

CONNECTION

A Publication of Lindenwood University for the Alumni

In this issue:

Winter 2016

Bronze Star Winner



Dark Carnival Grows



New Giving Society Launches



Homecoming Up Close



The House That Trash Built



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LINDENWOOD'S IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD



We are all justifiably proud of this grand institution. In this issue, you'll see stories about another great Homecoming, our annual Family Day, our new alumni effort in Kansas City, and our athletics on both campuses, including the largest class of inductees into our Sports Hall of Fame since its creation in 2007. We are also launching a new giving society, the President's Circle, which you can read about in this issue.

What struck me most when looking through this edition is the impact our alumni and faculty are having close to home and around the world. Katherine Schack ('03, '07), one of our fine teaching alumni, won a Presidential Education Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for her work in the Wentzville School District. It's the highest award science and math teachers can receive.

First Lieutenant Alexander Larson ('14), serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, was recently awarded a Bronze Star for his efforts there. A platoon leader, Larson has been working with Afghan police chiefs and NATO forces in Kabul to help them coordinate their work in the city.

Shelly Daly, who teaches international business in our Robert W. Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship, will teach at Royal University of Bhutan as a Fulbright scholar in the spring semester. The first business professor ever placed in Bhutan in the Fulbright program, she will bring her expertise to the students there and will bring back some new perspectives for her students here.

Finally, Monica Leblanc ('16) is working in Tanzania as a program officer for a nonprofit school for girls. From Costa Rica, Leblanc says her time as an international relations and nonprofit management major with a minor in gender studies inspired her to travel the world and work to improve women's lives.

I can't help but be inspired by these stories and many others about the fine work our students, alumni, faculty, and staff are doing to make things better in communities around the world. I hope you and your loved ones have a happy and blessed holiday season "like no other." Please keep in touch.

MICHAEL D. SHONROCK, Ph.D. President, Lindenwood University System

Values-centered liberal arts education-preparing students for life

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Lt. Alexander Larson visited the Lindenwood University campus

while visiting family in the St. Louis area.

Larson spent nearly 10 months deployed to Afghanistan in 2015-2016.





LARSON EARNS BRONZE STAR

ALUNNUS WORKED W **AFGHAN POLICE IN KABUL**

by **BRIAN VORCE**

Army 1st Lt. Alexander Larson, a 2014 Lindenwood University graduate with a degree in criminal justice, recently earned a Bronze Star for exceptional work above and beyond his duties in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Larson, a platoon leader in the 127th Military Police Co. out of Fort Carson, Colo., took command of a police liaison unit in Afghanistan. His mission was to coordinate with Afghan police chiefs in Kabul and NATO forces in the city. Larson and his unit also helped train over 1,000 Afghan police officers in subjects like officer safety and crime scene management.

For his efforts during the deployment, Larson was awarded a Bronze Star. While the award was for the deployment as a whole, one event sticks out in Larson's mind as particularly eventful.

In late August 2016, insurgent forces attacked the American University in Kabul, taking hostages in one of the campus buildings. Larson served as the liaison between Afghan police and NATO forces, who respond to events such as this when citizens of NATO countries are involved. The united forces were able to get the hostages out without losing a single person.

"I was up all night for that one," said Larson, who continued bridging the gap between Afghan police and NATO until 6:30 the next morning. "Then I went right to sleep."

Larson said he was able to use the knowledge and skills he acquired during four years of ROTC and the Criminal Justice program at Lindenwood. The Criminal Justice program, Larson said, was particularly helpful.

"It helped that I knew what I was talking about when working with the police chiefs and training the police officers," Larson said.

The hours spent in the ROTC program were also helpful. Larson said he gained a great deal of self-confidence in the program, as well as an idea of how to lead and command a unit. These skills would come to great use during a deployment that Larson said "came up out of nowhere."

"It helped that I knew what I was talking about when working with the police chiefs and training the police officers."

Alexander Larson ('14)

Since graduating from Lindenwood in 2014 and passing the military police officer course in March 2015 at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Larson has spent more time in Afghanistan than at his home station in Fort Carson. Larson started training for the deployment to Afghanistan in July 2015 and departed for nine and a half months in Kabul that December.

Larson said the six months of pre-deployment training helped get him prepared and ready for the 18-month turnaround from college student to Army unit commander.

"Being in the Army means training and readiness," Larson said. "It's like being an athlete. You are always training and staying prepared."

Larson visited Lindenwood days after returning from Afghanistan, meeting with former criminal justice professor and current adjunct instructor Paul Corbin and speaking in Corbin's class. Corbin said he was proud of Larson and was glad to see him successful and serving others.

Larson also served three years with Lindenwood's Student Senate, where he met Chinese studies major Sydney Dawson ('14). The two are now married.

"She's the best thing I found at Lindenwood," Larson said. "She's more valuable to me than any of the training and knowledge I received."

The Larsons currently live in Colorado Springs, where 1st Lt. Larson will continue as a platoon leader for the 127th MPs while working on a promotion to the rank of captain.



PASSIONATE SCHACK WINS PRESIDENTIAL EDUCATION AWARD

by **RACHEL JOHNSON**

Katherine Schack ('03, '07) has achieved many impressive accomplishments during her 12 years as an educator in the Wentzville School District. Her receipt of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is, arguably, one of her most notable.

The award is the highest recognition a K-12 mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Schack was among 213 mathematics and science teachers from across the country named in August 2016 by President Barack Obama as a recipient of the prestigious honor.

The winners were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process at the state level. Winners received a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion and were invited to Washington, D.C., in September 2016 for an awards ceremony, educational and celebratory events, and visits with members of the Obama administration.

"What an incredible honor to have been chosen as a recipient of the presidential award," Schack said. "I feel incredibly humble and motivated by this. I have the privilege of working with some of the most dedicated, hard-working educators that I have ever known. This award acknowledges all of the amazing, innovative work going on in my school district and pushes me to continue to increase expectations, model perseverance, and create classroom cultures in which the students are guiding their own learning."

Schack began her career in 2004 teaching first grade at Heritage Primary School in the Wentzville School District. She moved to Lakeview Elementary School in 2010, where she taught second grade for three years and then returned to the first grade classroom. In 2014, she became a district-wide mathematics coach, working hand-in-hand with teachers to increase student engagement, encourage problem-solving within and beyond the classroom, and aid in creating classroom learning structures that enable students to be met on their individual levels.

In 2016, Schack undertook a new role as math content leader and K-12 curriculum coordinator for the district, in which she helps educator teams develop curriculum and review and evaluate content and

teaches when needed. She recently spearheaded the organization and implementation of the district's new teacher math curriculum and Math In Focus® training, and she has also presented at the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Interface, and Missouri Staff Development Council conferences, where she presented on STEM in the classroom and increasing student conversations.

"I feel incredibly humble and motivated by this. I have the privilege of working with some of the most dedicated, hard-working educators that I have ever known."

Katherine Schack ('03, '07)

"From a young age, I knew my passion was to share my love of teaching with others," Schack said. "I've been able to do that thanks to the amazing Wentzville School District, so I'd love to keep seeing my work through here. I'm loving what I'm doing, and this feels like home."

