SOMETHING'S UP: The new logo on the Thomas Assembly Center was funded 100% by donors. A challenge to get a new logo was issued by an avid Louisiana Tech fan who promised to match the funds if $30,000 could be raised from other donors. Louisiana Tech University Foundation launched a crowdfunding campaign (see bullmarket.latechalumni.org) to raise $30,000 toward the approximate price tag of $60,000 to complete the project. 177 additional donors rose to the challenge and gave $33,625 through the crowdfunding site. The result: a new logo, finally!
Partnerships have always been key to the success of Louisiana Tech University.

Working together begins at home, by cooperating as members of the University community – students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who are working to help our University achieve our shared goals.

We work with the City of Ruston, and we create public and private partnerships that deliver a positive impact for our city, our state, and our nation. With their assistance, we have created major economic and educational drivers that can connect our students to internships and future careers that enrich our region.

Despite economic challenges, north Louisiana is experiencing the consistent growth of high-wage jobs for our graduates. I believe we are seeing only the beginning of positive movement, and these developments will continue to ripple throughout our communities and the region.

It is our responsibility to grow and lead with purpose, and partnerships give the University a strength of purpose we do not have on our own. We are grateful and fortunate to have so many quality partnerships with organizations and individuals who believe in the University’s mission and vision. These people help the University grow and remain the leader our state and our region need it to be.

How can we be growth leaders?

• Through the recruitment, retention, and development of needed talent;
• Through continued cultivation and support of our partnerships;
• Through the encouragement of higher levels of educational attainment;
• And through the promotion of a higher quality of life for our citizens.

Working together. Living together. Learning together. Even competing and playing together. Louisiana Tech looks forward to continuing our work together to strengthen our city, our state, and our nation.

Dr. Leslie K. Guice
President, Louisiana Tech University
Louisiana Tech is greatly increasing its physical operating presence in Shreveport-Bossier, an area that wants and needs Tech’s presence. Tech has moved toward delivering more educational opportunities to Shreveport-Bossier by partnering with Bossier Parish Community College, Cyber Innovation Center (CIC), and CSRA, which has one primary customer: the federal government. CSRA’s mission is to help the United States remain a step ahead in every aspect of cyber and defense operations.

BPCC is sharing an existing building with Tech; outfitting of the Tech half is ongoing. The top floor will be for classes and veterans’ resources; the bottom floor of Tech’s side will be the new Academic Success Center and cyber training center, which became a reality with a $1 million gift from American Electric Power (AEP) and its CEO, Tech 1982 and ’86 alumnus Nick Akins and another benefactor.

“This grant will not only increase opportunities for students to pursue cyber careers and strengthen the future workforce,” Akins said, “but it also builds upon a public-private partnership that is critical to the region’s growth.”

“Together we can build academic programs and support the success of students who will be a part of the programs offered here,” Tech president Les Guice said. “It is our responsibility as an institution to provide greater educational opportunities for students in Northwest Louisiana. We share a commitment with our partners to produce graduates with the skill sets to compete in today’s global economy.”

The Academic Success Center is designed to guide populations – BPCC students, active duty military, veterans and non-traditional students – to Louisiana Tech diplomas and career advancement. The cyber training center, which AEP and CSRA helped outfit, is the spot for training students in one of the fastest growing, well-paying, most in-demand professions in the world.
The integration of three Tech offices has allowed Innovation, Research, and the Graduate School to work more closely together, and in turn more closely with the University and the region. All three are stronger now.

Leading the team is Davy Norris (center), chief research and innovation officer. The associate vice presidents are Ramu Ramachandran (left), dean of the Graduate School, and Summeet Dua, research and partnerships. Ramachandran, who mentors other researchers and brings research together on campus, and Dua, highly skilled in working with corporate partners, are integrated with Norris and the Innovation Enterprise team — focused on entrepreneurship and technology development — to grow the quality, scale, and impacts of the graduate school and Tech’s Research Enterprise.

Graduate programs like chemistry, chemical engineering, physics, and computer science — areas in which Tech does cutting-edge research — are key interdisciplinary programs because they are such large targets for funding as Tech grows its 21st Century campus.

Tech can accomplish these goals in a number of ways. The University can partner with enterprises such as CSRA — a collaboration of academics and industry — so that the industry helps keep academic programs current. Tech can also invite a young company to campus, a collaboration that is paying dividends for both start-ups and students at Tech Pointe.
How Tech leads and grows is by teaming up. Sometimes, that partnership begins with our University and an “outside” person’s idea.

