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The President's Podium

Official newsletter of the Lincoln University president

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Mahoney's Missive

From the president's pen

Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney

At the start of this new year, I want to express my wish that all of Lincoln University's many supporters as well as our returning faculty and staff experienced a joyful holiday season and a well-deserved break. From my own perspective, the break has given me the opportunity to reflect on all that we accomplished in 2009 and the goals we have set for 2010. It promises to be a very exciting year for our dear institution!

As we wait for the students to return, we continue to polish our plans for a smooth registration period and beginning of the spring semester. We are also working on the development of new initiatives and the advancement of programs that were set in motion in 2009. One of these is a recently-developed relationship between Lincoln University and the U.S. Coast Guard. Last month, I reported on my visit with Rear Admiral Cynthia Coogan of the Coast Guard. We discussed plans for a collaboration between our two entities that would include internships for students as well as potential employment opportunities. Admiral Coogan, along with a group of colleagues, returned to campus on November 18-19 for "Coast Guard Day." Coordinated by Mr. John Meyer, LU career counselor, the purpose of this visit was to provide our students with information regarding career opportunities and to introduce a mentoring and pre-commissioning initiative. The Coast Guard particularly hopes to recruit minorities and women from among our graduates. I am very pleased to promote this partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard to provide such important options for LU students.

In December, we learned that Lincoln University, along with other state agencies, would share in more than \$98,000 in law enforcement grants, as announced by the state Public Safety department. Missouri's total \$1,065,285 in federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grants is funded under the federal stimulus act and is being divided among 131 law enforcement agencies. In a news release announcing the grants, Governor Jay Nixon stated, "Protecting our hard-working law enforcement officers across Missouri should be one of our top priorities." I couldn't agree more. The \$9,528.75 that Lincoln will receive will be used to fund 15 ballistic vests for our campus Police Department officers. Grants such as this one enable us to enhance our units, programs, and services. On page 3, you will read about other grants that our productive faculty and staff members have recently procured.

And so, at the beginning of a new semester and a new year, I look forward to the return of our students to campus, to greeting faculty and staff members refreshed by a much-deserved break, and to another productive and challenging term at Lincoln University!

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State Agency Provides Job Training

The road to procuring a job after graduation can be a real challenge in today's economy, but the road is a little smoother for a number of Lincoln University computer science majors, thanks to the collaboration that was set up nine years ago between Mr. Lee Hogue, a supervisor in the Information Technology Services Division/Department of Corrections/Missouri Office of Administration and Ms. Ruth Campbell, an instructor in LU's computer science department. In 2000, Mr. Hogue first contacted Ms. Campbell about procuring a student to serve as an intern in the Information Technology (IT) division. The first student referred to Mr. Hogue is now a full-time end user support employee in the division, and the mutually beneficial relationship between Lincoln University and Mr. Hogue has continued.

In November 2009, Mr. Hogue contacted President Mahoney to thank her for Lincoln's support and for the well-trained students who have been referred as IT interns. These students, according to Ms. Campbell, are selected from CS 351, a course that provides them with the opportunity to work on real-world problems (see "Students Create a Database," p. 5). Ms. Campbell identifies students who demonstrate not just solid computer skills but also responsibility and a work ethic. The students are then entrusted to the tutelage of Mr. Hogue, who serves as both their supervisor and mentor during their internships, some of which last for several years. Since 2000, 17 computer science majors have benefitted from this arrangement; five of them have been hired by the IT division after graduation, and four others have been hired by similar agencies.



Mr. Lee Hogue and Dr. Carolyn Mahoney

Lee Hogue now serves on a task force whose goal is to improve diversity in state offices. He credits Lincoln University for aiding in this endeavor. The internship arrangement he participates in with LU has enabled him to offer work experience leading to full-time employment in the IT field to both women and minorities, two groups that have been historically under-represented in this area. The relationship is win-win for all parties.

Scruggs Portrait Unveiled

On December 4, the Lincoln University family gathered for the Annual Holiday Luncheon in Scruggs University Center. The setting was a fitting place for the ceremony that was a part of the festivities. In 1963, the Board of Curators approved the name of Scruggs University Center, in honor of Jefferson City businessman Clifford G. Scruggs. The building was dedicated in 1966. Mr. Scruggs, owner of Scruggs Lumber, served on the Lincoln University Board of Curators from 1925 until his death in 1957. During his time on the Board, he served as Board secretary and as chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee. He also signed checks for the university until the duty was eventually assumed by a member of the Lincoln staff.

Clifford Scruggs is also remembered by many African Americans as instrumental in their purchase of homes in the Jefferson City area. At a time when most banks would not offer home loans to African Americans, Mr. Scruggs served as a reference, which led to approval of their loans.

