At LETU, an important part of our vision for the future is identifying our part in the broader world.

Study abroad programs are valuable, but not enough. Our students can do so much more to make a difference in developing nations by engineering solutions to basic infrastructure problems, providing health care, teaching students who lack schools, or using business skills to create economic opportunities.

In serving, we want to point to our Lord Jesus Christ who has given us the intellect, the resources and the opportunity to help others in need.

I recently returned from Korea where I expanded our relationship with Handong Global University, a Christian university headed by its founding president, Young-Gil Kim, who is an engineer, a believer and a visionary with a strong drive to reach the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. We signed an agreement to create the Global Industrial Field Experience in America to enable Korean students to join LETU students this summer to work on an international business project with a local business in Longview. The joint Handong-LETU team will work on business, computer science and engineering issues relating to the company’s focus on China.

After returning from Korea, I was called to Washington D.C. to attend the first ever “Higher Education Summit for Global Development.” LETU was one of 100 U.S. universities and 100 foreign universities that came together to promote the partnership of higher education institutions in worldwide social and economic development. The esteemed gathering included the world’s greatest universities, one African president (Rwanda) and five members of President Bush’s cabinet, led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

At the summit, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt said the core business of the United States around the world is “hope.”

Our LEGS program is one such example of a program that offers hope. The Longview News-Journal ran a recent editorial—reprinted on page 10 of this magazine—that reflects how our reputation is growing. I hope you will be encouraged by what some of our students and alumni are up to, as LETU serves Christ around the world.
“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, business, 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.

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Left and Above: LETU students travel over Spring Break each year donating more than 18,000 hours of labor to missions efforts around the world.
Introduction

Someone once told me that the sun never sets on LeTourneau University. And while I’m fairly certain I’ve seen the sun dip below the horizon driving home from work a time or two, in theory, the assessment is correct.

Whether it is a group of students on a spring break mission trip or an aviation graduate serving as a missionary pilot, God is using LETU students and alumni for His glory around the world. People associated with LETU are serving or have served in places from Amsterdam to Zambia.

Many LETU alumni occupy various roles in mission organizations such as JAARS, Missionary Aviation Fellowship, SIM and Wycliffe, just to name a few. Also, many students give up their spring breaks, summers or whole semesters to go on mission trips.

In addition to first and foremost being ambassadors for Christ, these students and alumni are also representatives of LETU. Even if their jobs don’t take them to a foreign country, many have a positive impact on the world.

This NOW Magazine isn’t big enough to detail the stories of every LETU student and alumni making a difference in the world. However, some stories will fit into these pages and provide a glimpse into the different ways they are impacting the globe.

So even though the sun is supposed to set here in East Texas at 8:24 tonight, the Son will still be brightly shining on LETU in Eastern Europe, Japan, South America, Africa and anywhere else there is a member of the LETU family.

Amsterdam

Amsterdam, located in the Netherlands, has a reputation that is anything but wholesome. To many visitors, the red light district and coffee shops with drugs readily available are at the top of the to-do list. LETU student Kelsey Hitzfelder, however, saw an internship in Amsterdam as the perfect opportunity to reach people for Christ.

Kelsey spent the spring 2008 semester working at Shelter Jordan, a Christian youth hostel in the middle of town. Hostels are where the majority of tourists stay on their visits through Amsterdam.

“The hostel lifestyle is one full of people traveling alone or with one other person,” Kelsey said. “This means they are really open to starting conversations and getting to know other people.”

Shelter Jordan is set up like any other hostel. However, because of its Christian environment, activities include weekly movies, Bible discussions, presentations of the gospel and free dinners. Building friendships with hostel patrons is a key purpose for each event.

Hostel staff organized and orchestrated the events which provided many opportunities for Kelsey to share the gospel and listen to travelers tell their stories.

“Many times people want the truth but don’t know how to ask for it, and once they do, they’re afraid of the answer,” she said. “Giving a gentle answer, showing the truth in love and through my actions without the full force of my passion, was something I had to learn to do.”

Another aspect of Kelsey’s job included doing her share of the cleaning and upkeep of the facility instead of always engaging in conversation with the hostel patrons.

“I also had to learn to be the one washing the dishes while a fellow staff member was sharing the gospel,” she said.

The fact that Kelsey is a missions major at LETU was one of the easiest “door-openers” to discussion when asked what she was doing in Amsterdam.

“People were amazed to find out I was serving in a Christian internship program in Amsterdam,” Kelsey said. “They don’t have a lot of majors like missions in Europe, so it was the perfect chance to explain why I decided to pursue ministry.”
At 15 years old, most high school students spend their summers lying by the swimming pool, sleeping late and perhaps working a part-time job. In 2001 when Naomi Downs was 15, she spent her entire summer in Cameroon, Africa, with Teen Missions International, building a new educational building for a school for the blind and deaf.

She didn’t just spend the summer of 2001 in Cameroon though—she went back in the summer of 2002. On her second trip, she took part in operating a training camp for local teenagers to learn about ministry opportunities in their communities.

Her most recent trip to Cameroon was in the summer of 2007 when she served as a team leader for teenagers ages 14-19. Her main responsibilities were to care for the team’s medical and food needs.

“I would also help out with the main team mission of building a medical clinic for the local Baka people,” she said. “I also helped minister to the teams through Bible studies and devotionals.”

She was able to interact with the Baka people in the southeastern rainforests of Cameroon in several ways. One such instance had a long-lasting impact on her life.

“The most profound experience I had while I was there was the little medical work I was able to do for the Baka people,” she said. “They would watch me very closely when I would care for my team members.”

After observing Naomi care for her team, the Baka people brought her a toddler who had fallen into a fire and received third-degree burns on 40 percent of his body.

“I immediately knew the medical training I had didn’t come close to what this little boy needed,” she said.

With the nearest medical center located an hour away, Naomi did what she could do for the boy that night. She gently cleaned his burns and gave him pain medication until they could safely leave for the small clinic the next morning.

“The boy spent the next two days in the clinic getting rehydrated and having his burns more thoroughly cleaned and irrigated,” she said.

