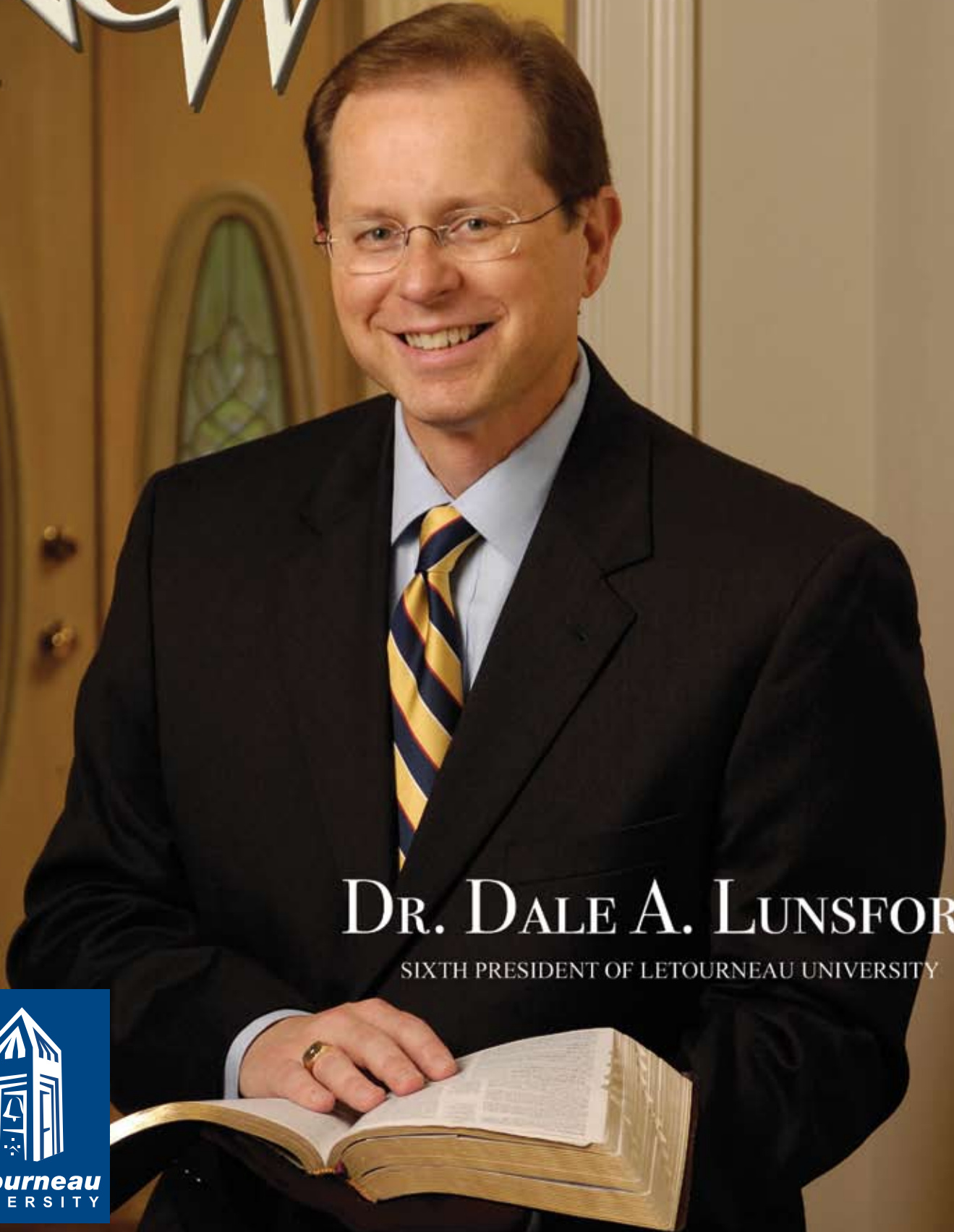


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LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 2



DR. DALE A. LUNSFORD

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY



A Message From The President



DR. DALE A. LUNSFORD
President

Marsha and I stood in the crowd on April 19, 2007 to watch the unveiling of the servant leadership sculpture outside the new S. E. Belcher Jr. Chapel and Performance Center. As I looked at sculptor Esther Augsburger's depiction of Jesus teaching Peter about true leadership, I reflected upon an earlier conversation with the LETU presidential search committee.

Months before I knew this beautiful artwork was being created for LeTourneau, I told the presidential search committee that, if chosen, I would aspire to be a "Philippians 2 president." By that, I meant a president who would be an action-oriented leader who, with humility, honors the value of others and is motivated by the image of Jesus as servant. A Philippians 2 president seeks to serve by clearly articulating our shared vision. The most important question such a president can ask of all in the LeTourneau family is "How can I help you do your part in fulfilling God's plan for LeTourneau University?"

So it was a pleasant surprise when LeTourneau's newest monument was unveiled. A kneeling Jesus at the feet of a humbled Peter is the perfect icon of servant leadership. It is a fitting depiction of LeTourneau's mission. For me, personally, the unveiling was another confirmation that Marsha and I had been called to LeTourneau and that He had gone before us to prepare the way for our service here.

This issue of the NOW magazine emphasizes our Christian worldview that the most effective leaders are those with a motivation to serve. An excellent example of this kind of leadership is found in our story about former LETU student Paul Gilliland, who served his country, his God and his army brothers in the midst of war in Iraq.

Elliot Belcher was another true servant leader who gave the lead gift for the newly dedicated chapel and performance center that bears his name. Photos depict the dedication of the Belcher Center with a glimpse of its inaugural season programming.

This issue also includes some insight into my leadership philosophy, as well as a short feature introducing my wife and family as we have responded to God's call to serve this university.

One of the most vivid images of the Bible is Jesus, God incarnate, kneeling to wash the feet of His disciples. It long-ago altered the way I think about teaching and leading. Today, that image as permanently displayed on our Longview campus, is an inspiring reminder that servant leadership is central to our mission at LeTourneau and that God continues to lead me with new opportunities to serve. ■

NOW

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY



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**FAITH BRINGS US TOGETHER.
 INGENUITY SETS US APART.**

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“BEHOLD, NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME; BEHOLD NOW IS THE DAY OF OUR SALVATION.” II Cor. 6:2

LeTourneau University is an interdenominational Christian university located in Longview, Texas, offering academic majors in the aeronautical sciences, education, engineering, the humanities and sciences. LeTourneau University also offers business degrees and teacher certification programs online and at five educational centers around Texas in Austin, Bedford, Dallas, Houston and Tyler.

LeTourneau University's "NOW" magazine welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed, address issues or events raised in the magazine and may not exceed 250 words. All letters may be edited for length or clarity. Any letters deemed potentially libelous will not be published. Opinions expressed in letters in the "NOW" magazine do not necessarily reflect those of LeTourneau University.

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The Lunsford family includes, from left, Hannah, Dale, Marsha, Rachel and, in front, Emma, their five-pound Yorkshire Terrier

Introducing Dr. Dale A. Lunsford

Sixth President of LeTourneau University

Dr. Dale A. Lunsford assumes the role as LeTourneau University's sixth president on July 1, 2007, succeeding Dr. Alvin O. Austin, who has served as LETU's president for over 20 years. Lunsford was the unanimous choice of a presidential search committee representing trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni after a nationwide search. He comes to LETU most recently from his role as vice president for Student Affairs and External Relations at the University of Texas at Tyler. There he served on the president's cabinet and was responsible for student affairs, enrollment management, student success, intercollegiate athletics, public information, marketing and government relations. He helped the university double enrollment and secure \$170 million in capital funding from public and private sources. He was introduced to the LeTourneau University campus community on March 8. His inauguration is set for Nov. 1, 2007.

How does your background and faith in Christ prepare you to lead LeTourneau University?

My trust is in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. I believe that absolute truth exists and that it is found in the Bible, God's inerrant word, and that it is revealed with the assistance of God's Holy Spirit.

When I talk about my faith walk, I have been blessed with clear evidence that God is working in my life. Coming to LeTourneau University is the latest example of God leading me. My wife, Marsha, and I have had so many indications, over and over, that God was going ahead of us and preparing the way for us. Six months ago, I would not have dreamed I would be sitting here as LeTourneau's next president. Now I see that it has been God's plan all along.

