

Industry Depends On LIT, Helps Its 3 Student Bodies

By JACKIE KLEIN

Lights burn until 11 at night in the classrooms of Lawrence Institute of Technology, the unusual urban college in a rural Southfield setting.

The Rouge River cuts a sylvan path across the 85-acre campus, and a crowd cries only a few yards from a humming computer.

LIT, the second largest private college in the state, is healthy and growing on the 10 Mile - Northwestern triangle, a few miles south of where the hilly lake region of Oakland County begins.

With a 1973-74 operating budget of \$3 million and an anticipated enrollment of 4,000 students, LIT rests on a solid financial base. Careful management of resources and the use of facilities on a day-and-night basis enables the college to plan for a healthy future.

Classes are in session every weekday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., and so the college operates in the black. LIT hasn't any debts other than long term financing of the \$2.5 million science building.

The college receives enthusiastic financial support of industry and alumni. Major corporations, recognizing the need for well trained personnel, make substantial contributions to LIT.

LIT ranks fifth among U.S. colleges as a supplier of management and technical personnel to two of three major auto companies. Employers give tuition assistance to more than 50 per cent of the students.

Students in day and evening classes study for degrees in five schools: engineering, architecture, arts and science, industrial management and the technical institute.

There are three distinct student bodies. The day college operates Monday through Friday. Evening classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Technical institute classes are scheduled Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The same four-year bachelor of science programs available in day college are offered in evening college. Night classes are planned over six years and are attended by students who are employed during the day.

"LIT offers an unusual variety for students," says President Wayne Buell. "We are one of the few schools with a four year program in construction engineering. The program is supported by the Builders Exchange and construction management."

LIT is one of only three architectural colleges in Michigan. The college, accredited by the North Central Assn., offers four-year bachelor of science degree programs in mechanical, electrical and construction engineering, math, chemistry, physics, and industrial management with options of accounting, marketing and distribution, fi-

nance, human resources, manufacturing, computer science and industrial studies.

Associate degree programs are available in building construction, electrical and electronic technology, industrial supervision and mechanical, chemical and computer technology. A central core of liberal arts studies in the humanities and social sciences is included in all baccalaureate programs.

Federal government manpower experts anticipate the outlook for jobs in the field of engineering is best among all career occupations, says William C. Burke, director of student services and placement at LIT.

"Many potential engineering students have been unduly influenced by the depressing news of unemployment in the aerospace industry," he says.

"The Engineering Manpower Commission forecasts an average annual demand for 48,000 new engineers and a decline of bachelor's degrees in engineering to 31,000 in all U.S. colleges by 1975."

Engineering graduates in 1972 received the highest starting salaries, says Burke, and the demand for electrical, mechanical and industrial engineers is growing rapidly.

"There are an unusually large number of engineering and architectural firms in the Detroit metropolitan area," says Buell, "and the demand is great."

Enrollment peaked to 4,566 in 1968 and 1969, says Buell, but he doesn't feel the draft had a more significant effect than oth-

er factors. About 1,000 veterans enrolled last year.

Last year, 126 women attended LIT. Buell attributes the increase in female enrollment to the Equal Opportunity Act and the need to hire women in industry.

Tuition fees have increased about \$60 a year to the current \$1,020. The average tuition for private colleges is \$2,000, says Buell.

The college provides 60 scholarships and 400-500 students are on state tuition grants. Also available are loan programs, federal basic opportunity grants, and industrial scholarships. Employers of students pay a total of \$1 million in tuition fees.

"Alumni contributions have increased 10-fold in the past five years," says Buell.

"We have alumni in responsible positions throughout the country. About 100 companies a year interview LIT seniors, and half of them have jobs before they graduate."

"The future of LIT is bright because of our location and program structure. It is unusual to have 2,000 students in a daytime program, 1,400 in the evening and 700 in the technical institute attending college at different times."

"This facilitates a high degree of space utilization and economy and enables us to reduce our tuition costs lower than any other private college. Available financial aids make it possible for students to choose LIT over public colleges."



THE MEANDERING Rouge River adds an unusual and distinctive touch to the LIT campus, increasing the peaceful mood as students stroll to class across a wooden footbridge. Last year, 126 women were enrolled at LIT.

Scholar, Executive Came From A Farm

Dr. Wayne H. Buell, president of Lawrence Institute of Technology, is beginning his 10th year as head of the college. His association with LIT dates back to 1932. Buell left the family farm in Lewis, Ind., to enroll in the first class of the newly opened college in Highland Park. He worked his way through college and was third vice president of the student council. He received his bachelor of chemical engineering degree from LIT in 1935. In 1951, he obtained his master of science degree from Wayne State University, an alumni achievement award in 1952 and an honorary doctor of engineering degree from LIT in 1958.



