

# LINDENWOOD

REAL EXPERIENCE. REAL SUCCESS.

*Connecting to Alumni and Friends*

In this issue:

Pg. **2** / **Joe Bruno's persistence** leads to patent

Pg. **4** / **LindenTeach Program** provides real experience

Pg. **6-7** / **Homecoming pictures** from St. Charles and Belleville

Pg. **9** / **Cosby awarded Sibley Medallion of Honor**

Pg. **19** / **Lindenwood Athletics** to join GLVC

## **Alumni Affairs Moves to School-Based Model**

Pg. 1





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE NEXT LEVEL OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

**One of the main pillars of the strategic plan Lindenwood launched this year has to do with how we tell the Lindenwood story, not just to prospective students but to our alumni as well. The goal of every college and university is to maintain a vibrant network of graduates who remain connected and engaged with the institution.**

This year, we're moving toward a new model for alumni engagement built around "affinity groups." This approach is part of a growing trend in higher education. College students form their deepest connections within their programs of study, with their fellow students and faculty alike. So, it makes sense to talk to you, the graduates, from the schools themselves.

To that end, our University Relations staff are assigned to specific schools and work directly with and alongside the deans and other administrators from those schools. Mark Bohr works in Roemer Hall and is our officer for the schools of Education, Sciences, and Health Science. Bryan Stone works in McCluer Hall with the schools of Humanities and Arts, Media, and Communications. Matt Adams works in Harmon Hall and is responsible for the Plaster School of Business and Entrepreneurship and the School of Accelerated Degree Programs.

We hope that this approach will provide greater opportunity to network with one another and be more involved with Lindenwood in ways that benefit our graduates, our current students, and the institution as a whole. An engaged and active alumni base makes for a stronger Lindenwood.

Please take some time to read through this edition of *Lindenwood*. We have many great stories about your fellow alumni and about what has been going on at Lindenwood. It is hard to believe, but the holiday season is nearly upon us. I wish you all the best this wonderful time of year. Keep in touch and feel free to visit any time.

Sincerely,

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

**LINDENWOOD** *Real Experience. Real Success. Enhancing lives through quality education and professional preparatory experiences.*

Approved by Board of Trustees  
Nov. 10, 2017

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS notifications should be sent to the Office of University Relations at the address above. The University Relations telephone number is 636.949.4424.



Alumni officer **Matt Adams** (right) chats with **Mark Hayden ('95)**, friend **Amy James**, and **Mike Skinker ('08)** at the Homecoming Alumni Village.

# SCHOOL-BASED AFFINITY GROUPS ESTABLISHED FOR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

**Lindenwood University has restructured its alumni engagement efforts with a school-based affinity group approach that allows for more direct engagement with alumni from the schools in which they earned their degrees. University Relations officers now work directly with school deans and professors to build more meaningful mutually beneficial connections with alumni.**

University Relations officers have offices in the same spaces as the deans and faculty members of their schools. Mark Bohr, in the lower level of Roemer Hall, is responsible for the schools of Education, Sciences, and Health Science. Bryan Stone, in the lower level of McCluer Hall, is responsible for the schools of Arts, Media, and Communications and Humanities. Matt Adams, the most recent addition to the

group, is on the first floor of Harmon Hall and is responsible for the Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship and the School of Accelerated Degree Programs.

"I want to extend a special thanks to our academic deans and our faculty for enhancing alumni engagement through our new affinity programs," said Lindenwood University System President Michael D. Shonrock, Ph.D.

The move is also part of a restructuring of the former offices of Development and Marketing and Communications, which have combined as University Relations. Lisa O'Brien Enger joined the university on Sept. 1 as vice president for university relations. She said the affinity group arrangement for alumni is a trend in higher education.

"Many relationships continue over the years after graduation with our deans and faculty, who continue to provide support and personal attention to our students,"

O'Brien Enger said. "It is that personal attention and encouragement that make Lindenwood unique."

Through the new affinity groups, University Relations will work with the schools to develop school-specific events for networking and continued engagement; make connections with the Career Center for student mentoring/internships/job placement; and provide opportunities for current students and recent alumni to participate in activities and on campus-wide events such as speaker series, fine arts events, and Homecoming. Through these stronger connections, the goal is that alumni will represent Lindenwood in their communities, supporting partnership programs and recruitment of future students.

"We want our experience of alumni engagement to be rewarding for past, current, and future students," O'Brien Enger said.

*"Reconnecting with our alumni through affinity groups is an opportunity to celebrate their achievements with them as well as to obtain feedback to ensure our programs are providing optimal experiences that lead to real success."*

**Joe Alsobrook**  
Dean of Arts, Media, and Communications

*"We are excited to collaborate with our affinity group to plan activities that engage ADP/LCIE alumni and current ADP students and to recruit alumni to provide experiential learning opportunities for our students."*

**Gina Ganahl**  
Dean of Accelerated Degree Programs

*"Although the alumni affinity groups are just beginning, we already saw an increase in student attendance and participation at this year's Homecoming."*

**Michael Whaley**  
Dean of Humanities

*"Our affinity group has helped to expand and personalize our alumni outreach. We are excited about the potential of the group to help us more effectively connect with our alumni and the community at large."*

**Anthony Scheffler**  
Dean of Education

*"This is a great way to build a foundation of alumni networks that play an integral role in providing professional mentorship and a variety of internship opportunities available to our students."*

**Cynthia Schroeder**  
Dean of Health Science

*"The new affinity group has allowed us to expand and energize our efforts in making our alumni a vital part of our strategic planning."*

**Roger Ellis**  
Dean of the Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship

*"It allows us to highlight the things that they feel we have done very well in preparing them for their careers, as well as pinpoint areas where we can add to our programs to continue to address the needs of employers."*

**Ricardo Delgado**  
Dean of Sciences

## LISA O'BRIEN ENGER NAMED VP FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Lisa O'Brien Enger has more than 20 years of senior leadership and management experience, including executive director positions at the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure St. Louis affiliate, and the United Soybean Board and, most recently, as chief operating officer for the United Soybean Board.

She is active in the community, including as a board member of the Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital Foundation Guild, and received the *St. Louis Business Journal's* 40 under 40 Award in 2008. O'Brien Enger holds a Master of Arts degree in marketing and a baccalaureate degree in business management.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to work with President Shonrock and the

dedicated leadership team that is in place," she said. "It is a great time to be a part of Lindenwood, and I'm looking forward to the collaboration and meeting the challenge of driving 'Real Experience. Real Success.'"

