

Celebrating Diversity



*building a
beloved community*

2016



Celebrating Diversity should serve as a resource for past, present and future students in need of diverse perspectives, guidance and support while members of the Lindenwood University community. It highlights and celebrates Lindenwood's diverse board members, administrators, faculty, and staff "Like No Other," in the form of a readily available guide for all LU students; past, present and future...

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Luke Bobo



Luke B. Bobo, PhD

- Former Associate Professor & Department Chair, Christian Ministry Studies
- Director of Resource and Curriculum Development, Made to Flourish
- Adjunct Professor, Covenant Theological Seminary

Hire Date: January 2006

Promotions / Dates:

- Promoted to Associate Professor (2011)

Awards, Recognitions, etc:

- Selected to teach an Honors Freshmen Experience Class (2013)
- Nominated for “Outstanding Professor” by student body (2011)

LU / BV Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Panelist, *Creating an Assessment Culture* (2014)
- Faculty Council (2011-2014)
- Professional Development Task Force (2010-2014)
- Community Standards Committee (2013-2014)
- Plagiarism Policy Task Force (2013-2014)
- Sibley Day Co-Planner/Organizer (2013)
- Judge & Moderator, Student Research Symposium Exposition (2013 & 2014)
- Hosted Theological Roundtable Discussions with students

Luke was born in Kansas City, Kansas and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. Because he loved and excelled in math and science in high school, he was encouraged to major in electrical engineering. While attending the University of Kansas, Luke worked as a math tutor—which is how he met, and later married, Rita Holmes. He has also written two books, *Living Salty and Light-filled Lives in the Workplace*, and *A Layperson's Guide to Biblical Interpretation*.

Joshua Bodie

Joshua Bodie

- Administrator, Information Technology Systems
Information Technology

Hire Date: July 2012

Promotions/Dates:

- Lindenwood Marching Band (2008-2012)
- Lindenwood Men's VolleyBall (2008-2012)
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Beta Nu Chapter (Chapter Advisor)

Joshua was born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas. Growing up, he was labeled as the "Tech Guy/ Mr. Fix it" by his family. This is one of the reasons he chose a career in the Information Technology field. In May 2012, Joshua received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from Lindenwood University. Three years later, in December of 2015, he received a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Lindenwood University.



Michael Gibson, Jr.

Michael A. Gibson, Jr.

- Admissions Counselor,
Day Admissions

Hire Date: September 2015

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- BSU Advisory Board
- Lindenwood Alumni
- Student Engagement & Retention Committee (SERC)
- Diversity Task Force



Michael was born and raised in the city of St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sports Management, and an M.B.A. with an Emphasis in Marketing from Lindenwood University—where he is also a Doctoral Candidate for Higher Education Administration.

Cathy McCall Hart



Cathy McCall Hart

- Director of Student Academic Success Programs, Student and Academic Support Services

Hire Date: July 2003

Promotions/Dates:

- Business Office Representative (2003-2005)
- Academic Success Coordinator (2005-2016)
- Assistant Professor, SBE (2004-2007)

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- BSU Advisor
- Former member Student Engagement & Retention Committee (SERC)
- National Pan-Hellenic Council (Committee Advisor)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Cathy is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and a graduate of Webster Groves High School. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Development from the University of Missouri-Columbia, as well as a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management from Webster University/Lindenwood University.

Cathy has served as a corporate human resources management professional for General Motors, American Hospital Supply, Reader's Digest, Edward Jones, and HASCO International. She is affiliated with the Friends of Father Dickson Cemetery as a member, and also serves on its Board of Directors.

Cathy serves as an associate for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She is also the founding member of the Pages reading circle.

