

The President's Podium



Official newsletter of the Lincoln University president

November/December 2011

Mahoney's Missive

From the president's pen

Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney

By the time newsletter readers have this issue on their computer screens, we will be saying farewell to yet another semester at Lincoln University. And what a semester it has been! As you will read in the following pages, we have welcomed some very special guests to our campus, including an award-winning Missouri author (see p. 2) and three doctors who are also writers. Their book, *The Pact*, was our Common Read selection for the 2011-2012 school year. Their visit inspired our students, both with an eagerness to read and with renewed commitment to their own goals and dreams. I was delighted to be able to host a luncheon for Dr. Davis, Dr. Jenkins, and Dr. Hunt, and to introduce them to some of the members of the Jefferson City medical community (see p. 4.)

The semester is also memorable for the remarkable opportunity we were given to engage in far-ranging discussions regarding the future of our institution. This opportunity arose when St. Mary's Health Center announced its plan to build a new facility and occupy it by 2015. As construction began on HWY 179 for an interchange to furnish access to the new hospital, Lincoln University engaged in a series of meetings with members of the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce and other community members. As ideas began to unfold, it became clear that all parties believed that Lincoln University should play a major role in determining uses for the site that St. Mary's will vacate when its new facility is complete. Lincoln's vision became an integral part of an economic strategic development plan finalized by the J.C. Chamber. This

vision incorporates plans to relocate or establish new programs at the current St. Mary's site, including programs in Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, Research, Health Informatics, Culinary Arts, and a Children's Discovery Zone.

The Chamber plan, aptly titled "Transformation," did not just focus on the St. Mary's site. In addition to ideas for other areas in Jefferson City, one of the Transformation teams looked at the property around and adjacent to Lincoln University and proposed what they first titled the "LU Village" and what came to be called "The Linc." The team envisioned housing options adjacent to campus which could be offered to students as well as to young professionals in the community. Group members suggested that, once "The Linc" had an established population, eating establishments and other retail outlets would see the area as conducive to business and elect to locate there. All of the Transformation ideas related to Lincoln University were presented in detail at the 2011 Fall Institute, and also in the August 2011 issue of this newsletter.

At the Institute, I cautioned the LU family that these were, at that time, simply proposals; that nothing had been set in stone. I can now relate that we have taken a major step forward with these proposals. During their Nov. 11 meeting, the LU Board of Curators reviewed the projects and approved a request to send a letter of support to the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, voicing the Curators' unqualified support for the LU initiatives listed in "Transformation," the Chamber's strategic plan for economic development. I am happy to report that the letter has been sent.

With this, we have taken the first step forward toward a realization of our exciting vision.

Another piece of very good news that I am happy to share is that our institution has received a "clean" audit report from BKD, an auditing firm from Springfield, Mo., used by a number of higher education institutions. In these difficult economic times, it says a great deal about our budget process and money management system to have been given this clean bill of financial health.

With so much accomplished this semester, it is time to think about the fast-approaching Christmas holiday and break. Fri., Dec. 2, was an event-filled day on campus. To usher in the Christmas season, I welcomed faculty, staff and guests to our annual Lincoln University Family Holiday Luncheon in the Scruggs University Center Ballroom. As we have done each year, generous LU family members brought canned food items to donate to a local food pantry. At 4:30 that afternoon, we headed outside for the tree-lighting ceremony. And at 7:30 that evening, our hearts were warmed and the holiday season was launched by the LU Vocal Ensemble and University Choir on stage in Richardson Fine Arts Center, performing their annual Choral Concert under the direction of Ms. Michelle Gamblin-Green.

This has truly been an enriching semester. I wish all of our readers a joyful holiday and an ending to 2011 that is filled with peace, good will, and love.



Theresa Ferguson, vice president for Student Affairs, greets Drs. Hunt, Jenkins and Davis on Nov. 10.

