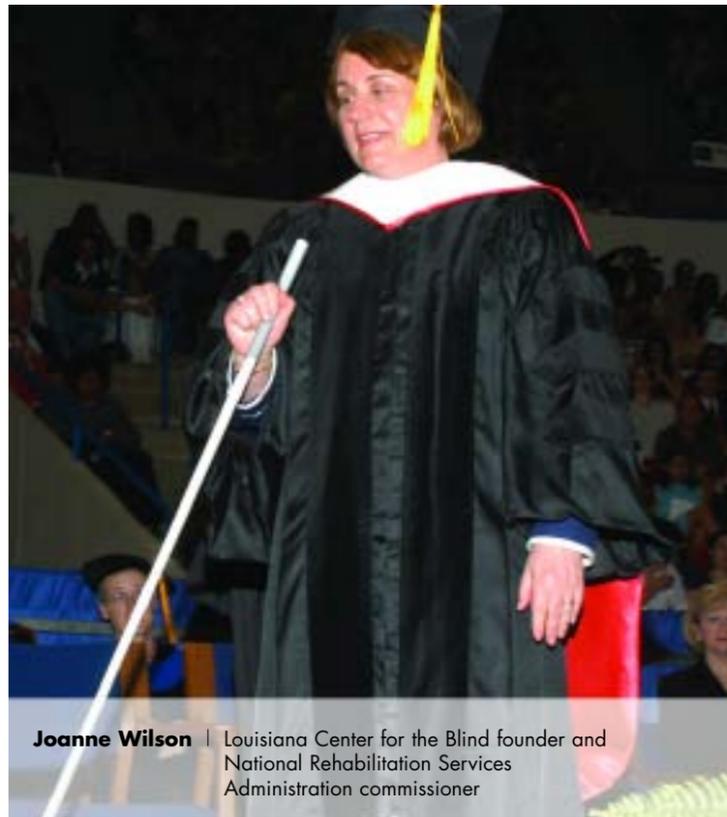
While Wilson was at LCB, she worked with Tech's College of Education to develop mutually beneficial coalitions. Those efforts resulted in grants, courses specifically designed for teachers of the blind, and a master of arts program with a specialization in orientation and mobility.

Building on that success, Wilson continued working with the college and lobbied the state Legislature to establish the institute, which began operating in October 2001.

"The purpose is to further expand the whole concept of what blind people can do and to do research," Wilson said.

The Iowa native, whose own blindness is the result of an incurable eye condition diagnosed during her childhood, spent her formative years believing blindness was not respectable.

It was only through her participation in an Iowa public rehabilitation program that Wilson realized she and other blind people could gain the skills necessary to compete and thrive in a sighted world.



Joanne Wilson | Louisiana Center for the Blind founder and National Rehabilitation Services Administration commissioner

"SHE HAS BROUGHT HONOR TO OUR STATE AND NATION AND HAS OPENED DOORS OF EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO COUNTLESS BLIND PEOPLE."

- Daniel D. Reneau, president

Wilson went on to earn both a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in guidance and counseling from Iowa State University. She taught in the Iowa public school system for four years before moving to Louisiana in 1979.

She said the LCB grew out of "a need to have a good program that would change the lives of blind people, and raise the expectation level of what can happen in the lives of blind people."

Wilson said the honorary degree held a lot of meaning for her because of where it came from.

"When your own folks who know you still say, 'Hey, we recognize her,' it's really a humbling honor," she said. "But it's not just a testimony to me at all. It's an honor that was given to lots of people. I just happen to have my name on it." 📖

MIKE McCALLISTER

LOUISIANA TECH TOWER MEDALLION RECIPIENT

Mike McCallister's first thought on learning he would receive Louisiana Tech's Tower Medallion was an instant "that's pretty remarkable."

"I was surprised," the 1974 graduate said, recalling the telephone call from Tech President Dan Reneau. "It's quite an honor."

McCallister, president and chief executive officer of health benefits company Humana Inc., received the award during spring quarter commencement in May.

The Tower Medallion is the highest honor given to an alumnus by the university's alumni association. The award recognizes professional achievement, civic or community involvement, and service to the university.

The Indianapolis native, who earned a bachelor of science in accounting, is a member of the Louisiana Tech Research Foundation Board. He earned a master's in business administration from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., in 1983.

McCallister is responsible for all operations of Humana, an \$11 billion enterprise with headquarters in Louisville, Ky. The company is one of the nation's largest publicly traded health benefits companies.

"When I was young, I knew I wanted to get a good job, make a good living," McCallister said. "Business was where I was headed."

After graduating from high school in Shreveport, La., – McCallister's father was transferred there in the mid-1960s with what was then Western Electric Co. – McCallister enrolled in Tech to study engineering. Then had a change of heart.

"Real quickly I realized I didn't want to do that," he said.

"WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I KNEW I WANTED TO GET A GOOD JOB, MAKE A GOOD LIVING. BUSINESS WAS WHERE I WAS HEADED."

- Mike McCallister, president and CEO of Humana Inc.

At the suggestion of the Tech Career Center, he tried accounting. Almost 30 years later, he figures the idea was a good one. "It was kind of natural," McCallister said.

Two weeks after graduating, McCallister began his career with Humana at a small hospital in Springhill, La., in the rural northwestern part of the state. He served in associate executive director/administrator capacities at various company hospitals until 1980.

Throughout the 1980s, McCallister was executive director of Humana hospitals in California and Arizona. He has held his current position since February 2000. All the while, McCallister has kept up with Tech, and takes in Bulldog football whenever possible.

He said his Tech experience suited him well. "It was a great mixture of small school, big school," McCallister said.

The university is poised to continue its tradition of excellence, he said. The decision to raise academic standards "will pay tremendous dividends. I think it's already begun to do it."

"Tech has always been a great school from the standpoint of its administration, its size," said McCallister, "and it's always been a friendly place." 📖



YOUNGALUMNI

THEY'RE ENERGETIC. THEY'RE ACTIVE. THEY'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE, AND THEIR HEARTS BEAT TECH RED AND BLUE.



faith
JENKINS

Hometown | Shreveport, La.
Graduation year | 1999
Degree | B.A., Political Science
Minor | English
Juris Doctorate | May 2003, Southern University Law School, Baton Rouge, La.
Valedictorian of her class
Employer | Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, LLP
New York City

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, LOUISIANA TECH'S ALUMNI HAVE MADE IT THEIR BUSINESS TO BE ON THE CUTTING EDGE. AS TECH GRADS THEY COULD DO NO LESS, RIGHT? CALL THEM MOVERS AND SHAKERS. CALL THEM UP-AND-COMING. THESE RECENT ALUMS ARE MOVING FORWARD AND MAKING THEIR MARK – AND CARRYING THE TECH TRADITION RIGHT ALONG WITH THEM. THEY'RE TECH TRIUMPHS.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Upon successful certification, my practice will primarily consist of commercial litigation. This international law firm has a commitment to encouraging pro bono work among its lawyers, which is one of the reasons I chose this firm.

HOW I CHOSE LAW: I decided to become an attorney when I was very young – still in elementary school. I didn't really understand what lawyers did besides what I saw on television, but there was something so intriguing about the profession and my goals never changed. I always had good communication skills and loved to read and write – those are three things every good lawyer must master!

REFLECTIONS ON TECH: My experiences were the most rewarding and challenging of my life academically, socially and spiritually. I met some of my very best friends to this day at Tech. Some great memories include cheering at football and basketball games, serving as an orientation student leader, being selected to the homecoming court, and of course, winning the title of Miss Louisiana Tech, which put my life on an entire new course.

