

LINDENWOOD
LIKE NO OTHER

CONNECTION

A Publication of Lindenwood University for the Alumni

Summer **2017**

In this issue:

Pg.
3

Bobbie Netsch
wins Alumni
Merit Award

Pg.
8

New Library
Building Poised for
Fall Opening

Pg.
9

Scheidegger
Center
Announces
2017-18 Season

Pg.
10

Homecoming Set
for St. Charles,
Belleville

Pg.
20

Women's
Wrestler Named
to USA Team



Alumnus Mike Wood Brews Success

Page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THEIR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS



The unifying theme among the features in this edition of *Connection* is undeniably that our alumni are successful. This has been true throughout Lindenwood's history, and it's not lost on us. We're very proud of their success, because it is a reflection of our success.

On page 3, you'll find an article about our 2017 Alumni Merit Award winner, Bobbie Netsch ('66). She, with her husband Frank, has been a successful businesswoman with their clothing store, Thro's and Michelle's in St. Charles, and she is a longtime supporter of Lindenwood, providing the clothes for the annual Alumni Fashion Show every fall.

Mike Wood ('81, '82, '83) is an entrepreneur's entrepreneur, launching successful businesses in education, healthcare, digital printing, physical fitness, and, most recently, craft beer with Friendship Brewery in Wentzville. The brewery has already won several awards, which leads us to wonder if there is anything he can't do.

On page 17 and 11, you'll find stories about Diego Aldea ('16) and Nick Gailius ('12). Aldea returned to his native Spain after graduation, embraced his love for music, and is now the youngest booking agent for electronic music in Europe. Gailius, chief of the Fairview Heights Police Department, was recently named Police Chief of the Year for the state of Illinois.

Our Lindy Award-winner for Alumni of the Year, Jill Devine ('99, '15) has carved out a niche for herself as a popular personality on the airwaves at Y-98 FM in St. Louis, and Kyle Hawk ('15) has launched a website for fans of Japanese Anime using the interactive media and web design skills he learned at Lindenwood Belleville. Their stories are on pages 12 and 13 and are followed by the fascinating tale of Rose Wilson Collom, who graduated from Lindenwood in 1889, taught herself all about plants and flowers, and went on to become the first paid botanist at Grand Canyon National Park.

You will also find a photo spread from Commencement, an update on our amazing new Library and Academic Resources Center, information about this year's Homecoming weekend festivities, and an announcement of the J. Scheidegger Center's 2017-18 professional line-up. Check out the exciting spring our athletic teams have had, including a sixth-place finish in the Director's Cup, which recognizes the top all-around athletic programs in the country. Of course, look over Alumni News and Notes to see what your classmates have been up to.

Enjoy your summer, and don't be a stranger.

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

LINDENWOOD CONNECTION

Values-centered liberal arts education—preparing students for life

EDITOR

Scott Queen
('99, '07)

COPY EDITORS, WRITERS, AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Christopher Duggan
('00, '12)

Jennifer Ferguson

Rachel Johnson
('04, '10)

Chuck McPherson

Ben Mizera

Lennon Mueller

Daniel Newton ('09)

Scott Wuerz ('07)

Phil Vida

Brian Vorce

Don Adams Jr.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Dan Grigg
*Vice President for
Development &
Alumni Relations*

Kate O'Neal
('07, '08)
*Assistant Vice
President for
Development &
Alumni Relations*

Michelle Giessman
('16)
*Director of
Alumni Relations*

Jennifer Ferguson
*Director of Alumni
Relations and
Special Events,
Belleville*

Nathan Payne
*Director of
Development*

Mark Bohr
*Director of
Development*

Kassandra Linzmeier
*Associate
Development Officer*

La'Ree Rothmiller-
Johnson
*Development
Coordinator*

Bryan Stone ('16)
*Development
Coordinator*

April Kernan
*Administrative
Assistant for
Development*

John Creer
Consultant

ON THE COVER

Entrepreneur **Mike Wood** ('81, '82, '83) in his most recent venture, Wentzville's Friendship Brewery.

CONNECTION is published by the offices of Marketing and Communications and Development at Lindenwood University. *Connection* is mailed free of charge to Lindenwood alumni. Story ideas are welcome and should be forwarded to Director of Alumni Relations, Lindenwood University, 209 South Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO 63301 or via email at alumni@lindenwood.edu.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS notifications should be sent to the Office of Alumni Relations at the address above. The Alumni Office telephone number is 636.949.4975.

Bobbie Netsch ('66) and her husband, Frank, at the 2016 Alumni Fashion Show



BOBBIE NETSCH WINS ALUMNI MERIT AWARD

Lindenwood's 2017 Alumni Merit Award recipient is Bobbie Barkley Netsch ('66) of St. Charles. Every year since 1959, Lindenwood University's Alumni Association has honored alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers, in volunteer work, or in service to the university.

These exceptional individuals are nominated and chosen by their alumni peers to be recognized for their continuing contributions to their university, to their profession, and to society.

Netsch, a 1966 chemistry and mathematics graduate, is a Lindenwood legacy—her mother was a student in the 1940s.

Originally from Aurora, Ill., Netsch was active in campus activities and served as secretary of the student body in 1965 and vice president in 1966. She was also president of Irwin Hall and a member of Linden Scroll, the historic Lindenwood honor society.

Netsch did not plan on a career in the retail business, but while pursuing her bachelor's degree, she met her husband, Frank, who was already involved in his family's St. Charles business, Thro's Men's Clothing Company, which has been located in St. Charles since 1898.

She and Frank were married the summer before her senior year, and in 1965 they opened Michelle's, a women's clothing store alongside of the Thro's location in O'Fallon, Mo. The two have operated these stores ever since, downsizing through the years from four locations to one in St. Charles. Fifty-two years later, their joint venture continues to be a Main Street St. Charles staple.

Bobbie Netsch is not only a successful businesswoman, she is also an avid supporter of Lindenwood. She has been a benefactor to Lindenwood through her leadership and participation in the St. Charles Alumni Club's annual fashion show for more than 20 years. This fundraiser has provided over \$50,000 in student scholarships since its inception. Her generous and tireless support has been instrumental in the event's success.

Active in local community and regional charity work, Netsch provides direction for at least six or seven fashion shows Benefiting worthy causes each year.

She and her husband have three children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

ALUMNI PICNIC 2017

Jed Stugart, Lindenwood's new head football coach, gave a preview of the season for the crowd at the Alumni Picnic on June 9. Also pictured is Alumni Relations Director Michelle Giessman, who introduced Stugart.



As evening fell, the crowd settled in for a showing of the classic football film Remember the Titans on an inflatable screen on the Evans Commons lawn.



"We've already won several awards for our brews, and people come from all over the world to enjoy our beers, food, and what we affectionately refer to as our 'brewseum.'"

Mike Wood ('81, '82, '83)



Facing page:
Mike Wood ('81, '82, '83)
with business partner
Brian Nolan.

Friendship Brewery opened in Wentzville in 2016 and features a retro decorating scheme.



ALUMNUS MIKE WOOD BREWS ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

by RACHEL JOHNSON

What do the craft beer, physical fitness, digital printing, healthcare, and education industries have in common?

The answer is entrepreneur and three-time Lindenwood University alumnus Mike Wood ('81, '82, '83).

During his decades-long career, Wood's finance acumen has led him to achieve success in fields that may seem unrelated, except to him. He knows how to ensure that a solid business opportunity flourishes, as evidenced by the popularity of his recent venture, Friendship Brewing Company.

The brewery is housed in a more than 100-year-old former creamery situated in the heart of historic Wentzville, Mo. Wood and business partner, Brian Nolan, opened the eccentric space in the summer of 2016, following an extensive complete renovation of the building.

"It's been great fun," Wood said of the establishment. "We've already won several awards for our brews, and people come from all over the world to enjoy our beers, food, and what we affectionately refer to as our 'brewseum.' We have hundreds of one-of-a-kind beer collectibles on the walls, and the more valuable they are, the higher up we put them on the wall."

