TIME OF TRANSITION

DAY 9,628
June 30, 2013

DAY 1
July 1, 2013

SKIP’S ON THE RUN:
Meet a Busy Coach Holtz PAGE 10
A Word from the ALUMNI DIRECTOR

The fall quarter began with President Dan Reneau’s announcement that he will retire on June 30, 2013, after 26 years as president. His leadership during the past quarter century has catapulted Tech into the top echelons of national universities. In early December, Tech’s 14th president, Dr. Les Guice, was unanimously selected by the University of Louisiana’s Board of Supervisors. The College of Business began teaching classes in their new state-of-the-art building this fall, and as you read this, the former building housing that college is being demolished to provide green space and additional parking, enhancing the corridor into the Enterprise Campus. And Skip Holtz was hired in December to replace Sonny Dykes as the head football coach of the Bulldogs. It’s been a busy fall!

Take a good look at our future alumni. You’ll be pleased: the 2012 freshman class was made up of 1,307 students with an average ACT score of 24.1, a clear indication that Tech continues to recruit some of the brightest and best students. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or just know a student who will be exploring his or her college dreams in the near future, make sure to see Page 25 for additional information about the admissions process.

As Tech continues to move boldly forward, it is critically important that alumni and friends remain committed to supporting the administration and students. One way you can show your commitment is by keeping your Alumni Association membership up-to-date. You can do this online at latechalumni.org/dues or by calling the Marbury Alumni Center at (318) 255-7950. And please also consider financial support of the programs and entities of the University through the Louisiana Tech Foundation when you receive those solicitation letters. You can do this online at latechalumni.org/dues or by calling the Marbury Alumni Center at (318) 255-7950. And please also consider financial support of the programs and entities of the University through the Louisiana Tech Foundation when you receive those solicitation letters. Thank you for staying connected, staying involved, and staying committed...you are Louisiana Tech!

Ryan W. Richard (’98/’02)
We remain alums of Louisiana Tech University and ‘so long’ to the presidency, we don’t say ‘goodbye’ to you. While we say goodbye to you, we say goodbye to the University, our alma mater. To step down in June is the right decision at the right time. As Linda and I have said time and time again, we are honored to have served the University, our alma mater. To serve as president, “I am tremendously honored to have been selected to lead Louisiana Tech University into the future,” said Guice at the time. “The confidence that the Board has shown in me and the support I’ve received from the Tech family have been amazing and so very much appreciated.” Like his predecessor, Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau, Guice proved himself time and again while serving Tech, beginning as interim head, civil engineering, April ‘88 – May ‘96.

Throughout this issue you’ll find more accomplishments than I have room to mention here, but know this: anytime you do something good, it reflects on the University. We are strong because we care, accomplishment by accomplishment, about outcomes. We care not only about achieving, but also about achieving in the right way.

Finally, speaking of achievers, let me mention Les Guice. Dr. Guice will become the University’s 14th president on July 1. Support him. Work with him. Know that you have a good man as your leader, one who cares deeply about Louisiana Tech University. I’m grateful to have worked these many years with him. I’m entirely confident with him as the next president.

Of course, that means this will be my final message to you “from the 16th floor” of Louisiana Tech. The next message you read in this space will be from Dr. Guice. That is how it should be. As Linda and I have said time and time again, we are honored to have served the University, our alma mater. To step down in June is the right decision at the right time.

But, while we say “so long” to the presidency, we don’t say “goodbye” to you. We remain alums of the University and friends of yours.

Daniel D. Reneau, Dean, College of Engineering and Science, ’76

From the 16th Floor

Few things give me more pleasure than talking about our alumni, the hands and heart and voice of the University away from campus. We are only as good as our people, and our people do more and more every day to make us that much better.

In this issue of Louisiana Tech Magazine, you’ll find features on both Alumnius of the Year John Allen and Young Alumni of the Year Brooke Lasater Stecher, as well as profiles of our Distinguished Alumni of the Colleges. We all take a lot of pride in the way this year’s honorees continue to represent their University.

Although he did not attend Louisiana Tech, Ruston mayor Dan Hollingsworth has supported the University as if he were part of the staff here. Of course, he is a part of the Tech Family. No one has done more to solidify our efforts to grow in concert with the city than Mayor Hollingsworth. It was with much pleasure that we presented him at Homecoming 2012 with the Arlis Scogin Distinguished Service Award.

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is retiring at the end of June after more than a half century at Louisiana Tech, including 26 years as the University’s president. And still, we bet there are at least …
10 He doesn’t own a couch. The furniture at 1500 Bulldog Drive belongs to the state. “We had a house full of furniture 26 years ago,” Reneau said. “The dining room table is ours, the chandelier… We’ve got a tremendous amount of books and décor stuff. But beds, a washing machine, a chair for the living room, we’re having to buy everything. I’m having sticker shock. I built a house in 1968 for about $15 a square foot. Things have gone up a bit since then.”

11 Under Reneau’s leadership, the impact of the reorganization of the College of Engineering and its merger in 1994 with the School of Science continues to be wide-ranging. “It enabled productive conversation between people of different academic backgrounds,” said Napper. “Instead of creating problems separately, today we solve problems together. Our graduate and research programs have grown dramatically since the merger. It was revolutionary: All I can tell you is we have people coming from around the world to see how we’re doing it.”

WHAT A TIME
Dr. Dan Reneau and Louisiana Tech

1961 Students Daniel Reneau and Linda Digby married June 3.

1962 Linda and Dan Reneau welcome their first child, Dana, June 30.

1963 Graduates from Tech with B.A., chemical engineering

1964 Earns M.A. in chemical engineering from Tech

1966 Earns Ph.D. from Clemson University

1967 Begins career at Tech as chemical engineering assistant professor

1968 Son John is born, Dec. 14

1972 Establishes Tech’s Biomedical Engineering Department

Things You Might Not Know About Tech President Dan Reneau

1 He will wear a sweater vest at the drop of a hat.

2 His hobbies include hunting, fishing, traveling, reading and all things history, especially Civil War history.

3 He’s a great tour guide. “My dad is such a history buff that he is the perfect travel companion for any location in the world,” said his daughter, Dana Reneau Bernhard. “(Husband) Jim and I and our boys love to travel with my parents internationally due to the added bonus of having our own personal tour guide. And in instances where we do have a tour guide and interpreter in addition to my dad, Dad always teaches the tour guide some interesting facts about their own country’s history, much to the amazement of the tour guide and to the great amusement of my boys.”

4 He once raised goats: “When he was head of biomed, I remember he took such great pride in developing the biomed building from the old hospital in Ruston,” said son John Reneau. “He loved working with students there, both in the classroom and in research. At one point, they needed a place to keep the goats they were using for research. He began to keep them on our land in Bernice.”

5 He conducted the first microtechnology and micromanufacturing research on campus and built by hand microelectrodes to insert into the brains of fetal goats to study how oxygen transfers to tissue. “We were doing surgery on goats to see what was happening in the brain,” Dr. Reneau said. “There were things that could keep you up all night excited.”

6 You don’t think of the old hospital-turned-biomed-center as being a party place, but … “Back then, we’d cook hamburgers or have spaghetti once a month out there,” said Stan Napper, then a professor and today the Dean of the College of Engineering and Science. “Faculty would even bring their families. We WERE a family. Dr. Reneau carried that same personality with him when he went to the 16th floor.”

7 It’s a bit hard to imagine a university president as a student. But Susan Rasbury, President Reneau’s Executive Assistant, found proof when she saw his incoming freshman folder filled out in 1959. “I know at that point he never imagined he would have an illustrious career as president of a university, much less his alma mater,” Rasbury said.

8 “He’s always said, ‘The age of a university never changes,’” said Dana. “He sees it as a young environment full of bright, talented students striving to achieve and exceed their potential. To that end, he would say the most fun part of his job is his interactions with students, whether it’s in an academic, athletic or university-life setting.”

9 He was a dorm janitor as a student.

(continued)
“So often he repeats the old adage, ‘Just hang in there with me; there’s more than one way to skin a cat,’” said Rasbury. “And he’s skinned many cats along the way! If he really believes in something, he perseveres until it’s done.”

“Susan has been with me 33 years,” Reneau said of Rasbury, who retired at the end of 2012. “You can’t buy loyalty like that.”

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THeY WeRe  ONCe JuST PuPS: John Reneau and sister Dana Bernhard (with mom, Linda, and dad, Dan) pose at 1500 Bulldog Drive on the campus where they grew up.