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"MY THANKS TO THE TERRIFIC WRITING AND LITERATURE TEACHERS AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY. THE TOWN AND THE UNIVERSITY . . . ARE BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORICALLY RICH PLACES. WELL WORTH WRITING ABOUT."

Award Winning Author on Campus

Missouri can point with pride to a number of authors and poets born in the state, including Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Sara Teasdale. More recently, another Missouri author has made a name for himself. John Dalton, who grew up outside of St. Louis, is the author of *Heaven Lake*, his first novel, which won the Barnes and Noble 2004 Discover Award in fiction and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His second novel, *The Inverted Forest*, is set mainly in Shannon County, Missouri, with key scenes in St. Louis and our own Jefferson City. On Thurs., Oct. 27, John Dalton spent the day at Lincoln University, talking with students in the Creative Writing Program as well as other interested students, faculty and staff about the craft of writing.

Leslie Youngblood, assistant professor of Creative Writing, was instrumental in arranging this visit. "I met John Dalton while I was completing my MFA at UNC-Greensboro," Youngblood related. "We've been in touch throughout the years. When I learned that a couple chapters of his new book, *The Inverted Forest*, were set in Jefferson City, I thought he would be an ideal person to bring to campus. When I mentioned to him that members of the Lincoln family had read his work, he was very gracious in accommodating our schedule."

Dalton's visit was made possible through the Nelson Reading Series. Named for Dr. Jerry Nelson (now deceased), former associate professor of English and chair of the Department of English, Foreign Languages and Journalism, the reading series brings authors to campus to workshop with creative writing majors and other interested students. Youngblood is understandably proud of the authors that she and her CW colleague, Greg Brownderville, have been able to attract. "We are delighted to be able to bring top-notch writers to campus," Youngblood said. "Our premier Nelson Reading Series author was Dolen Perkins-Valdez, who came to campus on Apr. 20, 2010, for workshops and readings. Several weeks after her visit, she was on the New York Times Best Seller list for her novel, *Wench*. The Office of Student Affairs and Page Library purchased around 100 copies of *Wench* for our students, twenty of which are reserved in the library for reading circles."

John Dalton's visit began with a luncheon hosted by the Writing Center in 317 MLK. Debra and Alyson Nelson, Jerry Nelson's wife and daughter, attended the event and greeted the author. A number of LU faculty and staff also attended. At 4:00 p.m., Dalton held a craft talk in 106 MLK, entitled "Nine Ways of Thinking about Characters." "Dalton's craft talk was one of the best I've ever heard," remarked Brownderville, "and I've heard many. He was so personable in his interactions with students, faculty and administrators. Several of our Creative Writing students commented that Dalton's practical advice regarding character development helped them immensely." Samantha Ayer, a junior CW major, was one participant. On a follow-up questionnaire, she wrote, "He has a really well-thought-out way to develop characters. The main thing I took away from the talk is to write

characters outside of yourself. Write someone who isn't just you. Write from the extremes of your personality." Paula Clay, director of the LU Center for the First Year Experience, also attended the craft talk. "Being able to provide students, faculty and staff with an opportunity to hear from a professional in the field of creative writing is invaluable," she noted.

After the craft talk, Dalton was available for a Meet and Greet at 5:00 p.m. in the MLK 4th floor student lounge. Following this, he joined the audience to hear students from LU's Creative Writing program read select pieces of their original work. Dalton was impressed with the budding authors. "I was very pleased to find at Lincoln a thriving community of writers," he conveyed to Youngblood. "The student poets were perceptive and spirited. Their work was rich and vivid and very promising." At 7:00 p.m., Dalton read from his novel in the Thomas D. Pawley III Theatre. All of the events were free and open to students, faculty, staff and the general public.

