

INCREASING THE VALUE OF YOUR DEGREE

With the celebration of another commencement season in May, more than 800 graduates left this campus armed with Lipscomb University degrees and equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue careers, additional education or other goals and dreams.

They join the nearly 33 percent of adults in the nation age 25 and older who hold a bachelor's degree or higher, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Those who completed their master's or doctoral degrees this spring joined the approximately 12 percent of that population to hold an advanced degree.

Being in the business of higher education, we believe strongly in the value of a college education. We often see headlines about the high cost of a college education, but not as much about the return on investment of a degree. Numerous studies show that those with a bachelor's degree or higher earn higher salaries and have more career opportunities throughout their lives. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for recent college grads ages 22 to 27 is just 4 percent. The unemployment rate for workers of the same age who don't have a college degree is more than double that at 8.5 percent.

Other studies show a direct correlation between college education and social values, happier families, healthier lifestyles, a higher standard of living and critical thinking skills among numerous other benefits.

At Lipscomb, we are preparing our students who will leave our campus as graduates ^{to} who will be leaders in their families, their churches, their communities and their work places. But our work doesn't stop there.

We pledge to you — our alumni — to continually work to increase the value of your diploma with what we do here long after you leave. In fact, it's my job as president to do just that.

Within the last 24 months, that value has increased exponentially as Lipscomb was reclassified as a Carnegie Foundation doctoral university, which placed it among only seven percent of schools in the nation; the

building of new facilities such as the Fields Engineering Center and Bison Hall; programs such as business, education, biology and information technology among others being ranked among the top in the nation; and with our students giving back to the community more than 50,000 hours of service each year.

55,000

In December, Lipscomb's accreditation was reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges with no recommendations, meaning there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. This is the second reaffirmation with no recommendations, extremely rare in higher education.

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Last fall, the Health Resources and Service Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program a \$1.8 million grant, the largest awarded by any organization in Lipscomb history.

(page 8)

In March, the Bisons made university history by winning the ASUN championship and heading to the NCAA men's basketball tournament for the first time. In April, an anonymous donor made a \$23 million commitment, the largest in our history, to fund new facilities, programs, faculty and students resource needs for the College of Business; a parking structure; and a global learning campus in Florence, Italy. And ground has been broken on the George Shinn Event Center, a 33,000-square-foot facility that will serve the entire university and the community as well as house offices and labs for the George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts.

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(page 6)

I invite you to read this publication and learn more about the ways this institution is increasing the value of your degree. And Lipscomb alumni are doing even more to increase the value of a Lipscomb degree as they impact the world each day. Together, we are building a great university.



L. Randolph Lowry
L. Randolph Lowry
President

format printers, a full kitchen, power tools, woodworking and other prototyping supplies. The lab was modeled from similar cutting-edge "maker spaces" that were seen at both the university level and at pioneering high schools in the Southeast.

School of Physician Assistant Studies

Lipscomb's health science programs have benefitted from renovations in the past few months providing office and administrative space for the university's newest school, the School of Physician Assistant Studies, in the James D. Hughes Center.

Moving into space vacated by the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering *after* it moved into the adjacent Fields Engineering Center a year ago, the physician assistant school hosts new faculty and staff working to enroll the first class of student PAs in October.

The new office space is strategically located in the middle of the pharmacy and nursing program facilities, including a health simulation lab and research labs, which will provide many resources and assets for the new PA program, said **Stephen Heffington**, program director for the school.

University Health Services

Also in the health care arena, University Health Services has moved into a new location, which brought more space for its waiting room, an expanded blood draw and vaccination room and offices for a new **RN-BSN program** now in development.

The larger waiting room will allow Health Services to offer educational courses within their space and the addition of built-in noise maskers improves patient confidentiality, said **Erin Keckley**, director of health services.