Fenway Group, the main tenant of Tech Pointe, began just that way. The University was approached by an emerging company with an entrepreneurial dream to grow their business by integrating students into the software development pipeline for their company and for their clients. They started four students to work with a senior technical professional on CenturyLink projects. Tech agreed to the partnership. After six years, there are now 130 students and several professionals in their Tech Pointe operation. Fenway Group has customers like Southwest Airlines, CenturyLink, Toyota Financial Services. And Fenway Group has an academic partner in Tech.

Fenway has offices based in Dallas, Honolulu, Boston — and Ruston. And the core of the Ruston office is Tech students, getting their degrees as they earn money and experience. The company’s digital and printed promotional literature heavily features their Tech Pointe operation and our students, indicating the prominence of that partnership for their company.

Housing seven companies or hubs and eight partners, Tech Pointe is a place where more than 200 people, including students, work regularly on problems involving software and hardware development, cyber security, cyber education, military intelligence and application, and digital media enhancement and creation.

These companies want to be on campus. They want to be where the students can work and where the grownups can be a part of the campus community. That’s the great part. The not-as-great part: Tech already needs another building, and administration is working on that issue now. It’s a nice growing pain. It means what Tech is doing, is working.
One way Louisiana Tech remains nimble and flexible in how it responds to the country’s needs is through the Louisiana Tech Research Institute (LTRI) at the National Cyber Research Park in Bossier City.

Created so that Tech could more easily create partnerships, LTRI helps provide research and development support for our country’s most critical defense and security challenges. LTRI is a non-profit entity separate from the University so that Tech can respond efficiently to rapidly evolving and sensitive defense and intelligence requirements. And the Institute forms partnerships, through a proprietary information agreement, with outside entities for the University. As it grows, LTRI will grow the research enterprise of Louisiana Tech and enhance our prominence and impacts as a national research university.

LTRI and the Cyber Innovation Center, or CIC, work closely to support the Department of Defense. LTRI is Tech’s outreach to the Department of Defense for research and development. As the United States Air Force works to modernize the way its weapons are managed and controlled, Tech is working to align its capabilities with solving those specific problems, along with keeping the USAF on the cutting edge of cyber training and cyber security.

Most of Tech’s contracted work for the DOD is facilitated through the LTRI and is done by Louisiana Tech. The research, the practical work, the ideas: that’s all Tech people power.
Ruston was once a town with a college in it. Now it’s becoming a College Town.

One of the most appreciated and immediately fun partnerships between the city, the University, and the Convention & Visitors Bureau has been “Rock the Railroad” on Loyal Blue Weekend Friday nights. When Bulldog Football is home for a game at Joe Aillet Stadium Saturday, Rock the Railroad is at Railroad Park downtown Friday. “The merchants have enjoyed it, and the local food trucks and live music have been a hit,” Ruston mayor Ronny Walker said. “The Tech Trolley has also been a success.”

How can you not love the Tech Trolley? Small “trolleys” have funneled an average of 1,000 fans to and from Railroad Park to the Davison Athletic Center at The Joe each home game.

This Friday night tradition is growing, as is Tech’s fan base and membership in the Louisiana Tech Athletic Club.

“Fans — our friends and supporters – are the backbone of every team,” athletics director Tommy McClelland said. “Fans might not realize it, but what they do makes a difference in the lives of each and every student-athlete at Louisiana Tech. Any success we enjoy is because of a true team effort between our student-athletes and coaches, loyal alumni, fans, students, and Ruston.”
LIVING TOGETHER

A modern, 21st Century campus mixes classic landscaping with the newest technology for a safe and energetic, relaxing and pleasing atmosphere. This is home away from home for thousands, after all. There is green space. Buildings are uniform but with individual character, and the campus continues to welcome newly planted colorful, seasonal trees. The 21st Century campus is up-to-date in its lighting and is spacious and functional.

This vision is the well-planned direction of the Ruston campus.

The Campus Plan began in 2012 with the goal of preserving the qualities of a campus that students, faculty, and the community members have grown to love, but also ensuring prosperity for decades to come.

Tech is completing 11 new housing units, creating Commons areas and enhanced accessibility to the campus core. Other phases are coming.

The plan is growing, quite literally, each day. Exactly 200 trees were planted this year, approximately 200 more will be planted in 2018. But the plan is much, much more than noble trees, as crucial to the plan as they are.

