

The Call



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES NEWS & UPDATES

Spring, 2023 | Issue 2

OUR MISSION IS HUMANITY!

A Message from the Dean,

Dr. Kathi Vosevich



This has been another great year for the College of Arts and Humanities faculty, staff, students, and alumni! In our college, we prepare students to innovate and succeed for every future—by equipping them with power skills, providing expertise in their fields, and immersing them in meaningful experiences with cutting-edge technology to

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Alumni Feature

make their own way and tell their own story! We are data-driven—our growth in both grad and undergrad underscores our impact—but very importantly, we are purpose-driven: our mission is HUMANITY.



--Christine Bryant ('21)

--Dave Amelotti ('14)

Celebrating Achievements

--Faculty, Staff, and Student Spotlights

Recent Grants

We're big winners!

Strategy in Action

--RISE Cultural Events

--Coffee and Conversations

--Skillifying Syllabi with POWER Skills

Upcoming Events

--Support our students!





FAST FACTS

Total Number of Students in Our Majors

- Only the College of Arts and Humanities has increased enrollment both grad and undergrad with a total of **1561** majors, not including double majors and minors.

Retention that beats the university average of 77.2% for Fall First-Time Full-Time Freshmen:

- 100% in Acting
- 100% in Art and Visual Culture
- 100% in Directing
- 100% in Interdisciplinary Studies
- 100% in Tech Theater/Design
- 92% in Fashion Design and Technology
- 87% in History
- 86% in Cinema Arts
- 85% in Dance
- 85% in Theater
- 84% in Communications
- 83% in English
- 83% in PHRL
- 83% in Stage Management
- 82% in Musical Theater
- 80% in Spanish
- 79% in Political Science

And 100% of our undergrad students in all majors, with one exception, were employed or enrolled in graduate studies within 6 months of graduation!

Writing Center

- Since January 1, 2023, the Writing Center has already provided personal assistance for 277 students, as well as 141 new client registrations. Thank you for your service!
- **Sue Edele** led the way for Lindenwood to host the 2023 Midwest Writing Centers Association (MWCA) Conference, scheduled for March 14-17, 2023. MWCA members come from middle schools, high schools, community colleges, and universities—great recruiting opportunities for us all!

TOP-OF-MIND BRAND

Our faculty and staff continue to build a brand for academic excellence:

- Over 1000 articles published
- Over 1000 conference presentations
- Over 1000 works choreographed
- Over 600 films produced/written/directed
- Over 600 works of art produced
- Over 300 shows costumed
- Almost 300 exhibits curated
- Over 250 events supported by **Mane Media**
- Over 100 plays directed
- Over 100 fashion shows
- Over 75 books written
- Over 75 books edited
- Over 50 musical compositions
- Over 3 games developed

INNOVATING TO ATTRACT MORE STUDENTS

Broadcasting Event



The College of Arts and Humanities hosted a broadcasting panel of Lindenwood greats, including **Glen Cerny**, **David Amelotti**, **Bob Ramsey**, **Randy Karraker**, **Greg Amsinger**, and **Casey Van Allen**. Our students got to hear first-hand from folks that had an amazing experience at Lindenwood. Since going Division 1 in athletics, we upgraded and rebranded our broadcast facility with the latest in technology. Mane Media broadcasts live on ESPN+---providing real hands-on experience and real success for our students.

Honors Academy



The Honors Academy, led by **Dr. Justine Pas**, continues to thrive under the leadership of newly elected Honors officers and with the assistance of Honors Ambassadors. Recognizing the synergies between Alpha Chi's Missouri Pi members and Honors students, Honors students along with faculty, administrators, and staff members enjoyed a social hour sponsored by funds from the national Alpha Chi chapter activity grant competition. The event's attendees donated food items to LU's Little Free Pantry, and Missouri AX Pi officers presented **Dr. Rev. Nichole Torbitzky** with an additional \$200 donation to the Free Pantry. AX chapter officers spoke about the tremendous value of the organization while Honors students shared their enthusiasm for the unique experiences afforded by the Academy as they reflected on all that LU offers its most gifted students. Current Honors students enjoy benefits, such as priority course registration and access to the Honors Lounge.

Immersive Arts & Culture programming

Our Immersive Arts and Culture Hub, which also houses the GIS and Digital Humanities labs, is the only XR lab in the region, and an overarching example of innovation that we have led not only in our college, but across the university and in the community. We want to provide the most engaging and immersive educational experiences possible, enable access to all students, anywhere, anytime, and offer intriguing outreach possibilities to community and global partners. We are also leading the way in ChatGPT research and will host a university-wide panel in April.



