

LINDENWOOD

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Cornerback,
It's All About
Giving Back



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A SEASON OF FIRSTS AT LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY



Hello, alumni and friends of Lindenwood University, thank you for reading our latest edition of the alumni magazine! I hope you and your families are doing well living through the challenges posed by a pandemic. Lindenwood, like most institutions, is closed to the public, but the university is more than a beautiful campus—it's a community of wonderful people who are all doing their parts to keep others safe from the coronavirus. For example, in April, Lindenwood's School of Health Sciences donated personal protective equipment to workers with SSM Health who are on the front lines combating the virus.

Lindenwood has persisted through 193 years of history, and I know it will thrive for centuries to come. Lindenwood will push through this pandemic stronger and wiser. In fact, we are already finding ways to stay connected with you and our alumni until we can meet again in person. You can find out more about our alumni meetings on page 8. In May, I joined some of Lindenwood's top leaders for several virtual town halls, which had incredible participation from our community. It was a joy to answer your questions and keep you apprised of our ever-evolving situation.

Before we heeded the call to stay at home, Lindenwood introduced many exciting initiatives, such as the Lindenwood Advantage program. This program gives graduates earning under \$45,000 a year the chance to qualify for reimbursement of their student loan payments. For more information about Lindenwood Advantage, check out page 9 of this very magazine. We also announced a partnership with ITEN, a technology company that can provide new entrepreneurial and technological opportunities for our students, and we established the Lions' Relief Fund, which will provide crucial funds to our students in this time of need. Thank you to our alumni, who remain invested in Lindenwood's success, and particularly to those who have donated to the Lions' Relief Fund in the past few weeks. Thanks to everyone for just hanging in there—I know it's no small thing some days. Thank you for your patience as we chart a course forward, and for your time today. I look forward to seeing you back on campus soon.

John R. Porter, Ed.D.
Lindenwood University

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

Pierre Desir

For Cornerback, It's All About Giving Back

by Blake Bunton



ALTHOUGH THE RECOLLECTION IS FAINT, THE MEMORY OF A STARTLING TIME FOR A 4-YEAR-OLD IS NOT YET LOST IN THE PAST.

Pierre Desir grew up in Haiti, kicking a soccer ball around since the age of 2. His parents, Wilfred and Marie, had increasing concern about the stability of a crumbling economy. With the unceasing government corruption and endless violence, the Desir family found comfort in a missionary group from the United States that would lead to a new life in St. Louis, Mo. As the family moved through customs, the different language and culture caused communication hurdles.

"My parents spoke very little English, so I just remember various people trying to figure out what was going on," said Desir. "It was very hectic."

Desir, his parents, and his older sister Myriam moved to St. Louis, Mo., to start a new life, free from the decaying atmosphere in their homeland of Haiti. The transition to a new environment was different,

but the love of sports allowed Desir to find a good group of friends. At the age of 11, Desir moved with his family to St. Charles, Mo., where he would be introduced to the game of football.

"When I was in fifth grade, all of my friends tried to get me to play football, but I wanted to keep playing soccer, because I was good."

However, the continued pestering from his friends made the Haitian-born soccer player think about trying something different. When it came time to start high school, Desir did not yet know that his choice of playing football would have a drastic impact on his life.

"I had to make a decision, so I thought, 'Let me try this football thing; maybe I'll be good at it.'"

The conditioning and coordination needed in soccer transferred over just fine to the gridiron, but the first-year player had much to learn about the game.

"I used to play Madden with my friends all the time," Desir said with a laugh. "I would just spread them out, run a Hail Mary, and run with (Michael) Vick. However, I never really understood the

concepts like first downs, offsides, and penalties. Starting out, I was just trying to avoid contact. One of the hardest things for me was hitting someone and being hit."

Desir began to see the benefits of playing football after his junior season, earning multiple accolades for his play on the field.

"I started to get contacted by different colleges, but I didn't know anything about it. My sister was the first person in our family to go to college, so I just knew that this could help pay for my college education. Even though my parents didn't have much money, they always gave back to people."

The kindness he witnessed made the soon-to-be college football player want to return the favor to his parents. Desir began his collegiate career at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., in 2008.

"In my first season I was nominated for MIAA freshman of the year," said Desir. "I was talking to some (NFL) teams after my first year, and they just told me, 'Keep doing what you are doing, you have a real chance at playing in the NFL,' and that stuck with me."

