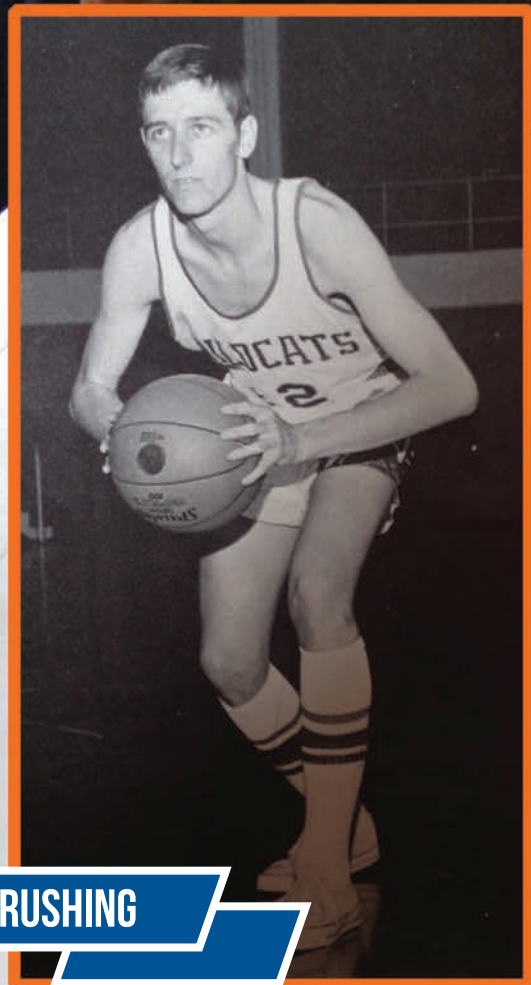
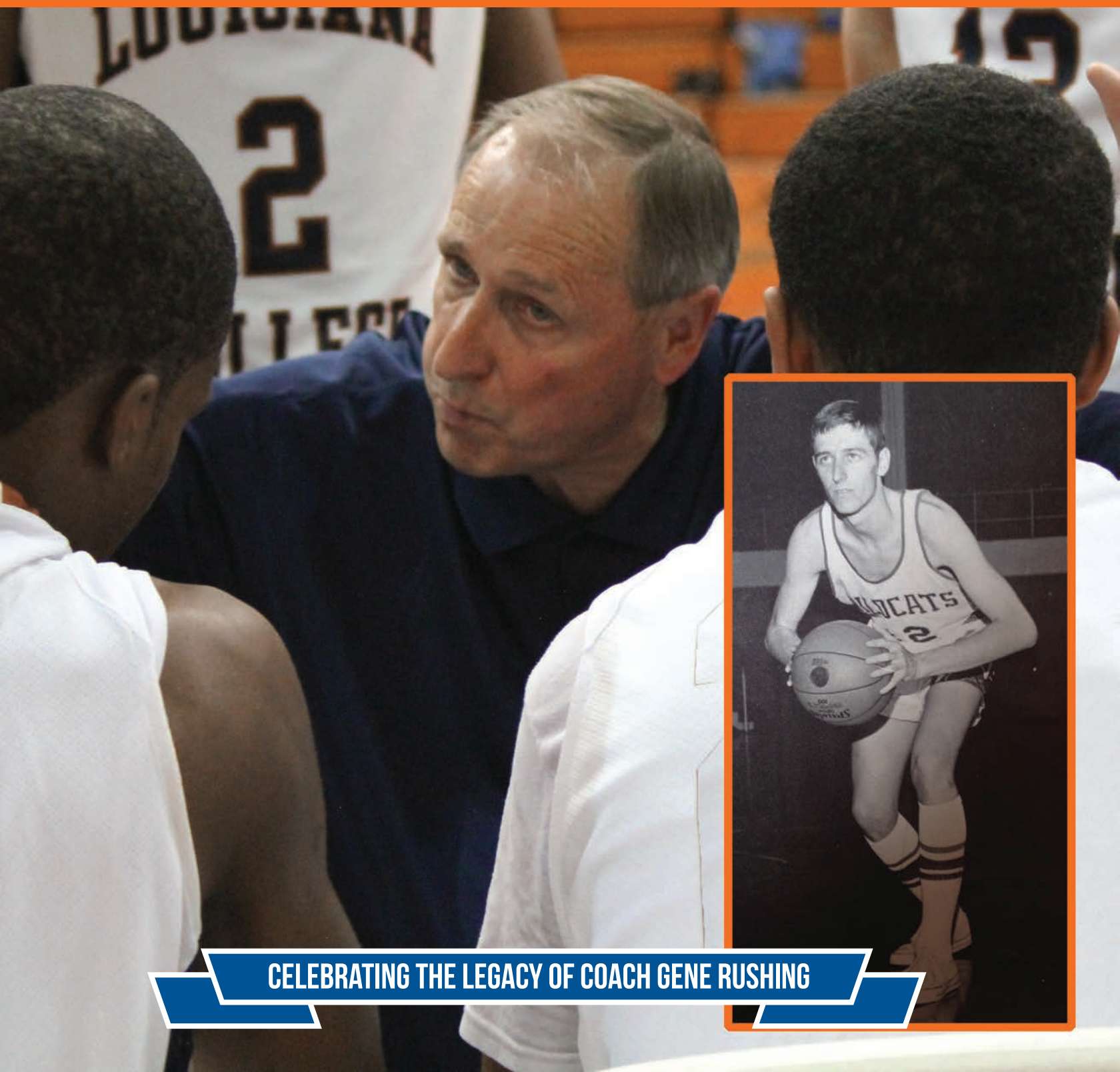


THE MAGAZINE FOR LOUISIANA COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS | SUMMER 2016

COLUMNS



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF COACH GENE RUSHING

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On the Cover:
Coach Gene Rushing played basketball for LC, and coached the sport here for 40 years.

COLUMNS IS THE OFFICIAL
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VIEW FROM THE HILL

This issue of Columns reads like a litany of God's grace lavished upon Louisiana College. We reflect on the outstanding coaching career of Gene Rushing, who brought commitment and class to our basketball program. We note his successor, Reni Mason, who credits Gene for leaving the program better than he found it. We also feature the "Human Windmill," basketball standout and All-American AJ Gaines.

We remain mission-driven and vision-focused in our steward leadership at Louisiana College as evidenced by our spring 2016 graduating class, who are prepared to transform the world as they serve God in the marketplace. We are grateful for the prayer support of our Board of Trustees, who continue to provide fiduciary, strategic and generative leadership for LC. Indeed, the support of the congregations of the Louisiana Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program continues to undergird LC's mission and vision.

Inside you will find a report of our first Board of Visitors meeting. How grateful I am for members like Don Hill, who said: "Because of the contribution Louisiana College made to me, I am able to be fairly successful financially and want to contribute back to the school. The Board of Visitors allows me to do that." Our next BOV meeting will be October 28, during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 27-29.

You will also note a new degree, a BA in Leadership with concentrations in Business, Christian Studies and Communications, as well as two new certificate programs in missions and ministry. Our leadership team developed this program from courses already in our curricula, and I believe we will see increasing numbers of people pursuing these offerings.

We have several articles on LC's alumni, each of whom seeks to make a difference in the world as the Lord and LC have prepared them to do.



Included is a report on the completion of my first year as LC's president. It, too, provides a list of the Lord's blessings upon our efforts. How grateful I am to have a senior leadership team equally committed to the mission and vision of Louisiana College.

Cathy and I remain grateful for the prayers and support of the Louisiana College family as we strive to move the College forward for the glory of God.



Rick Brewer, PhD
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.

Gene Rushing: A Living Legacy Honored

by Miranda Klein, The Town Talk



Pastor Lowell Lucas (right), who played for Gene Rushing (left) on the Wildcats basketball team (87-92), prays for Rushing at ceremony. (Photo, Melinda Martinez/The Town Talk)

When Gene Rushing retired last year as the men's basketball coach of Louisiana College, it was with more wins than any other coach in the school's history.

But ask colleagues or former player about his legacy, and his number of wins isn't what they bring up. Instead, it's the impact he had off the court.

"The legacy that he leaves is one of not just a great coach, but one of raising young men," LC Athletics Director Dennis Dunn said Saturday, designated as "Gene Rushing Day" by the school. "He coached championship teams, but he determined the ultimate success of his teams 10, 15 or even 20 years after they graduated, and he found out what kind of husbands and fathers and businessmen that they became. He truly cared about their lives."

Rushing spent two years as a basketball player at LC and later returned as assistant coach for 11 years and head coach for 29 years. On Saturday, Louisiana College paid tribute to his career during halftime and after the Wildcats' basketball games against The University of Texas at Dallas.

"I want to say to (Rushing's) former players, how lucky you guys were to have played for a gentleman like this," said Terry Butterfield, head men's basketball coach at UTD and a longtime friend of Rushing, during halftime. "How lucky

you were having rubbed up against Gene Rushing in your life time. ... Louisiana College, how lucky you were to have a gentlemen of this magnitude among you for all these years."

Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields and LC President Rick Brewer also spoke, and Coach Rushing was presented a framed jersey with the number 40 to represent his 40 years of coaching at LC.

A testament to Rushing's influence were the nearly 100 of his former players who came to honor him. Some came from Texas, others from Tennessee. Lowell Lucas drove from Daytona Beach, Florida.

"I remember as a 17-year-old kid walking through that door, and shaking his hand for the first time," said Lucas, who came to play for the Wildcats back in 1987. "... If I knew then what I know now, if I knew the impact and influence that this man would have on my life the way I do now, the decision to come to LC would have been a no-brainer."

