

LCU REFLECTIONS



**Texas Rangers'
Josh Hamilton
visits LCU** pg 4

**Dr. L. Ken
Jones named
Chancellor of
LCU** pg 16

**LCU partners
with Covenant
School of
Nursing** pg 25

From the Chancellor



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The mission of *Reflections* is to provide alumni and friends of LCU with news, information and inspiration regarding the university and each other.

Reflections Staff:

Editor: Warren McNeill

Art Director: Kris Tryon

Managing Editor: Kelli Childre

Sports Information: Chris Due, Kelly Robinson

Cover Design: Kris Tryon

Cover Photo: Kris Tryon

Photographers: Brandon Grace, John King, Deb Layton, Kris Tryon

Contributing Writers: Kelli Childre, Dr. L. Ken Jones, Warren McNeill, Kelly Robinson, Jerry Shelton, and Kris Tryon

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Front Cover: Josh Hamilton talks with local media before the Heart & Soul of Baseball event.

Back Cover: Stage of the Heart & Soul of Baseball event in the McDonald Moody Auditorium.

Here we are at the end of another academic year – 2010-2011. Each of us continues to be amazed at how quickly time passes by. This issue of *Reflections* is another of our efforts to keep you informed concerning events and blessings here on campus.

Thinking about how quickly time passes by, it is difficult to think that I am ending my 18th year at Lubbock Christian University. They have been wonderful years for my family and me. Suz and I have thought and prayed for some time about the appropriate length we should serve in the presidential role. Finally, this fall we decided and notified the Board of Trustees that the time of transition was here. It has not been an easy decision, but our deep belief is that God's timing is always perfect. Consequently, the timing of the transition is perfect.

Our trustees are to be commended for their excellent leadership. In the article concerning the transition, you will see the detail of thought they have put into making this transition seamless, positive, and healthy for Lubbock Christian University. They realize our mission is too great for a misstep.

Confidence and calmness are high on campus. There is great anticipation that the Lord will bring just the right person to lead LCU into a new and even better future.

As always, our gratitude continues for all of you who make up the extended family of Lubbock Christian University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Ken Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a dark, textured background that looks like a piece of paper or a folder.

L. Ken Jones
Chancellor



Table of Contents

CALENDAR AND ALUMNI EVENTS

For LCU summer athletic camps visit www.lcusportscamps.com for dates and information.

June

- 6-10 Impact – Seniors Camp
- 12-18 Encounter – High School Camp
- 26- July 1 Camp Champion – Middle School Camp

July

- 4 Independence Day, campus closed

August

- 13 Transfer Student Orientation
- 17 Freshman Move – in Day
- 17-20 GO! Freshmen Orientation
- 19 Residence halls open for all students
- 22 Opening Chapel; Fall Semester Begins

September

- 5 Labor Day, campus closed
- 14-15 LCU Writing Carnival – *The Lord of the Rings* reading
- 27 “An Evening with Condoleezza Rice” Benefit Event
- 28-29 “No Debt, No Sweat” Seminar with Steve Diggs

October

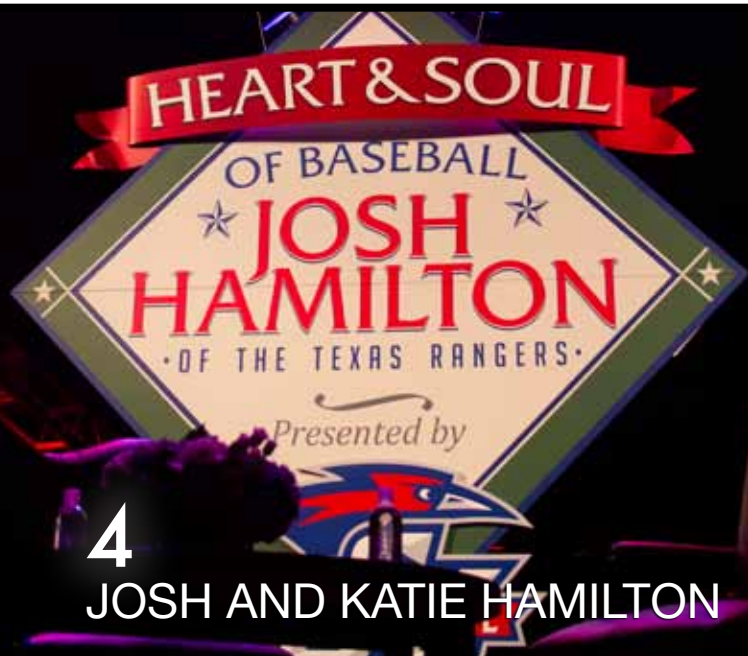
- 3-4 Moser Ministry Conference
- 7-8 Fall musical – *Cinderella*
- 7-9 Family Weekend & LCU Ring Ceremony
- 13-14 Fall Break, campus closed
- 24 Chap Day

