

The

SPRING 2024 ISSUE

# LINDENWOOD



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DESIGNED FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS

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REAL  
EXPERIENCE

LINDENWOOD  
UNIVERSITY

REAL  
SUCCESS



# Heritage SOCIETY

## **Dr. Betty T. Osiek graduated from then Lindenwood College in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish.**

After earning advanced degrees at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Osiek spent a fruitful career in academia, which included a stint at her alma mater here in Saint Charles. Dr. Osiek had a deep love and appreciation for education, and her work as a professor, literary reviewer, and translator of literature, along with her extensive love of travel, were evidence of a life well-lived. She ultimately was laid to rest in Saint Charles at the age of 92.

Jodie Ricketts graduated from Lindenwood 10 years later in 1972. Ricketts also was a lifelong educator, who spent time teaching at her alma mater as an adjunct professor in the Early Childhood Development program. She loved to travel the world and was remembered as a friend and mentor to all. Ricketts lived a long and fulfilling life and passed away at the age of 91.

While these two women had many similar life experiences, they also shared something very powerful in common.

By including Lindenwood University in their estates, they were members of the Sibley Heritage Society. Their legacy and love of Lindenwood will endure through the many students whose lives will be impacted by their generosity.

You, too, can leave a legacy and ensure valuable, life-changing educational opportunities will continue for future generations by including Lindenwood in your estate and joining the Sibley Heritage Society.

### LEARN MORE



**Learn more** about this special way to support Lindenwood by contacting *Assistant Vice President for Advancement* **Brian Brunner**.

📞 (636) 949-4903

✉️ [bbrunner@lindenwood.edu](mailto:bbrunner@lindenwood.edu)

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# ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *Division*

*The Lindenwood is published by the Advancement and Community Engagement Division, with support from the campus community, for friends, employees, and alumni of Lindenwood University.*

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## *Letter from the* **PRESIDENT**

### Dear friends,

Providing the highest quality educational experience and connecting with our students through every interaction has been our top priority, and the University community has succeeded in many ways. Our values shape our culture and ground our decisions.

The University continues to navigate an increasingly competitive market, and we are adapting our people, places, and processes to meet the needs of a new generation of learners. We are actively incorporating artificial intelligence into our practices—exploring the ways artificial intelligence will enhance our student experience and developing degrees to respond to the ever-changing needs of the workforce. At Lindenwood, we are not waiting to see what's going to happen. We are proactively preparing our students and employees to utilize these advancements and be pioneers in the field.

As we conclude the third year of our strategic plan, Lindenwood 2026, I am proud of the ways Lindenwood is distinguishing itself from competitors. Through innovation, strategic partnerships, and continual investment in our community, Lindenwood puts its students first and helps prepare them to make a difference in our world.



**Ever grateful for your friendship and support,**

**JOHN R. PORTER, ED.D.**  
*President, Lindenwood University*

### WE PUT OUR STUDENTS FIRST



The Accessibility Program Manager supported **38 STUDENTS** with emotional support animals for 2023–24 —18 cats, 21 dogs, and one hedgehog.



**1,600+ TUTORING APPOINTMENTS** since the Math Success Center opened in August. Compared to last year, this is about 1,200 more appointments.



Success rates of students taking intermediate algebra increased by **NEARLY 50%** for students who used the Math Success Center.



In the Fall 2023 semester, the Writing Center served **1,000+ STUDENTS**.



The Writing Center supported **28 WRITING INTENSIVE** courses this spring through the embed program. A reference librarian and writing specialist work directly with students and professors to provide feedback, eliminating the need for students to make appointments.



**FOUR COURSES** utilized the Writing Center staff for in-class guidance on citations, original work strategies, and academic integrity.

## Nourishing OUR ROOTS

### WELCOME LETTER



**Putting “students first” is more than a value. It’s the pulse that animates our university community.** It’s rooted in the commitment to prioritize the needs, aspirations, and well-being of each student, serving as the bedrock of our institution’s identity.

Aligned with this core value is our strategic imperative to become “The Next Great Learner-Centric University.” This transformative journey seeks to redefine our university and potentially have a larger impact on the landscape of higher education. At its core is the recognition that true educational excellence is achieved when students take center stage in every decision and action.

Our strategic vision offers a dynamic roadmap guiding us toward a future where anticipating and meeting student needs is standard practice. It’s about nurturing an ecosystem where students are not just supported but empowered to flourish intellectually, personally, and professionally.

By anchoring our initiatives in the ethos of “students first,” we’re not merely creating a conducive learning environment; we’re cultivating a thriving community where every student’s path is honored and supported. Together, we’re forging a future where student success isn’t merely a target, but a shared commitment embraced by every facet of our university community.

**ROB WESTERVELT**

*Vice President, Strategy and Innovation*



FEATURE STORY

# Seeds of GREATNESS

## HONORS ACADEMY DESIGNED FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS

*By Dr. Justine Pas and Dr. Kathi Vosevich | Honors Academy Faculty Sponsors*

**Lindenwood University's Honors Academy is an innovative and flexible program with more than 250 members that offers gifted undergraduate students opportunities to explore academic excellence in any major.**

It is designed to support, strengthen, and highlight the achievements of its members because it puts the needs of students first. As Lliam Gammon (Information Technology) declares, "Honors Academy is a leadership-making machine!"

One of the program's most exciting features is that Honors students design their own journeys without necessarily adding hours to degree requirements. They can engage with topics they are passionate about as they enhance lifelong Power Skills, such as critical thinking, communication, creativity, leadership, and empathy.

Musical theater student Madeleine Nelson said, "I personalized my Honors-enhanced assignments around inclusivity in the arts. Being in Honors helped me grow and innovate."



> Tayla Whitley '23, majored in communications and graduated with University Honors.

Chemistry student Sophie Juliana said that thanks to Honors' flexibility, "I could take my education to the next level. I recommend Honors to every student committed to reaching their highest academic potential."

