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Over the last 125 years, Lincoln Memorial University's story has unfolded against the backdrop of global events. Our students have weathered generation-defining financial hardships, served in numerous wars and conflicts, and persevered through political and cultural turmoil. But we've also seen life-altering technological innovations, the hard-fought achievements of social justice advocates, and a tremendous rise in the quality of life both here and around the globe. At every point, LMU's history is braided into the national and global narrative.

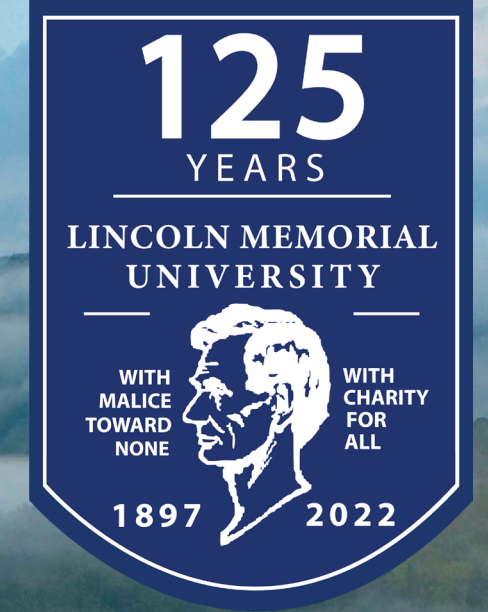
As much as the world has changed, so has LMU and its students. When the University first opened its doors, Railsplitters traveled to classes on foot or by horseback, where they thumbed through the pages of textbooks and submitted handwritten assignments. Today, students have the option of attending classes virtually or in person on any of our nine campuses in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Florida. Rather than sift through dusty archives and turn the massive pages of oversized reference books, students can now conduct their research online using any of the

thousands of global databases connected to our library. Our students today have access to more information and resources than any before them.

The school's academic offerings reflect that growth. LMU's first classes of undergraduate students could opt for one of three courses of study. Today the University offers 32 undergraduate majors, 11 master's degrees, the educational specialist degree, and 11 doctoral degrees.

While much has changed at Lincoln Memorial University, much remains the same. We've revised our mission to reflect the struggles and opportunities presented to each generation, but we've never altered our identity and purpose. We remain committed to our core principles of values, education, and service. We remain committed to the idea that education can change lives. And we remain fiercely committed to the notion that our institution and our students have an obligation to serve both the Appalachian and global communities.

Our belief in the intrinsic value of service to humanity can be seen in the recent growth of our professional and graduate programs. Led by a strong board with a visionary chairman, we've spent the last two decades working to better prepare our students to heal wounds, help those in need, provide education, and ensure the health of communities. Our focus now is as local as it is global, and we take pride in empowering students to meet the challenges of modern life. So as we reflect on the changes of the past 125 years, we also look forward to equipping students to meet the demands of the next century.



# 2022 Administration



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**W**hile General O. O. Howard was still in uniform, the Reverend and Mrs. Arthur A. Myers came to Kentucky under the auspices of the American

Missionary Association. In the general economic decline since the Civil War, eastern Kentucky and Tennessee lost many of their private schools or academies.

Tax-supported public education was not yet possible, and there was a desperate need for education in these mountains that could only be met by the churches. Myers was a Congregational minister and graduate of Hillsdale College in Michigan where he had met his wife, the former Ellen Green. Directed toward

the Berea, Kentucky, area, Myers helped organize elementary schools. He then established a home in Williamsburg, Kentucky until he received a call to come to Cumberland Gap.

Rev. Myers was a rugged and determined man whose sermons had a pronounced effect on the community. He successfully solicited the funds for a new church that included a schoolroom in the basement where Mrs. Myers taught regular classes. This was all accomplished by 1890 which is considered to be the birthdate of the Harrow Academy, the institution later assimilated into Lincoln Memorial University.

In 1895, Myers asked General Howard to address the Harrow Academy's graduating class, and he accepted. By this time, the school was in financial distress due to the market decline. Myers, Howard, and others discussed the school's future, and Howard saw the opportunity to fulfill the wishes of Abraham Lincoln.

## Other Highlights

**1897:** Grant-Lee Hall was christened by General Howard as a symbol of Civil War unity between generals Grant and Lee. It served as an office building and a young men's dormitory.

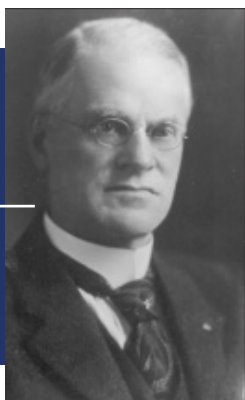
**1900:** Grace Nettleton Home for Girls, started to help orphaned and needy "mountain girls" as helpers and teachers in Christian work, remained in operation until 1956.

**1904:** Avery Hall, originally constructed as a girls' dormitory through funding from Samuel P. Avery, became the first building built by the University on campus.

**1905:** Tennessee Medical College became the medical department of LMU.

**1906:** Graduated first LMU class consisting of one member, George W. Morton.

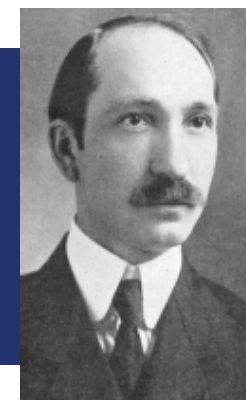
## Presidents



Cyrus Kehr (1897-1898) was the first president of Lincoln Memorial University. Kehr came to LMU as General Howard's business agent. He set up the purchase of the sanatorium (renamed Grant-Lee Hall), 580 acres of land and the Arthur Home (renamed the Music Conservatory). Mr. Kehr could not devote his attentions to LMU full-time, and many of his presidential duties were undertaken by General Howard.



Dr. John Hale Larry (1899-1904), an academician, was the first Lincoln Memorial University president to live on campus. Under Dr. Larry's direction, LMU expanded the curriculum to include manual training, typing, music and other courses of study.



Dr. William Stooksbury (1904-1910) presided over Lincoln Memorial University during a period of great expansion. The Carnegie Library was built, a medical college was purchased, and the quad was cleared of weeds and briars to create a formal quadrangle. Dr. Stooksbury also instituted the conferral of medals for excellence in debate and other educational pursuits. His presidency was marred by two fires, Harrow Hall in 1907 and Grant-Lee Hall in 1909.

The years 1910-1923 were described as pre- and post-World War I. The appointment of Dr. George Allen Hubble as president in 1910 began a period of growth in both physical plant and administrative/academic structure.

The building program was accomplished due to the generosity of LMU friends from across the nation: the Norton sisters of Norwich, Connecticut, Mrs. W. W. Smith of Poughkeepsie, New York (wife of one of the founders of Smith Brothers Cough Drops), and Mr. F.A. Seiberling, president of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and later president of Seiberling Rubber Company.

Dr. Hubble desired there to be a clear distinction between the Academy and University departments within the administration. It was under his direction that eight committees for the smoother operation of college affairs were formed: buildings and grounds, courses of study, music, social affairs, religious work, literary societies, public occasions and lectures, and executive administration in the absence of the president. The new leadership team relieved some of the burden and allowed things to run more smoothly.

Though Dr. Hubble desired to continue his building program, the post-war depression that lasted until 1921 prevented it. The University was heavily indebted, and the faculty and staff were even paid in script for a short while.

Dr. Hubble submitted his resignation from LMU, and it was reluctantly accepted by the Board of Trustees May 8, 1922.

## Other Highlights

**1911:** First summer term was held, an idea emerging from a member of Dr. Hubble's leadership team, Professor Jesse Moore.

**1912:** Norton Hall was completed as a girls' dormitory at a cost of over \$26,000.

**1913:** President's Home was built at a cost of about \$6,000.

**1914:** Electric lights were installed in many campus buildings.

**1914:** The University farm began. Thanks to Frank A. Seiberling, LMU gained a creamery, a stock and dairy barn, and Holstein and Aberdeen-Angus cattle. By 1921, students were learning to build up the soil, improve field crops, care for and develop herds of purebred livestock, and how to get the most out of life on the farm.

**1916:** Grant-Lee Hall was reconstructed at a cost of over \$30,000.

**1916:** Methodist minister Dr. John Wesley Hill joined the LMU Board of Trustees and began two decades of service as chancellor of the University.

