Lincoln Alumnus Dr. Clisson M. Woods ’64 Donates $20,000 to Langston Hughes Memorial Library

University President Ivory V. Nelson (left) welcomes Dr. Clisson M. Woods ’64 to campus and thanks him for presenting a check to Lincoln for $20,000 to benefit the Langston Hughes Memorial Library. The check is the largest single amount contributed this year by an individual Lincoln alumnus.

Dr. Clisson M. Woods, a 1964 Lincoln University graduate, has presented President Ivory V. Nelson with an endowment gift of $20,000 to benefit the University’s Langston Hughes Memorial Library.

The Roslyn Woods Bogle Memorial Endowment Fund is named for the deceased aunt of Dr. Woods, a prominent radiologist from East Point, near Atlanta, in Georgia. The fund will establish a special collection of literary books and contribute to general operating costs at the library.

“This generous gift from Dr. Woods is significant because it shows his loyal support of Lincoln University and helps us to continue the Lincoln Legacy of excellence in providing a higher education to current and future generations of students,” President Nelson said in accepting the check.

Dr. Woods, who specializes in nuclear medicine, said he decided to present the gift to his Alma Mater to “thank Lincoln for my college education.” He added that as an undergraduate, he often utilized the University’s library resources to enhance his classroom instructions.

The endowment gift, the largest single amount contributed this year by an individual Lincoln alumnus.

President Presents Report on University to Trustees

Dr. Ivory V. Nelson presented his Report on the University to the Board of Trustees. Here is a summary of that report.

**Strategic Planning:** Strategic Planning, capital improvement projects, information technology, development initiatives and academics continue to be areas of major focus at the University. The topics were addressed in the recently completed “University Strategic Plan 2001-2006.” (The 107-page document was submitted to the Board of Trustees along with the Report.)

The University Strategic Plan is built on the foundation of the Vision, Mission, Goals and Philosophy Statements adopted by the Board of Trustees.

(See REPORT, Page 2)

President Appeals for 1,200 Alumni Donors

It’s that time of the year again when families gather to celebrate the season, cherish their love for one another, and count their many blessings.

As a nation, we are more resolved than ever in our resiliency and unity.

At Lincoln, this also is the time that we extend our deep appreciation to our alumni and others for your generous support of the University.

As we prepare for the emerging fund-raising campaign (see recent issues of the Lincoln Review and the Lincoln Lion), your support will enable us to strengthen our mission to provide our students with a world-class education and at a first-rate facility.

A key goal is to increase the number of alumni contributors from the 407 who gave last fiscal year to at least 1,200 or (20%) by June 30, 2002.

This presents us with a major challenge, but one that we are fully capable of achieving.

Now, as the year draws to a close, I urge those of you who have not already sent in your checks or made your pledges to do so now. Lincoln University needs more donors to step up to the plate and make significant commitments to this venerable institution.

Your gift is an investment in our students’ success! Please fill out the enclosed envelope and make your tax-deductible contribution today.

Again, thanks for your support during the year and Happy Holidays!

Ivory V. Nelson, President Lincoln University
President Presents Report to Trustees

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Trustees in April 2000. Each Lincoln division has established visions and goals specific to its area to guide efforts to achieve the overall objectives of the University. The Plan also lists accomplishments realized by each division during the 2000-2001 year.

Capital Projects and Campus Infrastructure: Capital projects are high on the priority list at Lincoln. The Strategic Plan identifies $2,309,000 in University-funded capital projects, which were completed during the 2000-2001 fiscal year. It also identifies an estimated $18,979,000 in capital improvements which should be addressed during this 2001-2002 fiscal year; $62,954,000 projected for 2002-2003; and $11,510,000 needed between 2003-2006. These totals include only those projects costing $25,000 and above, and are in addition to the projects funded by the $29.3 million Commonwealth appropriation.

Lincoln's 2002-2003 Capital Budget Request was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on Oct. 1, 2001. The top-10 priority projects were listed as: Asbestos Abatement ($1,000,000); Library Renovation ($6,000,000); Site-Electrical Upgrades ($3,000,000); HVAC Upgrades ($2,000,000); Replace Roof Systems ($3,600,000); Wright Hall Upgrade ($6,000,000); University Hall Renovation ($3,000,000); Library Systems Replacement and Upgrade ($8,675,000); Life Science Ventilation Upgrades to Labs ($6,500,000); Manuel Rivero Hall ($9,600,000).