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1987

Selected as 13th president of Louisiana Tech University

1995

Awarded the Distinguished Arthur T. Prescott Professorship in Engineering

1999

Installed as an inaugural Alumni Fellow of Clemson University

2000

Selected as an AIMBE Fellow by the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

2002

Receives from the National Federation of the Blind its highest honor, the Newell Perry Award

2011

The Reneaus celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

2012

Announces retirement, effective June 30, 2013

They were once just pups: John Reneau and sister Dana Bernhard (with mom, Linda, and dad, Dan) pose at 1500 Bulldog Drive on the campus where they grew up.

Jim Bernhard, Reneau's son-in-law and Shaw Group CEO, knows a bit about running a corporation. "What makes him a good president? His vision, his planning and his absolute relentless work ethic in his quest to accomplish his goals," Bernhard said. "And he’s a 'regular person,' a man who enjoys life and extends that enjoyment to his friends. I value his friendship, his advice, his loyalty and his intelligence. And his daughter!...Many times a businessman is judged by the profits or dividends he achieves. The dividend for Dan of more than 40,000 students graduating under his tenure is immeasurable. That makes Dan Reneau the greatest businessman I know. And the commodity in which he deals – students – is the most precious of any industry"

"Being able to bring the right people together or make the right moves, academically or athletically, at the right time, and to get all these things to be a part of one movement, that takes a leader," said vice president of administrative and financial services Joe Thomas. "If there's one over-arching principle we felt from Dr. Reneau, it's been, 'Let's all move together in this direction.' He's had a sense of the rhythm of what it takes. ... Dr. Reneau's been good at gathering input and offering encouragement to a diverse group of people with different staffs and different curricula and getting them to be part of one movement. And he's worked with limited resources. When you bring people into your vision and ask them to share and contribute, that's where you gain strength."

Linda Reneau has been a secret weapon. "I think Mom has been the perfect complement to Dad throughout his presidency," John said. "She has always been ready to work with and entertain students, staff and campus groups and has enjoyed doing so immensely. She has been there to support Dad and is able to offer unique insight and perspective on the issues he deals with as president." Said Dan Reneau, "I wouldn't be here today without her. She's been there from the beginning, we've done this together!"

It can be lonely at the top. "It's been gratifying to witness how much President Reneau loves and appreciates the Tech family," said Rasbury. "He is equally comfortable and caring in discussions with faculty, staff, buildings and grounds crews, students, and administrators. I have seen him practically in tears over a particularly difficult discussion with an upset student or parent or over the loss of a member of the Tech family, or an illness in the family of a member of the Tech family." Several days after weren't always days off: "He has the unique capability of being able to step back, put something on hold, remove himself from the situation and think," Rasbury said. "Some of his most successful plans have been formulated while fishing, hunting or just spending time at his beloved Bernice farm. I have told him that if he's taught me one thing, it's patience."

"After I got my doctorate, I never dreamed of being president," Reneau said. "I wanted to come back here and teach, and primarily I wanted to do research. I thought we could develop some things here."

While Dr. Reneau has ‘seen it all’ on campus in the past quarter century, so has College of Business mainstay and student favorite Dr. Joe Pullis. Dr. Pullis signed his employment contract with ‘Tech the morning of Aug. 15, 1967,’ Dr. Reneau signed his that afternoon. "President Reneau directed and guided the changes that moved Tech from a regionally recognized university to one of national prominence,” Pullis said. "Such recognition and accolades do not occur by happenstance, and the lion’s share of credit for these amazing accomplishments must go and should go to President Reneau.”

As a teen, he was supervisor of the syrup room in a cannery where he earned a little extra money and learned about teamwork and business. "I think Mom has been the perfect complement to Dad throughout his presidency," John said. "She has always been ready to work with and entertain students, staff and campus groups and has enjoyed doing so immensely. She has been there to support Dad and is able to offer unique insight and perspective. I think part of the feeling ‘Tech gives to you is one of togetherness. We've built ownership into our staff and faculty and into our students. These are people who are proud of what they do and proud of their University.""
Look Who Just Skipped In

Skip Holtz, with two Conference USA titles and a famous name, takes over a tradition-rich program after a record-setting season.

His first football autumn in north Louisiana is highly anticipated: Tech won nine games last year and led the nation in scoring offense.

As far as our play, I do not know what I can expect yet,” Holtz said. “Although our 32 seniors last season played an extremely integral role on and off the turf, I am looking forward to getting on the grass and getting to know the strengths and weaknesses of our current players.”

So many of the front-line offensive players who accounted for more than 50 points a game are gone, including Colby Cameron, Quinton Patton, Myles White, Stephen Warner and Jordan Mills.

Additionallly, Holtz is charged with reviving a defense that finished near the bottom of the FBS in most major categories, though some of Tech’s defensive problems were due to Tech’s offense ranking of 103rd in time of possession. Although Tech scored more than anyone else, on average, in the FBC last season, it was when the offense didn’t score that Tech’s defense had a hard time making up the difference.

On the flip side, Tech’s offense was so deep that many players who figured prominently in all that scoring last year return this fall, including Louisiana Freshman of the Year Kenneth Dixon, the hard-charging running back from Strong, Ark. Another plus: Tech will see much more fan support on the road as the Bulldogs play their first year in Conference USA.

“From a recruiting standpoint, even when you’re talking about some other conferences that would come into Louisiana, whether it’s the Big East or the Big 12 or whoever, you have an opportunity to keep people at home now because their parents are going to be able to see them play,” Holtz said.

Tech’s schedule, both home and away, is favorable from a fan’s point of view with road-game sites that include Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. Last year’s C-USA champ, Tulsa, will come to Ruston, as will old rival Southern Mississippi and, for the first time since 1911, Tulane, for Tech’s inaugural C-USA game.

The conference Championship Game is Dec. 7 with the winners of the East and West Divisions facing off at the site of the higher-ranked team. Tech will compete in the West Division this season along with North Texas, Rice, Tulane, Tulsa, Texas-El Paso and Texas-San Antonio.

Holtz was hired 10 days after Sonny Dykes, who spent three seasons at Tech, left to become the head coach at California. Holtz had been fired on Dec. 2 after two disappointing seasons at South Florida, those coming after an impressive five-year run at East Carolina where his teams won two consecutive C-USA titles and appeared in four consecutive post-season bowl games. In 2008, he led the Pirates to a No. 14 ranking in the BCS.

When Tech called, Holtz said that “what started out as ‘Tell me a little bit more about this job’ became ‘What do I have to do to get this job?’”

“This is a football program with outstanding student athletes, a history of winning and optimism in the future,” Holtz said the day he was hired. “In my conversations with the administration and search committee, it became clear that we share the same goal: to achieve a consistent record of excellence and a national reputation for winning with integrity.”

“We also share the same values of loyalty and community,” he said. “That’s why I’m so pleased to be joining Louisiana Tech – an institution of enormous pride and spirit that shares that pride with the University family, its alumni, and the surrounding community and state. I’m honored to be part of the Bulldog family.”

Another reunion could take place this spring, if Nitz can make it to practice. “I give him a script and let him know exactly what we’re going to be doing,” Skip Holtz said. “If I don’t, I’ll look up and he’ll be out there in the middle of the huddle.”

One summer day in either 1969 or 1970, William and Mary head coach Lou Holtz and the programs play-by-play man, Dave Nitz, made the three-hour drive up from Williamsburg, Va., to Washington, D.C., to see the Senators play a doubleheader against the Chicago White Sox in RFK Stadium.

Coach Holtz took his oldest son, Skip, then only 7 or 8, along for the ride.

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One summer day in either 1969 or 2013 SCHEDULE

**Conference USA Championship Game**
Before everything went poof! and the season suddenly went south, then prematurely died, Louisiana Tech had put together nine wins in 10 games, won games as a ranked team for the first time in school history, stared down the future Heisman Trophy winner and his teammates before losing a 116-total-points game, and had the town and the college football world talking.

They were scoring big in Oregon and Baylor and Oklahoma State for sure, in Clemson and West Virginia and North Carolina, too. But nobody was scoring as often as Louisiana Tech, or racking up as much yardage.

And nobody would, not in 2012.

Tech finished the memorable season as the nation’s No. 1 scoring offense with 51.5 points a game and ranked first in total offense with 577.92 yards a game.

The Bulldogs scored often – and quickly; Tech ranked 103rd in time of possession. The ‘Dogs scored 50 points or more eight times, including one time in a loss, 59-57, to Heisman winner Johnny Manziel and Texas A&M. They scored 70 in one game, finished with 62 in another. They scored a total of 141 points in their three losses, and in their lowest point total of the season – the only time they scored fewer than 41 points – they won by two touchdowns, 28-14 at New Mexico State.

