ALUMNI & FRIENDS
E-NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2013

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*Save the Dates*

Dr. J.L. Perry Golf Tournament for Homecoming 2013
Bent Tree Golf Course
4 man/woman scramble
Friday, October 18, 2013

Questions or comments???
Contact Monica C. Scott
Director of Alumni Affairs
731-426-7523

Homecoming Football Game
Lane College Dragons vs
Central State (OH) Marauders
Saturday, October 19, 2013
2:00 PM
LANE FIELD
The sights and sounds of gleeful cheer, friendly hugs, and hopeful words of grand expectations were seen and heard by all as new and returning Lane College students arrived at registration, settled into their residence halls, and began their first day of the 2013-2014 academic year on Monday, August 19, 2013. This year marks the beginning of the College’s 131st consecutive year of educating and molding the minds of a diverse student body comprised of residents who hail from 31 states and 3 foreign countries. The College’s international faculty is composed of professors who represent 11 countries.

In his letter of greetings delivered to students on the first day of class, President Wesley Cornelious McClure welcomed all new and returning students to campus and reminded them of their purpose at Lane. “You are here to study, learn, expand your base of knowledge, and graduate. Along the way, you will find your way to a lofty place where you will offer help to the helpless and discover the true power of your potential. Many sacrifices have been made by your family to get you to Lane College. To honor them and invest in yourselves, your focus should be on going to class, learning as much as you can, honoring women, respecting your elders, serving your community, and graduating on time. You are not here to party! You will have plenty of time to party later. In the future, party in Paris, cajole in Copenhagen, revel in Rio, and frolic in Frankfurt; but for now, learn at Lane”, McClure wrote.

For the first time in the College’s history, the percentage of male students exceeds that of females. According to statistics released by Lane Registrar Terry Blackmon, 52% of all students are male. This is quite unique in that student enrollment among women is traditionally higher on the overwhelming majority of college campuses across America. While unique, the percentage advantage of men at Lane is not surprising. Reached at his office for a wide-ranging interview, McClure addressed the male enrollment and disclosed a plethora of information regarding initiatives that the College has introduced and extended for the new academic year.

“For the last several years, we have focused a great deal of time, attention, and effort to minority and low-income male students. One should not take this to mean that we have lessened our efforts toward our Lane Ladies. We have not! What we have done is devoted extra attention to our young sons. We do this because we realize that the plight of young, black men is even worse than the statistics generally show. The official unemployment rate for this group approaches 30%; but we know that the actual rate is much higher than that, taking into account the large number of black young men who are incarcerated, often for non-violent and victimless offenses, who are excluded from computation in Labor Department statistics. Reaching out to these young men, going beyond that which is required in order to assure that they have the best possible chance of obtaining a college education and achieving success in the world, is the high standard that all of us at Lane College have set for ourselves. In the same vein, this year, the College will focus more attention to the interdisciplinary aspects of its course curriculum in an effort to direct attention to the problems of all minority and low-income students and create strategies to eliminate the problems. Simultaneously with this new focus, students will develop higher-ordered creative thinking skills and abilities that will prepare them for a wide variety of careers and further study.
School Year Begins for Lane College Students (con’ t)

