



# PIONEER

FALL 2012 EDITION

## Up, up, and away!

**33% increase in courses,  
29% increase in number of students!**



**T**hanks to the excellence of our course offerings and the great word of mouth from friends like you ...

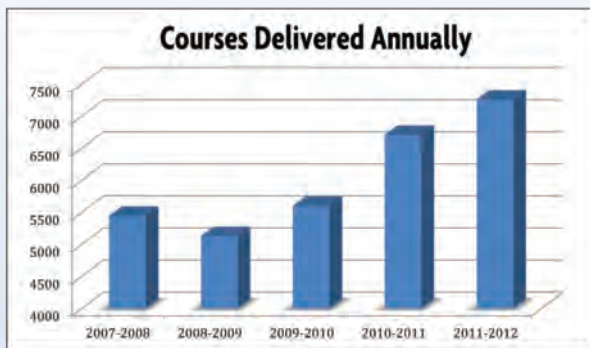
By God's grace, we've seen a huge 33% increase in the number of courses delivered and a 29% increase in enrollment over the past five years!

Comparing this to the national average growth for the past five years of just 16%...we've experienced almost *double* that level of growth.

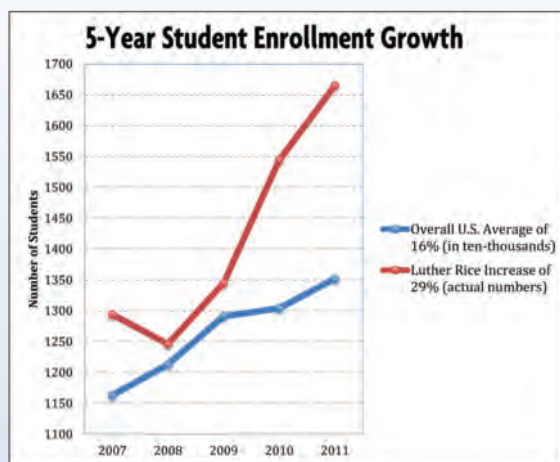
It is exciting to be a part of an institution that is experiencing such dynamic growth, training thousands for ministry, and reaching more people for the cause of Christ. We thank God for how He has blessed the institution most recently and throughout its 50-year history.

Of course, the growth means a need for more staff, more faculty members, increased student services to meet the students' academic needs, greater alumni services, and more. Essentially, we need more of *everything*.

And we are up for the challenge. We just need the prayers and financial support of all of our alumni and friends. You, our Support Partners, are a vital key to the institution's long-term success. With God's help, and 100% participation from friends like you, together we can succeed above and beyond our imaginations in His strength and wisdom.



Luther Rice experiences nearly double the national average in growth!



Good news! New student enrollment is up 29%!

### INSIDE THIS EDITION, YOU'LL FIND

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# A Personal Word



*from* **DR. FLANAGAN**

**T**he celebration isn't over!  
Our 50th Anniversary Jubilee continues throughout 2012 — so we are still celebrating the milestones — like more than 7,000 graduates serving the Lord around the world!

Fall enrollment remains strong with approximately 1,300 students worldwide.

Our 50th Anniversary Student Scholarship Matching Challenge Campaign has exceeded our goal of \$200,000, and we are nearing \$300,000 for scholarships.

The key isn't numbers though — it's how our students and graduates are being transformed and what they are doing to make a difference for the cause of Christ in our world. They're followers of Christ who believe that the Bible is God's inerrant Word. They labor to edify the body of Christ and evangelize those who have never received Christ as Savior.

Our Great Commission work here at Luther Rice is to equip those who are called to the gospel ministry so that they will live holy lives and rightly divide the Word of Truth.

