In His Service
At LeTourneau University, we put a priority on serving. Our students give a lot of their time to volunteer efforts, racking up more than 40,000 hours last year alone. Whether it is through local organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the Windridge Equestrian Therapeutic Center, the Hiway 80 Rescue Mission, the Boys and Girls Club, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Salvation Army or after-school literacy programs and various church ministries, our students are involved in the lives of others.

Some LETU students were trained by the Internal Revenue Service and volunteered to help elderly citizens prepare their income taxes during tax season. Other students led chapel services once a month at a local rescue mission. Some of our students were involved in ministering to amputees through our LEGS project in Africa, Bangladesh and soon, Sierra Leone.

Spring break mission projects in Mexico, Honduras, Jamaica and the United States took our students out of their books and into the lives of people around them. Through service opportunities our students learn “hands-on” life lessons about leadership and team work that they could not get sitting in a classroom. Many are called into a life of fulltime missionary service.

We believe the talents and abilities God has given us are not gifts we can retain for ourselves, but that we are to share these talents and abilities with others in His service.

Our goal is not just to prepare students to compete in the world economy in their chosen professions, but to develop them into Christian leaders. This commitment is reflected in one of our five Christian leadership distinctives that defines a LeTourneau University education: collaborating service.

We know that when our students put action to their beliefs and put their talents to work on behalf of others, they are changed and God is glorified. For it is in His service that we all find a true relationship with Christ. It is in His service that we find satisfaction and joy in life.
“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 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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LeTourneau University President Dr. Alvin O. “Bud” Austin recently announced his intentions to retire from the office of president on June 30, 2007.

By that date, he will have served 21 years at the helm of a growing university. This 21-year tenure is truly a remarkable tenure considering that most presidents today last only about 5.9 years at a university.

Austin has been the university’s president for a full third of its 60-year history. He came to LeTourneau in 1986, before many of our current traditional students were even born. In that amount of time, he has led the university from days of financial struggle with slipping enrollments of 750 into the well-respected, academically rigorous, vibrant university of nearly 4,000 students that it is today.
Q: What led to your retirement announcement?

A: I will be 65 in January, and during the past several years, I have thought and prayed about the appropriate time that would be most positive for the institution for me to step aside as president. With both milestones of my length of tenure at 20 years and the university’s 60th anniversary, it seemed like a good time to transfer leadership. Also, having just successfully completed our 10-year strategic plan, it seemed untimely to start a new plan that someone else would inherit. And I wanted to see the successful completion of our 10-year SACS accreditation process, which recently resulted in an outstanding affirmation of our university’s quality people and programs. Additionally, I wanted to be here for the completion of the largest-ever capital campaign in our history, the S. E. Belcher Jr. Chapel and Performance Center. It’s been said that a visionary is one who plants a tree under which he will never sit, but I will be able to sit in the Belcher Center at least once as president.

I saw other needs, for new vision and new energy to help bring about new initiatives, like a new student center and new academic center, to keep the university growing into the future. The presidency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year job. I desire more free time to spend with my wife, children and grandchildren. I am still healthy and have been blessed that I have never missed a day’s work due to illness in the 20 years I’ve been president.

Q: Why announce now?

A: By announcing my decision at the April meeting of the Board of Trustees, I was able to fulfill my long-standing pledge to the board that I would give them a year’s notice to conduct a search for my replacement. The train never stops. You don’t want it to. We don’t want the institution to stagnate during a transitional time. I will step off when the new president steps on.

Q: How do you feel having spent nearly a third of your life in this role?

A: I am conflicted. I will always bleed blue and gold. This is the best job in the world, watching young people grow and develop and become leaders of the future. I will miss the relationships with staff and faculty and the daily interactions that come with the role. It is a difficult decision for me. My job has been my primary commitment for these many years and soon I must learn to transition away from normal work. God wound me in such a way that I will always be busy, whether in volunteering, consulting or traveling. I won’t just sit on a shelf. I do look forward to a time when the accountability and pace of presidential leadership are not mine to bear.

There is no perfect time, but now is a good time, both for the university and for me. The university is in the strongest position in its history for a leadership transition to take place. We have the highest student enrollment, the highest quality faculty and we are in a sound financial position. And it’s not just the size of our student body but the quality that has never been higher, with more than 30 National Merit Scholarship finalists enrolled. We are respected by other academic institutions and have earned national recognitions. And we have a capable, committed Board of Trustees.

Q: What do you see as your greatest legacy as president?

A: We’ve grown to a vibrant, outreaching university of nearly 4,000 without loss of commitment to quality and spiritual rigor. I get accolades for improving the physical condition of the campus, but it has been a team effort. Our beautiful campus reflects our commitment to excellence, but what happens in the buildings, the educational learning and spiritual leadership, is what really matters. I am proud of the Center for the Development of Christian Leadership because applying our Christian leadership distinctives (discovering purpose, broadening knowledge, grounding values, deepening skills and collaborating service) throughout the curricular and co-curricular programs is a huge part of what we do. I am also proud of building the quality of our faculty through rigorous searching and screening. Doubling our academic programs helped us provide other avenues of study for students who choose LeTourneau for one program, only to discover they would rather study something else. A broader curriculum also enabled us to avoid steep enrollment cycles when one program falls in disfavor with incoming students. Opening educational centers in metropolitan areas of our state has broadened the reach of Christian higher education.

Q: How have you changed over the years?

A: While I was always confident in supporting Christ-centered higher education, my boldness has grown in the value of what we do here. We provide individuals with a Christian worldview and prepare them to be effective leaders in their homes, churches, jobs and
For The Fame of His Name

Written by Janet Ragland
Having already worked for weeks to raise financial support, nearly 200 LeTourneau University students put their hearts, hands and feet to their faith March 10-19 to serve others through spring break mission trips.

For many, it was an annual ritual. For others, it was a first time. For all, it was an experience to remember as God showed Himself faithful.

While the whole process was overseen by LETU Chaplain Dr. Harold Carl and each team traveled with a faculty or staff adviser, the planning for the trips fell to student leaders.

Long before they stepped onto the mission field, student leaders spent hours in prayer, preparation, communication and organization, gathering passports and payments and shepherding their “flocks” to ensure smooth trips.

LeTourneau Student Ministries Vice President of Missions Christy Robbins was responsible for planning, identifying needs, budgeting, coordinating leadership and organizing travel and logistics for each of the 16 trips.

“I went into the position of LSM vice president of missions with no idea of how much work it would entail, or how much I would grow from it,” she said. “I can honestly say that planning the spring break mission trips has been the most challenging task I have ever faced, but it was also, by far, the most rewarding.”

Within the United States, students witnessed to Mormons in Utah through street and college evangelism. One team served a Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona with construction and personal witnessing. Some shared Christ in New York with recovering drug addicts. Others used their mechanical skills to repair and maintain missionary aircraft at JAARS, an aviation mission center in North Carolina. Also in North Carolina, at the Master’s Mission headquarters, students did construction work on the headquarters facilities. Some students attended evangelism training in Florida that prepared them to effectively witness the rest of the week on the beach to partying college students.

Two chartered buses carried more than 100 students to cities in Mexico. Students did heavy construction work in Tamazunchale, Fresnillo and San Luis Potosi. One group ministered to orphans in San Miguel de Allende. In Aguascalientes, students hosted a basketball camp for children. A medical mission team went to Guadalajara to minister to more than 200 men, women and children, while a second team did construction on a building that serves as both a nursery school and a church. One team taught conversational English to university students in Guanajuato. Two international trips led students to minister to orphans in Jamaica while another team built a church in Honduras.

