



The President's Podium

Official newsletter of the Lincoln University president

February 2010

Mahoney's Missive

From the president's pen

Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney

The Lincoln University campus is beautiful in the winter. It is a different kind of beauty than what we see here in the spring and summer, when our hilltop blooms with flowers and the trees delight us with their vibrant shades of green. Winter offers a quieter splendor, especially when new snow covers the ground, as it has done several times now since the start of the new year. Despite the cold, I still love to walk the campus, and it is on these walks that I am struck by such sights as the bronze soldiers on the quad, glistening in the frosty air. The trees that burst with blossoms in the spring wear a different but no less lovely attire in the winter, when snow and sometimes ice cover their boughs. I hope that all who are able have had the chance to take in the sights of our winter campus. It will not last much longer!

The winter semester is also a busy and productive time, for all who work and learn at our institution and for me personally. So far this year, I have been involved in a number of exciting new ventures. In January, I was appointed to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) Council of State Representatives, after having been requested to serve in this capacity by my Missouri presidential peers. I look forward to a rewarding experience with this group. Separately from this appointment, I was asked by the AASCU president to serve on the AASCU Presidential Advisory Committee Stewards of Place III Initiative. This committee will oversee efforts to promote and support engagement/involvement by state universities in their surrounding communities. I was happy to

accept this assignment because of my long-standing goal of helping to bring the university and the community closer together.

I am also pleased to report that I have been appointed to a two-year term on the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' (APLU) Board of Directors. This association has 218 members, including 76 land-grant institutions, of which 18 are the historically black public institutions created by the Second Morrill Act of 1890. Lincoln University is of course a long-standing member of this group.

With all that is going on, it is not too early to look ahead to April, when the Lincoln University Foundation, Inc., and Lincoln University will welcome friends and alumni to the 8th Annual President's Awards/Recognition Gala and Silent Auction. Mark your calendars for April 10! This event is always one of the high points of my year. It is a wonderful way to welcome spring.

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LU President and VPUA Attend Annual Brunch

Lincoln University alumni are ever active in support of their alma mater. In December, President Carolyn Mahoney and Vice President for University Advancement Benecia Williams traveled to Marina del Rey, CA, site of the Lincoln University L.A. Chapter Annual Christmas Brunch, which is now in its seventh year. This is the third time that Dr. Mahoney has been able to attend the event, and she reports that it was just as rewarding this year as it was in previous years. A main goal of the brunch is to raise funds for the chapter; this money is then used to support students from the L.A. area who enroll at Lincoln. Another goal is to build the chapter, and the members have proven to be quite adept at this. Dr. Mahoney says that she always finds it so gratifying to meet and talk with them because they are avidly interested in what is happening at their alma mater. Mrs. Williams shares her enthusiasm for this group. "They really roll out the red carpet for us," she says. "Chapter president William Hardy is a very gracious host."

Both the president and vice president see an added benefit to attending the Christmas Brunch: the opportunity it gives them to spend time with some of Lincoln's major donors, to answer their questions, and to apprise them of the growth and innovation that their generosity makes possible. This year, they enjoyed a delightful evening spent with Mr. Troy Davis, one of Lincoln's most faithful alums and donors. Mr. Davis, a 1954 graduate, is founder of S. Systems Corporation of Los Angeles. He started S. Systems in 1977 as a one-man consulting firm. Today, it specializes in high energy laser research and providing R & D and engineering services to clients. In the past 30 years, his company has serviced over \$500 million in government contract awards. For all his success, Mr. Davis remains a true Lincolnite. He is still passionately interested in his school and the students it serves.

Dr. Mahoney and Mrs. Williams had the pleasure of meeting one of those students at the brunch. Michael Collins was recruited several years ago and hoped to complete the final two years of his education at Lincoln. Service to his country came first, however, and he shipped out with his unit when it was deployed to Iraq. Once his tour was completed, he once again focused on his goal of completing college, a goal that is now one step closer to success. This nontraditional

student started the spring semester at LU and now lives in a residence hall on campus. He credits the support of the L.A. chapter for helping him achieve his dream. Lincoln University is fortunate to have such alumni and students!