For Lucas, the show of gratitude on Saturday was the least he and his alma mater could do. "Anything that you can do to give back to Coach Rushing pales in comparison to what he's done for us," Lucas said.

That goes for not only players, but also the school in general. Rushing also taught classes in the health and physical education department. Carolyn Spears worked with Rushing for decades as an instructor and called it an honor. "We live in the land of legends at H.O. West," Spears said. "And Coach Rushing will go down in history at LC as one of the greatest."

And Rushing's former players made clear that is not just because of his love of basketball:

"He was passionate about the game, but he cared more about impacting the players," said Mike Haman, who played under Rushing from 1992-96. "He taught us in how to live life, and things that have stayed with me each and everyday, as a pastor as a husband as a father and a friend."

"You realized after a while that he cared more about what you were gonna turn into after you leave the program than what you did while you were there," said Blaine Broussard ('05).

Rushing filled the role of a father figure for men like Don Pilcher, who grew up without a dad. Pilcher played for Rushing in the 80s and later served as his assistant coach. "You knew that man loved you and cared for you and wanted you to be successful," Pilcher said. "I would not be where I am today without the leadership of that man. There's no doubt about it."

Travis Davidson, Garland Foreman and Tracy Gunter all came to witness both Rushing's leadership and love for

people during their time as Wildcats during the 80s as well.

“He’s had some players come through here that not very many people would’ve given much chance of finishing college,” Foreman said. “And yet they finished college, and they’re very successful.”

“He loved to see the men succeed on the court,” Foreman added. “But more importantly he loved to see them succeed in life.”

“You know they say, if you want to be prosperous for 10 years then you plant grain, and if you want to be prosperous for 100 years you plant trees, but if you want to be prosperous forever you plant people,” Davidson said. “So that’s what he’s done. That’s his legacy that lives on forever.”

“He’s one of those very rare leaders that doesn’t just talk a good talk, he walks it and lives it everyday,” Gunter said. “As we get further away from college we value it more and more, because you also realize it’s not inherent in a lot of leaders.”

“Gene Rushing has class,” said President Brewer. “He showed timely wisdom by leaving our Wildcats basketball program in great shape. That is the mark of a seasoned leader, and it’s just one more way that Gene has left his mark of excellence at Louisiana College. We will miss him.”

Rushing said he tried to prepare for the event in his honor. “You try to mentally get ready for it, but once the moment arrives, and your players are here with their families, and they’re all on the floor with you, it just made today tremendously special,” Rushing said. “It’s a day that I’ll cherish the rest of my life.”

Rushing said his time at LC as a student and coach went by “in the blink of an eye.” Though he still serves as an adjunct professor, the event ceremoniously marked the end of an era in a bittersweet way.

“When you’re coaching, you always have their (players’) best interest in heart, but you’re going on the practice floor with them, and you’re drilling them and conditioning them to get better as players, individually and as a team, and so a day like this, it doesn’t enter your mind,” Rushing said. “You’re just doing the best you can to help them grow and mature in the game and grow and mature as young men, and you hope down the road that it turns out very well.”

And from the looks of the grown men today, Rushing said it did.

“What they’ve gone on to do with their careers and with their lives, that’s what makes me so extra proud,” he said.



Joined by family members at center court, Coach Rushing shared poignant thoughts and grateful expressions at the event held in his honor. (Photo, Wildcats Media)

LC Commencement momentous and memory-filled

by Norm Miller



Summa cum laude graduate Zachary Fleming could not resist taking a selfie with President Brewer. (Photo, Wildcats Media)

PINEVILLE, La. (LCNews)--Marked by expressions of trials and triumph, Louisiana College's 160th commencement service May 7 conferred 95 undergraduate and six graduate degrees.

About 1,500 attendees heard stirring testimonies from three seniors, a challenging message from keynoter Dr. Jay Strack, and a heartfelt memorial for a senior who was awarded his degree posthumously.

Three relate their college experiences

"My college experience has given me the confidence, determination and ambition to pursue a terminal degree in clinical psychology," said Jessica Johnson, a summa cum laude with a psychology major and social work minor.

Johnson completed her degree program in three years while playing softball, working in LC's library, and involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Baptist Collegiate

Ministries, and several other camps organizations.

“For nothing will be impossible with God,” Johnson said, citing Luke 1:37. “Without God’s help, there is no way I could have graduated in three years.”

Noting the commitment needed to succeed, Johnson advised listeners to “give your all in every task you are given since [Jesus Christ] gave his all for us on the cross.”

Summa cum laude graduate Zachary Fleming said that during a recruiting visit to LC, “It was clear the Lord was calling me to attend here” and “I have not regretted it.”

Fleming thanked his professors who “pushed me to reach my potential.” Through academic rigor “they would not allow me to settle for work that fell short of my absolute best; not because of how that reflected on them, but simply because they cared about me -- who I was and what I could achieve. I was not a number, I was a unique individual with a heart, a mind and a name. I was valued.”

Neither academics nor social activities impressed Fleming the most at LC. “It was the Gospel,” he said, and it was “clearly communicated.”

Fleming said LC is founded on the truth of the Gospel. “It is in that truth that every assignment and activity was rooted. And it is through that truth that lives, including mine, are changed on this campus.”

Chemistry major Hillary Husband said, “This degree I receive today means more to me than just the classes I took and the tests I passed to get here.”

Husband -- who survived cancer three times, twice while in college -- cited Romans 8:18, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

“Suffering, whether it’s a Calculus II test or Hodgkin’s lymphoma, is temporary when compared to the eternity we will spend with Christ,” she said.

Husband thanked family and friends for support, and “sweet Dr. Elliott [who] got me and my classmates through organic chemistry.”

“God brought me to Louisiana College, where he knew I would have the best faculty, the best classmates, the best peers and the best atmosphere to not only grow academically, but grow spiritually,” she said. “I couldn’t have picked a better college to go to, considering everything I didn’t even know was going to happen.”

Remembering David Marler

What could have been a more somber note in the ceremony was actually a celebration of the life of 22-year-old David

Marler, who was on pace to graduate with this classmates. However, in December 2015, Marler passed away in his sleep.

LC President Rick Brewer awarded Marler’s diploma to his family.

In an interview with LCNews, Brewer said: “When David Marler left this world, he also left a vacuum in the lives of so many of us. He was a commendable student, a compassionate friend, and one of God’s humble servants.

“We are grateful that Louisiana College was privileged to commemorate David’s life by presenting to his family the diploma that represents the degree he had sought,” Brewer said. “We also joyfully celebrate what David’s life and contribution meant to this college and to the Lord.”

LC alumnus Jim White shared how Marler influenced so many through his friends, family and church youth group. White said, “The one thing that kept coming back to me was (his) character.”

How, Now and Wow

Keynoter Dr. Jay Strack -- founder and president of Student Leadership University, Orlando, Fla. -- challenged graduates in a message titled: “The History of the Future.”

Graduates need to determine how to approach life, and to get on with the task ahead, and then take time to connect the dots so past success can build future success, he noted.

Strack said there is a reason he believes America still has a chance to be great again: “Don’t be one of those that believe America has lost its mojo and will never be great again. I believe with all my heart the Lord still has a plan for this nation, and the reason is these students and these professors. You keep us optimistic about the future.”

Throughout his speech, Strack challenged listeners to remain passionate about Christ and to follow their God-given dreams.

“Don’t be one of those who is fearful about the future,” he told the students. “You and I need to realize everyday is a gift, life is brief, and we must make it count.”

Brian Blackwell of the Baptist Message and Miranda Klein of The Town Talk contributed to this report.

COACH MASON MAKES HISTORY AT LC



Flanked by Assistant Coach Jonathan Brooks (left), Head Coach Reni Mason's intensity translates to athletic production from Wildcats on the court.

PHOTO, WILDCATS MEDIA

BY BRAD WELBORN, LC SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

“We knew coming into the season that it would be difficult because of the transition, there were a lot of high expectations because of who was coming back with the basketball team.”

That is what Coach Reni Mason thought coming into the 2015-16 basketball season as the first new head coach of the Wildcats since 1986, following the retirement of Gene Rushing.

In Mason's first year the team would do something never done by previous teams -- earn a trip to the American Southwest Conference Tournament Championship Game. The trip to that point, however, started on bumpy ground.

“When we started out 2-8, I was not shocked. If you look around the country, we have one of the most difficult D-3 schedules in the country, playing 5 Division-1 schools, playing LSU, which is arguably one of the top NAIA basketball teams in the country. I thought we would be better in January than we were in November and if you look at our record we were 2-8 before Christmas and then after Christmas we were 12-4.”

A 12-4 record after Christmas that included an impressive 7-1 mark at home in ASC play. The only loss came to defend-

ing ASC tournament champion ETBU by 6 points, where the Wildcats missed 13 free throws. During that stretch of 12 wins in 16 games, it was the defensive play that would lead the Wildcats into the ASC tournament. Especially the play of senior Anthony Gaines Jr and junior Steve Evans, both of whom were selected to the ASC All-Conference team. Louisiana College was the only team to have two players selected to the five-man defensive team.

In a season of transition and change, the Wildcats also faced challenges off the court during the tournament. Mason said of the travel challenges they faced, “I thought it would be a difficult stretch because of the travel involved, having to travel pretty much across country 13 hours. There were no hotels in Alpine (ASC Tournament Host) so that added an additional 120 miles a day, 60 to the gymnasium, 60 back to the hotel.”