REFLECTIONS ON COMPETING IN THE MISS AMERICA PAGEANT: When I won the title of Miss Louisiana 2000, it was my third time competing at the state level. I first competed as Miss Louisiana Tech in 1998 and placed in the Top 10 at state. But the third time was the charm for me. Through hard work and prayer, I won the title and a world of opportunities opened for me, including the chance to compete for Miss America. No other experience has shaped my life like preparing to become Miss America. I made friends with young women from across the nation, spoke about my platform to an audience of millions on primetime television, and reached a personal goal I had been working toward for years. I finished first runner-up in the Miss America Pageant on Oct. 14, 2000. It was an emotional experience when it was all over. I had won \$57,500 in scholarships at the pageant, more than \$15,000 at state – more than \$80,000 in scholarships in three years. Needless to say, I graduated from law school debt-free.



paulette
GREY

Hometown | Baker, La.
Graduation year | 2001
Degree | Biology with concentration
in animal biology
Minor | Chemistry
Currently | Second-year medical student,
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine,
Baltimore

ON ENTERING JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: I have a full-ride scholarship that is contingent on practicing for four years in an underserved area when I finish medical school. I grew up where there was a wide gap between the haves and have-nots. I want to give back and help those who can't afford the luxury of decent medical care. I plan to be a primary-care physician. I'm really excited about the variety of clinical experiences I will go through at Johns Hopkins. I also hope to travel abroad and examine health care in other countries. Really, the United States is just a microcosm of a much, much bigger health care picture.

ON THE SUMMER OF '03: I went to Ghana, Africa, on an HIV education/prevention mission. It was phenomenal. Every day I went to different villages and taught about health and prevention. I really feel the health field is global.

ON CHOOSING TECH: I chose Tech because the track coach recruited me. Tech served me well. At medical school, it's a lot about applying knowledge. At Tech, it was really emphasized to think instead of memorize.

ON CHOOSING A MAJOR: I've wanted to be a doctor since high school when I participated in a summer program that focused on biology. I love science because it's an exploratory field. I am captivated by the functions of the human body. My father is a mortician. I've watched him embalm so I can learn more about how the human body works. So, majoring in biology was the perfect match to my interests.

ON TECH ATHLETICS: I ran track all four years at Tech. While I knew my long-term aspiration was medicine, track was my outlet. I met so many different people and was able to travel. Track was my escape that helped me strike a balance with my classes. (Grey was the Tech track team's Student Athlete of the Year – all four years.)

ON FAMILY: I've had a lot of support along the way, even though my family struggled to make ends meet. My mother always encouraged me to try my hardest academically. She taught me and my siblings to work hard, help each other, and make the most of our talents.



sheri
GOODWIN

Hometown | Austin, Texas
Graduation year | 1991
Degree | B.A., Journalism
Minor | Business
Employer | Hewlett-Packard
Job title | Marketing communications specialist,
 North America

RESPONSIBILITIES: Sales force collateral, public relations, event marketing and new business generation.

HOW I GOT MY FOOT IN THE DOOR: A lot of companies look for writing experience, so my journalism degree helped. I networked and tapped into contacts from summer internships. I felt fortunate to have started in high-tech. I began at Austin Computer Systems in public relations. Then, I went on to a video conferencing company, VTEL, and finally a software company that was eventually acquired by Hewlett-Packard.

TOUGHEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE: Developing political finesse is vital in marketing communications because you interface with so many different people – from presidents to the media. Be open to different personalities, be flexible, and accept change. Change is the only thing that’s constant in my job!

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INDISPENSABLE EMPLOYEE: Flexibility and a great attitude at work.

ON CHOOSING A MAJOR: I started out in pre-med and got discouraged by chemistry. Then I pursued business and finally realized that I really wanted to be in journalism. I received an award at graduation for taking the most variety of classes. I think high school students get pressured into having a major in mind when they enter college. If you’re set on a major, great! But if you’re not, that’s fine, too.

FAVORITE DESTINATIONS: Paris – I had the opportunity to live there for five months. Also, Sydney, Australia, is great because the Aussies are easygoing and the landscape is beautiful.

MY TECH TRADITION: Both of my parents graduated from Tech, along with a number of relatives. My parents used to tease me: “You can go to college anywhere as long as you go to Tech!” Seriously, I chose Tech because of its comfortable size and friendly, Southern charm.



jon
MEARS

Hometown | Shreveport, La.
Graduation year | 1993
Degree | B.S., Biomedical Engineering
Minor | Math
Employer | Computer Motion, California
Job title | Program Manager

RESPONSIBILITIES: I work with surgeons on the development, training, installation and modification of robotic devices for use in operating rooms. Our company continually makes new instrument designs and software to meet the surgeons’ needs. I move surgeons through the process of using robots effectively in the OR.

ON COMMUNICATION: Being an effective communicator is imperative. I’m out in the field translating a surgeon’s needs to a team of engineers who build these robots in our headquarters in California. There’s a lot of back-and-forth. I’m involved on the hospital side and in the engineering design aspect.

HOW I GOT MY JOB: I got this job by searching the Internet. I wanted to work for a company in which I could be in hospitals and still use my engineering background. Computer Motion put its first surgical robots on the market in the early ’90s. I’ve been with the company since 1998.

MY TOUGHEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE: I’m stationed alone in Dallas. I don’t have anyone looking over my shoulder. Working without peer contact is tough. You can’t pop your head around your co-worker’s cubical to find a quick solution to a problem. There’s no one else around you who knows the equipment like you do. It’s the nature of the job.

ON WORKING FOR A SMALL COMPANY: You become an expert at a variety of jobs. For example, I know a lot about the FDA approval process and how it also works in European markets. I travel to operating rooms around the world where our robots are used.

REFLECTING ON MY CAREER FIELD: Biomedical engineering is huge. Health care is a great business to be in – it’s a life necessity. There’s so much technology on the horizon. It takes a biomedical engineer to understand it and make it work effectively.



robert
MUNSON

Hometown | Baton Rouge, La.
Graduation year | 2000
Major | Journalism
Minor | Graphic Design
Employer | 4Site Interactive Studios, Washington, D.C.
Job title | Vice president and founding partner

RESPONSIBILITIES: I manage the operations of all projects that we take on at 4Site. I work with employees and freelancers to achieve the best results for our clients. From creative concept development to business management, my job allows me to blend creative freedom with business know-how.

ON START-UP JITTERS: After Tech, I moved to D.C. to join the dot-com boom. I was associate director for marketing for Ntercept Communications, a software company, as well as senior producer for speakout.com. Both went belly-up. After the bust, a colleague and I decided to start our own business out of desperation. 4Site has been profitable since day one.

MY TOUGHEST PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE: Being a small-business owner is always tough and sometimes I crave the 9-to-5 life. It can easily dominate your life. But at the end of the day the reward is that much sweeter because you’ve earned it yourself. It’s an awesome job.

ON PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maintain good business relationships with previous colleagues. Don’t burn bridges. When we launched 4Site Studios, we sent out a mass mailing to 600 friends. Since then, our client base has steadily grown through referrals. If you do a good job with clients, the word spreads fast. Soon, you carve out a niche for your company and become part of an elite inner circle of D.C. businesses.

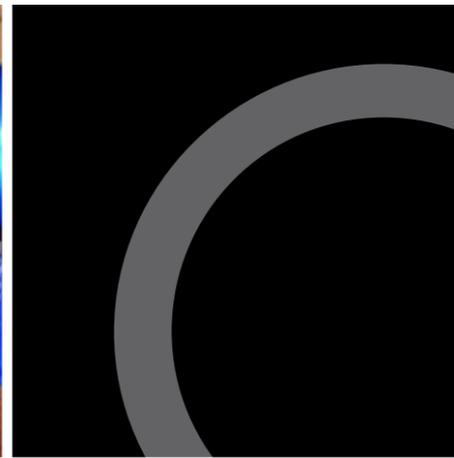
ON THE TECH TALK: Outside of classes, I devoted my time to the student newspaper. It’s an incredible feeling to be held accountable for producing a body of work every week. As managing editor, I was able to graphically refine the first online version of The Tech Talk, combining my interest in news and graphic design.