To Naomi, this incident was God’s way of showing her what He could do if she allowed Him to work through her.

“At that moment, God confirmed that He was not finished with me yet,” she said, “and that He will provide the way for me to continue in nursing school.”

Naomi recently graduated from LETU in May with a degree in Christian Ministry. She hopes she can continue to use what she learned to show others the love Christ has for them.

“The classes I took at LETU helped me to better minister to teenagers,” she said. “I feel I made LETU proud when I was a student serving overseas, and hopefully, that will continue now that I’m an alumna striving to make a difference in the world.”
Lee Shaver, a 2007 LETU graduate, never expected his minor allergy to nuts to play a part in shaping his future, but it did. After joining the Peace Corps with the intention to work in an Eastern European country, Lee found out that he would not be assigned to his first choice because of his allergy. Instead, he would be assigned to Torola, El Salvador.

“I decided to stick with the Peace Corps even though I couldn’t go to Eastern Europe,” Lee said. “I told them to send me anywhere—they chose El Salvador, and here I am.”

The Peace Corps operates in developing countries to promote environmental preservation, education and the implementation of new technologies, among other things. They accomplish this through several different programs.

“The Municipal Development program I work with has two goals,” he said. “Work with local governments to modernize local services and processes, and work with citizen groups to increase participation in government.”

Lee is currently involved in six projects. He performs community studies to solicit help in the design and funding of water projects, works with two schools to get recycled computers from a U.S. organization and teaches English classes. He also trains local officials how to maintain a Web site as a means of communication, serves as a technical adviser in the mayor’s office and will assist in the set up of the first Internet café in town.

“In addition to these projects, I also work with nearby volunteers giving talks at schools on the environment, healthy relationships, sexual health and other topics,” Lee said.

With almost a year of his assignment already completed, Lee has learned that a faith backed up by actions rather than words is most effective when working with others.

“Words lead to more words. Love leads to more love,” he said.

Lee’s time at LETU helped to prepare him for his journey in several ways. He has used his electrical engineering degree when working with computers and the occasional electronic repairs. Also, the spiritual growth Lee experienced at LETU laid the groundwork for the continued spiritual growth he’s experienced so far.

God is using Lee’s time in the Peace Corps to present opportunities to help others, and to shape his faith through exposure to new cultures.

“What I will take away from El Salvador,” he said, “is a faith that was picked up, shaken around, torn to pieces, rearranged and still came out better for it.”
Editor’s Note: Due to security issues and government restrictions, the name of the following alumnus will not be used.

When one LETU alumnus committed to work two years with Greater Europe Mission, he never thought he would still be with GEM 28 years later as regional director for six former Soviet countries.

In addition to his current position in Eastern Europe, he was the co-founder and director of GEM’s EuroTeam Ministry short-term missions program for 12 years. He originally began work in Sweden, and since then has worked in Belgium, Germany and several other countries.

“I have had the opportunity to work with local church leaders, assisting them in their visions and building great relationships,” he said. “It is great to see ministries under political and religious oppression step boldly forward and serve the Lord in creative ways.”

Attending LETU to study auto technology, with no intentions whatsoever to serve in missions, he found an LETU project that opened his eyes to using his gifts to serve the Lord.

“That summer (1978) the Lord led me to a summer mission construction project with GEM in Sweden,” he said. “The seed was firmly planted.”

God is continuing to open doors for him and has provided opportunities to reach more and more people for His glory. From working with two of the top secular music groups in his region—the singers are Christians—to being a good steward in the smaller opportunities presented daily, this LETU alumnus is seeing God work in the people of Eastern Europe.

“The church is growing,” he said. “Believers are becoming stronger, and God’s word is moving forward.”

The palm trees cast a peaceful shade on the white sandy beaches of the Mexican Riviera. The emerald green waves slowly crashed onto shore creating a peaceful hypnotic daze. The only things missing were the LETU students.

Instead of choosing to relax and soak up the sun on the beach, many students spend their spring break in other parts of Mexico doing construction work, heavy lifting, mixing concrete, providing medical care, hosting Bible schools, getting dirty and loving every minute of it.

Spring break mission trips to Mexico have been a recurring LETU event. Just this past year, 83 LETU students, faculty and staff used their spring breaks.
as a time to serve the Lord in seven different cities throughout Mexico.

One example of the positive effects of these trips can be seen in the lush forests of the eastern Sierra Madres, in the city of Tamazunchale.

“The team that went to Tamazunchale this year laid the foundation for the eighth church LETU students have been a part of constructing over the past 20 years,” said Michael DeGroat, LeTourneau Student Ministries president. “Without the LETU sponsored trips, these churches may have never been built.”

What possesses LETU students to happily agree to take bus rides, sometimes more than 30 hours, to remote parts of Mexico every year? A desire to help others and a willingness to spend their time working toward something worthwhile.

I saw this desire and passion firsthand when I went as the staff sponsor on this year’s trip to Fresnillo, Mexico. See page 16 for a more detailed account.

LETU mission trips to Mexico have impacted many lives over the years, both those of the students and staff who choose to go, and those of the people in Mexico.

Some of the trips focus on construction projects, some on medical missions, others conduct Bible schools for impoverished children, but they all have the same goal—to impact the lives of those in need through sharing the love of Christ.

The Zambian bush of Southern Africa doesn’t have any lighted airstrips. This little fact doesn’t get in the way of missionaries doing their job with the organization Serving In Mission (SIM).

LETU graduate Scott Bleecker lived and worked in Zambia from 2000-2002 as a missionary pilot with SIM. Scott was responsible for running the flight program which included scheduling, billing, flying and maintaining airplanes at the Mukinge station, primarily a medical site serving the Mukinge Hospital.

The Mukinge Hospital is located in Zambia’s northwest province and has more than 200 beds for patients. Medical missionaries complete short-term trips at the site. They are responsible for several wards of inpatients and consult with clinical officers and registered nurses.

Without the flight program Scott operated, missionaries would have faced difficulties getting to the Mukinge Hospital.

“It was exciting to be able to make it possible for hundreds of short-term medical missionaries to come to Mukinge Hospital to use their expertise,” he said.