And it wasn't just us who felt God's leading. Search committee members have told us they felt clear indication, one after another, that I was God's choice for this time.

As far as my background, I grew up in a home just two blocks from the hospital where I was born in Tulsa, Okla. I was adopted at birth by parents who had been married 10 years but had not conceived. My mom confided in her physician that she and my dad were interested in adopting a child. About that same time, an unwed mother had come to that same physician. She had other children and didn't want to have another. The physician put them together and arranged the adoption.

What is amazing is how God was at work, because the rest of the story is that this same physician was later arrested for performing illegal abortions. What other conclusion can I reach but that God, even at the very beginning of my life, was there, had mercy on me and spared my life?

And God was there to arrange my adoption into His holy family. My parents would dress my brother, sister and I and send us off to church on Sunday mornings, but they never came with us. Our neighbors across the street were a retired couple who had a real heart for sharing their faith. Ralph Roof was his name, and he invited me one summer to attend Vacation Bible School at his church.

For the first time, I felt the Holy Spirit come to me. In my case, it was physical and very real. That summer, before my sixth grade year, I publicly accepted Jesus as my Lord and was baptized.

But not only did Mr. and Mrs. Roof make sure I was exposed to the gospel and had the opportunity to accept Christ, he also hired me for the summer to paint his home. In hindsight, when I realize that we took the whole summer to paint two rooms, I see now his plan was to disciple me, not paint.

In their home, I saw things that were not in my home. Bibles opened and well read. Prayer at meals. I look back now and see that God had gone before and made a path for me.

God clearly arranged my adoption into the Lunsford family and also into His family. Of course, I struggled with God in the years to come and challenged Him for the Lordship of my life. I have experienced seasons of sweet closeness with Him and seasons of doubt, but since that summer in Oklahoma, I have never lost confidence that the Holy Spirit was at work in me.

How has your professional experience prepared you to be LeTourneau University's next president?

I have worked at a variety of different institutions over the past 20 years: the past eight years as part of a large university system at The University of Texas at Tyler and 12 years before that at a private, Presbyterian-founded school, the University of Tulsa. I've experienced all facets of the university. I've taught in the classroom and conducted research. I've been responsible for student life outside the classroom. And I've worked as part of a president's cabinet wrestling with executive strategic decisions.

My career as a faculty member began in 1985 at Oklahoma State University as a graduate teaching assistant, then at University of Tulsa from 1987 to 1999 where I was an instructor, assistant professor, associate professor and earned tenure before becoming associate dean and director of undergraduate programs in the College of Business Administration.

My years as a teaching professor left me with great respect for faculty and the important work they do. All I ever aspired to be was a college professor. I still believe it is the best job on the planet. God has surprised me with the other opportunities to serve in my career.

At UT Tyler, I focused on student affairs, which included nearly doubling enrollment and creating a residential life program, student success services, and an NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics program. I have great empathy for what college students face. The undergraduate years are a time of great transition in their lives. They often are trying to balance work and school. It's a challenge. And I know from personal experience because I worked several interesting jobs to pay for school. I drove a forklift in an auto parts warehouse. I opened mail and sorted credit card payments at a large oil company. And I traveled throughout the Cherokee Indian nation in Oklahoma working for the U.S. Census Bureau. I was the first in my family to attend college, so I do understand that college is a challenge. I also understand the transforming power of higher education.



I would even say that my experience as a working adult student, earning my MBA while I was working fulltime at an oil and gas consulting firm in Oklahoma, helped prepare me for this role. And then later, as an associate dean in the College of Business, I was part of the development of an online MBA program. I have experience in the methods used in LeTourneau's GAPS program and the demands on students there. Our working adult students are obviously a vital part of LeTourneau University. One of the great contributions of LETU is to make our high quality, Christ-centered, professional education accessible to those who are balancing careers and families. It is an important way we can honor one of God's great institutions, the family.

How do you feel about leading an evangelical Christian university, with your background in secular higher education?

Coming from a secular institution makes me value LeTourneau's Christ-centered education that much more. I believe my experience makes me cherish even more the Christ-centered mission of LeTourneau University. I will never take it for granted. I have worked at other types of institutions. I know what we are doing here is special. Most universities choose to focus on the intellectual and ignore the whole student. They think you can teach engineering, business or education without ethics, morals or values. That's a fallacy they have bought into. I don't believe you can be a truly successful engineer, businessman or educator without a Christian worldview. That's the problem with a secular education; it is hollow, an education built on shifting sand.

My background also makes me sensitive to the challenges facing a faith-based university. Many institutions founded in the name of Christ have lost their way. It happens quietly and gradually. Compromises are made in the name of building reputation or growing enrollment. Evangelical Christians can sense that their faith is being pushed to the margins of campus rather than being at the center of the campus mission.

I respect those who have gone before me in this office for being deliberate about protecting LeTourneau's Christ-centered mission. We describe ourselves as "unapologetically Christian." That is a powerful statement of truth in a world where students are searching a confusing marketplace for the right university. We will continue to keep Christ at the center of everything we do.

My background in secular institutions has sensitized me to this issue. To the man wandering in the desert, the water tastes that much sweeter.

What changes do you foresee at LETU under your leadership?

This is not the right time to answer that question. LeTourneau is a strong institution with no major problems that have to be addressed immediately. What it is time to do, what is appropriate, is to stop, reflect and listen to everyone on campus: our faculty, staff, students, alumni

and friends, to let others share their dreams about what they would like to see LeTourneau University become in the future and then seek God's will for the next steps. From listening, I believe God will set an agenda and show us His priorities and open His opportunities. We do need to update our strategic plan, but we will do that after we listen. God gave us two ears and only one mouth, so I believe it's important that we listen twice as much as we talk, especially in this first year. When you see me at meetings, you'll notice I am listening and learning more than I am speaking.

However, one objective already set in our accreditation that we will continue is the integration of the five Center for the Development of Christian Leadership distinctives of discovering purpose, grounding values, broadening knowledge, deepening skills and collaborating service throughout the entire student experience.

How do you plan to build relationships with students?

Marsha and I have two daughters, Rachel, 17, and Hannah, 16. My family will remain in Whitehouse, Texas, while our girls finish high school in the next two years. I will be commuting but will have an apartment on campus, and my family will be here with me some of the time.

The campus apartment will give me an added opportunity to meet students, and I'm excited about that. The LETU students are very impressive.

One thing that is already happening since the March 8 announcement is students are finding me online using Facebook. I already have about 50 students as "Facebook friends." These online social networks are basic to students today. I anticipate that once the fall term begins this type of interaction will continue. I look forward to trading e-mails, viewing their pages, seeing photos and bios and what's important to them. It's an important community-building tool.

What is your commitment to helping students develop a global worldview?

I have traveled to Asia twice to support missionaries there. My last trip was at Christmastime. We had a unique opportunity to go into several universities and schools to talk about the American tradition of Christmas and even perform a nativity scene. I was one of the wise men.

In Asia, people are hungry to learn English. Universities open doors to Christians that would normally be closed because the governments are antagonistic to Christianity. But they will be more tolerant of your faith if you are there teaching English.

That was a tremendous experience for me. I saw that God is so big that He is working in every corner of the world, including places that are officially closed to Him.

A tradition of LeTourneau University is sending people out across the world. I hope every LeTourneau University student has the opportunity for an international experience while at LETU. After all, we can't fill our gas tanks without understanding that we are part of a highly interdependent world. Our students must gain a sense of their role in the global community.

What Christian authors do you like to read?

Charles Swindoll's *Living on the Ragged Edge* made a huge impression on me many years ago. More recently, Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* inspired me. Marsha and I read a chapter in Warren's book together each night before falling asleep. For inspiration, I have read nearly everything Max Lucado has ever written. Philip Yancey challenges me, as does Chuck Colson. ■



Meet The New First Lady

Marsha Lunsford

Written By Janet Ragland

LeTourneau University's new first lady isn't afraid of hard work. She's delivered baby pigs, operated farm equipment on a wheat farm, raised show animals for county fairs and did her share of family chores around the farm in the small town of Burlington, Okla., where she grew up. This discipline of hard work will serve her well as she balances family responsibilities and her new role at LeTourneau.

"I love the outdoors and wide open country," Marsha says. "The stars of God's heaven stretch horizon to horizon nightly. From the top of Burlington's grain elevator, you can see the squares of many colors of green on the land across two states, Oklahoma and Kansas."

