



## President's Report | Fall Update 2015

November 1 marks my first 200 days at Louisiana College and the beginning of my 29th year of steward leadership in Christian higher education. These 200 days have presented exciting challenges and fulfilling accomplishments, some of which are noted in this report.

Cathy and I are grateful to God for allowing us to labor in this venue we love. I want to also thank our senior administrative team, staff and faculty who have labored selflessly as we continue to move the college to more effectively prepare graduates and transform lives.

We trust you will thank God with us as we thank you, the Louisiana College stakeholders, for your prayers and financial support. We believe you also will rejoice with us as we celebrate what God is accomplishing at Louisiana College.

### **Preview Day**

Our October 17 Preview Day was one of the most successful as 86 prospective students, families in tow, visited LC. For this laudable success we commend Dr. Brandon Bannon, vice president for Enrollment Management, and his team for rendering a concentrated effort in contacting prospects. Growing enrollment is hard work, and we plan to increase our recruiting odds by increasing our prospect list by 1000 percent. Our goal is 1,500 new students by 2020. Launching new academic programs and improving infrastructure, facilities and student services, as well as donor engagement will help. So will our ongoing statewide travel to churches, schools and conferences. All of these efforts represent a cohesive strategy to prepare graduates and transform lives.

### **New Dean of School of Nursing & Allied Health**

We happily welcome Dr. Marilyn Cooksey as Dean of our School of Nursing and Allied Health. She brings decades of health service and academic experience and a new vision for our School of Nursing -- a vision of true academic excellence coupled with a biblical commitment to compassionate care. Dr. Cooksey envisions innovative plans to engage local hospitals with our students. She also foresees a feasibility study that will provide a path to an MSN degree for those who have an RN degree. As expected, Dr. Cooksey has brought a healthy perspective to our School of Nursing. With her stellar resume, grasp of collegiate education and administration, and engaging personality that is seasoned with a great sense of humor, I am sure Dr. Cooksey will exceed every expectation. Her 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.

### **Crest Industries Day**

Under the leadership of Dr. Arthur Mazhambe -- Chair, Division of Business -- one of Pineville's leading companies brought employees and its CEO to share how their work reflects the kind of training and education LC offers. A subsequent luncheon sparked an engaging discussion regarding closer ties to Crest in ways that will benefit LC students and Crest Industries, as LC considers the feasibility of launching a BS in Project Management. This not only will help reach and equip one of the fastest growing niches for higher education -- adults -- but will assist local businesses in developing an effective and efficient work force built on the ethos of biblical core values.

### **Board of Visitors**

Our launch of LC's Board of Visitors proved to be a gratifying success with many more joining than initially expected. Our plans were to enlist 25 by mid-September and 50 by the end of the spring 2016 semester. However, as of today, 50 people -- alumni, professionals, and other friends of LC -- have committed to support a scholarship fund that goes wholly and solely to qualified students. BOV members also will network for the College and help identify internships and job opportunities for students. Those interested in joining the BOV should contact LC's Office of Institutional Advancement: 318.487.7118.

### **Founders Day**

With a lifetime of servant leadership to the Southern Baptist Convention at the national, state, and local church levels, Dr. Carlisle Driggers keynoted our Founders Day celebration. He urged us to "Measure Our Steps" as a Christian liberal arts college with these guidelines:

1. The Bible is our supreme authority;
2. Jesus Christ is our guide;
3. LC is here for the students;
4. Remain faithful to local churches -- make them proud; and,
5. Be wise stewards of Cooperative Program funds.

The LC family received his message well, and we will seek more opportunities to have Dr. Driggers on our campus again.

### **Humanities Division**

Emphasizing the Arts and Humanities, LC's Humanities Division sponsored a "Write or Recite" competition that high school and home school students entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship and an iPad. With almost 60 entrants and 30 finalists, the effort succeeded. Hearing the finalists' selections and seeing their families fanned the flames of optimism that sweep the campus. Plans already are underway for next year's competition, and other divisions are considering similar marketing ideas for their disciplines.

