



Photo by Kelby Lorenz
Sibley Hall is the oldest dorm on St. Charles campus, and due to a roof issue, students have now been forced to move out.

Students move to flee mold, falling ceiling

Michelle Sproat
Co-Sports Editor

Residents of two women's dorms on the heritage side of campus have relocated due to hazardous conditions, Lindenwood officials confirmed.

All of the 25 third floor residents in Sibley Hall will be required to move out at the end of the semester after a piece of plaster fell in one of the rooms. And a report of black mold sent two residents of Ayres Hall packing until more tests are run on the substance.

After the Sibley incident, which happened in September, Lindenwood sent in structural engineers to check the ceiling.

They didn't find any issues of immediate concern, officials said, but seven students were relocated as precautionary measures. All other third-floor residents will be required to move out before winter break.

"The repair will involve running boards across the plaster and lath ceiling to secure the ceiling and then installing a drop ceiling," said Diane Moore, assistant vice president of Facilities Management. "Once we are positive this repair is appropriate for the entire third floor, we will begin work during winter break and continue it through the second semester until the ceilings are all secured."

See Dorm Hazards | Page A3

Two charged with rape no longer enrolled; fate of third player undecided

Michelle Sproat
Co-Sports Editor

Two former Lindenwood basketball players who were charged in a rape case last month are no longer enrolled at the university, officials have confirmed.

Ermias Nega and Tylan Birts both were charged Oct. 14 with felony second-degree rape in connection with an alleged sexual assault that happened Sept. 18 in their campus housing on Cullom Drive.

Shane Williamson, dean of students, confirmed that Nega and Birts are no longer enrolled. Tina Babel, Lindenwood's Title IX coordinator, also confirmed the information but said she was unable to comment due to the ongoing investigation.

The fate of basketball player Bradley Newman, who was charged with misdemeanor invasion of privacy in the case, is unclear. As of Nov. 21, Newman was still listed on the basketball team's 2016-17 roster, and he remained on campus, said an RA of the dorm Newman lives in, who wishes to stay anonymous.

Lindenwood Sports Information Director Daniel Newton said that Newman remained suspended indefinitely from the team. He said no one in the athletic department could comment further on this case until the university investigation is complete.

The next court hearings for Birts and Nega are both scheduled at 9 a.m. Jan. 3 in front of Associate Circuit Judge Matthew E.P. Thornhill.

During a hearing on Nov. 21, Newman's lawyer called for a disposition with arraignment waived. The next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 23.

According to police, the sex assault happened after Nega had consensual sex with a woman, 22, who is not a student. Nega then left the darkened bedroom and encouraged Birts, his roommate to go in and have sex with the woman, saying she was "ready" for him. When the woman realized what Birts was doing, she turned on the lights. Newman also was in the room, police said, crouched in a corner, naked, watching and waiting.

Nega allegedly then tried to discourage the woman from reporting the assault, and told her she would be "shamed" if she said anything.