The next 50 years can be years in which Luther Rice becomes an even greater Beacon of Light in our dark

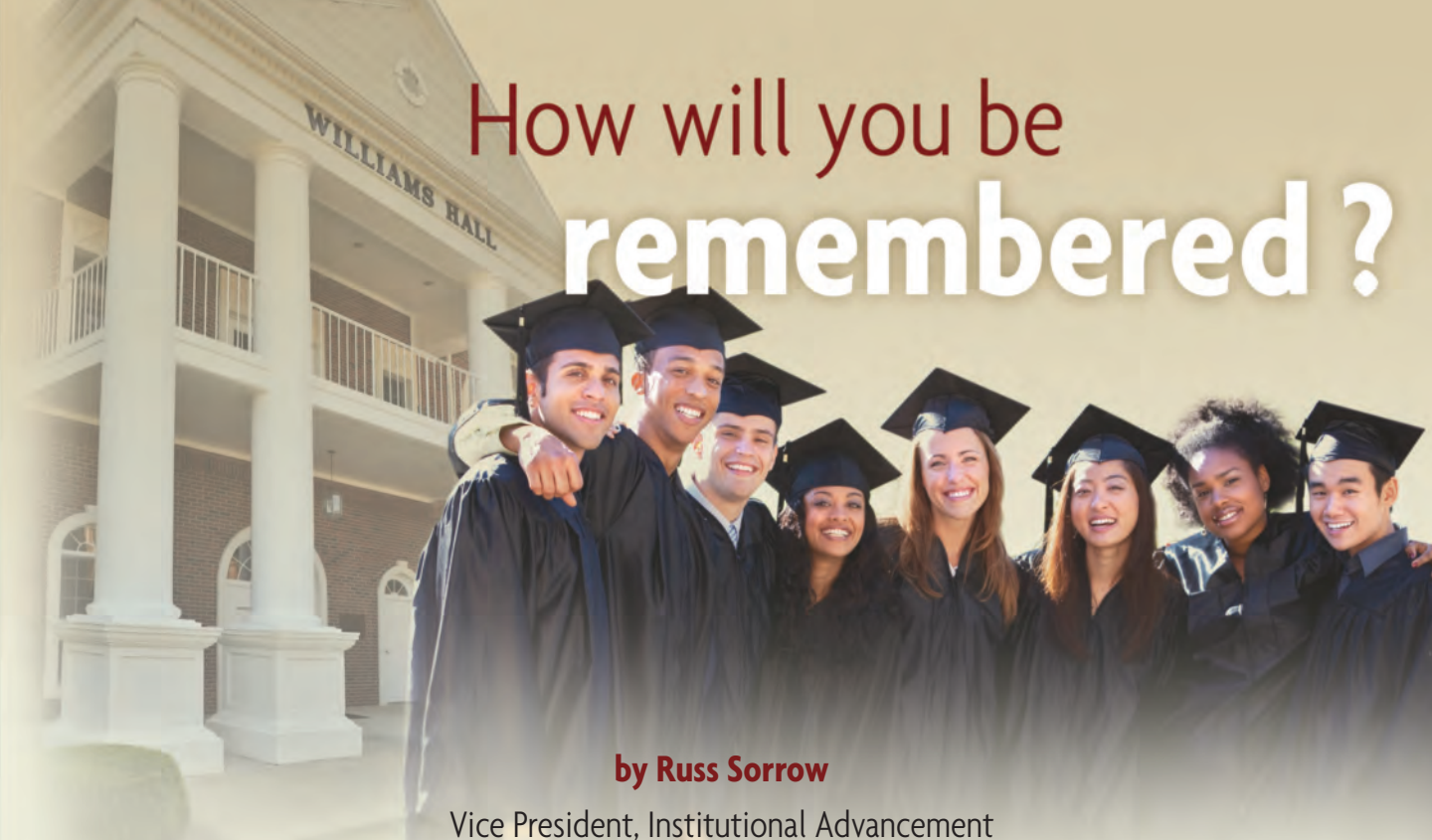
world. While religious schools, organizations, and denominations are moving rapidly to a socially accepted "gospel," Luther Rice can be an institution that clearly sets forth what it believes.

