

**From:** Evans, James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 06, 2013 6:05 PM  
**To:** AllEmployees  
**Subject:** President's Notebook No. 18 Summer 2013

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK NO. 18 Summer 2013**

Early August will see the **influx of dozens of student-athletes** who will participate in fall sports. That procession will be followed by the ingress of our very talented class of **first-year students** – the future of the traditional-age student body – and still other early arrivers. In what will seem like a blink, fall classes will have started, and we will be collectively cheering for our exhilarating Lindenwood football teams.

I cannot precisely describe the scent, but the melded fragrance of chalk and new textbooks abounds in September<sup>[1]</sup>. Aside from commencement week, the beginning of the fall term is, for us higher education denizens, the most exciting time of the year!

Even while managing a very busy summer school season, we have been preparing for the new academic year. I believe we are just about ready.

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### ***Still a Great College to Work For***

For the fifth time in the last six years, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* has designated Lindenwood as one of the nation's *Great Colleges to Work For*, based on survey responses from our employees. Your answers to the survey questions distinguished Lindenwood in the areas of **Confidence in Senior Leadership, Collaborative Governance, and Relationship with Supervisor or Chairperson**. Thank you for your confidence and support and for all that you do daily to enable Lindenwood to be such a favorable workplace for all of us.

Some have wondered where we went wrong in 2009, which was the year in which we were not on the *Chronicle's* Great Colleges list. The answer is simple: We did not participate in the survey that year because we already had asked the Fleishman-Hillard Company to conduct an independent survey of employee satisfaction, and we did not wish to overwhelm our Lindenwood community members with too many lengthy surveys too often. The Fleishman-Hillard survey also showed high confidence in senior leadership and strong satisfaction ratings on

shared (collaborative) governance. In psychological research, that kind of consistency across two or more measuring instruments is called “convergent validation.”

### ***Facilities Update***

**St Charles:** Our **Center for Nursing and Allied Health Sciences**, which is housed in the impressive classroom building situated along I-64 in Dardenne Prairie (#1 Academy Place) is just about ready to open its doors. Presently we are installing more than 100 additional parking places, which will spike the parking capacity up to well over a 300-vehicle capacity. The building’s computer network and Internet connectivity are nearly ready to use, and St. Charles Community College is completing its build-out of a virtual hospital, which will provide on-site clinical experiences for Nursing students. Lindenwood will have four Nursing professors, and a Health Management faculty member will begin officing there this August. Recruitment of our first class of Nursing students is underway.

**St. Charles Campus Athletics:** We have installed high quality artificial turf on both the softball field and the baseball field in the Lou Brock

Sports Complex. The new surface will be cleaner and easier to maintain, and it will enable out student-athletes to run blazingly fast.

**St. Charles Campus Patch Job:** You probably have noticed the extensive scaffolding on the west side of Roemer Hall. That wall is being re-tuck-pointed, a periodic patching of the mortar seams necessary to prevent water from seeping into the wall structure. The operation should be completed before the first day of semester classes.

**St. Charles Campus Tale:** Once there was a horse-stable building that delighted Lindenwood ladies who were in the College's equitation program. It was where they kept their animals during the academic year and where they trotted them around an indoor track. During its adolescence, the stable lost its stately sinewy hooved guests and became disheveled and filled with all manner of physical plant supplies and discarded materials. In considerably more than due time, the now mature facility changed its interest and became devoted to sinewy featherless bipeds, when it was transformed into a field house for several of the University's sports. Many a fine team streamed from its ports to engage collegiate rivals in mortal combat. It now sported an indoor track for student-athletes, strength and conditioning equipment, lockers, showers, and coaches' offices. This summer, the fabled Lindenwood Lions' field house has been undergoing long-needed refurbishment to

reach its developmental acme. The much improved look of the building is accompanied by increased functionality. It will be the headquarters of our very successful Student Life Sports program and will provide additional space for our top-shelf Athletics Training and Exercise Science programs. You will have to see it to believe the difference!

**Belleville Campus Residence Hall:** The first Lindenwood-constructed dormitory for our Belleville campus is well underway and should be ready for occupancy by January if not late in the fall semester. It will be a beautiful structure with functional common areas as well as comfortable rooms, and it will house more than 180 women.

**Belleville Campus Communications Department:** To better serve the growing population of Communications students on our Belleville campus, we have transformed the rear portion of the main campus building complex (near the District 201 space) into a dedicated Communications Programs wing. It has the latest equipment and networking for video and audio production, as well television and radio broadcasting. Yes, that campus will have its own television and radio stations and will, I predict, become as well known and respected in those curricula as our St. Charles campus. If you would like to listen to streamed broadcasts from **The Lynk 89.1**, click on <http://tunein.com/radio/The-Lynk-891-s186775/> .

**Belleville Campus Auxiliary Gym Renovations:** Our eastside campus has not one but two gymnasiums. The student fitness center at that campus is being moved from the former “boys” gym (a.k.a. the **Lynx Arena**) to the **auxiliary gym** (formerly the “girls” gym). The facility will be renovated to, among other things, expand the space devoted to strength and conditioning. Further, we are adding a cardiovascular section and additional Nautilus equipment as well as free weights. Happily, our Belleville student body has outgrown the exercise-equipment venue that was sufficient at the time that we started the day college there. The new space will be large enough to serve a much greater number of fitness devotees, including students who do not participate in organized varsity athletics as well as the student-athletes.