The flight training and maintenance courses at LETU helped prepare Scott for the work he did while in Zambia.

“I find it interesting that I have come across LETU aviation grads several times overseas,” he said. “It demonstrates the emphasis on missions in the flight program.”

Even with all the challenges presented in Zambia—bad weather conditions during the rainy season, no lighted airstrips and a lack of dependable services—Scott successfully directed the flight program and made it possible for medical experts to assist those in need.
LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY SUMMER 2008

News and Notes

LEGS TEAMS VISIT BANGLADESH, KENYA AND SIERRA LEONE

LETU biomedical engineering and biology students are collaborating with medical clinics this summer in Bangladesh, Kenya and Sierra Leone to fit above-knee amputees with student-designed, low-cost prosthetics that feature articulating knee joints. The program is part of the LeTourneau Engineering Global Solutions (LEGS) project which was devised in 2004 under the direction of biomedical engineering professor Dr. Roger V. Gonzalez. Project sustainability is achieved as clinicians are trained to manufacture these prosthetics themselves in their own countries. Below is a recent editorial from the Longview News-Journal.

Longview News-Journal

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Editorial

Servants

LeTourneau program reflects its Christian spirit

As we have said in this space before, the LeTourneau Engineering Global Solutions program has had a far-reaching impact on not only the lives of amputees in developing nations who once had no hope of really walking again, but also on the image and the importance of the Longview-based Christian university.

The LEGS program epitomizes what is possible when one combines the two greatest strengths of LeTourneau University — its longtime focus on advanced technical education and its undying commitment to Christian principles.

With the LEGS program, the Longview campus is harkenng to Christ’s commandments that his followers serve the poor and the ill.

The program has moved forward with those goals in mind, with the students freely sharing their time, talents and results. One of the most important decisions the LEGS program has made is to train people in developing countries how to construct the unique prosthetic legs and provide new limbs for their own countrymen.

Rather than protect their intellectual investment in the basic, but effective artificial leg they developed, participants in LEGS have gone out of their way to freely share that asset with the people who need it most.

The program began with LeTourneau engineering students designing and building the first limbs in 2004. It grew in 2007 when LeTourneau biology students joined the process and developed a training guide for people who would be fitting their countrymen for new legs.

What’s impressive is that LeTourneau University President Dale Lunsford, who is completing his first year at the helm of the Longview institution, sees the impressive LEGS program as simply a starting point, perhaps a model of many more programs that could arise from the same approach.

LeTourneau University is a small school by most measures, but a rich school in many other measures.

One could say that richness is reflected in the stunning new buildings that grace the modest campus, but that’s not what we are talking about.

Instead, we look upon our neighbors along Mobberly Avenue and see an institution that is rich in knowledge, rich in innovation and overflowing in a Christian sense of service and sharing.

If the federal government and other world leaders are really interested in learning how to serve the poor people, the sick people and the hungry people of the world, we think the students and the faculty of LeTourneau University have a wealth of good advice and good experience to share with them.
LETU Receives $529,000 S-STEM Grant from NSF

LETU won a $529,000 S-STEM grant from the National Science Foundation to support scholarships for electrical engineering and computer science students over the next five years. S-STEM stands for Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It will provide for student scholarships and support tutoring services in computer science, engineering and mathematics, to help with retaining students in these disciplines.

Robert B. Wharton Named New Dean of Business

Robert B. Wharton, Ph.D., was named the new dean of LETU’s School of Business to be effective August 1. Wharton currently serves as professor of economics and director for the Center for Business and Economic Development at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Prior to joining Union, he served as the dean of the school of business at Crichton College in Memphis, Tenn., where he taught business economics courses and served as vice president for academic affairs.

LETU Receives Robotics Grant to Train Teachers

LETU will conduct summer seminars in June to train teachers how to integrate robotics into their high school math and science classes, thanks to an $87,000 Teacher Quality Grant renewal from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Grant coordinator Dr. Craig Varnell said these grants improve the quality of teaching through providing professional development for teachers, which results in improved student achievement.

Engineering Professor Wins Piper Award

LETU biomedical engineering professor Dr. Roger V. Gonzalez has been selected as a Piper Professor for 2008 for superior teaching by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation of Texas. As a recipient of the award, Gonzalez will receive an honorarium of $5,000 as well as a certificate and a gold pin. The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation annually recognizes 15 professors for outstanding teaching from accredited two and four-year public and private colleges and universities in Texas. Gonzalez is the first LETU professor to be named a Piper Professor.

Bon Appétit Selected as Food Service Provider

Bon Appétit, one of the premier restaurant-quality food service providers to private colleges across the nation, will be the new food service provider for the university’s on-campus dining, effective June 1. Bon Appétit replaces Sodexho, which provided the university’s food service for over 30 years. Also, the current 400-seat B.A. Skipper Dining Hall will be vacated after renovations are completed on an interim dining hall in the 600-seat Assembly Building in the southwest corner of the campus. The renovations are expected to be complete by January 2009.

High Gas Prices Lead to Four-Day Work Week

The unprecedented increase in gasoline prices has led to a four-day summer work schedule for LETU staff for June and July, said President Dr. Dale A. Lunsford. The university will remain open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, but employees will alternate 9-hour shifts four days a week to cut their work commute by 20 percent.

New Facility at Airport

LETU acquired a new, larger facility at the East Texas Regional Airport, and plans to move the entire aviation program to the new facility. The property includes a 40,000-square-foot building and a 10,000-square-foot airplane hangar. The next year will see significant renovations and improvements to the facility, adding labs and classrooms, and if all goes according to plan, students will start attending classes in the new facility in the fall of 2009. The cost for the facilities and renovations is estimated at $6 million.
LETU GROWS TO THREE COMMEMCEMENT CEREMONIES
For the first time, LETU hosted separate commencement ceremonies in Longview on Saturday, May 3, for traditional and nontraditional graduates in the university's S.E. Belcher Jr. Chapel and Performance Center. A third ceremony was held Saturday, May 10, in Houston for nontraditional graduates.