Wood also owns two other businesses in Wentzville: Rhino Hybrid strengthening gym and SpeedPro Imaging large format digital printing company. He's integrated everything together so that class

participants at Rhino can enjoy brunch at Friendship Brewery and employees at the brewery hold memberships to the fitness facility. Printed materials for both facilities are created at SpeedPro.

One might assume that the Florissant native and current Wentzville resident always wanted to be a businessman, but Wood actually began his career in healthcare. In the late 1970s, he became the first respiratory therapist to ever work for a home healthcare company in St. Louis.

At the close of the 1970s and throughout the 1980s, he ascended through the ranks of home health and physician-managed care companies. He served as administrative director of home care operations for Southtown Medical and Hospital Supply; vice president of marketing for Biomedical Systems Corporation; chief financial officer for ARA Medical Rehabilitation Services, Inc.; chief executive officer for Saint Louis Management Group, Inc. and for Physicians Healthcare Network, Inc.; managing member of Physician Partners, LLC, and of Physicians Resource Network, LLC; and as principal at Integration Solutions, LLC.

During this same time period, Wood attended Lindenwood University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, a master's degree in finance, and a master's in business administration. He enjoyed his time as a student in the former Lindenwood College for Individualized Education so much that he served as a faculty advisor and

finance instructor in the program from 1982 to 1990.

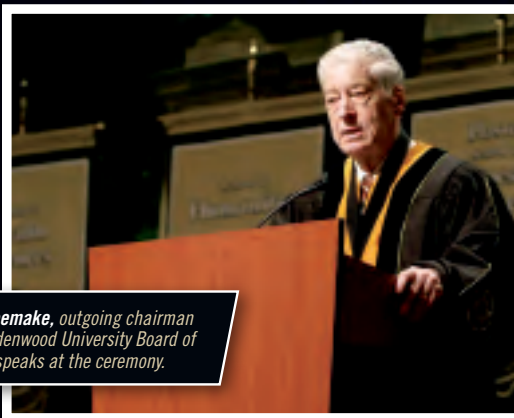
"When I was in the program at Lindenwood, I met Jan Rogers Kniffen (1978 alumnus and former member of the university Board of Directors) and received one-on-one instruction from him," Wood said. "I was never a math guru, and I hated accounting, but I loved finance. I feel like I received an Ivy League-level finance instruction from Kniffen, and he had a major influence on me."

In the 1990s, Wood launched Wood Partners, LLC, a commercial and residential property holding company and property management service that's still in operation today. To help him get around the country to manage his business dealings more easily, in 2009 he became managing member of JCA Aviation, LLC, an aircraft holding and flight operations company.

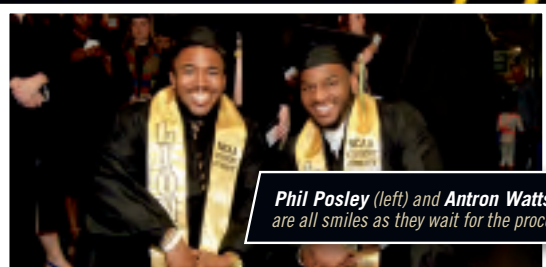
Wood's love of finance and business ventures has grown to include family and fellow Lindenwood alumni, as he's worked with daughter Dr. Jennifer Wood Stanfill's ('05) husband, Stephen Stanfill ('05), for more than 13 years. Both men have their pilot's licenses, and they work closely together on various business ventures and real estate projects.

While travel and daily operations keep him busy, Wood can still be found at Friendship Brewing Company easily enough. Who knows? If patrons take the time to visit him there, he might just have a fresh craft beer to share with them and a new business opportunity to discuss.

MAY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES— ST. CHARLES



Jim J. Shoemake, outgoing chairman of the Lindenwood University Board of Directors, speaks at the ceremony.



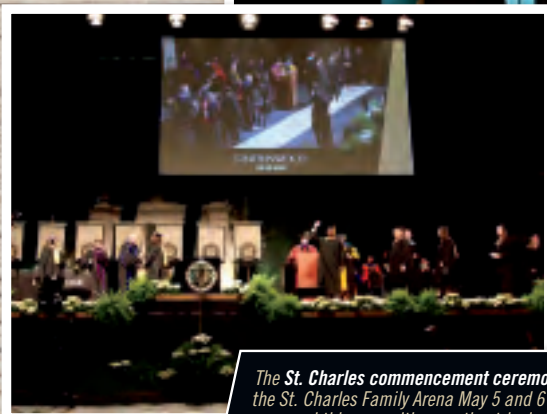
Phil Posley (left) and Antron Watts are all smiles as they wait for the processional.



Faculty members Jim Horstmeyer and Rebecca Panagos, both from the School of Education.



Faculty members John Long (left) and Terry Stewart place a hood on Doctor of Education graduate Maggie Mathus.



The St. Charles commencement ceremonies were at the St. Charles Family Arena May 5 and 6 and were revamped this year with more theatrical elements to the stage, including a large video screen, to commemorate the academic journey of the students for their families.



Dr. Michael Shonrock, president of the Lindenwood University system, congratulates Kelby Lorenz, editor of the Lindenwood Legacy student newspaper.



Master Sergeant Lynwood Rabon (left), senior military instructor for the ROTC Gateway Detachment, and Kristine Sieve, Lindenwood's director of veterans affairs, congratulate John Martinez, who earned his bachelor's in criminal justice and successfully completed the Reserve Officer Training program.

MAY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES— BELLEVILLE

Excitement builds as graduates and their families gather at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Ill., for spring Commencement.



Jade Lawson gives a thumbs-up.



Justin Stephens and Mogesh Tillman, both of Belleville, graduated with Veteran Honors from the School of Accelerated Degree Programs.



Kimberly Granger of East St. Louis poses with her family.



Trey Parker with Campus President Brett Barger.

*Exterior signage was recently installed on the **Library and Academic Resources Center** under construction at the First Capitol/Kingshighway entrance. This picture shows the side of the building facing campus, and at far right is the side facing First Capitol Drive.*



NEW LIBRARY BUILDING POISED FOR FALL OPENING

Final touches are being added to Lindenwood's new Library and Academic Resources Center as the campus community counts down toward its Sept. 16 grand opening event.

A signature element of the 100,000-square-foot building is its unique glass, giving a tree branch feel to much of the building and paying tribute to the historic Linden trees on campus. Dean of Library Services Liz MacDonald said the windows are made with a programmable glass that can be darkened and lightened remotely, eliminating the need for window shades.

The building will have more than 15 learning spaces and classrooms, along with a Classroom of the Future, which is designed for sharing, collaboration, and flexibility. It will have a modifiable learning environment that shifts with the needs of a particular activity or type of instruction.

The building will also feature a mini theatre, a virtual reality room, and a Starbucks with extended hours, as well as traditional library services and a large multimedia area with separate editing suites.

Visitors entering the building will walk into the Grove, a large open-seating area framed by the library circulation desk and IT helpdesk. MacDonald said there will also be traditional and electronic "stacks" and plenty of quiet space for study, reading, and reflection.

The university archives are also relocating to this building, as well as International Students and Scholars, First-Year Programs, Career Services, the Office of the Provost, and Student and Academic Support Services.

**GRAND
OPENING**

**1 P.M. SATURDAY,
SEPT 16**



J. SCHEIDEGGER CENTER 2017-18 SEASON TO FEATURE MUSIC, COMEDY, MAGIC

by **CHRIS DUGGAN**

The J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts announces its 2017-18 professional series, which promises a bigger lineup with a magical assortment of music, theatre, and comedy acts and some actual magic as well.

The schedule was expanded to nine acts, three more than last year, and starts off on Sept. 9 with the music of **Kenny Loggins**, whose decades-spanning career has included hits like "House at Pooh Corner," "Danny's Song," "Celebrate Me Home," "I'm Alright," "Danger Zone," and "Footloose."

One of the most famous magic acts in the world, **Penn and Teller**, will perform on Sept. 29. The duo have been astounding their audiences with magic and humor since the 1970s and can currently be seen weekly on the CW television show *Fool Us*.

