



# The President's Podium

*Official newsletter of the Lincoln University president*

August 2010

## Mahoney's Missive

*From the president's pen*

Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney

For the past week, I have been struck by the fact that the days are getting shorter. Of course, it's been happening since June 22, but we tend not to perceive it when the summer is in full swing. But once I noticed, I couldn't help but be reminded that the summer is no longer in full swing; in fact, it is quickly coming to an end. And with the end of summer comes the beginning of the fall semester, perhaps the busiest and most rewarding time on our campus. As is our tradition, we welcomed the beginning of a new academic year with the Fall Institute on August 12-13. We will draw on the Institute's theme, "Accentuate the Positive," throughout the year to advance the goals of Lincoln University. More about the Institute can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Before I turn my thoughts to the new semester, I would like to take a moment to relate some of the highlights of my summer. It was an extraordinarily fruitful period in terms of interacting with colleagues in various higher education and national organizations. In early July, I traveled to Denver, CO, accompanied by LU's vice president for Advancement, Mrs. Benecia Williams, to attend the Summer Meeting of the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities' (APLU) Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence (CADE), of which I am a board member. I joined more than 60 public university presidents, chancellors, vice presidents, deans, and government and industry leaders from across the nation for this three-day conference. The impact of the economic downturn on college access for low-income students, diversifying the professorate, and the under-

representation of minority males in U.S. higher education were some of the key issues discussed. The conversations were robust as we examined these issues and discussed ways to engage the entire higher education community in problem-solving.

During our stay, Mrs. Williams and I also interacted with LU alumni in the Denver area. As always, when we meet with members of alumni associations, we are gratified by the level of interest and support that graduates maintain for their alma mater.

Other important summer activities included serving on a panel for an NAACP committee and attending the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) Summer Council. Information on both these conferences is included in the pages of this newsletter.

*Continued on page 2*

### Inside This Issue

**2 Fall Institute 2010: Accentuate the Positive**

**3 Mahoney Serves on WIN Panel**

**4 Share in the Arts Brings Quality Entertainment to Mid-Missouri**

**5 LU Welcomes a New Librarian**

**6 LU President Attends AASCU Summer Conference**

**6 Direct Debit Now Available**

**7 Fall Institute 2010 Faces**

## Fall Institute 2010



Lincoln University has always been a resourceful institution, and the 2010 Fall Institute Committee members drew on this quality to set the theme for this year's gathering. On August 13, administrators, faculty and staff met in Richardson Auditorium for the beginning of two days of start-up activities focused on the theme, "Accentuate the Positive."

After a continental breakfast, LU employees were treated to a stirring a cappella rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" by Mr. Curtis Creagh, vice president for Administration.

Following greetings from the SGA president, the chairs of the Faculty Senate and Staff Council, and a member of the Board of Curators, President Carolyn Mahoney spoke to the LU family. She extended a special welcome to 52 employees who have joined Lincoln since the last Fall Institute. Continuing to "accentuate the positive," the president noted that LU faculty and staff were certainly at the top of the list. She congratulated those who have reached milestones in their careers, beginning with all who have now been with the university for five years (including Dr. Mahoney herself). Other employees, she noted, have reached the 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 year points. Four employees are in a class by themselves: three have given a notable 35 years to Lincoln University: Ms. Rose Ann Ortmeier, executive assistant to the president; Dr. Linda Wyman, professor of English; and Dr. K.B. Paul, professor of agriculture. And one, Dr. Noel Heermance, professor of English, has achieved the remarkable landmark of 40 years. "We are in good hands at Lincoln University," Dr. Mahoney said.

There were many more positives on the president's list. She reported that an Office for Veterans' Affairs would soon be opening in Young Hall, and the construction of a daycare center is underway. She spoke of the strong relationship between Lincoln University and the community, noting that she meets regularly with Jefferson City Public School personnel and with administrators from Helias High School.



She related that LU Police Chief Bill Nelson has initiated a cooperative agreement with the Cole County Sheriff's Department that will allow Lincoln police and county sheriffs to work more closely together. She reported that she is a member of the Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan Committee, a role that will allow her to ensure that the university and the community maintain close ties. Dr. Mahoney also listed new degree programs as positives: the M.S. in environmental science, the minors in aquaculture and library science, and the A.A.S. in surgical technology. And finally, she is optimistic that LU will once again experience an increase in enrollment, as it did in 2009.

