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Vision
To be an exemplary historically black college providing an excellent liberal arts education that transforms urban students, institutions and communities.

Mission
LeMoyne-Owen College provides a transformative experience educating students for urban-focused leadership, scholarship, service and professional careers.

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Message from the President

Dear fellow Magicians and friends,

I am honored and proud to serve as the 12th president of LeMoyne-Owen College. My first seven months on the job have been enlightening and encouraging. Our College’s legacy is illustrious and our future is bright with potential and possibilities. I approach each day with these realities in the forefront of my mind. However, I cannot dismiss the challenges of the past and those of the present and the potential pitfalls awaiting us if we do not act with a sense of urgency.

As I work with our trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members laying the foundation for the future of LeMoyne-Owen College, I endeavor to re-embrace its prestigious heritage as an incubator for professionals, educators, public servants, clergy and entrepreneurs. I firmly believe that by embracing the core principles that sparked the establishment of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America, we will surpass our timeless goal and mission of empowerment and equality through education and accountability, especially for those who need it most and face some of the most difficult challenges.

The College’s legacy as a nurturing liberal arts institution is firm and our mission to prepare our students to robustly compete in the local and the global workforce is steadfast. However, our methods must and do evolve. For example, we are working to place an even greater emphasis on providing viable career pathways for our students by collaborating with industries that heavily depend on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We are at a crossroads where we must embrace and embark. Recapture and create. I continue to speak about three immediate imperatives if we are to remain accessible to those who have the fewest resources, increase our relevance, and strengthen our financial standing: 1) Increase the College’s endowment (this will lessen our dependence on tuition and increase resources for our students ], 2) Rebuild and modernize our information technology infrastructure (this will improve the teaching and learning experience and increase efficiency in our business processes), and 3) Expand our curriculum to include majors, degree tracks, programs and certifications designed to provide more options to current students and firmly establish the College as an institution that generates today’s highly skilled professionals.

This is an exciting time in our College’s journey. I thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you as we chart our future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lewis Miller ’76, Ph.D.
Message from the Board Chair

Dear Supporters,

This is an auspicious time of change and historical significance for LeMoyne-Owen College. We have a new president, one who is a proven leader and alumna of the College. Andrea Lewis Miller has come home to Memphis and LeMoyne-Owen College to help all of us who hold LOC dear continue the College’s evolution into a progressive, modern-day historically black college. I am excited by Dr. Miller’s vision and wholeheartedly support her efforts to improve how the College conducts business and delivers services to students and alumni.

After all, LeMoyne-Owen’s legacy since the school was established over 150 years ago is the thousands of students and alumni who dared to dream, stared down adversity and achieved success. Today, the College and its students continue to face numerous challenges. Some challenges are new, but one, in particular, is longstanding. This stubborn obstacle is the financial hardship a great majority of our students face. Thanks to your generosity, a many of these students stay the course to pursue their academic goals and career aspirations.

Our legacy and mission to “provide a transformative experience educating students for urban focused leadership, scholarship, service and professional careers” compel us to continue to tackle this trend head on and continue to empower our students to grow, successfully matriculate and go out into the world prepared to compete in the marketplace and serve their communities.

Although the method and means of how we carry out our mission in this technologically advanced society have changed and continue to evolve, our mission endures.

Thank you to my fellow trustees for all you do to help the College continue its mission and enrich its legacy. Unfortunately, we lost an ardent supporter and hardworking trustee in Reverend John L. Armstrong who served as the board’s secretary. His passing is a great loss and he will be sorely missed by all. While we lament this loss, we also welcome the addition of three new board members—Dwight Douglas Andrews, Wilfred Busby and James Wesley Gibson, II. They bring considerable experience and expertise and I am confident their contributions will be laudable as we all work together to continue to move the College forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Simpson, Chairman
Hillary Clinton Chooses LOC for Rally

By Daphne Thomas

Last November, United States presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made the rounds at HBCUs during her campaign to be the first woman ever elected President of the United States. LOC made national news when she chose the College as one of her campaign stops in Tennessee.

LOC alumna April Hubbard ’12 was the key to Clinton’s choice. Hubbard’s close friend works with Clinton on community outreach and mentioned a visit to Memphis. “She asked me ‘April, do you think you can pull this off?’ and I said ‘Yes. Especially if the event is at LeMoyne-Owen.’”

Hubbard says she is a proud alumna who was determined to have her alma mater front and center. “I did not want this opportunity to pass us by and we lose out to another local college,” she said. “And, it was important for her to visit our community. She needed to meet us.”

When the big day arrived Nov. 20, more than 1,000 supporters packed the Jerry C. Johnson Gymnasium in C. Arthur Bruce Hall to cheer Clinton on and hopefully be a part of history. Hubbard says Clinton loved her visit. “She went up on the stage and greeted the students on her own. That’s what I wanted most of all was to get the students involved and Mrs. Clinton’s staff told me she loved that part and really appreciated how welcoming everyone on the campus was.”
President Andrea Lewis Miller '76 welcomed Clinton to campus during her remarks at the rally, thanking the presidential candidate for appreciating the role HBCUs have played in American history and her sensitivity to their needs. “Historically black colleges and universities like LeMoyne-Owen College have been on the forefront of social and political change for over 150 years,” Miller said. “Today is simply a continuation of this noble tradition. I applaud and thank you for recognizing and paying such profound respect to this legacy by selecting our campus as the site for your rally today.”

Clinton expressed her desire to provide additional support for HBCUs. “I want to make sure we do more for historically black colleges and universities,” she said. “We have to get the costs down and help (students) repay the debt they already have.”

LOC graduating senior Damou Traore appreciated the potential historical significance of the event. “I really wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to see someone in person running for the highest office in America,” Traore said. As a student leader and the reigning Mr. LeMoyne-Owen College, Traore enjoyed the rally from an exceptional vantage point. “It was a special feeling, literally sitting behind her as she took the stage. It was an amazing sight.”

Traore says he has a particular interest in this presidential election. As an international student from the republic of Guinea in West Africa who majors in political science, he wants to practice international law and focus on cases involving human and civil rights and fair trade. His passion for civic engagement was evident this past year when he welcomed an array of state and city officials and political activists as keynote speakers to campus. “My goal was to increase the number of students participating in the country’s democratic system and craft a generation of civic scholars, especially among young African Americans,” Traore said.
By the time the purple and gold ribbons fell to the pavement the morning of Nov. 13, 2015, a labor of love 15 years in the making was finally a reality. “I felt like I had just given birth,” Division of Natural and Mathematical Sciences Chair Sherry Painter, Ph.D. said. “I was elated and relieved all at the same time.”

Her labor of love is Science on Wheels (SOW), LeMoyne-Owen College’s 40-foot mobile science laboratory that is designed to make learning science enjoyable for local fourth and fifth graders, especially those at schools in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Painter says the key to cultivating future scientists is to catch them early and keep it fun. Science on Wheels is designed to do just that by immersing the young students in hands-on science activities.

“Research shows that students are either turned on to science or turned off around the fifth grade,” Painter said. “Many of these students grow up believing that ‘science is hard’ and ‘I could never do science’, but when they walk onto our mobile lab and put on goggles and lab coats and actually get to work with real lab equipment and do science, some of them will see science and themselves in a new light.”

Science on Wheels is fully equipped for the task with 12 workstations that feature state-of-the-art science instruments the young scientists use to perform experiments with real-world application. Some experiments include DNA extraction, asthma and lung function exploration, exercise and cardiac function analysis, nutrition and obesity investigation, and alternative energy exploration.

LOC faculty and students supervise the budding scientists, giving LOC science majors the opportunity to hone their teaching and mentoring skills. Students like LOC senior Ashley Little mentor the younger students by showing them how to use the equipment and teaching them about the science behind what they are seeing and doing.

Little is a biology major, chemistry minor, who looks forward to graduating in December. She says she wants to go into research one day and that working with the younger students is nothing less than rewarding. “The kids get so excited,” she said. “Doing the experiments really drives them to want to learn more. It really piques their interest and it’s fun to see it and be a part of it.” Little also says SOW is a great recruitment tool, especially for minorities. “We need more (minorities) in our field,” she said. “A lot of people are intimidated by science, but if you start early, you find that you really enjoy it.”

If fifth grader Jayla Russell of Cummings Elementary is any indication, the bus is doing exactly what it was designed to do—inspire. “I love doing science, and I was very interested in science before I went on the Science on Wheels bus,” Russell said. “Participating in the experiments was fun and exciting and made me want to do even more.”