CONNECTION

Members of the class of 1961 at Homecoming included (from left) Sue Allender McCullah, Stephanie Harms Smith, Wanda Wear Woolen, Nancy Calvert, Mary Lou Reilly Garbe, and Margi Bassnett Burtin.



THE CLASS OF '61 REMEMBERS WELL

by MARGI BASSNETT BURTIN ('61)

When I face meeting old friends after not seeing them for years, I worry that I won't recognize them—or worse yet, they won't recognize me. Not so when we met for our 55th Lindenwood reunion in October. Somehow, the years melted away. The class of '61 was just like we were when we graduated in our small class of 58 women and two men.

And what about Lindenwood? Has it changed from the small women's college we attended? Of course it has. Like us, it has accommodated change. New buildings fill the area we once called "back campus," but, like us, "front campus" provides a

heritage that is inspirational. Lindenwood has survived!

A friend of mine who doesn't keep in touch with old friends asked me enthusiastically what we did Reunion Weekend. I said, "We talked!" And then we talked some more. We laughed as we shared different memories of the same events. And we talked.

Some of us toured the old campus and approved of the changes to Nicolls Hall. No more group bathrooms. We ate at Pio's in the part of St. Charles we all remembered and at one of the restaurants in the new Streets of St. Charles that continues to grow at a rapid pace.

My husband joined us for the weekend. His comment at the end of it was, "What an intelligent and capable group of women Lindenwood produced." At a time in history when women frequently had to take a back seat, Lindenwood provided a place for women to achieve at all levels. We were the athletes, the Cum Laude students, the class officers, the radio station engineers. We could do anything we wanted—wearing a hat and white gloves.

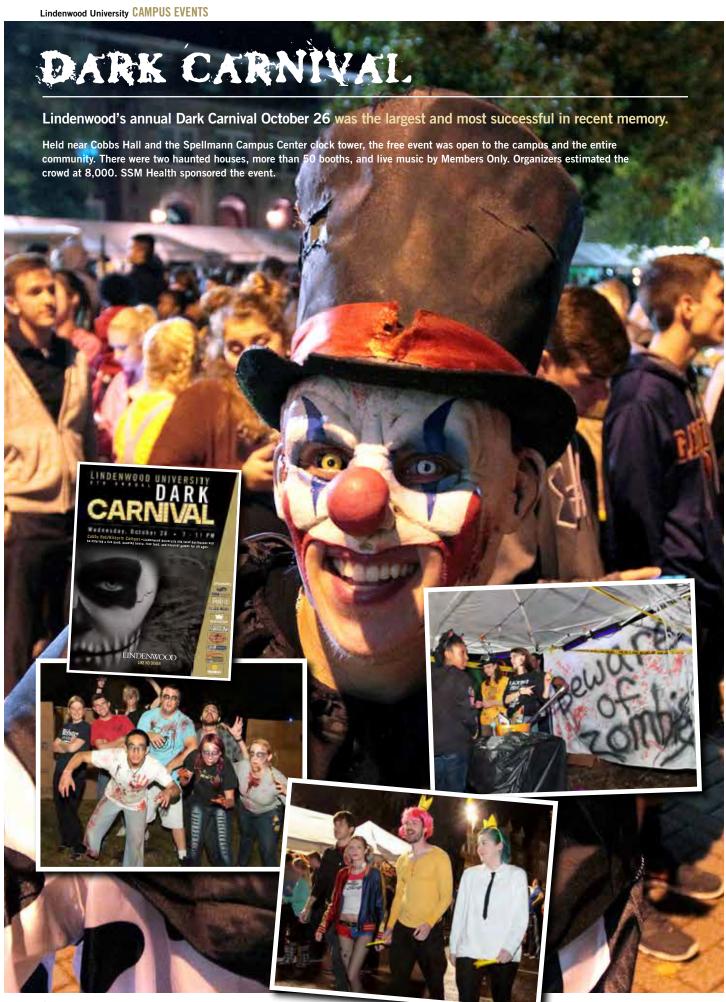
Class of '61 attendees, in addition to Margi Burtin, were Nancy Calvert, Jane Tibbals Dumont, Mary Lou Reilly Garbe, Sue Allender McCullah, Nancy Ordelheide Rubenstein, Stephanie Harms Smith, and Wanda Wear Woolen. The group was joined for dinner at Pio's by Jane Calvert Rogers ('67), a member of the university's Board of Directors, and Judith Forstmann Brown ('67), the president of the Lindenwood Alumni Association and also a member of the Board of Directors.

KC ALUMNI EVENT

A group of Kansas City-area alumni, consisting of graduates from multiple eras, gathered at the Four Points by Sheraton in Kansas City on Oct. 28 to celebrate the launch of Lindenwood's new Kansas City Alumni Club.

The group visited amongst themselves; looked at archival Lindenwood photos, publications, and memorabilia; and chatted with Lindenwood administrators, including Vice Presidents Joe Parisi and Dan Grigg, Alumni Director Michelle Giessman, and System President Michael Shonrock.







THE ROAD TO BHUTAN DALY NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR FOR SPRING 2017

by CHRIS DUGGAN

On Tuesday mornings before class, students gather in Shelly Daly's office in Harmon Hall to eat breakfast, chat, and laugh. They have studied in her international business classes, and some have traveled with her on study abroad trips. For the entire spring 2017 semester, she will go on a trip on her own as a Fulbright Scholar.

Daly, an associate professor in the Robert W. Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship, will lecture at the Royal University of Bhutan in the areas of global business and regional development in South and Central Asia. She joins a handful of other Lindenwood University academics who have participated in the prestigious program, including Drs. Ray Scupin, Michael Castro, Sue Tretter, and Ryan Guffey.

The Fulbright organization, which is a program of the U.S. Department of State, reports that 1,200 U.S. citizens will teach, conduct research, and provide expertise in the 2016-17 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as a record of service and demonstrated leadership in their fields. It took 11 months for Daly to put together her application materials and then another six after she submitted them before she was notified of her acceptance.

"I knew the one I applied for was a long shot, but I knew it was a good fit," Daly said. "I was beyond excited when I received the acceptance notification."

Daly said only 21 Fulbright scholars were selected to go to South and Central Asia in 2016-17; only six have ever gone to Bhutan, and she is only one in the discipline of business.

Having worked a number of years in Eastern Europe in academia and as a business consultant, she said the assignment will allow her to gain a new perspective in her field. Daly, who has been on the Lindenwood faculty for six years, has a Ph.D. in international business from Saint Louis University.

"My area of interest is in emerging markets and developing economies," Daly said. "This is an opportunity to learn a completely different approach than what I am used to from Eastern Europe. In international business, it is important to keep in touch with what's going on in different regions."

"I knew the one I applied for was a long shot, but I knew it was a good fit. I was beyond excited when I received the acceptance notification."

Shelly Daly, associate professor

The experience, ultimately, will benefit her students and Lindenwood University.

"This gives me an opportunity to show students an aspect of south and central Asia they won't be able to get at any other school," Daley said. "There is value in what I can bring back to the students, many of which haven't been out of the Midwest."