While growing up, Marsha said she always knew who Jesus was and her Christian faith was a part of her daily life in the town of about 260 people where, she says, "Everybody looked out for you." She accepted Jesus Christ into her heart at an early age, but made a public profession of her faith following an annual church camp in her early teens. Marsha's parents are founding members of the non-denominational Driftwood Christian Church where her father serves as an elder.

"A busy life can create the false impression that we are in control," Marsha said, "but I've learned to

trust God's plan for my life. He's God, and He's in control."

Marsha is the third of four siblings, with an older sister and brother and one younger brother.

"We are 14 years apart from youngest to oldest," she said. Her dad is a farmer and her mom worked part time for awhile at the small town drug store.

"That was fun, because it was back when you made real sodas at the fountain, and it had the old-time glass candy counter encased in wood."

Marsha's ethic of hard work carried over to her school days. During high school, she was a cheerleader, was chosen Future Farmers of America Sweetheart, played basketball and earned all-state honors in tennis. She majored in business with an emphasis in management and graduated from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. At OSU, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority as well as Army Blades, a precision drill team that marched in parades throughout the region.

During her second summer of working for an engineering firm in Tulsa, she was offered a job as an executive assistant.

"I had nine hours to complete my degree," Marsha said. "OSU allowed me to take one upper division class in management at the University of Tulsa. That's where I met Dale.

"We were in the same class and had assigned seats. Kraft was my last name, and we were seated alphabetically. I would try to talk to Dale, but he seemed really shy.

*"A busy life can create the false impression that we are in control,
but I've learned to trust God's plan for my life.
He's God, and He's in control."*

“In this class as student teams, we had to run a computer-simulated business, and we learned our outcomes each week based on our business decisions. Dale opted to do the business plan by himself. He thought that highly of himself.”

Dale began parking near her and walking her to her car. He finally asked her out, and they went on their first date to an Oak Ridge Boys concert.

“I had been dating a few other boys back then, but I wanted to be one of those women who spent some time on my own before I got married,” Marsha said. “I wanted to know I was able to support myself. Dale was ready to get married before I was, but I wasn’t interested in marriage right away.”

Marsha earned her degree from OSU in May of 1982. She and Dale continued to date for about three years.

As Dale was finishing up his master’s degree and deciding on where to get his doctorate, Marsha was presented with an opportunity to work overseas. The time for a decision had come.

Dale and Marsha Lunsford were married May 11, 1985. That summer, they left Tulsa and moved to Stillwater where Dale could begin his doctorate at OSU in August.

“When Dale started his Ph.D. program, I was accustomed to working 50 hours a week in Tulsa,” she said. “I was very busy and loved my job. I knew I was working in a college town where jobs were not as plentiful.

“During the summer we moved to Stillwater, I became a consultant with Mary Kay cosmetics, in addition to managing the American Chemical Society testing service on campus. While working with Mary Kay, I earned a couple of cars. Later, when I had two children in diapers, I cut back a lot because my priorities changed quite a bit, but I was still able to have a connection with adults. That’s a good thing about that company.” Marsha continues today as a part-time Mary Kay consultant serving many of the same customers she first met in the 1980s.

The Lunsfords have two daughters. Rachel was born Oct. 31, 1989 in Tulsa. She was named after her maternal great grandmother in Burlington. Only 17 months later, Hannah was born April 1, 1991. With their first home and two small children, Dale and Marsha began a long career with the University of Tulsa.



In 1999, Dale was selected as a visiting scholar at the University of Texas in Austin and the family moved to Round Rock for eight months and lived in an apartment, describing it to their young daughters as an “adventure.”

The family returned to Tulsa where they had bought land to build a new home, when Dale was offered the job at the University of Texas at Tyler.

“That was a kind of crazy year,” Marsha said. “The girls lived in apartments twice that year and weren’t quite ready to move permanently. They were in 3rd and 4th grade in December of 1999 when we moved to Tyler. We bought a house in Whitehouse. The girls were so cute when we were house hunting. They each carried their own notepads and made notes.”

Today, the Lunsfords stay actively involved in church and family activities.

Marsha and Dale co-teach a young married couple’s class at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler where Dale has also participated in international missions. They also stay active with their daughters’ activities.

“We are a drill team family,” Marsha says. “A lot of our time involves keeping up with them. They perform at every football game, many pep rallies, and several dance competitions across the region. The girls also love to take pictures, so Dale and I enjoy scrapbooking with them.”

She also has been involved in a UT Tyler women’s group that raises scholarship money for students.

Marsha knows she will face some challenges this first year as LeTourneau University’s new first lady.

“This first year will be a lot of balancing,” she said. “It will be Rachel’s senior year of high school. While the girls are excited and want this for their dad, they realize there will be some sacrifice.

“As far as my role with LeTourneau University, I’m here to support Dale and encourage him,” she said. “I see hosting events with Dale as a primary role for me. I consider myself LeTourneau’s ambassador in the community and the world as we travel. I really enjoy being involved with students, staff and faculty. I hope to be able to do that.” ■



News and Notes



RETIRING PRESIDENT DR. ALVIN O. AUSTIN AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

LeTourneau University's retiring president, Dr. Alvin O. Austin, was awarded the honorary doctor of laws degree at commencement exercises May 5 in Longview. Austin served as the university's fifth president for 21 years.



LETOURNEAU FLIGHT TEAM RANKS SEVENTH NATIONALLY

LeTourneau University's aeronautical science "Sting Precision Flight Team" placed seventh in the nation among schools competing in the recent National Intercollegiate Flying Association's 2007 SAFECON competition hosted by The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The LETU team placed first in regional competition last October. They competed against over 300 students from 31 teams from all over the country, including Embry Riddle, Purdue University and the United States Air Force Academy. "This is our best-ever national showing," said Brad Wooden, team coach, flight instructor and faculty adviser.

LETU STUDENTS TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOLS

A number of LeTourneau University 2006 seniors will attend graduate programs around the world. They are: Dave Blaser, Emory University; Ben Shaeffer, Regent University; Kristen Jackson, Pacific University; Zack Dodson, Webster University in Geneva, Switzerland; Michelle Miller, Webster University in Geneva, Switzerland; Carolyn Dotti, Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine; Molly Moran, the Medical College of Wisconsin; Meagan Vaughan, University of Texas at Austin; Gregg Wright, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; and Jessica Douglas, Eastern University in Pennsylvania.



LETU ALUM PILOTS AIR FORCE TWO, SPEAKS TO STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Air Force Lt. Col. Todd DeGroot, a 1986 aviation graduate of LeTourneau University and special air mission pilot who flies heads of state aboard Air Force Two, spoke to aviation students during an academic chapel Feb. 14. He has flown heads of state, including Vice President Dick Cheney, first lady Laura Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and other Cabinet members to their destinations all over the world for the past three years.

News and Notes

STUDENTS RAZE, BUILD NEW HOME FOR DISABLED WOMAN AND HER SON

LeTourneau University students, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Longview and volunteers from throughout the community built a new home in South Longview for a disabled woman and her son. The project kicked off on Good Friday when students razed the house and, with help from volunteers and contractors, rebuilt a home in about three weeks. The community and media were invited to a ribbon cutting celebration at the conclusion of the project. The family moved back in on Friday, May 18. Various organizations and individuals donated the \$45,000 cost of the home.



STUDENTS CRITIQUE PROFESSORS AT BIBLE CONFERENCE

LeTourneau Biblical Studies majors attended a two-day conference of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) last March in Dallas, Texas, and had the unique opportunity to critique their professors. Dr. Scott Hummel and Dr. Renate Viveen Hood presented papers as part of the Southwestern Regional Meeting of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies along with other societies that focus on studies of Christianity, religion and archaeology.

In October, LeTourneau Christian Ministry majors, led by Dr. Pat Mays, attended the National Youth Workers Convention in Austin, Texas, a five-day conference filled with seminars, concerts and speakers, including Donald Miller author of *Blue Like Jazz*.

STUDENTS ATTEND MICROSOFT CONFERENCE

Twenty-two LETU students accompanied computer science professor Dr. Brent Baas to Microsoft's Ready for a New Day Launch Tour event in Dallas, Texas. The event demonstrated Microsoft's new products: Windows Vista, Office 2007 and Exchange Server 2007. The LETU chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery sponsored the trip.