The Bulldogs were a show, for sure.

It’s a footnote now, but the season was supposed to begin against A&M on a Thursday night, Aug. 30, in Shreveport. The effects of Hurricane Isaac delayed the game until Oct. 13, what had been an open date for both teams. By then, redshirt freshman quarterback Manziel was warmed up. Who knows what might have happened if Tech had played the Aggies Aug. 30, as scheduled?

Instead, it started on a humid night in Houston. When it was over, a lot of records had fallen, as had the homesteading Cougars. The final was 56-49, a glimpse of this football falls future.

Tech beat back-to-back BCS teams for the first time in school history, and both wins came on the road, at Illinois and then at Virginia. In its showdown with A&M, Tech trailed 27-0 before rebounding to have a chance to tie on a two-point conversion in the final minute in Independence Stadium, losing 59-57.

The Bulldogs were 9-1 when Utah State came to Ruston on Nov. 17, the next-to-the-last game of the regular season, a match between two teams unbeaten in the Western Athletic Conference. It ended in overtime, tied at 41. Utah State had the ball first in the extra period and quickly scored a touchdown. Tech was stung on a fourth down rush and ... just like that, it was over. Aillet Stadium got really quiet really fast.

Tech went to San Jose the next week with a chance for a 10-win season, the first in the school’s FBS era. Instead, San Jose handed the Bulldogs their second loss in a row in another high-scoring affair, 52-43.

Applications for a chance to sweep the final two games, win a conference title and finish with 11 wins. Instead, Tech was an admirable 9.3 but third in the WAC behind champ Utah State and runner-up San Jose.

A&M, Utah State and San Jose each won bowl games and finished 11-2.

So, it ended a bit sadly, to say the least. But what a ride. The program set records for total and average attendance, records that awarded not only the team’s performance, but the performance of the fans. And this was while, for the second straight year, national average college football attendance declined.

To help you remember, we’ve included team and individual records, as well as scores and other special recognition. The 2012 Bulldogs really are a team that earned the right to be remembered.

Go to latechalumni.org/2012FBRecords to see a complete list of NCAA, WAC and school records set by the 2012 Bulldogs.
Ruston's Mayor
a Bulldog for the Hometown Team

Dan Hollingsworth has been a positive voice for Louisiana Tech, both literally and figuratively, since he moved to Ruston in 1969. That's when he purchased KRUS AM/ FM radio and did play-by-play broadcasts for Tech football games.

He ended up operating KRUS/KKXZ/ KNBB until 2003 and was elected the city's mayor in 1998, but one thing still hasn't changed in the past 45 years: Hollingsworth has never quit saying good things about Tech.

"One of the things I found when I first moved here was that the relationship I thought should exist between the University and the city just wasn't there," said Hollingsworth, most recently re-elected Ruston's mayor, overwhelmingly, in 2010. "One of the things I ran on during my first campaign was that the city should not only be a helpful and friend to the University, but also that we should really see Louisiana Tech as the tremendous resource for us that it is."

A 1954 graduate of Meridian Jr. College in Mississippi, Hollingsworth has made good on his promises and worked to promote his vision of a university and city working together. In the fall, the University presented him its Arlis Scogin Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the Alumni Association to non-Tech graduates who have been of great service to the University. This award is not given out on a regular basis, it is instead reserved until someone earns it.

"This award is designed to honor those who truly make a difference, and Dan Hollingsworth has earned that distinction many times over," said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. "He is a lightning rod many times over, " said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. 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especially his relationships with some and he “wanted to have a good time. ”

Conference track and field champions – for Louisiana Tech’s 1973 Southland to be in love with school books. He wanted above average, John Allen never claimed 16

Champion Then, Champion Now

Though his ACT score was far above average, John Allen never claimed to be in love with school books. He wanted to throw the javelin – which he did well for Louisiana Tech’s 1973 Southland Conference track and field champions – and he ‘wanted to have a good time.’ But his overall college experience, especially his relationships with some inspirational teachers and track coach Jim Mize, pushed him to do whatever it took to make those influential folk and his University proud of him once he left Ruston.

“Tech taught me about ‘stickability’ and perseverance,” said Allen, a two-time president of the Tech Alumni Association Board, member of the University Foundation Board and Tech’s Alumnus of the Year. “Coach Mize was all about doing the right thing, about doing the relating to your business, about character and integrity and how important that was. ‘Your success will come from your hard work.’ That’s what he taught by a quiet and strong example.”

Allen earned success as president for a Houston pipeline construction company for 17 years, then retired and moved back home to north Louisiana. In 1999 he set up a new company – Pipe Line Constructors – which is based in Houston but which he runs less than 15 miles from the campus of his alma mater.

“Tech is a great value,” Allen said. “It’s amazing how that little place is so well known. In my business especially, since it’s in an energy and engineering-related field, I hear Tech’s name all the time, all around the country. They know all about it. I’ve found it to be something to be awfully proud of, that Tech’s such a known value. And it’s going to get even better.

‘I’m mostly involved in athletics because I’m an old track rat,” Allen said. “But Research Park and so many other things we have going on, those things interest me. I’m impressed by that. I think we should campaign a little more, to tell the truth, about what’s happening on campus. I’m pretty passionate already but even more excited about where I think we’ll be five or 10 years from now’”

“John Allen has been dedicated to Tech since the minute he stepped foot on the campus from West Monroe,” said Tech president Dr. Dan Reneau. “He was a great student-athlete, and he has always felt that he owes Tech a debt of gratitude; he’s repaid that debt many times over. He’s the strong hand that moves behind the scenes providing the help needed to make things happen. He’s the facilitator you can’t do without, the professional success that Tech is so proud of; his love and respect for the University are unsurpassed.”

“My advice to today’s students would be to get involved as much as you can, like University politics or extracurricular activities or intramurals or ball games. I wish I’d put more effort into those sorts of things,” Allen said. “I’m probably involved more with Tech now than I was then.

“Talk about Tech to your friends,” he said. “You won’t get lost here. If you want to succeed and need the tools, Tech will help you. Too many students get lost today in too many places. That doesn’t have to happen here. This is a steady ship.”

CHAMPION NOW

John Allen

Family:
Wife: JoAnn, daughters Corre Allen

Business
Degree:
Calhoun

Now Resides In:
Hometown:

OWNER, PIPE LINE CONSTRUCTORS
Hometown: West Monroe
Now Resides In: Calhoun
Degree: Business
Family: Wife, JoAnn, daughters Corre Allen

CO-HEAD COACH, WOMEN’S BASKETBALL,
NORTHEASTERN STATE
Hometown: Portland, Ark.
Now Resides In: Natchitoches
Degree: Business administration
Family: Husband, Scott; children, Aubrey and Cooper

Court is still in session for this former Lady Techster

It seems a piece of cake from the outside, dribbling your way through college in short pants.

But Brooke Lassiter Stoehr can tell you differently. Louisiana Tech’s Young Alumna of the Year left a lot of sweat and study time and work in her wake while in Ruston, and she picked up some valuable lessons along the way.

“As a student athlete, I learned to compete at a very high level in the classroom and on the court,” said Brooke, the rookie co-head coach of women’s basketball at Northwestern State (along with her husband Scott Stoehr). “I learned the importance of time management, discipline and character. Gaining a greater understanding of each of those things has served me well in my life and career.”

“From the moment she committed to Louisiana Tech to play basketball for us, Brooke became one of our greatest public relations agents,” said Tech vice president for university advancement Corre Stegall. “She achieved great things both as a student and as an athlete, always seizing every opportunity to place a positive light on her university, especially in the national spotlight. As an alumna, she’s continued to advance steadily in her profession, always bringing honor to her alma mater.”

Brooke prepped at Hamburg (Ark.) High before playing at Tech from 1998 to 2002. She was a two-year captain and the program’s starting point guard her junior and senior years. During her Tech career, Tech won four regular-season conference titles and four conference tournaments, went 119-16, lost just one conference game, and appeared in four NCAA Championship tournaments, two Elite Eights and one Final Four, in 1999.

The 2001 All-Sun Belt Conference selection ended her career ranked as the NCAA Division I all-time career free throw percentage leader at 91.5 percent (268-of-292). As a senior she was named an NCAA post-season scholar-athlete finalist, WAC All-Academic, NCAA Woman of the Year nominee, Verizon Academic All-District VI, and National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American.

Brooke served coaching assistantships at Florida State, Arkansas-Little Rock, LA Tech, Southern Mississippi and Texas Tech before she and Scott took over the Lady Demons program in April.

