

**LUTHER RICE SEMINARY, INC.**

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The Pioneer (USPS 052-470) is published tri-annually by Luther Rice University and Seminary.

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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).

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

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opportunities. Both leaders and followers have important roles to play, and by studying each role, students receive an enriched view of the process of leadership.

Designed as a 36 credit hour two-year degree program, the MAL begins with a study of leader theories, follower theories, communication theories, and leader and follower development. The curriculum then proceeds toward a practical application of these theories through courses such as strategic planning, team development, conflict resolution, and coaching and mentoring. The Program Coordinator is Dr. Rusty Ricketson, who holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from Regent University.

The program culminates in a capstone experience with a practicum or thesis option. The practicum affords the student an opportunity to investigate and analyze leadership processes within the context of a selected work environment. The thesis option is completed under the supervision of a thesis supervisor and synthesizes the knowledge and skills acquired during study of the process of leadership. This option is especially useful to those who wish to continue their educational pursuits to the Ph.D.

**Find out more about a Master of Arts in Leadership degree. Contact Dr. Ricketson at 770-484-1204 or visit LRU.edu today.**

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# PIONEER

OCTOBER 2013 EDITION

## Take the Lead! Unique Master's degree in Leadership only at Luther Rice

**A**n ordinary MBA degree can teach you to administer a business... but a Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) degree from Luther Rice University teaches you how to lead people. This exclusive degree is available only from Luther Rice — and it differs from other leadership programs in two distinct ways.

*First, the MAL focuses specifically on the dynamic relationship between leaders and followers within organizational settings.*

Leadership is a process between leaders and followers toward a common goal. The MAL adds a depth of understanding for anyone who is organizationally responsible for other people. The degree provides vital information to help people respond to one another with respect while accomplishing the organizational mission.

Pastors with M.Div. degrees will find the program to be a course of study that adds organizational leadership components often absent from M.Div. curriculum. This is also a good reason to get your M.Div. from LRU — because students are able to take leadership courses as their M.Div. electives. Businessmen and women also find the leadership curriculum to be tremendously helpful in improving their ability to influence others toward greater

work satisfaction and productivity.

*Secondly, the MAL's focus on followers as a vital part of the leadership process makes this degree program substantively different from any other leadership degree program in the nation. The program's focus is based upon a biblical understanding that human beings were created to be followers, and that Jesus Christ's purpose on earth was to follow and fulfill the Father's purpose.*

In short, the program is based upon the biblical truth that when we follow Christ, we are better prepared to assume leadership responsibilities when given those

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*The Master of Arts in Leadership, coordinated by Dr. Rusty Ricketson, is a degree unique to Luther Rice and will prepare students to connect with and lead people in business, church ... anywhere.*

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# A Personal Word



from DR. FLANAGAN

**G**od has been gracious to us at Luther Rice. For His blessings, we give thanks.

We are grateful for more than 1,000 students this semester — men and women from nearly 50 states and territories, and from every continent.

I'm also grateful for my own chance to return to the classroom: I am the lead teacher in the Doctor of Ministry course "Critical Issues in Ministry" this semester.

We'll be exploring the dangerous worldviews that confront both youth and adults today, and examining how to confront them with God's Word and plan. I'm grateful to be part of an institution that stands on the Word of God and helps our students provide biblical answers for the issues confronting them and those whom they serve.

*We unashamedly proclaim that salvation is through faith in Christ alone. There is hope in a hopeless world. The Truth can set us free.*

Of course I am grateful for the men and women who serve with me. What a blessing it is to have Christ-like, capable, and committed co-laborers who love the

Lord, love one another, and follow Him.

I am also grateful for our Board of Trustees who faithfully guide this ministry of providing biblical education to Christian ministers and leaders around the world. There is a great cooperative and cohesive spirit among our trustees, all of whom genuinely seek the best for Luther Rice.

What's more, I am grateful for you — all our supporters, many of whom are our alumni — who provide the financial means to equip those who are called to the gospel ministry. Without this lifeline, we could not provide scholarships which are needed as never before to help those who could not otherwise go to Luther Rice.

The fruit of our giving and labor is seen in the thousands of alumni serving around the world, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The sun never sets on the ministry of Luther Rice. The investment made in the lives of our students is yielding a great return on investment in Kingdom work.

God is great, and we are grateful. Thank you for your partnership. May the Lord richly bless you.

