

## Commencement from page one

even gave each graduate two orange wrist bands with the words written on them – one for themselves and the other for an accountability partner.

Brewer used his first graduation ceremony at LC to spotlight the achievements of several students. Not only were all the graduates seated on the stage of Guinn Auditorium, four of them were asked by Brewer to share their experiences at LC.

Those students included:

■ Ashley Black, a Biblical Studies major from Denham Springs, who began studying Hebrew online while in high school but knew she needed the right mentorship to advance in her understanding.

“I wanted to be able to study the Bible and the languages it was originally written in so that I could more accurately help people understand it,” Black said. “I didn’t come to LC primarily for a degree, but for an education, and that’s exactly what I got.”

■ Connor Headrick, a history major from Monroe, who will attend Tulane Law School in the fall and wants to specialize in defending religious liberties.

“This isn’t a call that ends today for us,” Headrick said. “It’s just beginning our lives’ work – our call to serve Christ and glorify Him in all we do. The Lord

made it very clear that Louisiana College was going to provide the foundation that I needed in order to fulfill my calling.”

■ Mark Klein, a convergence media major from Baton Rouge, who came to LC to compliment his part-time job opportunity at KALB-TV in Alexandria.

“That is how the Lord led me to LC, and here is the understatement of the year, thank the Lord He did,” Klein said. “LC took a kid in high school whose relationship with Christ was almost non-existent and made that the most important thing in his life.”

■ Finally, Kimberly Landry, a biology and chemistry major from Denham Springs, who will attend LSU Medical in Shreveport this fall in order to become a pediatrician.

“I’ve been privileged to study topics from the chemical and biological processes that keep us alive to the laws that govern the universe,” Landry said. “In every aspect of my studies, God’s design and order have been made evident. Many times, science is used to minimize faith. Here at LC, my studies have been a tool to grow my faith.”

“I know that Louisiana College was where God wanted me to be for the last four years. I have loved my time here, and I am honored to call this school my



Hannah Fleming photo

Graduates parade out of Guinn Auditorium following 2015 Spring Commencement ceremonies to applause from parents, family and well wishers. New LC President Rick Brewer bestowed degrees to 123 undergraduates and 24 masters students.

alma mater.”

Black, Headrick and Landry all graduated summa cum laude (4.0) and Klein magna cum laude.

The commencement ceremony was also an opportunity for the LC Board of Trustees and chairman Tommy French to present Argile Smith, who served as LC’s interim president until Brewer was hired, with a special commendation.

“We are deeply blessed by Dr. Smith’s friendship, exemplary service and immeasurable contributions in support of Christian higher education,” French said.

## The Pledge from page 2

Orleans, said that once pastors understand that increasing their church’s Cooperative Program giving might in turn provide more funds to hire an additional Baptist Collegiate Ministry minister in their area or another area of ministry, that may increase the excitement level of that pastor.

“So those kind of specific goals of what we could do if we reach that goal could help the conversations with other pastors,” Gilbert said.

Mike Evans, pastor of Elwood Baptist Church in Forest Hill, said the best way to have success with the Pledge is through a one-to-one relationship.

“The best thing we can do is meet people and get out there,” Evans said. “The best times are still ahead.”

Horn noted he has been “humbled and blown away” by the positive response he has received from other pastors he has talked to about The Pledge.

“For years we’ve witnessed the commitment to cooperative missions and ministries deteriorate and at the same time, bemoaned the demise of our culture. It is time we pledge ourselves to do whatever we can do to reverse this trend,”

Horn continued. “Wouldn’t it be tremendous to see 300 churches or more collectively come and kneel before our Heavenly Father, put our hands and our pledges in His hands and publicly declare everything we have is at His disposal during the Monday evening session of this year’s Annual Meeting?” Horn asked. “I know I would.”

David Hankins, Executive Director of Louisiana Baptists echoed Horn’s sentiments.

“Thirty years ago eighteen cents of every dollar given through a local church went towards missions. Today that number is eleven cents” said Hankins. “We must reexamine our commitment to evangelism and missions if we’re going to see the impact we long to see.”

The Cooperative Program emphasis was one of the 10 KAIROS (Key Actions In Reaching Our State) outlined in the report of the Presidents 2020 Commission adopted by messengers during the 2013 meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria.

“There’s a lot to happen between now and 2020,” Horn said. “But it will be my heart’s desire to see the Vision 2020 get accomplished and we will continue

to talk about that.”

Pastors interested in receiving additional information regarding this initiative or in leading their church to take The Pledge, are encouraged to contact Horn, [steve.horn@fbclaf.org](mailto:steve.horn@fbclaf.org). Please enter “The Pledge” in the subject line of the email.

More information regarding “The Pledge” will be available soon at [www.ThePledgeLA.org](http://www.ThePledgeLA.org).

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[www.susannehughes.org](http://www.susannehughes.org)

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