

REAL EXPERIENCE. REAL SUCCESS.

# LINDENWOOD

## UNIVERSITY

John Porter:  
Lindenwood's  
**23rd**  
University  
President

**Q2**  
Customer Service  
Initiative  
Launched

**ACKMANN**  
Broadway Bound

**YEARIAN**  
Named Educator  
of the Year

SPELLMANN CENTER





**LINDENWOOD  
NAMES  
NEW  
PRESIDENT**



Lindenwood University has named John R. Porter its 23rd president. Porter has worked for 33 years for IBM, including the last 15 in senior management, and has also served as a board member in higher education and as an adjunct instructor and visiting professor.

Porter, who will begin his tenure as president on July 1, 2019, is currently vice president of services for a premier IBM Business Partner—Gulf Business Machines in Dubai. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Evangel University, from which he holds a bachelor's degree, and also has experience as a university fundraiser. He has an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis and is working toward a Doctor of Education degree from Johns Hopkins University with an anticipated graduation date of May 2020.

Top Gun Ventures, led by managing partner Don Tuttle, was retained to manage the presidential search.

Tuttle said, "As the lead search consultant, I am extremely pleased that we were able to identify and recruit a game-changer such as John Porter. The firm received a large, global, and diverse group of candidates for consideration."

"We sought input prior to and during the process from the faculty, staff, students, and administration regarding the qualities necessary for the next president of Lindenwood," said J. Michael Conoyer, M.D., chairman of the Board of Trustees. "It all came down to leadership and John's track record as a proven leader. He will serve Lindenwood well."

During his professional career, Porter has worked in numerous locations in the United States, as well as in South Africa, in addition to his current post in Dubai. Porter and his wife, Beverly, will reside in the Lindenwood House on campus. They have three adult children, all of whom live in the Kansas City area.

"I have always aspired to lead a university because of my admiration for higher education," Porter said. "I have prepared myself for this throughout my career and look forward to leading this great institution."

**LINDENWOOD  
UNIVERSITY**

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

**UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

**Lisa O'Brien Enger**  
Vice President

**Kate O'Neal**  
Assistant Vice President

**Chris Duggan**  
Director of  
Communications

**Craig Carmichael**  
Director of Marketing

**Matt Adams**  
Director of Development

**Alexandra Bardon**  
Web Content Administrator

**Mark Bohr**  
Director of Development

**Amber Bush**  
Graphic Designer

**John Creer**  
Consultant

**Jaygan Eastman**  
Administrative Assistant

**Jennifer Ferguson**  
Director, Campus  
Communications and  
Marketing, Belleville

**Kassandra Linzmeier**  
Associate  
Development Director

**Matthew Mathews**  
Digital  
Marketing Manager

**Lennon Mueller**  
Graphic Designer

**Candace Roberts**  
Art Director

**Bryan Stone**  
Director of Development

**Jason Waack**  
Webmaster

**Cassandra Western**  
Database  
and Stewardship  
Coordinator

**OTHER CONTRIBUTORS**

**Don Adams, Jr.**  
**Ryan Koberstein**  
**Charlie Mager**  
**Mike Morgan**  
**Phil Vida**

LINDENWOOD is published twice  
a year by the Office of University Relations  
at Lindenwood University.

An archive of past issues is available at  
www.lindenwood.edu. Lindenwood is mailed free  
of charge to Lindenwood alumni and friends.  
Story ideas are welcome and should be forwarded  
to University Relations, Lindenwood Magazine,  
209 S. Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO 63301  
or cduggan@lindenwood.edu.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS notifications should be  
sent to the Office of University Relations at the  
mailing address above or cwestern@lindenwood.edu.

*Larkin  
Turns  
Passion for  
Weddings  
into Career*



**JODELL LARKIN ('94) HAS A PASSION FOR MANY THINGS, like sewing, reading, designing jewelry, serving in the community, and being with family. But one passion in particular has stayed with her over the years: weddings. Today, weddings are her career.**

"I've had a passion for weddings since I was a little girl," Larkin said. "But loving weddings and making events exquisite can be difficult. Your wedding or event is important and is a reflection of you, so I feel a person needs to be certified to know how to make every detail perfect."

Larkin graduated from Lindenwood with a Bachelor of Arts in business with an emphasis in marketing. In 1996, she began her career in the corporate world, working for many years as a senior software contract negotiator and administrator for IBM. While she excelled at her job, Larkin's creative side had gone dormant.

In 2012, Larkin decided to take a leap into entrepreneurship and pursue her lifelong passion, leaving IBM and getting certified as a wedding and event planner.

Larkin opened her wedding and event planning company, Starry Night Events, LLC, in October 2013. She maintains her studio in St. Peters, Mo., where she meets with clients to plan weddings and other events. She has built her client base over the past five years and is recognized in the industry throughout the St. Louis area.

One of Larkin's prime objectives is to make sure the bride and groom, along with the entire wedding party and family, have a stress-free wedding day. Her main goal is to make all weddings as perfect as possible. Larkin is a member of the Association of Bridal Consultants, ABC, with which she attends monthly meetings and checks out venues, caterers, and vendors in the St. Louis area.

An accomplished seamstress and past national chairman of the board for the American Sewing Guild, Larkin has incorporated those skills into her wedding business, providing alterations to wedding gowns and dresses for the other members of the wedding party.

In addition to a busy professional life, Larkin maintains involvement in Lindenwood University and the local community. She is currently the president of the Lindenwood Alumni St. Charles Chapter. She also volunteers as an usher at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts and is an active member of the new Plaster School of Business affinity group.

Larkin is a fourth-generation St. Charles, Mo., native with two grown children in the St. Charles/St. Louis area. ■





**A**UTHOR AND LINDENWOOD ALUMNA MARTHA ACKMANN ('73) will see her acclaimed book *Curveball* come to life in the Off-Broadway play *Toni Stone* this spring and summer. The play will be produced by the Roundabout Theatre Company at the Harold and Mirian Steinberg Center's Laura Pels Theater in New York City.

Toni Stone was the first female professional baseball player in the Negro Leagues. The play will star Obie Award winner April Matthis in the title role and is scheduled to open June 20 with preview performances beginning May 23.

Ackmann released *Curveball* eight years ago. After seeing the book featured on ESPN, producer Samantha Barrie contacted Ackmann's agent about adapting *Curveball* for the stage. Later, Ackmann and Barrie met in New York and agreed to pursue the project together.

"It is important to choose a person with the same artistic vision as you," said Ackmann.

*Toni Stone* is directed by Tony Award-winning director Pam MacKinnon and written by Lydia R. Diamond. Ackmann said she has enjoyed working with Diamond.

"This is my first collaboration with a playwright, and Lydia has been open and generous," said Ackmann. She said she is enjoying seeing her book visualized for the stage.

"I'm just delighted!" she said. "The experience has been positive, and Lydia is taking the story into a new realm. It has been quite wonderful. It is the first all-female baseball production for the American stage."

Many plays have begun in an Off-Broadway setting and made the transition to Broadway theaters. There are hopes that *Toni Stone* will do the same. In the meantime, the play has been added to the 2019-20 seasons for the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and D.C. Metro Theater Arts Arena Stage.