NEW LIPSCOMB WEBSITE COMING SOON

By fall, visitors to Lipscomb's digital campus—its website at www.lipscomb.edu—*can expect to see some changes to the real estate.* The university is working to not only update the look and feel experienced by web users, but it is also revamping the website operating system, an infrastructure that few people ever see but is crucially important to every aspect of the university.

Lipscomb has contracted with mStoner, a St. Louis-based web design and development company, to re-think and re-design the site's navigation and behind-the-scenes operation, said **Dave Bruno**, vice president of marketing, a recent hire who brings a wealth of digital marketing experience and has been a consultant on the web design project since its beginning. The project is the largest financial investment the university has made in its digital marketing resources to date, he said.

"This redesign will allow Lipscomb's web presence to become a crucial component in the overall enrollment strategies at Lipscomb," said Bruno. "Rather than serving as an informational tool, Lipscomb's new website will be an

interactive, engaging visit to our campus for potential students and supporters."

Currently in the content development and design process for Lipscomb's new site, mStoner is working to revamp the navigation and look of the site as well as the content management system employees use to populate the site with information, said **Kyle Gregory**, manager of digital marketing.

The new site is expected to focus more on the degrees offered, to be more user-intuitive, to provide users with the ability to compare and contrast degree options and to provide the university the ability to incorporate new and more robust technology features for an engaging experience and needed information, said Gregory.

"mStoner is providing us with the ability to adapt faster to the new developments online," he said. "Those new online features must deliver an excellent customer experience, which people expect from the very best organizations. The know-how mStoner brings to this project gives us confidence the new Lipscomb website will delight people who use it."

RN-to-BSN

Brown Bannister, winner of more than 20 Dove Awards, will sculpt an exciting 21st century vision for The School of Music.

NEW HIRES

GRAMMY-WINNING PRODUCER BROWN BANNISTER NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR AT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Brown Bannister, one of the most successful music producers in the contemporary Christian music world, with albums totaling more than 50 million in sales, has taken over the reins of Lipscomb's School of Music.

Charlie Peacock, a legendary producer and jazz artist in his own right, stepped down to devote time to addressing health issues that have been developing over the past year but will remain a member of the school's advisory board. Peacock founded the university's contemporary music program and served as an artist-in-residence before becoming director of the music school.

Bannister, a graduate of Abilene Christian University, will bring his nearly four decades of experience to bear on the strong foundation laid by Peacock since 2015. Bannister has won more than 20 Dove Awards; has been named "Producer of the Year" five times by the Gospel Music Association; and is a member the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

For 30 years, Bannister has produced numerous artists including B.J. Thomas, Steve Wariner, Kenny Rogers and Kris Allen as well as award-winning albums for some of the industry's top Christian artists, including Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Steven Curtis Chapman, Third Day, Mercy Me, CeCe Winans and Michael Tait.

Bannister said he looks forward to continuing to build a strong music program that will prepare its students to



be ready for the job market or graduate school on day one.

"At this point in my career, I am eager to have an opportunity to make an impact on future music professionals by sharing my experiences and lessons learned in my nearly 40 years in the business," said Bannister.

"I look forward to mentoring these students, helping them make connections with industry experts, giving them hands-on learning opportunities and preparing them for their careers by providing a strong interdisciplinary educational foundation. I look forward to this opportunity, and am especially excited about being a part of a Christian institution with which I share common values and beliefs."

Bannister is the head of a transition team comprised of music industry veterans tasked to continue the strong music industry mentoring program and sculpt an exciting 21st century vision for all music programs.

ACADEMICS

ONLINE RN-TO-BSN PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Lipscomb University's School of Nursing has launched an RN-to-BSN program.

Housed in the ~~School of Nursing~~ within the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, is fully online and designed to equip and empower Registered Nurses with an Associate Degree. The RN-to-BSN program may be completed online in as few as 18 months. PT

The program holds initial approval status from the Tennessee Board of Nursing and is pending accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The program will soon be accepting applications for its first cohort of students to begin in August 2018.

