

SACSCOC Approves Four Academic Initiatives

LC received approval from SACSCOC for an MEd in Leadership, MSN, MSW and BS in Computer Science. In addition to its MAT, LC now offers four graduate programs. These academic advancements confirm the College's commitment to provide a foundational liberal arts curriculum as a solid framework for multiple professional programs to build from in the future.

SACSCOC 5th Year Interim Report

Halfway to our 10-year review, LC's interim report came back from SACSCOC as approved, with only two minor notations attached regarding additional documentation. Also, the Quality Enhancement Plan Report effectively demonstrated that LC met its intended student learning outcomes of intentionally integrating faith and learning and had positively impacted student learning.

New Faculty

Louisiana College has added eight faculty to accommodate an increasing student enrollment and expanded curricula.

A summa cum laude LC alumna ('12), Dr. Sara Blazek joins the faculty as an assistant professor of mathematics. She holds BS in Math Education from LC and was a Magee Award recipient. She received her Master of Mathematics and Statistics from Louisiana Tech University, and in February completed her doctoral studies in Computational Analysis and Modeling at Louisiana Tech, where she was a part-time faculty member.

A former Louisiana College Social Work Student of the Year, alumna ('12) Ms. Maggie Bridges is an assistant professor of social work. She holds a BA in Social Work and minor in Psychology from LC, and earned an MSW from Louisiana State University in 2013. Bridges was a full-time therapist at Compass Behavioral Center in Alexandria for a year, and later served three years in full-time social work at J. B. Lafargue Special Education Center in Alexandria.

Previously an adjunct for LC's Criminal Justice Program, Dr. Joshua Joy Dara Sr. joins the faculty as a full-time assistant professor of Criminal Justice. He earned a JD from Southern University and a BA in Communications from California Baptist University. Dara holds a Master of Laws (post doctorate) from the University of Arkansas. He serves as the Senior pastor at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Pineville where he has been pastor since 1996. Dr. Dara has also served as an Attorney at Law. He holds several state licenses to practice law, has had several articles and books published, and has been actively involved in local civic organizations. In 2009, he was named one of Cenla's Fifteen Most Influential People by the Cenla Focus Magazine.

A 2007 cum laude LC graduate, Dr. Daniel Moore is an assistant professor of biology with a BS in Biology. He earned his doctorate in Biology from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 2015. Moore has been involved in Christian education for several years and previously served as a faculty member at Grace Christian School in Alexandria, and served as an adjunct faculty member at LSU-A.

Ms. Wendi O'Halloran is an assistant professor of education. She earned a BA in Psychology from LSU-A in 2006 and her Alternate Teaching Certificate from Louisiana College in 2008, and a Master of Education in Education Leadership and Supervision degree from the University of Louisiana in Monroe in 2012. She was the assistant principal of Ball Elementary from 2013 – 2017, and was since February the school's interim principal. She will pursue a doctorate in education next spring.

Mr. Jason Tinsley returns to LC as an assistant professor of Health and Physical Education. From 2010-2014 he was head coach of LC's women's basketball team. Tinsley earned his BS in Physical Education from NSU in Natchitoches and returned there for his Master of Education in Sport Administration in 1996. He was previously the head men's basketball coach and an instructor at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Dr. Sonia Tinsley is married to Jason and also returns to LC, where she previously was professor of Health and Physical education, 2010-2014. She will serve LC as Chair of Allied Health and an associate professor of Health & Physical Education. She earned a BS in Elementary Education from LSU-A, an MEd in Health Promotion from NSU in Natchitoches, and a PhD in Health Studies from Texas Woman's University in 2006. She was the Chair of the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. In 2011, the Southern District Association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance named Dr. Tinsley College Health Educator of the Year. Also, the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical, Education, Recreation, and Dance presented the College Health Educator of the Year Award to her in 2009.

A 2009 alumnus of LC, Mr. Cameron Weatherford returns as Chair, Division of Fine Arts and Media, and assistant professor of music. Weatherford holds a Bachelor of Music in Church Music from LC. He received his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Southern Mississippi and is currently working on his doctorate in Choral Conducting from the University of Kentucky. While in Kentucky, he was worship pastor at Nicholasville Baptist Church. He was also an adjunct instructor of music at the University of Kentucky and Louisiana College, and was Choral Director at Alexandria Senior High School. He has also served as a choral conductor while at the University of Kentucky, University of Southern Mississippi, and Louisiana College. This past spring, Mr. Weatherford was the winner of the National ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Online Studies

In conjunction with our strategic partner, Savant Learning Systems, LC will launch in October an online BA in Criminal Justice. Coming in January is a BA in Business.