At each site, students sought to let God’s love shine through their actions.

During these trips, students shared the common bonds of faith in Christ and His ability to change lives, but they also learned things about themselves.

They shared the struggles of cold showers, crowded sleeping arrangements, unclean drinking water and bathrooms that cost three pesos to use. Some students developed a new worldview from their experiences, gaining a renewed appreciation for real people in real places who need a real God.

One student was encouraged by the passion of new missionaries he met at Master’s Missions, an organization designed to train new missionaries how to survive in remote areas on the mission field. Another student on the Florida trip was excited about the 165 people who accepted Christ for the first time, and the 69 who rededicated their lives to Christ during the week they were there.

Jacki Sobota said God taught her in Arizona to slow down and invest time in building relationships.

“It was like a week of Sabbath rest,” she said. “Why are we in such a mad rush to go, go, go? We need to be on Navajo time. We need to listen to each other. God will fill us if we seek Him. I don’t want to lose that.”

Zack Niles went to New York to minister to drug addicts, but found he was blessed in return.

“They were on fire for God,” he said. “We saw that everyone has problems. They had chosen drugs and alcohol to cope, but were saved through God. It is not just a drug rehabilitation center, it’s a life rehabilitation center.”

Alex Jackson said he was reminded of the importance of living a life of faith and prayer during his trip to San Luis Potosi.

“I saw how they would not have enough money for basic things like toothpaste and soap, so they prayed. They lived on prayer and exercised their faith every day. I had never seen that before. It was prayer in action. It blew me away.”

In Aguascalientes, Nathan Higgs learned to be flexible and let God work through each circumstance in His own timing.

“Our whole plans changed once we got there, but it still worked out perfectly,” Higgs said. “God amazed me how well His plans worked when we trust Him. It reminded me that God is faithful for a plan in my life.”

Some students learned they possessed skills they didn’t know they had.

Naomi Downs said the hard-core construction of a church foundation in Fresnillo required use of a jack-
hammer to break up the bedrock each day. In the evenings, the students would entertain children in the town square by making balloon animals to give away.

“One family was begging for food, and their little girl was so excited just to get a balloon,” she said. “I don’t have a lot of talents, but with a balloon, I could bring a smile to that little girl’s face and, for a moment, relieve her life of hardship.”

Brad Corradi said he wasn’t convinced that his team accomplished as much construction work as he had hoped during their time in Tamazunchale.

“God taught me that it was more than just what we accomplished. It was the relationships we built,” he said. “Even guys started to cry for the love and encouragement we brought to the community.”

Kendall Smith thought her goal in Guanajuato was to witness primarily to lost people, but was surprised when she could encourage another Christian who felt outnumbered by unbelieving peers.

“I realized God’s purpose was also for us to encourage other believers,” she said. “College students in Mexico were surprised that American college students like us would give up a spring break to visit with them. They thought all American college students spent spring break at the beach drinking alcohol.

“They would ask, ‘Why would you spend a spring break in Mexico with us in class instead of at South Padre Island?’ Our answer was that we have something to share with you. What we shared was Christ.”

Michael DeGroat experienced taking cold showers in river water and doing heavy construction work in Jamaica. But what really touched his heart was working with three- to six-year-old children whom he described as “starving for love.”

“It was awesome to see how much they light up with life as we shared time with them. There was another tour group of white American college students on All-Terrain Vehicles who stopped and watched them. One of the children said to him that the others were there out of curiosity to admire the “wild Jamaican in his natural habitat.”

“The contrast between how they were spending their spring breaks and what we were doing was evident,” DeGroat said. “They could see we were motivated by love.”

Robbins said God used the spring break mission trips to grow her faith and teach her to lean not on her own understanding.

“One of the lessons I was forced to learn is that nothing I can do in my own strength will ever glorify God,” she said. “The fact is, no matter how much planning, organizing, communicating and brainstorming we do, the result is fully reliant on the Father.

“I can think of many instances when I saw all of my work
fail, and just as everything seemed hopeless, God came through in the most unexpected ways.”

Robbins told of fund-raiser events that fell short of expectations and how worried she became that the funding needed was overwhelming with time running out.

“The last few weeks leading up to spring break were some of the most agonizing weeks of my life because I knew that all of the work we put into fund-raising was not enough. I had no idea where the money would come from. All I could do was pray and trust that God would provide. And He did, in amazing ways.”

Robbins said that while nearly all of the planned car washes were canceled due to inclement weather, the final car wash raised $2,400, nearly four times what it normally would. She cited unexpected donations that came in at the last minute, further evidence of God’s provision.

“I was left in awe at how faithful God is in everything,” she said. “I was not called to succeed in my strength, but to watch Him glorify Himself through my failure.

“In every report I have heard since the teams have returned, I have been amazed to hear of how God moved. Not because of anything I did, but because He is faithful.

“Most of the mission trips honestly didn’t go as I expected,” Robbins said. “Many plans were changed at the last minute, but always for the better. God knew how the teams could best minister, and He fixed many of my well-laid plans so the teams would glorify Him. Some of the best stories I have heard about the mission trips are the ones in which all of my plans fell apart.

“I have been blessed to see students return with a new passion for seeing God work,” she said. “Many of these students have expressed a desire to go into full-time ministry because of their experiences on the mission trips. I am continually amazed at how God chose to work.

“I have come to realize that having faith does not mean God will work in the way I expect Him to, or that He will bring me success on my terms. My work for Him is not validated because it is successful, but because I did it for Him. My plans will often fail, but God works all things to His glory. God has taught me that my way has more to do with glorifying myself than with glorifying Him. His way glorifies Himself.

“Being part of the planning for spring break missions was a growing opportunity of a lifetime. My comfort zone was stretched to the point of breaking, and many times, I felt like I was breaking too. But through it, my faith has deepened and my heart has grown. I have gained a new excitement for what God can do through me, both in my failure and successes, to touch the lives of others and to bring glory to Him.”
Michael Bunn ('88 ATBS)
Jodi Bunn (’91 AMT/BA English)

Michael and Jodi have been working in the missionary field for 15 years. They have five children: Ben, 13; Micha, 11; Megan, 9; Mattias, 6; and Lukas, 2.

Jodi and I work as directors of Mercy Air Brazil, which is the flight branch of YWAM (Youth With A Mission). The unique part of our ministry is that we are working in very close partnership with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) Brazil and the Wycliffe Bible Translators’ flight branch, JAARS. I am a JAARS-approved pilot and have flown their aircraft for many years. Now we operate side by side. Our float plane flies to all the water locations in the Amazon where missionaries work with the tribes, and the Wycliffe plane flies to the runway locations in more settled tribes. We started our work with Mercy Air in South Africa in 1991 and two years later pioneered the Brazil operation.

God has really blessed both of us in our service overseas. We have had the opportunity to see unreached tribes in Africa and the Amazon, some of these now brothers and sisters in Christ. Our children have grown up on mission bases and are bilingual, learning from great Christian teachers in the mission school. One of the other great blessings of serving on the foreign field is seeing new missionaries called from the short-term teams that come to work with us.

Most everything about our LeTourneau education prepared us for our work in missions and in the jungle. The hands-on learning, the times our professors made us improvise and work with less than adequate tools and supplies, has all served its purpose. Even the early basic classes on electricity, hydraulics, statics and dynamics all prepared us to do the “other” work of missions…build and design systems for the outback.

Dwayne King (’65 aviation tech)

Dwayne has worked with SEND International for 36 years. He and wife Carolyn have four children: David, 40; Jon, 38; Rebekah, 37; and Joel, 31.