Sibley Medallion winner **Doug Mueller** address the Scheidegger Center crowd.



Board Vice Chairman **Ben Blanton** during the national anthem.

MUELLER RECEIVES SIBLEY MEDALLION OF HONOR

From left is 1997 Sibley Medallion of Honor recipient Sue Spellmann, with Jeanne (Gross) Mudd ('49), Board of Directors member Grace Harmon, and Connie Petre.

The 2016 Sibley Medallion of Honor was presented recently to Doug Mueller of the Lindenwood University Board of Directors.

The medallion is given annually to an individual who has a deep commitment to this university. Mueller received the award November 11 at the annual Butler and Sibley Heritage Society dinner at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts.

"There isn't a fundraising campaign that he (Doug) does not participate in. But his care for this institution, his commitment, and his service runs even deeper."

Michael Shonrock Lindenwood System President

"Doug's generosity to Lindenwood is well-documented," said Lindenwood System President Michael Shonrock. "There isn't a fundraising campaign that he does not participate in. But his care for this institution, his commitment, and his service runs even deeper."

Mueller has been a member of Lindenwood's Board of Directors for 11 years. He is chair of the Board Development Committee, and he is a member of the Finance Committee. He is also on the Executive Committee. Shonrock said Mueller volunteers to speak each year to classes in the Plaster School of Business and Entrepreneurship. And he has personally seen to it that Mueller Prost takes on Lindenwood University students as interns and hires our graduates into full-time positions.

Mueller is co-founder of Mueller Prost, and he is a leading business advisor in corporate and emerging tax issues. He focuses on high-level tax planning and consult for high-net worth individuals, business owners, and their related businesses.

Recipients of SIBLEY MEDALLION OF HONOR

'10s 2016 Doug Mueller

2015 Joe Mathews

2014 Fred and Barbara Kern

2013 Rob and Nancy Matheny

2012 Arthur Goodall

2011 Jim J. Shoemake

2010 Grace Harmon

'00s 2009 Ron Ohmes

2008 John Hammond

2007 Mark Kern

2006 Nancy Calvert ('61)

2005 Ben Blanton

2004 Steve Ehlmann

2003 Duane Flowers

2002 Jane Calvert Rogers ('67)

2001 Betty Tyree Osiek ('62)

2000 Bill Symes



Lindenwood University
Sibley Medallion orthographes Acad
Joseph G. Mathawa
Outstanding Service to the University
2011

'90s 1999 **Gary Shaw**

1998 Harlen C. Hunter

1997 Sue Spellmann

1996 Margaret Ketcham ('33)

1995 Elizabeth Rauch ('44)

1994 Anne Pals ('65)

1993 Larry G. Kelley

1992 Ruth H. Watkins

1991 Dorothy Warner ('36)

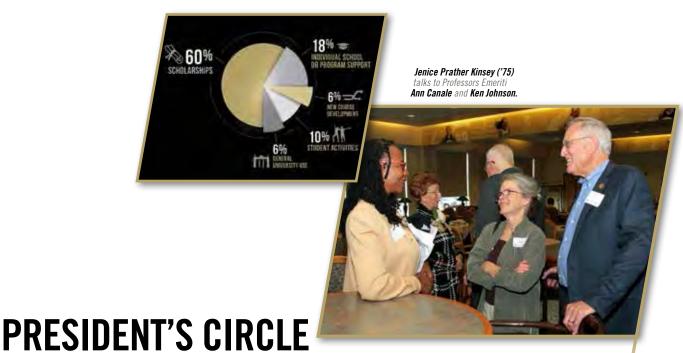
1990 Raymond W. Harmon

'80s 1988 Jane Crider

1987 John C. Hannegan

1986 Henry Elmendorf

'70s 1979 Frank B. Brockgreitens



Homecoming Weekend marked the launch of a new giving society at Lindenwood—the President's Circle. The society's first member, Jenice Prather Kinsey ('75), intends to mix the past and the future with her generous gift.

LAUNCHES ON HOMECOMING

Kinsey, now a faculty member at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, studied at Lindenwood to be a secretary, but a Lindenwood professor, Elwood Miller, encouraged her to be something more. Suffice it to say she took his advice, went on to earn her Ph.D. in accounting, and spent 30 years on the faculty at the University of Missouri before moving to UAB.

Kinsey is designating a scholarship in Miller's name.

The President's Circle was introduced on Oct. 22, offering alumni and friends a chance to have a lasting impact on the university through gifts of \$1,000 or more. Members are invited to an exclusive President's Circle event at the Lindenwood House, as well as other special events throughout the year.

Those at the \$2,500 level and above will receive an exclusive member's lapel pin presented by the president at the annual reception/recognition event. Platinum members at the \$10,000 level will receive two free tickets to a professional performance at the J. Scheidegger Center and will be invited to an exclusive reception and dinner hosted by President Michael Shonrock and his wife, Karen.

Dan Grigg, vice president for development and alumni relations, praised Kinsey for her generosity. He also pointed out that the first Lindenwood University employee to join the President's Circle was another alumnus, Dr. Ryan Guffey ('02 and '03), who serves as vice president for student development. Guffey's gift was unrestricted, asking only that the money is spent on a mission-based effort that gives back to students.



The President's Circle was introduced on October 22, offering alumni and friends a chance to have a lasting impact on the university through gifts of \$1,000 or more.

ALUMNA BEGINS WORK WITH NONPROFIT GIRLS' SCHOOL IN TANZANIA

by **BRIAN VORCE**



2016 Lindenwood University graduate Mónica Leblanc Miranda recently moved to Tanzania to work as a program officer for the nonprofit Secondary Education for Girls Advancement (SEGA).

The SEGA school provides the opportunity for at-risk girls in Tanzania to complete their high school education.

"The combination of these three made me want to travel the world and work for

As a program officer, Leblanc assists the deputy director, works on grant reports, for the year, and creates new plans for

"I also teach the girls geography and

Leblanc also said her time as an

MOILA

Lindenwood University has made the much easier for me," Leblanc said.

pursue a graduate degree in international across the globe.

"The multicultural environment at Lindenwood University has made the transition of stepping into a new culture much easier for me."

Mónica Leblanc Miranda ('16)



System President Michael Shonrock and wife Karen (left) hosted a reception at the Lindenwood House for the honored class. Also pictured are Alumni Association Presiden Judith Forstmann Brown ('67), Anne Fieber Hayes ('66), Kay Dunham Wilkinson ('60), and Dr. Sharman (Beasley) Vesecky ('66).

FIEBER HAYS SPEAKS ON **BEHALF OF 50-YEAR CLASS**

Ann Fieber Hays ('66), now living in Dallas, Texas, addressed the crowd Saturday morning at the Alumni Breakfast in the Spellmann Center.

I transferred to Lindenwood from the University of Illinois, a 40,000-plus student body. I almost chose Lindenwood in the first place. I had grown up going to the U of I, where my father had graduated. My aunt had attended Lindenwood, which is how I knew about it.

I particularly liked the smaller campus here, smaller classes and McCluer Hall, which had a sorority-like feeling of belonging with Mrs. Edna Steger, head resident.

