

LINCOLN

# LION

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OF PA



**MEET LINCOLN'S  
14TH PRESIDENT:  
BRENDA A. ALLEN**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Photo by Brian Bernas

Dear Alumni and Friends of Lincoln University,

It is with great pleasure that I greet my fellow alumni as the 14th president of our great institution. Words cannot express how excited I am to have been chosen to lead our alma mater into her next chapter. I am truly honored to have this opportunity. I am humbled by your support and confidence. I plan to do us all proud.

Lincoln University continues to evolve. We have made great progress over the years. Our campus has grown, both in enrollment and capital assets. The student body is twice as large as when I was here, and the additional living spaces have added nicely to the housing stock. Recently added classroom buildings and amenities present opportunities for state-of-the-art learning and the addition of athletics fields and courts greatly expand the living-learning environment of the campus.

These are all great advances to our legacy, but in many ways they mask several huge challenges. While first-year retention has improved greatly over the past couple of years, our four- and six-year graduation rates remain flat. As our reputation depends heavily upon our success at retaining and graduating students, these issues require immediate attention. Then, too, we have many new and beautifully renovated spaces on our campus, but several of our historic sites are crumbling around us. We need a plan designed to help us make smart investments in repurposing our older facilities, a plan designed to help us honor our past while addressing contemporary needs. Finally, our dependency on tuition has grown over the decades. This is not a sustainable model for the University and as such it is urgent that we identify new sources of revenue and greatly improve the number and amount of private gifts.

We have entered into a strategic planning process designed to address these concerns and to situate the University to thrive. Primary will be identifying investments needed toward impacting student success namely discussing curricular innovations that may better help us to prepare our graduates for the unprecedented market disruption so characteristic of this 21st century global knowledge-based economy. Among these will be support for faculty development, innovative pedagogies, and academic support, all of which have a positive impact on student success. Parallel with the strategic planning discussion is the development of a new master plan. This process has three major goals: (1) identifying the capital investments needed to maximize living-learning options; (2) proposing options for renovating and repurposing historical buildings; and (3) developing a strategic plan for allocating funds for deferred maintenance. Finally, the process is focused on resources including planning strategic allocation of revenue, creating diverse funding models, and identifying new sources of income. Central to this discussion is maximizing fundraising, increasing grant writing, and identifying efficiencies toward better cost effective operations.

My goal is to engage in a very collaborative planning process. We are seeking advice from various University stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. We have been reaching people in large and small gatherings, at formal and informal events, and across multiple platforms. This has helped us to gather input and feedback from a broad constituency of people. I am delighted that so many of you have offered your ideas, time, and energy toward this process. We still have a ways to go but are on track to launch our new strategic direction in January 2018.

So again, I appreciate the support and confidence shown to me by my fellow alumni. I will continue to work tirelessly for our institution. Many of you are beside me as we forge this new chapter in our illustrious history. I thank you now, in advance for all the good work we will do together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Allen'.

Brenda A. Allen, Ph.D.  
President

ON THE COVER

# RECONNECTING WITH LINCOLN'S ROOTS: REBIRTH OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

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Lincoln University and the Barnes Foundation will host a reception on the last day of Homecoming weekend to launch the Endowed Undergraduate Student Research Scholarship Fund

Cover photo by Brian Bernas

# LINCOLN LION

A MAGAZINE WHERE BEING THE FIRST MATTERS | FALL 2017

# LINCOLN LION

FALL 2017

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and distributed free to alumni.

## STAY CONNECTED

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- @LincolnUofPA
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- TheLincolnUniversity
- LUofPA

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in the University's programs or activities. It is the expressed policy of Lincoln University to comply with Title IX. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Gerard Garlie, Title IX Coordinator/Director of the Health and Wellness Center, Room 126B, Lincoln University, 1570 Baltimore Pike, Lincoln University, PA 19352, phone 484-746-0000 or Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3323, phone 215-656-8541, fax 215-656-8605, email: [ocr.philadelphia@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.philadelphia@ed.gov).

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## Launching a Career after the Classroom

### Career Services for Alumni

Did you know Lincoln alumni can access the same services as students? Current students need alumni's help, too. Learn about the ways to get engaged with the Office of Career Services.

#### What can Career Services do for alumni?

- Assist with cover letter and personal statements
- Provide career-planning sessions and workshops
- Provide job offer guidance: How to navigate the process of evaluation, deferment, rejection, or acceptance
- Set up on-campus Interviews
- Provide networking opportunities such as information sessions or tables
- Give info about fellowships and scholarships
- Assist with searches for full- or part-time employment

#### Job Referrals

Referrals help job candidates get a leg up on the competition. Career Services can place a call or email to an employer recommending the alumnus.

*Photo by Shelley Mix*

To get a referral, simply follow these three steps:

#### 1. Complete a personality/career assessment.

Career Services will help you create a strategy designed to attract employers or graduate schools.

#### 2. Schedule a resume-building appointment.

Scheduling a 60- to 90-minute appointment with Career Services will ensure your resume stands out from the crowd.

#### 3. Complete interview preparation.

In two, 30-minute appointments, Career Services will provide you with interview preparation and counseling, to make sure you have the tools needed to nail your next big interview.

#### Jobs Database

Access jobs posted only for Lincoln students in the national online database College Central Network. Alumni can store resumes that employers can then access and evaluate.

#### Join Us at one of our Career Services Events

- Annual Career Fair on October 10
- Graduate School Fair on November 9



*Photo by Shelley Mix*

#### What can you do for career services?

1. Become a Mentor Help guide a motivated student in your career field through mentorship.
2. Class Visits: Come to campus to provide a real-world perspective on the student's subject area.
3. Hire/Recruit Students: Help advance the Lincoln Legacy by hiring future Lincoln alumni. Discover our talented students by registering for upcoming career fairs, or by setting up an on campus recruiting event.
4. Teach or Moderate: Come teach future Lincoln alum on how to navigate through the complex workforce by participating in one of our instructional workshops on topics such as interviewing, etiquette, negotiating, and test preparation. **L**

## Can Your Network Help a Lincoln Student?

Lincoln student Jaden Baird had been working with Career Services Director Ralph Simpson to find internships in hopes that it would lead to a full-time position. Based on Baird's experience in video production and stage management, QVC, the cable shopping channel, jumped at the chance to learn more about Baird.

A 15-minute interview turned into an hour-long conversation about the technological and production platform shifts within the past 20 years. QVC contacted him within a week for an internship offer.

Baird will graduate in December. He says QVC has made it clear that they would like to hire him for a full-time position after the internship ends and he says he plans to take them up on that offer.

Baird got an internship, invaluable experience at a national marketing company and excellent job prospects—all from working with Career Services.

Do you know of a job or internship opportunity for a Lincoln student? Call Career Services at 484-365-7588 today!



# FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Dear Alumni Chapter Leaders, members, & friends,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the new Alumni Relations director at Lincoln University.

I am a proud graduate of the class of 2015, and I consider myself in an elite and privileged class of Lincoln alumni. Lincoln University students and alumni stand high and proud in their accomplishments to the world, and I am honored to be able to work with you to achieve the success that you are passionate about and committed to for Lincoln University.

I want you to be confident that the Office of Alumni Relations is here for you. We plan to keep you engaged and informed. We are here to provide assistance and support to your chapters, develop opportunities for chapter growth and sustainability and make sure that you are always incredibly proud of your alma mater.



A top priority for me will be to engage alumni in meaningful ways, through your alumni chapters, support ongoing events and meetings and to assist in campus events and activities. In addition, work to improve communications and to establish clear expectations of Lincoln University and the Alumni Association of Lincoln University's ongoing and productive relationship.

I know that together we will continue to prove "Why Being the First Matters."

