On Wednesday, April 24, 2013, Lane College held its annual Minnie Greer and O.L. Armour Scholarship Day and Honors Convocation in the William Graves Auditorium located in the Chamber’s McClure Academic Center (CMAC). This event takes place annually to celebrate the achievements of students who assiduously study to show themselves approved. Students who strived for academic excellence are celebrated on this day and placed at the forefront of the entire College.

The tradition of having the senior with the highest grade point average to speak at the Honors Convocation was continued as Anita Fitzgerald, of Moberly, Missouri spoke to students, staff, and faculty. While at Lane, Ms. Fitzgerald was on the Dean’s List for all seven semesters and boasts a final gpa of 3.976. She was an Interdisciplinary Studies major and completed her student-teaching at Isaac Lane Technology Magnet School. Ms. Fitzgerald is the daughter of Lisa Johnson and Lanite Anthony Fitzgerald (Class of ‘83). Her grandparents, who are also Lanites, are Willie and Myrtle Fitzgerald (both are members of the Class of ‘66) of Humboldt, Tennessee.

One hundred and twenty-five students were recognized for being selected to Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Eleven students were recognized for having perfect attendance for the entire academic year, while seventeen were recognized for having perfect chapel attendance. Sixty-six scholars were honored for having a 4.0 semester grade point average in Fall 2012. An additional sixty-six students were recognized for having a 3.0 or above grade point average for three or more consecutive semesters and twenty-four students were honored for having a 3.0 or above grade point average for seven consecutive semesters.

A host of other awards, scholarships, internships, and other recognitions were made.
TruthSeekers (History Club) Wraps Up its Second Year

TruthSeekers (History Club) concluded its 2012-2013 campaign on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 with a documentary centered on the life of Bob Marley, followed by an awards ceremony.

Club officers receiving recognition included Barry Saxton, President; Johnny Joseph, Vice President; and Kierra Reedus, Secretary.

Dr. Carleen Jackson (Asst. Prof. of History) surprised and fascinated attendees with special presentations that acknowledged the contributions of supporting students and faculty.

In only its second year, TruthSeekers made amazing strides in enhancing the academic and social experience of campus life. Symposiums focused on issues relevant to people of African descent and a television-themed “Black History Jeopardy!” competition provided evidence of the club’s ability to educate and entertain.

Conversations among students and faculty, which often continued beyond the close of meetings, helped foster new relationships that reinforce the mission to develop the “whole student.”

Lane College Graduate Dazzles at National Conference

Na’eemah Webb, former Lane Senior Class President (Class of 2012), participated in the 37th Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies held from March 13-16 in Indianapolis. Webb, a current graduate student in American Studies at Purdue University, presented a research paper titled “The ‘Rape Over’ of Hip-Hop: Corporate Overseer’s Wreckin‘ the Black Community.” Her scholarship proved outstanding among a panel focused on the influence of hip-hop across the African Diaspora.
Lane College student-athlete, Vernon Kearney was honored as the Student Athlete of the Year at the 28th Annual Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame Banquet held on Thursday, April 18th, 2013 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. Kearney played on the Dragon Football team for 4 years, and was the team’s captain. He was selected to the SIAC All-Conference 1st team for the 2012 season. He started in the Raycom All-Star Game, formerly known as the Blue/Grey Game, and also participated in the Texas vs. the Nation Bowl game. Vernon changed over to defense after starting his career at Lane as a wide-receiver. In his 20 games as a defensive back, he collected 45 tackles, 1 for a loss of 5 yards. He also had 13 defensive break-ups of passes, 1 forced fumble, a 10-yard return, and 2 interceptions. Kearney graduated last month with a 3.24 grade point average, and has inked a contract with the Buffalo Bills where he is expected to do great things both on and off the field. Congratulations Vernon. We are so proud of you!

Lane College Student Selected to SIAC All-Academic Tennis Team

The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference released its 2013 SIAC Men’s and Women’s Tennis All-Conference Team as voted by the SIAC Tennis Coaches Association. Morgan Moore, a sophomore from Louisville, Kentucky, was a consensus selection. Moore is the owner of a 4.0 grade point average majoring in Religion and minoring in Sociology. She is the daughter of Charles and Kimberly Moore.

Keep up the good work Morgan!
Lane College Spring Commencement 2013

On Sunday, April 28th, 2013, 236 students sat in the Oman Arena waiting for their chance to walk across the stage and become a Lane College graduate. Family members and friends of the largest graduating class in the College’s history filled up nearly every seat in the Oman Arena. President McClure commended the class for completing the course of earning a baccalaureate degree and challenged them to seek higher degrees and to not stop after Lane.

