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The President's Podium

Official newsletter of the Lincoln University president

April 2010

Mahoney's Missive

From the president's pen

Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney

The past few months have been busy and productive, with numerous activities at the local, state and national level. As you will read in the pages of this newsletter, I had the pleasure of attending Founders' Day programs hosted by the alumni associations of St. Louis and Kansas City. Both these groups work diligently for the good of Lincoln University. February and March are Black History Month and Women's History Month, respectively, and I was honored to participate in activities related to both, such as serving as the invited speaker at the Missouri Department of Corrections Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 22.

Also in March, I was the keynote speaker at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command in St. Louis. This gave me a marvelous opportunity to educate the more than 500 attendees about the history of LU and the excellent military-related research currently underway on our campus. I took advantage of the platform to thank those in attendance for their selfless service to our great nation.

March brought other opportunities as well. Early in the month, I traveled to Washington, D.C., with Cole County Presiding Commissioner Marc Ellinger and Jefferson City Mayor John Landwehr to call on members of the Missouri congressional delegation. The primary purpose of our trip was to demonstrate unity and mutual support between Lincoln University and the surrounding mid-Missouri community. I was able at this time to update the delegation on advancements in research and educational programs at

our institution. We demonstrated that the university and the community are inextricably linked and that we will grow and prosper together.

As busy as February and March have been, April looks to be even more so. April is always an exciting month because it brings the annual President's Awards & Recognition Gala & Auction. This year's theme is A Global Affair: Teaching and Reaching the World from Our Community. The theme is an important one in that it highlights Lincoln University's commitment to providing an education for our students that will enable them to become full participants in the truly global world in which they will live and work. The theme also captures our institution's integral involvement on both the national and international stages and the contributions we are making.

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LU's VPAA Promotes Quality Teacher Education

Annette Digby, Lincoln's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, is a true advocate for quality teacher education. She doesn't just "talk the talk," she also "walks the walk." Dr. Digby has recently completed her tenure as the 2009-2010 president of ATE, the Association of Teacher Educators.

ATE, an organization devoted to the improvement of teacher education for both school-based and post-secondary teacher educators, was founded in 1920. Its members currently represent over 700 colleges and universities, over 500 major school systems, and the majority of state departments of education. It also has representatives on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. ATE's overall mission is to improve the effectiveness of teacher education.

Digby has been a member of ATE since 1991. She became involved during her tenure at the University of Arkansas. As a new faculty member, she felt it was important to know what was going on in her discipline both nationally and locally, and to develop relationships with colleagues in order to bring the best ideas and practice into her classroom. "I came to value the professional conversations," she states. "I also wanted to share what I was doing with others and to have an impact in the profession."

Her involvement with ATE continued as she moved from Arkansas to Lehman College, City University of New York in 2000, where she served as a professor of education and the associate dean and eventually dean of the Division of Education. While at CUNY, she ran for president of ATE and was elected in 2007. ATE values continuity in its leadership, and so it maintains two presidents-elect, a president, and a past president at all times. Digby therefore spent two years as president-elect before beginning her tenure as president in 2009, at which point she had been at Lincoln in the capacity of provost and VPAA since August of 2007.

As ATE president, Digby presided over the organization's summer conference in Reno, NV, in August 2009 and the recent 2010 annual conference in Chicago in February. She was instrumental in selecting the theme for the annual conference: "Owning the Future Through ACTION: An Inclusive Vision for Teacher Education." ACTION incorporrates six strands: A=Advocacy, C=Collaboration,

T=Technology, I=Internationalization, O=Outcomes, and N=Need. According to Digby, these strands were identified to guide members toward greater ownership of and responsibility for their profession. One of her personal goals for the conferences was that members would leave with "new, innovative ideas and practices plus a renewed sense of commitment to our profession."

In her new role as past president on the ATE board, she will continue to be an enthusiastic and passionate advocate of teacher education.