On Oct. 7, the legendary **Bob Newhart** will bring his inimitable style of buttoned-down

deadpan humor to the Lindenwood Theater stage. Fans have enjoyed Newhart since his first hit TV show, *The Bob Newhart Show*, in the 1970s. He has continued to delight audiences since, including several recent guest appearances on the CBS hit *The Big Bang Theory*.

The **Colors of Christmas** concert on Dec. 16 will feature a full slate of holiday tunes performed by **Jody Watley, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., Peabo Bryson, and Ruben Studdard**. What better way to ring in the holidays than with an illustrious group of recording artists.

Country music's **Wynonna Judd and her band** will be in concert on January 27. The singer, who rose to fame in the '80s in the mother-daughter act The Judds, will perform some of her older favorites and songs from a new album, *Wynonna and the Big Noise*.

Broadway LIVE! on February 24 will offer a night of song and dance from some of your favorite musicals from the Great

White Way, and fans can celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a March 17 concert by **The Irish Tenors**.

Paul Anka will bring his crowd-pleasing show on May 19, and the season wraps up on May 27 with **The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra**.

Renewals for 2016-17 season ticket holders will take place July 17-21, and new season ticket sales will be taken July 24-28. Tickets for the individual shows will go on sale online July 31 and will be available at the box office starting on August 7. For more information, visit LUBoxOffice.com or call 636.949.4433.

"We are really excited about our 2017-18 season," said Peter Colombatto, marketing director for the Scheidegger Center. "Not only will we be offering more performances, we will be presenting a wider range of entertainment from Kenny Loggins, Penn & Teller, and Wynonna to The Irish Tenors, Bob Newhart, and Broadway Live! There really is something for everyone."

The Colors of Christmas

Jody Watley



Peabo Bryson



Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.



Ruben Studdard





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HOMECOMING AND REUNION 2017

St. Charles Campus—Oct. 10-15

Plans are in full swing for 2017 Homecoming and Reunion-Welcome to the Jungle! Old and new alumni, friends, and faculty and staff will be joining us for a fun filled week, celebrating Lindenwood's Homecoming and Reunion. From the student favorite Lip Synch contest and pep rally to tours of the new Library and Academic Resources Center, Homecoming and Reunion offers something for everyone.

We will be honoring the class of 1967 for its 50th reunion. Graduates of '67, we are busy creating a great weekend for you including street parties, campus tours, specialized alumni activities, tailgating and a barbecue. Watch the football game from the Alumni Plaza and cheer the Lions on to victory!

Please contact class agent Francis Murphy (fransm2111@gmail.com) if you have any questions. For more information or to update your contact information contact Michelle Giessman at alumni@lindenwood.edu. More Homecoming and Reunion information will follow later this summer, or check out the webpage at www.lindenwood.edu/homecoming.

Belleville Campus—Oct. 6-8

Parents, Family and Alumni Reunion Weekend 2017 is set for October 6-8, and the Belleville campus is looking forward rolling out the red carpet for alumni, the parents and families of current students, and community members.

It will be a great weekend having everyone back on campus to celebrate Lindenwood University-Belleville. Last year, the campus hosted its inaugural Homecoming Parade, with more than 800 individuals walking alongside students, faculty, and staff members. It was quite a sight to see and a wonderful new tradition for the university and Belleville community.

This year, there will be a variety of alumni, parents, and family events along with student activities throughout homecoming week, plus a fall sports lineup that is sure to please the sports enthusiasts. Tickets and bundles will go on sale in September. So, continue to check the webpage as more information and events are added at www.lindenwood.edu/bv/homecoming.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION PLANS HOMECOMING TRIVIA NIGHT, UNVEILS PHOTO ARCHIVE



The Lindenwood University Student Council for Exceptional Children (LU SCEC) is planning a reunion for all former members and School of Education graduates from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 14.

Visit with Dr. Rebecca Panagos and your favorite professors, as well as other education alumni, while reliving memories

of past trivia nights and attending state and national conferences. Invite your friends to help celebrate.

The LU SCEC needs your help connecting with School of Education alumni on Facebook. Check out the council's Facebook page and look for your photo. You may find your photo from as early as 1998 at trivia nights, campus events, and conferences in Vancouver, New York, Seattle, New Orleans, San Antonio,

St. Louis, Washington, and Baltimore. "Like" the Facebook page, tag your photo, share with others, and encourage your friends to tag themselves. If you have any photos from your LU SCEC days, please feel free to share it on our page. Search for "Lindenwood CEC" on Facebook or use the following link: <https://m.facebook.com/LindenwoodStudentCouncilforExceptionalChildren>

Nick Gailius ('12)
was recognized
by the Illinois
Association of Chiefs
of Police in April.



LINDENWOOD BELLEVILLE GRAD NAMED ILLINOIS POLICE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

Fairview Heights, Ill., Police Chief Nick Gailius (MBA '12) in April was named Police Chief of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

"A police chief is in a leadership position that in many ways isn't much different than a leadership position in the business world," noted Gailius about how his education helps him to do his job. "We have human resources and personnel issues, and we have a \$7 million annual budget that has to be carefully managed. My M.B.A. is definitely a benefit, and I'm a better chief for having it."

Gailius started his career with the Fairview Heights Police Department when he was 14 and worked his way up through the ranks, becoming a dispatcher at 19 and a patrolman by age 21 before being promoted to undercover agent, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, Emergency Services and Disaster Agency coordinator, and assistant chief. He was named to the top job in 2010.

In addition to earning his degree from Lindenwood Belleville, Gailius said he has a close relationship with the university in other ways, including partnering with it to develop a pair of programs that help students go from aspiring police officers to finding jobs with his department and others in the metro-east.

"He's a very accomplished, progressive police chief with a lot of good ideas. It's definitely a feather in Lindenwood Belleville's cap to have such a good relationship with him."

Annette Eckert,
retired circuit judge

One such program is the Civilian Police Aid Apprentice Program, which gives university students a chance to experience what it's like to work for a law enforcement agency.

"When we started to develop this idea, Lindenwood Belleville people were the first ones we talked to," Gailius said. "We have a great relationship with them, and we knew they'd be willing to help us. Lindenwood Belleville is very important, not only to the city of Belleville but also to Fairview Heights and the rest of the metro-east community."

The other program, the Metro East Cadets of Policing, is designed to reach out to young people interested in the possibility of law enforcement or criminal justice careers. It also connects them with education and scholarship opportunities.

Annette Eckert, a retired circuit judge who works in the Criminal Justice Department at Lindenwood Belleville, said the university and the chief have a mutually beneficial relationship.

"He's done an excellent job of reaching out to the community to help young people realize their dreams of becoming a police officer," Eckert said of Gailius. "He's a very accomplished, progressive police chief with a lot of good ideas. It's definitely a feather in Lindenwood Belleville's cap to have such a good relationship with him."

Ed Wojcicki, executive director of the Police Chiefs Association, said Gailius is a worthy recipient of the honor.

"It is incredible how highly regarded Chief Gailius is among his peers in the metro-east," said Wojcicki. "Admiration for his leadership has spread throughout southern Illinois and among his peers in Illinois."



Dr. Joe Alsobrook, dean of the School of Arts, Media, and Communications, delivered Jill Devine-McCoy's Alumna of the Year Lindy Award to her workplace at Y-98 FM after an illness kept her from the March 29 awards ceremony.

JILL DEVINE GRATEFUL FOR LINDY ALUMNI OF YEAR AWARD

Jill Devine-McCoy ('99, '15) nearly left broadcasting in 2010 after 12 years in the business. Now, not only is she a popular DJ on St. Louis' Y-98 FM, she was recently awarded the Lindy Award for Alumna of the Year by Lindenwood University's School of Arts, Media, and Communications.

"I thought it was a joke when I got the call about it," Devine-McCoy said. "It is such an honor when I think of the others who have won it. I thought, 'How am I considered for this?'"

Devine-McCoy got her bachelor's degree in 1999 in mass communication with an emphasis in radio and TV. Since then, she has had a career in promotions, music direction, and as on-air talent at a number of St. Louis-area radio stations.