Students also have the opportunity to earn up to 27 credit hours for knowledge and skills already mastered. The school has partnered with Lipscomb's College of Professional Studies to integrate key leadership competencies into the curriculum that are essential for success in the workplace.

For more information about Lipscomb's new RN-to-BSN program visit, <http://bit.ly/lipscombrntobsn>. }

Format CTA?

He earned master's and doctoral degrees in computer science, and then accepted a three-year fellowship at Vanderbilt University, where he studied cancer genomics and biomedical informatics. Wang analyzed protein data and presented the mutations to physicians at Vanderbilt who would then determine the cause of the mutations which cause cancer cells to develop.

began developing a pipeline for unifying information to integrate data from different sources. While there, he also began studying gene androgen receptor (AR), the most prominent driver of genes in prostate cancer, and was particularly interested in the AR-V7 gene, that can be translated into a protein product.

the Christian faith a year after I came to the U.S."

Wang first learned of Lipscomb through connections at his congregation while working at Vanderbilt, and then after moving on to work at Sloan Kettering for a time, came to recognize the unique opportunities of serving on the Lipscomb faculty.

"At Lipscomb I could be more useful," he admitted. "God can use my skills. At Sloan Kettering, I was useful to a small group of people around me. But at Lipscomb, I could teach students and help many more people. It was a big decision to be here. But I saw God open the door to Lipscomb University. His will is very clear to me."

Today, Wang prepares the next generation of data scientists in the classroom and as they work alongside him in his research to help find a cure for cancer, one byte at a time.

Even with all the research that's been done... still we don't know as much as there is to know.

In 2012, Wang and his colleagues developed the VirusFinder software, a program to detect viruses in humans using NGS technology.

"Viral infection is one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide," Wang said. "Detecting the existence of viruses and, especially, their integration sites in host genomes, is critical in understanding their role in disease development. Investigations of virus-host interactions could also shed light on virus-related cancers."

VirusFinder quickly became one of the most-used tools in the field. It is used by medical researchers around the world.

Another of Wang's work focuses was detecting binding sites of the cancer-driving gene MYC. MYC is a master regulator of many processes, including cell cycle entry, ribosome biogenesis and metabolism.

"It's very important to study the MYC protein because it causes about 100,000 deaths in America alone every year," said Wang. "Our collaborator at Vanderbilt discovered that this protein can bind to another protein-WDF5—but we needed to verify that using sequencing data."

Wang accepted a computational engineer post at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York in 2014, where he

Wang's work has been on the front lines of research and technology, and he continues his research in this area today. His findings have been published in numerous journals, reports and books, and he has presented at many national conferences.

"Different hospitals used different cancer panels, and data sharing and privacy were all barriers for cancer research," said Wang. "By using big data and sharing that data we can find ways to improve cancer treatment. Data sharing will continue to be critically important for entire communities to find cures for cancer—to allow sharing of information across different researchers, hospitals and countries—and to save lives."

When Wang and his wife moved to Columbia, Missouri, in 2005, several encounters with simple acts of Christian kindness made a profound impact on his world view. A minister who went out of his way to provide him a free ride to the university campus. An acquaintance who regularly invited cash-poor international students to eat dinner in his home.

"The Chinese culture is different in that status is very important. But for many Christians, they don't care about status. They try to get to know the people they meet. This was something I really enjoyed and really love," he continued. "That's one reason I converted to



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Respect Leads

Nurturing a culture of respect on campus

While Lipscomb's Biblical core is clear, the reflection of it in our nation—~~or~~ even on a Christian university campus—is often difficult.

"While respect has been a core value at Lipscomb, the idea behind Respect Leads is to be much more intentional about highlighting the value and ingraining it even deeper into our culture," said **Scott McDowell**, senior vice president for student life who serves as the senior administrative liaison for the team. "We wanted to communicate to everyone at Lipscomb, that no matter the situation, we will begin with respect."

