



President's Report | Spring Update 2017

Transformation continues to be Louisiana College's reality. From the campus to classrooms to curb appeal, transformation is the watchword. Guiding us toward a transformational future is our VISION 2020 Strategic Plan. A product of collaboration among faculty, staff, administration, Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors, VISION 2020 cites the myriad of methods to move LC toward the plan's ultimate goal: enrolling 1,500 students by the year 2020. Still in draft status, you may view VISION 2020 under the news heading at LC's website (lacollege.edu).

VISION 2020 is the proposed forecast, but as you read the remainder of this report, you will easily see how God has blessed the College since last August, and has done so in ways we could not have imagined or implemented without His providence.

FAITH INTEGRATION

- ◆ Underscoring the significance of our curricula built upon a Christian worldview, several faculty contributed to a second edition of our series of essays titled "Faith Matters." Faculty have also read "Renewing Minds" by David Dockery and engaged in discussion through interdisciplinary groups.
- ◆ Our twice-weekly chapel services featured notable speakers from Louisiana and beyond. Led by LBC Executive Director Dr. David Hankins, a missions commissioning service concluded the series as we commissioned eight students to missions efforts across Louisiana, the US and around the world.
- ◆ Faith integration training for athletics coaches and LC staff centered on engaging students with an emphasis on sharing one's personal faith.
- ◆ LC's effort to equip bi-vocational ministers through a Certificate Program enrolled 17 last fall semester and has a similar number slated to enroll this coming fall. The Certificate Program offers studies in pastoral ministry and missiology.
- ◆ Curtis Zachary led our campus revival in March, which saw increased attendance each night.
- ◆ Our first annual Values and Ethics Conference last October was very successful, drawing more than 300 people from the campus and surrounding community. One of our strategic partners, CHRISTUS Cabrini Hospital, sponsored the conference and has committed to underwrite the upcoming October 9-10 conference on Religious Freedom that will feature keynoters Warren Cole Smith of the Colson Center and Greg Baylor of the Alliance Defending Fund.

- ◆ The third annual Joseph Willis Symposium featured Dr. Jake Roudkovski, associate professor of Evangelism at NOBTS. He discussed strategies for revival in a 21st century world.
- ◆ Our inaugural apologetics conference -- C3: Christ, Church, Culture -- addressed important cultural issues from a biblical worldview, thus using a defense of the faith to represent God's established order. Our thanks to Dr. Rhyne Putman, assistant professor of Theology & Culture at NOBTS and Dr. Chuck Pourciau, senior pastor of the Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, who led the conference.

ACADEMICS

- ◆ Pending SACSCOC approval, we will launch this fall the following new degrees: Masters of Social Work, Masters of Science/Nursing, online RN to Bachelor of Science/Nursing, BS in Computer Science, and online BS in Criminal Justice. The BSN program received a \$54,436 grant to assist nursing students. The proposed MSW degree received a \$560,000 as a project funded in part by a Healthcare Occupations Program Grant from The Rapides Foundation.
- ◆ Additional strides include: BA in Missions and Ministries (beginning fall 2017), 3+2 partnership with Louisiana Tech in Engineering, 3+3 partnership with Union University in Pharmacy, Savant agreement for online partnership, and the Summer Bridge Program to begin soon.
- ◆ We retooled the Christian Studies Division, renaming it the *School of Missions & Ministries*, which will offer a BA in *Missions & Ministries* with emphases in pastoral ministry and biblical studies, evangelism and discipleship, church planting, and apologetics. Tandem to this is the newly offered Fred Lowery *Missions & Ministries* annual scholarship award of \$6,000 for enrolling freshmen called by God to Christian vocation. Slated for launch in the fall of 2018 is an MA in Missions & Ministries.
- ◆ LC also launched the Francis A. Schaffer Christian Worldview Scholarship, the C. S. Lewis Honors Program Scholarship, the G. Earl Guinn Resident Leader Scholarship, and a scholarship for international students. Some restrictions apply; see lacollege.edu for all the details.
- ◆ Related to our 3+2 agreement with La Tech, we were blessed to hire Dr. Natalie Maxey to teach pre-engineering coursework, and to receive from Jim and Mary Terrill a \$100K gift that will equip the Tara Terrill Engineering Classroom that we dedicated on April 10.
- ◆ We also established The Center for Teaching Excellence for faculty development.