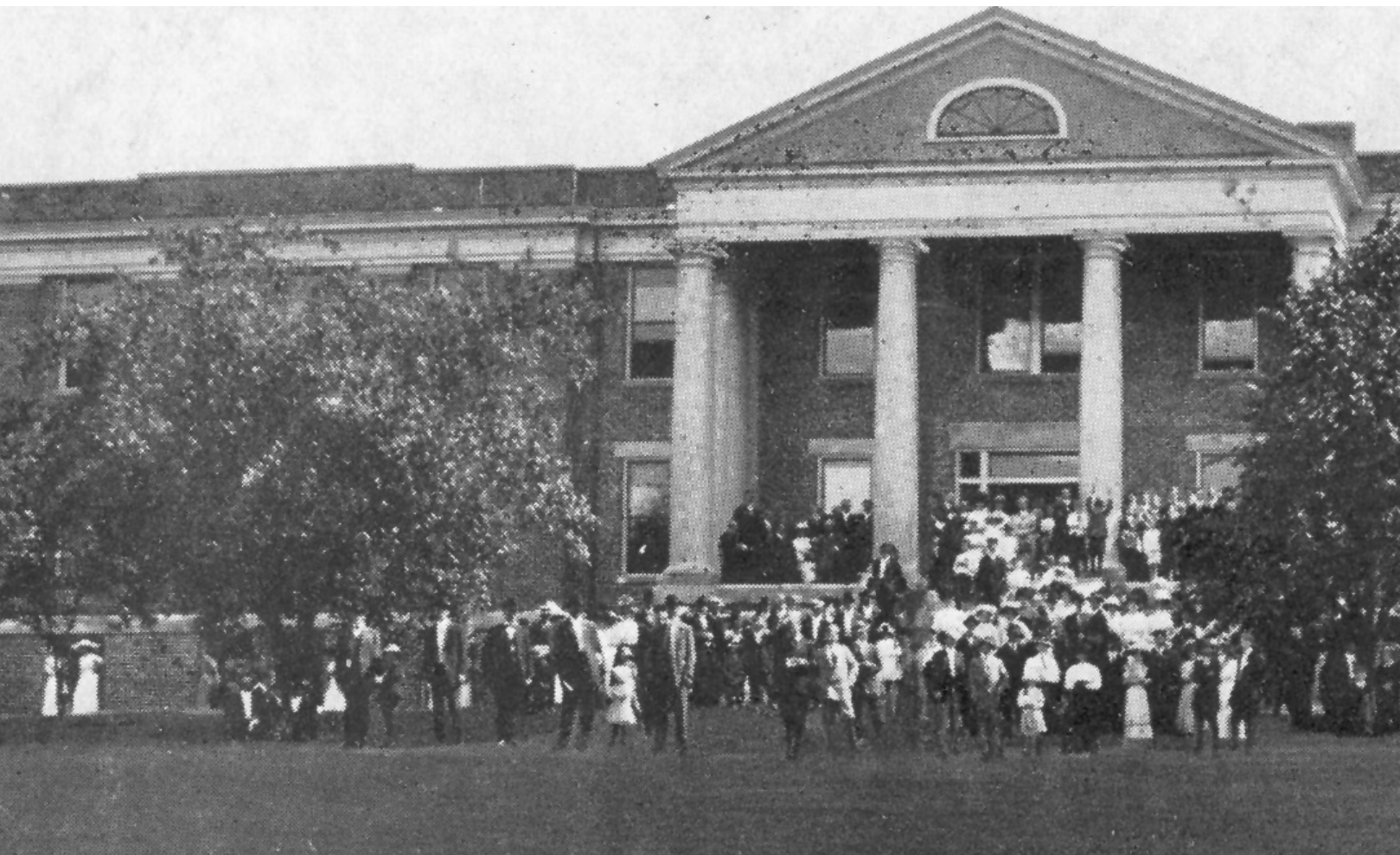
**1917:** Student newspaper, the *Oracle*, became the *Blue & Gray*, and the yearbook took on the name *Railsplitter*.

**1922:** Silver anniversary year began with a film of LMU shown to an audience that included prospective donors. Dr. Hubbell initiated a fundraising effort to secure a \$2 million endowment. The help of alumni was enlisted in the effort resulting in the creation of the Alumni Association of Lincoln Memorial University. E. A. Cope was elected as the first president, and Ruth Moore was the first secretary-treasurer.

## Presidents



Dr. George Allen Hubble (1910-1922) of Ohio received his PhD from Columbia in 1902. He had served as vice president and dean at Berea College, president of Highland College and professor at Transylvania University, all in Kentucky. It was under Dr. Hubbell's presidency that LMU became famous throughout the nation.



he Board of Trustees wanted a suitable chief administrator to fill the shoes of Dr. George Hubble, and the position was vacant for a year while a search took place. Dr. Robert Orville Matthews was inaugurated as LMU's fifth president in 1923.

LMU was now pursuing or offering many degree programs and doing well until a typhoid epidemic struck campus during the 1923-24 academic year. Norton Hall was turned into an infirmary. Fearful that the campus would not survive a quarantine, President Matthews kept the campus open. Dozens were afflicted, and seven people died.

As bodies healed, so did the campus. Enrollment grew. In addition to sports, competition teams for debate and oration emerged. Literary societies gave way to Greek organizations. Students from the era who would go on to become famous writers include James Still, Jesse Stuart, Louise McKamy, Don West, and playwright Tom Taggart.

Dr. Matthews was offered a job with a business firm and shortly after died of pneumonia. Chancellor John Wesley Hill served as acting president during the year-long presidential search. Dr. Hervin Roop was appointed dean in 1928 and became president in 1929. While dean, Roop made application for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for full accreditation. A non-member relationship was granted allowing LMU graduates to

teach in Southern Association high schools. The LMU Academy was fully approved by both SACS and the Tennessee Department of Education.

Dr. Roop desired LMU to be a university in every sense of the word. He created degree programs once again in engineering, music, and agriculture, adding business administration, forestry, home economics, and physical education. For a while the outlook was good, and then economic disaster hit the world forcing Roop to resign.



## Other Highlights

**1924:** Football, under the direction of Rollin "Pop" Garrett, was organized as the Airedales. The program was short-lived, but one of the stars on the team, B. Frank "Tex" Turner from Texas, did go on to do well in the oil and gas industry and later bequeathed the University with funds to build a sports arena bearing his name.

**1924:** Community building, or gymnasium, was constructed to take the place of the old auditorium that was destroyed in 1923.

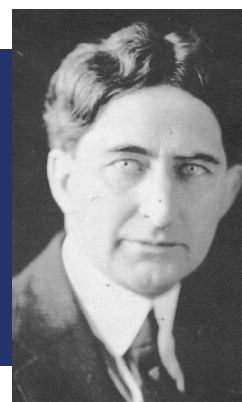
**1925:** Delta Theta Sigma Sorority, Alpha Lambda Zeta Fraternity, and Phi Lambda Sigma Fraternity, social Greek organizations, emerged on campus.

**1928:** Duke Hall was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$200,000. The building included a Lincoln Room.

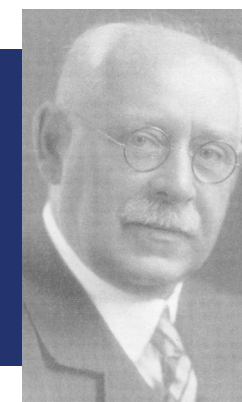
**1929:** LaFrentz-Poole Hall was completed.



When Dr. George Allen Hubble (1910-1922) resigned, the Board of Trustees issued a resolution expressing their respect and appreciation of the untiring "industry and devotion to duty" that had characterized his presidency.



Dr. Robert Orville Matthews (1923-1927), a minister in Toledo, Cincinnati, and Des Moines, had been chosen by President Woodrow Wilson to serve on the Speakers Commission during World War I. He later represented the American Red Cross in Europe and was assistant to the Federal Prohibition Commission. Dr. Matthews was a graduate of Syracuse and Princeton universities. This highly responsible public servant was just the type of leader needed to guide the institution through the stormy seas ahead.



Dr. Hervin Roop (1929-1931) of Pennsylvania was appointed dean in 1928 and president in 1929. The stock market crash ended the plans and aspirations of Dr. Roop. Some faculty were terminated, and Dr. Roop lost the support of the remaining faculty and students forcing him to resign at the conclusion of the 1930-31 year.



*J*

n response to the resignation of Dr. Hervin Roop, the Board hired Dr. H. Robinson Shipherd as the next president.

Lincoln artifacts, promote the University as holding those artifacts, and lay claim to protecting the Lincoln legacy.

Robert L. Kincaid, a member of the class of 1915 who had joined LMU's administration in 1919, promoted the school's historic connection to Lincoln and developed its artifact collection. All three men worked on writings that highlighted and promoted the local history of the area, and, in a brilliant strategy move, arranged for heavyweights of both popular culture and politics to come to campus to receive the University's "Lincoln Diploma of Honor." One of the nation's leading actors, Raymond Massey, had just successfully performed in a Broadway production of Lincoln's young life. He and the former President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, received the award in 1939, bringing news coverage from across the country.

In 1940, *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* went from the stage to the big screen, LMU held the southern premiere of the movie, and Massey and his co-stars came to campus for the showing. News coverage, combined with the triumph of gaining membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, set LMU on a solid footing for a new decade.

To say that the 1930s began on a shaky foot was an understatement. Natural disaster also struck the campus. What became known as the "Cyclone of 1933" developed out of a strong line of storms that stretched from Nashville to the Cumberland Gap. The only human injury was a damaged finger, but the University sustained \$25,000 in damages at a time when it could not afford a tenth of the cost.

Dr. Stewart W. McClelland became president in 1932 and firmly believed that the University's Lincoln collection could draw the interest of benefactors. Newly appointed Director of Lincolniana R. Gerald McMurtry said McClelland believed "emphasis on President Abraham Lincoln gives the University a unique position among small institutions, and opens the door for the solicitation of funds from donors that would not ordinarily be opened to other colleges and universities." The two worked together to collect

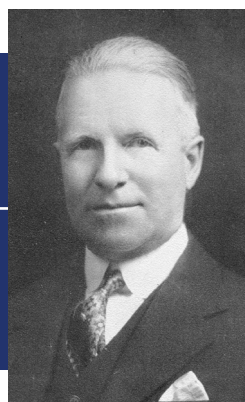
## Other Highlights

**1932:** Rev. and Mrs. R. G. McClelland, parents of President McClelland, visited campus. Rev. McClelland delivered a sermon at the morning church service on campus on October 16.

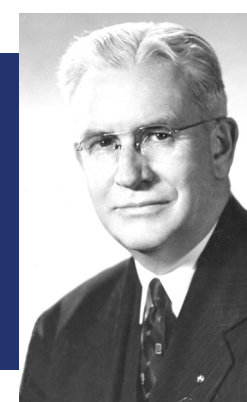
**1933:** Olga's Garden, located behind LaFrentz-Poole Hall, was completed. Started by Olga LaFrentz, daughter of F. W. LaFrentz, the garden contained a fish pond and numerous varieties of flowers. Hedges separated the flowers from the vegetables. Each female resident in LaFrentz-Poole put a goldfish in the pond.