Mr. Michael Collins and Dr. Carolyn Mahoney

Mahoney's Missive

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But before then, let us continue to enjoy the winter season and the activity going on all around us. As you read the pages of this newsletter, you'll learn of many exciting things that are happening. The President's Podium will be on hiatus in March. I look forward to sharing more good news with you in the April issue.



Clean Air = A Healthier Campus

Take a deep breath. If a partnership between Lincoln University and the Cole County Partners for Clean Air succeeds in its mission, then everyone on the Lincoln campus might find it a little easier to breathe deeply. This partnership was made possible by a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health. Funding from the grant provides two consultants to LU: Dr. Cheryl Avant, student volunteer coach; and Ms. Gail Jones, smoking cessation coach. Working with Ms. Barbara Black, director of Lincoln's Student Health Center, Dr. Avant and Ms. Jones are developing plans to involve students, faculty and staff in an effort to provide education on the risks of smoking and secondhand smoke and work toward the future goal of a smoke-free campus.

This group realizes that they have a challenge ahead. The right to smoke and the right to breathe clean air are hotly debated. But the pendulum has been gradually swinging toward the right of everyone to enjoy clean air and freedom from the effects of smoke. It is quite simply a health issue. According to Felicia Poettgen, project coordinator for Cole County Partners for Clean Air, two cigarettes burning in an average-size restaurant or bar puts the air quality in the unhealthy range; three burning cigarettes put it into the hazardous range, according to EPA standards. For this reason, smoke-free laws are gradually becoming the norm in states as well as in individual cities and counties. Currently, by law, workplaces are smoke-free in 25 states; restaurants are smoke-free in 29 states; and bars are smoke-free in 25 states. Ms. Poettgen reports that, while only 17% of the Jefferson City population smokes, the city is only one of six state capitols that is not smoke-free. Her organization is one of several that are working to change that.

Ms. Black hopes that these efforts will affect assumptions on the LU campus. She reports that the Student Health Center sees approximately 40 students every day, often for such complaints as asthma, bronchitis, sore throats, and other respiratory ailments. She sees a connection between the frequency of these complaints and whether the student is a smoker. She is glad to have Dr. Avant and Ms. Jones working with the students to raise awareness of this issue. Ms. Jones is already conducting a smoking cessation class on campus and has more planned for the coming months. Dr. Avant is working with the SGA and the health center to recruit students to serve on a Student

Advocacy Group. This group will be trained as peer educators. One of the first planned events is Kick Butt Day, currently slated for March 24. Another planned activity is a survey to capture attitudes and knowledge about smoking. She hopes to involve faculty and staff as well as students in this. She says that a survey will be ready in February and sent out by campus e-mail. It will be short and easily accessible, and she encourages everyone to take and submit it.

Ultimately, the goal is a healthy campus. Barbara Black, a nurse on a mission, is enthusiastic about the partnership and what it will mean for Lincoln. "I believe that by working together, we can help students, faculty and staff achieve a healthier lifestyle," she says. "And what is more important than our health?"



Gail Jones, Smoke Cessation Consultant, and Barbara Black, Director of LU Student Health Center



Ms. Black explains the smoke cessation program

Program Helps Students Master Difficult Courses

In 1996, a new program was piloted on campus. Supplemental Instruction, or SI, made its first appearance, and it has been helping Lincoln students succeed in difficult courses ever since. The idea behind SI is simple. It provides academic assistance to students taking courses that have high rates of D's, F's, and withdrawals. Michelle Wilson, director of Lincoln's Academic Enrichment Center (CAE), coordinates the SI program. She says that historically difficult courses are identified through data kept on student grades. Once a course has been selected, Ms. Wilson contacts the professor to discuss the possibility of attaching SI to the course. By this means, a number of courses have been targeted since that first SI pilot. For the spring 2010 semester, 43 sections of 20 different courses are a part of the SI program.