With Carbo Landscape and Design of Alexandria and Baton Rouge, Tech is working, planning, and creating to maximize potential for a campus that will stand the test of time. It won’t happen overnight, but already one can see the progress in strategic landscaping, in modern apartment-style “housing,” in the initial steps toward entryways that will declare, “You are now on the campus of Louisiana Tech.”

SURE, PLEASE?

Sure! To sponsor a tree, go to the crowdfunding site: bulldozen.latechalumni.org.

There is no specific amount to donate for a tree; the costs vary greatly among the different types of trees. Your gift will bring color, vibrancy, maybe even some shade to our campus for years.
The Business Building’s new wing and the remodeled “Tech Table” (top left) in the Student Center — along with the new suites and press box at Joe Aillet Stadium — all held ribbon cuttings between late summer and early November. The things that actually grow with water and sunshine will take a bit longer.

Imagine a re-landscaped Quad and a re-landscaped Keeny Circle. And in the Big Picture, imagine — with any current structures and parking lots removed from the campus core — an expanded Quad, a long rectangle, from the front of Keeny Hall to the site of the old Natatorium, of green space and trees and color. To help you imagine it, use this picture of the University of Illinois quadrangle in the fall (left) as an example.

While most particulars are still being decided, plans are in the works to ensure our campus grows more welcoming. These long-range plans include uniform signage to help visitors and to empower the community to become more involved on campus. Also being planned are inviting and uniform entryways at the major points on campus that will leave no doubt as to where Louisiana Tech officially begins and ends. These improvements will make Tech a more distinctive and welcoming member of the community. This is your 21st Century Tech Campus. This is the direction your University is growing.
A major part of living together is serving together. Louisiana Tech students are not visitors in a college town. As residents of Tech, they are residents of Ruston. That means something.

The most recent creation by the School of Design in its partnership with MedCamps of Louisiana, a non-profit camp for Louisiana children with disabilities, is the 330-feet-plus Pisces Bridge that spans Lake Alabama at the MedCamps campground in Choudrant.

“We try to keep the mission simple,” said Karl Puljak, director of Tech’s School of Design. “People helping people is a pretty good recipe for living and learning.”

“If there was ever a win-win collaboration,” Puljak said, “this is it.”

It’s also an example of another unparalleled educational opportunity for our students and an unparalleled recreational opportunity for the campers.

“By creating spaces fully accessible to all our campers and by addressing program needs, Tech’s School of Design is providing children with more than just unique and beautiful places and a spaces to gather and play,” MedCamps executive director Caleb Seney said. “Tech is providing our campers with opportunity and access to specially designed experiences that challenge and encourage each participant to expand their horizons, push past barriers, and reach their fullest potential. The art is in the work that they have done at camp, but the beauty is in the transformation inside of our campers that Tech’s work fosters. A transition from a mindset of ‘I can’t’ to ‘I can!’”

BUILDING BRIDGES

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WANT TO FISH AROUND FOR POSITIVE CHANGE? Here’s one way to do it: The Pisces Bridge does more than connect two sides of a summer camp for children with special needs; watch the award-winning video at ltu.al/ARCH355 to see how design is connecting Tech students with MedCamps children and their parents.
For one day in the spring, hundreds of Tech students unite to say “thank you” to Ruston and the Lincoln Parish community by taking part in The Big Event, Tech’s biggest community service project of the year. The student-servants gather at Joe Aillet Stadium, then fan out to dozens of individual yards, businesses, and organizations with shovels, rakes, and the purpose of giving back.

Nursing students have assisted with the annual Red Cross Health Fair. The Tech chapter of the Sigma Nu fraternity helped sell Bearcat merchandise at a Ruston High football game. The Lady Techsters softball team has served at the Boys and Girls Club of North Central Louisiana, at DART, and at 4Paws Rescue. This is only the tip of the “giving back” iceberg.

Less than two years old, “Dogs With A Cause” is a character education program in which athletes are “coached” by clinical residents in the College of Education as they prepare to “team teach” in their adopted classrooms. Normally, young students come to see Tech student-athletes play ball, but because of Dogs With A Cause, you are as likely to find a Tech student-athlete reading to a fan at his or her elementary school.
Bogard Hall has been a hard-working, dependable, steady friend since opening in 1940.

Soon, the storied engineering building will get a well-deserved neighbor.

Construction of the Integrated Engineering and Science Building (IESB) is scheduled to begin this winter. The plan is to open the building for classes in Fall Quarter 2019.