November

- 3-4 Betenbough Lectures with Mark DeVries
- 3-4 Bible Intern Job Fair
- 14 Chap Day
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Break, campus closed

December

- 9 Graduation Reception
- 10 Fall Commencement
- 23 Christmas break begins, campus closed



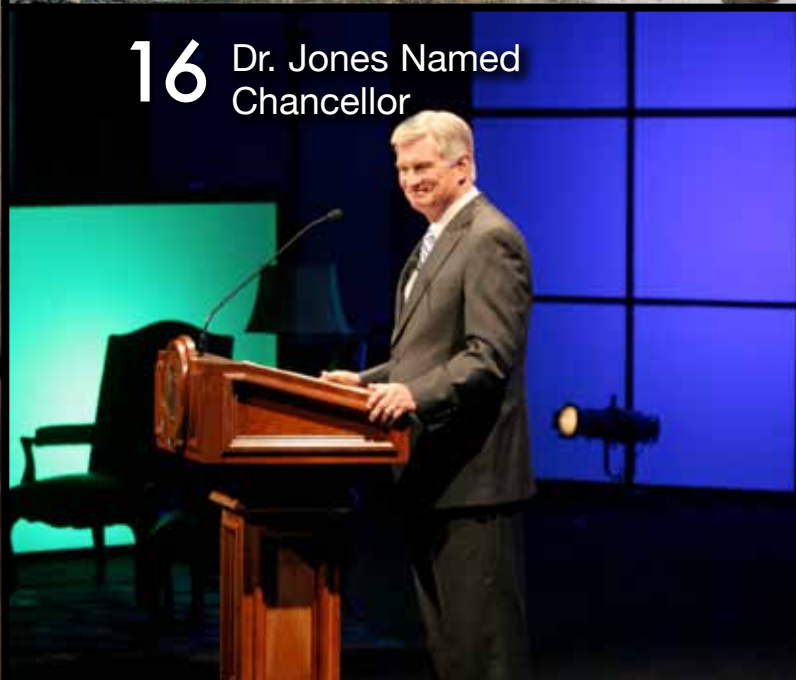
4

JOSH AND KATIE HAMILTON



10 A Tuft of Flowers

16 Dr. Jones Named Chancellor



21 Homecoming and Master Follies Recap



25 LCU Partners with Covenant

HEART & SOUL

OF BASEBALL

JOSH HAMILTON

OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

Presented by



FAITH

JOSH AND
KATIE
HAMILTON
BRING
STRONG
MESSAGE
DURING
EVENT

Those who have been followers of Lubbock Christian University through the years are well versed on the career and the impact that former baseball and softball coach **Larry Hays ('64)** has had on the university. Hays, who is one of the iconic figures in LCU history, finally came across someone that even he was in awe of as Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton and his wife, Katie, appeared at the "Heart and Soul of Baseball" event that was hosted by the Chap baseball program on the LCU campus in February.

"My whole career I was looking for a guy like Josh," said Hays, who coached the LCU baseball squad to a national title in 1983, when he introduced the Hamilton's as they took the stage in the McDonald Moody Auditorium. "And, now you're here and it's not doing me any good." Hays served as emcee for the event and the sold out crowd on hand certainly left entertained as well as mesmerized by the story that the Hamiltons were able to tell through the evening. Josh and Katie were relaxed in dealing with questions from Hays, ranging from the game of baseball itself to the trials and tribulations that Josh has experienced along the way.





Josh and Jonathan, an oncology patient from Covenant Children's Hospital, meet backstage before the event.