Thank you for allowing me to assist in the dedicated work you all provide as the alumni of Lincoln University.

Committed,

*Deborah E. Johnson '15*

Alumni –  
I am open to your ideas! Please stop by my office in Alumni House the next time you are on campus and let's spend some time together.  
Or get in touch via phone or email:  
Office: 484-365-7429  
Cell: 215-439-8455  
Email: Dejohnson@lincoln.edu

## Join the Alumni Association of Lincoln University

Become a member of the Alumni Association of Lincoln University and help the next generation of Lincoln students. Join one of the growing and robust chapters in Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, Washington, Chester County, Harrisburg, Coastal Virginia, Charlotte (Greater Carolinas), or Central New Jersey. AALU is looking to reestablish chapters in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Delaware, and South Jersey.

Join the AALU at [www.aalupa.org/join-or-renew-aalu/](http://www.aalupa.org/join-or-renew-aalu/)

## BALTIMORE METRO ALUMNI CHAPTER'S NEW STUDENT COOKOUT ON JULY 23





# ALUMNI RABBLE

## 2017 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend Schedule Highlights For the 2s and 7s

### Friday, October 20

10 a.m. Lincoln Lions Chamber of Commerce Alumni Business Expo

Noon Emeritus Luncheon (by invitation only)

**2 p.m. Inauguration of Brenda A. Allen as the  
14th president of Lincoln University**

6:45 p.m. Alumni Awards Banquet



### Saturday, October 21

10 a.m. Tailgating

9 a.m. AALU General Body Meeting

9:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade

11 a.m. Women of Lincoln Reception

**1 p.m. Homecoming Football Game:  
Lincoln University vs.  
Virginia State University**

2 p.m. Alumni Literary Book Signing

2 p.m. Children's Zone

4 p.m. Alumni Greek Sing

4:30 p.m. Recent Alumni Reception for Classes of 2002 – 2017

5:30 p.m. Lincoln Society Reception President's Residence

6 p.m. The Class of 1987 Presents...A Day Party: "After the Yard"



*Photo by Bob Williams*



### Sunday, October 22

10 a.m. Worship Service

6 p.m. Barnes Reception in Support  
of Lincoln University's  
Endowed Undergraduate  
Student Research Scholarship Fund

*For the complete list of events, details, and  
registration information visit  
[www.lincoln.edu/alumni-friends/homecoming](http://www.lincoln.edu/alumni-friends/homecoming)*



# 2017 ALUMNI FAMILY OUTING



## 2017 GREEK-LETTERED ORGANIZATION GIVING CHALLENGE

HIGHEST TOTAL GIVING  
HIGHEST TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS



**Omega Psi Phi**  
**\$80,714.14 / 45 Donors**

HIGHEST TOTAL GIVING



**Delta Sigma Theta**  
**\$35,776.21**

HIGHEST TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS

**Alpha Kappa Alpha**  
**42 Donors**





## LINCOLN UNIVERSITY EMBRACES 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES

Several campus buildings have recently undergone renovations with several more major upgrades and additions are planned for the next two years.



RENDERING OF RENOVATED BUILDING

### JOHN MILLER DICKEY HALL

Renovation cost: Approximately \$17.5 million

Year built: 1991

- Preparations began in Spring 2017
- Construction to begin in December 2017 and is scheduled to be completed by January 2019
- Dickey Hall will house:

**First Floor:** Information Technology

**Second Floor:** Psychology, Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

**Third Floor:** Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology, History, Political Science, Philosophy and Religion



CURRENT BUILDING

Photo by Devin Bonner



## AMOS HALL

Renovation cost: \$15 million

Year built: 1902

- Plans include the renovation and expansion of Amos Hall to include:
  - ♦ Classrooms and studio space for visual arts programs
  - ♦ Museum/gallery space
- Schedule:
  - ♦ Architect selection: Fall 2017
  - ♦ Design process: Winter 2017 – Winter 2018
  - ♦ Bidding and contracts: Spring 2019
  - ♦ Construction: Summer 2019 – Fall 2020



Photo by Shelley Mix

## THURGOOD MARSHALL LIVING LEARNING CENTER DINING COMMONS

Year built: 1996

- This multi-purpose building houses over 370 upper-class males and females, the main campus dining hall, two computer lounges, and meeting rooms.
- Thompson Hospitality increased the seating area in the Dining Commons from 300 to nearly 475 by removing a wall between the dining area and retail dining.
- New bakery and deli areas were added to the existing areas for beverages, exhibition cooking, salad, soup, homestyle dishes, grilled items, vegetarian options, and pizza.
- Upgraded 60-inch flat screen televisions

Photos by Devin Bonner



# NEW BOARD LEADER BRINGS IDEAS, ENERGY, BUSINESS KNOW-HOW



Since taking the helm as chairlady of the Board of Trustees for Lincoln University on July 1, Theresa R. Braswell '84 has been diligently meeting constituents, students, and alumni to gain perspective in her new role.

"I am happy to have received a lot of great feedback and enthusiasm from all categories of our stakeholders who are ready to work and advance the business of Lincoln University." She plans to address five key areas during her tenure: improving administrative accountability, improving communications with all stakeholders, updating University policies and procedures, empowering the Board of Trustees to higher engagement, and increasing the University's endowment.

Braswell was first seated as an alumni trustee in September 2014 and now serves as chair of the board's business affairs committee.

## Experience and Leadership Started at Lincoln

Braswell, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting and finance from Lincoln University and went on to attend Concord Law School of Kaplan University, is a founder of Robinson Braswell Consulting Services, a tax preparation and financial services company established in 1999. Prior to launching the consulting company, Braswell worked for the accounting firms KPMG; CW Amos & Company; and Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates, as well as the Internal Revenue Service as a taxpayer advocate.

"I did my due diligence in deciding on a career and profession. I love my work as a tax accountant and business consultant. I had served many clients in various industries, and so I decided to step out on faith to establish my own company, Robinson Braswell Consulting Services, in January 1999."

Braswell says the consulting company provides jobs within the community of Charlotte and internships for college students majoring in business administration, accounting, and entrepreneurial studies.

When asked about her time at Lincoln and how it's made her who she is today, she speaks fondly of professors and her alma mater. "Professor Gabbin was a tough, no nonsense type of educator," Braswell recalls. "Strive for excellence in our chosen subject areas was Gabbin's challenge to us," she recalls. He also taught [the class] how to read and analyze the Wall Street Journal. "I recall one of our assignments included selecting stocks from multiple, publicly traded companies and maintaining a stock journal to record the transactions as we bought and sold stocks in our portfolio. At the end of the semester, we had to report on the performance of our portfolio."

*Photo by Bob Williams*

A few years after graduation, I obtained a securities and insurance license and was well prepared to compete at any level."

Another professor incorporated humor in their teaching style to drive home a point, like Dr. Alfred Farrell.

*Chairlady Braswell poses with members of the Student Government Association in front of Manuel Rivero Hall during the Alumni Family Gathering on July 15.*





“He would make fun of you if your sentences had any grammatical errors. We laughed so hard at his critiques to the point that we became so conscientious of our writing and the improvements were phenomenal. Thanks to Dr. Farrell, my writing and ability to research are of high standards.”

Braswell's a champion and fierce advocate for Lincoln University since her graduation in 1984. She established the Lincoln Lions Chamber of Commerce. As a consultant for the University, she also solicited alumni support for the Annual Fund, Student Enhancement Fund, and other projects to help students in need of financial aid. She helped her class in alumni fundraising during their 25th class reunion year, provided oversight, and managed Alumni Relations events as well as recruited, educated, and managed volunteers for alumni-driven events.