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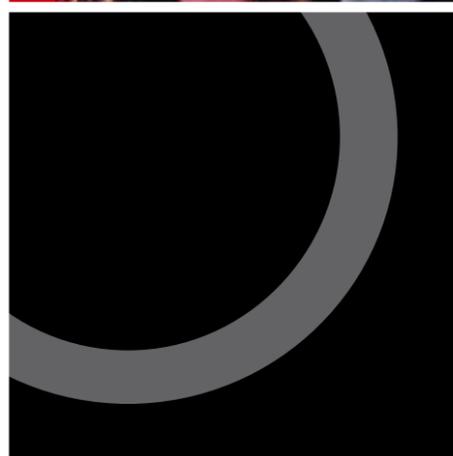
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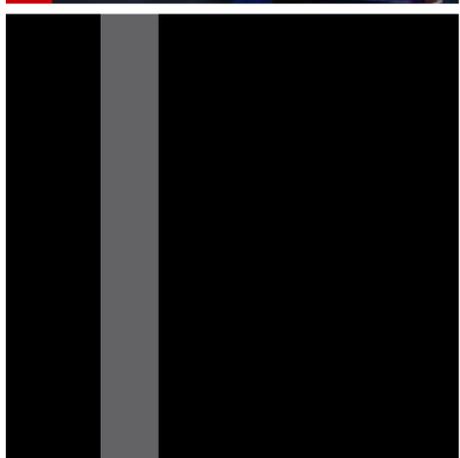
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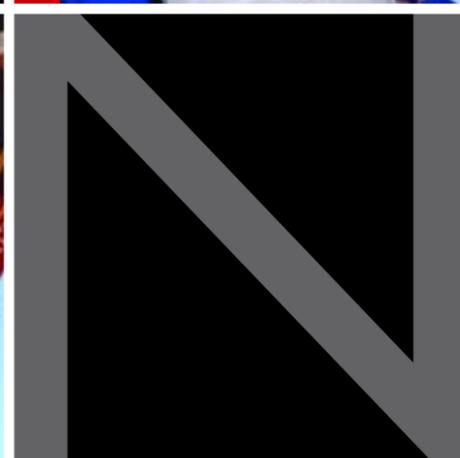
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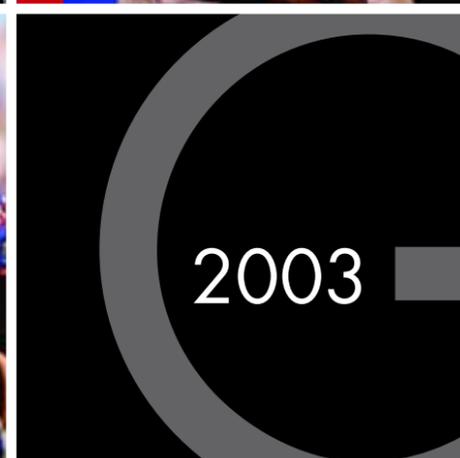
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- 1 | Freshman Band of Pride trumpeter **Nick Milage** from Bossier City marches in his first homecoming.
- 2 | **Walter Savage** ('54) of Ruston and **Leo Sanford** ('51) of Shreveport yuk it up at the alumni barbecue.
- 3 | **Carrie Stephenson Martorana** ('37) a retired teacher, traveled all the way from State College, Pa., to attend homecoming festivities. She is pictured with Corre Stegall, Tech's vice president for university advancement, at the Golden Society brunch honoring alumni.
- 4 | **Jennifer Teat** of Jonesboro, a senior nutrition and dietetics major, was selected as Tech's 2003 homecoming queen.
- 5 | **Alpha Phi Alpha Inc.** fraternity brought meaning to movement at the unity step show, an annual tradition during homecoming week in which Greek organizations perform choreographed routines using only their feet and hands to make intricate rhythms.
- 6 | President Dan Reneau recognizes **Harold Nasse** ('43), a retired Chevron employee from Spring Branch, Texas, on his 60-year Tech graduation anniversary.
- 7 | **Bulldog spirit** is all the rage, even at 11:33 p.m. during the pre-game pep rally held in Thomas Assembly Center.
- 8 | **Janet S. Wong** ('81), tax partner at KPMG LLP in Mountain View, Calif., is honored as the College of Administration and Business alumna of the year. She is pictured with Shirley Reagan, dean of the CAB.
- 9 | A colorful Louisiana icon bares his teeth as hot air balloon rides highlight homecoming festivities at Thomas Assembly Center.
- 10 | Sophomore running back **Ryan Moats** of Dallas advances into Hawaii territory. The Bulldogs were narrowly defeated 44-41.



DR. AGNES MILLER ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

When the Ropps first came to Tech, Agnes Miller served tea to Mrs. Ropp with a note of ladylike grace that belied her commitment to making sure female students left Tech knowing how to do a whole lot more than serve tea.

Miller served an elegant tea that day at the Old President's Home (now the Ropp Center) but she ended up serving generations of female students at Tech even better.

She was one of the professors leading a charge to widen the arena of home economics. She knew women needed good instruction whether they labored inside or outside their homes – business classes, for example, that gave them skills enough to budget and organize a household or an office.

Over the years, Miller would leave the campus she loved for career or family, but the Ruston native couldn't stay away.

"I supposed I always wanted to come back," said Miller, retired dean of Tech's former College of Human Ecology and the university's 2003 Alumnus of the Year.

It was under Miller's leadership that human ecology, now part of the College of Applied and Natural Sciences, began to broaden its horizons.

Research increased, the dietetics program was accredited (the first such accreditation in Louisiana), the early childhood education certification program began and fashion

merchandising took hold. The traditional emphasis on nutrition, family life and child development evolved to meet a world that demanded more.

"There was a great deal more emphasis on research that supported these fields," said Miller, who lives near the small northeastern Louisiana town of St. Joseph.

"The management emphasis was especially important because the principles of management are universal," she said. "It doesn't matter if you're talking about family or business."

Miller, the youngest of six children, considered law school and toyed with studying journalism, but her first love was home economics. She earned a bachelor of science from Tech in home economics in 1938.

In 1944, with a master's degree from Louisiana State University, Miller returned to Tech as the nutritionist at the A.E. Phillips Laboratory School. She began teaching home economics several years later.

Already, the program was evolving to meet what the nation had seen during World War II – new demands on women, along with new careers for them.

The changes – ones Miller would later build on as dean – were "a necessity," she said.

"Over the years we had graduates who would go wherever their husbands were working, and they had to find work wherever they were," she said. "Their training in management provided adaptability."

Miller began her own family and lived for a time in Texas before returning again to Tech in the mid-1960s, where among other things, she was instrumental in starting a home economics alumni scholarship program. After another brief hiatus earning a doctorate in food technology and nutrition at Florida State University, Miller returned to the campus to stay.

In 1969 she became dean of what was then the College of Home Economics. She retired in 1975.

She's watched the university evolve from a time when the long-gone tonk had sawdust floors to today's prominence of cutting-edge technology.

"I think there are high standards at Tech, and I think these high standards attract students of ability," Miller said.

And she's both seen and experienced the evolution of the modern family. Miller's the mother of two children, stepmother of three and grandmother to nine. Her days are now filled with friends and family and service on Tech's Alumni Foundation Board of Directors.

But Miller's years on campus remain close to her heart. Would she do it all over again, knowing now what she didn't know then? Miller's answer is a smile and a single word: "Sure." 📖

DR. ELENORA CAWTHON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

When Elenora Cawthon retired from Louisiana Tech in 1988, she asked only that she be invited back for an occasional special event.

At homecoming this year, she was. Cawthon, Tech's former dean of student services and interim vice president of student affairs, received a Distinguished Service Award as part of the 2003 homecoming celebration.

"I can't think what I have done to deserve that," Cawthon said. "I truly felt everything I did at Tech did more for me than it did for Tech. I had a great time at it."

The Mission Valley, Texas, native who characterizes herself as a cattle farmer like her father, spent 34 years at Tech, mostly as director of the placement office. All totaled, Cawthon spent 50 years as a teacher and school administrator.