Desir played three seasons with the Indianapolis Colts (2017-2019) prior to signing a contract with the New York Jets for the 2020 season.



“I was talking to some (NFL) teams after my first year, and they just told me, ‘Keep doing what you are doing, you have a real chance at playing in the NFL,’ and that stuck with me.”

When Desir’s oldest daughter Keeli was a few years old, he struggled to provide the best lifestyle for his family. Desir was faced with a tough decision that forced him to move back to St. Charles, Mo., heading into the summer of 2011. The hometown kid would soon become a key part of the Lindenwood football team, but his patience would be tested.

“I contacted Lindenwood and realized I had to sit out a year since my scholarship was not released. I continued to earn my degree, but I had to make some money since I could not receive scholarship money at the time.”

Desir went to work to earn an income for his schooling as well as to provide for his family, which took a toll on the young father.

“There was a place across from campus that paid minimum wage, and you showed up early in the

morning just hoping to get picked to work a job. The highest paying job I had was \$7.75 an hour cleaning gun shell casings at a gun range while wearing a hazmat suit.”

The most memorable job for Desir brought him to a pivotal crossroads in his life.

“It was a one-day job, and they called me late. It was for \$7.50 an hour for a couple of hours, but I needed the money. I showed up and we had to clean sewage out of a flooded basement, and all they gave us was a pair of boots. I was drenched and just remember getting the check and sitting in my car thinking, ‘I have to get going with this football thing, or I have to give it up and make some money.’”

The importance of football spoke loudly in the mind of Desir, causing him to put in the extra work in the weight room to get ready for his first year in a Lindenwood uniform.

“I had a great support system at Lindenwood. They knew my situation and understood if I had to leave early to take care of my family or go to work. It gave me a sense of calm knowing I had people who cared about me, which allowed me to focus on my family, my education, and playing football.”

After a successful junior season of college football, Desir noticed the NFL scouts at his games began to increase in numbers and frequency.

“I felt I could still do this. I had been through so many trials and adversities, so I didn’t let anything stop me.”

The 6-foot, 2-inch cornerback had one of the most decorated senior seasons ever for a Lindenwood football player. Desir was named the 2013 Cliff Harris Award winner, which goes to the best small-school

“I saw my parents volunteering and giving back to the community which helped me to see what is most important.”



January 16, 2020—**Pierre Desir**, an ambassador for Samaritan's Feet, washes a fifth-grader's feet prior to fitting him for a new pair of shoes. Desir donated shoes for each student at Northview Elementary in Jennings, Mo.

defensive player. In May of 2014, Desir became the first Lindenwood player to be selected in the NFL Draft after being picked by the Cleveland Browns in the fourth round.

Since the start of his NFL career, Desir has played with four different teams and this off-season signed a contract with the New York Jets. The one constant in his NFL journey has been the values he learned from his parents, to give back.

“I saw my parents volunteering and giving back to the community, which helped me see what is most important.”

Desir has been active in the community, including serving alongside Samaritans Feet to help provide shoes for kids in need. Along with the shoe donation, Desir and members of Samaritans Feet wash the feet of each child.

“When you wash your servants’ feet, you know how hard they work, it humbles you. Working with Samaritans Feet, it is not something you can explain. You don’t know the response you are going to get from the kids, but understanding the way they live and getting to interact with them, it’s life changing.”

In the fall of 2019, the product of Francis Howell Central gave back to the place where his football career began. Through his generosity and passion for serving others, Desir aided in the establishment of the FHC Performance Center at his alma mater. The Spartan family opened the doors to the new weight room facility in October, as the school honored Desir with his induction into the Howell Central Athletics Hall of Fame.

Desir has made his presence known on the gridiron, but his philanthropy is something the

29-year-old wants atop the list of his accomplishments. Now, a father of three (Keeli, 13; Kamryn, 9; and Pierre “PJ,” 4), Desir is already on track to leave a legacy after being nominated for the 2019 Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

“I want to be known as someone who was a great father, husband, brother, son, and friend. I want my giving and kindness to be something that I put time into and care about, not just something that I have to go out of my way to do.”

Through adversities, Desir kept a strong mind and a loving heart.

“I want to be remembered as someone who gave back, because at 4 years old, someone helped me.” ■



“Paying it forward is an enjoyable way to live.”