*Continued on page 3*

### Mahoney's Missive

*Continued from page 1*

Summer on campus was a busy time as well. Those returning will see several improvements to the infrastructure, including the renovation of two lecture classrooms (106 and 206) in Martin Luther King Hall. A significant organizational change has also been made. The Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of e-Learning have been combined to form the Center for Innovative Instruction (CII), with Dr. Rachel Sale as director. The CII is located in 18 and 19 MLK. These improvements will help us better serve our students and maximize our resources.

To all readers of this publication, I hope that your summer has been full of the kinds of activities that refresh and renew us, and to our returning faculty and staff, I wish you a productive start to the fall 2010 semester.

## Mahoney Serves on WIN Panel

“Building a Foundation for Women and Children Through Education” was the theme for the WIN (Women in NAACP) Brunch/Forum on July 11 in Kansas City. WIN, an established NAACP committee outlined in the group’s bylaws, originated as a service arm and has grown to be an advocacy vehicle for the civil rights of women and children.

Held at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, this year’s forum was centered around the committee’s four-pronged strategy to improve educational achievement for disadvantaged students:

- Increasing resource equity: *Target funds to neediest kids*
- Ensuring college and career readiness: *A path to success after graduation for all students*
- Improving teaching: *Growing our own great teachers now in underserved communities*
- Improving discipline: *Eliminate zero tolerance; keep kids in school*

President Carolyn Mahoney participated in a panel discussion focused on the WIN goals. Joining Dr. Mahoney on the panel was Lia Epperson Jealous, associate professor of law, American University. Epperson is a nationally recognized expert in the areas of civil rights, constitutional law, and education policy. Judith Browne-Dianis also served on the panel. Browne-Dianis, currently with the Advancement Project in Washington, D.C., has an extensive background in civil rights litigation, which includes fighting to protect the rights of Hurricane Katrina survivors.

During the brunch, a message from the White House was delivered by Melody Barnes, President Obama’s domestic policy advisor and director of the Domestic Policy Council, which coordinates the domestic policy-making process in the White House.



**Dr. Mahoney and other attendees at WIN conference**

Dr. Mahoney was accompanied to Kansas City by LU’s vice president for Advancement, Mrs. Benecia Williams. While in the area, Mahoney and Williams took the opportunity to interact with LU alumni from the Kansas City chapter and the Foundation Board.

## Fall Institute 2010

*Continued from page 2*

While there were many positives to celebrate and build on, the president informed the group that the budget was in a different category. The budget is of course tied to state funding and Missouri, like every other state, is experiencing an economic downturn. However, Dr. Mahoney noted, the 5.3 percent decrease in state funding for FY 2010/2011 was not as severe as what public universities in other states are experiencing. She mentioned that she had attended several higher education conferences during the summer, and that the underlying theme of each of them was “declining funding in the midst of rising expectations.” The LU Budget Committee, she noted, has made necessary cuts in categories including equipment, contractual services, travel, personnel, and even some scholarship funds. However, some of these—particularly scholarships—will be supplemented through Foundation funds and targeted fundraising. She thanked the faculty and staff for their successful efforts to increase revenue and reduce costs.

Dr. Mahoney’s message was followed by updates from others across the university, including Dr. Annette Digby, vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, and Mr. Mike Kosher, director of Enrollment Management. Each speaker relayed important information from his or her unit.

After the morning session, the Lincoln family enjoyed lunch together in the Scruggs Center cafeteria. The afternoon as well as the next day was devoted to breakout sessions on topics such as “Style Book: Marketing LU,” “Web Advising,” and “ADA Information.” Lincoln employees gathered for a picnic at McClung Park on Friday, and the afternoon was devoted to departmental and college meetings.

The 2010 Fall Institute once again paved the way for a successful start to a new academic year.

## Share in the Arts Brings Quality Entertainment to Mid-Missouri

This year, Lincoln University will once again sponsor the Share in the Arts Series, bringing high-caliber music and performance entertainment to Mid-Missouri. The 2010-2011 season follows a long tradition of showcasing individual artists, bands, dancers, and theater groups. In 1981 the Department of Fine Arts, under the leadership of Dr. John Taylor, submitted a proposal for a performance series. Mr. Harry Trickey, then an assistant professor of speech and theatre in the department, collaborated on the proposal. To learn what it would take to organize and manage such a venture, Trickey attended summer courses at the University of Minnesota, along with faculty from across the country who were also there for the same purpose. He learned how to put together grants and negotiate contracts, and he made valuable connections with colleagues who were engaged in the same types of enterprises. The LU Fine Arts and Lecture Series Committee was formed and Trickey was named chair.

