



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

I am very excited to welcome you to the first publication of The President's Podium! A newsletter highlighting the many accomplishments, events, and activities that regularly occur at Lincoln University has long been a goal of mine. I know that you are a strong supporter of Lincoln University and that you have a vested interest in the success of our institution. I will endeavor, by means of this newsletter, to keep you informed of news from across our historic campus. In each issue, you can expect to read about our students and the many ways they make us proud, the accomplishments of our stellar faculty and staff, the athletic program, improvements to the campus infrastructure, collaborations with a range of entities from other universities to the United States Army, and many other items of interest.

In my recurring column, I'll let you know what is happening from the perspective of the President's Office and my own activities and initiatives. One important piece of news to report at this time is the recent retirement of Constance Williams, vice president for Student Affairs, who served the university faithfully for 11 years. We will miss her caring and supportive services to students and staff, and I will personally miss her dedication and unfailing good humor. As Mrs. Williams leaves to spend more time with her recently-retired husband and family, we welcome into the VPSA position Mrs. Theresa Ferguson, who distinguished herself as the special assistant to the president for Enrollment Management and Student Success. We all wish Mrs. Ferguson the very best in her new position.

Other recent appointments include Mr. Mike Kosher to the post of executive director for Enrollment Management, Mrs. Sandra Koetting as university controller, Mrs. Kathy Muenks as budget officer, and Mr. Kenneth Ferguson as director of Governmental and Community Relations. I am confident

that they will bring vigor and dedication to these vital positions, helping to move the university forward in the new year.

Another exciting development to report is the news that we are entering into a partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard. Recently, I met with Rear Admiral Cynthia Coogan and learned that she and her staff had carefully considered institutions with which to partner. LU is one of two schools they ultimately decided to approach. Plans for the partnership include developing internships and potential employment opportunities for our students, as well as future expansion into other areas of mutual interest.

October was a particularly eventful month here on campus. The annual Foundation Scholarship Luncheon was held on October 8, with over 100 students, Foundation board members, and family members in attendance. Senator Rita Heard Days, Victor Pasley, Joe Outlaw, and Brian Berhorst joined me in delivering inspirational messages to the students. On October 15, Governor Jay Nixon visited campus and held a press conference in Elliff Hall to celebrate the "Caring for Missourians" initiative with our Department of Nursing Science. This initiative has been especially important to Lincoln University in that it provides state funding to increase the number of BSN-prepared nurses and medical technologists. Also in October, Dr. Brian Mitchell, Jefferson City Public Schools superintendent, attended an educational meeting and luncheon on campus. The primary goal of the event was to enhance the already existing collaboration between our institution and the Jefferson City Public School System.

The first issue of The President's Podium coincides with the completion of the fall 2009 semester. This semester has indeed been one of remarkable achievements, including a marked increase in freshman enrollment, the stirring success of Homecoming 2009, and some especially noteworthy accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. You'll find specifics on each of these exciting stories, as well as much more, in the pages of this newsletter. I hope you'll discover plenty to excite you and make you proud to be a friend and supporter of Lincoln University!

Homecoming 2009!

Over the weekend of October 9 – 11, Lincoln family and supporters thrilled to the activities of Homecoming 2009. With approximately 2,500 alumni participating in events throughout the weekend, the campus was alive with celebration. The classes of 2004, 1999, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1969, 1964, and the Golden Reunion class of 1959 were honored at the Reunion Classes Luncheon on Friday. Misty Young, Lincoln's director of Public Information and University Affairs, produced a reunion class slideshow that was presented during the event. Each member of the class of 1959 received a 50-year pin, a certificate, and a class photo.

Also on Friday, the alumni concert was held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, followed by a party featuring DJ Rhonda Harper. And on campus, Mr. Lincoln University LaDerrick Murphy hosted the first annual Gathering of Gentlemen, a social event providing opportunities for male students to network with visiting alumni and community members. For the ladies, there was the annual Miss Lincoln University Royal Tea, honoring Miss LU Veronica Thomas, held at the home of Dr. Ruthi Sturdevant.

The enthusiasm was palpable on Friday night at Reed Stadium as alumni joined students and community members for a fireworks display and a rally featuring the LU Band and cheerleaders. The excitement built as President Mahoney led the Homecoming cheer. Then on Saturday, crowds thrilled to the 2009 Homecoming Parade, with 30 students serving as parade marshals, and approximately 60 entries delighting the observers. Downtown High Street was festooned with Lincoln University Homecoming flags, marking the parade route and instilling a sense of pride in all who lined the street.