The building is a dream come true for Tech’s engineering and science students. Inside will be more than 20 labs, about a dozen classrooms, a large conference room for more than 200, and a tiered lecture room for 150. There will be several small “coffee and study spots,” places where students can gather with their laptops and a whiteboard and learn among themselves outside the classroom.

But outside the building will be welcoming as well. It’s designed to reflect the “Emerging Tech” of the 21st Century – traditional red “Tech” brick, slate, and stone, along with the more modern extensive exterior glass look of Tech Pointe. The 95-foot diameter of the atrium dome is big enough for Wyly Tower to pass through.
For efficiency and strategic purpose, much of the University administration was restructured this year. This included Admissions, the first point of contact for most of today’s students and tomorrow’s alumni.

Trée (sounds like “trey”) George was admitted from LSU to Louisiana Tech Aug. 1 — as Director of Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions. He was sold by a brand that’s lived out authentically.

“This is a place where there’s a vision led from the top down, and it manifests itself in a goal,” said George (left, in official Louisiana Tech bowl tie, with Dean of Student Engagement Sam Speed). “It’s more than a mission statement. It’s real, tangible, from breaking ground on the new engineering complex to the Academic Success Center in Bossier City. There’s a vision, but you can also see the pieces of that vision falling into place.”

Tech wants others not only to see the Tech vision and budding reality, but also to understand it for what it actually is. And for what it is becoming.

Tech believes that recruitment and retention are, in today’s world of higher education, two sides of the same coin. Tech’s “First Year Experience,” a practical guide for Tech freshmen but also a course in the University’s history and purpose, now begins when a high school student commits to the University. Dual enrollment and orientation are retention opportunities today. Once a high school student commits, they basically become a Tech freshman, receiving University credentials — and encouragement — as if they were already on campus.

George, along with Speed and Dean of Student Services and Academic Support Stacy Gilbert, promote Tech in truth: it’s a place where the brand — kind, caring, and committed — is reality.

“It’s been a wonderful experience to be welcomed into this community,” said George. “I’ve never been more warmly embraced. I want our freshmen to feel the same way. We want to make sure the behavior of our Admissions office as the first point of contact for most prospects is in alignment with what people think about Tech. We want who we say we are to match how we operate, and how we operate is by treating people right and taking care of people.

“Our numbers are up in regard to applications,” he said. “We keep asking people what brings them to Tech, and they keep telling us it’s because they’ve been hearing good things about the University. It’s hard to identify, but there’s something in the air. More and more people are looking at Tech.”
Variety drives students to Louisiana Tech.

A culture of caring.

A campus growing in beauty and purpose.

A richly regarded athletics program. Enriched student life opportunities. Facilities for sure, and not only academic facilities but student getaways such as the Lambright Sports and Wellness Center and Hideaway Park and the intramural fields. Plus it’s great to have Ruston, a wonderful and awakening college town, for a neighbor and partner.

But those things are only half the draw. One day, today’s students will leave those things behind. What they’ll take with them are their educations. And Tech wants those educational experiences to be unparalleled.

That is what serves as a driver for attracting great students here. It’s easy to lecture to a class of 300 students, but it is much harder to create engaging learning experiences.

MedCamps. Living with the Lab. Living with Cyber. UTeach, Cyber Storm. Trenchless Technology. The Thingery. Innovation Enterprise. TEaM Model Clinical Residents. These have huge impacts on our students’ learning and career success.

In Ray’s Trading Room (left) in the College of Business, the students have been conducting in-depth financial research on companies, industries, and markets around the world. The room is enabling simulated trading and providing the data to support the analysis and decision-making of the students working with the College’s new Student Managed Investment Fund in this state-of-the-art facility. The level of student excitement is unprecedented.

The fact that the faculty are not only willing to participate but also willing to seek out these kinds of courses and curricula and student opportunities tells you a lot about what their priorities are.
Cyber is taking the region by storm.

Louisiana Tech is prepared for it.

Last year, the University awarded diplomas to the first five cyber engineering college graduates in the world. Tech was out of the gate earlier than anyone else in purposefully preparing students to be leaders in cyber security.

Tech’s Cyber Storm, an annual day-long cyber security competition held on campus, serves as the final exam for a Computer Science and Cyber engineering course. Teams battle in cyberspace against each other and a black ops team of intruders from academia, industry, and government institutions. It’s a daylong “hackfest,” and it’s one of the ways Tech students are being trained for real-world cyber battles.