Youngblood and Brownderville were very happy with the turnout and reception for this important author. And Youngblood shared some good news about the next Nelson Reading Series author. "I'm ahead of the curve in securing our next writer," she related. "For spring of 2012, I hope to schedule our very own Greg Brownderville. Greg's collection of poetry, *Gust*, was recently published by Triquarterly (Oct. 2011) and has received outstanding reviews. It will be a thrill for our students to see the accomplishments of one of our very own English faculty members. As for my own first novel, stay tuned," she promised.

John Dalton is currently the director of the MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. After his visit to Lincoln, he conveyed his appreciation to Youngblood: "My thanks to the terrific writing and literature teachers at Lincoln University. The town and the university caught me by surprise. They are both beautiful and historically rich places. Well worth writing about." Who knows? Lincoln University may find a place in Dalton's next novel!



Missouri author John Dalton talks with students about the craft of writing.

The President's Podium

JCTV Station Gets Facelift

Viewers of the many programs now offered by JCTV, the public access channel operated by Lincoln University for use by organizations and individuals, have noticed big changes over the past year. The station, which first went on the air in 1989, has always had a home in an old gymnasium in Elliff Hall that the university converted into a studio. The gym is a remnant of the Lincoln Lab school, once housed in Elliff, and long ago closed. At first, with limited programming, the old gym served the purpose. But as the station grew and programming eventually increased to 24 hours a day, a renovation was needed. Remodeling took place over summer 2010 under the auspices of LU's Office of Design and Construction.

The first order of business was to replace the old wooden floor, but to do so, D & C staff had to first take down the walls in order to remove the floor. Once that was done, a concrete floor was poured and an overlay was added. New walls gave a fresh look to the space. Offices were also remodeled, and two new offices were added, along with an editing bay. Utilizing a grant from the city, Lincoln purchased a new automation system (a computer system that runs the programs) and digital recorders on which to record all shows for the studio, and a new remote-controlled camera system for City Hall.

The next phase of the project occurred through a mixture of good luck and good timing. In January 2011, Mike Schaefer, instructor of the Building Trades class at Nichols Career Center, contacted Dan Yeager, JCTV chief engineer, looking for a project for his class. An agreement was struck, and students from the Building Trades class built a new set for JCTV. A ribbon cutting on Nov. 1 officially opened the new set for business. It is now in use by journalism majors for their show, "Blue Tiger View."



President Mahoney cuts the ribbon on Nov. 1 for the new JCTV set. Gloria Enloe, JCTV station manager, stands to Mahoney's left.

Gloria Enloe, JCTV station manager, is happy with the new look of the studio and the additional office space. "The added office space and editing bay allow

more room for our growing staff and increasing number of volunteers to work. And the new set has a modern look to it, that really symbolizes how JCTV is stepping into the future," she says.



The new set built by the Nichols Career Center Building Trades class.

Enloe has served in her current capacity since 2008, but this is not her first experience at Lincoln University. In 2003, she graduated from LU with degrees in journalism and Spanish. While a student, she worked as a volunteer at JCTV. After graduation, she and her family moved first to Springfield, Mo., and then to Tulsa, Okla. When her husband was offered a transfer back to Jefferson City, she called Mike Downey, general manager for KJLU, Lincoln's radio station. She had worked for Downey at KJLU after graduating from Lincoln University, and she asked if he knew of any jobs available at Lincoln in her area. Downey responded that he was actually going to call her, on advice from Don Govang, chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, about a job as station manager for JCTV. The Enloes moved back to Jefferson City and Gloria took the position. She has since completed a Masters in journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Programming for JCTV comes from public entities and agencies such as the United Way, the Jefferson City mayor, churches, and other individuals and groups. LU President Carolyn Mahoney has her own regular show. Enloe also has a show, "Community Connection," in which she interviews people from the community about upcoming activities and events. During a recent show, she interviewed Nicole Hosier, co-chair for the Jefferson City Christmas parade, and Sam Bushman, parade Grand Marshall.

Enloe is cognizant of the fact that not everyone in the area can get this local access channel. "All of our shows are posted on the Web at www.youtube.com/JCTVaccess," she relates. "And you can also find us on Facebook."