Among the honorees of 2013 were the alumni graduates of 1943, 1953, and 1963. These honor classes were awarded their 50th, 60th, and 70th year diplomas. Members of these classes returned to Lane College to walk across the stage again to commemorate the day they graduated decades before. These graduates were welcomed back on Saturday, April 27th, 2013 at the President’s Luncheon where they reminisced on their years at Lane and reflected on how their experiences laid the foundation for their lives.

The commencement speaker, CNN’s Weekend News anchor Fredricka Whitfield, urged graduates to take advantage of what lay before them and understand the journey was only beginning. Mrs. Whitfield stated that graduating from college is just a small start to the long race of life. Graduates were told that they must strive to reach their full potential and realize that their degree does not entitle them to any guaranteed job. She encouraged graduates to continue to work hard to achieve what they want from life.
Lane College Alumnus Jacoby Jones Set to Dance in Finales on ABC's Dancing With The Stars

Vying to win ABC's Dancing With The Stars, Lane College Alumnus Jacoby Jones (Class of 2009) has advanced to the finale of the top-rated, prime-time television show. After hanging in there throughout Season 16, Jacoby finally made his big play in Monday's (May 13) semi-finals, leaping into a tie at the top of the leaderboard. He and partner Karina Smirnoff scored a perfect 30 from the show's three-judge panel. All of us take great pride in saying "Jacoby Jones is a Lanite." Let's show how proud we are by voting for him on Monday, May 20 after his final televised performance. DWTS airs on ABC at 8:00 p.m. EST/7:00 p.m. CST. Voting begins after the airing of the program. You may vote a maximum of 4 times per voting method, (cell, land, text, etc). The telephone number for Jacoby is 1-800-868-3412.

In last week's airing, Lane College was prominently mentioned several times. You may hear inspiring words from Jacoby, his mother, and others in the second video found here: http://boards.baltimoreravens.com/topic/51702-jacoby-jones-on-dancing-with-the-stars/page-24
The Lane College/United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Joint Campaign

For over a century, faculty, staff, and alumni of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have played a vital role in the nurturing and development of Lane College and other UNCF member institutions.

This year, the UNCF celebrates 69 years of collecting much needed funds to support thousands of deserving students in continuing a legacy of hope, excellence, and opportunity. Alumni, faculty, and staff can make it possible for Lane College and the UNCF to help young, gifted, and deserving students realize their dream of receiving a college education.

Lane College has begun its 2013-’14 UNCF Joint Campaign. Under a unique arrangement with the UNCF, each year member colleges and universities are assessed with raising funds for the UNCF. Lane’s assessment for the coming campaign is $75,000. In return for reaching this goal, the UNCF will distribute to Lane approximately one and one-half times its assessment to be used by the College toward the advancement of its mission of serving students who would otherwise not have the opportunity of attending college.

The College solicits your support and ask that you please join us in helping to educate young, gifted, and deserving students by making a donation to the Joint Campaign. You may either make your donation at the cashier’s office; or mail your check or money order, made payable to Lane College, to the Office of the President, Lane College, 545 Lane Avenue, Jackson, Tennessee 38301. As you know, your contribution is fully tax deductible.

Thank you so much for your consideration.
A Story Worth Telling… and Retelling

To most young people navigating on the seas of life, smooth sailing is usually taken for granted. But for some, the tempest is raging and the billows are tossing high! So it was with Kawanda Miller, an 18 year old graduating senior attending Thornwood High School in South Holland, Illinois. By all accounts, Kawanda is a regular teenager who possesses all of the desires, dreams, frailties, and foibles of other teenagers. She likes boys, wants a car, likes to dress up, and hopes to have a successful life. She dreamt of going to college and getting her degree. Life for her was good.

But in 2010, Kawanda took a hit. For it was in that month that the love of her life, her mother, was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. Immediately, Kawanda assumed the primary role in taking care of her mother and two younger siblings. Although it was hard for the sixteen-year-old, Kawanda rose early in the mornings to cook, wash, and see to it that her mother was comfortable while she and her siblings were away at school. Once the school day was finished and she returned home, Kawanda then performed other household tasks that were needed to be done, did her homework, helped her siblings with their homework, and got everyone off to bed. This was her normal routine day in and day out.

In April 2012, Kawanda’s love of life came to a screeching halt. Her mother passed away. Kawanda experienced a very deep and long-lasting depression. As a result, her school work suffered. She became withdrawn and lethargic. Because she had not yet reached the age of majority, the guardianship of Kawanda and her siblings was awarded to an older sister, Martina.

