

PIONEER

SPECIAL ALUMNI EDITION • OCTOBER 2014

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Bruce Frank, Lead Pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church

We love to celebrate the accomplishments of our Luther Rice alumni. Our graduates consistently impress us with stories of how God has used them — and their training at LRU — to build His Kingdom.

One such alumnus is Dr. Bruce Frank — a gifted communicator whose creative teaching style resonates with today's culture.

Bruce earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in 2000, and has been an influential leader in the Southern Baptist denomination. This past June, he even served as President of the Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors Conference.

Along with his wife, Lori, and their two sons, Tyler and Conner, Bruce joined Biltmore Baptist Church — which has roots dating back over 100 years — as Lead Pastor in 2008.

Under Bruce's leadership, Biltmore has continued to thrive. In the last few years, they've grown beyond their main campus in Arden, North Carolina — launching additional campuses in the East Asheville area (2012) and Franklin (2013).

In addition to Biltmore's active partnership with many local and foreign mission partners, it also has a vibrant Internet ministry and reaches out to students at several local college campuses. Biltmore has been recognized repeatedly as one of the top 100 largest and fastest growing churches in America.

"We're here for God to bring



Through your support of LRU, you're preparing the next generation of church leaders — like alumnus Dr. Bruce Frank and his wife Lori — to share the Gospel and build the Kingdom.

people into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and then develop them into growing disciples of Christ," Bruce says. "We can't do everything, but we can do something. Whatever we do needs to be strategic, excellent, and effective. We deeply desire to be a real church, with a real vision, making a real difference for the glory of God and the good of people."

With a focus on making disciples of Christ, Biltmore Baptist Church exists to glorify God through worship, small groups, and service — reaching up, reaching in, and reaching out. Luther Rice University is proud of what God is accomplishing through Biltmore Baptist Church, our alumnus Dr. Bruce Frank ... and generous friends like you.



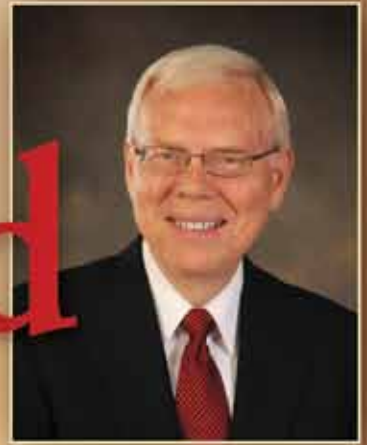
Your support is making an incredible difference — at Biltmore Baptist Church in North Carolina ... and around the world!

Through your support of Luther Rice, you are a part of what God is doing through Dr. Bruce Frank — and all of our other graduates. Thank you for helping to *provide biblical education for Christian ministers and leaders around the world*. You're making an incredible impact.

INSIDE THIS EDITION, YOU'LL FIND...

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A Personal Word



from DR. FLANAGAN

My wife and I were recently at our small farm located out in the country near the Ohio River. The farm, with its scenic pastures and rolling hills, has been in my wife's family since 1875. While there, we do what farm people do—work hard and enjoy visiting long-time friends. All of which is good therapy for us.

While at the farm we often visit a church pastored by a dear friend of mine from childhood. During a recent sermon, he began to share a prayer that one of his grandchildren, Benjamin, prayed for one of his friends who had a serious medical condition. As the pastor shared Benjamin's prayer, I was touched deeply by a statement he made. Upon concluding his prayer, Benjamin said:

“Lord, it is me, Benjamin.”

What a powerful statement! The young child's relationship with the Lord was such that he called upon the Lord in a profoundly personal way.

After hearing Benjamin's prayer, I felt led to examine my own prayer life and relationship with the Lord. In calling upon Jesus, I was reminded of the importance of fervent, personal prayer — because without Him, I can

do nothing. My thoughts went to Jeremiah 33:3, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” (KJV)

Christ has the answers. He is the One the world needs. Calling upon Him to make a difference in people's lives is the first step, not a last resort.

So when I say “I'm praying for you,” I want you to know that I mean it.