Physical plant also has identified several high-cost priority maintenance issues.

Information Technology: The University has obtained the services of the MBNA Corporation and TRE Associates to assist with its efforts in strategic information technology planning. Representatives from TRE Associates will lead University personnel through five days of focused validation, and strategic and tactical planning, starting in November 2001 and ending in January 2002.

The outcome will be a plan that will include next steps, prioritized and scheduled guidelines to improve information technology at Lincoln. Participants in the process include the President, Vice Presidents, information technology staff, and persons holding positions of leadership from all areas of the campus. This in-depth review and planning process was made possible through a $25,000 MBNA grant.

In addition, the University's Internal Auditor recently conducted a General Review and Assessment of IT. In general, the review found services are improving and the department is straining to meet current demands.

Office of Audit and Control: Besides the General Review and Assessment of IT, Lincoln's Internal Auditor, between the months of April and October 2001, conducted several audits and reviews. Several other reviews will be conducted from November 2001 through April 2002.

Academic Initiative: The Barnes Foundation: In October, Lincoln contacted Kimberly N. Camp, executive director and CEO of The Barnes Foundation, to identify an area for the two institutions to develop a joint program. Participating in an initial meeting at Lincoln on Nov. 6 were Camp; Robin Muse McClea, director of Education, The Barnes Foundation; Dr. Gladys J. Willis, dean, School of Humanities; Professor Jeffrey Chapp, chair, Department of Fine Arts; Dr. John O. Chikwem, dean, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and Dr. David Royer, chair, Department of Biology.

Lincoln and the Foundation plan to begin a pilot project in January 2002 to enhance the education of art and biology students.

Dr. Clisson Woods’ Endowment gift is the largest single gift contributed this year by an individual Lincoln alumnus.

an individual Lincoln alumnus, was announced at a luncheon on November 3, in Lincoln’s Thurgood Marshall Living Learning Center.

Several members of Dr. Woods’ family attended the luncheon, including his cousin, Donald Bogle ’66, an award-winning author. Bogle paid tribute to his mother, Roslyn Woods Bogle, as an “avid reader and great writer.”

To start the Bogle Collection at the Hughes Library, Bogle autographed and donated a copy of his critically acclaimed book, *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies & Bucks, An Interpretative History of Blacks in American Films.*

Emery Wimbish, director of the Langston Hughes Memorial Library, which is named for the world-acclaimed writer and poet, who is a 1929 Lincoln graduate, also thanked Dr. Woods for his “generosity.”

After earning his baccalaureate degree from Lincoln in 1964, Dr. Woods went on to graduate from Howard University Medical School in 1971; complete his residency in radiology at New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, in Newark, in 1975; and also complete his residency in nuclear medicine at Hahnemann University Hospital, in Philadelphia, in 1976.

Alumnus Donates $20,000 to Library

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University Selects Howard E. Merlin as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs

Howard E. Merlin, a certified public accountant with 25 years of experience, is the new vice president for Fiscal Affairs. He started September 17. He succeeds Edward L. McCusker, who retired.

Since 1995, Merlin was director of financial analysis for ACI, a subsidiary of Emerson Electric. He has more than five years of experience functioning as the top financial person in a Fortune 500 company as well as more than 20 years of diversified accounting, financial, materials management, information technology and general management experience. From 1994 to 1992, he managed project services for Ciscorp; he also worked at the company from 1984 to 1991. Between his two stints at Ciscorp, he served as controller for Lanza from 1991 to 1992.

He began his career in 1976 as an accountant with Ernst & Young. He also worked at Rockwell International as a senior financial analyst and for Tasa Corporation as special assistant to the president. He has a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, a master’s degree in physics also from Penn, and a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Virginia.

Andre’ E. Dixon Appointed Director of Corporation and Foundation Relations

Andre’ E. Dixon, an administrator with more than a decade of experience in fund-raising and financial services, has been appointed director of Corporation and Foundation Relations for the University. He started November 1. He reports to Michael B. Hill, vice president for Development and External Relations.

Since 1997, Dixon had served as associate director of Prospect Research at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

At Lincoln, he will conduct prospect research to identify new and upgrade existing donors; and develop and manage programs to obtain capital and annual corporate and foundation gifts. While at Tuskegee, he worked with a team to secure funding from such prestigious donors as the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Ford Motor Company, Schlumberger, Ltd., and the Lilly Endowment.