Continued on page 7
The Long Road

Shelby County’s only mobile science unit for school children was just an idea on paper 15 years ago when Dr. Painter approached then Division of Natural and Mathematical Sciences Chair Muhammad Shafi, Ph.D., about Science on Wheels. She says Dr. Shafi wholeheartedly supported her idea and, together, they put in countless hours seeking funding through federal grants and private donations.

“Many thought it was a great idea, but none were willing to fund it,” Painter said. None until Dr. Shafi met Sam O’Bryant of the SchoolSeed Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports community efforts that positively impact students and teachers in the Greater Memphis area. O’Bryant loved the idea and arranged for Dr. Painter and Dr. Shafi to present the Science on Wheels proposal to the foundation’s board of directors. The presentation was a hit.

“They saw our vision and gladly funded our start-up proposal with $40,000,” Painter said. “Others have since come on board to sponsor the purchase of equipment and modules for the bus, but we are grateful to SchoolSeed for taking the leap of faith and believing in the concept and in us enough to be the flagship sponsor.”

SchoolSeed board chair William Mitchell says the project fits the nonprofit’s mission to drive educational excellence and innovation for local public schools. “SchoolSeed understands that STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is a rapidly growing field with many opportunities,” he said. “This collaboration, with our local Historically Black College and University on this mobile science laboratory, allows us to place our young scholars at a pivotal moment to learn more about STEM. We are excited about the future scientists that will be inspired from this project.”

The project’s other sponsors were critical to the project, also. Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) provided the retired bus. Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (TN-SCORE) donated $14,000 in in-kind energy related modules and sponsored the four solar panels that power the inside lights and lab equipment. Baptist Memorial Health Care added $20,000 to fund health-related instrumentation and equipment and private donors pitched in another $5,000.

The Road Ahead

Since the ribbon cutting event last November, 32 elementary schools, along with other groups around the city, have contacted Dr. Painter to request a visit from Science on Wheels. Sher says the demand far exceeds the College’s ability to keep up. “We currently have the capacity to visit approximately 6-9 schools per semester,” she said. “We need a staff solely dedicated to keeping Science on Wheels out on the road daily during the school year if we are going to be able to keep up with the demand.”

Painter is not letting the overwhelming popularity of Science on Wheels break her stride. She plans to continue moving forward, setting a goal to raise $250,000 to hire two full-time instructors, design summer teacher training programs and fund stipends for LOC students so they are able to work with the instructors on the mobile lab.

“My goal now is to raise money so I can fully staff Science on Wheels,” she said. “We need to be out there every day inspiring future scientists.”

Follow Science on Wheels on Facebook at Scienceonwheels and Twitter @LOCSciLab to see where the bus will be next.
Adult learners who want to earn their bachelor’s degree in business or criminal justice at LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC) may do so in as few as 18 months. The College added the criminal justice major last fall to the Accelerated Studies for Adults and Professionals program (ASAP), formerly known as the Accelerated Degree Completion Program (ADCP).

According to Bruce Cole, the director of the ASAP criminal justice major, the criminal justice profession is comprised of law enforcement, the judicial system and corrections. He has worked in the courts as a probation officer and currently works in the corrections field as director of Diersen Charities Memphis, a residential re-entry center for federal inmates.

Cole says the entire criminal justice field is more technology driven and that now a bachelor’s degree is indispensable. “If you’re already working in the field, you can move laterally without a degree,” Cole said. “But to be promoted, it’s just not going to happen.”

The adult studies trend has swept the country for decades. But now, even more adults are seeing the light. In 2011, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that 38 percent of America’s 17 million undergraduate students were over the age of 25. Today, this federal agency projects a 20 percent increase in enrollment for adults at degree-granting institutions between now and 2023, versus a 12 percent uptick for traditional students.

Cole is confident the new criminal justice major will be a winner. “I truly believe the growth potential is unlimited,” he said. “Most of our professors and instructors have field experience and we have them teaching cutting edge, industry-driven classes such as cybercrimes, homeland security, and forensics, which appeal to local industry leaders.”

Two ASAP students, one in the business major, the other in criminal justice, are taking classes at night and on Saturdays to reach their goal to earn a bachelor’s degree. One is preparing for life after retirement and the other is gearing up to launch a crusade to save HBCUs.

Lieutenant Darren Goods

A 30-year veteran of the Memphis Police Department, Goods began his journey in the accelerated criminal justice program last fall and has already taken and earned credits for six courses to go along with the 18 he transferred from The University of Memphis and the 40 LOC granted him in lieu of his years of training and experience. At 49, he has spent his entire criminal justice career with the MPD and, despite not having a bachelor’s degree, has moved up through the ranks. He says it will be a different ball game when he retires. “I know that I have to have a degree if I want to go out there and get a job that pays decent money.”

Money is not his most important motivator. It’s being a role model for his children. “I’ve preached to my children for years that they need to get an education if they want to get a good job,” he said. “It’s time I took my own advice.”

His three children have taken notice, especially his daughter. “They love it,” Goods said. “My 15 year old daughter thinks she’s the adult now, saying ‘Young man, have you done your homework?’”

“I’ve got all these teachers at LeMoyne-Owen and at home,” he chuckled.

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As a busy police lieutenant and family man, Goods says the accelerated program’s convenient schedule is what attracted him to LOC, coupled with the intimate atmosphere that is the hallmark of the majority of HBCUs. “I’ve always wanted to go to a HBCU,” he said. “The classes are smaller, the professors care more about you as a person, and you get a better chance to actually learn and not just memorize information.”

He has high praise for his professors. “Professor (Eddie) Pate, Professor (Gerald) Green and Professor (Daphne) Whittaker really get it. It’s all about making you a well-rounded person who is prepared for every obstacle out there. They really want you to be successful.”

Good says if all goes well, he should graduate with his Bachelor of Science degree May 2017.

Kathy Curtis

Talent, passion and resilience are just a few words that come to mind after hearing Kathy Curtis’ remarkable life story. She’s an award-winning poet who’s been published in Essence magazine alongside famed poets Nikki Giovanni and Ntozake Shange. She’s a disabled veteran (Army). She’s beaten cancer—twice. And she’s never given up on earning a college degree.

“I love school and I love HBCUs,” Curtis said. “I never want to see another HBCU die. We just can’t lose another one.”

Her passion for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) runs as deep as her heritage as a descendant of the Gullah people of South Carolina’s Gullah Island. Deep as her passion for learning. Deep as her commitment to her only child and two granddaughters.

At 60, LOC is the fourth college Curtis has attended since high school and her third HBCU. “I love to learn. I love school,” she said of her more than 40-year journey to earn a college degree. “I never had an opportunity to finish. Life just kept getting in the way.”

Cancer was one of those life occurrences that got in the way. Curtis fought off thyroid cancer in 2005 and uterine cancer in 2014, but says she is alive for a reason and that if she could, she would love to visit every HBCU to tell her story. “I believe God has a divine purpose for me,” she said. “I’m on a mission to make sure we do not lose any more HBCUs.”

She says HBCUs are critical to keeping African American history alive. “When you know where you come from, you have a clue as to where you are going.”

A former history and English major, Curtis is in new territory in the ASAP program’s business major. She is in her second semester and not letting anything get in her way.

She earned two A’s and a B last semester and is enjoying her classes and young classmates. “I’m probably the oldest student enrolled, but I’m not embarrassed,” she said. “It’s an enjoyable experience and I hope I am enlightening them.” Curtis says she regularly asks questions in class to encourage her classmates to be assertive and challenge the professors. “I hope I inspire them in some way. I want them to understand that you must get (knowledge) so you can be able to give it.”

Curtis arrived at LOC by way of New Orleans four years ago to help her daughter, Jasmine. She tends to her granddaughters throughout the week, but Saturdays are her “Grand Mommy’s Day Out.”

“It’s my time,” she said. “It’s such an enjoyable experience being in class at LeMoyne-Owen.”

Jasmine, an executive with Medtronic in Memphis, says she is proud of her mother and delighted at the role reversal. “There have been times when I’ve called her on the phone and she’s whispering, ‘I can’t talk right now. I’m in class.’ It’s so amazing that she is here and going to college.”

Curtis has no plans to stop with her bachelor’s degree. She wants to go all the way and earn a doctorate. “If I can stay alive, I would love to teach at an HBCU someday.”
Faith-based Communities Bring in the New Year with 58th International Tea

by Rosemary Hicks and Daphne Thomas

The 58th International Tea held January 16, 2016, in the Alma C. Hanson Student Center was historic, touching and fruitful. It marked the first Tea for the College’s first female president. It featured a salute to Reverend Netters for his years of hard work and dedication. And, the 20 churches and faith-based organizations that participated raised over $25,000 for the College.