I made a commitment to serve Him after missionary pilot Nate Saint died in Ecuador (in 1956). At that time, my grandfather was receiving the NOW and I read about the aviation program. My church in Vestal, N.Y., encouraged me and supported me to be a missionary pilot. I proposed to my wife-to-be with, “Will you be the wife of a missionary pilot?” All of this was confirming the Lord’s will for my life.

LeTourneau University prepared me to reach the outermost parts of the world that had never heard the gospel. If I couldn’t fly, I would not have made the first flights to open up the Soviet Union across the Bering Sea, Sept. 1, 1991. A LeTourneau grad in Longview provided work for me and mentored me to be an evangelist while I was a student.

When we lived in Russia for seven years, I was teaching Russian pilots in the Khabarovsk pilot training center aviation English and navigational charts. I was often asked to fly their large aircraft. On one trip from Anadyr to Magadan, far east Russia, I noticed an Alaska Air Jet overhead returning to Anchorage. I asked the captain if I could call “our” aircraft on the Alaska Air company frequency. They said they had never done it before (probably because they couldn’t speak English) but he agreed.

“Alaska 202, this is Aeroflot 63214,” he answered, and we had a conversation. The Alaska captain also had probably never talked to an Aeroflot aircraft. Then he said “Aeroflot 63214, your English is very good.” I thanked him for his compliment and said I had studied a long time. The Aeroflot crew was thrilled their aircraft was in communication with an American aircraft.
Brad ('02 ATFL) and Rebecca Hopkins
Brad and Rebecca have spent the last year at language school in Indonesia, where Brad is a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship.

When I decided to pursue mission aviation, I was giving up my dream to fly military jets. Even as I filled out the application to Mission Aviation Fellowship, I wondered if I was making the right decision. “Couldn’t I just serve God in the military?” I asked myself. Did God really call me to missions, or did I just come up with that myself? But through prayer, I came to the conclusion that God had invited me to be part of something bigger than myself, bigger than military aviation, bigger than any dreams I have had. If I wanted to join Him, I was welcome to.

I have been in Indonesia for a year, and actually just began flying in May. We’ve been in language school for the past year. Even though I am just beginning to fly, I can already see how God has used us in so many ways through relationships with neighbors. God can certainly love these people without our help, but I’m excited to be part of God’s work by allowing Him to use me. And I feel privileged that He has chosen to use us to show His love to them.

I have a very close Indonesian friend who is also my neighbor. He is Muslim, as so many Indonesians are. We have spent so much time with his family, just getting together and talking. They have helped us learn the language and culture, and we’ve listened to their stories of their childhood, their struggles and their hopes for the future. We want so much to love them with God’s love. As we were saying our goodbyes to him since we had finished language school and would be moving, he told me that because of our friendship, he called us his “bridge to heaven.” We try our best to explain that we are merely God’s hands. But his words reminded us of how Christ is our bridge to heaven.

Otto (89 MET) and April Habeger (86 CHEM)
Otto and April have been with Wycliffe Bible Translators-JAARs for 14 years. They have four children: Angela, 15; Elizabeth, 11; Cathleen, 11; and Rebekah, 8.

Both of us felt that God was leading us into missions. As we continued to pray about it, the Lord confirmed that calling in various ways. As we made steps forward in obedience to His calling, He continued to confirm that calling and lead us on to the next step.

God has blessed us with a family and a place to serve Him. He has often stretched us, and He has enriched our walk with Him as we have seen His faithfulness. God has allowed us to see how He is working, and in some cases, to be a part of that work. It is an awesome privilege.

We both entered LeTourneau to get the education we needed to serve Him on the mission field. We also were involved in trips both to the Urbana Conference (student mission convention) and on a summer mission trip that God used to guide us to where He wanted us to serve. A lot of our education helped to prepare us to serve in missions, not only in our respective majors, but also in the Bible and missions courses.

On a Sunday morning a couple of months ago, we were meeting at our usual missionary fellowship when we stopped to talk to a visitor who looked familiar. It turned out that we were at LeTourneau at the same time. The more we talked with those around us, we realized that in our small fellowship of missionaries, there were six of us who were LeTourneau alumni. It was like a mini-reunion on a Sunday morning. It also made us realize how many of us serving the Lord here are also fellow “LeTourneauites.” We could have our own little chapter of LeTourneau alumni here in Entebbe, Uganda.
ENGINEERING STUDENTS WIN FIRST PLACE
LeTourneau University electrical engineering students Brian Taylor and John Thomas won first place in the circuit design competition at the IEEE Region 5 Technical, Professional, and Student Conference. IEEE is the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., a leading professional association for the advancement of technology. This year was the first time LETU attended the conference, which comprises 10 states. Taylor and Thomas competed against students from 12 other universities. Pictured from left are Matt Wisher, John Thomas, Dr. Joonwan Kim, Stephen Hope and Brian Taylor.

NSF ENGINEERING GRANTS ENABLE STUDENT RESEARCH
LeTourneau University is receiving over $16,000 in supplemental funding from the National Science Foundation to employ two engineering students to work on biomedical research projects this summer. Engineering students Ashley Capps of Huntington, Texas, and Nathan Green of Dalhart, Texas, will work under the direction of biomedical engineering professor Dr. Roger Gonzalez on two of his research projects. Capps will work on the “ACL-deficient knee” which assesses strains in the anterior cruciate ligament and risk factors for osteoarthritis. Green will work on the “intelligent prosthetic arm project” that reads electric signals from the muscle to control the prosthetic arm more naturally.

AUSTIN EDUCATIONAL CENTER EXPANDS
LETU's Austin Educational Center has expanded by adding four classrooms, two offices and storage areas, a testing area and a commons area on the third floor of the Reunion Park Building. The site currently already has four classrooms on the first floor. Two Austin team members, Dr. Darla Baggett, PACT Coordinator, and Maxine Potter, PACT Support, have also moved to the upstairs space.

STUDENTS PRESENT PAPERS AT C.S. LEWIS CONFERENCE
Seven LETU English majors presented research papers at the C.S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference, March 3-4, 2006, at John Brown University. Presenters were Andrew Spencer, Jared Wheeler, Jordan Callaway, Courtney Craggett, Charissa Sherwood, Katy Harclerode and Geoffrey Barbour.

LEGS RETURNS TO KENYA
LeTourneau University biomedical engineering students returned to CURE International’s Bethany Crippled Children’s Center in Kijabe, Kenya, May 8-27, to fit amputees with low-cost prosthetics designed for use in developing countries and to check progress on the 11 amputees they fitted last summer. The LeTourneau Engineering Global Solutions (LEGS) project, under the direction of biomedical engineering professors Drs. Roger Gonzalez and Stephen Ayres, recently returned from Malmughat Memorial Christian Hospital in Bangladesh where six amputees were fitted. Students working on the LEGS project plan to provide prosthetic legs to amputees in Sierra Leone in August.

FACULTY BENEFITS FROM TITLE III ‘MINI-GRANTS’
LeTourneau University faculty members have benefited from a $1.8 million U.S. Department of Education Title III grant which funds professional development in the use of instructional technology. Faculty development “mini-grants” ranging from $500 to $2,500 serve as “seed” money for faculty projects to more fully incorporate technology in the classrooms across educational disciplines. Five faculty members have been awarded Title III Faculty Development grants totaling...