“I deeply treasure the relationships I formed on campus and in the Ruston community,” Brooke said. “And being a Lady Techster, being able to play for one of the best coaches of all time, Leon Barmore, is something I’m very grateful for. Going to a Final Four and making deep runs in the NCAA tournament every year is something I have great memories of. I loved being able to compete with and against some of the best players in the country, and to help our program. But above all, I loved being a part of such a tradition-rich program where we played for something bigger than ourselves.”
### Distinguished Alumni of the Colleges

Diverse in their backgrounds and professional fields, Louisiana Tech's 2012 Distinguished Alumni of the Year meet on common ground when it comes to their love for and service to the University.

#### MICKEY RACHAL (’84)
**College of Applied and Natural Sciences**
**Vice-President, Land & Timber, Roy O. Martin Companies**

**Hometown:** Alexandria  
**Now Resides in:** Alexandria  
**Degree:** B.S., forest management  

**Family:** Wife Linda Jones (’82), children Michael, Laurie and Daniel (a Tech psychology student)

Here’s a summa cum laude School of Forestry graduate who could always see the forest, despite the trees. Mickey Rachal gradually and with purpose took the days and the jobs one at a time, learning all the way, until landing back in his native central Louisiana in 1999.  

Along the way was a job as a research assistant in Mississippi, and another job in Alabama. What he learned in Ruston has been with him every step of the way.

#### RANDY FOWLER (’78, ’79)
**College of Business**
**Executive VP and CFO, Enterprise Products Partners**

**Hometown:** Slidell  
**Now Resides in:** Houston  
**Degree:** B.S. accounting; M.B.A. finance  

**Family:** Wife Ann Raborn (’81); sons Matthew and Michael

For the fourth year in a row, Randy Fowler has been selected by Institutional Investor magazine as the top-ranked CFO in the Natural Gas Pipeline and Master Limited Partnership sector. How he got there is no secret and is something he’d share with any Tech freshman who’d ask.  

“Do the best you can every day,” he said. “Find a field of study that you can get excited about and then pursue it with a passion. Pursue education; compete in the classroom and workplace with the same intensity as you would in athletics. Education plus hustle and perseverance creates opportunities that will last a lifetime.”

Just showing up time and again in class paid benefits for Fowler. He met his wife of 31 years (and counting) in speech class. And freshman typing class under professor Cliffo Crump was another pleasant surprise, one that “helped me get off to a great start,” he said. In addition to being generous with her time and providing words of wisdom and counsel that I continue to use to this day, she also taught me what was an underappreciated skill in 1974. Typing would soon become invaluable in my productivity with the advent of personal computers in the early 1980s.”

He’s earned his recognition, but Fowler is quick to share the credit. “I have truly been blessed to get a great education,” he said, “to work for several great business leaders who had vision, to work with teams of smart, hard-working associates, and to have a wonderful and strong wife at home to enable me to pursue my career dreams one day at a time.”

#### DEBBIE PRIMEAUX WILLIAMSON (’85, ’86)
**College of Education**
**Consultant to the NCAA as National Coordinator of Officials and Secretary Rules Editor; Online Physical Education Instructor for North Carolina State University; Asst. Professor for Physical Education at the University of West Alabama**

**Hometown:** Haynes  
**Now Resides in:** Livingston, Ala.  
**Degree:** B.S., M.S., health and physical education  
**Family:** Husband, Stan Williamson (’85); daughter Courtney and sons Mark and Nathan

“Tech gave me a solid foundation upon which to build the rest of my career,” Rachal said.  

A manager at various levels, Rachal became Timberland superintendent with Plum Creek Timber in 1999. Later he took a different career direction and joined Molpus Timberlands Management, a timberland investment management organization, and served as the Managing Director for both Louisiana and Texas, managing more than 300,000 acres of client-owned property.  

Currently with Roy O. Martin Companies in Alexandria, he manages Martin’s 575,000 acres of timberland, the acquisition of strategic land and timber resources, and the supply of raw materials to Martin’s plywood, OSB (oriented strand board) and pole manufacturing facilities in Texas.

“Obtain a strong background in business administration,” said Rachal, a strong advocate of Tech freshmen and other students stepping out of their own college’s studies so they learn how other disciplines can help them in their careers. No single person makes a forest.

“Learn how to get things done through other people,” he said, adding that success is limited if you can’t improve “your ability to work with and accomplish tasks through others.”

#### NICK AKINS (’82, ’86)
**College of Engineering and Science**
**President and CEO, American Electric Power (AEP)**

**Hometown:** Bossier City  
**Now Resides in:** Dublin, Ohio  
**Degree:** B.S., M.S., electrical engineering  
**Family:** Wife Donna, sons Matthew and Christopher

Today, Nick Akins is in charge of one of the largest electric utilities in the country, one that serves more than five million customers in 11 states. But the road to that lofty spot began when he was Tech student “Nicky” Akins and president of an organization a bit smaller – the Louisiana Gamma chapter of the national engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

“The professors at Tech provided great mentorship to develop the academic skills and the professional skills I needed,” he said, “even to the point of suggesting I change my name from Nicky to Nick!”

It’s the little things, and they add up. Akins knows about that, having worked his way through the ranks with AEP. He began his 36-year tenure in 1982 as an electrical engineering technician and moved to positions of increased responsibility. Today he is the 10th president and sixth CEO in the 107-year-old company’s history.

“I would tell any of today’s Tech freshmen to choose a field you love to do; not only will it make your college experience more enjoyable, but the rest of your career too,” he said.  

“I believe that, with the focus of the nation on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and Tech’s focus on research and practical applications, the future should be bright for Tech’s College of Engineering and Science,” Akins said.

“Also, when the economy recovers and energy becomes a centerpiece of an economic recovery, Tech will benefit.”

#### KENNETH MURCHISON (’69)
**College of Liberal Arts**
**Law Professor, LSU, retired**

**Hometown:** Alexandria  
**Now Resides in:** Black Mountain, N.C.  
**Degree:** B.A., history  

**Family:** Wife, Eloise McClendon (’69); son Julian Mills and daughter Kathryn Louis

Ken Murchison was a summa cum laude grad in history who still managed to have just as much fun in college as the law allowed. He still believes students should “enjoy” their time at Tech. “It will produce,” he said, “some of the best memories of your life.”

It did for Murchison.
Bulldog Baseball Looking Good

The LA Tech baseball team scored a huge victory in the offseason without even playing a game.

The program got a boost in the form of a renovated locker room and players’ lounge added to J.C. Love Field at Pat Patterson Park.

With the help of several donations, including a substantial gift from Gary Patterson, the current locker room was transformed into a players’ lounge and a brand new locker room was added. The entire project has been funded privately, and Lincoln Builders of Ruston has been the contractor.

“The work being done is for the development of our players and to give our players a larger space to dress in,” head coach Wade Simoneaux said. “We are hoping to spruce up J.C. Love and give the guys a better environment to play in.”

J.C. Love Field at Pat Patterson Park has seen numerous renovations under Simoneaux’s tenure and several since 2008. Renovations include a new scoreboard, the addition of approximately 400 chair back seats to add to the 300 already in place, the completion of a new press box, and several leadership team were Honorary Chairman Rev. Doug McGuire, John D. Caruthers, Don Hathaway, R. Guthrie Jarrell, John J. Long and Lee Sanford.

Coach Scotty was a high school coach for 12 seasons before coming back to his alma mater. He was 16-56 as Tech coach, led the Bulldogs to No. 1 in the national college division rankings in the early 1970s, and developed Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Mike Green before moving on to spend more than two decades in the NBA.

In 1987, he was elected to the Louisiana Tech Athletics Hall of Fame and, in 2007, to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. In 2010, he was honored as LA Tech Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Education. He passed away in August of 2011.

Performed by Sports Floors Inc. of Memphis, Tenn., the court renovations began in July, were completed during football season and began with a team of workers spending an entire week tearing out the nailed down pecan floor, more than a half-century old, by hand.

Along with the new floor, new backboards, rims and padding have been installed and bleachers repaired.
Special Name Of Fitness Room A Fitting Honor

He's a living legend with a legacy that will continue to thrive at Louisiana Tech. Billy Jack Talton, professor emeritus and powerlifting coach at Tech from 1974 to 2001, will have his name remembered by powerlifters in the future as the fitness room in the Lambright Sports and Wellness Center is now named after him. A dedication ceremony was held in November.

“Over his career, he has established a program and developed it to national recognition,” said Jim King, vice president for student affairs. “Coach Talton really did a wonderful job, and it’s not just about his accomplishments in athletics. It’s just as much about his accomplishments in the classroom as well.”