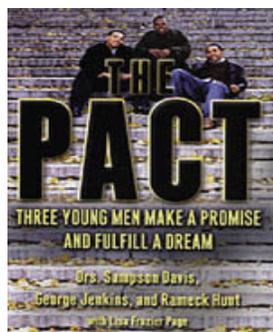
"The new set has a modern look to it, that really symbolizes how JCTV is stepping into the future," says Enloe.

The President's Podium

Three Doctors Make a Difference

What are the odds that three young African American men who grew up in the projects of Newark, N.J.—two of whom spent time in the juvenile justice system and all three of whom hung out in neighborhoods riddled with crime, drugs and death—would go on to form a bond and make a pact to become doctors? It seems like fiction, but it's not; it is, however, the basis for the New York Times bestselling book, *The Pact*. This book was selected by the LU Common Read Committee for the fall 2011 semester.

Established in 2007, the mission of the Common Read Program is to promote literacy by developing a campus-wide community of readers interested in reading, sharing and discussing works of fiction and non-fiction. The common read for each fall semester is introduced in the freshman orientation courses. A main purpose of the program is to initiate first-year students into the world of academe. The common read book is often integrated into other courses as well. This semester, students and faculty have had the thrill of meeting the three authors of the 2011 book, *The Pact*.



On Thurs., Nov. 10, Dr. Sampson Davis, Board-certified emergency medicine physician at St. Michael's Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, and Easton Hospital; Dr. Rameck Hunt, Board-certified internist at University Medical Center at Princeton; and Dr. George Jenkins, assistant professor of the Clinical Dentistry Section of Adult Dentistry at Columbia University, shared their stories and their wisdom with LU students and faculty. Their first session, "Motivating Students Who Don't Look Like You," was geared toward faculty, with a number of students also in attendance. Introduced by Dr. Leslie Youngblood, assistant professor of Creative Writing and chair of the Common Read Committee, the three doctors sat at a table in Thomas D. Pawley III Theatre and spoke engagingly of their backgrounds and experiences.

Dr. Davis wasted no time letting faculty know that they could be key figures in the lives of those they teach. He told of a teacher who had a huge impact on him in high school. "I was often in trouble," he said, "and looked for opportunities to skip classes. She had no problem literally pushing me into a classroom if she thought I was looking to skip." He soon realized that she was going to great lengths to help him, and he didn't want to let her down. "I truly believe it takes a village," he stated. "It took not just my mother but a number of teachers to convince me that I had a future."

Dr. Hunt continued on this theme. "I was 'the baddest' of the three of us," he told those assembled. "I got into a lot of trouble. I made it easy for teachers to dislike me, and I was very impressionable and could tell when they felt that way. I had a high school biology teacher who I was sure thought I was no good. And I was doing all I could to prove her right, to the point where I was going to be kicked out, not just of my school but the entire system. It was then that that teacher went to bat for me. She argued that I shouldn't be kicked out; that I needed a second chance. It is a feeling better than coming into a lot of money, when someone inspires you in that way." Her actions, and those of other teachers and mentors, helped turn him around and convince him that he wanted to inspire others someday.

Dr. Jenkins stressed communication. "Listen to your students," he responded, when asked by an education major in the audience how she could relate to students whose backgrounds and home lives were so different from hers. "You need to reach them on their level," he continued. "Find out about their families, their home life. You might find that that kid who never seems to pay attention may have had to spend the night listening to his mother being beaten by her boyfriend." His third grade teacher, he went on to say, was someone

who was there for him. "She told me I could have a future, and she made me believe it."



Drs. Rameck Hunt, Sampson Davis, and George Jenkins talk to faculty, staff and students in Thomas D. Pawley III Theatre.

