

From: Evans, James
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 11:45 AM
To: AllEmployees
Subject: PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK NO. 20 Spring 2014

PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK NO. 20 Spring 2014

I am sure you are as grateful as I am that the Winter That Was has finally ended and that we are well into the season of nature's rebirth just in time to remind us of the true meaning of Easter. The marvelous aspects of making it through a brutally challenging arctic span are the ever-apparent resolve and impressive achievement produced by our higher education community in spite of the oppressive climate.

Applause goes to all of you for finding ways to ensure that the students continued to receive the best of the University, complete with another stimulating J-Term, a vibrant Sibley Day, and the various athletic and student-organization events and accomplishments that are central to our being a student-centered enterprise. As well, thank you for driving into campus on those cold, blustery, and sometimes icy and snowy days to enable teaching and learning to take place normally. Your extraordinary effort and commitment did not go unnoticed.

Lindenwood's Student Leaders Really Lead

One of the achievements that will always be the pride – and we hope the legacy – of the present Lindenwood administration is the transformation of campus governance that has honored the traditional ideals of academia while yielding genuinely progressive change in campus culture and operations. Many members of our staff, faculty, and administration are aware of the reemergence and maturation of our Faculty Council, the institution of the President's Council, and the plans to start up a Staff Council in the immediate future. However, there is still more participative governance going on here, in the domain of student leadership.

Not only has the **Lindenwood Student Government Association** (LSGA) rewritten its constitution and bylaws and developed a very functional student senate, it has generally become much more active over the past couple of years. At our St. Charles campus, for example, the LSGA leadership and the student senators regularly develop senate bills, which are well-thought-out proposals aimed at improving campus life and culture from the students' perspective. The bills have been, without exception, buttressed by student-opinion surveys and developed logically and with a measure of prudence. (In short, I have been very impressed with the intelligence and resourcefulness of our

students.) The most enjoyable phase of the process occurs when the LSGA president and the student senators meet with me in my office to argue their bills. Sometimes I can indicate my assent immediately, but most often I simply ask a few questions and promise the student legislators that their proposals will receive serious consideration. Rarely is a bill rejected out of hand. These intelligently crafted ideas predominantly deserve to be vetted and, when feasible, implemented.

Typically, the student legislators converge on my office two or three times per academic year, and throughout the year, I provide as much information as I have available on the progress of each of their proposals whenever *The Legacy* or the LSGA president asks for an update. It is not unusual for the group to present 6 to 10 ideas each time we meet. Some bills are straightforward and inexpensive to carry out, whereas others are potentially quite far-reaching and pricey. All but the simplest proposals (which I can usually just accept) are shared with and vetted by the affected staff and administrative offices.

Recent Senate-Based Changes As mentioned earlier, the student senate's bills have generally been quite good, and you have seen the effect of many of them, but perhaps you did not realize that they were the brainchildren of our young protégés. Perhaps you have noticed the recent reconfiguration of Lindenwood's Grab 'N Go station in Butler

Hall, the special motorcycle parking spaces in the Harmon Hall parking lot, the better flow of traffic since the Spellmann parking lot was converted to a one-way street, more emergency phones around campus, Lion paw-print crosswalks, a fabulous sand volleyball court near Pfremer Hall, and water-bottle refill stations at select campus locations. All of these great improvements started with student senate bills or formal proposals presented in my meetings with student government leaders. Now that is great leadership on the ascent!

What's Still Cooking? More recent sessions with the student senators and LSGA president have generated another group of interesting and impressive bills. The senators have called for a **Pedestal Foods** meal plan opportunity for Lindenwood's commuter students – something similar to the plan our resident students enjoy. I am pleased to report that it appears we will have a meals program for our commuters starting this fall.

The senators also have proposed the establishment of several different meal plans for residential students – plans that would give the students flexibility in when and how they use their food “credits” that they purchase when paying their board charge. There is good news on this front, as well. Pedestal has informed me that it will very likely have several options for the residential students to choose from by the time

the fall semester begins. The new options will include “flex points” that can be used to purchase food and beverages at many different times of the day in several different on-campus food venues. In yet another food-oriented concept, the students have requested more “healthy food options,” meaning more fresh food and high-protein alternatives. For that particular item, I asked them to confer directly with the great managerial staff of Pedestal Foods, which they will do.