Both during and after her years at Tech, Cawthon has gone about quietly doing good.

She's helped fund the student ski trip and established a scholarship in memory of her late husband, Tech education professor Dr. John Ardis Cawthon.

Elenora Cawthon is Dr. Cawthon as well. After two years of junior college in Victoria, Texas, she transferred to the University of Texas where she earned her undergraduate, master's and doctorate.

Despite her family's reservations, "I was going to be a teacher of social studies," she said.

Cawthon's road to Tech began while she was studying for her doctorate and met her future husband. Two days after they were married in May 1948, the newlyweds were on their way to Ruston where John Cawthon had accepted a summer position at Tech.

After a six-year stint at Arkansas Tech in Russellville, first John and then Elenora Cawthon returned to Ruston and Louisiana Tech.

It was September 1954 "and I called myself more or less retired," Cawthon said. "I hadn't really stopped working since 1938."

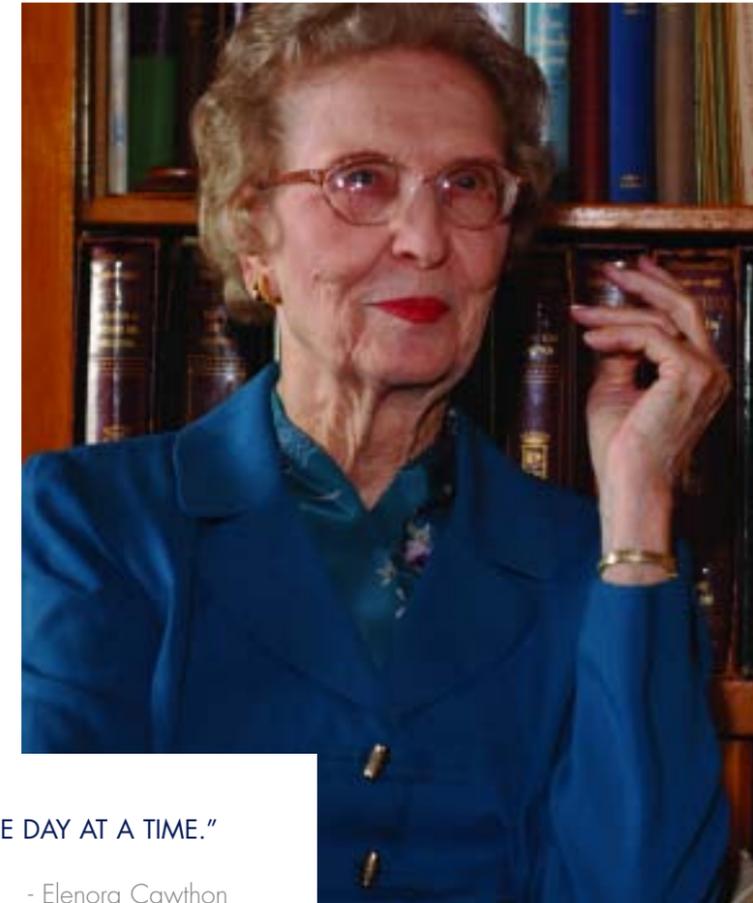
But in March 1955 she was asked to join what became the placement office. "Before many months, I was hooked," Cawthon said. She was working with seniors looking for jobs.

"I just knew that was the best job on Tech's campus," Cawthon said.

In 1970 when Tech became a university, Cawthon's title became dean of student services and director of placement.

She remembers the joy that swept across campus when enrollment hit 2,500. She's seen the campus grow literally to her front door, having lived in the same white house at the edge of the campus for more than 45 years.

Cawthon's life now revolves around her working cattle farm in Mission Valley, her daughter, two granddaughters, church and community. Cawthon said she's still getting used to the idea of having received the Distinguished Service Award. 📖



"I JUST ALWAYS FELT I HAD MY REWARD AT TECH – ONE DAY AT A TIME."

- Elenora Cawthon

COLLEGE ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

An accountant, a university nursing professor, a Civil War historian, a women's basketball coach and a retired executive are Tech's 2003 college alumni of the year.

The diverse group, each representing one of Tech's five colleges, was honored during homecoming week at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner. Recipients of the college awards are Janet S. Wong, College of Administration and Business; Debra Brossett, College of Applied and Natural Sciences; Terry Lyle Jones, College of Liberal Arts; Leon Barmore, College of Education; and Robert D. Duncan, College of Engineering and Science.



TERRY JONES

Jones has two degrees from Tech, a bachelor of arts in social studies education in 1975 and a master of arts in American history earned in 1978.

He is a history professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Jones holds a doctorate from Texas A&M in the U.S. Civil War. In addition to teaching, he has also worked as an archaeological survey consultant.

Jones has written five books on the Civil War, has won a number of professional awards, and is a former Outstanding Young Man of America.



JANET WONG

Wong is a tax partner with KPMG LLP and is based in the company's Mountain View, Calif., office. A native of Shreveport, La., Wong is a 1981 graduate with a master's degree in professional accountancy.

During her years with KPMG LLP, Wong has served in several leadership positions. She was promoted to partner in 1995.

Wong is a frequent speaker and author on tax issues. Her service to Tech includes membership on the university's College of Administration and Business Advisory Board.



LEON BARMORE

Barmore, retired head coach of the Lady Techsters, etched what could be called the most remarkable success story ever in women's collegiate basketball.

During his 20 years as the Techsters head coach, the 1967 graduate posted an 86.9 winning percentage for 576 wins vs. 87 losses. The percentage ranks him an all-time No. 1 among men's and women's Division I coaches.

He led his alma mater to the national championship game five times, claiming the title during the 1987-88 season. Barmore was recently inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.



DEBRA BROSSETT

Brossett is a 1987 Tech graduate with an associate's degree in nursing. She also holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Louisiana's Northwestern State University. Brossett is currently an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

While at Tech, Brossett was selected Outstanding Nursing Student and was named a Scholastic All-American by the United States Achievement Academy.

She is active in community health education, and serves as a resource person for hospitals, clinics and other health-related agencies in northeastern Louisiana.



ROBERT DUNCAN

Robert D. Duncan is a 1962 graduate with a degree in chemical engineering. He is the retired executive vice president of PPG Industries.

Duncan, a native of West Monroe, La., joined PPG as an engineer in the company's Lake Charles, La., chemicals complex. He became vice president, industrial chemicals-U.S. in 1980, and continued to move through the leadership ranks. Duncan was elected executive vice president in 1994.

Duncan is a member of the board of Pittsburgh (Presbyterian) Theological Seminary.

TOLLIVER HALL

ROPP CENTER



"I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO KEEP TOLLIVER ALIVE THAN TO PRESENT IT TO THE STUDENTS OF LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY."

- Daniel D. Reneau, president

Just call Tolliver Hall the new old Tech. An almost \$3 million renovation has transformed the 1930s-era cafeteria into a state-of-the-art cyber student center.

The revamped building, at the west end of Centennial Plaza near the heart of the campus, was dedicated during this year's homecoming celebration.

"I can't think of a better way to keep Tolliver alive than to present it to the students of Louisiana Tech University," Tech President Dan Reneau said in formally reopening the 24,000-square-foot facility.

"It blends the old and the new," said Jim King, Tech's vice president for student affairs.

Inside, a 120-foot mural named the Spirit of Tech features photos that depict what King said are Tech's core values: pride, integrity, excellence, respect, leadership, caring, knowledge, loyalty, enthusiasm, hope, commitment and confidence.

In addition to a cyber café that features stations for computers and Internet surfing, the new Tolliver houses multicultural

affairs, international student office, the Student Government Association and the Union Board, bringing together offices that were once scattered in three other campus buildings.

The Tech post office, located on the ground floor, has been enlarged. There's also an extension of the university bookstore, an information center, lounge and several eateries.