O'Brien Enger and her husband, Tom Enger, live in St. Louis County.





Joe Bruno

Lindenwood University / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# PERSISTENCE LEADS TO PATENT FOR BRUNO

by CHRIS DUGGAN

**Lindenwood University senior Joe Bruno describes himself as persistent. Recently, that persistence paid off when, after a years-long process, he achieved something few others will ever experience—a U.S. patent.**

Bruno received notification this summer that his headphone design, which allows for easy removal and replacement of the individual earpieces, was approved for a patent.

“If you buy a pair of headphones and one of the sides goes out, you can’t do anything but replace the headphones,” Bruno said. “With this design, you’ll be able to replace the defective side or customize with different colors or designs.”

In his senior year at John F. Kennedy High School in St. Louis County, Bruno, now an entrepreneurial studies major in the Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship, was talking with a friend Andrew’s dad, who was frustrated that his headphones had broken and could not be fixed. With Andrew and his dad, he began thinking of ideas.

“I took that pair, did some research and found a better way for the consumer and for the company,” Bruno said.

Bruno came up with his design for headphones with interchangeable earpieces and contacted a lawyer friend, Daniel Burnham, who helped him file for a patent. Over the next several years, Bruno became very familiar with the numerous steps involved and the speed at which the U.S. Patent Office moves. In his freshman year at Lindenwood, he had to make a decision to move forward or to let it go. He decided to move forward, which he said did not surprise anyone that knows him.

“My friends tell me they knew I’d get it,” Bruno said. “I’m a persistent person.”

**“I felt really proud of the accomplishment. It’s been quite an experience.”**

Joe Bruno

Bruno received a lot of advice and encouragement from several of his professors as well and mentioned specifically Robert Allen, Steve Coleman, Javeria Farooqi, David Rosenwasser, Chris Edler, Roger Ellis, Maryann Townsend, Benjamin Brink, Paul Wright, and Jeffrey Marsh. This summer, he learned that he

received the patent. He said a number of others have helped him in the process, which he also wanted to recognize, including the Ornellas family, the Husch Blackwell law firm, which helped him finalize things, and his family and friends who supported him.

“I felt really proud of the accomplishment,” Bruno said. “It’s been quite an experience.”

Bruno said the next step is to try to sell the patent to a large client, such as a major consumer electronics company. He has already been in touch with the patent acquisition office at Apple and a number of others. Beyond that, he said he has a few other ideas in progress, branching out from consumer electronics. After graduation, he said he would like to work in research and development for a company, but he is keeping his options open.

“It’s pretty amazing,” said Dr. Michael Shonrock, president of the Lindenwood University system. “Persistence pays off. How many students have you heard of that have received a patent?”



Amy Shapiro

Lindenwood University / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# SHAPIRO SILENCES THE DOUBTERS WITH HARD WORK AND A SONG

by CHUCK MCPHERSON

**Amy Shapiro graduated from Lindenwood in 2018 with a bachelor's degree, much to the surprise of many people.**

Shapiro was born with developmental delays and was diagnosed with several learning disabilities. As a high school student, Shapiro was tested for adult disabilities and was told she was close to being classified as mentally retarded. However, music opened doors for her and helped her not only manage but thrive.

Shapiro graduated from high school and moved on to a community college, graduating with an associate degree in applied science in early childhood developmental disabilities in 2015. At community college, she was the co-president of the Focus on Ability Club, which raises awareness for individuals with disabilities and completes community service projects.

"I had a mission to prove to a lot of people that I can achieve what I believe, regardless of the developmental delays I was born with and the learning disabilities that I was diagnosed with," she said.

Shapiro transferred to Lindenwood in 2016 and says she loved everything that the university had to offer. She moved into a residence hall, worked three jobs, participated in the Lindenwood choir, and was involved in as many student activities as possible.

"I gave a presentation about how music provides a voice for those who have disabilities and had the students I worked with from one of my jobs come to a Teacher Thursday to perform," she said.

The students who performed had Down syndrome, autism, and cerebral palsy.

"They all know that a diagnosis will never define who they are, and that is what matters the most," Shapiro said. "If anything, each individual I encountered at either of my jobs inspired me to prove to them that dreams can come true."

Shapiro won a first-place award at Lindenwood's Student Research Symposium. Her subject was how she uses music to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities "to bring out their voice."

She graduated in May 2018 with a bachelor's degree, moved out of her parent's house, and began a career with St. Louis' Special School District, where she continues to show how individuals can use music to provide themselves with a voice.

*"I had a mission to prove to a lot of people that I can achieve what I believe, regardless of my developmental delays..."*

Amy Shapiro

"As a student who struggled a lot in school, I received services through Special School District for about 17 years, and for years I had wanted to give back," she said. "My dream had been to give back to a district to show my appreciation for all of the help and guidance I was provided in my past."

Using the power of music, Shapiro's mission is clear.

"I hope that I can continue to provide individuals of all abilities a voice through music by sharing my story, providing hope for my students and their families, and creating a support system for them where they will know they are loved and not alone," she said.



Hannah Simorka

Lindenwood University / CAMPUS NEWS

# LINDENTEACH PROGRAM PROVIDES REAL EXPERIENCE

by BRIAN VORCE

**Students in Lindenwood University's School of Education are getting classroom experience and getting paid through the new LindenTeach program.**

LindenTeach, which began this year, places education students in local schools as substitute teachers, while the students also work with mentor teachers. The students are paid by the district for their substitute work.

Currently, Lindenwood has a partnership with Orchard Farm School District, where LindenTeach students work in the high school, middle school, or two grade schools. Dr. Melissa Daniel, executive director of student services at Orchard Farm, said finding dependable substitute teachers can be a challenge.

"One of the things we are always doing as administrators is trying to recruit the best teachers to work with our students," said Daniel. "It's vitally important that the learning continues for the students. It's so much more important to have someone in there who understands children and understands education and can continue that learning."

Katie Gierer, a secondary education major and LindenTeach participant, works in the high school every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as a substitute teacher or helping her mentor teacher.

"I'm doing this LindenTeach program because it seems like a really great way to

get experience but still have a mentor there to guide me," Gierer said. "My mentor teacher shows me the ropes of the school and I do any errands or jobs she needs, and it gets me acclimated to the environment of being in a school every day."

