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PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK NO. 13 Summer 2011

It is the third week of August, and it seems not so long ago that we were grappling with the most meteorologically pestiferous winter season in recent memory. Such apparent time compression is indicative of the amazing pace at which Lindenwood University operates. If the progress here were not so interesting and gratifying, it would be downright exhausting!

We have many reasons to anticipate additional interesting experiences just ahead, as this edition of *Notebook* will indicate.

Student Population Trends

Overall: In the next to last *12-month academic year* (September 2009 through August 2010) we served a grand total of 17,351 students. For the same interval in 2010-11, which we are about to complete, we are estimating a drop

in unduplicated head count to the mid-16,000s range. What?! A drop? How can that be when all running indicators across the past year seemed to point to increases in almost all spheres of our student universe?

The answer is straightforward and reassuring: In 2009-10, we reeled in an extra 1200+ students who were practicing teachers enrolled in a *one-time* continuing education class in our Southwestern Illinois region. Without those special students, we would have had just over 16,000 enrollees in Fiscal 2010. Thus, if we end 2010-11 with around 16,600 students, as anticipated, that will represent a healthy jump in the number of regular students.

Residential: At the St. Charles campus, we had in excess of 4,000 residential students for the fall semester of 2010. Because we are eliminating some older homes along First Capitol Drive, our residential capacity in St. Charles will only be about 3,900 this fall. We expect to fill every bed.

At our Belleville branch, we had about 110 residents last fall, and we expect to approach 190 residents this fall.

Day College Commuters: Our daytime commuter population at St. Charles numbered 1,176 in the fall semester of 2010, and, to offset the drop in residential space this year, that number is expected to grow to a record 1,300 for the upcoming semester.

The Day College at Belleville served about 160 commuters during last year's fall semester, and that number is projected to grow to more than 300 this fall.

Total Number of Day Students: The tally of our diurnal undergraduates will top 5,000 on the St. Charles campus in the upcoming semester. Their Belleville counterparts will accrue to between 525 and 550.

Evening Trends: As a result of austerity measures in the K-12 sector and the associated furloughing of teachers and reduction in professional-development funding, enrollments in our graduate programs in the School of Education were down about 8% this past year. Fortunately LCIE enrollments increased by 8-10% (year-to-year ratio) each quarter except the summer term, and our MBA Plus program experienced year-over-year enrollment spikes of

20%+ in every term but the summer session. This summer, all of our evening programs have flat head counts relative to last summer, which very likely is related to the greater availability of jobs this year, the decimation of retraining funds that many businesses allocated in the middle phase of the Great Recession, and the exhaustion of government loan eligibility by many students.

Overall Enrollment Outlook for 2011-12: We are likely to see very little growth in our student census this year. Evening College growth will slow down as more people return to work or deplete their government-funded higher education loans. Daytime programs in St. Charles will remain level because we are at our residential student capacity. The latter constraint will be lifted in about two years, when we open the planned Lindenwood University Village apartment complex on the eastern sector of our St. Charles campus. Belleville's evening programs will likely grow at a more moderate pace this year, and expansion of the daytime population there will continue to be governed in a significant way by the availability of housing facilities.

Financial Health of the University

Our revenues for Fiscal 2011 (July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011,) grew by 6.6% compared to Fiscal 2010.

Although it is likely revenues will not advance at as high a rate this year, we expect absolute income to be at least as strong in Fiscal 2012 as it was in 2011. In short, we are in good fiscal shape and will remain debt free.

You might also find it gratifying to learn that Lindenwood's endowment, which topped \$100 million for the first time in April of 2010, quietly crept to about \$119 million late in the spring of 2011.

Online Degree Programs Being Launched

Last spring our regional accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission, granted Lindenwood permission to offer sequences of online classes leading to master's degrees in three areas: Nonprofit Administration (M.A.), Creative Writing (M.F.A.), and Business Administration (M.B.A). We will begin actively advertising and delivering those online programs this year. Already many

of the classes have been developed for each of these tracks. We feel these Internet- based programs will serve dozens of new Lindenwood students who cannot reside on campus and live too far away (indeed, many in other states) to commute to class. What an exciting new higher-education plane we have entered!

