



## News From Lenoir-Rhyne University

### **Opal L. Moretz Service Award: Service to the University Honoring David B. Hensley '01**

David B. Hensley completed his bachelor's degree in music at Lenoir-Rhyne University in 2001. As a student, he served as recording engineer, A Cappella Choir tour manager and unofficial chaplain's assistant. He was also selected as student conductor of the LR Wind Ensemble.

"As a music major at LR, I was involved in many concerts and ensembles," he said. "I had the privilege of touring Europe in the summer of 1999 with the choir where we gave a concert in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. I made several friendships at LR and met my wife there."

Upon graduation, he served as director of music at First Baptist Church in Hildebran, where he rehearsed the 35-member church choir and led the music for all services of the church, including funerals, revivals, Christmas and Easter cantatas and association meetings. He then accepted a position as the chorus teacher at Freedom High School, where he served for 10 years. While teaching, Hensley served on committees charged with aligning classroom instruction to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, and, later, to the Common Core State Standards. He coordinated and implemented the first observance of Red Ribbon Week, a nationwide effort for alcohol and drug prevention. In addition, he began initiatives to raise student morale, and was appointed chair of the morale committee for the faculty. He was also the coordinator of the annual baccalaureate service for seniors and their families.

From 2014 to 2016, Hensley served as the minister of music at Clinchfield Baptist Church, where he rehearsed and directed the adult choir for Sunday morning and other services. He also taught Bible lessons and coordinated special seasonal programs for children and high school youth.

In 2013, Hensley made his first vestment, a reversible Lenten chasuble, which he gave to the Rev. Dr. Andrew Weisner '79 at LR. He encouraged Hensley to make another, and over the last seven years, he has made 12 additional vestment sets that are housed and used in Grace Chapel, where Pastor Weisner has given him the privilege of serving as master of ceremonies for several liturgies, including Easter Vigil and two ordinations.

As Hensley's daughters approached school age, his wife, Lynnae Mathia Hensley '02, and he homeschooled. He has used the knowledge gained in his education classes at LR and the

experience he gained while teaching to compile and implement a curriculum for his daughters, who are now 8 and 6. He sometimes takes them on field trips to museums and other places, and the Lenoir-Rhyne campus has become one of their favorite places to visit.

Hensley is active in the community and has served as music director for several productions of the Foothills Community Theatre, as guest conductor of the McDowell Gospel Sing and as secretary/treasurer of the Blunkhens Acres Homeowners' Association. He enjoys hiking, swimming, cooking healthy vegan meals, building small projects, playing with his daughters and learning history.

**David B. Hensley**, for recognition of your contributions to the University that have exemplified the spirit, values, and excellence of LR, the Lenoir-Rhyne University Alumni Association is pleased to present you the **Opal L. Moretz Service Award: Service to the University**. This award is given in memory of Opal Ledford Moretz, a member of the Class of 1965 and former LR dean of students and volunteer director of church relations.

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**About Lenoir-Rhyne University:**

Founded in 1891, Lenoir-Rhyne University is a co-educational, private liberal arts institution with 50 undergraduate degree programs and over 30 graduate degree programs. LR enrolls more than 2,750 undergraduate and graduate students and has had 11 consecutive years of enrollment growth. LR's main campus is in Hickory, North Carolina, where both undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered. The University also offers graduate degree programs on its campuses in Asheville, North Carolina, and Columbia, South Carolina. The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary is also in Columbia. LR is affiliated with the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and welcomes students from all religious backgrounds. The website is [www.lr.edu](http://www.lr.edu).