The College has initiated a number of projects intended to bolster the achievements that we have made and address the challenges that remain before us. First, we have established a larger business incubator that will focus on traditional minority ventures and high-tech ventures. A local businessman is responsible for its implementation. Second, the role of the Wellness Program has greatly expanded. Special emphasis is being given to diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and obesity. These community-oriented projects will focus on our neighborhoods and in our neighborhoods. Third, Soup du Jour has made a tremendous investment in the Cyber Café at Water Tower Place here on campus. Wellness snacks and meals are the major focus of that business. Members of the community are encouraged to stop at this special place; have a cup of tea; and catch up on the news. Fourth, a major investment has been made in the Band and Concert Choir. Two Directors and three Assistant Directors will strengthen and expand both programs. Citizens are encouraged to support these initiatives. Fifth, the College has initiated a comprehensive program to increase the performance and retention of students taking mathematics. Special attention is being given to the individual student. At the same time, various groupings and interests will encourage better performance and success. This project was established during the Reaffirmation of Accreditation through the approval of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Sixth, the security and armed patrol programs have been substantially improved. Following changes of the law by the State of Tennessee, students and other clientele will benefit from this expanded thrust. Officers have been hired in a manner that reflects a positive view of Security and Enforcement. Seventh, the Office of Alumni Affairs has expanded its functions to include significant contact with alumni and friends of the College. Working through and with graduates who have financially supported the College throughout their professional lives, new relationships and expertise will be celebrated. Eighth, the Quality Enhancement Program and the Retention Program have been moved to a separate facility with a special mission. Students will be able to study and work together in numerous academic pursuits. Various aspects of counseling have also been introduced. Ninth, student services have expanded to include activities related to Alcohol Education, Violence Against Women, and Interpersonal Relationships. Tenth, through continuing support from the National Science Foundation, the College has expanded its focus on research experiences, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students now collaborate with Faculty in various scientific research. Two students have already co-authored a research paper this academic year.

Eleventh, the Football Team has made continuous progress. The number of persons competing for eligible positions has substantially increased. The College will play its first home game on September 14 against Morehouse College. Lane Field, including the press box, concession services, and the locker rooms, has undergone substantial improvements in preparation for the October 2013 Homecoming Game against Central State University. Numerous bands have already expressed an interest and commitment to perform in the largest parade held annually in the City of Jackson. Twelfth, the College’s radio station (WLCD) has focused its broadcasting on more adult and mature listeners. Certain music and other activities are not accepted in its programming. Thirteenth, the number of computer laboratories has now increased to 14. Some support classroom experiences. Others support group experiences. Still others support focused research experiences. Fourteenth, the Lane College Faculty spent much of the summer preparing new materials designed to improve student performance throughout the curriculum. Several new professors were hired...reflecting expanded programming in all disciplines. Fifteenth, during the previous fiscal year, the College performed above average on financial responsibility. In fact, the College appeared in Forbes Magazine as one of the best financially-managed higher education institutions in America.

Our best days are ahead, and our future is bright. We remain focused on raising the attitudes and aspirations of our students and guiding them toward the actualization of their dreams.”
“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later”…Og Mandino

I first saw this quote when it was posted on my sixth-grade classroom wall, and I never really understood it. Rather, I didn’t understand Og Mandino’s intention, but I knew that the quote’s veracity was inarguable. It was a luminous, humid day and one could see the morning dew as I arrived on Lane Colleges’ campus for the first time. I had such high expectations because I was attending a historically black college and I had the freedom to do as I pleased without having the supervision of my parents. Boy was I wrong! There was curfew at eleven o’clock, mandatory chapel attendance every Wednesday, and just rules on top of more rules! I felt like I was in jail and I wanted to leave immediately. My mother and I would chat, well rather I whined for hours about how I didn’t want to be here. Over time it grew on me though. Being from a big city, I wasn’t use to such a slow-paced environment. However, I took the time to focus more on my studies and strived to do my best. Being diligent in my studies, my professors started recommending me for different internships and wanted me to take a leadership role in the classroom. When all of these things happened, I realized what Mandino was conveying. In everything you do in life, you should always want to do your best because it is the stepping stones for success. Had I not come to Lane, I wouldn’t have learned such a valuable lesson. I have met some awesome people and have had the pleasure to be taught by some wonderful professors. Being here has really helped mature me and helped shape the young woman I am today. So I personally want to say thank you to Lane College.

Khristal Thomas is a Junior majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry. She holds a 3.76 grade point average and plans to enter dental school after graduation. The Cincinnati, OH major is the daughter of Vanessa Burdine and Chris Thomas.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

It brings me great pleasure to introduce our new Director of Bands, Mr. Chad Hughes. Mr. Hughes has the task of resurrecting the Band from Dragonland: The Lane College Marching Quiet Storm. Hughes comes to Lane College with a career in music spanning 20 years.