And of her alma mater, she attributes her overall professional successes to the foundation and development received while a student at Lincoln.

“I am very excited to be positioned to lead the Board of Trustees into a new era of governance,” Braswell said.

## Some of the Chairlady's Favorite Things

**Favorite Poem:** And Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

**Lincoln Professors Who Made the Greatest Impact**

Professor Alexander L. Gabbin: “Tough, no nonsense. He taught me how to read and analyze the Wall Street Journal.”

Dr. Alfred Farrell: “Strict, humorous. He taught me how to be a grammarian.”

Dr. Theresa Saunders: “Nice, competent, and patient. She taught me to play the piano.”

**The Legacy She Wants to Leave Lincoln:** Making being FIRST really matter. **L**



Lincoln Lions Chamber of Commerce is a business association that has been organized exclusively for the benefit of Lincoln alumni and students who are currently enrolled in the undergraduate and graduate programs on main campus and at University City in Philadelphia.

LLCC seeks to advance the legacy of Lincoln University with its mission to provide an assemblage for alumni who are executive-level professionals, entrepreneurs, business owners, community leaders, educational administrators, and others in the private and public sectors. Alumni are encouraged to re-engage with each other and reconnect with the institution's students in a supportive environment through networking and the provision of internships, cooperative education experiences, and job opportunities. LLCC aligns the mission of the University with its strategic goals, thereby promoting, solidifying, and burnishing Lincoln's heritage of excellence contemporaneously and futuristically.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ms. Terri Dean - Vice Chair  
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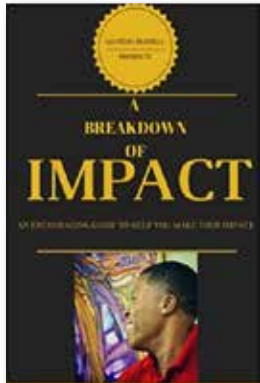
Honorable Andrew Dinniman

### Secretary of Education's Representative\*\*

Vacant



# LITERARY LINCOLN



## A BREAKDOWN OF IMPACT: An Encouraging Guide To Help You Make Your Impact

By Ashton S. Burrell '14, '17 MSB  
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform  
24 Pages  
\$12.10  
ISBN-10: 1537276255  
ISBN-13: 978-1537276250  
amazon.com  
Personal Transformation

“A Breakdown Of Impact: An Encouraging Guide to Help You Make Your Impact” author Ashton Burrell '14 is already an award-winning author, community leader, and the founder of the LIVE Mentorship Program.

He founded the mentorship program in 2011 while a sophomore at Lincoln to give back to youth in his community. Each week he would travel two hours from campus to his hometown of Highland Park, New Jersey, each Thursday evening to mentor at-risk adolescents and young adults between the ages of 9 and 19.

The book shares some of the lessons he has learned as he mentors young people to succeed in school and life. He calls the book “a guide to help in everyday life.”

Under Burrell’s leadership, the mentorship program provides leadership skills, self-confidence and a “can-do” attitude among its students through character-building service projects such as food drives, charity basketball games to collect canned goods, blanket drives for children in Malawi, Africa, and the annual Charity Games to raise cancer awareness. The members of LIVE Mentorship Program even cooked meals for families at the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick, which provides families lodging when they travel to New Brunswick for pediatric medical care.

To date, according Burrell, 100 percent of all seniors who have gone through the LIVE Mentorship Program have graduated high school.

Burrell earned a bachelor’s in 2014 and a master’s in 2017, both in business management from Lincoln.

Burrell’s efforts have earned him many accolades. He is the recipient of the 2013 Highland Park Martin Luther King Jr Humanitarian award and the 2016 Community Service Award from Johnson & Johnson. He received the 2017 P.E.A.R.L.S Community Service Award at the 16th Annual Maurice M. Williams Brunch, an award given each year to community leaders who have made significant contributions to making the Middlesex/Somerset county area a better place.

He was appointed in November 2014 to the Human Relations Advisory Board for the State of New Jersey and became the chairman for the Highland Park Human Relations Commission in February 2015. Under the commission, Burrell organized discussions involving the police department, LGBTQ, and his town’s citizen to build a stronger community, such as creating a program for children on free and reduced lunch to have lunch for every day school is out of session. Listen to Burrell on his talk show, “Talk of the Town with Ashton Burrell,” which airs in New Jersey on Fios and Cablevision on local access stations Friday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Ashton Burrell graduated in 2010 from Highland Park High school. Burrell is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the NAACP New Brunswick Branch Executive Board.

Learn more about Burrell’s story [ashtonburrell.com](http://ashtonburrell.com).

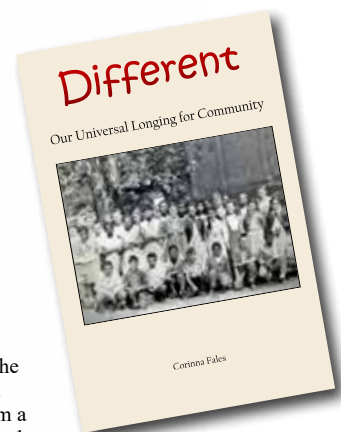
## DIFFERENT

By Corinna Fales  
Pacific Raven Press  
254 pages  
\$19.95 paperback/\$12.00 Kindle  
ISBN-10: 0986075590  
ISBN-13: 978-0986075599  
Politics & Social Sciences  
Amazon.com

Plunging readers into disturbing and contemporary terrain of the human heart, the author — a daughter of Jewish refugees — interviews individuals from Lincoln University where she grew up before passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. From a prominent Black civil-rights leader to the White son of an alleged KKK member, her interviews form an original history that illuminates our strengths and our universal difficulty with diversity.

We have become so guarded and careful, so concerned about saying the wrong thing, that we do not interact or communicate genuinely with each other. Fear and dishonesty, politically disguised as kindness and sensitivity, abort the possibility of real change. But the down-to-earth community portrait of Lincoln University that emerges in *Different*, and the author’s realistic and refreshing perspective on the human beings we are, create a breathing space and a way to move forward.

Ever wonder why we have always had a troubled relationship with the fact that we’re different--the very fabric of human existence? Here’s why, and here’s hope.







## EMBRACING YOUR DIFFERENCE Erasing Fear While Finding Purpose

The Self Publishing Maven  
115 of Pages  
\$19.99 paperback  
ISBN: 13: 978-0-9988084-0-6  
Self Help/Motivation  
embraceyourdifference.com

### Woman Entrepreneur Overcomes Injury, Publishes Second Book *Shares her Experiences as a Therapist, Life Coach, and Motivational Speaker*

Venice R. Garner-Moore '04 suffered the loss of her memory and missed her freshman year of high school. "My guidance counselor told me to drop out and get my GED. I told her, 'no ma'am, I am not giving up'," Garner-Moore said.

Her recent inspirational book, "Embracing My Difference-Erasing Fear While Finding Purpose," released in 2017, encourages readers to embrace challenges as a part of life and let go of fear to finally reach their purpose. In "Embracing My Difference," Garner-Moore is transparent about her journey and speaks about key components to living a full life to embrace your difference.

Garner-Moore went on to earn a master's clinical social work at the University of Maryland's School of Social Work, then worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in therapeutic foster care. Most recently she's the executive director of a private special education school providing a structured therapeutic environment and enhanced academics to students with mental health and learning disabilities in Connecticut. After seven years, she says she was ready to put her ideas and passion into practice and set out on her own.

"It was hard leaving a well-paying job and company after seven years but I had to step out on faith."