Through its partnerships within the National Cyber Research Park in Bossier City, the University is offering unparalleled educational opportunity in cyber training to its students. The result of Tech’s forward-thinking and partnerships has already meant millions in research funding and new education initiatives in cyber/STEM. It’s also helped to make North Louisiana a nationally recognized leader in cyber.
Preparing the next generation of STEM [science, technology, engineering, mathematics] educators, UTeachTech began with an idea, a grant, and a lot of work and research in curriculum preparation. The goal: pair the University’s esteemed engineering and science programs with its outstanding teaching preparation programs to develop a single, interdisciplinary degree program that provides tomorrow’s educators with both the knowledge they need to work effectively in industry and the skill set necessary to lead in the classroom.

The first five fruits of UTeachTech’s labor have blossomed. The first five UTeachTech students are currently student teaching and on track to graduate this year.

They are [left, from front to back] Nicole Schubert of West Monroe, Allison Free of Ruston [also pictured below in her Ruston High classroom], Brian Blakely of Slidell, Chase Sanders of Shreveport, and Justin Biggs of Winnnsboro. Free came to Tech to become a math teacher; her four fellow pace-setting UTeachTech friends were originally majoring in engineering fields.

During each student’s final year of UTeachTech, the program intersects with Tech’s TEaM model – Teacher Educators and Mentors – a clinical residency program that places each future teacher inside a classroom with a mentor teacher for an entire school year. An early concern of UTeachTech was that it might be too draining a task to be accomplished in four years. But Free, Schubert, and Biggs have proved that, with will and time management, that isn’t so: all three are third-year students.

The College of Education is home to many other unique professional development experiences for educators. SciTEC, the Science and Technology Education Center in the College, last summer served as a Louisiana Department of Education-approved provider of professional development for teachers of science, which accompanied the roll out of the new Louisiana Science Standards.

SciTEC’s Office of Professional Education and Outreach served hundreds of teachers, engaging them in extension coursework relating to a variety of content and credentialing sequences in partnership with the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership.

The 2017 summer also marked the graduation of Tech’s first 20 cyber education certificate recipients from across the nation. Tech is the first institution in the state to offer the four-course certificate that is completely online. Teachers who complete the program are ideal candidates to become STEM and cyber leaders in their districts. They can also help connect students with careers in cyber-infused industries; today, workers in the cyber fields are among the most wanted and most well-paid in the country. The online Cyber Education program for K-12 educators is through SciTEC in conjunction with the Cyber Innovation Center’s National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center (NICERC) division.
• Celebrating its Centennial this year, A.E. Phillips Laboratory School, Tech’s K-8 on-campus school that serves as a site for Tech education majors to observe and practice in a supportive environment, increased its School Performance Score (SPS), issued by the state and based on student achievement data. That achievement earned AEP the ranking of 23rd in the state; that includes all schools, and only one of those schools that ranked higher was not a magnet school, charter school, or admissions requirement school...

• Tech’s Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) has the highest CLASS scores in the state district that includes Lincoln, Jackson, and Union Parishes. CLASS uses research-driven insights to improve how teachers interact with children every day to cultivate supportive, structured, and engaging classroom experiences. ECEC was recognized as an “Excellent” facility by the Department of Education and given a Certificate of Honor, the highest acclamation the state awards to centers and schools...

• Ethel G. Jones, director and associate professor in the School of Human Ecology, was honored as a recipient of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) 2017 Distinguished Service Award during the 108th Annual Conference & Expo in Dallas. It’s the highest honor awarded by the AAFCS...

• Things are healthy in the Division of Nursing, which reported a 100-percent pass rate for the National Council Licensure Exam by all of its 2017 nursing graduates. The first-attempt pass rate average for Tech nursing graduates during the past three years is 99 percent, and the program was selected as the state’s Louisiana Undergraduate Nursing Program of the Year for the second consecutive year by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation...

• HPE major Dustin Horton received the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (LAHPERD) Outstanding Major Award and Dr. YuChun “Jean” Chen received the Taylor Dodson Young Professional Award at the organization’s annual awards luncheon...

• Mathematics professor Katie Evans and SciTEC director Lindsey Keith-Vincent were nominated as finalists in the STEM Educator category in the third annual Ada Lovelace Awards, which celebrate women who have made the biggest impact in their local community.

OH BY THE WAY...
When the strategic planning process for Tech 2020 began, a primary goal was 15,000 students by 2020. Tech enrolled more students this fall than at any other time in its history and has achieved a 16.9 percent increase in enrollment – from 11,014 to the current record of 12,873 – since Fall of 2013.