In the past, the Lane College Dragons Marching Band consisted of highly-motivated and talented instrumentalists and a dance team that performed during halftime at football games, homecoming parades, and other community events. Instrumentation included brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments. Hughes’ dream and goal with the band is to remain true to the dynamic reputation established by alumni band members while cultivating new talent with new students.

The band is in need of new and brightly decorative uniforms and equipment that sport the distinctive Dragon insignia, feather plumes, and gloves. This is an invitation to become a part of the resurrection of the Band from Dragonland with your financial contributions. Please send contributions to the Office of the President at the address below, or contact the Office of Alumni Affairs to make your contribution over the phone.

Office of Alumni Affairs
545 Lane Avenue
Jackson, Tennessee 38301
731-426-7523
Lane Professor Publishes First Book

Miyoshi Griffin-Prescott, an Assistant Professor of English at Lane College, has published her first book entitled, No One to Love. Set in the Mississippi Delta, the creative work combines suspense, drama, and mystery to leave its readers hungry for more. No One to Love centers around Sam, a patriarch, whose dogmatic personality is captivating, yet damning.

Says Prescott, “While it is a work of fiction, it has a definite authenticity because it chronicles the flaws of everyday people in an entertaining, yet nonjudgmental way.”

A native of Mississippi, Prescott has always enjoyed reading and writing. This excitement carries over into her classroom. “I want my students to know that writing can be a very enjoyable and rewarding process. I want to inspire them with my efforts. When they can laugh at mistakes when writing and consistently find the courage to try again, they succeed.”

The book is now available through Amazon.com in print, and in e-book form on Kindle. It may also be purchased via the website miyshiprescott.com. No One to Love will soon be available at a bookstore near you.

It is an easy, suspenseful read, and I hope you enjoy it,” Prescott says.
Lanite Considers Mayoral Run

(As reported in the Jackson Sun)

City Councilman and Lanite Scott Conger, Class of 2006, recently announced that he will consider running for mayor of Jackson in 2015 if present Mayor Jerry Gist does not seek another term. Conger will form an exploratory committee to help make a decision about the race.

“Mayor Jerry Gist has done an excellent job leading the City of Jackson over the last six years,” Conger said in a news release. “It is not my goal to run against Mayor Gist; however, if he decides not to seek re-election, I plan to be ready.”

“I believe it is vitally important for the next mayor of this great city to have the commitment to shape the vision for the future of Jackson, to reduce crime, create an environment conducive for small business, and increase the level of efficiency in city government,” Conger said.

Public service is a tradition in his family. Conger is the grandson of the late Bob Conger, who served as mayor of Jackson from 1967 to 1989.

Over the next few weeks and months, I look forward to meeting with supporters all across Jackson to share the vision of where I believe Jackson can be in the next 20 years as we make our decision on whether or not to run for mayor, if Mayor Gist does not seek a third term,” Conger said. “I have been blessed with the privilege of representing the citizens of District 5 on the City Council. Now is the time to decide if running for mayor is the best way to continue service to my constituents and the citizens of Jackson.”

Conger works as donor management director for the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. In addition to serving on various city boards and committees as a councilman, he also serves on boards for the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, the Jabari Greer Campaign for Fatherhood, the Jackson Rotary Club as first vice president, and the Municipal Solid Waste Regional Planning Board. He serves as an ex-officio board member for the Jackson Downtown Development Corporation and Area Relief Ministries.

Conger is a past president of the Lambuth Area Neighborhood Association (LANA), where he now serves in an advisory role. He enjoys serving in his church, Lambuth Memorial United Methodist, on the trustees board and spiritual leadership team, and as co-chair of the evangelism committee and liturgist.

Good Luck Scott! We wish you all the best!!!
Recent retirements of executive level personnel have created an opportunity for the selection of additional Command Staff members, as well as a slight realigning of the structure of the Jackson Police Department. It is the intent of the Chief of Police to utilize this opportunity to better prepare JPD for future endeavors that will increase crime prevention, increase access to technology and training, and enhance the Department’s mission of service to the community.