She said she became disillusioned with the industry after being released from a job after two years there in 2010.

"I was a victim of, 'We've decided to take things in a different direction and we're going to make a change,'" Devine-McCoy said. "I decided to get out of the industry and returned to Lindenwood to move toward being a teacher."

That same year, Y-98 called and asked her if she wanted to work there part-time. Initially, she said no.

"Then, I thought about it and said, 'Why not,'" Devine-McCoy said.

Now full-time, Devine-McCoy has been on the air at Y-98 for six years and can be heard weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to midnight on weekdays. She completed her Master of Arts in Education in 2015, has taught an undergraduate radio production class at Lindenwood for two semesters as an adjunct instructor, and also coached cheerleading at the university for four years, through 2016.

She and her husband, Brian, have an 8-month-old daughter, Louise, so for the time being, she has decided to focus on her full-time radio job and on her home life, leaving the door open to returning to teaching at a later date.

The Lindy Awards, in the 11th year, primarily recognize student work in 35 media categories, as well as the Alumni of the Year Award. Devine-McCoy was ill and could not attend the March 29 ceremony at the Lindenwood Theater, but Joe Alsobrook, dean of the School of Arts, Media, and Communications, surprised her by delivering the award to her at Y-98 and presenting it there.

"As if her impressive media presence and popularity weren't enough, Jill is also a great teacher," said Alsobrook, who was Devine-McCoy's academic advisor through her master's program. "Our students could take her class in the morning and then listen to her doing what she was teaching in the afternoon. It's as good as it gets!"

Devine-McCoy said she was surprised and humbled by the award and touched by the personal delivery.

"Part of me thinks, 'Do I really deserve this,'" she said. "I am so thankful and honored. It's very, very cool, and I'm kind of speechless, which doesn't happen very often."

"I am so thankful and honored. It's very, very cool, and I'm kind of speechless, which doesn't happen very often."

Jill Devine-McCoy ('99, '15)

Kyle Hawk
(15)



BELLEVILLE GRAD HAWK TURNS FUN SIDE PROJECT INTO A MONEY MAKER

by JENNIFER FERGUSON

When Kyle Hawk graduated from high school, he was set to attend Lewis and Clark Community College. After all, he wasn't sure what he wanted to study, and it was close to his hometown of Wood River, Ill. But then he received an unexpected call from a Lindenwood University-Belleville representative asking him to consider attending the university on a bowling scholarship.

"I bowled throughout high school but never considered that bowling on a collegiate level was a possibility," said Hawk. "Even though the university was just establishing the bowling program, it was really cool to be part of something new."

Although Hawk was still unsure of which program to pursue academically, he knew bowling would give him an outlet to follow his talents and interests. It didn't take long, however, for him to find an academic program that piqued his curiosity.

"I was casually browsing the university's catalog when the Interactive Media and Web Design program stuck out to me," said Hawk. "I had been interested in computer science and web design in high school and decided to give it a shot."

Hawk said that he was quite nervous to take his first web design class, as he didn't

have extensive knowledge in HTML or CSS coding, but he reached out to his professor, Derek Dadian-Smith, who reassured him that he'd made the right program choice.

"It was actually Derek's first year teaching, and there was something about knowing he was new and that I was new to this field that made it a little less nerve-wracking," said Hawk. "It was an interesting dynamic, because I felt like I had an ally; it just so happened that ally was the professor."

Dadian-Smith said Hawk, as one of the first graduates of the program, was very successful as a student. He was the first president of Hyperlynx, a student club that gives students the opportunity to explore and research topics in interactive media and web design that go beyond what is taught in the classroom. Just two months after his December 2015 graduation, Hawk landed a job at the Loft, a web design, development, and branding firm in Hazelwood, Mo., where he works as an interactive designer.

"My degree from Lindenwood certainly helped me secure this position," said Hawk. "At first, I was a little worried that the degree I earned was fairly broad, incorporating web design, video and audio production, and 3D design, for instance. But, I soon realized that this was an adaptable degree perfect for the growing company where I was hired."

Also, with the skills he learned while at Lindenwood Belleville, Hawk was able to marry his personal interests with his

professional skillset for his recently developed website, RandomAnime.org, which has on average 1,600 visitors a day. Being a fan of anime, he simply wanted to create a resource for people to look up and connect with anime shows they might like based on various criteria.

"The website started as a side project, and it began to gain some momentum after enhancing search engine optimization tactics."

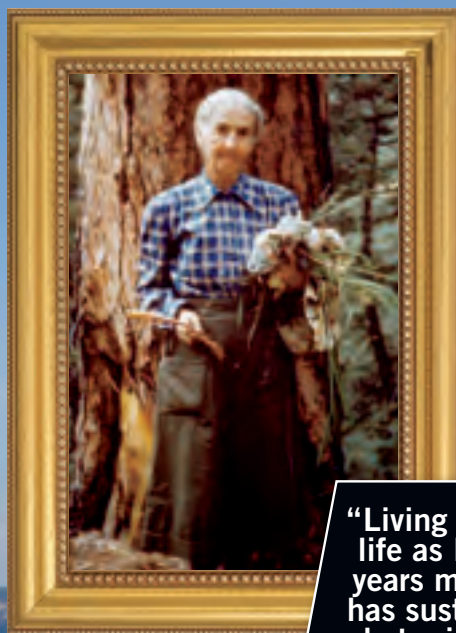
Kyle Hawk ('15)

"The website started as a side project, and it began to gain some momentum after enhancing search engine optimization tactics," said Hawk.

The site caught a big break when a YouTube host featured it in December of 2016, and since then, it has had a strong following from users all over the world. Hawk has since started selling advertising space on the site, turning his fun side project into a revenue stream.

"My website project really illustrates the education I received at Lindenwood Belleville," said Hawk. "It was a culmination of developing the concept, to designing the webpage, to interfacing with users, and now even making a little money."

*Rose Wilson Collom (1889)
during the early 1940s
at Grand Canyon National
Park. (Photo courtesy of
Grand Canyon National Park
Museum Collection)*



“Living such an isolated life as I have led for 10 years my love of nature has sustained me in what might have been a very lonely time.”

Rose Collom

QUEEN OF THE WILDFLOWERS ALUMNA ROSE COLLOM WAS GRAND CANYON'S FIRST PAID BOTANIST

by **CHRIS DUGGAN**

Rose Wilson (1889) was by all accounts an unassuming, quiet woman weighing scarcely 100 pounds. She attended Lindenwood in an era before the school offered degrees in science.

Today, she is lauded for her achievements in the field of botany, having served as the Grand Canyon's first paid botanist. For decades of work and discovery, she was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame in 2013.

After her time at Lindenwood, she went on to marry William Collom and the two moved in 1914 to the Silver Butte Mine in the Mazatzal Mountains of Gila County, Ariz., where he worked as a claims assessor. Six miles from the highway or the nearest neighbor, she found company among the flowers and plants growing in the rocky desert landscape. Her curiosity took over, and she ordered books on botany and corresponded with experts in the field about the specimens she had begun collecting.

A Lindenwood College newsletter dated June 1927 mentions Collom, stating that in lieu of coming to the school's centennial festivities, she sent a gift of flowers to decorate Sibley Hall for the celebration. Later that year, another edition of the

newsletter includes a brief article titled “Queen of the Wildflowers” detailing some of her botanical discoveries and indicating she had been invited to give an address on wildflowers before the Woman's Club of Globe, Ariz.

“Living such an isolated life as I have led for 10 years,” a quote from the article reads, “my love of nature has sustained me in what might have been a very lonely time.”

According to a 2015 article in the Grand Canyon River Runners Association newsletter, in 1936 she achieved some notoriety in botanical circles when Dr. J.N. Rose of the Smithsonian Institute named one of her discoveries, *Echeveria collumae*, after her—the first of many to bear her name. During this time, she was in communication with Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Miner Tillotson about helping out with botanical work at the park, and while Tillotson questioned whether her experience was suited to work at the canyon, he agreed.