Best Fashion Design Program on the Planet

This diverse program with an international advisory board boasts approximately 100 majors now; up from 75 two years ago. Our 9th annual fashion show welcomed over 400 guests, 12 high schools, and 71 high school fashion students. The event was broadcast live by Mane Media Productions, and we clocked an additional 286 viewers during the show. This is an awesome recruiting and top-of-mind brand opportunity for the entire university.

We Teach Adobe how to Adobe!

Erica Blum has been selected to present at the 2023 CERTIFIED Educator Conference on “Why stop at Photoshop...” Her session will be a 90-minute workshop with hands-on learning experiences to teach, discuss, and practice the subject matter with attendees. Thanks for your top-notch work and sharing your real experience with our students!





We're #1!

College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Programs are excelling—the Art History Master’s Degree has been recognized as the #1 Online Master’s Degree Program by Online Master’s Degrees and Get Educated. Our MFA-Writing has just been ranked #1 with College Choice as the Best Online MFA in Creative Writing and continues to boast strong enrollments of over 300 students.



AMPLIFYING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & INVOLVEMENT

Student Spotlight

Edward Hansford is a junior pursuing undergraduate degrees in Political Science, with a Pre-Law Emphasis; International Relations; and Philosophy & Religion. He is also working on an Elevate Leadership Certificate. Edward is a member of Lindenwood’s Honors Academy and Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and, in addition to acquiring professional experience as an administrative assistant in Lindenwood’s College of Arts and Humanities, he holds several leadership positions on campus, such as President of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. Last year, Edward was awarded the Top Civic Engagement Project for a Poster Presentation he presented at the 2022 LU Student Academic Showcase. After graduating, Edward hopes to work for the State Department as an embassy official. Make us proud!



Student Scholarships

- **Cheyenne Burns**, English, Teaching Assistantship and Scholarship, SLU
- **Hazel Denother**, English, Teaching Assistantship and Scholarship, SLU
- **Tayla Whitley**, Mass Communications, Alpha Kappa Alpha Gamma Omega Chapter Scholarship

Student Presentations

- **Edward Hansford**, Political Science, Alpha Chi National Convention, Albuquerque, NM
- **Tayla Whitley**, Mass Communications, Alpha Chi National Convention, Albuquerque, NM
- **Maggie Westhoff**, Art and Design, Teen Tech Week for the St. Charles Library
- **Mary Weinhold**, Art and Design, Teen Tech Week for the St. Charles Library
- **Corinna Howard**, Art and Design, Teen Tech Week for the St. Charles Library
- **Shannon Hillyer**, Studio Art Graduate Student, Teen Tech Week for the St. Charles Library
- **Emmi Easton**, Art and Design, Teen Tech Week for the St. Charles Library

Honor Societies

Interested students, please talk to these sponsors!

- Alpha Chi (All Disciplines; sponsor, **Justine Pas**)
- Alpha Epsilon Rho (Communications Honor Society; sponsor, **Chad Briesacher**)
- Alpha Lambda Delta (All Disciplines, Freshmen; sponsor, **Ana Schnellmann**; co-sponsor, **Melle Elmes**)
- Kappi Pi Kappa (International Art Honor Society; co-sponsors, **James Hutson** and **Joe Weber**)
- Phi Alpha Theta (History; sponsor: **Kris Smith**)
- Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy; sponsor, **Joseph Steineger**)
- Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science; sponsor: **Don Heidenreich**)
- Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society; sponsor, **Melle Elmes**)
- Theta Alpha Kappa (Religion; sponsor, **Nichole Torbitzky**)

ALUMNI FEATURE



Christine Bryant (grad 2021) majored in History and Religion, with minors in Anthropology and Public History. She achieved her dream job of being Operations and Education Manager for the Children's Museum of Yuma County in Yuma, Arizona. She recently told us that “Working for the College of Arts and Humanities for three years truly shaped me into the person I am. I met lifelong friends, was provided networking opportunities, and got real-world experience that helped prepare me for the career I have today.” We’re proud of you, Christine!

Dave Amelotti (grad 2014) majored in communications and is currently a newscaster on KMOV. He is passionate about mentoring our students and wants to be able to relate his experiences to help them in their formation as future broadcasters. He got his start at Lindenwood, and we are so thrilled to see him put real experience and real success in action on live TV!