Dr. Amanda Aldridge, assistant professor of teacher education and the LindenTeach administrator, said the program is proving to be mutually beneficial for both Lindenwood students and Lindenwood's K-12 district partners.

*"I'm doing this LindenTeach program because it seems like a really great way to get experience but still have a mentor there to guide me."*  
Katie Gierer

"Districts are able to maintain high-quality substitute teachers that are reliable and dependable, and Lindenwood students are provided with additional opportunities to apply knowledge and strategies in an authentic setting while receiving coaching and feedback from a Lindenwood faculty member as well as a district mentor," Aldridge said.

Dr. Jenn Wilhelm, assistant principal at Orchard Farm High School, said the LindenTeach substitutes are like faculty, attending staff meetings and professional development. She said she hopes they get a realistic view of what it's like to be a

teacher, and she hopes they continue to be positive influences that the students need.

"The students jumped right in and really have hit the ground running," Wilhelm said. "When they are subbing for the day, they're running the class. They're the ones who are in charge. They are the adult in the room for our kiddos."

Gierer, who wants to be a high school English teacher, said she hopes to student-teach in the Orchard Farm district.

"It's basically a year-long interview," Daniel said. "As positions open up, it would be that natural progression that we would consider them for a position because we know them better than somebody on paper."

Daniel also said she understands that college can be difficult financially for some people, and she hopes the substitute teacher pay can help students support themselves as they attend college.

Dr. Greg Jones, Orchard Farm High School principal, said Lindenwood and Orchard Farm have maintained a strong partnership during his 19 years with the district.

"I think this is a wonderful program," Jones said. "It prepares the Lindenwood students to really see the inner workings of a school and what the day-to-day life of a teacher really is, and from our standpoint it's absolutely wonderful because it helps fill a need that we have—that a lot of schools have—in filling substitute positions. It's really a win-win for both of us."

Mariana Fuentes



Ambur Pankins



Lindenwood University / CAMPUS NEWS

# THE LIONS' RESERVE HELPS STUDENTS REACH THE FINISH LINE

by KASSIE LINZMEIER

Each year, thousands of students at public and private colleges across the country find themselves confronted with an unfortunate financial reality all too common in higher education. For a number of reasons, their sources of funding dry up before they get to graduation. Even with a supportive family, sometimes it isn't quite enough.

In response to this, Lindenwood University created the Lions' Reserve Fund in 2016 to provide a bridge for students to get across the finish line and complete their degrees. This fund provides students the additional financial support needed to complete the final part of their academic journeys.

Through philanthropic giving and support from donors, students at Lindenwood University have the opportunity to graduate, make their way into the workforce, and become productive members of society. Donations to the Lions' Reserve Fund help students overcome financial setbacks, and, more importantly, fulfill their educational dreams.

"I'm from Venezuela, and right now our financial situation is really bad," said Maria Fuentes. "I feel like my parents have helped me a lot throughout my education, but there was a point where it was really to afford college. The Lions' Reserve is truly a blessing in my life right now, because I'm going to be able to finish school. I also think that education is one of the greatest gifts someone can receive, so I'm really thankful to all the donors who made this possible."

Ambur Pankins, one of the students who used the Lions' Reserve Fund to proceed successfully to graduation, is now the proud holder of a degree in social work.

"I absolutely loved my professors in the social work faculty and my time at Lindenwood, and I was really distraught when—after I had my first daughter, Aria, in 2014—I realized I ran out of financial aid funds to be able to continue my program and I only had two classes left to graduate," Perkins said. "Lindenwood's scholarship program allowed me to complete my bachelor's, which was an amazing feeling to have both of my kids there at the graduation."

Since its launch in 2016, Lions' Reserve funding has been awarded to 44 students. To date, 11 have graduated from Lindenwood and 21 are slated to graduate in the fall of 2018.

Make a donation to the Lions' Reserve Fund by calling 636-949-4903, or give online at [www.lindenwood.edu/reserve](http://www.lindenwood.edu/reserve).

*"Lindenwood's scholarship program allowed me to complete my bachelor's, which was an amazing feeling..."*

Ambur Perkins

# LINDENWOOD '18 HOMECOMING & REUNION

LINDENWOOD / FALL 2018



Lindenwood University in St. Charles celebrated Homecoming weekend Oct. 20 and 21.

## Great time, great fun!

The weekend was filled with events and activities for students and alumni alike, including the annual parade, the football game and other sports contests, a new alumni village, food, activities, and much more.





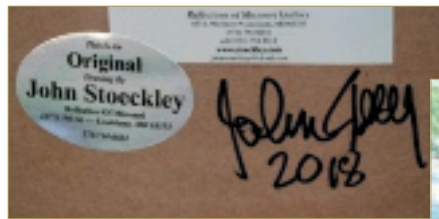
# LINDENWOOD-BELLEVILLE '18 HOMECOMING & REUNION



Oct. 27 and 28, 2018

## Lynx pride, warm memories!





*Kay Wilkinson ('60), cousin Dean Dunham, Development Officer Bryan Stone, and Lindenwood System President Michael Shonrock with an original John Stoeckley painting of the LARC windows, commissioned and donated to Lindenwood by Wilkinson*

Lindenwood University / **CAMPUS NEWS**

# WILKINSON COMMISSIONS PAINTING OF LARC BY NOTED ARTIST

**Kay Wilkinson ('60) has long admired the work of Missouri artist John Stoeckley, whose pen and ink and vibrant watercolors have served him in capturing nature scenes, distinctive buildings, and other vistas throughout Missouri and the country, including some at Lindenwood.**

"I ran into him accidentally," Wilkinson said. "I was looking for Lindenwood

souvenirs on the Internet and his name popped up in a search. That was 10 or 12 years ago."

She later met him at an art festival in Quincy, Ill., where she lives, in summer of 2017 and suggested several buildings on the campus he could draw, including the new Library and Academic Resources Center, whose unique tree-patterned windows captivated her.

"He said, 'Why don't you commission it?'" she said. "I told him to go ahead and draw it."

Wilkinson took delivery of the painting at the 2018 Festival of the Little Hills in St. Charles this summer and presented the painting to Lindenwood University System President Michael D. Shonrock in the LARC on Aug. 22. She rode down from Quincy with her cousin, Dean Dunham, for the occasion.

"The idea from the beginning was to donate it to Lindenwood," Wilkinson said. "I'm always trying to think of something to do for Lindenwood, and the library is such an exceptional building."