BONNIE BARCZYKOWSKI

Barczykowski **Runs** Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri while Running Half Marathons

by Brian Vorce



As the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, Bonnie Barczykowski ('87, '97) encourages girls to stay active, pursue their interests, and become the leaders of tomorrow. Barczykowski exhorts these ideals because she's lived them in her personal life and career.

Twice a graduate of Lindenwood University, earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1987 and a Master of Business Administration in 1997, Barczykowski (Hoesli) worked her way to the top from modest beginnings. As a first-generation college student, Barczykowski made her higher-education decision with help from a source outside her family.

“My high school counselor walked me through the entire process, everything from choosing my major and university to applying for financial aid,” Barczykowski said. “My experiences at Lindenwood, both in the undergraduate and graduate programs, prepared me for life in general—personally and professionally. Every aspect of my time at Lindenwood influenced who I am and what I do today.”

Before Barczykowski joined Girl Scouts in 2012, she was a business owner, author, and

motivational speaker, helping women lead healthy, active lives. She owned and operated five Curves locations in the St. Louis area. For 12 years, Barczykowski grew her fitness centers for women to be among the largest in the world. As a motivational speaker, she led local and national training seminars and was the keynote speaker at many conventions for healthcare and fitness.

For the Girl Scouts, she is responsible for driving long-term growth, developing new and creative initiatives to meet the needs of members and their community, along with advancing Girl Scouts as the premier leadership organization for girls.

“Seventy percent of all women who hold a leadership position were at one time a Girl Scout,” Barczykowski said. “I want families of young girls to realize there is no other out-of-school organization that offers the variety of experiences that Girl Scout does. Where else can a girl as young as 5 years old explore the outdoors, give back through community service, be part of a team, and build skills and earn badges in everything from cybersecurity, space science, and app development to entrepreneurship, public speaking, and budgeting?”

Barczykowski is also involved in the St. Louis community. Her Lose to Win STL program inspired thousands of individuals to live healthier lives, and she has served on numerous boards and committees.

“I choose to give back, help others, and be involved because my life has been impacted by many individuals who chose to do the same,” Barczykowski said. “Paying it forward is an enjoyable way to live!”

Barczykowski received many health- and business-related awards, including the St. Louis Business Journal's “2015 Most Influential Business Women.” Also in 2015, Barczykowski was honored as an outstanding alumna of Lindenwood's accelerated degree program.

In her spare time, she also stays physically active. As a member of the Seven Continent Club, she will run a half marathon in all seven continents. Having already completed Australia, North America, and Europe, in September she will travel to Patagonia to check South America off the list. Next March, she will run in Antarctica.

“I am taking a family member on each trip with me, making fabulous memories along the way,” Barczykowski said.

She met her husband, Dan at Lindenwood when he attended the University of Missouri–Rolla and was visiting a friend at Lindenwood. They have now been married 32 years and have three children: Aimee, 28, Amanda, 25, and Danny, 20, and two grandchildren, Ben and Nora. The Barczykowskis live in Weldon Spring, Mo. ■

Purple Tea
by Anthony Scheffler

Dr. Anthony Scheffler shows his piece
Scarred Tectonic in his Soulard studio space.



THE ART OF BALANCE

Dean Duo Displays Dual Talents

by Alexandra Bardon

PABLO PICASSO ONCE SAID, “EVERY CHILD IS AN ARTIST. THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO REMAIN AN ARTIST ONCE WE GROW UP.”

Dr. Anthony Scheffler and Dr. Ricardo Delgado, deans of the schools of education and sciences, respectively, seem to have figured that out. Aside from their shared title, both are also talented practicing artists.

Scheffler, who came to Lindenwood in the spring of 2018, often finds himself in his studio discovering new ways to manipulate wood to create contemporary vessels, teapots, and wall hangings. Delgado, who has worked at the university since fall of 2006, can be found designing and building

acoustic and electric guitars, among other artistic pursuits.

When not in the office or teaching chemistry, Delgado is working on his guitars, as well as leather working, painting, and knitting. Delgado credits his mother for his vast interest in contrasting media. Throughout his childhood he watched her paint, sculpt, take photos, work with leather, and much more.

“I don’t think there has been a kind of artwork that my mother didn’t excel at,” said Delgado.

As for the chemist in him, he credits his father’s side of the family. Delgado says both sides have played an enormous role on shaping his professional career and his love for art.