Dr. Annette Digby, VPAA and Provost

Mahoney's Missive

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The Gala is the result of months of planning, and I want to thank those from the Lincoln University Foundation as well as faculty, staff and community members who have spent many hours ensuring that the event will be a success. The Gala is the Foundation's largest fund-raiser, and your support of it will greatly assist our ability to provide students with a truly superior educational experience. During the awards portion of this year's Gala, we will recognize several honorees from both the university and the community, and we will celebrate the partnership that Lincoln shares with Jefferson City and mid-Missouri. This collaboration is indeed extraordinary, and in these challenging economic times, it is more important than ever that we continue to strengthen our collective capabilities. There is much to celebrate, and the Gala gives us the perfect opportunity to do so. I hope that many of you can join me for this happy occasion on Saturday, April 10, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Cocktail hour and the auction will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and awards at 7:00 p.m. It should truly be a memorable occasion!

Dance Troupé Celebrates Thirty-Plus Years of Dance

When Theressa Ferguson, Lincoln's vice president for Student Affairs, talks about the Dance Troupé, the word "passion" surfaces frequently. With the Dance Troupé's annual spring concert coming up soon, Mrs. Ferguson is enthusiastic in her praise for the students who recently gave up their spring break to practice for the event. "They get no pay for this, and no scholarships. They do it out of passion and love of the dance," she says. She herself is equally as passionate as the student dancers. Starting a dance company is what Theressa Ferguson was recruited to Lincoln to do, and she has continued to serve as artistic director of the company for the last 34 years.

She relates that, in 1976, just as she was finishing her master's at the University of Southern Alabama-Mobile, she received a call from Dr. Norman Johnson, then-head of LU's Department of Physical Education. He was looking for a dance instructor and he had gotten her name from the department head at Norfolk State, which she had previously attended. She came to Lincoln with the idea of staying for one year—long enough to get a dance company established. She laughs now when she thinks about that early plan. In the ensuing 34 years, she became a tenured associate professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education. She also served as head of the department. as Athletic Director, as special assistant to the president for Enrollment Management and Student Success, and currently holds the position of vice president for Student Affairs. And through these successively demanding roles, she has continued to direct the Dance Troupé. Why? "It's my passion," she laughingly admits.

She has nothing but praise for the many students who have performed with the company over the years. The majority of them join the troupe with little to no dance experience, but Mrs. Ferguson finds this a plus rather than a minus. "I can start fresh with them," she says. "I don't have to re-teach or compensate for any bad techniques they might have picked up." She concentrates on what she calls "the art of dance," meaning that she begins with the basics and then moves on into other styles such as ballet, modern, and lyrical. Once the basics are mastered, she allows the dancers to add other aspects such as hip hop, but she insists that the overall style remain authentic. She

says this gives her dancers the knowledge they need to take their dance to the next level.

The hard work definitely pays off. Each year, the Dance Troupé is asked to perform for numerous functions and events. In addition to the out-of-town events they attend, they have also been invited to perform at functions sponsored by, among others, the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus, the Missouri departments of Transportation and Correction, Jefferson City High School, St. Mary's Health Center, and Fort Leonard Wood. Word of mouth ensures that they are always in demand.

The culminating event, however, is always the spring concert. This year, it will be held in Richardson Auditorium on Apr. 8, 9, 10, and 11, with performances at 8:15 p.m. on the 8th and 9th, at 1:15 p.m. on the 10th, and at 2:15 p.m. on the 11th. The theme of this year's concert is "Live the Dream: Thirty Years of Dance." For over thirty years, Theressa Ferguson has indeed lived this dream, and she has done so passionately.



The 2010 Lincoln University Dance Troupé

Bond Tours Campus, Praises Projects

U.S. Senator Kit Bond visited Lincoln University on Friday, Mar. 13, and saw firsthand the global-reaching research currently underway on the campus. Escorted by LU President Carolyn Mahoney throughout his visit, Senator Bond was briefed on an array of projects, including one related to an alternative fuel source and several that are geared toward the survival and well-being of those in the military.