When I ask you to pray for Luther Rice, I do so realizing many of our students and graduates are on the front lines for the Lord, and your prayers are crucial!

Right now, we have graduates in Liberia where the Ebola virus is running rampant ... in the Middle East where Christians are persecuted, displaced, and killed daily ... and many other dangerous places. Please pray for them — and for all who serve the Lord — that the gospel might have free course (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Thanks for all your prayers on our behalf. I'm grateful for you — and I'm praying for you, too.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James H. Flanagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Master of Arts in Ministry Now Available for Online Enrollment!

Designed with the busy minister and church leader in mind, you can complete the new Master of Arts in Ministry (MAM) degree program at Luther Rice University (LRU) entirely online!

If you prefer traditional campus-based learning, you can still earn your MAM degree that way as well!

This new 36-hour program consists of 12 courses designed to assist church leaders in acquiring practical skills for leading in a local church or support ministry. Students have the option of finishing the program at a traditional pace, or in 18-24 months as an accelerated degree.

All the courses come from three main subject areas: biblical studies, theological studies, and ministerial studies. The program includes courses on Old and New Testament studies, systematic theology, the work of ministry, preparing an expository message, and other topics directly related to ministry.

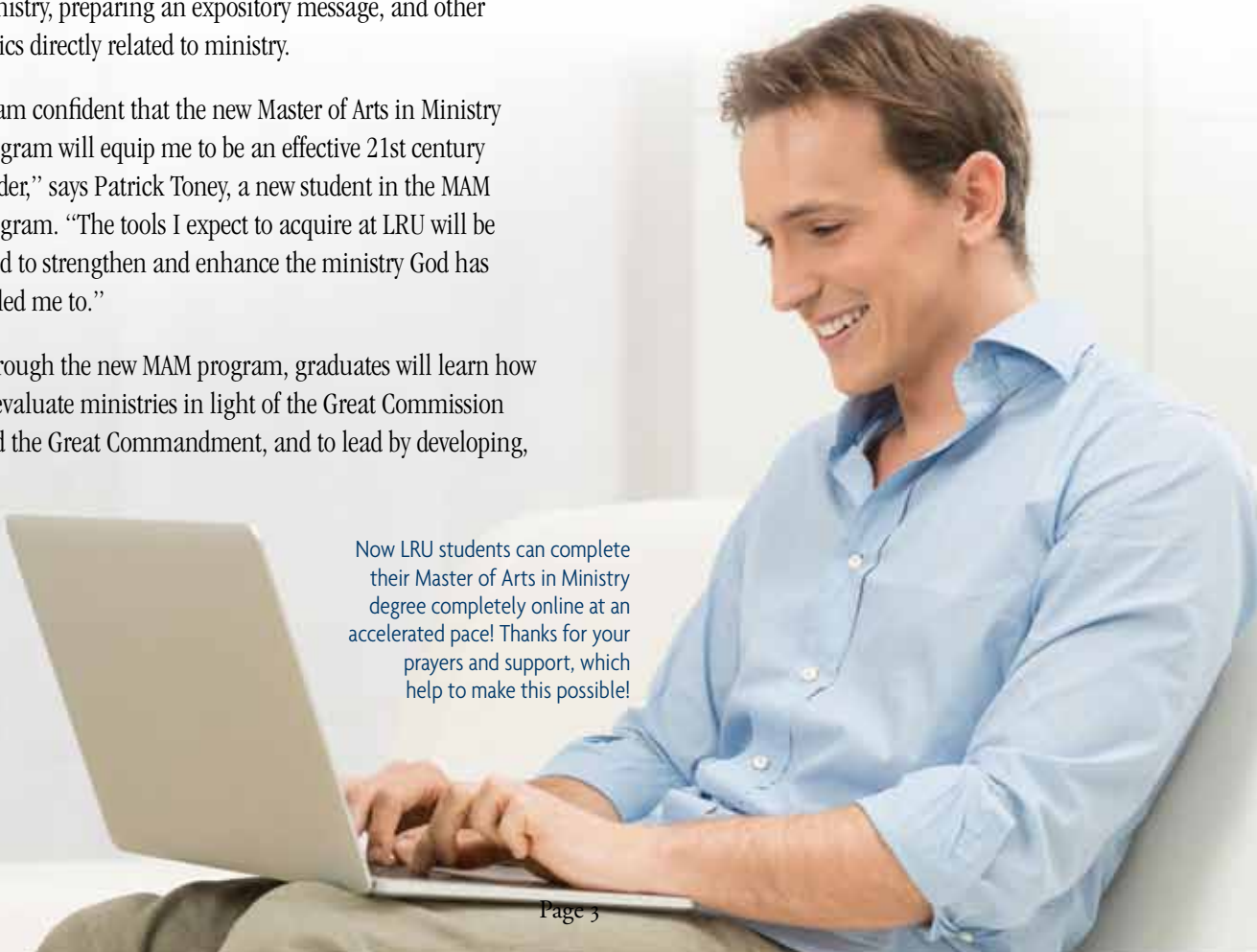
“I am confident that the new Master of Arts in Ministry program will equip me to be an effective 21st century leader,” says Patrick Toney, a new student in the MAM program. “The tools I expect to acquire at LRU will be used to strengthen and enhance the ministry God has called me to.”