I was an education major, and I value the advice given in the selection of my courses. I took enough English classes that I qualified to teach it through grade 12. Marjorie Ann Banks strongly encouraged getting certified in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education. That was a plus when I was hired in Texas. The English courses set me up for the English as a Second Language program, where I spent most of my teaching career.

When I attended Lindenwood, students were required to take a religion course on the Old and New Testament, as well as History of Civilization. Dr. William W. Thomas was outstanding! He made history like reading a good novel.

The last thing I treasure are the friends I made and that I still am in contact with and enjoy.

Ann Fieber Hays taught English as a second language and gifted students.

She is a member of the Daughters of the American **Revolution, the Dallas** Junior League, and Alpha Phi sorority. While teaching ESL in Texas, she was very proud to relate that she was invited on an international educators' tour of Japan.





SPRING MAIN STAGE LINEUP IS DESIGNED TO PLEASE

by CHRIS DUGGAN

Following a fall season that included the Blues Brothers, Howie Mandel, and Kenny G., the spring Main Stage season at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts keeps up the pace with the touring Broadway revival of 42nd Street and concerts by Vanessa Williams and Johnny Mathis.

The touring Broadway production of 42nd Street will come to the Lindenwood Theater at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 12. Based on a novel by Bradford Ropes and the 1933 movie of the same name, the musical tells the story of a young dancer, Peggy Sawyer, who leaves her Allentown home and comes to New York to audition for a new Broadway musical. All she needs to make it to the big time is one lucky break.

The production features big dance numbers and unforgettable songs like "We're in the Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Dames," and "I Only Have Eyes for You." The stage adaptation of the story debuted on Broadway in 1980 and played for eight years. The Tony Award-winning 2001 revival went on to become the 14th longest-running show in Broadway history.

Vanessa Williams will perform in concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 1. The multi-talented singer and actor will bring a collection of hits from her career, which includes number-1 releases like "Save the Best for Last" and "Love Is," platinum records, and an Academy Award for the song "Colors of the Wind," which she performed for the Disney film Pocahontas. Throughout her career, Williams has sold millions of records and has received numerous Grammy Award nominations.

Finishing up the season will be Johnny Mathis, who at 81 years old is celebrating his 61st year in the music industry. He will

perform at 8 p.m. on May 13 and at 7 p.m. on May 14 as part of his 2017 The Voice of Romance Tour. Mathis, who is Columbia Records' longest-signed artist, is known for his unmistakable voice, which he has used in a variety of musical genres, including jazz, pop, and holiday music, as well as music for the stage and screen.

Among his 50 hits on Billboard's adult contemporary chart are favorites "Chances Are," "It's Not for Me to Say," and "Misty." He has recorded more than 80 albums, including six Christmas albums, and has sold millions of records worldwide. In 2003, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

"The spring portion of our season offers a diverse line-up that is sure to meet our patrons' high expectations," said Peter Colombatto, marketing director for the Scheidegger Center. "We are especially excited to present two performances of Johnny Mathis on May 13-14, just in time for Mother's Day!"

Colombatto also said he wanted to thank this season's sponsors, Centene Charitable Foundation, which is sponsoring 42nd Street, and Worldwide Technology, Inc., which is sponsoring Vanessa Williams and Johnny Mathis.

For more information or to order tickets, visit www.LUboxoffice.com or call the box office at 636.949.4433.

Upcoming Performances at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts

Student Theatre

Heathers The Musical By Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy Feb. 23-25, 7:30 p.m.

Anton in Show Business By Jane Martin Adapted from the Comedy by Pierre Corneille March 30-April 1, 7:30 p.m. April 6-8, 7:30 p.m.

Student Music

Band Concert March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Orchestra Concert March 22, 7:30 p.m.

Choir Concert March 24, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Concert March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Student Dance

Winter Dance Concert Feb. 9-11, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11, 2 p.m.

Student Fashion

Spring Fashion Show April 22, 8 p.m. (VIP reception at 7 p.m.)

Art Exhibits (Boyle Family Gallery)

TBA Professional Exhibition Jan. 12-Feb. 21 Opening Reception Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Lindenwood Juried Student Art Exhibition March 30-April 9 Closing Reception April 9, 11 a.m.



One of Lindenwood University's most time-honored traditions is Homecoming and Reunion weekend.

Hundreds of alumni gathered on campus Oct. 21-23 for a full slate of activities, including a barbecue and reception, Breakfast with the President, the parade and football game, the Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, and much more. The honored 50-year class of 1966 celebrated with a reception at the Lindenwood house and at a gathering at Miss Aimee B's in St. Charles. Alumni from all eras shared their memories of Lindenwood and made some new ones in the process.

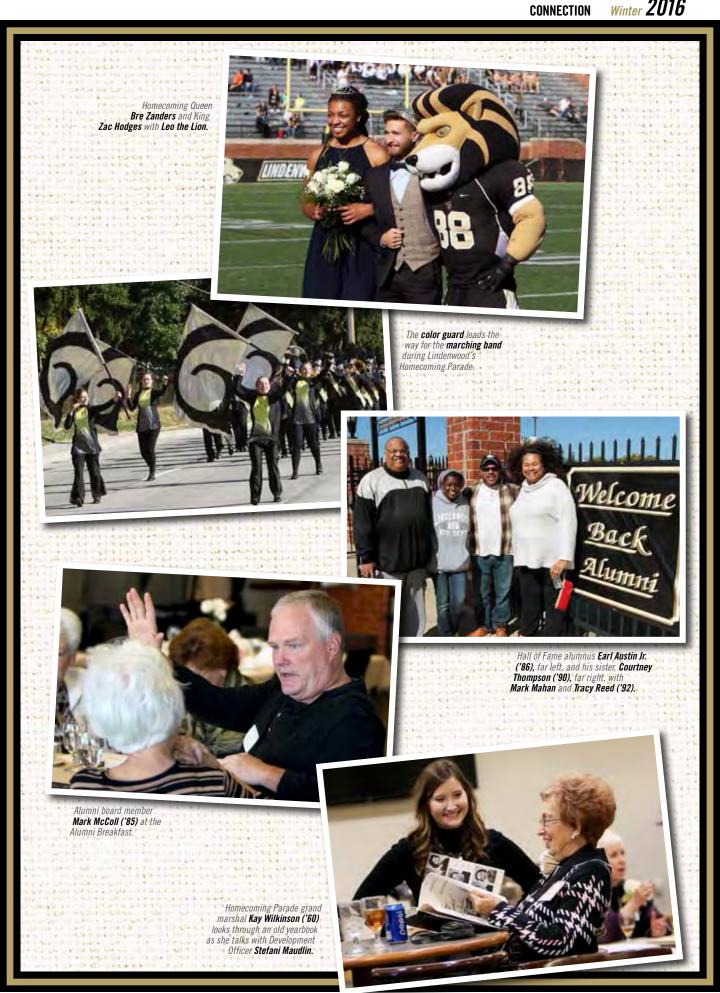


Sophomores Karina Lopez and Victoria Millarreal enjoyed the Homecoming barbecue with Lindenwood's south Texas admissions representative Ben Lopez.