A group of students, faculty and staff, led by Assistant Professor of Management **Leanne Smith** and Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Public Policy and Special Counsel to the President **William Turner**, provided leadership for the Respect Leads effort to nurture the on-campus culture of respect, leading everyone to continued unity in a time of conflict.

A year-and-a-half after the genesis of the Respect Leads idea, the Lipscomb community has had numerous opportunities to attend thought-provoking on-campus events; to incorporate activities designed to build empathy into curriculum and extra-curricular programming; to spur conversation among their friends and family and to practice dealing with difficult moments in a respectful and forgiving manner.

"As Christians, we should be able to model how to completely disagree in an appropriate and

respectful way," McDowell said. "When students walk across the stage (to graduate), we want them to go on to do the right things, at the right times, for the right reasons, all on their own. Part of preparing them for that is instilling a culture of respect, particularly when perspectives differ."

In January 2017, the Respect Leads committee presented a list of initiatives designed to further instill the culture of respectfulness on campus. Through the last year and a half, the university has held respect-themed chapel programs and the Make the First Move campaign provided free Starbucks coffee to encourage faculty, staff and students to invite those with differing cultural backgrounds to get to know one another better over coffee. Students participated in a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; a spoken word poetry event was held; promotional videos were produced; and the respect value has been further infused into appropriate curriculum.

One particular goal of Respect Leads is to enhance empathy within the Lipscomb community. Two Lipscomb Experience classes, taught by Scholar-in-Residence **Richard Hughes** and Smith, participated in a story swap exercise as a way to promote empathy through the exchange of stories. The exercise, developed by Narrative4, requires participants to share personal stories on a particular theme and then re-tell the other person's story to the group.

Smith said those who participated came away with a deepened appreciation for how it felt to walk in another person's experience for a moment.

"We've tried to do a lot of things to bring people together and encourage positive

conversation, to try and set the stage so that when conflict does occur, we have a constructive way to deal with it," said Turner.

"I don't know if we've changed anyone's mind, but we have got a lot of people thinking," said **Deion Sims** (18), one of two students who were on the Respect Leads leadership team. "A lot of students come from a background where they are simply unaware of the challenges many people face in this country. If you were never educated about that—which many people weren't—and then you go someplace like the civil rights museum, then you are forced to think about things you have never had to think about before," said Sims.

"I am confident that we have been able to bring new ideas into the light and have provided tools for students to be able to process it as Christians and as a community," he said.

Respect Leads will continue to partner with the university's campus ministry staff; **Prentice Ashford**, the new dean of intercultural development; and various colleges to highlight the value of respect, that is a part of the DNA of Lipscomb, McDowell said.

Throughout the fall, the Respect Leads initiative will continue its "Respect Leads Presents" speaker series, facilitated student discussions and hands-on service activities to engage the Nashville community, McDowell said.

Among other ideas for this fall, is an exploration of hearing the stories of Nashville's homeless population, he said. "Our Student Government Association already hosts a weekly Room in the Inn site (a temporary shelter program based in Nashville) during the cold weather months and so there is a natural opportunity to capitalize on this relationship and humanize a segment of Nashville's population that is often overlooked," McDowell said.

LARGEST GIFT IN HISTORY ANNOUNCED FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

\$23 MILLION TO FUND COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, PARKING

Lipscomb University has received a \$23 million commitment, its largest gift in institution history, president L. Randolph Lowry announced April 17 at the university's Imagine 2018 annual event.

The \$23 million gift has been made by donors who wish to remain anonymous. It is a lead gift for Lipscomb University's College of Business, which is celebrating 100 years of business education this academic year. The gift will be used to help fund new facilities, programs, faculty and student resource needs for the College of Business; a parking structure; and a global learning campus in Florence, Italy, among other initiatives.

