

Good morning Chairman Bruce, President Allen, Trustees, and LU Community:

Well, I feel reflective, but still excited, to bring you my final message as AALU president. And while I am winding down my 4 years in this role, I am here to say that we are still busy and there is still a lot to talk about in terms of the 3 Ps that are the ingredients to our success: People, Power, and Participation.

1st, People...

- Since your last meeting on February 8th, we have been celebrating our people - the LU community. We gathered in Baltimore for basketball and more, hosted by the Baltimore Metro Chapter of the AALU. Thank you, Trustee Dicks. The National Association partnered with the 1st Club and our Philadelphia Chapter to provide CIAA Cheer items to support our student athletes by creating a sea wall of Orange & Blue in the stadium stands! Thank you, Harry Stinson for facilitating!
- We also supported our littlest people – future Lions – by joining with the LU Royal Court and SGA to visit 2 elementary schools in Baltimore (both with LU alums in leadership) We read and donated 100 copies of the book, Thurgood, to the students, making sure we emphasized the page highlighting Lincoln. This was our Ways & Means Committee's annual Advancing the Legacy Initiative, organized by Yasmin Perkins '04, and I can tell you that kids of all ages were doing the LU 1-8-5-4 chant over and over again.
- And while we were disappointed that our teams did not get the big win, the AALU continued to celebrate these student-athletes in March at the Chester County AALU's Jazz Luncheon. We celebrated men and women's basketball champs, as well as several other alums and friends, including our very own Trustee Bertram Lawson '98 and LU History Professor Jordan Denson '09. The Philly Chapter's Frank "Tick" Coleman Luncheon is coming up next weekend where they will be celebrating people including our very own Ms. Deborah Johnson.
- Finally, we are getting ready for Commencement – the biggest and best celebration of our people. The National AALU's Membership team and our NY Chapter visited campus on Monday for Senior Salute Day to welcome our Class of 2025 into the Association. And on Saturday, May 3rd, I am honored to announce that the AALU will partner with the Office of Alumni Relations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the graduation of Emeritus Trustee Dr. William Bennett, Class of 1950. We have some special surprises planned, and you are all invited, so stay tuned!!

Power - The 2nd P is Power, which is about money, which of course fuels or empowers our mission.

- **REGISTRATION IS OPEN** for our 5th annual Golf Tournament **Monday, July 21, 2025**.
- This year we've moved to a NEW LOCATION: Deerfield Golf Course, Newark, DE. I ask for 3 things:
 - 1. **Register** - aalupa.org/golf
 - 2. **Donate** - this is our signature event, and for the past 4 years we have moved into one of the top 10 LU donors. There's power when we all come together.

- 3. **SPONSOR (or tell a friend)**. Some of you are past sponsors, THANK YOU Trustees Love, Lancaster, Sabastro and Archie. And thank you Trustees Clement Jones, Hancock, Board, Laviest and Dr. Allen for always showing up.
- This year, we are also partnering with Alumni Relations to reimagine LU Family Day, which will be the day before on Sunday, July 20th. Stay tuned for more info!
- Lastly, I previously reported that AALU leaders visited campus for strategic conversations around developing an MOU with the University. We are still on track and hope to have it completed by Commencement. The intent is to create a framework and make commitments to advance the mission of Lincoln, including through increased alumni giving.

Finally, the third P is **Participation**

- Mr. Chairman, I reflect on where we were 4 years ago. The participation around your table looked very different. On behalf of the Alumni community, I thank you for your leadership in building the consequential Board that you envisioned. And as your time on this Board comes to an end, I share that we are grateful for your service.
- And I'm especially grateful to you for allowing me this space in the beginning of your meetings, when previously, such public comments were expressly and illegally prevented.
- Last month, the AALU completed its elections cycle. Bonnie Bowser '78 and her committee worked tirelessly resulting in a new set of Alumni Association Officers and two nominees to the Board that I referred to you by letter - Trustees Hancock and Board.
- Join me in congratulating the new president of the AALU, Dr. Eric Becoats '88, a superintendent and expert in education leadership. Additionally, we congratulate Mr. Bilal Key '14, Vice President; Ms. Robin Hayles '89 Secretary; and Ms. Rita McCaskill '91, Treasurer. They have pledged EXCELLENCE as the theme for the path forward.
- My term ends on June 30th, but I will stick around until July 21st to finish my responsibilities with the golf tournament.

I will see you on campus in three weeks. Always remember to reflect on LU People, Power, and Participation. It has been my honor to serve as the AALU National President