Lindenwood University / **CAMPUS NEWS**

# DILLARD WINS DREAM COME TRUE IN FIRST-PITCH RAFFLE

**On Saturday afternoon, Sept. 22, prior to the start of the St. Louis Cardinals' baseball game against the San Francisco Giants, Maria Dillard ('97) found herself on the field throwing out a ceremonial first pitch.**

Surrounded by her husband Steve, father Ben, father-in-law Earl, and mother-in-law Millie, as well as Lindenwood Vice



President Lisa O'Brien Enger and Fredbird, she posed for a quick picture before heading to the mound and firing an impressive fastball over the heart of the plate.

"I'm telling you, she throws hard," her husband said.

Dillard won the opportunity through a raffle conducted by the university to support its Lions' Reserve Fund, which exists to help Lindenwood students who are close to graduation but whose financial aid has run out (see story on page 5).

Steve Dillard had purchased chances to the raffle in hopes that he would win and he could surprise her. It worked out.

"He's always doing things like that," she said.

Maria Dillard, originally from St. Louis, started work with Southwestern Bell more than 30 years ago. Now a vice president for AT&T, she and her husband currently live in Los Angeles.



Lindenwood University / AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

# BUTLER SOCIETY AND SIBLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY GALA

Lindenwood University held its annual Butler Society and Sibley Heritage Society Gala on Oct. 19, 2018, in the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts to show appreciation to its community of generous donors.

Highlights of the evening included a musical performance from the Lindenwood Theatre production of *Mary Poppins* and the presentation of the Sibley Medallion of Honor to David Cosby, 23-year member of Lindenwood's Board of Trustees, on which he chairs the Finance Committee.

The Sibley Medallion of Honor recognizes a community leader whose dedication and support have continued the legacy established by Lindenwood founders Mary and George Sibley.

Cosby and his wife, Carol, have two children, Christina and Shawn. Carol, Christina, and Shawn are all alumni of Lindenwood University, and David received his MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. He was the director of advancement for Ninos de Mexico, an organization that receives orphaned children on a permanent basis in the greater Mexico City area. Other professional interests include healthcare management and a prior career in banking. Cosby also serves as chairman of the board's Finance Committee.

Celtic Woman



Rick Springfield



Patti LaPone



Patti LaBelle



Trace Adkins

# SPRINGFIELD, LABELLE, LUPONE, AND ADKINS TO HIGHLIGHT SCHEIDEGGER SEASON

The J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts opened in 2008, launching its inaugural season with Liza Minnelli. Since then, the Lindenwood Theater stage has seen performers like Jay Leno, Bernadette Peters, Willie Nelson, and many others, and this year's 10-year anniversary season has already seen performances by The Four Tops, Bill Engvall, the Fab Four Beatles tribute, and Postmodern Jukebox.

The majority of the touring season is still to come.

"We've gotten off to a great start this season, celebrating 10 years of entertainment at the Scheidegger Center," said Peter Colombatto, marketing director for the Scheidegger Center. "We are really looking forward to the Christmas season,

presenting a **Carpenters Tribute Christmas Show** and the legendary **Celtic Woman** on their 2018 Best of Christmas Tour."

**The Carpenters Tribute, A Very Merry Christmas**, will be at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 15. **Celtic Woman** will return to the Scheidegger main stage on at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 with *The Best of Christmas*.

"After the holidays, our line-up really heats up with **Rick Springfield, Patti LaBelle, Patti LuPone, and Trace Adkins**," Colombatto said. "These are all in addition to the wonderful performances presented by Lindenwood's Music, Theatre, and Dance programs throughout the year."

**Rick Springfield**, one of the iconic recording artists of the 1980s with hits like "Jessie's Girl," "Don't Talk to Strangers," and "Love Somebody," will perform at 8 p.m. on Jan. 26.

**Patti LaBelle** has been captivating audiences with her unmistakable voice since entering the music business in 1959 with the *Ordettes* and, later, the *Blue*

*Bellas*. Her career took off as a solo artist in the 1970s and '80s with hits like "On My Own" with Michael MacDonald, "New Attitude," and "Stir It Up." She will perform at 8 p.m. on March 22.

**Patti LuPone** has starred on the stage, on television, and in movies in singing and non-singing roles, going back to the 1970s. Her name is synonymous with the title role in Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Evita*, for which she won the Drama Desk and Tony awards in 1979. She will perform at 8 p.m. on May 11.

The touring season ends with country star **Trace Adkins** at 8 p.m. on May 18. He has charted more than 20 singles on *Billboard's* country music charts, including number-one hits "(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing," "Ladies Love Country Boys," and "You're Gonna Miss This."

**For information** or tickets to any touring or student show at the Scheidegger Center, visit [www.LUBoxoffice.com](http://www.LUBoxoffice.com) or call **636-949-4433**.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES AT THE J. SCHEIDEGGER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### STUDENT THEATRE

#### *A Christmas Carol*

Adapted from the story by Charles Dickens  
Nov. 29-Dec. 1,  
7:30 p.m.

#### *Our Town*

By Thornton Wilder  
Feb. 21-23,  
7:30 p.m.

#### *The Rocky Horror Show*

March 27-30,  
7:30 p.m.

### STUDENT MUSIC

**Symphony Orchestra Concert**  
Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Symphonic Band Concert**

Deb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Lindenwood Choirs in Concert**

Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

### STUDENT DANCE

#### **Winter Dance Concert**

Feb. 7-9, 7:30 p.m.

#### **STUDENT FASHION**

**Fall Fashion Show**  
Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

### ART EXHIBITS

(Boyle Family Gallery)

#### **Young Artists and Their Teachers**

Nov. 18-Dec. 19  
Opening Reception  
Nov. 18, 12-2 p.m.

#### **Alebriges by the Pedro Linares Family**

Jan. 24-March 10  
Opening Reception  
Jan. 31, 6-8 p.m.



# LINDENWOOD FAMILY DAY 2018



On Sept. 17, a day was set aside for students' families to come to campus and take part in a full schedule of activities, including visits with professors and administrators, a chance to visit and try out some facilities like the new MakerSpace, cultural exhibitions, games and activities, and the Lindenwood Lions football game.





# DARK CARNIVAL

## OCTOBER 31, 2018

Approximately 5,000 enjoyed a night of games, music, and scary fun during Lindenwood's eighth annual Dark Carnival on the St. Charles campus.