Reverend Netters has chaired the Tea for over 50 years and was joined this year by Beulah Baptist Church Senior Pastor Reverend Anthony Henderson as co-chair. “This event kicks off the faith-community’s fundraising efforts for the year, which is why it is so critical to ensuring our level of support is the best it can be each year,” Reverend Henderson said.

LOC Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and senior pastor of Greater White Stone Missionary Baptist Church Reverend Roger R. Brown says the Tea has grown in more ways than one. “Not only are the churches raising more money and have more congregations participating, but the participants have now expanded beyond the Baptist denomination.”

The Tea unites congregations from across Memphis, many of which pay tribute to a foreign country by decking out their booths with decorations and serving cuisine that reflects the country of their choice. In addition to the food and cultural fanfare, the more than 300 attendees also enjoyed musical presentations by Hunter Avenue Baptist Church Senior Pastor Reverend Melvin Partee and harmonica player Damion Pearson who touched the audience with his spirited rendition of gospel standard Pass Me Not. O Gentle Savior.

LeMoyne-Owen College President Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller ’76 led a standing ovation for Pearson at the close of his performance. She also expressed gratitude to Netters and Henderson for their leadership and to all the churches and organizations for their steadfast support. “Your generosity has enabled hundreds of deserving young men and women to receive a quality education that is rooted and grounded in spiritual principles and academic achievement,” she said. “Your contributions have empowered us to continue our tradition of preparing our students for lives of leadership, opportunity and change. We salute you!”

A new tradition that has been implemented at the International Tea for the past several years is honoring faith organizations that continuously go above and beyond the call of duty to support LeMoyne-Owen College. The Tea’s steering committee recognized the West Tennessee District Association led by Moderator Reverend Dr. Randolph Meade-Walker, senior pastor of Castalia Baptist Church. The Association raised $10,000 for this year’s Tea.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Issac V. Freeman, III represented the LOC student body and served as this year’s featured International Tea Scholar. He summed up the faith community’s impact on LOC students: “Your dedication inspires students like me and encourages us to dream big and achieve even more.”

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58TH INTERNATIONAL TEA PARTICIPANTS

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood
Beulah Baptist Church
Castalia Baptist Church
Christian United Missionary Baptist Church
First Baptist Church – Lauderdale
Friendship Baptist Church
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
Greater Middle Baptist Church
Greater Springfield Baptist Church
Greater White Stone Missionary Baptist Church
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
New Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church
New Salem Missionary Baptist
Salem Gilfield Baptist Church
St. John Baptist Church – Douglass
St. John Baptist Church – Vance
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Temple of Faith
Union Progressive Association
West Tennessee District Association

10 Beacon Spring 2016
Donor Makes Instant Impact with Donation of Baby Grand Piano

by Daphne Thomas

When music student Alison Faye Turner sat down at the piano, she knew the instrument was special as everyone sat with rapt attention, marveling at the stunning donation. She was one of several students who performed at a special recital honoring Loretta Hart who generously donated her daughter’s Young Chang G-175 Grand Piano valued at more than $10,000 to the College’s music department.

“I researched colleges in the local area and when I came across LeMoyne-Owen, I was so excited that it was an HBCU,” Hart said. “I knew this is where I wanted it to be. I wanted an HBCU to be its new home.”

A retired FBI agent, Hart bought the beautiful baby grand for her daughter Shelby in 1999. Shelby, a recent graduate of Duke University, was eight years old at the time and her mother says she never took to the piano. “She never really played,” she chuckled. “You know how kids are. It was a good idea at the time.”

Although her daughter took to other musical interests, Hart, who also donated a top quality Brunswick pool table for students in the residence hall to enjoy, took great care of the piano over the years as a family heirloom. “It’s in stunning condition,” Fine Arts and Humanities Division Chair Clay Foster said. “It’s a wonderful donation and it will add so much to the quality of our music program and the experience of our students.”

Turner, a music major and member of the concert choir, echoed this sentiment after she played for Hart and a room full of fellow music students, faculty, staff and supporters one of the most well-known pieces of music the world over—Beethoven’s Für Elise. Turner hadn’t played piano since she took a few lessons as a young girl. At 56, this is her first semester as a piano student. “I’m the oldest thing rockin’ in my classes, but it’s OK,” she laughed.

The recital for Hart was the first time Turner had ever performed in front of an audience that included listeners other than her instructor and classmates. Despite her nerves, she says playing the department’s new piano was an uplifting experience. “It sounded so beautiful,” she said. “It really let me know what I needed to do to bring out its real beauty. I have work to do and I’m very happy to be doing it at LOC.”

As for Hart, she was overjoyed at all of the students’ performances and hopes her donation will inspire others. “I wanted to open up opportunities to kids who may not have access to such an instrument and help the college by offsetting an expense,” she said. “I hope my donation sets an example of the importance of giving back, especially giving to HBCUs.”
LeMoyne-Owen Champion Golfer Aiming For PGA Tour

by Jamie Griffin

Early May, 2015. PGA Tour veteran Sergio Garcia was on national television being interviewed about the upcoming Players Championship. And there, at the bottom of the screen, on the ticker was LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC) golfer Dominique Worthen’s name.

But Worthen did not realize it at the time. The senior was busy competing in the PGA National Minority Collegiate Championship, which he would eventually win. Most viewers probably paid no attention to his name on the ticker updating his score in the event. Worthen understands. The Players Championship is a headliner event. Plus, golf plays the undercard to other more popular sports in the United States.

“If I was a basketball player,” he says, then pauses to let the statement marinate.

He hopes the outlook changes, and changes soon.

“It was huge,” says Worthen of his big win back in May, “not just for me but for (LOC). And I would like to be recognized for my accomplishments. I’m motivated to be the best at what I do.”

His statement may come off as egocentric, but from Worthen’s perspective, it is more about the bottom line. Golf is an expensive game and after he graduates he becomes like other golfers, on the hook for his own expenses. There’s no draft or franchise team waiting in the wings to offer him a rookie contract with a signing bonus. So exposure is more of a means to an end for him.

“I’m looking for financial help, I’m looking for resources,” he admits. “Talent is just a checkpoint as far as golf goes. In golf, you have to buy your ticket.”


There’s uniform to his game also. He’s won an assortment of tournaments since transferring to LeMoyne-Owen from Texas Southern. During the past golf season he was named the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Golfer of the Year in addition to winning the SIAC Tournament title by eight strokes. His golf resume alone suggests he’s destined to join guys like Garcia on the PGA Tour someday, which is his goal after he graduates with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a focus in management.

The degree should come in handy in dealing with all of the off the course aspects of golf. “I’ve got to put together a syndicate to get me on the PGA Tour,” he says. “It’s all about money right now. It’s all about opportunity right now.” And he believes attending LOC has put him in position to manage both.

“Being here taught me to grind,” he says of his two years at LOC. “I had an opportunity to go to Michigan (and play golf). I had an opportunity to go to other schools. My dad wanted me to attend an HBCU (historically black college and university).”

He says the decision to attend LOC helped him grow as a student, golfer, and spiritually. “God is real,” he says. “I didn’t have faith in God before I came here. I didn’t have faith.” Along the way he picked up a few more items. “I’m now stronger, smarter, faster, wiser,” he says. And he’s also more confident.

Jamie Griffin is a local freelance sports writer who can be reached at griffinjamier@yahoo.com.
The LeMoyne-Owen College Magicians set lofty goals before the 2015-2016 season began, setting out to win not only the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) championship, but also the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II national championship. Although they did not reach these goals, they overcame a plethora of challenges to end the season as the SIAC championship runner-up.

The Magicians got off to a promising start with an impressive three-game exhibition season where their only loss came at the hands of a NCAA Division I team, The University of Memphis Tigers. Their preseason performance gave them a lot of confidence and momentum going into the regular season. However, injuries and inexperience led to the Magicians losing a lot of close games early on. The team hit its stride as conference play approached, going on an 8-game winning streak, including their first five conference games.

Going into the post season, the Magicians were confident they would be a Cinderella team. “We recommitted ourselves on the defensive end,” Magicians head coach William Anderson said. “Going into the conference tournament, we were on a three-game winning streak and it was defense that had gotten us to that point.”