Engineering Classroom

The 3+2 agreement between LC and LaTech has garnered a \$100,000 gift that equipped the Tara Terrill Engineering classroom in Cavanaugh Hall. We are deeply grateful for this gift from Jim and Mary Terrill, parents of alumna Tara. We are equally grateful to Dr. Natalie Maxey, who is associate professor of engineering.

No More Fees

The new flat rate tuition of \$8,000 per semester allows students to enroll in 12-18 hours. LC will no longer assess the matriculation fee, technology fee, utility surcharge, and course fees, but specialty studies fees like Art and Nursing will still be assessed. Students averaging 16 hours per semester could finish college in four years instead of five, and thus reduce the total diploma price tag by 20 percent. According to ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org, LC remains the fourth most affordable accredited Christian college in the South, and fifth in the US.

Bridge Program

Our inaugural class this summer had a 94 percent pass rate. Students responded well with some arriving for class 15-to-30 minutes early. The Bridge program is an academic initiative providing potential freshmen the assistance needed to gain entry into LC. Courses include remedial English and math, and instruction in test-taking and study skills.

Homecoming: Let the Good Times Roar!

Great food, fellowship, worship, tailgating, parade, golf tournament and Wildcats Football. All this and more awaits you at our annual Homecoming, October 12-14. Go to lacollege.edu for all the details, or send an email to kathy.overturf@lacollege.edu for more info.

Founders Day

Thursday, October 5. LC will honor the legacy of alumnus Simon Tudor in our 11am chapel service followed by the unveiling of a historical marker outside the residence hall that bears the Tudor name. A generous benefactor to LC, Mr. Tudor was a successful businessman, church and civic leader in the Pineville-Alexandria area. The public is invited to attend.

Student Success Center

Formerly the Pass Office, the Student Success Center provides academic support services for students with a goal of increasing retention through free tutoring in core courses, thus fostering independent, critical thinking skills needed for collegiate success. Said one LC professor: "Give my regards to the tutors helping our students. They are passing with A's and they say the tutors are doing a great job -- so much so that more students want in on the tutoring."

Board of Visitors

Our Board of Visitors continues to grow almost every week, with 149 generous people giving more than \$200,000 annually in tuition support to qualified students. Every penny goes wholly and solely to these students as each receives \$1,000 tuition assistance per academic year. If you wish to join the BOV or know someone who would, please contact LC's Office of Institutional Advancement at 318.487.7118.

Campus Facility Improvements

LC alumni met the \$100K campus beautification challenge! We are especially grateful to alumnus Don Hill ('64) who gave \$50K to this effort. If you haven't visited us lately, take a drive through campus and see all the landscaping upgrades. The Guinn Auditorium remodeling project continues. New sound and lighting systems, HVAC, ceiling, walls, floors, seats, and carpet will lend a 21st Century ambiance to one of LC's most notable facilities.

Enrollment Up Again

For two consecutive years, the turnaround in enrollment continues with more than 300 new freshmen. Our Fall 2017 Freshman Class is 24 percent larger than last year's, and LC's overall enrollment growth is 7 percent as compared to about 1 percent last year. New scholarships, degree programs and intentionality to recruit students who are academically prepared have contributed to this continuing growth.

Conversions to Christ

Two LifeWay Fuge camps at LC saw 35 people come to faith in Christ. Daily students gathered for worship and Bible study, and dispersed to neighborhoods, churches and other local ministries, where they held backyard Bible clubs, worked in a community garden, sorted donated clothing, served the homeless, and more. A recent worship service at Philadelphia Baptist Church saw 31 athletes on the Wildcats Football Team give their lives to Christ. Each week we witness spiritual breakthroughs and victories among the entire LC family.

Envōc

Voted the best place to work in Baton Rouge for the last three years, Envōc is heading up our social media marketing strategies. Be sure you follow and stay connected to LC's social media like Facebook and Instagram. A new website is coming early next year.

Food Service Switch

LC recently engaged Sodexo for campus food service. Students, staff and faculty are expressing positive comments about the improved quality, variety, and presentation of the fare in Hattie B's Dining Hall.