She founded Embracing Your Difference, LLC, in 2015 as a private practice and motivational firm in New Haven County, Connecticut, where she continues to motivate and inspire people through individual and couples therapy, self-esteem enhancement, young mothers and post-partum workshops and support groups, Licensed Clinical Social Worker supervision, and a mentoring program. She speaks in various cities promoting her book and to motivate, inspire, and help women, men, and young adults reach their full potential and embrace their difference. Each year she hosts the annual Embrace Your Difference conference.

The Bronx, New York, native majored in English communication and human services at Lincoln. Garner-Moore earned the title of Miss Lincoln University and published her first book of poetry, "Because I am Different" at the age of 21.

Garner-Moore is a member of the Order of Eastern Star and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



## BLACK COWBOYS IN THE AMERICAN WEST: On the Range, on the Stage, Behind the Badge

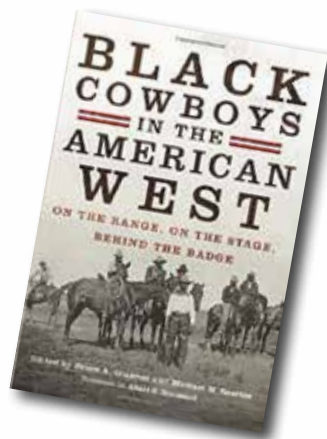
256 pages  
\$24.95 paperback  
Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press (September 22, 2016)  
ISBN-10: 0806154063  
ISBN-13: 978-0806154060  
amazon.com



Demetrius Pearson '75 has contributed to the book "Black Cowboys in the American West: On the Range, on the Stage, Behind the Badge," which has won the Ray and Pat Browne Award for Best Edited Collection in Popular Culture and American Culture. Pearson, a faculty member at the University of Houston, wrote Chapter 6 titled, "Shadow Riders of the Subterranean Circuit: A Descriptive Account of Black Rodeo in the Texas Gulf Coast Region".

The book surveys the life and work of black cowboys — drovers, foremen, fiddlers, cowpunchers, cattle rustlers, cooks, singers, and cattle drivers from the years before the Civil War through the turn of the twentieth century. The book was edited by Bruce A. Glasrud and Michael N. Searles with a foreword by Albert S. Broussard.

Pearson earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Lincoln in 1975, a master's degree in education from Case Western Reserve University in 1976, and a doctorate in physical education at University of Houston in 1990.



# RECONNECTING WITH LINCOLN'S ROOTS: REBIRTH OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

In July 2017, Brenda A. Allen became Lincoln's first alumna president and only the second female president in its 163 year history. In a sit-down interview in the stately 1906 President's Residence, she recalled her first memories of campus, her most influential professors, and the vision that becomes more crystalized each day she listens to the many stakeholders at Lincoln—a vision that involves returning to Lincoln's roots as a liberal arts institution.





*Photo by Brian Bernas*

**B**y the time Brenda A. Allen first stepped foot on Lincoln's campus for summer placement testing, she was already committed to attending.

She traveled by car from northern New Jersey with her parents, through winding roads surrounded by cornfields brimming with cows and horses, and because the setting was so unfamiliar it was then that she had fleeting second thoughts about her decision to attend the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black College & University.

But any trace of those hesitations dissipated when she met the faculty and staff that would be her teachers, mentors, advisers, and counselors for the next four years. She remembers that Lincoln was the first campus that she had visited where she wasn't referred to as a "minority."

"I believe in divine intervention, karma," she says. "It was right."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A SENSE OF PLACE

While many students from Philadelphia or nearby communities went home on many weekends, Allen spent most weekends on campus, a fact that she sometimes lamented, that is until one weekend she happened to be outside and saw her professor and advisor Henry G. Cornwell jogging on campus.

Cornwell was a 1933 Lincoln graduate and first chair of Lincoln's Department of Psychology. He taught statistics and instilled in her "a love for numbers, data, and manipulating statistics." During that brief encounter, he told her that she was fortunate that she lived so far away and could not get home because that meant she could stay on campus and take advantage of all that the campus afforded—on-campus amenities such as tennis, swimming, bowling.

"In that conversation, my thinking completely changed. I learned how fundamental place is in a student's experience in college."

When Cornwell retired, she was the first recipient of the award created in his honor. Throughout her teaching career she has taught statistics and research methods similar to the way he taught his class in the late 1970s.

## BEYOND LINCOLN

As a senior, she began applying to graduate schools. Because of her outstanding grades at Lincoln, her professors expected her to get into the top schools. But she didn't.

"My materials must have been horrible," she recalls of the admissions materials that she wrote without any review from her professors.

That's when another influential professor, Dr. Charles Duncan, stepped in and connected her with faculty at Howard University, which is where she would spend the next six years earning her master's and doctorate degrees in psychology.

Karma had influenced her path again.

"That was the exact place I needed to be," she says. "Howard worked me like nobody's business."

After Howard, she completed a three-year post doctorate program at

Yale University, the private Ivy League research university in New Haven, Connecticut. Founded in 1701, it is the third-oldest institution of higher education in the United States and consistently ranked one of the best institutions of higher education in the country.

"It meant greater currency for my Lincoln degree and greater currency for my Howard degree."

But even though the education and experience gave her an invaluable three years of rigorous academic training, which sharpened her skills and academic prowess, her mind wandered back to her time at Lincoln. "My experiences were so rich at Lincoln." "While there was so much [at Yale], there was something missing."

She secured her first tenure-track teaching position at Smith College, a private, independent liberal arts college, located in Northampton, Massachusetts. In 2017, U.S. News & World Report ranked Smith tied for 12th among the best National Liberal Arts Colleges.

A few years after Allen arrived at Smith, Ruth Simmons, who had just become Smith's president in 1995, invited her into the president's house to get to know her.

"She asked me what my goal was, and I told her it was to become president at an HBCU, preferably at Lincoln University."

Right then, Simmons became one of Allen's strongest allies in

formulating and putting plans in place to reach her goal of becoming president at an HBCU.

After she was well-established as a tenured professor, Simmons offered her the role of assistant to the president and director of institutional diversity. At the time, Allen was the only U.S. minority in the sciences at Smith.

"I got good at relationships."

After three years as chief diversity officer, Allen applied for a new, cabinet-level position at Brown University in Providence,

Rhode Island, as associate provost and director of institutional diversity.

Usually diversity positions are housed in other departments, but this position was housed in academic affairs, something that offered Allen the opportunity to recruit and develop faculty.

She was now also broadening her administrative experiences, gaining problem-solving skills across a range of university units including student affairs, human resources, and facilities management.

As the chief diversity officer at Brown, the cabinet-level position provided a look at operations across the university, something that would later be crucial to Allen's later positions that demanded knowledge of every aspect of operating a university. However, she didn't see the position as much of a challenge as she was looking for.

Something about that conversation with Simmons during her first days at Smith College still remained with Allen. After six years at Brown, she was adamant about returning to her HBCU roots.

"In some people's mind it was a step backward to go to an HBCU."

At the time, Winston-Salem State University, a historically black public research university located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was looking for a provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. She was just the person they were looking for.



Photo by Brian Bernas



She served at Winston-Salem for eight years as the chief academic and budget officer with responsibility for all academic and budgetary functions. She reformed the curriculum to ensure a strong liberal arts basis and oversaw the establishment of the school's first two doctoral programs.

## RETURNING TO LINCOLN

In her first two months at Lincoln, she calls the biggest surprise “that there are no surprises.”

She says that no problem she has encountered is new, however, the same problem that she encountered elsewhere might require a different way to solve it.

“There’s no cookbook recipe for solving a problem.”

“Thank God for all the experiences that prepared me for this position, for all that I went through, for the people who have given me access and engaged me at the table.”

She says she plans to use her collection of experiences — and the experiences of the faculty and staff on campus — to make sure that Lincoln avoids revisiting any past crisis a second time.

Her biggest challenge now: slowing down.