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Did you know we have three very deserving endowed faculty members? Be proud!



**Chajuana Trawick,
Associate Professor,
Fashion Design**

Fashion Business and Design Chair: The endowed Fashion Business and Design Chair was established in 2018 with a gift from a donor who would like to remain anonymous. The endowment was created to support associate professor of Fashion Business and Design, Dr. Chajuana Trawick. She was the first woman and person of color to receive an endowed chair position at Lindenwood.



**W. Travis McMaken,
Professor, Religion**

Butler Bible Chair: The endowed Butler Bible Chair was established in 1917 with a gift from Margaret Butler. Originally the award was named the Margaret L. Butler Award, but later the name was changed to the James Gay and Margaret L. Butler Bible Award, and then shortened to the Butler Bible Chair. This endowed award goes to the senior Religion professor in the college.



**Ana Schnellmann, Senior
Professor, English**

Alice Parker Endowed Chair of English Literature: This chair was established in 1961. Dr. Parker was known as dedicated to her students, and enabled them, through stirring their imaginations and arousing their interest, an insight into the potentialities of life. This endowed award goes to the senior English professor who best exemplifies the model provided by Dr. Parker.

SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. Gabriela Romero continues her involvement with the local Hispanic community. In January 2023, she was invited to be a guest in the Hispanic Chamber Commerce Spanish show “Cámara en Vivo.” The show was recorded at the Scheidegger Center for the Arts on Lindenwood campus, and the interview highlighted Dr. Romero's work inside and outside of the classroom on topics of diversity and inclusion, particularly, of Hispanic issues. Dr. Romero mentioned Lindenwood's intentionality in recruiting and welcoming Hispanic students and diverse student populations overall. As a follow up, Dr. Romero was invited to give a workshop sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on job interviewing and job preparation. The workshop was offered for free to all members of the international community on February 15, 2023, as a preparatory experience for the Job Fair that took place the next day. She also records promos for KCLC in Spanish. Way to go, Gabriela!



Professor Melissa Qualls was selected as one of Emerson’s 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award recipients. She was among more than 80 teachers from across the St. Louis metropolitan area recognized this year as examples of truly outstanding educational excellence. The Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards, now in its 33rd year, is one of the St. Louis region’s most recognized teacher recognition programs. Emerson is proud to sponsor this program as a way of helping the St. Louis community express our collective admiration and gratitude for your dedication to teaching our area’s students. Congrats, Melissa!

Our Dance Program participated in The Detroit Dance City Festival, an international dance festival that included master classes, networking opportunities, and performances, featuring 94 artists from 12 states and 15 countries. Eight Lindenwood University BFA-Dance students opened the College Showcase and premiered a new work by **Professor Tricia Zweier**. This program has enjoyed over 25% growth in the past year, thanks to CAH’s superior recruiting efforts and successful students!



Our Cinema Arts program head **Professor Andrew Millians** is working on the 2023 Student Film Festival. Over the past three years, the festival has received 800+ submissions from more than 20 different countries, providing recruiting and retention opportunities for prospective and current students, as well as engaging alumni and the community in a professional-grade film festival.

The Paris Movie Festival has announced that Cinema Arts **Professor Peter Carlos** has been awarded Best Narrative Short for “Gravity.” He worked with students to produce the film which has been shown in Turkey, Paris, Tokyo, and Belarus, among other exotic sites. His first short film, “Dad’s Day,” was a selection in the St. Louis Showcase, The St. Louis International Film Festival, and on television in Philadelphia and local St. Louis TV. It won the Audience Award at a California Film Festival. Get some real experience for real success with an award-winning director!



Drs. Kathi Vosevich and Elaine Ragland were the first College of Arts and Humanities Lion Pride winners for outstanding school spirit, caring for peers and students, and embodying Q2 in their work. I’m sure we are the first of many winners.

The Band led Lindenwood University to victory in the St. Charles Mardi Gras Parade. In addition to supporting live sporting events across campus, they are regularly invited to march in various parades in the region.

Congrats, team!