SIFE WINS FIRST PLACE

LeTourneau University's Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team won first place for financial literacy in the USA Regional Competition April 4 in Dallas, Texas. LETU students competed against 51 universities from five states. As a result, the team will go on to compete in the National SIFE Competition in New York.

LETU WINS TWO MARKETING AWARDS

LeTourneau University won two international marketing awards in the 22nd Annual Admissions Advertising Awards sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report, the national newspaper of admissions marketing. Over 1,200 universities from around the world competed.

GLOBAL WARMING SYMPOSIUM

LeTourneau University hosted a global warming symposium April 20, including a screening of the film "An Inconvenient Truth," featuring Al Gore. A panel discussion by three renowned experts in the field of climate change followed the film. Panelists discussed and answered questions regarding the science, ethics and morality of global climate changes.



BAJA TEAM WINS FIRST IN OVERALL DESIGN

LeTourneau University's mechanical engineering students won first place in overall design at the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja® West competition for their rebuilt-design off-road car, named Orion. They competed against teams from 100 universities from across the world. LETU students also earned fourth and fifth place honors overall for their sales and marketing presentations on their two cars, the Orion and the Lightning, respectively. The students design, build, test, promote and race their vehicles, however, inclement weather at this competition prevented them from completing all the driving events. This is the first time LETU has won a first place in any of the Baja events, after competing for over a dozen years.

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The Dedication of the

S. E. BÉLCHER JR.

CHAPEL AND PERFORMANCE CENTER

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY



The dedication of LeTourneau University's S. E. Belcher Jr. Chapel and Performance Center April 19 featured an evening concert that filled the 2,000-seat auditorium with music by the East Texas Symphonic Band, harpist Greg Buchanan and pianist Richard Allen Farmer.

A midday ceremony united the community before the unveiling of a glass-etched wall plaque honoring major donors, including the building's namesake, the late board trustee emeritus Shelby Elliot Belcher of Brent, Ala., who gave the lead gift of \$5 million. Also unveiled just outside the Belcher Center was a larger-than-life sculpture of Jesus washing the disciple Peter's feet, sculpted by Esther Augsburger.

Designed by Lewis, Elliott & Studer, Inc. architects of Arkansas, with assistance from the acoustical firm of BAI—Boner Associates Inc. of Austin, Texas, the Belcher Center features a full, working stage and orchestra lift, as well as prop and staging areas, dressing rooms, sound-proofed rehearsal rooms, classrooms and offices.

While the building was not completely finished, the dedication was held to coincide with retiring LETU president Dr. Alvin O. Austin's final meeting with the Board of Trustees.

The Belcher Center will be used primarily as a chapel where students will gather three times a week for corporate worship and spiritual instruction, but will also host





educational, cultural and spiritual programs for the community. Its inaugural season will feature:

The Ten Tenors – September 25, 2007 The highly acclaimed all-male a cappella group from Australia performs songs ranging from the standards to pop.

The Spencers Theatre of Illusion – October 13, 2007 This big-stage performance of daring feats and illusions is presented by Christians Kevin and Cindy Spencer who mix a positive message into their shows.

STOMP – November 13, 14, 2007 An amazing mix of percussion, dance and humor, this performance plays to sold-out crowds everywhere they go.

Eileen Ivers Christmas – December 6, 2007 This American-born Irish fiddle champion who became famous through Riverdance performs a Christmas concert.

Romeo and Juliet, St. Petersburg Ballet – February 4, 2008 The classical ballet theatre from Russia performs one of the best-loved stories of all time.

African Children's Choir – February 26, 2008 African children bring a message of hope and joy through their popular, gospel and contemporary music, and dance.

The Intergalactic Nemesis – April 12, 2008 A stage production of a fictional 1942 science fiction radio broadcast, complete with sound effects and live music. ■





Sports Update

Written by Shane Meling, Sports Information Director

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Jackets began the season winning against East Texas Baptist, Concordia-Austin, Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas Lutheran, Schreiner and University of the Ozarks. But, the winning streak finally ended with a 70-67 loss at UT-Tyler which led to losses at UT-Dallas and Mississippi College.

Sitting at 8-5 in the conference, the Jackets won against Louisiana College. Then on February 1, against Mississippi College, the Jackets came back from five points down in the final minute and 30 seconds to win on a last-second tip-in, 64-62.

The team eventually clinched second place in the East Division. At its first American Southwest Conference (ASC) Playoff game in school history, the team shot under 30% for the game and lost 74-65 against Hardin-Simmons, a team it defeated early in the season. The team finished the season 15-10, providing its best record in 20 years!

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

It was a trying season for the LadyJackets as the team's top scorer and rebounder from last year, Denee McKay, injured her knee and was out for the season.

The team started the season with back-to-back wins at

the SAGU Pepsi Classic beating Dallas Christian College and Southwest Assemblies of God.

Unfortunately, the players proceeded to lose nine games, until they snapped their losing streak at the South Padre Island Shootout with a 69-52 win over MIT. The team achieved its last win of the season, and its only ASC win, in the game against Texas Lutheran.

After two years as head coach, Tina Robbins resigned her position following the season.

BASEBALL

In his first season as head coach, Robin Harriss and the YellowJackets finished the season 11-28.

Dagen Hybner provided a number of dramatic moments for the Jackets throughout the year. First, he hit a three-run, game-winning homerun at Wiley College in the team's last at-bats. Then, he cracked a three-run homer at East Texas Baptist in the top of the ninth inning to give the team a one-run lead. Hybner led the team for the second straight season in RBIs.

Pitcher Ed Hurta was honored by the ASC East Division earning Second Team Utility honors and Honorable Mention Outfield honors and was named the ASC East Player of the Week.



SOFTBALL

First-year head coach Brad Bowser saw his team win five of its first seven games. Despite a final record of 7-31, the future of LadyJacket softball looks promising.

Juniors Lauren Bagley and Lindsay Haywood proved to be strong leaders, and Meredith Brand was named the ASC East Hitter of the Week after hitting .467 with a home run, six RBIs and five walks during the first week of the season.

MEN'S TENNIS

The 2007 season turned out to be the most successful in the program's history as the team notched a 16-12 record and advanced to the ASC Playoffs for the first time.

Freshman Mark Taylor led the group playing #1 singles all season long and accumulating a 20-10 record to go along with a 20-9 doubles mark. He earned First Team all-ASC East honors becoming the first player in school history to do so.

All six players in the team's starting line-up earned postseason honors. Paul Haney, Hal Hawkins, Jeremy Martinez and Wade Sinard were all Second Team ASC East, while Randy Namanny earned Honorable Mention honors. Taylor, Sinard and Haney each earned ASC East Player of the Week honors during the season.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

While the LadyJackets did not quite match the men's team, they did manage to set a new school record by posting a 12-16 record and advancing to ASC Playoffs for the first time in program history.

Head coach Doug Carter continues to improve the program. He brought in two newcomers who started right away. Jackie Simmons and Kelly Winslow made an immediate impact as each earned ASC East Player of the

Week honors during the year. Simmons set a new school record with 17 singles victories while Winslow finished the year 14-17 on the season.

Jessica Tindall earned ASC East Second Team honors for the second straight season. Winslow and Rachael Hastie each were named ASC East Honorable Mention. Hastie put together another strong season with a 14-8 record that improved her career record to 23-17, the most wins in school history.

MEN'S GOLF

It was another strong season for head coach Dr. Andy Woodring and his YellowJacket golf team. The squad finished the season 44th in the national rankings.

For the second straight year, Patrick Palmer led the team with a 76.1 stroke average per 18 holes. He had six top-10 finishes throughout the season including a win at the Mississippi College Invitational and three second-place finishes. At the American Southwest Conference championships, he fired rounds of 76-70-71 to finish in the runner-up position for the second straight year. He earned First Team all-ASC honors.

WOMEN'S GOLF

It was a season of improvement for the LadyJackets. The team opened the year with a season-best round of 356 at the Texas Lutheran University Invitational and closed it with a best team finish, placing fifth at the ASC Championships.

Senior Veronica Rutland led the team throughout the season and garnered her first postseason award when she finished 6th at the conference tournament, earning Second Team all-ASC honors. She finished her career having played in 33 tournaments and 68 rounds, both school records. ■



Aflame in Austin

Written By Rachel Stallard

In Austin, Texas, population 650,000-plus, LeTourneau University emits a very small spark. But through the efforts of the school's local faculty, staff and alumni group, the state capitol city may be sitting in the path of a growing inferno.