"This is a significant moment in the history of Lipscomb University," said Lowry. "We are grateful to these donors for their commitment to this institution. This gift is an investment in our College of Business as a way to continue to elevate the proven image of the school as a leader in business education in Nashville and in the nation."

The College of Business has more than 600 undergraduate and graduate students and a 95 percent overall job placement rate for 2016 and thousands of alumni around the world. It has been recognized nationally as a leader in business education.

The college has been named the No. 1 undergraduate business program

in Tennessee two years in a row by Bloomberg BusinessWeek and Poets & Quants and the No. 2 part-time MBA program in Tennessee in 2016 by Bloomberg BusinessWeek. In addition, its accounting program was named No. 1 in Tennessee and No. 2 in the nation in 2017 by Christian Universities Online.

Earlier this month, 2018 College Factual ranked Lipscomb's accounting program the No. 1 accounting program in Tennessee for the second consecutive year and one of the top 50 programs in the nation. The department of accounting also earned a ranking of 12th in the nation and No. 1 in the state of Tennessee for the second consecutive year for Best Accounting Programs for Veterans.

"The College of Business continues to earn national accolades, and this incredibly generous gift helps us to build on our strong momentum," said Ray Eldridge, dean of the College of Business. "It is exciting for our students and faculty to see how many people believe in our mission, and it also attracts attention from others who want to be part of what we're doing."

Business students see the impact of this gift reaching for generations

into the future.

"They're investing into the students of tomorrow," student Hillary Reader, an MBA student from Kentucky, said of Lipscomb. "We may be the students who make the new Amazons, the new Googles, the new Apples of the world. That's all we can ask for—to keep getting better as students because we are the ones who transition to be the business leaders of tomorrow."

This is the second consecutive year that university officials have announced the largest gift in institutional history.

"We are thrilled about the impact that this gift will have in the lives of our students and in the community that we serve for generations to come," said John Lowry, senior vice president for advancement.

"These generous donors are very humble people who desire that the glory go to God, and they are passionate about advancing the mission of Lipscomb University. This is an inspiration for us moving forward with generosity and service."

At the 2017 Imagine event, Lipscomb officials announced that the university had received a \$15 million gift from George Shinn, former owner of the Charlotte/New Orleans Hornets.

For more information on Imagine 2018 go to page 28.



The envisioned design for the College of Business' future new building, funded by an anonymous \$23 million gift.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

The recently announced \$23 million commitment to benefit, in part, the College of Business' facilities and academic programs, comes at an appropriate time as the ~~COB~~ college is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and is looking to its next 100 years with special events for business alumni and the CHARGE!FORWARD crowd-funding campaign.

For 100 years, the ~~College of Business~~ has developed leaders both skilled in business and with the integrity to thrive in a complex world. Events are being held throughout this year to celebrate Lipscomb's business alumni, Nashville business leaders and the titans who helped build the college into one of the fastest growing colleges on the Lipscomb campus.

Nashville's local business community turned out in September for the college's annual Business with Purpose Awards luncheon, this year honoring Tractor Supply Company's **Joe Scarlett**, retired CEO; **Jim Wright**, retired CEO; and **Greg Sandfort**, current CEO, with Lifetime Leadership Awards.

The Business with Purpose Awards annually honor Nashville businesspeople who have distinguished themselves as leaders

through both financial success as well as great cultures of service and integrity.

Alumni attended the college's "opening bell" ceremony for the new Financial Markets Lab, located in the Swang Business Center, featuring real-time market tickers, television monitors to view business news outlets and a bank of computer stations, at Homecoming in November.

Through the lab students and faculty will have access to the Bloomberg Terminal, an innovative technology platform that provides trusted real-time and historical data, market news and analytics that help the world's leading business and financial professionals make better-informed decisions.

A Centennial Series of the Heroes of Business program was held throughout the past school year. The final Hero of Business for the school year, honored in May, was **Charles Frasier**,

Lipscomb professor of accounting and former chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance & Economics, who recently retired.