Senator Bond talked at length with Dr. Keesoo Lee, associate professor of biology, about her research project that focuses on algae as a potential source of oil. Lee is collaborating with two local electric cooperatives to harvest carbon dioxide emissions as they escape from coal-fired power plant flues and then pump it into pools of sunlit water, thereby creating an environment that supports prolific algae growth. Plans call for processing algae oil into biodiesel. Thus, this project has the potential to produce an alternative fuel source and to reduce greenhouse gases.

Bond also visited with Dr. James Rooney, LU's coordinator for the Department of Defense programs, to discuss an array of military-related projects underway. Rooney first updated the senator on the



Sen. Kit Bond and Dr. Carolyn Mahoney visit Dr. Keesoo Lee's lab

Multi-Threat Detection Initiative. In its first year of implementation, the project will create a single platform detection system capable of sensing multiple threats, including chemical, biological, nuclear and explosive. Lincoln University will focus on addressing the algorithm, signal processing and data fusion tasks associated with the numerous threats this system will be able to detect.

The group then visited with Dr. Sunder Balasubramanian in his Functioning Adaptive Optics & Nanophotonics Laboratory where they were briefed on research combining laser, acoustic, and nanotechnology strategies to improve detection of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) as well as other unexploded ordnances. In addition to the direct and intended improvements in detecting hidden (suicide) bombs, this research has the potential for hundreds of "spin off" applications, for example in the detection of hidden corrosion under rivet heads in aircraft

Finally, Senator Bond met with Dr. Abdoulaye Bah, director of the project on military suicide prevention research, a project featured in the December issue of this newsletter. Dr. Bah explained that the latest tools available to him and his team include an electronic questionnaire which helps soldiers determine whether they and/or their loved ones should seek professional assistance.

During a press conference after the tour, Bond noted that the institution that was founded by soldiers is now helping the current generation of soldiers stay safer and stronger. "There is a direct link between what happens on the battlefields of Afghanistan or Iraq and what happens here at home in our research labs. The fate of our young men and women in harm's way is directly related to what you are doing here," Bond stated. "The safer we can make their very dangerous jobs, the better. Lincoln can be proud of what it is doing right now, today, to improve lives," he concluded.

LU to Offer New Master's Degree

Lincoln University has stepped out front with the addition of a new master's degree program, to go on line in fall 2010. Recently approved by the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the new degree in environmental science is the first of its kind at any institution in the Central Missouri area. The emphasis of the program is on interactions between people and the environment, and examination of the degradation of the environment as a consequence of human activity.

Through LU's Cooperative Research and Extension programs, students working in the area of environmental sciences will have the opportunity to perform professional research. Dr. Frieda Eivazi, head of the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, notes that the programs' relationship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture gives students not just hands-on experience with environmental problems but also employment opportunities after graduation. She attributes the success of Lincoln students thus far in this area to the department's advanced chemistry and microbiology laboratories and the geospatial information lab. Another plus for students is the environmental microcosm that serves as an outdoor laboratory located at LU's Busby Farms. And then there is the state of Missouri itself, a large area containing numerous sites prime for environmental research and experimentation. Eivazi relates that research is already ongoing into lead contamination in soils and lands from abandoned mining areas in Missouri, contamination that has been identified as a human health and ecological threat. In southwest and southeast Missouri, thousands of acres of land has been found to be contaminated, and 17% of children under the age of 7 living on or near these mining areas have elevated levels of lead in their blood, exceeding that identified as a health risk. Cooperative Research faculty are studying the efficacy of phosphate treatment of the soil to reduce the health risk. Students taking courses in the new master's program will be able to work alongside these researchers on important projects such as this. Eivazi is confident that graduate students will see such opportunities as another rung on the ladder of advancement in an exciting career area.