Shenika Harris



Dr. Shenika Harris

- Assistant Professor of Spanish,
School of Humanities

Hire Date: August 2014

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Academic Standards and Process Committee
- Council of Teacher Education

Dr. Shenika Harris earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition with a minor in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned a Graduate Certificate in Language Instruction from Washington University in St. Louis, a Master of Arts degree in Spanish from Saint Louis University, and two undergraduate degrees (Psychology and Spanish) from the University of Missouri—St. Louis. She is passionate about teaching and has taught a wide variety of courses at both private and public institutions. Before joining Lindenwood University in 2014 as an Assistant Professor of Spanish, she worked as an adjunct instructor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Dr. Harris has several research interests including second/foreign language teaching, second language acquisition, the effect of instructional format (traditional, hybrid, or online) on language acquisition, and students' goals for language learning. She is especially interested in the foreign language writing process which was the focus of her doctoral dissertation. She has presented at various conferences on this topic and is currently working on publications regarding the function and effect of dual language use during the writing process of intermediate students of Spanish.

Dr. Harris is a native of St. Louis and is happy to have found a position in her hometown. She is passionate about helping others to learn another language and culture, and she hopes that her efforts will result in a more tolerant and compassionate world.

Tara Houston



Tara D. Houston

- Admissions and Financial Aid Counselor, Day Admissions

Hire Date: February 2015

Promotions/Dates:

- Promoted from Data Entry to Admissions Counselor (September 2015)

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc...

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Kappa Chapter

Tara was born and raised in the town of Pontotoc, Mississippi—a city with a population of just over 5,600 people. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, popularly known as Southern Miss, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

Tara is currently working toward her Master of Arts degree in Nonprofit Administration, a field in which she is sure to have many successes and make a notable difference.

Jeremy Keye

Jeremy Keye

- Coordinator of Student Support & Accessibility, Student and Academic Support Services

Hire Date: November 2015

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Diversity Task Force
- Black Student Union



Jeremy was born and raised in Henderson, Kentucky where he was a two-sport athlete and earned a basketball scholarship to play at a small NAIA college in Columbia, Kentucky called Lindsey Wilson College. In 2010, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, and later moved to St. Louis, Missouri to start his career. He has a background in recruitment, having previously served as an Admissions Representative and Diversity Recruiter for 5 years at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. As a Admissions Representative, he traveled nationally working to recruit the highest qualified students who had dreams of pursuing a career in Pharmacy. While recruiting, he had the honor of attending events held by various organizations, such as: 100 Black Men of America, National Association for College Admission Counseling, and Infinite Scholars Program.

Jeremy is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Higher Education. Some duties as the Student Support and Accessibility Coordinator include being a student liaison who works with faculty, staff, and administrators to provide information, and assist students with disabilities in making certain accommodations as they transition into the classroom.

"I enjoy every part of working in education, and I try to provide as much assistance as I can to the students. My ultimate goal here at Lindenwood University is to help all students with academic support, problem resolution, and to provide early-intervention services to help maximize the students full potential both inside and outside of the classroom."

Denise King



M. Denise King, PhD

- Assistant Professor, Social Work
School of Human Services

Hire Date: September 2013

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc

- IRB Committee

High School

Austin-East High School
City/State: Knoxville, TN

College (Undergraduate)

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
Major: Psychology
Minor: Social Welfare
Degree(s) Earned: BS

College (Graduate)

Howard University, Washington, DC
Major: Social Work
Emphasis: Social Service Administration
Degree(s) Earned: MSW
Clubs/Organizations: President of Student Govt. Assoc.

College (Graduate)

University of Maryland Baltimore
Major: Social Work
Emphasis: Aging
Degree(s) Earned: PhD

Caryn McFerren

Caryn McFerren

- Director of First-Year Experience & Parent Programs, Student Development

Hire Date: August 2014

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Family Day
- Black Student Union
- Retention & Persistence

Caryn is from St. Louis, Missouri and is a graduate of Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School. She holds a baccalaureate degree from Columbia College Chicago in Illinois, and a master's degree from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri.

Currently, Caryn is pursuing an education specialist and doctorate degrees from William Woods University. "I've only been at Lindenwood University for two years but I'm loving every minute of it. I've worked in all facets of education including operations, housing, registrar functions and student services," says Caryn.

As the manager of the office of First Year Programs, Caryn handles all things related to first year students. The First Year Programs plans and executes First Year Experience and Family Day. The department also counsels and mentors students, as well as teaches all Freshman Experience courses.