**1934-35:** Campus organizations formed a Students Cooperative Council to help organize campus activities.

**1936:** Self-governance was given to the girls who lived in LaFrentz-Poole Hall.



Dr. H. Robinson Shipherd (1931-1932), an English professor from New York and Harvard, was sought out and appointed president shortly after the resignation of Dr. Roop. Shipherd was optimistic about the University's future despite the gloom that had prevailed in 1930.



Dr. Stewart W. McClelland (1932-1947), an instructor of English, former headmaster, and a pastor, arrived at LMU in August 1932. He brought balance back to the school, which was struggling financially and in the aftermath of a student strike. His path was very long and hard, however, in 1936, he succeeded in getting LMU admitted to the Southern Association as an accredited institute of higher education.



Student enrollment grew from 1940 to 1941. However, events on the world's stage interceded. On December 7, 1941, LMU students learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor from a radio that had been brought in and set up at the Duke Hall stage.

Soon, LMU students served in both the European and Pacific Theaters of the war. Some never returned to campus, with most deaths from the school occurring in Normandy after D-Day in 1944.

After the war, LMU saw a significant rise in its student population, and a new world greeted it, too. President Stewart McClelland acknowledged the pain of the past four years and the uncertainty of the remaining years of the decade when he told students in 1946,

"The tragic chapter of universal war is closed; a new chapter opens with peace, hope, and now freedom for oppressed people. A responsibility comes to all of us graver even than the physical defense of our liberties. We must meet the challenge of a revolutionary, atomic age. You are taught at Lincoln Memorial University that 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.' As champions of the principles by which man can become forever free, let not your heart be troubled. Face with faith and courage the eternal issues which beset the world."

Fewer men were participating in campus sports, and women's sports expanded beyond classic pursuits. Returning veterans were not as likely to tolerate wearing the green freshman beanies that had typically been worn by the incoming class to mark them as new and "green." Likewise, veterans sought ways to connect with fellow students who had experienced similar wartime experiences. The development of a Veterans Club on campus quickly followed the end of the war. As the 1940s shifted into the 1950s, the second half of the 20th century saw a shift in LMU student culture.

# Other Highlights

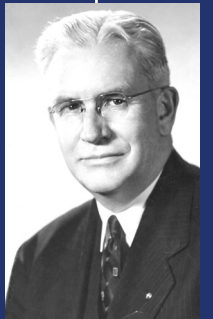
**1944:** GI Bill was introduced, providing students with new means to attend higher education. It covered the cost of school, aided in housing, and also provided them with unemployment insurance. Suddenly, more young men than ever could attend Lincoln Memorial University, and they did so with government assistance. It was the first significant departure from the work-study model that continued to take precedence for how LMU students funded their education.

**1944:** Freshman Brownell Bryant scored 83 points in a basketball game against Tennessee Wesleyan, a record for most points scored in a single game that still stands in 2023.

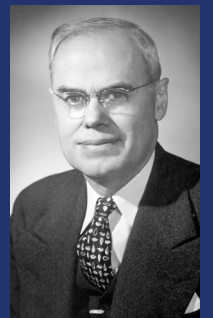
**1946:** A \$75,000 campaign for a new physical education and athletics facility began, and it was suggested that a sports arena at Camp Forrest, an Army post in Tullahoma, Tennessee, be bought and moved to campus. The building was renamed Mary E. Mars Gymnasium after the mother of a former member of the Board of Trustees, Sam Mars, Sr., and dedicated to all mothers everywhere.

**1948:** Mars Gymnasium officially opened November 29, 1948, in a basketball game which saw the Railsplitters fall 58-43 to the Tennessee Volunteers.

## Presidents



Dr. Stewart W. McClelland (1932-1947)



Dr. Robert L. Kincaid (1947-1958), 1915, was the first alumnus to be named president of LMU. Coming from the hills of Georgia in 1912, Kincaid earned his way through college as secretary to the president; made his way in the world as editor and author; and made himself useful as a civic leader. He had most recently served as executive vice president to Stewart McClelland.





## Other Highlights

The 1950s were ushered in with the completion of Kresge Infirmary. Made possible by a grant from the Kresge Foundation, the building was dedicated June 4, 1950, as part of the commencement activities. The Infirmary had two wards each for men and women, a reception room, office, X-ray room, diet kitchen, living quarters for the nurse, and classroom facilities.

Athletic endeavors were aided by the new facility, the Mary E. Mars Gymnasium. In 1954, Mary S. Annan Natatorium was constructed for swimming enrichment. The facility's namesake, who gave funds that allowed LMU to complete the project, attended the dedication. President Robert Provine, who took over in 1958, was immediately forced to make tough financial decisions, and one met with protest was his announcement that intercollegiate athletic programs would be abolished. A few students protested, and alumni wrote letters expressing their displeasure of the decision. The president and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees altered the original decision, but added that \$5,000 needed to be raised for the programs to continue. The Alumni Association accepted the challenge and launched a fundraising campaign.

The GI Bill continued to significantly affect the character of the student population in the 1950s, and this remained particularly true following the Korean War. Once again, the student population saw classmates go off to war, and those returning students also gained GI benefits.

The post-war period included greater emphasis on science thanks to rising atomic concerns and the coming space age. The University invested in new science facilities and completed Farr-Chinnock Hall in 1951. The building included science labs and new offices for LMU faculty. Here, LMU students could complete studies in the physical sciences, chemistry, and physics.

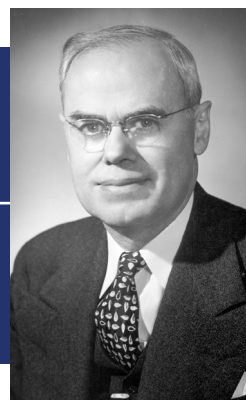
**Early 1950s:** First campus Rose Garden was started with the help of the Middlesboro Rose Society. The project was spearheaded by W.I. Jones with assistance from the Nancy Hanks Club, the *Railsplitter* staff, and interested faculty.

**1956:** An Office for Development was established, a full-time Vice President for University Development was hired, and a 10-year Development Program with 10 objectives was authorized.

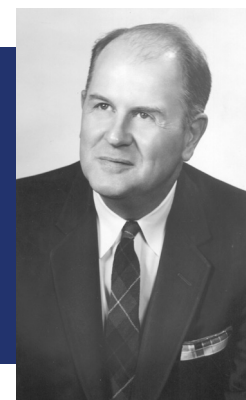
**1957:** The 60th anniversary of the chartering of LMU was celebrated on February 12. In the closing speech, President Kincaid outlined LMU's future and pledged its continuance as an outstanding liberal arts college. He spoke of LMU as "a little flame glowing in the hearts of men who seek to dispel the shadows of ignorance, prejudice, hatred and misunderstanding in mankind's never-ending quest for the better life."

**1958:** The Grace Nettleton Home for Girls was razed. Since 1956, it had not been financially possible to sponsor the home, so assets were liquidated and over \$47,000 placed in trust as the Grace Nettleton Home Foundation to support scholarships, religious work, and community service.

## Presidents



Dr. Robert L. Kincaid (1947-1958) retired from the presidency in June 1958. His 46 year association with LMU made him one of the most beloved presidents of all-time, and he was given the title president emeritus by the Board of Trustees as an expression of appreciation.



Dr. Robert C. Provine (1958-1963), of Nashville, Tennessee, selected as the ninth president of LMU, had a distinguished record of educational service. The experienced teacher and administrator had been president of Ward-Belmont College and had most recently served as president of the Marion (Alabama) Military Institute.



n 1962 the University, looking to the future, established a Development Committee and solicited reports from trustees, faculty and administrators as to the educational and physical plant needs of LMU. Of note

was the defined need for additional dormitory space for male students and a new student (or campus) center.

executive vice president. Dr. H. LaMarr Rice, who had experience as an educator and civic leader, particularly with the YMCA, was named president in April 1964. Dr. Rice embraced the need for an expanded physical plant at LMU and worked not only to make the Campus Center a reality in 1967 but also worked to expand the library and its collections. Also that year, LMU was accepted by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and three new service organizations were on campus: Gamma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Circle K, and Alpha Phi Omega. Dr. Rice stepped down in 1967 and was replaced by veteran LMU professor and administrator Herbert Y. Livesay, who had served in various roles at the University for more than 30 years.

The 1960s brought the first black students to the LMU campus. The first documented African American student in a class at the University was in 1966 when Mattie Babb took summer courses at LMU. Six black students attended classes during the summer of 1967, and one attended in the fall of that year. Pearl Robinson Goins enrolled in LMU in the fall of 1968 and became the first African American female to earn a degree fully at Lincoln Memorial University in 1972.

When Dr. Provine resigned as President in June 1963, the Board appointed Dr. R. Martin Peters, head of the education department, to serve as interim

## Other Highlights

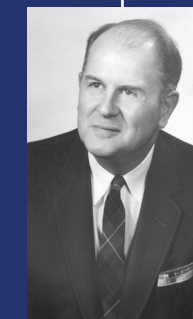
**1960:** LMU alumnus and former president Dr. Robert L. Kincaid died in May.

**1961:** An experimental program teaching Spanish began at Ellen Myers School, LMU's student teaching center for students working toward certification in elementary school teaching. The program was under the joint supervision of Ellen Myers' principal and teachers and LMU personnel and was endorsed by the superintendent of Claiborne County Schools. Classes were team taught by two LMU students who were majoring in Spanish.