On Saturday afternoon, the crowds were primed and ready to cheer the Blue Tigers on to victory over Peru State, and at first it looked as if they would be successful. Just four minutes into the game, sophomore wide receiver Gordon Everett scored the first touchdown for LU. Both teams battled it out on a rain-soaked field until a big turnover helped the Peru Bobcats tie the game. A field goal then gave them a 9-6 lead, one they would maintain into the fourth quarter. The Blue Tigers fought on, but with just three minutes left in the contest, the Bobcats pushed ahead to a 16-6 lead and finished the game with this score intact. Blue Tiger fans, however, were cheered by the fact that the Tigers outgained the Bobcats, tallying 273 yards to 266, as Lincoln passed for 187 yards.

There was plenty of excitement at halftime when alumni presented President Mahoney with checks in support of their beloved alma mater. The band also delighted the crowds and got everyone to their feet during the halftime show when it played the Homecoming song that captured this year's theme, "This Is How We Do It!" We hope everyone is making plans to return for Homecoming 2010!

News from the Blues

Our athletic programs add excitement and vigor to the campus mix, and there has been much to cheer about this semester. The student-athletes were welcomed to the training fields in August by newly-named Athletic Director Betty Kemna. Replacing Kemna in her former position as assistant athletic director/compliance officer is David Thurkill, who joined the LU staff after having served as the legislative associate for the NCAA. Tim Abney, fresh from his position as head women's basketball coach and head women's tennis coach, is now the assistant athletic director/academics. He will continue to serve as tennis coach. John Redmond, previously the assistant men's basketball coach, has been named head men's basketball coach. Brian Kortz, from Barry University in Miami, FL, is the new sports information director. This dynamic group joins Head Football Coach Nathan Cochran, who has held that position since January.

Old faces welcomed new. Katie Vaughan is the new head women's basketball coach, after having served in the same position at Moberly Area Community College. Nicole Stacey, former head softball coach at Westminster College, now fills that position for LU. Nicole Collier was hired as assistant women's basketball coach, and Mark Greenwood takes over the same position for the men. Heather McKneely is the new assistant athletic trainer.

The 2009-2010 season will mark the final year of membership in the Heartland Conference. As a member of this conference, LU competes in men's and women's basketball, golf and tennis, as well as softball, cross country and baseball. Football and track and field remain independent as the Heartland Conference does not offer championships in these two sports. In July 2010, Lincoln will rejoin the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) for all sports. The football team will not play a full conference schedule, however, until 2011, due to contracts for 2010 that must be fulfilled.

Lincoln left the MIAA in 1998, after nearly 30 years of membership, when football was dropped from the LU athletic program. The switch back to MIAA will mean shorter trips to conference schools for the student-athletes, enabling them to miss fewer classes. Currently, as a Heartland member, LU teams must travel as far as 18 hours on a bus. With the switch to the MIAA, the longest trip will take only seven hours. Travel costs will also be greatly reduced. The January issue of The President's Podium will feature highlights of the 2009 season.





Beacon on Lincoln's Faculty and Staff

The success of our students and our many endeavors is of course made possible by the outstanding dedication and hard work of a stellar faculty and staff. In each issue of *The President's Podium*, some of the noteworthy activities and accomplishments of members of these groups will be featured. This month, we are proud to shine our "Lincoln Beacon" on the following:

Dr. Amy Gossett, associate professor of political science, attended the American Democracy Project conference in Baltimore in June. As a result, Lincoln will be part of the Civic Agency Project through the Center for Democracy and Citizenship in Minnesota.

Mr. Greg Brownderville, assistant professor of English, was awarded the Tennessee Williams award for an 18-page poetry manuscript at the Sewanee Writers' Conference in Tennessee in July.

Dr. Larry Ross, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, was featured in the July/August edition of *Tracks: News from The Cleveland Museum of Natural History* in which he described how his involvement as an undergraduate in research through the Museum's Adopt-A-Student program paved the way for his success in graduate school and in academia.

Mrs. Paula Clay, director of the First Year Experience Program, has been appointed by Governor Jay Nixon to serve on the Board of the Children's Trust Fund.