Once Ms. Wilson and the instructor have determined that a course should have SI attached to it, Ms. Wilson asks the instructor to identify students, from a previous semester, who have excelled in the course. Ms. Wilson then contacts these students and conducts evaluations and interviews to determine if at least one is interested in and qualified to become an SI leader. If hired, the student agrees to attend the class each day that it meets and to offer three 50-minute study sessions each week outside of class. Prior to the semester, Ms. Wilson conducts training workshops attended by both newly-identified and returning SI



Spring 2010 SI Leaders

leaders. In the workshops, the students discuss different aspects of learning theory and learning styles, effective study strategies, and ways to conduct study sessions, in addition to LU and FERPA policies.

This semester, 22 student leaders are employed by the program. In the study sessions they are conducting, the leaders help students to better understand course material through discussion, handouts prepared by the SI leaders, sample quizzes, and other supplemental instruction methods.

Participation in SI study sessions is completely voluntary on the part of the students enrolled in the historically difficult courses. Students quickly learn that those who participate regularly in SI usually earn a half to a full letter grade higher than those who do not participate. Also, SI attendees are less likely to drop the course. Data kept since 1996 by the CAE have consistently shown this to be the case.

SI was already a well-established program when it was introduced at LU. It was first developed at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1973, and it has since been implemented at a variety of institutions across the U.S. and even around the world. Borrowing ideas from developmental psychology, SI encourages students to become more actively involved in their own learning. By integrating study skills with a review of course content, students begin to understand how to use the learning strategies they have heard about from instructors but may not have known how to implement. The fact that they do all this under the guidance of a peer is what appeals to many students. On end-of-semester evaluations, Ms. Wilson invites students to rate the program and the student leaders. She shared some of their comments: "SI can help ANY student receive a passing grade if they . . . try to work the problems out on their own like the SI leader helped me to understand," one student wrote. Another offered this: "SI was very helpful and I encourage anyone having trouble to attend these sessions. It will considerably help your grade!" And a third had this to say: "My SI leader helped me out a lot in this class. Her review sessions for the tests improved my grades." Their words are typical of the enthusiasm that so many students have for this supportive program, and they are also a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students who become SI leaders.

The Orientation Leader Board: Students Reaching Out

An important aspect of helping first-time students adjust to college life is getting them involved in activities, both on campus and off. The LU Student Government Association recognizes this fact and took a proactive step in March 2009 with the establishment of the Orientation Leader Board (OLB). The mission of the OLB is to provide incoming students with educational, cultural, social and recreational experiences and opportunities, all designed to ease their transition to college and help them become part of a vibrant academic and social milieu. Additionally, the OLB plans activities designed to encourage students to develop leadership abilities and interpersonal skills. A number of these activities occur during ROAR Orientation and the Week of Welcome at the beginning of each semester.

On January 15, the OLB sponsored a Martin Luther King Day craft workshop for first graders at Thorpe Gordon Elementary School. Under the guidance of LU students, the youngsters learned about Dr. King through “A Teeny, Tiny Book about Martin Luther King,” a resource for the primary grades that engages children in a discussion about tolerance, equality and respect as they color the pictures in the book and talk about Dr. King’s life. In a related project, the first graders made mobiles out of pictures attached to hangers. The picture pages all featured the logo “I Have a Dream” at the top, with small clouds filling the page in which to share their own dreams. Their pictures were on display in Young Hall and Scruggs University Center for the week of Jan. 18-22. Lincoln students were enthusiastic about their participation in this project. “This has been really great. . . . The hands-on experience is priceless,” commented LU student Amanda Adams.