**1966:** Construction began on December 20 for two new dormitories for men. The buildings would open for students in Fall 1967.

**1968:** George W. Morton, Sr., LMU's first graduate, died at the age of 97. Born February 7, 1871, near LaFollette, Tennessee, Morton was the only one of his 10 siblings to attend college.

## Presidents



Dr. Robert Provine (1958 - 1963)



Dr. H. LaMarr Rice (1963-1967) was a noted counselor, lecturer, radio and television speaker, teacher and member of "Who's Who in Education" when he was named LMU president. He came to LMU from Denison University where he had received his undergraduate degree.



Dr. Herbert Livesay (1967-1972) had served LMU as professor, dean of men, administrative dean, comptroller, vice president and treasurer of the Board of Trustees, and had experience as a public school principal. He studied at Milligan College, the University of Tennessee and Vanderbilt University and was an ordained minister.



The 1970s marked a decline in college enrollments across the country, but in true LMU fashion, plans were put into place for the University to prosper. Dr. Herbert Livesay, who had spent 30 years at LMU serving as a professor, dean of men, comptroller, treasurer of the Board of Trustees and vice president, had earned the right and was appointed president of LMU in 1969. He set out to put LMU on a path toward academic growth and fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately, Dr. Livesay died in February 1973 before he could make a resounding impact, and his administrative assistant Charles West served as acting president from March until June 1973 when Dr. Frank Welch was named president. Welch would be only the second Tennessee native at the time to hold the office.

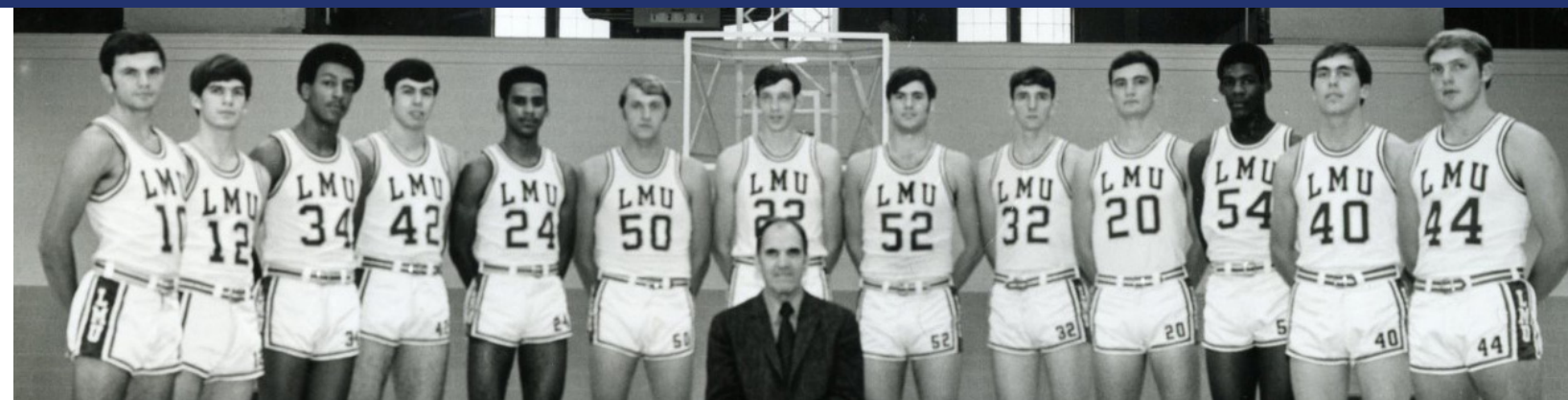
The Board of Trustees knew that Dr. Welch must act quickly if the University was to survive. Enrollment

had dropped to 400 students in the Spring semester of 1973. Part of Welch's immediate strategy was to lure Class of 1963 graduate Gary J. Burchett from his position as director of student services at Mountain Empire Community College

to become assistant to the president. Fall Quarter 1975 enrollment totaled 844 students, the largest in the 78-year history of the institution. Cited as reasons for the increase were strengthened academic programs, concentration of student recruitment within a 150-mile radius of campus, improved community relations under the direction of Burchett, and an enthusiastic and experienced faculty and staff.

Emerging at LMU during the 1970s were innovations such as open admissions, off-campus classes, Saturday and regular evening classes, and independent and directed studies. Students, and their needs, were of utmost importance to the University, and faculty, staff, and student interaction was at an all-time high. Athletics had always been popular, but the passing of Title IX in 1972 increased the profile of women's sports, and shortly thereafter, the University began awarding athletic scholarships to females.

Through the generosity of Colonel Harland Sanders, the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum became a reality. The collection that had been stored in the Lincoln Room in Duke Hall was moved into the beautiful new facility at the front of campus in 1977.



## Other Highlights

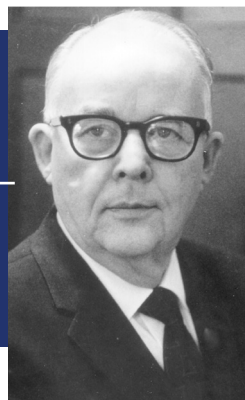
**1974:** The Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program was launched. Frances T. Stout, RN, BSN, served as the first director of the program. Thirty students were admitted, and one full-time and one part-time faculty member were hired to deliver the curriculum.

**1975:** After 47 years, the student-run *Blue & Gray* publication ended with the February 10 issue when financial support collapsed and the editor resigned. The original budget of \$1,900 set aside for the newspaper to operate was not sufficient due to the rise in printing costs.

**1976:** The men's basketball team, under the direction of Head Coach Jack Jackson, made a name for themselves by earning a fourth-place finish at the NAIA National Championship held in Kansas City. Cars packed with fans made their way across the country to support the Railsplitters whom many had never heard of before but knew quite well afterwards as the Cinderella team of the basketball season.

**1978:** Grant-Lee Hall was included in the National Register of Historic Places. That same year, one of several major renovation projects the building has undergone began.

**1979:** The Lincoln Century Club was started for anyone contributing \$100 to LMU. Members received a certificate suitable for framing to signify their membership. The club's goal of 100 members was reached shortly after it began, prompting the University to set a new goal of 200 members by 1980.



Dr. Herbert Livesay's (1967-1972) tenure as president was cut short due to his untimely death. He had served the University for 37 years, and few awards had escaped him. Chairman of the Board Dr. Stewart McClelland praised him in his memoriam: "He [Livesay] had a wise and understanding heart, never rushed, never hurried, never made a quick judgment... [He was a] great Christian gentleman."



Charles West (1973) was appointed acting president by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees following the death of Dr. Livesay until a new president could be hired.



Dr. Frank Welch (1973-1981), a graduate of Lambuth College, Emory University, and Florida State University was appointed president June 1, 1973. As vice president for development at Lambuth, Welch had the background the Board felt was needed for LMU to survive the critical decade of the 70s.

# Other Highlights

**1980:** Title III grant provided LMU with funds to purchase a new computer center. The automated Texas Instruments 990/10 computer system improved the registration process and provided better standards for processing academic records and transcripts.

**1985:** A film crew for the “Heartland Series” on WBIR-TV in Knoxville shot a segment at LMU on how the Civil War affected the people of East Tennessee. The University’s 63rd Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment reenactment group was featured.

**1986:** The Les Gibbs Soccer Field was constructed and named for LMU Board of Trustees member Les Gibbs.

**1986-87:** The women’s basketball team, coached by Roger Vannoy, 1975, won the TVAC Championship. The team was ranked 12th nationally.

**1987:** The Lincoln Athletic Foundation, an endowment to provide scholarships for student-athletes, was established.

**1988:** The Phillips Center for Veterinary Technology, named for LMU Board of Trustees member Judge Glyn Phillips, 1946, was dedicated.

**1988:** The Elizabeth D. Chinnock Chapel, the non-sectarian facility named for the former LMU Board of Trustees member, was dedicated.

**1988:** WLMU-FM, a non-commercial campus radio station, went on air.

**1988:** The original J. Lamar Hennon Baseball Field, named for former baseball standout and LMU Board of Trustees member Lamar Hennon, 1959, was completed.

**1988:** The library complex, named the Harold M. Finley Learning Resources Center, in honor of Dr. Harold M. Finley, active chairman of the Board of Trustees and longtime benefactor of the University, was dedicated.

**1989:** J. Frank White Academy, a college preparatory school, located in the newly renovated 14,300-square-foot DAR Hall, opened, marking the first time since 1929 that the University housed a private high school.

**1989:** Annan Tennis Courts were constructed, and named for former LMU Board of Trustees member John Annan, 1953.



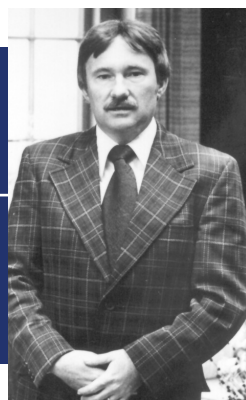
The 1980s brought a time of opportunity and resurgence to LMU. The prior decade had seen enrollment plunge into the 400s, and the University’s endowment was not quite \$1 million dollars. But as the decade turned, things began to rebound, and by 1981 LMU’s fall enrollment was a record 1,270 students. President Frank Welch resigned in 1981, and the Board of Trustees named Dr. Gary Burchett as acting president of LMU. An LMU alumnus and Cumberland Gap native, Burchett had enjoyed a career as a teacher and educational administrator, eventually serving as the Dean of Students at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, before returning to serve his alma mater. Burchett went on to serve as

LMU president for almost a decade. During his tenure, he spearheaded a facility plan to restore many of the buildings on campus, added a new wing to the library in 1987, and surpassed a \$7 million fundraising goal.