From their session with faculty, the three doctors headed across the street to Page Library, where they encountered a standing-room-only throng of students in the Teleconference Room. During a session entitled "Sex, Drugs and Alcohol: Factors Affecting Success in College," the doctors engaged the students immediately by telling of their own upbringings in tough New Jersey neighborhoods. Two of them admitted that they had even been arrested for their misdoings. But they got lucky, not just in having teachers who reached them both academically and personally, but in finding each other. They decided that they would form a positive peer group, to counter the many groups around them that provided only negative influences, such as the gangs that controlled the streets. Their friendship saved their lives, they told the students. And then they exhorted the LU students to create such groups, and to make pacts of their own. The students' enthusiastic responses made it clear that the three doctors had found a very receptive audience. After the session and at a book-signing session later the same evening, students thronged the doctors to get their books signed and to have their pictures taken with them.

"It was so satisfying to witness our students interacting with men whose early life experiences are similar to those of many of our students," Ms. Youngblood remarked. "The doctors have overcome obstacles such as having parents who were drug addicts or illiterate, and they themselves have been everything from delinquents to would-be rap artists. And now they are at the top of their chosen medical fields. Every Lincoln student has the same potential. The Common Read Program inspires students to read books such as *The Pact*, books that can literally change their lives," she said. "The program could not happen without the diligent work of everyone in the Office of Student Affairs, particularly Theresa Ferguson, the vice president, and TaLisa Maxwell, coordinator, Student Services Program. They helped to ensure that the doctors' visit was extremely successful."

Prior to their sessions with faculty and students, the doctors attended a luncheon in their honor, hosted by President Carolyn R. Mahoney. In addition to LU senior-level administrators and SGA leaders, the twenty luncheon guests included community members Ms. Janet Wear-Enloe, chief marketing officer for Jefferson City Medical Group and chair of the J.C. Chamber Board; Dr. Leon Robinson, surgeon, Capital City Health Group; and LU alumnus Dr. Thomas Cooper. President Mahoney spoke for the entire group, saying, "We all enjoyed the lively, interesting and inspirational conversations with the doctors, and we are confident that their visit will have a lasting positive impact on our students."

The President's Podium

A Major LEAP Toward Success

The transition from high school to college, or from the world of work to college, is a difficult one for many students. Nationwide, one in three first-year students do not return for the second year. Research points to a number of reasons for this high dropout rate. For many students, these include the difficulty of financing an education, the failure to make personal connections, and academic struggles. Lincoln University continually looks for ways to help its students overcome these and other obstacles to their goals.

A recent addition to the university's set of programs geared toward student success is Lincoln's Educational Access Program, or LEAP. The program falls under the auspices of the Center for the First-Year Experience (CFYE), the purpose of which is to facilitate the academic and social success of each student entering the university. Paula Clay, center director, outlines components of the program, which include LEAP mentors, success plans for each student, tutoring, midterm reviews, and enrichment activities. "In the CFYE," Clay says, "we aim to provide transitioning students with the tools they need to excel. LEAP gives them those tools and matches them with peers who excel academically at Lincoln, in the community, and beyond."

Clay is proud of the LEAP mentors working out of the center this semester, several of whom have been serving in this capacity for the past year. Howard Hughes, a business major and member of the football team, joined LEAP in the fall of 2010. He participates in Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANNRS), and recently won a group marketing competition for the Corporate Bound Academy, a leadership program sponsored by the Department of Business. Journalism major Heather Macon also joined LEAP in the fall of 2010. She is a member of the Campus Activity Board (CAB) and serves as director for its Speakers' Bureau and Cultural Events. As Miss Kappa Kappi Psi, she is a member of the Royal Connection, and she can be heard on KJLU radio Tuesday evenings playing smooth jazz.



Heather Macon



Howard Hughes

Another fall 2010 returning mentor is Latrice Stringer, who is pursuing a degree in accounting. Latrice is president of SIFE and the student ambassador for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. She has been on the Dean's List each semester of her enrollment at Lincoln.



Latrice Stringer

New to LEAP this semester is Terrence Nelson, a civil engineering technology major. He is also a member of MANNRS and an RA in Dawson Hall.