Through the new MAM program, graduates will learn how to evaluate ministries in light of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, and to lead by developing,

designing, and implementing highly effective ministry initiatives.

“There is a need for more leaders who are trained in biblically sound theology,” says Jeff McCann, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, “but many people are not able to uproot their families and move to go to seminary. This new ministry-focused degree program, which can be earned completely online in an accelerated fashion, meets the needs of busy pastors and church staff who may not have time to complete a traditional divinity degree.”

If you or someone you know might be interested in pursuing our new Master of Arts in Ministry degree, visit www.LRU.edu or call 770-484-1204. You may also contact the program coordinator, Dr. James Kinnebrew, at jkinnebrew@LRU.edu or 770-484-1204 ext. 5698.



Now LRU students can complete their Master of Arts in Ministry degree completely online at an accelerated pace! Thanks for your prayers and support, which help to make this possible!

Alumnus Experiences Near-Death Illness

and Lives to Tell About It!

Cold sores, fever blisters ... they're pretty common — caused by the herpes simplex virus, which many people carry naturally in their bodies.

But you probably *haven't* heard of herpes simplex encephalitis. If not, be very grateful.

Unfortunately, one of our graduates — Dr. Glenn Canup, '05 — is all too familiar with the condition.

Glenn's symptoms developed quickly and included confusion, severe fatigue, and abnormal speech. Realizing something was very wrong, his wife convinced him to go to the emergency room, where they quickly discovered that a virus — the same virus responsible for cold sores — was attacking his brain, causing it to be inflamed.