“What an unbelievable ministry to hear Josh and Katie tell their story of despair, faith, and redemption,” said Lubbock businessman and former LCU basketball standout **Curry Blackwell** ('89), who attended the event with his family. “It is much more a ‘life’ story than a ‘baseball’ story ... I am grateful my family was able to see it first hand, and how appropriate it is that this event took place on a campus that teaches the principles that saved Josh’s life and career.” Josh Hamilton spoke about his early love of baseball, recalling a picture of him at three years old wearing a Yankee helmet and his early dream of becoming a professional baseball player. His selection in the 1999 Major League Baseball draft was “a dream come true,” he said. Still, the main narrative thread of the evening was how the couple’s faith helped them through struggles with Josh’s drug abuse and the couple’s Christian faith.



Josh Hamilton reacts as Jonathan tells the crowd who his favorite baseball player is.

“I was excited to go to the event because I’m a huge Josh Hamilton fan,” said LCU freshman Madison Montgomery from Seymour. “It was really neat to see him in person, but I forgot about the baseball part of why I was there when he and his wife began talking about all the things they had gone through. It was really an inspiring story, and I’m glad I had the chance to hear it from them in the atmosphere that this was presented in.”

Six year old Jonathan Flores was a special guest of the LCU Baseball team for the evening. The team routinely visits patients at Covenant Children’s Hospital, and they’ve grown especially fond of Jonathan, as he is an avid baseball fan. He was invited to ask Josh a question, and he came onto the stage during the interview. This wasn’t the first time that Jonathan and Josh had seen each other in person. During the summer of 2010,



while at a Rangers game, Josh threw his old, worn-out batting glove to Jonathan up in the stands. Jonathan brought the glove with him onto the stage. His shyness kicked in, and the question wouldn't come out, so Larry Hays helped coax the question out of him to begin a conversation.

Though the Hamiltons went to the same high school, Katie did not know her future husband until after his suspension from Major League Baseball for drug abuse. He called and asked if he could see her. She said of that post-high school encounter, "He was funny, he was sweet," and after playful nudging and muscle flexing from her husband, "Oh, and he was big."

Two months after their 2005 marriage, he had his first relapse. At the time, she said that she believed her husband would re-enter Major League Baseball and become successful, even though she had never seen him play baseball and had obtained a restraining order against him. Despite her belief in his eventual recovery

and redemption, Katie felt a great deal of anger and resentment over her husband's relapse into substance abuse. Her anger, though, finally turned to compassion as she received counsel from her pastor, who encouraged her to forgive him. She eventually did just that and, like many no doubt felt, Hays said "... [Josh] your recovery is amazing, but [Katie] your heart is amazing."

Despite another relapse in 2009, Josh and Katie Hamilton have continued the battle and receive courage by depending on God. They enjoy ministering together in hopes that their story will be beneficial to others and that, through their urging, others will be led to study the Bible and pray.

The audience at LCU on this particular evening was full of baseball fans, but many of those in attendance were touched deeply by the story of the faith and love that was readily apparent when Josh and Katie spoke. "The Josh Hamilton event was one of the coolest things that I've ever been to in Lubbock," said longtime Lubbock



Josh and Katie enjoying the evening. Jonathan presented the Hamilton's with yellow "Live Strong" bracelets before the event started – Katie's is visible on her wrist.

businessman Bart Reagor. "I had my wife and youngest son there, and I was thrilled for all of us and the other young people there to hear one of the best baseball players in the major leagues talk about how God had taken him to his knees to humble him. To hear how renewing his faith in God was the most important thing he had to do to have the success he is having was incredible. It was a treat for me and my family to be part of the event."

The Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) announced on Nov. 23, 2010, that Hamilton had been named the 2010 American League Most Valuable Player. He became the sixth Texas Ranger to be voted to the honor, and he is the first since 2003. He also garnered American League Championship Series "MVP" honors after leading the Rangers to the pennant with a .350 average, four homers, a double, and seven RBI. The four home runs matched the all-time ALCS record. He was instrumental in leading the Rangers to their first ever World Series appearance after a regular season that saw him lead the major leagues in hitting with a .359 percentage. "We were really fortunate and excited to bring in Josh Hamilton on behalf of LCU baseball," said LCU head baseball coach **Nathan Blackwood ('95)**. "It was a great night for the city of Lubbock and the LCU community. We chose to go after Josh not only because

he's a member of the World Series Texas Rangers and the fact that he had just received the AL 'MVP' award, but more importantly, because of his story of forgiveness and recovery through Christ."