The fitness room is the new home for the powerlifting team. During his tenure at Tech, Talton led the men to 11 national championships and the women’s team to 11 national championships and coached athletes on the team who competed on an international scale.

“I created this powerlifting team with a lot of help, and we gained the status we acquired near the end,” Talton said. “I enjoyed working with these men and women to accomplish these goals, it was competitive.”

Bobby Dowling, director of recreational activities, said the fitness room’s name would be a good fit. “If you talk to anyone around the state about powerlifting or strength and condition,” Dowling said, “Billy Jack is by far the expert in the field.”

Books and Basketball – and Cheryl

Former Louisiana Tech basketball star Cheryl Ford (below) returned to Ruston this summer for a weekend with the Boys & Girls Club in Ruston. The former WNBA Rookie of the Year, WNBA champion (with the Detroit Shock in 2003) and two-time WAC Player of the Year participated in a program about the importance of reading, enjoyed a cookout at the club, and helped with a basketball clinic on Tech’s campus.

New Era In Tech Tennis Begins

The Lady Techsters tennis team is coming off one of its best years in program history. Last spring’s 14-8 was the program’s most wins since 1994.

It was also the first time since a six-year stretch from 1981 to 86 that the program registered back-to-back 10-plus win seasons.

However, new head coach Freddy Gomez, the former Virginia Tech assistant, aspires to take this tennis program to an even higher level by instilling pride, good camaraderie and a winning spirit, to go along with the physical abilities of his team.

Returning for Gomez are senior Alena Erofeyeva who finished most wins since 1994. It was also the first time since a six-year stretch from 1981 to 86 that the program registered back-to-back 10-plus win seasons.

Returning for Gomez are senior Alena Erofeyeva who finished last season with 19 singles wins in dual contests, the second most in school history, and senior Vivian ten Dolle, who played primarily at the No. 2 position and was a second-team all-WAC performer her freshman year. Also returning is junior Melanie Urvoy who tallied a 3-8 singles mark last season as well as a 4-3 doubles record.

Two freshmen join the squad in Taly Merker and Manoela Chiacchio, both of whom were very successful players in South America but must adjust to the college and hard court game.

Racing Back To The Top

The Lady Techsters have been so good at track and field for so long that it’s a surprise when they finish second and a shock when they finish third.

But that’s what happened at last year’s outdoor championship. The team finished third, ending an run of seven consecutive outdoor championships.

The men’s team placed fourth last season.

Tech still left quite a mark on the championships, something the Bulldogs and Lady Techsters will try to do again this spring season. Last spring, Chelsea Hayes was named WAC Female Track Athlete of the Year; sophomore Dennis Richardson (left) won three gold medals and was named the WAC Male Track Athlete of the Year. A Louisiana Tech male athlete has won a WAC superlative award every year since 2007.

Taking Dead Aim At NCAA Bid

The Bulldog golf team has plenty to shoot for this spring after the best back-to-back seasons in decades.

Again, the Bulldogs will take aim at the program’s first-ever WAC title and a trip to the NCAA championships.

Tech finished ranked in the Top 80 in the country last year and barely missed out on the program’s first NCAA regional bid. Now the Bulldogs look to take this next step without four graduating seniors who were so important to the program for the past two springs.

Tech competed well in four fall events. Junior Travis Wilmore earned his first collegiate victory at the 2012 Jim Rivers Intercollegiate at Squire Creek Country Club, and Wilmore and teammate Jack Lemieux both recorded Top 10 finishes at the 2012 World Mens Intercollegiate at the University Club in Baton Rouge.

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Junior Travis Wilmore earned his first collegiate victory at the 2012 Jim Rivers Intercollegiate at Squire Creek Country Club, and Wilmore and teammate Jack Lemieux both recorded Top 10 finishes at the 2012 World Mens Intercollegiate at the University Club in Baton Rouge.
A family business took Paul and Amy Gunsalus far from their alma mater of Louisiana Tech to Plum, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh.

But because out-of-state fees are waived for Tech legacies, the cost of their Tech freshman, Cassidy, going to the university they went to is no more than if the family lived in Amy’s hometown of Haynesville.

“While we found out that Cassidy could attend Tech for the in-state tuition since her parents were alumni, that was a huge plus!” said Amy. Class of ’90.

Business Development: Assistance does not end once a business begins. The city can help coordinate with the universities and local technical college on training opportunities for workers; the economic development staff provides assistance as needed.

While expanding or relocating or even starting a business can be a daunting task, know that Ruston and Tech want you here. Assistance, encouragement and a willing workforce are already in place.
Building Dedication Means Building Better Students

One highlight of the Louisiana Tech University 2012 Homecoming was the dedication of the new College of Business building and open house.

James Lumpkin, dean of the College of Business, said the 42,000-square-foot building is necessary for the college to meet the challenges of business education in the 21st century.

“It is a functional building,” Lumpkin said. “We have a lot of technology in the building. All the classrooms are smart classrooms. It has all the things that a professional business school needs.”

In addition to classrooms of many sizes, there are computer labs, teaching labs with computers at every desk, two auditoriums, meeting rooms, study areas set aside for graduate students, research centers, and student support and career resources.

“We have a working digital forensics lab to support our program in information assurance (cyber security),” Lumpkin said.

Video boards that stream in business news and news of happenings on campus are in the lobby. There is also a ticker tape that provides the latest stock market information.

The $12.5 million state-of-the-art structure is the second building to open on the University’s Enterprise Campus, a research park that will ultimately span 50 acres.

Tech Pointe, which opened its doors to the community with an open house this fall, is the University’s hub in northern Louisiana. It is the epicenter of innovation in north Louisiana. It is a functional building, “ Lumpkin said.

Louisiana Tech has been extremely welcoming and accommodating to my company,” said Karen Gordon, CEO of 5 Dynamics which is now headquartered at Tech Pointe. “Tech Pointe has a magnificent set-up and the University finds ways to be supportive. There is also an amazing amount of talent at Louisiana Tech and an ethical integrity that is embodied by the students.”

Fenway Group CEO Matis Santora said his company came to Louisiana Tech following an introduction to Tech president-elect Dr. Les Guice. Santora said he was struck by Guice’s vision and the entrepreneurial spirit of Louisiana Tech, and he was extremely impressed with the quality of students on the campus.

“We recognized that creating strong collaborative partnerships and new growth opportunities have long been a cornerstone of Louisiana Tech’s research and development efforts,” said Santora. “Fenway Group, through its relationship with Louisiana Tech, has the potential to create significant, positive economic and community impacts throughout north Louisiana, and could go a long way toward retaining high-tech talent to the region.”

Companies and organizations in Tech Pointe include Fenway Group (Dallas, Texas), Radiation Technologies (Hustonville, Ala.), Beyond Vision (Orlando, Fla.), 5 Dynamics (Fairview, Texas), Logic Nation (Shreveport), and the Cyber Innovation Center (Bossier City), and the IC3 Consortium.

Tech Pointe has generated 55 new on-site jobs and six million dollars in new economic activity – both of which have exceeded first-year projections.

In addition to the tenant companies, Tech Pointe is home to the Air Force-funded Cyber Research Laboratory and the Industry Consortium for Innovations in Communications, Information and Cyberpace (IC3) – an organization that works to foster bonds between industry, the University and government in an effort to support the rapidly growing communications and technology ecosystem now developing around the University’s hub in northern Louisiana.

...In the Department of Agricultural Sciences, dean Jim Liberatos on his left)

Louisiana Tech’s annual Poinsettia Show and Auction held late November at Squire Creek Country Club was a triple winner. It ushered in the Christmas season, brought in $15,000 for the University’s agricultural sciences department and served as a platform for honoring retired professor Peter Gallagher. This year’s total was $5,000 more than last year’s show and auction netted. The money raised goes annually to the department’s scholarship fund.

Another Big Doctoral Step: Molecular Sciences And Nanotechnology

Louisiana Tech received approval from the Louisiana Board of Regents to offer a pioneering, interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Molecular Sciences and Nanotechnology program.

The program, a joint offering from Louisiana Tech’s College of Applied and Natural Sciences and College of Engineering and Science, is believed to be the nation’s first broad-based, interdisciplinary “nanotechnology” Ph.D. degree program. It builds upon a master’s degree in molecular sciences and nanotechnology offered at Louisiana Tech, which has produced 73 graduates since its inception in the fall of 2004.

The Ph.D. program is designed to train students in experimental, theoretical and computational aspects of research in molecular biology, chemistry and physics, particularly where these disciplines intersect. It also enhances interdisciplinary applied research at Louisiana Tech in micromanufacturing and nanotechnology, and prepares students to become national and international academic, research and industry leaders.