President

# New semester — New faces!

## Welcome to new faculty

By Russell Sorrow, Vice President, Institutional Advancement

**T**he 2013 Fall Academic Semester started on September 3rd. We want to welcome all the new students — and welcome returning students back to school.

Let me introduce nine new faculty members that have joined the Luther Rice team in the past year or two.

### Ms. Sharon Atkins, Assistant Professor of Biblical Counseling

Ms. Atkins has been teaching at Luther Rice in an adjunct capacity for some time but recently came on as a full-time faculty member, teaching in the undergraduate Biblical Counseling program. She will be graduating next spring with her Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

### Hon. David Casas, Instructor in Bible and Theology

Mr. Casas will be teaching on an adjunct basis in the area of undergraduate Bible and theology. He also serves as a Georgia State Representative from District 107 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY.

### Mr. Daryl Fletcher, Director of Library Services

Over the past two decades Mr. Fletcher has worked for both large and small libraries, the state public library office, and also for a library-related vendor. Daryl is a member of First Baptist Church in Snellville (GA) and enjoys playing tuba in the church orchestra.

### Dr. Ann Kerlin, Assistant Professor of Biblical Counseling

Dr. Kerlin served many years in a variety of secular and Christian ministries. She is currently President of the Board of Directors for a local non-profit organization that provides assistance to those in need. Ann teaches in the Biblical Counseling program. She recently earned her Ph.D. from Liberty University.

### Dr. David Leonard, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics

Dr. Leonard graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. He served for two years as the Director of Campus Ministries at the University of Iowa. David earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, specializing in epistemology.

### Mr. Thomas Mapes, Instructor in English

Mr. Mapes earned his bachelor's degree from Rhodes College and his M.Ed. in English from Georgia State. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Georgia State, working on his Ph.D. in 19th-Century Literature. Thomas teaches in the General Education area at the undergraduate level.

### Dr. Mark Owens, Assistant Professor of New Testament

Dr. Owens grew up on the tiny island of Grand Cayman, in the Cayman Islands. He began doctoral studies at the University of Aberdeen in 2007 and earned his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies.

### Mr. Joshua Stewart, Instructor in Old Testament

Mr. Stewart grew up in Walton County, Georgia and is a graduate of Luther Rice. Shortly after becoming a believer in 1999, he walked away from his career as a rodeo athlete. Joshua is currently a Ph.D. candidate at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His research is in the area of the Hebrew of the Psalter.

### Dr. William Wilson, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek

Dr. Wilson was actively involved in youth ministry for over a decade and served as the Youth Minister at Burton Hill Baptist Church in Fort Worth (TX) from 1995 to 2004. From 2005-2011 he served as Visiting Professor of Christian Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

Welcome to all our new faculty, staff and students! We are excited to see how God works in and through you this semester and throughout your time at Luther Rice!



*"I truly believe that the education I will receive at LRU will help me with my newly added responsibility of children's ministry director. Plus, in a world where true leadership is lacking no matter where we turn, I know that Dr. Flanagan and the Board of Trustees lead this institution with God's hand firmly on them. I am looking forward to the day that I cross the stage and shake*

*Dr. Flanagan's hand as I receive my bachelor's degree from Luther Rice University."*

*— Tracy Stokes, new student Fall 2013 ... 23 years after earning her AA degree*



# Alumni News and Student Updates

By John Roland, Director, Alumni Services and Student Success

## RU student improves learning through PRIDE

MA in Leadership student **Michael Tull** is the director of the PRIDE Academy at the Quinlan ISD here in Georgia. Tull believes that continuing your education is important, not just for your job but also for your own personal growth. The PRIDE Academy helps students in unique and often challenging situations get their high school diploma in a non-traditional setting.

## Alumnus elected President of the 2014 Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference

Congratulations to Luther Rice alumnus **Dr. Bruce Frank** (D.Min., '00) on the honor of his election as president of the SBC Pastor's Conference. Dr. Frank leads the Biltmore Church, one of America's "Fastest Growing Churches" three of the last four years. He is the ninth Luther Rice alumnus to be elected president of the SBC Pastor's Conference.

## Alumna encourages women to embrace vision, creativity, and courage

Alumna **Dr. Dorothy Patterson** (D.Min., '78) gave the keynote message at First Baptist Church Atlanta's annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon on May 4th, speaking to over 300 attendees. She encouraged the audience to embrace biblical womanhood as women of vision, creativity, and courage.