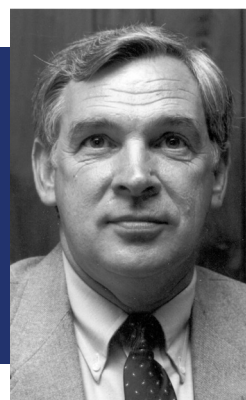
The 1980s brought many “firsts” to the University. The LMU Athletes’ Hall of Fame inducted its first members in 1984. The Master of Education (MEd) degree and the Associate of Science (AS) in computer science degree were offered for the first time. In 1986 LMU offered its first Elderhostel Program on campus as part of an international program that makes lifelong learning opportunities available to senior citizens through educational institutions across the United States and abroad.



## Presidents



Dr. Franklin Welch served as president for seven years before resigning in 1981.



An LMU alumnus, 1963, and Cumberland Gap native, Gary Burchett (1981-1991) had enjoyed a career as a teacher and educational administrator, eventually serving as the Dean of Students at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, before returning to serve his alma mater as president.



**L**incoln Memorial University celebrated its 100th anniversary at a time of transition at the University and around the world. The celebration in 1997 came near the end of a decade that saw four different University presidents at the University's helm—the most to hold the office in any decade of LMU's history.

Several important additions were made to the campus during this time. In 1991 the University completed Tex Turner Arena, a 5,009-seat basketball arena, to house Railsplitter Basketball and other LMU sports. At that time LMU was a member of the Gulf South Conference. The facility was named in honor of University benefactor B. Frank "Tex" Turner, 1923-1926. A Texas native, Turner played football for LMU's Airedales during his time as an undergraduate. He pursued a career in the oil industry and left a sizeable gift to his alma mater at the time of his death.

Other physical plant additions included the original Dorothy Neely Softball Field, named for Board of

Trustees member Dorothy Neely, and the Schenck Center for Health Sciences, named for William Schenck, a member of the Board of Trustees in the 1920s. A generous donation from Cincinnati physician Paul V. Hamilton, 1925, resulted in LMU's School of Arts and Sciences being renamed the Paul V. Hamilton School of Arts and Sciences. The decade also saw significant changes to the Harrogate area, with the establishment of the Harrogate city government under its first mayor, Dr. George Day, and the opening of the Cumberland Gap Tunnel, which provided a direct route from Harrogate into Middlesboro, Kentucky.

In the mid-1990s, LMU established its online presence with the launching of its website, www.LMUnet.edu. The University established the Educational Specialist (EdS) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees. At the end of the decade, LMU alumnus and trustee Dr. Autry O.V. "Pete" DeBusk, a member of the board since 1984, was elected chairman of the board.

# Other Highlights

**1993:** The Abraham Lincoln statue at the entranceway to the main campus, made possible through alumni benefactors Dr. Henry, 1948, and Mrs. Lena Mae Spencer, 1947, was installed. The statue was created by sculptor Jack Witt of Ashland, Virginia.

**1994:** The Cumberland Mountain Research Center received a three-year, \$70,000 grant from the Defense Department to study "Aquatic Resources of the Holston Army Ammunition Plant." The study resulted in the cave salamander being chosen as the official state amphibian by Tennessee.

**1996:** Two LMU staff members, Donnie Grigsby, assistant director of admissions and a graduate of LMU's athletic training program, and Rich Frazee, head athletic trainer, were invited to Atlanta to work with Olympic athletes from around the world.

**1996:** Centennial Brick Walk from the Lincoln the Lawyer statue to the flagpole, was dedicated during Homecoming.

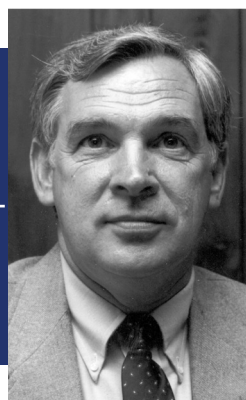
**1997:** The Centennial of LMU was celebrated. A convocation was held in Duke Hall in January, and the major celebration for students, faculty, staff, and the greater community was on February 12, Lincoln's birthday.

**1997:** LMU alums R. Martin Peters, 1949, and Art Brill, 1953, served the University as interim president and acting provost respectively during the presidential search process following the resignation of Scott Miller.

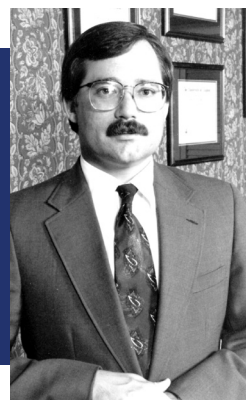
**1999:** Beloved and respected Chairman of the Board of Trustees Harold M. Finley, of Chicago, Illinois, died.

**1999:** Dr. Jerry Bishop was inaugurated as president on May 7.

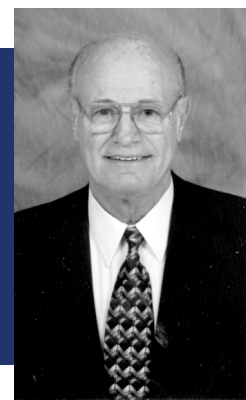
## Presidents



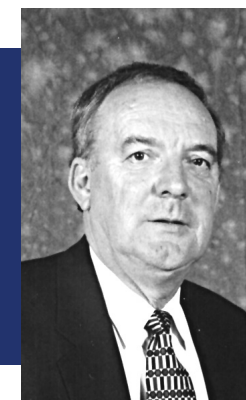
Dr. Gary Burchett (1981-1991) resigned in 1991 to become vice president at DeRoyal Industries.



Dr. Scott Miller (1991-1997) was inaugurated as president in October 1992. He came to LMU from Rio Grande University in 1984 as vice president for development and was named senior vice president in 1988.



Dr. R. Martin Peters (1997-1998) came out of semi-retirement to once again serve his alma mater as interim president during a presidential transition. He had been teaching in the LMU School of Graduate Education.



A native of Hawkins County, Tennessee, and 1965 LMU graduate, Dr. Jerry C. Bishop (1998-2001) was named president. He had taught, served as a high school principal and superintendent of Lee County (VA) Schools. He served on the LMU Board of Trustees, then as vice president for administration under Dr. Peters before being named president.

The 2000s marked a period of unprecedented growth in LMU's history. Under the leadership of LMU Board of Trustees Chairman Autry O.V. "Pete" DeBusk and LMU President Nancy B. Moody (2002-2009), the University more than doubled its enrollment and increased its operating budget five-fold.

As LMU evolved to meet the needs of the people of the Appalachian region and beyond, the University established its first three doctoral level degrees—in education, in osteopathic medicine and in law—and laid the initial groundwork for a fourth doctoral degree in veterinary medicine. The Caylor School of Nursing expanded its well-established nursing program to include an MSN degree program and continued to see nursing remain LMU's largest

undergraduate major. The CSON also received a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant totaling more than \$800,000, the largest award in the University's history, to support the further development of its master's program.

Following the matriculation of the LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine's inaugural class in 2007, the University welcomed its first class of physician assistant students in 2009. The Carter and Moyers School of Education saw explosive growth in its education specialist degree program as states rewarded teachers for obtaining advanced degrees. The Powell River Aquatic Research Station was opened in Tazewell, Tennessee, to increase the study of the Powell River. The men's soccer team made a historic run to the NCAA Division II National Championship, where they were defeated by Franklin Pierce University 1-0.

# Other Highlights

**2000:** Autry O.V. "Pete" DeBusk, 1965, was named chairman of the Board of Trustees. DeBusk had served on the Board since 1984.

**2001:** The social work program received accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting body for social work programs.

**2003:** Two new academic programs, the Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and pre-law, began.

**2003:** A new computerized catalog system, the "Piper" system, was dedicated. The donors who made the system possible, were honored at the Carnegie-Vincent Library.

**2003:** Datatel, a fully integrated computer information management system, was implemented.

**2004:** The O. O. Howard sculpture was dedicated on November 7. Rhudy Bell, 1952, an accomplished sculptor and Lincoln enthusiast, completed the bronze bust of the LMU founder.

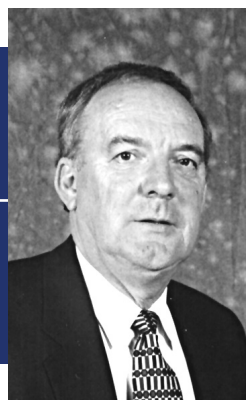
**2004:** Three new residence halls named in honor of donors to the University - Mitchell Hall (Nancy Mitchell Price), Dishner Hall (Dr. Paul Dishner) and Pope Hall (Don, 1950, and Mary Lou Pope) were opened.

**2005:** The University entered into a collaborative agreement with the Appalachia School of Pharmacy, making it possible for more students to study pharmacy without leaving the region.

**2008:** LMU mourned the loss of dear friend, honored alumna, past interim president, and trustee Dr. R. Martin Peters, 1949, who passed away January 17. He was called on to serve as interim president of LMU for one year in 1997, and was still an active member of the Board of Trustees.



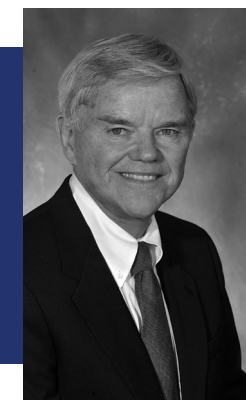
## Presidents



Dr. Jerry C. Bishop (1998-2001) graduated from LMU in 1965 and was inducted into the LMU Athletic and Educators' Halls of Fame. During his tenure LMU was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Major technological advances were made such as the expansion of the library's databases to allow off-site access.