Much of Delgado’s artwork is influenced by family. His most

recent piece, “Dia de Los Muertos,” was built in memory of his grandmother. The guitar is made from mahogany and flamed maple woods with abalone, ebony, and mother of pearl inlays. The design was in part motivated by a question about how the sound would be affected by inverting the body of the guitar and adding a second sound hole. Delgado keeps this piece in his office as the centerpiece of his “offrenda,” which celebrates his family and heritage.

Although Delgado is well known for his woodworking skills, he tends to go where his work takes him, often completing commissions for specific requests along the way.

“I don’t know that there is any art form I prefer,” said Delgado. “I do so many things, it tends to be based on what I’m most interested in at the time and where the muse takes me.”

Dr. Ricardo Delgado at work in Lindenwood’s MakerSpace on his piece titled *Luna y Estrella*, Spanish for moon and stars, which can be seen in his inlaid Abalone shell and mother of pearl design.



A personal collection of Delgado’s hand-built guitars.



Delgado says art is much more than just a hobby for him, especially when it comes to things like painting and woodworking.

“I think there is a Zen or meditative nature to my pursuits,” he said. “They center me and allow me to de-stress after a long workweek.”

Scheffler, too, works with his hands to create new works of art from wood. Having grown up in New Orleans, Scheffler was fascinated with how local architecture gave context to and enriched the characteristic smells, sounds, and shadows of the unique community. Scheffler began exploring through art and contemporary craft the power and appeal of simple shapes.

Although best known for his unique slab-built wooden teapots, Scheffler creates small wood

sculptures—categorized as open and closed vessels—as well as conceptual pieces of wall art. Scheffler describes his work as “functional imagery.” He sees it as an expression of an idea and something that he hopes has a unique aesthetic that people want to be around. Wood is his favorite medium, because it is readily available and he likes the texture, color variation, and the ease in which it can be shaped.

Scheffler at one time dropped out of the traditional career track for several years to focus exclusively on art; it is undeniable that art is more than just a hobby to him.

“I think about it almost obsessively at times, and that is an important dimension of practice,” Scheffler said. “Finding the time to actually get into a workspace, however, has been a challenge.”

Scheffler has a studio space at the Abraham Mohler Studio in Soulard, where he works freely and enjoys the comradery among other artists, whom he credits as “inevitably talented and always willing to share with and support each other.”

“I really enjoy working at Lindenwood, and that is my priority, but hopefully, now that I have a functional workspace among other artists, I will be able to spend more time practicing my artwork,” said Scheffler. “Not only is art a means of expression, it allows entry into a community of working artists and makers who I find are less stressed by societal expectations and more often fixed on exploring meaning.”

Scheffler’s work can be found in private and corporate collections, including the Fluer Bresler Collection and the permanent collection of the Kamm Teapot Foundation. ■

Alumni Nights Kick Off, Then Go Virtual

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI NIGHTS WERE LAUNCHED ON FEB. 20 at Shamrocks Pub & Grill in St. Charles with the intent of repeating at the establishment from 4 to 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month as an opportunity for alumni to gather and reconnect with each other and with university Alumni Office staff.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ensuing alumni night in March was canceled and the April event was held virtually with more than 30 attending online. The event will resume at Shamrocks when circumstances allow and will continue online until then.

Shamrocks is owned and operated by two Lindenwood alumni, Kelly ('08) and Kyle ('10) Dent, who recently celebrated the eighth anniversary of the business. Shamrocks holds popular themed trivia nights and a "Brewniversity" and has an Irish pub-style atmosphere. ■



Rachael Heuermann,
Director of Alumni
Relations, greeting
alumni at
February event

Kyle and Kelly Dent,
owners of Shamrocks



Shamrocks
is home to many
events and
has loyal customers

Orrie Covert,
Vice President of
Advancement &
Communications,
speaking to alumni at
February event



Lindenwood Advantage is a *Virtual Guarantee* of a Lindenwood Degree

Lindenwood University has announced a *new* program, **Lindenwood Advantage**, that will provide loan repayment assistance to graduates who have not yet found employment at a specific salary threshold.

An expression of confidence in the preparedness of Lindenwood graduates, the program is available to all incoming students, starting in the fall 2020 semester, who persist to graduation from Lindenwood.

Lindenwood University is the first institution in Missouri to offer a **Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)** to its incoming freshmen and transfers. The program provides substantial assistance to students and parents, helping with student and Parent PLUS loan repayment after graduation for graduates who do not meet the income threshold of \$45,000 annually.