"Charles Frasier spent 47 years developing generations of accountants and impacting commerce throughout the world," said **Ray Eldridge**, dean of the College of Business.

"The Hero of Business Award was developed to highlight successful business leaders whose faith and character have greatly impacted their profession.

"For the next 100 years, the accounting program, with two national rankings and the second-highest CPA exam pass rate for the Master of Accountancy in the State of Tennessee, is well postured to continue the legacy of Charles Frasier and (the late) **Axel Swang** (former Lipscomb business and accounting professor)," said Eldridge.

"The new \$23 million commitment will allow the college to expand these programs and to create new programming designed to develop leaders who embrace the values and virtues of Jesus," said Eldridge. "It is exciting to know the profound impacts this college is having, and I am looking forward to seeing how it continues to make a difference."

Commitment

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ON THE FUTURE

August 2019

The George Shinn Event Center, funded by a \$15 million gift from George Shinn, began construction this spring and is expected to be completed by August.



~~PHYSICAL, DIGITAL CAMPUS FOOTPRINT IS EXPANDING IN 2018 TO SERVE LIPSCOMB'S FUTURE~~

The first quarter of 2018 has brought some milestone moments for facilities, resources and programs expected to shape the experience of Lipscomb's future students and constituents for the better.

George Shinn Event Center

Construction began this spring on the George Shinn Event Center, a 33,000-square-foot facility adjacent to the existing Ezell Center, that will include an event center to serve the entire university and community, offices and unique labs for Lipscomb's College of Entertainment & the Arts and a university welcome center. Construction is expected to be complete by August.

The Shinn Event Center will turn Lipscomb's southwest corner of campus into an arts hub, serving larger audiences from the Nashville community with outstanding entertainment from local and national artists as well as Lipscomb artists.

Lipscomb Academy

Lipscomb Academy has benefitted from two new renovated spaces in Harding Hall: a modern, open-format admissions Mustang Welcome Center and the iWonder innovation lab, a workspace where students are challenged to collaborate, problem-solve and integrate the design thinking process.

According to **Mitchell Despot**, director of communication for the academy, the Mustang Welcome Center is for

potential families and students to see how current students engage in courses, with faculty and with academic programs and opportunities offered through the university using video touchscreens and presentation space large enough for multiple families.

The iWonder Innovation Lab, completed in September 2017, regularly hosts students in grades 5-12, said **Donna Brasher**. She and **Libby Barker**, the innovation coaches at the academy, first envisioned a space like this in fall 2016, when the innovation curriculum was housed on a mobile cart. The larger permanent space allows teachers to issue challenges that encourage students to learn on a deeper level.

"We often hear the students say 'I wonder if I can do this...' and this space seeks to make it happen," said Barker.

Students work collaboratively using a variety of tools. Some of the tools available are 3D printers, robotics, computer-aided design, graphic design programs, large

Campus enhancements in 2018 fuel Lipscomb's future

August 2019

George Shinn

delete

format printers, a full kitchen, power tools, woodworking and other prototyping supplies. The lab was modeled from similar cutting-edge "maker spaces" that were seen at both the university level and at pioneering high schools in the Southeast.

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Students travelled to Texas at fall and Christmas breaks to help with hurricane recovery efforts.

SERVICE

LIPSCOMB COMMUNITY RAISES MONEY TO SERVE HURRICANE-STRICKEN AREAS

Four natural disasters—Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and the earthquake in Mexico City—impacted more than 110 Lipscomb students in 2017.

Before Harvey had even diminished in September, Lipscomb University had established a Crowdfunding platform that eventually collected more than \$61,000 to benefit more than 40 students impacted by the natural disasters.

The funding also purchased materials and supplies for several mission trips and families in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the island of Saba, a long-time mission site for Lipscomb that was hit hard by Hurricane Irma. More than 300 students showed interest in participating on the mission trips to the affected areas.

