



## President's Report | Summer Update, 2015

As we prepare for the fall semester, I want to update you on our activities during this summer. Though not exhaustive, below is a list of what our team has accomplished. That leads me to say at the outset how grateful to God I am for the tireless servants of Louisiana College, who continually strive to underscore and facilitate our relevant, relational and rigorous approach to the tasks they have undertaken.

I want to thank you as well for every way you have supported our endeavors. Without your prayers and financial considerations, we simply could not hold forth as effectively in what God has commissioned us to do at Louisiana College: prepare graduates and transform lives.

Here is what we have accomplished in the last few months.

### **ACADEMICS**

Formalized a dual enrollment agreement with Rapides Parish School Board, allowing qualified high school students to enroll in college classes at LC.

Received a 10-year reaffirmation of the Business Division's accreditation.

Met with Louisiana Tech University and LSU officials regarding a partnership designed to provide qualified students the opportunity to gain two bachelor's degrees in five years. This 3+2 framework will enable students to complete a pre-Engineering degree at LC before matriculating to Louisiana Tech or LSU.

Sent agreement to leadership at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary regarding the return of a seminary extension center to LC's campus.

### **New Faculty**

Elizabeth Christian, PhD  
Associate Professor and Chair, Division of Media and Communication

Jeanette Commagre, RN, BSN, Nursing Education  
Associate Professor of Nursing

Marilyn Cooksey, PhD; MSN/Adult Health Nursing; BSN; BA, Biology  
Dean of LC's School of Nursing and Allied Health

Benjamin L. Mabry, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Russell L. Meek, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew

Brandon Renfroe, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Business

Henry O. Robertson, PhD  
Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness

## **INTEGRATION of FAITH and LEARNING**

Inaugurated summer reading project for incoming freshmen and faculty to aid in our integration of a Christian worldview into the classroom experience of every student that attends LC.

Freshmen read "Why College Matters to God."

Faculty are reading, "Conceiving the Christian College." This is a component of our intentional equipping of faculty to help shape the conversation a inform dialog this year in peer training.

Developed faith integration training workshops for faculty, staff, and coaches.

Set our fall revival for September 1-3.

Engaged for our fall chapel series several dynamic preachers from across Louisiana that include pastors, alumni, Christian businessmen, and other Christian organization leaders.

Our Quality Enhancement Plan committee compiled data for a monitoring report due March 2016.

Scheduled the Joseph Willis Symposium for March 1-3.  
Speaker, Kevin Adams, Welsh Revival historian.

## **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT/RECRUITMENT**

As of August 14, LC has pre-registered 257 new freshmen compared to 215 at this time last year.

Faculty, trustees and staff collectively completed hundreds of phone calls letters and emails to prospective and returning students in an effort to recruit and enroll them.

Initiating Inside/Out events to increase LC outreach strategies to high school students in LBC churches. Dr. Brewer, LC's Elevate Band, and others will minister, preach and sing.

Dr. Brandon Bannon, vice president of Student Development, now has Enrollment Management responsibilities, as Mr. Byron McGee left those responsibilities to become vice president of Institutional Advancement, August 1.

## **INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

Launched a Board of Visitors initiative, enrolling alumni and friends to support a scholarship fund to:

- broaden college network with others;
- identify prospective students;
- identify employment for students; and
- establish scholarships in direct and exclusive support of qualified students.

Hosted 25 community leaders from CENLA in the past several weeks, asking each to join the Board of Visitors. Fifteen have committed to join. The minimum commitment to join is \$1,000 annually. One person enlisted at the \$2,500 level, and one made a \$5,000 commitment.

Dr. Brewer visited with alumni and friends in major cities both in and out of state. Planned Homecoming for October 1-3.

### **Financial Grants**

Biology Department received \$69,138 to upgrade a classroom into a new, state of the art physiology applications classroom.

Human Behavior department received \$54,631 to upgrade two classrooms into two computer interactive classrooms with Chromebook computer learning stations.

A 3-year, \$15,000 US Forestry Service grant gives students the opportunity to collect, examine and assess insects and other organisms indigenous to CENLA.

The Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the Louisiana Independent Higher Education Research Foundation awarded a \$3000 grant to LC to help the college apply resources toward additional grants through the Board of Regent's Support Fund which will support additional classroom and curriculum enhancements.

## **ATHLETICS**

Hired Jonathan Small as associate athletic director/sports marketing.

Hired Super Bowl champion and former Dallas Cowboy kicker and coach, Chris Boniol, who joined our football staff as an assistant coach for special teams and running backs.

Hired Reni Mason, successor to Coach Gene Rushing, who retired after 29 years with LC men's basketball.

Others include: Lyn Bankston, head coach, softball; David Nunally, head coach, golf; Kenneth Kitchen, tennis coach, assistant football coach.

Improved facilities and playing surfaces at baseball and softball fields.

## **STUDENT DEVELOPMENT/ADMISSIONS/FINANCIAL AID**

Engaged Mark Hughes, consultant, to assist LC in discovering additional strategies to augment efforts in admissions and financial aid.

Student Development personnel completed event planning for the fall semester that includes numerous student activities, also revamped the student orientation manual, and made adjustments to dorm policies.

Launched an online satisfaction survey regarding LC events and summer camps. Health Services has partnered with Omega Diagnostic Lab to draw lab samples per Dr. Kenneth Johnson.

Hired Charles Robertson, NOBTS grad, as director of campus security.

Hired three new admissions counselors.

Created and filled a staff position to focus exclusively on homeschool students.

Dr. Brandon Bannon attended ACT Conference in Chicago, gaining insight to improve student recruitment.

The entire admissions team received training when attending the National Association of Baptist Enrollment Professionals.

## **CAMPUS MAINTENANCE**

Implemented initial phase of Wi-Fi upgrades for faster, more reliable Internet service in residence halls. Projected completion is Feb. 2016.

Renovated community bathrooms in Cottingham Hall.

Repaired, installed, and upgraded internal and external lighting across the campus.

Replaced Student Center roofing.

Replacing rooftop air-conditioning units on Healthplex and football building.

Completed routine maintenance and numerous projects in dorms.

## **CONCLUSION**

With our presidential inaugural events approaching (Sept. 17-18), Cathy and I covet your prayers as we continue in our relevant, relational, and rigorous vision for Louisiana College and the kingdom of God. Your prayers also are vital for students, staff, faculty and administration in our journey toward academic excellence and spiritual formation. I trust these updates encourage you as much as they do our leadership team. God has gathered and continues to gather some of his best servants to lead Louisiana College into what I believe will be fruitful and successful days.

Keep Pressing On!  
Rick Brewer, PhD  
President  
Louisiana College