Lindenwood has partnered with **Ardeo Education Solutions** to offer the program, which will be provided at no cost to students or families. The assistance will continue until the graduate's income rises to a specified level or until the graduate's loans are completely paid off.

"We are very pleased to offer Lindenwood Advantage for our new students," said Terry Whittum, executive vice president for enrollment management and student engagement. "Lindenwood students find real success in the workplace, and we are standing behind that with this program."

For more information about the Lindenwood Advantage loan repayment assistance program, visit www.lindenwood.edu/advantage or call the Lindenwood Admissions Office at 636-949-4949. ■

Mary Easton Sibley, a St. Louis Woman Pioneer



LINDENWOOD'S FOUNDER to be Featured at the Missouri History Museum

by Hailey Carver

A NEW EXHIBIT at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis' Forest Park, *Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage*, will illustrate the lives and successes of 32 women who overcame obstacles and made large impacts on the region, among them **Mary Easton Sibley, founder of Lindenwood.**

The exhibit was slated to open April 4, 2020, and run through Aug. 15, 2021, though the opening has been delayed by the current Covid-19 pandemic. The exhibit is now slated to run Aug. 1, 2020, through March 1, 2022., according to the museum's website.

"Along with the stories of these incredible women, the exhibit takes visitors on the long journey toward suffrage in St. Louis," said Katie Moon, the Missouri History Museum exhibits manager. "Through artifacts and images, visitors will discover how women fought for voting rights and equal representation under the law in incredible and surprising ways."

Well known for her impact on education, Mary Sibley opened several schools, including Lindenwood in 1827. She founded the school, initially a

finishing school for young women on the farm she and her husband George owned, Linden Wood. She also founded a school for German immigrants and African-American children. Sibley was an early supporter of women's suffrage and urged women in her church to take part in her initiative for the American Colonization Society. The society formed to support the freeing of slaves, and later her school would aid these individuals in preparing for their futures.

The Lindenwood estate and management was left to the Presbyterian Church after the passing of George Sibley. She then moved to St. Louis and spent most of her time in charity work.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, the Missouri History Museum is offering an opportunity to learn more about Mary Easton Sibley and 31 other incredible women who propelled forward human rights. To find more information about *Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage*, visit <https://mohistory.org/exhibits/beyond-the-ballot>.

The Missouri History Museum is located in Forest Park at 5700 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, Mo. ■



SCHEIDEGGER CENTER LOOKS FORWARD TO 2020-21 SEASON



Though the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation or postponement of much of the spring portion of the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts season, including professional touring shows and student shows alike, the center is looking forward to re-lighting the stage in 2020-21 with more great professional and student shows.

The 2019-20 season still had its share of great moments, including performances by **Martina McBride, Jay Leno,** and the **St. Louis Ballet.**

The 2020-21 season will be announced in July.

New for '20-'21, patrons who subscribe to the full season will receive a 25% discount, and a new **Pick-a-Pack Subscription** will allow patrons to receive a 10% discount when selecting a minimum of four performances.

Get latest updates at LUBoxOffice.com

IRON MAN Wright Completed Epic Race for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

by Alexandra Bardon

PAUL WRIGHT, PROFESSOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES, is in elite company as one **who competes in full Ironman competitions: 2 ½-mile swim, 112-mile bike race, and full marathon (26.2 miles)**, completed back to back to back.

Wright's latest and last, he says, was the 2019 Ironman World Championship last fall in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. The race was complicated by the fact Wright broke his arm eight weeks before the race.

Wright was one of five athletes across the country selected to participate in this prestigious event on behalf of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, for which he has raised \$25,000. The money raised will help fund a major research grant for the society toward seeking cures for leukemia, lymphoma, and all related blood cancers. Wright said if he reaches the \$50,000 threshold, the money will stay in St. Louis to fund

research by the Siteman Cancer Center and Washington University.

Wright, 48, has completed full Ironman races before, most recently in Britain in 2007, and has also completed numerous shorter versions of the race. As a collegiate athlete at Clemson, Wright competed as a sprinter in the 400- and 800-meter distances. He began his Lindenwood career in 2007 as head track and field coach and coached the Hong Kong track and field team in the 2012 Summer Olympics in China. He currently teaches physical education, sports psychology, and therapeutic recreation in the School of Health Sciences.