"Off-Broadway simply means the size of the theater," Ackmann said. "We are in the heart of Times Square. This is actually our first run to see if the audience likes it, and our hope is that it will do well."

Ackmann, who graduated in 1973 with a double major in English and communication arts, has another iron in the fire as well. Her book *The Mercury 13: The Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight* has been optioned as an event miniseries and is currently in development with Bradley Whitford (*The West Wing*) for Amazon. Liz Hannah, who wrote the film *The Post*, will write the script for *The Mercury 13*.

The book tells the true story of the 13 women who trained as astronauts alongside the men for the Mercury 7 mission in 1961 but were let go from the program despite completing the same training.

"(*Mercury 13*) has been a long time coming as well," Ackmann said. "I have been very happy that Brad and his team are moving it forward. He has the kind of vision I'm looking for that aligns with the story."

Ackmann recently finished a new book about poet Emily Dickinson titled *These Fevered Days: Ten Pivotal Moments in the Making of Emily Dickinson*, which was at this writing scheduled for release by W.W. Norton in April 2020 for National Poetry Month. Her newest project is a book about country music legend Dolly Parton. ■



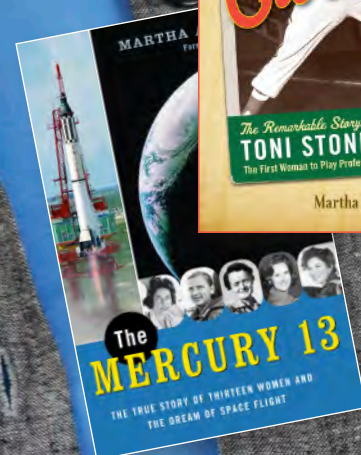
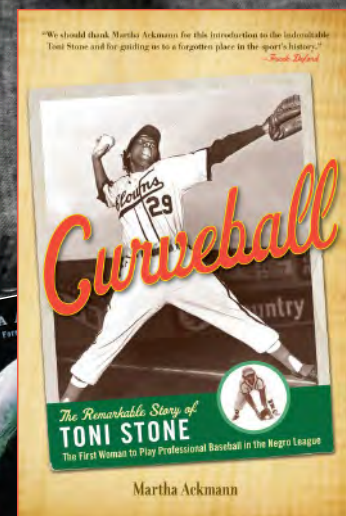
Official theatre poster for the Broadway production of *Toni Stone*

"I'm just delighted!  
The experience  
has been positive...  
It is the first  
all-female baseball  
production for the,  
American stage."

MARTHA ACKMANN

# BROADWAY BOUND

Ackmann Book Adapted for the Stage



Two of Ackmann's books, *The Mercury 13* and *Curveball*, have been adapted for other entertainment media.



## BOYLES ATTENDS UN COMMISSION on the Status of Women

by Ryan Koberstein



**D**R. ANDREA BOYLES, **Lindenwood University-Belleville division chair and associate professor of social and behavioral sciences**, took her profession to the global stage at the **United Nations Commission of the Status of Women in New York City March 11-22**. She intends to bring her experience there back to the classroom to the benefit of her students.

As a member of the non-governmental organization Sociologists for Women in Society and as co-chair of that organization's Women of Color Committee, Boyles joined other experts in the field of gender equality as a catalyst for social change.

"I have a unique opportunity as a feminist race scholar and researcher to represent an academic organization and committee in a global space and be engaged in ways that help shape what we know about gender inequality," said Boyles.

During the gathering, Boyles joined international women from diverse backgrounds and engaged with other women who are leaders in the advancement of gender equality. Other UN entities and non-governmental organizations from throughout the world attended the event.

"This is important to me because I've been engaged in this work throughout my career," said Boyles. "I had the opportunity to



Outstanding  
FACULTY

work with peers who specialize globally in the kind of work I do."

Boyles intends to bring her experience back to the classroom with her and further her students' knowledge by giving them relevant real-world examples and experiences to study.

"Education fuels research, and from there research fuels education," said Boyles. "So, it's essential to me that I bring these experiences and knowledge back to the classroom with me."

The CSW's annual two-week convention is entirely dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and also focuses on promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives around the globe. Boyles has been a member of the SWS for nearly 11 years.

Boyles has been teaching at Lindenwood University-Belleville for nearly eight years on issues of gender and race, bringing her research and experience into her classroom lessons and discussions. She has a Ph.D. in sociology with concentrations in gender and criminology from Kansas State University and a master's degree in sociology and a bachelor's degree in English from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo.

She is the author of *Race, Place, and Suburban Policing: Too Close for Comfort* and was a contributor/essayist in *Segregation by Design* with a forthcoming manuscript on *Community Disorder and Social Ties in Post-Ferguson* and is involved in a number of other social initiatives. ■

## Yearian Honored with Reading Educator of the Year Award

**Dr. Stephanie Yearian** a teacher of teachers at Lindenwood University-Belleville, was recently honored with the **2018 Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award** by the Illinois Reading Council at its annual conference in Peoria, Ill.

The award recognizes an outstanding teacher who makes significant contributions in promoting literacy among students, colleagues, and school communities. The award winner receives a monetary award, an engraved plaque, a personalized banner, and recognition at the annual Illinois Reading Council conference.

Yearian, associate professor of education leadership, was nominated for the award by fourth grade teacher and Lindenwood Belleville alumna Sharon Ray; Tracy Keilbach, parent of a student at

Mascoutah Middle School; and the late Dr. Steve Suess, former chair of the Education and Counseling Division at Lindenwood Belleville.

"Since 2010, Dr. Yearian has served...at Lindenwood University-Belleville, where her major deployment revolves around reading and literacy pedagogy," wrote Suess in his nomination letter.

He cited her broad scope of reading analysis and methods class, as well as her direction of Camp Lynx Tales, a summer reading camp in which children from the community learn from Lindenwood Belleville reading methods teachers, which helps struggling young readers and provides valuable experiences for education students.

Beyond her impact at Lindenwood Belleville, nominator Jackye Biehl, administrator from the First Baptist Academy, said Yearian has worked with that school to provide one-on-one instruction to struggling readers in the

Opportunity for Academic Restoration (O.A.R.) program.

"Stephanie has an exciting classroom that engages students to think deeply while reinforcing comprehension, oral reading fluency, and phonetic foundations, and does it all with excellence," said Biehl. "Without a doubt, she is one of the most skilled and creative teachers I have had the pleasure of working with over my years at the First Baptist Academy."

Likewise, Keilbach's daughter received tutoring from Yearian to assist with her reading skills, which her mother said gave her the tools she needed to enhance her reading ability.

"She has gained a new appreciation for reading and has flourished in the classroom because of the relationship she has with Dr. Yearian," said Keilbach. "I have been so impressed with the confidence she has gained through the tools Dr. Yearian gave her." ■



Outstanding  
FACULTY





## Teaching by example

Mead Finds Publishing Success with *Dancing Madly* by Chris Duggan

AS DIRECTOR OF LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY'S MFA IN WRITING PROGRAM, **Beth Mead has watched with great satisfaction** as her students and graduates have placed their works in literary magazines and even published book-length manuscripts. This year, she will celebrate some publishing success of her own with her new book, *Dancing Madly*, a collection of short pieces due out this summer.