In June 1938, Collom began collecting specimens for the park's herbarium. The following year, Eddie McKee, co-founder of the Grand Canyon Natural History Association, obtained a grant to support Collom's work at the Canyon, and in September, the park's naturalist reported that Collom had collected 25 species of plants not previously listed from the park, as well

as 45 important replacements for the herbarium, which still maintains and references her collection of more than 800 specimens. She continued her work under the grant every year but one through 1954.

Collom died in 1956, though her work and notoriety live on, belying her unassuming nature. Her influence persists at Lindenwood as well; she donated a collection of specimens to the university that the School of Sciences still maintains and uses for instruction.

“I have used them in my Plant Biology, Plant Anatomy, and also in the Ethnobotany courses this spring,” said John Cawly, assistant professor of biology. “Since the collection is quite fragile, it is used as an example of specimen preservation and also about Rose's self-betterment in a new environment.”

That adaptability seemed one of the things she found fascinating in the plants she studied.

“They often grow, bloom, and bear their fruit under most discouraging conditions,” she wrote. “One watches for them and greets them as old and faithful friends, and surely from them one can derive strength and courage and faith.”

TWO RECEIVE OUTSTANDING BELLEVILLE ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD



With a focus on enhancing alumni relations on the Belleville campus, two alumni were recently honored with the inaugural presentation of the Outstanding Belleville Alumni Service Award. **Renee LaBruyere ('14)**, of Millstadt, Ill., and **Chad Lindauer ('12 and '15)**, of Smithton, Ill., were selected as the 2016-2017 award recipients.

"We decided to establish this award as a way to honor those alumni who work closely with us to create sustainable alumni programming for the Belleville campus,"

said Dr. Brett Barger, campus president. "These two honorees stood out, as they have volunteered their time at numerous events over the past year."

Jennifer Ferguson, director of alumni relations and special events at the campus, said both recipients were critical to her in her first year at the campus.

"Both Chad and Renee have not only helped me become acquainted with members of our alumni base, but anytime I needed a volunteer to participate in something, they were first to oblige," said Ferguson. "It means a lot to me personally, but also to this institution, that Chad and Renee took

time from their busy lives to be part of what we have going on with our campus."

LaBruyere, who graduated from the Accelerated Degree Program with a bachelor's degree in business administration, is the director of business development at m2 Architecture Studio in St. Louis. Lindauer earned a bachelor's degree in management with an emphasis in accounting and a master's degree in business administration and serves as the USTRANSCOM acquisition expert for command programs at Scott Air Force Base.

To learn more about alumni programming on the Belleville campus, visit www.lindenwood.edu/belleville/alumni-donors.

2017 HONORS CONVOCATION

Lindenwood University celebrated its Honors Convocation, at which it celebrates academic excellence across the university, on April 23 at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts.



Carlos Flores received the Robert and Pauline Hammen Lifelong Learning Award, which is awarded to "the outstanding male student engaged in degree-oriented lifelong learning."



Carlos Morantes (front row, second from right) received the Sibley Award. Also pictured are (front row, from left) Alumni Director **Michelle Giessman ('16)** and **Libby Ray ('10)**, **Brian Mundy ('98)**, (back row, from left) **Cortney Hupper Lenk ('99)**, **Betsy Light LeDoux ('63, '91)**, and **Judy Brown ('67)**, all of the Alumni Association.



Kimberly Sommerkamp (left) received the university's Easton Award, which with the Sibley Award is among the highest honors a Lindenwood student can receive. Presenting were **Libby Ray** and Lindenwood System President **Michael D. Shonrock**.

*Halaneia Jones, spouse of
alumnus Jason Jones ('17), and
Angela Mitchell ('09).*



INAUGURAL BELLEVILLE ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT **A SUCCESS**

On April 6, Lindenwood University-Belleville alumni joined business enthusiast, author, advocate, and Lindenwood alumnus **Ralph Pfremmer** at Lindenwood's extension site at the Old Post Office in Downtown St. Louis for the inaugural Belleville Alumni Networking event.

For his keynote presentation, Pfremmer spoke to the group about how creating a personal brand helps one excel in the workforce and personal life. The Belleville Alumni Relations Office is establishing regular alumni programming. Please check your email and home mailbox for invitations to these events. For more information, contact Jennifer Ferguson at 618.239.6033 or jferguson@lindenwood.edu.



*Business enthusiast, author, advocate, and
Lindenwood alumnus **Ralph Pfremmer**,
pictured with Lindenwood Belleville Campus
President **Brett Barger**, delivered the keynote
presentation at the inaugural Lindenwood
Belleville Alumni Networking event.*

*Members of the Alumni Association Board of
Directors who attended the event were (from
left) **Betsy Light LeDoux** ('63, '91), **Paula
Hildebrand** ('80), **Brian Mundy** ('98), **Judy
Forstmann Brown** ('67), **Mary Ellen Kantz**
('77, '91), and **Mary Gismegian** ('81).*



*Belleville alumni
Maggie Dunham ('17)
and **Jacob Bush** ('16).*



*Diego Aldea ('16)
with one of his artists.*

DIEGO ALDEA FINDS SUCCESS AS BOOKING AGENT IN EUROPE

by **CHRIS DUGGAN**



*Diego
Aldea ('16)*

Diego Aldea graduated from Lindenwood University less than a year ago, in December 2016, and in a short time he has found success as a booking agent in the electronic music field in his native Spain, where he was recently recognized as the youngest such agent in Europe.

Aldea, 25, who played water polo at Lindenwood in St. Charles and majored in marketing and international business, was featured for his work in an article in *Vicious Magazine* in April. Aldea works for a company called Cumac Bookings, which works exclusively with DJs and electronic music artists, booking them at shows on five continents.

In his role, Aldea travels around the globe, booking and representing a stable of artists at night clubs and special events, such as electronic music festivals. He also looks for new artists to join his team that fit the sound he works with. For a specific booking, he works in concert with a team that includes a manager, tour manager, press agent, and promoter. Each has a specific role, and his is to guide his artists' careers, find them gigs around the world, make sure they are paid, and help them with other decisions relative to their careers. He got his first taste of the business while at Lindenwood with a booking operation he and some friends started called Sweet Underground.

"I started doing shows alongside four other students in unique venues around the St. Louis area," Aldea said. "I was a promoter then, and I just wanted to share my passion for this music, but one time I heard that one should work in what he or she loves, and I decided to go all in with music."

Aldea started with Cumac Bookings after talking with the general manager of the company, with whom he crossed paths while promoting one of his own events.

"I hired an artist for one of my events and asked the agent if he needed some help," Aldea said. "He said yes, and I started working."

Water Polo Coach David Miller spoke highly of Aldea, calling him "one of our success stories."

"Diego was one of our team leaders for the past four seasons," Miller said.

Aldea also fondly recalls his time playing water polo at Lindenwood.

"I came to Lindenwood to play water polo, and I loved the experience and the people that I've met," Aldea said. "We also achieved being the only university winning three first-division national championships in a row."

Even though Aldea has already achieved much in his young career, he is setting his sights even higher.

"I am already working in what I love, but there is an immense margin for improvement," Aldea said. "I won't stop living my dream and working hard every day, because when you do what you love, motivation is always there."

"I came to Lindenwood to play water polo, and I loved the experience and the people that I've met."

Diego Aldea ('16)

The alumni baseball game prompted many social media posts, including these from Robb Hussey ('00) and Katie Pizzardi Hill ('02, '06), wife of Russ Hill ('00, '13).



BASEBALL ALUMNI REUNION UNCOVERS MEMORIES

"The smell of leather. The ping of the bat. The jokes in the dugout. Rolling a 4-6-3. Rounding first and thinking about 2. The camaraderie of stepping onto the field together. It's been 18 years since I stepped on that field."

This is how Bobby Nicholson ('01), described on social media how he felt returning to Lindenwood to attend the Baseball Alumni Reunion on Sunday, April 2. Baseball alumni and their families attended a Lions game, snacked on hot dogs and nachos, and caught up with each other.