Weston Lundy, a sophomore musical theatre major, gives a high-five to a fellow Voices Only sophomore and journalism major Sara Perren. Voices Only held a reunion concert at the Lindenwood University Cultural Center on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Members of **Lindenwood's first-ever football team** from 1989 marched in the Homecoming Parade
Saturday and were inducted Saturday night into the
Lindenwood Sports Hall of Fame. Their team
received the inaugural Pioneer Award.



BELLEVILLE PARENTS, FAMILY & ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND A HUGE SUCCESS

Parents, family members, and alumni descended on the Belleville campus Oct. 21-23 for Homecoming 2016, and the weekend-long celebration was a huge success!

From the inaugural Homecoming Parade with more than 800 participants, to five different athletic competitions, and brunch with the campus president, there was something for everyone at this year's Homecoming. Plans are already underway for Homecoming 2017 at Belleville. To download photos from the weekend at no cost, visit www.flickr.com/gp/147320918@N08/703QL9.



The Lynx Football team took on St. Francis University at the annual Homecoming football game on Oct. 22.

During the inaugural Homecoming

Parade, more than 800 participants

had a presence in the parade,

including the Belleville West High School Marching Band.

Parents, Family & Alumni Reunion Weekend at Homecoming 2016 was a huge success. Guests on campus enjoyed the Lynx Picnic, hosted by Pedestal Foods.

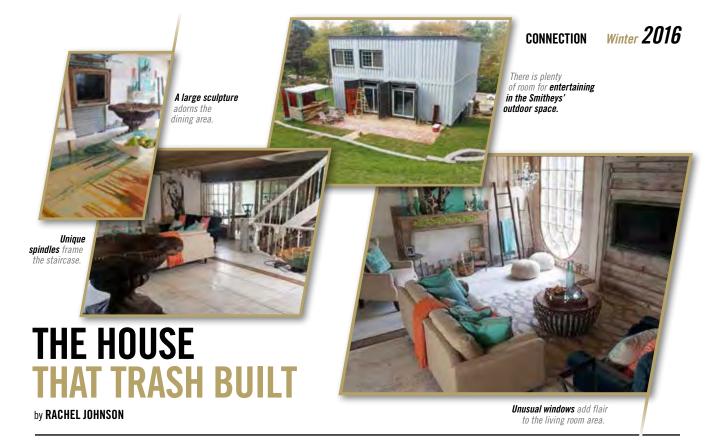
Campus President Brett Barger and his wife, Yarah, led the inaugural Homecoming Parade down Main Street in Belleville.



Lynx fans lined Lindenwood Stadium to cheer on the football team at the annual Homecoming football game.







Artist, business owner, and Lindenwood University alumnus Zach Smithey ('06, '09) is back in the local spotlight thanks to his most recent groundbreaking endeavor, the construction of a one-of-a-kind shipping container home in his hometown of St. Charles, Mo. Smithey and his wife, Brie, are building their 3,100-square-foot dream home from eight cargo-worthy shipping containers and a plethora of other alternative building materials.

"We've used architectural scrap, bowling alley lane pieces, large wooden spools, salvaged brick, antique light fixtures, discarded materials from landscaping companies such as fountains and concrete balusters," Smithey said. "We see pretty much everything, not for what it is, but for what it can be."

The project is a dream-come-true for the Smitheys, who had considered building a container house for several years. They decided to move forward with their plans during a recent vacation to Saint Maarten.

"While we were there, we saw a shipping container structure being built with the exact same design that we had in mind, and once we saw the design in real life, we knew that was the material we wanted to use," said Smithey. "We already owned a lot on Elm Street in St. Charles that we'd purchased in 2011, so we decided to go ahead and build on it."

The Smitheys sought the help of a shipping container broker, who helped them secure the highest-quality containers at the best price. The containers originated in Shanghai, China, were used a dozen times to ship various goods around the world, and were then sent to St. Louis, Mo., for the Smitheys' new home.

Following months of construction, the home boasts two stories, an 11-foot foundation, three bedrooms, and 2 ½ baths. Total construction cost is projected to be about \$125,000, which is about a third the cost of typical construction for a dwelling that size.

"Part of the appeal was that we could build this home mortgage-free while having the freedom to create and design a home that is uniquely us," said Smithey. "Now that it's all happening, it's better than we ever dreamed it would be."

The couple plans to move into their new home by the end of 2016. An hour-long episode documenting the construction of the Smitheys' container home will air this winter as the pilot episode of a new television series titled The House that Trash Built. The show will debut on the FYI Network, and episodes will be rebroadcast by the HGTV network.

"Part of the appeal was that we could build this home mortgage-free while having the freedom to create and design a home that is uniquely us."

Zach Smithey ('06, '09)



CONNECTION

2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Lindenwood Sports Hall of Fame moved back onto campus this fall and, if attendance was any indicator, was a rousing success.

Nearly 300 people attended the event, which featured the induction of six individuals, two coaches, and three teams. And this year a new award was introduced, the Pioneer Award, which brought the induction of Lindenwood's first football team and its first basketball team. The evening was a night to remember for inductees on the floor of the Hyland Arena.



From left, Mike Roberts, Clarence Hendrickson, Noren Kirksey, and Steve Davis, pioneer members of the Lindenwood men's basketball team.



Shelby Anderson ('11) was a standout baseball player and all-conference selection.



Krista Yoder ('10) was a difference maker in women's volleyball, setting a school record for solo kills.



Jon Shockley speaks on behalf of Lindenwood's 2009 shooting team.



Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics **Brad Wachler** with Hall of Fame quarterback **Phil Staback**, who led the Lions football team to the **NAIA** national championship game in 2009.



Former swim coach Craig Penrose delivers an impassioned acceptance speech.

Longtime Athletics Director John Creer talks with Eric Knost ('97) and Kevin Winkleman ('08).



RETIREMENT DOESN'T LAST LONG FOR CREER FORMER A.D. HELPING OUT IN ALUMNI RELATIONS

by **SCOTT QUEEN**

The sun was about to come up July 1, and John Creer's alarm went off. Just like it had for the past 25 years. But, he didn't get in his car and drive to Lindenwood University. It was his first day of retirement.

Instead, Lindenwood's former athletics director hurriedly prepared for a flight to Asheville, N.C., for a month of relaxation and family time. It was going to be a true test for a man who didn't really know much about relaxation.

Creer said, "It wasn't that bad," because he already had a consultant retirement job lined up at Lindenwood after his month in Asheville.

"I don't play golf or have any hobbies, so I wanted to do something I enjoyed," Creer said. "And I enjoy being a part of Lindenwood and staying productive."

Creer asked President Michael Shonrock to consider the consultant position. He proposed to work reconnecting specifically with Lindenwood's alumni athletes. His proposal was approved.

Now Creer spends his days on the phone talking to former athletes, sharing stories, and reconnecting.

"I want to get as many former athletes re-engaged with Lindenwood as I can," he said, "at whatever level they feel comfortable with."

In addition to reconnecting with former student-athletes, he has also connected with a former athletics director and coach from half a century ago. The discussions have been very enlightening.