Gradually, after the passage of several months, Kawanda came out from under the weight of her depression and, in anticipation of graduating from high school, made application to several colleges in keeping with her promise to her mother that she would attend college. But because of the downward turn in her grades after the death of her mother, no college or university was willing to accept her for admission to their program. It was one rejection letter after another that found its way to Kawanda’s mailbox. Even though her applications included recommendations from well-wishers who conveyed that “Kawanda is an outstanding young woman who has shown great resilience, courage, and drive to succeed through incredibly difficult circumstances in her life,” the rejection letters continued to be received and Kawanda was again descending into a deepening morass.

But on Thursday, May 9, 2013, things changed. The diminished hope that had exited Kawanda’s life after receiving all of the rejection letters returned to her at a rapid pace. You see, it was on that day that Kawanda’s sister and guardian pulled her car to the side of the road and called the Lane College Office of Admissions to check on the status of Kawanda’s admissions application. After whispering a prayer to the Almighty asking for favor, she heard Lane College Director of Enrollment Management, Dr. Juanita Morris, speak the following words, “I am pleased to inform you that Kawanda has been admitted to the 2013 Freshman Class at Lane College.” In the midst of tears and utterances of many hallelujahs, Martina mightily thanked her Lord and Lane College (in proper order).

Now, Kawanda is back from the precipice of despair. She has a smile on her face and her faith has been restored. Knowing that her college plans (and promise to her mother) will be realized, she readies herself to attend her prom knowing that in her world, all is well.

Since 1882, Lane College has fulfilled its Mission of providing educational opportunities to all, especially those who are poor, distraught, and lacking hope. Kawanda’s happy ending is only one of several happy endings that Lane College has provided to its students for 131 years. It is our pledge to continue along this path in all of our future endeavors as we enlighten our students to realize their Power of Potential®.
Carolyn Caudle Jackson said she had thoughts of becoming a coach when she was a senior in high school. She graduated from Lane College in 1973 and it was there where she had her first coaching opportunity while working at a local youth center. As a student, she worked with 7 and 8-year-olds twice a week. Jackson returned to Chattanooga and ended up being hired to coach physical education at Brainerd High School, succeeding Clara Robinson Pride, who took maternity leave. That was the 1973-74 school year. Jackson said she was approached by some girls at the time who wanted to resurrect Brainerd’s girls’ basketball program, which was six-on-six at the time. She agreed. “I had just turned 21 when I started teaching,” Jackson said, “so I wasn’t much older than they were.”

After 40 years, a 965-285 record, numerous district and region titles and a state championship, Jackson has decided to retire as girls’ basketball coach at Brainerd. “I’ve been coaching for so long, I felt it was about time to step down,” Jackson said. “I don’t have anything left to prove. I’ve done just about all I set out to do.” Jackson retired as a teacher five years ago and said she first had thoughts about retiring from coaching a couple of seasons later but took things year by year. Now that she has a new grandson with which to spend time, she felt now is the right time.

Jackson coached numerous players who got college scholarships and one Olympic gold medalist in Venus Lacy, who was a member of the Lady Panthers’ 1984 Class AAA state championship team. “I won’t say I’ll never coach again,” Jackson said. “I’ll continue to take it year by year, too, and day by day. For now, I’ll leave the X’s and O’s to someone else.”

Enjoy your well-deserved retirement Coach Jackson!
Lane College Re-launches the Dr. J.L. Perry Golf Tournament for Homecoming 2013

If you are a golfer or know someone who is (pass the word to him or her), please save the date for the Dr. J. L. Perry Homecoming Golf Tournament, to be held on Friday, October 18, 2013 at Bent Tree Golf Course in Jackson, Tennessee. Please sign up to play (4 – man/woman scramble) or refer any questions or comments that you may have to Monica Clayborne-Scott, Director of Alumni Affairs, at mclayborne@lanecollege.edu or via phone at 731-426-7523.

This Homecoming event is sponsored by the Lane College Office of Alumni Affairs. All proceeds derived from this tournament will be used to benefit Lane College and its students.

Alumni, We Would Like to Hear From You

We are very proud of our alums, and would very much like to hear from you. The Alumni and Friends E-Newsletter is a monthly publication that provides the latest campus news. Each month we will keep you updated on particular topics, upcoming events, and areas of interest related to Lane College. The newsletters will be archived monthly and available on the College website.

If you have news you would like to share in an upcoming issue of the Alumni and Friends E-Newsletter, or you would like to sign up to receive the e-newsletter, please email Monica Scott, Director of Alumni Affairs.

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