Poinsettia Auction A Pretty (Good) Fundraiser

Louisiana Tech’s annual Poinsettia Show and Auction held late November at Square Creek Country Club was a triple winner. It ushered in the Christmas season, brought in $15,000 for the University’s agricultural sciences department and served as a platform for honoring retired professor Peter Gallagher. This year’s total was $5,000 more than last year’s show and auction netted. The money raised goes annually to the department’s scholarship fund.

Ag science students help grow the many varieties of poinsettias sold each year at the highly anticipated event.

A proposal for technological advancement of Tech’s livestock equipment paid off big for the Department of Agricultural Sciences.

Professor William Green (above in green scrubs), well known and respected among administrators of the nation’s 20 veterinary schools, submitted the proposal to the Administrative Council of the University’s College of Applied and Natural Sciences. The grant project was funded, and now Tech has a cattle handling system not found at any other university in Louisiana.

At a cost of approximately $51,000, the Turrent Gate System has been identified as one that reduces injuries to both the operators and the animals that are being handled. The equipment will aid in Tech’s quest for outside funding opportunities for research grants and projects and be used toward the continued advancement of the University’s humane treatment of animals.

Tech’s animal science students are now being presented with the latest technologically advanced equipment available for their training, as well as the safest.

Already, Tech’s Department of Ag Sciences is known for being one of only two flagship agricultural programs in the state, and for being the state program that allows its students the most “hands-on” experience.

Proceeds from the continuing sale of poinsettias on campus throughout the holiday season were used to keep the greenhouse fund stable and, for the most part, self-supporting.

The department also used the auction to announce that Gallagher had been named professor emeritus. Gallagher (pictured above between department head Gary Kennedy on his right and College of Applied and Natural Sciences dean Jim Liberatos on his left) retired in May after 36 years teaching in the department and serving as department head from 1989 to 1997.
Catch this new ‘Wave’ by Dr. Rick Simmons

Dr. Rick Simmons, George K. Anding Endowed Professor of English and Director of the Louisiana Tech Honors Program, has just published his fifth book, “Carolina Beach Music from the 60s to the 80s: The New Wave.” The book looks at 80 recordings from the years 1966 through 1982, featuring interviews and insights from the artists who sang them, including Archie Bell, William Bell, Jerry Butler, Clyde Brown of The Drifters, Harry Elston of the Friends of Distinction, Cuba Gooding of The Main Ingredient, John Townsend of The Sanford Townsend Band, Bobby Smith of The Spinners, Emilio Castillo of Tower of Power, Rob Parissi of Wild Cherry, Ken Knox of The Chairmen of the Board, and many, many others.

As a result of interviews conducted by Dr. Simmons over the past three years, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has asked to house his working notes, papers, and recorded interviews in the Southern Folklife Collection (SFC) at UNC, “the foremost archives of American roots music” in the United States. Steven Weiss, the curator of the Southern Folklife Collection, referred to Dr. Simmons’ research as “an invaluable resource for researchers studying Carolina Beach Music.”

The book is available at Amazon.com and other online booksellers.

Cyber Discovery Serves As National Model

Louisiana Tech is partnering with the Cyber Innovation Center (CIC) in Bossier City to demonstrate the portability of Cyber Discovery - a highly integrated, team-based model for educating, motivating and retaining student interest in cybersecurity, citizenship, information technology and security.

Cyber Discovery works by empowering individual teachers through advanced and innovative curricular designs that make use of team-based learning in five core academic areas: engineering, liberal arts, mathematics, science, and technology/cyber.

A leader in integrated science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curricula, Tech led the development of Cyber Discovery in 2008 and is now called the Cyber Discovery Model. Tech has hosted Cyber Discovery on its campus since 2008.

“This model is an excellent example of what can happen when you have a quality and nationally-recognized program making a profound impact regionally,” said Stan Napper, dean of Louisiana Tech’s College of Engineering and Science. “To be able to share nationally what we have been doing at Louisiana Tech for many years is a tribute to our faculty and staff!”

This past summer, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano accompanied U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu on a tour of the CIC to learn about the regional impact of the CIC’s educational programs for K-12 schools systems, higher education and the community.

“The Cyber Innovation Center serves as a model for the rest of the country on how to educate and train a cybersecurity workforce,” said Landrieu. “In today’s high-tech and constantly evolving world, we must have innovative, integrated and bold protection against the dangers that exist in cyberspace.”

Daniel D. Reneau

I was inspired to write this when I read the summer 2012 Louisiana Tech Magazine and the section on “Faculty and Staff We Love,” which had the following statement: You were a student once, and someone’s encouragement and dedication back then makes a difference in your life still.” These words were never more true than they are for me.

For years I’ve been meaning to write or drop by and visit this Tech professor who I believe has no idea how profoundly he changed my life. I was a chemical engineering major and took a biomedical engineering class under this professor. As a result of that class, I became very interested in biomedical engineering. However, at that time, I was very much in love with my high school sweetheart and decided to get married and pursue a traditional career as a chemical engineer. I married shortly before my graduation from LA Tech and we have been together now more than 43 years – obviously a very good decision.

After graduation, I went to work as a chemical engineer with a company that would become Exxon Oil Company (today ExxonMobil) in Baytown, Texas. As it happened, Exxon was interested in starting a biomedical engineering department and was looking for engineers interested in going to medical school. Because of the course I had taken at Tech and, more importantly, because of the zeal and excitement that I’d caught from my professor, I decided to proceed with moving in that direction. I applied and was accepted to medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston. I would not have dreamed of doing this if it had not been for the class and for that Tech professor!

At medical school I realized we were really made up of pumps, pipes and chemical exchanges – a chemical engineer’s dream! I also figured out that there was more to us than pipes and pumps: we had a soul. Something happened at medical school that I was not expecting – I fell in love with medicine and caring for patients. After completing my training at UTMB, instead of returning to Exxon and the biomedical engineering department, I entered a family medicine residency and went on to become a family physician – a decision that has brought me much joy and fulfillment to my life.

I have recently semi-retired. I was fortunate to have a fantastic career in medicine. As I reflected on my career, I realized oddly that none of this would have happened if it had not been for that professor at LA Tech who so long ago inspired me, challenged me and opened new horizons for me. That professor’s name is Dr. Dan Reneau. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, Dr. Reneau. You certainly impacted my life as I know you have many, many others as a teacher and as the president of this great institution. I was so fortunate to have so many fine teachers at Louisiana Tech, but none were more impactful on my life than Dr. Reneau.

FACTORY AND STAFF WE LOVE

You were a student once, and someone’s encouragement and dedication back then makes a difference in your life still. A Tech faculty or staff member inspired, instructed, directed or simply listened. Someone cared. Someone assured you that dreaming was not just OK, it was preferred, even necessary. Without their influence, where would we be?

Maybe it’s time we said thank you. Email your 600-word submission to WeLove@LATechAlumni.org or send to Faculty and Staff We Love, Marbury Alumni Center, Louisiana Tech University, P.O. Box 3183, Ruston, LA 71272.
Donors of the Louisiana Tech University Foundation offer private gifts for a pure and public cause: to support the educational mission of the University. For information on how to be a part of the Foundation’s distinguished history, call 1-800-738-7950.

O.W. Hogan: ‘A Consistent and Generous Benefactor’

O.W. Hogan had many loves in his 95 years, including his wife, his nieces, his employees and his golf game. Also high on the list: his university. The Louisiana Tech Foundation received one of its largest bequests from his estate, he died in Atlanta on January 31, 2011, at age 95. The $52 million bequest from his estate benefits a scholarship endowment in memory of his wife, Miriam Davis Hogan, and a scholarship endowment in mechanical engineering.

Born and reared in Choudrant, O.W. Hogan was a 1937 mechanical engineering graduate of Tech. After Naval service during World War II in the South Pacific, he returned to a position with York Corporation and married Miriam Davis of Minden in 1947. Progressive positions with York led to his partnership with Bob Barnes to form Barnes and Hogan, Inc. in Atlanta in 1957. Highly regarded in the industry, Barnes and Hogan continued under the sole management of Mr. Hogan after the untimely death of Bob Barnes. “Hogan,” as he was known to his friends, enjoyed a variety of sports in high school and college, but golf became his lifetime sport, and he was a charter member of Dunwoody Country Club.