"I don't play golf or have any hobbies, so I wanted to do something I enjoyed. And I enjoy being a part of Lindenwood and staying productive."

"Did you know it appears we had a gymnastics program a long, long time ago? We had some 'lost years,' and there is more and more evidence that quite a few years ago we previously have had several of our current programs," Creer said.

Creer particularly enjoys working with Michelle Giessman, director of alumni relations. Creer actually hired Giessman in 1996.

"Michelle is great in her position," Creer said. "She was housing director for so long, and she knew all the students and built up a great rapport with a lot of people. She is ideal to direct our alumni efforts."

Over the summer, Creer has been busy working all sorts of alumni events. He has personally spoken to men's lacrosse alumni, and he is involved in meeting and greeting alumni at university events held at Alumni Plaza. He worked on establishing the Kansas City Alumni Club and has worked on alumni research projects for Vice President Dan Grigg. Lindenwood's former AD and track coach is currently working to help set up a track team alumni reunion to be held spring 2017.

"I enjoyed the month in Asheville and had a good time relaxing," he said. "But I had a sense of anticipation and excitement about starting this new consultant position. I really do enjoy being a part of Lindenwood. It is like family to me.'

COMING HOME TO LINDENWOOD

by **DANIEL NEWTON**



Donald Thomas ('06) has a fairy tale story, one so unbelievable that Hollywood might find it far-fetched. That story started at Lindenwood University and came full circle in September when the three-time Olympian and his family returned to the place where his high jumping career started.

Thomas and his wife, Krystal, returned to St. Charles, Mo. on Sept. 15. It was their first campus visit since graduating. The couple also brought along their two children to show them the place where they met.

"I had a hard time navigating through campus," said Thomas. "There are a lot of new buildings and it is really nice."

One of the stops on the tour was the Spellmann Center dining hall, where

Thomas' life changed on a cold January evening in 2006. Thomas, who came to Lindenwood from the Bahamas to play basketball, was challenged at dinner by a member of the track team that he could not high jump 6 1/2 feet.

"After the challenge, I went and got my basketball shoes and shorts, and we met up at the field house," said Thomas. "They put the bar at 6'6", and I jumped it. They put it at 6'8", and I also cleared that. He then said it was at 6'9." After I jumped that he told me it was really at seven feet, so we went to the track coach's office and I was added to the track and field team."

Things escalated quickly. Two days later, still wearing sneakers and gym shorts, Thomas set a meet record at Eastern Illinois. He would go on to finish second at the NAIA Indoor National Championships and help the Lions win a national title. After graduating, he used his final year of eligibility at Auburn, where he won an

NCAA Division I national championship. Thomas then won the World Championships in the fall of 2007, less than two years after taking up the sport.

Among his career highlights is competing for his country in three Olympic games -2008, 2012, and 2016. He had his best Olympics this past summer when he finished seventh in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Thomas has gotten to see the world because of the sport of high jumping, going through five passports in his travels. One stamp he would like to add in 2020 is Japan, the country where he won his World Championship. Tokyo will host the 2020 Olympics.

"I am going to shoot for one more," said Thomas. "The Olympics is the only medal I don't have in my collection. I am someone who doesn't give up and I am going to go get it."

FALL GREAT SUCCESS FOR SOCCER, FIELD HOCKEY

by **BEN MIZERA**



The Lions men's soccer team captured its third MIAA Championship in 2016. After a slow start to the season, Lindenwood rolled off 12 straight victories, including its first seven MIAA matches, to win the conference crown. The team finished the regular season with a 13-3-2 overall record, and it was 7-1-0 in conference play. Lindenwood earned its second bid to the

NCAA Division II Tournament as a reward for its season.

Ten members of the team earned all-conference honors, including Player of the Year accolades for Xhovani Dokaj. Dokaj set an MIAA record by scoring 16 goals, including four game-winners. Head Coach Carl Hutter was tabbed the MIAA Coach of the Year.

The Lindenwood field hockey team set a program record by winning 16 games, and it finished the season 16-3. The Lady Lions were 7-1 in conference play and earned the No. 1 seed in the ECAC Tournament. At the tournament, Lindenwood captured

its first conference title with a 1-0 win over Limestone in the championship game.

Lindenwood dominated the postseason awards from the conference. Tara Robben was the Offensive Player of the Year after scoring 21 goals. Skylar Starbeck was the co-Goalie of the Year, and Nicole Johnston was the Defensive Player of the Year. They helped the Lady Lions record 10 shutouts during the season. Head Coach Sarah Johnson was the ECAC Coach of the Year.

The Lady Lions soccer team won 10 games for the first time as an NCAA program. Lindenwood went 10-8-1 and tied for fifth in the MIAA with a 6-5-0 mark.



(from left) Natalie

Jablonski, president and
CEO of Big Brothers Big
Sisters of Southwestern
Illinois; Darius Lewis, of
Maryland Heights, Mo; Head
Lindenwood Wrestling Coach
Angelo Crinzi; Athletic
Director Ryan Kaiser; and
Assistant Wrestling Coach
Homer Vallejo

KAISER NAMED ATHLETICS DIRECTOR IN BELLEVILLE

On Sept. 1, Lindenwood University-Belleville selected Ryan Kaiser as its new director of intercollegiate athletics. He comes to Belleville with 15

vears of experience.

Prior to joining the Lindenwood Belleville team, Kaiser had served as associate director of athletics for internal operations at Northwest Oklahoma State University. He helped guide the Rangers through an NAIA to NCAA Division II reclassification. During this time, he helped raise \$8 million in four

years for athletic facilities and changed the overall athletic makeup of that institution. Before his time at Northwest Oklahoma State, Kaiser was the athletic director at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Ore.

Since joining the Lynx family, Kaiser has hit the ground running and has been adamant about Lindenwood Belleville strengthening its presence in the community, reaching out to local middle and high schools, performing community service and generally raising awareness of the strong athletics program.

Another vision high on his list is reaching out to alumni and bringing them back to campus.

"My hope is to connect with most alumni through newsletters and how they can provide a quality student-athlete experience," said Kaiser. "I would love to have our alumni return to campus to see just how much has changed and speak to them about all of the endless possibilities our institution has moving forward."

Kaiser has been married for 12 years to his wife, Corie Iwen Kaiser. They have twin 7-year-old sons, Carson and Caden.

LYNX WRAP UP FALL SEASON

Another fall season is in the books, and it was another promising one for Lindenwood University-Belleville Athletics.

Despite not recording a win on the season, the **Lynx football team** battled against some of the top NAIA schools in the nation. One of its best games on the year came against Taylor University, where the team scored a season-high 45 points in a tough double overtime loss.

The **Lynx men's soccer team** closed out its 2016 regular season on a five-game

winning streak that allowed them to become the No. 2 seed in the American Midwest Conference (AMC) Tournament. After defeating Missouri Baptist in the opening round, the Lynx ran into No. 3-seeded Columbia College and unfortunately lost, 4-2.

The **Lady Lynx soccer team** also finished out the year on a high note as it won its last five games and went from the No. 8 seed all the way up to No. 4 in the AMC Tournament.

The team hosted William Woods University in the opening round and won 1-0.