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY SUMMER 2006
STING FLIGHT TEAM RANKS 12TH NATIONALLY
LeTourneau University’s STING flight team was ranked 12th among 28 schools at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s 2006 Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON) May 8-13. The team also was ranked 9th in the Judges’ Ranking which considers individual performances in competitors’ respective events. Back Row: Eugene Sung (captain), Phillip Roberts, Ruedi Schubarth, Roger Braun, Matthew Reeves, Brandon Ray, Daniel Chiew; Front Row: Brad Wooden (advisor), Chris Brown, Emily Harrison, Esther Topham (coach) Not pictured: Andy Christensen (captain), Erich Ehlinger, Jason Tencza

$5,000. They are biomedical and mechanical engineering professor Roger Gonzalez, $2,500; assistant chief flight instructor Bruce Chase, $1,000; Christian ministries professor Patrick Mays, $500; biblical studies professor Renate Hood, $500 and electrical engineering chair Paul Leiffer, $500.

STUDENTS TO STUDY AT OXFORD, WASHINGTON
Two LeTourneau University seniors have been selected to attend the prestigious CCCU Scholars Semester at Oxford University in England. Geoffrey Barbour of St. Joseph, Mo., and Katy Harclerode of Mount Enterprise, Texas, have been accepted into the program for the fall 2006 semester. Oxford University is known for its one-to-one or two-to-one tutorial style of teaching. The students will have access to the world-famous Bodleian library, faculty lectures and sporting events.

Two other LETU honors students, Erin Swanson of Spring, Texas, and Whitney Phelps of Springfield, Ore., have been accepted into the CCCU American Studies Program in Washington, D.C. for fall 2006. To be accepted the students must exhibit a serious Christian commitment and strong academic record. They will have opportunity to interact with Washington policy experts and do coursework on domestic and international policy issues.

CLASS OF 2006 MARKS FIRST IVY CUTTING CEREMONY
Dr. Austin inaugurated a new tradition for graduating seniors May 5 in a special, silent Ivy cutting ceremony in front of the Memorial Student Center. As incoming freshmen, these students planted ivy plants on the campus, symbolizing their planting their lives into the rich soil of the LETU community. Through the past four years, they have grown strong, nourished by God’s word, the faculty, staff and their peers. The cutting of the ivy symbolizes their separation from these close ties and their commissioning to serve as Christ’s ambassadors to the world.
LEADERSHIP LETOURNEAU TO BEGIN IN FALL 2006

This fall, LeTourneau University will begin “Leadership LeTourneau,” a new program designed to educate and equip 10 faculty and staff members to better serve within the context of Christian higher education. The program is a cooperative endeavor of the Center for the Development of Christian Leadership and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

The inaugural class includes: Brent Baas, professor of computer science; Becky Birdsong, PACT coordinator; Bruce Chase, assistant chief flight instructor; Ginger Dennis, director of distance learning and instructional services; Chris Fontaine, assistant vice president of enrollment management and market research; Roger Gonzalez, professor of biomedical and mechanical engineering; Tom Hellmuth, dean of the school of engineering and engineering technology; Pam Johnson, educator certification officer; Paul Stephenson, director of institutional research; and Wayne Jacobs, department chair of kinesiology.

INGENUITY DAY FEATURES RUBE GOLDBERG PROJECTS

LeTourneau students and faculty across many academic majors showcased their spirit of ingenuity at an all-day event in the Memorial Student Center April 13. More than 40 projects, papers, posters and other research efforts they have done throughout the year were featured with some providing active 20-minute demonstrations of literacy, math, biomedical engineering; flight safety, Biblical settings and prosthetics.

The day-long event culminated with engineering students demonstrating their ingenuity and creativity in the annual Rube Goldberg demonstrations in the LETU Assembly Building. Students use a maximum number of energy transitions to create a unique, yet trivial, invention. The event is named after Rube Goldberg, an early 20th century cartoonist who was famous for making ridiculous machines.

MARTY DONNER ENGINE TEST FACILITY DEDICATED

The Marty Donner Engine Test Facility was dedicated April 6 before a standing-room-only crowd. The $250,000 building is named in memory of Marty Donner, former longtime aeronautical science faculty member who died in July 2003 in a fireworks explosion in Kilgore. Donner had worked for LeTourneau University since 1975, first as a mechanic, then later as an associate professor of aircraft systems. The 2,400-square-foot engine test facility is designed to improve safety and enhance learning opportunities for students. The building features three large test cells for reciprocating engine testing, an enclosed engine test area with a control room, computerized data acquisition hardware and software and storage. Pictured above from left are the Donner children, Sarah and Daniel, with their mother, Jeanne, and Dr. Austin at the dedication presentation.

MINI BAJA TEAM ROCKS AT COMPETITION

LeTourneau University took 5th and 10th place in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Mini Baja® West competition for their two off-road cars, named “Saint” and “Hunter” in memory of two LETU students who died during the school year. LETU was the only university to have two cars ranked in the top 10. The students design, build, test, promote and race their vehicles. The competition challenges include acceleration, hill climbing and maneuverability.
Great individual performances have led to some solid team results as the semester closes for LETU athletic teams.

Despite the growing pains of a young squad, the baseball team competed well in the American Southwest Conference East Division, finishing one game out of the playoffs and winning the season series from two of the top teams in the division: Mississippi College and U.T.-Dallas.

Senior pitcher Shane Beans earned ASC-East Pitcher of the Week honors for throwing his first career shutout against Austin College.

Senior centerfielder Damon Stokes proved that being named ESPN The Magazine First Team Academic All-American was no fluke. He led the team with a .351 batting average, 39 runs, 12 doubles, 25 walks and 22 stolen bases. He finished his career as the school’s leader in career doubles (44) and walks (100).

Beans and Stokes were both named Second Team ASC East Division while left fielder Ethan Cravalho was tabbed Honorable Mention ASC East Division.

Tennis coach Doug Carter was named the ASC East Division Men’s Coach of the Year after leading the LETU men’s and women’s tennis teams to their best season in years, despite the death of team captain Hunter Cippele in December. The men’s team set a school record with six wins, while the women added five victories. The two teams combined to have five player-of-the-week honorees: Hal Hawkins (twice), Jeremy Martinez, Sarah Ruth Carroll and Briana Olivo.

Hawkins was the top player on the men’s team as he went 15-12 at #1 singles and teamed with Justin Llanes to go 9-11 at #1 doubles. Freshman Jessica Tindall was named the top player on the women’s team as she went 9-16 at #1 singles and was 13-15 at #1 doubles.

Two LETU golfers won tournaments this spring. Junior Christian Sarran took medalist honors at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Spring Invitational in late February, and freshman Patrick Palmer staged a dramatic come-from-behind victory at the LETU Spring Classic in early April. The team peaked at the right time with a third place finish at the conference championship. Palmer and Sarran led the team as both earned First Team ASC honors.

At the LETU Spring Classic, the women’s golf team went head-to-head against conference foe Texas Lutheran and defeated them by over 20 strokes as Veronica Rutland took medalist honors. The LadyJackets finished the year with a fourth place finish at the ASC Championships. Katrina Visina finished in ninth place to earn Second Team ASC honors.

LETU softball struggled to pick up an elusive victory that would get the team jump started. The team played #4 ranked Louisiana College four times and lost three of the games by a single run, one of those in 11 innings! The LadyJackets were one of the youngest teams in the nation as they had no juniors or seniors on the team. Sophomore Samantha Brummell showed that she was an offensive force this year. Brummell batted .308 at the plate and tied the school record for home runs (7) and RBI’s (21) while breaking the school record for doubles (10) and slugging percentage (.617). She is well on her way to setting virtually every school record in the book. Brummell and third baseman Jenny Brooks both earned Second Team ASC East Division honors while left fielder Lauren Bagley was Honorable Mention ASC East Division.