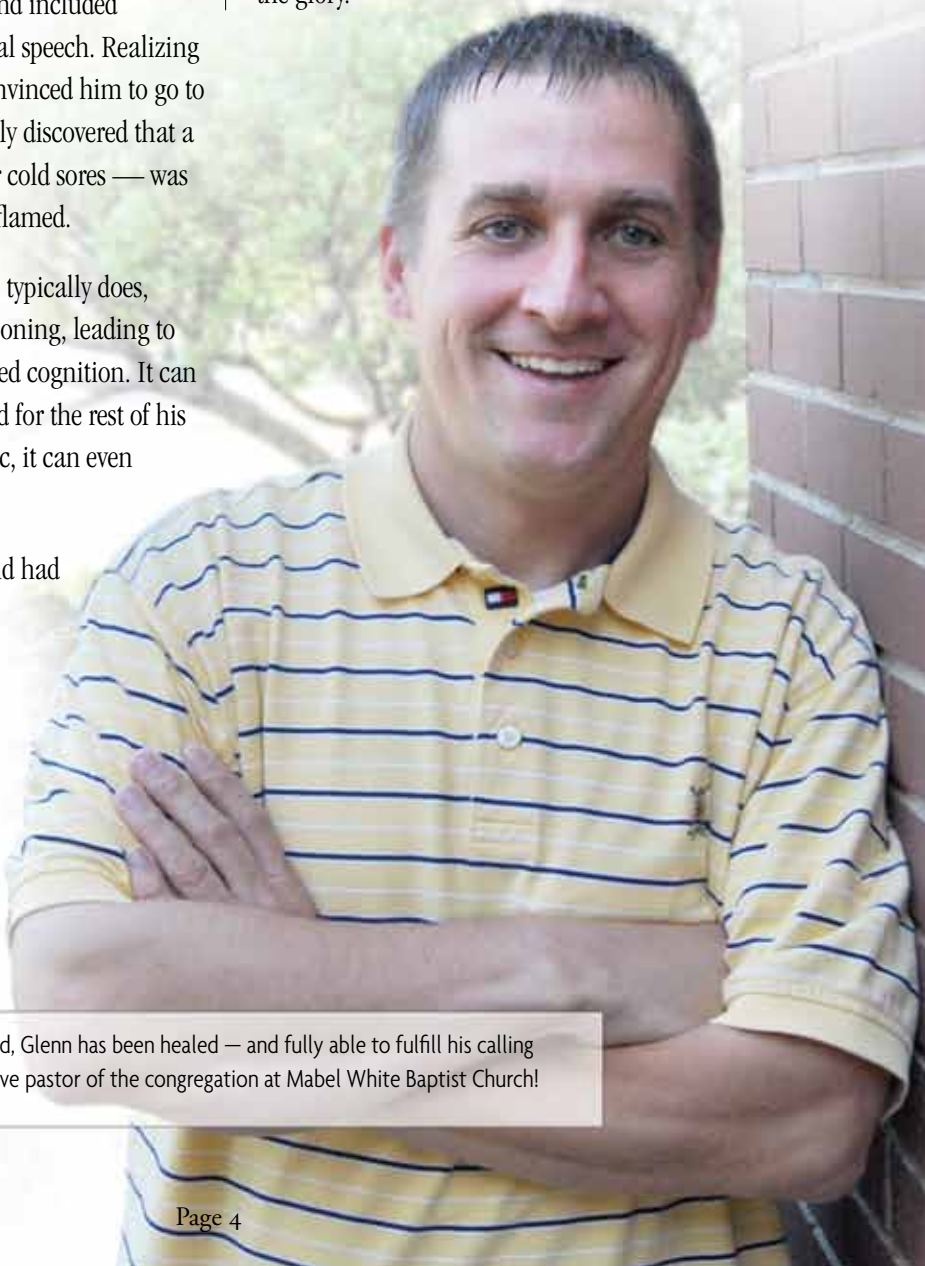
This type of significant injury can, and typically does, result in severely impaired brain functioning, leading to reduced mental capacity and diminished cognition. It can cause someone to be mentally impaired for the rest of his or her life. According to the Mayo Clinic, it can even result in a coma or death.

But Glenn and Linda trusted in God and had faith that His will would be the perfect outcome, and shared that faith with his doctors on several occasions.