“I’m a quick study, always have been, but I have to keep telling myself to slow down, take your time, but also balance that with an urgency for direction.”

Her home on campus in the President’s Residence affords her a quiet place to retreat to and reflect, but also to host gatherings and get to know her new team, just as Ruth Simmons did at Smith College many years ago.

## DEFINING THE LINCOLN EXPERIENCE

This fall, she wants to focus on defining Lincoln’s market — its branding and what makes it distinctive. To accomplish this, she says she will listen and gather a wide range of input.

At the September board meeting, she plans to have a clear sense of Lincoln’s financial situation, educational philosophy, and student support needs to give them the big picture of the future.

“That’s when I need their support to create a path that’s uniquely Lincoln.”

She says with every conversation, she has the sense that she’s on the right path. Now it’s a matter of getting the plan onto paper—which a consultant will be brought in to assist with—and then operationalizing the plan.

She expects alumni to have a voice in the direction, and she will ensure their voice is heard by asking alumni to serve on the planning committee, going to chapter meetings, holding focus meetings, and using technology to keep those at a distance engaged through livestreaming and surveys.

She says a plan will define what faculty and staff do daily.

“When everyone’s working toward a common goal, you begin to see progress.”

She says by January, her goal is for everyone at Lincoln to be learning what she calls “a new language.”

“Alumni should listen for the language. Everything becomes the language of the community.”

## REBIRTH OF THE LIBERAL ARTS AT LINCOLN

As she did at Winston-Salem, Allen envisions reforming the curriculum to ensure a strong liberal arts basis, which she says is the model Lincoln was founded on.

“We’ve moved farther and farther from the classic liberal arts curriculum.”

Nevertheless, she is confident, “It’s in our DNA.”

The Association of American Colleges & Universities defines a “liberal education” as an “approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.”

She envisions Lincoln giving every student —especially those from underserved populations — a quality 21st century liberal arts education where students learn critical thinking, both inside and outside the classroom. A curriculum where choice, freedom, and exploration are encouraged.

She says the student’s major becomes secondary because they learn to be problem solvers.

“So they can go out into the world and be whatever they want to be.”

She says of her own education at Lincoln, “I didn’t leave just knowing psychology.”

“Lincoln students can learn about the history and culture of African Americans, not in place of the cannons in their field, but to understand how they fit, to gain a broader perspective.”

What will it take to get us to this model of a liberal education? She says this fall the University will rethink the master plan and rethink how staff and faculty do their work. The University will need to make a greater investment in faculty and staff.

“She acknowledges that this rethinking will come at a cost. “High touch is high cost.” It will mean raising more funds and allocating the dollars we have more effectively. **L**

# OFTEN-CONFUSED TERMS

**LIBERAL EDUCATION:** An approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. This approach emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility; strong intellectual and practical skills that span all major fields of study, such as communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills;

and the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

**LIBERAL ARTS:** Specific disciplines (i.e., the humanities, sciences, and social sciences).

**LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE:** A particular type of institution—often small, often residential—that facilitates close interaction between faculty and students, and whose curriculum is grounded in the liberal arts disciplines.

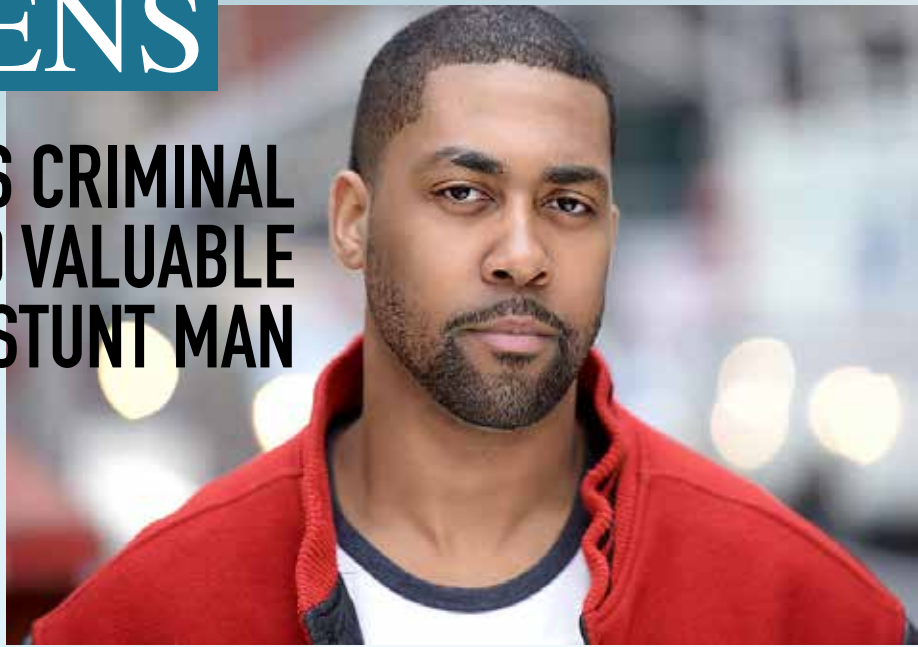
**GENERAL EDUCATION:** That part of a liberal education curriculum that is shared by all students. It provides broad exposure to multiple disciplines and forms the basis for developing essential intellectual, civic, and practical capacities. General education can take many forms, and increasingly includes introductory, advanced, and integrative forms of learning.

Source: Association of American Colleges & Universities, <https://www.aacu.org/leap/what-is-a-liberal-education>

# LINCOLN IN THE LENS

## POLICE OFFICER TURNS CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING INTO VALUABLE SKILLS AS AN ACTOR, STUNT MAN

**J**oseph D. Fisher '10 has always loved the entertainment industry, so much so that he earned the nickname "Hollywood" by his colleagues on the police force in the City of Baltimore. The Sicklerville, New Jersey native served on the Baltimore force for five years, during which time he was SWAT trained. Fisher's efforts were lauded repeatedly; he earned awards such as Officer of the Year, Officer of the



Month, and numerous awards for taking handguns off the streets and finding wanted criminals. By the end of his time with the force, he was in charge of a special unit under the deputy police commissioner to help deter crime in the city.

While still on the force in 2013, Fisher participated in the International Modeling & Talent Association competition in New York and took home four trophies for acting including the runner up trophy for Actor of the Year. It was at IMTA that he says he realized that others in the industry saw his acting potential and he decided after a five-year career in police work to follow his passion and pursue his acting career.


Thanks to his police training, he now counts stage combat, advanced driver training, and weapons training among his relevant skills for acting. He most recently wrote, directed, and produced a feature film called "ICE: Chapter 1" by Supreme Productions. The film is based off the true story of

Fisher's life and the trials and tribulations he had growing up while trying to find his true purpose in life. The film details his life stages such as college and joining the police force. The film is currently in post-production and Fisher plans to pitch it to networks once completed.

He is a series regular on a new TV pilot called KittyCiti where he plays the role of Jake Johnson, a driven detective. This series focuses on domestic violence in America and the consequences that are rarely talked about in America today.

Fisher has also starred in shows such as "The Daily Show" (Comedy Central), "For My Man" (TV One), "Oprah's Masterclass" (OWN), "Hack My Life" (truTV), "Fatal Attraction" (TV One), and more.

Joseph graduated from Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He is a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. Epsilon Epsilon Chapter where he held the title of Polaris.

To learn more, visit [www.josephdfisher.com](http://www.josephdfisher.com) or contact his agent, Arthur Massei with TalentINK NY-Chicago-LA, at [nyoffice@talentink.net](mailto:nyoffice@talentink.net). 