Be sure to stay up-to-date on all YellowJacket and LadyJacket teams by checking the Web site frequently at www.letu.edu/athletics.
Step outside on the opposite side of this planet and you step into more than another country; you step into the colors, sounds, smells, and feel of another person’s world. When our LEGS team hit the ground in Bangladesh on March 6th, we discovered that nothing in our engineering curriculum had prepared us for that.

Horns honking constantly, a sea of blank faces pressing against the airport fence, oppressive heat and humidity and guards with sticks and automatic weapons all waited to welcome us to the Dhaka airport. After the initial adjustment of the sights and sounds of Bangladesh, our team began to notice a more subtle but more permeating sensation; the smell. It was a humid, earthy smell, mixed with body odor, heavily tainted with exhaust fumes and an ever-present hint of chicken curry. After another short flight and a three-hour bus ride, our team arrived at our final destination: the Memorial Christian Hospital, Malumghat, Bangladesh.

After a few hours of rest, our team met six amputees the following day and began to get them ready for their new prostheses. Each amputee had a different story.

Snake bite, car wreck, infection. The stories seemed all too typical for a developing country. That is, until we met Rosa, the only female patient. She was a bilateral amputee, meaning both of her legs had been severed. She lost her legs when she was 15 years old, shortly after her wedding, when she learned her husband was having an affair. Her father refused to pay Rosa’s husband the rest of her dowry. Some people talk about waking up to discover their honeymoon is over: Rosa woke up, drugged, on some train tracks with her legs somehow “sawed” off.

Regardless of where you go in the world, a great deal of documentation is done when health care is involved. Bangladesh was no different. Our team spent much of its first few days recording all the information we could get about each patient’s health, lifestyle, prosthesis usage, work, home life, anything that could possibly assist us in tailoring future prosthesis designs to specific needs. At the same time, we began to learn how the Bengali technicians manufactured their prostheses.

Our LEGS team had been commissioned by the clinic to adapt our Kenyan knee design to the prosthesis system that the Bengali’s were currently using. This system...
used a Jaipur Leg system which consisted of an aluminum socket, a window casement hinge (for the knee joint), an aluminum exoskeletal shank, and a vulcanized rubber foot. Our team had never seen someone manufacture a prosthesis using this technique before, so we were eager to see how our design fit to the Jaipur system.

All six patients were fitted with their new prostheses two days before our team had to depart, so we were able to enjoy other facets of Bengali culture before embarking on the long trip home.

Since there is no rock in Bangladesh, they have no aggregate for concrete. To overcome this problem, they break bricks into gravel size pieces and use it for aggregate.

Our team spent one afternoon breaking bricks for our translator’s son and daughter-in-law. We also rode rickshaws, went shopping, learned to haggle over five cents, and learned to wear local clothing. We also visited the world’s longest, continuous beach, Cox’s Bazar, and the Bengali version of a zoo. Finally, we discovered that while chicken curry and rice is good, it can lose its novelty.

We learned a lot about Bengali culture in a short time frame: they like to stare, they think water is inherently pure, manual labor is demeaning, and, logically, vehicle speed is directly proportional to vehicle size.

Before leaving Malumghat, the locals hosted a huge feast in our honor. By this time, it was absolutely incredible to see the difference in the patients’ demeanors. They had appeared downtrodden and sullen when we arrived, but by the end of the trip, they had learned how to play soccer, pedal a rickshaw and walk. Remarkably, somewhere in the course of events, they also learned to smile, laugh freely, and look with hope to their future.

Bangladesh 2006 was a tremendous trip for all involved, and after our team had finished the wearisome journey back to Texas, we realized that even though it was great to be home, we were looking forward to returning in January for the next stage of the Bangladesh project.

The LEGS-Bangladesh team members were Micah Casteel, Michael Kindel and Molly Moran, who were accompanied on the trip by biomedical engineering professor Dr. Roger Gonzalez and his wife, Yvette, and mechanical and materials engineering professor Dr. Stephen Ayers.
In the middle of a raging hurricane something completely unexpected happened — I witnessed a series of miracles. With three hours notice on Friday afternoon, Sept. 23, 2005, I discovered that LeTourneau University would be responsible for 24-hour staffing of a Red Cross shelter in our university’s Belcher Gym in the Solheim Center. LETU Vice President of Student Affairs Doug Wilcoxson told us that he expected up to 100 evacuees.

The City of Longview had sought our help, but could not spare even one trained Red Cross volunteer, leaving the leadership of the effort to us students.

It would require a miracle to get everything organized in time and find students to help. I desperately asked God for that miracle as I rushed to the Belcher Gym to meet with staff members and student body vice president James Thompson to organize everything from the registration process to the bedding arrangements and restroom facility rules.

As I wondered where to find the time and extra hands, word spread across campus and students began pouring in to help. Students sacrificed their mattresses, their time, their sleep and their homework just to pour the love of Christ out to these evacuees far from home.

When something as simple as shampoo or apple juice was needed to help an evacuee, a student would suddenly bring it to me. Sometimes I wondered how the students even knew what was needed, but I know it was the hand of God moving among us throughout the weekend.

Students slept on dorm couches and sometimes on floors of their rooms to donate their own mattresses to the evacuees. Miraculously, we had more than 100 mattresses donated by students, as well as bedding and pillows for every mattress. We actually had a pile of extra bedding in the corner of the gym.

Throughout the weekend we continued to be amazed. If a need arose that we did not anticipate, somehow someone met it. We hadn’t planned to provide laundry services, and yet when evacuees asked if they could wash their clothes, the Solheim staff members generously offered to do their laundry for them. God resolved everything, from big problems to little ones.

Our students served food, ran errands and donated items, but also sat with evacuees and listened to them. In the middle of the first night, two children were wide awake and excited from the long bus ride, but their parents needed sleep. Instantly our students became babysitters. They ran around the racquetball hallway with the two kids in the wee hours of the morning, running off the children’s energy while their parents slept.

Our students even played live music for them. I saw our engineering majors putting puzzles together with young children. Our students played basketball with the teenage evacuees. One woman in her late 60s stayed up late talking to us, saying how much of a blessing it was to her to be at the LeTourneau shelter and saying that Belcher was “better than a hotel.” The woman developed friendships with several students, sharing her faith in God with us.

I have never been as blessed as I was that weekend. All of us students were trying to show the love of Christ — that was our motivation for volunteering — but some of us had been so busy with other duties that we hadn’t been able to verbally witness as much as we had wanted. Then I knew that God had used our actions to glorify Himself, and especially that people could see Him in us. Words were not needed.

On Sunday morning, some of the students involved in LeTourneau Student Ministries put together a short worship service for the evacuees. Afterward, the evacuees loaded up on buses to go home or to Longview’s Maude...
Cobb Center, which would serve as a more long-term shelter. Because my 17-hour shift had ended at 8 a.m., I was in a deep sleep when the buses loaded.

Friends told me later that people asked for me and others by name to say goodbye. One student who volunteered Sunday morning said evacuees hugged and thanked him as they left, showing how grateful they were. He said when the buses finally pulled away, everyone in the buses burst into applause.

I know I experienced miracles being able to see God’s hand everywhere. It would have been impossible if so many students and staff members had not jumped in and helped like they did. God put it on people’s hearts and they were there asking how they could help.

God worked out all the details that caught us by surprise — I still don’t know how some of them were so perfectly worked out. Every student I spoke with who worked during the weekend said later that they were profoundly moved by the experience. The students said they went there to bless the evacuees and were instead blessed themselves. I saw students filled with joy, even when they were at the point of complete exhaustion.