We produce graduates who have the convictions, calling, and passion to make a spiritual impact in their communities and countries around the world.

Your continued prayers and partnership are critical to helping us send forth equipped laborers into the work of the Lord.

Please consider Luther Rice when making your year-end giving plans. We would also be happy to talk with you about planned gifts such as annuities and bequests. As I mentioned above, we are approaching \$300,000 in the 50th Anniversary Student Scholarship Matching Challenge Campaign. With your help again today, we can achieve a goal that is beyond all expectations!

President



# How will you be remembered?

**by Russ Sorrow**

Vice President, Institutional Advancement

**Y**ou can create a philanthropic legacy that outlives you ...

You can know that even when you go home to be with the Lord, your legacy still supports the religious issues and causes you care about.

All it takes is wise estate planning — and in the process of making your plan, you can also realize significant financial, tax, and estate planning benefits.

The Luther Rice Office of Development offers a full range of planned giving vehicles including charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and charitable gift annuities. When you're ready to build upon your legacy, we will be there to help you with a planned giving vehicle that meets your needs.

We're also able to provide assistance and suggested language for legacy gifts such as will bequests, retirement plan assets, appreciated stocks, and gifts of life insurance, so please do not hesitate to call us with any questions you might have.

When you stand alongside Luther Rice in giving, you join with some of the most dedicated believers in the world. Just look at the success of the 50th Anniversary Matching Challenge Campaign!

With God's help and the outstanding support of friends like you, we reached the initial goal of \$200,000

for student scholarships, so we've been able to set a new goal: \$300,000. To date, we have received gifts totaling \$281,863.

Why not help provide scholarships for even more deserving students? All that is needed is \$18,137 to reach the new goal, and planned gifts can also be used for the campaign. Make sure to mark your year-end gift for the 50th Anniversary Matching Campaign so it is counted in the total.

Gifts must be received by December 31 to be counted in 2012 tax deductions. Be sure to mail your gift early and use a first class stamp on the envelope to avoid any delays. You can also donate a gift online through our secure webpage at [www.LRU.edu](http://www.LRU.edu).

To discuss planned giving options and benefits, receive sample calculations and forms, or arrange for a confidential, no-obligation gift-planning consultation, contact me at 770.484.1204 ext. 231, or email me at [Russ@LRU.edu](mailto:Russ@LRU.edu).

More detailed information on planned giving is also available at [www.LRUGift.com](http://www.LRUGift.com).

I look forward to hearing from you soon.





“*Thankful* for my excellent education!”



Amy Hanika McNan, class of '01, with husband Skye and 16-month-old Brennan. She's conducting Bible studies for Army wives!

**T**hank you for the quality education you made available to me. Since graduating with a degree in Biblical Studies, the Lord has taken me literally all over the world. He has blessed me with missions in the traditional sense, a job on a cruise ship where I got to lead a Bible study for passengers, teach kids, and now I'm an Army wife.

The Lord has used me to facilitate Precept Upon Precept studies as well as other Bible studies, all drawing on the foundation of knowledge I received during my time at Luther Rice. Currently, I'm facilitating Bible studies for Army wives through Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) on Fort Benning.

I cannot thank you enough for providing an opportunity to further my knowledge of the Word of God — and God. This is an education with eternal benefits.

And this is a small world. I worked with a pastor in Africa who was an online student of Luther Rice. My current pastor, Bill Purvis of Cascade Hills Church in Columbus, GA, is also a graduate of Luther Rice!

I just thought I'd let you all know that I am thankful for my excellent education, for those faculty and staff that facilitated it, and what this particular student has been up to since graduation.

My highest calling since graduating is definitely that of being a wife and mother. My husband is a Blackhawk pilot in the Army, and we are now parents to a 16-month-old baby boy (a whole new education in different aspects of God!).

May the Lord bless Luther Rice and the staff who so faithfully serve.