Though she has placed numerous short works in journals, this is her first book, published by Adelaide Books in July of this year. It contains 25 pieces: short stories, flash fiction, and flash nonfiction.

"The stories in *Dancing Madly* explore how we keep trying to survive in our flawed ways as life breaks us down, sends us spinning—that mad dance that gets us through each day," Mead said.

Mead's prose is hauntingly gripping, steeped in yearning, regret, and memory (an excerpt is on the facing page).

The book deal sprung from the publication of her short story "Mothers," published last year by Adelaide Literary Journal in New York. After the story was published, she was approached by a representative of Adelaide, who told her they were accepting manuscripts and asked her if she had one available.

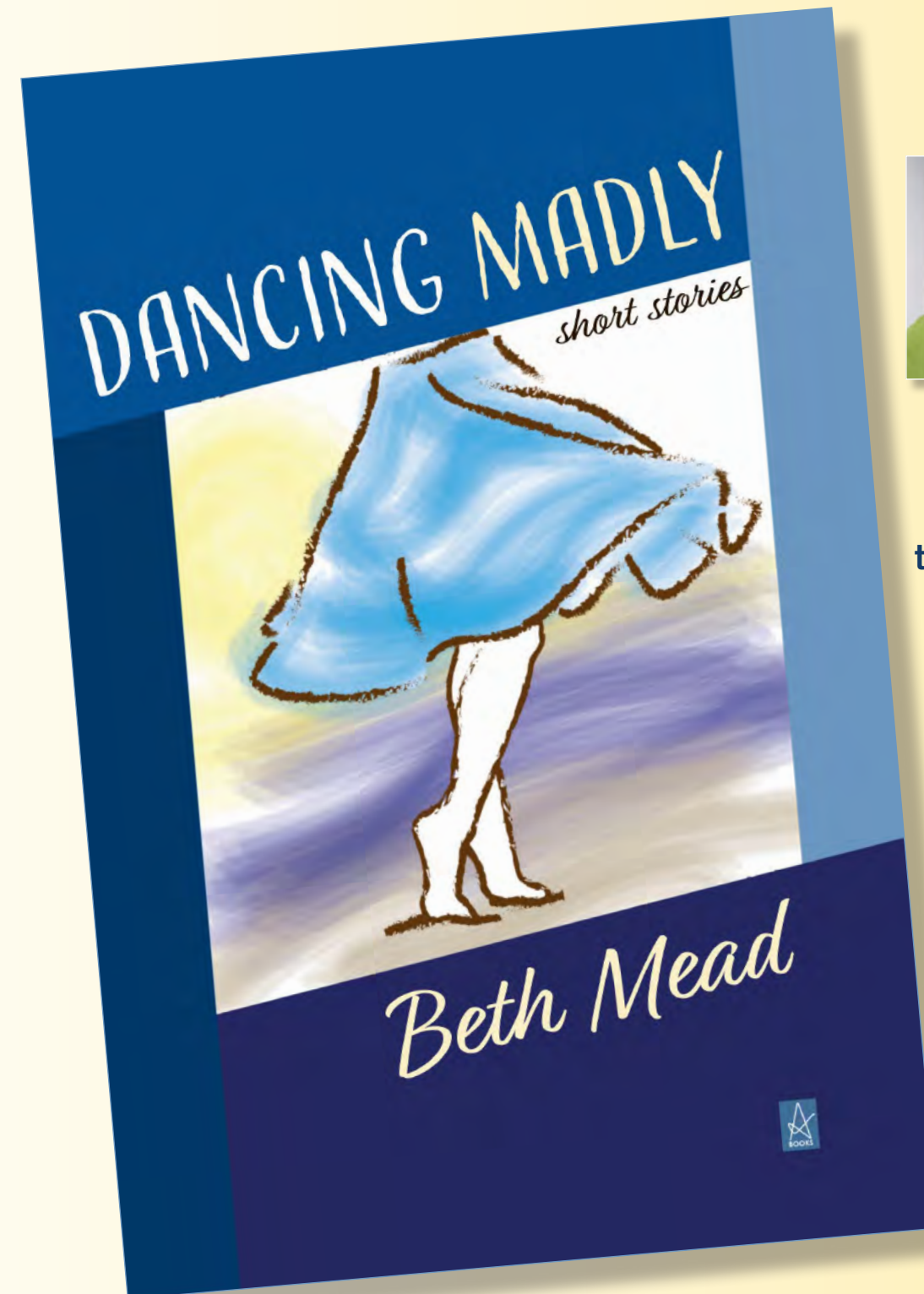
"I said I had a collection of fiction, flash fiction, and flash nonfiction, and he asked me to submit a proposal," Mead said. "Then shortly after that, he asked for the full manuscript."

Mead strongly urges her students to submit their works to literary magazines as much as they can; though it is a sometimes frustrating process filled with rejection, it is the best way to build toward getting a full-length work published.

"Start by getting individual pieces published in literary journals," Mead said. "After about 15 or so pieces have been accepted by strong journals, then you can send query letters to reputable presses that accept unsolicited manuscripts."

An as-yet-unscheduled event is in the works in which Mead, MFA faculty member Gillian Parrish, and MFA alumni and faculty will read from their books. Details will be posted on the MFA program website at [www.lindenwood.edu/MFAwriting](http://www.lindenwood.edu/MFAwriting) and on the program's Facebook page.

Lindenwood's nationally recognized MFA in Writing program is available in-classroom and entirely or partially online. The program publishes a literary magazine, *The Lindenwood Review*, annually in the spring. ■



"The stories in *Dancing Madly* explore how we keep trying to survive in our flawed ways as life breaks us down..."

BETH MEAD

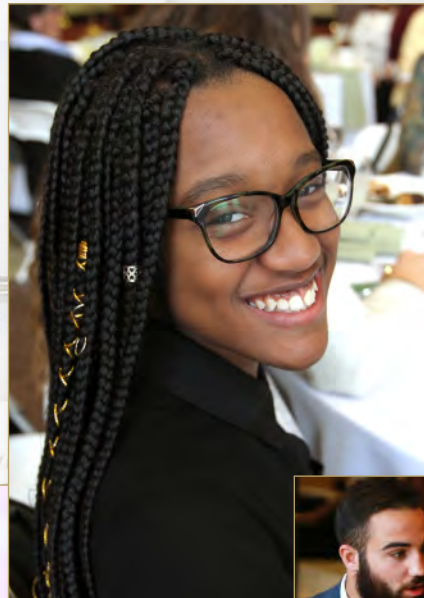
### Long Lost

*I found that photo today, the one with a blurred edge of thumb hiding your mouth. I'm sure you were smiling—it's there in your eyes. Like water, those eyes. I drank them over and over and over. Where are you now? Do you watch the morning bruise of sky with her hand light on your chest? Cover my eyes again. See that day of lilacs, wine staining our lips. Find me in your drawer of lost things. I wait there, my veins shining blue through the clear skin of my wrist. I wait like this. — Excerpt from *Dancing Madly**





Student  
FOCUS



Keyona Rogers, Robert and Grace Moeller Scholarship



Alumna Kay Wilkinson ('60)

SCHOLARSHIP DONOR  
Kay M. Wilkinson ('60)  
Emma Purnell Business Management  
Memorial Scholarship



Colten Hernandez, Acropolis Finance  
Scholarship, and donor Trish Collier

# Endowed Scholarship Luncheon

March 20, 2019 • J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY'S annual **Endowed Scholarship Luncheon** affords donors the opportunity to meet the students who have been awarded the scholarships they created. Lindenwood awarded more than 200 endowed scholarships for 2018-19, totaling near \$550,000. Speakers included donor and alumna **Kay Wilkinson ('60)** and scholarship recipient **Joe Bruno**, who received the Art and Carol Goodall Math and Science Scholarship.