STUDENT LIFE/ENROLLMENT

- ◆ Enrollment numbers for LC's fall 2017 class are encouraging and show significant improvement in several categories, demonstrating that strategies employed last year were timely and effective. The Preview Day for fall and spring drew 259 attended people, and 169 attended our "Front of the Line" registration event.
- ◆ In concert with the Center for Global Engagement, Dr. Brandon Bannon visited China and South Korea this spring to spearhead LC's efforts to recruit more international students.

- ◆ LC's annual Smith Scholarship saw 15 qualified competitors, with Ms. Anna Matherne from Baton Rouge winning the full-ride scholarship.
- ◆ To help close the affordability gap and increase student retention, LC implemented a flat rate annual tuition of \$16,000 for a range of 12-18 hours.
- ◆ LC's Division of Natural Science/Mathematics and Pre-Engineering program held the Red River Science Symposium for younger teens. More than 35 attended, which doubled last year's attendance.
- ◆ We are pleased to announce two LifeWay M-Fuge camps are scheduled for this summer with more than 600 already registered.
- ◆ The Louisiana Baptist All-State Youth Choir will hold their camp at LC this summer.
- ◆ Emphasizing Christ centered leadership in the Residence Halls, our ResLife staff facilitated student study groups and read Tim Elmor's book "Habitudes."
- ◆ LC ministered in more than 50 churches and seven Christian schools with Dr. Brewer, Dean Smith, Elevate Band and Voices of LC.

ATHLETICS

- ◆ Head Men's Basketball Coach Reni Mason was named LC's Athletics Director.
- ◆ Justin Charles was named as head coach of Wildcats football.
- ◆ Coach Mason led the Wildcats basketball team to the American Southwest Conference final game. Coach Patrece Carter led our women's basketball team to the ASC finals, as well.
- ◆ LC Baseball saw ASC tournament play, with six athletes garnering "All-Conference" status. Our softball team was ranked as high as 14th in the nation, advanced to ASC playoffs, and eight athletes grabbed "All-Conference" honors.
- ◆ Spiritual leadership remains strong in LC Athletics: football player Jamarcus Fitzpatrick led a Bible study in his dorm every Wednesday evening, and softball player Mattie Stine leads a Bible study for females every Wednesday evening, as well.
- ◆ We are grateful for the corporate sponsors and individual donors, whose participation produced more than \$500K last year for LC Athletics.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

- ◆ Our Board of Visitors continues to grow, with 125 members providing \$165,500 annually in student scholarships. LC received five grants this year valued at \$830,582, including The Rapides Foundation Healthcare Occupations Program for \$619,582. Others include the Board of Regents Enhancement Program for over \$100,000, Lettie Pate Whitehead for \$68,000, US Forestry Service for \$27,000 and the LAICU grant for \$3000.
- ◆ We are pleased with our regional Alumni meetings in Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Pineville. Planning for Homecoming is underway for October 12-14, 2017, with the theme, "Let The Good Times Roar."
- ◆ The \$100K Campus Beautification Alumni Matching Gift Campaign nears the halfway mark as we look for our Alums and Friends to help us continue the efforts underway already.
- ◆ In 2016, LC received \$5.5 million of support from the Cooperative Program and from private and corporate donations.
- ◆ We continue to encourage alumni and friends to join our Legacy Society with a planned gift such as a charitable trust, life income plan, endowed scholarship or other gift. We hope to add 30 new members each year for the next three years.

Cathy and I never tire of sharing how God continues to bless Louisiana College. The Lord has assembled a great team on the campus, and is renewing LC's fan base elsewhere. Everywhere we go we hear encouragement from the broader Louisiana College family. What a blessing!

This family includes the gracious and generous support from our Louisiana Baptist churches, whose members give to the Cooperative Program.

I look forward to another season of traversing our state to share with churches, schools, civic groups and others the great news of what God is accomplishing at Louisiana College.

Please keep us in your prayers as we pray for you.

Keep Pressing On!



Rick Brewer, PhD, MBA
President
Professor of Management
Louisiana College