Trickey credits Lincoln President Thomas Jenkins (1984-1986) with being instrumental in securing funds for the fledgling series in those early years. Trickey recalls a number of events that Jenkins hosted at the President's Residence for influential community members, legislators, LU curators, and others whose help was sought in backing the enterprise. "For the first year of the series," Trickey says, "we got the Broadway actor Kevin McCarthy to bring his one-man show, *Give 'Em Hell, Harry!*, to the Richardson stage. After the performance, Dr. Jenkins hosted a reception in his home. He remained very supportive of Share in the Arts throughout his tenure."

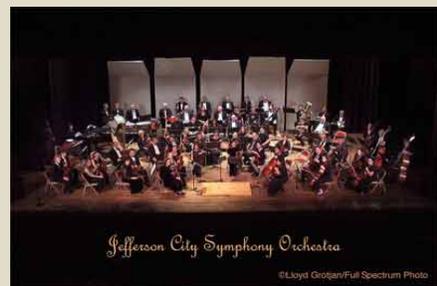
Over the years, the Share in the Arts Series has continued to bring the same high-quality entertainment to the area. Although Harry Trickey retired in 2002, he served as coordinator of the series until the end of the 2009-2010 season. In July 2010, a new coordinator was named: Mr. Mike Downey, who is also the KJLU general manager. Downey brings the same level of commitment and enthusiasm to the project as his predecessor. "We're fortunate to be able to bring a number of quality events to campus for the 2010-2011 season," he says. "As has been the tradition every year, our first event in September will feature the Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra," Downey relates. "And also in keeping with tradition, a guest will perform with the orchestra. This year, we are lucky to welcome jazz vocalist Joyce Cobb from Memphis." Other artists who will bring their talents to

the Richardson Auditorium stage in the upcoming season will include Buckwheat Zydeco, the musician whose album "Lay Your Burden Down!" recently won a Grammy for Best Cajun and Zydeco album; and Die Spitzbuam, a group featuring German traditional and folk music.

Downey is very excited about the artist who has just been confirmed for November. Dr. Hulon E. Crayton is a doctor of rheumatology by day and a jazz saxophone player by night. But what really excites Downey is that Dr. Crayton is an LU alumnus ('78). While majoring in biology, Crayton learned to play the sax from his roommate, who is also now a practicing physician. Dr. Crayton and his wife Dinah currently "live the jazz life in Florida," according to his bio. In an effort to give back to the community, they have created the Crayton Foundation to assist minorities with attaining funding for college. Downey notes that anticipation is building for the 2010 release of Crayton's debut album, "First Impressions."

"For our final event in April, we're planning something totally new," Downey says, "something I think will really appeal to all those at LU and in the community who have talents of their own to share." Details for this event will be published soon, along with the entire schedule for the 2010-2011 season.

Harry Trickey relates that his original goal for the series "was always to showcase *authentic* folk music, whether it was from Central America, European countries, or even Mid-Missouri." Downey is ensuring that this vision continues to inform Share in the Arts.



**Die Spitzbuam**



**"Doc" Hulon Crayton**

## Lincoln University Welcomes a New Librarian

Mr. Jerome Offord, graduate of the Lincoln University class of 1993, has come home. On August 9, he assumed the position of university librarian at his alma mater. His journey to this point certainly did not begin with him setting his sights on library science as a career field, but he is very happy that this is where it has taken him.

A native of Chicago, he attended the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences and was a member of its first graduating class. The LU Department of Agriculture participated in a Career Night at the school, and LU assistant professor of agriculture Dr. Donald Wallace met with Offord and talked him into applying to Lincoln. Wallace guided him through the entire process of acceptance and registration and the rest, Offord says, “is history.”

After graduating from LU with a degree in agriculture, Offord spent two summers at Colorado State University, the result, he relates, of several internships he had done during his undergraduate career. Also during his time as an undergraduate, he had served as president of the Student Government Association. This led to an interest in higher education administration. He obtained an M.S. in student affairs in higher education at Colorado State in 1995.

From there, he worked as a student affairs professional and eventually located in the Washington, D.C., area. In another career twist, he pursued an M.S. in library science at Catholic University of America and graduated in 2005. During his years in D.C. he worked at the Association of Research Libraries as the director of diversity initiatives. In 2008, he took the position of diversity officer and corporate inclusion manager at the Online Computer Library Center in Dublin, OH.

