

THE MAGAZINE FOR LOUISIANA COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS | FALL 2015

# COLUMNS



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## FALL, 2015

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On the Cover:  
Inauguration keynote speaker Dr. Don Wilton congratulates President Brewer on his new and challenging assignment at Louisiana College (Photo: Melinda Martinez, The TownTalk).

COLUMNS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF LOUISIANA COLLEGE

# VIEW FROM THE HILL

With the Christmas season at our doorstep, it is hard to believe that 2015 is nearing an end. What a wonderful blessed year it has been.

God brought Cathy and me to Louisiana College at an opportune time. He has equipped us, empowered us and blessed us to make confident strides forward into a season of renewal and restoration. We have sensed this in our travels to the four corners of Louisiana to meet those whose fondness for their alma mater is matched by their confident hope in the College's future. We are grateful for the acceptance and encouragement from our Louisiana College family.

As you read this issue of "Columns," you will see that God has smiled upon the Hill in Pineville in a strong way. Though there are many accolades to celebrate, there is none greater than a lost soul coming to faith in Christ, and God used an art exhibit and a Chinese Bible study to do it. A similarly important victory is a student's commitment to spend her spring semester at an orphanage in Uganda, thus practicing a "least of these" kind of ministry.

In recent months we've had several celebratory events such as a presidential inauguration, Founders Day, Homecoming and more. Each of these occasions provided opportunities to credit our Lord for what he has accomplished and is accomplishing at Louisiana College.

Under the academic banner, we are moving forward with a dual enrollment agreement with the Rapides Parish School Board; we have employed a highly qualified dean for our School of Nursing; and we have signed a memorandum of understanding with Louisiana Tech that is garnering interest from other colleges and universities as well. This plan would allow the successful student to gain two BS degrees in five years.

We can't overlook our recent Preview Day that garnered 86 prospective students, which was twice as many as the one previous. Additionally, we have re-tooled our recruitment strategies by increasing the pool of prospective students by 1,000 percent.

Regarding our recently established Board of Visitors, we are elated that so many have joined. We were hopeful to have 50 by the end of the spring 2016 semester; but as of this printing, 56 friends of Louisiana College have joined the team.

We also give God all the glory as we celebrate the more than \$5 million given in unrestricted funds to LC since April. These



funds, along with the faithful support of our Louisiana Baptist family through the Cooperative Program are helping sustain the College's operating budget while advancing campus facilities improvements.

For such support, and for the precious students entrusted to us we give thanks to God and to our all of our LC Family.

There is so much more to tell and enjoy. The Lord's blessings are fresh every day.

Thank you for what you mean to Louisiana College. Please keep praying for us. We need you, and we thank God for you.

Keep Pressing On!



Rick Brewer  
President  
Louisiana College

Dr. Brewer earned a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policies from the University of South Carolina with cognates in Management and Higher Education Administration, and a Master's in Business Administration and Bachelor's of Science in History from Charleston Southern University. He attended the Snowmass Institute for Strategic Planning and completed the Harvard University Graduate School of Education Institute for Educational Management Executive Certificate program in 2008. Dr. Brewer completed Duke University's Non-Profit Leadership Executive Certificate program in 2012.

# Inauguration Ceremony Marks 'New Era' at LC

by Leigh Guidry of "The Town Talk"

After about five months on the job, Rick Brewer formally was inaugurated as the ninth president of Louisiana College in a Sept. 18 ceremony. And it was clear from those who spoke that his consistent message already has impacted the private Baptist school in Pineville. Many used Brewer's own words in their charges to the new president.

Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields described the college leader using his various roles, such as servant, educator, strategic thinker and Christ-follower. Fields ended with Brewer's current role of president and added "and then some," referencing Brewer's May commencement speech. Brewer charged graduates to do and be more than their chosen career, but to do that "and then some," which has become a hashtag.

"Dr. Rick Brewer is more than a visionary, but a doer," Fields said. "He is exactly the kind of leader our college, Louisiana College, needs at such a time as this."

Roxie Goynes of the LC Alumni Executive Board referenced Brewer's three R's — relevant, relational and rigorous — which were displayed on stage at Guinn Auditorium.

"He immediately challenged us (alumni) to be three things, his three R's, which he has proven to be and what my degree has proven to be," said Goynes, a 1980 graduate of LC. "I have three R's for you (Brewer) — rest, relax, renew (your) body, mind and spirit."

She continued with a three-R charge for alumni and other LC stakeholders, asking them to "rejoice in the college and what

it's going to be," restore and reconnect with the college, and give their resources.

The Rev. Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church Spartanburg, S.C., charged his friend of more than 20 years with five things to meet his goal and motto of "preparing graduates and transforming lives." He told Brewer to continue to pray, teach, demonstrate by "living it out," commit to what he believes and to expect results.

Wilton's words fit the tone of others' at the ceremony, welcoming and encouraging Brewer to persevere and make a difference.

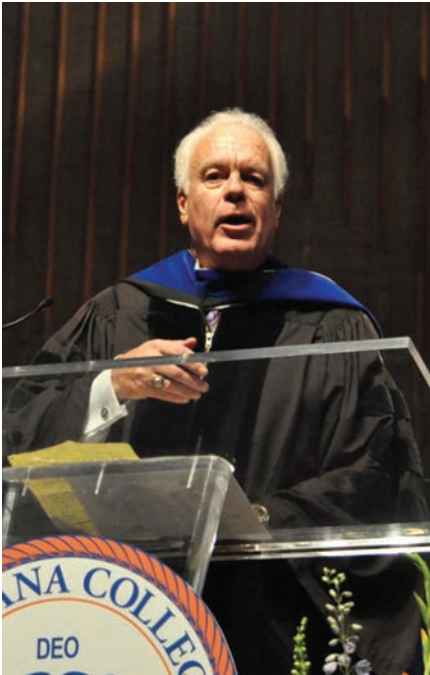
"We've seen some changes, a fresh start, a new era for Louisiana College in just the few short months he's been here," Paige Dubois, with the LC Student Government Association, said.

Brewer received a standing ovation from the crowd that comprised faculty, staff, alumni, former and current members of the LC Board of Trustees and community members. Several students participated in the program as vocalists or ushers.

Brewer said he was honored and humbled by the ceremony and the "God-sized task" of integrating faith and learning, offering a liberal arts education that meets his three R's and to keep students from settling for the status quo.

"At Louisiana College we tell students to stay hungry for the exceptional and to press on 'and then some,'" he said.





**David Hankins:**  
 “Dr. Brewer, we thank you for embracing Louisiana Baptists. You have already met them—from Shreveport to New Orleans, from Talulah to Lafayette, from our capital city of Baton Rouge to the rural parishes around central Louisiana. In fact, your non-stop, energetic schedule these past few months would impress Donald Trump. And from everything I hear from Louisiana Baptists, and I hear a lot, Louisiana

Baptists have embraced you. We are delighted that you are here. We welcome you to the Louisiana Baptist family.”



**Don Wilton:**  
 “We celebrate today with Dr. Brewer. He is a precious friend. He’s tried and tested. Many accolades have been deservedly directed to both he and Mrs. Cathy today. But I do say that to tell you that as I shared with Dr. Graham that I was going to be coming here today, and he wanted me specifically to tell you that he was praying for you. I discharge my duty today because I have been with

that dear man many, many times. What he says, he does. And what he does, he means. Are you ready to do the same at Louisiana College? Dr. Brewer, by his own profession of faith, is a Christian man. He has given his heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our goal is to prepare graduates, live

out transformed lives in the context of the giftedness that God gives to them. Then they, too, would become living examples of what it means to live out the Christ life in this rapidly changing world in which we live. Dr. Brewer, God bless you my brother. We are with you, we are praying for you. This is a Christian institution producing Christian distinctive in this world. Distinctive, not separate. And you, sir, God has surely smiled on Louisiana College by calling you to become their President.

**Dr. Brewer:**  
 “As I reminded our faculty at our faculty retreat and training just a few weeks ago, we at Louisiana College must be equally committed to the maturity of scholarship and the maturity of Christian character. Because if we fail here, we have failed. We must learn to love God with our minds, to use our artistic gifts to serve Him, to embody Him in serving our neighbors and our society. Our primary motive



for doing so must not be the transformation of culture, but our obedience to Jesus Christ. Our motivation is not to be dependent on the acceptance of our culture, Don has already reminded us of that. But in the end we care preeminently about the approval of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to love God with our minds, regardless of whether the culture comes to appreciate our efforts. At Louisiana College, we train our students to remain hungry for that which is exceptional and press on with that “And Then Some” spirit as they face head-on the difficult tomorrows. Relevant. Relational. Rigorous. This is the recipe for success as we prepare graduates and transform lives. We do this with faculty and administrators that share a deep commitment to Christ and His truth. Not as a compartmentalized portion of their lives reserved for Sunday, but as a guiding philosophy and foundation which influences every part of the educational endeavor. Such a commitment to Christ is founded on the central affirmation of the Christian faith. Jesus is Lord. Louisiana College must continue to create an atmosphere that acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and encourages us all to walk worthy of the calling to which we are called. From the classroom to the athletic arena, Louisiana College must constantly pursue excellence for the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom.

# PROFile: Al Quartemont

## Like father, like daughter:

### Journalism

by Beth Barfoot Christian

Al Quartemont left his work as full-time professional journalist to lead the Convergence Media Department at Louisiana College, and one of the students he would instruct inside the classroom would be his own eldest daughter.

Miranda Quartemont Klein will graduate in December with a B.A. in convergence journalism and has already landed a position as a community reporter for “The Town Talk” newspaper in Alexandria.

Klein said she knows she has much to live up to in this area because of her father’s professional and personal reputation.

“I think he’s the most well-known person in town,” Klein said. “It’s very rare to meet a person who doesn’t know him. Eighty percent of people, when they heard my old last name, instantly knew my dad. Now with “Klein,” they recognize Mark’s last name.”

Klein’s husband, Mark, who graduated from LC in May, also followed in his father-in-law’s footsteps, and is a full-time reporter at KALB-TV.

A former morning anchor at KALB, Quartemont spent more than 20 years working in professional news media before coming to LC in 2009 with a charge to bring the journalism program into the 21st Century.

Quartemont developed Wildcats Media, an online multimedia site to showcase students’ work in print, audio and video platforms. “We’ve developed a good brand with it,” he said. “We serve the students and the greater campus community, parents and some alumni.”

Quartemont said he believes his work in media during decades of great change have given him an advantage in the college classroom. “You can see the way the Lord led me; I was able to experience almost every facet of media. I’ve worked in all of it.”

One of the important changes he made was to establish a social media presence. Quartemont was the first news anchor at KALB-TV to use Twitter, and he used it extensively during Hurricane Gustav in 2008 to keep regular viewers informed while they were without power.

“I knew we’d build our brand for Wildcats media through social media,” he said. “Before we were print only, six times a year. Now we have a lot more impact.”

Wildcats media now has a Facebook page, Twitter account and YouTube channel with plans to expand into other social media outlets, as well.

“My goal when I came to LC was to teach and train students so that in four years, they could walk into any place of business in their field and do the job,” Quartemont said. “And it feels like we’re doing that now. By the end of their sophomore year, they can write and produce a radio and TV news story. In big state schools, they haven’t even touched a camera by then.”

Quartemont said the shape of the program is a direct reflection of his own experience in college and in different areas of media before he came to LC. After graduating from Marquette University in Milwaukee in 1987, Quartemont worked in radio covering sports. He also worked in television covering high school sports for eight years.