The team was able to persevere and come away with an 84-76 win over Concordia University in the quarterfinal round, behind the 31 point, 14 rebound performance by Gaines, the 2016 ASC Conference Player of the Year. The win would earn the Wildcats another opportunity against ETBU in the semifinal game the next day. Once again, as had been the case down the stretch for the Wildcats, the defense shined.



Angel's winning attitude and work ethic is evidenced every day in her job in LC's Student Development office. (Photo, Janet Austin)

(continued from previous page) "Coming out in the ETBU game, I thought it was our best defensive performance of the year," Mason said, "Holding a team to 44 points and 26 percent field goal percentage."

The Wildcats' first trip to the conference championship game would come with a disappointing end, as a hot shooting Hardin-Simmons team would take down the Wildcats 91-79, even with four players getting double-digit point outputs: Anthony Gaines Jr, 19; Raheem Regis, 15; Steve Evans, 14; Kevin Lewis, 11.

"As a coach that saw a group of guys come together not only as basketball players but as people, though I was disappointed in the loss, I was very proud of our guys, how they grew up over the season," Mason said. "They persevered over the season, and I walked away thinking God was pleased, and so I'm excited about the future of Louisiana College basketball."

Looking to next year for the Wildcats, as recruiting continues over the next few months, there are several key pieces returning for LC, "I thought Raheem Regis had a breakout year, same goes for John Parker, which was forced to play our point guard role because of the injury to Kevin Cottonham, who's arguably the best point guard in the league."

Mason added, "But then you've got Steve Evans returning who I believe is the glue. I think he's one of the most underrated guys in our league, but I also think he's probably the best player in our league also. The future is bright for us."

The future is indeed bright for the Wildcats moving forward with several talented players returning from this year's squad. Mason also praised his first year assistant coach Jonathan Brooks, saying his hard work and attention to detail on scouting reports and recruiting were instrumental to the success of this year's team and the future.

Mason is just glad to be part of the program. "I believe that this is what we're supposed to be doing as a family. God has been so faithful to my family and me. This administration here has been very good to us in terms of allowing us to fit into the culture here at Louisiana College."

ANGEL GIROD

BY BRAD WELBORN, LC SPORTS
INFORMATION DIRECTOR

The game of tennis is a combination of physical, mental, technical and tactical skills.

In one-on-one against another player or two-versus-two, each of those skills is required on a game-by-game and sometimes shot-by-shot basis.

For Louisiana College sophomore Angel Girod, these skills are what have made her into one of the top players on LC's women's tennis team.

"My dad and sister played tennis in high school and that kind of got me into the game," Girod said. "I started playing in about the sixth grade, but I didn't start playing competitively until the eighth grade."

After moving to Dallas, where she attended high school and community college, the decision to come back to Louisiana and to LC offered Angel more than she expected.

"I didn't really know what to expect coming here, just because it had been a while since I'd been back to Louisiana," Girod said. "I hadn't really looked into LC until about a month before I decided to register for classes, but coming here -- I love the campus and you can't beat the Christian atmosphere that's here. That was one of the things that influenced me the most to come here."

Once registered for classes, she connected with the fabric of campus life. If not for a religion class with friend and fellow tennis team member, Ace Sylvester, Angel may not have even been a part of the Wildcat team.

Sylvester discovered Girod played tennis and urged her to play for LC.

Girod has the most wins on the women's team this year including a singles and doubles victory last week at Centenary in Shreveport. Tennis, however, is not the only thing that she enjoys about being at LC. A favorite aspect is the small class sizes.

"Coming from Dallas, where I went to a community college, you could have 100 people in one class," she related. "So that teacher-to-student relationship, and being able to go to the teacher, and they might not even know your name by the end of the semester, it felt awkward. I feel much more comfortable going to a teacher here and asking questions than I did there."

Girod's involvement in activities at LC stretch beyond the lines of Richard L. Crowell courts. They also extend to Thursday's at 11 a.m. in Guinn Auditorium at the LC's weekly chapel services, where she sings in the chapel band.

"I starting singing in middle school for my youth praise team at church. It's been a big change because the church I come from has 30 to 40 people. So singing here to that many people is kind of nerve racking, but I love to minister through singing."

With just two semesters under her belt at the end of this year, Girod is thrilled about the opportunities that she sees coming her way, "I was able to help with Preview Day this year and got excited about the chance to meet new people and be able to be an influence on them, so the prospect of doing that for more years is very exciting."

The same excitement can be said about her time left on the tennis court at LC as well, tennis coach Kenny Kitchen said, "She definitely has the potential to be one of the best to ever come through here, and I look forward to having her for another few years."

PRESIDENT BREWER COMPLETES FIRST YEAR

BY NORM MILLER



On March 5, 2015, the Louisiana College Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr. Rick Brewer as the ninth president of LC. On April 7, Brewer officially took office.

A year ago, Brewer shared his vision for the college with trustees, faculty, staff, students and local media, saying he initially would “listen, learn and lead.”

Brewer did lots of listening. He met with small groups on campus that represented LC’s various academic and administrative leaders and members.

Proving his claim to be student-centric, Brewer -- on the night of his election -- met with students for coffee and conversation in the inaugural “Brewing with Brewer” get-together. He continues to attend other student activities.

From Tennessee to Texas and across the Bayou State, Brewer has met with alumni groups, has preached, led worship, played piano concerts, and met with pastors, parents and prospective students -- all the while listening carefully to the heartbeat of the Louisiana College family.

Undaunted by the vestige of problems that hampered the college in the few years prior to his arrival, Brewer used the listening sessions for assessment, planning and developing rebuilding strategies.

“I discovered a vast group of people who love Louisiana College deeply, and who are willing to move the college forward again,” Brewer said.

And move forward it has. LC’s stakeholders have rallied around Brewer and adopted his vision for preparing

graduates and transforming lives. Since Brewer’s arrival, the college has received more than \$5 million in gifts, which is in addition to funds received through the Cooperative Program of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

“I could not be more thankful for the faithful and continual support of LBC churches, who embrace the vital role the college serves in educating students with curricula that are based on a Christian worldview and are relevant, relational and rigorous,” Brewer said.

Job number one for Brewer was answering accreditation concerns. Brewer and his administrative team accomplished that, and LC’s probation was lifted December 2015.

Brewer wasted no time in making good on his emphasis regarding faith integration: “Our goal is to ensure students gain maturity of intellect and maturity of Christian character,” he often says. “If we fail at either, we have failed at both.”

Pushing faith integration to the fore, Brewer inaugurated a summer reading project last year for faculty and incoming freshmen. Faculty read “Conceiving the Christian College” and freshmen read “Why College Matters to God.”

Brewer also developed faith integration training workshops for LC faculty, staff, and coaches, and has continued to emphasize faith integration as reflected in LC’s hiring processes and the newly instituted requirement for faculty and staff to attend chapel.

In restructuring the college’s senior leadership team, Brewer assigned enrollment management responsibilities to Dr. Brandon Bannon, who remains as vice president for student development.

One year ago, LC’s spring preview day garnered about 36 attendees. The spring 2016 preview day saw more than 100 prospective students visit the campus along with their families.

“Dr. Bannon’s energy and innovation has made Louisiana College competitive again,” Brewer said. “Brandon has helped us turn the corner and put us back on the growth trajectory.”

Last summer, LC partnered with Rapides Parish School Board in a dual enrollment agreement that allows qualified high school students to enroll at the college to simultaneously earn both high school and college credit.

Significant to LC’s academic and professional offerings is the college’s School of Nursing. Brewer hired Dr. Marilyn Cooksey to succeed the school’s previous dean.

“Dr. Cooksey demonstrates true academic excellence coupled with a biblical commitment to compassionate care,” Brewer said. “As expected, Marilyn has brought a welcome and healthy perspective to our School of Nursing.”

Launching a Board of Visitors last summer, Brewer effectively has built a coalition of alumni, professionals, business leaders, pastors and other friends of LC committed to support a scholarship fund that goes wholly and solely to qualified students. BOV members also will help identify internships and job opportunities for students. Several LC staff and faculty have joined the effort that now has 78 members.

“Without the capable assistance of Byron McGee, our Board of Visitors would not be growing at such a pace,” Brewer said. McGee, whose employment at LC spans three decades, has built hundreds of relationships. “His knowledge and expertise in friend-raising is vital in his new role as vice president of institutional advancement.”

Though students will benefit from the BOV’s scholarship fund, the “total impact of our BOV members is priceless as they pray for the college, mentor students, and serve as ambassadors for LC,” Brewer said.

The addition of Kathy Overturf as director of alumni relations “has re-energized and brought new enthusiasm to our alumni base,” Brewer said.

Brewer hired Reni Mason as head men’s basketball coach. Though Mason took the Wildcats to a conference championship game in his first year, “Reni is equally committed to the academic, athletic and spiritual development of our student-athletes,” Brewer said.

Early last fall Brewer inked a partnership agreement along with Dr. Les Guice, president of Louisiana Tech, that provides qualified students the opportunity to gain two bachelor’s degrees in five years. Students may complete a pre-Engineering degree at LC before matriculating to Louisiana Tech.

More recently, Louisiana College and University Academy -- a local, independent high school -- signed a dual enrollment agreement allowing UA students to attend classes at LC.

Brewer has led the way in improving the college’s facilities and infrastructure, including residence halls undergoing remodeling and re-roofing, roads repaired, and new greenery surrounding the College’s fountain.