Faculty are equally enthusiastic about facilitating Honors-enhanced experiences, such as writing publishable papers, delivering presentations, producing videos, designing art

and graphics, and working on podcasts. When psychology and pre-art therapy student Faith Salamone worked with Geography Professor Dr. Meri Marsh, their collaboration resulted in hand-drawn maps that layered together the physical and human geography of New Zealand. "We joined forces to define an Honors plan that combined Faith's disciplinary interests and desire to study abroad in New Zealand," Marsh said.

When political science student Kadence Berry collaborated with English Professor Dr. Daniel Plate in his writing course, they produced a guide on using generative AI in academic writing and published it! "Embracing AI in English Composition: Insights and Innovations in Hybrid Pedagogical Practices" is available in the International Journal of Changes in Education.

Honors Academy membership comes with further benefits. Members can enjoy the exclusive Honors Lounge, a beautiful space in the LARC, where they can socialize and network. Perhaps students' favorite benefit is priority-course registration. They also have exciting options to complete Honors-designated courses and Honors Learning Communities, which are taught by award-winning professors. English Professor Melissa Qualls is particularly passionate about teaching literature in the Honors Learning Community because she gets to work with curious and enthusiastic students as they build mentoring relationships with her and friendships with each other.



> 2024 Honors Academy Cording Ceremony



Membership benefits also include practical leadership opportunities. Honors Officers and Honors Ambassadors, for example, are special groups of students who volunteer their time to represent the Academy. As international relations student Sofia Hernandez Otero put it, “Being an Honors Academy student is transformative!”

These student leaders are assets in recruitment, too. They help welcome students’ families to the Honors Academy reception, for example, and showcase the value of Academy membership to prospective students during Future Lion Day.

University Honors, the highest recognition awarded by Lindenwood University at graduation, is the destination of these individualized Honors journeys. Students are awarded special purple cords for commencement, and University Honors is announced as they receive their diplomas. Their achievements are celebrated at the annual Honors Cord Ceremony by Lindenwood’s executive leadership, faculty, family, and friends. This prestigious recognition signals their perseverance and commitment to excellence on resumes, too. It is a differentiator that distinguishes them from other applicants because they intentionally chose to complete rigorous and enhanced learning experiences.



## FEATURE STORY



Honors Academy is **so important** to Lindenwood and its students!

**ADDISON FORRESTER**  
*Entrepreneurial Studies*

# Honors Academy



> 2024 Honors Academy Cording Ceremony





Honors Academy students present at national conferences; win national scholarships; publish in peer-reviewed journals; excel in graduate schools, such as Arizona State University, University of Denver, Tufts, University of Iowa, and Saint Louis University; and pursue fulfilling careers at companies, such as Washington University School of Medicine, Red Bull, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and EY (formerly Ernst & Young).

Anna Ostmann, who is now completing an English graduate degree at SLU, remembers her acceptance to the Honors Academy that helped her decide that Lindenwood was right for her. She realized “other universities have honors programs, too, but Lindenwood’s Honors Academy allows us to personalize our Honors experience. I customized my Honors journey according to my interests, which made it uniquely my own.”



## FEATURE STORY



> Lauren Hetz '24, graduated with University Honors. She majored in marketing with minors in graphic design and social media and digital content strategy.

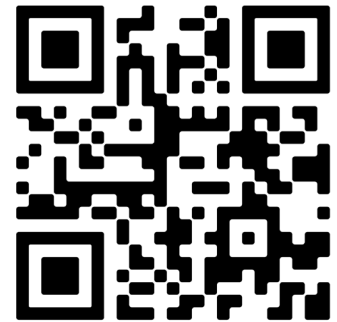
LEARN MORE!

## ABOUT THE HONORS ACADEMY

“

I developed **leadership skills** and learned how to **advocate** for myself.

**ERICA CATHEY '24**  
*Exercise Science, University Honors*



# BASKING IN THE *Light*



## SPRING CAREER FAIR CONNECTS STUDENTS TO FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

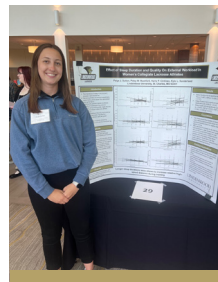
“Our Spring 2024 Educator, Career, and Internship fair was a major success! We had nearly 100 different businesses and organizations represented, and around 200 students attended the event to learn more about jobs and internships. This was the best attended fair we have had in years, and we are so thankful for all the help we received in making this event happen!”

– **Alyx Stewart**, Career Strategist, Center for Engaged Learning

“As a proud member of the Lindenwood staff, I had the privilege of representing the study abroad department at our table. Engaging with students and sharing the myriad opportunities available to them to enrich their resumes is always a rewarding experience. One of the most fulfilling aspects of the career fair, for me, is providing support to those who may feel a bit nervous or uncertain. Guiding them through conversations with potential employers and helping them articulate their interests in various companies is incredibly gratifying. At Lindenwood, we believe in empowering our students to pursue their passions and reach their full potential, and events like the career fair play a pivotal role in that journey.”

– **Rachel Jagust**, Manager, Global Student Mobility

## STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS SHINE AT SHOWCASE



“The Student Academic Showcase is an annual event for students to display their scholarly and creative projects to Lindenwood faculty, staff, and fellow students. This celebration of student learning allows students to showcase major projects and highlights how they have developed power skills as

Lindenwood students. The event was held in the Library & Academic Resources Center with 26 oral presentations in classrooms and 38 poster presentations in the LARC Grove, where presentations were divided into two groups. Oral presentations were offered in a hybrid format, and poster presentations were in-person. Thirty-four staff and faculty members volunteered as judges that provided feedback to every participant at the showcase.”