From 1993 to 1995, he served as the assistant director of development for Southern Normal School in Brewton, Ala. From 1990 to 1993, he was an investment advisor with First Investors Corporation in Atlanta, Ga.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in finance, and master of science degree in personnel administration from Tuskegee in May 1989 and July 1999, respectively.

President Presents Report to Trustees

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400-Bed Student Housing Complex: Site visits were made to the complexes developed by the two contending contractors. The Housing Committee also has compiled a comprehensive notebook. It provides details on the selection and evaluation process, and is for review by the Board’s Business Affairs and Buildings, and Properties Committees. Lincoln also has received the Financial, Credit and Debt Capacity Overview compiled by Baum & Co. The report provides Lincoln with a look at its creditworthiness.

Student and Faculty Profiles: The President submitted to the Board the student and faculty profiles for the fall 2001 semester. For the fall classes, Lincoln has an enrollment of 1,871 students.

2001 Recent and Selected Presidential Activities


♦ Sept. 19: Participated in official Induction Ceremony for new officers of University’s Student Government Association.

♦ Sept. 19-20: Participated in events for “NASA Awareness Days” at Cheyney University and Lincoln University. Lincoln received a $25,000 UNCF planning grant for NASA-related areas.

♦ Sept. 26: Development meetings in Philadelphia, Pa. with Sam Katz, executive director, Greater Philadelphia First, and Judge Levon Gordon ’58. Accompanied by Vice President Michael Hill.

♦ Oct. 1: Hosted visit to Lincoln by U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. Students, faculty and staff listened to Senator Specter and asked him questions during the “Town Meeting” in Dickey Auditorium.

♦ Oct. 3: Development meetings in Philadelphia and Bryn Mawr, Pa. with William Miller, Ross & Associates; partners of Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley; and Dr. Noble L. Thompson, Jr. ’64. Accompanied by Vice President Michael Hill.


♦ Oct. 12: Development meeting with in Philadelphia with William Wilson, Syterra, Ltd. Accompanied by Vice President Michael Hill.

♦ Oct. 15: Meeting in Harrisburg with staff of State Senator Vincent Fumo. Accompanied by Vice President Michael Hill.


♦ Oct. 18: Guest of the Executive Leadership Council and Foundation at its 13th Annual Recognition Dinner, Washington, D.C.

♦ Oct. 29: Guest of USB/PaineWebber at the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund’s 24th Annual Awards Dinner, New York, N.Y.

♦ Oct. 31 - Nov. 1: Attended meeting of the NCAA Division III Presidents Council, in Indianapolis, Ind.

♦ Nov. 5: Meeting in Philadelphia with State Rep. Vincent Hughes. Accompanied by Vice President Michael Hill.

♦ Nov. 7: Meeting in Washington with George E. Reese ’65, Esq., of NASA. Accompanied by Vice President Michael Hill.

♦ Nov. 8: Invited guest for tour and luncheon at Philadelphia Museum of Art with Pam Strobel, vice chair and CEO of Exelon Energy Delivery.
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Dr. Frank “Tick” Coleman ’35, who is affectionately known as “Mr. Lincoln University” for his many years of dedicated service to the University as an alumnus and program administrator, returned to campus on Homecoming Day, Oct. 27, 2001.

University President Ivory V. Nelson speaks at St. Paul’s Baptist Church in Philadelphia on Nov. 18, 2001 on the topic of Educating Minority Students for the New Millennium. In his message, President Nelson, who has achieved a national reputation for his leadership in higher education, urged support for the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He also asked for the development of strong “school, church, community partnerships” to help ensure that more minority youth achieve an effective education and seek college degrees.

Former Astronaut and U.S. Air Force Col. (ret.) Guion S. Bluford, Jr. speaks at the University during NASA Awareness Day on Sept. 20, 2001. The program highlighted educational and career opportunities in mathematics, science, engineering and technology.

Photographs: Raymond W. Holman, Jr. ’71.

Ivory V. Nelson, Ph.D., University President
Michael B. Hill, Vice President, Development & External Relations
Samuel W. Pressley, Editor and Director, Marketing & Communications

Lincoln University is a premier, Historically Black University that combines the best elements of a liberal arts and sciences-based undergraduate core curriculum and selected graduate programs to meet the needs of those living in a highly technological and global society. For more information about Lincoln University, including directions to the campus, the University’s Vision, Mission, Philosophy, and Statement of Goals, see our Web site at www.lincoln.edu.