When he was saved in 1991, he said the Lord led him to start his own company, and he began a video production business, doing commercials and corporate videos. In 1993, Quartemont married his wife, Michele, after meeting her just six months earlier when he visited a church camp in Grant Parish.

“It wasn’t conventional by any means, but it was definitely the Lord’s doing,” he said. “That’s kind of been my story in life. I think if you wholeheartedly follow the Lord, he’ll lead you where you need to go.” And the Lord led the growing family, which then included four children, to Central Louisiana, in 2000. Today, the Quartemont children number seven, and Miranda Klein, 20, the oldest, has married, and will graduate in December.

“I’m a little surprised she chose journalism,” said Michele Quartemont, Miranda’s mother and wife of Al. “She had worked in some political campaigns in high school, but she never really expressed an interest in news.” Klein said she is a bit surprised herself because she remembers she didn’t like to write when she was in high school.

“I remember telling my granddad, ‘I’m not going to have a job where I just have to write,’” she said. “I don’t even remember why I chose journalism, but I did remember my dad talking about the news, and I’d come to his classes and see what the students were doing, including interviewing a presidential candidate, and being a part of things. “I was interested in politics, so I thought that was really cool,” she said.

Seeing her dad and his students excited about journalism appealed to her, Klein said, yet she did have to get out of her comfort zone once she had to start interviewing and reporting real stories for class assignments. After seeing a flyer about the Homecoming a couple of years ago, Klein decided she would write her first story on the women on the Homecoming Court.

“My first interview was with Hillary Husband,” Klein said. “I asked if I could talk to her, and I found out about her background and her cancer. I walked away thinking, ‘Oh my goodness, we talked about this in Dad’s class, that you never know what you’re going to find out.’ I went from doing this little story on the Homecoming Court to a story about a college student who had lived through cancer.”

The incentive to dig deeper and find those amazing and inspirational stories made Klein willing to forget about herself and her nerves.

Senior convergence journalism and theater major Emily Lansing said she has worked with Klein on several stories. “We’ve worked really well together; she’s very talented,” Lansing said. “She’s a great writer and very smart.”

Lansing said being in Quartemont’s classes with Klein has been fun. “It made me miss my dad at times because it’s really sweet and cute. They said the same thing at the same time the other day in class; it was so funny.”

Quartemont is a great teacher, she said, and always willing to stay late and help students with projects. Lansing said it is evident he truly cares for his students, and he loves seeing them grow in their field. Sometimes the other students will joke and ask if they can call him Dad, too. “You can tell she [Miranda] was kind of proud.”

Quartemont said one of the best things about teaching his daughter the last three years is that opportunity to see her develop more confidence and fully realize her potential, not just in her academic pursuits, but also as a person. “She’s a strong, confident reporter,” he said. “I get compliments about her work from so many people. She is such a talented writer. It’s going to be exciting to see where her career takes her.”

*Ed’s Note: Louisiana College congratulates Prof. Quartemont on his new position as news director at KALB-TV. He will teach adjunctively at LC in the future. Few people exemplify a higher level of commitment to their craft than Al. His interest in and compassion for students is virtually unparalleled. He is personable, he is professional, and we will miss him.*



*LC professor Al Quartemont (top left) reports on his daughter Miranda (lower left) competing in a worm race at the Rhinelander, Wisconsin library in the summer of 1999.*

# Crest Industries staff, CEO, share business principles at LC

by Norm Miller



## CREST INDUSTRIES DAY

Crest Industries Day at Louisiana College October 20 brought as much information as inspiration when Crest employees shared business precepts and principles in classrooms, and CEO Kenny Robison addressed more than 100 students on the topic of “A Capitalist’s Pursuit of Liberty.”

Alum (98) Joe Bareswill thumb-nailed Crest Industries for accounting and business students in three classes, relating the intersection of classroom theory and real world business practice: “We want to share with you how what we do every day relates to what you are learning in your classes,” he said.

In addition to the nuts-and-bolts of the corporate world, Bareswill -- controller for Crest Industries -- emphasized that the holding company “is a privately owned company with a family atmosphere for our employees to enjoy,” he said.

Noting the company has essentially doubled every five years since its inception, Bareswill said the goal is to keep that trend alive: “Students like you in this classroom are the kind of people we will need in the next five years.”

He said that finding people who “have a passion for finance and who really want to work” remains a challenge. And though a graduate may have a “4.0 GPA, I am more interested in a person’s work ethic.”

Chip Cooper -- financial, planning and analysis manager for Crest -- advised accounting students that knowing the numbers is essential, but just as essential is “knowing your business. You must know the position of your company and of others.”

“Accounting is the language of business,” Bareswill added, saying that “balance sheet training” is prevalent company wide.

Two others who addressed students in the classroom are Jennifer Wright, marketing manager for Beta Engineering; and Wendy Gintz, marketing administrator for DIS-TRAN Steel.

## LC PROFESSORS RESPOND

“Crest Industries Day allowed students to hear the challenges, solutions, and varied issues encountered in management, marketing, economics, finance, accounting, human resources, and other business areas,” said Dr. Arthur Mazhambe, LC’s Chair, Division of Business, and associate professor of business.

“We need to connect student learning outcomes to real-life work skills, hence our bringing practitioners into the classroom,” he said. “Numerous opportunities for cooperation between business and the division include internships, guest speakers, joint research, plant tours, etc.

“The visit by Crest was a very successful one, Mazhambe added. “The division is thankful for the willingness of Crest Industries to partner with Louisiana College.”

LC’s Assistant Professor of Business David Culp said that each Crest representative “hit upon key items that students need to know for their future careers in ways that impressed them. It was as if the LC faculty had given the speakers clues on what to say. But we did not. It was positive for our students to hear from successful business professionals, who reinforce our classrooms learning.”

“We had a vigorous discussion over lunch about current and future ideas for Louisiana College’s business programs,” Culp said. “Kenny Robison was excited to hear about how we teach, and of our proposed academic plans. We are looking forward to partnering with Crest Industries for new educational opportunities.”

Assistant Professor of Business Adena LeJune said, “Crest representatives’ lectures reinforced what we have been covering in the class. It was good for students to hear about the importance of understanding financial statements from someone other than the professor. The real-world perspective Crest brought to campus was refreshing.”



## LIBERTY AND BUSINESS

Addressing more than 100 students, CEO Robison said his intention “is to be happy, and to live within my values.” He said the impact of that “will improve my life, but it also will improve the lives of our people, our customers and our community.”

Speaking about “A Capitalist’s Pursuit of Liberty,” Robison shared three main points: “freedom from coercion, freedom to think and act, and freedom of association.”

One way Crest applies freedom from coercion is “we give our business leaders radical autonomy,” Robison said. But with that comes accountability in the form of measuring financial results and customer satisfaction, and determining if that business is living within its bounds.

“We leverage the freedom to think and act to create an environment of learning innovation principles,” he said. This allows employees to be themselves, to be informal and to be “messy,” Robison said. “This is very empowering,” he added, saying that permission to be messy is not the same as “sloppy.”

The freedom to be informal includes a core value of questioning everything. “In our culture it’s permissible to question anybody’s facts. Anyone can come to me and question the facts. And we don’t take the attitude of, ‘Who are you to question my authority?’”

Robison said such an environment allows anyone to “question the status quo.”

Regarding the freedom of association, Robison paraphrased Alexis de Tocqueville, who in one breath was decrying young America’s deficit of aristocracy, and in another lauding the concept of associations, like cattle ranchers and homeowners. De Tocqueville concluded, however, that America is “going to be alright,” Robison said.

Crest employs the associational concept for purposes of internal cross-pollination, thus diminishing the silo effect that can cripple a business.

Underscoring the cost that comes with any legitimate liberties, Robison quoted Thomas Paine: “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”

## THANK YOU FROM DR. BREWER

In a thank you letter to Robison, LC’s President Rick Brewer said that Robison struck both an educational and historical chord with remarks about Alexis de Tocqueville and Thomas Payne. “One employee told me: ‘Mr. Robison did not light a fire under us; he lit one within us,’” Brewer said.

Another staff member noted the “remarkable similarity of the vocabulary and conceptualizations that Robison has for business and that I have for higher education. I cannot express how gratified I am that this serendipity reinforced the ground-work we are trying to lay at Louisiana College,” Brewer said.

Brewer told Robison that he would welcome a meeting wherein Crest Industries and Louisiana College leaders could share ideations of how the two entities “may collaborate for the betterment of both institutions, and, more important, the betterment of our culture.”

# DUAL ENROLLMENT GIVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AN EDGE

by Leigh Guidry, “The Town Talk”

Rapides Parish high school students now have another option for dual enrollment courses in nearby Louisiana College. The Rapides Parish School Board approved an agreement with LC on Tuesday.

The district has similar agreements with other local universities and will add LC to its list beginning this fall. Qualified juniors and seniors can enroll with LC for up to six hours of college courses per semester. Limited enrollment for sophomores may be available, but will require the high school principal’s recommendation.

Dual enrollment will be available to home-schooled students whose curricula meet Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements.

“I think every opportunity that we have to facilitate these dual enrollment opportunities increases the chances of students’ success in college and prepares them for the rigor of college,” Rapides schools Superintendent Nason “Tony” Authement said. LC will charge \$100 per class offered through dual enrollment. College President Rick Brewer said he is excited to see LC become part of the district’s equation to enhance educational quality and content for local residents.

“The academic and economic benefits of our agreement are remarkable,” Brewer said in a release. “Those benefiting the most from this include students who take advantage of dual enrollment, as well as their families. Not only will high school students be exposed to the rigors and relevance of world class instruction, the high school junior who successfully completes six hours of dual enrollment classes per semester could, upon approval, enter college with 24 credit hours.”

That is six hours from college sophomore status. It represents a financial savings of more than 90 percent on the freshman year, Brewer said.

“Essentially, the cost for completing the first year of college through dual enrollment is about \$800 instead of multiple thousands,” he said.

Those who do not exhaust all eight semesters of TOPS eligibility while pursuing an undergraduate degree may apply the remaining TOPS eligibility toward a graduate degree, said David Barnard, LC’s director of financial aid.

“Therefore, taking dual enrollment classes in high school may actually be advantageous to the qualified students’ financial aid packages even in graduate school if they remain TOPS eligible,” Barnard said in a release.



LC president Dr. Rick Brewer is joined by Rapides Parish School Board president Keith Breazeale (right), who is an LC alum, and by RPSB superintendent Dr. Nason “Tony” Authement -- all of whom signed the Dual Enrollment agreement between LC and RPSB. (Photo, Norm Miller)



Photo, Norm Miller

## DR. MARILYN COOKSEY DEAN, SCHOOL OF NURSING

by Norm Miller

Louisiana College announced in a press conference on October 14 that Dr Marilyn Cooksey will lead the college's School of Nursing and Allied Health.

"The timing of Dr. Cooksey's employment at Louisiana College could not have been more significant," said Dr. Rick Brewer, LC's president. "In the few months we have known Marilyn, she has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, as well as a commendable depth of commitment to the college, the faculty and students, and to our Lord.

"With her stellar resume, grasp of collegiate education and administration, and her engaging personality seasoned with a great sense of humor, Marilyn will meet and exceed every expectation," Brewer continued. "She embodies the 'AndThen-Some' attributes that set her apart from others with the same title. I have unreserved confidence that she will elevate our School of Nursing and Allied Health to a new level of respect on our campus and in the CENLA community and beyond."

Cooksey's educational sojourn includes the following:

- BA, Biology, University of Mississippi;
- BS, Nursing, University of Southern Mississippi;
- MSN, Adult Health, University of South Alabama; and
- PhD, Education Leadership, University of Southern Mississippi.