– **Shana Youngdahl**, Student Academic Showcase Chair

### SHOWCASE WINNERS 2024

#### POSTERS

**Proposal Project:**  
**Brooklyn Bumbales**  
*The Changes in Oral Flora After Oral Hygiene*

**Civic Engagement Project:** **Drew Barnes, Ryan Eckman, and Abi Waters**  
*Youth In Need Data Analysis*

**Original Research:**  
**Paige Sutton**  
*Effects of Sleep Duration and Quality on External Workload in Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Athletes*

**Exploratory Project:**  
**Zachary Martin**  
*A comparison of Japanese and American tattoos*

**Creative Project:**  
**Raya Kruger**  
*Hester Prynne: The Angel Pioneer of Sin & Punishment (A poetry collection inspired by the Scarlett Letter)*

#### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**Proposal Project:**  
**Elijah Northcutt**  
*Reformation or Execution: Healthcare Behind Bars*

**Exploratory Project:**  
**Allyson Phillips**  
*Exploring Eyewitness Testimony*

**Original Research Project:**  
**Zoë Sweaney**  
*From Your POV: Gender and Assertiveness as Predictor of Sexual Health Behaviors*

**Creative Project:**  
**John Malnor**  
*Leaps and Bounds*

**Alpha Chi People's Choice:**  
**Charlie Ray**  
*Creating The Illusion of Spiral Betty*

# Linden BRANCHES

## SPRING INTO SERVICE



“Each year, Spring into Service is hosted by the Lindenwood Student Government, along with Student Involvement. It is an initiative that enables multiple Lindenwood students to connect with the community and make a difference. Throughout the semester, it can become really challenging for students to

make time for volunteering. However, this event creates an opportunity for students to not only make a difference in other people’s lives, but also in their own. It brings the Lindenwood community together and allows for bonds to be created with those around us.”

– **Danel Smit**, LSG Director of Community Outreach

### 2024 SPRING INTO SERVICE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Saint Charles Parks and Recreation
- LindenGiving
- Project Linus
- Cedarhurst Senior Living Facility
- Sharing Shed
- Salvation Army
- Crisis Nursery

## SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA SERVES LOCALLY



“Sigma Sigma Sigma does community service because we are a philanthropic organization and are based off the foundation of serving our community and trying to make a difference for those in need. Getting to partake in these experiences allows us to see from new perspectives and take on

new challenges. Our members helped at the Jewish Festival in August of 2023. This was an amazing experience that broadened our perspectives and allowed us to learn a lot from an amazing group of people. In December of 2023, we participated in the Salvation Army bell ringing, which helped collect donations locally. We had members stand out in the cold all day to ensure funds went to this amazing charity! In the spring, we helped build beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that provides beds for kids who do not have one. We sanded, stapled, and assembled the beds and helped load them for delivery to their new home!”

– **Katie Rorie**, Sigma Sigma Sigma President



## LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

It’s no secret that Lindenwood University’s proximity to historic Main Street Saint Charles has countless benefits, but two businesses go above and beyond in supporting the University’s students.

**Burger Underground and Novellus, both located on Main Street between Monroe and Jefferson, give back to the University in meaningful ways.** Under the leadership of restaurateur Joe Ancmon, the venues not only employ Lindenwood students, but cater meals for Lindenwood athletic teams, and university events like the Lindenwood University Gala and VIP Rooms. Ancmon’s commitment to students extends beyond a paycheck, too, offering transportation to work if needed and developing skills that will be essential for their success after graduation. Because of these reasons, and many more, Ancmon was awarded the Heart of the Lion Award at the 2023 Lindenwood University Gala.



# The UNDERSTORY

## MARKELL ROPER MCDANIELS SUPPORTS FELLOW STUDENTS

**Lindenwood University student Markell Roper McDaniels was selected as the winner of Sodexo, Inc.'s "Better Together Get-Together" sweepstakes.**

Sodexo, Lindenwood's food service provider, sponsored the national prize-drawing competition in which 17 randomly selected college students received a \$500 donation made in their name to a legally recognized food charity or not-for-profit organization dedicated to fighting hunger and food education. Roper McDaniels chose to donate his award to Lindenwood's campus food pantry, Little Free Pantry.

"When I realized what happened, I got super excited because this is my opportunity to give back to the community," Roper McDaniels said.

A sophomore entrepreneurial studies major, Roper McDaniels grew up in Harviell, Missouri, southeast of Poplar Bluff, and was raised to be independent. Since coming to Lindenwood, he has embraced the community of students and serves as director of finance on the Lindenwood Student Government Executive Board.

"When I got a chance to donate, I knew it was the best thing to do," he said. "I know there's people on campus that are struggling. It can be hard to ask for help and I want to be able to give back, so they have that opportunity to get what they need without being embarrassed or seeming like they have to rely on people."



“

I know there's people on campus that are struggling. **It can be hard to ask for help and I want to be able to give back,** so they have that opportunity to get what they need without being embarrassed or seeming like they have to rely on people.

**MARKELL ROPER MCDANIELS**

> Dr. Luke Nicholson | Assistant Professor, Accounting | Plaster College of Business and Entrepreneurship

## RECOGNIZING OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Lindenwood University employees recognize their peers for demonstrating one of the University's core values. The following employees were all recognized for living out our value, "We put our students first."



"In addition to his Educational Specialist advisees, Dr. Weir takes on the advising duties of all non-degree seeking

students in the Educational Leadership Department. These are students, who are coming back to Lindenwood to complete additional work required for principal or superintendent certification. Dr. Weir does meticulous research on the educational background of each student and create an individualized plan for them to follow to meet all of the certification requirements. While doing this, he is in frequent contact with the certification office to ensure a smooth path for each student."

### **Dr. Graham Weir**

*Professor, Educational Leadership  
College of Education and Human Services*



"A student came to Academic Services with a complicated situation. The particular student had been directed

to a few different offices but had yet to find a resolution to his problem. When Paris Suzuki heard of the situation, she took charge, communicated with the essential offices needed to reach a resolution, and made sure the student received the answer he needed. When a final referral to another office became necessary, Paris guided the student to where he was going and ensured someone who had already been briefed on his situation was waiting to support him when he arrived."

### **Paris Suzuki**

*Assistant Registrar  
Academic Services*



"Early in the semester, Dr. Harrod reached out to a student that was struggling in her course. She discovered

that he could benefit from some accommodations that really improved his engagement and performance for the rest of the semester. He is finishing up the class strong and even asked her which class he can take of hers next semester. Student-focused, student-centered!"

### **Dr. Amanda Harrod**

*Assistant Professor, Public Health  
College of Science, Technology, and Health*



## CAMPUS EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Each year, our Campus Activities Board, under the direction of Student Involvement, fills the schedule with an array of free student events. Student Involvement hosts five student workers, who are given the official title of Campus Activities Board, or Cabbies.