Then, it faced No. 1-seeded Park University in the AMC Semifinals and dropped a tough 5-1 outing.

The women's volleyball team had one of its best seasons in recent memory, tying its program record with 18 wins while setting numerous individual and team records. The Lady Lynx also hosted its first AMC Tournament opening round game in program history against William Woods.

In its inaugural season, the **Lady Lynx field hockey team** was unable to collect a win but showed the future is bright in the years to come.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES WINTER 2016 Submit your alumni news and notes to alumni@lindenwood.edu

'70s

Denise (Poese) Moorman ('77)

retired after working in quality control for Mallinckrodt Nuclear in St. Louis for 32 years, and she and her husband, Jim, moved to Fernley, Nev., a rural farming and ranching community 50 miles east of Reno in northern Nevada. Shortly after, the couple joined an emigrant trail history group that researches and marks the wagon train trails that pushed America westward to California and Oregon in the mid-1880s. Eighteen months ago, working with another group member, they co-authored a guidebook to the Lassen Trail. Once that project was completed, to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary, they traveled to Labrador and Newfoundland. Canada, in June and July. They have also enjoyed shorter camping trips to Yellowstone National Park and plan on visiting more national parks in the months to come. Moorman graduated with a degree in journalism.



'80s

Judy Peters ('84) was recently promoted to chief operating officer for TPH Media/ StreetScape Magazine. She is responsible for the overall print and digital operations of the company, including content, production, sales, accounting, and strategic planning. StreetScape Magazine is an upscale lifestyle publication offered free to the community six times per year, highlighting some of the St. Charles area's great people, places, businesses, and

organizations. Peters received her bachelor's in mass communications.



'90s Jodell (Cooper) Larkin ('94)

was recently named chairman of the board of the American Sewing Guild (ASG), a national nonprofit, for 2016-17. ASG promotes sewing as an art and life skill. The organization is made up of approximately 16,500 members, including 135 chapters in most major US cities, and covers all needle crafts for professionals and amateurs. For membership information, contact Larkin at ilarkin70@charter.net. She received her bachelor's in retail marketing.



'00s

Timothy A. Caines ('03) is

project manager of World Class Athletics and the football facility at the island of Nevis. Caines is currently working with the Track Division of Mondo (the company that has laid all the tracks for World Championships and the Olympic Games since the 1970's) for a major football

and track facility on Nevis. Caines received a bachelor's in accounting and finance.



David Bates ('04) was

appointed principal of Prairie View Elementary School for the 2017-1018 school year. Bates started his career in 2004 at Crossroads Elementary School and in 2013 accepted an assistant principal position at Bowles Elementary in the Rockwood School District. He has an Educational Specialist degree in administration and a master's in educational administration from William Woods University, as well as a bachelor's in elementary education from Lindenwood.



Don Rothermich ('04) recently joined Boone Center, Inc. (BCI) as the director of development. He is responsible for strategic planning development and execution of all fundraising and special event activities at BCI. Before joining BCI, he held management positions in the City of St. Charles in communications, community relations, and in the convention and visitor's bureau. He has been an active member of the St. Charles Jaycees since 2003 and served as chapter president in 2013. He has otherwise been active in the St. Charles community and is a past recipient of Streetscape Magazine's Beyond the Best award. He received a bachelor's in business administration.

Ann Hammel ('06) was recently promoted to editor in chief of American Quilter magazine by the American Quilter's Society (AQS), the largest quilting membership organization in the world. Hammel, who is responsible for the overall content, design, and production of the magazine, previously spent three years writing and editing the AQS e-newsletter and blog, as well as performing additional writing duties throughout the company. Hammel's Lindenwood degree is in mass communication.



William Lindman ('09) has been working at Amundsen-Scott Research Station-South Pole since January 2016 and finished up his contract in November, After a brief trip home, he will return to the South Pole for another year. Lindman graduated from Lindenwood with a bachelor's in criminal justice, joined the Peace Corps, and worked in Uganda. There, he developed the idea of going to Antarctica.

Alumni News & Notes continues on next page...

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES WINTER 2016 continued



'10s

in 2015.

Terra Sherman ('10, '15) recently joined Cushman and Wakefield's healthcare division as an assistant property manager. In her new role, she will be managing various BJC facilities, from doctors' buildings to hospitals. Sherman credits her Lindenwood education for enabling her to pursue this type of opportunity. She received her B.A. in history in 2010 and completed her M.A. in communications

Tracy (Luley) Flicek ('10, '11, '12) was married to Paul Flicek on Aug. 12 at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters, Mo., where the couple lives. She is employed by Lindenwood University as the assistant director of ESL/EPP. She received her B.A. and M.A. in international studies and her M.A. in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL).



Megan Adamo ('10) is the founder and CEO of the Adamo Agency LLC, a promotional event staffing company that has staffed over 4,500 events in the four years it has been in business. Adamo said her Lindenwood experience helped her achieve her career goals and start her own business. Her commitment to charity involvement has also enabled the Adamo Agency Forget Me Nots to raise over \$6,000 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. She lives in Wildwood, Mo.. with her fiancé, Matthew Dunscombe; an August 2017 wedding is planned. She graduated from Lindenwood with a B.A. in advertising and media.



has been in California since graduating from Lindenwood working as a stunt double and actor for the History Channel, CW11, PBS, and other networks. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG). Flint-Smith

received his bachelor's in

mass communication.

Jimmy Flint-Smith ('12)



Kourtney Dickerson ('12) was married on Oct. 21 to Jacob Shaw in Hermann, Mo. She is currently an administrative assistant for parent programs in the Alumni and Development Office at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Prior to joining Washington University, she worked in the registration office at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA). She received her bachelor's in arts and management with an emphasis in theatre.

Judson Smith ('12), vice president of continuing education at Career Step, has been appointed co-chair of the by the National Association of FMS Educators' (NAEMSE) Education Technology Committee. Career Step is an online provider of career-focused education and professional training. NAEMSE is a nonprofit educational association that was incorporated in 1995 to promote excellence in EMS education and lifelong learning within the global community. Smith is a licensed critical care paramedic and is a four-year member of NAEMSE, as well as an officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in an aeromedical evacuation squadron. He founded Code 3 CME, a virtual instructor-led nationally accredited training company, in 2012. Smith received his master's degree in healthcare administration from Lindenwood and is currently pursuing a

Ph.D. in education with an emphasis on content design and technology.

Robert Henrich ('12) joined Empire Airlines, Inc. in October and will have direct responsibility for all aspects of Empire's accounting and financial functions. He came to Empire from Clearwater Paper Corporation in Spokane. Wash. He previously held a senior corporate accounting position with BJC Healthcare in St. Louis, Mo., and was a CPA for the accounting firm of Schneider & Gerhardt, PC. He earned his M.B.A. from Lindenwood, has a bachelor's in international relations. and is a licensed CPA.