With more than 37 years of experience, Cooksey has 24 years in nursing education, and 10 years in administration. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Louisiana Nurses Association, and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. In addition to serving as a nursing curriculum consultant, she is also actively involved in the American Nurse Association, serves as a board member of Northshore District Nurses Association and as LSBN Convention House of Delegates Member, and works with CCNE for on-site visits.

Cooksey's scholarly achievements include reviewing the textbook "Genetics and Genomics in Nursing and Healthcare," a foundational work for understanding the science of genetics and its growing role in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders; reviewing and revising Chapter 32 "Fluids and Electrolytes" in the nursing textbook "Fundamentals of Nursing: Standards and Practice"; developing over 500 NCLEX-RN style study questions; writing and reviewing NCLEX-RN style test items; and presentations at medical and nursing conferences.

Employed at Louisiana College in August 2015, Cooksey began her nursing career in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where she also was staff and charge nurse in the Emergency Department. She spent two years as an industrial nurse at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, as well.

Cooksey was a nurse educator at William Carey University for 24 years beginning as an instructor and eventually moving to professor of Nursing. She taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels, but "found teaching undergraduate nursing students more satisfying," she said.

Janice L Vincent, PhD, professor of Nursing at William Carey University, said of Cooksey: "Marilyn's expertise in the tenets of nursing science have afforded hundreds of students the advantages of having her as faculty. Her commitment to sound academic principles is unmatched. As one who has known Marilyn for many years, worked with her, and learned from her, I can attest to the living out of her Christian faith. She demonstrates goodness, grace, patience, faithfulness, humility, courage, truthfulness, and compassion – all attributes of Christ. Consequently, Marilyn has helped equip others, myself included, to face the challenges of this life and celebrate the accomplishments."

Though on the job at LC for a couple of months, Cooksey already enjoys a consistent positive reception from Nursing faculty and students.

"Dr. Cooksey is a leader who will stand by our [faculty] as things are put into place to make our program work better," said Victoria Young, assistant professor of Nursing. "I have heard good things about Dr. Cooksey from other educators ... I observe her to be professional, clear headed, and an analytical person."

Nursing students randomly queried by LCNews use words like "thoughtful," "inspiring," and "wonderful" when describing Cooksey.

“My ultimate goal for our Division of Nursing is to prepare safe, competent nurses who can improve the health and well-being of their communities, whether here in CENLA, across Louisiana, across the US, and globally as some of the international graduates may return to their own countries,” Cooksey told LCNews.

“This can be accomplished in a number of ways, but by primarily facilitating the faculty in their continued role development as expert nurse educators, whether that is by continuing education in their fields of expertise or more advanced formal education such as earning their PhDs,” Cooksey added. “This can also be facilitated by the continued growth of the present BSN and ABSN programs, as well as to develop graduate nursing curriculum tracks.”

When asked if she would describe Nursing as “God’s work,” Cooksey responded: “By definition, a talent is a gift that is not shared by many. Singing is a gift, playing the piano well is a gift, and nursing, if done right, is a gift that can only come from God. It is a vocation in which we are privileged to render care to people as they not only enter and leave this world, but in all the stages

in between. We are in a unique position to spend time with patients at the most joyous and desolate of times, and to care for them in those times. A vocation that allows us to share such joy and comfort such sorrow is indeed a visible extension of God’s work.”

While away from LC, Cooksey enjoys spending time with her husband, Alex, and two children, Niki and Will, as well as her son-in-law, David. Her hobbies include reading, playing video games, and spending time with friends. She also crochets for the prayer shawl ministry at her church.

Cooksey succeeds Dr. Kimberly Sharp, who left LC to assume Dean of Nursing responsibilities at Mississippi College.

## WHAT COULD 2 DEGREES IN 5 YEARS DO FOR YOU?

by Leigh Guidry of “The Town Talk”

Louisiana College students could earn two bachelor’s degrees in five years through a partnership with Louisiana Tech University.

Leaders of the two schools signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday on LC’s campus in Pineville. This program enables students to complete a degree in mathematics or business at Louisiana College in three years followed by an engineering degree in two years at Tech.

“The good news is this will give students in Louisiana more options,” LC President Rick Brewer said.

While five years is longer than the traditional four-year path, Brewer said two degrees will make students more marketable and open more doors for a career or graduate school.

Brewer and Louisiana Tech President Les Guice talked about being “firm believers in collaboration” and that it is something Louisiana needs now.

“This state needs to be producing many more college graduates who can go on and elevate Louisiana,” Guice said. “It’s on us as leaders of higher education to make that happen.”

Guice added that this could help meet a boom in business and industry in North Louisiana.

“Thousands of STEM jobs are available right now,” Guice said. “This can help facilitate that and provide internship opportunities.”

Brewer and other LC officials visited the Ruston school over the summer, meeting with faculty leaders across multiple disciplines, Brewer said. They contacted the school through an LC Board of Trustee member with ties to Tech.

“I was very surprised someone so new in his position was reaching out across the state, but he is trying to bring more resources to help this great institution,” Louisiana Tech President Les Guice said. “Our two institutions are alike in a lot of ways. They both have a family spirit, and the positive culture supports student learning. I think this is a great match.”

This partnership could be the first of several for LC. Brewer also is looking into agreements with schools a little closer to Pineville like Louisiana State University of Alexandria, Northwestern State University and Central Louisiana Technical Community College.

“It’s unlimited with the possibilities out there,” he said. The agreement with Louisiana College also is a “special situation” for Tech as its first one with a private college, Guice said.



# CHURCH PLANT GROWS, BRANCHES OFF

by Beth Barfoot Christian

With his faith rooted firmly in the Word of God, Louisiana College trustee Kirk Jones trusted the Lord in 2001 that he and his wife, Wendy, were to plant a church. Fourteen years later, Fellowship Church in Prairieville includes a second campus and 750 regular attendees.

Jones graduated from Louisiana College in 1997 with a social studies education degree, and his transformation to church planter didn't happen overnight. "We were active in church and active in our faith in a very personal way; Christianity was modeled by my in our home," said Jones, who grew up in Ruston and attended Cook Baptist Church.

His parents, Richard and Sue Jones, also preached education. Everyone in the family had attended Louisiana Tech.

But a detour onto Military Highway one April afternoon literally changed the course of Jones' life.

Best friend Chuck Hamm had graduated high school the year before and was attending LC, so Jones decided to visit his friend. "People on campus were so friendly, and they helped me find him," Jones said. After hanging out for a couple of hours, he decided to consider LC for college; and in the fall of 1993, he enrolled.

Jones played on the first LC soccer team and made several lifelong friends on the team, including LC associate professor of theatre Tabitha Bryant Huffman. "Kirk's character has always been one of integrity and gentleness, except when he mowed me down on the soccer field, girl or not!" Huffman said.

Though he said several professors influenced his life, Jones had two momentous experiences at LC: he met his future wife, Wendy Daniel, and he found his life's calling.

"Part of my journey at LC was I got into ministry my freshman year," he said. "I don't know if I was ready or willing at that point, but I struggled on a personal level." By his junior year, Jones said, he had left the ministry and had become disillusioned with the church and with himself. God used the BCM director Mike Young and Professor Carlton Winbery to nurture him in faith and his spiritual calling.

Jones began pastoring his first church, Big Bend Baptist in Hamburg, while still a senior at LC. He graduated in the spring of 1997 and began Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He and Wendy were married in January 1998.



Photo supplied by Kirk Jones

During a course in church growth and evangelism, Jones said, he "was surprised by how woefully un-churched and under-churched the majority of Americans are." After serving as a church-planting intern, he considered the call to be a church planter. "I was up all night wrestling with it," he said. "The next morning I told Wendy, 'I think God wants us to plant a church.'"

They trusted God to lead where they were supposed to go and were open to anywhere that might be, Jones said. After much prayer and several visits to Florida, South Dakota, and the Dallas area, they looked at Louisiana.

With some funding from the Nehemiah Project and direction from the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Jones said he settled on planting a church out of Istrouma Baptist in Baton Rouge. Fellowship Church was born in Prairieville, about 30 minutes south of Baton Rouge, and held its first service in June 2001.

"Three couples from Istrouma committed to a year to get started," Jones said, and the small group began meeting in their home. By November, the church began in a rented facility and averaged 20-30 people for the first several months of 2002. "It was a tough start in a lot of ways," Jones said. "We became parents three weeks before we launched the church."

Jones spent a lot of time going door-to-door inviting people. He also became the volunteer chaplain at the fire department and got more involved in the community. By the end of 2002, the fire department offered the church a long-term lease, and the church met there until 2007, growing to 150 members.

Fellowship Church bought land and built on LA Highway 73 at its current location. "The church has seen rapid growth since then," Jones said. It's grown so much that, the former church plant has planted a church of its own in South Ascension Parish, and together number about 750 members. Both campuses need new buildings, because "people are coming to Christ," Jones said, noting several planned baptisms and future construction plans.

Jones believes he is following his call every day and doing his part to bring real life to Christ. "The heart of the church is to help," he said. He continues to help other churches get started too, not only in Louisiana, but also in other parts of the country and internationally. He has helped start congregations in

Vancouver, Canada; the Czech Republic; eight in northern Mexico; Cleveland, Ohio; and Baton Rouge.

He also wants to make a difference outside the walls of the church, he said, and is involved with the Backpack Program that provides food for children on the weekends when they don't have access to school lunches. "We want to meet the needs in our communities," Jones said. "We must get out and be the difference in the community."

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# RUNNING BACK & ACCOUNTING MAJOR AURREN COOKSEY EXCELS AS STUDENT-ATHLETE



BY JORDAN MEISNER, SID

PHOTO: NORM MILLER

In football terminology, patience is perhaps the most often-used word used to describe a running back who enjoys an elevated level of success on the field. It is a skill that can take a running back to the next level if he possesses it, and doom him if he does not.

For Louisiana College junior running back Aurren Cooksey, patience has not only become a vital trait for him on the football field, it is something that describes his life both mentally and spiritually, as well.

“Not only has his patience helped him personally off the field, but on the field as well.” LC head coach Dennis Dunn, who is in his tenth season as LC’s head coach, said, “He’s become a tremendously patient running back as well, and that has helped get our offense to where we need it to be in order to be a championship contender in this conference.”

Cooksey, who at week four led the American Southwest Conference in rushing yards with 610 yards on 102 carries, remains the unquestioned leader of the Wildcats’ ground game in 2015, but the journey to get to that point has come with several road blocks along the way.

The North Desoto High School graduate, who did not record a varsity carry as a freshman in 2013 while sitting behind LC record-setting running back Ryan Montague, entered his sophomore season in 2014 as LC’s clear-cut starter at running back.

His coaches’ decision to give him that title was rewarded in a big way in the Cats’ 2014 season debut against Huntingdon, where Cooksey carried the ball 16 times for 100 yards in a thrilling 49-42 win over the Hawks.

As the season went on, however, Cooksey saw his carries limited due to the emergence of star freshman running back Devin Sylve, who accounted for 441 rushing yards in a historic three-game stretch late in the season in wins over ETBU, Howard Payne, and Sul Ross State on his way to winning ASC Freshman of the Year honors. Cooksey, in that same stretch, carried the ball just 17 times for 52 yards.

Cooksey admits that his heart was not always in the right place, which affected his attitude. “My dad has always told me that the difference between one All-American and another is hard work and attitude.” Cooksey said, “I thought I was the best, and carried myself like I was the best when I came in, but I was kind of cocky at the same time.