Lindenwood thanks its generous donors for supporting our students.



Student  
FOCUS

# Crossing the Finish Line

## Lions' Reserve Fund Helps Students in Need

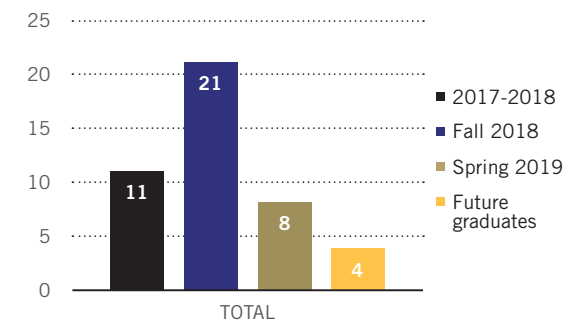
**M**AKING THE DREAM of a college degree a reality depends on many factors: **hard work, focus, determination, and, of course, funding.** For many students, that dream can be delayed or destroyed simply because that final piece, funding, runs out prior to graduation, often when students are within sight of the finish line.

In 2016, Lindenwood University launched the **Lions' Reserve Fund** to provide a bridge for students to get across the finish line and complete their degrees. Since its launch, more than \$550,000 has been raised for the Lions' Reserve. More recently, in light of the success of the Lions' Reserve, the **Lynx Reserve** was created to assist students in need at the Lindenwood University-Belleville campus. Since the 2016-17 academic year, awards have been granted to 44 students, 32 of which graduated by fall 2018. All but four had graduated by spring 2019.

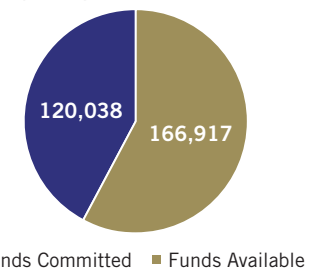
Donors can support students with financial setbacks by giving or pledging a gift. Through philanthropic giving and support from our donors, students at Lindenwood University will have the opportunity to accomplish their educational dreams.

By giving to the Lions' Reserve and Lynx Reserve funds, donors can help to ease the financial struggles of students seeking to complete their degrees. To make a donation to the Lions' Reserve or Lynx Reserve Fund, call 636.949.4903 or give online at [www.lindenwood.edu/lions-reserve](http://www.lindenwood.edu/lions-reserve).

Graduation of Lions' Reserve Recipients



Lions' Reserve Funding 2018-19 (FY19)







## PUBLISHING SUCCESS COMES TO Exercise Science Team

by Brian Vorce

James Malloy, Chad Kerksick,  
Megan Cottet, and Patrick Harty

CONTINUING an impressive string of publication success by Lindenwood University exercise science students, faculty, and alumni, a team consisting of two current Lindenwood students, a Lindenwood alumna, and a faculty member recently produced an article that was published in the high-quality peer-reviewed journal *Sports Medicine-Open*.



Patrick Harty, a current graduate student; Megan Cottet, who earned her bachelor's in exercise science in 2014 and master's in human performance in 2017 from Lindenwood; and James Malloy, a current undergraduate student in the School of Health Sciences, were authors on the paper along with Dr. Chad Kerksick, associate professor of exercise science and director of the Exercise and Performance Nutrition Laboratory.

Titled "Nutritional and Supplementation Strategies to Prevent and Attenuate Exercise-Induced Muscle Damage: a Brief Review," the paper addresses how athletes minimize soreness and maximize their recovery from strenuous exercise.

"Several different nutritional ingredients have been researched for their ability to help with this recovery," Kerksick said. "Several papers have been published, but few papers have summarized the outcomes from these studies."

Cottet, who currently works for Lindenwood as an exercise science instructor, said she started the project her first year of graduate school in 2016.

"I dove into finding all of the research studies that had anything to do with nutrition interventions for muscle damage and found close to 200 articles," Cottet said. "After spending over 200 hours reading, charting, and writing, we decided to press pause and wait for the rest of the crew to complete their part of the project. Two years later, Chad and I had Pat finish it up for one of his many independent study projects, and James did an awesome job making the charts and tables for the paper."

The paper took between 8 and 10 weeks to organize, prepare, and submit to the journal. Kerksick said he is proud of this paper and the work of the team.

"At the end of this semester, I will have been at Lindenwood for five years," Kerksick said. "During that

time, we have seen exponential growth in the number of students involved in all aspects of the research process. This one stands out because only current or former Lindenwood students are co-authors on the paper and it has a combination of graduate and undergraduate students involved. It will be a continual resource and reference for current and future investigations."

Malloy, who will graduate in May with a bachelor's in exercise science, said he hopes the research will help people better understand delayed-onset muscle soreness.

"I believe our diligence resulted in a comprehensive review that will greatly benefit its readers and the future study of this topic," Malloy said. "Assisting in this project provided me great insight into the research process, and it gave me much to look forward to when I pursue graduate education." ■

LINDENWOOD

Pomp & Circumstance

## Mother and Daughter Graduate Together, Twice

by Brian Vorce

Michele and Maya Rodriguez, mother and daughter, earned their master's degrees at May Commencement after earning bachelor's degrees from Lindenwood in December 2017.

Michele, who earned her bachelor's in healthcare management, is earning her master's in human resource management. Maya, a criminal justice graduate in 2017, is earning her master's in criminal justice, as well.

"I knew that my mom always wanted to earn her degree, but it was always placed on the backburner in order to financially provide for the family and to be physically present in the household because my dad was in the Navy and was deployed often," Maya said. "This is her dream fulfilled and no longer deferred. I am proud of her and honored to share this accomplishment with her."

While living in Virginia, Michele owned a beauty salon, but she relocated to St. Louis to support family members in need of help at the time. Michele realized she had no marketable skills to get a decent job and did not know any clientele to rely on cosmetology. Shortly after Maya enrolled at Lindenwood, Michele enrolled in Lindenwood's School of Accelerated Degree Programs (ADP).

Realizing she could complete her undergraduate degree at the same time as her mother, Maya transferred to ADP. Maya and Michele said completing their degrees together let them discuss research papers and practice presentations with one another.

"ADP is perfect for working adults, and attending one class for four hours per night allowed for us to maintain a wonderful school, work, and home-life balance," Michele said. "We worked very hard to encourage and support each other and agreed that we would continue with ADP to get our graduate degrees."

After the duo walked across the commencement stage together in 2017, they came back for more in 2019.