Another goal of Tech 2020: Graduate enrollment of 20-to-25 percent. That remains a target. Growing the graduate enrollment will have a positive impact on research productivity and facilitate the recruiting and retention of research-active faculty. Both of these will help raise the University’s position in various national rankings.

Here are some of the School’s initiatives for growth and expansion:

• Add new certificate programs and combinations of graduate offerings in areas of high demand.

• Increase the number of graduate certificate and degree programs available to the Shreveport/Bossier community.

• Increase the number of online graduate programs to serve national audiences.

• Establish greater social media presence and engagement with prospects, applicants, and new admits.

• Improve the transition from concurrent bachelor’s/masters enrollment programs to accelerated master’s programs.
Some winning highlights to applaud:

**Academics**
A record total of 44 student-athletes earned the Conference Commissioner’s Academic Medal, up from 27 the previous year.

55 student-athletes earned their degrees; nine graduated with honors.

Soccer senior Kathryn Sloan was named the 2016 CoSIDA Academic All-America of the Year for Division I Women’s Soccer, the first student-athlete in LA Tech history to receive this “academic Heisman.”

**Overall**
Opened the press box and suites complex and debuted other renovations (ticket booths, lighting, bathrooms, entrances) at Joe Aillet Stadium.

One of just four Division I Football Bowl Subdivision programs to win nine or more games and a bowl game in each of the last three seasons, joining Wisconsin, Utah, and defending national champ Clemson.

One of only seven FBS schools in the country and one of only two non-Power 5 schools (BYU) to have 9+ football wins, 20+ men’s basketball wins, 35+ baseball wins, and 35+ softball wins this past athletic season.

Became only the second C-USA program to finish Top 5 in football, women’s and men’s basketball, baseball, softball and soccer in the same season in league history (East Carolina, 2012-13).

**Gameday**
Picked to finish 11th in C-USA soccer, the Lady Techsters ended up winning a program-record six conference matches en route to a fifth-place finish and a third-straight berth in the league tournament. Coach Kevin Sherry picked up his 100th career win at Tech and was named Louisiana Coach of the Year. The program’s all-time career leader in points, goals, and shots, Kathryn Sloan was named Louisiana Player of the Year.

The Dunkin’ Dogs became one of only 13 teams in the country to register 23+ wins in each of the past five seasons and finished second in C-USA; point guard Daquan Bracey became the fourth Bulldog in program history and the first since 2012 to be named Conference Freshman of the Year.

Louisiana Tech softball captured the C-USA Tournament title and earned the program’s first NCAA Regional appearance since 2008. Mark Montgomery was named Louisiana Softball Coach of the Year.

The Lady Techsters were picked to finish 12th in C-USA but finished fourth and earned an NIT bid.

The Diamond Dogs won 35+ games for the second straight year, and set a program record for total season attendance (49,466), season tickets sold, and ticket revenue. During the past two seasons, Tech is 45-12 at J.C. Love Field at Pat Patterson Park, 7-1 against nationally-ranked opponents.
Since the days of Roger Carr, Pat Tilley, Mike Barber, and Billy Ryckman, Louisiana Tech football has been known for being pass happy. But in August 2016, things got sort of zany, even by Tech’s high standards. The Bulldogs ended the season 9-5 and with the top wide receiver duo in the nation in Trent Taylor and Carlos Henderson. The Bulldogs ranked in the top 10 nationally in nine different team categories, including passing offense (2nd), scoring offense (2nd), and total offense (9th).

Tech earned four Conference-USA superlative awards, including Most Valuable Player (quarterback Ryan Higgins), Offensive Player of the Year (Henderson), Special Teams Player of the Year (Henderson), and Coach of the Year (Skip Holtz). Henderson became the first player to be named Offensive Player of the Year and Special Teams Player of the Year in the same season since the league began sponsoring football in 1996.

A fifth-year senior, Higgins led the Bulldogs to their third consecutive 9-win season and bowl victory by passing for 4,617 yards and 41 touchdowns. Higgins ranked first in the league in passing yards (2nd in FBS), passing yards per game (3rd in FBS), and passing touchdowns (3rd in FBS). He was the league leader in total offense and third nationally with a 376.5 yards-per-game average.

Henderson had 1,535 receiving yards and a league-high 19 touchdown catches. He averaged 32.2 yards per kick returned and returned two kickoffs for touchdowns.