### **Wildcats Football Running Back, Aurren Cooksey**

Accounting major Aurren Cooksey faced a setback when he lost his starting position as running back last year. In a published interview, Aurren gave props to God for allowing that, and to his earthly father for spurring Aurren to try harder. He did, and Aurren won back his starting role this year. He subsequently became the leading rusher in the ASC. 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. Aurren made a football decision and a life decision. We are proud of him for both.

## **Faith Integration**

Our emphases on Faith Integration continues to grow as faculty are reading and discussing “Conceiving the Christian College” by Duane Litfin. Here are a few comments from our faculty members regarding how the book has impacted them:

“Litfin promotes the powerful notion that our faith cannot only be integrated with, but it can pervade and magnify knowledge. No discipline at LC reaches beyond the grip of the Christian faith; every discipline falls within its expanse.”

Dr. David Elliott, Chair  
Division of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

“Christian higher education stands firmly on the rock of God’s Truth known through the Holy Bible. From this firm foundation the most relevant discoveries about His greatest creation, humanity, and the wonders of the universe can come to light. Christian faith and expansive learning are the two best antidotes to the narrow-minded relativism so prevalent today.”

Dr. Henry O. Robertson  
Associate Professor of History

“Litfin’s book encouraged me to change my approach to teaching ancient civilizations ... in terms of worldviews. I encouraged students to compare [them] to learn how they affected their social organization and political structures, and to foster discussion on how we can identify and know Truth.”

Dr. Christine Reese, Chair  
History and Political Science Department

“The distinct calling as an institution of Christian learning is to be true to the subject matter and to show relationships that our Christian beliefs have to such content. It cannot be that we teach content and then we are Christian, but rather we teach how our faith integrates with the subject being taught.”

Dr. Jerry Pounds  
Professor of Psychology

“The mission of a Christian college is to cultivate graduates’ ability to not only spread the Gospel of God, which is crucial, but also exert Christian influence in their work and life field.... For a Christian scholar, working is a divine service.”

Dr. Mingchu Gao  
Professor of Mathematics

## **Faith Integration, part II**

Among all the blessings we have to celebrate, the one most important and gratifying is when someone comes to Christ through the influence of our personnel. In September, Art Professor Wang-Ling Chou invited Chinese artist Fang-Ju Shen to hold an exhibit at LC. Professor Chou also invited the artist and her husband to attend a Chinese-language Bible study. At that Bible study the Shens committed their lives to Christ. In a letter to Professor Chou, Fang-Jen Shen wrote:

“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.... Without any doubt, we accepted Jesus as our Lord together with overwhelming joy in Louisiana.”

The Shens now attend church and a new believers Bible study group in Taiwan. While we pursue the academic side of Faith Integration for the spiritual benefit of our students, such emphases have a way reaching the hearts of others who enter our sphere of influence. We thank God for the Shens and their newfound faith; and we are grateful for Professor Chou, who cares about others and their need for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Reasons to Give Thanks**

Cathy and I are thankful that God continues to smile upon our efforts at Louisiana College as evidenced by the blessings cited in this report. Our thanks to God is always apropos, but is especially so at this time of year that brings thoughts of the fall season and harvest and family time at Thanksgiving. In this season of recognizing God's bounty toward us, let us not forget others in need who are within our reach and to whom we must express God's love tangibly. Thanksgiving is a season of giving thanks upward to God and outward to others. It is a time for compassion.

On behalf of LC's students, administration, staff and faculty, I offer our sincere gratitude to you, the stakeholders, the Louisiana College family who support the Kingdom ministries that comprise our task of preparing graduates and transforming lives.

With our upcoming December 12 commencement service, we will commission a new group of alumni unto the world's marketplaces and ministry sites. Each will embark on an important journey fully equipped with a Christian liberal arts education that is relevant, relational and rigorous. They will go out into the world to transform others' lives as theirs have been transformed. And none of it is possible without our Louisiana College family.

Keep Pressing On!



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