"For me, it's surreal," said Michele. "This has been a dual accomplishment that we can share for generations. I am extremely proud of Maya, she did this while being a single parent to a toddler, undergoing brain surgery to remove a tumor, and working a full-time job. What an exemplary display of commitment and long-suffering!" ■

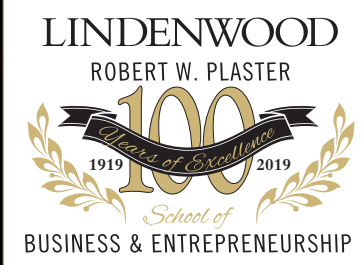


Lindenwood University  
REAL SUCCESS



# Century Gala

Plaster School of Business  
Celebrates 100 Years



Roger Ellis, dean of the Plaster School of Business and Entrepreneurship



On **MARCH 23**, the Robert W. Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship celebrated its centennial with a gala at the St. Charles Convention Center.

The event was a fitting celebration of the business school's 100-year anniversary with more than 200 in attendance for dinner, live music, and a student-directed video about the school. Roger Ellis, dean of the Plaster School of Business, served as master of ceremonies.



# Commence!

Graduation ceremonies  
held May 10 and 11 in  
St. Charles and Belleville.



All told, more than **1,500 graduates** participated in **five ceremonies**. The St. Charles Family Arena was the site of a graduate ceremony on May 10 and two undergraduate ceremonies on May 11, and two undergraduate ceremonies were held on May 11 in the Auditorium on the Belleville campus.





## SAVE THE DATE! HOMECOMING & REUNION 2019

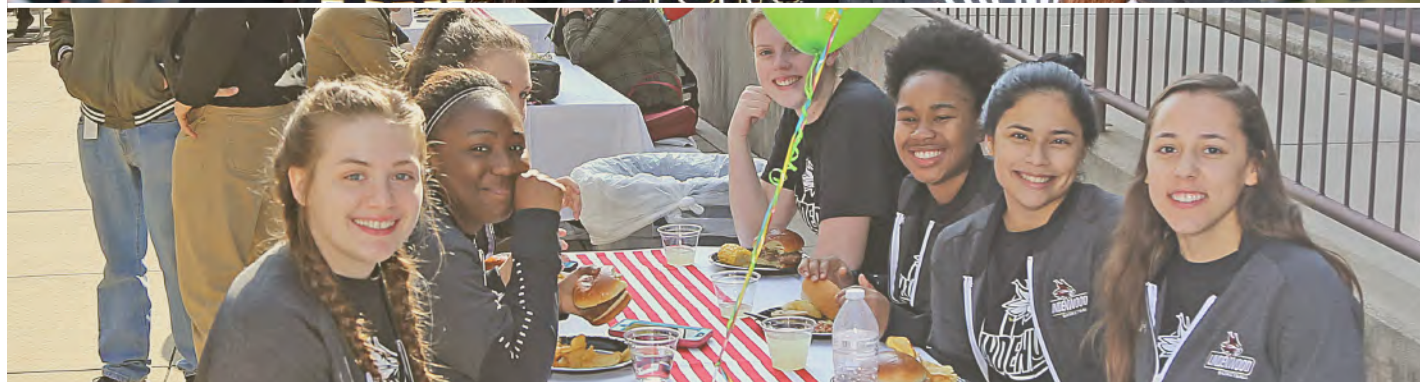
Plans are underway for the 2019 Homecoming and Reunion to be held on Oct. 10-12 on the St. Charles campus and Oct. 11-13 on the Belleville campus.

Reconnect with your classmates and beloved professors, see what's new on campus, and rekindle your school spirit! On the St. Charles campus, the class of 1969 will celebrate its 50-year reunion. We look forward

to welcoming all alumni back to campus and honoring them with many events and activities. There is no time quite like Homecoming to stroll the grounds, revisit old familiar places, and connect with

old friends and former professors. For more information or to update your contact information, contact University Relations at 636-949-4424 or alumni@lindenwood.edu. More Homecoming and

Reunion information will be sent out later this summer, or you can check out the Homecoming and Reunion web page: search for Homecoming from [www.lindenwood.edu](http://www.lindenwood.edu) or [www.lindenwood.edu/belleville](http://www.lindenwood.edu/belleville).



Christine Rands ('96, '01) with Dr. Anthony Scheffler, dean of the School of Education



Dr. Ricardo Delgado, dean of the School of Sciences, with chemistry grads Santo Dragone ('16), Michael Bengston ('13), and Nicole Konsdorf ('13), and their guests

## ALUMNI COME OUT for VIP Basketball Event

ON FEB. 9, 2019, approximately 100 alumni and friends gathered for food and fellowship and to watch men's and women's basketball take on the Griffons of Missouri Western University.

The gathering in Hyland Arena's VIP Room was an opportunity for any and all alumni to meet and touch base with fellow alumni, faculty, and staff while enjoying the games. ■

## PSYCHOLOGY ALUMNI Gather for Symposium

IN NOVEMBER 2018, 18 alumni of Lindenwood's Psychology program returned to campus to give back in various ways to the program's Social Science Student Symposium. Alumni served as judges for students' research presentations, moderators for discussions, and even as lead vocalist for the event's entertainment.

Madison Vander Wielen ('16), currently employed as board-certified behavior analyst, served

as a judge and a model for future graduates.

"I think the students benefited from connecting with alumni and seeing what some past graduates pursued after graduating with a similar degree," she said. "Current students were given the opportunity to see where a degree in psychology can take you."

McKinzie Duesenberg ('17), currently a doctoral student in school psychology, and Tricia Weaver ('16), currently a social work graduate student, served as judges.



Madison Vander Wielen ('16) examines student Beanna Slusher's research poster

"Future graduates might be more willing to mentor students due to this kind of connection with alumni during their own time at Lindenwood," Weaver said. "Alumni can offer information and serve as resources for newly graduating students. Students feel supported when an alum takes an interest in their work."

