



### Dr. Steve Dintaman: What Gives LCC its Special Energy and Appeal

The celebration of LCC's 20th anniversary is a perfect time to think back and reflect on the history and mission of the institution. Being one of the authors of the brochure *University Education as Christian Mission* and having spoken on this topic on a number of occasions, LCC Theology Professor Steve Dintaman shares his perspective on the uniqueness of LCC education and what makes it a reflection of the Christian mission. In his interview for the *Parents'* newsletter Steve also reveals how this mission works in his and his wife Betsy's lives. "We wouldn't keep returning if we didn't believe in the Christian mission of LCC and weren't experiencing the deep satisfaction of feeling we are making a small difference in the lives of so many students", he says.

**Steve, can you identify what makes LCC's mission unique?**  
There is no doubt that LCC's mission model is unique in this part of the world. In fact, I am not aware of a school anywhere that exactly fits our mission profile. There are three essential components that combined make up our unique profile. We are a real university offering accredited BA and MA degrees; we do everything at LCC within the framework of a Christian worldview, but we open our doors and welcome students without regard for their faith views; and, we strive to create a community experience for our students through interaction with faculty and staff and through dorm life and student life activities. These three woven together give LCC its special energy and appeal.

### In your opinion, what challenges do Christian educational institutions like LCC face?

LCC has always faced a struggle to define ourselves within the Eastern European landscape. We just don't fit the mold. People know what a state university is and they know what a theological seminary or a Bible school is – but what is a Christian liberal arts university? The educational setting is changing so fast. Several years ago LCC was the only option if area students wanted a North American style education offered in English. Now, at least students from EU countries have so many options and local schools have improved their product. We have to keep innovating and improving and expanding our academic programs to keep a competitive edge, and to do that we need – guess what? Money!

### Not all Christian universities succeed and we have seen some of them closing down recently, though LCC keeps going. Again, in your opinion, what is the greatest strength of our institution that keeps it flourishing?

In the 1990s all kinds of Christian Bible schools and "universities" were started throughout the former Soviet area. There was huge demand as new believers and churches were hungry for Bible and theology training. Now many of those schools are struggling or even closing their doors. The student numbers are way down and people are realizing they need professional skills, not just theological knowledge, to thrive and to make a wider social impact. But only LCC among all these Christian schools was successful in obtaining and keeping official accredited status as a university. LCC's founders were true visionaries who saw beyond the immediate need for theological training and went for the larger vision of transforming people and society through offering accredited degrees in a variety of academic fields all taught from a Christian perspective. I have heard people say that what their country needs is an LCC! Christian schools all over the region realize that we have something special going. When they learn we have over 600 full-time students they are simply amazed.

### How much do you see God acting at LCC and transforming people here as it is stated in LCC's mission?

I like to tell students in a teasing way, that despite their best efforts, being at LCC for four years is going to change them. Sometimes students don't realize how much it has changed them until they leave and enter the work place and then realize how much they had come to take for granted the kind of supportive, community environment we create here. Sometimes the change is dramatic. Students who have never even considered God come to know and trust God. Students discover talents and self-confidence that were lying dormant. Mostly the change is gradual and yet over their four year history here the cumulative change is amazing. I like the biblical metaphors of salt and yeast. Through their interaction with faculty and staff, through exposure to Christian values and perspectives, something gets mixed into students' characters and personalities that changes everything. This happens consistently, not just on rare occasions. It is what keeps me and my wife coming back.

## YEAR IN NUMBERS

LCC International University is grateful for the successful start of the new academic year of 2011/2012, and we want to invite you to share the joy with us. Here are the numbers that best describe the university's standing as of September 2012. The numbers speak for themselves – LCC is growing both academically and as a community, it is getting stronger and bigger!

- Students: **620**
- Freshmen: **148**
- Freshmen financed by Lithuanian government: **14**  
(5 in Business Administration program, 2 in Psychology program, 7 in English Language and Literature program)
- Masters' students: **15**
- Countries represented among student population: **25**  
(Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Finland, Georgia,

Germany, Ghana, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, USA)

- Faculty: **63**
- Countries represented among faculty population: **9**  
(Canada, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, USA)
- Faculty with PhDs: **24**
- Alumni: **1 224**
- Alumni employment rates: **54** percent
- Alumni seeking a graduate degree: **28** percent
- Beds in residence halls: **350**
- Books in library: **40 127**
- Electronic sources in library: **18 485**
- Courses offered in Fall 2011: **95**
- Student clubs and organizations: **25**
- Amount of Student Financial Aid distributed (2011/2012): **514 100 LTL** (438 514 EUR)



## "The Mission of LCC Continues To Be One of Transformation"



### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Greetings: A Word From Dr. Marlene Wall, Interim President

Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, LCC International University! This is a year of celebration – of a brief but rich history which included many miracles in those first years, of the contributions of time and finances of many generous donors and friends, of the dedication of faculty and staff to the development and delivery of programs inside and outside the classroom, of the 650 current students from 23 countries, and of the more than 1200 alumni who have now gone on to further studies and important positions in business, education, and church in a variety locations around the world.