Among the promotion and organizational changes was the promotion of Lanite Danielle Jones, a member of the Class of 2003. She was originally hired with the Jackson Police Department as an Investigator. Danielle Jones was promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Divisions (CID) under the Special Investigation Unit.

The bureau will investigate crimes including, but not limited to, child abuse and neglect, sexual assault and Internet crimes against children; and will manage sex offenders living in Jackson. The bureau also will investigate elderly abuse and neglect cases.

Jones said she’s thrilled about the creation of the department and her role in it.

“I just hope that we continue to provide the best service that we can to the citizens,” she said. “I understand that every victim is special, but you do have special cases involving children or the elderly or victims of sexual assault, and we just want to do the best we can when investigating each one.”

Jones has been with the police department for 11 years, but she didn’t expect for her career to go down this road.

“Coming into CID, I was given the opportunity to work with children and that’s kind of been my path from there,” she said. “I enjoy it. Depending on the case, you may not always get the outcome you want, but I still enjoy it. There’s joy and heartache.”

Congratulations Sergeant Jones and Good luck with your new appointment!
Memphian Shaneka Graham has overcome the formidable odds stacked against her to graduate from Lane College with her bachelor’s degree in business in just three years instead of the standard four.

On Sunday, June 23, 2013, Graham, a Memphis, Tennessee resident who was salutatorian of Northside High School’s Class of 2010, received her degree. But it was a long road for the young mother, who was raised in Memphis’ Dixie Homes public housing project, where she shared a two-bedroom apartment with her seven siblings and their disabled parents.

“Where I come from has always been my stepping stone to do better in life,” Graham said. “The circumstances back then have made me value the way I live today.”

Graham’s roadmap out of poverty included consistent encouragement from her parents, as well as guidance and mentoring from the Memphis-based RISE Foundation, a non-profit that empowers low-income Memphians to transform their financial wellbeing.

Graham participated in RISE’s Goal Card Program, which gives students in grades 5-12 the knowledge and tools to achieve their academic and life goals. Students are rewarded with incentives based on grades, conduct and attendance…earning and redeeming points for prizes, such as games, school supplies, and small electronics. Although Graham is not the first Goal Card Program participant to attend college, she’s the first who, throughout her college experience, continued to forward news about her grades and progress to the RISE Foundation.

RISE Foundation president and CEO Linda Williams says Graham is “a perfect example of how Goal Card nurtures and creates positive habits for young people that continue long after they leave our program. Goal Card really makes a difference!
On Wednesday, July 24, 2013, Lane College graduate Allen Thompson, Sr. was honored by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics in Chicago for his 30 years of service as a Senior Economist. Thompson has the direct responsibility for monitoring data collection of occupations and wages of Indiana and Michigan.

He graduated from Lane in 1979 with a major in Business and a minor in Economics. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, having been initiated into the Kappa Sigma Chapter at Lane. He is also a member of the Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity. Thompson credits for instilling in him his work ethic. “Dr. McClure was my work-study supervisor when I was a student at Lane. He instilled in me the work values and ethics that I still utilize today in my everyday practices.”

Thompson is an active member with the Chicago Chapter of the Lane College Alumni Association. He and his wife Kimberly have been married for 25 years and they are the parents of two children who also attended Lane, Deima Thompson and Allen Thompson Jr.

The essence of a TRUE LANE MAN!

Undergraduate Summer Research Initiative

Four students were selected to participate in a research project that began in summer of 2013 under the leadership of Professor Melanie Van Stry, Biology professor. Selected students were Nakeya Thomas, Johanna Felix, Lakesha Dyson, and Tatiana Mann. The immediate goal of this proposed research project is to identify antibiotic resistant bacteria that may be present in the soil on the Lane College campus, and to determine the mechanism conferring that resistance. Results of the study will provide new insights into the types of antibiotic resistance present within our local environment, which may ultimately lead to the development of treatments of infectious diseases caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. This summer research project will continue through the fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters. Students will be expected to keep a laboratory notebook and document the purpose, procedures, results, and their conclusions from each experiment. They will meet once a week for a lab meeting, where students will discuss the results of their experiments and present their data and journal articles related to the project.