A native of Middlesboro, Kentucky, Dr. Nancy B. Moody (2002-2009) first came to LMU as an instructor of nursing in 1974. She became dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health in 1991. In 2002 Dr. Moody became LMU's first female president. During her presidency, LMU saw unprecedented expansion. The DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine opened as did the Duncan School of Law. LMU started a number of programs including the EdD in Executive Leadership and a master's degree in nursing.



Dr. Warren Neel (2009-2010) was named interim president in April 2009 following the resignation of Dr. Nancy Moody and served during the search process for her replacement.

Since 2010 Lincoln Memorial University has significantly increased its doctoral-level offerings and added thousands of doctoral-level graduates to its alumni body. The inaugural class of LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine graduated in May 2011 with the inaugural class of LMU's Physician Assistant Program celebrating its commencement in August 2011. In May 2012 LMU Duncan School of Law celebrated its inaugural graduation, with Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr., the school's namesake, delivering the commencement address. In 2014 American

Bar Association (ABA) officials announced that the law school received provisional approval. The ABA granted full approval to the law school in March 2019.

In addition to celebrating its first doctoral degree graduates in 2011, the decade brought more accomplishments to the Carter and Moyers School of Education when it was granted National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation by the Continuous Improvement Commission of the Council for Accreditation of Education Preparation in 2013. The Commission cited no areas for improvement relative to any of the standards.

In August 2014 the LMU-College of Veterinary Medicine opened its

doors to its inaugural class when it became one of just 30 veterinary colleges in the United States. That same year the veterinary school completed construction on the 700-acre DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center in Ewing, Virginia. The LMU-CVM moved into the new three-story, 85,000-square-foot College of Veterinary Medicine building on the Harrogate campus in May 2019, following dedication ceremonies by United States Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, DVM. During Homecoming 2022 the CVM was rededicated in honor of long-time LMU trustee Dr. Richard A. Gillespie as the LMU-Richard A. Gillespie College of Veterinary Medicine.

In 2017 LMU purchased an 11-acre property in West Knoxville and undertook a major renovation project to transform two existing buildings into state-of-the-art facilities. DCOM at LMU-Knoxville welcomed its first class on July 29, 2019.

During this decade the University developed an

advanced medical training program for physician assistants, the Doctor of Medical Science. The DMS Program provides practicing physician assistants with increased medical knowledge and advanced competence as medical educators. The inaugural class of DMS graduates celebrated their commencement in August 2018.

In 2019 the University established the School of Medical Sciences to include the Physician Assistant Program as well as the DMS Program. Also that year the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum closed temporarily for a massive multi-million dollar renovation. The Museum celebrated its grand reopening during Homecoming 2021 boasting the exhibits "Log Walls to Marble Halls," tracing Abraham Lincoln's journey from the frontier to the national stage; "Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War," an examination of the difficult constitutional issues President Lincoln faced; "The Last Days of Lincoln," a new exhibition on Lincoln's final months in office; "The

LMU Story," a look at the origins of a living memorial to Lincoln in the Tennessee mountains and how his legacy has inspired the education of generations of students; and "The Dr. Carroll Rose Collection," featuring rare Confederate weapons and wartime medical instruments.

While the graduate and professional population at the University has expanded, so has the number of the youngest students on campus, those enrolled in the J. Frank White Academy. In 2019 renovations were completed on Kresge Hall to house the Academy's Lower School for grades K-3. By the early 2020s, middle and upper grades in the Academy were housed in Farr Hall, and JFWA seniors occupied the top floor of Duke Hall.

In 2021 the LMU-DCOM Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy programs at LMU-Knoxville welcomed their inaugural classes. LMU extended its footprint in Knoxville again with

the acquisition of the LMU Tower, formerly Physicians Regional Medical Center. The location opened in 2021, initially housing a new cohort of the Caylor School of Nursing's Associate of Science in Nursing. In Fall 2022 the inaugural class of the newly-accredited LMU-College of Dental Medicine began their studies in the LMU Tower as well.

Within undergraduate offerings, perhaps the most significant addition to majors at LMU came with the advent of the School of Engineering in 2022, offering coursework in civil, mechanical and chemical engineering.

These accomplishments came under the leadership of LMU Presidents Dr. B. James Dawson, who served the institution from 2010-2017, and Dr. E.







Clayton Hess, who began his term as LMU President in 2017. Hess, LMU's 21st president, is a long-time member of LMU's academic community. He received his undergraduate degree from LMU on a Saturday in the spring of 1981 and began working at his alma mater the following Monday.



## Other Highlights

**2011:** The Tennessee Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the LMU-Duncan School of Law Courtroom, allowing students of LMU-DSOL to observe the state's highest court in person at their own school. The docket included a death penalty appeal.

**2011:** United States Secretary of Transportation and member of President Barack Obama's cabinet Ray LaHood delivered the commencement address at the Winter Commencement Exercises. LaHood also was awarded the Lincoln Diploma of Honor.

**2012:** LMU's economic impact grew to \$95 million dollars and almost 2,000 jobs to the local economy (for fiscal year 2010-2011).

**2012:** Dr. Sara Adams, a member of the Delta Mu Delta National Board, installed the Lincoln Memorial University School of Business' Mu Kappa Chapter, making it the 298th Chapter of Delta Mu Delta.

**2014:** Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President Gerald R. Ford and Mrs. Betty Ford, delivered the commencement address on May 3.

**2017:** Renovations to Grant-Lee Hall were completed to house administrative offices including the Division of University Advancement, which offered tours of the building at Homecoming in October 2017.

**2019:** Tennessee Governor Bill Lee joined LMU in celebrating the opening of a second location of the DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (DCOM) at the University's newest off-campus site in Knoxville on December 6.



## Presidents



Dr. B. James Dawson (2010-2017) joined LMU in 2009 as chief operating officer and chancellor of the main campus. His main role was as chief administrator while interim president Warren Neel focused on the presidential search. Dawson had most recently served as president of Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina.



Dr. E. Clayton Hess (2017-present) came up through the ranks at LMU. He received his undergraduate degree in 1981 and continued to serve as assistant director of admissions followed by positions as director of testing, director of career planning and placement, director of institutional advancement, director of institutional research, effectiveness and accreditation, assistant vice president for academic affairs and vice president for academic affairs.



War General O.O. Howard to speak at the school's graduation ceremony. During that visit, Myers shared his vision for an institution of higher education at the site of the old Four Seasons Hotel with Howard, who was influential in the founding of as many as 70 schools and colleges. One such was Howard University, named in his honor, which he also served as president from 1869 to 1874. Howard recalled a conversation he had with President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, where Lincoln observed that the mountain people of East Tennessee were loyal, but often overlooked. Howard recalled Lincoln's wish to repay the Appalachian people for their loyalty and agreed to assist Myers by building a school that would serve as a living memorial to President Lincoln while providing educational opportunities for underserved populations. Lincoln Memorial University was founded on the anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 1897, nestled in the Cumberland Gap at the site of the Four Seasons Hotel.

One hundred and twenty-five years later this living memorial to Lincoln can take a student from kindergarten, at the J. Frank White Academy, all the way to a professional degree. The University's footprint stretches from Corbin, Kentucky, to Tampa, Florida, with online offerings reaching across the country. With an enrollment of over 5,000 students and an economic impact on the region that exceeds \$100 million, LMU is fulfilling the mission established by its founders.

Ahead of the February 2022 kick-off to the year-long celebration, preparations included the development of a 125<sup>th</sup> logo, pole banners for campus, and other marketing and promotional items. An updated alumni directory including a comprehensive historical timeline for LMU was published, and a commemorative wall calendar was printed as a keepsake including a schedule of 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. The public relations and marketing department developed a new commercial celebrating LMU's mission and heritage. The creative ventures utilized historic photos and video footage.

The 125<sup>th</sup> programming began in earnest in February as University leaders, alumni, and students joined state legislators in Nashville on February 7 for a special proclamation from the House floor followed by a legislative reception.

Months before February 2022, Lincoln Memorial University assembled a committee to plan the institution's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Comprised of alumni, administration, staff, faculty, students, and community members, the 125<sup>th</sup> Committee was tasked with defining the scope of the festivities and developing a theme, as well as planning and presenting events.

The committee set out to plan a full calendar year of celebrations and remembrances. It settled on the theme "Four Seasons to New Seasons." The theme highlights the University's humble beginnings on the grounds of the then-defunct Four Seasons Hotel which opened with a grand ball in 1892. The luxurious vacation destination in Harrogate, Tennessee, included a 700-room hotel and 200-bed sanitarium. A year later, the enterprise was failing. The property and buildings were sold in 1895 and promptly liquidated.

Reverend A.A. Myers had come to the area to run the Harrow Academy and in 1896 invited Civil



Founders Day of Giving activities and special Lincoln birthday commemorations took place from February 11-13 at the main campus in Harrogate, and at off-campus sites throughout the region. The Alpha Lambda Zeta Fraternity is pictured here holding the trophy as the winning team at the Founders Day games held at Tex Turner Arena.



University Advancement launched its Founders Day of Giving campaign in January 2022 with a goal of 500 individual gifts by Founders Day on February 12. In addition to the popular "\$20 for the Top Hat" gifts, Railsplitters were challenged to give \$125 for 125 years. The campaign exceeded its donor goal and raised over \$25,000.



The Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum (ALLM) presented free admission, special programming, and behind-the-scenes vault tours by ALLM Director Michael Lynch and his staff.



In March the Alumni Services office hosted a combined Southwest Virginia and Claiborne County Alumni chapter meeting, where members of LMU's most active alumni associations networked and heard an update on University activities.