Our young legislators also pitched a number of other, as yet pending, bills my way. One of their excellent ideas is for the University to mount three somewhat detailed, colored maps of the St. Charles campus near the entrances of the Spellmann Center, the Evans Commons, and Butler Library. Other ideas included the following: making color printing capability available (with volume restrictions) in the main academic buildings of the St. Charles campus; expanding the display of artwork to many public areas of the St. Charles campus; construction of a decorative fountain in the vicinity of the Evans Commons; augmenting our campus-wide emergency notification system; establishment of a modest fee for alumni who wish to use the exercise facilities in the Evans Commons; increasing the number of water-bottle filling stations around campus. Last but certainly not least – and this is an annual request – the senators have requested a slight additional widening of

times when opposite-sex visitation is allowed in Lindenwood's residence halls.

Most Noteworthy Our student leaders are working with a faculty and staff group on the development of an **honor code**, which would place more responsibility for conduct and compliance on a student judiciary in particular and the student body in general. In effect, our students would develop a heightened consciousness of rules, principles, and their underlying moral and ethical rationales and become very seriously responsible for monitoring and regulating themselves much more than is presently true. I like the concept because college students are adults and should be expected to approach that level of responsibility. What is more, a student-driven honor code would appreciably further the University's Mission in regard to the development of the whole person.

It's the Lindenwood Way

I want to thank two members of our University community and comment on some dramatic heroism that took place on campus this spring. When one of our administrators underwent sudden cardiac arrest recently, two of her Lindenwood colleagues, **Dr. John Long** (Education) and **Vice-President Julie Mueller** (Operations and Finance) immediately took action by administering Cardiopulmonary

Resuscitation (CPR) for about 13 minutes, while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Because John and Julie did not hesitate to act in this emergency, and because they refused to give up on the life of another human in dire trouble, the stricken employee survived, is now doing very well, and (being an inveterate workaholic and ultra-productive professional) has been back at work for a couple of weeks. We are very relieved, overjoyed for the “patient,” and endlessly proud of John and Julie and what they did that day. Their extreme act of giving and caring represents the essence of The Lindenwood Way.

Facilities Updates

As usual, Lindenwood has under construction, in planning, or under consideration several facilities projects, including the following:

1. At our Belleville campus, walls are going up on our second new residence hall on the eastside, which will accommodate more than 200 students when it is completed in mid-to-late fall. This beautiful building is being made possible through gifts from Belleville community leaders **Fred and Barbara Kern**, who have been so generous to Lindenwood over the past several years.
2. At our St. Charles campus we are making preparations to erect a seating grandstand and press box structure with a 1,000-spectator capacity at our stadium track behind the Hyland Arena.

3. Between mid-May and mid-August we will install a comprehensive air conditioning system in Cobbs Hall. In addition to that project, our intention is to add air conditioning to three other heritage residence halls on the St. Charles campus over the next three summers.
4. Our Board of Directors is considering a proposal to construct a 100- thousand-square-foot Learning Resources Center at St. Charles. If approved for construction, the facility would house a new library, multiple collaborative student learning spaces, a teaching resources center, tutoring and developmental centers, and 10 modern classrooms.

You probably knew that our Board and administration were investigating an opportunity to build a campus in Gilbert, Arizona. In fact, the City of Gilbert had approached Lindenwood with that hope in mind. Although that location has the potential to support a private liberal arts university, I am sorry to report that we and the city leaders could not make the startup financing work. That project is now off the table.

Taking Performance Evaluation to a New Level

By now, you likely are keenly aware that our Human Resources office and programs have undergone many changes lately. Not only is the HR staff larger than it has ever been in the history of the University, **Dr. Deb Ayres**, Vice-President for Human Resources, and her energetic staff have launched several new initiatives to further improve our support of employees. More exciting initiatives are on the drawing board, and we will keep you abreast of these developments over the next several months.