Terrence Nelson

Deneisha Davis, a criminal justice major from Jamaica, is also new to LEAP. As Miss International, she is a member of the Royal Connection. In addition, she participates in MANNRS and works part-time in LU's Center for Innovative Instruction.



Deneisha Davis

Last spring, he was voted "most dedicated student" by Student Support Services, where he currently tutors math.

Stacy Phillips, academic advisor and LEAP coordinator, provides a midterm review for students in the program. At the end of the first eight weeks of classes, students receive their midterm grades along with their calculated GPAs and a personalized message in which they are invited to the midterm review meeting. This semester, all football and basketball players were also included in this process. At the meeting, Phillips helped the students check their grades in WebAdvisor, the online advisement site; reminded them of the availability of tutoring in various subjects; and discussed the importance of staying in touch with their advisors. She also handed out cards that detailed the behaviors leading to academic success as well as those that can promote failure. The back of the cards illustrated the cost of failing classes. Ryan Wilson, CFYE's default management counselor, also assisted with the midterm review, discussing the financial issues surrounding dropping classes and withdrawing from the university, and reminding students of their rights, responsibilities, and consequences of their student loans.

LEAP is not the only resource offered by the CFYE. The center has other critical programs in place to give students the opportunity to succeed and persist in college: University Seminar, Debt and Money Management, Faculty Advising Resources/Undecided Majors, Fresh Start, and the Learning Communities.

University Seminar is a one-hour course required for all first-time freshmen during their first semester of enrollment and for part-time freshmen by no later than the semester in which they will accumulate 16 hours. The course introduces students to the college experience and orients them to college life. Classes center on helping students identify crucial social and academic skills; encouraging them to connect and network with advisors, tutors, peers, instructors, and others at Lincoln University; introducing them to the library and technological resources; and guiding them to become active critical thinkers and readers, among other activities.

The mission of the Debt and Money Management Program is to help students become aware of alternatives to student loan default, to increase their awareness as consumers, and to reduce the university's overall student default rate. Ryan Wilson, debt management counselor, works with students to understand their rights and responsibilities and to locate appropriate lenders, among other services.

The CFYE is responsible for advising undecided, non-degree-seeking, and visiting students. Clay and Phillips assist these students in planning course

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A Major LEAP Toward Success

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schedules and meeting general education requirements. The CFYE also provides advisement resources, such as the Advisor Conference Form, to all faculty advisors in the major departments.

The Fresh Start Program recognizes that, even with all the resources available, not all students maintain academic success. To assist students who find themselves on academic probation, center staff conduct two seminars each semester. In Seminar I, students review the academic probation policies and develop a personal plan for returning to good academic standing. In Seminar II, staff review midterm grades with students and help them assess their progress toward achieving the goals they set in their success plan.

Learning communities are prevalent in colleges and universities across the nation. Since 2003, LU has provided learning communities for interested students. These communities consist of groups of 25 students enrolled in two to three of the same courses, all centered on a common theme. Faculty who teach the courses strive to integrate course work around the theme. A peer leader is assigned to each learning community to serve as a mentor to class members. Research shows that learning communities have a high educational impact. Students who participate in them have on average a higher GPA and complete more hours during their freshman year. The CFYE staff organize and help to facilitate the learning communities.

Clay is enthusiastic about the resources and help available through LEAP and the other CFYE programs. "Every student has the potential to succeed," she says, "but no student should have to struggle alone if he or she is experiencing difficulties during the critical transitioning semesters. We are here to make sure they get the help and support they need."

Center for the First-Year Experience

- LEAP
- University Seminar
- Debt and Money Management
- Faculty Advising Resources/Undecided Majors
- Fresh Start
- Learning Communities

Academy Enhances the College Experience for Select Students

Sixteen years ago, a new organization was formed on the Lincoln University campus, and it is still going strong today. The Women's Leadership Academy (WLA) was created to help prepare talented female students for the workplace and for future leadership roles. Each year, a small group of women are selected through a rigorous process to join this elite sisterhood.