“I felt like I deserved the opportunity to be our starter at running back, instead of thinking about how I should have earned it. I feel like God knocked me down a step and kept me humble,” Cooksey added.

But Cooksey would not let his past affect his future, as he went into the offseason with a renewed sense of confidence, humility, and patience. At the conclusion of fall camp, the punishing 200 pound running back had reclaimed his starting position and opened his 2015 campaign with a rock solid 10 carry, 85 yard rushing day in the season opener on the road against Huntingdon.

Cooksey has not turned back from that point, as he set a new ca-

reer-high for rushing yards two weeks later against Texas Lutheran with 150 yards on 17 carries.

“Cooksey is the epitome of reaping what you sow,” said LC senior receiver Jake and Unity Council member Jake Dunbar, who this season once led the team with 24 catches through five games.

“He could have just laid down and accepted his role as a backup, but he had a starter’s mindset, a championship mindset, all summer long and that has led him to being our best offensive weapon all season long to this point,” Dunbar said.

After back-to-back 97 yard rushing performances against ETBU and Sul Ross State, Cooksey appeared to be playing at another level against Belhaven in the Wildcats’ matchup against the Blazers on Oct. 10, something that running backs with great patience seem to always do when their team needs them the most.

Cooksey torched the Blazers’ defense on the afternoon, setting new career-highs in both carries (32) and rushing yards (181) to go along with a late 21 yard touchdown in the fourth quarter that all but put the game out of reach for Belhaven and clinched a second straight conference win for the Wildcats after a tough 0-3 start to the season.

“We call it being a ‘true professional,’” said LC running backs coach, former Dallas Cowboy, and Super Bowl winning player Chris Boniol, who is in his first year as a coach with the Wildcats after serving on the Oakland Raiders coaching staff in 2014.

“He studies, he’s very disciplined, he does extra meetings, watches extra film, and has become a student of the game who wants to be as prepared as he can be each and every practice and each and every game,” Boniol said.

The junior’s 181 rushing yards were the most ever for an LC player in their series history against Belhaven and his 32 carries were the most for any LC back since Montague carried the ball 35 times against the Blazers in 2012.

“Aurren has just gone to work to be the best running back he can be,” Dunn said. “He came from a completely different system in high school, so he had to make adjustments in our system. He has put this team on his shoulders and said ‘Let me carry this team’ and we’re a better offense and a better team because of that.”

It was a triumphant breakthrough for the Wildcats, who seem to model themselves in the same way that Cooksey has over the last two years: with a relentless, never give in spirit to fight in the face of adversity, both on an individual and team level.

“Touted as a good student by Head Football Coach Dennis Dunn, Aurren represents the kind of ‘AndThenSome’ student-athlete who is successful now and will be in the future,” said LC’s President Rick Brewer. “Aurren made a football decision and a life decision. We are proud of him for both.”

And what has been the main trait that has allowed Cooksey and his team to work through such adversity?

“Patience,” said Cooksey, “I feel like God has tried to teach me patience, and not be worried so much about myself but about others.”



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# The Christian Liberal Arts College: Tradition and Relevance

by Neil Johnston, PhD



As a professor in the Humanities Division of Louisiana College, I confess that a haunting apprehension occasionally tugs at the sleeve of my consciousness. This apprehension appears as a vague specter, questioning the relevance of the liberal arts. It subtly whispers, “Really? Is such an education really worth all the effort and expense? How does a history course on civilization advance the understanding of a student preparing to split atoms, sue a neighbor, buy a yacht, manage a business, or do open-heart surgery? What benefit comes from insisting that an economically-strapped student from Bunkie or Baton Rouge learn some foreign language or another, or learn about Poe, Milton, Charlemagne, Oppenheimer, Napoleon, Einstein, Bach, Rembrandt, Plato, Aristotle, or Augustine? Why would anyone who has Wikipedia at the touch of a finger need to have any course that teaches material unrelated to the chosen major?”

Such questions need answers, of course, and having pondered and fielded such inquiries for several decades, I offer several observations that may persuade people that retaining the liberal arts approach to higher education is crucial. One current trend leans confidently toward simplistic and self-centered attitudes. The attitude goes like this: if the subject cannot be quickly understood and the relevance readily discerned, it will be readily dismissed. Those who insist on the slow and deliberate pace through the traditional trivium and quadrivium – the foundation upon which liberal arts colleges build – find themselves out of step with the spirit of the age. Current trends in education that lean away from the traditional curriculum need examining, but that discussion must wait. Right now, it may simply help to clear up some confusion that the term “liberal arts” generates.

Some well-meaning folk think “liberal” invariably has a negative connotation. Derived from the Latin word “liber,” which means “free,” and from which we get “liberty,” the adjective “liberal” in our context of higher education means attaining freedom through the pursuit of truth: truth liberates us. Christian teaching insists that in the light of Scripture our thinking is transformed, for it reveals the mind of Christ. It renews believers’ minds and helps us see the world with corrected vision, as it were; truth rightly understood and applied enables us to grasp the reflected truth of God’s attributes and the nature of his diverse works. A properly taught liberal arts education liberates us from the bondage of ignorance and willful distortion of or indifference to truth. In essence, it corrects our perceptions affected by the fall of, as Milton puts it, “our grand parents.” In the hope that this explanation of the term “liberal” proves helpful, what should we make of the noun it modifies: “arts”?

Those who create art draw upon experiences in creation, and using their imagination and the materials of their respective disciplines, represent, interpret, and re-create aspects of the world and their understanding of it. To do so, they must think and reflect on the nature of the experience, event, or object being represented. When they do so, they reflect the image of God, for they imitate his creativity. It does not, however, suffice to apply this idea to only those known formally as artists. In fact, informally speaking, one who builds a house or a business model based on Christian principles, a scientist who invents a new way of exploring and analyzing biological relationships, a chemist who develops a new drug to combat cancer, the writer who paints with words, and the musician who plays with consummate skill and passion – all who make and do things worthy and useful are artists glorifying God through their work. The “art” manifests the effort of artists to represent and re-present aspects of creation. Armed with this definition of liberal arts, we can then move to consider in greater detail the relevance of a Christian liberal arts education.

While credit belongs to the ancient Greco-Roman models of rhetorical schools that trained young men to think, speak, and act in various civic roles – lawyers, civil servants, and teachers, for example – the added dimension that Christians bring to the tradition sinks deep roots into the desire to glorify God and serve others through a pursuit and application of truth. To do so requires competent teaching, training, and mentoring. God, as the creator of the universe and humanity, has forged an enduring relationship between the creature made in his likeness and the creation. Being human, then, is not only to understand the creator but also to understand the creation. And since humanity and its history – its ways and days – are part of creation, we must strive to understand our world in a biblical context. The effects of the fall, however, impede both our ability to understand the unity and diversity of God’s world and also our desire to know God, ourselves, and our relationship to his world. The problem lies not in what we study but how our natural vision perceives what we see. To put it differently,



to the natural mind, the diverse pieces of the puzzle do not fit well. All this wonderful diversity in the world creates brow wrinkles for those who ponder meaning and purpose and how to see order and unity in the midst of this vast universe. Without the appropriately tuned mind and heart, the perceived phenomena will not be properly understood.

It is at this precise point that the theologian John Murray keenly observed that mental or intellectual laziness plagues the human condition. Institutions like Louisiana College seek to challenge this particular kind of sloth. In the light of God's glory, the aim is to train students to think more deeply, to reason more carefully, to analyze more comprehensively, to explore more widely, and to enjoy more thoroughly the gifts that God has showered upon humans. Moreover, the Christian faith contributes a vital kind of energy to continue to love truth and knowledge, not as ends in themselves, or worse, to attain praise, but as a means of loving God more wisely, passionately, consistently, and biblically. Faith, hope, and love are sustained by the grace of God, and these virtues help overcome the slothful habits of apathy and enjoyment of ease.

To illustrate what fruit faith, hope, and love can produce, simply consider a few tangible benefits of the science of optics: telescopes, microscopes, binoculars, eyeglasses, fiber optics, and cameras. These items are just a few applications of this particular science. Yet these inventions, derived from the study of optics in cooperation with other disciplines, would not be possible without a sustained effort of inquiry, a desire to know how the eye works, and enough perseverance to learn how glass can enable our eyes to see clearly things both miniscule and remote. Mental laziness, indifference to the pursuit of knowledge, and a preoccupation with personal pleasure would surely have prevented discoveries of these sorts.

Examples like this could fill libraries, but it is not necessary to belabor the point. Instead, consider how the teaching the multiple perspectives of historians, mathematicians, scien-

tists, artists, and musicians enrich life. Authors and poets, too, from different eras, cultures, and convictions take us on journeys far from our own cozy shores. Additionally, the study of a foreign language helps create new connections in the brain and enlarges our appreciation for not only the mother tongue and its structure but also how innate language is to the human experience. The sheer variety of the perspectives requires thinking on numerous levels. Such volume and variety stretch the mind beyond the confines of its own comfortable perceptions and experiences. Students must think beyond themselves and wrestle with the implications these different disciplines entail. Figuratively speaking, the Christian liberal arts approach nourishes the mind and heart with meats and drinks from many tables and many chefs, and it then evaluates the flavors, textures, and aromas of the many menu offerings, comparing, contrasting and evaluating them. The table richly spread provides vast, refreshing alternatives to modernity's ubiquitous fast-food offerings. To extend the metaphor further, a student may even discover that by trying various meats, one kind of meat appeals more than another. This preference may, in fact, reveal the major or minor best suited to that student's particular gifts and vocation.

Being God's image bearers means that we have a great responsibility to grow in wisdom and knowledge, pursuing truth that has both light and power to transform us and our world. An education that neglects this dimension of learning will, at best, permit a two-dimensional approach to life. The CEO whose only concern is profit for the shareholders and his own pocket and who fails to take into account the worth and value of loyal employees will lose them. Charts and tissue samples and blood work and pills are useful tools when dealing with a cancer patient, but the doctor who fails to recognize the humanity of the patient will not know how the suffering soul responds to a humane approach and solicitous manner. The liberal arts equip students to appreciate more fully the astounding unity and diversity of this world in which we live: such an education teaches us what it means to be human, striving to reveal and to reflect the creativity, generosity, and goodness of God.



"I'm deeply committed to my field of discipline, but it would bring little joy if I could not engage students on an individual basis -- the one-on-one time very often starts and sustains students in a deeper learning process," said Dr. Johnston, who is depicted with dual-enrollment student Gabriella Francois. (photo, Norm Miller)

# Homecoming 2015



Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. "Not Rick Brewer" is really Prof Jerry Pounds.





(Left to Right) Kathy Overturf, Billy Allgood, Becky Brown.



# Distinguished Alumni Honored During Homecoming

by Beth Barfoot Christian

Nominees considered for the distinguished alumnus award must be a graduate of LC; a person of good character, who is respected and honored by peers and associates; one who has made significant contributions in his or her profession or vocation, and to the church and community; and one who is loyal to Louisiana College.



Dr. Gretchen Loewer Hanson, Class of 1981 (left); Becky Brown, Class of 1976 (center); Donald M. Hill, Class of 1964 (right)

The Louisiana College Distinguished Alumni for 2015-2016 took divergent career paths after leaving LC, but one thing they clearly share is a dedication to making a difference for Christ in the lives of the people around them.

Becky Brown, Class of 1976; Dr. Gretchen Loewer Hanson, Class of 1981; and Donald M. Hill, Class of 1964; were introduced to the LC community by Alumni Director Kathy Hegwood Overturf during Chapel Service, Oct. 1, and honored in a ceremony prior to Homecoming festivities, Oct. 2.