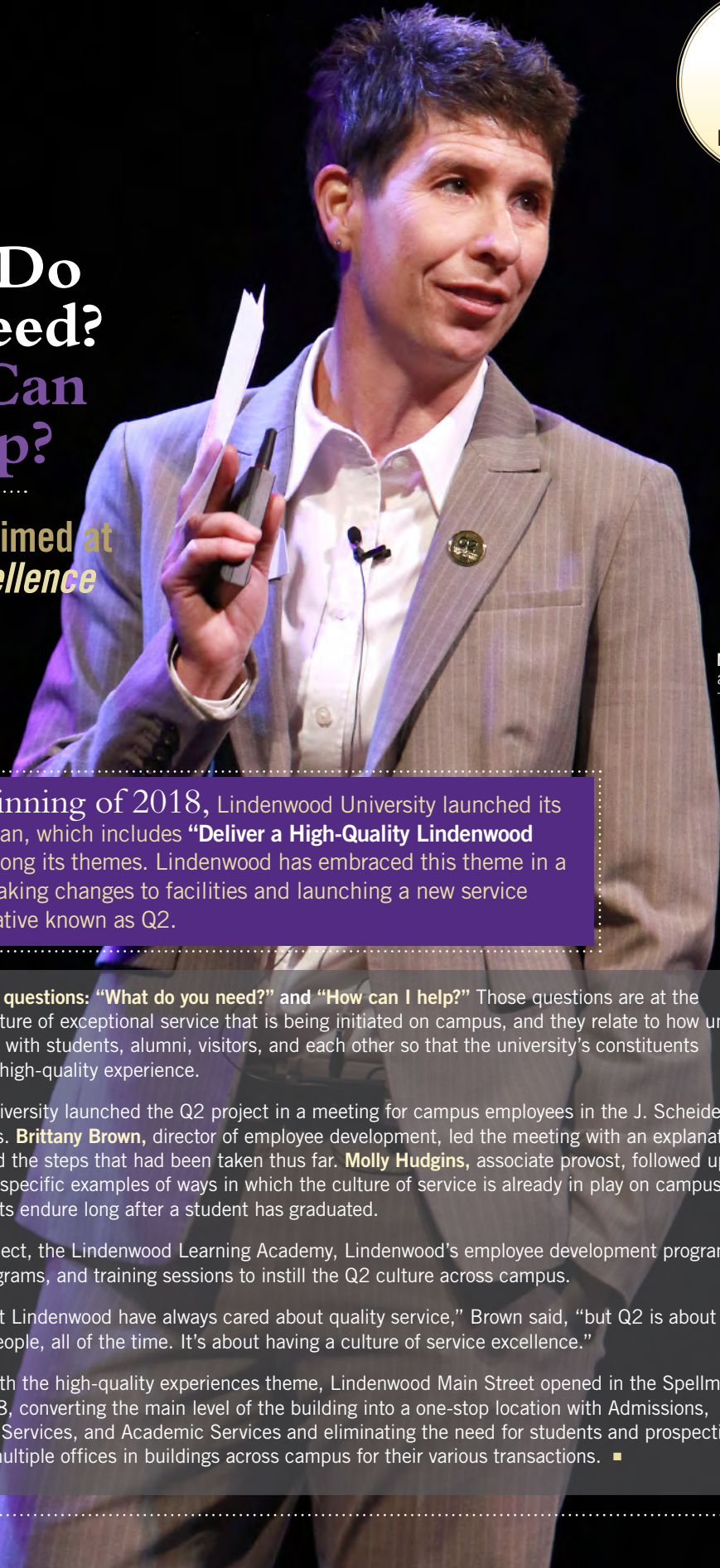
Rachel Blair ('12), employed as a client manager for a medical billing service, served as a lead vocalist for the band Borrowed Notes, which consists of Lindenwood faculty and staff and provided entertainment during the event's alumni luncheon. ■





# What Do You Need? How Can I Help?

## Q2 Initiative Aimed at Service Excellence



Molly Hudgins at the Q2 launch event

At the beginning of 2018, Lindenwood University launched its new strategic plan, which includes “Deliver a High-Quality Lindenwood Experience” among its themes. Lindenwood has embraced this theme in a couple ways, making changes to facilities and launching a new service excellence initiative known as Q2.

**Q2 stands for two questions:** “What do you need?” and “How can I help?” Those questions are at the heart of a new culture of exceptional service that is being initiated on campus, and they relate to how university personnel interact with students, alumni, visitors, and each other so that the university’s constituents have a consistent high-quality experience.

In January, the university launched the Q2 project in a meeting for campus employees in the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts. **Brittany Brown**, director of employee development, led the meeting with an explanation of the concept and the steps that had been taken thus far. **Molly Hudgins**, associate provost, followed up with a presentation on specific examples of ways in which the culture of service is already in play on campus and how the effects endure long after a student has graduated.

As part of the project, the Lindenwood Learning Academy, Lindenwood’s employee development program, offers events, programs, and training sessions to instill the Q2 culture across campus.

“The employees at Lindenwood have always cared about quality service,” Brown said, “but Q2 is about caring about all people, all of the time. It’s about having a culture of service excellence.”

Also in keeping with the high-quality experiences theme, Lindenwood Main Street opened in the Spellmann Center in fall 2018, converting the main level of the building into a one-stop location with Admissions, Student Financial Services, and Academic Services and eliminating the need for students and prospective students to visit multiple offices in buildings across campus for their various transactions. ■



# GYMNASTICS ACHIEVES RARITY in Trip to NCAA Regional

Lindenwood gymnastics team member Andavea Alexander



**T**HE LINDENWOOD GYMNASTICS TEAM HAS ONLY BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR SEVEN YEARS AND HAS MADE HISTORY YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT. In 2019 the team did so again, becoming just the third NCAA Division II gymnastics program to qualify for an NCAA Regional. Lindenwood joins Bridgeport (2013) and Seattle Pacific (1988) as the only non-Division I institutions to qualify for an NCAA Regional.

The Lions will were selected to the Baton Rouge Regional against power-5 conference members LSU, Auburn, George Washington, and Arizona. All five teams in the regional were ranked in the top 30 in the country while Lindenwood ended the season ranked No. 36.

The gymnastics program started competing in 2013 and has completed seven seasons of competition. No gymnastics program in the country at any level has ever made an ascent to the regionals as quickly as Lindenwood has.

“Seeing the caliber of gymnasts the first year of the program and the desire they had, I thought eventually we could do this,” said Head Coach **Jen Llewellyn**, who started at Lindenwood as a graduate assistant in 2013 and became head coach in 2014. “It’s always been n my radar, and we talked about it last year as a team. We didn’t actively say it was our goal but knew it was possible. At each meet, we just focused on how we could get a 10th better.”

NCAA gymnastics has a format that allows programs from all divisions to reach the national championships based on their national qualifying score, which takes the top six scores of the season, eliminates the best and averages the remaining five.

There have been a lot of firsts in the history of the program and preceding the first regional trip were the first wins over Division I teams: Iowa State and Mizzou. So, this grand stage isn’t entirely new for the Lions.

“We made the schedule a lot more difficult,” Llewellyn said. “We have the luxury of choosing where we go. I tried as much as possible to get more power-five teams and Division I schools to build our confidence. So, strategically we made it more competitive, and they handled it well.”

The Lions have won two USA Gymnastics Women’s Collegiate National Championships in their seven-year history. Lindenwood captured its first title in 2015 and secured its second title the following season at home in Hyland Arena.

Last month, Lindenwood secured a share of the Midwest Independent Conference (MIC) title for the fifth consecutive season, setting a new conference record in the process. The Lions set a new program record this season with a Regional Qualifying Score (RQS) of 195.400, the highest mark in program history. ■





Lindenwood  
SPORTS

## LINDENWOOD CONTINGENT Impacts USA Eagles at Americas Rugby Championship

by Phil Vida



Malon Al-Jiboori. Photo courtesy of USA Rugby

THREE CURRENT AND FORMER LIONS were selected for the USA Men's National Team squad for the 2019 Americas Rugby Championship that concluded March 8 in Seattle, Wash. Chance Wenglewski, Tadgh Leader, and Malon Al-Jiboori all gained valuable international experience during the premier competition in the Western Hemisphere.

Wenglewski was one of only two current college players selected to the 35-player squad, continuing

an already impressive international career. The senior graphic design major played at Soldier Field against New Zealand last fall and again in Ireland a couple of weeks later.

Leader, a recent Lindenwood graduate, experienced his first international appearance for the USA after emigrating from Ireland. Leader recently moved to Boston after inking a deal with the New England Free Jacks in Major League Rugby (MLR).