A native of Kilgore, Texas, Sondra spent her adult life in Ruston where she was active in church and civic activities; she and Andy supported many local and international Christian missions. After her recovery from breast cancer and as a tribute to those who had so faithfully supported her during her illness, Sondra began a “Banana Bread Ministry” baking loaves of her bread for those who were sick, lonely or grieving. Even after she developed Alzheimer’s disease, she continued her ministry.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a member of Tech’s Sigma Kappa chapter, and donations may be sent to the Louisiana Tech University Foundation, P.O. Box 1190, Ruston, LA 71273. Online giving options are available at www.latelumni.org.

Holland, Adams Remembered for Generosity, Loyalty

Two longtime, dedicated privileged directors of the Louisiana Tech University Foundation died recently; both are members of the Hall of Distinguished Alumni, and each was highly successful in professional life while providing unselfish service to Louisiana Tech.

William Roy Adams Jr. died on August 19, 2012, in Fayetteville, Ark. A 1943 graduate in business administration and a proud Heidelberg pilot in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he rose to a top financial management position in Gulf Oil Corporation, retiring in 1982. Roy was a key leader in the development of the Foundation’s investment policies. He and his family also established substantial scholarship endowments in the Foundation.

John D. Holland of Jackson, Miss., died on May 11, 2012. A 1943 graduate of Tech in business administration, he served as president of the student body in his senior year. After service with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Fleet during World War II, he returned to Vicksburg and established an automobile dealership. Later, he served as mayor of Vicksburg and became a senior executive with Mississippi Power and Light. Johnny served as president of the Tech Foundation in 1982 and was a generous benefactor.

Pair of ’11 Graduates Create Endowed Scholarships

In the summer of 2012, Justin Bounds (top right) and Josh Gidlow, both 2011 Louisiana Tech graduates, did something unprecedented in Louisiana Tech history. These graduates, only one year removed from graduation, established two endowed scholarships to benefit future Bulldogs, thus becoming the youngest creators of a Louisiana Tech endowed scholarship.

Bounds and Gidlow both obtained mechanical engineering degrees, began their careers with ExxonMobil – Bounds in the Baton Rouge facility and Gidlow in the Houston facility. They were able to leverage their private gifts with matching funds from the ExxonMobil matching gifts program to endow two scholarships: the Bounds and Gidlow Endowed Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering and the Bounds and Gidlow Endowed Scholarship for International Students. Both young men have a deep appreciation for the education they received from Louisiana Tech, and both plan to continue to grow these endowed scholarships. Said Josh when making his initial gift: “It is my sincere hope that these scholarships will allow other students to attain the same education and opportunities that were afforded to me in college.”
news about you

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?
Do you have news to share in the News About You section? We want to share the stories of your accomplishments and milestones. Photos are always welcome, too. Submit your information for News About You online at www.latelumni.com where you can then click on "News About You."

KYLIE S. TEMPLIN ('00)

"It is a wonderful experience to bring to life a character that was once a fragment of someone's imagination and words on a piece of paper."

This engineering grad decided to pursue another dream; now he makes his living as a working playwright. His debut, "Breaking Point," has been recognized as a Diplomat of the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys, achieving board certification in medical malpractice law. Only 14 attorneys in Louisiana have this certification. Mr. Anding has also been designated as Chancellor of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving as legal advisor to that conference and its endeavors. He has always served as the Conference's Lay Leader. He and his wife, Carol Green-Anding (human ecology, 1973) live in Baton Rouge; their children are Tray Anding (business, 1999) and Dr. Ally Anding Kabachinski.

Ross McIvor, a native of Simsbury, has been re-elected to a second term as the Southern Regional Trustee of the National Career Development Association. He will be responsible for the southern region's state divisions and will oversee their expansion, chartering and supporting back to the association's national board. He is director of counseling and career services at Louisiana Tech University.

1974

Lorale James Connelle, accounting, of Ruston, was one of Louisiana's Voluntaries of the Year honored at the annual meeting in Boston. She is a member of the president's council. She was involved in a few engineering societies and was also a member of SAE fraternity (chairman and council coordinator). As an actor you get accustomed to wearing many "hats," and as a student at Tech, I wore many different "hats" from day to day. I utilize my experiences from Tech to enhance the characters I portray; and boy did I have some experiences while attending Tech.

TELL US ABOUT HOW YOU WENT FROM EXON TO LOS ANGELES.
I was recruited during my senior year at Tech. Oddly, earlier that year I was offered a part in a European soap that shot in Miami. At the time of the offer, I was ready to take my senior year off and pursue a career in entertainment. After I discuss with my parents to move to Miami...well, to say the least, I stayed in school and finished my degree. After graduation, my shot at being a European soap star had passed and Exxon came calling. Two years later my inner voice became so loud that I had no choice but to listen. "Hard Work!"

TELL US ABOUT THE SERIES AND WHERE WE CAN SEE IT:
"Breaking Point" is an award-winning series that follows the lives of a group of friends in their 30s who are dealing with their dreams, triumphs and heartaches, as they struggle to maintain their relationships, livelihoods and sanity. When their everyday struggles become too much, they find themselves at a crossroads of change. The series is a story of determination, persistence, and love.

1984

David K. Luker, agricultural business, of Clarmont, Mg., has been named business manager of Environmental Science Division for Valero Energy Corporation, a broad-based high technology, chemical and energy company. He has 39 years of industrial and governmental experience. He has served as assistant director of the College of Agriculture, Louisiana State University.

Drake D. Mills, finance, of Ruston, was named a finalist in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2012 program in the Gulf Coast Area. The award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence in building their businesses, success in such areas as innovation, financial management and employee commitment to their businesses and communities. He is president and chief executive officer of Community Bank Trust in Ruston.

1956

John R. Brotherton, petroleum engineering, of Ashland, Miss., has written a book entitled, "Vicente, Vicente, Vicente." He worked as a junior engineer for a couple of years, but by 30 he changed directions and entered the seminary to train for the ministry. With his wife and two sons he ministered in and through churches large and small. After retiring at 76 he found time to complete books which he began 10 years ago.

1961

John D. Moom, biology education, of New Orleans, has published his second novel entitled "Lucas' Run." Much of the story is set in Ruston in the 1940s. The novel is available on Kindle and at Amazon.

1972

George "Buzz" Anding, geology, of Alexandria, has been named Geological Advisor to the Southern California Gas Company. He was also involved in creating the Mobile Bay Project Foundation fellowship. He is corporate chief medical officer for CNS, an information technology development company based in Houston, Tex.

1980

Helen Gissinger Guenter, master's, reading, of Athens, Ga., recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the Athens Library Association. She is associate librarian at the Taylor Library and Technology Center at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

1981

Mark A. Bodinov, marketing (finance, 1982, accounting), of Houston, has been elected Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee of the American Bar Association Tax Section for the 2012-13 term. He is a partner in the Executive Compensation/Employee Benefits practice group of the law firm Booz, Allen & Hamilton.

Tell us why you’ve been called “The Judge of Love” and how you feel about it?
I am honored to be known as “The Judge of Love.” I was dubbed by the Discovery Channel about 15 years ago. They were taping the final show of a nine-month series in which the couple was to be married, and after listening to many celebrants perform, they chose my ceremony as my most romantic. I then married the couple on national television where they called me the Judge of Love, and the title stuck. I have had a lot of fun with it through the years.

What’s one of your favorite Valentine’s Day Experiences as a Judge?
I have probably married over 200 couples on Valentine’s Day through the years; but certainly the most emotional was when I performed the ceremony for my daughter’s couple this year. Of course there are some crazy stories on Valentine’s Day as well. Once I had a bride go into labor during the wedding!

YOUR BEST MEMORIES OF TECH?
I loved my experience at Tech. I found the school very friendly with a quality education offered. I always felt as if I were in a very large family of students and professors...everyone helpful, kind and great. Experience one of the best decisions of my life. I also greatly loved my experience as a Phi MU!

YOUR ADVICE TO TECH FRESHMEN TODAY?
I am a very organized person and always have a plan. My advice would be to write down your goals, make a plan to achieve them – and then just do it. Nothing ever just fell to my lap. I always had a plan and followed it step by step until I accomplished what I started out to do. Anything is possible if you want it badly enough.

Tell us about your time in the military.
As an honorable profession through which you may be of help to many people. I found it to be personally very satisfying.

How did Tech prepare you for your career and, in general, life after college?
It is an honorable profession through which you may be of help to many people. I found it to be personally very satisfying.

If there’s one thing I’ve learned, it is…
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Brennan L. Raby, credited with restructuring and rebranding Southern Spring has been selected by Baton Rouge Business Report as one of the Forty under 40 for 2012. He is owner and president of Trade Construction Co. in Zachary. He was honored as Louisiana Tech’s Young Alumni of the Year in 2004.