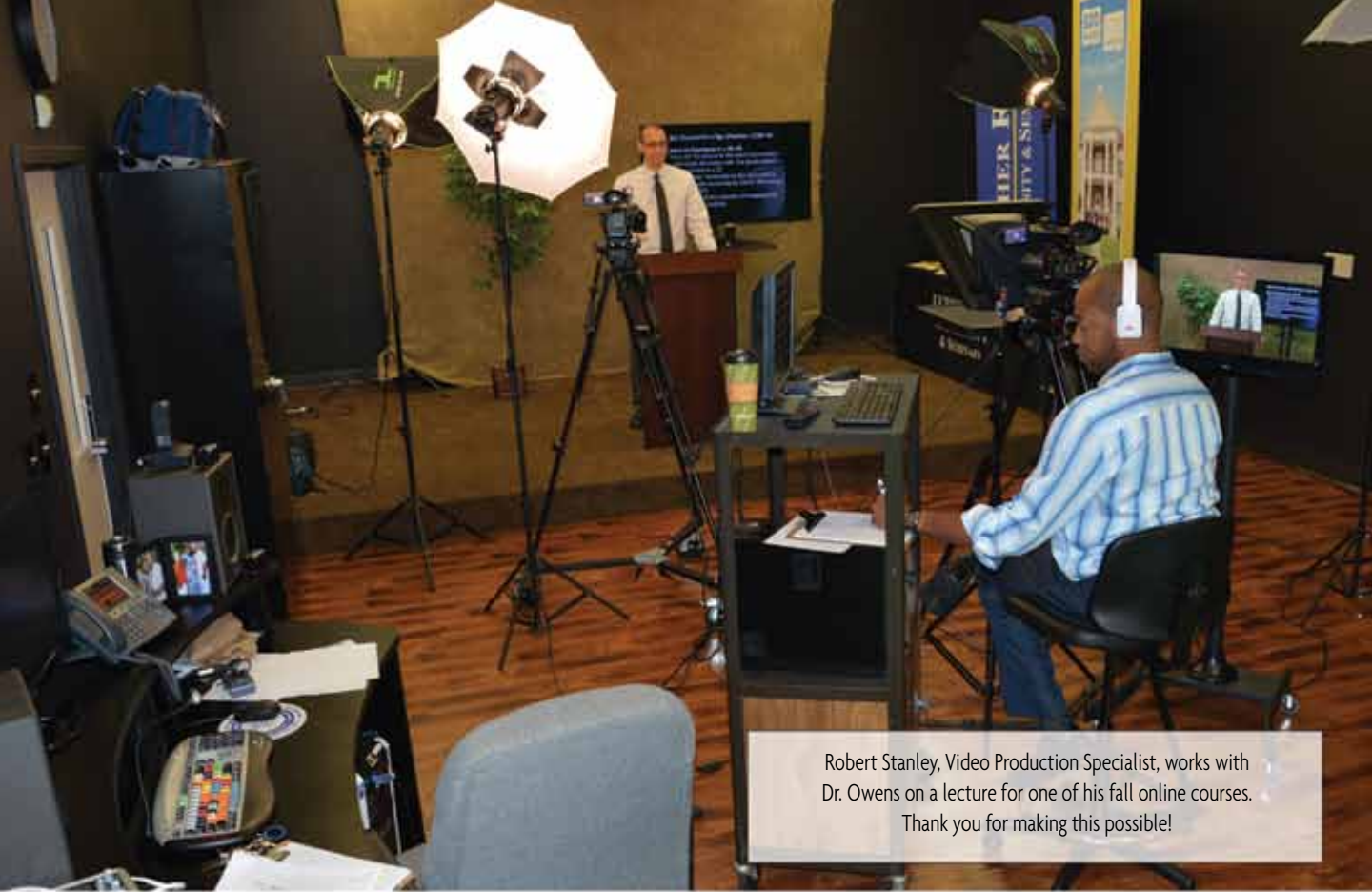
Even during Glenn's time in the hospital, he continued to minister to others. As his condition improved, he and his wife began taking walks

down the hallway. One day, while taking one of these walks, he came across a woman who was distraught with grief for her brother, who was being sent to hospice. Glenn prayed with the woman and her family and encouraged them in their time of sorrow.

God was faithful to Glenn and his family. This past spring, on his son's first birthday, Glenn had his last doctor's appointment — today he is fully recovered! To God be the glory.



Praise God, Glenn has been healed — and fully able to fulfill his calling as executive pastor of the congregation at Mabel White Baptist Church!



Robert Stanley, Video Production Specialist, works with Dr. Owens on a lecture for one of his fall online courses. Thank you for making this possible!

New Video Studio Serves Students Well

Even our online students can now benefit from class lectures!

Luther Rice (LRU) recently built a new video studio suite on campus for the primary purpose of recording professors' lectures for online classes. These videos and other online coursework will be delivered through the Blackboard learning management system.

