

The Blue Times Student Newsletter

Issue #3

LAWRENCE
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

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Winter at LTU: Closing the Year With Purpose

As December settles over Lawrence Tech, the campus takes on a special kind of energy—one that blends determination with calm, urgency with optimism. The weeks after Thanksgiving always feel like a turning point: the semester's biggest challenges arrive just as the year comes to a close, inviting all of us to pause, reset, and look ahead.

This is the moment when late-night study rooms glow brighter, group chats buzz with project deadlines, and students across every major push toward the finish line with everything they've learned this fall. Yet it's also a season that encourages perspective. Between exams, presentations, and last-minute submissions, December reminds us of how much we've accomplished, how much we've grown, and how capable we've become.

Whether you're wrapping up your first semester or preparing to graduate in the spring, take a moment to acknowledge your journey. LTU is a place where resilience is built, creativity is tested, and opportunities emerge when you least expect them. As winter break approaches, let this final stretch be a reminder that you are stronger than your deadlines, your workload, and your self-doubt.

Welcome to the third edition of The Blue Times. Let's close out this year with purpose, clarity, and the confidence to step into the next one even stronger.

-The Blue Times Editorial Team

Francisco Mustico
Jason Nguyen

In this newsletter you can expect:

Important Reminders

Faculty Highlight

Research and Innovation

On-Campus Opportunities

Closing Information

Contact Information

Important Reminders - Events Happening Soon:



Housing Winter Break

With the winter break around the corner, it is important to remember some key aspects regarding housing and the winter break:

- **Residence halls close Dec 19 at 12 pm and reopen Jan 11 at 10 am;** belongings may stay, but no access afterward.
- **Students needing to stay past Dec 19,** stay the full break, or return early must apply by Dec 1 (fees apply).
- Housing contract cancellations and **room change requests for Spring 2026 are due Dec 1; approvals sent Dec 10.**
- **Meal plan change requests for Spring are due Jan 23.**
- Students should communicate with roommates, as open spaces may be reassigned.

Every student currently in University Housing should have received an email with more details. Please feel free to contact housing@ltu.edu if you have any questions.

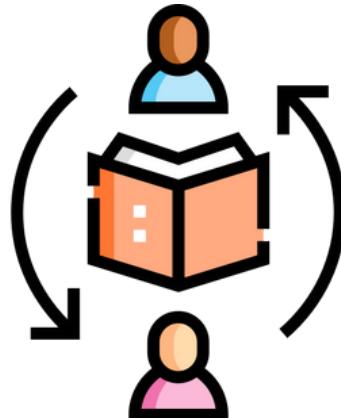


International Students

With winter break approaching, here are a few key reminders for international students:

- **International students should verify their I-20 travel signature before leaving the U.S. and carry all required documents (passport, F-1 visa, I-20, and proof of Spring enrollment).**
- Ensure you are **registered full-time for the Spring semester** and update your U.S. address within 10 days if it changes.
- If your F-1 visa has expired, you will need a **new visa** to re-enter the U.S. after traveling abroad.
- F-1 students may **work up to 20 hours/week** on campus during the semester and full-time on campus over break if employed.
- Plan for **limited campus services during the break** and keep OIP and Campus Safety emergency contacts on hand while traveling.

For any concerns, reach out to the Office of International Programs at international@ltu.edu.



Peer Tutoring and Proctoring

With the removal of the Student Success Center, Peer Tutoring and Proctoring Services, along with The Writing Center, have all moved to the library, where you can now access all of these services **at no additional cost.**

While drop-ins are welcome for The Writing Center and Peer Tutoring, we **highly recommend you schedule an appointment** to secure your time slot and ensure the best experience possible. For proctoring, appointments are required to ensure availability and a smooth experience.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

Proctoring:
ssctesting@ltu.edu

Peer Tutoring:
fmustico@ltu.edu

The Writing Center:
writingcenter@ltu.edu

Leading the Future: How LTU Students Make Decisions That Shape Tomorrow

By: Tanawan Vetchayanivat

Interview with Dean Matthew Cole, Department of Business and Information Technology



From a Professional Musician to Neuroscience

Graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music, he started a recording studio and audio/video production company in NYC. Transitioned into a music therapist, he was exposed to the science behind behavioral and clinical psychology. Then he earned a Master's in clinical psychology back in Michigan at EMU. He was **motivated to follow his parents' footsteps of continual learning, lifelong growth**. Multidisciplinary PHD covering areas of cognitive, social, and developmental psychology.