.....  
*Austin Frazier*

Lindenwood University-Belleville / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# HOMETOWN HERO RETURNS TO BELLEVILLE TO COACH AT ALMA MATER

by JENNIFER FERGUSON

**Austin Frazier ('14) didn't have to look too far from his native Belleville to find success, but it was to his surprise that his hometown offered him the opportunities he originally searched for elsewhere. As a 2004 graduate of Althoff High School in Belleville, Ill., Frazier moved on to play football at Illinois College, which he did for two years.**

"Football has always been one of my biggest passions," said Frazier. "I was excited to have the opportunity to play collegiately, but it wasn't the right fit for me at that time in my life."

So, Frazier returned home with football on his mind and landed a coaching gig as a defensive coordinator at Mater Dei High School in Breese, Ill. At the same time, he enrolled at Southwestern Illinois College and completed an associate degree.

It wasn't long after that Frazier returned to the football program at his alma mater, Althoff, but this time as a member of the coaching staff. It was then Frazier knew what his next steps would be professionally.

"I knew I wanted and needed to go back to complete my bachelor's degree," said Frazier. "So I needed to find a school that could fulfill my academic needs, while allowing me to still coach football at the same time."

It was then that Frazier decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in English at nearby Lindenwood University-Belleville.

"Lindenwood had everything I needed," he said. "It was close to home and work, so I couldn't beat the convenience, and they had a degree in English with the opportunity to earn teaching certification. English was something in which I excelled, and I decided at that point, I wanted to stay in education."

Frazier said that during his time at Lindenwood Belleville, he grew to become very motivated academically and appreciated the close-knit group he was part of in the English Department.

"We were a small but mighty group of English majors, which was nice because we became close with our professors and looked after each other, which I think helped us all succeed," he said.

In just two years' time, Frazier completed his bachelor's degree, earned his teaching certification, and, perhaps most importantly, accepted a full-time job as an English instructor and defensive coordinator at his very own Althoff High School.

"It was kind of a fairy-tale story for me to come home and end up putting together a career out of my passion for football and teaching, especially at my own high school," said Frazier. "I love Belleville and love to see it growing and thriving, and this goes to show you, you don't have to go far from home to find success and satisfaction."

*"So I needed to find a school that could fulfill my academic needs, while allowing me to still coach football at the same time."*  
Austin Frazier

Leah Gehrs



Lindenwood University-Belleville / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# GEHRS STARTS CAREER IN RESEARCH AT SITEMAN CANCER CENTER

by JENNIFER FERGUSON

**Lindenwood University-Belleville alumna Leah Gehrs ('15) has seen co-workers come and go in her last two years as a research lab technician at Washington University in St. Louis.**

"Sometimes we bring on new employees who academically are very strong and have the same credentials as I do, but when they get in the laboratory environment, they aren't comfortable in the position because they weren't exposed to the instrumentation and laboratory environment as an undergraduate student," said Gehrs. "I know I thrive in this role because for every science class I had at Lindenwood, I also had a lab to perform."

Gehrs graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology in 2015. Graduating from Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville in 2006, Gehrs completed her first two years of college at Ole Miss. However, after her mother was in a serious car accident, she decided she needed to be closer to home to help support and care for her.

"I know if I wouldn't have finished my bachelor's degree, I wouldn't have landed this job," she said. "I feel very fortunate that I was able to complete my four-year degree near home and close to my family so I could assist as needed."

Gehrs said that during her time at Lindenwood, she felt very fortunate to work closely with professors due to the small class sizes and access to laboratory settings.

"I really fell in love with genetics and studying cancer when I took a special topics course with Dr. [Rick] Finger," she said. "But my microbiology class was my favorite, probably because it was the most hands-on, and that's when I really knew I wanted a job within a lab setting."

Gehrs said that within about six months of graduating, she received two competitive job offers in St. Louis, where her primary work would be in a laboratory setting.

Now as a research lab technician, she works for the Siteman Cancer Center's Dr. John DiPersio, who is conducting clinical research trials related to bone marrow transplantation and cancer. Her primary responsibility is to separate blood from its plasma and to evaluate it to see if medication distributed to the patients in the clinical trial is working or not.

"Lindenwood Belleville was great for me," said Gehrs. "I loved the supportive relationships I formed with the professors. They were more than people you just saw a couple times a week and could email with concerns. They actually knew who I was as a person and guided me and inspired me to pursue a career that I love, and I'm very grateful for that."

*"Without the information and tools I was exposed to as a student, I wouldn't have been able to be as successful as I am."*  
Leah Gehrs





Ashleigh Brandmeyer

Lindenwood University-Belleville / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS LEADS BRANDMEYER TO CAREER SUCCESS

by JENNIFER FERGUSON

**Ashleigh Brandmeyer graduated on May 5 along with the rest of the class of 2018 at Lindenwood University-Belleville, but unbeknownst to her, she landed her dream job the very day before she officially became an alumna.**

"I interviewed May 4, graduated on May 5, and I started my new job on June 4," said Brandmeyer. "It was all kind of a whirlwind and seemed like a crazy decision to make just a few weeks after graduation, but it's one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Brandmeyer, who was named the Outstanding Humanities Student of the Year for the 2017-2018 academic year, accepted the position of video and audio production specialist for Mercy Multiplied, a nonprofit Christian organization that helps girls and women between the ages of 13 and 28 who need assistance managing life-controlling behaviors and situations that could vary from eating disorders, self-harm, drug and alcohol addictions, unplanned pregnancy, depression, sexual abuse, and sex trafficking.

"I feel truly blessed to be able to work for a cause that matters to me," said Brandmeyer. "This opportunity allows me to make an impact by sharing stories of

how lives are changed by this organization, and I can't even begin to express the gratitude I have that everything lined up for me."

As a mass communications graduate with an emphasis in broadcasting, Brandmeyer said that studying at Lindenwood University-Belleville was a very special experience for her that prepared her to take on a professional role like this.

***"I feel truly blessed to be able to work for a cause that matters to me..."***

Ashleigh Brandmeyer

"As a transfer student who came to Lindenwood my junior year, the class sizes, personalized instruction, and specialized content area immediately attracted me," she said. "During my time at Lindenwood Belleville, I worked on numerous creative projects, including writing, directing, and producing my own film, and I couldn't have done that without the support of my professors and the collaboration with my peers. That experience undoubtedly prepared me to become a professional in this field."