The overarching goal of this research project is to interest and increase the number of minority students pursuing a career in biological research. The opportunity for Lane College students to participate in this research project will increase their learning and increase the number of Lane students who attend graduate school and pursue a career in science. Given the need for improved student-learning outcomes in Science at Lane College, it is critical that undergraduate research be included as part of the Biology curriculum. It is anticipated that this research project will result in at least one publication, and that student-researchers will present their findings at the American Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), or the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) at its annual meeting in 2014.
Porshaka Love and Marquez McClinton, both juniors, have been selected as 2013-2014 Governor Ned McWherter Scholars. Both were chosen from an extremely large number of talented applicants from college and universities across West Tennessee.

The McWherter Scholars Program encourages college students to use their talents and resources to make a difference in their community. Scholars attend a retreat and a series of meetings throughout the school year, giving them the opportunity to engage in discussions with fellow Scholars. It also involves reading and the preparation of reaction papers. Both students were nominated for the scholarship program and selected after completing an interview process.

Love, a junior Interdisciplinary Studies major, said, “I’m delighted to join other outstanding scholars in West Tennessee as we strive to define and make a difference in our communities.” She is a resident of Jackson, TN and holds a 3.1 grade point average. Her parents are Carolyn Mackey, Walter Mackey, and the late Barry Gray.

McClinton, a junior Mass Communications major said, “To have been accepted as a McWherter Scholar is a rare and honorable opportunity to collaborate with other scholars in West Tennessee, not only through words, but through action.” He is a resident of Memphis, TN and holds a 3.5 grade point average. His parents are Vonita Lee Glenn and Anthony McClinton.
Kearney Makes New Roster

The National Football League's Cleveland Browns signed defensive back Vernon Kearney, the club announced earlier this month. Kearney, a member of the Lane College Class of 2013, participated in the club's minicamp in early August on a tryout basis. He was originally signed by the Buffalo Bills as an undrafted free agent on April 29, 2013 and was waived on May 30.

Kearney spent his first two seasons as a wide receiver at Lane before switching to defensive back. During his junior year, he totaled 21 tackles and seven pass break-ups before registering 24 tackles, two interceptions, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery as a senior.

The 6-2, 185-pound Kearney is a native of Sarasota, Florida, where he attended Sarasota Riverview High School.

Jacoby Watch!!!

Jacoby Jones, a member of the Class of 2009, is now featured in a new NFL Red Zone advertising campaign from Verizon. The thirty second spot began airing in all media markets in late August 2013. You can see the spot here:

2013 Homecoming Alumni Events

Friday, October 18

The Dr. J.L. Perry Golf Tournament
9:00 a.m. Tee Time
Bent Tree Golf Course
2993 Paul Coffman Drive, Jackson, Tennessee 38301
For sponsorship and registration information, contact Monica C. Scott at 731-426-7523 or mclayborne@lanecollege.edu

Alumni Meet & Greet Sponsored by the Jackson Chapter of the Lane College Alumni Association
6:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight, Carl Perkins Civic Center
400 South Highland Avenue, Jackson, Tennessee 38301

Saturday, October 19

Homecoming Parade
9:00 a.m. leave Lane College Campus

Alumni & Friends Tailgate
Immediately Following the Homecoming Parade, Lane Field

Lane College Dragons vs. Central State Marauders
2 p.m., Lane Field

Alumni Social Sponsored by the Jackson Chapter of the Lane College Alumni Association
9:00 p.m.
Carl Perkins Civic Center
400 South Highland Avenue, Jackson, Tennessee 38301

Sunday, October 19

Homecoming Church Service
St. Paul CME Church
10:00 a.m.
282 Middleton Street, Jackson, Tennessee 38301
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.

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Please visit the Lane College webpage at the link below to view all past editions of the Alumni and Friends eNewsletter!

http://www.lanecollege.edu/lanepage2.asp?id=020402074