Dear Centenary Family,

As we begin the College’s 190th academic year, I am proud to share with you some of the great progress Centenary has made in fulfilling the Commitments to our students that I announced in this letter last year: Creativity and Curiosity; Learning, Living, Leading; and More in Four.

This fall all regular courses at Centenary available to first-year students are worth 4 hours of credit. This will allow students to delve deeper into subject matter, while taking fewer courses during the traditional term. We also launched our new hybrid format semesters, combining August and May intensive terms with traditional fall and spring terms. This innovative format allows a student studying at a normal pace to complete 40 hours of coursework per year, up from the traditional 30 hours. Importantly, it will also free up a semester or a year for each student to engage in global service, study abroad, longer internships, more intensive undergraduate research, or early graduate work. These expanded opportunities represent a real, quantifiable value proposition for students and their parents, evidence of our commitment to help Centenary students achieve More in Four.

The hybrid semester with the new August term provided an opportunity for the College to intensify its efforts to globalize the Centenary education, becoming the first college we know of to take its entire first-year class overseas for Centenary in Paris.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 2014

Centenary College of Louisiana is a selective, residential, national liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1825, it is the oldest chartered liberal arts college west of the Mississippi River and is a member of the Associated Colleges of the South.
#CENTENARYINPARIS

When our students departed Centenary’s campus for Paris on the morning of August 5th along with 12 faculty and two staff members, they took the first step toward completing a journey begun almost a year ago. It was exciting to witness this vision become a reality. Stateside parents, faculty, staff, students, and alumni eagerly followed the group through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and these social media platforms gave us the rare privilege of instantly sharing our students’ often wonder-filled impressions of their new surroundings in Paris. Take the journey for yourself at centenary.edu/paris.

One goal was to provide the students with a global experience early in their college careers, helping them gain the kind of intercultural competence and awareness that is increasingly valued by both graduate schools and employers across career fields. The intense, immersive nature of the Centenary in Paris program was also intentionally geared toward promoting student success at the College by encouraging students to bond with one another and with their professors. The rigorous Centenary in Paris courses led by our award-winning faculty also allowed students to earn four early credit hours toward their degrees, offsetting them on the path to do More in Four. The courses, from disciplines as diverse as art, business, English, French, music, and psychology, each addressed one of the three Global Challenges which Centenary students engage throughout our academic curriculum and through the Centenary Leadership program.

Though the members of the Class of 2018 started their college journey more than 4,000 miles from our Shreveport campus, the Centenary in Paris program skillfully introduced them to core characteristics of the Centenary experience that will prepare them to do more in their careers, communities, and across the globe.
At Centenary, we prepare students to **DO MORE** in their careers, communities, and across the globe.

**Do More**

Help us tell the world about Centenary’s Commitments to students by telling the “DO MORE” story. The Do More message weaves a cohesive and dynamic narrative for the College, articulating its values and mission. I believe that DO MORE is a compelling representation of the Centenary Experience, rooted in the stories and accomplishments of the College’s current students and successful graduates.

In the spring of 2014, Chemistry major Tierra Range built on her coursework at Centenary and won a highly competitive American Chemical Society fellowship, giving her the opportunity to spend her summer conducting original research at the National University of Singapore. Centenary’s 3/2 engineering program has led Michael Poole ’02 to SpaceX in Los Angeles, where he helps develop spacecraft that will make human life multi-planetary.

Members of the Centenary community constructively challenge each other to DO MORE, which is especially apparent in our close student-faculty relationships. The DO MORE story highlights the great benefit that our students derive from small classes and personal attention, as well as the added value that comes from the ability to work with faculty on research projects and share intercultural experiences through immersive study and service around the globe.

An important message underpinning this narrative is that a Centenary education is **worth more** because our students, faculty, and staff are committed to **doing more** in the classroom, community, and the world at large.
Proud to be DIII

I am proud to report that Centenary student-athletes can now DO MORE on the field of play as well as in the classroom. On September 1st, seventeen Centenary sports achieved full membership status in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)’s Division III, completing a strategic objective of our Board of Trustees from 2009 to align competitive athletics with other intentional developmental, co-curricular opportunities for our students. Full Division III membership opens new opportunities for richly-deserved national recognition for Centenary student-athletes. Centenary teams and individual athletes begin their 2014-2015 seasons in competition for Division III national titles and awards, and the College is also eligible to host regional and national tournaments in its athletic facilities. I look forward to cheering on the Ladies and Gents teams this season as the newest NCAA Division III members.

Financial Stability

All of our students have the ability to DO MORE at Centenary thanks to the generosity of our loyal supporters, who this year contributed over 7.5 million in support of the College’s mission. This is the largest amount received by the College in the past five years, with the majority of gifts directly benefitting students through scholarships.

Centenary’s financial position continues to be strong. Forbes named the College a “Top 100” Southern college in its annual “America’s Top Colleges” national ranking released at the end of July, and also gave Centenary the highest financial grade of a Louisiana college or university.

Take care,

B. David Rowe, Ph.D.
President