“All of these efforts represent a cohesive strategy to prepare graduates and transform lives,” said Brewer, while noting his gratitude for his senior administrative staff.

“I am also grateful for LC’s Board of Trustees, who have wholeheartedly embraced the College’s mission and vision,” Brewer said.

Throughout his travels, Brewer continues to meet people who express their appreciation for his arrival at LC and for the course he has set. “I cannot count the number of personal comments, letters, phone calls, emails, cards and letters from those who endorse what we are doing at Louisiana College,” he said. “The frequency, diversity and sincerity of such approval tell me we are heading in the right direction.”

“We thank God for these accolades and accomplishments. Greater than all of these, however, are the students who have recommitted their lives to Christ or have come to faith in Christ for the first time. God is at work at Louisiana College, and I am both humbled and grateful for what he is doing.”

“Cathy and I are thankful to God for allowing us to do what we love,” Brewer added. “We know you will thank God as we thank you, the Louisiana College family, for your prayers and financial support. Rejoice with us as we celebrate what God is accomplishing at Louisiana College.”

Join the Louisiana College Board of Visitors



Be part of a scholarship fund that solely and wholly supports deserving students.
For more information, call 318.487.7118.

ALUM BRIAN GUNTER LAUNCHES PRO-LIFE EFFORTS

by Elizabeth B. Christian,
Professor of Communications Studies



Brian Gunter, senior pastor of First Baptist Pollock, has been involved in pro-life ministry since attending seminary. He has ministered to people outside abortions clinics in Texas and throughout Louisiana. (Photo, Elizabeth B. Christian)

When one looks at the great evils throughout time, nothing in human history compares to the atrocity of abortion.

“Six million Jews and six million others in Nazi Germany, the Holocaust took them out of the gene pool,” said Brian Gunter, senior pastor of First Baptist, Pollock, and 2008 graduate of Louisiana College. “We’ve killed five times that.”

American abortion is a state-sanctioned Holocaust, Gunter said.

Stalin killed 20 million. Mao Tse-tung killed 40 million. Sixty million-plus legal abortions have been performed in the

country since *Roe v. Wade*,” Gunter said. “There’s no genocide in human history where the death toll comes close.”

Always a staunch pro-life supporter, Gunter started a proactive ministry in this mission field in 2014. He approached Louisiana Right to Life about organizing a March for Life, but the organization needed more support.

This year, the Louisiana March for Life became a reality, he said, thanks to LC President Rick Brewer and the LC community getting behind it.

“It went from an idea and a dream to a reality,” Gunter said. “LC was pivotal in that.”

An estimated 2,000 people gathered to mark the life-ending 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision in January, marching from LC’s campus across the Jackson Street Bridge into Alexandria.

Sadly, though significant, that number still pales in comparison to the 3,600 lives lost daily in America to abortion, Gunter said, comparing the daily abortion tally to experiencing a loss on par with 9/11 every day.

The Louisiana March for Life is just a start, Gunter said, as he believes Christians have a continuous responsibility to stop the killing of the innocent.

“It was an incredible experience joining with the community for such an important cause,” said Wes Guidry, junior psychology major from Lake Charles, who participated in the March for Life.

Gunter said his primary pro-life focus now, thanks to the increased attention the March for Life has garnered the movement, is to work toward opening a pregnancy center in Central Louisiana with the help of local Christian doctors willing to donate time and medical ultrasound equipment.

“Brian has been committed to the pro-life movement all his life,” said Henry Robertson, associate professor of history and one of Gunter’s mentors at LC. “He is organizing and bringing together people and resources for this great cause. I cannot think of a better person to do the Lord’s work here in Central Louisiana.”

Robertson said Gunter is among the most committed Christians to ever come through his classes at LC and his deep compassion for others is one of his strongest attributes. One need spend only a few minutes with Gunter to feel his passion for his pro-life calling.

Gunter said his first experience in pro-life ministry was during his time at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He traveled to a nearby abortion clinic with a professor.

“That first day, I watched and counted 15 young women go past me, some of them visibly pregnant,” he said. “One girl, 13 or 14 years old, was with her mom or grandmother, pleading with her not to make her do it. She was literally pulling her by the arm making her go in the abortion clinic.”

Two hours later she emerged from the clinic, crying uncontrollably, Gunter remembers clearly to this day. “It changed me because I watched 15 mothers go in and kill their children that day.”

Gunter believes Christians have become complacent in the decades since the 1973 Supreme Court decision, and that must change. Christian men and women must be willing to plead with mothers contemplating abortion and share the gospel with them.

Over the years, he has witnessed to many young women and families outside clinics, and many have found Christ. He said

he doesn't know how many lives God has saved through his outreach, but he does remember the first one he is sure about.

Outside a Planned Parenthood facility in Waco, Texas, Gunter said he witnessed to a Hispanic couple, who showed up with their four children. The wife had an appointment for an abortion that morning. While Gunter shared Jesus with the husband, the wife saw her baby's ultrasound image. The man accepted Christ, and the woman came out of the clinic in tears.

“She couldn't go through with it,” Gunter said. “Nine months later, they showed back up with their four kids and baby daughter in a baby carrier and told me.”

In addition to Waco, Texas, Gunter has worked to save souls and save lives outside all five abortion clinics in Louisiana: Shreveport, Bossier City, Baton Rouge, Metairie and New Orleans.

“The gospel of Jesus Christ shines the brightest in the darkest of places,” Gunter said, “and there's no darker, more evil place than an abortion clinic.”



Multiplied hundreds of people gathered at LC and joined hundreds more in Alexandria in a show of support for the lives of unborn children (Photo, Norm Miller)

ALL-AMERICAN AJ GAINES REFLECTS ON HIS BASKETBALL CAREER

by Brad Welborn, LC Sports Information Director

For the past four years, basketball fans at H.O. West Fieldhouse on the campus of Louisiana College have seen their share of exciting games -- nail-biters that come down to the last few seconds, buzzer beaters, and blowouts. All along the way, fans have been cheering on the Wildcats and Anthony Gaines Jr.

Gaines, better known as "AJ," a native of Shreveport and graduate of C.E. Byrd High School, came to LC as a talented freshman to be a part of legendary head coach Gene Rushing's team. He leaves Louisiana College with a long list of accomplishments and as a benchmark for future Wildcat players.

First-year head coach Reni Mason has high praise for his senior forward. "AJ Gaines will probably go down in history as one of the best basketball players to play here at Louisiana College," Mason said.

The numbers Gaines has compiled over the last four seasons certainly back that up, scoring 1,609 points and hauling in 717 rebounds. He was one of only two players in the country this season to average at least 18.0 points, 9.0 rebounds, 2.0 steals, 2.0 assists, and 1.5 steals per game.

He averaged 23 points, 11.6 rebounds, and 4.3 steals per game during the Wildcats' run in the ASC Tournament, which culminated with the teams first trip to the conference title game. Gaines is also just the second player in American Southwest Conference history to record

Known as the "Human Windmill," AJ Gaines breezed by opponents at heights rarely reached by others. (Photo, Karylon Thornton)



career totals of 1,600 points, 700 rebounds, 150 assists, 150 steals, and 125 blocks.

“Someone missed the boat on AJ Gaines,” Mason said. “He is definitely a Division I basketball player, who made it to Louisiana College, what I truly believe, as divine intervention. This place has truly been blessed to have him and I think he’s been blessed to have Louisiana College also.”

As they say, the numbers do not lie, and that is also why Gaines was chosen as a member of the 2015-16 National Association of Basketball Coaches Division III All-Star Team. The honor goes along with his back-to-back ASC Conference Player of the Year Awards.

“It was a pretty big honor,” Gaines said of the NABC selection. “I’ve heard about it from a guy who played in it once before in ASC, and I heard about his experience and how much fun he had. So that was a goal of mine, to win a championship, and be selected to the all-star game my senior year. That came to pass, and I thank God for that.”

Gaines, as one of only a handful of seniors on this year’s team, was instrumental to the transition into Mason’s tenure at LC.

“He was very open and receptive to change,” Mason said. “I think he was a great presence in the locker room of initiating the change that had to take place. Early in the year when we were 2-8, it was AJ Gaines that stepped up in the locker room and kept us together. When those 5 a.m. practices were not a hit with the guys, it was AJ Gaines that supported the vision and the understanding of where we were trying to go as a group.”

It was his time at Byrd that helped Gaines become what Mason needed in the locker room. “I’ve been through this once before in high school,” Gaines said. “I had a coach for three years and got another one my senior year, so it’s like the second go around.”

He compared the two coaching styles saying, “Coach Rushing wants you to slow the ball down. He’s gonna teach you every little thing, and history about basketball before you even touch a ball. Coach Mason, he’s about results, results, results. He wants to see results or you’re not playing, and I like that, because you get the results from everyone, and that’s how you win championships.”

When Wildcat basketball fans look back on the

teams from 2012-13 to 2015-16, they will certainly reminisce about Gaines and his storied career. For Gaines it will be three things in particular -- the 2015-16 ASC Tournament Championship Game, Coach Gene Rushing, and Coach Reni Mason.

“Ten years from now I know I’ll remember that championship game. I’ll remember the day Coach Rushing retired; that was a pretty big moment. I’ll remember Coach Mason and the speech he gave the first day he came in.”


Even with a long list of awards and accomplishments, Gaines is still grateful to the people who helped him along the way.

“Thank LC for the opportunity to be at the school,” Gaines said. “Thank my coaches, Coach Mason and Coach Rushing, for giving me the opportunity to play under them and putting me in positions to be successful. Thank my teammates, because without them, of course, I couldn’t do any of this. I’ve got the best teammates in the world by far, hands down.”