Members of the Scruggs family, including Mr. Bob Scruggs, grandson of Clifford G. Scruggs, were on hand at the holiday luncheon to join in the festivities and to unveil a portrait of Clifford Scruggs, benefactor and friend to Lincoln University. President Mahoney thanked the Scruggs family for this gift and announced that it would be displayed in the entrance of Scruggs University Center, forever a tribute to Mr. Scruggs and his tireless service to the institution.

LU Faculty and Staff Procure Grants

Grants enable a university to offer new programs and services, or to enhance existing programs and services beyond the level that general funds allow. LU faculty and staff are remarkably productive when it comes to procuring grants. Recently, the following faculty and staff members were successful in their pursuit of these critical funds:

Mrs. Ruby Stewart, director of Student Support Services (SSS), received a \$356,089 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide peer tutoring and secondary academic advisement/mentoring, as well as an accessible computer lab and study space, additional grant aid, and college and career trips for students who qualify for SSS services. The grant period is September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010.

Dr. Sanjun Gu, research investigator, received a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture CSREES to assist local famers in growing specialty crops or producing value-added agriculture products for local markets to increase revenue, and to enhance their participation in available USDA programs. The grant period is September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2012.

Mr. Mark Friedman, director of Building and Grounds, received a \$7,650 grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation to improve, diversify, and beautify the tree population on campus. The grant period is September 1, 2009, through June 1, 2010.

Dr. Charles Hicks, research farm investigator, received a \$1,000 grant from the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center Extension Project to identify educational programs that enhance the transfer of aquaculture information to Missouri producers and other appropriate individuals and groups. The grant period is September 1, 2009, through June 1, 2011.

Dr. Ikbal Chowdhury, director of International Programs, received a \$15,451 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide short-term training programs in the area of food safety for four persons from Vietnam. The grant period was from September 16, 2009, through October 1, 2009.

Dr. Steve Meredith, dean of the College of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, received a \$54,814 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide cooperative assistance in the development and support of the Wildlife Initiative Program in Wildlife Management. The grant period is September 18, 2009, through September 17, 2010.

Mrs. Bettye Driver, Title III coordinator, received a \$2,021,860 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help establish or strengthen the financial management, academic resources and endowment of Lincoln University. The grant period is October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010.

MSHP Offers Career Opportunities

Lincoln students interested in careers with the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) can now get first-hand information regarding the opportunities available with this agency. Mr. John Meyer, career counselor in Lincoln's Office of Counseling and Career Services, participated in the Community Alliance Program hosted by Troop F of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Classes for the program began in October and lasted for six weeks. The curriculum was designed to familiarize participants, drawn from community leaders and business professionals, with various Highway Patrol policies and procedures utilizing techniques similar to those experienced by student troopers attending the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy in Jefferson City. Sergeant Bruce McLaughlin, who coordinated the program along with Sergeant Paul Reinch, is the MSHP recruiter for Lincoln University. He maintains contact with Meyer, who earned a certificate upon completion of the program, in order to provide LU students with information on career opportunities with MSHP. While this opportunity is of particular interest to criminal justice majors, students in the various science and technology areas can also find positions with the Highway Patrol to fit their skills and interests.

ROTC Cadets Commissioned

On December 11, 2009, the United States Army gained two new second lieutenants. During the Fall Commissioning Ceremony held on that date, President Carolyn Mahoney presented certificates signed by the Secretary of the Army to **2LT DeMarco D. Turmon** and 2LT Tyler B. Mackay. The certificates presented to these new officers state that the President of the United States has reposed special trust and confidence in their patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities. LTC Randall Wickman, commander 2nd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and guest speaker for the Commissioning, reminded the lieutenants of the responsibilities and dedication to duty that must accompany the trust and confidence of the President, as well as of the American people who entrust commissioned officers to lead their sons and daughters in times of both peace and war.

2LT Turmon is a native of East St. Louis, IL. He has earned a B.S. in business administration at Lincoln University and is assigned as an Ordnance Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

2LT Mackay is a native of Jefferson City, MO, and has earned a B.S. in criminal justice administration. He is assigned to active duty as a field artillery officer but will continue to work with the Lincoln University ROTC program until February 5, 2010, as a Gold Bar Recruiter. He will then attend the Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Sill, OK, with a follow-on assignment to Fort Hood, TX.



Turmon and Mackay Take Oath of Office

LU Students Place in Black College Quiz Competition

In a recent competition held in Chicago, IL, the Lincoln University Black College Quiz Team placed fourth out of eight teams in the quiz bowl. The LU team consisted of three seniors: Alma Collins, Brian Shefulsky, and Joy Pyles; and two juniors: Tanya Bradley and Shaquanna Younger. Sponsored and accompanied by Dr. Debra Greene, quiz team advisor/coach and head of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, the students readied themselves for the competition by reading Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America. They also credit their courses and personal experiences as invaluable preparation for the event.