Brown, who graduated in 1976 with degrees in history, English, and "pinball," played point guard for the first women's basketball team and was mascot for the men's basketball team.

Brown said she felt honored to be named a Distinguished Alumna, "I feel like I've been in the Olympics, but I didn't know I was going to get a medal," but joked that she wanted her pinball wizardry while at LC added to her citation.

Louisiana College definitely made a difference in her life, she said, as her parents met at LC in 1950.

"My mom went a lot of places to 'study' with my daddy. Yeah, right," Brown mused during her recognition speech. She said she had been walking around campus earlier, telling the young men who were walking with their girlfriends to be careful.

"I tell them, 'go on and kiss her, but in 20 years you're going to be bringing your kids here.'"

Brown's mother died her freshman year at LC, but the friends and family she had formed provided her love and support during that most difficult time. Her senior year, she said, she had no money to attend and finish her degree. Heavy-hearted, she went to the business office to withdraw and was handed a bill stamped 'paid in full.'

"A lawyer had heard about my situation," she said. "And he paid my tuition." Brown said she got a note that said Jesus paid man's debt in full and that her job was to go from LC and tell people.

"I was called to ministry here," she said. "LC prepared and equipped me to answer my calling."

She was crowned Homecoming queen her senior year and received a kiss on the cheek from her favorite coach, the legendary Billy Allgood, which she said remains one of her most memorable moments.

She joked to the 2015-16 Homecoming maids, "Now to the Homecoming queen, you know what you have to live up to."

Interestingly, Emily Lansing, who was named Homecoming Queen during the Homecoming football game, has known Brown most of her life and thinks of her as a second mom.

For 14 years, Brown has spent summers teaching and leading worship for the Judson Baptist Retreat in St. Francisville, which Lansing began attending at age 8.

"Ms. Beck loves the Lord with everything she is and pours all of that into the lives of the campers," Lansing said. From armadillo hunting to worshipping God, Brown's leadership and counsel benefited all campers of all ages and staffers.

Brown said it was rewarding to return to LC and see some of

her former camp “kids” following her path at LC, and equally exciting that Lansing was also named Homecoming queen. Brown brought her 1976 Homecoming sash and passed it on to Lansing.

Brown holds a master’s degree from Northwestern State University in student personnel services and a master’s in Christian education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She spent 20 years on staff at the seminary before going into full-time evangelism, founding Little Brown Light Ministries, in 2000.

Brown, a staff evangelist at First Baptist Church in Richland, also works with the Baptist Global Response of the International Mission Board. She has travelled to many places in the Bible in preparation to teach and write about the events. Brown has authored one book and has written numerous Bible studies and devotions for Open Windows, eTHOUGHTS online, and Sunday School lesson commentaries for the Mississippi Baptist Record. Brown has also written 13 Bible studies that are taught in women’s retreats and conferences.

Distinguished Alumna Gretchen Loewer Hanson lives in Bryan, Texas, with her husband Steven, and their children, Aubrey and Ethan. She has spent her professional life in education. After graduating *summa cum laude* from LC with a degree in biology, she earned a pre-doctoral fellowship at the Harry S. Moss Heart Center at the University of Texas, Dallas. She earned a Ph.D. in physiology from Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, where she was awarded the National Institutes of Health Training Grant for her graduate work.

She taught science at the collegiate level at Victor Valley Community College in California and McNeese State University in Lake Charles, before returning to her alma mater as a professor.

Since 2002, Hanson has been working full-time in homeschool education. She is the administrator responsible for curriculum choices in math, science, language arts, social studies and music for grades 1-12.

She has also published articles in the American Journal of Physiology and Circulation Research, and is active in her church and community and missions.

“I feel a little bit like a turtle on a fence post; I didn’t get here on my own, and I feel a little out of place,” Hanson told the Chapel audience upon being recognized with the honor.

Hanson said she attended LC following a family tradition, as seven siblings preceded her. “LC taught me that the sacred and the secular needn’t be separated. Everything is sacred if you’re living for God and doing his will.”

Faculty challenged her with new ideas, and she formed lifelong friends that she said she treasures still today. “The broad liberal arts education I received was a great foundation for life.”

Don Hill echoed his fellow recipients in his humble gratitude over being named Distinguished Alumni.

“If you look at us three, you get an idea of the breadth of education that you can get at LC,” said Hill, a charter Board of Visitors member.

Hill served as student body president his senior year at LC and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor’s degree in math in 1964.

“This was the most important four-year period of my life, he said. “My intellect sharpened. My faith deepened. My leadership skills were honed, and my social life enhanced. LC provided me a launching pad for the rest of my life.”

Hill then earned a master’s degree in statistics from Florida State University. He has spent his professional career in the credit and financial industry with several companies, including IBM and Computer Sciences Corporation.

He was an executive vice president with National Bankruptcy Services. He has been in the bankruptcy recovery industry since 1992, when he became president of Creditors Bankruptcy Service.

He volunteers his time and expertise in several professional organizations, as well. He has served as president of the Credit Industry Research Council, is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, and is former vice-chairperson of the Consumer Data Information Association.

Hill also formed DMH and Associates, a company that provides consulting and marketing services to financial industry clients by helping them achieve their revenue and profitability objectives.

Along with nine others, Hill established the restaurant chains of Salt Grass Steakhouses and Lupe’s Tortilla, where he serves on the Board of Advisors.

Hill and his wife of 48 years, Terry, live in Dallas and are members of the Highland Park United Methodist Church. They have a daughter who lives in Houston.

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**Tara Terrill-Finn** (LC alum '80), Alexandria, La.  
*Entrepreneur*

**Roxie F. Goynes** (LC alum '80), Baton Rouge, La.  
*Attorney, Louisiana State Civil Service*

**Paula Halle** (LC alum '81), Pineville, La.  
*Owner, Alexandria/Pineville Travel*

**Randall Hargis**, Pineville, La.  
*Vice President, Louisiana College*

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Ephesians 3:20-21

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**Wayne Ryan** (LC alum '69), Alexandria, La.  
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*Retired*

**Carlton Vance** (LC alum '50), Pineville, La.  
*Minister (retired)*

**Wade Warren** (LC alum '88), Pineville, La.  
*Professor, Louisiana College*

**Jon M. Wilson, Jr.** (LC alum '99), Alexandria, La.  
*Podiatrist, Pelican State Foot and Ankle Health Center, LLC*

# ART EXHIBIT HELPS LEAD TWO TO CHRIST



Professor WangLing Chou, artist, Fang-Ju Shen, Matthew Stokes, and Wei Zhi Chang

In September, Louisiana College Art Professor Wangling Chou invited a Chinese artist named Fang-Ju Shen to hold an exhibit at LC. A letter from Shen to Professor Chou, who translated the account below, describes what happened.

“I am writing this testimony with a heart full of gratitude. I had a great experience holding an exhibition at Louisiana College. I know that this opportunity was not out of my human effort, but out of God’s grace because it offered me a path to embrace life again. The past five years I struggled with depression. Through medical help and especially God’s power, my cousin overcame her depression and gained an even better life by becoming a Christian. Because of her, I paid attention to Christians around me. My Christian friends are confident and peaceful even though they also struggle

with many difficulties. I wondered why they could have such a smile on their face. I admired that joy. I made an assumption that there must be a real God that lives in their lives.”  
(NOTE: While in Louisiana, Fang-Ju Shen and her husband attended a Chinese-language Bible study at the invitation of Professor Chou. At that Bible study the Shens committed their lives to Christ.)

“The exhibition at LC is the highlight of the assumption I made. My husband and I strongly felt God’s grace. Without any doubt, we accepted him as our Lord together with overwhelming joy in Louisiana. I thank God for never forsaking us; but instead, he forgave our ignorance, self-righteousness and sins that we weren’t even aware of. He is a patient father, waiting for his rebellious children to come home to be crowned with enormous love. Now we are believers. The first thing I felt was the peace for which we had been seeking and longing for years. From now on, I will give all my difficulty and glory to the Lord. We are newborn thanks to be Lord. Amen.”

Professor Chou said that the Shens now attend church and a new believers Bible study group in Taiwan.

## LC STUDENT CALLED TO UGANDA

First Person:  
Karissa Grant

For the past three years, I have studied education and social work at Louisiana College and would not trade that for the world. I have experienced more hands on training for my future than I could have ever imagined. During this time, I have been to Uganda twice and have fallen in love with the people there. After the first trip, my whole world was shifted. It was impossible for me to continue to live my life normally.

When I changed my major to social work, I began to see so clearly what God wanted me to do with my life.



He is leading me to spend my spring semester in 2016 in Uganda for my senior year social work internship. I will receive class credit because LC is a member of Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, which is affiliated with the Uganda Best Semester Program.

I believe God is calling me to the mission of using my education to spread the gospel. I feel blessed to have this opportunity to glorify God and show His love.



# 2015 INDUCTEES TO THE LOUISIANA COLLEGE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

## BEN MCLAUGHLIN FOOTBALL, 2006-2010

One of the most decorated male athletes in LC's history, Ben McLaughlin is LC's most prolific quarterback, as well as American Southwest Conference history. The 2010 ASC Male Athlete of the Year, as well as the Melberger Trophy Award winner and a finalist for the prestigious Gagliardi Trophy, McLaughlin finished his career as the ASC's all-time leader in passing yards (12,055) with 111 passing touchdowns. He was a member of the Division 3 Football All-South Region 1st team and is the current record holder of QB pass efficiency. His outstanding senior season logged an NCAA leading 3,770 yards and 42 passing touchdowns while leading the Wildcats to a 7-3 record and an ASC runner-up finish. As QB for the Wildcats, McLaughlin was also named the 2006 ASC Freshman Of The Year, the 2009 and 2010 ASC Offensive Player of the Year, the 2010 LSWA All-Louisiana Offensive Player of the Year, and a 2010 Associated Press Little All-American. He was a gold medal winner with the USA National Football Team in 2011. A standout in the classroom as well, McLaughlin was a three-time ASC Academic All-Conference selection and finished his academic career at LC with a 3.8 GPA and a Master's in Education. Ben was LC's running backs coach for 2011-12. He is in his third year at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M; second year as offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. He is the son of Jimmy and Donna McLaughlin. Ben is married to the former Meagan Tison, a 2010 LC alum.



high 19 assists against LSU and 16 assists in the game that would send the Lady Wildcats to the Final Four. She was also named a member of the prestigious LAUSSSA Slow Pitch Softball Hall of Fame following her career at LC. Debbie is retired after 25 years of teaching and coaching at every level. She coached Peabody to the 2006 Sweet 16. She took Tioga softball to the playoffs every year for 6 years, and also coached LC girls basketball as an assistant for one year. Debbie is married to LC alum David Brasher. They have two children, Lance and Kelli (a former Lady Wildcat), who both coach high school basketball.

## 1978-1979 LOUISIANA COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM



The most successful team in LC men's basketball history, the 1978-79 Wildcats remain a beloved team. Finishing with a school record 22-6 overall record, the 1978-79 Wildcats was the first LC team to play in the NAIA National Tournament held in Kansas City. The Cats had a powerful combination of team talent, cooperation, hard work and experienced leadership. The Wildcats beat several state schools during this campaign including a Homecoming win over NSU in 1979. The Wildcats were led by legendary head coach Billy Allgood and assistant coach Gene Rushing. The team was comprised of the following players: Bert Bejsovec (#32), Joey Bollinger (#11), Roland Buller (#40), Les Chappell (#54), Steve Cook (#20), Ken Daenen (#14), David Dutt (#34), Randy Foltin (#21), Hook Harmon (#22), Willie Hey (#44), Ed Pierce (#12), Paul Poe (#50), Ronnie Proctor (#42), Kenneth Simms (#10), Michael Talbert (#52), and manager Garland Forman.