Gaines represented LC and the ASC by participating in the 2016 Reese’s Division III All-Star Game in Salem, Virginia March 19, in conjunction with the NCAA Division III Men’s Championship Final Four.

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Hillary Husband

by Miranda Klein, The Town Talk

Hillary Husband thinks back to the length of her hair when trying to remember a point in college. That it's several inches below her shoulders in graduation pictures, that she gets to wear a royal blue cap and gown, orange tassel and speak at her soon-to-be alma mater's commencement, is nothing short of miraculous.

The now 23-year-old is a member of the spring 2016 Louisiana College graduating class, who received degrees May 7. (NOTE: Husband also addressed Commencement attendees. See story on page 6.)

"They (doctors) really don't know why I'm here," Husband said. Professors and classmates have marveled at that a couple of times, too.

Husband has been asked more than once, "What is wrong with you?" It really begs to be asked of a student with vivid memories of submitting homework assignments while at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with a needle stuck in her arm.

If anyone has had an excuse to quit or lose motivation on the journey toward earning a degree, it's this graduate — one who earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry over the course of five years while battling a rare sequence of cancers.

"The sequence of cancers that I've had has never happened before ... especially that close," Husband said. "The fact that I am in such good health is unheard of."

The DeRidder native started at LC in the fall of 2011. She already was a cancer survivor having been diagnosed in high school with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

As a freshman, Husband settled into campus life, joined the school's dance team and was voted to represent her class on homecoming court. Then the shock of a lifetime came, again, when she was life-flighted from Rapides Regional Medical Center to St. Jude in October. Cancer was back in the form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

She was forced to withdraw from classes and start over in fall 2012 once in remission. This go-round though, Husband said, she had a different perspective on her sickness: one that was shaped by a newfound faith in God.

"I was really mad when it happened in high school and just wanted my old life back," Husband said. "When I got sick in college, I still didn't understand why I was being taken away from my great group of friends. ... And I may never know why exactly it happened, but I felt like there was a purpose the second time. I felt like it was growing me, as opposed to, it just sucks."

As a two-time cancer survivor, Husband now had an even bigger platform. She used it as an advocate for St. Jude and cancer research as well as sharing her faith.

Sometimes it was through smaller speaking engagements at schools or fundraisers in the state. Other times, it was much,



Hillary Husband is known for her friendly spirit and ready smile. (Photo, Norm Miller)

much bigger, like in 2012 when the TODAY show aired her story on Thanksgiving Day. The show's correspondent and daughter of President George W. Bush, Jenna Bush Hager, visited the Pineville campus for the interview.

"I could go through a lot of ways how being sick has helped me personally," Husband said. "I wouldn't go back and do it differently."

Husband's battle against cancer didn't end in 2012. In March of 2013, she was diagnosed with another form of leukemia. She took incompletes on her courses, worked with professors to finish the remaining coursework over the summer and continued more treatment at St. Jude. That summer, she also had a full bone marrow transplant in one knee.

She came back to LC the following January, still recovering from the transplant, but once again in remission.

Some of Husband's favorite college memories are the two times she did get to enjoy homecoming week on court, surprising friends at school with a visit in between long periods of treatment and "just being a college kid that happened to be sick."

Her future plans are to pursue a master's degree at Louisiana Tech University and work in the field of chemical engineering.

During her senior year, Husband has been healthy, able to run a mile every day and teach her passion at Cindy Seaton Dance Academy. As for what kept her going up to this point even while sick? "I just really wanted my diploma," she said.

JASON SCHWARTZ: AN ONCOLOGIST WHO SURVIVED CANCER

by Norm Miller



Dr. Jason Schwartz ('04) appeared on NBC's TODAY Show Nov. 25. and shared his story on the network's annual "Thanks & Giving Campaign for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital because I was treated as a patient there in 1995 after being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and now work there as a physician," Schwartz told LCNews.

Undertaking his hematology/oncology fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Schwartz said that TODAY Show producers were "excited to share my story as a patient who became a physician to learn how

to treat the same disease that I have battled and survived in addition to other similar diseases." Schwartz said he answered questions in the interview about his experience as a patient and "how that shaped my decision to become a doctor, and how my experiences shape how I care for my own patients."

"My experience at St. Jude was a positive one and absolutely sparked my clinical and scientific interests," which were whetted and honed at Louisiana College, Schwartz said. "My preparation at Louisiana College was top notch. After meeting with professors like Dr. Black and Dr. Warren, I felt certain that LC had the tools to prepare me for my goals to become a pediatric oncologist."

Schwartz earned a BS (Biology) at LC, and then an MD/PhD from LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. He completed his General Pediatrics Residency training at Vanderbilt before arriving at St. Jude.

"Following my LC graduation, it was obvious to me just how well LC had prepared me for medical school, as I felt I had seen at least the first few weeks of medical school classes already in classes at LC," Schwartz said.

"Louisiana College, and particularly Dr. Warren, also teaches about life and integrity; my foundations gained at LC are life-long," he added.

Now proclaiming to be a "private person," Schwartz said he once painted his chest in school colors for weekend football games. Today he is willing to abandon his privacy to promote St. Jude and its research "because it is so important in the search for cures for pediatric cancers, and St. Jude is the only pediatric institution where families never receive a bill for the treatment, lodging, food, etc., that they receive. This is made possible by folks donating to St. Jude," he said. "I don't know if I would be willing to be publicized so widely about anything else."

NOTE: If you would like to view the TODAY Show video, type the following link into your URL window: <http://on.today.com/1YuaPaN>

Board of Visitors Attend Inaugural Meeting

by Brian Blackwell, Baptist Message Staff Writer

Don Hill came to Louisiana College with a \$100 scholarship. He left in 1964 with a college education that would pave a path to financial success. Though he left for graduate school at Florida State and other endeavors across the U.S., Hill said he never lost touch with LC.

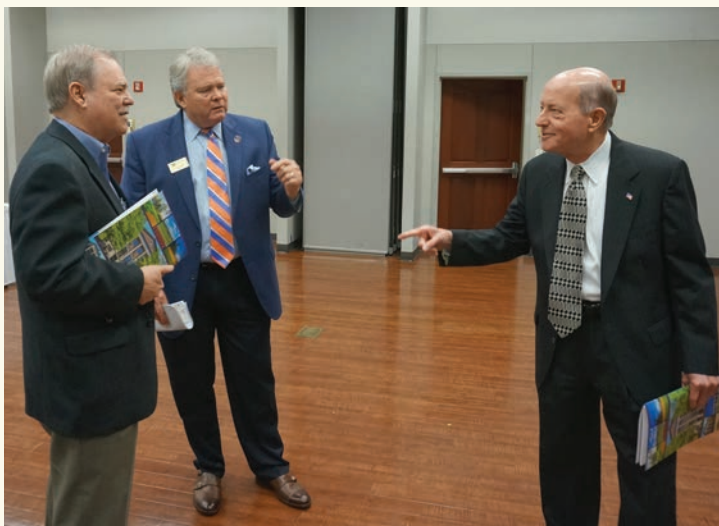
When Hill heard about the newly formed BOV that would provide scholarships to students of his alma mater, he enthusiastically joined. Hill was among the BOV members who attended their first corporate meeting April 22.

“Because of the contribution Louisiana College made to me, I am able to be fairly successful financially and want to contribute back to the school,” said Hill, president of DMH & Associates in Dallas, Texas. “The Board of Visitors allows me to do that and I’m looking forward to meeting some of the students who will benefit from that.”

Formed in September, the Board of Visitors is comprised of alumni, business owners and other professionals and friends of LC who are giving between \$1,000 and \$10,000 annually for four years. During their four-year commitment, the members help the students find internships, network for the college, contribute to development of additional financial resources and refer prospective students to the school.

Members contribute at one of four levels: Board of Visitor, \$1,000; Leadership Council, \$2,500; Executive Council, \$5,000; and the President’s Council, \$10,000.

The initial goal was to sign up 25 members by Sept. 1 but the response was higher than expected, prompting Brewer to set a goal of 50 members before the end of the fall semester.



Before returning to the Dallas area, alum Don Hill (right) shares a light-hearted moment with Dr. Brewer and LC alum and trustee, Carl Benedict. (Photo, Norm Miller)



Along with delicious food, BOV members enjoyed fellowship with other members and LC faculty and staff. (Photo, Norm Miller)

By the time the Board of Visitors holds its next meeting during Homecoming weekend Oct. 28, Brewer hopes to reach the 100-member mark. He is confident that goal can be met.

“Our Board of Visitors represents different walks of life, from business to ministry to health care, that simply want to support our college and are helping with scholarships for our students,” Brewer told the Baptist Message after the meeting. “We are looking forward to this group continuing to grow. What they are doing is to help close the affordability gap, providing much needed scholarship money for students who want to receive a Christ-centered education at Louisiana College.”

In the meeting, Brewer updated members on various initiatives planned in the future, including: help so that every student will serve an internship before graduation; requiring students to complete a service learning project within the scope of their majors, contributing volunteer hours within the community; and, improvements to campus facilities such as multi-million dollar projects involving the football stadium, class equipment and residence and academic halls.

Byron McGee, vice president for institutional advancement, told the BOV that because of them, 123 students this fall each will receive \$1,000 scholarships. When the BOV meet again, students “will have an opportunity to sit with you and say thanks,” McGee said. “And I assure you it means a lot to them.”