The former players then donned Lindenwood jerseys and took the field to

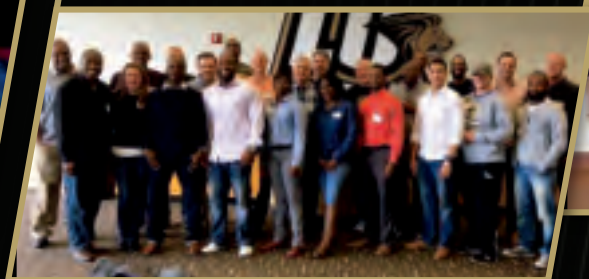
have their own alumni game. The best part of the event was that Lindenwood won both games. Ryan Froelich ('00) worked with the Alumni Office to organize the event.

The baseball alumni will return on Saturday, Oct. 14, at 9 a.m. for the Baseball Alumni Homecoming Game. All baseball alumni are encouraged to come out. For more information, contact Michelle Giessman at alumni@lindenwood.edu.

(from left) Chris Kerr ('04), Tim Brooks ('01), C.J. Folkes ('05, '13), and Tracian Baker Hussey ('01).



Mark Aschen ('06) and Jayne Kristmann Aschen ('03).



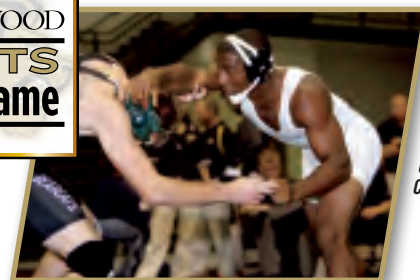
TRACK AND FIELD ALUMNI REUNION WELL ATTENDED

The VIP Room in Hyland Arena was full of music and laughter as Lindenwood Track and Field and Alumni Relations hosted a reunion for alumni from the program.

The event took place on Saturday, April 22, from 2 to 6 p.m. The event was held in conjunction with the Lindenwood High School Classic track meet being held at the Lindenwood track that day.

Track alumni from as far away as St. Kitts and Anguilla returned to campus to reminisce with fellow alumni and enjoy a Jamaican feast. Many vowed to return, some as soon as Lindenwood Homecoming and Reunion Oct. 10 through 15.

2017 SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS ANNOUNCED



Chris Chionuma

Lindenwood University recently announced its 2017 induction class for the Lindenwood Sports Hall of Fame. **Five individuals and two teams will be honored this fall as they take their place among the school's all-time athletic greats.**

The ceremony this year marks the inaugural Hall of Fame weekend, highlighted by the Sept. 30 Lions football game versus Fort Hays State and the ceremony later that evening at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts.

The individuals being inducted are **Chris Chionuma (wrestling)**, **Mike Emerick ('11) (volleyball)**, **Aubrey Moss ('14) (softball)**, **Kramer Soderberg ('14) (basketball)**, and **Logen Wright ('11) (football)**.

The 2005 men's track and field team and the equestrian program are also being enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

Chionuma was a three-time NAIA All-American and the 2011 NAIA national champion at 174 pounds.

Emerick was a two-time conference Libero of the Year and is the school's all-time career leader in digs with 1,124.

Moss was a three-time first-team all-conference selection who collected 45 wins, 8 saves, and 599 strikeouts in her career.

Soderberg, the school's first first-team Academic All-American, played two seasons for the Lions and finished in the top-10 in career points with 1,148.

Wright was a four-time team captain and two-time All-American linebacker for

some of the top football teams in Lindenwood history.

The **2005 men's track and field team** won the indoor and outdoor conference championships and also won the NAIA Indoor National Championships.

From **1934 to 1981**, the **equestrian program**, this year's Pioneer Award winner, brought many students to Lindenwood. Lindenwood Sports Hall of Fame member Fern Bittner took charge of the program in 1954 and ran it until it was discontinued.

This is the first time Lindenwood will celebrate the Hall of Fame Banquet outside of Homecoming Weekend.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Lisa Hundelt at 636.949.4600.

STUDENT LIFE SPORTS TEAMS WIN BIG

Lindenwood Student Life Sports teams found great success this spring **with eight team national titles.**

The **shotgun sports team** hoisted a trophy first in early April with the 14th straight ACUI Clay Target Championship for the program at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas. The Lions hit 2,289 out of 2,350 targets to finish 78 targets ahead of second place Texas A&M, and Lindenwood swept the six team disciplines of American Skeet, American Trap, International Skeet, International Trap, Five Stand, and Sporting Clays.

Just days later, the **Lionettes dance team** claimed the first national title in program history with a victory in Jazz Division II at the NCA/NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla. After advancing to the final round in first place, the Lady Lions were brilliant

once again, posting a score of 9.739 to finish ahead of Grand Valley State.

Competitive cheerleading followed suit the next day by winning the Coed Division II title. It was the fourth crown for the program and marked the third straight year that Lindenwood won a national championship.

Synchronized swimming won its third consecutive U.S. Nationals title April 7 in Oro Valley, Ariz. The Lady Lions pulled off a clean sweep of the solo, duet, and team technical and free events, with Allyson Haylor claiming the Individual High Point Championship.

Olympic weightlifting swept all three team titles at the USA Weightlifting University Nationals, which concluded April 9 in Gainesville, Fla. It was the third national championship overall for the program.

Men's and women's rugby both traveled to Infinity Park in Glendale, Colo., for the USA

Rugby Collegiate Sevens National Championships, and both squads came away with titles May 21. The Lady Lions defeated Life University 31-12 in the finals for their first national championship in program history. Just 30 minutes later, the men's team duplicated the feat with a 26-5 win over St. Mary's. It was the second sevens title in the last three years for Lindenwood and the third overall for the program.

The **roller hockey** Gold squad won its seventh straight crown with a 3-1 victory over Farmingdale State College in the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association DIII Championship April 9 in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Not to be outdone, **cycling** earned two more individual titles at the USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships in late April in Grand Junction, Colo. Evan Hartig captured the Men's Criterium championship, while Jonah Mead-VanCort won the Men's Individual Omnium title.

Women's Rugby



Competitive Cheerleading



HILL NAMED ALTERNATE FOR USA WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM

by **BEN MIZERA**



*Niauni Hill
with graduate
assistant coach
Homero Vallejo.*

Lindenwood University-Belleville wrestler Niauni Hill earned a third-place finish at the USA Wrestling World Team Trials at the end of April. With that placing, she is now an alternate for the USA Women's Wrestling Team.

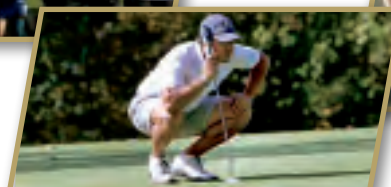
"It meant the world to me when I finished third at the World Team Trials," said Hill. "My accomplishment was shared with my

mother and little sister, who drove down from California to Las Vegas for it. I told my mom, 'You have to come; I might actually make the USA Team this year,' and I did just that. My coaches pushed me there and, it's a high I've never felt."

After losing in the semifinals to two-time Olympian Elena Pirozhikova, Hill dropped to the consolation bracket. She went on to advance to the finals with a 6-0 victory over Alexandria Glaude of McKendree University. In the third-place bout, Hill squared off with Rachel Watters of New York City Athletic Club.

With the score tied 2-2 in the final minute, Hill recorded a pair of takedowns to claim the 6-4 win and a third-place finish.

"I finally accomplished my next goal in life, and now I'm on the USA Wrestling Team," Hill said. "Words cannot express my excitement."



LIONS PLACE SIXTH IN DIRECTORS' CUP **FOR DIVISION II**

When Lindenwood University moved its athletics department to the NCAA, it set the goal of becoming one of the top all-around programs at the Division II level. Just four short years later, it has already reached that goal.

In this year's Directors' Cup standings, which honors schools for having broad-based athletic programs, the **Lions and Lady Lions** were named the

No. 6 program in the NCAA Division II. Lindenwood scored 578 points in the standings, the most in the MIAA conference, and 11 different programs reached NCAA postseason play and scored Directors' Cup points.