Adding these videos to our online courses further sets Luther Rice apart from other institutions and allows us to provide a high quality learning experience for our students.

In an effort to serve our online students with the same level of excellence as we do our on-campus students, LRU will also be producing videos for the student development office. These videos will assist in ...

- Providing new student orientation,
- Giving instructions for class registration,
- Explaining how to request transcripts,
- Enabling online students to take advantage of many other services provided to our traditional students.

“Since the majority of our students take advantage of our online programs, the administration believes that it is important to deliver high quality content in our online curriculum,” says Ken Stokes, CIO and chief architect of this new initiative. “This new studio will be used by our faculty and staff to create a variety of videos to complement their courses.”

Existing space on campus was repurposed to create this state-of-the-art video production facility — LRU's largest studio to date at 1,000 square feet. The studio is fully equipped for cutting-edge video production, including a raised stage area, a large green screen, multiple HD cameras, and more!

On behalf of our professors and students — especially those studying online — thank you for your generous support, which made this upgrade possible! Next time you come to visit campus, please be sure to ask for a tour so we can say “thank you” and show you the new studio in person!

Alumni Ministry News

Where Are They Se

Gary De Graff, '14 — The De Graffs are serving as missionaries to Lille, a city in Northern France with a population of over 1 million people — 100,000 of which are college students. They recently planted a church and are reaching out to the college student population.

Dr. Toby Irwin, '79 — Toby celebrated his 45th anniversary in the ministry on May 26, 2014. He is the senior pastor of Belmore Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas.

Chaplain David McKee, '04 — Along with his wife Sunny, David is currently serving as a missionary in Nonsan, South Korea. Both he and Sunny volunteer their time at the Nonsan-ri Multicultural Family Support Center teaching English.

Dr. Jerry Vines, '74 — Jerry recently published his memoir, *Vines: My Life and Ministry*. The book recounts his journey from Carrollton, Georgia to Jacksonville, Florida, and whirls through the fiery controversies of the Conservative Resurgence. Readers will be encouraged and challenged to be totally yielded to God's will for their lives.

Jason Moore, '13 — Jason recently published a new book on sharing Christ with Jehovah's Witnesses, *Conversations Worth Having: Insights from a Year's Worth of Discussions with a Jehovah's Witness*. Jason is the Director of Gospel Urgency, a comprehensive evangelism training ministry. He is the author of several books and teaches college courses in religious studies.

Dr. Robin Brumfield, '92 — A member of the first graduating class at our Atlanta campus, Robin recently published a new book, *Conquering The Inevitable: Coping with Change Based on Insights from Nehemiah*. The book focuses on coping with change from a biblical perspective. He can be reached at www.robinbrumfield.com.

Dr. Hal Warren, '85 — Hal recently accepted a call to ministry at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi. He currently serves as the Pastor of Evangelism & Missions. Congratulations to Hal on his new position.

Dr. Tom Lovorn, '73 — Tom and his wife Janie were recently honored for 40 years of service on the Executive Board of the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica. During the ceremony, they were made Life Members. Tom currently pastors God's Storehouse Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia and teaches Old and New Testament for Rockbridge Seminary.

Katy Kauffman, '04 — Katy recently published her first book, a women's Bible study called *2 Timothy: Winning the Victory*. The forty-day devotional explores the keys to winning spiritual battles in life and ministry.

Dr. Don Wilhite, '77 and '79 — Don recently retired from Calvary Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia, where he served as pastor for 40 years. Congratulations to Don and his wife, June, for a lifetime of service at Calvary Baptist Church and to God's work.

Serving Now?

Dr. Milton Redeker, '79 — Milton recently accepted the call to University Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. He serves as the Minister to Senior Adults and Men's Ministries. Congratulations to Milton on his new position.

Tom Covington, '10 — Tom recently accepted a call to North Rockdale Baptist Church in Conyers, Georgia. Congratulations to Tom on his new position.

Dr. Ron Ross, '01 — Ron recently accepted a call to pastor at First Baptist Church, Portland, Indiana. Congratulations to Ron on his new position.