With an ignitable teaching staff and an alumni core more than willing to fan the flames, Dr. Murlene Watwood, director of the Austin Education Center, is leading the charge to shine the university's light in a rather large area.

"Our biggest problem here is visibility," Watwood said. "We have a lot of people asking, 'What is LeTourneau?'" The University of Texas, Concordia University (a Lutheran institution) and St. Edward's University (Catholic) all take sizable pieces of the college student population, so Dr. Scott Ray, associate vice president of LETU's School of Graduate and Professional Studies, called on the Austin campus to find a way to make its presence more known in the community.

They eagerly accepted the challenge.

"The faculty decided to become ambassadors for the university in the community," Watwood said. "We started brainstorming venues we could participate in: joining chambers of commerce, participating in job fairs and church events, or hosting a ministers' luncheon.

"Even though there are other colleges around that are also religious in nature, we want the community to know what makes us stand apart, that we're a little different," Watwood said.

One way they have already been able to measure success is through involvement in job fairs.

Dr. August Smith, a professor in LeTourneau's MBA program, and alumna Trina Robinson recently spent part of their day promoting LETU at the Educational Fair for Seton Hospital.

"(Nancy Westbrook) our enrollment counselor told me,

"This was the best job fair we've ever had. There was definitely more interest than usual," Watwood said.

Another activity meant to promote the university had an added bonus of getting local alumni on-board.

With the encouragement of Smith, who has taught every MBA group to come through the Austin Center since fall 2002, about 10 former LETU graduates came together in February to establish an alumni group, and then throw a party.

In conjunction with the administration, the Austin Center alumni group hosted a pre-graduation party to encourage recent graduates in their pursuit of jobs, and possibly more education.

"It was really very successful in showing new graduates how much they could do," Watwood said. "It showed how much we care about them, and that the alumni were interested in helping them. It also encouraged some of them to look into pursuing their MBA degrees."

Alumnus Buck Avey, an employee of Dell Computers, was an early leader in the group.

"We wanted to do something quickly to bring visibility and to honor the recent graduates," he said. "Our plan now is to meet again and look for ways to reach out to the alumni of LeTourneau in the Austin area. That way we can start to grow, support and encourage our fellow grads to participate in our effort."

Smith, a frequent traveler and consultant, sees the alumni group as a vital part of promoting the university. "Austin is just an innovative market, full of really innovative people," Smith said. "Those coming through the Austin program are starting to be very successful, and they're starting to help others."

"By being involved in students' lives, building a network and relationships, they can be an outreach for the university," he said.



Above: LeTourneau University's offices in Austin, Texas, opened in the fall of 2001

In addition to helping each other, a solid, supportive alumni group also helps itself.

"It's important to the alumni because they want their degrees to count for something," Watwood said. "They want the community to know what a degree from LeTourneau means."

They also want others to know the benefits of a Christian education.

"I would like to see LeTourneau as a whole, and specifically the Austin location, to be known as a Christian school that equips quality students to be assets to the community," said Blender Hill, an involved alumna and planner of the pre-graduation party. "It also reaffirms the fact that LeTourneau was the right choice for my graduate degree. I believe in the program, the instructors and the school."

In my personal life, it gives me another chance to witness about the program to non-believers I work with."

In a college town where nearly 15 percent of the population over 25 years old has a graduate or professional degree, competition can be stiff.

Smith, a former UT-Austin professor, said the state university receives 1,500 applications for every 300 they accept to their MBA program.

"Where do the other 1,200 go?" he asked. "That's where we have a market. For those seeking an alternative program, we have tremendous potential."

Avey hopes he's able to help some of those prospective students open a new door.

"I got involved because I believe in the product (Christian-centered higher education) and hope to promote the awareness of it in the local community," he said. "We all feel that LeTourneau is a great place to get an education here in Austin. Unfortunately, with the University of Texas, St. Edwards, Texas State, Baylor and other universities within the area, it is difficult for those interested in furthering their education to know that LeTourneau exists."

Over the last 10 years, Austin has become an influential city in the business market, being named Yahoo! Internet Life's "#2 Most Wired City in America" and Forbes' #3 "Best City for Business in 1999." Austin was also named by BestJobsUSA.com "the #1 place to live and work."

University promoters hope the city's honors bring an opportunity for the university enrollment to explode.

"We need to let people know we fill a niche," Smith said. "What does a Christian business person look like? We need to show that we have integrity, ethics, and the desire to make a difference." ■



From The Admissions Office

Written by James Townsend, Director of Admissions

In a few short weeks, LETU will welcome hundreds of new and transfer students to campus to begin their LETU experience. The dedicated and hard-working admissions team has traveled coast to coast, made calls, sent e-mails and instant-messaged thousands of students over the past year or two in anticipation of this year's class arrival.

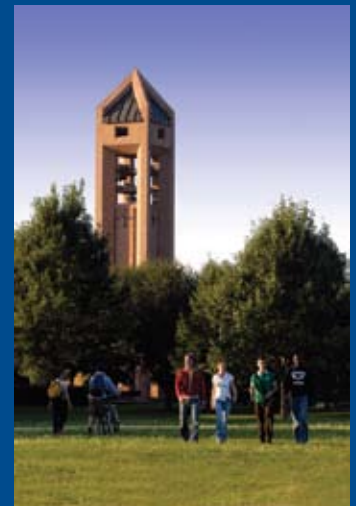
If you know of a student who still is interested in attending LETU this fall, we have a place for them. Have them contact the LETU Admissions Office at 800.759.8811 or go to www.letu.edu/apply.

Here are some important reminders for new LETU students:

July Edge (pre-registration) - July 12-13, 2007 – sign up at www.letu.edu/edge

New students arrive on campus – Thursday, August 23, 2007 – sign up at www.letu.edu/orientation

First Day of Classes – Tuesday, August 28, 2007



Heroes Walk Among Us

Written by: Terry Turner,
Director of Campus Security



Paul Gillilan, pictured left, receives the Christian Servant Award from President Dr. Alvin O. Austin and Terry Turner, director of Campus Security at the May 5, 2007, commencement ceremony.

When Sergeant Paul J. Gillilan, a former LeTourneau University student, walked onto the campus in 2001, he was looking for an education and work to help him pay his bills. He began studying electronic engineering technology and was a perfect fit to work in campus security. When he left LeTourneau University in 2003, Gillilan set out to pursue his commitment to military service in the United States Army.

Nearly five years later, in the early morning hours of February 24, 2007, a platoon was assigned to break up insurgent travel in the center of Ramadi, Iraq. Gillilan's squad was assigned to stop the threat. He prepared to lead his squad, giving quiet instructions and moving his men into entry formation. In an instant, their situation changed drastically. A concealed insurgent lookout became aware of their presence, and the wall the soldiers had used as a barrier to cover them from the enemy exploded.

Gillilan felt a rush of pain. At least the pain meant he was still alive. And he knew if he was alive, then some of his squad members must be, too. His first responsibility was recovering his team and getting them to safety.

Seven of his men were severely injured in the blast. An insurgent sniper was waiting for the smoke and dust to settle to finish them off. He would soon have a clear field of fire. In only a matter of seconds, Gillilan had to get his men out of harm's way.

When he tried to stand, his right leg could not push him up off the ground. He realized something was wrong, terribly wrong. There was pain, but no help from the injured leg. Gillilan continued to shout orders, although he could barely hear himself through the thunderous ringing in his ears. Soldiers began to react, mechanically performing tactical movements that were drilled into them

during training. Gillilan began to move, but not from his own power. One of his men was pulling him to safety in a nearby courtyard.

Gillilan pulled himself over to the nearest injured soldier, who appeared to be bleeding to death. He looked directly into his eyes and asked, "Are you a Christian?" The injured soldier hesitated. He did not want to answer the question, but Gillilan was intent on an answer.

"Private, it's a simple question and either you are or you're not. And right now is the time you need to decide." The soldier said he was a Christian, so Gillilan prayed with him. Gillilan was not willing to take the chance that his subordinate might slip into eternity without confessing Jesus Christ as Savior.

The explosion could not touch Gillilan's solid faith. In the midst of battle, when his body was capable of nothing else, he prayed.