Hamilton was the top selection in the major league draft of 1999 by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays (now Rays) out of Raleigh (NC) Athens Drive High School. He was signed to what was then a record \$3.96 million signing bonus, and he was considered a true five-tool superstar with a golden left arm and a vicious home run swing. What set him apart, though, was a sixth tool that scouts saw in him, and they called it his "makeup." A Devil Rays scout was quoted on draft day, saying "... I think character may have been the final determining factor. You read so many bad things about professional athletes, but I don't think you ever will about Josh." Life changed for Hamilton after he suffered a lower back injury that suddenly left him with an abundance of free time, and the use of alcohol and drugs became a way to kill that free time. A rash of injuries and repeated trips to the disabled list meant more time off the field than on it – and more time with the wrong crowd. He failed at least four drug tests, made eight trips to rehab and finally was suspended by Major League Baseball for a year in March 2004. After reportedly failing to appear for a drug test in August 2004, he was slapped with another suspension.



Larry Hays prays for the Hamiltons and at Katie's reminder – for the healing of Jonathan.



Nathan Blackwood, LCU baseball coach, presents a hand-carved piece of art to thank and remind the Hamilton's of their evening at LCU.



Jonathan and his mom, Marisela, received a surprise visit at Covenant Children's Hospital from LCU to present him with a commemorative plaque of the event that will hang at the hospital.

He was allowed to return to baseball and made his return to the majors in 2007, eventually joining the Cincinnati Reds, where he hit .292 in 90 games that season. Texas Rangers scouts and executives kept a keen eye on Hamilton that summer, and in December of that year the Rangers acquired him and the rest, as they say, is history. Hamilton has been quoted regarding that eventual trade to Texas as saying, "... from that moment, I knew I'd be home here."

"The story of Josh Hamilton's life is something that is an inspiration to all of us who believe that a strong faith in God can help to change lives," said LCU Chancellor, Dr. L. Ken Jones. "His athletic ability is rather obvious, but the battles that he's endured during his life and the struggles he's experienced are a vivid illustration that faith and belief in God can carry us through all types of adversity. We're honored that he and Katie spent time on our campus to share their story with our community."

The LCU baseball program received an obvious benefit as the event raised just over \$93,000. That, however, was not the focus of the evening, nor was baseball.

Though her husband has made a career out of baseball, Katie said, "It's definitely more than baseball ... Our real job as believers is to share the good news of Christ."



A Tipt of Flowers

And then he flew as far as eye could see,

The seeds of wanderlust need only a heart to be planted in and a drop of inspiration to germinate and ignite the imagination. For **Walter Wilhoit ('84)**, that inspiration was found in a 1961 edition of *World Book Encyclopedia*. The hours of reading of other cultures and faraway lands captivated him from an early age. Within those World Books, he remembers admiring the famed fountain of Pompeii and its statue of Hermes. In junior high he learned of an American honor choir that toured Europe each summer, and Walter submitted his audition on tape. His acceptance into the Honors Choir quickly turned from excitement to determination. He had the talent and desire; however, he lacked the funding to launch his dream. He sold his horse and began his fundraising campaign by visiting every men's and women's service club in his hometown of Portales, New Mexico. With a loan from his grandmother, Walter had the resources he needed to begin his

adventure. His mother put sixteen-year-old Walter on a Greyhound bus headed for New York City. For the next month Walter saw Big Ben, sang in Paris's Notre Dame, walked in awe through the Roman Coliseum. However, Walter says his most memorable moment of that trip was looking at the fountain in Pompeii and the statue of Hermes that he had seen in his well-used *World Book Encyclopedia*.