The Magicians were determined to make sure this year would not be their third consecutive first-round exit. Ranked as the fourth seed in the tournament, the Magicians faced fifth-ranked Fort Valley State University in the first round. They coasted to victory over the Wildcats, 78-65. The quarterfinals against No. 1 seed Benedict College were next. On the outside looking in, many considered the Magicians the underdogs. The team had a different outlook. They defeated the top-ranked Tigers in dramatic fashion, 71-70, in a thrilling overtime victory that earned them a trip to the SIAC championship game for the first time since 2012.

“Defense, defense, defense,” said McGaughey. “We played as a team and it was probably the best game we played all year. We managed to stick together for the full 40-plus minutes.”

Stillman College, another team that defeated the Magicians during the regular season, was the only team that stood in the way of their first conference championship since 2009. “Going into this game we knew what it took to get this far and we knew that we would have to play our best basketball of the season,” Coach Anderson said.

With the championship on the line, the Magicians didn’t waste time, jumping out to a 29-19 lead midway through the first half. But it was not to be. Stillman surged to a 14-point lead in the second half. Although the Magicians clawed their way back to within four points of the lead late in the game, Stillman held on to win, 90-76.

“The final score doesn’t indicate how close the game really was because we sent them to the free throw line a lot towards the end of the game,” Coach Anderson said. “I am proud of the team because they worked so hard and showed not only Stillman, but the rest of the conference that they will be a force come next year.”

by Daequan Mitchell-Fields

Daequan Mitchell-Fields
A New Tradition
by Paula Anderson ’96 and Daphne Thomas

Homecoming is a celebration of alumni, students, staff and faculty coming together to show support for the investment that was made into their lives with an education. This year, LOC moved homecoming to a more traditional time of the year—the fall.

The much-anticipated celebration had a catchy theme—Black Magic. Homecoming 2.0, as some affectionately called it as it was the second homecoming in 2015, kicked off Oct. 25th and wrapped up with a host of grand finale events on Halloween.

“We wanted to align our celebration with other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs),” homecoming committee chair and Social and Behavioral Sciences Division Interim Chair Michael Robinson said. “Also, the weather is better, more predictable and we felt this would lead to greater participation.”

Organizers say they were pleased with the response. “We had a really good turnout and it will only get better as everyone gets acclimated to the new time of year,” homecoming committee member Dr. June Chinn-Jointer ’79 said.

The homecoming theme was the brainchild of LOC students. Dr. Chinn-Jointer says the theme was more about LOC’s traditions than Halloween. “It was a clever way to connect our celebration with the holiday,” she said. “But, it was more about paying tribute to our historically black college roots and our mascot, the Magician.”

The homecoming committee included faculty, staff, students and alumni who worked diligently to present a week filled with activities designed to attract the entire LeMoyne-Owen College family. Participants enjoyed seminars, receptions, activities and of course, Magicians basketball. National Alumni Association president Clarence Christian ’68 says homecoming celebrations are designed to engage and unite students, alumni, faculty, staff and the greater community. “College

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homecomings are always times of anticipation, fun and reconnections,” he says. One such reconnection was with native Memphian Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller ’76 who had her very own homecoming as the first woman to be appointed president of LeMoyne-Owen College, her alma mater.

Alumni held a reception in Dr. Miller’s honor, giving her an opportunity to reconnect with them and share her vision and goals for the College. Christian says the moment was truly historic. “It was the first time in modern times we have had homecoming in the fall and we have our first female president.” He says her comments encouraged alumni that they would play a major role in the College’s bright future. “She assured us that she would work with all constituencies to develop a shared vision and that she needs our help to shape the vision and bring it into fruition.”

The final day of Homecoming was filled with activities from morning until well into the evening. LOC alumni and students kicked off the day with a tailgate party in the residence hall parking lot. The weather forecast was not the best, but that did not stop Greek organizations from supporting their alma mater. The men of Omega Psi Phi, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Alpha Phi Alpha all pitched tents and welcomed their fellow students to stop by to meet and greet alumni. The ladies of Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority also did not let the cold, rainy weather stop them from teaming up with the men of the Chi Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi to offer free food to fellow tailgaters. Danny Pogue ’92 and Shannon Hope grilled all day to make sure everyone had plenty of food to eat. “I was happy to hang out with the students and be a part of providing them a hot meal,” Pogue said.

Phi Beta Sigma member and Student Government Association president Issac Freemen says the day was all about fun, fellowship and school pride. “It was great to see alumni come back and support the school,” he said. He also enjoyed the field day festivities that were held on the lawn of Brownlee Hall the day before. “It was amazing. The food took me back to my childhood and memories of going to the (Mid-South) Fair.”

The culmination of homecoming was “The Big Game” against visiting Concordia. The gymnasium was filled to the rafters with fans who enjoyed the mighty Magicians’ rout of Concordia, 93-77.

Alumni and students are looking forward to Homecoming 2016. Stephanie Austin ’94, a former Miss LOC, wants to establish a new royal tradition. “I would love to see a reunion of past LOC kings and queens.”

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Magicians Receive $10,000 in Lexus Scholarships
Rank Nationally Among HBCU Elite

By Paula Anderson ’96 and Meridith Rucker

LeMoyne-Owen College scholars Alexis Moore and Jamarco Lang scored big on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, when Lexus of Memphis honored them for their collegiate achievements by presenting each student with a $5,000 Lexus Verses and Flow Scholarship.

Lexus of Memphis, in conjunction with The Bar-Kays Foundation, hosted a public reception to present both students with checks. Faculty, alumni, students and community supporters attended the event held at the Lexus of Memphis dealership. Moore and Lang were two of only 16 students across the country who received this special honor, and as one of only six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to receive this recognition, LOC shines alongside fellow, distinguished HBCU honorees Clark Atlanta, Florida A&M University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, Howard University, North Carolina A&T University and Spelman College. The Scholarship, which recognizes students for leadership, service and academic excellence, has become a growing source of financial support for deserving students at HBCUs, a population that has historically needed significant tuition assistance to afford the cost of a quality education.

“Upon validating for my (previous) semester of college, I was left with a balance that I could not afford to pay out of pocket,” says Lang. “Luckily, the $5,000 scholarship went to my student financial account, which “zero(ed) out” the balance and also (left) a nice amount for future financial endeavors.”

Lang, a graduating senior with a 3.26 grade point average (GPA), plans to obtain a master’s degree in social work and pursue a career with the State of Tennessee.

Moore, a junior business management major with a 3.25 GPA, plans to work in a human resources or management firm after graduation. She also wants to open up a restaurant. Moore says the scholarship money she received will help buy books and materials for her classes. “People often forget that it takes more than paid tuition to be fully enrolled and active in college.”

As part of a commitment to supporting Black colleges, Lexus created the Verses and Flow Scholarship as an extension of their hit, NAACP Image-Award nominated “Verses and Flow” variety show on TVOne. Over the past two years, the Scholarship has awarded almost $200,000 to HBCU students. The television show is in its fifth season of showcasing musical, poetic and spoken word performances and has featured such award-winning artists as Charlie Wilson, Jazmine Sullivan, B.O.B and Chrisette Michele.

“I was excited to discover that two of the winners of the national contest are students from LeMoyne-Owen,” says Bryan Smith, Lexus of Memphis General Manager. “I applaud Lexus for realizing the importance of supporting HBCU students in their endeavors to seek higher education as costs increase year after year. All of us at Lexus of Memphis are proud to be involved in the scholarship opportunities available through the Lexus Verses and Flow program.”

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DR. ANDREA LEWIS MILLER ’76
FROM
STUDENT TO PRESIDENT TO HISTORY-MAKER
The 1862 birth of LeMoyne-Owen College is firmly rooted in the efforts, courage and faith of a woman. When American Missionary Association members wanted to deliver the liberating power of knowledge to runaway slaves and freedmen, they chose Missionary Lucinda Humphrey to brave Civil War conflict to establish a camp school at the Union Army’s Camp Shiloh.

When the LeMoyne-Owen College Board of Trustees convened in 2015 to elect the College’s 12th president, it was a woman who emerged to carry the torch—Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller ’76.

When Dr. Miller took the reins September 1, 2015, she became the first woman in the College’s 154-year history to be elected president and only the second alumnus to hold the office. In addition to being a former student, Dr. Miller served the College as a professor and administrator, returning to LOC to teach biology after earning her master’s and doctoral degrees in cell and developmental biology from Atlanta University. She went on to serve seven years as LOC’s vice president of academic affairs and dean of students before joining Southwest Tennessee Community College as provost/executive vice president of academic and student affairs.