Wright said he made the decision early on to race in memory of Glenn Markway, a Lindenwood student and rugby player who died after a 2 ½-year battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Wright raised \$25,000 for the society in his name in 2018 with a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro that he completed with his wife, Anna.

In addition to training and racing with the broken arm, which he suffered in a bike crash during training, Wright also tore a muscle in his lower back just days before

competing. Wright knew he could fight through it to help fund the journey towards a cure.

“My pain will be temporary,” Wright said. “For many children and their families, the pain can be something harsh and real that can last many years and can all too often take lives.”

Wright finished the race in just over 16 hours, coming in 55 minutes before the cut-off time. Initially, he had been planning to finish in closer to 12 hours but lost a month of training to the broken arm.

“Sometimes it is not about the time but more importantly getting to the finish line,” said Wright.

Wright also paid tribute to his friend and colleague, Dr. Greg Anderson, associate professor of biology, who passed away shortly before Wright’s trip to Kona.

“This has been one of the hardest and most remarkable journeys of my entire life,” Wright said. “I am so grateful to so many people.”

To contribute, visit <https://pages.lsu.org/tnt/gat/ironwor19/pwright> ■



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Johnson Has Taken Uncommon Path to Grad School

by Chris Duggan

Joshua Johnson, who graduated from Lindenwood University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in historical studies and a minor in criminal justice, hasn’t had the common experience of most recent college graduates.

Through his uncle, **Robert Johnson**, a retired vice president of the Smithsonian Institute Advisory Board, he worked with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center to help organize “The Party: A Smithsonian Celebration of Asian Pacific Americans” on May 18, 2019, at which he found himself crossing paths with Smithsonian Director Lisa Sasaki, actor Terrance Howard, author Amy Tan, U.S. Representative Maxine Waters, and others.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” he said.

From there, he traveled to Thailand with his uncle and observed up close textile production there and physically harvested rice, among other experiences in connection with the Mah Fae Luang Foundation.

“I was blessed enough to have experiences that few people would ever have with a traditional internship,” he said.

Johnson, accepted into the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia, will begin his studies in the fall 2020 semester. His goal is to parlay his law degree into a life of service.

“In those roles, you have a great capacity to help others,” he said. “At Lindenwood, the campus works to get people out that way. Service is one of the best things we can do with the time that we have.” ■

Johnson (left) harvests rice in a field in Thailand.



Johnson (right) poses with actor Terrance Howard (left).



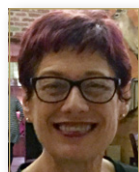
ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Lindenwood University
REAL SUCCESS

'70s

Carolyn Read ('74) was elected president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National



Association of Social Workers. Previously she received the Social Worker of the Year Award, was listed in *Who's Who of College Professors*, and was on the National Association of Social Workers task force that assisted in re-writing the national standards for school social workers. She retired as a school social worker and coordinator of pupil appraisal in 2015 and is currently an adjunct professor and maintains a small private clinical practice.

'80s

Jan Lott ('88) has joined Armstrong Teasdale as VP of human resources. Lott has more than 20 years of experience in human resources, people management, and coaching and professional development. In her role, Lott partners with firm management in the design and implementation of business strategy, business development and project management, and human resources best practices.

'90s

Dan Winston ('93) was reappointed to the Texas Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee by Governor Greg Abbott for a new term through Sept. 1, 2023.

Clint M. Bolser ('94, '00) was named president and CEO of UCP Heartland, which provides support and programming



for people with disabilities in central and eastern Missouri. Bolser has more than 15 years of experience leading similar programs, including working with independent residential programs, children's day camps, and disability employment services. He holds a master's degree in professional counseling and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Lindenwood University.

Robert Helvey ('98) has joined North Highland, a leading transformation and change consultancy, as associate vice president and will be based in St. Louis. Prior to joining North Highland, Helvey served as a director at Slalom and helped launch the St. Louis office and its record growth. He previously served as vice president at Oakwood Systems Group and executive vice president at Zobrio and played two seasons in the St. Louis Cardinals professional baseball organization.

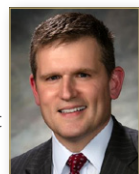
Joe Lopez ('99) was named superintendent of Kermit Independent School District in Kermit, Texas.

Jon "JT" Taylor ('96) was named Chief of Police Services at the Dallas Fort Worth airport in the Department of Public Safety.



'00s

Chris Hubbuch ('01) has been hired as assistant superintendent of Fulton Public Schools in Missouri.