The European tour with Honors Choir did not satisfy his hunger for travel, rather it served as only the appetizer. We are grateful his wanderlust did not lead him any farther than Lubbock for his collegiate studies. Walter began his college career as a youth ministry major in 1980. Walter explains his decision to change his major this way. "As part of my youth ministry requirements, I took an education class with Dr. Joyce Hardin, and I was captivated. One class is all it took to recruit me to the School of Education." Walter



Before the Japan earthquake The Sullivans School had an enrollment of 1200 students.

had lived his first 18 years in the same house on the family farm in New Mexico and had not met anyone who had traveled extensively or lived abroad. As he listened to Dr. Hardin share stories of travel and mission work in other countries, he remembers thinking, “I am going to do that one day.”

Knowing the son of an alfalfa farmer would know why hay could not be bailed when there had been no dew, Elaine Perrin called upon Walter in class to explain those characteristics. Mrs. Perrin relieved his confusion when she used the explanation as an introduction to Robert Frost’s poem “The Tuft of Flowers.” It is amazing the way an ordinary moment can become extraordinary in someone’s life. For Walter Wilhoit, that moment was transformational for him: “Mrs. Perrin sparked a fire within me. Frost has been my favorite poet since that day, and I try to remember to always leave a tuft of flowers each time I mow.”

(If you would like to read Robert Frost’s poem “The Tuft of Flowers,” use your smart phone to scan this code or go to: www.lcu.edu/reflections/tuft)



True to form, Walter took the opportunity to travel Europe his sophomore summer. He joined Jack Nadeau and the Bible Department on a summer mission campaign. The group spent six weeks in England, Germany, and Austria. While in Mannheim, Germany, they were hosted by a local congregation comprised mostly of American servicemen. Through them, Walter



The Wilhoit family (l to r) – Walter, Kaitlyn, Rashell, Grant and Molly.



Walter, and Grant atop Mt. Fuji



Molly and Kaitlyn posed with a Geisha in Japan

met Americans from the church in nearby Heidelberg. When the people in Heidelberg learned of his interest in an exchange program, they asked him to return in the fall and work with their teenagers as a youth minister. You won't be surprised to learn that Walter accepted their invitation. Through his work with the teenagers, he discovered the military school system and thought, "I'm coming back for this!"

After graduating from LCU, he taught school in Lubbock for six years while completing his graduate degree. It was then he received a job interview for DoDDS, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. He and his wife **Rashell (Nowell, '85)** both received teaching positions in 1990 in a school just north of Nuernberg, Germany. Rashell became a full-time mom, school volunteer, and leader in PWOC (Protestant Women of the Chapel). They have lived and worked in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, Germany, and Lakenheath, England. He traveled to schools in Iceland, Belgium, Bahrain, and the Azores to conduct professional development for teachers and to work with parent advisory groups. In 2005, the Wilhoits returned to school administration in Yokosuka, Japan, home of the largest US Navy installation outside the continental United States. Walter currently serves as the principal of The Sullivans School, the largest school in the DoDDS system, with as many as 1300 students. To date they have worked with Army, Air Force, and Navy.



An Earthquake and Tsunami Hit Japan...

Earthquake-triggered tsunamis sweep shores along Iwanuma in northern Japan on March 11, 2011. The magnitude 8.9 earthquake slammed Japan's eastern coast unleashing a 13-foot tsunami that swept boats, cars, buildings and tons of debris miles inland. (AP Photo/Kyodo News)

"Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging,"
Psalm 46:1.

Following is Walter's account of those frightening days in his own words.

"Friday, March 11, 2011, 2:46 PM will be one of those dates I will always remember where I was. It was shortly after school dismissed when my office chair began shaking. "Here we go again," I thought. Small shakes are not so uncommon in Japan. This time the shaking did not stop. The glass window in my door began rattling. The items suspended from the ceiling began swaying. My previous experiences with tremors lasted no more than 10-15 seconds. Not this time. I walked down the hall to one of my assistant principal's office where she was [meeting with] a parent. When she saw my face peering through the door window, she jumped up, grabbed her megaphone, and ran down the hallway to the main part of the school telling everyone to get out of the building. I went to the public address system and made the all call to evacuate.