Six of those 11 teams played in the spring, as Lindenwood athletics finished the year strong. The **baseball** team went on an exciting postseason run, as it won the MIAA Tournament and NCAA Division II Central Regional. The regional title was just the second for Lindenwood in any sport. The Lions won one game at the NCAA Division

II National Championships and finished fifth in the national tournament.

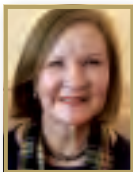
The **women's lacrosse** team reached the NCAA semifinals for the fourth straight season, advancing with an 11-5 win over Queens in the quarterfinals. The **men's golf team** made history by finishing third at the NCAA Regionals and advancing to the NCAA National Championships. **Women's golf** and **men's and women's track and field** also experienced postseason action.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES SUMMER 2017

'60s

Ann Fieber Hays ('66)

has had a busy spring, traveling to Florida from her home in Dallas Texas, to visit fellow Lindenwood College classmates. She and **Barbara Blackmore Hughes ('67)** recently spent time reminiscing about their good times at Lindenwood at Barbara's home in the Lake Jovita community near Dade City. Barb and her husband Gary will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in late June. They are parents of two daughters and have two granddaughters, one of which will be graduating from college and the other from high school this spring. Fieber Hays also visited **Dr. Carin Chapman West ('67)** in Hillsboro Beach. Both Barbara and Carin will be celebrating their 50-year reunion at this year's Lindenwood Homecoming Oct 10-15. Carin is hoping to see friend Louise Symmes Kubat, "Weezie," at this year's reunion.



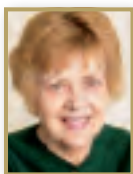
'80s

Louis Launer ('86)

serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Charles Historical Society and is chairman on the Property Committee, which oversees the old city hall facility. On Saturdays, he serves as a lead researcher and also assists with the archives and manages databases containing family and property histories in general. Launer has self-published a number of novels and is currently working on a novel set for release in 2018. He recently co-hosted a book publishing seminar at the Deer Run branch of the St. Charles City-County Library and will also be appearing at a local authors show at Parkview Gardens on September 9.

**Joan Wendl Thomas ('89)**

recently announced the release of her fourth book, *Baseball in Northwest Iowa*. Her research on St. Louis baseball history resulted in the publication of two of her earlier books. When she returned to live in her hometown of Le Mars, Iowa, in 2014, she became enamored with the depth its baseball past. The new book describes and pictures significant players, teams, ballparks, and historical figures from 19 Iowa counties.



'90s

Paul Truber ('95)

was promoted to managing director of UHY Advisors and partner in UHY LLP. Truber joined UHY 17 years ago. Truber has taken on various leadership roles in the tax practice, including leading the implementation of tax regulations and presenting the annual tax update at the executive briefing.

**Michael Skeen ('96, '03)**

retired from the O'Fallon Police Department after 26 years of service, including as assistant chief of police in 2006. After teaching in the LCIE program for a year and a half, Skeen relocated to Diamondhead, Miss., in 2008. He began writing and has two published novels, *The Cost of Freedom* and *The Cost of Liberty*. Both are political thrillers, and the second one deals with the beginning of World War III. *The Cost of Liberty* recently earned an honorable mention in the Eric Hoffer Book Awards. He will be moving back to St. Charles later this summer.



'00s

Dr. Michael Crowell, Ed.D. ('06, '11, '13, '16)

is currently a Spanish instructor at Francis Howell Central School and is also an adjunct professor at Central Methodist University (CMU), where he teaches methods in education and classroom technology integration in the Master in Education program. He previously taught in Rolla Public Schools, Kirkwood High School, and Troy Buchanan High School and has been heavily involved with technology incorporation within these districts. He has led multiple workshops and presentations on the subject. He is a board member for the Foreign Language Association of Missouri as well as the American Association of Teaching Spanish and Portuguese's Missouri Chapter.

**Mary Jo Schroeder ('06)**

was a professional gardener and landscaper and ran her own business, Lovelier Gardens, for 18 years while her children were in school. She later worked as a school counselor in the Rockwood, St. Louis city, and Special school districts from 2005 until 2007. She is "mostly" retired as an American Board Certified hypnotist and does hypnosis with small groups for joy, anxiety, weight loss, pain management, and life and education enhancement. She has two children and two grandchildren.

**Benjamin J Giessman ('06)**

and Kayla Almstedt were recently married in Destin, Fla. The couple resides in St. Charles, Mo. Giessman is a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker Gundaker Agency in St. Charles.

Francella Perryman ('08)

has enjoyed her role as director of local outreach at Mount Pisgah UMC for five years. In 2016, she was named one of Fulton County School System's volunteers of the year. Earlier this year, she received the Points of Light award from Habitat for Humanity in Georgia.

**Anne Ritter ('09)**

principal in tax services at Brown Smith Wallace, was elected chair of the Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce effective Jan. 1, 2017. Ritter has been a member of the chamber's board since 2009 and has been on the executive committee since 2014. In 2013, Ritter was a recipient of a Streetscape Beyond the Best Top 50 in Business in St. Charles County award, and in 2014, she was asked to serve on the advisory board for Citizens National Bank in St. Charles. Ritter is also a member of Missouri Chapter IL of the PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Sisterhood and serves on the Missouri State Chapter of PEO Finance Committee. The Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants recognized Ritter as a Woman to Watch—Experienced Leader in 2014.



Alumni News & Notes
continues on next page...

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

SUMMER 2017 continued

'10s

Tracy Seiber

('10), a graduate of Lindenwood Belleville and vice president of business development with First National Bank of Waterloo (Ill.), recently graduated from the Future Leaders Alliance (FLA), a leadership training for future leaders of the banking industry sponsored by the Illinois Bankers Association. FLA is a 13-month innovative program for aspiring bankers that emphasizes education, community service, and networking.



Debbreca Harris ('11 & '13), technical administrator with AT&T in St. Louis, has acquired certifications as a credit repair consultant and became a licensed certified life coach, broadening the skillset she uses to own and manage her business, Conway Credit Pro. She is a graduate of Lindenwood University-Belleville.

Brittany Breen

('12) is a family licensing worker in St. Louis. She was recently nominated as an outstanding caseworker by a mother who adopted two children from foster care through an involved four-year process with her help. Breen said she is grateful to two of her Lindenwood professors, Dr. Carla Mueller and Debra Johnson, stating that she "wouldn't be where I am today without amazing professors like you two!"



Robert Lawrence Salter, Ed.D.

('14), faculty member of Washington University, has been elected president of Pharmacists Preventing Suicides, a nonprofit organization whose focus is on educating, researching, training, and lobbying for the healthcare profession.



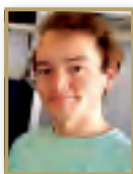
Michele Johnson,

('15), a graduate of Lindenwood Belleville, has been named director of the Children's Dyslexia Center in Belleville (Ill.), a Scottish Rite charity that provides multisensory tutoring to children in grades 1-12 free of charge. The organization also offers master's level certification to train professionals and family members on how to help children with dyslexia.



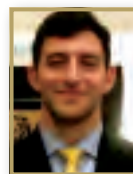
Bryan Stearns

('15) is currently in graduate school at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, pursuing an artificial intelligence Ph.D. (computer science). He recently completed the coursework for his master's in computer science with a 3.95 GPA and is now doing research toward his dissertation. Stearns served as president of the computer science graduate student body this year and this summer will be presenting his research at a conference talk in Warwick, UK.



Steven "Alex" Armstrong ('16)

enrolled in M.B.A. classes at Lindenwood after his December graduation and this spring finished his Lindenwood track career with a nationally ranked personal best 61.36 meters in the javelin throw. Armstrong is a member of the prestigious Regional Business Council Mentorship Program and recently began working for Federated Insurance; he is licensed in Property and Casualty and Life and Health. Armstrong states that his "last few months at Lindenwood have been remarkable, and I am thankful for all of the professors and coaches who guided me to where I am today."