The commencement speaker for both Longview ceremonies was two-time Malcolm Baldridge Award winner Dale Crownover, president and CEO of Texas Nameplate Company in Dallas.

The commencement speaker in Houston was alumnus and board member L.V. “Bud” McGuire, who is a principal and directs operations nationally and internationally for Alpha Petroleum Services in locations such as New Zealand and Tunisia.

MAJOR LEAGUE ROADTRIP FOR CANCER AWARENESS
Four LETU baseball players embarked on their “trip of a lifetime” May 4-18 to raise money for cancer awareness and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. From left, Ethan Cravalho, Aaron Bearden, Ed Hurta and Ryan VanZandt, drove over 5,000 miles in 12 days to visit 13 different major league ballparks in Kansas City, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Atlanta and Dallas. The students raised just over $2,000, and chronicled their trip at www.myspace.com/drivingforacure. Photo illustration by Les Hassell. Courtesy of the Longview News-Journal.

GOING FOR THE GOLD

BROWN LEADS NIFA TEAM IN FLYING COMPETITION
LETU’s “Sting Precision Flight Team” won seventh place nationally and Emily Harrison Brown, above, was ranked first female pilot in the nation for the second time at the recent National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s 2008 SAFECON competition. The team won third place in message drop, fifth place in ground events and 10th place in the flying events. They competed at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., against over 300 students from 31 teams from across the country, including Embry Riddle, Purdue University and the United States Air Force Academy.

MATH TEAM WINS FIRST AT STATE COMPETITION
LETU mathematics students won first place at a statewide College Calculus Bowl competition held by the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America at Tarleton State University. The LETU team beat groups from 12 other universities across the state in LETU’s
first year to compete. Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Stephen Fast served as the team’s coach.

ENGINEERING TEAMS WIN FIRST PLACE
LETU engineering students recently won first place honors in three separate engineering competitions: ASME, IEEE and SAE Aerodesign®.

“It is phenomenal that all three of our student teams competing in major events returned home with first place finishes,” said Tom Hellmuth, dean of the School of Engineering. “It is a testimony to the quality of our students, God’s blessings on their work and the excellent educational experience available at LETU.”

ASME DESIGN COMPETITION
LETU engineering students won first place in the District American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Design Competition in Ruston, La., with their robotic window cleaner. The students were required to design, build and demonstrate a robot that could clean a residential, double-hung sash window autonomously. Baylor University, the University of Oklahoma and Louisiana Tech University were among the 10 schools represented by an initial field of 16 teams from 4 states and the country of Mexico. The LETU students will compete at the national level against the 11 other district winners in November in Boston, Mass. Greg Reynolds is the faculty adviser. Terry Lyles accompanied the team that included students Joshua Baumgartner of San Antonio, Texas; Benjamin Reed of Wenatchee, Wash.; and Lincoln Stannard of Chicago, Ill.

IEEE COMPETITION
LETU electrical engineering majors won first place in the Circuit Design Competition at the IEEE Region Five Technical, Professional and Student Conference at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Mo. The objective of the digital electronics design problem was to use both analog and digital design to create an energy conservation system that turns off lights in rooms left unoccupied for a given length of time. IEEE, which originally was an acronym for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, is an association of professionals dedicated to the advancement of technology. Joonan Kim is the faculty adviser who accompanied juniors Richard Godley of Temple, Texas; and Steve Gilbertson of Sierra Vista, Ariz.

SAE AERODESIGN®
LETU students won first place and the “Elliott Green Award” in the SAE Aero Design® 2008 East overall competition, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, in Atlanta, Ga. The design competition required students to design, build and fly a radio-controlled airplane that could successfully lift, carry and land a maximum possible payload. They competed with teams from 38 schools in the U.S., including Embry Riddle, University of Cincinnati, Kansas State and international universities from Puerto Rico, Canada, Brazil, Venezuela and Poland. LETU students also won third place in most payload lifted with 22.07 pounds and third place in the regular class design for their report and presentation. The team also won the NASA Systems Engineering Award. The Society of Automotive Engineers is a professional organization that promotes innovations in transportation technologies. Faculty sponsors who accompanied the team to competition were Lauren Bitikofer and Greg Reynolds. SAE Aerosign® team members were seniors Nathan Brower of Keller, Texas; Joshua Hasty of Dallas, Texas; Adam Noble of Des Moines, Iowa; Tim Shirley of Idyllwild, Calif.; Joshua Shutts of Borger, Texas; and team leader, Daniel Williams of Tigard, Ore. Juniors on the team were Andrew Burgess of Longview, Texas; Josh Trempert of Nampa, Idaho; and Tim Storm of Chicago, Ill.

BAJA SAE
LETU mechanical engineering students recently won third place overall in an international 2008 Baja SAE Illinois competition with their number 15 Baja car, “Ingenuity.” The students will also compete in a similar competition in Montreal, Canada. The students placed second in acceleration and fourth in hill climbing and endurance racing from among more than 100 university teams from around the country. Baja SAE consists of three regional competitions that simulate real-world engineering design projects and their related challenges. Engineering students are tasked to design and build an off-road vehicle that will survive the severe punishment of rough terrain and sometimes even water. ■

NOW NEWS & NOTES 13
Later this summer, we will welcome hundreds of new and transfer students to campus to start their LETU experience. An amazing team of admissions professionals have travelled from coast to coast, made thousands of phone calls, and sent more emails, instant messages and text messages to more students than you or I can imagine. In addition, the admissions team has spent time communicating with students on Facebook by sharing videos, pictures and answering lots of questions about roommates, housing, academics, and most importantly—our new food service provider, Bon Appétit.

If you know 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 online at www.letu.edu/apply.

Here are some important dates to remember for new LETU students:

- Summer Edge, early registration—July 10-11
  www.letu.edu/edge

- Fall Orientation—begins Thursday, August 21
  www.letu.edu/orientation

- First day of classes—Tuesday, August 26

Dates for future student events—including fall preview events for military aviation, missions aviation, professional flight, science, engineering and technology can be found at www.letu.edu/preview.