Hubbuch currently serves as director of secondary education for St. Joseph School District and will join FPS on July 1.

Dr. Nancy Scott ('01), who joined Sedalia School District 200 in 2003 and has served as assistant superintendent since 2008, will retire at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Scott began her Sedalia 200 career as special services director, serving in that role from 2003 to 2008, when she was promoted to assistant superintendent. Her current duties include human resources, student support services, McKinney-Vento homeless grant programs, English language learner programming, and other issues.

Amber Pearson ('03) was named director of media relations at TSN Communications in Oak Hill, Va. Pearson will collaborate with clients and TSN team members to help its clients define their brand, get them noticed by their target

audience, and educate the public and media. Pearson has nearly 20 years of experience in public relations, primarily centering on alternative fuels.

Jodi Oliver ('05, '16), was named principal of Heritage Intermediate in the Wentzville School District for the 2020-2021 school year. Oliver is currently principal at Crestwood Elementary in the Lindbergh School District. She taught first, second, fifth, and sixth grades in Utah and Missouri and has worked as both a literacy coach and assistant principal before becoming a principal in 2013.



Lavon Singleton ('05), has been named chief financial officer for Riverview Gardens School District in St. Louis County. Singleton will be responsible for ensuring prudent short- and long-term fiscal operation, including the management of all district assets and liabilities, and will execute a financial strategy for the district. His financial leadership responsibilities will extend to all 13 schools in the district.



Matt Carter ('06), has been named the new principal of Cutter Morning Star High School in Arkansas. With 21 years of experience in education, he received his master's degree in building level administration in 2006 at Lindenwood.

SPRING 2020

Submit News & Notes here:
<https://www.lindenwood.edu/alumni-donors/stay-connected/submit-news/>

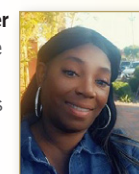
Kabrina Forrest ('06), has been appointed vice president of clinical and residential services for Epworth Children & Family Services, a nonprofit that helps children, youth, and families move toward self-sufficiency by focusing on health, housing, education, and employment. In this position, she will oversee the nonprofit's residential services treatment program, as well as its in-home community based counseling program. Forrest has more than 15 years of experience in social services and case management. Prior to joining Epworth, Forrest's experience includes clinical supervisor and program director at local mental healthcare facilities. She earned her master's degree in professional counseling from Lindenwood.



Monica Newsam ('03) published the second installment of her book series, *Aerial Dance for Dancers: Single Point Dance Trapeze Technique & Syllabus*. This book is available for purchase on Amazon.com.



Charisse Fletcher ('07), pen name Dakota Wright, launched "Tears and Latte Confessions Book 1", a collection of stories of love and heartbreak. View the story here.



'10s

Keith Hoerner ('10), a graduate of the MFA in Writing program and a past adjunct Instructor in communications at Lindenwood, recently signed a publishing contract with Adelaide Books in New York, N.Y., for an early 2021 release of his memoir, *The Day The Sky Broke Open*. His work has also been featured in 28 literary journals across the U.S. and abroad. The book served as his graduate thesis.

Dr. Jeri LaBrot ('09), has been named assistant superintendent of student services for the 2020-2021 school year for the Wentzville School District in Missouri. LaBrot is currently the principal at Frontier Middle School, where she has been since 2016. Prior to that, she was the assistant principal at North High in the Fort Zumwalt School District and taught Spanish at Zumwalt West High for six years prior to that.



Ta'Keshia Parker ('11) Sappington Elementary School Principal in St. Louis County, has been recognized as an "Exemplary New Principal" by the St. Louis Suburban Elementary Principal Association. Parker is in her third year as principal.



Katrina Davis ('13) is the human resources manager for Select Specialty Hospital. In December, she was the subject of a news feature on KSDK-TV in St. Louis for assisting an injured driver and passenger after witnessing a serious vehicle crash on the interstate.

Jennifer Sladek ('13, '17) is principal of Truman Elementary in the Meramec Valley R-III School District.

Kayla Piers Stewart ('14), regional vice president of sales for Paycom in Chicago, recently published an article, available on LinkedIn, on "Navigating Your Employee Continuity Strategy in a Forced Digital Reality." Piers Stewart is, reportedly, the youngest regional vice president in Paycom's history.