For more information on joining the Board of Visitors, call 318.487.7118.

JEFFREY BREAUX TRANSCRIBES ANCIENT NT TEXTS



Jeffrey Breaux (left) and Dr. Justin Langford examine 1 Timothy manuscripts online. (Photo, courtesy)

Biblical Studies major Jeffrey Breaux represented Louisiana College this spring in a worldwide effort to examine and transcribe select New Testament manuscripts of 1 Timothy.

Breaux -- who recently won academic awards for his achievements in both Hebrew and Greek -- said, "This is a rare opportunity for me as an undergraduate student because work like this is typically done at the graduate level."

More than 60 universities and colleges worldwide participated in the collaborative effort among students and their scholastic mentors.

"The opportunity to work with scholars and students all over the world on this project is both a blessing and a privilege," said Dr. Justin Langford, assistant professor of Christian Studies. "Students can deepen their knowledge of textual criticism by sitting under the instruction of top scholars in the field."

Breaux, from Morgan City, Louisiana, was assigned several Greek manuscripts from 1 Timothy for transcription, and was mentored by Langford.

"Believe it or not, there are still some Greek manuscripts of the New Testament that have not been thoroughly examined or included in electronic databases," Langford said.

The 1 Timothy project is sponsored by the Green Scholars Initiative (GSI), which is part of the Museum of the Bible, a 430,000 square-foot facility due to open in 2017 in Washington, D.C.

The president of Hobby Lobby, Steve Green, established the museum that will house one of the largest private collections of rare biblical artifacts known as the Green Collection.

The museum's website states that the Museum of the Bible "supports scholarship and academic research through the Scholars Initiative, which brings together established and young scholars to pioneer groundbreaking research" on items in the museum's collection.

"Participating in the GSI opened my eyes to broader fields of studying the Bible," Breaux said. "The work I did for this project will follow me as a student as I perform exegesis. Overall, I am benefiting by being stretched into a new, relevant field of study."

Breaux completed his work using an online digital editor, and under the auspices of the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung (Institute for New Testament Textual Research or INTF), which is part of Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster, Germany.

The INTF has long been the central hub for research on the New Testament text, and the purpose of this institute -- in addition to research -- is to produce the major critical editions of the Greek New Testament that scholars and students use today: the United Bible Society's 5th edition and Nestle-Aland's 28th edition.

"The transcription process includes careful observation of a manuscript and editing a Greek text to look identical to the manuscript," Breaux said. In other words, if there is a line break, column break, spelling difference, additional word, or any other difference between the text and the manuscript, it must be edited. All of these notes will be placed into a database and used in the future as Greek scholars work toward a new edition of a Greek New Testament."

Studying textual criticism and applying that study through working with manuscripts is "important for the church in explaining what a variant is," Breaux said, "and for the sake of defending the Bible for its accuracy as it has been passed down through generations for thousands of years."

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OCTOBER 27TH - 29TH

LOUISIANA



STATE COLLEGE

Homecoming 2016

Louisiana College Homecoming 2016

“There’s No Place Like Home”

October 27-29, 2016

Thursday, October 27

Distinguished Alumni Honored in Chapel
Opening of Faculty Art Exhibit
Homecoming Hoedown with the Students

Friday, October 28

Brunch with Classes of '66 and prior
Golf Tournament
Common Good/Voices of LC Rehearsal (2 pm) and Concert (7 pm)
Faculty Recital 5:30
Pep Rally/Bonfire

Saturday, October 29

Color Run around campus
Nursing/Allied Sciences Reunion
Reception for Distinguished Alums/Hall of Fame
Luncheon to Honor Distinguished Alums/Hall of Fame
Tailgating for Classes '76, '86, '96, '06 starting at 4 p.m.
Homecoming Parade
Homecoming Game 6 p.m. vs. ETBU

2016 Distinguished Alumni



Dr. Perry Hancock
President & CEO of the
La Baptist Children's Home
Class of 1983

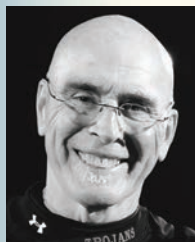


Honorable Robert Myer
Mayor, City of New Roads
& Entrepreneur
Class of 1984

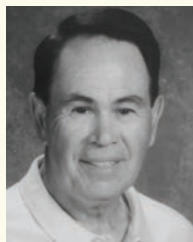


Mrs. Joanne Hamby
Retired Music Educator
Class of 1969

2016 Sports Hall of Fame Inductees



Mr. Jim Morgans, Class of 1969,
Football at LC;
High School Football Coach



Mr. Al Sandahl, Class of
1963, Football at LC;
High School, College &
NFL Coach



Mr. James Halle, Class of 2006,
Baseball at LC;
High School Baseball Coach

BA in Leadership and Ministry Certificate Programs Launched

by Norm Miller

PINEVILLE, La. (LCNews)--Beginning in the fall 2016 semester, Louisiana College will offer a BA in Leadership degree and a certificate program in missions and ministry.

The new interdisciplinary leadership degree will feature concentrations in Christian Studies, communication and business, and will blend courses from business, psychology, humanities, communication, and Christian Studies degree programs.

“In looking at our content rich curricula, we intentionally and strategically selected specific courses to craft our new BA in Leadership,” said Dr. Rick Brewer, president of Louisiana College. “More than ever before, organizations of all types and sizes are demanding that employees know how to effectively transform their workplace. Our new leadership programs will equip students with cutting-edge leadership tools that will make a difference in their workplace, organization, church, ministry and home.”

Dr. Cheryl Clark -- interim vice president for academic affairs and Chair, Division of Humanities -- said, “Amid changing demographics, economic pressures, global uncertainties, and technology that moves at lightning speed, dynamic Christian leadership is paramount to navigate the complex world in which we live.”

“The core courses introduce students to ethics, critical thinking and writing, standard business topics, negotiation and debate, principles of leadership, interpersonal relationships, and crisis communication,” Clark said.

Whether students choose a concentration in business, Christian Studies, or communication, they must complete a six-hour internship in each discipline.

“Mastering these skills will enable our graduates to work well in team environments, motivate colleagues and employees, manage conflict, solve organizational problems, achieve greater effectiveness, and lead authentically from a Christian perspective,” Brewer said.

Professor of Communications Studies Dr. Elizabeth Christian said corporate leaders cite communication skills as the most important quality when looking

at job candidates. “Whether you are reporting the news, selling a product or leading people to Christ, how effectively you communicate can have lasting ramifications.”

“This cross-disciplinary degree in leadership teaches crucial skills necessary in any workplace that is consumer- or people-oriented,” she added.

Research shows that most organizations fail not from deficiencies in strategy and quantitative analysis, but from poor leadership, said Dr. Arthur Mazhambe, Chair, Division of Business.

“LC’s new BA in Leadership with a concentration in business is designed to enhance strategic business leadership skills without requiring an overload of quantitative and other general business courses,” he said.

A primary reason many employees are terminated results from their inability to establish healthy working relationships in the marketplace, so LC’s new leadership degree includes studies in psychology.

Professor of Psychology Dr. Jerry Pounds said the study of psychology “helps us to understand ourselves and others; why we think what we think and do what we do. With this understanding, godly leaders will provide the necessary skills in order to develop healthy interpersonal relationships with others. What better way to impact the world for Christ than for our students to be trained as leaders who know themselves and are prepared to impact others for the sake of God’s kingdom. Our new BA in Leadership will guide our students for such a challenge.”

The Bachelor of Leadership in the Christian Studies concentration “offers valuable training opportunities for full- and part-time pastors, along with students entering ministry,” said Dr. Philip Caples, vice president for faith integration.

“This degree concentration delivers training in biblical leadership, as well as biblical and theological studies, all of which will provide a workable and thoughtful balance in the ministerial setting,” Caples noted. “And with a lack of leadership being the major cause of forced ministerial termination, Louisiana College will help to strengthen local churches and state conventions



by offering this degree.”

LC’s new 16-hour certificate programs are significant financially, academically and practically, and also will assist churches and state conventions, Caples said.

“Bi-vocational pastors will appreciate these certificate programs because we are offering them at no cost.”

The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry prepares the student for pulpit ministry, and the Certificate in Missiology equips the student with practical skills in helping to revitalize a church or to plant one, Caples said.

Each program offers accredited bachelor’s level certificate hours that are transferrable toward a BA in Christian Studies should the bi-vocational pastor seek an undergraduate degree.

“Part and parcel of Louisiana College’s task of preparing graduates and transforming lives is a biblical combination of stewardship and service,” Brewer said, pointing to a journal article written by R. Scott Rodin, president of Rodin Consulting and former president of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.

“Rodin has eloquently captured the essence of what we mean when we talk about our professors being the guide by the side and not the sage on the stage,” Brewer said.

In the “Journal of Religious Leadership,” (vol. 1, no. 2, Fall 2002), Rodin observes:

“In speaking of Jesus’ incarnation, Paul tells us, ‘he made himself a man of no reputation, taking on the very nature of a servant’ (Phil 2:7). The verse does not say that Jesus became a man of bad reputation, or questionable reputation, but simply of ‘no’ reputation. That is, reputation, image, prestige, prominence, power, and other trappings of leadership were not only devalued, they were purposefully dismissed. Jesus became such a man. Not by default, nor accident, but by intention and design. And it was only in this form that he could serve, love, give, teach, and yes, lead.”

“The world has known no greater leader than Jesus Christ,” Brewer said. “And by replicating the Lord’s leadership model, we believe Louisiana College will replicate godly leaders, who will serve in the ministry and marketplaces of the world in a Christ-like manner.”