Can't come to a preview event? Schedule your campus visit at www.letu.edu/visit.
The U.S. Department of Justice began a program called “Operation Weed and Seed” in 1991 as a multi-agency strategy to “weed out” violent crime, gang activity, drug use and drug trafficking in high crime neighborhoods and “seed” them with social and economic revitalization.

One of these Weed and Seed areas is in the 2-Points area of eastern Dallas, which is part of the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) neighborhood clean-up and revitalization project.

On April 14, 2008, an MBA class from LeTourneau University’s working adult program presented its grant evaluation for FRI’s 2-Points Weed and Seed project to FRI Executive Director Vikki J. Martin.

“LETU’s partnership with FRI has been ongoing since 1998,” Martin said. “Whether it has been in the area of offering expertise in management, fund development, economic development analysis or program evaluation, LETU has always been there for us, ready to help. The students at LETU have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in services-in-kind that have helped contribute to FRI being one of the Department of Justice’s best Weed and Seed models in the nation.”

FRI was successful in obtaining the grant for the 2-Points Weed and Seed target area, one of the most violent communities in Dallas. FRI is in the third initiative of its Department of Justice grant to improve the low-income, high-crime community. The grant project hopes to improve living conditions in the community, increase business and industry and drive crime out of the community.

LETU professor Dr. James Tew integrated this project into the Quality and Operations Management MBA course. He suggested to the FRI team that it focus on Minyard Foods because “food stores stabilize a community.”

Each MBA student evaluated one section of the grant objectives. The student project leader was Chad Murphree, who works for a branch of McCormick Seasonings. Other students in the class, known as MBA 150, work for a variety of companies including Bell Helicopter, the Drug Enforcement Agency, Home Health, Verizon, ATT/Sales & Marketing, Desoto ISD, Colgate Pharmaceuticals, ACE Hardware, Lasco Fans and Burlington Northern.

Working with FRI, the students learned first-hand the inner workings of a federal grant evaluation process and the importance of the grant administrator being able to meet the conditions and objectives of a grant.

Students became familiar with the 2-Points area through a day-long lecture and tour from FRI employees. Murphree said the bus tour of the 2-Points area was a priceless experience that showed him the heartfelt passion the FRI team has for developing this community.

One of the other students in the class grew up in the FRI community and has relatives who still live nearby.

The MBA students successfully identified strengths and weaknesses in FRI’s 2-Points Weed and Seed efforts over the past three years. Their results will soon be published in a formal report that will be sent to the Department of Justice for review to assist the agency in deciding whether to continue to award the grant to FRI in the future.

Students said they appreciated the opportunity to use what they were learning in their MBA classes to help in the community. The project helped them see how effective and important partnerships within the community can be and how real-world projects affect real lives.
The crowds of people we passed on the road were headed to the same place we were. There were thousands of them, dirty, sweating in the hot sun of the Mexican desert. We watched them as our air-conditioned bus slowed down and moved into the other lane to avoid the large groups that spilled into the road.

Yes, we had the same destination, but our reasons for going, and means of getting there, were very different.

Our bus was set to arrive in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, in Central Mexico in an hour. Those who were walking had set out on foot as many as three days prior from all over Mexico. We left LETU the previous afternoon.

The people crowding the roads were on their way to pray to the Santo Nino de Atocha, the idol statue of a baby in a Fresnillo church (an annual trip every year before Easter). The ten people in my group, nine students and myself, were going to spend the next seven days living and working with the pastor of a small church.

The Centro Cristiano Agua Viva wasn’t filled with the plush pews or high-tech sound equipment that fills most American churches. It had something more valuable—a burning passion to serve God and fervently reach out to the people like those we passed who find comfort not in God, but in a statue.

We spent most of our days doing construction work on a new, bigger church building for Agua Viva. We didn’t have advanced tools, cement mixers or jackhammers, the normal things you would find at a construction site. What we did have, was Alejandro.

His English wasn’t perfect, but he tried. For every job we did, whether it be digging a hole five feet deep through concrete, building a support wall, hand-mixing concrete or assembling rebar structures, Alejandro had an easier way to get it done.

He had previous experience in both construction and as a chef, but it was another thing in his past that led him to the Centro Agua Viva, an addiction to alcohol and drugs.

The pastor of Agua Viva not only runs the church, but also a rehabilitation center for men addicted to drugs and alcohol. Success stories such as Alejandro’s kept us working through the sun and dust. We weren’t seeing a finished building go up, but we knew the things we did would help impact many people’s lives in the future.

“More big, more better,” Alejandro shouted as he wiped sweat from his brow, standing waist-deep in a ditch full of rocks and mortar. He directed most of our work, our ‘maestro’ if you will, and called out to our group as we searched for the perfect rocks to support the yet-to-be-built walls for the church he now faithfully attended.

I saw God work in many different ways on my trip: a soccer game with the men at the rehab center, children coloring at the church, a church-wide prayer session, the love of a church elder in helping to prepare our meals and students selflessly giving up their break for a construction mission trip.

The words Alejandro called out ring true and describe the kind of heart we should have for God, the kind shown repeatedly throughout my trip, “more big, more better.”

Written by Kyle Gunnels
Baseball
The baseball team finished the season with an 11-25-1 record.
Junior Ed Hurta earned Honorable Mention ASC East Division honors as a right fielder and in the utility spot. He was also named the ASC East Pitcher of the Week and Hitter of the Week during the year.
Sophomore Tyler Kaminski earned ASC East Pitcher of the Week honors and sophomore Joey Ramos was named ASC East Honorable Mention at catcher.

Men’s Tennis
The men’s tennis team finished the season with an 11-9 record.
The Jackets had four individuals finish with at least 15 wins on the season and the doubles tandem of Wade Sinard and Dallas Darnell went 13-7.
Darnell, just a freshman, earned Second Team ASC East honors while Sinard became the school record holder in career singles and doubles victories.

Women’s Tennis
The team went 9-11 with a 3-2 conference mark this season.
Freshmen Britney Cleveland and Caitlyn Hairell were each named ASC East Player of the Week during the season.
Junior Jessica Tindall became the first YellowJacket to be named First Team ASC East, and Cleveland earned Second Team ASC East honors.
Tindall became the school record holder in career singles and doubles victories.