The mission of LCC continues to be one of transformation, of education for action, of leadership development – all within the context of a Christian worldview. While the same mission leads us into the future, the environmental realities are constantly changing. As we look to the next 20 years, we hold on to the mission while acknowledging that the delivery must adapt to new disciplines, technologies, markets, etc.

We celebrate together this month (September 21-25) with gatherings for friends of LCC, for alumni, and for the community. We will also be launching a new "Alumni Book" with stories from alumni which represent the many that could be told, of the influence of LCC and of transformation and of the varied paths that have been taken since graduation.

Join us in celebration! And then stay connected to the mission and vision of LCC – through regular visits, through your contributions of time and financial resources, and through your prayers.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

## 20 celebrating YEARS

We are honored to invite you to THE CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF LCC HISTORY.

The festive events will take place on the campus of LCC in Klaipėda, Lithuania from Wednesday, September 21 to Sunday, September 25, 2011.

*Celebrate with us!*  
LCC International University

### PROGRAM

- Wednesday, Sept. 21**  
12:15 Celebratory Chapel (Neufeld Hall, Kretingos 36)
- Friday, Sept. 23**  
13:00 New Hall Dedication (LCC Campus, Kretingos 36)  
17:00 The International Fair (Lietuviniškų sq.)
- Saturday, Sept. 24**  
10:00 The History Walk (Malūninkų-Karklų-Kretingos st.)  
15:00 The Alumni Book Launching (Neufeld Hall, Kretingos 36)
- Sunday, Sept. 25**  
Services in various churches across the city

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# LCC Alumni Engaged in Exceptional Graduate Programs All Around the Globe

Peacemaking, International Relations, Integrated Communication, Clinical Psychology, Management of Entertainment Industries, International Marketing, Philosophy – these are examples of graduate programs LCC International University Alumni have chosen to study in recent years. The variety of countries where they have been living and studying is no less impressive. Our former students choose universities located anywhere from neighboring United Kingdom and Sweden to distant locations such as North and South America and Asia. Four of LCC's most

recent graduates agreed to share their joy with the readers of the *Parents'* newsletter and tell about the unique master's degree programs they are in. Furthermore, there will be many more alumni stories in a book dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LCC's history that will be launched on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> during the festive events of this meaningful birthday. Actually, the book will all be about the alumni and their stories, because there is no better way to tell the story of the whole university than to do it through the success stories of its former students.



**Elvira Bakhar**

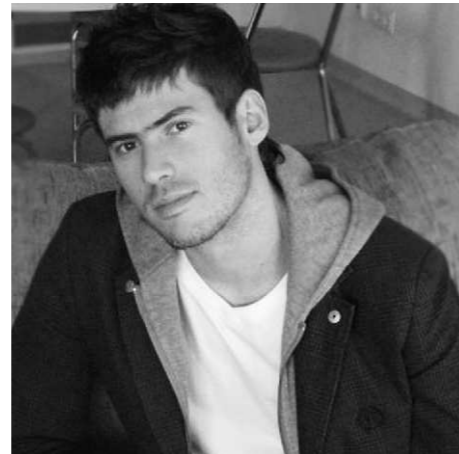
2010 Alumna  
Business Administration major  
originally from Belarus

I am studying for an MSc in Development Economics at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK. I was honored to be one of the two university recipients of SYLLF Scholarship sponsored by the Tokyo Foundation, which covers full cost of the tuition.

The quality of teaching in the program is excellent, and the resources the university provides for research as well as the availability of field professionals are of benefit. It has been a remarkable experience so far with a steep learning curve. The people I study with come from Italy, Nigeria, France, Nicaragua, South Africa, Pakistan, India, Germany, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Canada, Lebanon, and UK, adding even more spice to this year. We have such heterogeneous educational and professional backgrounds! Struggling with the assignments and exams together, deep inside we enjoy the process as we are studying what we are passionate about. Also, Brighton is an exciting place to live in despite the moody weather; it is arty and full of life on any day of the week!