Dr. Linda Wyman, professor of English, attended the annual meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society in St. Louis in September, where she chaired a session entitled "Eliot Aloud."

Mr. Michael Henderson, graphic artist for the Office of Public Relations, designed a new billboard for the Highway 54/63 interchange in north Jefferson City, featuring Mr. LU LaDerrick Murphy. The billboard invites potential students to "Dream Big." It was installed in late September.

Dr. Debra Greene, associate professor of history, and **Dr. Antonio F. Holland**, curators' distinguished professor of history, attended the 94th Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and 30th meeting of the Association of Black Women Historians in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 30-October 5. Dr. Greene chaired the Drusilla Dunjee Houston Graduate Student Award Committee and presented the award during the ABWH luncheon.

Mr. Christopher Sutton, coordinator for Student Conduct, and **Mrs. Shirley Sanders**, academic advisor, presented a workshop to approximately 25 students in October. The workshop, entitled "Embracing Diversity on Campus," focused on the potential consequences of using verbal assaults, threats, intimidation, and other forms of violence when engaging in conflicts with peers, faculty, staff, and others. Students were then presented with alternatives for handling conflict.

Mr. Mark Friedman, director of Buildings and Grounds, hosted a gathering of arborists from the surrounding area to tour the campus in November. The group walked sections of the newly-established Greenway Trail, toured the Soldiers' Memorial site, and then viewed a PowerPoint presentation developed by Mr. Friedman to showcase the LU Urban Forest. Among those attending the event were representatives from the Missouri Department of Conservation-Forestry Division, Missouri Parks and Recreation, and the University of Missouri Arborists.



*Happy Holidays to all from
the Lincoln University
president, faculty, staff and
students!*

Super Students – Super Stars!

Students are the heart and soul of Lincoln University. Their activities and accomplishments let us know that we are on a solid course. This semester, they have not disappointed! Here are just a few of the highlights:

Rikketta Franklin, senior vocal music education major, performed in the *105 Voices of History*, the National HBCU Choir, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on August 30.



In September, Spanish majors **Lupita Gier** and **Bret Luebber** participated in the training program, “Working with Victims of Violence in Immigrant Communities—Linguistic and Cultural Issues,” sponsored by the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition.



In October, six students were selected as Women’s Leadership Academy participants for the 2009-2010 academic year: **Rhoda Bryan**, education major; **Amy Fawks**, computer science major; **Joy Pyles**, environmental science major; **Patricia Samson**, business major; **Jamie Schwartz**, accounting major; and **Ruth Turner**, agriculture major.



On October 23-24, the Blue Tiger Battalion competed in the 2009 Brigade Ranger Challenge at Washington University, fielding a men’s and, for the first time, a women’s team. The men’s team placed tenth overall out of eighteen teams and received a streamer for first place in the hand grenade event.



Deanna Alonso, a social work major and 2009 recipient of a Zonta Second Chance Scholarship, was featured on the “Radio Friends with Paul Pepper” program on October 30. She was interviewed about the Midwest Foster Care Adoption Association where she serves as executive director.



Jakub Michel, a math major, presented “Polynomial Approximation to Normal Probability Density Function and Determination of Best Approximating Intervals” during the Missouri/Arkansas/Kansas/Oklahoma (MAKO) Undergraduate Conference on November 14 at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.



In November, 34 Lincoln University students were inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, a general scholarship honor society open to juniors and seniors in all academic areas who meet the requirements of the society. The main purpose of Alpha Kappa Mu is “to promote high scholarship; to encourage sincere and zealous endeavor in all fields of knowledge and service; to cultivate a high order of personal living; and to develop an appreciation for scholarship and scholarly endeavor in others.”



Karen Robinson, a December 2007 graduate with a major in biology, has been accepted to medical school at the Saint James School of Medicine.





Our Evolving Campus

When alumni visited campus during the recent Homecoming period, many were astounded by the changes to the physical environment. From the new residence hall, Sherman D. Scruggs Hall, on the east side of campus, to the nearly-completed Greenway that offers students, staff and visitors a scenic stroll around the historic hilltop, evidence of progress is everywhere. Along with these prominent additions, other projects that enhance the living-learning environment have been completed and/or are in the works. To address the needs of first-time freshmen, Dawson Hall has been designated the Freshman Center; it houses 143 male and 169 female first-year students. Renovations are being made to Dawson to enhance resident security and to provide office and classroom space for additional personnel and tutoring. Perry Hall has been designated co-ed to accommodate upper-class female residents. The first floor is dedicated to females, with 30 young women currently assigned to the hall for the fall 09 semester.