As part of his PHD, he had an opportunity to teach and started as an LTU adjunct faculty, and worked 23 years to become **the Dean of COBIT**. The purpose of his career as a professor primarily stems from his **intrinsic motivation of being a part of students' improving their lives**.

"The success of my journey is that while I have a lot of ideas and tried a lot of things in my life, I've always stuck with it enough and see it all the way through."

Factors Impacting Decision-Making

As humans, we are unconsciously **balancing emotional and cognitive before making decisions**; we take opportunities to reflect and continually revise our mistakes. With exploring how AI technology can be leveraged to assist in decision making. However, his concern is being overly-reliant on AI; **we need to balance that with human input by challenging and looking deeper into the information given to us**.

His advice to students nowadays who just want to get assignments done: **"How do you develop a skillset that requires reflection, reading, thinking, processing, and feeding back into the large language model?"**

Artificial Intelligence + Human Intelligence = Return on Investment

Leading Organizational Change

Engaging stakeholders and constantly taking feedback, analyzing whether the direction the team is headed is satisfactory. Institutional trust comes from **integrity, work, and personal values**. In higher education, teachers are encouraging students to shift and reframe AI's role in academic success by admitting to utilizing it but voicing their opinions alongside.

What Dr. Cole wants to bring back into human society is **vulnerability**: to say I made a mistake, I don't know, and let's work together. Often, we misjudge this characteristic as unfit for a leadership role, as if it exposes our weaknesses. However, **acknowledging it is the first step of growth, followed by a process to overcome and develop that weakness**.

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The End Goal is Happiness



Maslow's hierarchy of needs

Effective leadership starts with a solid personal foundation. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs reminds us that **people can only grow, collaborate, and lead once their basic needs—security, belonging, confidence—are met**. When students feel supported and grounded, they are better positioned to make **meaningful decisions and guide others**.

Servant leadership plays a key role in that foundation. By asking, "**What can I do as a leader to help others succeed?**" students shift the focus from authority to support. In Organizational Development and Change (ODC), this happens through dialogue—inviting others into the process to gain new perspectives and strengthen team decisions.

Leadership at LTU also requires learning agility. When students are placed in unfamiliar or high-pressure situations, **adaptability becomes essential**. Taking responsibility for decisions, learning from feedback, and adjusting your approach forward are core habits of strong, responsive leadership.

Finally, today's leaders must embrace digital dexterity. Staying aware of technological trends and understanding how tools operate gives students across all majors—from engineering to business to architecture—a competitive edge. **Leadership now involves not just people skills, but also the capacity to leverage technology to create new opportunities.**

Closing Thoughts

As we close this edition, it's important to **stay mindful of how we learn, think, and grow in an age shaped by technology and rapid change**. Be aware of confirmation bias—don't just accept the first answer AI gives you. Strong leadership and decision-making come from questioning sources, understanding origins, and forming your own reasoning.

For those beginning their financial journey, start simple: broad index funds like the S&P 500, Dow Jones, or NASDAQ, paired with a high-yield savings account, are reliable ways to build long-term stability. And don't forget to mark **February 4, when the College of Business will host an evening lecture featuring an Agent of the Federal Reserve**—a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the economic forces shaping our careers.

LTU students have a unique advantage: **our environment prepares us for professional success by building strong social, collaborative, and technological skillsets**. Employers consistently seek individuals who can communicate clearly, shake hands confidently, close deals, and work effectively with others.

Use your time here to **build genuine, authentic relationships—real connections that will matter long after graduation**. Whether in classrooms, clubs, or campus events, take every opportunity to practice your interpersonal skills and grow your network. **Strong leadership starts with strong foundations, and LTU provides you with both.**



Inspiring the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

By: Alix Schickele

Starting in Spring 2025, Lawrence Technological University's College of Business and Information Technology (CoBIT) **introduced a dynamic new course: Introduction to Entrepreneurship**. This 3-credit class blends **hands-on learning, guest speakers, and real-world experiences** to help students turn ideas into action.

Each class session ends with a **guest talk by an LTU alumnus who has started an enterprise**, proving that developing grit and creativity can matter more than a perfect GPA. In the first part of the semester, students tackle the fundamental questions every entrepreneur faces: **Where do I start? How do I identify a real problem worth solving?** They learn to conduct customer research, estimate market opportunities, and discover underserved markets ready for innovation.