Now as a member of the marketing department for Mercy Multiplied, Brandmeyer produces weekly podcasts,

creates digital marketing materials, and manages social media platforms. Even though she is geographically far from the Belleville campus, Brandmeyer said her former professors are still resources for her, even from so many miles away.

"Whenever I run into a technical difficulty or need input on a project, it's not unusual for me to reach out to my former professors like [Chris] Sabo, who will help me find a solution to the issue at hand," she said. "I know I've made lifelong connections, both professionally and personally, because of Lindenwood Belleville."

Along with her dream job, Brandmeyer said that she is acclimating to her new city pretty well.

"I love Nashville!" she said. "There's so much to explore, and between the music and food and fun, I'm always seeing something new. I tell people this a lot, and I'm not just saying this, but if my family, the St. Louis Cardinals, and Lindenwood University-Belleville were right here in Nashville, I'd never have to leave. I am, however, looking forward to coming back for Homecoming in October as an official alumna."

Lindenwood University / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# HONORED CLASS OF 1968 TAKES IN CAMPUS EVOLUTION

by CHUCK MCPHERSON



**A group of Lindenwood alumnae from the class of 1968 visited Lindenwood and toured the campus during the 2018 Homecoming weekend for their 50-year reunion.**

The class took tours of the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts, Evans Commons and Hyland Arena, the Library and Academic Resources Center, and the Spellmann Center, and they went on a drive through the Heritage side of the campus. Enrollment Management staff Sara Wiedman, Kara Schilli, and Jazmine Newsome and Cassandra Linzmeier from University Relations joined the group on the tour, guided by President's Ambassadors Hayden Rosenthal, Hunter Drew, and Selena Tuilaepa.

"It was a true honor to have the alumni from the class of 1968 back on campus," said Linzmeier. "They were very excited to be back and really enjoyed meeting all the students and staff on the tour."

Former student body president Pat Stone, originally from Muskogee, Okla., and now residing in Dallas, Texas, was among the group. When she graduated, Lindenwood

University was Lindenwood College for Women; men would not be admitted to the school until the next year in 1969. She had not been to Lindenwood for 30 years and noted the changes to the campus.

"The buildings that were not there," she said. "A football field."

***"A woman's college was an opportunity for women to step into a world that we defined, to move beyond the status quo..."***

Former student body president  
Pat Stone

She also mentioned that a field she used to walk through to get to the Episcopalian church is no longer there but enjoyed revisiting the locations in which she was familiar.

"The Heritage campus was delightful to walk around and see the places where we lived and studied," Stone said.

Linzmeier noted many of the group were impressed with the new buildings on campus.

"Most of these buildings they saw for the first time," she said. "It was amazing to see their faces light up when they saw what we have accomplished as an institution in the past 50 years."

Stone said Lindenwood of 1968 was different than Lindenwood of today, but it played an important role during that era.

"A women's college was an opportunity for women to step into a world that we defined, to move beyond the status quo...to dream of a professional career, a graduate degree, to watch a generation lobby for social justice and civil rights," she said.

Stone offered today's students some words of advice.

"Use your education to change the world for good," she said. "Find the unique opportunity to grow an idea, a dream into a reality, believe you can do anything and then make it happen. Lindenwood was that platform for us as women, but it can certainly be the platform for all of you to break barriers and build bridges."

# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES FALL 2018

Submit your alumni news and notes to [AlumniNewsandNotes@lindenwood.edu](mailto:AlumniNewsandNotes@lindenwood.edu)

## '90s

**Barbara Marking Steiner ('95)** was recently named 2018 Texas PTA Elementary Principal of the Year. She says she is humbled and blessed to lead her school, Faubion Elementary.

**Brian Kupferer ('95)** completed his master's degree in special education January 2018. He started a job as a special education teacher with Special School District of St Louis County in August 2018.

## '00s

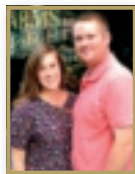
**Susan Yates Becht ('06)** recently celebrated her 10-year wedding anniversary with Missouri Valley alumnus Colt Becht. They have two children and are expecting a third, due in December 2018. She works for Gastroenterology Health Partners as a pathology lab manager and visits the St. Louis area frequently to keep in touch with Lindenwood friends and former softball teammates.

**Michael Crowell ('09, '11, '13, '16)** and **Efrain Barreto ('09, '12)** will co-open Petrichor Brewing in O'Fallon, Mo. Crowell has a bachelor's in Spanish, master's degrees in teaching and administration, and a Doctor of Education. Barreto has a bachelor's in marketing and an MBA in management.

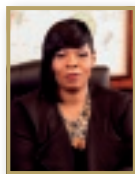
**Dr. Bruce G. Kintz ('09)**, who holds a Doctor of Education from Lindenwood, received an honorary LHD (Litterarum Humanarum Doctor) from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., in May. He is president and CEO of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis. Kintz received the LHD for "his outstanding service to Christ during the last 20 years at Concordia Publishing House."

## '10s

**Michael Hahn ('11)** and **Elizabeth Hahn (Repp) ('12)**, who were married in 2012, reside in Kirkwood, Mo., with their two dogs, Nessie and Daisy. Michael works in operations at Phillips 66, where he oversees and troubleshoots oil refining processes. Elizabeth is the public health program manager at Washington University in St. Louis. She is also pursuing her Master of Nonprofit Management at Washington University in St. Louis and is an active member of the St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association.



**Devin Hogan ('12)** is a business consultant and newly published author. Her book, *Life Spoken*, is intended to help individuals who are struggling to overcome life obstacles to overcome them and achieve a healthy, fulfilling life. It is available on Amazon.



**Jerami Moody ('12)** who earned an MBA from Lindenwood in human resource management, works in human resources/ talent selection at Mercy in St. Louis County. He and his wife Nicole live in Hazelwood, Mo., with their 6-year-old son, Kayden, who attends Kindergarten at Holy Spirit Catholic School—St. Louis.

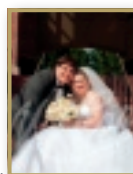
**Melissa Staten (Jones) ('13, '16)** has a BA and MBA from Lindenwood. She is married to alumnus **Keenan Staten ('13)** and is the program coordinator at the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Keenan graduated in criminal justice and works as a parole

officer for the Department of Corrections for the State of Colorado. They are in the process of adopting a baby to become first-time parents.