The initial idea of sending hurricane relief teams came almost entirely from students themselves. "Within the first twelve to twenty-four hours after news broke

about Harvey, I had emails and texts from students pouring in, before there was even any information about the extent of the disaster, asking me how we could help," said Josh Self, missions coordinator.

Scott Sager, vice president of church services, led a team of faculty and staff from across the university who checked on more than 250 students in the affected areas, mobilized almost 200 university and Lipscomb Academy students to provide on-ground support and relief efforts in Houston and Lake Jackson, Texas, the Florida Keys, and Puerto Rico, and assisted in the rebuilding efforts of churches and Christian schools throughout the affected regions.

"We spent our time working with the Sugarloaf Baptist Church, cleaning up debris around homes that had been destroyed and striving to be the hands and feet of Jesus," said Delaney Gilbert, a senior who went on the trip to the Florida Keys. "Our group was blessed by our supportive faculty, staff, donors and fellow students, making this trip one that we will always remember."

Matthew Ruiz, associate professor of kinesiology and director of graduate studies in

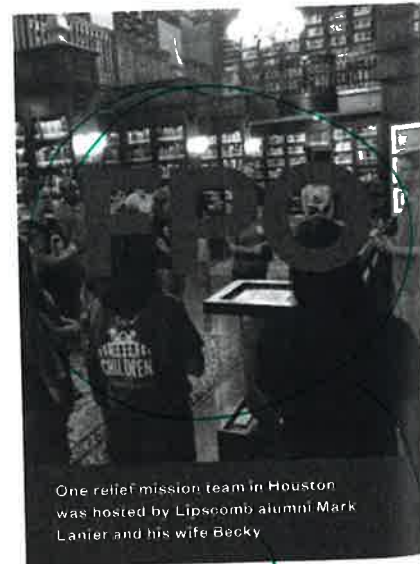
exercise and nutrition, led a Christmas break trip to Rockport and Corpus Christi, Texas.

"For me, this trip marked my first mission experience with Lipscomb. It was wonderful to take a team of eager individuals and help with the recovery process," Ruiz said.

This team also included four members from the IDEAL program (Igniting the Dream of Education and Access at Lipscomb), marking the first time IDEAL students had participated in a Lipscomb mission trip. IDEAL is a certificate program to encourage and support students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience college as their peers do.

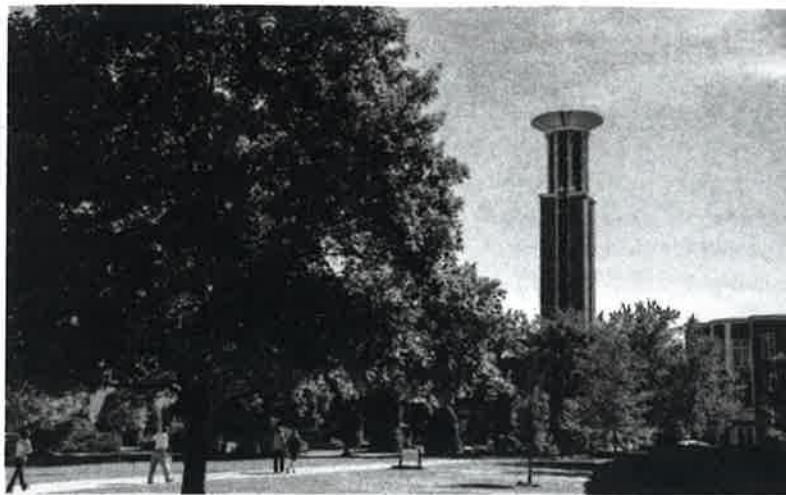
"I was privileged to lead the first effort to Houston where more than 30 students and faculty spent four days removing debris, tearing out sheetrock and decontaminating mold-infested areas," said Sager. This group was hosted by Houston resident and Lipscomb alumni Mark Lanier ('81) and his wife Becky.