Other plans include renovations in Elliff Hall, specifically for the construction of a new surge-tech lab in room 205 and the conversion of the classroom in 210 into a conference space.

Mitchell Hall has been placed on the State Historical Preservation Registry with the recommendation that it also be placed on the National Register of Historical Places in Washington, D.C. Its historical significance stems from the fact that it was the site of the first school of journalism for African-Americans, opened in 1942.

Transformations are also occurring at off-campus sites. A design for a new 2.5 acre lake has been approved for the Integrated Farming Institute at Busby Farm. Renovation is complete at the St. Louis Outreach Center, and programs there are now on-going. Work on the Kansas City Extension Facility is 65% complete. The Outreach Center in Caruthersville, MO, was damaged by a tornado in 2006. Reconstruction began in March 2007. The building was removed entirely to its original foundation and rebuilt. It reopened in the spring of 2008.

LU pride is evident in the Homecoming flags that adorned the poles on High Street in downtown Jefferson City and that will fly indefinitely on Chestnut, Dunklin, and Lafayette streets and Dawson Drive.

Signs of progress are everywhere!

Growth and Development

It's a great problem to have! Residence halls and classrooms were bursting at the seams at the start of the fall 09 semester, as Lincoln University welcomed 3,314 students to its on- and off-campus sites. This census figure represents a 6.5% increase over the fall 2008 headcount of 3,109. First-time freshman numbers were even more significant: an enrollment of 745 represented a more than 29% increase over that of fall 2008. According to Admissions Director Mike Kosher, this number is the largest freshman class at Lincoln University since 1991, and is believed to be the second-largest ever. Although these freshmen come from 26 states, 75% of the class is from Missouri, with over 90% from Missouri and bordering states. Cole County high school graduates comprise 16% of total class enrollment, with 5.9% from the Kansas City metropolitan area and 10.9% from the St. Louis metropolitan area. Nearly 10% of the freshmen came from Jefferson City High School.

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Growth is measured in other ways, as well. In 2005, the university procured a grant with the Army Research Laboratory, to begin in 2005 and continue through 2010. The total award is \$5.6 million. Under the direction of Dr. Abdoulaye Bah, associate professor of criminal justice and sociology and the program manager, LU is collaborating with the Army to develop a suicide prevention instrument that can be used to train designated Army officials to be effective and culturally sensitive in their approach to suicide ideation and behavior among enlisted soldiers. The first outcome as a result of this collaboration is *Beyond the Front: An Interactive Life Preservation Training Program*. This is an immersive learning program that allows users to actively process information while engaged in the learning process. It has already been used as a training mechanism for the official Army suicide prevention stand-down, which took place February 15-March 15, 2009, and it will become an integral part of suicide prevention training in the Army for phase III sustainment. Dr. Bah and his team, Ms. Linda Fatkin, M.A., Psy., and Ms. Ché Wilson, M.A., have recently received a \$2 million installment to continue with the next phase of this important project.



The President's Podium is a publication of the
Lincoln University President's Office

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Communicating with the Board of Curators

Individuals and groups from time to time express interest in communicating with or making a presentation to LU's Board of Curators. To ensure that the Board's time is well-spent, policies are in place to standardize these requests:

Written communication -- All communications to the Board of Curators shall be filed in writing with the president of the university. The president of the university shall have authority to read the communications and to make thereon any comments he/she may see fit, but the president may have no authority to delay or withhold any communication addressed to the Board or to any of its committees or officers.

Presentations Before the Board -- Any individual or group desiring to make a presentation before the Board of Curators may be placed on the agenda for a regular meeting if a written request to the Board through the Office of the President of the University is received at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The request shall include the name(s) of the individual or group making the request together with a summary of the presentation. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Board of Curators to decide whether the request will be approved. If the request is approved, the president of the Board shall determine an appropriate amount of time to be allowed for the presentation and shall relay the decision to the initiator of the request. A request by an individual or group to present a matter that should be handled by the university administration shall be denied. Presentation request forms are available in the Office of the President of the University.