Our public address system had been failing so we relied on megaphones in some areas of our huge older building. It was Friday, but on this day we had more than one hundred students in the building for after school clubs and activities. The ground was still shaking as we all walked across the street to gather in a park. It reminded me of a carnival funhouse, unable to not walk without swaying and losing your balance. Cell phones went silent due the catastrophe occurring some 150 miles north in Sendai. Our first news came from a teacher with a 3G phone. She received a facebook message from her mother in California reporting the epicenter of the earthquake. We were there only a few minutes before base security told us to move to higher ground due to tsunami alerts. We ushered all the students up a hill, where we gathered with those from the child development center, youth center, high school sport teams, and many families. Later we heard rumors of a tsunami sweeping away entire villages. We stayed on the hillside, not knowing when we would be able to leave. Our daughter Molly had ridden the school bus over to Rashell's school and was expected to arrive about the time the quake occurred. I had thought our son, Grant, had an after school band rehearsal. With no phone service, I could



Approximately 300 students remain at The Sullivans School following the disaster.

not check on them. One by one, parents came to retrieve their children, but I did not know where my own family was. After three hours we were allowed to leave. Rashell and Molly came to the school and Grant's rehearsal had been canceled. Finally, I knew my entire family was safe. With each following day, we continued to learn of the devastation in the north.

Life has not been the same since the earthquake. School was closed for two days before reopening, with at least four hundred students absent on the first day back. For two days after the Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster, we were advised by base officials to remain indoors as much as possible. Students entered the building as soon as they arrived in the morning; we had indoor recess; and students were to go directly home. The base playgrounds were ghostly silent. The aircraft carrier and destroyer squadron ships soon deployed, and the navy began preparations to evacuate families. Slowly many students began to leave each day to return to the states. Our school of 1200 dropped to a few more than three hundred. Many teachers who were Navy dependents departed and class sizes dropped to as few as four students. Small classes and those with no teacher were combined into other classes. Food deliveries were delayed or canceled, so the cafeteria improvised, using what it had to provide lunches, making each day's menu a mystery. The school joined a base effort to send much needed clothing to our north. Students benefitted from the lessons learned about volunteering and helping others."

Rashell, the children, and their two dogs returned to the states during this time for several weeks, where they were able to spend time with family in Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as with friends like former LCU students **Craig and Jane (Batten) Martin ('84)** and **Bryan and Ronna (Coffey) Privett ('83)**. Rashell did her best to help her children keep up with schoolwork, much of it posted online, but eventually, they were told they could return to Japan and to Walter, and so they have recently returned to Japan to complete the school year.

Walter and Rashell have three children: their oldest, Kaitlyn, was born in Germany and is now an elementary education major at LCU. Their younger two children, Grant and Molly, were born in Wieden near the Czech border.

It is safe to say, Walter has fulfilled the wanderlust of his youth, and if you know Walter, you would agree that he has left a tuft of flowers at LCU and every place he has ever been.

Walter may be contacted at walter.wilhoit@pac.dodea.edu

TRAVEL WITH LCU



Glen and Jane Bell of Plano, Excursions travelers, enjoy rafting on the Martha Brae river while the Caribbean cruise was docked in Jamaica.



Excursions and University Tours group in the dining room on Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas ship during the recent Caribbean cruise that had stops in Cozumel, Grand Cayman, and Jamaica.

Excursions is a direct destination trip for LCU alumni and friends of all ages that is a combination of group sight-seeing, exploring and touring on your own. The group does a lot of walking and uses the public transit systems to get around the cities.

Spain – Oct. 2011
Led by Dr. Bev Byers, LCU professor

California Coastal Tour Cruise – Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego – April 2012

San Francisco – July 2012
This was rescheduled from summer 2011 to summer 2012

If you are interested in any of the Excursions travel destinations, please contact Kelli Childre, Excursions Director, at kelli.childre@lcu.edu or 806-720-7802.



University Tours involves predominately senior travelers and allows for a trip that typically provides door-to-door touring on a chartered bus.

San Diego, California; Sedona and Phoenix, Arizona; New Mexico – October 2011

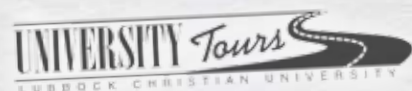
Branson, Missouri Christmas Tour – November 2011


San Antonio Christmas on the River – November/December 2011

California Coastal Tour Cruise – Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego – April 2012

Washington D.C. bus tour – September 2012

If you are interested in participating, contact Billie Shuttlesworth, University Tours Director, at billie.shuttlesworth@lcu.edu or 806-720-7216.