The State of Louisiana presented Dr. Miller with her first opportunity to serve as CEO of an institution of higher learning in 2007 when it appointed her chancellor of SOWELA Technical Community College. After a five-year tenure highlighted by doubled enrollment and the school successfully navigating its first accreditation, the Louisiana Board of Regents appointed Dr. Miller chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), a much larger institution with a student body of more than 8,000 students. Dr. Miller served two years at BRCC just prior to her historic homecoming as LOC president.

President Miller recently shared her LeMoyne-Owen College journey and vision for the College’s future with BEACON.

What role did LOC play in helping to shape the person you are today? Who was most influential during your matriculation?

LeMoyne-Owen gave me an incredible foundation to build on. As a young girl from South Memphis who did not have parents who could help me navigate the transition to being a student at a higher education institution, I needed quite a bit of nurturing and guidance. That’s what the College gave me. I had great advisors who made all the difference in the world. They nurtured, but they did so while teaching responsibility. Dr. Mohanti was my advisor during my first two years. When I came in as a freshman, he handed me the course catalog and told me to read and figure out what courses I was supposed to take. Of course I didn’t know what I was doing but after about two hours I figured it out. Throughout my matriculation he taught me to be an independent thinker. Dr. Walter Gibson of Gibson Orgill Hall was my advisor for my last two years. If it weren’t for his encouragement and guidance, I would not have applied to graduate school and gone on to earn my Ph.D. At LOC I was able to get the individualized attention that I needed. This is something we still do well today. For me, the experience at LOC was exactly what I needed. It couldn’t have been any better.

As an LOC student, did you ever imagine you would one day be president? If not, what did you aspire to do initially?

No I didn’t. I wanted to be a biomedical researcher for the National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health. I saw myself as a researcher, so that was my plan. Back then, higher education was never my plan.

During your historic convocation speech, you mentioned that you have found your life’s purpose. What is it and how did you discover it?

My life’s purpose is to lead as an effective CEO of a higher education institution. LeMoyne-Owen represents my third journey in that capacity. I didn’t find my purpose. I believe God revealed my purpose to me through prayer. I asked Him to lead me in the right direction, because I came to a
point where I knew I did not want to do biomedical research anymore. As I prayed, opportunities became available in higher education and I continued to let Him guide me to the right opportunities. What I discovered is that I was purposed to be a leader and to help initiate and execute positive change. That’s how my purpose and my person united.

**How does it feel to come home as the first female president of the College since it was established in 1862?**

I haven’t thought of myself as a history maker, although technically it is historical to be the College’s first woman president. It’s not a new concept to have women in leadership positions. Women across the country and around the world serve as leaders in government, industry and higher education. I’m happy that the Board of Trustees and the LOC community believe that gender has no bearing on a person’s ability to effectively run an institution.

**You met with dozens of LOC employees, faculty, students and alumni during your first three months in office. Based on their feedback and your own observations, what do you see as LOC’s strengths and weaknesses?**

One of our strengths as an institution is our passion for the institution’s mission. We believe in our students and we believe in their potential and promise and we want to see them succeed. That passion may not be present in all of us here, but I believe it is in most. Another strength is our ability to nurture and support our students in ways that other institutions can’t, won’t and don’t. Our weaknesses are definitely customer service and communication.

**What is your vision of a transformed LOC under your leadership and what are your priorities for moving the College forward in 2016?**

My first priority is to dramatically improve our technology infrastructure to support efficiency and effectiveness for our teaching and learning and all of our business processes. My second priority is developing and implementing a salary equity study.

**What is the most important factor that will lead to LOC’s success?**

What LeMoyne-Owen needs most is strong leadership. We need leadership in all areas and all leaders must work together for the greater good of the College. We also need to recruit and retain competitive students, dedicated faculty and skillful staff.

**Let’s talk about students. What is the single most important thing LOC can do for its students, other than provide an excellent education?**

The most important thing we can do for our students is to help ensure their livelihood when they leave our institution, i.e., ensure that every student is placed in graduate school or a job or career that reflects the degree they earn with us.

**As an alumnus, how would you describe the role of alumni in the College’s continued progress? How can they help you achieve your goals for the College?**

LeMoyne-Owen has such a rich history, and our alumni have gone on to do some fantastic work for the College and for the community in which we reside. Our alums have so many different talents and meaningful connections that could be of great benefit to the College. My hope is that the alumni will help us achieve our goals by being engaged in all areas of the College, but engaged in a very organized and strategic fashion.

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

I remain humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead my alma mater. I have high expectations for our students and our employees. We have quite a bit of work to do that can only come through significant change, but I am excited about the College’s future. Together we can put the magic in Magicians!
New Hires
President Miller appoints chief of staff and other top execs

Mark Yates joined the LeMoyne-Owen College administration last December as interim chief of staff. He has been associated with the College as an adjunct professor of finance for nearly 10 years. Yates has served in multiple professional roles during his careers as an executive corporate officer, banker, public policy expert and corporate strategist. He once served as chief of staff for former United States Congressman Harold Ford Jr. Yates also has extensive experience in banking. He worked more than 20 years for First Tennessee Financial and its affiliates at the vice presidential and senior vice presidential levels in commercial lending, investment banking and investor relations. He also served as senior vice president for Rice Financial Products Company of New York. Yates is the former executive director of Voices for Memphis' Children at Methodist Le Bonheur Children's Hospital where he led efforts to establish a children's advocacy organization and defined the organization's strategic focus. He has held mayoral appointments for both the city of Memphis and Shelby County mayors on multiple civic boards, including Land Use Control, Shelby County Health and Education and the Industrial Development Board, to name a few. Yates holds a bachelor's degree in economics, specializing in finance, from Howard University and an Executive Management of Business degree from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.

President Miller tapped financial industry veteran Loretta Stubbs as the new vice president of finance and administration and chief financial officer in April. As VP/CFO, Stubbs oversees the College's accounting, financial planning and analysis, treasury, tax functions, facilities maintenance, and security. Stubbs arrived with more than 20 years of experience building and leading finance teams in Fortune 500 companies with significant operating scale and complexity. Just prior to joining the LOC family, Stubbs served as director/controller of Store Operations and Supply Chain for AutoZone Incorporated where she managed a $2 billion budget and developed and implemented strategies and tactics that resulted in $100 million in cost savings. Prior to AutoZone, she held public accounting and finance operations positions with B.D.O. Siedman (a global accounting and consulting firm), Promus Hotel Corporation (currently Hilton Hotel Corporation), Schering Plough and global grocer retail giant Ahold Conglomerate. Stubbs holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Christian Brothers University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Mississippi. She also is a certified public accountant. Stubbs and her husband Daryl are proud, loving parents to three young sons – Nathan, Dylan and Langston.

John Ruffin joined the LOC administration earlier this year as interim chief information officer. Ruffin is a native Chicagoan with an extensive background in the information technology industry. He has held key positions ranging from junior developer and architect to manager and chief technology officer. He is a certified internet webmaster and an Oracle certified Java developer. As a computer programmer, Ruffin has created e-commerce apps for Fortune 500 companies as well as start-ups. He developed iPhone apps before the Apple app store was created and attended the first Google I/O, the company’s renowned developer conference, in 2008 and created apps for the very first Android operating system. As an entrepreneur, John created CollegeFlair, the first e-commerce website focusing solely on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s) collegiate apparel and accessories. Another entrepreneurial success is This Kid Can Code, a company he founded to teach kids how to become entrepreneurs by creating their own apps. Ruffin has been instrumental in introducing coding and app development to more than 1,000 youth through his ventures. He currently mentors two Memphis area high school computer science clubs—Mitchell Robotics and Houston Web Developers. He has served as president of the Jackson State University Memphis Alumni Chapter, president of Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) Memphis Chapter, and co-chair of Allocations United 2016.
Way of the Mid-South (Family & Literacy). Ruffin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Jackson State University.

Neva Lenise Burke recently joined the LOC family as executive director of Human Resources. She brings with her a wealth of experience. Burke worked 16 years at Trinity Industries Corporation, which acquired a division of the Thomas & Betts Corporation, where she was senior director of human resources. There she contributed greatly to the growth of the business, workforce planning, and employee development. Burke also possesses cross-functional expertise in workforce planning, recruitment, leadership development, organizational development, change management, and compensation and benefits planning. Prior to Thomas & Betts, Burke worked for Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown, Kentucky, and New United Motors Manufacturing in Freemont, California, a joint venture between the General Motors Corporation and Ford Motor Company. The local Tri-State Defender newspaper selected her as a Woman of Excellence in 2008. Burke has a bachelor's degree in public affairs and political science from Texas Southern University. She is an alumna of the New Memphis Institute's Leadership Masters Development Program and has certifications in the areas of leadership development, change management, and the Lominger Competency Based Human Resource Management Model.