Later, in the hospitals in Iraq and Germany, Gillilan continued his ministry and responsibility to his men. With fresh and painful wounds, Gillilan pulled himself out of his bed, commandeered a wheelchair and coerced nurses to hold his IV bag while he sought out each of his men, checking on their condition and praying with them to lift their spirits and give them hope.

Gillilan lost his leg, but feels God's blessings far outweigh his trials. He has accepted his loss but refuses to claim it as a liability on his future.

As director of campus security for LeTourneau University, I count Gillilan as one of my students. I am proud to say that one of my students has become one of my heroes. Gillilan is a man dedicated to service in his community, to his fellow man and to his country. In that service, he became a genuine hero. ■



From the Alumni Office

Written by Allison Gardner, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations



Join us for Homecoming on Oct. 26-27, 2007! We want you to be a part of this special weekend! Call a few friends and make a comeback at this reunion! It's been a year of changes on the LETU campus; we have a new chapel and performance center, in addition to a new president! Join us as we celebrate our history and look toward our future!

Register with some friends to "connect" at LeTourneau University during Homecoming 2007!

You can:

- Meet our new president, Dr. Dale Lunsford, at an all-campus picnic on the mall
- Reunite with former teammates or floor mates
- Chat with former faculty about how you are using your degree today
- Interact with current students

Reunions at Homecoming 2007

Class of 1957
(Golden reunion - 50th reunion)

Dorm 4
Quad 4 – McKinley House
Gilbert 2 – Suite A
Women's Volleyball
Women's Soccer
Men's Soccer

We will mail you the Homecoming 2007 brochure later this summer, but mark your calendar today! We'll see you in the fall.

Alumni Awards

Do you know an LETU alumnus who is excelling in his or her career? Or, maybe someone who excels in serving his or her community or church? Nominate that person for one of LETU's annual Homecoming alumni awards. We need your help to recognize outstanding alumni who are making a difference! Go to www.letu.edu/alumni/awards to read the criteria and to nominate online!

Class Notes

MEMORIALS

Joseph P. Luce ('47) died on Dec. 17, 2006.



Ken Branch ('01 MBA) died on May 19, 2007 in a motorcycle accident. Ken was a LeTourneau University adjunct faculty member. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, who works on the Longview campus. He has four children, Bobbie, **Andrew ('03 ACCT)**, **Christy ('05 PSCD)** and **Emily ('06 ISE1)**.

BIRTHS

David ('82 ATBU) and **Julie Leppelmeier** welcome their son, **Jake**, born March 20, 2007. The Leppelmeiers live in North Carolina where David is a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Jeff ('88 ME) and Dawn (Gregg) ('88 ME) Pearson adopted **Josiah Jeremiah** on Aug. 4, 2006. He joins siblings: **Gabby**, **Isaac**, **Elijah**, **Chloe**, **Malachi** and **Trinity**.



Ginger (Greer) ('89 EN) and Scott ('95 ATFL) Johnson have a second son. **Andrew Bradley** was born March 15, 2007. He joins big brother, **Luke**. The Johnsons live in Indianapolis, Ind.

Lori (Criswell) Mowen ('92 ME) and husband, **Joel**, live in Louisburg, Kan., with their two chil-



dren, **Kevin**, 4, and **Brandy**, 2. **Brandy** was born March 9, 2005. **Lori** works from home as an aquatic facility designer for Aquatic Design Consultants.



Rich and Karen (Helvie) Laber ('95) have two children, **Connor**, 3, and **Cameron**, 1. **Karen** works part time as an ER nurse. **Connor** and **Cameron's** proud grandpa is **Ken Helvie ('70 ATBS)**.

Tim ('94 ATFL) and **Lori Ruth's** son, **Titus Dean** was born Feb. 6, 2007 in Bandung, Indonesia, where the Ruths work with JAARS. He joined big brother, **Caleb**, 2. Proud grandparents are **Harold ('68 BI)** and **Carol Krause** who live in Honduras.



Brian ('95 ATFL) and **Jessica (Lovell) ('94 ATBS) Bowers** announce the birth of daughter, **Breanna**, on Jan. 24, 2007. They live in Wilmore, Ky. where **Brian** and **Jessica** work with Air Wisconsin.

Wayne Cummings ('95 ATFL) and wife, **Veronica**, have twin daughters. **Anna Sophia** and **Anna Karen** were born May 1, 2006.



Luke ('96 DT) and **Jennifer Chiavelli** along with son, **Colton**, announce the birth of **Lily** on Sept. 19, 2006. The Chiavelli family lives in Bucksport, Maine. **Luke** is a designer/drafter at WBRC A/E.



Megan ('96 EE) (Rundus) and **Josh ('96 EE) Ettinger** welcomed a son, **Benjamin Timothy**, on Jan. 30, 2007. **Josh** is a senior production engineer for Honeywell, and **Megan** is a stay-at-home mom/instructional design contractor.

Aaron Knaub ('96 BUMK) and his wife, **Margaret**, have a son. **Landon William** was born Dec. 12, 2006. The Knaubs live in Maryland where **Aaron** works for the Maryland State Police.

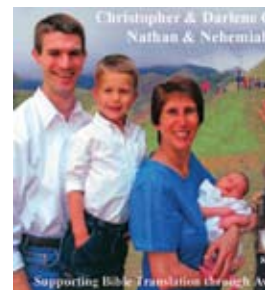
Andy ('96 HIPL) and **Kendra Spade** had a son, **Jacob Andrew**, on April 25, 2007. The Spades live in Lititz, Pa.



Phil ('97 ME) and **Sophia McLeod** have three children. **Gabrielle Ruth** was born May 15, 2007. She joins big brothers, **Isaiah**, 4, and **Simeon**, 2. **Phil** is an engineer with Boeing in Washington.



Christopher ('98 ATFL) and **Darlene Clark** had a baby, **Nehemiah**, born in March 2007. He joins big brother **Nathan**. The Clarks work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea.



Becky ('98 DT) and **Chris Hubbs ('99 CSE)** live in Hiawatha, Iowa, with their two children, **Addison Grace**, who was born March 13, 2006, and big sister, **Laura**, who is 2.



Aaron ('98 ATFL) and Ruth **Lorson** have a baby boy. Elijah Aaron was born April 12, 2007.



David ('99 EE) and Dana **Huber** had a daughter, Zosia Rose, born April 5, 2007. She joins siblings: Samuel, 5, Micah, 3, and Annabelle, 1. The Hubers live in Longview, Texas. David is an electrical engineer for LeTourneau Technologies, Inc.



Jayme ('99 ATFL) and **Hannah ('99 ISEL) King** had a daughter. Rachael Savannah was born Jan. 3, 2007. She joins her brother, Daniel, 3. The Kings live in Prattville, Ala., where

Jayme is a captain for White Skies Aviation, and Hannah is a stay-at-home mom.

Kim (Daharsh) ('00 ME) and **Dennis ('99 ME) Tweten** live in San Antonio, Texas, where daughter, Annelise Rose, was born last fall. She joined big sisters, Lillian and Evelyn. Dennis works as a research engineer for Southwest Research Institute.



Joel ('00 AT/ET) and Michawn **Ebersole** announce the birth of Asa Rose on Oct. 10, 2006. She joins Grady, 3, and Hadley, 2. In June, the Ebersoles will move to the Brazilian Amazon. They will work with Wings of Help, a Christian humanitarian organization.

Troy ('01 BUDT) and **Emily ('01 ISEL) (Wildsmith) Jackson** have a son, Brighten Warren, born Feb. 8, 2007. He joins big sister, Olivia Gayle, 3. The Jacksons live in Omaha, Neb.



Brian ('03 CSE) and **Emily (Briggs) ('03 ISEL) Hannah** gave birth to a daughter, Sydney, on Feb. 11, 2007.

The Hannahs live in Shakopee, Minn.

Adair (Eustace) Chen ('04 MGHR) and her husband, Michael, have a son. Pyrce Michael arrived on Dec. 19, 2006. The Chen family lives in Porter, Texas.

Jonathan ('04 MK) and **Kelly (Keys) ('05 CMIN) Hellmuth** announce the birth of Conlan Janes on Oct. 23, 2006. The Hellmuths live in Longview, Texas, where Kelly works for LeTourneau University as a records clerk, and Jonathan works for Enterprise as an account executive.