Men’s Golf
Junior Patrick Palmer won two tournaments, finished in the top five in four others, earned a #1 NCAA Division III ranking in Golfstat and set a school record for low stroke average.
This year was Dr. Andy Woodring’s final season as the men’s golf coach. Director of Athletics Dr. Duane Trogdon will take over in 2008-09.

Women’s Golf
Coach Lauren Clemens’ first squad played their best golf of the year at the ASC Championships.
Freshman Leslie Lee had the best individual season in the program’s history finishing the year with an 84.6 stroke average. At the ASC Championships she carded a school-record 77 in the opening round and became the school’s first ASC First Team honoree in women’s golf.

Softball
The YellowJacket softball team earned a record number of wins this season, 16, and also a school record best 8-16 ASC East record.
Senior Lindsay Haywood capped off her career hitting .363, with a school record 11 doubles and 25 RBIs. She earned Second Team ASC East Division honors and is the LETU all-time leader in runs, hits, doubles, total bases and RBIs. Junior Brooke Frazier set school records with 10 wins and three shutouts during the year. Frazier and freshmen Kylie Packard and Crissy Simmons were all named Honorable Mention All-ASC East.
From the Alumni Office

Written by Marta E. Martin, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

I can’t believe graduation is already behind us...three graduation celebrations to be exact! On May 3 and May 10, I had the honor of inducting 465 new alumni to the LETU Alumni Association. It was an exciting time for our alumni, their families and friends, but also one that carried with it a certain sadness which, over time, softens to nostalgia. Moments like graduation, like orientation, like surviving your first tough exam are what brings us all together as LETU Alumni. We had some good times here, didn’t we?

The Alumni Office would like to extend the good times and help strengthen the relationships each of us nurtured while we were students. We are re-thinking some of the events for alumni, seeking to be more nimble so that more and more of us can return to campus or stay connected through local events. For example, locally we hope to see our alumni at the following:

• July 11, 2008: Great Texas Balloon Race Hangar Party. You bring the food. The Alumni Association will provide drinks and dessert.

Of course, you can find all of our events online at www.letu.edu/alumni and also on mycommunity.letu.edu.

With 465 graduates, we also grow our number of LETU parents! LETU parents are always part of the fold, even if your student has already graduated. So don’t be shy in joining us for upcoming events and visiting campus alongside your alumnus.

Missionaries Around the Globe

Your LETU brothers and sisters are covering the globe. But oftentimes, we don’t know what they are up to. Especially with regard to our missionary alumni, we need to know what is going on and how we can support and pray for them. For this reason, we are now posting missionary newsletters from some of our missionary alumni in the Alumni News section of the E-newsletters feature in MyCOMMUNITY. We hope you will take some time to see what our alumni are doing, and pray for them. Prayer is one way we all stay connected!

Global Travel

We are offering many opportunities for alumni, family and friends to make new memories and stay connected. Next year, we will host a Mexico Cruise during Spring Break, March 16-21, 2009, and an Alaskan Cruise July 10-17, 2009. If you would like more information about these two trips, contact Bev with Omega Travel at 800.363.0012.

To give you plenty of ways to connect and find information, these opportunities are also listed on the Alumni Web site, Facebook group and MyCOMMUNITY. Look for our mailers and e-mail notifications as well.

We hope to see you and your families soon. In the meantime, please continue to keep LETU and your LETU family in your prayers for God’s continued blessing.
MEMORIALS

Bernis Davis ('51 WE) died on March 21 in Longview, Texas.

J.S. “Slim” Sullivan ('58 BI) died March 15 in Longview, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Jimmye, two daughters and several grandchildren.

John Cessna ('67 EN) died on March 3. John is survived by his wife of 61 years, Donna, and their three sons.

Mark Spires ('75 EE) died on March 13. He is survived by his wife Jaqueline.

Maria Jane Hebb ('02 BBM) died on Nov. 8, 2007 in Fort Worth, Texas.

BIRTHS

Glenn ('86 CST) and Laurie Toews announce the adoption of Rachael, 2, in September 2007. Rachael was welcomed home by Zachary, 14, and Noah, 10. Glenn works for Devicix, LLC as a principle software engineer.

Mark ('97 ATDT) and Andre Ruffcorn ('98 ET) Krause announce the birth of Nathan Andrew on March 29 in Plano, Texas. Nathan was welcomed home by big brother Luke, 2. Proud grandparents are Harold ('68 BI) and Carol Krause.

Ross ('98 BUDT) and Renee French are proud to announce the birth of William Ryan on Jan. 30. William joins brothers, Nathanael and Ian.


Joe ('99 MBA) and Ofelia Rogers announce the birth of Elise on Aug. 28, 2006. The Rogers family now lives in Houston where Joe works as a district sales manager for Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

Matt ('00 EE) and Lidia Calderon ('02 IBBS) Brodine announce the birth of Esther Elise on March 7. She joins big sister Rebekah, 2. The Brodine family lives in Tulsa, Okla.

Paul ('00 ME) and Julia Hvass announce the arrival of Hannah Elizabeth on Jan. 6. The Hvass family lives in San Antonio where Paul works as a research engineer for Southwest Research Institute.

Daniel ('03 ASAE) and Rachel ('03 ISEL) Silk announce the birth of David Daniel on Dec. 16, 2007. David is a B1 Pilot with the 34th Bomb Squadron in the U.S. Air Force, and Rachel is enjoying staying home with David. They currently live in Rapid City, S.D.

April ('05 BBA) and Aaron Rogers want everyone to meet their son, Andrew Kyle was born Oct. 10, 2007. He was welcomed home by big sister Jessica, 9. April works for the Kimberly-Clark Corporation as a facilities management coordinator.

Jessica ('06 BBA) and Charles Poe announce the birth of Isaac on Feb. 11. Isaac joins siblings Hannah, 10, and Caleb, 7. Janet is the web master at Tyler ISD in Tyler, Texas.

Nathan ('07 ME) and Emily Green announce the birth of Izabella Margaret on Feb. 16. The Green family lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Nathan works as a systems engineer for Rockwell Collins.