On Lincoln's Birthday, LMU officials made the annual trek to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Wreath Laying ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial. Senior Director for Alumni Affairs Sheliah Cosby; Paul V. Hamilton School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Martin Sellers; Director of Development Donnie Lipscomb; and alumni Marty Cosby, B 1981, EdD 2016, and Frank Weiss, 1972, joined the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee and the National Park Service in the celebration. LMU is one of only a handful of institutions and organizations, and the only university, selected to participate in the National Wreath-Laying ceremony. The group, along with ALLM Director Michael Lynch and Program Director Natalie Sweet, would return to the nation's capital in May 2022 to be a part of the Lincoln Memorial Centennial Celebration.



In April, a host of arts and humanities events took place in honor of the anniversary. In a return of national concerts to Tex Turner Arena (the first since 2007), the Student Services Division brought national recording artist, singer, songwriter, and actor Jesse McCartney to campus for a spring concert.



The Paul V. Hamilton School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences announced the winners of the 125<sup>th</sup> poetry and writing contests. The contests challenged writers to recognize and explore the bond between the University, Abraham Lincoln, and East Tennessee. The contests, for poetry and writing, were open to the university community, and there was a section just for high school students. The school also hosted a Gallery Hop and Antique Show in Cumberland Gap, a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Choir Concert, and Jazz and Concert Band concerts which featured original music inspired by LMU.



In early May University Advancement hosted a special evening for LMU's Patrons of the Arts, bringing supporters of the University arts programs together for fellowship and to explore the future of arts at LMU.



LMU celebrated six individual commencement ceremonies in May: a main ceremony for undergraduate and graduate degree recipients; one in Tampa, Florida, for LMU-Caylor School of Nursing degree candidates; the LMU Law ceremony in Knoxville; the LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine ceremony; the LMU-College of Veterinary Medicine ceremony; and the J. Frank White Academy graduation in Duke Hall. At each ceremony, the diploma covers included the 125<sup>th</sup> logo and the celebration was highlighted in the program.



The student body returned in August as the Class of 2026 arrived for an out-of-this-world Welcome Weekend and a matriculation ceremony at Tex Turner Arena.



The LMU Women of Service presented its annual Fashion Show to raise scholarships and other student initiatives in August.



A very special Homecoming celebration included a concert from national recording artist Chase Bryant, the Railsplitter 5K, reunions, dedications and an 125th anniversary play. "Illuminating the Blue and Gray: Stories of LMU's Alumni," written and directed by Assistant Professor of Theater Joe Gill, was a love letter to LMU featuring stories and favorite memories from alumni and favorite memories. Pictured is Katie Harber Chumley, 1976, who had the lead role in the play.



In November, LMU hosted a "Party Like It's 1897" event at The Olde Church in Cumberland Gap. The festive evening included live music, dance lessons, and fine dining based on the customs of 1897. Attendees were encouraged to dress in the fashions of the era in which the University was founded. The event gave patrons another opportunity to celebrate LMU and its history.



In December, the fall graduates of the Class of 2022 were celebrated in three separate ceremonies in Harrogate and Knoxville, Tennessee, and Tampa, Florida. Like in May, the diploma covers were embossed with the 125<sup>th</sup> logo.

The quasiquintennial celebration inspired LMU to commission a fight song. While LMU's alma mater, first adopted in the 1940s, has played a part in commencement ceremonies, presidential inaugurations and other events for years, the University had no go-to anthem to play during sporting events. Composed by Assistant Professor of Music and Pep Band Director Ben Bruflat, the new fight song debuted during the Alumni Night basketball games and was included in the spring band concerts.

### 125<sup>th</sup> LMU Fight Song

Stand up and fight for LMU!

Show your pride for the Gray and Blue!

Through thick and thin we can do no wrong!

One hundred twenty-five and still going strong!

Don your colors and show no fear for a Railsplitter victory is near!

A Railsplitter victory is here!

L M U! L M U! L M U! L M U!



Prior to the latest fight song, there were four other songs inspired by the University. The first dates back to 1913 and is simply titled "LMU Song". The second was a poem of devotion penned by Dean Charles Lewis in 1924. Lewis called it "Alma Mater." The 1940s brought a pair of songs including "Lincoln Victory Song" and the "Lincoln Alma Mater," which you will recognize as the official alma mater of LMU, even today.

### 1913 LMU Song

Nestled deep among the mountains,

Under skies of southern blue,

Fairer place for learning's fountains,

Ne'er was found than L.M.U.

Chorus

Merrily sing of the LMU,

Lovingly sing of the Gray and Blue,

To thy name we will ever be true

Three cheers for our L.M.U.

North and South are here united,

And with loyal hearts and true,

To thy name their love have plighted,

With the emblems Gray and Blue

Chorus

Graven deep on mem'ry's pages

Are the bright hours spent with you;

May thy fame resound thro' ages,

None so fair as L.M.U.

Chorus



**1924 Alma Mater**

Where the Cumberlands in grandeur stretch athwart the sky  
 Proudly stands our Alma Mater as the years roll by.  
 Service ever is her watchword, may her cause prevail,  
 Hail to thee, our Alma Mater, LMU – All hail!  
 May her noble sons and daughters stand in firm array,  
 Loyal to the high ideals of the Blue and Gray.  
 To her cause we pledge allegiance, may we never quail.  
 Hail to thee, our Alma Mater, LMU – All hail!  
 From the wooded hills and villages of our mountain land,  
 May the youth with hearts like Lincoln's come to join our band.  
 May our love and strong devotion never flag or fail,  
 Hail to thee, our Alma Mater, LMU – All hail!

**1940 Lincoln Victory Song**

The Railsplitters are hale critters,  
 In any battle they battle to beat the band.  
 The Railsplitters are nail hitters  
 They hit the nail on the head with the palm of their hand!  
 The Blue and Gray never fail.  
 So hail another victoreeee-rah!  
 Railsplitters!  
 Here's a cheer for you and dear old L.M.U.  
 Here's what we've been thinkin'  
 That the winner's gonna be Lincoln,  
 And the loser's gonna be blinkin'  
 From the rinka-ama dinka-a-ma dinkin'  
 they will get from L.M.U.

**1940 Lincoln Alma Mater**

May the tender love of our namesake dwell in our hearts forever and aye,  
 To inspire us in deeds of loyalty to the Blue and Gray,  
 May we live the truth that his life can tell so his mem'ry we'll ne'er betray,  
 Everlasting will be our loyalty to the Blue and Gray,  
 Proudly we sing to thee,  
 Honor we'll bring to thee,  
 To thee, Blue and Gray

# Logos

Dating back to ancient Egypt when rulers used hieroglyphics to brand and identify their possessions, the use of graphic imagery to represent a personal brand has evolved over time. In medieval times, coats of arms were developed to help distinguish status for nobility and identify clans. The modern-day era of logos evolved with the advent of modern printing in the 1800s and early 1900s. With mass production came an interest in crediting creators for craftsmanship, leading to the use of exclusive logos. Bass Brewery's logo including a red triangle with a script Bass under it became the first logo ever trademarked in 1876.



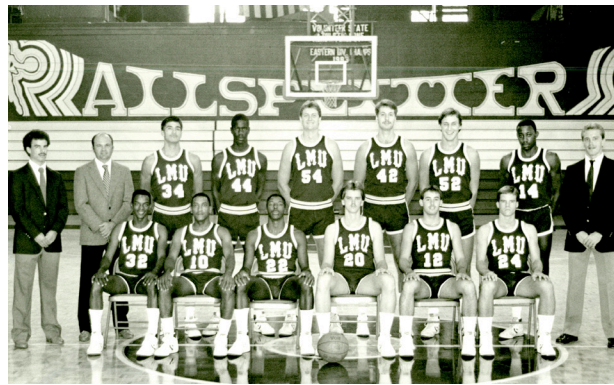
Lincoln Memorial University's graphic identity can be drilled down to three letters: L – M – U. Throughout the institution's 125-year history the logo has consisted of different configurations of L – M – U. The first pennant found in the archives is from 1910 and simply features LMU.

The most used logo over the University's lifespan first appears in an archival photo from the 1913 *Blue & Gray* when a group

of women labeled the Norton Boarding Club are pictured with two of them holding LMU pennants. One of the pennants features L, M and U interlocked. Henceforth known as the interlocking logo, the image harkens to the avant-garde artistic movement of the times and follows in the style of the iconic New York Yankees interlocking N and Y logo which was created in 1909. From 1913

through 2010 versions of the interlocking LMU were used on everything from athletic uniforms to facilities and playing surfaces.

Also highly used is a varsity L. Usually a block serif font, the L can stand alone or be adorned with athletic flourishes to represent a sport—wings for instance for track or a megaphone for cheer. In the 1930s the baseball uniforms featured block LMU inside a diamond. Other eras brought



a more simple and straight forward LMU in block format. Into the 1970s and 1980s, this format was represented on playing surfaces including the Mars Gym floor.

The late 1990s and early 2000s brought a mountain logo for institutional publications and promotions. The logo was designed following surveys and focus groups with university constituents. This included the outline of the Cumberland Gap over a serif LMU. Athletics continued to use the interlocking LMU.

During Dr. Nancy B. Moody's presidency University publications moved away from the mountain logo in favor of a new formation of the interlocking logo. The new interpretation put the interlocking in the center of a round logo with the founding year, 1897, under it and Lincoln Memorial University around the outside ring with Harrogate, Tennessee.

An updated viewbook in 2010 ushered in a new logo—the wordmark. The wordmark was a sans serif block LMU with Lincoln Memorial University overlaid on top of it and remained in use for five years.