One student who helped the dining hall staff with meals, told me later, “God fills us as we continually pour ourselves out into others, and so we are more filled when we love people because of the filling and overflowing of the Holy Spirit. It is Satan who lies to us and says that if we keep giving, we will get burned out.”

God answered my prayers with miracles. In my 15 years as a believer, I have never before seen so many people showering Christ’s love on complete strangers. I have never seen that many Christians sacrifice for people they didn’t know. The experience was a spiritual milestone in my life, in the lives of all the students who helped and, I pray, a blessing in the lives of every evacuee who stayed with us.
LeTourneau University students in the Dallas Education Center have provided valuable strategic analysis and outcomes assessment studies over the past few years for a non-profit organization in Dallas known as the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI). The students’ assessments recently were used by the group in a successful $1 million grant request from the United States Department of Justice to be used over the next five years to help expand their neighborhood clean-up program.

The community-based organization’s strategy is to “weed out” criminal activity while they “seed” the area with initiatives to ensure long-term economic growth and a better quality of life.

FRI comprises neighborhoods, schools, churches, businesses, apartments and others working together to improve the crime rate and quality of life in the White Rock Hills area of Dallas, north of Interstate 30 along Ferguson Road. Their mission is “to transform the Ferguson Road corridor into a safe, beautiful, prosperous and proud community by inspiring hope through collaboration and developing and implementing a shared community vision.”

That’s quite a task since the area was notorious for home burglaries, graffiti, drug-related crimes, gangs, prostitution and auto thefts.

“LeTourneau University has been a valuable partner in helping us with our annual evaluations because having an external, independent third party evaluation is what many funders want to see,” said Kerry Goodwin, the weed and seed coordinator for Ferguson Road Initiative. “The students’ work has played a significant role because it showed that we have others review what we do.

“The students present their evaluations and we listen, think about what the students have to say, and modify our strategy based on their proposals,” Goodwin said.

One example of the students’ work was the recommendation that the FRI spend more money on police patrol. In the five years that the FRI has done this, there has been a 61 percent drop in violent crime, according to Goodwin. After another student evaluation, the FRI responded by adding an additional 20 percent more this year for police patrols.

Because of its success in cleaning up its initial target area, the FRI is now targeting an adjacent area that Dallas police call 2-Points, located just east of the original Ferguson Road Initiative’s focus area. 2-Points has been one of the highest crime areas in the city, state and nation for years, facing problems related to residential break-ins, drugs and related crimes, auto thefts and prostitution. Economic development, such as adding grocery stores, will follow as crime is reduced in these neighborhoods.

LeTourneau University’s involvement with FRI began about 10 years ago. “Dr. Frank Cantwell, one of our business professors, had heard about this neighborhood development initiative from his daughter Bobbi Bilnoski, who was a consultant with FRI,” said Mark Fincher, Dallas Educational Center director. “Cantwell had an MBA class in strategic management and he proposed to them to use FRI as their semester project, instead of a hypothetical situation. They came up with a list of 20 recommendations that needed to be done to launch this neighborhood development project and presented them to the FRI.

Over the next five years, FRI implemented all of those recommendations. You could say that LETU students provided their original strategic plan.”

Dr. Cantwell died in 2003, but other professors, like Dr. James Tew, Dr. Arthur Parry and Shane Putnam, have continued the work to assist FRI through their classes.

“They have supplied outcomes assessments and strategic analysis that have continued to guide the organization,” Fincher said. “A number of our students have said this is the best part of their whole educational experience. And while it’s a real challenge from an administrative point of view to put it all together, it’s worth it, because we are changing lives.”
From the Alumni Office

Written by Allison Gardner, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, and new mother of Cooper Todd Gardner, born May 1, 2006.

Proud dad is alumnus Jason Gardner (’97).

Alumni & Friends East Texas Balloon Glow picnic

July 15, 2006

It’s our annual picnic event at our university flight facility at East Texas Regional Airport. Bring the whole family and fellowship with other alumni and faculty and staff while we watch the annual balloon glow from across the field. Activities are being planned, including a balloon toss competition, so mark your calendar today and join us in July!

Midwest Challenge

How would you like to help a student from your state to attend LeTourneau University and get the same world-class education in a distinctly Christian environment? That’s exactly what alumni and friends did in Kansas, Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota during the Midwest Scholarship Challenge on March 4 and 11.

More than $8,000 in scholarship money was raised during a bowl-a-thon in each state for worthy students who will enter the university in fall 2006.

Interested in starting up a scholarship challenge in your state? We are looking for new areas to expand in 2007. Contact me at 1-800-259-2586 or e-mail me at alumni@letu.edu for more information.

Homecoming 2006

October 14-16, 2006

Save those vacation days and join us for a university-wide celebration during Homecoming Weekend! It’s our 60th anniversary and we want to celebrate with you.

Alumni Award Nominations

Do you know alumni who have excelled in their careers, communities or churches? The Alumni Association is now accepting open nominations for our annual alumni awards. Log on to www.letu.edu/alumni/awards to access more information about each award offered and to submit your nomination. The nomination deadline is July 31.

There will be special reunions for the class of 1956 and 1996 as well as CLUB (2B) residence hall floor.
MEMORIALS

Howard Gould (’55 ES) died Feb. 17, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and three children.

Robert Lindahl (’63 ME) died March 10, 2005, in Elkhart, Ind., after a long illness.

Ben Hickin (’96 ATBU) died in a plane crash on Feb. 23, 2006, not far from his Spottswood, Va., home in a Cessna 182 he was flying. He is survived by his wife, Marli (Graff) (’97 BYBS), and their five children. A fund to help the family has been set up at Community Fellowship Church, 19 S. Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401. (Photo by David Conn, a fellow pilot who said Ben was the only man he ever trusted to fly his 1946 Boeing Stearman.)

Brian (’94 ATFL) and Candyce DeKruyff have two children. Daughter BriAnna Margaret was born Aug. 21, 2005, and son Tyler is two years old. Brian is a pilot for the state of Alabama.

Wayne (’95 ATFL) and Veronica Cummings announce the arrival of Anna Karen and Anna Sophia. The twins were born May 1.

Laura (’95 BYES) (Tucker) and Tripp Rawls announce the birth of Caroline Laura, who was born May 16, 2005. The Rawls family lives in Atlanta, Ga., where Laura works for Riverside Bank.

Marli (’97 BYBS) (Graff) Hickin announces the birth of William Wesley “Liam,” who was born on Sept. 5, 2005. Liam is the son of the late Ben Hickin (’96 ATBU).

Ross (’98 BUDT) and Renee French announce the birth of Ian Rhy, who was born on Feb. 22. He joins brother Nathanael Ross, 2. Ross works for Adams Engineering in Tyler, Texas.

Corey (’98 BSBM) and Jody Hobbs announce the birth of Phoebe Marie, who was born April 12. The Hobbs family lives in Sugar Land, Texas, where Corey owns Hobbs Insurance Agency.

Brian (’99 ATDT) and Bethani (’97 ENEI1) Dearborn of Longview have added again to their family. In 2005 Logan Daniel, 15 months, and Colton James, 5 months, joined big brother Andrew Fuller, 3. Friends, please feel free to contact them via e-mail at thedearborns@sbcglobal.net or phone at 903-295-9565. They would love to get in touch with you!

David (’99 CSE) and Holly (’99 EE) (Rapley) Woodson have a son, Caleb Paul, who was born Aug. 5, 2005. The Woodson family lives in Shakopee, Minn. David is an independent network consultant and Holly is a servo engineer for Seagate Technology.