LT, CHC Larry J. Brant, '09 — Larry recently finished his second tour as a Navy Chaplain, detaching from the USS Green Bay (LPD 20) as Command Chaplain and receiving his second Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. With his new assignment as Chaplain for the United States Coast Guard, serving Sector St. Petersburg, Air Station Clearwater, and Sector Jacksonville (South), he will have had the privilege of ministering to all three sea services in his time as Navy Lieutenant. Navy Chaplains minister to men and women in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Steve Bain, '92 — Steve recently accepted the position of Educational Leadership and Counseling Department Chair in the College of Education and Human Performance at Texas A&M University, Kingsville, Texas. Congratulations to Steve on his new position.

Jim Obrecht, '11 — Jim recently accepted the position of Director of Missions with the Taylor Baptist Association. Jim most recently served as pastor

of Calvary Baptist Church in Palatka, Florida. He also served with the North American Mission Board in Pennsylvania and Ohio from 1991 to 2000 — an experience that will serve him well in his new role. Jim and his wife, Sandra, were honored at a reception on September 22 at the Taylor Baptist Association office. Congratulations to Jim on his new position.



Faculty and Staff

Reaching

We are proud of our faculty and staff for the hard work they do to support Christian training here at Luther Rice University. Most of our personnel also volunteer in their local churches, ministries, and local and international missions projects throughout the year. Here is a list of some of the ways our faculty and staff are serving others:

Dr. Ann Kerlin volunteers on the board of One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach. One Roof is a non-profit outreach serving Coweta County, Georgia, by providing funds for people in need, especially housing and utility bills. One Roof cuts their operating costs by operating a thrift store and sharing a building with a food bank. Each fall, One Roof holds a fundraiser where students come and sleep in a box outdoors to raise awareness and funds for the homeless. If anyone would like to learn more about the organization, visit www.OneRoofOutreach.org.

Vanessa Nealey traveled to Nicaragua in June to do mission work with three different vacation Bible schools. Then, in July, she went to St. Kitts where she taught in a vacation Bible school that was being held at the church of a former student. Vanessa sang at the homecoming service this August for Adgateville Baptist Church in Hillsboro, Georgia, where LRU professor Dr. Kinnebrew is a pastor.

Kim Kendall was the guest speaker for the celebration breakfast for the pastor's wife at Antioch Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio in March. Then, in June, she was the guest speaker for the women's ministry kickoff celebration at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Villa Rica, Georgia. Finally, in September, Kim was the guest speaker for the annual women's tea at Cole Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia.



Out to Others

Dr. Ron Cobb was the speaker at the graduation service installing new counselors at First Baptist Church Atlanta this summer. He will also be leading group training at the annual counselors' retreat for First Baptist Church Atlanta in November.

Dr. Jeff McCann is conducting two workshops over the next year, one in the fall of 2014 and the other in the spring of 2015. The fall workshop will be held at the TRACS Annual Meeting in October and discusses how to assess and improve institutional, program, and course student learning outcomes. The spring workshop is at the ABHE Annual Meeting in February and explains how to develop a website self-study.

Shelley Walden is starting a volunteer position with the Army Reserve as a Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leader. She will begin extensive training to fulfill her duties as FRG Leader — supporting and assisting the families of reservists in a variety of ways.

Hon. David Casas presented two lectures in August at the Answers in Genesis Congress on Science and Creation in New York City. In September, he had an article published in “Answers” magazine, together with Dr. Russell Fuller, on the Imago Dei. In October, he presented a lecture on the reliability of Genesis at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky for Dia Latino (Latin Day). In November, he will be presenting at the Evangelical Theological Society meeting.

Dr. Joshua Stewart will be presenting a paper in the Hebrew Poetry section at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego, California, in November. The Society of Biblical Literature is the largest academic society dedicated to biblical scholarship. Dr. Stewart considers it a great honor to be invited to present a paper in this section.



Thanks to these outstanding Luther Rice staff members who go above and beyond in service to their communities and the Kingdom!

Now is the perfect time to give!