For more info about the BA in Leadership or Certificate Programs, please call LC Admissions: 318.487.1906.

Visiting LSU-S Gives Students Inspiration & Information

by Jeff Young and Norm Miller

Led by Drs. Warren, Payne and others, 10 Louisiana College science majors attended a luncheon in April at LSU-S Medical School to fellowship with LC alums enrolled there and to hear from LSU-S personnel.

The tangible collegial atmosphere fostered encouraging conversations and vital information. LCNews and Wildcats Media tagged along to capture a taste of the luncheon for Columns readers.

Dr. Scott Kennedy
Assistant Dean, Student Admissions
Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport

“No where will you get better mentoring,” said Dr. Kennedy of LC’s science program. “The instructors at LC are willing, available, and quite able to help you,” he said. “Take advantage of that. The academic horsepower is there. The advising is there. The atmosphere is there. The limiting factor in all of this is you.”

Kennedy said med school applicants should be “three-dimensional. Make your medical school application diverse,” he advised. In addition to excelling academically, Kennedy urged LC students to be involved in their local communities, not only in medical volunteerism, but also at a food bank or homeless shelter, thus presenting a wide-ranging demonstration of interests and service.

“The single most important thing is to know what you want to do,” Kennedy said.

Ben Feibel

Ben Feibel, former Wildcats football center is in his fourth year at LSU-S. He said students “really are prepared for medical school when they come out of LC due to the academic rigor.”

Feibel said he received a “good foundation in learning how to work hard,” and that made it “easy to transition to medical school.”

“My professors helped me learn how to study,” Feibel said. “Their office hours were posted and they were always available. If I would text them or call them, they would answer. I had dinner in their homes, and that’s something you don’t get anywhere else.”

“At other schools you’re just a test score and a number. That’s all you really are. At LC you’re a person, they care about you, they pray for you, they care what you’re doing. That makes a big difference in how you excel after you leave Louisiana College.”

Rebekah Magee

“As a Christian, I think it is very important to be taught the sciences from a Christian perspective. That’s not something that’s going to be taught everywhere you go,” said Rebekah Magee.

Noting LC’s “Origins of Life” course, Magee said, “We learned all the evolutionary belief systems. We took them apart and we were able to learn how to disprove them. That was one of the most valuable classes to me. To have a class like that taught by a Christian professor who loves science and loves God, that’s something I think is one of the most valuable things from the program I’ll be able to take with me into a graduate program.”

“The one-on-one atmosphere at LC is so valuable. You won’t get that at other schools. At other schools you’re just going to be a number, they won’t remember who you are. You come to class and leave, and no one’s going to care if you were there or not.”

“Just to have professors who love God and love you is something you’re not getting somewhere else. That’s something very special we have at LC.”

Dr. Paul Cooper, LSU-S Pediatrics Residency Program Director and LC alumnus (91).

“I don’t know if I would have gotten into medical school if not for Louisiana College,” Cooper said. “LC prepared me so well both academically and spiritually. The foundations that I got from Dr. Black and the major professors that I had were tremendous.”

“Spiritually I was ready for whatever came my way,” he said, crediting student mission trips to China and Zimbabwe.

As opposed to the experience of his friends who were freshmen at bigger schools in classes of 300 or more, Cooper said, “I knew everyone in my class, my professor knew my name. If I was struggling with something, I knew who to go to, and that wasn’t a teaching assistant -- it was a full professor. The training and one-on-one attention is what makes LC different.”

Cooper said that, academically he “felt like I was ahead of the game” when he arrived at med school.

Regarding the traits of LC students entering LSU-S Medical School, Cooper said, “They all seem to be smart ... well prepared... and have integrity. They are teachable, grounded and have good time management skills.”

Tayler Thibodeaux

“LC is amazing. I love it. I love the relationships we have with our professors,” said Tayler Thibodeaux, noting that professors are willing to help with students’ academic struggles and to invest the personal time needed to ensure a student’s comprehension. “We have tough curricula, professors push you to your limit. They’re going to break you at some point, but then they’re going to build you back up and then make you successful. If I’m not in class, they are texting me, saying, ‘Hey, where are you?’”

The professors’ lives “involve getting us to our goals,” she said. “It’s so good to have a cheerleader in your corner, saying, ‘You can do it, you can make it.’ That’s my favorite thing about LC. Louisiana College is home.”

Wynn and Jewel Harvey, LC alums attending LSU-S

Wynn Harvey said: “Louisiana College prepared me with a great foundation in academics and a great foundation for my faith as well. Everything that I’ve encountered so far has been

not only doable, but I’ve been able to excel because of the lessons and material that was taught to me at LC.”

“The greatest thing about LC is you can learn everything you’re supposed to in the biology department and sciences, but you don’t miss out on the Christian perspective. You don’t lose any mainstream knowledge or anything you need for medical school. You get to hear about intelligent design and creationism. That gives you something to be strong about when you go forward in medical school and when you’re faced with people who discredit spirituality. You get a good foundation from LC and you can’t get that from any other school.

Jewel said: “My background at Louisiana College taught me how to think critically about everything. LC’s liberal arts education really helped me coming into medical school. I felt like I was really prepared in many different areas. One of the most important skills I learned at LC was how to study and when to go ask for help. My professors at LC were wonderful. They prepared me so well for medical school. Dr. Elliott, Dr. Warren, Dr. Payne, Dr. Shank, Dr. Criswell, everyone prepared me so well.”

LC Science Majors, (from left): Rebekah Magee, Hannah Terebonne, Dakota Crooks, Brittany Etheredge, Annette Londoño, Jeancy Baraka, Kaelie Morgan, Tayler Thibodeaux, Hailey Clark, Lexi Barkley. (Photo, Norm Miller)

LSU MEDICAL SCHOOL



Matriculation & Matrimony: an LC Love Story

BY RON GARRETT



Harold and Gloria Evans ...

This story begins with a beautiful young lady from Winnfield, La., and a handsome young man from Manchester, Ga. In high school in Winnfield, she was listed in the 1950 Senior Hall of Fame, was a member of the annual staff, and the editor of the school paper. Upon graduation in 1950, she came to Louisiana College.

He graduated from Manchester High School in 1948, where he played on the school's first football team. He was a four-sport letterman in football, basketball, track, and baseball. He later received a scholarship for football at South Georgia Junior College. Another scholarship for football came from the LC Wildcats in 1950.

At the end of that next summer, the football team was gearing up for the season and the freshmen class was coming to campus all excited.

One evening after dinner, the football players were sitting in the parlor of Ware Hall, watching all the girls come by. That's when Wildcat Joe Rivet told the new recruit that he and all the other players "have our 'steadys' and you pick yours" from the girls in the freshman class.

And the juco transfer said, "I'll pick that one going up the stairs." Joe asked her to grant his teammate a date or she "would have to eat seven onions on 'Dog Day,'" which was the initiation day for freshman. She did not give an answer, but after a few weeks she accepted on the condition of a double-date. And the rest is history.

He graduated in 1952, and that year she was selected Senior Beauty, as well as "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities" group. She was also crowned homecoming queen, and he came back as an alumni escort. She graduated in 1953. They soon married and later had four children. Then came 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The marriage tallied 62.5 years.

This is the love story of Harold and Gloria Evans Garrett, who raised their family in LaGrange, Ga. Sadly, we lost him to cancer in 2015. The children wanted to share this love story.



... still smiling after all those years. (Photos, courtesy)



From the Alumni Director



Kathy Hegwood Overturf, Director of Alumni Services

The spring semester has just flown by with activities such as Coach Rushing's retirement celebration along with basketball, baseball and softball games, Cochon de Lait, and commencement. Now, our annual Homecoming plans are in full swing. Go ahead and reserve October 27-29 on your calendar because you will not want to miss any of the festivities.

"There's No Place Like Home" is the Homecoming 2016 theme here on the Hill in Pineville. I know it is certainly home to me. My story may have begun in Biloxi, Mississippi, but the highlights began in 1976 when I stepped foot on the LC campus. One of the most rewarding seasons my life were the years I sang with Common Good, a choral troupe that represented LC in churches and schools all over the state. We sang every weekend (or so it seemed). The reason I mention Common Good is that one of the big events of Homecoming is a Common Good/Voices of LC reunion concert on Friday night, October 28. The 1980 Colonel, Scott Sontag, is coming all the way from Paris, France, to direct the group. Music will include songs from each decade from the 70s to today. This will be an exciting time of worship and fellowship. Make plans to join us! I can hardly wait to 'sang' with my people again.

The Wildcats will face off with rival ETBU in the "Battle for the Border Claw" Homecoming football game, where

we will crown our Homecoming Queen. Oh yes, it is also a night game, with kickoff set for 6 p.m. It will be exciting.

I hope you can sense the enthusiasm surrounding our alma mater. There are buildings getting a new coat of paint and roofs. Remodeling is underway in Cottingham and Tudor Halls, and our beloved Guinn Auditorium is getting an extensive facelift inside, and a new roof, too. Come be a part of what is going on here in Pineville. Join the Board of Visitors, the Legacy Society, and the Wildcat Club; send us your children and grandchildren; come visit the campus and see for yourself the good things that are happening. The Lynn Alumni Center is open every day Monday through Friday. I look forward to visiting with you. Keep me updated on your address and email address along with what is going on in your life. Tell us about your family, your occupation, and your life because inquiring minds want to know. You can reach me at the college by phone 318.487.7301 or by email kathy.overturf@lacollege.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Be looking for all the Homecoming details coming later this summer. You will have the opportunity to be involved in many ways. See you in October! Claws Up!