Kara Guisinger (’00 ISBS) and J.D. (’01 ASE1) Claridge announce the birth of daughter Evelyn Belle, who was born on Feb. 19. She joins brother Kylen Lance. The Claridge family lives in Sandpoint, Idaho, where J.D. works as an avionics engineer at Quest Aircraft. Kara is a stay-at-home mom.

Imie (’00 ATFL) and Amy Mark announce the birth of their daughter, Mary Kathryn, who was born April 5, 2005. The Mark family lives in Glendale, Ariz. Imie is a lieutenant in the United States Air Force and is a maintenance officer in the F-16 program at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona.

BIRTHS

David (’92 ATBS) and Megan Trombly have a new daughter. Morgan Joan was born Nov. 5, 2005. Their other children are: Alex, 13; Brianna, 11; Brad, 9; Grace Anne, 6; and Noah, 3. The Trombly family lives in Rhode Island where David is stationed at the Naval War College.

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Kimberly (’01 BBA) and Shiloh Creel welcomed their daughter, Sophia Grace, on Feb. 21, 2006. She joins older brothers Ian and Zade. Kimberly is the director of early childhood ministries at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Frisco, Texas.

MARRIAGES

Aaron Roepke (’02 EE) and Alissa Stillwell (’02 BUSI) were married on July 16, 2005 in Minneapolis. The couple both work for Emerson Process Management where Aaron works to keep fires out, and Alisa pursues screws and weld rod. The Roepkes live in Savage, Minn.

Jared (’03 CS) and Kimberly Faul married on Nov. 12, 2005. They currently live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Jared works as a software engineer for Rockwell Collins.

Joshua and Jackie Swain (’05 PSY) were married on June 4, 2005. Joshua is now in law school at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas.

Stuart Asp (’05 ME) and Mandy Williams (’04 ASAE) were married January 14, 2006 in Silver Spring, Maryland. They live in Hatboro, Penn. where Stuart is a mechanical engineer with Orbit/FR and Mandy is pursuing a job in aviation.

ALUM NEWS

50’s

John Deurwaarder (’52 IS) advanced to the semi-finals of the USTA international senior tennis tournament this spring. He participated in the 90-years-and-over bracket with 25 other players from the United States.

70’s

Tim (’71 BI) and Faith Brennan work with New Tribes Mission in Brazil. They have four grown children who all serve in ministry.

Stephen (’71 AET) and Virginia (’69 McCaslin) Carhart live in Pennsylvania. Stephen recently retired after 35 years with the Department of Defense.

Mark (’72 ET) and Debbie Blosser live in Swaziland, Africa, and work with Trans World Radio. Their son Peter attends LeTourneau University, and daughter Rhonda and son-in-law Scott live in Goshen, Ind.

Randy Hartman (’79 MTAT) founded Alpha Omega Outfitters in August 2003. His company, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, builds custom aircraft. In February, Alpha Omega Outfitters celebrated the successful move to the Eastern Iowa Airport.

80’s

Sid Cradduck (’80 BY) recently received a fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry. Sid has a dentistry practice in Hagerstown, Md.

Kevin Livezey (’80 BUBS) completed a master’s degree in strategic management at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Mich., in December 2005. He now works for the Laurel Group as a project manager in Huntington, N.Y.

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Terry (’80 ATBS) and Lynell MacDowall live in Newark, Del., with their three sons: Jordan, 14; Jason, 18; and Joshua, 16. Terry works for Comcast Corporation.

Ed Wolbert (’81 MIAT) is president of Transco Products, Inc. in Chicago, Ill. He and wife Gina have five children. Their oldest son, Steve Wolbert, is currently a sophomore at LeTourneau University.

B. J. Beacham (’83 BI) graduated from Bethel College in April 2005 with a degree in liberal studies. She leaves in July for a teaching job in Jos, Nigeria. She will be working at Hillcrest School where she and her late husband, Steve Beacham (’97), worked for nearly 20 years.

Jim Steenland (’83 EET) is now serving as the administrative pastor at Brownsville Community Fellowship Church in Brownsville, Texas.

Jerry (’85 ATBS) and Michelle Traphagen have three children: Steven, 3; Zachary, 2; and Julianna Grace, 9 months. The Traphagen family lives in Vancouver, Wash.
Paul Frederick ('86 MTAT) and his family moved to Augusta, Ga., where he works with Landmark Aviation as an airframe inspector. He and his wife, Holly, homeschool their three boys.

Jeff DeLong ('89 ATBS) (third from the left) traveled to Uganda in February and met with several other alumni. April ('86 CHBS) and Otto ('89 MT) Habeger work for JAARS, Ron Pontier ('77 MT), Tim Carpenter ('87 ATBS) and Dan Stairs ('83 MTAT) all work for AIM-AIR.

90’s

Stan ('91 AT) and Sandra Spaulding live in Hull, Iowa, where Stan is the sales/project coordinator for Groschopp, Inc. They have two children: Stanton Jr., 11; and Stacia, 8.

John Duda ('92 CSE) is completing Hebrew language studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel and will be moving to Korea this summer to teach English.

Gary ('92 ATBS) and Carolyn Miller work for the International Mission Board in eastern Hungary.

Mike Marlatt ('92 BUBS) is an instructor of Mass Communications at Northeastern Oklahoma University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He also serves in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Carl Nelson ('92 BUDT) was appointed president & CEO of the Greater Minnesota Association of Evangelicals (GMAE). GMAE represents almost 200 churches and operates four compass ministry organizations. Carl and wife Kari and their two sons live in north Minneapolis. Carl is working on a Master of Arts degree in organizational leadership at Bethel University.

Roy Zeitlow ('92 ME) was selected to receive SAE International’s technical standards board outstanding contribution award. Roy works for International Truck and Engine Corp. as a brake systems manager in the chassis systems engineering division.

Kurt Huber ('94 BSBM) graduated with an MBA with a program management specialization with honors from Keller Graduate School of Management, DeVry University, in December 2005. Kurt and his wife, Rachel, live in Tarpon Springs, Fla.

Joe ('95 ATFL) and Beth Farmer and their children, David, Matthew and Kathryn, have been accepted to work with Mission Aviation Fellowship and are assigned to central Asia. Joe will work as an aircraft mechanic while Beth will continue to homeschool the children.

Karen (Helvie) Laber ('95) and husband Rich have two sons: Connor, 2; and Cameron, 8 months. Karen works as an ER nurse at Swedish Hospital in Denver, Colo. Proud father and grandpa is Ken Helvie ('70 ATBS).

Mike Hallaux ('97 BBM) has become Toronto-based Children’s Technology Workshop’s latest franchise partner located in Friendswood, Texas. Children’s Technology Workshop uses hi-tech, hands-on systems that empower children to become creative thinkers through the use of engineering and technology.

Mark Krause ('97 ATDT) and Matthew Krause ('97 MEDT) started their own business in 2004. Outsource Authority, Ltd. is a manufacturing research and procurement company offering free services for companies of all types and sizes. Their Web site is www.outsourceauthority.com.

Royce ('98 BBM, '01 MBA) and Carolyn Morgan live in Kingwood, Texas. Royce is the operations manager for Ameri-Forge in Houston, Texas.

Gabriel ('96 ATFL) and Angela ('98 BYBS) Morrow live in Whitefish, Mont., where Gabriel is the youth pastor at Hope Ranch, a therapeutic boarding school for teenage girls.

Marshall Mullinax ('98 AS) is currently the youth pastor at Westview Alliance Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. This is part of his two-year home service to become a missionary with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Marshall and wife Barbra have a one-year-old son, Russell William.