LCC has prepared me so well for this new environment that is both more culturally diverse and more challenging academically - I have learnt and have grown so much there. As happy as I am with my life now, I am very grateful to have been a part of LCC. It will always be in my heart.

More Alumni stories will soon be found in a special book dedicated to the 20 years of LCC history and featuring numerous LCC's Alumni success stories. Please check institutional website for more details.



**Fatjon Suli**

2009 Alumnus  
English Language and Literature major  
originally from Albania

The multi-disciplinary background knowledge acquired at LCC helped me get into the master's program in which I am presently involved. I am getting a Master's degree in International Relations at CEU San Pablo Universidad (CEU Saint John's University) in Madrid, Spain. The language of instruction is both Spanish and English. This program prepares students to work in areas of diplomacy, international affairs, international companies, GOs and NGOs (in areas of politics, economics and international law).

Some of the aspects that this university has in common with LCC International University are disciplinary order and strong principles based on religion, students from different countries, international interaction and atmosphere, well-trained and experienced professors, contemporary thought and integrated society. I chose this area because I have always been fond of working in international areas. The world is going through important changes and transformations and so are we. Therefore, each and every person needs to contribute to the well-being of the whole. It doesn't matter whether we are in Eastern, Western or Central Europe, in North America or South America, what happens in Afghanistan or Iraq, in Germany or in Russia, in America or Haiti will soon affect us all, even if we don't want this. So our contribution, wherever we are, whatever we do, is important and relevant to the reality. The master's program lasts one academic year, and is a highly intensive program. At the end every student has to write a thesis focusing on the European Union. Its main focus is the European Union and its expansion in a competitively economic and political world. After finishing, my goal is to penetrate into the area of diplomacy and try to make a small contribution in our society starting with my own country of Albania.



**Kateryna Khozroshyna**

2010 Alumna  
Business Administration major  
originally from Ukraine

I am currently engaged in a master's program in Economics, Management and Technology of Entertainment and Arts Industries at Jonkoping University (International Business School) in Sweden. I believe that one has to try really hard in order not to succeed after graduating LCC. I am not saying that everything comes easily right after you got your diploma. No, of course not, you still have to fight to get what you desire, but at least after LCC you know HOW to fight. More importantly, you know how not to lose your integrity in the process.

The way I see it, Management of Entertainment Industries is something that helps to bring joy and I love to see people smile. Led by this motivation I have made this program my top choice and now I study in the University that is ranked the second best economics school in Sweden and that has a population of 12 000 students from 64 different countries. This may seem exciting and challenging at the same time. However, the beauty of being an LCC graduate is that the knowledge base you get at LCC makes it so much easier to keep up with your studies. Moreover, being constantly surrounded by an international community helps one to be an effective group mate while working in a multi-cultural environment.

One may never know where his /her future will lead, and sure enough it is all about choices one makes. I am a lucky person. My choices led me to LCC International University and I still believe that whatever successes I may experience in the future (and I most definitely will), LCC played a big role in my success. For that, for the set of Christian beliefs I have received and for the wide network of friends I have acquired I am infinitely thankful.



**Marc Cole**

2010 Alumnus  
Theology major  
originally from the U.S.A.

The University of St. Andrews in Scotland and its philosophy program first caught my attention after my wife and I decided to remain in Europe for personal reasons. As I was researching solid philosophy programs in Europe, the University of St. Andrews made an indelible impression on me. It was not long before we decided on this university as our number one choice given the strength of the program and the stunning location; Scotland is a beautiful place! So, this Fall, my wife Oxana, my son Calvin, and I will be moving to Scotland where I will begin reading for the Conversion Diploma Philosophy. If I successfully get through this, I will be admitted into the Master's program.

My intentions with philosophy are to work toward a Ph.D. at the University of St. Andrews, which should take about six years. I would then like to return to theology and do the same thing. My goals are to be a university professor and a deacon in the Catholic Church.

Many people think philosophy and theology have little bearing on day-to-day realities. But this approach to reality is itself a philosophy. It assumes that what is not immediately accessible to the senses is less real. Others think that science has left little room for the philosopher, but the scientific approach rests on an ideology on how best to know the universe, and is therefore philosophy. Turning to the church, many find the concepts of theology that have nourished the church for centuries to be too abstract or not well grounded. For one example of many, much ink has been spilt over the mystery of the Trinity. Many find it beautiful, but do not see how it connects to the church's call to feed the hungry. For many reasons, however, beauty is important! How we understand God directly impacts how we live for him in the same way that how I understand my wife directly impacts how I live for her. Beauty is an inspiring part of any relationship, whether physical beauty or beauty of character.