"The students put in 10-hour days in over 90-degree Houston heat and humidity with positive attitudes, caring concern for the individuals affected and with a kindness and compassion that honored Jesus as the one in whose name we served," said Sager.



One relief mission team in Houston was hosted by Lipscomb alumni Mark Lanier and his wife Becky

Delaney Gilbert ('18), who went



ACADEMICS

UNIVERSITY ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE TIME WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPROVEMENT

Lipscomb University accreditation has been reaffirmed through 2027 from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The announcement was made Dec. 5, during the commission's annual meeting in Dallas, Texas. Lipscomb was reaffirmed with no recommendations, meaning there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. This is the second consecutive reaffirmation with no recommendations.

The reaffirmation comes after a series of vigorous reviews—both on-site and off-site—to ensure that Lipscomb University is continuing to provide the resources, programs and services to accomplish its mission of excellence in teaching and learning. The university was last reaffirmed in 2007.

“Earning reaffirmation is the direct result of years of hard work by many people on campus and a reflection of our effectiveness in preparing our graduates for lives of faith, exceptional leadership and service,” said L. Randolph Lowry, Lipscomb University president.

“Being reaffirmed with no recommendations is about as good of a report

as an you can have, and it reflects the tremendous quality of our institution. It is particularly significant that ten years ago we received the same reaffirmation without recommendation. That’s extremely unusual, and it truly is a result of the efforts of everyone in the Lipscomb community.”

Reaffirmation also signifies that Lipscomb University meets or exceeds national standards and enables the University to receive federal funds, including scholarships, loans and research grants. It is an important element of recognition for students working toward degrees at Lipscomb.

Lowry said accreditation is essential to the lifeblood of an institution as the purpose of the process and accreditation status is to assure the educational quality and improve the effectiveness of the organization’s member institutions.

“College accreditation is a sign that the school adheres to goals and standards recognized as important to the quality of education,” he said. “It’s a very important consideration when students are considering where to attend college.”

A school’s accreditation affects whether students are eligible to receive federal (Title V) and state financial aid. It also ensures that a student’s credits will be accepted by another college if they transfer between schools. In addition, many graduate programs will not admit students from unaccredited schools.

Lipscomb’s SACSCOC

BY THE NUMBERS

2 : Number of years Lipscomb received perfect accreditation with no recommendation

96% : Undergraduate Class of 2017 are employed or pursuing graduate school

4,642 : University students are enrolled in 2017-18

1,213 : Academy students are enrolled in 2017-18

Reaffirmation Leadership Team included: Lowry, **W. Craig Bledsoe**, provost; **Danny Taylor**, senior vice president for finance and chief financial officer; **Randy Bouldin**, vice provost for academic affairs and graduate studies; **Elaine Griffin**, vice provost for accreditation and institutional effectiveness; **Steve Prewitt**, associate provost; **Kim Reed**, chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages; and **Catherine Terry**, associate provost for institutional effectiveness.

The reaffirmation process is conducted every 10 years. Lipscomb hosted a SACSCOC on-site reaffirmation committee in March in preparation for the December reaffirmation.

During the site visit, the reaffirmation team studied Lipscomb’s Quality Enhancement Plan, a program called LIGHT: Illuminating Cultural Engagement. The goal of LIGHT is to create awareness of and to encourage a global mindset within the Lipscomb community. The goals of LIGHT are: increased understanding of various cultural practices, systems and institutional structures; improved student ability to explore various cultural practices, systems and institutional structures in relation to their own; and expanded engagement with diverse communities locally, interculturally and globally. During the 2007 reaffirmation process, Lipscomb launched the SALT (Serving and Learning Together) QEP initiative.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is one of the six regional accreditation organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. SACSCOC is the regional accrediting body for institutions awarding degrees at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral levels.