Each Cabbie reports to Program Coordinator for Campus Activities Sam Sorrick. Together, these six all-star event planners bring some truly amazing student events to life.

The Campus Activities Board oversees all aspects of these events from conception to execution, which is no easy feat. Meeting with vendors, sourcing supplies, and ensuring their budget generates the best event possible is just a glimpse of their to-do list.

Every year, the Campus Activities Board selects the event lineup by blending what they call “Fan Favs” with a little bit of something new. Week of Welcome, Fall Fest, Floral Fridays, Better Yourself Day, and Late-Night Breakfast are just a few of the “Fan Favs” our students look forward to each year. “Manes on Main” is a new event, where new students explore Main Street in Saint Charles.

Sorrick wants students to know the Campus Activities Board is comprised of their peers. It also creates events by students and for students, including Bingo, Trivia Nights, Movie Nights, Comedy Shows, and Food Truck Festivals. This team plans all these events, and more, with students in their hearts and minds. The existence of the Campus Activities Board is essential to enriching the student-life experience, offering a fun outlet for students to connect in a new environment away from the familiarity of home.

The Campus Activities Board goes beyond just organizing events. They are curators of memories. They foster relationships between students from all walks of life. This team’s commitment to the student experience is a shining example of what it means to be a Lion. The next time you see a Campus Activities Board T-shirt on campus, remember the passion, hard work, fun, laughter, and commitment ingrained in it its every fiber.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 4–5**

Riverfest

**July 13**

Hot Summer Nights

**July 18**

Shamrocks Alumni Night

**August 10**

Hot Summer Nights

**August 15**

Shamrocks Alumni Night

**September 7**

Lion Pride Tailgate & Football Game vs. Central Arkansas

**September 14**

Hot Summer Nights

**September 19**

Shamrocks Alumni Night

**September 20**

LU Night at the Ballpark, Busch Stadium

**September 21**

Lion Pride Tailgate and Football Game vs. University of Saint Thomas

**September 21–22**

World Wide Technology Raceway INDY Car

**September 27–29**

Saint Charles Oktoberfest

**September 28–29**

Evolution Festival

**October 5**

Lion Pride Tailgate & Football Game vs. Tennessee State

**October 12**

Lion Pride Tailgate & Football Game vs. Charleston Southern

**October 17**

Shamrocks Alumni Night

**October 18**

Dark Carnival

**October 25**

Lindenwood University Gala

**October 26**

Homecoming Parade

**October 26**

Lion Pride Tailgate & Homecoming Football Game vs. Western Illinois

**November 9**

Lion Pride Tailgate & Football Game vs. SEMO

**November 21**

Shamrocks Alumni Night

**December 1**

Winterfest

**December 19**

Shamrocks Alumni Night





## SETTING THE STAGE FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE

Perhaps Shakespeare was right when he said, “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.”

For Peter Bezemes, life has centered around the arts, and his generosity has come full circle with one of the largest gifts in the history of Lindenwood University. A graduate of the University in 1979, Bezemes spent years in the entertainment industry as a casting director and radio producer.

Bezemes gifted the University a multimillion-dollar theatre set used in productions worldwide, most recently at the historic Andy Williams Theater in Branson, Missouri. Now, the complete stage and set belongs to Lindenwood University.

Initially constructed for “Rebecca,” a musical adaptation of the 1938 Daphne du Maurier novel, the set can be adapted to work for multiple productions including “Phantom of the Opera,” “Annie,” and “A Christmas Carol,” among others according to Bezemes.

A longtime friend of the University, Bezemes was vital in opening the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts on campus and served as marketing manager for several years. This gift brings with it a lasting commitment to the arts at Lindenwood University and, in recognition of this major commitment and past gifts to the University, the Lindenwood Theater in the Scheidegger Center will once again be known as the Bezemes Family Theater.



*Future*

# ATHLETICS

## LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY



### A PROMISING OUTCOME



**There was plenty of rain on December 4, 2004, as is the norm in Kigali, Rwanda, but this was no ordinary day.** As is River Lakey's path to Lindenwood University.

Lakey, now a member of Lindenwood's NCAA Division I football team, was found in a ditch during a rainstorm. But the lady who found him was unable to care for him, so he ended up in an orphanage.

Lakey was adopted by his father, Jimmy, in 2008. Although Jimmy could only take one child home, he made a promise to all the other kids in the orphanage. This sparked the River's Promise, a foundation that gives back to his hometown.

"We totally closed out that orphanage," Lakey said. "We gave all the children, families, and school support and ever since then, we've been doing God's work and taking care of everybody."

This was only the first step for Lakey. He has big plans for the foundation moving forward.

"We built a K-12 over there in Rwanda," he said. "After doing that, I want to build a college over there and bring the gift of education at a higher level."

Lakey and Jimmy still go back to Rwanda on occasion and see all the people they have helped, some of which are now married and have kids of their own.

"When I think about it, I think that God chose me, and he put me here for a good purpose: To change the world just like my dad," Lakey said. "I just want to follow in my dad's footsteps, do what I can even better, and just make everyone proud."

# Purpose



“

We gave all the children, families, and school support and ever since then, we've been doing God's work and taking care of everybody.

RIVER LAKEY







## RECORD BREAKER

**Records are meant to be broken.** And that's exactly what Morgan Neitzke did this season. A junior forward on Lindenwood University's NCAA Division I women's hockey team, Neitzke is now the owner of seven program records, all of which were set this season. The Jackson, Michigan, native has 96 points in her career, 46 of which came during the 2023–24 campaign. Those 46 points consisted of 24 goals, and 22 assists—all three program records. Neitzke ranked sixth in the country with those 24 goals and was a nominee for the Patty Kazmaier Award, which is given to the top player in women's college hockey. On top of the individual accolades, she helped lead Lindenwood to 11 wins on the season, a new single-season high for a relatively young program that joined the Division I ranks in 2011–12.