"It meets many needs of the students," SGA President Jennifer Porter said. "It's incredible the capabilities that we have in this building that we didn't have before."

King said the idea of creating a dynamic campus center was created more than a decade ago through a centennial campaign with the partnership of food-service provider Aramark.

Aramark provided the funds for the Tolliver renovation, as well as for the nearby and also newly renovated Ropp Center.

Tolliver was originally one of three dining halls on campus in the 1920s. The second-floor eating area was closed in the 1980s.

Tolliver was named for Irene Tolliver, Tech's first full-time dietitian.

After 50 years of wondering what was inside the big white two-story house near the center of the Louisiana Tech campus, Logan Damewood's curiosity has finally been satisfied.

"As a student you never saw this," said Damewood, of Longview, Texas, as he and other members of the Class of 1953 toured the renovated Ropp Center.

The center, home to seven university presidents until a new president's home was built on the north campus in 1972, has been remodeled into a faculty and staff club with bedrooms for on-campus guests on the second floor. The Ropp Center was dedicated during this year's homecoming celebration.

"They did an excellent job," Damewood said.

With its hardwood floors and period furnishings, the 7,500-square-foot facility retains the look and feel of the early 1900s. The Italian-style, wood-frame home was built in 1911. It is named for the late R. L. Ropp, Tech's 11th president who served from 1949 to 1962.

It was used by the former College of Home Economics from 1972 until 1985, when the Office of Special Programs moved into the facility.

In 2002, the Louisiana Tech University Foundation commissioned the redesign of the building.

The renovation also included extending the house's balconies and porches.

Tech graduate Judy Buckner painted the mural (pictured above) in the dining room that depicts eight significant events from Tech's early years. University Vice President Emeritus Virgil Orr made a stained-glass window above the stairwell.

The \$1 million for Ropp's renovations came through private funds mostly from Aramark, Tech's food-service provider. Aramark will manage the Ropp Center as well as the newly renovated Tolliver Hall by providing food service at each.

Some of the Ropp Center's furnishings were purchased by the university foundation.

Turning the home into a faculty-staff club has been a dream of Tech President Dan Reneau.

Reneau said he wanted to give something back to the faculty and staff in appreciation for their support throughout his administration.

"Seventeen years ago they supported me strongly to be president of Louisiana Tech, and they have continued that support," he said.

The Ropp Center is now the oldest remaining structure in use on the campus.

"I know my mother and father spread a lot of sunshine on this campus while they were here, and through this building they will continue to spread a lot of sunshine for years to come," said John Ropp, the middle of the Ropps' three children, during the dedication ceremony.

Ropp said his father "would walk the extra mile" for Tech students and faculty.

The late president's daughter, Lou Ropp, said the refurbished home continues to hold fond memories for her.

"I lived in this house from age 14 to age 20," she said. "It was wonderful. It was very exciting to live here."



"I KNOW MY MOTHER AND FATHER SPREAD A LOT OF SUNSHINE ON THIS CAMPUS WHILE THEY WERE HERE, AND THROUGH THIS BUILDING THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SPREAD A LOT OF SUNSHINE FOR YEARS TO COME."

- John Ropp



JENNIFER PORTER

INSIGHT FROM A STUDENT LEADER

"I'M COMMITTED TO THE GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM. THEY'RE ABOUT OUR UNIVERSITIES NOT BEING EVERYTHING TO EVERYBODY, BUT BEING THE BEST AT WHAT THEY ARE."

- Jennifer Porter



Jennifer Porter delivered an address at the Tolliver Hall ribbon-cutting ceremony held during homecoming. A smiling Jim King, vice president for student services, stands behind her along with President Dan Reneau, who likes to refer to Porter as "my boss."



Jennifer Porter sits behind a large wooden desk covered with random stacks of folders, notepads and other official-looking papers. Except for a few phone calls and the soft clack of a computer keyboard, Tech's Student Government Association office is fairly quiet for early afternoon.

"I'm committed to the goals of the University of Louisiana System," Porter said. "They're about our universities not being everything to everybody, but being the best at what they are."

Porter, a senior marketing major from Deville, La., knows about being the best. She's Tech's SGA president, and since June 1, the lone student member of the University of Louisiana System Board.

Porter was elected to the ULS board in May by a council made up of SGA presidents in colleges and universities within the system.

She sees her one-year tenure as "an opportunity to make a large impact on higher education."

Formed in 1974, the ULS oversees eight universities including Tech.

"I want to help all the schools become the best at what they're already good at," said Porter, who represents more than 80,000 students in the ULS.

Porter, Tech's 2002 homecoming queen, said she knew she wanted the ULS seat even while she was running for Tech's SGA post. The ULS student member must be a system campus SGA president.

During her first ULS meeting, Porter got to vote on Tech's request for final approval of land acquisition for several new parking lots and the University Park on-campus apartment project.

"That was exciting to me," she said. "I was able to express to the board members how important that was to the students."

Porter has an agenda. She wants to ensure that every eligible college student in Louisiana is registered to vote. And, she wants to go into the state's middle schools and talk to students there about college readiness.

Her goal? To encourage students to qualify for Louisiana's TOPS college scholarship plan so they'll stay in Louisiana for their post-secondary education.

Porter graduates from Tech in May 2004, but wants to stay at the university to pursue a master's degree in business administration "as a first step" in a career she hopes winds back to a college campus and an administrative position.

"My heart is in higher education," she said. 📖

THREE PERSONAL STORIES, ONE OUTCOME

ALUMNI CONTINUE TO ESTABLISH PROFESSORSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT TECH STUDENTS TODAY.



THOMAS JACKSON MAGEE AND MARY JO CUNNINGHAM MAGEE ROSS ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Eva Cunningham always thought her sister and brother-in-law were the perfect college sweethearts. Mary Jo Cunningham and Thomas Jackson “Jack” Magee met on the Tech campus, and their romance budded into marriage.

Jack Magee, a Tech civil engineering graduate from Mansfield, La., and bomber pilot, was killed shortly before D-Day in the skies over Germany during World War II. Though Mary Jo, an English major in Tech’s Class of 1943, remarried, it is those original college sweethearts that Eva Cunningham honored in 1994 with

the creation of the Thomas Jackson Magee and Mary Jo Cunningham Magee Ross Endowed Professorship.

“I just wanted to honor her and him because they were a wonderful couple,” said Eva Cunningham, whose sister went on to become a librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi. “I always had admired Jack and Mary Jo and thought they had a real love affair.”

Eva Cunningham, a 1945 Tech business administration graduate and retired Exxon employee, lives in Houston. Her generosity to Tech was nothing new. In addition to annual support of various areas at Tech, she had earlier established several other endowments at the university.

MIRIAM DAVIS HOGAN SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION

O.W. Hogan Jr. quickly tells you he isn’t big on recognition. Instead, the 1937 electrical engineering graduate and longtime Tech supporter just prefers to go about doing good.

In 1994, Hogan, of Atlanta, Ga., established the Miriam Davis Hogan Scholarship in Education in memory of

his wife, a 1943 Tech alum. Miriam Hogan taught in elementary schools in Louisiana, North Carolina and Georgia before retiring and beginning a second career as a volunteer at an Atlanta hospital.

O.W. Hogan continues to make large gifts to the scholarship endowment, CHAMPS – Tech’s student-athlete fund, as well as to BEST (Building Engineering and Science Talent).

LEONARD COOPER LONG III ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The way William V. “Bill” King looks at it, Leonard Cooper Long III may be gone, but he won’t ever be forgotten. Long was studying engineering at Tech in the mid-1960s when he died of injuries sustained in an automobile accident on the way back to campus from watching a high school basketball tournament in Shreveport, La.

King was driving the car in which Long and two of their Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers were riding.

Last spring, King, a 1966 business administration graduate who lives in Lake Charles, La., established the Leonard Cooper Long III Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is for engineering students from Long’s home parish of Concordia.

“He was really a fun guy,” King said, “and well liked by everyone.”

