

The Blue Times Student Newsletter

Lawrence Technological University®

Winter at LTU: Closing the Year With Purpose

Spring at Lawrence Technological University is not a restart; **it is a continuation with greater intensity.** Winter break provides a pause, but **January brings renewed structure and sharper focus.** Syllabi are no longer introductions: they are roadmaps. This semester is about applying what you've learned and moving forward with purpose.

Projects move quickly from planning to execution. Labs shift from theory to testing. Group collaborations deepen as teams refine how they work together. Expectations rise, and so does accountability. **At LTU, progress is deliberate: it is designed.**

For **seniors, this semester marks a transition.** Portfolios are finalized, interviews are scheduled, and capstones become defining work.

Underclassmen begin connecting foundational coursework to long-term goals, seeing how each class contributes to a larger professional trajectory. The pieces start aligning.

Spring will bring **demanding deadlines, long nights, and complex problems.** But it will also **bring growth.** Growth happens in **revision,** in **recalculating,** in **pushing through uncertainty with discipline.** This is a campus built on resilience and forward movement.

As Spring 2026 unfolds, **let's define it by execution.** Build intentionally. **Stay focused. Finish strong.**

-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:



Last Call Career Fair

The **2026 Last Call Career Fair** will take place on **Tuesday, March 24 from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM in the Buell Management Atrium.** Employers from a variety of industries will be recruiting students for summer start positions. Alumni are also welcome to attend.

Important Details:

- Open **exclusively to LTU students and alumni**
- **Bring your student ID** (alumni may provide student ID number)
- **Bring multiple copies of your résumé**
- **Dress in business attire**
- **Many employers are hiring for summer start roles**

This is one of the final major recruiting events of the semester—come prepared and take advantage of the opportunity.



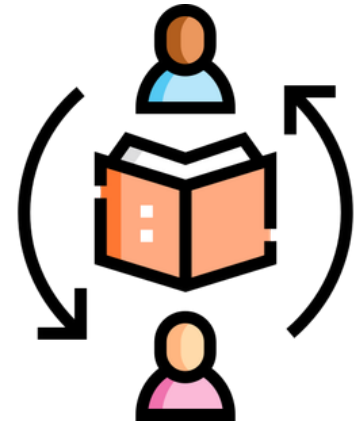
LTU Athletics Website

Stay up to date with everything happening in LTU Athletics by visiting the official athletics website. From **game schedules and scores to athlete highlights and team announcements**, the site is your go-to source for the latest Blue Devils news.

What you can find online:

- **Upcoming game schedules and results**
- **Player spotlights and team updates**
- **Event information and special announcements**
- **Season standings and athletic achievements**

Whether you are supporting a specific team or following all Blue Devils sports, checking the athletics website regularly ensures you never miss an update.



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

Building Safer Systems: How LTU Research Transforms Construction Safety

By: Tanawan Vetchayanivat

Interview with Dr. Ahmed Al-Bayati, Associate Professor, STEM



Establishing the Construction Safety Research Center (CSRC) and Advancing Industry-Focused Projects

The **Construction Safety Research Center (CSRC)** was established to **bridge the gap** between **academic theory** and **real-world industry practice**. Dr. Al-Bayati recognized that faculty members often lack the time to consistently engage on active job sites, which can result in research that leans more theoretical than practical. By inviting industry professionals to share the challenges they face in the field, **the Center ensures that research questions are grounded in actual workplace needs**. These findings are then validated and refined to produce practical, applicable **solutions that companies can realistically implement**.

Academic Journey and the Foundation of Research

Dr. Ahmed Al-Bayati began his academic journey in Iraq, earning his **Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering** before moving to the United States in 2010. During a challenging period for the global economy, he chose to continue his education by pursuing a **Master's degree**. It was there that he discovered a deeper interest in research, which eventually led him to **complete his Ph.D. and begin his academic career in 2017**. Since then, his work has focused on connecting academic research with real-world industry challenges.