# IMPROVING YOUNG LIVES

## RABBLE FEATURE



Photo by Lisa Shires

*Bronwyn Mayden '74 serves as the assistant dean in the University of Maryland School of Social Work and as executive director of Promise Heights. She has an extensive history in program planning, policy development, community organizing, health promotion and marketing in the public and nonprofit arenas. As assistant dean, she is responsible for the overall performance and viability of the Office of Continuing Professional Education — the second largest continuing profession education program for social workers in the country.*

*She also is responsible for Promise Heights, the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) program that seeks to improve the health, educational, and developmental outcomes for children and their families in one of the most distressed communities in West Baltimore. Under her leadership, PH was named a federal Promise Neighborhood.*

*Mayden has been honored for her work with Promise Heights by the University System of Maryland's Board of Regents for Public Service in 2015 and was named the UMB Public Servant of the Year in 2017.*

*She received her master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work in 1977 and her bachelor's degree from Lincoln University in 1974. She is married and is the proud mother of two sons, Adam and John.*

From her early days as an advocate for adolescent and reproductive health and civil rights, to her current work as executive director of Promise Heights, an academic-community partnership in one of Baltimore's neediest communities, Bronwyn Mayden is dedicated to improving the lives of young people and their families.

"I am proud of work the University of Maryland, Baltimore is doing in West Baltimore," says Mayden. "All of the UMB schools work in the Promise Heights community on this initiative."

Promise Heights is a cradle-to-college-to-career program in the West Baltimore neighborhoods of Upton and Druid Heights. Representatives of UMB's six professional schools base their work in the four public schools there to reach students, families, and residents as they move through the pipeline of services and programs, many of them originated or coordinated by UMB.

Mayden and her team use a framework of school and community indicators to measure how well they're doing on behalf of the neighborhoods' students and families. The program is partially funded through a U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods grant, but also by the Maryland State Department of Education, the Family League of Baltimore, and local foundations. Promise Heights partners with faith-based, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Mayden was drawn to social work because of her childhood

experiences with civil rights. She recalls the day her mother and older sister marched to integrate a Baltimore amusement park, and someone spat on her sister.

Around that time, Mayden's elementary school was one of the first to integrate in Baltimore City. "I didn't understand why the kindergarten teacher treated me differently from my peers," she says. "My schoolwork was never displayed on bulletin boards, and rarely was I called upon in class. I believe that injustice ignited my desire to become involved in social justice issues."

Today, Mayden and her colleagues improve the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children and families. "Working with a dedicated staff, we try to make sure every child receives whatever he or she needs, whether it is help with math, counseling because of a crisis at home, or simply a pair of eyeglasses," says Mayden. "We want every child to be healthy and successful."

Mayden, an alumna of UMB's School of Social Work, says she's most inspired by "the children and families, how they work so hard to overcome the odds." Like her mother, a career public school teacher, she thrives on the rewards that come from helping shape future generations.



Photo by Lisa Shires

"Bronwyn has a remarkably fast mind, enormous stamina, the capacity to make strong relationships quickly and nurture them for years, the clarity to work with a wide array of people to develop powerful ideas for community engagement and improvement, and to get funding for them," says Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, dean of the School of Social Work. "Bronwyn's dedication to improving the culture of parenting and the educational programs in West Baltimore knows no bounds. I count myself most fortunate to know this champion for change."

L

*Adapted and reprinted with permission of the Champions of Excellence series at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. View Mayden's story and others at [www.umaryland.edu/champions/](http://www.umaryland.edu/champions/).*

# HOMECOMING CAPSTONE: AN EVENING OF ART AND FINE WINE IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT RESEARCH

By Angela M. Davis '70

Homecoming has been a hallmark event at Lincoln for more than a century.

Alumni return to campus one more time. They share memories of good times past. They tell members of their class the story of their lives in the years since graduation. Frequently, perhaps inevitably, they talk about how the Lincoln experience made a positive difference in their lives.

The capstone event of this year's Homecoming will be about the future. It will inaugurate a program to enhance the contribution Lincoln will make to the career success of those who graduate in future years.

*Lincoln University and the Barnes Foundation will host a reception on the last day of Homecoming weekend to launch the Endowed Undergraduate Student Research Scholarship Fund.*



The scholarships will support the work of selected undergraduate students who undertake scholarly projects that contribute new insights in their chosen academic fields. A distinctive feature of the research projects will be formal student-faculty collaboration on research intended for publication in scholarly and professional journals and publications.

The October 22 reception at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia will be the culminating event of this year's Homecoming weekend and is a partnership of Lincoln University and the Barnes Foundation. The purpose of the event is to promote and secure financial support for the endowed scholarship fund.

Attendees will enjoy fine wines, delectable hors d'oeuvres, and private tours of the world-renowned art collection at the Barnes Foundation that includes classic

works of artists such as Picasso, Renoir, Cezanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Monet and Modigliani.

The Endowed Undergraduate Student Research Scholarship Fund is the product of a yearlong collaboration of the University and the Class of 1970.

Tickets to the October 22 Barnes Reception are \$75. All proceeds support the endowed scholarship fund.

Tickets and additional information are available at [www.lincoln.edu/barnesreception](http://www.lincoln.edu/barnesreception) or by contacting Institutional Advancement at 484-365-7440 or [sburruss@lincoln.edu](mailto:sburruss@lincoln.edu).

The event will be from 6–9 p.m. at the Barnes Foundation located at 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia.

Lincoln has contributed much to the success in life and career of its graduates. This event is your opportunity to give future students the same foundation for life that you, your classmates, and friends have enjoyed.

The event is cohosted by Dr. Brenda A. Allen, president, and Theresa R. Braswell, chairlady. **L**

*Angela M. Davis, president of the Class of 1970, is a retired faculty member and administrator at the University of Virginia.*





# LINCOLN NAMED BEST FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR LAUNCHING STUDENTS INTO HIGH-PAYING JOBS

RABBLE FEATURE

Lincoln University has been ranked No. 1 among all four-year universities in Pennsylvania for student mobility according to a new study.

The mobility rate is the percentage of students who come from families in the bottom fifth of incomes and end up in the top fifth of incomes.

On the list of more than 2,200 colleges, in Pennsylvania among four-year schools ranked highest for mobility are (in order): Lincoln, University of the Sciences, Drexel, and Temple.

Each school's mobility rate is based on several factors: access, or the fraction of its students who

come from families in the bottom fifth; and success rate, or the fraction of such students who reach the top fifth.

While Ivy League schools have the highest success rate, the study shows that less selective schools have comparable success rates to Ivy League schools while offering much higher levels of access to low-income families.

The study, called The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility and published in July 2017 by the Equality of Opportunity Project, analyzes the role of colleges in upward income mobility by constructing publicly available mobility report cards — estimates of students' earnings in their early thirties and their parents' incomes — for each college in America.

The study uses de-identified data from the federal government covering all college students from 1999-2013, building on the Department of Education's College Scorecard.

In outcomes, at any given college, students from low- and high-income families have very similar earnings outcomes. **L**



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**Dr. Brenda Allen '81**  
*President, Lincoln University*



*Honoree*  
**Ms. Theresa Braswell '84**  
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**Tickets: \$75 | Visit Eventbrite, keywords: AALU New York Metro**

## LINCOLN NAMED TO "BEST OF" LISTS

Lincoln has claimed the No. 7 spot in College Choice's recently released ranking of the Best Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

Lincoln has been named one of the country's "Best Colleges" by MONEY Magazine in 2017.



# CLASS NOTES

## Exposing High School Students to COLLEGE

**Britney Stephens '09**, and fellow HBCU graduate Blake Nathan, brought together HBCUs from across the country in August. They met on August 3 in Atlanta, Georgia for the four-day event known as the HBCU Summer Fest, which showcases the relevancy and importance of HBCUs. They aim to reach aspiring and current students as well as HBCU alums.