Jon ('07 ASFL) and Julie Kohn ('07 ASFS) Stuk announce the birth of Gabriel Cole on April 1. Jon is a flight instructor at LETU.

Brian Steinbruegge ('87 MT) and his wife Kim recently had their fifth child. Samuel was born on May 2 in North Carolina. Brian works as a manufacturing engineering manager with Gualicaps Inc.

Rueben Watson ('87 ACCT) and his wife, Debbie, announce the arrival of Michael into their family. Michael was born May 2, 2007, in South Korea and joined his family on Feb. 7.
Kathryn Mulholland ('93 PE) and Jonathan Hirsch announce the birth of Autumn Skye on March 12. She was welcomed home by big brothers, Nick, 14, and Ben, 11.

Mike ('95 ATFL) and Carrie Bresnahan announce the birth of daughter, Sarah Doro thy, on April 8. Mike is currently a captain for American Eagle Airline.

Clara Edge Danielson ('02 BUBS) and her husband, Kyle, have two children. Seth was born July 4, 2006, and Koryne was born August 16, 2007.

Brad ('02 ATFL) and Rebecca Hopkins now have a son. Evan Robert was born May 20 in Singapore. They currently live in Indonesia and work with Mission Aviation Fellowship.

MARRIAGES

Nevin Spade ('95 ATBS) and Heather Springle were married in Nassau, Bahamas, on Dec. 30, 2005. Nevin is an insurance agent in Manheim, Penn.

David Koutz ('03 ME) married Caroline Faulkenberg on Aug. 18, 2007. Caroline is a graduate in radiation therapy and Dave works for Lincoln Electric. They live in Indianapolis.

Michael Moussa ('03 ME) married Lauren Woods ('05 MGT) on Nov. 4, 2007, in Denton, Texas.

Ross Schultz ('04 ME) married Sarah Maggard on Sept. 4, 2004. Sarah’s parents, Cheryl and Tim ('75 MET) Maggard, were excited to see their son David Maggard ('08 ME) graduate this May.

Stephanie Ball ('06 ISBS) and Richard Lane ('07 ISE-EC4) were married on Dec. 22, 2007. They currently live in Lewisville, Texas.

ALUM NEWS

70s


Bruce ('77 MT) and Susan ('77) Dodds live in Simpsonville, S.C., where Bruce is the president of All-Trans, Inc.

80s

Dan ('80 EE) and Lillian Hoobyar moved from being missionaries in Brazil to working near Philadelphia. Dan is the international director of Crossworld.

Jim ('80 BUAT) and Glenda Kielhorn ('80 BUBS) Hooker live in Centennial, Colo. Jim works for Falcon Door Hardware as the business development manager.

David Nixon ('80 ETAT) is the Houston PAMA president and the first recipient of the PAMA/SAE Institute Aviation Maintenance Engineer Certification nationally.

Ben Wolf ('81 ATBU) lives in Singapore where he is the Asia rim area director for BGR International.

Philip DeSouza ('82 WT) now lives in Aruba where he works for Valero Energy Corp. as director of maintenance.

Scott Oakes ('82 EE) hosted a LETU father and son reunion at his home in the Washington D.C. area the weekend of April 11. In attendance were Gary Blackwell ('82 BUBS), Peter Daley ('82 BUBI), Robin Dirks ('82 ATBS), Dennis Martin ('81 WT), Tom Mitchelltree ('82 WT) and Gary Sweeten ('82 ME). The men all agreed that the friendships made at LETU were life-long friendships, and the kind of relationships that are hard to make these days.

Jimmy Jackson ('83 PE) is the assistant principal at Joaquin ISD in Joaquin, Texas.

Victor D’Ettorre ('84 ATBS) and his family have been living in Slovakia since August 2006. He teaches with Teach Overseas.
Paul Carver Wood (‘84 WE) graduated with a master of engineering degree in engineering and technology management from Oklahoma State University College of Engineering in May.

Ed Vafior (‘86 IM) was elected president of the Pleasant Local Schools Board of Education in Marion, Ohio, in January. Ed owns an IT consulting firm, EJV Consulting, LLC which he started in March.

Robert Warke (‘86 WE) was promoted to associate professor at LETU where he works in the Engineering Department. Robert, his wife Joy and their children, William, 17, Daniel, 15, and Anne, 13, live in Longview, Texas.

Ed Vaflor (‘86 IM) was elected president of the Pleasant Local Schools Board of Education in Marion, Ohio, in January. Ed owns an IT consulting firm, EJV Consulting, LLC which he started in March.

Peter Wenninger (‘86 WT, ’98 MBA) has moved from Wisconsin to Texas. He has taken a new job as director of manufacturing at Peerless Manufacturing Company in Dallas.

Eric Brown (‘88 MT) was named national sales manager at Wolverine Advanced Materials, LLC in Inkster, Mich.

90s

Earl Campbell (‘92 BBM) works for Verizon Business as a consultant in Richardson, Texas.

Randy Fish (‘92 AT) is the senior quality assurance inspector for Continental Airlines in Houston.

Al Guevara (‘93 BSBM, ’97 MBA) is the chief operation officer for Brazosport Regional Health System in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Shane Butler (‘94 BBA, ’99 MSM) was named senior division vice president at Pilgrim’s Pride in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Andrew (‘95 CSE) and Angela Leonard (‘96 BUDT) Vanada live in Indiana with their two children. Andrew works for Cinergy Communications as a Software Engineer.

George Sparks (‘95 BM, ’00 MBA) earned his Ph.D. in Business Organization and Management from Capella University in March. In 2007, George was named the outstanding faculty member in the school of business at Kaplan University.

Ricky Brown (‘96 BSBM) owns Cornerstone Business Solutions in Athens, Texas.

Robert Manzo (‘96 BBM) lives in Houston where he is a lieutenant for the City of Houston Police Department.

Joe Walker (‘96 BM) is the director of pulmonary services at Kindred Hospitals in Oklahoma City.

Joyce Barrett (‘98 BBM) was named director of human resources at McConnell Jones Lanier and Murphy, LLC in Houston.