## DEBBIE DIXON BRASHER WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, 1976-1980

The first female athlete to receive an athletic scholarship from Louisiana College, Debbie Dixon Brasher remains one of the most impactful female athletes in school history. A versatile and gifted player, Brasher started every game of her four-year career at point guard for the Lady Wildcats. The 1977 LC team MVP led her Lady Wildcat teams to landmark wins over Division I opponents LSU, Northwestern State, UL-Monroe, McNeese State, and UL-Lafayette among many others. After averaging a 17.7 points, 5.2 rebounds, and 5.9 assists per game as a freshman in 1977, she would lead her team to two of the most memorable seasons in 1979 and 1980. After leading her team to a 20-11 record and a SWIAAW Regional appearance in 1979, Brasher would lead LC to the 1980 AIAW Final Four and a Division II State Championship. That season Brasher averaged a career-high 7.1 assists per game, including a career-



### SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

The Louisiana College Youtube Channel has videos of Distinguished Alumni, Hall of Fame Inductees, Dr. Brewer's inauguration, Chapel services, student activities and more. Type the following link into your URL window to see and hear what's happening on the Hill in Pineville.

<http://bit.ly/1Tlqhmi>

# FROM PINEVILLE TO NASHVILLE:

## ALUM SCOTT MCDANIEL BRINGS CREATIVITY TO COUNTRY MUSIC

BY: JASON BREWER

**BIO:** Scott McDaniel heads the Sony Music Nashville creative team, overseeing artist imaging, album packaging, photography, design and video production for the label group's recording imprints: Arista, Columbia and RCA Records. He has commissioned over 400 music videos to directors among Country, Rock, Gospel and Christian formats. McDaniel previously served in artist development with EMI Christian Music Label and oversaw the creative services department at ForeFront Records, working with artists such as TobyMac, Stacie Orrico and dc Talk. He is a member of CMA, ACM and NARAS, and is a graduate of Leadership Music 2015.

*Ed's Note: "Columns" is grateful to Jason Brewer, President Brewer's son, for this interview with Scott McDaniel. Jason is the creative director, composer, guitarist, vocalist and producer of the pop music group The Explorers Club based in Nashville, Tenn.*

### **Q: HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE AT LOUISIANA COLLEGE SHAPE YOUR LIFE?**

A: I met my wife at Louisiana College. That's where it all starts. Whenever I think of my college experience, it all comes back to her. You always hear stories of how you will meet your wife at college. One day I saw her walking across campus and knew I had to meet this one girl. We dated for two years and even served as LC cheerleaders together. After a year engagement and our marriage ceremony, our first home was on campus in the small house behind the Art Department. This November we celebrate 20 years of marriage. We have four daughters and one son. He was born last year on Christmas Day.

### **Q: WHY LOUISIANA COLLEGE?**

A: I chose Louisiana College in order to be close to home. I grew up in Lafayette in the heart of Cajun Country. I didn't want to stray too far from there. At LC, I didn't feel like a Social Security number. I got to have dinner with professors when I visited the campus, like Dr. Carlton Winberry, who co-wrote the Greek reference books used all over the country at various esteemed schools. It was exciting to meet and hang with these scholars and not just learn from them, but also share a meal with them -- that really hit home.

### **Q: WHO WERE THE PROFESSORS THAT INFLUENCED YOUR PATH?**

A: Two really jump to mind: Dr. Ted Barnes, who was head of the Art Department, and Dr. Welby Bozeman of the Religion Department. I have a religious education degree with a studio art minor, so both of those cats really influenced where I have ended up today. Dr. Bozeman had a close relationship with Christ and evidenced that directly with students. Dr. Barnes pushed us to be great artists. He taught us that no one can do your art better than you. Those two men -- Dr. Ted professionally, and Dr. Bozeman, personally -- helped shape my approach to life.

### **Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE CURRENT STUDENTS ON HOW TO INTEGRATE FAITH AND THEIR PROFESSION?**

A: There is a lot of unspoken pressure in college - like a vice grip - to figure it all out and find that dream gig right out of college. As a student ministry intern at Calvary Baptist in Alexandria, then pastor John Alley noticed I was a mound of stress, and said, "Scott, every position you dream of having one day will become vacant. You will have empty chairs presented to you, and the question is: How will you be ready to sit in them?" I realized that the vice grip is not the right analogy. A more accurate one is that of a slingshot. In college you are being stretched and pulled until you can fly and soar as who you are designed to be.

***Q: WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED AT LC, DID YOU THINK YOU'D END UP WHERE YOU ARE TODAY?***

A: No. If you would have told me I would be in the middle of Country music, I would have laughed. I grew up in the heart of Cajun/Zydeco country, so I did not grow up listening to Country music. Kristy and I wanted to live in the middle US region, and an upstart TV network needed someone to do graphic art and film work. Down the line it evolved into working for a record label, which led to full-on engagement in the music industry and ultimately my job with Sony. Sony called me, and again, I laughed because the extent of my Country music collection is Johnny Cash. However, through hard work along the journey, I had made myself ready for the “empty chair” when it came; and now, working in Country music has made me appreciate the authenticity of this great musical genre.

***Q: WHAT IS YOUR MAIN ROLE WITH SONY?***

A: I serve the creative team. We have three label imprints: Sony, RCA, and Columbia. We create all of the visual elements that coincide with the sounds the artists are creating. We partner with the artist and visually create the album. In their minds, each artist pictures the tones, colors, and feel of what their art should be. I know the team has succeeded in our work when an artist comes back to us and says, “That cover, image or video is exactly the sound I created.”

***Q: WITH THE WAY THE MUSIC INDUSTRY HAS BEEN DOWNWARDLY TRENDING OVER THE LAST DECADE, WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN ON YOUR SIDE OF THE BUSINESS? HOW HAS TECHNOLOGY CHANGED WHAT YOU DO?***

A: I have seen it as a new frontier opening up. In the past we wished we could use our phone to take a photo, and now we shoot entire videos with phones. With technology, now you can pick a device and access any song at any time. Essentially, the sand box is bigger now. The money has changed, but it forces ingenuity and innovation. I love that.

***Q: WHAT BOOKS HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER?***

A: When I was at Forefront Records, the executive team suggested we read “Good To Great” by Jim Collins. That book forced me to embrace the brutal facts of life and how to live it. We used the book as the basis for writing a mission statement for our individual lives. And that triggered me to write my own for my life. I’ve never publicly shared it, as I try to live by actions not words. Essentially it is focused to create a perpetual stirring in my soul to know Christ beyond my potential. I know that I have to perpetually stir myself to know Him because everything comes from that stirring. LC laid a critical foundation for the development of that focus in my daily life.



Photo by Micah Kandros

# Award-winning LC Alumnus Makes Impression Through Art and Ethics

by Beth Barfoot Christian

Paul Brewer has been making his mark—literally—on the world for nearly 60 years since his days at Louisiana College. Alexandria native and 1956 graduate of LC, Brewer has distinguished himself in the Chicago and Midwest art scene for decades, and has been recognized with more than 100 awards for his works.

But it wasn't just his artistic skills he honed as a student at LC, he said. It was also a strong principled foundation he developed, and while he has lived far from home for decades, his Christian education has remained a cornerstone of his life. "I've tried to carry through those Christian principles in my professional life, as well," Brewer said.

Brewer admits living in the Windy City is far different from his early days in Central Louisiana. He has lived there since the late 1950s after going to visit an aunt upon the death of her husband, his uncle, and never returned. "It was a drastic change," he said. "I'm still not used to it."

Brewer began painting at the age of 10. He began taking art classes at night in fifth grade. His father, Ralph Brewer, was an artist and editor at "The Town Talk" newspaper. "I would watch my father paint at night and on weekends in his studio in the barn on our 37-acre farm," Brewer recalled.

His wife, Carole Kuhrt-Brewer, said her husband has transitioned to the bustling streets of Chicago, successfully maintaining his heritage and his faith. "His imagination, originality and sensitivity to life are his trademarks," she said. "Paul credits his French heritage as a big factor in how he feels and senses things." He has also remained active in church, serving as a deacon and elder. "Christianity dictates his personal and professional actions," Carole said.

A master of many styles, subjects and media, Brewer said his favorite piece is whatever he just finished. Much like his favorite artist, Gerhard Richter, Brewer is often inspired by his own experiences and emotions. "That's me; I do that, too," he said. "I went through one period that was influenced by loneliness. It's just how I felt at the time." Other periods in his professional life were inspired by television and Hollywood, and sports, he said.

Brewer has paintings in many private and permanent collections and has painted subjects as varied as abstracts and florals, to landscapes and portraits, including the portrait of Gene Simmons, the front man for the iconic rock band KISS. "He can handle any type of artistic assignment with originality as his primary goal," his wife said. "His paintings have evolved into very colorful and large pieces."

His numerous accolades include listings in "Who's Who in American Art," "Who's Who in the Midwest," and "Who's Who in American Art," among many others, including international acclaim. Still, Brewer said, his deep Southern roots, French Acadian heritage, and Christian upbringing and education are never far from his heart.

"I recommend Louisiana College every time it comes up in conversations," Brewer said. "It was a tremendous influence on me. It strengthened my ethical standards, which I always try to carry out in my professional life, and it made me a better Christian. Plus, the education I received was top-drawer in my opinion."



Paul Brewer as a Junior in the 1955 Louisiana College Pineknob.

## TRUSTEE JAMES FOSTER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD AT LC'S ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

by Brian Blackwell of "The Baptist Message"

James Foster has a long, very diverse résumé which includes being a graduate of Louisiana College, a public school teacher, an evangelist, a barber, a pastor, and a trustee at Louisiana College. He can now add being selected as the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award to his impressive resume.

A 1969 LC alum, Foster received the DSA during Founders Day ceremonies, Oct. 15. Accepting the award, Foster -- pastor of Utility Baptist Church, Jonesville, since 1996, said LC is a "marvelous place" and encouraged the audience to serve others.

"The word of God says you are bought with a price," Foster said. "You are no longer your own. You belong to Him. And when you belong to Him, friend, you will serve Him through serving others."

The Founders Day celebration featured music by the Voices of LC and a message by Carlisle Driggers, pastor of Lake Country Baptist Church in Eatonton, Ga. Driggers also has served in other roles, including executive director-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention for 15 years.

"Measure your steps as you move into the future," Driggers said. "... When we have a Founders Day exercise like today, it's a time to remember the past, and talk about the present and move on into the future."

LC President Rick Brewer said Founders Day is a way to remember the past of the school and why it exists today. "It's important for us annually to be reminded of our founding, reminded of our purpose, reminded of why God planted a school here in 1906 that continues today to prepare graduates, to transform lives," Brewer said.

"A place where all truth is God's truth," continued Brewer. "A place where we focus on the maturity of intellect coupled, reinforced, strengthened by the maturity of Christian character."



Photo, Angie Dobernig

## LC's "Write or Recite" competition draws 58 entrants; Jada Ford wins

by Norm Miller



Inspired by her English teacher at Avoyelles Public Charter School, senior Jada Ford of Marksville won the grand prize at Louisiana College's "Write or Recite" competition, Oct. 15.