## Alumnus Retires after 26-year Tenure as Senior Pastor of Florida Church

**Rev. Pete Vande Weghe**, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Brandon, Florida, isn't retiring — he's "redirecting" his ministry as he makes plans to end a 26-year tenure at Southside Baptist. He and his wife plan to spend more time together at their mountain cabin.

## Alumnus named Spiritual Care Manager for seven-county region in Florida

Congratulations to alumnus **Dr. Richard Behers** (D.Min., '90), for his promotion with Cornerstone Hospice. Dr. Behers, a Lakeland, Florida resident who holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from LRU, has been named Spiritual Care Manager for the seven-county region serviced by Cornerstone Hospice.

## Alumnus Rev. Rick Erwin celebrates 25th anniversary in pastorate

Procter Baptist Church, in Port Arthur, Texas, honored **Rev. Rick Erwin and his wife, Lynn**, with a special service and a luncheon on Sunday, April 7th, 2013 in celebration of Rev. Erwin's 25th year as pastor of Procter Baptist.

## LRU Alumnus celebrates 50+ years in ministry

On Sunday, March 24th Midway Baptist Church of Columbus held a surprise celebration and luncheon for **Rev. and Mrs. Gary Lockee** to honor Rev. Lockee for his faithful service at Midway Baptist. He has served as a pastoral minister for 50-plus years in six churches and has preached at more than 200 revivals over the span of his ministry.

## Student is Published Writer in Clarksville, TN

LRU student **Kris Wolfe** is a contributing writer to the *Clarksville Online* newsmagazine. Kris is a Christian, wife and mother. She earned a B.S. in Psychology from Austin Peay State University and is currently attending Luther Rice University pursuing a Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling.

## Alumnus Pastor of a "Top 100 Fastest Growing Churches" in U.S.

**Dr. Grant Ethridge** (D.Min., '98), the Senior Pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia, leads a church recently recognized in the Top 100 Fastest Growing Churches in the United States. Liberty Baptist also received The Macedonia Award for the top church in Cooperative Program giving in 2009 and The Pentecost Award for the top church in baptisms in 2010.

## Alumnus named Floyd Medical Center Clinical Manager of Neurosciences

**C. Allen Stephens**, RN, BSN, (M.Div., '07), has been promoted to Clinical Manager of Neurosciences at Floyd Medical Center. In his new role he will work to assure that the daily operations of the Neuroscience unit reflect best practices to ensure the best outcomes for spine and stroke care patients.

## Graduate Awarded the President's Award of Excellence by the SNA, Local Hero for Bravery During Elementary School Shooting

**Malcolm Quillen**, (MAM '06, MAL '10) was profiled in the November issue of *School Nutrition Magazine*. The School Nutrition Association awarded Quillen the President's Award of Excellence for his outstanding work as the Georgia School Nutrition Association (GSNA) President. In support of the national "Let's Move" initiative to fight childhood obesity, in 2011-2012, under Quillen's leadership, the GSNA spearheaded more than 100 related activities and events across Georgia. Mr. Quillen works as a school nutrition manager at two schools in the Dekalb County (GA) School System.

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## FREE web resource!

### Connect and Sharpen Web Series

Just 28 minutes long, each installment in the *Connect and Sharpen* web series will give you tools for ministry and Christian service — and provide the opportunity to interact with our expert professors. Go to [LRU.edu/28Minutes](http://LRU.edu/28Minutes) now to register for the free web series and get instructions to login for these exciting sessions:

- 1. How to stop divorce in my church** — Dr. Ron Cobb, September 4th, 2:30 pm
- 2. Creating an engaging, interest building preaching schedule** — Dr. Tony Guthrie, October 2nd, 2:30 pm
- 3. How do I develop other leaders** — Dr. Rusty Ricketson, November 6th, 2:30 pm
- 4. What should our response be to bioethics** — Dr. Scott Henderson, February 5th, 2:30 pm
- 5. Organizational Management** — managing churches, Christian schools, and Christian organizations with integrity and productivity — Dr. James Flanagan, March 5th, 2:30 pm
- 6. How to keep my family together as a bi-vocational pastor** — Dr. James Kinnebrew, April 2nd, 2:30 pm

For more information, contact John Roland at:

[jroland@LRU.edu](mailto:jroland@LRU.edu)

Register now at [LRU.edu/28Minutes](http://LRU.edu/28Minutes)

# 2013 Alumnus of the Year: Dr. Eddie Bumpers

**D**r. Bumpers received the award during the graduation banquet in May as he celebrated completion of his Doctor of Ministry degree. He also holds Bachelor's, Master of Arts, and Master of Divinity degrees from LRU.