00s

Beth Tucker (‘00 BBA) has worked as postmaster in Alto, Texas, since 2006.

Pat Wilborn (‘00 BBA) received her master’s degree in educational HR development in May from Texas A&M University. She is a college instructor at Westwood College in Fort Worth, Texas.

Eddie Greer (‘01 BBA) received the designation of Fellow by the American Society of Safety Engineers. This is the highest award presented by the association for life-long achievement in the field of safety and health. Eddie is the president of Eddie Greer and Associates in Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

Betty Ragsdale (‘01 BBM) is an adjunct faculty member at Eastfield Community College in Mesquite, Texas.

Joyce Roquemore (‘01 MBA) works as a senior informatics analyst for M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Angela Abston (‘02 BBA) is the accounting manager at Behringer Harvard in Addison, Texas.

Daniel Wynja (‘03 ASFL) received his ATP certificate along with his Learjet Type Rating at Flight Safety Int’l Atlanta on Feb. 29. Dan is employed with Gurry Leep as a pilot.

Sandra Botello Zaragoza (‘03 EC-4) is the dual language teacher at Marshall ISD in Marshall, Texas.

Devin McIntosh (‘04 KIE2) is the 2008 team manager for the Thunder Bay Border Cats in Ontario, Canada. He was formerly with Niagara University in Niagara, New York.

Kathleen Rollin (‘05 BBA) lives in Palestine, Texas, and works as a records technician for New Mexico State University.

Kathy Zwernemann (‘05 PACT) was named Mount Pleasant High School Teacher of the Year in May. Kathy was also selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Each year, student members of NSHSS have the opportunity to nominate the educator who has made the most significant contribution to their academic career. Kathy teaches Journalism.

Joel Carlson (‘06 ASMS) works as an experimental line mechanic at Cessna in Wichita, Kan.
Approximately five years ago, the university initiated a volunteer program called the LeTourneau Admissions Ambassadors which served to involve alumni, parents and friends in recruiting new students. Many of you responded to our call and represented LETU at college fairs across the country and contacted prospective students on our behalf. We are grateful for your service and commitment to the Christ-centered education offered at LETU.

In an effort to expand the influence that our alumni, parents and friends have, we are now reintroducing the program with a new name and new leadership. Welcome to the LeTourneau Ambassadors Network! While our primary goals for the program have not changed, we have reorganized our tasks to better complement the Admissions recruiting cycle. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help us find students that will thrive in LETU’s unique environment. Our activities will be focused on providing the Admissions Office with volunteers for dozens of college fairs across the country each fall as well as contacting admitted students through e-mail and telephone calls at select times throughout the year.

Contact me at LAN@letu.edu to find out how you can be involved or to renew your commitment to helping with this invaluable program. I look forward to serving with you!

Sincerely,

M. Allison Gardner ’99
LeTourneau Ambassadors Network, Program Coordinator
Former LETU first lady Edith Maxine (Horn) Hardwick passed away on May 2 at the age of 91 in St. Paul, Minn. Her husband, Dr. Harry T. Hardwick, served as president and later as chancellor of LeTourneau College from 1968 until 1987. Known by friends as “Edith,” she was born in Davenport, Okla., on Sept. 26, 1916.

Her mother was Ollie Mae (Pryor) Horn. Her father, Alonzo Horn was an itinerant evangelist. During her youth, Edith’s father was invited to York, Pa. to conduct meetings. He took his wife and five children with him. Edith and her teenage sisters played instruments and sang in the meetings. The “tent meetings” extended to an amazing four months. One of the converts was a local teenage farm boy, Harry Hardwick, who in 1934 married “the evangelist’s daughter.” She was 18 and he was 20.

Family and those who knew her agreed her life was characterized by old-fashioned love and a commitment to her Lord, husband, family and friends.

Concerning her commitment to Christ she stated, “As a child I suspect I went to the altar in the tent meetings a lot. When I was sixteen, I went to the altar and told the Lord whatever my experience had been as a child I wanted to make sure it was real—to make it certain. I was a senior in high school, and while I think I was saved before, I still wanted to be sure. From then on I’ve never really had any doubt about it!”

Asked how she would like to be remembered, she said, “As just me. I never tried to be anybody but myself!” In the same conversation however, she did cite one very special self-identity in her life, “When I was a little barefoot girl in Oklahoma.”

The scripture passage from Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding,” meant a lot to her. She said, “If you really, really trust it—it is the basis for your whole life!”

Her service at LETU began in 1968, where she continued her “behind the scenes” role as her husband became college president and later chancellor for a total of 17 years. Mrs. Hardwick served with him with an unshakable Christian faith that was the cornerstone of her life.

While the title “First Lady” was part of her introduction for much of her adult life, she was first a loving wife and mother. Later in life as a widow, she was a woman with a sweet, feisty spirit, who enjoyed daily crossword puzzles, talking on the phone with old friends and reminiscing about her prized collection of memorabilia. Her favorite color was pink, and her favorite flower was the rose.

During their various ministries, Dr. and Mrs. Hardwick influenced the lives of hundreds of young people. After her husband’s death, Mrs. Hardwick, who loved LETU and the people of Texas, continued to live in Longview for 17 years until returning to Minnesota four years ago to be close to her family.

As she and her husband would often say, “You are making your memories today, so make them good ones.”

She indeed had many good ones, with a very full life. She leaves a legacy of good memories for her family and friends.

The family requests that any memorial gifts be sent to the LeTourneau University Student Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 7333, Longview, Texas 75607.
Want your friends and family to know more about LETU?

The LETU Admissions staff wants to know about your children and friends who may be interested in attending the university. There are several ways you can get these names to the Admissions Office.

1. Call 800.759.8811 and give the information to an admissions counselor.

2. Go online to www.letu.edu and choose the “Refer a Student” link under the Alumni tab.

3. Send the student’s name and contact information to admissions@letu.edu.

LeTourneau University offers more than 60 academic programs in Engineering, Engineering Technology, Aeronautical Science, Education, Arts & Sciences and Business.

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NOW
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