"I truly enjoy helping students in any way I can. It's an awesome feeling when you see a student you've been working with since freshman year, walk across that stage on graduation day," she adds.



Tameka Moore



Dr. Tameka “Tammy” Moore, MBA

- Certification Officer / Data Manager / Academic Advisor, School of Education

Hire Date: November 2013

Tameka “Tammy” Moore was born and raised in East Saint Louis, Illinois. She graduated from East Saint Louis Senior High School in 1995. As a single mother, Tammy was unsure of which professional path to take. She decided to attend Coiffure School of Cosmetology in Belleville, Illinois and became a licensed Cosmetologist in 1996. Tammy enjoyed several years in the Cosmetology profession, and later decided to pursue a corporate career business degree.

Tammy began working for Shaw Management Corporation, a firm that represented individuals in Social Security Disability claims. During her 12-year stay with the company, she served as a Supervisor and liaison with contracted insurance companies. She also served as a representative of the company by way of a televised commercial to promote business. Her experience with the company brought about a desire to increase her business knowledge.

In 2009, Tammy completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and received the high honor of magna cum laude from Lindenwood University. She continued her educational quest and completed her Master of Business Administration degree in 2010 from Lindenwood University. In May of 2016, she plans to graduate from Lindenwood University with a doctorate in Educational Leadership.

She currently resides in Fairview Heights, Illinois with her husband, Carlos and her children, Ariah and Christopher.

Saint Rice, Jr.

Dr. Saint I. Rice, Jr.

- Assistant Professor
- Program Director of Undergraduate Criminal Justice, School of Accelerated Degree Programs

Hire Date: May 2015

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Canvass Training Taskforce
- Diversity and Equity
- BSU (tentative)



A product and graduate of the Riverview Gardens School District, Dr. Saint Rice holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Public Relations emphasis) and Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration both from Lindenwood University. He completed a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership at Maryville University which focuses on the experiences, struggles, and strengths of non-traditional African American male students entering higher education from disadvantaged backgrounds. He is currently the Assistant Professor/Undergraduate Criminal Justice Program Director at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. Dr. Rice's role includes career and academic advising for adult learners in the evening program.

Before coming to higher education full-time, Dr. Rice enjoyed a 19-year career with the Missouri Department of Corrections working with individuals with a myriad of barriers. He has held such roles as Corrections Officer, Case Manager, Probation Officer, Supervisor, Staff Training Officer, Unit Manager and Administrator. Dr. Rice has also collaborated, trained, or partnered with many local and national agencies within the criminal justice field which gives him an in-depth understanding of how each area functions. He also possesses a keen understanding of what is necessary to successfully prepare for the challenges that life will bring. Mentoring young men is a passion and calling he has held since his early twenties. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He and his wife (also an elementary school educator) have enjoyed raising their four children (two boys 24 & 22 and two girls 18 & 16).

Charisse Sauls



Charisse Renata Sauls

- Academic Services Representative,
Academic Services

Hire Date: June 2015

Promotions/Dates:

- From temporary to permanent employee (2013)

Monday through Friday, you can Charisse is working diligently with students and staff in the Academic Services Department. Her main duties include processing outgoing transcripts through traditional or electronic mail, as well as updating and/or researching archived transcripts.

Since March of 2012, Charisse has been the lead female vocalist of PowerPlay Band, along with band leader Gene Jackson. She has also been the band leader, co-leader and lead vocalist for 3 bands in St. Louis; The Fury!, Swan's Enflyte Band, and LoveJones—The Band. Her musical influences are Amy Winehouse, Gladys Knight, Diana Ross, Teena Marie, Chante Moore, Eryka Badu, Lauren Hill, Chaka Kahn, Angie Stone, Alicia Keys and Prince!