“Our team is incredibly proud of Morgan and the year she had,” coach Taylor Wasylk said. “We went into the year knowing she was closing in on a few program records, and we ended the year certain that by the time she is done here, she will own every single offensive record in Lindenwood history. She is an incredibly talented player, person, and teammate, and I think this year was only the beginning of her showing everyone what she is capable of.”

“

She is an incredibly talented player, person, and teammate, and I think this year was only the beginning of her showing everyone what she is capable of.

**TAYLOR WASYLK**

*(Women's Hockey Coach)*



# The Mighty CANOPY

## DIERBERGS AND LINDENWOOD PARTNER TO GIVE BACK TO STUDENTS

**Dierbergs and Lindenwood University have established a longstanding partnership that offers two distinct scholarship opportunities for Lindenwood students, along with the GOLD program tuition discount initiative that is designed to support current Dierbergs employees who wish to pursue higher education.**

Dierbergs, a longstanding grocery provider in the greater St. Louis area, was established in the 1850s. “Now more than 4,000 Associates share in Dierbergs’ history and uphold its reputation built on hard work, personal service, and a commitment to meeting the growing needs of our area through community service.”

In honor of Dierbergs’ commitment to service, the company partnered with Lindenwood to provide educational

opportunities for students and associates. Among those opportunities offered is the Dierbergs Leadership Scholarship. Specifically designed for Dierbergs employees enrolled at Lindenwood, applications are accepted annually, and the recipient is chosen based on their demonstrated leadership skills at work and their commitment to personal growth as a leader during their time at Lindenwood.

The Dierbergs IMPACT Scholarship is also offered. Established in 2022, this scholarship is an annual opportunity for Lindenwood students.

“As we evaluated our initiatives, we aimed to enhance our partnership with Lindenwood and uphold our commitment to supporting the local student community,” Dierbergs Director of Talent Management and Lindenwood Alumna Erica Campbell said.



As we evaluated our initiatives, we aimed to enhance our partnership with Lindenwood and uphold our commitment to supporting the local student community

**ERICA CAMPBELL**  
*(Dierbergs Director of Talent Management and Lindenwood Alumna)*





“In recent years, our focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion has deepened, prompting us to integrate these values into our support for the diverse population at Lindenwood. Thus, the Annual Dierbergs IMPACT Scholarship was created.”

Today, the scholarship assists five students annually with tuition expenses. It includes renewal criteria to help foster a connection between recipients and the Dierbergs team, while also providing insight into potential career paths within the company.

“It’s been a pleasure working with the Lindenwood team to implement the Dierbergs IMPACT Scholarship,” Dierbergs Sr. Talent Manager Heather Siegler said. “They have been extremely helpful, and you can see that they truly care about

the success of their students. I look forward to our continued partnership and engaging with our scholarship recipients.”

Dierbergs is preparing for its inaugural Shadow Day for recipients entering their junior year. The day will feature various activities and engagement with the Dierbergs brand. Additionally, as recipients approach their senior year, they will have the chance to participate in a Retail Management Internship.

Dierbergs is in the initial stages of this program and eagerly anticipates its growth in the coming years. In a true reflection of the origins of Dierbergs, this partnership continues to meet the needs of others. Together, Dierbergs and Lindenwood University are impacting the community and prioritizing the success of current and future students.

## 2024 GIVING WEEK PUTS STUDENTS FIRST

**Lions from all over the world came together during Lindenwood University’s fourth annual Giving Week to donate more than \$250,000 in support of areas all over campus, surpassing the \$175,000 goal and setting a new Giving Week record in impressive fashion.**



During the weeklong celebration of philanthropy, the University raised \$265,900 from 813 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends across 36 states. This total is a near 50% increase from 2023 and is the first time Lindenwood had over 800 donors during Giving Week.

“I continue to be impressed by the rapid growth we have seen in both the number of donors and the amount given during these past four years,” Lindenwood President Dr. John R. Porter said. “To think how far we’ve come since our first Giving Week in 2021 is a remarkable testament to our alumni and friends’ belief in supporting the student experience at Lindenwood.”

Giving Week brings together the entire Lindenwood community to support the people, places, and programs on Lindenwood’s campus. Donors during this year’s Giving Week supported 35 areas on campus, including academic programs, student scholarships, the Lindenwood Fund, and much more.

“Giving Week 2024 was an incredible week for Lindenwood students,” said Brittany Howard, who leads Lindenwood’s annual giving program. “Lions joined together to promote and celebrate the great work that happens every day on our campus. Lindenwood is truly a special place, and the record-breaking support we received from our alumni and friends is a testament to that.”

### GIVING WEEK HISTORY

#### Giving Week 2021

\$33,372 raised from 179 donors

#### Giving Week 2023

\$182,670 from 741 donors

#### Giving Week 2022

\$125,825 raised from 451 donors

#### Giving Week 2024

\$265,900 from 813 donors

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY  
**ALUMNI**  
*Reunion*

**2024 ALUMNI  
REUNION WEEKEND**

**Lindenwood University's Alumni Reunion Weekend was a spectacular time for all.** Graduates, friends, and family celebrated bonds that made their Lindenwood years unforgettable. The weekend kicked off at Shamrocks Pub n Grill for April's monthly Lindenwood Alumni Night.

Friday evening, attendees enjoyed the Alumni & Friends Mingle and Milestone Celebration held at the Warner Hall Alumni Lounge. It was a night of mingling, treats, and surprise guest appearances by notable alumni. Several in attendance took advantage of a special experience—moonlight-guided tours of campus held after dark.

The final day of Alumni Reunion Weekend was packed with activities for attendees to connect and celebrate their alma mater. The Saint Charles Alumni Chapter hosted its monthly meeting to welcome new guests and discuss their efforts to expand the network of local alumni, as well as programming initiatives and community engagement. Following the meeting, Lindenwood President Dr. John R. Porter and First Lady Beverly Porter welcomed guests to the Lindenwood House for the Alumni Awards Presentation and Brunch.

Finally, the weekend concluded with the Alumni & Friends Party on the Patio, where guests enjoyed snacks and party games while cheering on the Lindenwood lacrosse teams in a doubleheader.