DR. WAYNE BUELL, Businessman, Educator

Before entering the field of industry, Buell spent six years teaching chemistry and mathematics at LIT and industrial training at Ford

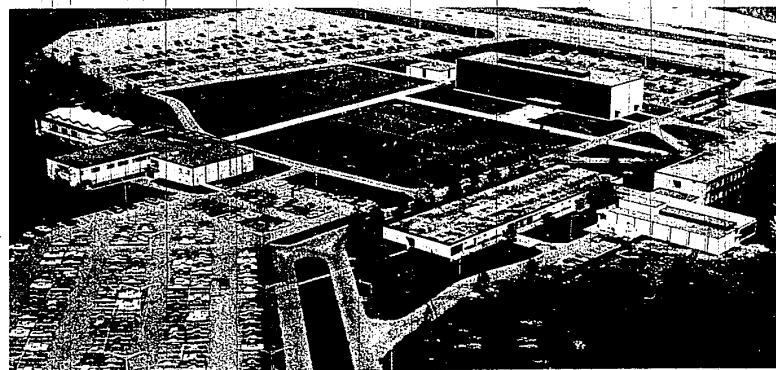
Motor Co. during World War II. A research chemist, Buell left his position as executive

vice president of Aristo International of Detroit, part of International Minerals and Chemical Corp., to assume the LIT presidency. His experience in industry spans 20 years. His developments in furan resins resulted in a breakthrough in foundry methods for production of sand cores and molds for metal castings. Dr. Buell received the award for scientific merit from the American Foundrymen's Society in 1970. He has traveled extensively in Europe and around the world as a consultant on foundries and foundry supplies. Buell recently was elected 1973-74 chairman of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan.

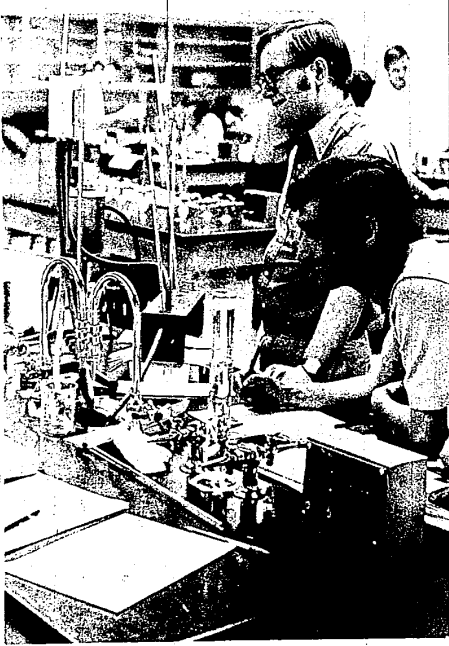
Buell and his wife, Vita, live on the LIT campus at Northwestern and 10 Mile.



ARTS AND SCIENCE is but one of the five schools in which LIT offers degree programs—combining in what President Wayne Buell calls "an unusual variety for students."



A MIRACLE IT MAY HAVE BEEN, born as it was in the throes of the Depression, but LIT today is a thriving institution with an outlook for a 5,000 enrollment. Wise financial management, including such transactions as the sale of 93 acres to the J. L. Hudson Co. for Northland Center, have helped LIT flourish.



THE LABORATORIES of LIT are helping meet what the Engineering Manpower Commission forecasts will be a demand for 48,000 new engineers annually, and LIT students find they often have jobs waiting upon graduation.

Child Of Depression

The Deal That Made LIT Rich

Southfield's Lawrence Institute of Technology, conceived on a shoe string, is alive and well in its 42nd year. Officials still call the private college a "miracle."

In 1932, in the throes of the depression, LIT started out as a non-profit institution in an old building in Highland Park, once a Ford Motor Co. apprentice school.

Prospects were slim that a private college with few resources could survive. Its founder, Russell E. Lawrence, dean of the University of Detroit engineering school, wanted to offer first-rate technical education on a study-now, pay-later basis

through a system of low-interest loans.

The school enrolled hundreds of depression-bound youngsters. Shrewd management of meager resources and huge profits from wise investments were keys to LIT's financial success.

A 93-acre plot of Greenfield and Eight Mile, purchased in 1949 for LIT's campus, was bought by the J.L. Hudson Co. for its Northland Center.

With the profits, LIT bought a farm which became its present campus and sold 81 acres of land again at a profit.

Using more of the profits from real estate dealings, LIT constructed a group of

three classroom and administration buildings in 1955 on a 68-acre tract. In the intervening years, four schools have been added—the schools of architecture, engineering, industrial management and arts and sciences.

The library complex was built in 1962. By 1965, increases in enrollment, faculty and personnel put pressures on existing facilities. In 1968, the \$2.5 million, 800-square-foot science building was opened to house the newly created school of arts and sciences.

With the exception of a \$771,000 federal grant and a \$221,000 loan for the science building, LIT perks along al-

most entirely on tuition money. Since 1955, the campus has expanded from 68 to 85 acres.

With 1970 assets of \$3.7 million, investment of unexpended operating funds netted \$1.2 million for the college.

All members of the LIT faculty teaching professional courses have had practical experience in business or industry.

Dr. Earl Pellerin, dean of the LIT school of architecture, has been with the college since it was founded and has designed all campus buildings.

Next on the agenda is a proposed \$2.5 million two-story, three-unit Student Activities Building to include a gym, lockers, shower and exercise rooms, swimming pool and activity and recreation areas.

Closely scheduled is a 400-unit dormitory, LIT's first residence hall and another three-story academic and service building which will complete the center quadrangle.

The fast growing college predicts a 5,000 enrollment, and facilities will be ready for it.