Dr. Bumpers felt privileged to receive the Alumnus of the Year Award — and to be graduating alongside his son Jared, who also earned his Doctor of Ministry degree. (He and Jared also graduated together with their Master of Divinity degrees from LRU in 2010 — and Eddie's father, Harper Bumpers, also earned his Bachelor's, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Luther Rice.)

Dr. Bumpers is pastor of Crossway Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, formerly Broadway Baptist Church. He has served as the Senior Pastor for the last 12



*Alumnus of the Year Dr. Eddie Bumpers celebrated with LRU President Dr. James Flanagan.*

years, while son Jared has served as Student Minister for 5 years.

The church built a new facility last year and has already expanded to two services in their new auditorium. Under Eddie's leadership the church has grown from 150 to 1600 members. He gives God all the glory for this success.

Eddie was chosen for the Alumnus of the Year award because of his steadfast commitment to God, his work reaching the Springfield community with the Good News

of Christ, and his significant, long-standing support of Luther Rice.

The Bumpers family story is an inspiring and God-honoring story. It is a blessing to see how God can completely transform a family line for His Kingdom when one father comes to Christ. This is good example of how Luther Rice students reach out with the Gospel to the world in need.

## Luther Rice University and Seminary

Preparing Christian leaders for ministry

Yes, Dr. Flanagan, I want to help LRU train and equip Christian leaders to share the message of the Gospel all over the world. Enclosed is my gift of:

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In August one of Mr. Quillen's schools was threatened by a mentally ill, armed gunman who entered the building and holed-up in the front office. The gunman had with him an AK 47-style assault rifle, along with 500 rounds of extra ammunition. When he heard gunfire, Mr. Quillen ran toward it and directly confronted the shooter in an attempt to safeguard the students. Through the efforts of a female office worker, Mr. Quillen, and another staff member, all of the 870 students reached safety and without injury. The attack ended peacefully when the gunman finally surrendered to police.

### 2008 M.Div. Graduate Earns Doctorate and is Named Professor at Wesley Seminary

**Irving A. Figueroa** (M.Div., 2008) has graduated with his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. Dr. Figueroa is now a professor on the faculty at Wesley Seminary, at Indiana Wesleyan University, and is the Academic Coordinator of the Latino program.

### Doctoral Student Volunteers In Syrian Hospital Serving Freedom Fighters

New York City Pastor and humanitarian

**Rev. William Devlin** arrived in northwestern Syria on July 21st, 2013 for a volunteering mission at the Bab-Al-Hawa Hospital in the Idleb Province of Syria. "I am here to serve the Syrian people even at great risk to my own life," Pastor Devlin said. "And I am here also to share the love of God to a broken people in a shattered nation."

### 1997 Doctoral Graduate Named President of The Baptist Courier

**Dr. James Rudy Gray** (D.Min. '79) has been installed as the next President and Editor of *The Baptist Courier*. *The Baptist Courier* is the state Baptist paper of South Carolina. Dr. Gray joins another LRS alumnus, Dr. Gerald Harris, who serves as the Editor of *The Christian Index* in Georgia.

### 40 Years Free, Former Drug Addict Publishes First Book

Written by **Dr. Gary Webb** (BD, '79), *Free Indeed* is a devotional workbook for believers who are struggling with destructive, "besetting" sins. The format is part devotional, part inductive Bible study, part prayer guide, and is drawn from his personal experiences.

## Your legacy... what will it be?

You have given a lifetime of service to the Lord ... but did you know — *you may be able to give your greatest, most effective gift at the end of your life.*

A bequest from your estate to Luther Rice University and Seminary ...

- ◆ Powerfully advances God's Kingdom.
- ◆ Provides you the joy of giving your most significant gift to ministry, while keeping the assets available to you for your lifetime.

- ◆ Because of tax law, often including us in your will helps you to be the best possible steward of your resources and provide for your family.
- ◆ And carries out your desire to empower and equip Christian leaders and workers to share the Good News, even after you go home to be with the Lord.

Find out more. Contact Russ Sorrow, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 678-990-5279 or Russ@LRU.edu.