**David Amelotti ('14)** just celebrated his four-year anniversary as Evening Anchor at KHQA-TV CBS and ABC in Quincy, Ill. He also reports and produces the 5, 6, and 10 p.m. newscasts for the Tri-State area. He has received multiple awards for his reporting in northeast Missouri, west central Illinois, and southeast Iowa. He transferred to Lindenwood in fall of 2012 as a journalism broadcast student and was active at KCLC doing play-by-play and color work for the Lindenwood men's and women's basketball teams and LUTV.



**Jack ('15)** and **Lexi McMullin ('16, '17)** were married on June 23, 2018, at St. Richard Church. They met at Lindenwood in band in 2013. Jack has a bachelor's degree in mass communication with an emphasis in broadcasting and works as a banker at Busey Bank. Lexi has a bachelor's degree in instrumental music education K-12 and a master's degree in character education and is a substitute teacher in the Pattonville, St. Charles, and Francis Howell school districts.



**Ryan Oldham ('15)** and **Kelly Bernards Oldham** celebrated their second wedding anniversary in September.

**Amelia Fowler ('16)** holds a Lindenwood degree in psychology and recently purchased her first house, built in the 1900s.



**Keith Jasin ('16)** was married Oct. 6 of this year in St. Louis. He is set to complete his MBA at Lindenwood in the spring of 2019 and currently works as a sales manager for an international company, in which he uses his degree in international business.



**Lucian Nevatt ('16)** has been promoted three times with United HealthCare since graduating from the Accelerated Degree Program in business administration, most recently over the summer to senior data performance manager.

**Alyssa Katelyn ('17)** graduated Lindenwood with a degree in elementary education. She is now employed in her hometown, Grand Rapids, Mich., as a fourth-grade teacher at St. Stephens Elementary School.

**Linda Bucaram ('17)** was recently hired by the E! network as an interactive designer, designing assets, cinemagraphs, quote cards, and animations for the network's entertainment programs.

**Mitch Faulkner ('17)** works for Greenway Family Office, a St. Louis-based investment firm that offers ongoing portfolio management services to private business owners, corporate executives, endowments, and non-profit organizations. He plays a key role in the firm's investment manager due-diligence process while assisting lead advisors with client analysis. He has a bachelor's in finance from Lindenwood.



# PLASTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

## 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.

**Marjorie Jane Briggs Phinney** ('38), Joplin, Mo.

**Charlotte Ching Lum** ('43), Honolulu, Hawaii

**Sharon Vance Jones** ('56), Indianapolis, Ind.

**Dorothy Briner** ('64), St. Louis, Mo.

**Thomas S. Allen** ('76), San Antonio, Texas

**Eunice L. Coleman** ('80), Broken Arrow, Okla.

This fall, the Lindenwood University School of Education celebrated its 100th anniversary with two days of events on Nov. 7 and 8, including a guest speaker, a tree-planting, the unveiling of a Centennial Wall in Roemer Hall, the burying of a time capsule, and several other events and activities for current, former, and future students of the school.



The Robert W. Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship will also celebrate its centennial in the spring with, among other things, a gala celebration dinner and dance on March 23 at the St. Charles Convention Center. The event will include a video documentary on the school's history, as well as a brief program and live music by the band Trilogy.

More details will be announced in the coming weeks at [www.lindenwood.edu](http://www.lindenwood.edu). For more information or to be added to the mailing list for the centennial, please contact Joyce Sheldon at [jsheldon@lindenwood.edu](mailto:jsheldon@lindenwood.edu) or 636-627-4818.

# SHOTGUN SPORTS ANNOUNCES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AT CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION



The Lindenwood University Shotgun Sports team is launching an endowed scholarship to assist team members in need. The scholarship was announced on Sept. 22 as the program celebrated its record 15th consecutive national championship at Ameristar Casino. The team won the championship at the ACUI Nationals in the spring at San Antonio, Texas.

Friends, families, and supporters filled the room to congratulate the national championship team and recognized the NRA All-Americans, Lindenwood athletes who performed at the highest level at the nationals.

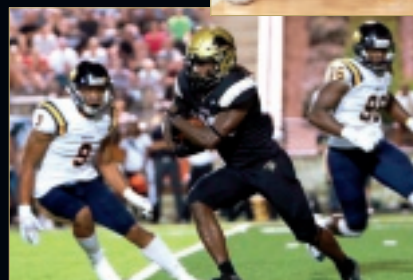
Team members received their 2018 medallions and national championship rings and celebrated the dynasty that is Lindenwood Shotgun Sports. The string of 15 national championships is a record among Lindenwood athletic teams and, more significantly, in collegiate sports. No other sports team has won as many consecutive national championships in any sport at any level.

In closing remarks, Shawn Duloher, head coach and emcee for the evening, introduced team alumnus Bryan Stone, who is also a director of development at Lindenwood, to speak on behalf of the program and to launch the Friends and Family Endowed scholarship. The program's parent group, The Pride, announced a \$6,000 gift toward the endowment. Stone said he expects to have full funding and a selected first recipient for the endowed scholarship in place by fall of 2019. For more information or to contribute to the endowed scholarship, contact Stone at [bstone@lindenwood.edu](mailto:bstone@lindenwood.edu) or 636-627-2955.



Lindenwood University / SPORTS

# LINDENWOOD TO JOIN GREAT LAKES VALLEY CONFERENCE



**Lindenwood University and the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) announced on Oct. 4 that Lindenwood University has been admitted to the conference as its 16th member institution and will formally join the GLVC on July 1, 2019.**

"The GLVC Council of Presidents is pleased to endorse the recommendation from the league's faculty athletic representatives to admit Lindenwood University as our 16th member," said Dr. Rob Manuel, University of Indianapolis president and chair of the GLVC Council of Presidents.

The university will at that time move from its current conference, the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, in which it has competed since joining the NCAA Division II in the 2012-13 academic year. In the GLVC, the Lions reside within 15 to 60 minutes of three GLVC member institutions, within three hours of eight conference campuses, and within 300 miles of all league schools.

"Lindenwood will be a terrific addition to the GLVC," said GLVC Commissioner Jim Naumovich. "Their commitment to the academic success and graduation of student-athletes, expansive sport

sponsorship, outstanding facilities, stable enrollment, strong fiscal standing, and an engaged leadership team are but some of the positive attributes that the institution brings to the GLVC."

In the MIAA, the Lions have captured 11 MIAA regular season or tournament titles in the sports of baseball, women's basketball, men's cross country, men's golf, men's soccer, and wrestling.