Selection and guidance of the students is the task of the WLA Committee. This year's committee is chaired by Stephanie Clark, mathematics tutor and instructor. Serving on the committee are the following LU faculty and staff members: Mara Aruguete, Sally Brown, Paula Clay, Rodica Ghinescu, Talisa Maxwell, Diane Morgan, Pat Pollock, Kirsten Stephan, Michelle Wilson, Sylvia Wilson, Deborah Word, Gloria Grotjan-Miller, Ann Harris, Ruthi Sturdevant, and Benecia Williams. This group reviewed the various applications and numerous faculty recommendations and eventually selected the following six students for the 2011-2012 year: Caitlin Bartley, Michelle Campbell, Alicia Henry, Jessica Naugles, Roslyn Parker, and Ebonee Woods.

After their selection, the students were each assigned a mentor—a professional woman in the Jefferson City area. The mentor's role is one of guidance and networking. In addition, the students are each paired with a member of the committee, giving the students the benefit of close interaction with Lincoln faculty and staff. Mentors and committee members ensure that the students work toward the goals of the WLA, including the advancement of their public speaking, social, promotional, and presentational skills.

According to Clark, the first challenge given to this year's students was to design and implement a group project. After discussing possible issues, the students decided to address what they saw as a general lack of sex education among LU's younger students. The WLA group set an objective to teach students how to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies. Clark says the women worked well together, designing and sponsoring two open discussions entitled "Sex, Sex, Baby! Do You Know As Much As You Think You Know?" These sessions were held in Page Library on Oct. 26-27.

The WLA students also arranged for two guest speakers to come to campus to continue the discussion on sex with consequences: LU alumna Stephanie Washington, youth educator for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Cherie Dupuis, a nurse practitioner with Jefferson City Medical Group. "All of our sessions were well attended," Clark notes. "The WLA students were very pleased with the success of their project."

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"Mentors and committee members ensure that the students work toward the goals of the WLA, including the advancement of their public speaking, social, promotional, and presentational skills."

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Academy Enhances the College Experience for Select Students

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To help the six students hone their social skills, they were invited to participate with their mentors in a Sunday tea at the home of Dr. Ruthi Sturdevant, WLA committee member, dean of the College of Behavioral and Technological Sciences, and acting dean of the College of Arts and Letters. The Nov. 6 event was hosted by the long-standing social group, the Zebra. LU President Carolyn Mahoney was in attendance and greeted each of the WLA students. Then, for the second time in the sixteen-year history of the WLA, the students were invited to the Governor's Mansion on Nov. 9 for an etiquette class presented by the volunteers and docents of the mansion.



2011 WLA students attend the Nov. 6 tea at the home of Dr. Ruthi Sturdevant. L to R front: Caitlyn Barkley and Roslyn Parker; L to R back: Michelle Campbell, Jessica Naugles, Alicia Henry. Ebonee Woods was unable to attend.

Clark relates that the six students have participated in other activities as well, including workshops on applying for graduate school, sexual harassment in the workplace, and résumé/interview skills. And while participating in teas and workshops, the six students have also been hard at work on their individual presentations which will begin on Feb. 1, 2012, and continue until Mar. 7. For these projects, the students were asked to identify a problem or concern either on campus, in their workplace, or in society in general. They are then to propose a series of steps to overcome the problem and to test these steps. In their presentations, they will present their research, their solutions, and the results.

This hard-working group of students, mentors and committee members will also participate, next spring, in the President's Gala, the Zonta Yellow Rose Luncheon, and the 16th Annual WLA Awards Banquet, which is the culmination of the year's activities. "By the end of the year, our students are usually amazed by the things they have accomplished and the many events they have been a part of," Clark says. "These women truly will earn their place in the WLA sisterhood."



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

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