Al-Jiboori also signed a new professional contract in the MLR with the Glendale Raptors and was picked for the USA XV's team after a long stint at the Olympic Training

Center. He made the switch in codes after being featured in nine different HSBC Sevens World Series tournaments.

On the staff side of the equation, former Lindenwood assistant coach Jimmy Harrison served as the performance analyst for Team USA.

The Americas Rugby Championship featured teams from the USA, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and Uruguay. The United States finished third in the event with a 3-2 record and wins over Chile, Brazil, and Canada. Team USA was defeated by Uruguay and 2019 Americas Rugby champion Argentina XV. ■

## FORMER LINDENWOOD BOWLERS Earn Top Seed at PBA Doubles Event

FORMER LINDENWOOD BOWLERS Brad Miller and Kyle Sherman combined to earn the top seed at the Mark Roth-Marshall Holman Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Doubles Championship Jan. 12 at Firelake Bowling Center in Shawnee, Okla.

Miller and Sherman combined to average 233.71 over two qualifying rounds, which was good enough for third place. Over the next two days, the former Lions were 9-3 in doubles baker match play and moved into first place. The duo only had to bowl and win one baker game to capture the title at the stepladder finals, which aired Jan. 20 on FS1, but came up short 213-200 against the fifth-seeded team of Matt Ogle and Sean Rash.



Brad Miller and Kyle Sherman. Photo courtesy of PBA, LLC

Despite the loss, it was the best professional finish for the Lindenwood graduates. Miller bowled for the Lions from 2008 to 2012 and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2013. Sherman bowled from 2012 to 2016 and earned a degree in accounting in the spring of 2016. He was part of the team that won the USBC Collegiate National Championship in 2014. ■



Lindenwood-Belleville  
SPORTS

## THREE SELECTED TO REPRESENT U.S. at World University Games

by Charlie Mager

THE NO. 3-RANKED LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY-BELLEVILLE women's ice hockey team had three players selected to the U.S. team at the 2019 World University Games in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, March 1-9: freshman goaltender Hannah Stone, junior forward Alicia Williams, and junior defenseman Katie Stelling.

The roster consisted of players competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association and American Collegiate Hockey Association.

"This shows a tremendous amount of success for our program," said Lindenwood Head Coach Kat Hannah. "With the high percentage of Canadians on the team, we have seven Americans on the team and three of them made it to represent their country."

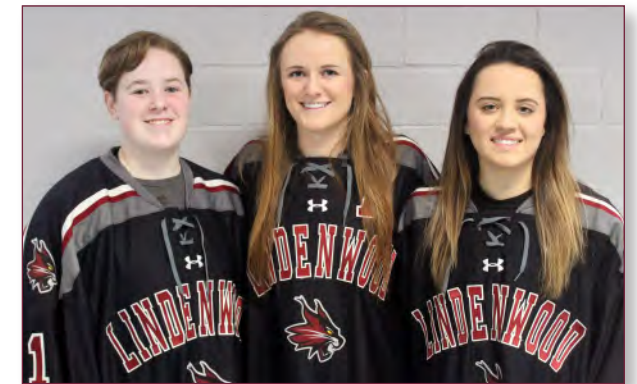
This season, the Lady Lynx defeated multiple nationally ranked opponents and achieved their highest ranking in program history. They also claimed the championship at the Robert Morris-Chicago Showcase Tournament, upending three ranked teams on their way to the crown.

Williams, a native of Virginia, Minn., is in her third season with the Lynx.

"Alicia came here without me having ever seen her play before," said Hannah. "She reached out to me and said, 'If you bring me in, you won't regret it,' and I haven't for a minute."

She expressed gratitude for being placed on the U.S. team.

Hannah Stone, Alicia Williams,  
and Katie Stelling



"I am so grateful to be named to this team," said Williams. "It is such a privilege to represent my country. I was surprised to be picked for the team, and it's a tremendous opportunity. I already play with some of the best players in the league every day, so to be chosen for this team is such an honor."

Stone, a freshman goalie from Killingsworth, Conn., has broken many school records in her first year of college play. Perhaps the most impressive feat by Stone this season came on Feb. 10 as she led the charge in a 23-save, 1-0 shutout of No. 1-ranked Adrian College.

"She has made her mark early on," said Hannah. "In her second performance against Liberty, the national champs, she gave us the opportunity to tie and eventually win the game."

"I was speechless when I was named to the team," said Stone. "It has always been a goal and dream of mine to represent the United States, and it's nice to see the effort paying off."

Stelling, a junior defenseman from Santa Cruz, Calif., is the second Lady Lynx defenseman to be named to the University Games squad, following Alex Brown's selection in 2017.

"Katie is a fierce competitor and more than deserves a chance to play at the highest level," said Hannah.

In her freshman season, she scored 14 goals with five assists in 33 games, including five power-play goals and four game-winning goals. She followed up an injury shortened sophomore year with another strong season as a junior.

"I'm grateful and honored to be selected and to have this amazing opportunity to play for my country," said Stelling. ■



# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Lindenwood University  
REAL SUCCESS

## '00s

**Heather Lichtenberg Duckworth ('01)** joined Axiom Product Administration in November 2018 as the executive assistant to the CEO. She has a degree in business administration from Lindenwood and lives in O'Fallon, Mo.

**Scott Hufty ('04)** has been promoted to president of Lincoln County Bancorp, Inc. Previously, he



served as senior accountant for the company. When he transitions into his new position of president, Hufty's duties will shift into overseeing bank affairs at a macro level and ensuring the operational needs of each chartered bank are met. He lives in his hometown of Silex, Mo., with his wife Kelly and two children, Connor and Claire.

**Libby Magee ('05)**, who teaches at O'Fallon Township High School in Illinois, was named a finalist for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching by Golden Apple, a leading Illinois nonprofit committed to recognizing exemplary educators and developing future educators. She was one of 32 Golden Apple honorees from throughout Illinois.

**Angela Richards ('05)** was named president of Givin' It All For Guts, a local nonprofit organization focused on making a difference of those struggling with Crohn's Disease and Colitis. She currently serves as customer service manager for Mississippi Lime Company in St. Louis, Mo. She lives with her daughter near Bethalto, Ill.

## Todd Roach ('05)

was recently named director of human resources for Schafer Industries, based in Clayton, Mo. He was also elected in April to the City Council for O'Fallon, Ill., having previously served as vice president of the O'Fallon District #90 School Board and trustee of O'Fallon Township. He and wife Jackie have four children: Kaleigh, 9, Stella, 8, and twins Olivia and Resse, who were born Nov. 11, 2018.



**Daniel Amsinger ('06)** is manager of affiliate operations for NBCUniversal in Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

**William "Buddy" Mckenzie ('06)** recently finished his LPC and is a school therapist for Bourbon School District. He has been married 17 years with three active and accomplished kids, Billy, Liberty, and Boston. After earning his degree in educational studies at Lindenwood, he has earned master's degrees in psychology and industrial and organizational psychology. In addition to his full-time job, he teaches as an adjunct at East Central College and Central Methodist University.

**Majayka "Maji" Francis ('09)** was recently hired as purchasing director for Goodwill Industries in Fort Worth, Texas. In this position, Francis is responsible for oversight of supply chain operations and the overall purchasing function for the agency, including negotiation of buying goods, equipment, and services. She has 19 years of experience in the field and earned her bachelor's in business administration at Lindenwood.