We will be starting delivery of additional online degrees in the near future. There are plans to begin offering the first undergraduate online program within the next few months: a bachelor of arts in Criminal Justice. A master of arts in Educational Technology is also in the offing.

Congratulations to our Many Scholars

One of Lindenwood's signature features is its "Scholarship of Pedagogy" philosophy: the idea that scholarship is an important part of superior teaching and learning experiences at the university level and that it should imbue the school's general learning environment.

Kudos is due all of our professors, who generally bring the fruits of their regular scholarly inquiry and professional

development into their daily classroom service. We should also praise the many dozens of Lindenwood students who, each year, go the extra mile in their scholarly endeavors. Some write for, edit, or help produce Lindenwood's various journals, such as *Arrow Rock*, the *Confluence*, and *The Lindenwood Review*. Others present research papers at various state, regional, and national meetings in their respective fields.

Individual professors produce numerous scholarly papers, articles, books, or exhibitions each academic year. For example, Joe Alsobrook recently published his book titled *destinations*, which is a delightful and authoritative training manual for K-12 music teachers.

Even more recently, our Center for International and Global Studies, which is run by Drs. Ray Scupin and Ryan Guffey, sponsored the latest publication of The Lindenwood Press: *Migration, Technology, and Transculturation: A Global Perspective*. The latter contained contributions of scholars from around the world and was edited by Mina German and Padmini Benjeree of Delaware State University, with several Lindenwood

professors and students assisting with the management and production of the book.

In another admirable achievement, a paper on andragogy (the art and science of teaching adults) by Drs. Susan Isenberg and Fletcher Glancy was declared the “Best Theoretical Paper” at the 2011 European, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern Conference on Information Systems, held just last month in Greece.

These examples illustrate the merging of active inquiry with active learning, a marriage destined to produce a first-rate higher education atmosphere.

Congratulations to our Intercollegiate Athletics Programs

Back in the old days, when my senior colleagues and I paid our collegiate-study dues, there was a general belief that college sports were a necessary part of the higher education culture but that student athletes tended to be less than stellar scholars who had to be indulged. As intercollegiate athletics associations matured, that belief lost all of whatever substance it might have had in those

antiquated times. Today, both the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) and the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) require that college students participating in varsity sports be admitted to the university according to the same standards as the other students perform at least as well academically as their non-athletic peers. Indeed, student-athletes are expected to achieve a higher graduation rate higher than the norm at their respective institutions. All of those conditions obtain at Lindenwood, and we are proud of the accomplishments of our student-athletes, both in the classroom and in the arena of sports competition.

Speaking of achievements, I am pleased to report that the following Student Life Sports teams (those that are not candidates for membership in Division II of the NCAA) won six conference championships this past year: Cheerleading, Men's Ice Hockey, Lion Line, Roller Hockey, Men's Water Polo, and Women's Water Polo. Lindenwood claimed national championships in Cheerleading and Shotgun Sports.

The following NCAA-candidate sports teams won

conference championships: Men's Basketball, Men's Golf, Men's Lacrosse, Men's Volleyball, Women's Golf, Women's Ice Hockey, Women's Indoor Track and Field, and Women's Outdoor Track and Field.

Bye-Bye NAIA. Well, Maybe Just “So Long”:

Lindenwood Officially resigned from the NAIA at the end of May – after four decades of membership – as well as from the Heart of America Athletic Conference, of which we had been a member for nearly a decade and one-half. Both organizations had been excellent associations for Lindenwood, and we will miss the many collegial friendships we had within each of them. They gave us the opportunities and contexts that enabled us to grow, succeed, and continuously improve.

However, it is entirely possible that we will reconnect with one or both of these organizations via our Belleville campus, which aspires to NAIA membership in the foreseeable future. Presently, our Lindenwood– Belleville intercollegiate athletics program is a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association.

