

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 23

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Alumni & Friends,

Help Lane College Win \$150,000!

Vote Lane College by visiting www.retoolyourschool.com and selecting Lane College in cluster 3.

You can also vote via social media using [#RYSLANE](https://twitter.com/RYSLANE) while posting on Instagram and Twitter an unlimited number of times. Social Media accounts must be public for votes to count.

Thank you for your participation, Every Vote Counts!

Braylin Laster '17

Director of Alumni Affairs

MARCH



Save the Date - Lane College Homecoming 2023 Announced!

Alumni and Friends,

Get ready for Homecoming 2023!

The celebration will take place on October 21, 2023. Stay tuned for a jammed-packed schedule of events to be released soon. We are excited to celebrate this year's Homecoming with you.

Happy Homecoming!

Lane College Renames Building After Former President McClure



Lane College commemorates the contributions of mathematician and college president Dr. Wesley Cornelious McClure during the building renaming ceremony on March 9.

Dr. McClure served as the ninth president of Lane College until his passing on December 6, 2013. He was a native of Jackson, Tennessee, where he graduated as valedictorian from Merry High School in 1960. Dr. McClure received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Lane in 1964 and continued his education at the University of Virginia to receive his master's and doctorate degrees in mathematics and educational research in 1968 and 1970, respectively. He also received post-doctorate training at Harvard University.

Lane's science and business building was completed in the summer of 2009 under the leadership of Dr. McClure. The building includes 12 classrooms, six laboratories, four lecture rooms with state-of-the-art technology, faculty offices, and the new CVS Health Workforce Innovation and Talent Center. The facility is designed to support the College's goal of claiming recognition as a major producer of graduates in the STEM programs, and to help prepare students to be truly competitive as they enter business and global marketing careers.

Lane College 9th Annual Founder's Day Scholarship Gala



On Sunday, March 5, 2023, Lane College was excited to celebrate the birthday of founder Bishop Isaac Lane with the 9th Annual Founder's Day Scholarship Gala. In a transformed J.F. Lane Gymnasium, moving testimonies from current student, M'Hogany Richmond '26 and Lane College alum U.S. Airman First Class Terrell Dontae McGowan, '22 along with rousing musical selections from the magnificent Lane College Concert Choir, brought the sold-out crowd of 600 to their feet.

Grammy award-winning gospel artist Fred Hammond, backed by Lane College Concert Choir, topped off the evening with an inspirational performance. The crowd was treated to mouthwatering food prepared by Lane College's own Dining Services.

Thank you to all our sponsors, alumni, friends, and supporters who helped make the event a spectacular success.



Alumni Spotlight of the Month

Lane College is proud to announce the recent appointment of Lane Lady, Kinna Thomas as Vice President of Merchandising Operations and Business Development at CVS Health.

Kinna received her bachelor's degree from Lane College in 2000 and earned a Master of Arts in Management and Master of Business from Webster University in 2005 and 2007. Kinna previously served as Senior Divisional Planner at Target and as Director of Global Insights and Analytics at Walmart Incorporated.

Kinna is no stranger to innovation as she is also the founder of the best-selling Patti Pies and the Patti Labelle Peach Cobbler. Patti Pies went on to take

the world by storm in 2015 and became an overnight internet sensation—selling out on shelves across the country.

Five years after its launch in 2020, Walmart reported that 36,000 Patti LaBelle Sweet Potato Pies are sold a day. Following the success of the Patti Pies, the line has expanded to include peach cobbler, banana pudding, bread pudding, and many more variations of African American dessert staples.

She is the proud mom of two boys as well as an active member of the Phi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Northwest Arkansas.

Congratulations Lanite Kinna Thomas!

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Deon Johnson Appointed to Program Manager of Knowledge Management for the Institute for Capacity Building for the United Negro College Fund



Lane College is proud to announce the recent appointment of Lane Man, Dr. Deon Johnson as Program Manager of Knowledge Management for the Institute for Capacity Building for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

Dr. Deon Johnson earned his bachelor's degree from Lane College in 2012 and earned a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M University–Commerce in 2016. He completed his Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership with a concentration in Learning Technologies and Adult Education from Texas A&M University–Commerce in 2022.

Dr. Johnson has over ten years of experience in Higher Education. He served as Senior Admissions Counselor at Lane College, Director of New Student Orientation and Student Traditions at Parker University, Public Health Instructional Designer for the College of Nursing and Health Innovation at The University of Texas at Arlington, and Assistant Researcher and Grant Writer for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas A&M University–Commerce (TAMUC).

Dr. Johnson is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Lambda Professional Business Fraternity, Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success.

Edward Mitchell Featured in Money's 2023 Changemakers



Lane College is proud to announce Lane Man, Edward Sandy Lee Mitchell, featured in Money's 2023 Changemakers.

MONEY recently published its inaugural list of Changemakers, the 50 people impacting Americans' wallets. The 2023 Changemakers include a wide variety of innovators making meaningful, positive changes in personal finance. They fall into six categories: advocates, creators, educators, experts, leaders, and trailblazers.

Mitchell was paralyzed in a hit-and-run at age 16. Years later, he's a Tennessee-based independent living specialist passionate about ABLE accounts, short for Achieving a Better Life Experience. ABLE accounts allow people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing other benefits. Previously, ABLE accounts were restricted to Americans who became disabled before age 26, but a recent law expanded that to 46 thanks in part to testimony from advocates like Mitchell, who spoke before a House committee on the subject in 2018. "An accident can happen at any age," Mitchell says. [Read More](#) Click [Here](#) to see the full list of Changemakers.



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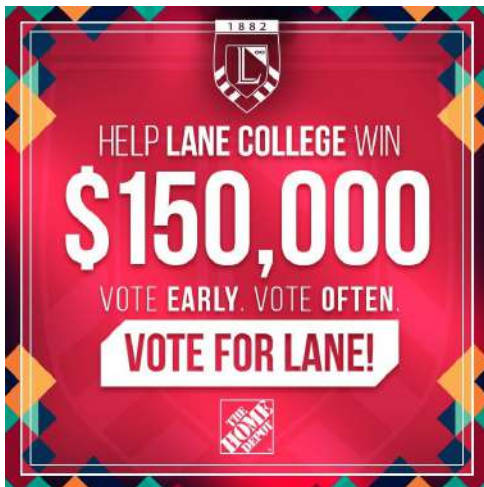
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Miss Lane College Jada Brown

Lane College is proud to announce the 55th Miss Lane College Miss Jada Brown!

Jada is a junior from Plant City, FL. She is a member of the Lane College Volleyball Team and Power of Potential Scholars.

Jada will represent Lane College at the Miss Tennessee Volunteer pageant in Jackson, TN, on July 26 – 29. Miss Tennessee Volunteer is a statewide, service-oriented scholarship program seeking to empower young women through education and opportunity.

Please join us in congratulating Miss Lane College 2023–2024 Jada Brown!