Mr. Shefulsky, a liberal studies major, and Ms. Pyles, an environmental science major, count deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively, as a significant part of their background. Ms. Pyles expects to deploy with her unit again in two years. She is also weighing whether to continue at Lincoln University and pursue an M.S. in environmental science or return to California, where she lived previously for ten years, to do graduate work there. Mr. Shefulsky has applied to several Doctor of Osteopathy schools and is on the interview list for two and possibly three of them. Ms. Collins, whose major is applied mathematics, plans to teach math after graduation in May 2010 and then continue her studies in educational leadership and administration to obtain her goal of becoming a principal.

Ms. Bradley, a native of Jamaica and a computer science major, plans to return to her home country after graduation next year. Ms. Younger, a business administration major, transferred to LU from Delaware. She already has job offers from Edward Jones and the IRS to choose from after graduation.

These talented and committed students are proud to have represented Lincoln University in the quiz bowl. They hope to see LU compete again next year.

Students Create a Database for MO Hospice

Students in Lincoln's Computer Science program aren't waiting until after graduation to get their first real-world experience in their chosen field. For the fall 09 semester, students enrolled in CS 351 Systems Development Methodology, taught by Ms. Ruth Campbell, took on the challenge of designing an ACCESS database for the Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association. Jane Moore, CEO of MHPCA, met with the students at the start of the semester and then periodically throughout to acquaint them with the type of data required by her association and to critique their progress as they crafted the various fields of their databases. The class worked in teams. Originally there were four teams, but as the students discussed their ideas during class time, two of the teams realized that combining the best of each team's initial work would produce a more coherent final product.

On Tuesday, December 8, during their scheduled final exam period, CEO Jane Moore was on hand as the three teams made their presentations. The databases constructed by the teams, while different in form and some functions, all featured a comprehensive listing of members of the various hospice organizations throughout the state of Missouri. The students designed the databases to allow for searches by name, region, and job title. The first team to present also had built in a phone directory of hospice members. The second team's project incorporated an added bonus: remote site access. With this feature, Ms. Moore would be able to access the database from any computer as she travels across the state, rather than just from her office in Jefferson City. The third team concentrated on simplicity and ease of use in their design.

After the presentations, Ms. Moore and Ms. Campbell left the room to confer and to evaluate the three projects. When they returned, Ms. Moore spoke to the class, praising them for their work. Then she critiqued each team's final product, pointing out aspects of each that were applicable to her needs as well as areas that still needed work. Ms. Campbell proposed that selected students continue to work on the project through CS 394 Independent Study. The end result, satisfactory to all, was that three students from one

team and a fourth student from another team will take CS 394 for credit during the spring 2010 semester. In addition to improving, tweaking, and ultimately activating the database for Missouri Hospice, the students will create a user's manual and train MHPCA staff to use the database.

After Ms. Moore left, the students stayed to talk with their instructor, obviously excited about the work they had done and how it will aid a vital organization. One class member summed up their discussion before they dispersed: "I have learned more in this class than in all my other computer classes combined."



Students in CS 351



Jane Moore, CEO Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association

LU Shines as a Land Grant Institution

Lincoln University has enjoyed land grant status since 1890, when it was designated as one of the 1890 land-grant institutions under the second Morrill Act. Under this status, Lincoln receives federal support for programs related to teaching, research, and extension related to agriculture, food, and environmental systems. Faculty and staff who work in these areas take this mission seriously, and their efforts enable Lincoln University to shine as a land-grant institution.

Recently, Ms. Annette Driver, activity coordinator for the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, has partnered with Ms. Dannette Ward of Monsanto to visit the St. Louis urban high schools to acquaint students with business and scientific opportunities available in agriculture and environmental sciences. Ms. Ward was recently featured in People magazine for her work with agriculture students at the Clyde C. Miller High School. Ms. Driver, who organized the St. Louis venture, states: "This effort is a huge step toward educating bright inner city students about agriculture. These students will tour Monsanto, participate in ag/science projects, and, in the process, learn what Lincoln University has to offer." Planning is now ongoing to establish FFA and Junior MANRRS chapters in the St. Louis urban schools. Driver and Ward will spend one day each month visiting these schools as well as bordering schools in Illinois.

In other environmental science-related news, Dr. John Yang, associate professor of research, accompanied two environmental science majors, Ms. Joy Pyles and Mr. Moussa Bakari, who were invited to present their research to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The titles of their presentations were "Understanding the Relationship of Arsenic with Iron and Phosphorus in Soil" (Pyles) and "The Risk Reduction of Shooting Range Soil by the Phosphate-Based Amendments" (Bakari). The students conducted their research under the supervision of Dr. Yang and his associate, Dr. Bin Hua.





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Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney, President

Ms. Deborah Steward, Newsletter Editor

Ms. Rose Ann Ortmeyer, Executive Assistant

Ms. Cherryl Jones, Administrative Assistant