Laura Parn ('13) was appointed principal of Duello Elementary School in the Wentzville School District for the 2017-1018 school year. She is currently assistant principal at Boone Trail Elementary and is celebrating 14 years in education. She has been in public education as a teacher and administrator since 2011 in Lincoln. Neb., and the St. Charles School District. She was named a Japan Fullbright Memorial Fund teacher in 2007 and received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science in 2012. She received her master's in school administration from Lindenwood and also holds a master's in teaching, learning, and teacher education from the University of Nebraska, and a bachelor's in elementary education from Greenville College.

Alumni News & Notes continued

Genesis Regalado ('13, '15) and Chris Pfeifer ('14) were married on Saturday, May 28, 2016. Regalado received a B.A. in accounting and an M.B.A. from Lindenwood. Pfeifer received a B.A. in business administration.



Jeffrey Hartsoe ('15) was recently one of six new police officers hired by Glen Carbon Village in Illinois. Hartsoe has been a full-time certified police officer since 2008 in Dallas, Texas, and the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and has also served on the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad. He received a bachelor's in criminal justice from Lindenwood in 2015.



Andrew Helmick ('15) has opened Pride Fitness, LLC, in Liberty, Mo., a professional personal training service formed to help individuals of all health levels to achieve their maximum potential. Programs are customized around each individual's goals and current level of fitness. Helmick received his B.S. in educational studies.

IN MEMORIAM

Please be aware that the names listed in the In Memoriam section are of alumni that may have passed within recent months or within the past couple of years.

Ruth (Haines) Doering Zeiss ('43), Lake Oswego, Ore.

Patsy (Payne) Lea ('46), McGregor, Texas

Mary Evelyn (Wyatt) Roberts ('47), Roswell, N.M.

Irma M. (Mc Cormac) Rahtjen ('50), Kansas City, Mo.

Miriam "Sissie" (Shelton) Horne ('51), Paradise Valley, Ariz.

Beverly (Randall) McKinney ('56), Decatur, III.

Betty (Eckler) Mills ('57), Richmond, Ind.

Nanci (Thomas) Calderwood ('60), Tulsa, Okla.

Frances Gay (Pauly) Bryant ('61), Alton, III.

Mary E."Beth" (Stallings) Wilton ('65), Carlyle, III.

Carolyn (Walters) Heckendorn ('66), Newton, Kan.

Sheila R. Painter ('73), Mexico, Mo.

Elaine (Carlton) Bachman ('74), St. Louis, Mo.

Marjorie (Trimble) Semon ('81), St. Charles. Mo.

Margaret "Marge" (Fischbach) Bilinsky ('82), St. Louis, Mo.

Corinne Richardson ('87), St. Louis, Mo.

Juanita (Head) Walton ('93),

Carol J. (Ellis) Schultz ('97), Highland, III.

Ronald Griesenauer ('02), Weldon Spring, Mo.

St. Louis. Mo.

Sonya Marie Tucker ('06), Sullivan, Mo.

Dr. William Symes, Jefferson City, Mo.





TaJuan Wilson ('15) recently relocated to Charleston, S.C., and accepted a position at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) as an assistant professor and executive director for student programs and student diversity. Wilson received his Ed.D. in instructional leadership.

IN MEMORIAM

Lindenwood Belleville mourns passing of Wingo-Rust

Dr. Angela Wingo-Rust, dean of students at Lindenwood University-Belleville, passed away Oct. 28 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 47.

"Our Lindenwood family has lost a very important member who will always be remembered as one of the 'originals' whose vision and commitment to the possibility of a great university helped shape what we are today," Lindenwood-Belleville President Brett Barger said.

Wingo-Rust joined Lindenwood University-Belleville in the spring of 2010 as dean of students. She played a vital role in building what was a night school with fewer than 500 students into a full-time, full service university.

Wingo-Rust's physical legacy on the Belleville campus is the women's dorm, the Ladies' Lynx Lodge, which she played a major role in designing. She was also a key player in establishing the food service Lindenwood Belleville students currently enjoy, and Wingo-Rust created the Belleville Campus Security Department by coming up with the idea of the Cops for Credit program through which Metro East law enforcement officers and members of their families were able to attend the university for free in exchange for donating their time policing the campus.

"In many ways, she was the face of the university," said, Mary Reuter, Lindenwood Belleville director of development. "She's the one who spoke on our behalf. She always had the best interests of the students in mind and was a great friend in addition to being a wonderful colleague."

CONNECTION

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HOMECOMING 2016 WAS ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS

by **JUDY FORSTMANN BROWN ('67)**President, Alumni Association

While it seems like it just began, another semester is nearing its end as students dash up the steps of Roemer Hall for 8 a.m. classes and take part in late-night confabs in their dorm rooms to prepare for finals.

Alumni Reunion Weekend Oct. 21 and 22 was blessed by glorious weather. Alumni and their families enjoyed the Homecoming Parade under bright blue skies and warm sunshine. Our 2016 Alumni Merit Award winner, Kay Dunham Wilkinson ('60), served as grand marshall of the Homecoming Parade and crowned the Homecoming King and Queen during halftime ceremonies at the football game.

The 50-year honored class of 1966 was represented by Anne Fieber Hays at Alumni breakfast as she shared memories of Lindenwood with the guests there. Also in attendance were seven members of the class of 1961 celebrating their 55-year reunion. Many of the returning alumni marveled at the changes to the St. Charles campus and were thrilled to see their beloved heritage campus still much as they remembered it. (see pages 5 and 7)

I now challenge the members of the class of 1967, next year's 50-year honored class (and my year!), to start planning their return to St. Charles. How wonderful would it be to gather together at the Alumnae Gate as we did our senior year to have our picture taken!

This year, the Belleville campus shared the same October Homecoming/Reunion date with St. Charles. Our Belleville alumni also enjoyed visiting with their former classmates and catching up with one another while enjoying the festivities. (see page 16)

Planning for December Commencement ceremonies is already underway. St. Charles will host graduation at the Family Arena on Dec. 10. Belleville will hold its graduation ceremonies at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Ill., on Dec. 11. Representatives of the Alumni Board will attend each of the ceremonies to welcome the new alumni to our ranks and present them with their Lindenwood alumni pins.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 Alumni Merit Award. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague or classmate who has exemplary career accomplishments and/or volunteer work. Courtney Hupper Lenk ('99) chairs the Alumni Merit Award Committee and will be seeking nominations. Watch the Lindenwood website and the Linden Bark for details or contact the Alumni Office for information on how to submit a nomination. The Merit Award is presented annually during graduation ceremonies in May.

Our alumni director, Michelle Giessman ('16), has been charged with forming alumni clubs in the Kansas City, Dallas, Chicago, and St. Louis markets. Currently, St. Charles is the only established alumni



club in the country. Please watch for announcements of planned events in your area. If you are interested in helping to contact fellow alumni or to assist with the planning, please contact Michelle at the Alumni Office by calling 314.749.4975 or emailing her at mgiessman@lindenwood.edu. (see page 5)

Also, be sure to contact the Alumni Office with updates on your mailing or email address. In addition, we'd like to hear of any weddings, birth announcements, promotions, retirements, etc. for inclusion in the Alumni News and Notes section of Connection. Sharing the good news among our alumni is a great way to keep in touch and reconnect. Send those to alumni@lindenwood.edu.

I send my best wishes for a joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you back on campus soon!