King said establishing the scholarship “was just something I wanted to do. I’ve thought about it a long time, but I’m fortunate enough now to be able to do something.”

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS:

HELPING TECH STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

	WILLIAM DAKIN ('05) McBride Endowed Scholarship, Forestry Hometown: Montgomery, Ala. Major: Forestry	“I’m learning to plan for the future of forests. After I graduate I want to work in forestry consulting and manage private landowner forests. Generally, I think the public is misinformed about forests, especially when it involves taking down a tree. I want to help educate them.”
	NATHAN DYER ('07) Academic Performance Scholarship Hometown: Baton Rouge, La. Major: Biomedical Engineering	“My goal is to go to medical school and someday become an anesthesiologist. My scholarship helps me save money now so that when I continue on with my schooling there won’t be a big debt from my undergraduate degree.”
	LAUREN MORGAN ('06) John Simoneaux Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Music Hometown: Mansfield, La. Major: Music	“I hope to go to graduate school and follow in the footsteps of my professor, Alan Goldspiel. I want to get my doctorate in performance and teach. My scholarship is a great help not just to me, but to my family. It’s also an honor.”
	TANGELA JOHNSON ('07) Academic Performance Scholarship Hometown: Natchitoches, La. Major: Journalism and Psychology	“Someday I hope to write for a magazine such as Essence. I also want to be a columnist and an author. My scholarship allows me to focus on school and not have to work a second job. I’m not burdening my family with my college tuition.”
	RANDY ORR ('05) Betty Edwards Owens Endowed Scholarship, Education Hometown: Dubach, La. Major: Mathematics Education	“I’ve always liked math so becoming a teacher seemed like the right fit. My scholarship has helped tremendously because I don’t have to work as many hours to make my monthly bills. I can devote more time to studying.”
	TAMARA PAUL ('04) McBride Endowed Scholarship, Forestry Hometown: Alexandria, La. Major: Forestry and Wildlife Conservation	“After graduation, I will lead backpacking expeditions through South America for the International Mission Board. I will use GPS to guide people through the jungles and map out locations that haven’t been traveled to. It’s important for alumni to realize how much of an impact a scholarship has on a student.”
	AIMEE ROBERT ('04) McBride Endowed Scholarship, Forestry Hometown: Metairie, La. Major: Forestry	“My grandfather sparked my interest in trees as a child when he took me on walks in New Orleans and named the trees along the way. When I graduate I hope to work for a national park as a ranger. Scholarships help in many ways. They pay for lab fees, books, equipment and of course tuition.”



GIVING BACK: GEORGE ROY HAYES JR.

“THAT’S THE REASON THE GOVERNMENT WANTED ME. OUR FORCES SUFFERED MORE CASUALTIES FROM MALARIA THAN FROM FIREPOWER.”

- George Roy Hayes, Jr.

Rutherford B. Hayes spoke these words at his 1877 presidential inauguration: “He serves his party best who serves his country best.”

Louisiana Tech graduate George Roy Hayes Jr., a distant cousin of the 19th president, is decidedly nonpartisan. But like his famous kinsman, he too believed in serving his country best.

In 1942, Hayes was at Tech finishing up a degree in biology while working for room, board and laundry as an entomology lab assistant. He recalls that tuition was \$10 a month, and his father helped out by sending him \$20 a month for all other expenses.

Around the same time, the U.S. government found itself fighting a World War II battle that could not be won through military might. The enemy was a mosquito-spread disease that had quickly become the most serious health problem troops faced.

“That’s the reason the government wanted me,” Hayes said. “Our forces suffered more casualties from malaria than from firepower.”

Malaria was also a tough domestic problem in the 1930s and 1940s, particularly in the South where the total cost of the disease exceeded what was spent on public education, Hayes said.

Tech, cooperating with the U.S. Public Health Service, gave Hayes his final exams a month early so he could join the government’s fight. Preceding him into the Public Health Service’s mosquito fray was the Tech entomology professor for whom he worked, Willis W. Worth.

“It was fortuitous I was assigned Willis Worth in entomology,” Hayes said. “He was a mosquito man who was a taxonomy specialist. He became a worldwide authority on mosquito identification with the Smithsonian Institution.”

Hayes underwent orientation in Alexandria, then went to Bossier City for further training. The Byrd High School graduate did not live near his hometown of Shreveport again for more than 40 years. He worked in the British West Indies, Arkansas, Kentucky, the lower Rio Grande, Arizona, Georgia and the Far East – wherever disease outbreaks called for his expertise.

“I always went to the very worst areas for pestilence,” he recalled.

His skills eventually put him to work for what would become the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. By 1970 he had also been loaned as a consultant to the newly organized Environmental Protection Agency. He ultimately worked for the U.S. Public Health Service 30 years before retiring in 1973 at the naval rank of captain. He then worked for the Louisiana State Health Department in New Orleans until 1983.

Hayes – who lost his wife of 50 years, Marie, in 1993 – plans to make provision for Tech’s School of Biological Sciences in the College of Applied and Natural Sciences.

“Do I feel a loyalty to Tech? You darn well bet I do,” he said. “Anyone denigrating Tech would have met a foe.”

RUTH JOHNSON: A LIFETIME LEARNER

Nontraditional teaching methods are popular today, but that wasn’t the case when Miss Ruth Johnson began teaching math in 1926.

She once challenged a cheerleader to learn the quadratic formula, and in exchange, she would lead the class in a spirit yell. Not wanting to miss an opportunity to see a teacher perform a cheer, the cheerleader promptly learned the formula and proved it at the blackboard.

True to her word, Johnson, in a move that brought her principal running, led the entire class in the spirit yell.

Born in 1906, the young woman who enjoyed giving math lessons to classmates got her teaching certificate in 1926 and went to work in a two-room Union Parish schoolhouse.

She later went to Tech and received her bachelor’s degree in 1931, earning her master’s in 1932 from LSU.

After working her way through school by tutoring football players at LSU and working as a house matron checking girls in and out of the dormitory, Johnson taught school in Jackson, Caddo and Vermilion parishes before coming to Ruston High in 1943.

During her tenure at Ruston High, she taught geometry, algebra, senior arithmetic and trigonometry; she got the yearbook off the ground, overseeing its production for 16 years.

After retiring from a 40-year teaching career, Johnson worked nearly 25 years as a restaurant hostess/cashier. The idea for the second career came to her one night while enjoying dinner with friends at Maxwell’s Restaurant in the former Holiday Inn.

Johnson thought it might be fun to work where people were having such a good time. When Johnny Maxwell, the owner of the restaurant and a former student of Johnson’s, stopped by to visit his guest, she told him what was on her mind.

“I told Johnny, ‘You know, when I retire I want to work in a place like this.’” He responded, “You retire, and I’ll hire you.”

He called her to come to work the day she retired. “I said, ‘Give me one day to kick up my heels and to realize that I’m retired.’” Then she went to work after only one day of freedom.

Johnson prides herself on being a loyal supporter of the Ruston community and the people who live there.

She has helped put ministers’ widows in comfortable homes by donating land and overseeing the construction. At Tech, she has established two professorships. One in chemistry honors her late brother, T.W. Ray Johnson, who was a professor of

chemistry at Tech. The other is named for her parents, Norman and May Pipes Johnson, and benefits forestry, horticulture, and animal science, three areas of particular interest to her parents.

Johnson was Tech’s College of Education Alumnus of the Year in 2001 and was awarded the Robert E. Russ Award by the Chamber of Commerce in 2002, one of two civic honors bestowed in Lincoln Parish commending civic, business or cultural advancement or development in the parish. Johnson also has served as grand marshal of the Peach Parade.

As a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Johnson treasures her friends and takes pride in the accomplishments of her many students.



NEWS AROUND CAMPUS

NEW FORESTRY LEADERSHIP PAIRS GENETIC, PRODUCT EXPERTISE



John Adams and Mark Gibson discuss forestry issues on campus.

One is versed in genetics and the other in products and manufacturing. But they both know trees.