And then the position of university librarian opened at Lincoln. “I’ve always dreamed about returning to Lincoln University,” Offord says, “but I never knew in what capacity or when. As an alumnus, I am dedicated to giving back to Lincoln. I have given my time, my money, and now I will give my talent. It is a duty and an honor.” He sees the position of university librarian as a critical and dual role. “The university librarian,” he notes, “along with the extremely talented library staff, can help forge the research agenda for faculty

and graduate students and engage undergraduate students in the research and discovery process.”

Dr. Annette Digby, vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, is excited to welcome Jerome Offord to campus. “We are pleased to have someone of Mr. Offord’s background and expertise join the Lincoln community,” Dr. Digby says. “As a graduate of Lincoln, he brings a commitment to and knowledge of the institution and will be a ‘perfect fit’ as we continue to enhance the services of Page Library and to grow the minor in Information and Library Science.”

In addition to the duties of his new job, Offord will continue to pursue a Ph.D. in library and information science from Simmons College. He expects to complete this in 2011.

The entire university community welcomes Jerome Offord and wishes him the very best as he joins the Lincoln family!



Mr. Jerome Offord, University Librarian

## **LU President Attends AASCU Summer Conference**

President Carolyn Mahoney joined other presidents at the annual American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) Summer Council, held this year on July 17-19 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. As a state-funded institution, Lincoln University is a member of AASCU, an organization that serves as a resource to its stakeholders from across the country, providing research, analysis and advocacy in the pursuit of sound public policy for the advancement of American higher education. Dr. Mahoney serves as the Missouri state representative to AASCU.

This year's Summer Council theme was "Perpetual Change: The New Reality." According to conference materials, the theme addresses the new realities facing higher education: resources that will not return, demographic changes, the need to improve retention and graduation rates despite diminished resources, and the changing living/learning environment. These "new realities" informed the various meetings and break-out sessions held throughout the conference. According to Dr. Mahoney, each of these "new realities" is relevant to Lincoln University. "Like all institutions in Missouri and around the country, Lincoln University is grappling with these issues," Mahoney states. "Attending AASCU and other national presidential meetings allows me to learn how my colleagues are preparing for the future and to share ideas and good practices with them. Among other things, we have worked diligently at Lincoln to develop and implement plans to recruit and support students through to graduation, and to ensure that they are well prepared for careers, further education, and informed citizenry in this ever-changing global economy. While we have had to cut the budget, we have worked hard to ensure that instruction and student service programs are of high quality. We continue to enhance the living/learning environment by expanding academic programs, tutorial support, and social growth opportunities in the residence halls and throughout campus. We also have taken successful steps to increase revenue from federal and private sources in support of teaching and learning," Mahoney concluded.

Mrs. Benecia Williams, LU's vice president for Advancement, accompanied Dr. Mahoney to Wisconsin in order to meet with members of Milwaukee's alumni chapter. The LU president and vice president attended a dinner meeting hosted by Dr. Earl Wheatfall, president of the LU National Alumni Association, and his wife Barbara, who live in the Milwaukee area. Other alumni in attendance were Diane Pratt, president of the chapter, and her husband Marvin; Gerald Hobson; Montez Ashley; Mary Bell; and Arnold Mitchell. Dr. Mahoney brought greetings to the group on behalf of Lincoln University and updated them on developments and initiatives at the institution. Mrs. Williams says that she and Dr. Mahoney welcome the opportunity to meet with state chapters around the country. "Chapter members are always appreciative of the one-on-one contact we provide when Dr. Mahoney and I get together with them. They are eager for news of their alma mater, and invariably express their interest in the welfare of the university," Mrs. Williams relates.

## **Direct Debit Now Available**

ACH (Automated Clearing House) direct debit is now available as an efficient and effective means of supporting Lincoln University. The form to initiate direct debit can be found on the Lincoln University Web site ([www.lincolnu.edu](http://www.lincolnu.edu)). To access the form, locate "Alumni" on the home page, select "Giving to LU," and then click on "Automated Draft Form." The form must be printed out and completed. The donor should then attach a VOIDED check and mail it with the completed form to the LU Foundation, at the address shown at the bottom of the form. Receipt of the form and voided check authorizes the Foundation to initiate an automatic withdrawal from the account designated by the donor. Direct debit eliminates the need for donors to write and mail checks each time they wish to support Lincoln University, and it ensures that donated funds are received in a timely manner.

# Fall Institute 2010 Faces



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

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