The largest project being tackled by our Office of Human Resources is converting our current employee performance evaluation system into a more structured and thorough process. The first phase, the upgrade of faculty evaluation, will be complete by mid-summer, and the result will be one of the most sophisticated and elaborate programs of its type in higher education. The second phase will start this fall and will focus on developing a system-wide methodology to assess staff performance. The final phase is slated to begin late next winter or early next spring; the aim will be to more thoroughly and frequently gauge the proficiency of our adjunct faculty members.

The ultimate effect of these augmented employee performance evaluation programs, of course, will be much better services for our

students and other University stakeholders and, we hope, greater professional growth and satisfaction for all Lindenwood employees.

Congratulations Corner

Kudos is due several Student Life Sports teams that have achieved national championships this spring: synchronized swimming, men's bowling, roller hockey, and shotgun sports. It is additionally noteworthy that our **shotgun sports** program has won its **eleventh consecutive national crown**, making it the best such outfit in the history of the sport – barring none. Highest congratulations go to **Coach Shawn Dulobery**, the assistant coaches, and their amazing student-athletes.

On the NCAA side of our sports organizations, Head Wrestling Coach **Chad Smith** was declared Coach of the Year by Lindenwood's Division II conference, the **Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association**. Superb work, Coach Smith!

Our recognition and admiration should also be directed toward the many Lindenwood professors and student-scholars who are continually engaged in the production of scholarly research and publication, which are essential to the academic vitality and intellectual growth of a

comprehensive university such as ours. Although I would not have room in this bulletin to cite all of the active scholarship going on at Lindenwood this spring, a single recent edition of the *Communiqué* mentioned the following faculty papers and presentations:

1. Lindenwood Associate Professor of Nursing **Deborah Kiel** and her colleague, Pamela Xaverius (of SLU), presented their research results regarding “reproductive life plans” at a recent meeting of Maternal Child and Family Coalition in St Louis.
2. Art History professor **James Hutson** recently presented a scholarly paper at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in New York City. His treatise focused on the evolution of academic traditions in the arts.
3. **Kyle Coble**, who is an Assistant Professor of Marketing and International Business in LCIE coauthored a paper on “New Nationalism Online” with Lindenwood graduate student **Ashley Walsh**. Last month (March) Walsh presented their paper at the annual meeting of the Academy of International Business held in Chicago.

These are but a few examples of the active learning culture that has come to characterize this dynamic University. As that intellectual culture continues to strengthen, so will the quality and value of our students’ educational opportunities.

Not To Be Outdone Our Lindenwood students, taking their cues from their prolific professors, have also been quite active in some fairly sophisticated scholarship. Our annual **Student Research Symposium and Exposition** (SRSE), which was held on April 23, featured outstanding research and investigatory and expository works compiled this academic year by our student-scholars and placed in competition through this special program. SRSE organizer, **Dr. Sarah Noonan**, Assistant Professor of English, told me that the event involved more than 130 participants in only its second year. The following students received awards for the best projects:

Undergraduate Level

School of Business and Entrepreneurship

First place: Jacob Krato

Poster: Go to Class! A Study on the Effects of Skipping Class on GPA

Second place: Luis Martinez Reyes

Poster: A Sinful Economy is a Strong Economy

School of Communications

First place: Sandro Perrino Lanz

Presentation: Difficulties Presented for Venezuelans Studying Abroad in the 21st Century

School of Education

First place: Toni Faletti

Poster: She Fights a Silent Battle

School of Fine and Performing Arts

First place: Ciara Adams, Ashley Albert, Paula Bernal, Emily Tiehes, Elliot Eastin, Morgan Mason

Presentation: "Look." Fashion Show Production: Stage and Promotion

Second place: Paris Brooks, Cody Floyd, Autumn Gay, Shermonda Green, Nicole McCreight

Presentation: "Look." Fashion Show Production: Models and Merchandising

School of Human Services

First place: Ryan Amos, Samantha Cavanaugh, Abigail Fallon, Zak Hafner, Aaron Kothe, Alexis Tapia

Poster: Waste Audit - Lindenwood University Sustainability Alliance

Second place: Monica Leblanc, Rachel Schulteheinrich, Samantha Zimmerman-Stark

Poster: Campus Kitchen (P.O.T.L.U.C.K.) Feasibility Study

School of Humanities

First place: Kami Ahrens

Presentation: Magical Realism and Revolution: Recreating Identity in Latin America