**The Alumni Relations team extends a special thank you to the weekend's guest speakers.** It was wonderful to hear from each of you and learn where you started here at Lindenwood and where you are currently in your career, as well as the successes you've accomplished. Thank you again for taking the time to join us for Alumni Reunion Weekend!



**THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY**

*Alumni*

## Dear Graduates,

Congratulations to the class of 2024! Your hard work and perseverance paid off, and you now join the ranks of more than 65,000 fellow alumni. Welcome to the Alumni Association! I hope to see all of you taking advantage of some of the wonderful programs and events the Lindenwood University Alumni Association and Special Events team organizes each year. There are many great opportunities to grow your social network!

### Here are some ways to enhance your alumni experience:

- Stay informed and read our bi-annual article in the University magazine for happenings on campus, updates on your fellow alumni, and events.
- Return to campus with your classmates and attend programs and events. Take advantage of our career-related resources.
- Remain involved! If you're staying in the area, I encourage you to get involved with the Saint Charles Alumni Chapter.
- Interact with us on social media. We're on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. As you achieve personal and professional milestones, share your exciting news with us, so we can celebrate with you!

JOIN TODAY!

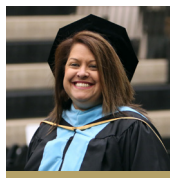
**LINDEN  
CONNECT**



As a three-time Lindenwood alumna myself, I am incredibly proud of our Lindenwood Alumni community, and we continue to grow our network. My wish is that everyone stays well and strong.

For the latest information and updates, please visit LindenConnect. You'll find updates as we add new events to the calendar and have a chance to connect with fellow Lindenwood graduates as you expand your personal and professional network.

Please keep in touch. I look forward to serving you and helping you stay closely connected to Lindenwood.



**Sincerely,**

**DR. JEN EDLER**

*Director, Alumni Relations*

[Alumni@lindenwood.edu](mailto:Alumni@lindenwood.edu)

## 2023 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lindenwood University has a long history of presenting alumni awards to celebrate and honor alumni accomplishments, their dedication to the University, and their commitment to the greater community.



### Chasity Strickland '04 | Alumni Merit Award

*This award recognizes alumni who have enhanced the prestige of Lindenwood University by virtue of their character, integrity, career, and personal accomplishments.*

Chasity is an experienced, organized, inclusive servant leader with an affinity for success. She is a wife, celebrating 20 years of marriage this September, a mother of 2 and a new Gigi (grandmother). Chasity is a first-generation college graduate and has been with the Boeing Company for almost 20 years. She is an entrepreneur most evenings and weekends: As U Wish Event Planning, Strickly Taxes, and Travel by Chasity. Her favorite charity and a place she loves to volunteer at is The Ronald McDonald House dinner program. Chasity is celebrating her 20th year of graduating from Lindenwood's LCIE program, and she is very grateful that such a program existed back then, which focused on adult learning.



### Dr. Jose Jones '06, '07, '18 | Alumni Service Award

*This award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to Lindenwood University—whether it be through volunteerism, philanthropy, recruiting, or any other means.*

Dr. Jones is a Licensed Professional Counselor, retired professional boxer, and founder of The Boxing Therapy. He has used his passion for boxing to create programs that help with stress, anxiety, ADHD, depression, and addiction. He offers tailored programs for adults, youth, and children with special needs, including Parkinson's, autism, Down syndrome, and ALS. In addition to his work in the community, he also offers mental health support and resources to students at Lindenwood. He holds three master's degrees and earned a doctoral degree in education from Lindenwood University.



### Susie Evans '15 | Young Alumni Award

*This award recognizes the accomplishments of alumni who graduated in the last 10 years. Recipients are up-and-coming talents and have demonstrated outstanding promise for contributions to Lindenwood and the greater community.*

Since graduating, Susie has utilized her degree to further her career in the media world. Appearances on shows such as The Bachelor on ABC and various online podcasts, Susie is a true story of what "Real Experience. Real Success." is all about. Susie manages her own company that focuses on wedding videography and photography, all the while maintaining her role as a media personality. She uses her online platform in a way that is informative and helpful to the community by keeping them up-to-date on the latest trends and providing a place for the community to interact with her.

1950s

**Marguerite (Margie) Terrell Langstaff '56** shares that life has been wonderful for her. She was married for 67 years to Dr. Sam H. Langstaff, Jr., has five children, 13 grandchildren, and now four great grandchildren. She went to law school at age 38 and had a 30-year career as a Colorado judge. She shared that while there were a few glass ceilings to break, it was possible, “thanks to the confidence and experiences from Lindenwood and elsewhere.”

1950s

1990s

**Toni Coleman '92** just published a memoir entitled, “*JOURNEY—A story of Redemption from the Historic Housing Projects of New York City’s Lower East Side.*” It can be purchased on Amazon.



**Tracy (Bischof) Burton '96** is celebrating 10 years with Eli Lilly and Co. She was recently promoted to executive territory manager in the Lilly Diabetes and Obesity business unit and received the Platinum Performer Award, which is the highest honor given in the sales organization. She also received the MVP Award from her peers in the St. Louis market for 2023.

1990s

2000s

**Misty Ramsey '00** has been named director of special services for grades K–5. She is the principal at Rountree Elementary School, where she has served for the past five years. She will take on

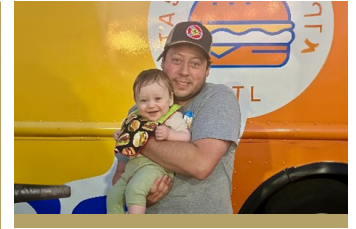
her new role July 1. “I am passionate and excited about the opportunity to support our special education students while pouring back into the department that has supported my educational journey and helped me become the leader I am today,” Ramsey said. “I look forward to working in partnership with leaders and supporting our hard-working special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and process coordinators as they pour back into our students.”

2000s

2010s



**Tiffany McKay '12** is excited to welcome baby No. 7 in August!



**Scott Criscione '14** is the proud owner of Taste-d-Burger STL Food Truck and enjoys “raising my little ham, Liam.”

**Dr. Francesco Giuseffi '14** has been promoted to chairman of doctoral studies at William Woods University.

**Kevin Mason '14** now works at Lathrop GMP as a Trusts, Estates & Legacy Planning Practice Group associate in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Jessica Minyard '14** won a gold medal in the 2023 Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards for her young adult novel, *The Girls of Fall*.