A life-long student of leadership, Dr. L. Ken Jones became the fifth president of Lubbock Christian University in June of 1993. His curiosity and knowledge regarding leadership and its effect on organizations and individuals has served LCU well over the past 18 years. As a young adult early in his professional career, he began to read books on the subject of leadership. Since that time, he has read thousands of books on the topic and observed hundreds of leaders in action.

Over the years, common themes emerged from his study and practical experience in leadership.

All leadership insight is acquired from experience and learned from others," states Dr. Jones. "Seldom is there anything

MOVING **FORWARD**

LEADERSHIP AND TRANSITION AT LCU



Dr. L. Ken Jones (seated right) at his inauguration as LCU President in January 1994 with Dr. F.W. Mattox, Founding President (seated left) and other former LCU Presidents (standing l to r) Dr. Steven Lemley, Dr. W. Joe Hacker, and Dr. Harvie Pruitt.

Handwritten signatures: Steven Lemley, F.W. Mattox, W. Joe Hacker, Harvie Pruitt, L. Ken Jones



Dr. Jones greets General Colin Powell at LCU's inaugural benefit event "An Evening with..." on November 6, 2007.

original." Two leadership mantras have been at the heart of his leadership at LCU "True leaders work for the good of others and speak for their welfare," and "Mostly, leadership is providing the right direction, building the right team, and providing enough resources."

Of particular significance in his study of leadership are two phases in the life of any organization: how a person first initiates the leadership role and how a person transitions from leadership.

So, it is not surprising that as he began to feel his time as LCU President should come to an end, his desire for the transition to go well was of great concern to him. In January of 2010, the LCU Board of Trustees had already contractually provided the opportunity for Dr. Jones to assume the role of chancellor as he transitioned out of the president role.

This past fall, Dr. Jones met with Executives of the LCU Board of Trustees indicating that he felt his time as president should

“True leaders work for the good of others and speak for their welfare.”



Dr. Jones visiting with former President George W. Bush at the “An Evening with...” benefit event on September 29, 2009.

draw to a close in the next couple of years and that he would be ready to assume the role of chancellor when a new president was named.

In a strategic move by the LCU Board of Trustees, rather than waiting to name Dr. Jones chancellor when a new president was appointed, they moved forward in naming him LCU Chancellor and CEO on February 1, 2011. This new appointment allows him to continue to oversee the operations of the university and to begin formulating his role as chancellor. It also allows the Board of Trustees the latitude to conduct a methodical search for the next president without being rushed.

This sort of transition is uncharacteristic to many organizations, but particularly within higher education. In the time since this innovative process was announced, LCU has heard from peer universities expressing their approval and intrigue of this leadership transition strategy. Additionally, friends of the university within larger organizations and businesses have called to express their endorsement of and admiration for the way in which LCU is making this transition in leadership.

In moving forward with the search for a new president, the Trustees named a Leadership Transition Process Committee. Chaired by **Sam Beard** ('68), Vice Chair of the LCU Board, this committee has been tasked with



determining the process for the appointment of LCU's sixth president.

One step in the process has been to seek input regarding characteristics that the next president should possess and to determine future challenges this person would need to be prepared to face. Surveys were conducted and focus groups convened in order to gather input. Constituent groups which were consulted include alumni, church leaders, current students, faculty, staff, LCU Foundation Board members, the LCU Associates, and LCU Board of Trustee members.

"It has been very gratifying to hear from so many people who love LCU during this process," says Mr. Sam Beard. "We've heard some positive things we totally expected, and we've heard some exciting things that were completely unexpected, giving us insights that will prove very helpful. We firmly believe that God will lead us to the right individual to lead LCU into the future."

The next step in the process will be to assimilate input gathered from these groups into a profile of the ideal candidate. This profile will then be presented to the

"We firmly believe that God will lead us to the right individual to lead LCU into the future."

LCU Board of Trustees. After that presentation is made, work of the Leadership Transition Process Committee will be complete and another group, the Presidential Search Committee, will be appointed to conduct the actual search.

