



News From Lenoir-Rhyne University

Opal L. Moretz Service Award: Service to the Alumni Association Honoring Todd Charles Burwell '93

A 1993 alumnus of Lenoir-Rhyne, Todd Charles Burwell earned a bachelor's degree in physics with a minor in mathematics. He then attended graduate school, obtaining a master's degree in physics and a commission in the United States Air Force, where he served six years as a scientific and technical intelligence analyst and an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the USAF Academy.

After Burwell's time in the Air Force, he and his wife, Kelly Anderson Burwell '92, moved to Huntsville, Alabama, to start a career at Dynetics, Inc. continuing his technical work supporting intelligence analysis. At Dynetics, he built and managed a group working in scientific and technical intelligence and finished his tenure in business development for the Hardware and Intelligence Division. While at Dynetics, Burwell also worked in public health and used that experience to change his career path to become the senior statistician at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology. His work focused on statistical genetics research to support cancer, chronic disease and psychiatric disorders. Eventually, Burwell joined The Boeing Company as an applied statistician, finished a second master's degree in statistics from Texas A&M University, became the manager of the engineering math group and is now the senior manager of applied mathematics in Boeing Research and Technology. In this position, Burwell manages the research and consulting efforts of more than 55 doctorate-level mathematicians and scientists working on research projects for The Boeing Company across many sites in the United States and India.

Burwell attributes his success to his experience at Lenoir-Rhyne.

"My LR education gave me a well-rounded foundation for my career," Burwell said. "I received a strong technical education; but, where it really helped is the liberal arts core. That part of my education has been just as instrumental in my success as the technical knowledge I gained in my major."

Burwell has served on the board of directors for the Schools Foundation, a charity to support education in the Madison County School districts, and taught as an adjunct at Athens State University and Calhoun Community College in Huntsville, Alabama. He also mentors and supports many people in their careers in and outside of Boeing. A current member of the LR

board of visitors and former board member of the LR Alumni Association, Burwell and his wife enjoy cooking and travel.

For Burwell, Lenoir-Rhyne provided him with experiences he still reminisces about today.

“The memory I discuss a great deal is being lucky enough to take classes where I was the only student,” he said. “In many of my upper level physics classes, I was the only student and that had a very positive impact on my learning and growth as critical thinker. It also allowed me to look deeper into the science education I was receiving and couple it with the liberal arts foundation of our university.”

Todd Charles Burwell, for recognition of your exceptional leadership, devotion, and service for the betterment of the Alumni Association, the Lenoir-Rhyne University Alumni Association is pleased to present you the **Opal L. Moretz Service Award: Service to the Alumni Association**. 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.