Singing since she was three, Charisse found inspiration in her father's old records and classic Hollywood musicals, which featured Lena Horne, Judy Garland and Debbie Reynolds. She secretly began honing her vocal skills as early as age 14 (ask her about sneaking in the side door of Sophie's Lounge at age 15). She has worked with some of St. Louis' A-list musicians on hundreds of projects over the last decade. Her career also includes performances in local theater projects in the early 90's—the Pamoja Theater Workshop, and Middle Passage productions. Charisse toured Europe in 1999, and again in 2010, with stellar gospel singing groups such as the Golden Gospel Pearls and the Golden Voices of Gospel.

Her dream is to collectively empower women and young girls in the arts and entertainment industry, and uplift communities everywhere with the gift of music!

Her debut album *Princess in Exile* is due out later this year.

CSauls@lindenwood.edu

Donna Simms



Rev. Donna Marie Simms

- Director of Veteran Affairs Center,
Academic Services

Hire Date: September 2005

Promotions / Dates:

- Promoted to Director of Veterans Affairs (2013)

Awards, Recognitions, etc:

- Selected to teach an Honors Freshmen Experience Class (2013)
- Nominated for “Outstanding Professor” by student body (2011)

Donna attended Wentzville Holt High School in Wentzville, Missouri. She also pursued and received a data processing certificate from Lewis and Clark Tech School in St. Charles, Missouri. Donna would go on to become a graduate of Lindenwood University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications.

Aside from being the mother to 3 adult children, Donna has one grandson and a very active life off campus. In 2010, she founded LoveEssentials Natural Beauty and Upcycled Gifts. In 2013, she became an ordained member of the clergy in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church.

Donna is the founder of First Love AME “FLAME-An Outreach; the founder and executive director of A.M.O.R.E. Nonprofit Organization (Assisting Mothers in Overcoming Residential Evacuation). She is also the chairperson of the A.M.E.C. Missouri Annual Conference Stewardship Committee.

Chajuana Trawick



Chajuana V. Trawick, PhD

- Program Manager of Fashion Design
- Assistant Professor of Fashion Design,
School of Fine and Performing Arts

Hire Date: August 2012

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc:

- Student Research Symposium & Expo Task Force
- International Festival Chair • Family Day Committee Member
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Member

Chajuana earned a doctor of philosophy degree in textile and apparel management from the University of Missouri (Columbia). She also earned a master of business administration, and a bachelor of science in fashion merchandising and design from Fontbonne University.

Chajuana's career reflects 35+ years of fashion design experience and fifteen years of teaching and administrative experience. While with the St. Louis Public School District, she developed the district-wide Career and Technical Education Curriculum for Fashion Merchandising and Design, and Business Entrepreneurship and Technology. She also served as Site Director and Curriculum Coordinator for Girls Incorporated-St. Louis.

A member of the International Textile and Apparel Association, Chajuana has presented and published her work at annual conferences. She's written for local magazines and newspapers, and created historic costume exhibits. She serves as a volunteer and member of the Missouri History Museum, the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center, the St. Louis Urban League, and is the newly elected Board President of Urban Artist Alliance for Child Development.

As the founder of DesiGns By C.V.T LLC., Chajuana has been involved in fashion shows for business, charity, education and television. As the Program Manager, and Assistant Professor of Fashion Design, she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, and the study abroad programs to Paris and London.

Candance Virgil



Candance L. Virgil, MLS, Ed.D.

- Assistant Director, Library Services,
Butler Library

Hire Date: June 2003

LU Committees:

- Student Engagement & Retention
Committee (SERC)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

Candance Virgil holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications and Journalism from Washington University. She's also earned a Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri (Columbia), and holds a Doctorate in Education from Lindenwood University. She has worked in the field of Library Science for 30 years and her experience includes corporate (specialized), public, and academia.

While working in the corporate sector as a Serials and Document Delivery Specialist for 14 years, Candance was responsible for an \$800,000 dollar budget and led team members in providing scientists and business professionals with information requests and needs (i.e., books, periodicals, journals, articles, and patents) via reputable vendors, such as ACS, Blackwell, CISTI, etc.

Later, she worked in the public sector for three years as a Youth Services Librarian, in which she provided young adults with programs, reference needs, provided off-site reading programs, and networked with local retailers to garner support for youth programs.