In 2015 the University's current family of logos was introduced along with a new athletic logo. Designed for LMU by a consultant working with the LMU Law School, the new logos give a fresh, modern, and clean look in vertical and horizontal formats that can be printed in LMU blue, gray, black or white. The block LMU calls back to the cement LMU represented on campus in front of the President's House (Smith Manor) and the DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine building. The athletic logo package includes horizontal and diagonal LMUs and a fighting Abe to represent the mascot.

While logos are commonly used on university stationary, brochures, advertisements, and athletic apparel, a college seal is an official logo that represents the institution formally. This is tied almost exclusively to academic pursuits and is used on formal documents and diplomas.

The earliest known usage of LMU's seal dates back to the cover of the 1923 *Railsplitter* (the yearbook). Featuring a side profile of Abraham Lincoln and the split motto "with malice toward none" on the left and "with charity for all" on the right, the seal has colloquially been referred to as "the penny logo." The motto is drawn from President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Lincoln aimed to unify a broken nation. Instead of placing blame, or rejoicing in the imminent northern victory, Lincoln instead offered conciliatory words to citizens in both the North and South.

Following its 1923 debut, the seal was first used on the 1925-1926 University catalog. Over the years, the seal has been updated without straying far from its original form. In the 1940s a version of the seal, this time omitting the motto, was used as the University logo. In 1972, as LMU celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding, the seal was again used as the inspiration for a mark.

The 125<sup>th</sup> logo that was used throughout the last calendar year was designed using the seal as its base.



1910



1913



1930



1940



Present

1970-1980s



1990-2000



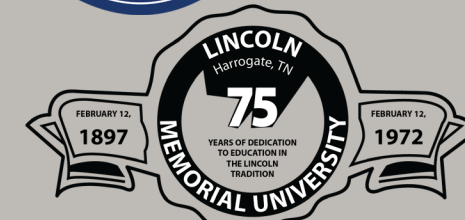
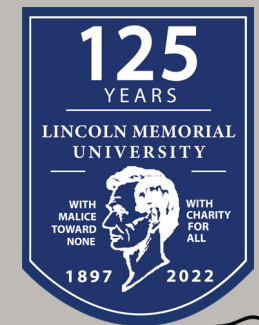
2002-2005



2010



Present



L

Lincoln Memorial University's initial collection of Lincoln artifacts were stored in a small stone building near what is today the Carnegie Vincent Library. Later, it moved into the library itself, and other artifacts were stored away in attics and corridors within the University. The need for a permanent location for the collection solidified when

University chancellor Dr. John Wesley Hill engaged an autograph dealer from New York City to build a Lincoln manuscript collection. In 1928, the University dedicated a third floor room in the Duke Hall of Citizenship to house its many historical riches. The "Lincoln Room," as it came to be known, served for many years as the University's "museum."

Though a dedicated space meant better protection, the collection sprawled, and it had little direction or interpretation. The arrival of Dr. Stewart W. McClelland as president in 1932 marked a transition. An instructor of English, a former headmaster, and a pastor, McClelland encouraged Lincoln Memorial University's growth by admission into the Southern Association of Colleges in 1936. More significantly for the collection of Lincoln artifacts and Civil War memorabilia, McClelland harbored a deep love and respect for Abraham Lincoln. He firmly believed that the Lincoln collection could draw the interest of benefactors. As McClelland's colleague and friend R. Gerald McMurtry explained, McClelland believed, "that emphasis on President Abraham Lincoln gives the University a unique position among small institutions, and opens the door for the solicitation of funds from donors that would not ordinarily be opened to other colleges and universities." McClelland hired McMurtry as a professor of history and first Director of Lincolniana to accomplish his vision. Lincolniana, as it was known both then and today, deals with artifacts and other materials related to Abraham Lincoln's life. Between the efforts of the two men, the collection quickly filled the Lincoln

Room of Duke Hall. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, they sought Lincoln artifacts and tracked down the provenance of priceless items. The two men also gathered thoughts on Lincoln by prominent contemporaries. As such, the University now holds autographed pictures and letters from individuals such as Amelia Earhart, Mahatma Gandhi, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Some pieces of Lincolniana were easier to obtain than others, and some artifacts had to be passed over due to a lack of funds. An example of this is the grand Osborn H. Oldroyd Lincoln Collection today housed at the University of Chicago, and which clearly pained McClelland and McMurtry. Others came with what McMurtry referred to as "cloak and dagger" stories. During WWII, McMurtry attempted to obtain a copy of Emil Ludwig's *Lincoln* in the original German—he valued the copy as "a beautiful example of the bookmaker's art." This was problematic, though, as Adolf Hitler had ordered copies of the book to be burned. As McMurtry related,

A firm named B. Weterman and Company in New York City offered for sale books in foreign languages. I wrote them that we were a struggling college trying to build a Lincoln collection with no funds. They replied that they were delighted to send our library a free copy of Ludwig's book. Shortly after the book arrived the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized the bookstore and declared it to be a Nazi spy nest. Needless to state all of the holdings of the University's Lincoln library did not come from such questionable donors.

With the intrepid efforts of McClelland and McMurtry, the collection at LMU expanded beyond one third floor room and reached into another. Then it spread to another...and then it took over another. By the end of McMurtry's tenure as president, the University had doubled its collection of scholarly books and tripled the number of primary sources that it held. Dr. Robert L. Kincaid, 1915, continued the work begun by McMurtry. Also a bibliophile and historian, he eagerly contacted potential donors and publicized the extent and value of the collection. As a result of the

efforts of these three men, some of the most important Lincoln scholars in the nation visited the school. Poet Carl Sandburg, President Herbert Hoover, and actor William Massey were also among the University's guests.



Despite the fact that McClelland and McMurtry began to draw up plans for the creation of a permanent museum on campus as early as 1945, a museum could not be constructed until the 1970s. Part of the reason for this was the cost involved in housing priceless artifacts: adequate temperature had to be maintained to make certain that books, such as an autographed first edition copy of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, did not run the risk of acquiring mold. A security system and durable cases had to be installed to make certain that items such as Lincoln's presidential cane were adequately protected while being admired by the public. It took a donor of substantial means to generate the funds and interest necessary to make these necessities a reality. Fortunately, that donor came in the form of Colonel Harland Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame.

Colonel Sanders' first Kentucky Fried Chicken Café opened only a short distance away from Lincoln

Memorial University in Corbin, Kentucky. In 1972, he joined the LMU Board of Trustees. Sanders saw the opportunity to build a museum and research center for Lincoln studies on campus. In 1973, Col. Sanders and his wife, Claudia Sanders, announced their intent to establish a center for Lincoln Studies at LMU. Initially dubbed the "Harland Sanders Center for Lincoln Studies," Sanders pledged \$500,000 if the public could raise the other half by the end of the year. With the oversight and commitment of Chairman of the Board Frank D. Rankin, LMU President Frank Welch, and Steering Committee Members C.H. Butcher, Jr., E. Oscar Robertson, and Ray Neely, over \$600,000 was raised, primarily by local donations.

The opening of the new museum was timed to coincide with the 1976 bicentennial of the nation. However, the official opening date took place on June 4, 1977. Beginning in Duke Hall, the old home of the collection, dignitaries and LMU faculty, staff, students, and alumni crowded into the building to hear the telegraphed congratulations of President



Jimmy Carter. After the awarding of Lincoln Diplomas and various speeches, the crowd moved to the new

building for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. For \$1.50 (or \$0.75 for children), visitors could now see one of the largest Lincoln collections in the world. In the Kresge Gallery, visitors marveled at rare Lincoln images and documents. In the Butcher Gallery, items related to Lincoln's presidency featured prominently in new exhibit cases.

Thousands of students, scholars, enthusiasts, and area school children benefited from seeing the collection in the years that followed. And in the new millennium, the museum took another step towards becoming a world-class institution thanks to the generous contributions of the Hansel and Dorothy Kincaid estate. A new quarter-of-a-million dollar exhibit was installed in the first gallery in 2018, allowing the museum to continue the work that the building was meant to do: make the collection accessible to the University's faculty, staff, and students; Lincoln and Civil War scholars; and local residents. The ability to adequately mount and display delicate artifacts means that museum visitors can, for the first time, see scales used by Abraham Lincoln in his New Salem grocery store.

The new Kincaid Gallery was the catalyst for an even bigger project. Through the generosity of the Dorothy Kincaid \$1 Million Matching Challenge, the museum added new wings to the museum, a children's "Lincoln

Learning Lab," and new collection exhibit and storage space between 2019 and 2022. Greatly encouraged by Mr. Gary Thurman, the executor of the Kincaid estate, and Dr. O.V. "Pete" DeBusk, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at LMU, the museum saw more of its fantastic collection moved from behind vault doors and into the public eye. Items that were previously kept in careful storage, such as lockets of Lincoln's hair, were displayed in new protective cases and displays.

Visitors gained better accessibility with the addition of an elevator to the second floor, and the world-class Civil War weaponry collection of Dr. Carroll Rose was put on display. With the acquisition of new space came the arrival of new artifacts, too; an oil painting by famous Civil War era artist Francis Carpenter, early Lincoln law documents, and new assassination relics.

As the University completes its 125<sup>th</sup> year, the collection reaches its 100th year, and the museum building marks its 45th anniversary, the spirit of Lincoln lives on as the history of the President and the school is passed on to its students. And what better way

for those students and all who are fortunate enough to visit this campus to encounter that legacy at the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum.





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## *Time Capsule Burial*



The 125<sup>th</sup> celebrations were wrapped up on February 14, 2023, with the burial of the time capsule. Inside were items such as a squishy tooth from the Dental School, a 3D printed bridge from the Engineering Department, and more from various schools and departments across LMU. Members of the 125<sup>th</sup> committee and J. Frank White Academy's Pre-K class helped bury the capsule. It is set to be opened on February 14, 2123.



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