D. Christopher Leung, of Tampa, Fla., was recently awarded an Air Medal for flying more than 20 combat missions in the area of responsibility. He is a second lieutenant in the 506th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron MC-12W pilot.

Draylan J. Gant, aviation operations, of Jennings, has been named the new director of the Mid-Delta Regional Airport in Greenville, Miss. He is an instructor and aircraft and firefighting crewman before serving as the executive assistant at Lake Charles Regional Airport.

Timothy Andrew Smith, accounting (master’s accounting 2011), of Dallas has received the Elkhart Watt Sells Award presented by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The award is presented to candidates from throughout the world based on their cumulative average score of at least 95 in each of the six sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, complete testing during the previous calendar year, and pass all four sections of the examination on their first attempt. He was one of only 37 candidates from across the country who met the criteria for the award. He is employed with Deloitte in Dallas.

In 1996, Breanna joined Community Trust Bank as a Cultural Communities Officer. She will be responsible for internal and external communications regarding the bank’s unique multicultural culture.

Lara Hogan Katesmeyer, English, of Clinton, Miss., has joined the staff of the Mississippi Court of Appeals. She works as a law clerk for Presiding Judge T. Kenneth Griffin. She earned a law degree from a Mississippi School of Law.

2010

Christopher J. Everding, professional aviation, of Tampa, Fla., has recently been appointed an Air Medal for flying more than 20 combat missions in the area of responsibility. He is a second lieutenant in the 506th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron MC-12W pilot.

Tell us about your career. The engineering school’s transition to 3-D design and building information management.

1989

Andrew Terenos, mathematics (master’s education 1991), of Baton Rouge has been named principal of Cedar Creek School in Ruston. This is his 28th year at Cedar Creek.

1999

D. Christopher Leung, professor, of Dallas, Tex., has joined the District Attorney’s Office of the 27th Judicial District Court District of Mississippi where he prosecutes felony matters in Harrison, Hancock and Stone Counties. He was awarded the Mississippi Bar’s Lawyer Citizenship Award for 2012 in recognition of his outstanding service to the community and legal profession.

Alan W. “Chief” Tullis, agricultural businessman, of Marshall, Texas, has been promoted to Vice President of Sales—North America for Stolt-Nielsen Shipping Holdings, Inc. He has been part of Stolt since 2008, when he began with the company as the Corporate Sales Manager in Houston.

2008

Leigh Anne Fordham Chambers, master’s speech, of Bossier City has been named executive director of the Brown Arts Council. She previously served as the executive director of the North Central Louisiana Arts Council in Ruston.

2006

Lindsey Goodleaf Lingard, master’s nutrition and dietetics, of Indianola, Miss., has been named as深加工 at 85. Vincenzo Sports Performance in Indianapolis, the largest hospital-based performance center in the country. She works with athletes from middle school to the professional level, focusing on performance-based nutrition and athletic performance and perform at a higher caliber. She works with Butler University men’s basketball, Portland Trail Blazers; USA track and field, gymnastics, and synchronized swimming; and numerous NFL players, race car drivers, and speed skaters. She is the only one of a few Certified Specialists in Sports Dietetics (CSSD) in the U.S.

2009

Limina Fayed Allen, master’s counseling and guidance, of Baton

2010

Brendan L. Raby, credited with restructuring and rebranding Southern Spring has been selected by Baton Rouge Business Report as one of the Forty under 40 for 2012. He is owner and president of Trade Construction Co. in Zachary. He was honored as Louisiana Tech’s Young Alumni of the Year in 2004.

2012


2008

Justin Keeling Jones, master’s counseling and guidance, and Amanda Marie Scott, master’s counseling and guidance, of Baton Rouge Business Report as one of the Forty under 40 for 2012. More than 230 nominations were submitted in an effort to recognize their professional and personal accomplishments. He is an 11-year veteran at Brenntlue, Sanchez & Wilson, LLP where he practices insurance law. He has been named a “Rising Star” in Louisiana Super Lawyer and also recommended by M.B. Best.

2009

2010

Assistant Head of Automation, Cirque du Soleil besides the big one in Baton Rouge.

Why did you choose this career? The career combines my talents with my interests. I always had a gift for math, but I’ve always been excited by the arts.

What’s your advice to freshmen today? Learn from everyone you meet. My two degrees meant that I had more liberal arts courses than most engineering graduates and more math and science than most liberal arts graduates. I try to use all of my experiences and knowledge rather than compartmentalize what might apply only to “suits.”

What’s your advice to students who want to get into show business and how they stay encouraged? Many students think it’s “easy” to become a “big star” overnight. Animation in theaters is a growing part of the industry; just like robots make cars more precisely and with less labor, one operator and several motivated teams of technicians are able to produce what a counter-weight fly-rail (it is also much safer). You must develop practical experience and the technical understanding of how things work, you should be able to find good work. A willingness to do the unglamorous jobs in the entertainment industry is a sure way in.

Tell us about some neat places you’ve traveled to with the show: I never toured like my wife Sandra did with one of Cirque du Soleil’s tent shows, so before settling into Vegas (and it is funny how you can tell who just came off stage and who has been in Vegas for a while by looking at their waist) most of my work-related travels were with Ford, Bacon and Davis when I was an instrument engineer in the pulp and paper industry. I went to exciting places like Yancey City, Miss., and Prattville, Ala.

How can we get more info about the show? zumanity.com

2008

Jennifer Annn Ortis, chemical engineering, and John May, Nov. 12, 2012, Houston, Texas.

2007

2005


2004


Jamea Claire Ayers, social sciences, and Charles Wesley Jackson, Oct. 6, 2012, Bossier City.

2003


Jamea Claire Ayers, social sciences, and Charles Wesley Jackson, Oct. 6, 2012, Bossier City.

2002

education (master's curriculum and instruction 2001), and Natalie Reese, June 9, 2012, Dallas, Texas

2009

Caleb Michael Arthur, biology, and Emily Marie Castille, May 12, 2012, Shreveport

Adam Palmer Reaugh, aviation management, and Brandt Christopher Nelson, Oct. 7, 2012, Addison, Dallas, Texas

William Donner Rogers, marketing, and Jana Jean Stoecker, Jan. 7, 2012, Monroe

2010


Margaret Carolyn Leachman, special education, and Stephen Brown, July 28, 2012, Choudrant

Erin Elizabeth Rogers, marketing, and Michael Jared Blackburn, Nov. 17, 2010, Spring, Texas

2011

Michael Edwin Gillum, biology, and David Christopher Cox, July 14, 2012, Downsville, Ark.

Kathryn Ellyn Newsom, psychology, and David Lee Angel, Nov. 13, 2011, Shreveport

Michael Dianne Britt, general studies, and Brandon Todd Robinson, Sept. 14, 2011, Perry, Fla.

2012

John Oliver Williams Jr., computer science, and Trey Willson, Nov. 17, 2011, Choudrant, La.

Jessica Huili Chua, journalism, and Joseph Curtis Reeves, Sept. 5, 2012, Ruston

Kathryn O'Neal, social work, and Stephanie McLain Lay, Oct. 7, 2012, Shreveport


James Andrew Alsup, son, Caver Pearce, June 8, 2012, Ruston


In MEMORIAM

2001

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All Hail Hale Hall

Hale Hall isn’t the oldest building on campus. That honor goes to the Ropp Center, built in 1911 and 15 years older than the next oldest on-campus building, the renovated University Hall.

But Hale Hall has stood its original ground longer than any other building, the thread that stretches back to only four years after the University was founded as Louisiana Industrial Institute in 1894.

Completed in 1898, the original building was only a two-story and was used as a women’s dormitory. A three-story north wing was added in 1902; the first floor was used for dining. In 1904, a three-story south wing was added.

Hale Hall was turned into a men’s dormitory in 1910, when the old men’s dorm was moved to where Tolliver Hall stands today to serve as the campus dining hall on the first floor and house the music department on the second.

In 1947, the building was named after W.B. Hale (inset), who was an associate professor of psychology and education for 29 years at the school (1902-1931) until the day of his death.

Beginning in 1970 and through its final years, the original Hale became classroom and studio space for art and architecture students.

But when the 1980s ended, so did the aging Hale’s time. It sat vacant for more than a decade until funds were acquired to build a replica.

Today, New Hale Hall houses both the admissions and architecture departments and stands on the same location as the most useful and never forgotten original.

Special thanks to Archives and Special Collections, Prescott Memorial Library, and to Joshua Williams and Thomas Seta, authors, “Louisiana Tech University Building History.”
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