**Joseph Puleo '14** won the Mid-America Emmy for Best Documentary Cultural for his latest documentary, *A New Home*, about the Bosnian refugee community in Saint Louis.

**Claire (Olderman) Welton '16** is co-owner of one of STL's newest businesses, Love, STL. "Our business, in a nutshell, purchases from locally made and St. Louis-owned vendors, allowing STL lovers to curate their own boxes for personal gifting, corporate events, branding etc," Welton said. "We're a small business who supports small businesses. Our business model embodies what Saint Louis is all about."

**Meg Stivison '18** recently released her second card game, "Undersea Explorers: Coral Reef Adventure with Small Monsters Games."



**Madeline (Colyer) Bosch '19** started multiple businesses since graduation and is realizing her dream of being an entrepreneur. Along with her husband, a fellow

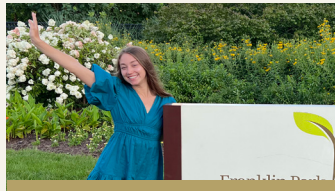
Lindenwood alumnus, she is raising two sons, Lincoln and Maverick. "We hope they follow in our footsteps and become Lindenwood Lions."

## 2010s

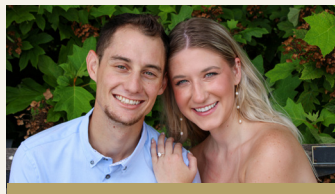
### 2020s



**Kirsten (Muehlbauer) Hawkes '20, '22** was promoted to Senior UI/UX Designer at Prime Therapeutics.



**Mia Tebbe '21** has moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she started a new job as the Grant and Development Writer for Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.



**Jack Bedtke '21** is engaged to fellow Lindenwood University graduate Lydia Stewart '20. They are planning a September wedding. "We are very blessed to have met at Lindenwood and cherish our memories there together."

## 2020s

## THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY



# News

SUBMIT NEWS!

SHARE NEWS WITH US!

We want to hear about the exciting things happening in your life. Submit your happy moment today.





## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Lindenwood University wishes to recognize employees who concluded their service to the University throughout the 2023–24 academic year. The University is grateful for their commitment to students and colleagues, and wishes each of these individuals much joy in their retirement. Additional individuals have chosen to celebrate privately.

- ★ Penny Bryant | August 2015–July 2023
- ★ Pam Grooms | August 2007–May 2024
- ★ Don Heidenreich | August 2000–May 2024
- ★ Theresa Jeevanjee | August 2019–May 2024
- ★ Jim Jump | September 2003–January 2024
- ★ Pam Love | October 2009–April 2024
- ★ Cheri Miller | March 2013–June 2023
- ★ Kris Smith | August 2002–May 2024
- ★ John Troy | August 2002–May 2024