Second place: Courtney Mosley

Presentation: Breaking the Generalizations of the Guerrilla

School of Sciences

First place: Alissa Dymes, Nate Maeys, Emily Sinn, Bowen Steele

Poster: Development of an Instrument for Determining Learning Strategies

Second place: Edith Gyasi

Poster: Comparisons between Behaviors of Wood Frog Tadpoles and Bullfrog Tadpoles

School of Sport, Recreation, and Exercise Sciences

Tie for first place—

Kimi Peterson

Presentation: Exercise is Medicine

Brad Gieske

Poster: Metabolic Implications of Curcumin in the Diet

Lindenwood College of Individualized Education

First place: Billy Thrasher

Poetry Reading: "A Woman's Way"

Graduate Level

School of Business and Entrepreneurship

First place: Jason Wheaton

Presentation: The Effect of Long-Term Capital Gains and Dividend Tax Rate on the Performance of Market Indexes Based on Market Capitalization

School of Communications

First place: Ding Ai

Presentation: New Design Media Empower Us to Break through Limits of Conventional Art and Free Our Imagination

Second place: Christopher Bogedin

Presentation: VeloGuides

School of Education

First place: Kalonna Carpenter

Poetry Reading: "Shedding From the Inside"

Second place: Tracy St. Clair

Poster: The Effect of an Integrated Music Curriculum on Reading Achievement Outcomes of Kindergarten Learners

School of Fine and Performing Arts

First place: Matthew Noblett

Presentation: The Blight of Progress in North St. Louis: The Beginning is the End that Leads to the Same Beginning

Second place: Elizabeth Bergmann, Erin Jameson Brown, Katherine Harding, Ashleigh Wallen

Poster: Friday Art Bazaar: An Alternative Art Show

School of Human Services

First place: Jacqueline White

Poster: Helping Helpers Help the Homeless

Second place: Bianca Adams-Gaston

Poster: Leadership Project: The Allélo Institute

School of Humanities

First place: Sean Hunt, Yongxian Li, Zhidan Wang

Presentation: Exploring World Englishes in Chinese University Pedagogical Contexts

School of Sport, Recreation, and Exercise Sciences

First place: Paul Titus

Presentation: Fatigue Management in Division II Basketball Players

Second place: Michael Reese

Poster: Correlation between Throwing Velocity and Baseball- and Softball-Specific Performance Tests in Collegiate Baseball and Softball Players

Lindenwood College of Individualized Education

First place: Anothai Kaewkaen

Presentation: Homage to Heroes: Thai Poems of Political Protest

Second place: Jeannette Landon

Fiction Reading: "Tubby Clutz, Slim Fisher, and Momma's Gun"

Alpha Chi "People's Choice" Award (selected by guests who attended the event)

Sandro Perrino Lanz

Presentation: Difficulties Presented for Venezuelans Studying Abroad in the 21st Century

Our hats go off to these exceptional young scholars – and to Dr. Noonan and the many other faculty mentors who inspire and guide them.

More Honors I would be remiss not to comment on our 2014 Honors Convocation, which took place this past weekend (on April 27) and shined the spotlight on hundreds of our best and brightest. As usual, it was truly the most prominent and satisfying academic highlight of

April. One of the brightest stars on stage at the J. Scheidegger Center was Lindenwood senior **Adam Stroud**, who received honors in Linden Scroll and the Honors College, as well as being selected as this year's Schoenhard American Heritage Award winner. I also noticed that Adam was the author of an article on the history of fraternal organizations in the most recent edition of Lindenwood's professional regional studies journal, *the Confluence*.

The program book for the 2014 Honors Convocation can be found at this link:

<http://www.lindenwood.edu/academics/honorsCollege/docs/honorsConvocationProgram2014.pdf>

In Closing

As we approach our traditional May commencement ceremonies – two in St. Charles and another in Belleville – I want to personally thank you for the vital part you have played in bringing the members of this year's graduating class to this wonderful launching point for their professional lives. The seasonal rites and ceremonies remind all of us, in the most poignant and inspirational way, exactly why this University exists and why we have committed our lives to its Mission.