Courtney Matoushaya ('16)

was recently promoted to a business sales and service representative for PNC Bank in Pittsburgh, Penn. Matoushaya received his bachelor's from Lindenwood in business economics.



Zeina Sparks

('16), an eight-year professional in the hair care industry, recently earned her Missouri-issued Cosmetology Instructors License and plans to launch a beauty industry-focused consulting firm later this year. She also volunteers as a teen mom mentor for Family Forward Missouri Mentoring Program and is a house coordinator for Karen House Family Shelter in North St. Louis City.



Sam Vermeer

('16) was married in June 2016 and recently took the position of human resources manager at Lakeside Exteriors, Inc. He is proud that he was able to develop an HR program that supports the employees and assures them that they are valued and assists them in realizing their specific purpose. He and his wife, Cara, have one son, Elliott.



Katie Reigelsburger

('17) is digital marketing manager for AXIUS Financial in St. Charles. Her position entails running social media pages, setting up social media advertising, and working on digital brand awareness through social media and email marketing platforms. This fall, she will move to Chicago and attend Northwestern University's Medill School's Integrated Marketing & Communications program to earn her master's degree.



Carlos Morantes

('17) lives in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, area and is a project coordinator for Smurfit Kappa North America. While at Lindenwood, Morantes was a student ambassador in admissions and was the 2017 recipient of the Sibley Award. He received a B.S. in international business and finance.



Alumni News & Notes
continues on next page...

De'Marcus

Terry ('17) has accepted a position through the New Business Initiatives department at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Terry, a graduate of Lindenwood's Belleville campus, said that his marketing and management classes prepared him well for this job, as he will immediately get to transfer a lot of the knowledge gained throughout the years to his new job.

**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.

- Martha Jane Reubelt Scott ('41)**, Tulsa, Okla.
Dorothy Lyden Fitzmorris ('44), Cathedral City, Calif.
Patricia Helen Tobin Fischer ('46), Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mary Helen Fuhrer ('48), Glenshaw, Penn.
Nancy Jeanne Dana Hill ('48), Ashville, N.C.
Deane Ellen Clements ('55), Lewisburg, Penn.
Beulah Peterson ('60), Fullerton, Calif.
Mary B Schmierback ('63), St. Charles, Mo.
Lisa Leonard Baldwin Cooper ('64), Sarasota, Fla.
Doris Hillis Lindley ('68), Sioux Falls, S.D.
Nancy L. Karl ('82), St. Charles, Mo.
John A. Alan ('85), Dunedin, Fla.
Beatrice R. Orr ('90), St. Ann, Mo.
James S. Sitariski ('91), St. Louis, Mo.
Arlena Gagne ('04, '15), Wentzville, Mo.
Darline Schroeter ('11), St. Peters, Mo.
Mallory Epperson Smith ('08), Wentzville, Mo.

**Longtime friend of
Lindenwood University
Dr. Francis C. Huss**


Dr. Francis C. Huss passed away on Monday, March 6, 2017, at the age of 89.

Dr. Huss was born on May 27, 1927, to the late Ray and Ola (Dunham) Huss in Licking, Mo. He was the husband of Elizabeth "Libby" McKinney Huss and the late Judith (Dodds) Huss. He is the father of Dr. Randall (Patricia) Huss, Mary Elizabeth Huss, Margaret (Michael) Porch, and Suzanne (David) Heck and the stepfather of Bruce (Teresa) McKinney and Anne (Denis) Oberg.

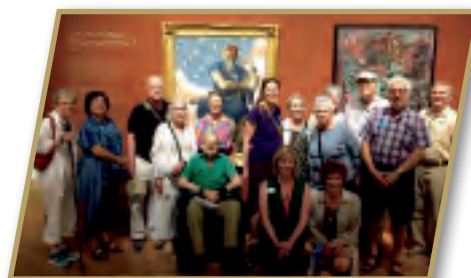
Dr. Huss received his bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary school administration from University of Missouri and his Ph.D. in education from Saint Louis University, where he also served as an adjunct professor, teaching graduate level courses in school administration. Dr. Huss spent his entire career in educational administration as a school assistant principal and principal and, most recently, as superintendent of the Hazelwood School District in St. Louis County.

He was active in and held leadership positions in many civic and professional organizations during his career and was widely respected as a leader in the field of education, serving in many positions with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for over 40 years and chairing many national and international visiting school accreditation evaluation teams.

After retiring, he worked as a consultant for Lindenwood University for approximately 20 years. He and Libby Huss, a member of the Lindenwood University Board of Directors, have been longtime supporters and patrons of the university. Always committed to seeing that every child had access to higher education, he founded the Hazelwood PTA Council Scholarship Run while principal at Hazelwood. A dedicated athlete and runner, Dr. Huss participated in the event annually well into his 80s, often winning his age group. Memorials in Dr. Huss' name may be made to Hazelwood School District PTA Council Scholarship Fund or to Lindenwood University.

FACULTY/STAFF
**Professors Emeriti Take a Trip to
Celebrate Wehmer's 90th Birthday**

A group of professors emeriti, spouses, former students, and friends traveled to the Crystal Bridges American Art Museum in Bentonville, Ark., on May 17 to celebrate Professor Emeritus John Wehmer's 90th birthday. The group included professors emeriti **Ann Canale, Ray Scupin, Dominic Soda, Hans Levi, Alan Meyers, Wanita Zumbrunnen, and Wehmer**; former student and adjunct instructor **Nancy Bridges**; and a few friends of Wehmer.



An alumna from Lindenwood, **Emily Ironside ('03)** is the director of development at Crystal Bridges. She provided an exclusive tour for the group, which stayed for two days to explore the galleries, which contain outstanding artworks, including Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington (1797) and contemporary paintings by Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol, Mark Rothko, and Roy Lichtenstein. The group also visited a Native American art museum in Bentonville.

Wehmer and the group thanked Lindenwood's staff in helping to arrange the trip.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES ABOUND AT LINDENWOOD

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

Graduation is always an exciting time of the year. Be sure to look at the photo layouts of the St. Charles and Belleville spring ceremonies on pages 6 and 7. Members of your Alumni Board attended each of the three May ceremonies—two in St. Charles and one in Belleville. After receiving their diplomas, the graduates were greeted by Alumni Board members, offered congratulations, and presented with an alumni pin.

Since 1959, the university's Alumni Association has honored Lindenwood alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers, volunteer work, or in service to the university. This year, it was my honor to present the 2017 Lindenwood Alumni Merit Award to Bobbie Barkley Netsch ('66) during the Saturday evening ceremonies. (See story on page 3)

Your Alumni Office and Association Board continue to work on ways for alumni to keep in touch with the university and one another. Many of us enjoyed the alumni picnic and movie night on the St. Charles campus on June 9. We are looking forward to more gatherings on the Spellmann Center Alumni Plaza at Lion home football games this fall and cheering on the Lynx in Belleville.

We have not forgotten our out-of-town alumni! The Alumni Office is planning visits to several key cities—Kansas City, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth—to lay the groundwork for establishing (or reestablishing) alumni clubs in these areas. There has also been interest among St. Louis alumni in launching an alumni club. Look for announcements from the Alumni Office regarding future events in your area or call Alumni Director Michelle Giessman if you live in one of these targeted cities and wish to be contacted.

We look for all alumni to gather for Homecoming in October. Mark your calendars for October 6-8 when Belleville will "Roll out the Red Carpet" for returning alumni and October 10-15 for "Welcome to the Jungle" in St. Charles. Plans are underway in St. Charles to honor the 50-year class of 1967. Check the Lindenwood University website for details and watch your mail for more information.



Our alumni are doing amazing work locally, nationally, and internationally. We'd love to hear from you and learn more about where your Lindenwood education has led you. Each one of us has a story to tell. Your Alumni Office is just a phone call or email away.

Our alumni director, Michelle Giessman, may be reached at 636.949.4975 or mgiessman@lindenwood.edu. In Belleville, contact Jennifer Ferguson, director of alumni relations and special events, at 618.239.6033 or jferguson@lindenwood.edu.