Sincerely, Amy Hanika McNan '01

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**Rev. Mike Sherrard** (BAR '09, M.Div. '12) recently published a new book entitled *Relational Apologetics: Defending the Christian Faith with Holiness, Respect, and Truth*. Mike is the minister for Christian Education at Crosspoint Church and the Program Director at The Campus, both located in Peachtree City, Georgia.

**Dr. Randy Carney** (D.Min. '79) has been appointed the Department Chair for Biblical Studies at Morthland College in West Frankfort, Illinois.

**Mr. Bruce Wagner** (M.Div. '80) is currently an adjunct professor in apologetics at South Florida Bible College. Mr. Wagner also works full-time as a teacher and media specialist for the Florida public school system.

**Dr. Bob C. Davis** (Th.D. '73) received the Nehemiah Award at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. This prestigious award is presented to those who helped start the new state convention and continue to be involved in its growth.

**Dr. Dan Yaw** (M.Div. '96, D.Min. '99) has been involved with missions, specifically in Romania, since 1987. In 1994, with the help of Dr. Ron Long, Dr. Yaw began the first Bible Training Institute for Pastors in Romania; this model has been duplicated around the world. Dr. Yaw currently pastors Northside Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida.

**Mrs. Linda Lee Polk** (BABS '93) is launching an online Christian counseling website entitled *FaithChristianCounselingCenter.com*

**Dr. William Smith** (D.Min. '82) has been appointed president of Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas.

**Mr. Jake Anderson** (M.Div. '09) has planted a new church in the Denver, Colorado area. The Crossing Church is part of the Acts 29 Network.

# umni Highlights

F A L L 2 0 1 2

**Dr. Christopher Watkins** (MAM '07) was recently called to pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Warthen, Georgia. Dr. Watkins has been in the ministry for almost 18 years and has served in Dublin and Soperton. He also serves as principal at East Laurens Middle School in East Dublin, Georgia.

**Mr. Aaron Carlson** (MACS '07) has planted a new church in the Denver, Colorado area. New City Church is part of the Acts 29 Network.

**Rev. Duane Hooper** (BABS '86, MACE '95) recently published his second book entitled *Such is the Cause of Texas*. The textbook is a study of Texas history presented through the Christian worldview.

**Dr. Jerry Haughton** (D.Min. '78) has pastored for over 40 years and was a professor at a Christian college in Memphis, Tennessee for 15 years. Dr. Haughton has published 13 books available on Amazon Kindle; two of which are novels, and 11 are theological works.

**Rev. Rich Jensen** (M.Div. '07) wrote a new book entitled *Finding the Jewel in Job Loss*.

**Dr. Ted Kersh** (M.Div. '94, D.Min. '97) recently published his first book entitled *The Blessed Life, Living the Sermon on the Mount*. Dr. Kersh is the pastor at South Tulsa Baptist Church.

**Dr. Steve Wood** (D.Min. '81) won the East Coast Songwriters Contest in the Contemporary/Spiritual category with his composition, *Sunday Brought the Cure*, which is the title of his newly released CD. Dr. Wood was also a semifinalist for his song *If You Want to Walk on Water, You Gotta Get Outta the Boat*. Dr. Wood is a retired member of the North Carolina State House.

**Mr. Scooter Ward, Jr.** (current student) founded a

music ministry called Cloud 9 Orchestra and was recently featured in *Coastal Christian Family Magazine* and the *Birmingham Christian Family Magazine*.

**Rev. Mike Bower** (M.Div. '00) ministers to others through a startup church, Parkway Bible Chapel, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. The young non-denominational congregation has grown quickly in the past year.

**Mr. Scott Chewing** (current student) has recently been elected mayor of Flovilla, Georgia.

**Dr. Keith Pisani** (D.Min. '00) is currently the Director of Missions for the Atlanta Association of Southern Baptist Churches.

**Rev. Robbie Mills** (M.Div. '05, MACS '07) recently published a book entitled *The Church as the Surrogate Family*, which shows the reader how to use the power of the church community as a surrogate family.