From Ideas to startups

One of the most exciting aspects of the course is direct access to **LTU's Centrepolis Accelerator**, a business incubator located right on campus. Centrepolis **helps students transform their projects into real startups at no cost, offering workspace, prototyping labs, and mentorship**. The accelerator specializes in supporting "hard tech" companies, those developing physical products and manufacturing solutions.

Led by an entrepreneurship enthusiast

Among the program's key supporters is **John Sammut**, an LTU alumnus who graduated in 1988 with dual degrees in electrical engineering and business. After beginning his career at Ford, Sammut **built and led multiple successful companies, earning Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards for Southeast Michigan in 2004 and 2022**. He also holds an MBA from INSEAD (European Institute of International Business) in France.

Entrepreneur Of The Year® Michigan and Northwest Ohio

Honoring the ambitious entrepreneurs who are shaping the future.

A little note about Entrepreneur of the Year

Entrepreneur of the Year was founded in 1986 and honors different types of business leaders for their ingenuity, courage, and entrepreneurial spirit. It gives merit to innovation, risk-taking, and outstanding performances. The **regional winner then competes for national recognition**, and the national winner represents the US at the World Entrepreneur Of The Year competition.

John Sammut **plans to support LTU in the development of an entrepreneurial management program and center**. This area of study might even become a minor very soon. His advice to students?

"You don't have to be 'Elon Musk.' The students who thrive in entrepreneurship, and most entrepreneurs, aren't gifted. They learned there is no such thing as failure; you just learn. And keep growing."

On-Campus Opportunities

By: Sonya Tran



Marburger STEM Student Ambassador

Become a Student Ambassador to represent LTU, lead, and support STEAM outreach activities for K-12 students through engaging and hands-on learning experiences!

- \$20/hr
- On campus
- Part-time
- Work-Study eligible
- Apply by March 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM on Handshake

Visit <https://ltu.joinhandshake.com/jobs/10492151> for the full job description!

Resident Assistant

Turn your dorm into a community by **applying to become an RA today!**

- \$1-2,400/yr
- On campus
- Part-time (4 hours/week)
- Work-Study eligible
- Apply by February 2, 2026, at 11:59 PM on Handshake

Visit <https://ltu.joinhandshake.com/jobs/10495814> for the full job description!

AI Trainer

Contribute to AI research initiatives in collaboration with top AI labs as an AI trainer!

- \$17-50/hr
- Remote, based in the United States
- Flexible hours
- US work authorization required
- Apply by February 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM on Handshake

Visit <https://ltu.joinhandshake.com/jobs/10437434> for the full job description!



Paid Study Participation

Take part in fun and interesting **research studies** run by the Psychology Department, and even get paid for your participation!

Scan the QR code below, sign up using this link (<https://forms.gle/APt4nY5BSis76CJZ6>), or email Morgan Hess at mhess@ltu.edu for more information!



Before We Go!

As we wrap up Issue #3 of The Blue Times, we want to take a moment to appreciate the **powerful stories and insights shared throughout this edition**. From **Dean Matthew Cole's reflections** on human-centered decision-making and AI literacy to our deep dive into leadership grounded in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, this issue reminded us that growth at LTU is as much about mindset as it is about skillsets.

We also highlighted the **exciting academic and entrepreneurial pathways shaping the future on campus**. From the new **Introduction to Entrepreneurship** course and the support of **Centrepolis Accelerator**, to the achievements of LTU alumni driving innovation in Michigan and beyond. Opportunities across campus, from becoming a **STEM Ambassador or Resident Assistant** to contributing to **AI research**, show just how many doors are open for students ready to take the next step.

As winter break approaches, remember the important reminders we've outlined: **housing deadlines, international travel requirements, and available academic support services**. But more importantly, take a moment to acknowledge your progress this semester. Whether you found clarity in your major, built new connections, or simply learned something that changed your perspective, every step is part of the momentum carrying you into 2026.

The Blue Times is, and always will be, a space **created for LTU students, by LTU students**. If you have a project, experience, or story that deserves to be shared, **we'd love to feature your voice in our next issue**. Until then, **stay warm, stay curious**, and enjoy a restful winter break. We'll see you in the new year with more stories that celebrate the drive, resilience, and creativity of our Blue Devil community.

-The Blue Times Editorial Team

Thank you for reading!

THE BLUE TIMES STUDENT
NEWSLETTER

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