President Miller appointed Freshman Seminar Director and Moving Forward Coordinator Kenneth Quinn ’05 interim dean of students earlier this spring following the retirement of Dean Edythe Cobb. Quinn has an extensive background in higher education. He began working with the College as a student leader and residential scholar, serving as events chair for the National Pan-Hellenic Council, residential assistant for on-campus housing and as a LOC ambassador. He joined the LOC staff in 2005 as student activities director where he coordinated campus activities, programming and special events and advised the Student Government Association and all National Pan-Hellenic Counsel organizations. As the College’s Upward Bound (TRiO) counselor, he was responsible for recruiting, training, and retaining program participants, qualified instructors and staff. Quinn’s work with the College’s National Science Foundation Moving Forward and MSEIP grants has enabled LOC to attract and retain high-quality, high-performing STEM students and increase students’ academic performance and graduation and placement rates. As Freshman Seminar director, Quinn ignited the program’s shift to a case management-centered approach, increasing LOC’s freshman class retention rate. Quinn earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in social science with concentrations in sociology and psychology, as well as his Tennessee Teacher Certification in Special Education, K-12 Mild to Modified Programs from LOC in 2005. Since then, he has earned a Master of Arts in education from Cambridge College and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education in educational leadership with Northcentral University.

Retirements

Edythe Watson Cobb ’78 retired Feb 12 after 37 years of service and 14 years as dean of students. Cobb joined the LOC staff in 1979 as a career counselor while earning her Master of Education degree from The University of Memphis. Cobb steadily rose through the ranks over the years with stints as assistant director of counseling, director of placement and counseling, and interim director of student development. She was then promoted to director of placement where she managed recruitment, career counseling and job placement activities and helped charter the College’s first student chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management. In 1997, she accepted the position of alumni relations director and in 2000 was appointed to director of counseling. She was promoted to her most recent position as dean of students two years later. As dean, Cobb set the tone for student life on campus through the offices of student activities, housing, academic support services and leadership and development. She also directed judicial affairs and chaired the College’s most important ceremony of the year—commencement. Cobb served as committee chair for the campus faculty/staff Annual Buddy Olympics (1994-1997) and as campus leader for the American Heart Association Heart Walk (1998-2000).
Congratulations to Professor Mohammed Rafique Uddin, Ph.D., on his recent selection as a Fulbright Scholar to his native country of Bangladesh where he will lecture at several universities in Mymensingh this summer. Dr. Uddin joined the LOC faculty 22 years ago as a biology professor. He teaches plant biotechnology, genetics, cell biology, biostatistics and the biology capstone course.

This is Dr. Uddin’s second Fulbright Award. His first was in 2009 when he also received a grant to lecture in Bangladesh. The Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, making it the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. The 12-member Fulbright Board selected Dr. Uddin based on his academic merit and leadership potential. As a Fulbrighter, he is in distinguished company. Fulbright alumni have become heads of state, judges, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, CEOs, and university presidents, as well as leading journalists, artists, scientists, and teachers. There have been more than 360,000 Fulbrighters since Senator J. William Fulbright established the program in 1946, including 53 Nobel Laureates.
James Thomas Evans, LeMoyne Normal School class of 1900, was born June 8, 1873 in Brownsville, Tennessee, where he spent his youth and completed his early schooling. As a young man of color wanting to further his education, his options were to attend LeMoyne in Memphis or Roger Williams in Nashville, Tennessee. He chose LeMoyne. (It is said that at LeMoyne, text books were free.)

Three years after graduating, my grandfather accepted a position to teach privately in the small rural area of Roanoke, Texas. There, John Dolford "Bob" Jones, father of 10, was seeking a teacher for his children. Bob Jones was the son of a white master and his slave girl, and his wife was the daughter of still-famous cattle king John Simpson Chisum and his slave girl. The Jones', well-respected and hard-working, had accumulated over 1,100 acres of land, making them one of the largest land owners in a mostly white community. While accepting them in most other ways, the community did not open their school to colored persons.

Bob Jones and his wife Almeida had done numerous things through the years to bring about their children's education. Most often they would hire a teacher from the Dallas school system to come and teach during their free summer months. In 1903, grandfather responded to a search by Bob Jones for another homeschool teacher for the Jones children. He applied and traveled to Texas. His method of transportation was to hop a freight train and stow away with hobos. He described to our family how he nearly passed out and fell off the train, but was miraculously saved when he heard a Loud Voice saying, “Close your eyes…close your eyes.”

Upon arriving safely in Texas, he was told there wouldn't be another coach to rural Roanoke that day. So he set out on foot and traveled down what today is Bob Jones Road. He stopped at a well along the way for a drink. Significantly, the well and that stretch of road was another known name in local history. However, grandfather as the Jones' new teacher, quickly found boarding accommodations in Roanoke at Bob Curruth's place – another known name in local history. However, grandfather spent the first night in the community with the Bob Jones family. At dinner, he met the children, the younger ones whom he would teach, and the older ones whom he observed peeking around the door at him during his interview. One was a 23-year-old young woman named Virgie.

Grandfather James and Virgie fell in love. They married three years later in September 1906, in the center of the big front porch of the Jones' home.

With their marriage came a new city of residence—Pilot Point, Texas and a new teaching job for Grandfather James. A number of years later, he accepted his final formal teaching position in the nearby city of Sanger, Texas. He later left teaching and went into full-time farming. Through the years, grandfather raised a wide variety of produce and staples, as well as cattle, hogs and chickens. Along the way, he bought his first car, a new 1917 Model T Ford for $500. He continued to prosper, growing the farm to over 250 acres. He also served as an area census taker, studied to become a Baptist minister and was ordained in 1932. He often preached at the little family/community church on Sundays after the farm labor of the week was completed. In all that he did, grandfather always remained a scholar and a teacher, even as he nurtured his grandchildren.

Grandfather James and Grandmother Virgie were blessed with 64 years of marriage and nurtured their five children in the farm home on what is now Bob Jones Road. All of their children, except one who died young, left the family nest and went north to escape segregated schools in their quest for higher education. None returned to the south to live.

Forever grateful to his alma mater, Grandfather James named his first-born son Glenn LeMoyne Evans. Glenn LeMoyne (1911-2001), graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1941 with a Master of Arts degree. At some point during that decade of the forties, he spent time as an instructor at LeMoyne, the very college for which he was named. Glenn LeMoyne dedicated his career to teaching art, wood sculpture, pottery and jewelry making. He even taught abroad for four years in a government program in the Republic of Liberia.

James T. Evans, with his LeMoyne diploma in hand, and the son and a daughter who followed him into the field of education, were the first of many dedicated teachers in each generation of the Evans family since then.

Marie Grigsby is a homemaker who lives in Moline, Illinois, with Max Grigsby, her husband of 56 years. They are the proud parents of five grown children.
Marlon Foster has not strayed far from his alma mater. His dedication to the community surrounding the College seems to know no bounds. As founder and executive director of Knowledge Quest (KQ), Foster has sown seeds in the earth and grown hope, optimism and enthusiasm in the hearts of children and parents in South Memphis. United States President Barack Obama and the White House took notice in 2012, declaring Foster a National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention “Champion of Change”. Foster was one of only 12 leaders nationwide to be so honored.

Locally, organization after organization has recognized Foster for his humanitarian efforts. LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC) selected him as a guest lecturer during the Sesquicentennial Celebration’s Alumni Legacy Series in 2012 and the National Alumni Association named him Alumnus of the Year in 2014. The River City Chapter of LINKS, Inc. honored him with their Services to Youth Award and the Memphis chapter of J.U.G.S. International presented him their Making a Difference in the Lives of Children Award. The list goes on.

So, what is Knowledge Quest? It is Foster’s brainchild that grew out of the tragic loss of a childhood best friend to violence and his philosophy that “we couldn’t arrest away crime.” In 1999 Foster started out digging in the dirt. He partnered up with a neighborhood vegan and established the Green Leaf Learning Farm where youth grow, market and sell their vegetables. Foster is literally cultivating entrepreneurs.