## '10s

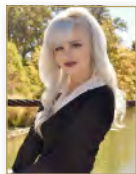
**Molly Engleking ('12, '14)** was named to the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce Young Professional's Board. She works at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and is a two-time graduate of the School of Accelerated Degree Programs with a bachelor's in business administration and a master's in project management.

**Christine Hoffmann Slatin ('12)** a journalism and studio arts major, was married to Zach Slatin on Sept. 29, 2018. They live in St. Louis.

**Emily Cox ('13)** has been named administrator at Signature Medical Group in St. Louis. She had been working at Signature as an athletic trainer and physician extender transitioned to workers' compensation and marketing coordinator. In her new role, she will oversee administrative operations for multiple locations, including offices in St. Charles, O'Fallon, and St. Peters. She has a bachelor's degree in athletic training and a master's in healthcare administration, both from Lindenwood.

**Jaycee Rashelle ('13)** is an exercise science graduate. She has since earned a doctorate in physical therapy and joined the Navy, with which she serves in Okinawa, Japan.

**Alexandra Bardon ('15)**, who holds a bachelor's degree in studio art, was recently hired as web content administrator at Lindenwood University. She is responsible for a variety of website additions and updates on the site as part of the University Relations staff. She and her husband, Alex, who graduated Lindenwood in 2015 with a bachelor's in music, live in St. Charles.



## Barbara Bultman ('15)

is a St. Louis-based fashion designer, doing business as Barbara Bultman Designs. She presented one of her fashion lines on the closing night of Kansas City Fashion Week on March 30. She was featured in a Kansas City publication, The Pitch, the day of the show.



**Lauren Cumming ('15)** was named principal of Bernard Middle School in the Mehlville School District in South St. Louis County for the 2019-20 school year. She has served as assistant principal at the school for the past three years. She lives in Glendale, Mo., with her husband, Paul.

**Nicholas Hogue ('16)** was recently promoted to UX programmer analyst at Edward Jones and lives in St. Louis. His Lindenwood degree is in interactive media and web design.

**Serena Rossi ('17) and Simon Piñeiro ('17)** got married on Jan. 14, 2019. Serena is from Italy and came to Lindenwood to take ESL class but wound up staying to get her bachelor's. She and Simon met while working at the Spellmann Center cafeteria. Serena majored in graphic design; Simon majored in criminal justice, in which he also earned a master's.

**Ariel White ('17)** and husband Roy celebrated their daughter's first birthday on March 19, 2019, as well as their first year in their home on Jan. 30, 2019. With a master's in criminal justice and nonprofit administration, she recently transitioned from security work to working in the Sexual Assault Victims' Care Unit at Call for Help Inc. in Illinois.

Submit your alumni news and notes to  
Alumni@lindenwood.edu

## Brittany Norwood ('18)

completed her Bachelor of Science in information technology on December 30, 2018, and started a new job at Boeing in February as an enterprise problem management. Her mother, Gayla Norwood, will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in business administration on June 30, 2019.



## Kelsey Whitley ('18)

of Hannibal, Mo., was recently named principal of Eugene Field Elementary School in the Hannibal School District for the 2019-20 academic year. She has taught in the school district for seven years; this will be her first principal position. She earned her Ed.S. degree from Lindenwood.

**Logan Wolf ('18)** of Highland, Ill., was honored by the Quilt of Valor Foundation in January. The organization awards veterans of America's wars with quilts aimed to help them heal after their experiences in war. Wolf is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where he served as a combat engineer clearing explosive devices.

## Jill Palmer

has been selected to serve as the principal of Westport Elementary School in Springfield, Mo., for the 2019-2020 school year. Palmer, who is completing her doctorate in instructional leadership at Lindenwood, began her career with Springfield Public Schools in 2001, serving as a teacher at Kickapoo High School, a science curriculum facilitator, and as coordinator of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program.



# SPRING 2019

## 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.

Deceased records after November issue of *LINDENWOOD*

**Ms. Jean Bradfisch ('48)**, Joplin, Mo.

**Frances (Casey) Clair Jones Ancker ('49)**, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Mrs. Suk H. Shum ('54)**, Indianapolis, Ind.

**Mary Fletcher Cox Branch ('60)**, St. Louis, Mo.

**Jane G. Ratliff ('61)**, San Antonio, Texas

**Margo Kelsey Roberts ('71)**, Broken Arrow, Okla.

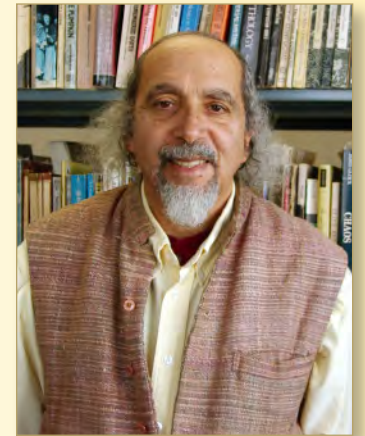
**President James I. Spainhower (1983 to 1988)**

**Michael Castro (former professor)**

## Michael Castro

(1945 to 2018)

**Michael Castro, who was born in New York City, is widely credited with helping shape the poetry scene in St. Louis.** The author of several books of poetry, he was one of the founding poets of St. Louis' River Styx in the 1970s, which still holds readings and publishes a literary magazine of the same name. He served as St. Louis' first poet laureate from 2014 to 2017, and he taught for 32 years at Lindenwood University, founding the institution's MFA in Writing program along the way.



## James Spainhower

(1928 to 2018)

**The youngest of 14 children, James Spainhower was born in Stanberry, Mo., and had a distinguished career in politics and higher education.** He served as a representative in Missouri's state legislature and was also elected Missouri state treasurer twice. He served as president of the School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., prior to becoming president of Lindenwood College, for which he served from 1983 to 1988.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Entertainment

July 12, 2019  
**Scheidegger Center  
2019-20 Season  
Announcement,**  
LUBoxOffice.com

July 27, 2019  
**3 p.m., All Hands on  
Deck** (benefit patriotic  
music/theatre show),  
J. Scheidegger  
Center for the Arts

Oct. 23, 2019  
**6-10 p.m.  
Dark Carnival**  
St. Charles Campus

### Education

Aug. 21-25, 2019  
**New Student  
Orientation**  
St. Charles Campus

Aug. 26, 2019  
**Fall Semester  
Classes** begin

### Sports

Sept. 7, 2019  
**3 p.m., Lynx Football  
Home Opener**  
vs. Marian University,  
Lindenwood Stadium

Sept. 14, 2019  
**TBA, Lions Football  
Home Opener**  
vs. Midwestern  
State University,  
Harlen Hunter Stadium

### Family

Sept. 21, 2019  
**Family Day,**  
St. Charles Campus

Oct. 23, 2019  
**6-10 p.m.  
Dark Carnival**  
St. Charles Campus

### Alumni

Oct. 10-12, 2019  
**Homecoming**  
St. Charles Campus

Oct. 11-13, 2019  
**Homecoming**  
Belleville campus

Sept. 30 to  
Oct. 4, 2019  
**Giving Week**

For information about these events visit  
[www.lindenwood.edu](http://www.lindenwood.edu)