Chad Pohlmann ('14, '16), has been named director of the Parks Department for Union, Mo. After serving in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2005, Pohlmann came home to primarily mow lawns for the department in 2005 and 2006. Pohlmann, who also served in the National Guard from 2008 to 2017, graduated from Lindenwood University with a bachelor's degree in history and a master's in school administration.

Jerry Nathan (Nate) Moore ('15) was named Branson Public Schools assistant superintendent on July 1 after spending the last 20 years with the Mansfield School District, the last eight as superintendent.



Lauren Mueller ('15) was recently named executive director of the World Shooting and Recreation Complex in Sparta, Ill.

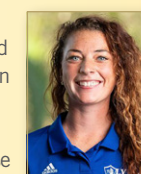
Ty Vossler ('15), a graduate of Lindenwood's MFA in Writing program, has six published novels to his credit, as well as dozens of short stories, poems, and essays. His newest novel, *Deep Mud* (Evolved Publishing), was to be released in March to positive pre-release reviews. Another novel, *Meadowland* (World Castle Publishing), is due out soon.

Sarah O'Daniel ('16) recently joined the staff at the Washington Missourian as a reporter covering St. Clair, Mo. A native of St. Clair, O'Daniel earned her bachelor's from Lindenwood in advertising, public relations, and mass communications.

Amy Russell ('16) has joined POWER Insurance and Risk Management in St. Louis as the commercial lines account manager. Russell has over 20 years of experience in marketing as well as in insurance agencies.



Rachel Benzing ('17) was named Missouri Western University's inaugural women's lacrosse head coach in January. Benzing was an assistant at Lynn University in 2019—the first-ever coaching staff for the program—as well as spending 2017 and 2018 as an assistant, kick-starting the first lacrosse team at Maryville University in St. Louis.



continues next page

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES continued

Alyson Haylor ('17)

a former USA National Synchronized Swimming Team member and holder of over 20 national titles, was scheduled to present a talk on identity at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis as part of Women's History Month. She holds a B.A. in human resource management from Lindenwood and competed on the synchronized swimming team from 2013 to 2017. She graduated from Arizona State University with a master's in social justice and human rights in 2019, specializing in athletic identity, and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in African studies.



Christa Williams ('17) graduates in May from Florida State University's College of Fine Arts with an MFA in dance and choreography. Her original thesis work is being featured in an upcoming concert titled *Girl Moves*. Much of its influence, she says, is from experiences she had at Lindenwood and working with local dancers, studios, dance teams, and in competitive dance in Illinois and Missouri.

Brandi Smith ('19)

was promoted to senior director of human resources and administrative services at Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS). Smith will oversee human relations and supportive services for the company's employees. She has served ARCHS for more than a decade in a variety of roles, including events specialist and executive assistant. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Lindenwood.



IN MEMORIAM

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

Sandra Broadrick-Allen ('62),
Urbana, Illinois

Victoria Collevchio ('76),
La Grange, Illinois

Luther DeCuir ('94),
Eureka, Missouri

Jazmond Dixon ('19),
Saint Louis, Missouri

Carol Harmon ('60),
Edwardsville, Illinois

Karen Kastel ('69),
Park Hills, Missouri

Scot Morris ('19),
Collinsville, Illinois

Nancy Sheridan ('65),
Saint Louis, Missouri

Carol Stoub ('57),
La Grange, Illinois

Maurita Stueck ('43),
Oxford, Ohio

Julie Van Woert ('59),
Oro Valley, Arizona



Lion's Relief Fund

In March, Lindenwood developed a **new student emergency fund**, the Lions' Relief Fund. This fund was designed to help students in need during COVID-19 and stay in place as a student emergency fund for the future.

Students' needs are ever-changing, and this fund can help with a variety of items, such as providing temporary housing, access to technology, ongoing access to student health services, additional academic support services, help with rent, groceries, or other daily necessities. In May, the university participated in #GivingTuesdayNow, a day where all donations went to the Lions' Relief fund. In just 24 hours, because of the generous donations, over \$6,913 was raised for this new fund. **Learn more about the Lions' Relief Fund here:** <http://www.lindenwood.edu/lions-relief> ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events are currently being evaluated and planned accordingly in regards to Covid-19 and recommendations by health officials.

If you would like to see upcoming campus events, please visit here:

<https://www.lindenwood.edu/about/events/>

Please consider joining us at one of our upcoming virtual alumni events:

<https://www.lindenwood.edu/about/events/category/alumni-donors/>