***"The GLVC will provide our student-athletes with top-flight competition and unparalleled visibility throughout the region and across the nation."***

**Lindenwood University System  
President Dr. Michael Shonrock**

"The GLVC will provide our student-athletes with top-flight competition and unparalleled visibility throughout the region and across the nation," said Lindenwood University System President Dr. Michael Shonrock. "We arrived at this decision after careful consideration of the long-term best interests of our university. We would like to thank the MIAA for the years that we spent in this highly competitive conference. It was a great home for the past seven years."

Lindenwood currently fields teams in all 22 sports the GLVC sponsors, in addition to women's lacrosse and field hockey under the NCAA Division II banner.

"We are beyond excited to be joining the Great Lakes Valley Conference as full members, beginning in the 2019-20 academic year," said Brad Wachler, Lindenwood's vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics. "The GLVC is an elite NCAA Division II conference that is steeped in great history and tradition both in the classroom and on the field of play."

Established in 1978, the GLVC is currently one of the largest NCAA Division II conferences in the country, featuring 14 schools and 22 sports.

The **current members of the GLVC** are **Bellarmine University** (Louisville, Ky.), **Drury University** (Springfield, Mo.), **University of Illinois Springfield** (Springfield, Ill.), **University of Indianapolis** (Indianapolis, Ind.), **Lewis University** (Romeoville, Ill.), **Maryville University** (St. Louis, Mo.), **McKendree University** (Lebanon, Ill.), **Missouri University of Science & Technology** (Rolla, Mo.), **University of Missouri-St. Louis** (St. Louis, Mo.), **Quincy University** (Quincy, Ill.), **Rockhurst University** (Kansas City, Mo.), **University of Southern Indiana** (Evansville, Ind.), **Truman State University** (Kirksville, Mo.), and **William Jewell College** (Liberty, Mo.).

Lindenwood officials, students, and coaches joined with other local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 16 for a new ice facility in Maryland Heights. The Lions will practice and play their home games there, starting next year.



*"...at the end of the day, it's about the students and a great experience and their success."*

Lindenwood University System  
President Dr. Michael Shonrock

Lindenwood University / SPORTS

# MARYLAND HEIGHTS ICE FACILITY WILL BE NEW HOME FOR LINDENWOOD ICE HOCKEY

Lindenwood University joined the St. Louis Blues on Thursday, Aug. 16, to break ground on a new 277,000-square-foot ice arena on 25 acres of land in Maryland Heights, Mo. The ice arena will be the new home arena to the Lindenwood men's and women's ice hockey programs.

The St. Louis Blues, along with the City of Maryland Heights and the St. Louis Legacy Ice Foundation plan to open the facility in September of 2019, which will be located at 750 Casino Center Drive in Maryland Heights. The St. Louis Community Ice Center will feature four NHL-sized ice surfaces, including one outdoor sheet of ice.

The main rink will seat up to 2,500 fans while the outdoor sheet of ice will be covered and serve as a multi-purpose venue for additional events other than hockey with a capacity over 4,000 patrons. The state-of-the-art complex will host a wide range of age groups in efforts to grow the game of hockey in the Midwest.

"It's a real opportunity and a real blessing for Lindenwood University to be a part of something like this," said Lindenwood University President Dr. Michael Shonrock. "Ultimately at the end of the day, it's about the students and a great experience and their success."

While serving as the St. Louis Blues practice facility, the ice center will contain off-ice training spaces, video rooms, educational spaces, and more. Other organizations that will use the ice arena are the St. Louis Lady Cyclones, St. Louis Blues Alumni, and St. Louis Blues AAA.

Lindenwood University-Belleville / SPORTS

# LINDENWOOD HOSTS 2018 CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER



**The Lindenwood University–Belleville Athletics Department hosted the 2018 American Midwest Conference (AMC) Champions of Character Summit recently with various student-athletes from the AMC conference participating.**

Lindenwood Associate Athletic Director Annie Reis, along with the athletics staff, worked for several weeks with the AMC to plan this event.

“The summit was an absolutely tremendous event,” AMC Commissioner Will Wolper

said. “Character, character development, and leadership are such vital parts of life, beyond the playing field, that programs like the summit are important experiences to provide our student-athletes. Annie Reis and the staff at Lindenwood Belleville did a tremendous job planning and implementing the program.”

The summit consisted of AMC Commissioner Will Wolper, Freed-Hardeman University representative Jonathan Estes, Lindenwood Belleville Athletic Director Ryan Kaiser, and nearly 50 student representatives, explaining the importance of the five core values of Champions of Character and what they mean for collegiate student-athletes.

The five core values are integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and student leadership.

The second part of the summit consisted of a student-athlete question-and-answer session, followed by small group roundtable discussions.

“We are very pleased with the overall success of the Champions of Character summit,” Kaiser said. “I appreciate the efforts and leadership from Annie Reis and the rest of our staff that made this event a very successful event. We hope that this program continues with the conference moving forward.”

Lindenwood University-Belleville / SPORTS

# MEN’S RUGBY ACHIEVES NATIONAL RANKING

by CHARLIE MAGER



**The 2018 fall men’s rugby season has proven to be extremely successful for the Lindenwood University-Belleville rugby team. The Lynx, with an impressive 7-2 record, are getting noticed on a national level, rising up to No. 15 in Division I College Rankings by Rugby Today, which sets a new program high in the Division I poll.**

“We have been working hard all season, and the improvement in rankings is a reflection of that work,” said Head Coach Joe Lippert.

Lindenwood Belleville opened its season with a pair of matches with Big Ten schools, claiming a 36-14 win at home against Wisconsin in the season opener before dropping a close 18-14 decision at Indiana on Sept. 8. Following a forfeit victory over Middle Tennessee, the Lynx returned home and picked up a 38-16 win over Iowa Central.

After a home victory over the University of Kansas on Oct. 6, the Lynx hit the road to record a 33-5 win at the University

of Kentucky and a 48-5 triumph at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. On Oct. 27, Lindenwood Belleville closed out its home season with a thrilling 39-26 win against traditional power and No. 16-ranked Arkansas State before completing the regular season slate with a 29-10 loss at No. 2-ranked Lindenwood University.

“Our team is in its fourth year of existence, and we have added substantial talent and depth in the past 12 months,” said Lippert. “Achieving our highest ever ranking is one small payoff for months of hard work and diligent focused effort.”

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