On Jan. 16, the OLB conducted their bi-annual food drive as they hosted a welcome back celebration for new and returning students and, in the process, collected three 18-gallon Rubbermaid totes of food for the Samaritan Center. Antoine Clayborne, a participating student, saw the value in the enterprise: “I’m really glad we have this partnership. It really shows that Lincoln students care about making a difference on and off campus.”

The OLB is indeed making a difference!



Thorpe Gordon first graders' picture pages



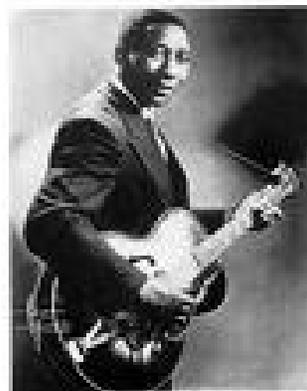
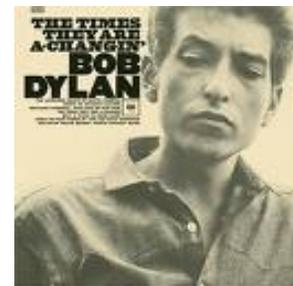
LU students collect food for the Samaritan Center

A Celebration of Music

What do Blind Lemon Jefferson, the Carter Family, the Kingston Trio, and Bob Dylan have in common? They have all contributed to what has come to be known as American roots music, and their contributions, along with those of many others, are now on display in a vibrant interactive exhibit in Page Library. Sponsored by the Smithsonian and presented in association with the Missouri Humanities Council, “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music,” is a traveling exhibition that will be on the Lincoln campus until March 6.

Lincoln University is one of approximately 14 sites in the state that won the right to host the exhibit. According to LU archivist Mark Schleer, the university provides trained docents to guide visitors through the exhibit and answer questions, or guests can choose to wander through on their own, taking as much time as they need to savor the sights and sounds. And there are sounds to delight every ear and taste. From the sacred music of Native Americans, early European settlers, and African slaves; to the 60’s folk revival music of the Kingston Trio, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan; to the rural blues as exemplified by musicians like Charlie Patton and Blind Lemon Jefferson; to the urban blues made popular by such legends as B.B. King, T-Bone Walker, and Howlin’ Wolf; to the plaintive country sounds of the Carter Family, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, and Willie Nelson. As diverse as it all is, it is the music that has grown out of older folk traditions, drawn from our earliest American ancestors, struggling to survive, creating their own particular brand of music to capture every emotion on the human scale.

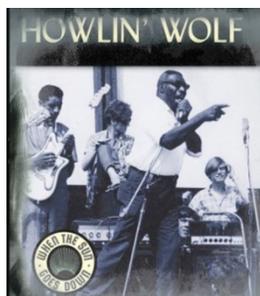
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Muddy Waters



The Carter Family



The Kingston Trio

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The instruments used to create this music are on display as well. Besides the well-known guitar, banjo, accordion, and fiddle, visitors can see much earlier, more primitive types of instruments such as the rub board, which evolved from early washboards, and the diddley bow, made up of a piece of wire stretched between two nails. Its bluesy sound is produced by sliding an object such as a knife or bottle along the wire, a sound that visitors can hear for themselves when they try their hand at this early instrument.



Fiddle



Rub board



Diddley bow

Another interactive feature of the exhibit is the listening station, where guests can don earphones and listen to a variety of roots music to delight every taste. There is Mahalia Jackson singing a moving spiritual; Bill Monroe crooning “Blue Moon of Kentucky”; Ma Rainey capturing the “Misery Blues”; Muddy Waters intoning “Down in Louisiana”; Woody Guthrie musically describing those “Pastures of Plenty”; and Bob Dylan assuring us that “The Times They Are a-Changin’.”

While the times may have changed, our love of and need for this music is unchanged. It resonates today just as it did from a porch in West Virginia, a Mississippi juke joint, a bayou in Cajun country, or a nightclub in Harlem. It is our musical heritage, and the opportunity to experience it is now.



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