-Kathy

Asberry Holcraft ('49) lives in Tahlequah, Okla.

Gloria Garrett ('53) lives in LaGrange, Ga.

Rev. Wayne Hicks ('55) has been pastor of Grand Ecore Road Baptist Church in Natchitoches, La., since November, 2001. He has been married to Grace ('Dado) Hicks since 1957.

Dr. Neal Carlson ('56) has now reached 239 countries and providences through his www.wordsforcourageouslyliving.com. Through his ministry of Church in the Son; 11,365 free sermons have been sent to 61 different countries.

Rev. Wade McKinley ('56) spent most of his years after seminary in San Diego, Calif. He now resides in Monticello, Ky.

Claude C. Parent ('66) lives in Portsmouth, Va., where he is the Minister of Administration and Senior Adults

on Mission, FBC LaPlace; Gideons and VFW. They have two sons and five grandchildren, and reside in LaPlace, La.

Rev. David Bruce Miller ('71) from Pineville, La., has been elected vice president / president-elect of the Canon Law Society of America (CLSA) at its convention last fall in Pittsburgh. The CLSA is a professional association numbering over twelve hundred men and women from 35 countries. The Society remains active in the study and promotion of canonical and pastoral approaches to significant issues within the Latin and Eastern Catholic Churches. He is presently the Episcopal Vicar for Administration in the Alexandria Diocese.

Becky Brown ('76) ..."Lordy, Lordy Bec's diploma is forty! Forty wonder-filled years of ministry (1976-2016) that started under those LC pines. Great things are Brewer-ing these days. God is at work! Claws up!" Becky is founder of Little Brown Light Ministries and staff evangelist for FBC Richland, Mississippi.

Brenda Bryant Beaver ('79) will be a first time grandmother in November '16. Her son, Daniel and his wife, Katie, are expecting a daughter. Her daughter, Elizabeth Beaver, is in graduate school at Texas Women's University in Denton. For over 10 years, Brenda has been an Associate Pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Arlington, Texas. She is also a licensed Master Social Worker (State of Texas) with an Independent Practice Recognition.

Missy Duncan ('79) lives in Shreveport, La.. She has a Master's from University of Hartford in Adult Learning, Corporate Training and from LSU in English Literature. She is currently working on her Doctoral Degree in Pedagogy and Technology in Higher Education with a specialty in English Literature from Murray State University. Currently, Missy is an English professor at Bossier Parish Community College and is completing a new novel. Her 24 year old daughter, Mei, is an aerial performer with Cirque de Soleil.

Joey ('84) and Jeri Page Rodgers ('87) are pleased to share that their daughter, Emily, will be following in her parents' footsteps by attending LC in the fall. Emily graduated from high school with honors in

ALUMNI UPDATES

at FBC Norfolk. He was recently elected as chair of the Portsmouth School Board. Claude and his wife, Betty, have two daughters and eight grandchildren.

Gary W. Maroney ('67) and Darlene Daniel Maroney ('66) live in New Braunfels, Texas, where they have "retreaded" after 50 years as pastor/evangelist. They are now serving their corporation, God-Bold Evangelism, full time and Gary is directing the Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists ('LACOSBE) as president. They fondly remember their days at LC where they dated and married at FBC Pineville after graduation. God used a prayer meeting at Godbold Hall to bring together the Godbold Revival Team, which led many weekend revivals, youth rallies and camps in La., Kan., Texas and Ark. This ministry was catalyst to send Gary to 37 countries to share the gospel and pastor churches in La., Ore. and Texas. Whenever they are home, they enjoy spending time with their six children and 15 grandchildren.

Joy K. Pray ('69) taught school for 30 years. She and her husband are involved with Louisiana Campers

May, 2016. Their son, Drayton, was a 2015 graduate of Huntingdon College. The family resides in Evergreen, Ala., where Joey is the Director of Missions for Conecuh Baptist Association and Jeri is a senior high teacher at Sparta Academy.



Bob Gilkeson ('85) and his wife, Cathy, live in Asheville, N.C., where he is a realtor. Their daughter, Tori, graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in Religious Studies and a minor in International Studies. Their son, Jonah, graduated from AC Reynolds High School and will attend Tulane University in the fall. He and Cathy will celebrate their 25th anniversary in June with a trip back to their honeymoon site on the Big Island of Hawaii.



Oscar Medina ('85) and his wife, Dalel, have three natural children and seven years ago adopted three siblings. They moved to Lakeland, Florida, five years ago to be closer to aging parents. Oscar's brother and sister also live there. This has become home after 25 years of ministry across the country in several states. He currently works for a software company called Cornerstone On Demand as a solution architect.

His principal assignment is to support efforts in Latin America and has to travel quite extensively.



Shannon Chance Chandler ('87) resides in Arlington, Texas where she is the Assistant Director of Payroll at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Chad Crooks ('90) is the worship pastor at Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo. He has served there for almost 16 years. His wife, Shelley, is a pharmacist. They have three children, Victoria, Ethan and Chloe. Chad graduated from LC with a BM with a concentration in church music.

Linda Wright-Bailey ('93) lives in Tyler, Texas, where she is employed by the United States District Court as a US Probation Officer.

Denyse Jenkins Holt ('94) and Fred Holt ('95) were married in January, 2016 in Granberry Conference Center on the campus at LC where they met more than 20 years ago. The couple was married by the bride's father, **Bro. Wayne Jenkins ('70)**. They love LC and have a long history with the college. Denyse has had two children graduate and two are presently attending. They have six children and one daughter-in-law together. They are living in California and are on staff at Shoreline Community Church in Monterey.



Richard ('96) and Lisa Lyons Finch ('97) have reached their 10-year anniversary with the International Mission Board serving as missionaries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Paul Hudson ('96) and his daughters, Alexandra and Isabelle live in Lafayette, where they are members at FBC Lafayette. Wife and mother, Kathy Blacksher Hudson ('96) passed away February 8, 2016.



Scott Breland ('01) graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in Christian Education in May, 2016. Scott pastors Plainview Baptist Church in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

Jamie Bradford Lopez ('01) was featured in Women's Business Enterprise Council South as their spotlight business in July 2015. She started her own business Po' Folks Promos in 2009 which eventually became SOBO Promotional Products. She has clients in 23 states and two countries. She volunteers with Community Foundations' Ready to read Program, Muscular Dystrophy Association's Camp Starlight and Providence House's Sleep out for Independence. She is an advocate for end of life issues and serves as president of the Board for the Alliance for End of Life Care and member of Louisiana Mississippi Hospice Palliative Care Organization. She and husband, David reside in South Bossier.

Emily Buck ('07) recently graduated with a Master of Divinity from the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and will begin PhD studies in Church History at Fuller Theological Seminary in the fall.

Chris Oney ('08 MAT) is the head men's basketball coach at Pearl River Community College where he

served as an assistant for five years. He and his wife, Christen, have a seven year old daughter, Camryn and a one year old son, Caleb.

Latasha Mitchell ('11 MAT) resides in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Jim Kautz, former professor at LC, has written his first novel at the age of 76. *Digger* offers a deeply moving account of one man's struggle with faith, traditional religion, and his scientific training. For more information about *Digger*, please contact Jim Kautz at 828-524-6593.

Alumni Association Executive Board

Terms Expiring 12-16

Dr. Dennis Phelps, 1978
Will Tubbs, 2006
Julie Crews, 1991
Michelle Shamblin Stratton, 2006
Clay Matchett, 2005
Christianne F. Knight, 1995
Susan Nixon, 1984

Terms Expiring 12-17

Dr. Bill Robertson, 1980
Richard Ainsworth, 1981
Roxie Goynes, 1980
Angie McCann, 1981
Chip Turner, 1970
Greg Baggett, 1987
Dr. Jay Johnston, 1979
Nick Williams, 2007
Tim Post, 1981

Terms Expiring 12-18

Dr. Frank Ashley, 1975
Robyn Lea, 1983
Ben McLaughlin, 2010
Dr. Gerald Crooks, 1970
Dr. Cathy Eschete, 2004
Becky Brown, 1976
Michael Hebert, 1996
Marilyn Perry Fain, 1965
Bakari Beckwith, 2001

In Memoriam

Rev. Ray Wallace	Class of 1947
Rev. Waynon H. Mott	Class of 1950
Addison Jack Green	Class of 1952
William Harold Garrett	Class of 1952
Dr. V. Lynn McCord	Class of 1953
Joan Marcantel Creel	Class of 1954
Hugh LeBaron	Class of 1963
Charles William "Bill" Loewer	Class of 1963
Pat Snyder Irvin	Class of 1963
Wilmagene Ault Rivet	Class of 1966
Betty Williams Remont	Class of 1967
Helen Bolen Chance	Class of 1969
Margaret Byford Davis	Class of 1972
Elizabeth Cheek Moore	Class of 1972
Daniel E. Mallette, Jr.	Class of 1973
Deborah Bennett	Class of 1977
Susan Denise Blankenbaker	Class of 1990
Lester Fontenot, Jr.	Class of 1996
Mary Katherine Hudson	Class of 1996

Others

Martha Bryant	Midlothian, VA
Mary Anna Granberry	Lafayette, LA
Kenneth T. Johnson, Sr.	Pineville, LA
Mable McGee	Oakdale, LA
Troy Randall Rascoe	Shreveport, LA





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HOME GAMES IN ORANGE

*ASC Game