Hello Year 2 of NCAA Candidacy: On July 11 members of the Lindenwood–St. Charles’ Athletics Department joined me in my office to receive a phone call from the Division II Office of the NCAA, through which we were apprised of Lindenwood–St. Charles’ acceptance into the second year of Division II candidacy. The University was complimented for its progress as a candidate school and was asked to use all available opportunities in the coming year to assess the effectiveness of its implementation of NCAA policies and procedures. If all continues to go well, we will become provisional members of Division II one year from now. Congratulations to our Athletics Department, the President’s Athletics Advisory Council, the Students’ Athletics Advisory Council, our coaches, and our student-athletes for the great success we have had thus far in our pursuit of NCAA membership!

Physical Plant Progress

For all of us, including especially the students, we want our physical campus to be beautiful, functional, and filled with happiness. Here are some steps in those directions:

Newman Center: The Lindenwood University Newman Center will open this fall in Unit F of the Campus Service Center. It will be staffed immediately by student representatives and eventually by a priest, and its services and activities will be open to all members of the Lindenwood Community. A “Newman Center” is named in the spirit of Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-90), who was considered to be a major thinker in the history and philosophy of higher education. Each such center is a Roman Catholic ministry organization on a university campus. Its purpose is to facilitate and reinforce spiritual and moral development as well as provide Christian service to the community.

The Baseball/Softball Locker and Support Center:

These refurbished buildings were a small church and rectory at the lower end of the Linden Terrace development. Now they contain attractively finished locker rooms, offices, and clinical area for our baseball and softball teams.

The Evans Commons: Everything college students could

wish for in a student center (except a swimming pool), the new Commons building was commissioned this month for use by all members of the Lindenwood Community, but especially the students. It will be open from dawn till at least midnight, sponsor a dining hall and a snack bar, and provide meeting and recreational facilities galore.

Pavilion on the Quad: The spectacular pavilion next to Roemer Hall is scheduled to begin hosting gatherings of all sorts this fall, especially various formal and informal student events. It will have wireless Internet access and other conveniences.

Student-Athlete Support Center: The Kirchner Plaza behind the western end of Harlen C. Hunter Stadium is now (literally) under construction. Upon it we will erect a 42,000 square-foot locker/clinical/and academic-support facility for student athletes and coaches in our field sports. That project should be completed sometime in the fall of 2012.

Lindenwood Town Center: This project, so long in the planning, is getting close to its groundbreaking day. We

are confident that this year we will commence construction (within the Town Center) of the Lindenwood University Village residential facility, an accommodation that will offer apartment-style living quarters to more than 600 of our students. We also expect a Schnuck's supermarket and many other stores to be developed on the 30-acre plot, subject to approvals by the City of St. Charles and the Lindenwood Board of Directors. Of particular note is the planned footbridge over First Capitol Drive that will enable Lindenwood students to walk from the parking lot in front of the Welcome Center to Lindenwood University Village.

The Idea of a Liberal Arts College: Lindenwood-Belleville is a beautiful urban liberal arts college “in the making,” and we have been investing in improvement of its physical plant ever since we began operating the school in the winter of 2003-04. Most recently, we have completed the Senator Alan J. Dixon Student Center, which was once a large dining hall when the campus was the location of Belleville West High School. The student center, for which we held a dedication ceremony on August 5, has several beautifully appointed areas,

including a library, a dining hall, a computer lab, recreational facilities, and many meeting spaces.

Artificial What? Yes, artificial turf has been installed inside Lindenwood's intercollegiate running track behind the Hyland Performance Arena. The new surface will be a first-rate practice and competition venue for many of our field-sports teams, including in particular the new men's and women's rugby teams.

In Closing

We are about to start yet another exhilarating academic year. Together we can make it the best one yet. I want to personally thank you for all that you do daily to make Lindenwood not only the most beautiful and functional university campus in the Midwest but one of the most enjoyable as well.

JDE

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