Sterling Ratzlaff ('04 ASFL) and his wife, Mbula, announce the birth of Dawnalise Mwende on March 14, 2007. Sterling is an aircraft mechanic for DynCorp International in Concord, N.H.

MARRIAGES

Jerry ('80 AT/WT/MT) and **Becky Bird** married on Sept. 3, 2005. They live in Knoxville, Tenn.

Jimmy ('99 ATFL) Page and **Kim Arledge** married on Feb. 3, 2007. Jimmy is a captain with SkyWest Airlines, and Kim is a surgery resident at the University of Utah.



Jessica (Kious) ('00 BYBS) married **Justin Fry** in Austin, Texas, on May 12, 2006. Justin is a project manager in commercial construction for Brassfield and Gorrie. Jessica, a graduate student and nurse, is pursuing further education in medicine. You can e-mail Jessica at jessicajfry@gmail.com.



Columbus Brown, II ('01 ME) married **Dr. Maureen Evelyn Walme** on Dec. 17, 2005. Columbus is a senior engineer with Bell Helicopter Textron in Arlington, Texas.

He is pursuing his MBA at LeTourneau's Bedford campus.

Jason Marshall ('04 ASEL) married **Kaleena Munson** on March 3, 2007 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Kaleena is a 2006 graduate of the University of Iowa. Jason works for Rockwell Collins as a systems engineer.



Sarah Milat ('04 MGT) and **David Hughes ('04 BUBS)** were married April 7, 2007. They live in Longview, Texas.

Bri (Johnson) ('05 HIE1) married **John Kirsch** on July 8, 2006. They live in Liberty Lake, Wash., where Bri is a teacher for Central Valley School District, and John works in banking.



ALUM NEWS

60'S

Kay (Plowman) ('66 EN) Lightle moved from Florida, where she had lived for 12 years, to South Riding, Va., to be close to her grandchildren.

Jerry Hudson ('67 ME) moved back to the United States from Jakarta, Indonesia, in April 2007. Jerry lives in Kingwood, Texas, where he works for Halliburton.

Larry ('68 ET) and **Virginia McGuire** celebrated their 40th anniversary with Trans-World Radio this May. They first worked with TWR in Africa living in Bonaire, South Africa and Swaziland. Their five sons were all born in Africa. Larry and Virginia now live in Elkhart, Ind.

Ken Holloway ('69) lives in Smyrna, Tenn., with his wife, Dorothy. Ken retired on April 1, 2007 from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. He served in that position for six years.

70's

Lynne Murrow ('74 EN) is the office manager of MRP Construction Services,

Class Notes

Inc. Lynne and her husband, Jamie, live in Melbourne, Fla.

Keith Wyckoff ('74 WE) is a fabricator for Riley Technologies in Mooresville, N.C. Keith and his wife, Joy, live in Concord.

Julie (Niewald) ('77 RE) MacKay received her private pilot's license on Nov 4, 2006. She and husband, **Jim ('76 ATMI)**, are partners in Midstate Aviation, which provides airplane rental and flight instruction. Julie is the education director for the Owosso Airport Association in Owosso, Mich.

Jerry ('78 AT, '80 MT, WT) and **Becky Bird** went to Nicaragua with Partners for Christ. Jerry was responsible for the design and oversight of building a basketball court and a large play set for an orphanage. Becky kept the children active with games. Jerry was able to preach in the local Baptist church.

Richard Campbell ('78 WE/ME) and his wife, Lynn, have moved back to Washington after 20 years in Colorado. Richard works for Bechtel National, Inc. in Richland, Wash.

Carlos Guerrero ('78 MT) and wife, Marisa Abbo, live in Michigan. Carlos works for Warrior Enterprises in Birmingham, Mich.

Mark Correll ('79 BI) and his wife, Wendy, live in Valley Bend, W. Va., with their seven children. Mark works for Davis Memorial Hospital.

80's

Richard Barrett ('81 MET/AT) moved to Goffstown, N.H., with his wife, Laura, and two daughters. Richard works as an engineer.

Ken Flemming ('81 ME) lives in Titusville, Fla., with his wife, Tracie, and their children: Samuel, 11, Jonathan, 9, Hannah, 8, and Hope, 1. Ken works as a flow manager for Boeing at the Kennedy Space Center.

Neil Hayes ('81 RE) is the senior institutional advancement officer at Athabasca University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.



Gary Blackwell, Jr. ('82 BUBS) was named the 2007 President of the Maine Insurance Agents Association. Gary is the president of the Blackwell Insurance Agency and lives in Corinth, Maine.

Dwayne Phillips ('83 WT) is back in the United States after spending the last four years in the Caribbean managing Air Liquide's assets in Trinidad and Tobago. Dwayne, his wife, Pamela, and their two children, Jacob, 12, and Sam, 10, live in the San Francisco bay area of California. Dwayne is the director of Hydrogen/Syngas West Coast for Air Liquide Large Industries US LP.

Matt Baldwin ('87 EE) lives in Flower Mound, Texas, with his wife, Janice, and children: Todd, 15, Erik, 14, and Anna, 12. Matt works for BAE Systems as a manager of Systems/Test Engineering.

Brian Kelly ('87 DT) lives in Irving, Texas, where he works for the City of Irving as a police officer.

Allan Griffin ('89 AMT) earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems on May 13, 2006 from John Brown University's Advance Program. Allan works as an engine planning analyst for Air Transport International in Little Rock, Ark. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children, Haven, 9, and Maya, 7.

Paul ('89 MT) and **Mae (Landis) Krug** now live in Longview, Texas. They have three children: Andrew, 13, Caleb, 11, and Gracie, 7. Paul owns Unda Marina Construction.

90's

Dorrie LoBue ('91 BBM) is the new director of the Southwest regional office of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Dorrie lives in Evansville, Ind.

Bruce Porter ('91 MET) is a designer for General Dynamics SATCOM. He and his wife, Erin, live in Pine Grove Mills, Pa.

Joshua ('91 ACCT) and Angela (Wyatt) ('92 MK) Williams live in Longview, Texas. They are parents to Bonny, 12, Cameron, 8, Nehemiah, 6, and Patrick, 4.

Tim Holloway ('93 ATBS) works for Cessna Aircraft Company as a production test pilot at its facility in Independence, Kan.

Joel Huegel ('93 MT) is on academic leave from Tec de Monterrey in Guadalajara, Mexico. He is attending Rice University to pursue his doctorate in mechanical engineering. Joel and his wife, Liz, have two children, Joel, 4, and Elizabeth, 2.

Steve ('93 ATBI) and **Alace Straw**, along with their children, Joseph, Megan and Samuel, are headed to Gabon, in Central Africa, to begin an air ambulance operation for the Bongolo Hospital. They plan to take language training this fall and hope to be in Africa a year later. Visit their Web site at: StrawsInAfrica.org.

Marion Benson ('94 BBM) was promoted to vice president of Good Shepherd Health System and executive director of Good Shepherd Ambulatory Surgical Center. She celebrates 14 years with the Good Shepherd Health System this year.



Aurora Geis ('94 BBM) was elected to a one-year term as vice chairman of the CPS Energy Board of Trustees in San Antonio, Texas. She is director of the local Fannie Mae office and is active in the San Antonio community. She and husband, Gregory, have two children.

Steve Maring ('95 CSE) works for L-3 Communications as an aviation electrician. He lives in Richmond, Ky.

Nathan ('95 ATFL) and **Dayna Woskie** celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary on April 9, 2007. Dayna is a sign-language interpreter and teacher, and Nathan is a pilot for American Eagle Airlines.



Adam Bucher ('96 ATDT) is a design engineer for Keystone Helicopter/Sikorsky in Pennsylvania. He and wife, Katherine, have two children, Sarah, 3, and Ben, 1.



Micah Frisinger ('96 ATFL) is an RJ Captain for Air Wisconsin. His wife, Florita, is a pilot for Tropic Air. They live in Belize with their daughter, Olivia.

Malcolm MacDonald ('96 CSE) lives in Gauteng, South Africa. Malcolm works as an enterprise infrastructure architect for Nedbank in Johannesburg.

Darryl W. McNabb ('96 BBM) is now the regional office manager for PMP Health Services Inc. in Brenham, Texas. In 2001, he was called to active duty for two years as an Air Force reservist. He and wife, Lisa, have three daughters and one son.