Taylor finished his career as a Bulldog with 136 catches as a senior for a team-high 1,803 receiving yards. His 12 touchdown catches ranked second on the team behind Henderson. As a senior last fall, Taylor became just the fourth Bulldog in school history to record two 1,000-yard seasons in a career. He is the program’s leader in career receptions with 327.

The exciting season ended the only way it could. Jonathan Barnes’ 32-yard field goal as time expired gave the Bulldogs’ season the storybook ending it deserved as Tech beat No. 25 Navy, 48-45, to win the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

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The exciting season ended the only way it could. Jonathan Barnes’ 32-yard field goal as time expired gave the Bulldogs’ season the storybook ending it deserved as Tech beat No. 25 Navy, 48-45, to win the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.
The addition of these seven Class of 2017 Louisiana Tech Legends brought the Tech Athletics Hall of Fame number to 100. Enshrinement was Friday evening, Sept. 29, in the packed Davison Athletics Complex third floor banquet hall.

“Louisiana Tech has a tradition-rich history in athletics,” said Tech Athletics Director Tommy McClelland. “We feel as though this class exemplifies that as we have some of the great names in the history of Tech Athletics.”

A receiver his first two seasons at Tech, Denny Duron (1970-73) quarterbacked two special teams to a pair of small-school national championships in 1972 and 1973. The Bulldogs were 24-1 in those two seasons; as a senior, Duron was Offensive Player of the Year in the Southland Conference.

Tommy Joe Eagles (1967-71 player, 1979-89 coach) lettered for four years in basketball and led the 1971 team to the SLC title and the NCAA Tournament. As the program’s head coach after six years as an assistant, Eagles led the Bulldogs to an 87-40 record and at least 20 wins in each of his four seasons, including two NCAA Tournaments and two NIT appearances.

Pam Gant (1981-85) led the Lady Techsters to a combined mark of 125-10 during her four years, with three Final Four appearances and the 1982 NCAA national championship. The sharp-shooting guard averaged 23.6 points a game as a senior, shot 55 percent for her career, and earned the title of Kodak All-American.

Dale Holman (1977-79) was a three-time all-Southland Conference selection and the two-time Southland Conference Hitter of the Year. He led the Pat Patterson-coached Bulldogs to the 1978 Southland Conference title and an NCAA Tournament berth, then spent nine years in the minors with three organizations.

Luke McCown (2000-03) came along as Tech was entering the Western Athletic Conference era. The record-setting four-year starter quarterbacked the Bulldogs to the 2001 WAC title and a Humanitarian Bowl appearance in the program’s first season in the league. A Freshman All-American in 2000, the three-time all-state honoree passed for more than 12,000 yards and 87 touchdowns in his college career, then spent 13 seasons in the NFL.

In his quarter-century as the University’s sports information director, Keith Prince (1969-94) covered the Golden Era of Bulldog football in the 1970s, the Lady Techsters birth and three national championships, the Karl Malone Era of Bulldog basketball, and recorded a string of 283 consecutive football games, the longest in the nation at the time. He was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Pat Tilley (1972-75) was a member of the 1972 and 1973 national championship teams and a two-time all-Southland Conference honoree. He led the Bulldogs in receiving in both 1974 and 1975, was drafted in the fourth round of the 1975 NFL Draft by St. Louis, and totaled more than 400 receptions for more than 7,000 yards and 75 touchdowns in his 11-year career.
The Louisiana Tech University Foundation had a strong year because of donors like you.

Your support and interest in special projects propelled our fundraising efforts into the best year on record and allowed for an increase of direct support to Louisiana Tech University.

The phonathon program and student callers set new contact and commitment records, shifting the needle in contributions and number of donors.

Our crowdfunding website, Bullmarket.LATechAlumni.org, saw an increase in projects, allowing donors to support specific initiatives across campus.

Finally, the implementation of student and faculty/staff giving programs saw an increase of support from within campus and educated new donors on the importance of giving back to their University.

Thank you for your continued support of Louisiana Tech University, and Ever Loyal Be.
ALUMNI ATTITUDE STUDY
YOU ASKED. WE LISTENED.

Have you ever found yourself wondering what someone thought about you? We did, so we decided to do something about it. In 2016, Louisiana Tech partnered with Performance Enhancement Group, LTD., for the first-ever survey of all of its alumni.

Throughout the process, 1,783 alumni responded, generating a 5.10% response rate. This response rate is consistent with national averages and represents a more than sufficient margin of error on all questions asked to get a sense of how all of our alumni feel.