In addition to research skills, the new program will also assist students to develop consultancy and service skills, enabling them to work effectively with professionals in a wide variety of disciplines. Faculty in the environmental sciences area say that graduates will be equipped with strong problem-solving and analytical skills within an interdisciplinary context, allowing them to seek employment in federal and state agencies as well as the private sector. Potential employers of graduates with the new M.S. degree include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state environmental protection agencies, soil and water conservation districts, and of course USDA.

Once more, Lincoln University is proving its ability to provide students with cutting-edge programs and real-world opportunities.



LU researchers examine soil for evidence of contaminants

St. Louis Alumni Chapter Sets Goals

On February 20, the Greater St. Louis LU Alumni Chapter held its annual Founders' Day Scholarship Luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel. According to Chapter President Robin Carey (the former Shelle Allen, class of '84), approximately 270 members and guests attended the event, with Michael Boyd ('91) serving as Master of Ceremony. Chairperson for this year's gathering was Barbara Thomas, ably assisted by her co-chair, Lillie Jones.

A main purpose of the annual luncheon is to raise money for scholarships for LU students, and that mission was on the minds of many that day. Dr. Earl Wheatfall, president of the LU National Alumni Association, spoke to attendees about the challenge he has set for his tenure: a goal to raise a million dollars for scholarships over the next four years. If the enthusiasm of those present at the gathering is any indication, Dr. Wheatfall will have no trouble achieving this dream.

Other speakers included LU President Carolyn Mahoney, who brought greetings from the university and updated alumni on the state of the institution, particularly the budget and finances, enrollment increases, and military-related spending projects. She expressed gratitude to the alumni for all they do to support their alma mater, including recruiting students, funding scholarships, and nurturing students through to graduation. LU Curator Iris Ferguson welcomed the group on behalf of the Board of Curators and talked about the Board's focus on support of the goals laid out in the university strategic plan. Also during the luncheon, special recognition was given to the following: Kim Story, for her nine years of service as treasurer of the National Alumni Association; and Dr. Earline Butler, immediate past president of the Greater St. Louis chapter.

Robin Carey also addressed the members and discussed her goal for her presidency: to increase chapter membership, particularly among alums from the 70's, 80's, and 90's. Additionally, she hopes to increase visibility of the chapter, which she terms the "Greater St. Louis" chapter as it includes not just St. Louis proper but also the areas immediately east of the river. With Carey at the helm of this vibrant chapter, there is no doubt that they will achieve success!

KC Alumni Chapter "Renews, Reclaims, and Reconnects"

The Kansas City LU Alumni Chapter held its annual Founders' Day Luncheon on Saturday, Mar. 27, at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. This year's theme was "Renew, Reclaim, Reconnect." Planning chair for the event was Dr. Cortez Bradley ('50), who also served as Master of Ceremony. Approximately 100 alumni and friends assembled to pay tribute to the founding fathers and to reaffirm their mission of support for their alma mater. "We look forward to this event every year," Bradley stated.

Greg Hunt ('82), chapter president, welcomed the attendees. Samuel Murrell ('73) provided three musical selections, and Stacia Brown ('74) read a tribute, "Remembering Our Founders." A portion of the selection was read by her husband, Archie Brown ('74).

Guest speaker for the event was Dr. Marjorie Williams, superintendent of the Hickman Mills School District. She is the first African American female to be appointed to this highest administrative post in the over-100 year history of the district. LU President Carolyn Mahoney also spoke, bringing greetings and updating alumni on the state of the institution. Dr. Mahoney thanked Dr. Williams for her assistance in providing the second-largest number of students from a single school district to attend Lincoln University this year. She also brought news of the Lincoln Women's Track Team's recent victory; the growing research into nanotechnology at the institution: the One Million Dollar Campaign launched by Dr. Earl Wheatfall, National Alumni Association president; and Troy Davis' \$100,000 match challenge to alumni.

Also in attendance were Dr. Mahoney's husband, Mr. Charles Mahoney, and Benecia Williams, vice president for Advancement. At the close of the event, members gathered for pictures with Dr. Mahoney.