Probably the single, most asked question throughout this process has been: "What will be the role of the LCU Chancellor?" The role may evolve over time, but after the new president is appointed, Dr. Jones will relinquish his role as CEO, and he will concentrate on being an ambassador for LCU. He will be making more presentations on leadership principles to churches, church leaders, and business leaders. He will also work closely with the LCU Foundation Board to secure resources for the university and to enhance existing relationships with friends of LCU.

Dr. Jones' skills as a communicator and his love for Lubbock Christian University make him well suited for the chancellor's role. As LCU Chancellor, Dr. Jones will continue to live by one of his favorite leadership principles found in his favorite leadership manual, the Bible. In the last verse of the book of Esther, the reason that Mordecai was respected as a leader was "because he worked for the good of the people, and he spoke up for their welfare." Dr. Jones has certainly been this type of leader for LCU.

As the LCU leadership transition progresses, the LCU Trustees, faculty, and staff solicit your prayers for God to raise up the perfect individual to lead the university into the future. Founding LCU President, Dr. F.W. Mattox, entitled his memoirs, *The Future Is Better Than the Past*. While the university enjoys a wonderful heritage and colorful past, there exists a hopeful expectation that God's providence will enlighten and brighten our future.



ALUMNI CONNECTION UPDATE



Alumni relations team (l to r): Whitney Dye, Katy Roberts, Matt Paden, and Susan Thomas.

The office of Alumni Relations has gone through many new and exciting changes in the past year. **Matt Paden ('02)** was named the Director of Alumni Relations in May of 2010. Matt also serves as the Director of Advancement and has enjoyed working in both of these roles. Matt is married to **Kagney (Zahn, '05)**, and they have a daughter, Zaylee. **Whitney Dye ('10)** took on the position of Alumni Career Services Coordinator in June of 2010 and has made tremendous strides in Career Services by networking with local businesses and preparing LCU students for life after graduation.

In September of 2010, the Alumni Relations team welcomed **Susan (Briggs, '88) Thomas** as the Alumni Relations Program Coordinator. Susan

has loved reconnecting alumni to the university and is excited for the future of the LCU Alumni Connection. Susan is married to Tracy and has four sons: Cameron, Reagan, Landon, and Brendan. The newest addition to the department is **Katy (Carter, '10) Roberts**, who was hired in October of 2010 as the Advancement Event Coordinator. She has enjoyed meeting LCU alums and looks forward to promoting greater alumni involvement through future events. Katy is married to **Bryan Roberts ('09)**.

The Alumni Relations staff hopes to strengthen the LCU alumni community by empowering and engaging alumni in a lifelong relationship with the university, students, and fellow alumni through meaningful service and leadership. If you have questions or are interested in hosting an event in your area, contact the office of Alumni Relations at alumni@lcu.edu, or call 806-720-7218. Visit www.lcu.edu/alumni for other helpful information and to view a schedule of upcoming events.

ALUMNI CONNECTION NEWS

It has been busy and eventful for the LCU Alumni Connection thus beginning with a series of monthly Alumni Luncheons in both Houston



LCU applicant Brandon Villeneuve and guest sport the Chap hand sign at the Astros game.

and Lubbock. Groups at the luncheons ranged anywhere from 15-65 people. Alums who attended enjoyed reconnecting with others and hearing about the great things happening at LCU and within the Alumni Connection. Guest speakers discussed various topics like the establishment of the LCU Foundation, the university's role in healthcare, and the possibility of starting an LCU Alumni Chapter in Houston.

February brought many alumni back to campus for Homecoming Weekend. Everyone present enjoyed a fun weekend reminiscing about the years gone by and making new memories. Events included class reunions, social club breakfasts, departmental luncheons and reunions, Alumni Chapel, Master Follies, and the addition of the first annual Alumni Awards Dinner.

The Alumni Connection hosted on-campus prayer breakfasts for all Lubbock-area alumni in both February and March. Those in attendance had the opportunity to fellowship with one another, pray for the university, and hear devotional thoughts from LCU Bible professors, **Dr. Jeff Cary ('95)** and **Dr. Steven Bonner**.

The Graduate Dinner was held on April



University representatives John King (l) and Don Williams (r) visit with alumni Brenda Collins Onstead ('77) and Paula Parks Fulford ('78) during the True Blue at the Diamond event at the Houston Astros game.