The HBCU Summer Fest hosted a series of fundraising events to raise money for scholarships and programming under the Educate ME Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides minority high school students with mentoring services, scholarships, and college tours. Educate ME has drawn the attention of high profile celebrities such as P.Diddy and T.I. who have been active in donating funds and assisting in the recruitment of minority teachers.

Stephens says it is her duty as an HBCU alumna to give back what was given to her, and she says the Educate ME Foundation does just that. The Foundation stands to close the minority deficiency gap in education by exposing high school students to college, serving as an agent for HBCU students by employing them in partnering school districts, and by bringing HBCUs together for the HBCU Summer Fest.



### 1960s



**Morris Fried '68**, vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Collin County, Texas, spoke at the monthly convening at Collin College Spring Creek campus in Plano, Texas this past February.

Fried, of Jewish ancestry, recalled being one of about eight to 12 resident white students from 1964 through 1968 at Lincoln University. His historical perspective of someone who experienced education at one of the first HBCU campuses in the nation, shared Lincoln University stories dating back its inception in 1832, giving allegiance to Lincoln alumnus such as Horace Mann Bond, the first African-American president of Lincoln; Thurgood Marshall; and Robert Lee Carter.

**Earl M. Simpkins '63**, also a Collin County resident and SCLC member, joined the conversation in the celebration of black history, past, present, and future. The SCLC focuses on progressing the work for social, economic, and political justice by maintaining the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today and beyond."

### 1970s

**Ronald Hunt\*** was honored by the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame's Delaware County Chapter as its Class of 2017 at a recent awards dinner held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Claymont, Delaware. The track and field star won the district and state championships in the triple jump as a Chester High senior and became the first athlete from Delaware County to triple jump more than 50 feet. He won silver and bronze medals in the triple jump competing in the NCAA Division III Meet for Lincoln University.



**Sheila Oliver '74** has been selected by New Jersey Democratic gubernatorial nominee Phil Murphy to be his running mate for the office of Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey. Oliver currently serves as an elected state assemblywoman, an office she has held since 2004. In 2010 she became the first black woman to serve as Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, a position she held until 2014.

Murphy and Oliver are running in the November general election to replace term-limited Gov. Chris Christie. The lieutenant governor is first in the line of gubernatorial succession, and serves as acting governor when the sitting governor is out of the state. Oliver had previously served on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1996 to 1999. She was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, and has a sociology degree from Lincoln.

**Boyce C. Williams**, an internationally renowned educator in the field of P-20 education and public policy, has been appointed interim dean of the College of Education at Frostburg State University in Maryland. At Lincoln, Williams earned a bachelor's degree in English.



### 1980s

**Norman G. Suber '80** was recently named athletic director of Cabarrus Charter Academy in Concord, North Carolina, a K-12 public charter school in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area. He will be responsible for all aspects of middle and high school sports. For two years prior to this appointment, Suber served as the athletic director at another Charlotte-area charter school, Corvian Community



School, where he started their athletics program and developed it to include eight competitive sports. In addition, he has over 12 years of high school coaching experience at two State basketball powerhouses, St. Mary's and Vance, in New York and North Carolina, respectively. Suber is also the owner and director of Player Development for NoWu Training, a sports training company, as well as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

**Lavonne Freeman '84** has been appointed director of youth and family services at United Counseling Service in Bennington, Vermont. Freeman will be responsible for the clinical and administrative oversight of the agency's system of care for children and families. Freeman graduated with bachelor's in human services from Lincoln in 1984.



**Deitra "Dee" Bailey-Gittens '86** has won the 2017 Aletha R. Wright Excellance Award in Early Care and Education presented by the New Jersey Early Care and Education Alliance. Bailey-Gittens is the head teacher at the Broadway Family Center's Abbott Preschool Program. She resides in Burlington County, New Jersey.

**Ralph Etienne-Cummings '88**, recognized as one of the top 25 electrical engineering professors in the world, met with the Seychelles President Danny Faure at State House on August 4. Etienne-Cummings is a professor and chair of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where he specializes in neuromorphic engineering, applied neuroscience, robotics, and prosthetics. His discussions with the president focused on various issues to do with science and mathematics, including how to make the youths more interested in these two subjects, according to a newspaper article in The Nation (Seychelles) newspaper. Etienne-Cummings, a native of the Seychelles, received his bachelor's degree in physics from Lincoln and went to earn both his master's in and doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990 and 1994, respectively. *Photo courtesy of Johns Hopkins University.*



## 2000s



**Rebecca Flood '02** was honored by the renowned Ashley Addiction Treatment at its 10th anniversary Mae Abraham Luncheon on May 17. The annual event recognizes Mae Abraham, who co-founded Ashley Addiction Treatment. Flood, who is CEO of New Directions for Women, was honored for her vision and work as a national ambassador for recovery and the advancement of women.

Throughout more than 30 years of experience in the addiction treatment field, she has made great strides for the women-only addiction treatment center in Costa Mesa, California, one of the few in the country treating pregnant women and mothers with children. In addition to her current role of 13 years as New Directions CEO, and earlier as vice president of treatment services at Seabrook House in New Jersey, Flood donates much of her time to providing training for nonprofits at national conferences such as a Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities surveyor and serves on multiple international, national, and local boards with a mission of serving their communities.



**Janet Jones '04** graduated from the Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Development Institute of Greater Harrisburg on June 25. The mission of the MLK Leadership Institute is, "To prepare and empower individuals committed to exercising creative leadership to improve conditions in the Greater Harrisburg community." Jones is the director of specialized services for Gaudenzia, a non-profit that helps individuals and families affected by drug and alcohol dependency, mental illness, and related conditions. She earned a master's degree in human services from Lincoln. She also founded a youth program called Positive Image.

Lincoln University Athletics Hall of Famer **Mary Rotimi '07** has been named Claflin University's head volleyball coach. After her record-setting career as a standout basketball player at Lincoln, Rotimi started her coaching career at Delaware County Community College where she served as head coach for the women's basketball and volleyball teams for two seasons. Next, she served as the assistant women's basketball coach at Wilmington University from 2012-14 and the head women's volleyball coach at Manor College in 2012-13. In 2013-14, Rotimi spent one season as the assistant athletic director and head volleyball coach at Cedar Crest College before moving to the Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia.



**Mark Collier '09** has signed an exclusive record deal with the newly formed record label Partner Music Company. The Delaware and Pennsylvania native has spent more than 10 years in the music industry working as a songwriter, vocalist, producer, and director.



His illustrious career has allowed him to work alongside numerous renowned gospel artists such as The Temptations, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Donnie McClurkin, Marvin Sapp, Kierra Sheard, Earnest Pugh, Tasha Cobbs, JJ Hairston, and Tye Tribbett.

His musical talent and knowledge of the gospel music industry gained him the local and national spotlight in 2013. His hit single "Keep Holding On" won the Song of the Year award

on several markets and held the No. 1 and 2 spots for several weeks on numerous international gospel music charts.

## 2010s

Internet news site HBCU Buzz, recently named **Regan Farley '12** as one of their Top 30 Under 30 college graduates. Farley is the co-owner of My PR Agency and a communications associate at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Throughout her career she has worked with a multitude of prominent organizations such as CBS Television, Def Jam Records, NBCUniversal and PS Media Talent. Her passion for issues concerning healthcare and higher education has led her to partner with The Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles and New York, as well as Big Brother Big Sister. Farley is a contributor to Black Enterprise and Diva Gals Daily.