John C. Adams, the new director of Louisiana Tech's School of Forestry, and Mark D. Gibson, the new associate director, assumed their roles this summer.

James D. Liberatos, interim dean of the College of Applied and Natural Sciences, said the two forestry professors bring to the school expertise in their fields coupled with a long history at Tech.

Adams got his bachelor's and master's in forestry and his doctorate in forest genetics from Louisiana State University. Gibson earned his bachelor's and master's in forestry at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., and his doctorate in forest products at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore.

DISTINGUISHED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ALUMNI NAMED



From left: Harvey Cragon, Milton Johnson, Keith Laenger (Chuck Laenger's nephew) and Robert Midyett.

Harvey Cragon of Dallas, Texas, class of 1955; Dr. Milton Johnson of Ruston, class of 1943; Charles Laenger of Tulsa, Okla., class of 1952, and Robert Midyett of Dallas, Texas, class of 1960, have been recognized by Louisiana Tech's electrical engineering program in the university's College of Engineering and Science as the first Distinguished Electrical Engineering Alumni.

Cragon retired after 25 years at Texas Instruments and is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas-Dallas and professor emeritus at the University of Texas-Austin.

Johnson retired as head of Tech's electrical engineering program, having served from 1947 until 1985.

Laenger retired in 1977 after 16 years as coordinator of the rehabilitation engineering department in the Kaiser Rehabilitation Center/Hillcrest Center.

In 1977 Midyett founded U.S. Data Corp. which developed the industry's first interactive, dynamic color graphic, supervisory and data acquisition system based on user configuration.

TECH RANKS AMONG TOP 5 PRODUCING WNBA TALENT



With seven former letter winners currently on rosters, Louisiana Tech once again ranks among the top collegiate women's basketball programs in producing WNBA talent (behind only Connecticut, Georgia and Tennessee).

"Besides our No. 1 goal of graduating our players, we also prepare them for an opportunity to play at the next level," says Lady Techsters head coach Kurt Budke.

Even more impressive: Of 21 colleges who can claim three or more former players in the WNBA, only Louisiana Tech, Old Dominion and Tulane come from conferences outside of the Southeastern, Big 12, Big 10, ACC, Big East or Pac-10.

This year's WNBA players from Tech include Cheryl Ford and Ayana Walker (both of Detroit Shock), Vickie Johnson and Teresa Weatherspoon (both of New York Liberty), Tamicha Jackson (Phoenix Mercury), Alisa Burras (Seattle Storm) and Betty Lennox (Cleveland Rockers).

The icing on the cake? Ford is the 2003 WNBA Rookie of the Year and helped make her team 2003 WNBA champions.

DARRAT RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS



Dr. Ali F. Darrat, the Premier Bank endowed professor of finance and professor of economics in Louisiana Tech's College of Administration and Business, has been selected by the Academy of Economics and Finance as a fellow and Researcher of the Year.

The academy is a national professional association dedicated to furthering economics and finance knowledge, practice and image.

According to the academy's constitution, only one individual may be selected for the award in any given year for an exceptional lifetime achievement, and the award represents the highest form of recognition that the academy bestows.

Darrat earned his doctorate from Indiana University in 1982 and has been with Louisiana Tech since 1987.

DIRECTOR OF TECH'S TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY CENTER IS RECOGNIZED WITH A NATIONAL AWARD



The Stephen D. Bechtel Pipeline Engineering Award, presented to Ray Sterling at the 2003 International American Society of Civil Engineers Pipeline Specialty Conference in Baltimore, was established in 1970 to honor Bechtel, whose firm and affiliates contributed to projects including the Hoover Dam.

Sterling received his bachelor's in civil and structural engineering from the University of Sheffield, England, in 1970, and earned both his master's in geological engineering (1975) and his doctorate in civil engineering (1977) from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He was director of the Underground Space Center Research Program at the University of Minnesota from its creation in 1977 until he joined Tech in 1995.

UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY LEADER OF THE YEAR



Jon Pratt, assistant professor of finance-research at Louisiana Tech, is the recipient of the 2003 Governor's Technology Award for University Technology Leader of the Year, an award co-presented by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and the Louisiana Technology Guide.

Pratt was recognized for his contribution to Louisiana's technology sector through his work at Tech's Center for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology (CEnIT), an interdisciplinary center bridging the College of Administration and Business and the College of Engineering and Science. He was also recognized for his leadership in technology transfer, commercialization of new technology, and innovative education efforts.

In Pratt's "Innovative Product Design" courses, students from engineering, computer science, graphic design, technical writing and marketing gain a multidisciplinary perspective on their ideas.

INTERIM DIRECTOR BECOMES NEW HEAD OF NURSING



Pamela Moore, who has worked in the nursing field for more than three decades, is the new director of Louisiana Tech's Division of Nursing.

Moore, who served as interim director the last two years, succeeds the program's first director, Virginia Pennington, who retired in June 2001.

Moore earned her bachelor's and master's of nursing at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches where she also got her clinical nurse specialist degree. In 2000 she was named Nurse of the Year by the Ruston District Nurses Association.

Tech's nursing program, which now advises more than 400 students a year, admitted its first class in 1973 and produced its first graduates in 1975.

POET-IN-RESIDENCE HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP



Dr. David E. Middleton, a Louisiana Tech graduate and Alumnus of the Year from the College of Liberal Arts in 2001, has received Nicholls State University's highest award, the Alcee Fortier Distinguished Professorship.

Given only every five years, the award honors professors of national or international prominence.

Middleton, the poet-in-residence at Nicholls, has published several volumes of poetry including "The Burning Fields" and "Beyond the Chandeleurs." He serves as poetry editor of two national poetry journals. The Alcee Fortier Professorship carries with it a substantial cash award as well as a private office for life, travel funds, support staff and research support.

SHREVEPORT STREET NAMED FOR ALUMNUS



From left: Al and Liz Bourland and Jane and John Caruthers.

A Shreveport street has been named in honor of Haynesville, La., native and Louisiana Tech graduate Albert D. Bourland.

Shreveport and Caddo Parish recently christened the first street in the Caddo Parish Industrial Park as "Al Bourland Drive."

The first tenant in the industrial park is Oakley Sub Assembly, a supplier for the local General Motors plant. Bourland worked for GM in the 1970s. When he was executive secretary to the company president, he coordinated the first meetings between GM executives and Louisiana's top officials. The meetings eventually led to the location of a GM truck plant in Shreveport.

Bourland earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Tech in 1950 and attended law school at South Texas College of Law in Houston. He is a member of the Texas State Bar and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

HISTORY SOCIETY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Louisiana Tech's Lambda-Rho Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society Inc. has been recognized as the "Best Chapter Award" recipient and will receive \$250 toward the purchase of books for Tech's library.

Dr. Stephen Webre, head of the history department in Tech's College of Liberal Arts, said that the Tech chapter won the award for 2003 in Division IV (colleges and universities with enrollments between 10,000 and 15,000 students).

During 2002-2003, student members of Lambda-Rho Chapter organized a campus forum on the situation in Iraq, a used book sale and a spring awards banquet. Phi Alpha Theta members also presented papers at scholarly conferences and served as judges at social studies fairs in local schools.

Chapter president during 2002-2003 was senior history major Carolyn Peoples of Shreveport. Faculty advisers were Dr. Philip C. Cook, an elected member of Phi Alpha Theta's national council, and Webre.

FOUNDATION ELECTS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS

The Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation board has elected new officers, directors and life directors.

New officers are: John Morris (electrical engineering, 1968), president; Tom Singletary (math, 1968), vice president; Bruce deLeon (computer science, 1969), secretary; and Tommy Jeffery (chemical engineering, 1956), treasurer. Tommy Folk (civil engineering, 1969) will serve another year as past president.