**Rev. Jimmy Proulx** (BARM '10) and his leadership team felt called to church planting and on June 5, 2011, Faith Point Community Church opened its doors.

**Mrs. Libby Beasley-Perdue** (BABS '03, MABC '10) wrote a book entitled *God Wove a Tapestry*, which was chosen for publication by a major publishing house. Congratulations Libby!

**Rev. Adam Nathanson** (current student) ministers at the Bible Institute in Caracas, Venezuela. In September 2009, 42 students were enrolled at the school; in September 2011, enrollment jumped to 79! Adam asks for continued prayers for this vital ministry.

**Rev. Art Lesser** (MAM '05) accepted a call as Associate Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Cherry Log, Georgia.



# The State of Academics

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## Growth and Progress

### Two New Faculty Members Join LRU

**F**or the past several years, by the Lord's grace and under the direction and leadership of our President Flanagan, Luther Rice University and Seminary has witnessed significant gains in all areas of the institution, not the least of which is our core mission — educating Christian ministers and leaders. In June of 2011, I began serving as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. (Thankfully, the school has survived!) In this article, it is my joy to give you a brief update on the state of academics at LRU.

In an effort to keep up with our growing student enrollment, we are excited to announce the addition



**by Brad Arnett, Ph.D.**  
*Vice President, Academic Affairs*

of two new full-time faculty members. Dr. Mark Owens, whose homeland is the Cayman Islands, recently earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He also holds degrees from the University of Georgia and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Owens specializes in New Testament studies with an emphasis on Paul's writings.

Dr. William Wilson, a specialist in New Testament and Greek, comes to LRU from serving as a visiting professor and missionary in China for six years. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Wingate University, near his home in North Carolina, and the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southwestern Baptist





# Luther Rice University and Seminary

**Year-end scholarship goal: \$300,000!**

**Yes, Dr. Flanagan**, I want to help meet the new 50th Anniversary Scholarship goal of \$300,000 by year's end.\*

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* In the unlikely event the scholarship need is met before your gift arrives, it will be applied to the next most urgent need. Thank you!

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Theological Seminary. Please join us in welcoming these new professors to LRU.

This year, we have also made adjustments to the academic structure to reflect more clearly the variety of programs we offer. Three divisions, each overseen by a distinct faculty committee, form the new university structure. The Undergraduate division is home to the Bachelor of Arts in Religion program, which offers a major in Biblical Studies and three minors: Ministry, Biblical Counseling, and Christian Worldview.

The four Master of Arts programs are now in the

Graduate Programs division. These 36-hour degree programs are the Master of Arts in Leadership, the Master of Arts in Apologetics, the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling, and the Master of Arts in Christian Studies.

The third academic division is the Seminary, which includes traditional seminary degrees, the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Ministry. This new academic structure brings clarity to our current degree offerings while making room for future growth. Please keep us in your prayers as we serve others for the sake of Christ's Kingdom.



## LUTHER RICE SEMINARY, INC.

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LRU is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges  
and Schools (TRACS).

LRU admits students of any race, color, sex, and national or ethnic origin.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Mailed from  
Zip Code 44101  
Permit No. 1501

**As a Christian leader, you have responsibilities ...  
As a Christian follower you do too!**

# THE LEADING/FOLLOWING FORUM

*Exploring New Ideas in the Relationships between Leaders and Followers  
from a Christian Worldview*

## October 5-6, 2012

The Leading/Following Forum offers scholars, students, and practitioners an opportunity to introduce and discuss new ideas in the fields of leading and following from a Christian worldview. The small forum structure provides an encouraging environment to the novice presenter or the seasoned scholar. Interaction, communication, and expanding the knowledge base regarding the biblical processes of leading and following are the goals.



Hosted by Dr. Rusty Ricketson, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Leadership

Keynote Speaker Dr. Gene Dixon, Ph.D.  
East Carolina University, Department of Engineering

**For more information, please visit: [www.LRU.edu/LFF12](http://www.LRU.edu/LFF12)**