"It allows me to bring new knowledge and answer new questions," he explains. For Dr. Al-Bayati, research is rooted in scientific methodology: observation, experimentation, and validation. By synthesizing information and testing ideas, research creates a structured path toward reliable and practical solutions. He emphasizes that **strong research not only expands knowledge but also provides tools that professionals can apply directly in their fields**.

Key Research Findings and Practical Safety Solutions

One major issue the Center examined was Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) non-compliance. Their research revealed that **the primary reason workers failed to wear PPE**, even when it was readily available, **was inadequate supervision**. This finding **shifted the focus** from **equipment availability** to **leadership and oversight on job sites**.

Another ongoing area of development involves **student-led research** on **Prevention through Design (PtD)**. This approach emphasizes **eliminating hazards at the design stage** rather than managing risks later. For example, relocating HVAC systems from rooftops to ground level can significantly reduce the risk of maintenance-related falls in the future.

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Teaching Philosophy and Classroom Engagement

Dr. Al-Bayati keeps students engaged by **focusing on practical application**. He equips them with **tools and frameworks they can use immediately in the workplace**, ensuring that what they learn extends beyond the classroom.

He compares his teaching structure to constructing a building: **each topic builds upon the previous one**. Students must understand the foundation of one lecture before moving forward, allowing them to see how all concepts connect by the end of the semester. Rather than presenting engineering as a set of rigid rules, **he emphasizes that there is not always one correct answer**. Instead, he encourages students to develop their own engineering judgment and think critically when solving problems.

Specialist or Generalist: Finding the Right Balance in Professional Growth

“Specialization is always power for you. But first, after education, you will be a generalist,”

Dr. Al-Bayati explains. He describes **professional growth** as consisting of **three main streams of knowledge: education, experience, and specialization**. Education provides a foundational understanding, while experience, whether or not someone has formal schooling, teaches how work is actually done. The third level is deeper specialization, where professionals pursue certifications and advanced study to strengthen their expertise.

He reminds students that **while they are building their educational foundation, they are still missing two critical components: hands-on experience and professional development**. For this reason, he encourages students to gain real-world exposure in their field whenever possible.



Life advice and Personal Growth

Dr. Al-Bayati emphasizes that **students should not strive for perfection at the cost of progress**. He reminds them that **no one can ever reach 100% perfection**, and spending excessive time trying to do so may result in missed opportunities. Instead, he encourages students to **accept their imperfections, do their best, and continue moving forward**.

He also stresses the **importance of open-mindedness**. Rather than relying on a single source of information, he advises students to **listen to multiple perspectives and recognize potential biases**. By gathering different viewpoints, individuals can **form their own informed conclusions**. Finally, he highlights the **value of time**, calling it **our greatest wealth**. Students should be intentional in how they use it, understanding that **frequently switching majors or abandoning a path too soon can sometimes do more harm than good**.



From “Les Diabes Bleus” to Blue: The Story Behind Lawrence Tech’s Mascot

By: Alix Schickele

The Origin of the Blue Devils Name

The name “Blue Devils” was selected in **1935 through a campus-wide competition organized by the student newspaper**. Despite what the name may suggest, it carries **no religious meaning**. Instead, it **honors the brave French World War I** infantry unit known as the **Chasseurs Alpins**, who were **nicknamed “les Diabes bleus,” or “the Blue Devils.”** By choosing this name, **Lawrence Tech aligned itself with a legacy of courage, resilience, and determination**, qualities that continue to define the university community today.

The Spirit Behind the Mascot

The French **“Blue Devils,”** formally known as the Chasseurs Alpins, were **admired for their courage and discipline** during World War I. Recognizable in their **blue uniforms**, capes, and berets, they became **symbols of resilience and strength**. When they toured the United States to raise funds for the war effort, they further solidified their reputation as determined and inspiring figures.

Lawrence Tech chose this name to **represent that same spirit of perseverance and tenacity**. The Blue Devil stands as a **symbol of strength, unity, and the determination to overcome challenges**, qualities reflected in the university community today.



Avoiding Confusion: The Duke University Connection

Duke University adopted the Blue Devil as its mascot nearly a decade earlier, drawing inspiration from the same French military unit. Because both institutions share this historical reference, it is **important to distinguish LTU’s identity clearly**. For this reason, the name **“Blue Devils”** and related graphics are **always presented alongside “Lawrence Technological University” or “LTU”** to maintain brand clarity and avoid confusion.