Morris is special assistant in the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Washington, D.C., and resides in Fairfax, Va. Singletary is vice president of Convergent Systems for CenturyTel in Monroe. Bruce deLeon is skills and training supervisor for ExxonMobil in Houston. Jeffery is retired from PPG Industries and lives in Lake Charles. Folk is manager of Folk & Co. in Ruston.

Directors were elected to three-year terms: Jay Guillot (civil engineering, 1976/1978), Guillot & Associates in Ruston; Ron Harrell (petroleum engineering, 1957), chairman and CEO of Ryder Scott Co. in Houston; A. C. Hollins Jr. (civil engineering, 1972), director of site services for BWX Technologies Inc. in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Gary Hubbard (civil engineering 1985), president and CEO of Aillet, Fenner, Jolly & McClelland Inc. in Shreveport; Nick Schwabe (industrial

engineering, 1997), manager of engineering and maintenance, Avail Medical Products in Dallas; Edward Sones (chemistry, 1968), research associate for Sasol North America Inc., in Austin, Texas; and Sharmon Sullivan (mechanical engineering, 1986), director of business and energy advisory services for Entergy in New Orleans.

Elizabeth Lawson (civil engineering, 1998) was elected to a three-year term as associate director. Lawson is a senior project reservoir engineer with ExxonMobil in New Orleans.

New life directors are Ernie Perez (electrical engineering, 1967), Mike Bounds (mechanical engineering, 1965), and Jerry Hudson (chemical engineering 1961).

Perez has served on the board twice, holding officer positions both times. He is the technical recruiting coordinator for ExxonMobil in Houston. Bounds served in several foundation offices in 1994-1999 including president. He is director of product safety and standards for Electrolux Home Products, formerly Poulan/Weed Eater, in Texarkana, Ark. Hudson served on the board for a number of years before term limits were implemented, eight years as an officer, including three as president. He is vice president and general manager for BC&K Engineers in Mobile, Ala.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Louisiana Tech Alumni Association salutes these **LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Stephen Babcock

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Bimle

Jennifer Cargill

Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Crump

Mr. & Mrs. John Emory

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gaenshals

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Chris Walker

Mark A. White

John Willoughby

These names have been added to the lifetime roster since the previous issue of the magazine.



Drake Mills, CEO of Community Trust Bank, discusses the benefits of a Tech education with Meredith Monerief, a high school senior who is carefully weighing her college options.



FUTURE STUDENTS MAY WANT TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS.

Can you take a minute with them?

Louisiana Tech is launching Alumni Recruiters for Tech (ART) to help prospective students connect with Tech alumni who live in their communities.

What are some of the things that ART volunteers do?

Admitted new student connection – ART volunteers can contact an admitted student from their community and let the student know that they support the student's interest in going to Tech.

Student Send-Off Celebration – ART volunteers can organize a send-off for first-year students leaving home to go to Tech.

Student referral – ART volunteers can identify relatives, friends, and students in their community who may be interested in pursuing a Tech degree. The volunteers will be able to relay these recommendations to direct contacts at Tech.

College fair representation – ART volunteers can attend a local college planning event to represent Louisiana Tech as an alumnus and encourage prospective students to explore Tech degrees.

ART volunteers can help connect generations of students by spreading the word, not only about the value of a Tech education, but also about how special it feels to be part of the Tech Family.

To learn more about becoming an ART volunteer in your community contact:

Kyle Edmiston | Director of Alumni Relations | kyle@latechalumni.org
Ryan Richard | Coordinator of Alumni Programs | ryan@latechalumni.org
(318) 255-7950 | (800) 738-7950

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of pledge week? The elation of receiving your diploma?*



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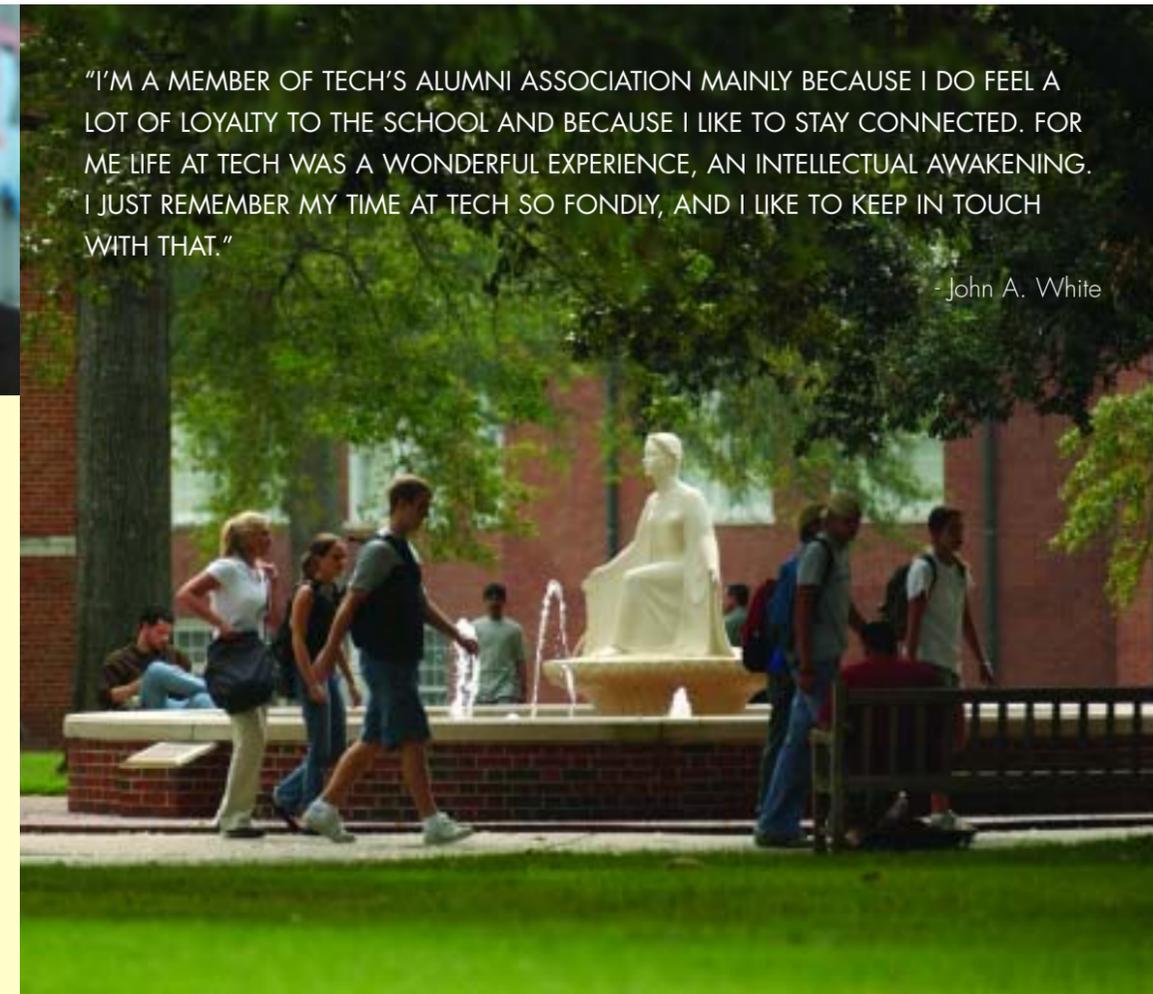
JOIN THE LOUISIANA TECH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TODAY.



White graduated from Tech's biomedical engineering program in 1984 and got his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1990. He has been teaching and doing research in neural engineering for eight years as an associate professor of biomedical engineering at Boston University, where he is also associate chair of graduate studies for biomedical engineering.

"I'M A MEMBER OF TECH'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MAINLY BECAUSE I DO FEEL A LOT OF LOYALTY TO THE SCHOOL AND BECAUSE I LIKE TO STAY CONNECTED. FOR ME LIFE AT TECH WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, AN INTELLECTUAL AWAKENING. I JUST REMEMBER MY TIME AT TECH SO FONDLY, AND I LIKE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THAT."

- John A. White



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