The garden thrives today and KQ has blossomed under Foster’s watchful care and through his seemingly inexhaustible energy and compassion. KQ today has four additional programs that are national models. These are the extended learning academies that promote academic excellence, social emotional literacy, and healthy lifestyles in an after-school setting for pre-K-12th grade children. One is Family Stability, an initiative designed to enhance the academic success of youth in targeted schools and neighborhoods that have historically experienced higher mobility rates for students. Last year, KQ opened Universal Parenting Place, a center that provides parents with access to professional resources for addressing behavioral challenges at the earliest possible point in their children’s development. And his newest community incarnation is the Jay Uiberall Culinary Academy where high school students explore the culinary arts and learn about the food cycle, from seed to table. All in all, KQ has grown into a nonprofit with a $2 million annual budget. Foster is proud that KQ’s employees and vendors are homegrown, right in South Memphis, that his first employees were LOC alumni and that many LOC students intern and perform service learning at KQ.

Foster is proud to not only live, work and worship in South Memphis, he also pastors the Christ Quest Community Church that he and his wife, Shelia, founded 12 years ago. Of course, the church is just off Walker Avenue, around the corner from the campus. They have three children: Marlon II, Alexandria and Victoria.

BEACON recently asked Foster to share his philosophy on community service and leadership and the role LOC played in his life path.

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B: Why did you choose to attend LeMoyne-Owen College?

M: My family had been in the neighborhood since 1947. My parents moved in the house I was born in in 1965. Three generations lived under that roof and LOC was the neighborhood school. It was the school of choice in our house. My mother attended LeMoyne-Owen, so it was only logical that she told me to go there and make something of myself.

B: How did your time at LOC influence your life path?

M: I was always an entrepreneur growing up, selling things to earn my way, even when it got me in trouble. My first two years (at LOC), I was still straddling the fence, but when I started hitting those business courses, that's when it clicked. I made As in every business course because that's where my natural gifts began to emerge. What made me realize the value of intellectual capital was when H.B. Rejendra in my business seminar class had us students to go out into the neighborhood and perform business tasks for the neighborhood businesses.

For the business I was partnering with, I got them to reduce their receivables by 17 percent. A lightbulb went off. I thought ‘What if political science majors helped out with voting campaigns? What if social work students helped out with community ills? What if education majors helped out with after school programs?’ It was that business seminar experience that helped me crystallize what I wanted to do with my life. It's funny: when I first started out as a student at LeMoyne-Owen, I wanted to own a liquor store like the one that used to be up there at Mississippi and Walker Avenue. I was thinking they were making all that money and it's legit. Right? I just knew I wanted to own a business in the neighborhood. Another great thing happened at LeMoyne-Owen: I met my wife, Shelia. I was a guest lecturer in an English class just a few years after graduating. She was a graduating senior at the time. It was love at first sight!

B: What advice do you have for the Class of 2016?

M: In thinking back on some of the original crafting by our elders and fore parents of putting public housing right next to HBCUs: We need to understand and honor the intentionality that was there. I understand that kids now on campus aren’t too distant from the struggles of people right across the street. But, it’s about the power that is in the intellectual capital (of the college students) who are in a position to really represent the race and the culture, put right alongside those who are experiencing a sense of trouble and distress and a lack of resources. (The elders’) ingenuity of bringing those two together so that even a college student understands that you have an accountability to the least of those among you within your community, even beyond that, a creed to know that your success is intricately tied to their success. I think that's gotten lost a little bit because of the struggles of the everyday college student, but we cannot lose ground. It's like what Dr. (Martin Luther) King said: ‘All wealth is of the common wealth.’ I think that all success is a collective success. So for students graduating: Whatever you decide to do, know that your success is tied to the least of those among you, and you can see that right outside the doors of LeMoyne-Owen College.
Class Notes

Dr. Josephine Isabel-Jones ’61 (BS) received the Jackie Robinson Award from UCLA’s Black Alumni Association in March for her numerous contributions to the field of medicine as a pediatric cardiologist, emeritus dean of students, and emeritus professor of pediatrics at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Jones is an accomplished physician who has used her medical gifts to heal others for nearly 50 years.

Willie W. Herenton ’63, Ph.D. (BA) was named the 2016 Legacy Honoree by Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church-Westwood. This was the third year the church bestowed the award on a local leader. Herenton was recognized for his distinguished leadership as the first African American superintendent of Memphis City Schools, the first African American elected mayor of Memphis, Tennessee (1991–2009), and the founder and CEO of the W.E.B. Du Bois Consortium of Charter Schools, Inc.

Katrina Edwards ’82 (BS) graduated from Leadership Memphis’ executive program and was named a 2015 Woman of Excellence by the New Tri-State Defender newspaper. The paper selected her among its 50 honorees from throughout greater Memphis.

Roderick DeBerry ’84 (BA) appeared in the stage play ‘A Juneteenth Story’ last year where he played President Barack Obama. The two-act play centered around an African American family’s Juneteenth celebration. DeBerry is president and chief executive officer of ViaSys, an information technology contract staffing, consulting and software development company headquartered in Memphis.

Gwendolyn Cowan Flowers, Ed.D. ’95 (BBA) earned a Doctor of Education in higher learning and leadership from Walden University last summer. Dr. Flowers is a financial aid counselor in LeMoyne-Owen College’s Office of Student Financial Services and teaches English with the College’s Upward Bound Program and Freshman Seminar. She also teaches reading to English as a Second Language (ESL) students at Messick Adult Center for Shelby County Schools. She says LOC inspired her “to become Dr. Flowers.” Her daughter, Tenicia is a graduating senior at LOC.

Justin Key ’06 (BS) launched Defying Gravity 101, a business that markets a program designed to prepare aspiring entertainers for professional success through an entrepreneurial approach. The program can be delivered in-person to students, professional organizations and corporations and will be available online. Key, a veteran Hollywood actor and mathematician, established the company with friend and former talent agent Billy Goldberg.


Keep us posted on your good news at daphne_thomas@loc.edu or call Frankie Jeffries in Alumni Affairs at (901) 435-1530. Also, if you know of an alumnus who is not receiving BEACON in the mail, please forward their most current address, email and phone number, along with yours, to nerissa_grandberry@loc.edu or call her at (901) 435-1527. We want to stay in touch and wish you continued success.
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juskey@yahoo.com
(310) 867-4298

In Memoriam
Dr. Mattie B. Brown ’37 (BS, Education)
Reverend Elizabeth F. Toles ’42 (BS, Education), retired Memphis City Schools teacher
Charles A. Hollowell ’42 (BS, Education), retired transportation executive
Dr. Robert I. Woods ’44 (BS, Chemistry), retired dentist
Alma Hawes Black ’46 (BS, Sociology) retired social worker
Lee Ella Jackson ’46 (BS, Education), retired insurance executive
Lucille W. Harrison ’48 (BS, Biology) former educator for Arkansas public schools
Bernice F. Randolph ’51 (BS, Sociology)
James H. Boyd ’55 (BS, Natural Science), retired Shelby County Schools principal
Loretta L. Wilson ’55 (BS, Education), retired Memphis City Schools teacher
Frazelia W. Grisham ’55 (BS, Education), retired embalmer and educator
Katherine Bowers ’57 (BS, Education), longtime women’s rights advocate and former Member of the Tennessee House of Representatives and Senator in the Tennessee Senate representing District 33 in Shelby County
William H. Cross ’57 (BS, Education) retired as first Dean of Students following the merger of LeMoyne and Owen colleges in 1968
Dr. John L. Armstrong ’60 (BS, Education), pastor of Christian United Missionary Baptist Church, LOC trustee and Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention trustee
Dr. Jesse E. Jones ’61 (BS, Mathematics)
William L. Taylor ’61 (BBA), retired general manager for Tennessee Valley Authority
Edith Hubbard-Powers ’66 (BS, Education), retired U.S. Postal Service employee
Jerry M. Johnson, Sr. ’66 (BS, Education), Memphis City Schools head coach, 1966 Mr. LeMoyne-Owen College
Clifton J. Best ’67 (BS, Mathematics), retired international manager for Bank of Africa
Ms. Arnetta Phillips Wilson ’68 (BS, Education), Memphis City Schools teacher, 1968 Miss LeMoyne-Owen College
Rosie L. Crosby ’74 (BS, Education) retired Memphis City Schools teacher
Jarvette M. Harris ’95 (BS, Natural Science), Shelby County Schools teacher

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of our deceased listings. If you should notice a correction or are aware of a deceased alumnus who is not listed, please contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (901) 435-1530.
To remember the incomparable William H. Cross is to reflect not only on a person who embodied dedication, integrity and excellence, but also to reflect on a persona—one of goodness, faithfulness and courage that radiated from within, shining brightly on and pouring generously into the many lives he touched. To know “Dean” was to experience light, as anyone who met him would agree that his flawless character, generous spirit and sound wisdom were, collectively, a breath of fresh, rare air.