### ***Congratulations Corner***

Kudos is due our **Institutional Advancement** office, which is captained by **Dr. Susan Mangels**. Its hard work, as well as that of several members of the Lindenwood Board of Directors, led to the successful fulfillment of goals set for the now concluded **Future of Business** campaign – the initiative responsible for the expansion of **Harmon Hall**. The campaign raised over \$3 million dollars in support of the

smartly appointed and equipped facility that now houses our School for Business and Entrepreneurship.

Within the Future of Business initiative, special thanks and congratulations are owed to **Board member John Hammond** for his generous bequest to Lindenwood, which will underwrite the Business School's **Hammond Institute for Free Enterprise**. The **HIFE** is comprised of (1) the **Center for Economics and the Environment** (run by Dr. Howard Wall), (2) the **Center for Liberty and Ethics** (headed by Dr. Rachel Douchant), and (3) the **Duree Center for Entrepreneurship** (underwritten by alumni Rick and Linda Duree).

### *University Health Persists*

**Enrollments:** I am very pleased to report that the number of students studying in our **Belleville day program** will approach 1,000 this fall, an increase of more than 150 students over last fall semester. Dr. Ryan Guffey is to be credited with stepping in to keep us on pace when we lost our Belleville Day Admissions Director in early spring. Belleville Campus President Jerry Bladdick and I simply had to ask Ryan to assume the Belleville Day Admissions helm on a temporary basis, and

he immediately took command of the situation and made sure that the recruitment process continued in an effective fashion.

Dr. Joe Parisi tells me that all of our St. Charles resident-student slots for the fall semester are filled and that there is a waiting list for not-yet-housed students who are still hoping for residential accommodations. As well, new daytime commuter students probably will reach a record number, he says.

Summer enrollments in Teacher Education bested last summer's count by 6 percent. However, the LCIE summer quarter student count was down about 1 percent, as heightened competition from area universities with new centers in St. Charles County continues to pose a growing challenge.

**Revenues:** An unofficial tally of revenue for **Fiscal 2013**, which ended on June 30, revealed that we earned nearly **\$180 million** last year, which represents 10% more than we earned in the previous year. Expenditures are also ahead of the original budget by nearly the same percent, with both personnel costs and direct Lindenwood financial aid exceeding \$50 million by a considerable margin. Personnel expenses increased by nearly 13 percent, and financial aid jumped by 11 percent. Again in



Fiscal 2013, we incurred no debt while charging the lowest tuition and fees among the region's private universities.

### ***Dreams, Plans, and Lindenwood's Future***

Each July, Lindenwood's Board of Directors holds its summer retreat, which lasts nearly a day and a half. The theme of the retreat this time was "**Lindenwood Futures**," and it was about creating a conceptual master plan for the next several years. Although the master planning sessions did not produce detailed prints or final project approvals, many parts of the University's vision were at least broached and discussed, and the ideas ranged between intriguing and inspiring. Among other concepts, dreams, proposals, and intentions, the following emerged:

#### **St. Charles Campus**

- University Village Residence Halls (within the "Retail Center")
- Butler Library Expansion or Annex
- Additional Classroom & Administration Building
- Daniel Boone Campus Education and Visitors Complex
- Natatorium
- Carillon Tower

- Air Bridge Across 1<sup>st</sup> Capitol to “University Commons” (the “Retail Center”)
- On-Campus High Intensity Training Center
- Other Projects

### **Belleville Campus**

- Additional Athletics Facilities (Track, etc.)
- Additional Classroom Facilities
- Additional Residence Halls
- Other Projects

Please bear in mind that these are mostly thinking and discussion points at this time. They do, nonetheless, indicate some likely future directions.

### ***News From a Sterling Fellow***

No one was quite sure how things would go for **Sterling Thomas**, the wonderful first-year football player who sustained a serious spinal cord injury this past season. Many of you were aware of the inspirational progress he was making at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, GA, and I

know that hundreds of our University community members have been praying for him and his family since last fall's tragic moment.

I am pleased to report that Lindenwood just recently received a very nice letter from Sterling and his loving family. It opened with "A heartfelt thanks to you and the entire Lindenwood University community from Sterling, Mike & Sharon, and Selton Thomas for all that you have done and continue to do in supporting us through Sterling's journey of rehabilitation and recovery following his spinal cord injury." In the letter, the Thomas family expressed special appreciation to many groups and individuals, including especially the Black Student Union and our Women's Lacrosse Team.

Everyone will be happy to know that Sterling has continued to recover and has started an "intense activity-based recovery program through Project Walk Dallas." The family requests that we keep them in our hearts and prayers as they and Sterling continue their journey of adaptation and personal growth. We certainly will!

***In Closing***

Having had the privilege of experiencing each fall since the age of 17 on a beautiful college campus, I have become addicted to the exhilaration of starting a New Year every September within an environment that is all about discovery and renewal. What human enterprise holds more inherent promise and reward than higher education? The launch of an academic year offers a fresh chance for all of us to improve on all that already has been accomplished and advance on several new fronts, perhaps some that we did not even anticipate. I am pleased that you are part of the Lindenwood experience, and I wish you yet another enjoyable and productive year!

JDE  
2013

August,