# Service

## MEMORIAL

### ANGELA AHOLT

Augusta, Missouri  
*Class of 2005*

### SAMUEL ALEXANDER

Stilwell, Kansas  
*Class of 2004*

### MADELINE (WOOD) ANDERSON

Boulder, Colorado  
*Class of 1965*

### NANCY (BAILEY) ANDREWS

Golden, Colorado  
*Class of 1949*

### MARY ANN ARRINGTON- TUCKER

Houston, Texas  
*Class of 1956*

### PATRICIA COBB WIEDMER

Roswell, Georgia  
*Class of 1954*

### LILY (TRAUTWEIN) CROCKER

Saint Louis, Missouri  
*Class of 1960*

### WANDA DEFOREST

Saint Charles, Missouri  
*Class of 1981 & 1984*

### PATRICIA (LACEY) ECKHARDT

Iowa City, Iowa  
*Class of 1961*

### LINDA FEHRMANN

Saint Peters, Missouri  
*Class of 2007*

### JUNE (SPANDET) FOSTER

Evanston, Illinois  
*Class of 1945*

### SUSAN (BARBEE) GIMA

Phoenix, Arizona  
*Class of 1963*

### SYLVIA (LORENZ) HUNT

Nashville, Tennessee  
*Class of 1979 & 1982*

### WALTER JORDAN

O'Fallon, Missouri  
*Class of 2006*

### GEHRIG KUNTZ

Glen Carbon, Illinois  
*Class of 1994 & 1999*

### PATRICIA (BODEN) MARTIN

Saint Peters, Missouri  
*Class of 1996*





**SUZANNE  
(THOMASSON)  
NEITENBACH**

Sanford, North Carolina  
*Class of 1995*

**BERNARD O'DONNELL**

Wentzville, Missouri  
*Class of 1978*

**SIGR  
RAGNARSDOTTIER**

*Class of 1971*

**ALICE  
(CHEVALIER)  
RAWLINS**

Grain Valley, Missouri

**TAMMY  
(BRANNON) RAY**

Lake Saint Louis, Missouri  
*Class of 2011*

**VALERIE RESTIFO**

Annapolis, Maryland  
*Class of 1966*

**DOROTHY RICKETTS**

Saint Charles, Missouri  
*Class of 1972*

**KATHARINE  
(KLOTZBACH) RISK**

Independence, Iowa  
*Class of 1949*

**ALICE (PROUTY) ROOT**

Newnan, Georgia  
*Class of 1957*

**MARCIA SATER**

Marshall, Missouri  
*Class of 2000*

**DARLENE (WRIGHT)  
SCHUENEMEYER**

Owasso, Oklahoma  
*Class of 1974*

**SHIRLEY (POULSON)  
SCORSE**

Joplin, Missouri  
*Class of 1952*

**PERRY SIMMONS**

Saint Charles, Missouri  
*Class of 2008*

**BARBARA (BAIM)  
SIMPSON**

Shreveport, Louisiana  
*Class of 1944*

**ESSILEE (PLAYTER)  
SNOOK**

Mexico, Missouri  
*Class of 1950*

**DOROTHY SOMMER**

Oregon, Missouri  
*Class of 1951*

**BETTY (WITTHAUS)  
SPHAR**

Saint Louis, Missouri  
*Class of 1969*

**CORA (PAYNE) STARK**

Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
*Class of 1951*

**CATHERINE SWEENEY**

Wentzville, Missouri  
*Class of 1986*

**MARY (WHITE)  
THOMAS**

Osceola, Arkansas  
*Class of 1963*

**DOLORES  
(HAWKINS)  
TIMMONS**

Beaverton, Oregon  
*Class of 1953*

**TERIAN TIPTON**

Jefferson City, Missouri  
*Class of 2019*

**JACQUELINE  
(GLENN) TOTARO**

Saint Peters, Missouri  
*Class of 2007*

**GENEVA  
(HORSTMEIER)  
VANCE**

Evergreen, Colorado  
*Class of 1951*

**JANICE  
(ROLLINS) VASSAR**

Chandler, Oklahoma  
*Class of 1962*

**JEAN (THIERY)  
VIETOR**

Bloomington, Indiana  
*Class of 1955*

**ALEXANDER  
WEBSTER**

Columbia, Missouri  
*Class of 1997*

**SHIRLEY  
(JOYNER)  
WELLS**

Mountain Home, Arkansas  
*Class of 1956*

**KAY  
(DUNHAM)  
WILKINSON**

Quincy, Illinois  
*Class of 1960*

**LINDA WILLIAMS**

O'Fallon, Missouri  
*Class of 1973*

**CATHERINE  
(LAGUE)  
WOODS**

Monte Vista, Colorado  
*Class of 1942*

**MARTHA  
(SKAER)  
WRIGHT**

Overland Park, Kansas  
*Class of 1962*

**JANE  
(HARRIS)  
YOUNT**

Kirkwood, Missouri  
*Class of 1942*

*In Memoriam*

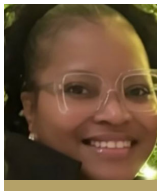


# Future GROWTH

TEASER STORY

## LIVING OUR CORE VALUES: WE THRIVE TOGETHER

**We thrive together. As team members, we foster a community founded on collaboration, authenticity, support, and understanding.**



### KEELA ROSS

*Director, Center for  
Diversity and Inclusion*

Keela is a perfect example of what it means to thrive together. Since she started as the director of the CDI, she's turned it into a warm and welcoming space, and students are there all the time. I'm sure this is completely because of Keela. She's really made the CDI a place where the campus community can collaborate, have authentic and sometimes tough conversations, all done in a place where people feel like they are heard and seen. Support and understanding are two key words to describe Keela—she is the perfect person to help our campus thrive.



### TIM MCNAMEE

*Supervisor, Audiovisual  
and Classroom Support*

Tim's colleagues have recognized his quick response to the challenges experienced by others, and his commitment to support the success of others. For the HLC Accreditation visit, Tim's positive attitude and willingness to assure the sessions ran smoothly was so appreciated and put the Academic Affairs department at ease. During a department staff meeting, a colleague reached out to Tim with tech issues. He arrived promptly and resolved the issues so the department could continue their meeting. The IT staff is great at responding quickly to issues, and Tim was a terrific representative of that this morning.



### LEAH ROSENMILLER

*Manager, Library  
Reference Services*

Leah supports the success of Lindenwood students and employees daily. In addition to her primary role, she contributes to the Student Academic Showcase, which highlights research efforts across campus. Leah was recognized for her willingness to support new employee onboarding through Lindenwood's Culture Connection. With very short notice, Leah came and presented to a room full of new employees at Culture Connection today. She not only provided excellent information and resources to our group, she provided me with technical support in the moment when I desperately needed it. She was my hero today, and I'm very grateful to her.

# Thrive



# Lindenwood ADVANCEMENT

LOOKING FORWARD

## Scholarships for Lindenwood University students are a vital tool in making a Lindenwood education more accessible and more affordable.

These gifts are more than just financial support; they often serve as a lifeline for students who would otherwise be unable to continue their education. Or they can serve as a springboard to financial freedom, enabling them to graduate with less debt. As 98% of Lindenwood students receive some kind of financial aid, scholarships play a crucial role in ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Scholarship support is one of the best ways you can directly impact the Lindenwood experience our students enjoy. Your gift today not only directly impacts the lives of current students but serves as an investment in tomorrow's leaders, and we are committed to providing many avenues to make that impact for our alumni and friends.

### LIONS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your gift to the Lions Scholarship Fund provides our Student Financial Services office the most flexibility in awarding financial aid to students in need. These gifts are awarded as both need- and merit-based scholarships, supporting Lindenwood's mission and celebrating distinguished student achievement.

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Annual scholarships are funded by donors each year. These gifts are awarded to students based on criteria determined by donors, who also may choose to name the scholarship. Unlike an endowed scholarship, an annual scholarship is not a permanent fund and can be awarded in the academic year it is received.

### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Endowed scholarships create a legacy at Lindenwood, which connects our community through generations. These scholarships are awarded in perpetuity with the principal gift amount remaining intact, and the earned income distributed in accordance with the guidelines agreed upon by the donor and the University. Endowed scholarship donors may name their scholarship and indicate a preference for how the scholarship will be awarded. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of Lindenwood, nearly \$500,000 in endowed scholarships were awarded to Lindenwood students in 2024. Endowed and annual scholarship donors are invited to the annual Scholarship Brunch at Lindenwood each spring, where they can meet their recipient in person.

If you're interested in learning more about establishing an endowed or annual scholarship at Lindenwood, contact Assistant Vice President of Advancement Brian Brunner at (636) 949-4903 or by email at [bbrunner@lindenwood.edu](mailto:bbrunner@lindenwood.edu).

MAKE A GIFT!

LIONS  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND



> Lindenwood University Advancement Team at the 2024 Scholarship Brunch

# LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

209 S Kingshighway St • Saint Charles, MO 63301

Need to update your mailing address or contact information? Email [advancement@lindenwood.edu](mailto:advancement@lindenwood.edu).

# *The* LINDENWOOD

SPRING 2024 ISSUE