Seth ('98 ME/WE) and Shiloh (Terrell) ('99 BI) Norton and their three children recently moved to Katy, Texas. Seth completed his Ph.D. in welding engineering at Ohio State University and is now working for British Petroleum in the exploration and production technology group.
Hans Rempel (’98 EE) directs engineering and software design at Logic Products’ Vancouver operation. Hans and his team work with clients to better design their electronic products.

00’s

Charles Landrum (’00 HIPL) is a full-time student at Georgia State University College of Law and is working with Chief Judge Brenda Weaver of the Superior Court of Georgia. Charles and wife Charmaine live in Woodstock, Ga.

Scott Linstra (’01 ME) married Mary Beth Grizzard on April 23, 2005. They live in Charlottesville, Va., where Mary Beth works as a pharmacist at UVA Medical Center and Scott works as a product design engineer for Harrington Corporation.

Roy (’02 AS) and Debbi Jerrett now serve full time with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Waxhaw, N.C., where Roy works as a pilot/mechanic. They have three children: Joshua, 7; Joanna, 4; and Lydia, 1.

Tim Mason (’02 CSE) was accepted by HCJB World Radio in May 2005 as a missionary appointee. Tim is currently pursuing full-time service with HCJB.

Aaron (’02 CSE) and Bettina (’02 PSYS) Pickett and their one-year-old son Clayton live in Waipahu, Hawaii. Aaron is a lieutenant with the U.S. Navy, and is stationed at Pearl Harbor.

Gary Humphrey (’03 BBA) has been accepted into Benedictine University’s MBA program. Gary lives in Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Janell, and their three children.

Cheryl Henderson-Rodgers (’05 MBA) was recently promoted to manager, field human resources for SYSCO Corporation.

Beth Horner (’05 ME) is working with the United Space Alliance in Houston, Texas. She will be training astronaut crews and controllers on how to use computers on the International Space Station.

Keep in touch with us by sending us an e-mail to alumni@letu.edu.

From The Admissions Office

Written by James Townsend, Director of Admissions

LeTourneau’s incoming freshmen and transfers set records

Applications for admission from high-school seniors and transfer students have topped more than 1,000, the highest number to date in LETU history. The increase is a result of more students and parents learning about the benefits of Christian education and the value of small classes and devoted faculty who spend time teaching and mentoring students.

While the number of applicants continues to increase, so does the academic quality of our incoming students. This fall’s entering class currently has SAT and ACT scores higher than last year, as well as record grade point averages in high school. More than a dozen National Merit Finalists are expected to enroll this fall – joining the current 31 students already enrolled here. These high-ability students represent the top 1 percent in the nation on their preliminary SAT exams.

We know there are many more students who need to hear about LETU and we need your help spreading this information. There are several ways to help:

- Volunteer to be part of our LeTourneau Admissions Ambassadors program. This program allows alumni, parents and friends to help the admissions office recruit in local communities. For more information, go to www.letu.edu and click on “Admissions Ambassadors” under the alumni menu.
- Send us the names of your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews and other potential students. For your convenience, there is a form you can complete under the “Alumni” link on the LETU Web site home page.
- E-mail or mail us a list of the children in your church’s youth group. Please be sure that the list includes grade levels. You can mail that to LETU Office of Admissions, PO Box 7001, Longview, TX 75607.

NOW CLASS NOTES 25
communities. The world will make room for people who are competent, make a commitment to excellence and endorse the qualities of the Christian faith. I remember early days when I worried how we, as a university, would make it financially, making phone calls for last-minute gifts to balance the budget. My first year was the only year of my tenure as president that there was a deficit. God has provided. Fundraising still is not easy, but more alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations are providing support today.

Q: What will you do now?

A: The board has offered, and I have accepted, a two-year transitional position as university chancellor, a non-governance role to provide support, continuity and a smooth transition, at the will of the new president. The chancellor position is not an ongoing role at the university, but both of my predecessors, Dr. Richard LeTourneau and Dr. Harry Hardwick, filled this role for a time after their terms as president. My goal is to support and encourage the future leadership. I have not made specific plans for these impending retirement years, for I know God will give me direction and opportunities that I could not yet even envision. My wife Sammie has served with me as a partner during these many years, and we look forward to making more decisions regarding the use of our time together.

Q: Will you have any part in the selection of the next president?

A: The selection of the next president is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, and is its highest calling. We have a godly, committed and talented board led by an outstanding chair, Dr. Kenneth Hall. If asked, I will share information I have gained over the years, but I will not be actively involved in the selection process.

Q: Do you have any advice for the next president?

A: Yes. Love what you do. It is demanding, but the rewards are rich and come from relationships with university students, friends and alumni. They bring a great satisfaction to your work. And secondly, trust God in all things. Give Him the glory for all that happens. He certainly deserves all the credit and the glory for what may have been accomplished during my tenure.
Mention the name of Edith Hardwick around the LeTourneau University campus and you’ll be regaled with stories about a dear woman with a warm smile, loving heart and kind spirit. And though you’ll never hear it from her, she also has an uncanny knack for remembering names and faces, a trait she admired in her late husband, former LETU president and chancellor, Dr. Harry Hardwick.

“If you telephone Edith and mention your name, she’ll probably share more than one fond memory about times spent with you, going all the way back to the 1960s right up through 2006!” said Bryan Benson, director of planned giving.

Alumnus Terry Zeitlow, vice president for university advancement, can attest to that fact.

“After I graduated in 1987, my wife and I rented a duplex from the Hardwicks. They were gracious people,” Zeitlow said. “I remember after I returned to LeTourneau in the spring of 2004, a going away reception was being held for Mrs. Hardwick.

“I waited my turn in the reception line to visit with her after 16 years, not expecting her to remember me. I was absolutely surprised that Mrs. Hardwick not only remembered me and welcomed me back to LeTourneau University, she also remembered the very address of the duplex we rented.”

Hardwick moved to Minnesota in 2004 so she could be near two of her four sons and her grandchildren. She remembers her time in Longview fondly, especially her many friends, such as neighbors like LETU engineering professor Dr. Greg Reynolds and his family. Hardwick said the Reynolds family had been very good to her, especially when she was preparing to move.

Her special way with people served her well in her role as president’s wife. Hardwick said her role was to “smile and try to look pretty,” but she did much more, graciously playing hostess to everyone from students to visiting dignitaries such as the Rev. Billy Graham and LeTourneau College Council members, often on short notice. She made everyone who came through her door feel special.

“God’s grace and the presence of His spirit are obvious whenever I visit with her,” said Tom Hellmuth, dean of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Professor Pam Armstrong echoed that sentiment, “She is one of the happiest people I know, always displaying a very joyful spirit even in the midst of circumstances that are difficult.”

Now in her 90th year, Hardwick continues to include LeTourneau University in her prayers and her faithful gifts. “A large or small amount can be put to use in a good way,” she said. “Don’t feel that if you can’t make large gifts you can’t make a difference.”

Editor’s Note: The LeTourneau University family was saddened at the loss of Claire Weller, who was featured in the last issue of the NOW magazine. He went home to be with the Lord on March 27, 2006, shortly after publication. Weller was a long-time donor and trustee emeritus. Our condolences to his widow, Frances, and family.

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.
2006 is the celebration of the LeTourneau University’s 60th anniversary and Dr. Alvin O. Austin’s 20th year as president.

Make plans to join us as we take the anniversary party on the road as we visit Wichita, Kan.; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Chicago, Ill.; in September and Charlotte, N.C.; Washington, D.C.; and Lancaster, Penn.; in October. Watch your mailbox for a postcard with details.

Remember to join us in Longview for Homecoming October 13-14 and stay for the Annual Golf Classic on October 16, 2006.