From “Les Diabes Bleus” to Blue: The Story Behind Lawrence Tech’s Mascot

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The Athletic Pause and Brand Rebirth

From 1960 to 2010, varsity athletics at Lawrence Technological University were placed on hold. During this period, the **Blue Devil identity remained part of the university’s history**, but it was not actively represented through competitive sports. When athletics returned in 2010, the university recognized the opportunity to refresh and modernize its brand. **The revival of sports brought renewed energy to campus and sparked the development of a new visual identity that would represent a new era for LTU athletics.**

What the Blue Devil Represents Today

Today, the **Blue Devil represents more than just a mascot** on the sidelines. It **symbolizes resilience, ambition, and school pride across campus**. Rooted in a **history of courage** and strengthened by modern reinvention, **“Blue”** reflects the **determination of LTU students** who balance rigorous **academics, innovation, and athletics**.

Whether seen on **jerseys, campus banners**, or at **athletic events**, the **Blue Devil unites students, faculty, and alumni** under a **shared identity**: one built on **strength, perseverance, and forward momentum**.



On-Campus Opportunities

By: Sonya Tran



Accounts Payable Student Assistant

Apply to become an **Accounts Payable Student Assistant** at **LTU!**

- **\$14/hr**
- **On campus**
- **Part-time**
- **Apply by March 6, 2026 at 11:59 PM on Handshake at**

Visit

<https://ltu.joinhandshake.com/jobs/10712955> for the full job description!



Photography Club

Are you **interested in photography?** Join **Through the Lens**, **LTU's official photography club!**

Through the Lens is a **brand new campus club** that **welcomes all experience levels**, from beginners with phone cameras to seasoned photographers.

Become a member today by:

Filling out this Google Form at forms.gle/6CnkJtYIZELMCQ1p6



Game Lab

Now introducing the **newly-opened Game Lab (S121F)** at LTU! A dedicated **space to collaborate and play with your friends and other students.**

Featuring:

- **Multiple gaming consoles**
- **Two high-performance PCs** with curated game libraries
- A **driving simulator** using a real Segway Ninebot Gokart Pro 2
- **Open to all LTU students**, not just Game Development or Computer Science!
- **No reservations needed.** As long as the door is open, you're welcome to walk in!

Questions? Email:

jgonzale5@ltu.edu



Paid Study Participation

Want to take part in paid, fascinating psychology studies at LTU's Computation Cognition Lab?

- **Scan the QR code below,**
 - **Sign up using this link:** <https://forms.gle/APt4nY5BSis76CJZ>
- 6, or**

Email the lab manager Morgan Hess at mhess@ltu.edu for more information!



Before We Go!

As we close this edition of The Blue Times, we reflect on what **defines Lawrence Technological University: resilience, innovation, and purposeful growth.** The story of the Blue Devils, rooted in the courage of the French les Diables bleus and reimagined through the modern identity of “Blue”, **reminds us that tradition and progress are not opposites. They work together to shape who we are.**

This issue also highlighted how **that same spirit lives within our academic community.** Dr. Ahmed Al-Bayati’s journey, from Iraq to earning his Ph.D. and founding the Construction Safety Research Center, **demonstrates how research at LTU connects theory to real-world impact.** His emphasis on **observation, experimentation, validation, and collaboration** with industry reflects a commitment to practical innovation.

His **teaching philosophy reinforces that growth comes from building a strong educational foundation, gaining experience, and continuously refining expertise.**

Together, these stories show that **excellence at LTU is built on both legacy and forward thinking.** Whether in the classroom, through research initiatives, or across campus traditions, **progress is intentional and earned.** As this semester continues, let this serve as a reminder **that every lecture attended, every project completed, and every challenge overcome contributes to something larger than ourselves.** The Blue Devil identity is not only worn, it is lived through discipline, curiosity, and shared commitment. We each play a role in shaping what LTU becomes next.

-The Blue Times Editorial team

Thank you for reading!

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