Sponsored by LC's Division of Humanities, the contest "provided a venue for young writers to share their creative work with others who share their love of language," said Dr. Cheryl Clark, chair of the division. "Ultimately, we wanted to provide a space for these students to be publicly honored and rewarded for their efforts because we believe encouraging young writers is an important part of our role as educators."

The contest garnered submissions from public, private and home schools in the region. "We had many nicely crafted pieces, so the selection process for the finalists was difficult," Clark said. "The great participation not only speaks to the talent of Louisiana students, but it also speaks to the dedication of our high school teachers. We are really pleased with the outcome of the event and are already making plans for next year's event."

Ford, who won a \$1,000 scholarship to LC and an iPad, said she intends to enroll at LC next year. When asked why she chose LC, she said: "I came to Clarinet Day a few months ago and I really liked that. I really liked the campus. Everyone was so nice to me."

LC's Division of Humanities plans to offer the "Write or Recite" competition again, as other LC divisions consider how to customize the idea to fit their disciplines for future such contests.



Kathy Hegwood Overturf,  
Director of Alumni Services

## *From the Alumni Director*

Homecoming 2015 is in the books as one of the most successful events at Louisiana College in recent years. Success is measured in many ways, but I am going just to mention three aspects that I think are most important. First, attendance was outstanding. There were more than 500 alumni at LC during the weekend, which is incredible. Second, the atmosphere was filled with joy and happiness. It started at Homecoming Chapel on Thursday; it filled the football field at our flag football contest; it carried over into the Distinguished Alum and Hall of Fame Brunch; and it ended with the Wildcats big win over Sul Ross State. Third, the positive attitude of alumni was evident as we reminisced about our college experiences and how much LC influenced our lives. There is a renewed hope and excitement about our alma mater, which makes your alumni director happy, happy, happy.

I am not sure that I have ever experienced so much pride in my beloved LC as I did during Homecoming weekend. Becky Brown, Don Hill, Gretchen Hanson, Debbie Dixon Brasher, Ben McLaughlin and the 78-79 Wildcats were the perfect choices to be honored. I was amazed as I listened to the stories of how LC administrators, professors and staff influenced their careers and

guided them to become the men and women of integrity they are today. The stories resonate with similar themes, which cross the generational lines and give us hope for the future. We need Louisiana College to continue to raise up grads who will go enter the business community, the classroom, the hospitals, and the athletic arenas to be shining lights to others for the sake of the gospel.

Each of you can help LC in many ways. I want to personally ask you to become involved with your local alumni chapter; join the Board of Visitors, which will directly impact students' ability to attend LC; send us your students; come visit the campus to reconnect with your Alma Mater; and most important, pray for the leadership, faculty, staff and students of Louisiana College.

Thanks to all who shared Homecoming 2015 with us, and I look forward to seeing you all back with many more next year. We have already set the dates, so mark your calendar: October 27-29, 2016. Louisiana College is alive and well, and with your help she will flourish. May God bless each of you, and God bless Louisiana College.

- Kathy

**Charles Muller (55)** resides in Austin, TX where he is a retired Minister of Music. His first wife, Evelyn Sewell Muller (54) died April 2010 and he is now remarried to Doris Elaine Adams Abington (55). They are members of Kenney Avenue Christian Fellowship in Austin.

**Joseph Webster Maxwell (58)** is retired and living in Roanoke, VA. He is Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech University. He is a member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

**Addie Winfrey (58)** lives in Mechanicsville, VA.

**L.J. Hines (60)** and his wife live in Hot Springs, AR.

**Frank Bishop (61)** lives in Seminary, MS with his wife of 56 years, Martha Platt Bishop. He is retired and they are members of Seminary Baptist Church.

**James T. Horton, Jr. (63)** is living in Fort Worth, TX with his wife. He graduated from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and served as a priest in the Episcopal church for 43 years. His dad, also an LC alumnus, pastor the First Baptist Church in Monroe, LA for many years. Horton, Sr. and Dr. G Earl Guinn, former president of LC, were debate partners while in college.

**Dr. Thomas Howell (64)** and wife, Donna Walker Howell (70) live in Liberty, MO where Dr. Howell teaches at William Jewell College. He received the Carl F. Willard Award as Distinguished Teacher of 2015 at WJC. This award, which is given only once to a selected recipient, is the highest honor that a WJC faculty member can receive. He is in his tenth year at WJC and will celebrate 50 years of teaching at the college level. He spent forty years of his career at Louisiana College.

**Beverly Wiggins Varnado (64)** lives in Baton Rouge, LA.

**Gordon Fox (65)** based in Dallas, TX for the last 38 years, is retired from the field of commercial art, but still indulges in commercial acting. He's been in several TV spots for the Scooter Store, Assist Wireless, Hasbro Board Games and Premier Walk-In Baths, and even shot a "Barney's Best Manners" video (playing an English butler). He is also involved in various volunteer activities including teaching two adult ESL classes, after school tutoring in various elementary schools, working with North Dallas Shared Ministries and still sings in his choir.

**Dr. Cecil Taylor (66)** was recently named Emeritus Professor of Christian Studies by the University of Mobile, Alabama, where he served 24 years as Dean and Professor of Christian Studies. In retirement, he continues to teach online for Liberty University Seminary and on site for Wiley College, Marshall, TX. He is married to Reeda Acuff (74) and they have ten grandchildren.

**Ted Standley (69)** lives in Lafayette, LA where he serves as Chaplain for Lafayette General Medical Center.

**Martha Johnson Huffstetler (73)** lives in Bartlett, TN where is a retired teacher with the Shelby County School System.

**Glenn D. Shows (73)** has retired from the Mississippi Baptist Convention after 20 years in the Discipleship and Family Department. He is living in Madison, MS.

**J.B. Collingsworth (74)** lives in Newnan, GA where he is associate pastor of Dogwood Church.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**J. Stephen Phelps (75)** is a retired Assistant Special Agent-in-charge from Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; Owner of CID Investigative Services, LLC, which contracts investigative services to local law firms. He and wife Linda are members of First Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon, TN and they have one son, Barrett, who is a senior at Bethel University, where he plays varsity tennis.

**Sylvia Howell Balboni (76)** lives in Libby, MT.

**Kay Gilliam (77)** lives in Corsicana, TX where she is an instructor at Navarro College. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Corsicana.

**Suzi Mitchell Richey (77)** lives in Alexandria with husband, Ted. They are members of Philadelphia Baptist Church and love being "Teddy and Grams" to their five grands.

**Sandra Collins Brister (78)** lives in Pineville, LA. She is pastor of the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Leesville, LA.

**Paula Miller Gaspard (79)** lives in Lake Charles, LA where she is the Training Manager for Firestone Polymers, LLC.

**Debbie Ann Jenkins (79)** lives in Hueytown, AL.

**Cindy Dearmon Roberts (79)** lives in Alpharetta, GA where she attends Johns Creek Baptist Church.

**Keith Walker (79) and Pam Smith Walker (79)** live in Bas-trop, LA where they are members of First Baptist Church. Keith is the Office Manager/Administrator at First Baptist Church and Pam works with the Morehouse Parish School Board. They have three children.

**Candy Dufrene Friday (80)** lives in Katy, TX with her husband of 32 years, Gary. They have two daughters and two granddaughters. She is the Owner/President and Sr. Environmental Chemist for CdFriday Environmental, Inc. Candy still plays the piano in her church and has successfully completed 10 half marathons in the last five years; more to come!

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**Debbie Dixon Brasher (80) and husband David (80)** live in Pineville where Debbie is a retired teacher/coach. David is also a retired teacher and is presently supervisor of the Parks and Recreation Department for the city of Pineville. They have two children and two grandchildren. They attend the Pentecostals of Alexandria. Debbie was inducted into the Louisiana College Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2015.

**Michael Cockerham (80)** lives in Shreveport, LA. He is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Louisiana Monroe School of Pharmacy. He is a member of the First Baptist Church, Bossier City.

**Jackie Dees Domingue (80)** lives in College Station, TX with husband of 30 years, Brad and have 2 daughters. They are members of First Baptist Church, Bryan. She earned a PhD in English Literature from Texas A & M and has been an instructor of Technical Writing at Blinn College for 21 years.

**Scott Sontag (80)** lives in Paris, France and is a free-lance musician. After 15 years on staff (music and young adults) at the Emmanuel International Church, Rueil-Malmaison, France, he stepped out in the freelance world of musicians in Paris in June of 2014. He works as pianist for the ARCHANGE Gospel singers and accompany choirs at the American School of Paris. In February 2000, he helped to found the Emmanuel Gospel Choir of which he is currently President (of the legal association), pianist and assistant director. In April 2015, he led the choir on a 10 day tour of the U.S. to St. Louis, Memphis, Alexandria and Covington, Louisiana. Having many years of experience in the world of black gospel music, Scott leads workshops in France and Switzerland and co leads each year in Stuttgart, Germany, a workshop in German with LC Alum, Jennifer Permenter-Walsworth (92). In May of 2015, he took part in a parisian theatre festival, performing a 90 minute musical show for 2, created and written by him and his co-star, No Yon, a Japanese soprano and theatre director. They performed "A Divine Love Affair" 22 times in July, as part of the famous Avignon Festival "Off" at the Theatre Al Andalus.

**Pam Bennett (81)** lives in West Monroe, LA where she is a teacher, Librarian and Technology Facilitator with the Ouachita Parish School System.

**Jeanine Mobley Ford (81)** lives in Winnfield, LA with husband, Glenn (75). They have one son, Sean (09). She is the Administrative Assistant for the Louisiana Association of Principals. Her family attends First Baptist Church of Winnfield.

**Pam Pearce Haney (81)** lives in Cordova, TN where she is a teacher and Leader Effectiveness Advisor for the Shelby County School System in Memphis.

**Ruth Black Rogers (81)** lives in Bellaire, TX where she is an accountant for Houston Community College and is a member of South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

**Robert Bryan Alexander (82)** lives in Ball, LA where he is a

member of Carmel Baptist Church. He is the Business Preferred Manager at Hixson Autoplex in Alexandria. He is also president of the Cenla Coastal Conservation Association Chapter.

**Patricia Vanya Clifford (82)** lives in Jennings, LA. She is married to a wonderful man and has 3 children and 11 grandchildren. She works for Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Jennings.

**Leisha R. Gremillion (82)** lives in Long Beach, CA where she is a Senior Account Executive for TUMI.

**Keith Lowry (82)** and wife Suzanne live in Arlington, TX. Keith has been employed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas as an Adult Discipleship Specialist and State Bible Drill Director since 2008. He leads conferences and training for adult Sunday School teachers; as well as providing resources for Boomers, Senior Adults, Single Adults, and Family Ministry. In addition, he started Keith Lowry Seminars in 1996 through which he has had the opportunity to travel to all 50 states and 5 countries, delivering over 4000 seminars and/or speeches. ([www.keithlowry.com](http://www.keithlowry.com)) They have 3 children and 4 grandsons. Keith and Suzanne are members of Fielder Church in Arlington.

**David Stapp (82)** is the Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Arlington, TX. His duties include overseeing Fire Training, Medical Operations, Public Information, Office of Emergency Management and Special events for the Texas Rangers, Dallas Cowboys and the University of Texas. He and wife, Robin, have 3 college aged children and are members of the Church on Rush Creek.

**Perry Hancock (83)** lives in Monroe, LA where he is President and CEO of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries. He is a member of North Monroe Baptist Church.

**Robyn Lea (83)** lives in Vicksburg, MS where she is a State Farm Agent. She is a member of the Crawford Street United Methodist Church.