Cross began making his mark in the Magician community as an active student leader who served in Student Government as well as Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. He graduated in 1957 and went on to work as a guidance counselor and teach history for Memphis City Schools. A decade later, he became the first Dean of Students under the merged LeMoyne and Owen Colleges, and he oversaw the campus’ Admissions and Recruitment Office.

His leadership and vision fueled the first structured student leadership institute, and his willingness to mentor students helped create a campus culture of pride and achievement. The William H. Cross Award for Excellence in Student Leadership continues to celebrate his historic accomplishments while honoring those students who best represent them.

Along with his incredible contributions to the College, he will also be remembered for his beautiful mind, sharp wit, warm laugh, impeccable attire and melodious baritone voice. He was, and in memoriam will remain, the personification of the LOC Mystique. Let us honor Cross by committing to continuing his indelible legacy.

William H. Cross ’57
Former dean embodied ‘LOC Mystique’
by Meridith Rucker

James “Jim” Fri, Jr.
Trustee leaves legacy of philanthropy
by Meridith Rucker

For James Fri, Jr., life was an incredible gift to be cherished and lived purposefully. With a sincere dedication to service and leadership, Fri’s life of faithful generosity became a beautiful, transformative gift to LeMoyne-Owen College, the City of Memphis, and beyond.

As a 1952 graduate from Harvard Business School, he became a self-made business man by founding River Oil Company in Memphis and Jackson, Tennessee, all while remarkably raising his four children and supporting his first wife through illness. He also began actively giving back to the community. His keen business mind, coupled with his genuine philanthropic heart, led to his becoming a true hands-on champion for social and community advancement.

Mr. Fri chaired many non-profit organizations, including Planned Parenthood of Greater Memphis and the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce. As chair of the College’s board, he lead LOC through many successful capital campaigns and played a pivotal role in garnering financial support by challenging colleagues to donate and support his belief that all students from all backgrounds should be offered higher educational opportunities.

As a World War II veteran, Fri also dedicated his life to remaining active in his service to the country. Many fondly remember his love for dancing and clicking his heels, which he attributed to almost losing his feet during the war, his jovial and energetic spirit, and his kindness and warmth. We will continue to pay homage to his life that he so willingly and humbly shared in the name of hope and progress.
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Beacon Spring 2016 31
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LeMoyne-Owen College Alumni Association-Memphis Chapter
The Links, Inc. Central Area
United Negro College Fund

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$2,500 and above
LeMoyne-Owen College National Alumni Association
National Council of Negro Women Inc.
Pakistan Association of Memphis

**MAGICIAN SOCIETY**
$1,000 and above
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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Phi Lambda Omega Chapter
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Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Memphis Alumni Chapter
Memphis Beautician Association
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Tennessee Independent Colleges & Universities Association
The Links, Inc. River City Chapter
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

**S.A. OWEN SOCIETY**
$500 and above
Call To Action
Combined Federal Campaign NCA

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority-Shelby County Alumnae Chapter
JUSTGIVE
King Frederick Consistory #38
LeMoyne-Owen College Alumni Association-Chicago Chapter

**1862 SOCIETY**
$250 and above
Cleveland-Bolivar Chamber of Commerce
Geola Early Scholarship
Golden Triangle United Negro College Fund
Registered Nurses Club
The Girl Friends, Inc. Memphis Chapter

**SECOND CENTURY CLUB**
$100 and above
Be The Match
Delta Fine Arts, Education and Cultural Center, Inc.
Ebonique Bridge Club
Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service, Inc.
Lessye Lee Davis 4-H Club

**Corporations and Foundations**

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ABL Management, Inc.
Assisi Foundation of Memphis Inc.
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
Cigna Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
Cummins, Inc.
Exxon Mobil Foundation
FedEx Services
First Tennessee Foundation
Lexus Verses and Flow Scholarship
SchoolSeed Foundation
Valero Energy Corporation

Officials from the American Contract Bridge League - M.A. Lightman Bridge Club, Inc. presented a $5,000 check to President Andrea Miller Dec. 2, 2015. The generous donation was proceeds from a special benefit game the club held for LeMoyne-Owen. Pictured (left to right): Tolliver McKinney, Easter Kirby, Lee Smart, Gloria Worthy, President Andrea Lewis Miller, Kathy Love and Sam Love.
Medtronic Employees Team Up with LOC to Help Flint, Michigan Residents

Special thanks to members of Medtronic’s Memphis chapter of the African Descent Network (ADN) for donating over 200 cases and jugs of water for Flint, Michigan residents. LeMoyne-Owen College was one of a dozen water donation drop-off locations citywide. Medtronic’s ADN is an employee resource group dedicated to the promotion and inclusion of the black diaspora. The ADN celebrated Black History Month with a tribute to Brazil and graciously invited the LeMoyne-Owen College Concert Choir and Roger Brown of Institutional Advancement to take part in the celebration. The choir did a magnificent job singing a stirring rendition of the classic spiritual “Ain’t Got Time to Die.”
**The Faith Community**

**SESQUICENTENNIAL SOCIETY**
$10,000 and above
- Brown Missionary Baptist Church
- Middle Baptist Church Whitehaven
- United Church of Christ
- West Tennessee District Association
- Memphis Baptist Congress of Christian Education

**GOLD SOCIETY**
$5,000 and above
- Baptist Minister's Wives Guild
- Greater White Stone Missionary Baptist Church
- Memphis Baptist Mission & Education City Union #1
- Mount Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood
- Union Progressive Association

**PURPLE SOCIETY**
$2,500 and above
- Castalia Baptist Church
- City Ushers Association
- New Sardis Baptist Church
- St. John Missionary Baptist Church

**MAGICIAN SOCIETY**
$1,000 and above
- Beulah Baptist Church
- Christ Missionary Baptist Church
- East Fork Missionary Baptist Association
- First Baptist Church-Broad
- First Baptist Church-Lauderdale
- First Baptist Mount Olive
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Grace Missionary Baptist Church
- Dr. L. LaSimba Gray
- Metropolitan Baptist Church
- Mt. Moriah East Baptist Church
- New Directions Christian Church
- Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church
- Oakville Missionary Baptist Church
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Second Congregational United Church of Christ
- St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Memphis
World Overcomers Outreach Ministries

**FRANCIS JULIUS LEMOYNE SOCIETY**
$750 and above
- Greater Memphis Sunday School & Nurture Congress

**S.A. OWEN SOCIETY**
$500 and above
- Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Central Baptist Church
- East Trigg Avenue Baptist
- Greater Springfield Baptist Church
- Greenwood CME Church
- Mid South Fellowship Hour
- Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
- New Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church
- Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church Hwy 64
- Olivet Fellowship Baptist Church
- Springdale Baptist Church
- St. James Missionary Baptist Church
- St. John Baptist Church-Douglas
- Walnut Grove Baptist Church

**1862 SOCIETY**
$250 and above
- Fullview Missionary Baptist Church
- Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church
- Greater New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
- Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ
- Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church #2
- Morning View Baptist Church
- Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
- New Mount Zion Baptist Church
- Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church
- Robinhood Lane Baptist Church
- Trustees for the First Baptist Church

**SECOND CENTURY CLUB**
$100 and above
- Anointed Temple of Praise
- Early Grove Missionary Baptist Church
- Impact Baptist Church and Ministries
- Little Leaf Baptist Church
- Morning Chapel Baptist Church
- Mt. Olive Baptist Church
- New Little Rock Baptist Church
- New Revelation Baptist Church
- Path Ministries Praising and Trusting Him Inc.
- Salem Gilfield Baptist Church
- Temple of Faith
- Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church
- West Cannan Baptist Church

**Gifts In-Kind**
- Anonymous
- Bar Louie's
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee
- Budweiser of Memphis
- Busters Liquors and Wines
- Canteen
- Cigna Healthcare
- Costco
- Cummins Mid-South
- Dicks Sporting Goods
- Dr. Clarence Christian
- Dr. Thomas E. Dipko
- Enterprise Rental Car
- Frito Lay
- Hank Aaron
- Hattiloo Theatre
- Holliday's Flowers
- Home Juice Corporation
- Idealease Truck
- iHeart Media
- Irene Golf and Country Club
- Jasons' Deli
- Kellogg's USA
- KGR Group dba Lennys Subs
- King Cotton
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