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Your partnership with Luther Rice University and Seminary means a new generation of Christian leaders — prepared to share the hope of Christ as ministers, missionaries, counselors, theologians, apologists ...


As the end of the year draws near, now is a great time to give. Your donation will help prepare men and women for ministry — and it will bring you 2014 tax advantages, too. Consider:

1. You can donate appreciated assets, receive a tax deduction for the fair market value — and may avoid capital gains tax as well.
2. A paid-up life insurance policy is another asset you

can donate, and receive a tax deduction — while the cash value goes to work at LRU.

3. Establishing a charitable gift annuity not only supports LRU, but also provides you with an immediate, ongoing tax deduction *and* a regular income for life.
4. Donating cash, as long as the gift is dated and postmarked by December 31, yields a tax deduction for 2014 taxes, too.

Find out more about how year-end giving can help your bottom line. Talk to your financial advisor, or contact Louis Hardcastle at 770-484-1204 ext. 5287 or lhardcastle@LRU.edu here at Luther Rice today. Thank you again for your partnership.



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Alumnus Celebrates 35 Years in Full-Time Ministry

Dr. Stan Welch, pastor of West Asheville Baptist Church, Asheville, North Carolina, is celebrating 35 years in ministry this year. With 2,000 members, West Asheville is having a great impact in the surrounding area, reaching people for Christ.

Welch has served in numerous positions for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and is currently on the SBC Executive Committee. He has served as President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and on several state convention committees. He graduated from Luther Rice with four degrees — including his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2013.

“The best thing about getting my education at Luther Rice is that I was able to serve as a full-time church staff member through all my degrees,” says Welch. “That flexibility allowed me to complete my studies and be involved in ministry at the same time.”

His service to people also extends beyond the four walls of the church. Welch was elected and served on the Rowan Salisbury Board of Education for eight years, four of those years as Chairman. He has also served as Chaplain for the Rowan County Sheriff’s Department and as a youth baseball coach. He is presently on the Board of Directors of Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

Luther Rice is proud of all its graduates who are making an impact for God’s kingdom in the U.S. and around the world. Congratulations to Dr. Stan Welch for 35 years of dedicated service to God and His people.

“The best thing about getting my education at Luther Rice is that I was able to serve as a full-time church staff member through all my degrees...”

Congratulations to Dr. Stan Welch, pastor of West Asheville Baptist Church, on reaching this 35-year milestone. Thank YOU for helping to train and prepare the next generation of Christian leaders like Stan through your support of LRU.



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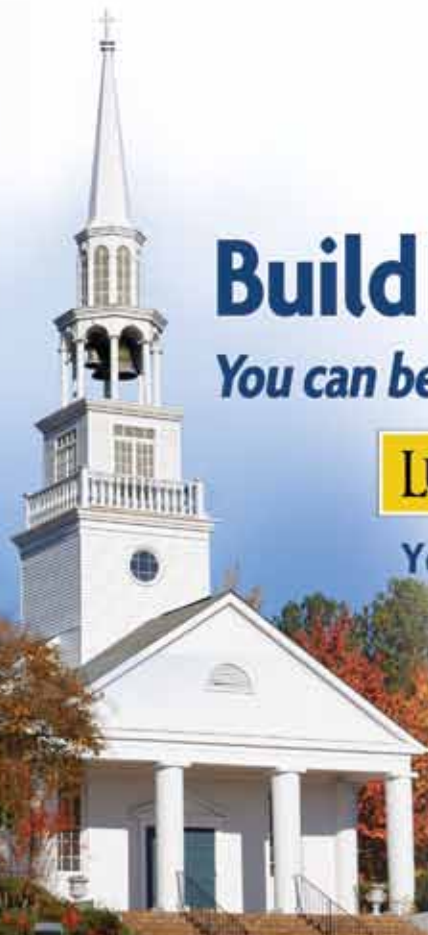
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Providing biblical education for Christian ministers and leaders around the world.

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

LRU admits students of any race, religion, gender, age, color, national
or ethnic origin, or disability, except where required by specific religious
tenets held by the institution.

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