Thanks to our wonderful alumni associations for all you do for Lincoln University and our students!

LU Faculty Raise the Bar

The quality and reputation of every institution of higher education is advanced by its faculty, and Lincoln University is fortunate to have a faculty that works toward the welfare of both the institution and the academy. This semester has been no exception. Following is a portion of the achievements of faculty members thus far this year:

Mrs. Bernadette Turner, associate professor of mathematics, and Mrs. Donna Stallings, instructor of mathematics, jointly presented on the topic "Retention Benefits of Refocused College Algebra" at the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America Conference, held on Jan. 13-15 in San Francisco. Mrs. Stallings is the LU recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Ruth Robertson, professor of music, and **Dr. Meg Gray**, associate professor of music/keyboard, performed on Feb. 4 in Richardson Auditorium with two faculty members from Central Methodist University. Included in the program were four duets from the Baroque era and three by Czech composer Dvořák, four chansons, two seaside songs, several spirituals, and two operatic duets.

Dr. Bruce Ballard, associate professor of philosophy, has had his article, "Affective Constitution and the Problem of Suffering," accepted for publication in the July issue of the journal, *American Theological Inquiry*.

Mr. Felix Wulff, assistant professor of agriculture and superintendent of the university farms, has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Sheep Producers.

Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, associate professor and state extension specialist, received the Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award from the Missouri Native Plant Society for her contribution to the advancement of knowledge of native plants through education.

Dr. Sunder Balasubramanian, assistant professor of physics, has been voted president-elect for the Missouri Association of Physics Teachers.

Mr. Greg Brownderville, assistant professor of English, had his poems accepted for publication: "The Cold Tile Blues," in *Gravy* (a publication of the Southern Foodways Alliance); "Ritual to Sell Your Soul" and "Hot Tamale Charlie Sings of a Player's Heartbreak," in *Raintown Review*; "Carlo Flunks the Seventh Grade," "Tableland at Zero," "The Magic of Song," and "Hot Tamale Charlie Speaks of Rabbit Ice," in the *Birmingham Poetry Review*; and "Last Song for Brother Langston," in *Oxford American Music*. Mr. Brownderville has also been interviewed for a documentary film on Arkansas writers that will be made available to high schools and universities.

Dr. Manzoor Chowdhury, assistant professor of business administration, co-authored an article titled "Poverty-Environment Nexus: An Investigation of Linkage Using Survey Data," published in the *International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development*.







Women's Track & Field Team Delivers

On Mar. 13 in Albuquerque, NM, the Lincoln University Women's Track & Field Team rocketed to the top once again when they took the 4x400-meter relay. Winning this final event was necessary to clinch their 4th indoor title and 10th overall national championship. The 1,600 meter relay was won by Michelle Cumberbatch, Nyoka Cole, Yanique Hay and Keniesha Jones with a time of 3:40.98.

Sophomore Semoy Hackett claimed meet records in both the 60- and 200-meter dashes, and was named 2010 South Central Region Female Indoor Track Athlete of the Year by the United States Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). Hackett had previously been named to the Bowerman pre-season watch list. The Bowerman is considered the Heisman of track & field.

"The fact that we continue to win championships without an indoor track or place to train is a testament to the women's drive and dedication," Head Coach Victor Thomas said. "I was very proud of how they responded, because we had a few injuries that first day and I didn't know if we'd be able to pull it out, but they stepped up." Coach Thomas was named the 2010 South Central Region Indoor Coach of the Year by the USTFCCCA.

In other individual results, Janika Martell took 3rd place in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.38; Nyuoka Cole placed 6th in the 200-meter race, followed by Martell in 8th place; Cole finished 4th in the 400-meter dash, followed by Michelle Cumberbatch in 8th place; and Racquel Anderson finished in 2nd place in the long jump with a measurement of 19-9.

The Lincoln men brought home 4th place in the team competition. Overall, it was a proud day for Lincoln University!



LU Women's Track & Field Team



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