Carlos Y. Uyja ('96 IM) lives in Honduras with his wife, Mari Carmen, and their three children: Nicole, 16, Yasser, 12, and Yousseff, 7.

Steve Bridgens ('98 BBM) was promoted to director of corporate quality at Ethertronics, Inc. in San Diego, Calif. Steve currently lives in San Marco, Calif.

Chris Mammen ('98 MBA) is president of Mammen Glass & Mirror and M3 Glass Technologies in Irving, Texas. In April 2007, Mammen Glass was named by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as Small Business of the Year 2007 for the southwest and south central regions.



Aaron Lorson ('98 ATFL) was recently promoted to vice president of Flight Operations for Dynamic Aviation in Bridgewater, Va.

Chris Meyer ('98 ATFL) lives in Kailua, Hawaii, with his wife, Rebecca, and their children, Haley, 14, and Virginia, 5. Chris is an intelligence officer with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Joshua Scott ('98 BYBS) works with CAM International as the manager of media services. Josh and his wife, Betty, have five children: Abel, 6, Abraham, 4, Joelle, 3,

Nathanael, 2, and Stephen, 9 months. They currently live in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Jason Fowler ('99 HIPL) joined the law firm of Cotkin & Collins. He is practicing medical malpractice defense, professional liability and civil defense. Jason lives in Las Vegas, Nev.

Peter Baba ('99 ME) has moved back to New York City, N.Y., from Sydney, Australia. Peter works for American Express as a manager of reporting and analysis.

Stephanie Emerson ('99 ENE1) is the heart transplant coordinator for Children's Medical Center Dallas. She works with transplant patients before, during, and after their transplants.

Tonya Martin ('99 BBM) lives in Arlington, Texas, where she works as the accounting manager for Networking Results. Tonya is currently in the MBA program at LeTourneau's Bedford location.

George Meza ('99 MBA) is the senior manager at Accenture Consulting in Dallas, Texas.

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Keri (Hodges) ('00 HIPL) Davidson married Michael in 2004 after working for two years as a teacher in Cheong Ju, South Korea. Michael is a native of Grimsby, England. The Davidsons are active in Fountaingate Fellowship in Abilene, Texas, where they are seeking opportunities to aid victims of human trafficking throughout Southeast Asia.

Daniel Smith ('00 ET) lives in Hallsville, Texas, with his wife, Christina, and son, Caleb, 3.



Max Nelson ('01 BBA) works for Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems. Max was promoted to program manager for all VM Software Migrations. Max, his wife, Carolyn, and their four children live in Plano, Texas.

Donny Shubert ('01 BBA) is the operations manager for the City of Dallas-Fair Park.

Kevin Hill ('01 BBM) received a promotion to vice president of Retail Operations for

Hannaford Bros. Inc. Kevin and his wife, **Genevive, ('03 BBM)** live in Rotterdam, N.Y.

Seth Persons ('01 ASAS) is a representative for Cessna in the UK. He provides structural engineering support to customers operating Citation jets. His area includes Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Michael Townzen ('02 ME) and his wife, Juliet, live in Beckville, Texas. Michael works for Titan Dynamics Systems as a BES project engineer.

Brian Grinnan ('03 SSE4) is a teacher for Chelmsford Public Schools in Chelmsford, Mass. Brian and wife, Laura, have two children, Madeline, 2, and Micah, 1.

Monika Stade ('03 PSYS) lives in Longview, Texas, where she works as the business development coordinator for Healthcare Partners of East Texas, Inc. She is currently working on her MBA through LeTourneau University.

Daniel Wynja ('03 ASFL) lives in South Bend, Ind., where he is a Learjet 31 pilot for Gurley-Leep Automotive.

Mandy (Williams) ('04 ASAE) Asp lives with her husband, Stuart, in Hatboro, Pa. Mandy works as a mechanic for Hortman Aviation in Philadelphia.

Sarah Randow ('04 HIPL) recently earned a Master of History degree from Missouri State University.

Joe Wayne Reynolds ('04 BBA) and wife, Dana, live in Quitman, Texas, with their son, Mason, 3. Joe Wayne is an office manager for People Telephone Cooperative. He is also the lead singer of a Christian country band, Higher Trails, who have two songs on the top 80 Christian Country Charts.

Ron Hall ('02 BBM, '05 MBA) is the business unit manager at Pratt and Whitney in Grand Prairie, Texas. He and wife, Shannon, have three children: Ethan, 7, Evan, 4, and Emma, 1.

Jonathan Marney ('05 MIS) earned an MBA from the Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rollins College. He lives in Virginia where he works as an IT officer for the U.S. Government.

Class Notes

Lee Uecker ('05 ASFM) works for Mooney Airplane Company as its sales representative for the California market.

Andrew Westerhaus ('05 ASFL) works for Hortmont Aviation as a citation V first officer. He and wife, **Sara (Campbell) ('05 BYBS)**, live in Glenside, Pa. Sara is attending Arcadia University pursuing a Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

Joel Carlson ('06 ASMS) works for Last Frontier Air Ventures as a helicopter mechanic. Joel lives in Sutton, Alaska.

Bob Francis ('06 MBA) is the vice president of marketing and part of the executive management team for Meridium, Inc., a software company based in Roanoke, Va. Bob and his wife, Gail, have their two children, Megan, 11, and Joseph, 8.

Randy Hamilton ('06 BBA) joined Noble Energy in Houston, Texas, as its manager of Information Security and IT Audit. He is also in his second semester of Texas A&M University's Executive MBA Program in The Woodlands, Texas.

Robert Henderson ('06 MBA) is now the lead instructor in the Business Department at Everest College in Arlington, Texas.

Finn Liland ('07 BBM) is a recruiter/generalist for VECO Alaska. Finn and his wife, Kyna, live in Kingwood, Texas.

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If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about the program, contact Allison Gardner at 1-800-259-ALUM (2586) or via e-mail: alumni@letu.edu or go to www.letu.edu/laa for more information.

Friends of LeTourneau University

Written by Kris Erickson

Franklin Martin, Jr. has a CD collection that rivals most 17-year olds' — he has over 400. But, unlike most teens, when asked his favorite style of music, he says he prefers jazz piano. "I like all kinds of music—except for hard rock," Martin says.

To call Martin a history buff is certainly the truth. His Longview heritage dates back to his great-grandparents who were charter members of Longview's First Baptist Church. Born, raised and settled in Longview, Texas, Martin can entertain a person for hours with stories full of details and little-known facts about Longview's music scene from the 1940s through today.

Though Martin does not play an instrument, music is still an important aspect of his life. Martin's mother was a violinist and an influential member of the Longview musical community. Martin has recorded the musical history of Longview, preserving it for generations to come in a book he has donated to the Gregg County Historical Museum.

Through his mother's musical influence in his life, Martin has become a longtime supporter of the East Texas Symphonic Band, the Gregg County Historical Museum, the Longview Symphony and now, the S. E. Belcher Jr. Chapel and Performance Center.



Franklin Martin Jr. and his dog, Gustavus of Whirlaway, sit together before a Longview Kennel Club dog show in 1955 which was held in LeTourneau Technical Institute's campus gymnasium.

Martin's relationship with LETU began during WWII when two Philadelphia men stationed at Harmon General Hospital were interested in Longview's music scene.

"When they hit Longview, they checked out the musical climate in this area; and they were referred to my mother," Martin says.

Martin remembers when the hospital was sold to R.G. LeTourneau who later founded the school. "I was here when LeTourneau bought it for a dollar," he says. "It sure turned out good."

Martin has been so impressed with the university that he has included LETU in his estate plans. He encourages others, who love the arts, to do likewise.

Back in the early days, Martin says, LeTourneau Technical Institute had a short-lived music program.

"Mother said it wasn't successful because people didn't support it," he says. Today, Martin is committed to supporting the arts in East Texas.

"Art. That's who we are. It tells others who we are, too," Martin says. "I think it's very important. I sure am proud to have a good performing arts place here in Longview."

At the new Belcher Center's dedicatory concert on April 19, Martin attended both the morning and evening events.

"It exceeds my wildest imagination and dreams," he says. "It was fantastic. It's really going to grow this town and the college together." ■



For more information on opportunities to touch the lives of LeTourneau students, contact: Bryan Benson, director of development, LeTourneau University, P.O. Box 7333, Longview, TX 75607, or visit our Web site at: www.letu.edu/plannedgiving, 800-259-5388, 903-233-3809.

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