So what did you say? First, you want to know that the value of your degree is greater to you today than the day you graduated, and you want to know what we are doing to increase that value.

Second, you are focused on how your degree has helped you in your life, and particularly, how your degree is enhancing your career.

Third, you want to see a greater alumni presence - both yourselves and the Alumni Association - on campus, playing an important role in improving the student experience and laying a foundation for lifelong support.

Finally, you want to be involved. Whether through events, mentorships, recruiting, donations, or simply being an advocate for Louisiana Tech, you want to be involved in the important things happening on campus and with our alumni.

So what are we doing with this information? Communications are being revised and expanded to keep you better informed on the topics you identified as important: University rankings, student and faculty accomplishments, scholarships, athletics, history and tradition, and changes on campus.

The Alumni Association is creating regional chapters to allow you to be more involved through events and student recruiting. And the campus is undergoing many changes and improvements to improve the student experience and preserve the Louisiana Tech tradition we all hold so dear.

As alumni, your opinion matters more than you know. The voice of each member of the Tech Family deserves to be heard, and we want you to know that Louisiana Tech is listening.
At first glance, Lizzie Hummel seems like a typical Louisiana Tech student. However, a deeper look into her day shows you just how exceptional Lizzie is. A normal day for Lizzie is quite busy: school, working in the President’s office, volunteering as an assistant for the Bulldog football team’s Sports Medicine program, and serving as the recently-elected president of her sorority. To top it all off, she makes time to call her mom, which she admits is as many as three times per day.

A swimmer since the age of two or three, Lizzie was part of a state-champion swim team that taught her that hard work reaps success. At Louisiana Tech, that champion’s mentality has turned her into the leader that she is today — a leader who sets goals and works diligently toward accomplishing them; a leader who commands excellence, not by her words, but by the example she provides her peers daily.

And while Lizzie appears to be Superwoman, she gives all the credit for her success as an exceptional student, leader, and all-around good human to the champions in her life — her parents, her two older brothers and younger sister, her extended family, and her Tech Family. Part of that Tech Family are the private donor champions that provide the scholarships that allow Lizzie, a first-generation college student, to pursue the biomedical engineering degree that her parents dreamed would become a reality for their bright and capable daughter, the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dream of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s parents dreamed would become a reality for their bright and capable daughter, the scholarships that make Lizzie’s parents dreamed would become a reality for their bright and capable daughter, the scholarships that make Lizzie’s parents dreamed would become a reality for their bright and capable daughter, the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility, and the scholarships that make Lizzie’s dreams of becoming an occupational therapist a possibility. You too can make a difference in the life of a student like Lizzie. Be a donor. Be a champion. Be a life changer.

I am writing you in gratitude for the scholarships I have received. To tell you a little bit about me, I am a Junior in Biomedical Engineering with hopes to attend Occupational Therapy School after graduation. I am also a first-generation college student. With that being said, there have been plenty of difficulties throughout my college career. From finances to having questions that my parents were unable to assist me in. While it has been hard, I have learned a lot throughout the years. I have learned how to be financially independent because my parents are unable to support me. In addition, I have learned how to balance work and going to school at the same time. I am honored to say that I have the privilege of being a student worker in the President’s Office. While working there, I have also learned how to face challenges such as having professional conversations, answering phone calls, and many other abilities. I am more than grateful for this opportunity.

I am also involved on campus outside of being a student worker. In my sorority, I am the Vice President of Community Service. I plan so much throughout the year by hosting putting on activities for the local Girl Scouts. I also help plan and put on our annual Shriners 5K run, which benefits Prevent Child Abuse America and the Methodist Children’s Home. It was truly one of the highlights of my year to hand over the check to the Children’s Home. I am always amazed to see how much we impact the community. While I am very involved in my sorority, I am also a volunteer for our Sports Medicine Program. Essentially, I am the water girl for the football team. I never knew how much I would see the team play and to know that I have helped in a small way. It’s rewarding to be a part of it.

Louisiana Tech means so much to me. As you can see, I have learned many life lessons, and skills during my two years here at Tech. I am so incredibly thrilled and grateful that I have the privilege of being a student worker in the President’s Office. While working there, I have also learned many valuable skills such as having professional conversations, answering phone calls, and many other abilities. I am more than grateful for this opportunity.

Louisiana Tech University Foundation
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Ever Loyal Be,
Lizzie
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