

LU Rotaract improves community

by Enoma Agbongiasede



LU Rotaract students attend Beaumont Cops and Kids Bike Rodeo.



Ryan Nunez plants saplings at Big Thicket National Preserve.

Students make things happen in the community—whether on campus or beyond. President of LU Rotaract and the Honors Student Association Ryan Nunez makes sure that the Reaud Honors College group plans service projects within the community, participating in efforts such as the Beaumont Cops and Kids Bike Rodeo, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and planting saplings at Big Thicket National Preserve in Kountze at the centennial celebration with more than 50 volunteers.

“It’s a great way to meet new people and get to meet students with a wide spectrum of interests. It really expands your outlook,” Nunez said.

Within Rotaract, past LU chapter members who are now working for local non-profits return to campus to give presentations to current members and talk with Reaud Honors College students about volunteering with them on a community project.

“It opens students’ eyes to what’s available in the community and the organization needs that they didn’t even realize. It also builds skills that they can add to a resume that can round out what they can offer an employer,” said Rebekah Maxwell, Reaud Honors College coordinator.

The hours LU Rotaract students volunteer becomes a force multiplier for any project, helping those close to home as well as people of communities further afield as part of Rotary International. For one project, students helped assemble diaper bags to send to new moms at a women’s shelter in Nicaragua. LU Rotaract is one of only two Rotaract clubs in its district to receive international recognition for community involvement.

Nunez said working with the group’s members, who have many different working styles, helped her learn about leading. “My communication has gotten a lot better. I am learning to work with students who have a wide variety of talents,” Nunez said.