FURTHERING OUR SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH GRANTS

FY21

- Total Apps: 17
- Total Amount Requested (excluding \$8M Emerson ask): \$813,475
- Total Awarded: \$73,219

FY22

- Total Apps: 18
- Total Amount Requested: \$1,118,929
- Total Awarded: \$53,937

FY23 to date

- Total Apps: 1
- Total Amount Requested: \$75,000
- Total Awarded: \$53,937

FY23 PRIDE GRANT WINNERS

- **Jeanie Thies** is collaborating with **Andrew Smith** and working with a local organization, League of Women Voters, to establish a forum to empower youth politically and increase their civic engagement.
- **Joseph Steineger** is competing in the Philosophy Politics Economics Reading Group “PPE League” in early April at Ottawa University in Kansas. Quick plug: He is looking for students who might want to join our team!
- As part of an ongoing National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, **Jeremy Carnes** is collaborating with other universities to host a regional showcase of student work in the digital humanities to be held online on April 18th.

AND MORE JUST KEEP BEING AWARDED!

- **Marcus Smith** was awarded a \$35,000 IDEAS grant from the US Department of State to launch virtual exchanges in courses, providing our students with practical experience and building cultural competency through collaborations with Iraqi students.
- **Lauren McCoy** has been awarded the Learning Academy Teaching Excellence and Innovation Fund to support a project in her World Literature courses.
- **James Hutson** was awarded the Bodyswaps & Meta's Immersive Soft Skills Education Grant. This grant award recognizes the substantial benefits of immersive learning on the development of POWER skills, benefiting both students and faculty, and promoting equal opportunities for all students globally.

RISE & Shine -- Cultural Event



The Boyle Gallery hosted the Cbabi Bayoc exhibition and is a great example of how we can infuse **RISE** concepts beyond the classroom. As **Art Professor John Troy** points out, “The Cbabi Bayoc exhibition could be a great tool for discovery of the art and music conventions of a marginalized and underrepresented group of our students. Bayoc claims jazz, hip hop, and rap, along with family, as major influences in his paintings, illustrations, and murals. His work is an accessible entrance into a cultural manner of visual expression with African and urban origins unfamiliar to large segments of the American populace.”

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

WITH FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, & ALUMS!

The College of Arts and Humanities recently hosted Coffee and Conversations featuring **Dean Kathi Vosevich** and students, **Edward Hansford** and **Hazel Denother**, as primary speakers. Topics included the vision and mission of the college, strategic initiatives, impacts on students’ lives through real experience and real success, and a Q and A session. About 30 guests, including alumni, friends, and faculty attended. Alumna **Marla Newsom Pierce** commented that she is proud of the college, very captivated with our students, as well as expressed how much she loves the university as her home. Other alum were grateful that the history of the institution was valued and honored with our mission of humanity, continued emphasis on innovation, and excited about the importance of power skills. We love our team! Join us for the next event and share our excitement.

STRATEGICALLY SKILLIFYING SYLLABI

FOR OUR STUDENTS & FUTURE LEADERS

Power Skills underpin all we do (support the grad attributes and complement tech skills). We have a task force investigating how best to skillify syllabi—tell students what skills they are learning and why, right on the syllabus—and teach students the power of communication, empathy, leadership, creativity, critical thinking, etc., and how to transfer these in-demand skills to any future. Our mission truly is humanity and preparing our students for any future.

UPCOMING DATES

Showcases and Concerts

- Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime:
 - **2/23-2/24 at 7:30 PM**
 - **2/25 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM**
- Wind Ensemble:
 - **2/27 at 7:30 PM**
- Requiem for the Living:
 - **3/4 at 7:30 PM**
- Winter Dance Concert:
 - **3/17-3/18 at 7:30 PM**
- Cinderella:
 - **3/30-4/1 at 7:30 PM**
- Spring Dance Concert:
 - **4/20-4/22 at 7:30 PM**
- Wind Ensemble and Orchestra Concert:
 - **4/4 at 7:30 PM**
- Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, Boyle Gallery:
 - **3/31-4/16**
 - **Reception on 4/13, 4-7 PM (awards announced at 6:30 PM)**
- Spring Playfest:
 - **4/14-4/15 at 7:30 PM**
- Lindenwood Fashion Design Exhibition, Boyle Gallery:
 - **4/20 Opening Reception, 6 PM**
- Choir Concert:
 - **4/25 at 7:30 PM**
- Spring 2023 Fashion Show & Market:
 - **4/29**
- Voices Only Concert:
 - **4/30 at 7:30 PM**

Graduation

- MAY 6, 2023 – 10 AM

Thanks for being such
a winning team!



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Have more news? Have some feedback? Email [Edward](#) and share your great news for our next newsletter!

LINDENWOOD
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

PREPARING FOR EVERY FUTURE. | MAKE YOUR OWN WAY. TELL YOUR OWN STORY.



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