**Kemoli Charles '14** is the head specialist track and field coach at Cardinal O'hara High School in Springfield where he has helped athletes advance to both state and national championships. At



Lincoln, the St. Thomas, Virgin Islands native participated on the track and field team. In addition to coaching, he is also a full-time published model, having participated in the New York Fashion Week, Paris Fashion Week, Canada and others. He has worked for international and celebrity designers; been published in various magazines; and made an appearance on the television show “The Real” which features a group of outspoken female hosts going through varied life experiences.

**Alexis Collier '16** is a student at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and a Horace Mann Bond Scholarship recipient. Before deciding to attend Temple, she received acceptances from seven schools. She says she chose Temple because they have dual MD/ MBA program that enables students to graduate in four years. After her anticipated graduation from Temple in 2021, her goal is to open her “own healthcare practice as a charismatic and passionate physician.” Collier earned a bachelor’s in biology and was the salutatorian of her Lincoln class.



**Jhasmyrn Curry '16** has joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., as a security assistant. Curry graduated from Lincoln with a degree in criminal justice and minor in computer science.

**Jamar Earnest '16** is working for Google in San Mateo, California, in their YouTube television division performing customer support. He previously worked for Apple Maps. He is also the founder of Drips — or “dreams revealed in purpose & struggle” — a clothing line “to influence and inspire the culture to not only know thy self but to change they society.” Earnest earned his bachelor’s in mass communications. Learn more at the website [drips.site/](http://drips.site/)



**Samantha Casey '17** has entered a Nurse Residency Program in Atlanta, Georgia, at Emory University Hospital. The program will support Casey’s transition from an entry-level nurse to a successful competent nurse. The Fontana, California, native earned a bachelor’s in nursing.

**Ezra Connell '17**, an engineering science and mathematics double major, from North Philadelphia has accepted a job offer from Lockheed Martin Corporation.



**Kojo Frimpong '17** worked with his mentor, Young Ji Lee, to develop a detailed clinical model for assessing nausea in ovarian cancer patients at the University of Pittsburgh this past summer. Since then, he has accepted a position as a registered nurse in the hospital’s Intensive Care Unit. The Ghana native earned a bachelor’s in nursing at Lincoln.



**Chisom Ihejirika '17** earned the Horace Mann Bond-Leslie Pinckney Hill Scholarship, which will cover all tuition, fees, and materials as he begins at Pennsylvania State University’s School of Law this fall. He also received two additional scholarships totaling \$30,000 that will serve as a stipend. Ihejirika earned a degree in political science and accounting and earned a pre-law certificate. He plans to pursue corporate law.

**Abreah Little '17** is attending graduate school in neuroscience at Drexel University. The Baltimore native earned a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and molecular biology.



**Perewari Pere '17**, Adaka Iguniwei '17, Richard Igbiriki '17, Ikurumor (Mabel) Ogiriki '17, and Donald Nyingifa '17 have co-founded a technology company called Afridash.



**Tyshana L. Rhoden-Brunson '17** obtained a full time career as a direct support professional at Keystone Human Services. She is also employed full time at Bank of America as a collections and recovery specialist.



**Deborah Roseboro '17** was hired by Verizon and recently graduated from the Finance Leadership Development Program in Lake Mary, Florida. The New Jersey native earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting.



**Doneisha Steele '17**, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, now living in Newark, Delaware, accepted a full scholarship and stipend to pursue a doctorate in electrical engineering at the University of Delaware. She earned bachelor’s degrees from Lincoln in engineering science and mathematics.



\* Attended but did not graduate from Lincoln University.

Send us your alumni news! Be sure to include your graduation year and a photo, if available. Visit [www.lincoln.edu/shareyourstory](http://www.lincoln.edu/shareyourstory) to submit your update.



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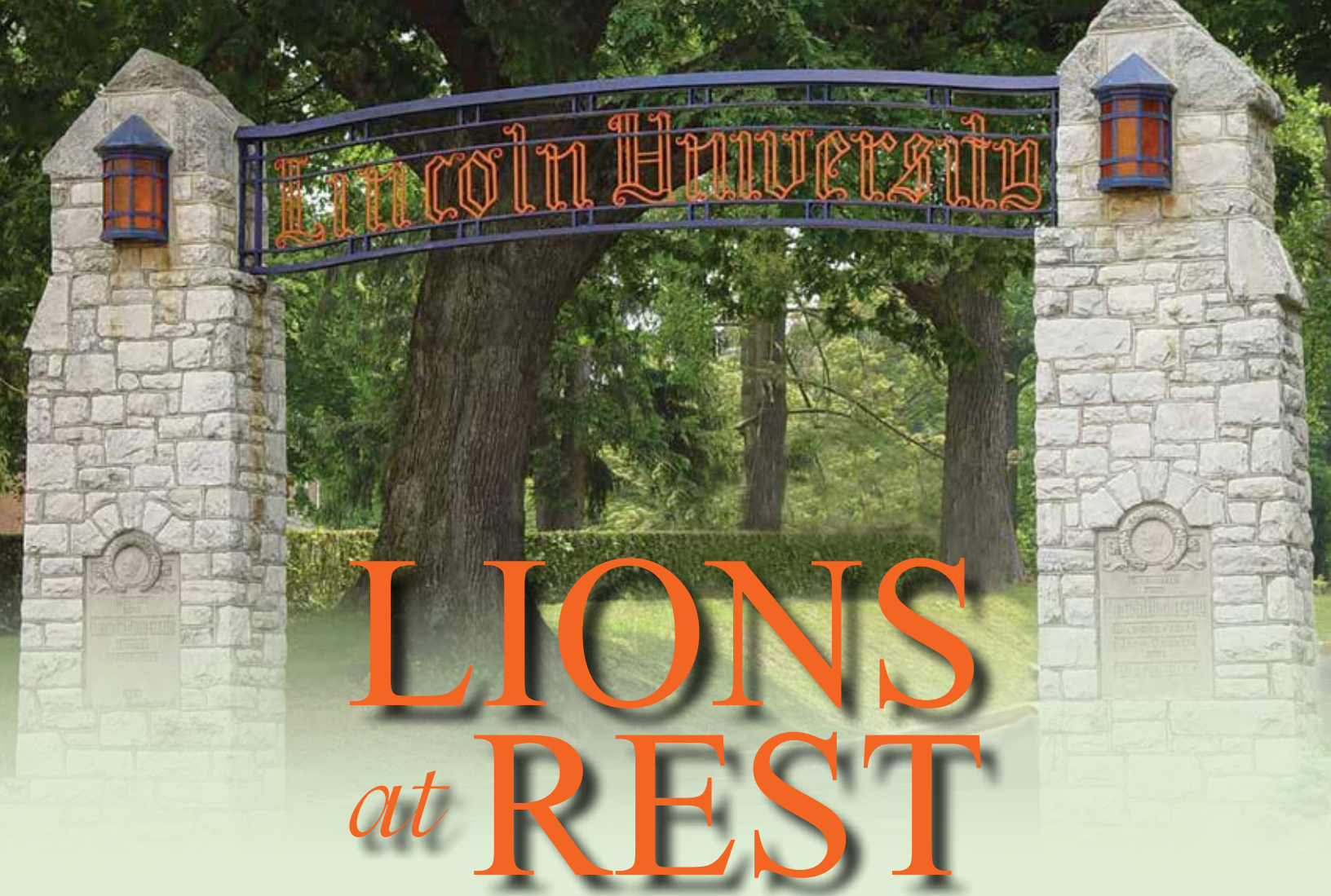
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*\*Correction from Lion – Fall/Winter 2016 and Summer 2017: In the previous editions, the granddaughter of the late Calvin L. Hackney '52 was incorrectly identified. Mr. Hackney's granddaughter is Ashley N. Hackney '14 and his daughter is Denise A. Hackney-Starkey '79.*

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