**Paula Frazier Price (84)** lives in Winnfield, LA where she is the Librarian at Winnfield Senior High School. She is a member of First Baptist Church, Winnfield.

**John Ascione (85)** lives in Westfield, NJ. He is a member of the Life Christian Church in West Orange, NJ.

**Bob Gilkeson (85)** lives in Asheville, NC where he is a Broker Associate for Re/Max Results in Asheville. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Asheville.

**Roxane Barbo West (85)** lives in Pine Prairie, LA where she is a Special Education Supervisor for Evangeline Parish Schools. She attends First Baptist Church, Pine Prairie. Three of her four children have graduated from LC...Elliott (10), Aaron (12) and Elizabeth (15).



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**Jack H. Perkins (86)** lives in Ft. Gibson, OK. He is recently retired from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and became the Executive/Clinical Director at Clay Crossing. Clay Crossing is a faith based residential facility. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Muskogee, OK.

**Bobby Powell (87)** is Minister of Music and Education at Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Morgan City.

**Pat Abney (88)** resides in Alexandria, LA where he is employed by General Electric. He attends Calvary Baptist Church.

**Leila Pitchford-English (88)** lives in Baton Rouge where she is a page designer for The Advocate. She is a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church.

**Robin Kirkley Alderman (89)** is a school bus driver for the Bossier Parish School Board and Church Secretary for Belle Park Baptist Church, where her husband Glenn pastored for 24 years. Glenn passed away on July 12, 2013. Robin and Glenn were married for 29 ½ years before his passing.

**Carolyn Ainsworth Dennis (89)** lives in Pineville, LA, where she is a member of First Baptist Church. She retired from her position as Registrar at LC in December 2014. She and husband John have been married for over 50 years. They have 3 children: Elisabeth Dennis Culp, Patrick Dennis (93) and Whitney Dennis Porter (04). They also have 4 granddaughters.

**Dorothy Carrol Mayes Long (90)** lives in Pearland, TX where she is a high school math teacher. She is a member of Second Baptist Church of Pearland.

**Paul Reed (90)** lives in Loueaville, LA where he is a teacher with the Iberia Parish School Board.

**Kelly Cowart Cobb (91)** lives in Brevard, NC where she is the Nursing Unit Supervisor for Surgical Services at Transylvania Regional Hospital. She is a member of the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church.

**Dr. Paul D. Cooper (91)** lives in Shreveport, LA where he is the Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. He is a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church.

**Robin Rutherford Smith (91)** lives in Marietta, Georgia where she is a Homeschool Mom. She is a member at First Baptist Church in Canton.

**Cecile Terrell Barnhart (92)** lives in Alexandria where she is a member of the Pentecostals of Alexandria. She is an Assistant Professor of French at Louisiana College.

**Rev. Craig Beeman (93)** is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Winnsboro, LA .

**Linda Dorman Hutson (93)** lives in Pineville, LA where she is a member of Woodland Presbyterian Church. She is the Director of Development and Community Relations for the Food Bank of Central Louisiana.

**Jeremy David Mitchell (93)** lives in Destrehan, LA. In May 2015, he started full time at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans as a Cytologist.

**Rick W. Goudeau, Jr. (94)** has served as a campus minister for the past twenty years. He is currently working on his LPCI and LCFTA. He currently resides in Allen, TX.

**Glenn Turlich (95)** lives in Spring, TX. He is the Credit Manager and Financial Business Analyst for Dexco Polymers in Houston. He is a member of Champion Forest Baptist Church.

**Mike Haman (96)** is Senior Pastor of the Healing Place in Baton Rouge, LA. He and his wife, Rachel have three children.

**Paul Hudson (96)** lives in Lafayette where he works for FedEx.

**Kerrie Tilton Warren (97)** is an assistant teacher and assistant director of First Learning Center in Sulphur, LA. She is a member at First Baptist Church, Sulphur.

**Wendy Crawford Blocker (98)** lives in Pineville, LA where she is Minister to Children and Families at Kingsville Baptist Church in Ball, LA.

**Shelley Johnson Gildwarg (98)** lives in Pineville, LA where she is a self-employed Psychotherapist. She is a member of Gateway Baptist Church.

**Jennifer Brown Haley (98)** lives in Stafford, VA where she is employed as a program analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. She has four children ages 14-25 and has been married to husband Chris for 20+ years.

**Kendall Clayton Price (98)** lives in Dallas, TX where he works for the Dallas Independent School District. He is a member of the Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

**Lowell Rockett (99)** lives in Alexandria, LA.

**Steve W. Walker (99)** and his wife Cadee Ann live in Alexandria. They are members of Calvary Baptist Church. Steve is the general manager of Specialty Hitches and RV Center and Cadee Ann is a 2nd grade teacher at Grace Christian School.

**Dr. Cathy Inman Eschete (04)** was awarded her PhD from LSU in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Special Education this past summer. Dr. Eschete is a faculty member in the Department of Education at LC.

**Karla Traylor Kirby (04)** lives in Pineville, LA where she is the Youth Programming Manager for the Rapides Parish Library in Alexandria. Karla was a cheerleader at LC for 2001-2002.

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**Brittani Durand Neely (04)** of Sterlington, LA was voted Boley Elementary-Ouachita Parish Teacher of the Year. She has a son who attends Ouachita Christian School in Monroe, LA.

**Melissa Macynski Weekley (04)** lives in Virginia Beach, VA where she is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist for the Sentara Medical Group.

**Crystal Parsons Guy (06) and her husband Mason (06)** live in Shreveport, LA. Crystal received her M.S. in Nurse Anesthesia from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. Mason is employed by the Shreveport Police Department. They are the parents of one child, Willow Macy Guy born December 30, 2014.

**James Halle (06)** and his wife Leslie have a beautiful son, Jack Gilbert Halle, born May 25, 2015. James was named the head baseball coach at Alexandria Senior High over the summer.

**Kim Hutto Holley (06)** lives in Katy, TX where she is a regional case manager for the Cantex Continuing Care Network.

**Lana Gander Rodgers (06)** lives in Cherokee Village, AR where she is a teacher with the Highland School District. She is a member of the Highland Assembly of God.

**Katie Schramm Stiles (06)** lives in Covington, LA where she is a stay at home mom homeschooling her two daughters. She is a member of Northshore Bible Church.

**Amanda LaCroix DeFreese (07)** lives in Marshall, TX.

**Trey Qualls (07)** lives in Waco, TX.

**Melanie Grubbs Beebe (09)** lives in Monroe, LA where she is a Licensed Professional Counselor and MST Supervisor at the Center for Children and Families.

**Andrew Maddox (10)** lives in Hammond with his wife Kimberly. They were married June 6th of this year. He is a manager for Gamestop in Hammond. They attend Bethlehem Baptist Church.

**Clay David Morris, Jr. (10)** and wife Natalie Fruge Morris (11) moved to Sulphur, LA last year to help plant Sulphur Community Church. He has also been appointed as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Sulphur Christian Community Coalition. David also is Assistant VP-Credit Analyst/Internal Audit Manager for First National Bank DeRidder in the Lake Charles location.

**Sarah Clanton (11)** is living in New Orleans, LA.

**Christa Ford (11)** is an Analyst for Software Development at Century Link in Monroe, LA.

**Malerie Edwards Gwin (11)** owns a maternity and fitness apparel boutique in West Monroe, LA called "If The Crown Fits, LLC". She is married to Kyle Gwin and they have a three year old, Kylie.

**Jodi Martin (11)** is living and working in New Orleans as Creative Marketing Director for Avita Pharmacy. Jodi also designed our beautiful Homecoming 2015 T-shirts!

**Amber Scallan McGee (11)** lives in West Monroe with her husband Walt McGee (10) and their son, John Tucker (Tuck) who was born September 1, 2014. Amber and Walt went on their first official date in December of 07 and were married in July, 2011. They are both teachers in the Ouachita Parish School System. Amber is a special education teacher at WMHS and Walt is a special education teacher at Ouachita Junior High, where he coaches the Jr. High Football team and is also the assistant baseball coach at Ouachita Parish High School. They attend Christ Church in West Monroe.

**Lucas Gregorio Moncada III (11)** lives in Wake Forest, NC

**Chris Waguespack (11)** lives in Norco, LA. While at LC, he played baseball in 2010-11.

**Devin Thomas Moncada (12)** lives in Wake Forest, NC.

**Noelle Gunter Peterson (12)** lives in Pineville, LA where she attends Kingsville Baptist Church. She is a business teacher with the Rapides Parish School Board.

**Christopher Bridges (13)** lives in Pineville, LA where he is a teacher with the Rapides Parish School Board. He is a member of Kingsville Baptist Church.

**Phillip David George (13)** lives in Alexandria, LA where he is the Girls Basketball and Boys Track Coach at Montgomery High School in Grant Parish. He is a member of the Longview Baptist Church. While at LC, he played basketball for 4 years and ran cross country in 2012.

**Brianna Leigh Hall (13)** former Lady Wildcat Softball player, lives in Shreveport, LA where she is a member of Baptist Tabernacle.

**Jennifer Dykes (14)** lives in Alexandria, LA, where she is Marketing Coordinator for Beta Engineering in Pineville. Her home church is Grace Baptist.

**Derek Alexander Moncada (14)** lives in Ball, LA.

**Lauren Carriere Morgan (14)** lives in Alexandria with her husband James, who she married on April 3, 2015. Lauren was a cheerleader for her four years at LC. She is an English and Spanish Teacher with the Rapides Parish School Board. She is a member of the Gathering Place in Wardville.

**Maranda Blake Stewart (14)** lives in Bossier City, LA where she is employed by the Caddo Parish School Board as an Itinerant Music Teacher. She attends the Stockwell Road Missionary Baptist Church.

**Trey Boyette (15)** is living in Shreveport, LA where he attends Broadmoor Baptist Church.



# *In Memoriam*

John Reeves Strother Class of 1933

Dr. Maurice Anderson Class of 1937

Ennis Redmond Brady Class of 1941

Earl W. Miller Class of 1946

Virginia Harris Hendricks Class of 1947

A.D. (Danny) Martin, Jr. Class of 1949

Jean Bazer Word Class of 1950

Jo Anne Pharis Class of 1950

Lorena Martin Jordan Class of 1951

Dr. William James Coleman Class of 1955

Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Crouch Class of 1955

John Glenn Meredith Class of 1955

Clifton "Monkey" Randall Class of 1959

Joel O'Neal Soileau Class of 1959

Vera Allbritton Grant Class of 1961

Jimmie Lee Grant Class of 1962

Dr. T. Floyd Davis, Jr. Class of 1966

Carolyn Brooks Garteiser Class of 1968

Larry Jeane Class of 1970

Marvin Gene Reno Class of 1974

Glenn Alderman Class of 1984

LaShoma Jeffus Clayton Class of 1991

Jay Blackmon Class of 2003

Lorraine Bordelon, mother of  
former alumni director, Luana Cunningham



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Or, send email to  
[kathy.overturf@lacollege.edu](mailto:kathy.overturf@lacollege.edu)



## DATES TO REMEMBER

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### JAN. 23

LC v. UT-Dallas home basketball game in honor of LC men's basketball coach, Gene Rushing (ret'd). Come and enjoy the "roast."

### JAN. 30

LC v. LETU home basketball game in honor of the late and former LC women's basketball coach, Janice Joseph-Richard.

### MARCH 19

Preview Day

### APRIL 1

Deadline for submission of names for Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Famers.

### APRIL 19

Cochon De Lait

### OCT. 27-29

Homecoming 2016