Currently, she is in charge of managing the reference staff at Butler Library. She enjoys helping undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students with their research challenges as they explore various topics and future career possibilities.

Patrick Walker



Patrick D. Walker, JD, MBA

- Associate Professor, Nonprofit Management, Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship

Hire Date: August 2012

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Faculty Senate (Chair)
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce (Chair)
- Association of Fundraising Professionals (Faculty Advisor)
- Nonprofit Administration Student Association (Faculty Advisor)
- Young Democrats (Faculty Advisor)

Raised in Winston Salem, North Carolina by his grandparents Luther Odom and Virginia Mae Walker, Patrick is an award-winning first generation college graduate, professor, business lawyer, southern gentleman, and former BELK teen super-model with 20+ years of demonstrated expertise in educational and organizational management, corporate & community engagement, governance, compliance, and assessment. He is experienced with helping organizations achieve the fundamental business ingredients of success as they navigate through critical management and legal decision-making processes and strive toward effectiveness, efficiency, and financial sustainability.

Patrick conducts management seminars for local and national nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. His teaching experience includes courses in management, business law, strategy, governance, ethics, and small business consulting. Published in management journals, law journals, and conference proceedings, Patrick's research explores interdisciplinary approaches to social entrepreneurship in addition to small business and nonprofit "matchmaking."

At the beginning of his second academic year at Lindenwood University, Patrick received the Emerson Electric Company Professor of the Year award for teaching excellence. By the end of this same academic year, Patrick was elected President of the Lindenwood University Faculty Senate.

Dr. Shane Williamson



Dr. Shane Y. Williamson

- Dean of Students,
Student Development

Hire Date: March 2007

Promotions / Dates:

- Promoted to Dean of First-Year Students (2010)
- Promoted to Dean of Students (2016)

Awards, Recognitions, etc:

- Selected to teach an Honors Freshmen Experience Class (2013)
- Nominated for “Outstanding Professor” by student body (2011)

LU / BV Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Retention Committee
- HLC Committee
- Assessment Committee

Shane holds a Bachelor’s degree in marketing; Master’s degree in Counseling/ Higher Education; as well as an MBA and EdD in Education. She is a first-generation college student who has nearly 20 years of higher education experience that has focused on retention, persistence, multiculturalism, adult learning, higher education administration, leadership, freshmen transition issues, corporate relations, community development, and parent involvement.

Her experiences at various types of colleges and universities from public, state-affiliated, and private has provided her a wealth of knowledge regarding operational infrastructure, retention issues, government relations, philanthropy, and working with students from various demographic backgrounds (national, international, religious, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and academic rigor). She has published in a peer reviewed journal, served as a peer reviewer of journal articles and textbooks, and conducted professional presentations. In addition, she has taught undergraduate, graduate, online, and traditional courses at the university level.

Pernell Witherspoon



Pernell Witherspoon, PhD

- Associate Professor of Criminal Justice,
School of Human Services

Hire Date: May 2005

Promotions/Dates

- Associate Dean 2006
- Dean 2007
- Department Chair 2007
- Associate professor 2011

LU Committees, Clubs, Orgs, Task Force, etc.

- Faculty council, BSU advisor, NCAA Committee, Parking Committee
- Nelly scholarship organizer
- Established partnership with St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy

Pernell was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri and is a product of the public school system. Receiving a football scholarship, he attended Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Pernell joined the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, where he patrolled and worked undercover narcotics. He relocated to Atlanta, Georgia for a while, and continued working undercover. He returned to Missouri to completed his 16-year law enforcement career as a sergeant for the City of Hazelwood.

Soon after retirement, he returned to school to earn a Master's degree and PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He joined Lindenwood's Criminal Justice Department in 2005. His teaching and research interests are racial issues within the criminal justice system, policing, juvenile justice—and he's found a new interest in criminal justice ethnography. While Pernell makes teaching college students a priority, it doesn't keep him from his hobbies of boating, running, and enjoying the pleasures of life. He currently has dual residency in Huntington Beach, California and Ferguson, Missouri, as he teaches many of LU's Criminal Justice Online courses.



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