Photo from vinelink.com
Tylan Birts



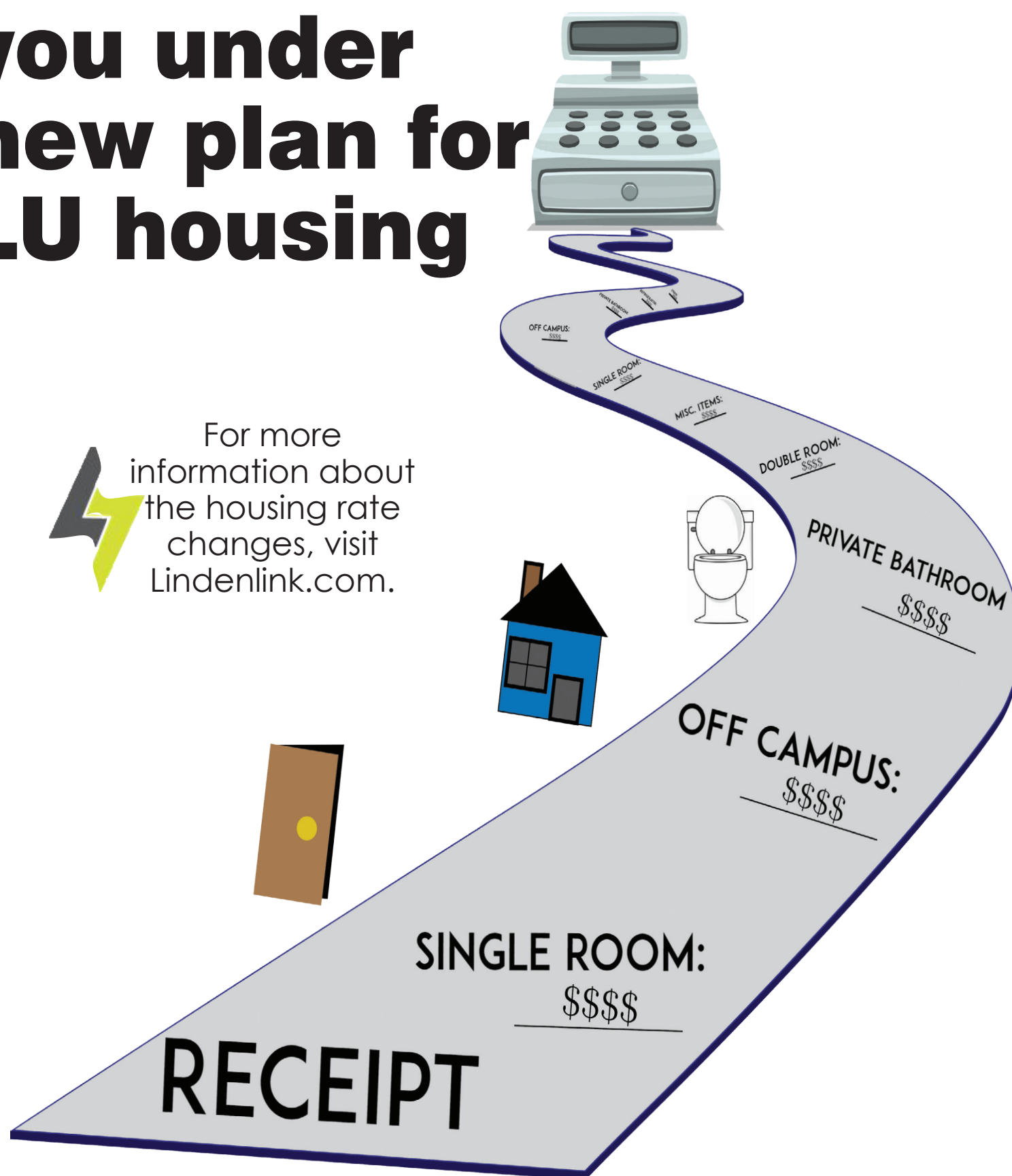
Photo from vinelink.com
Ermias Nega



Photo from vinelink.com
Bradley Newman Jr.

Want a kitchen with your room? It'll cost you under new plan for LU housing

For more information about the housing rate changes, visit Lindenlink.com.



Your housing rates could go up by \$100-750 for options such as a single room, personal bathroom or off-campus housing

Phil Brahm
Lindenlink Editor

Lindenwood students may have to pay extra for their preferred housing option next fall under a plan proposed by the university.

The current system charges all students the same flat rate for housing, regardless of whether they live in a dorm, off-campus apartment or house.

But a new plan, announced at a Residential Hall Association meeting Nov. 22, would base housing costs on the number of amenities associated with each of the university's various living arrangements.

"Let's say you are living in a quad in Cobbs and have to share a community bathroom," said Terry Russell, director of Residential Life. "Right now, you're paying the same amount for that room as someone living over in housing who has their own bedroom, private bathroom, stove, refrigerator, living room and kitchen."

The rate increases could range from \$100 to \$750 a year; rates for some housing options, such as a double room with a community bathroom, would remain the same.

Several other universities in the greater St. Louis area, such as St. Louis University and Maryville University, use differentiated

costs systems for their student housing.

Lindenwood's plan compares favorably with those; upgrading to a single room from a double room at Lindenwood is as much as 71 percent cheaper in some cases.

The revenue generated from the new system would be used to make improvements to several of the university's residences. More than \$30 million is brought in each year under the current system.

Those improvements would include remodeling campus houses and adding kitchenettes to dorms.

Russell said the university is considering a variety of options, but a differentiated system needs to be in place first.

"What we are trying to do is make it fair across the board so that the students that are living in residential halls with less amenities aren't subsidizing those who live in the houses or the off-campus apartments," he said.

The details of the proposal will continue to be discussed at Resident Hall Association meetings during the spring semester, Russell said. While the dates and times for future meetings have not been set, he encourages all students to attend.

"What we are trying to do is get everyone's feedback and see how to proceed with this," Russell said. "We want to be able to justify this increase as best we can."

The new Buzz App has gone live. Download it to get in the loop on Lindenwood news.

See Page A2

Concussions are more dangerous than some realize, and have lasting effects.

See Page B1

A Lindenwood student won an award this year for a short film in the Fault Line Film Festival.

See Page B4

NEWS

2016 Christmas Walk brings holiday spirit to Lindenwood



Photo by Kelby Lorenz
Black Student Union adviser Cathy Hart hangs an ornament made by one of the children during the Christmas Walk held on Sunday, Nov. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Master plan to shape future of Lindenwood

Essi A. Virtanen
News Editor

What Lindenwood will look like in the future — everything from classrooms to housing to recreational facilities — is being developed into a master plan for the university.

“To do a master plan correctly, you really have to focus in on what strategically you want to accomplish, and that has everything to do with what the board’s direction, future direction is for Lindenwood,” Diane Moore, the assistant vice president for Facilities Management, said.

Ryan Guffey, the vice president of Student Development, said it was President Michael Shonrock who first came up with the idea of the master plan.

The process started in the summer of 2015, and it has been almost two decades since an assessment like this has been done, Guffey said.

Moore said the master plan process has two parts.

“The first half of their planning is to understand what you currently have,” she said.

The Hastings & Chivetta, an architectural firm that the university hired to help to coordinate and facilitate the master plan, came to campus in the summer of 2015 and had focus groups through the fall where they talked to deans, vice presidents, faculty, officers from Lindenwood

“I think students ultimately are customers and our client. But we certainly need to understand from students the direction they want to head in their life, because that affects how we provide programming for them.”

-Diane Moore, assistant vice president for Facilities Management

Student Government Association and students.

They discussed the number of classrooms in each academic area, the amount of classrooms needed and the number of students in a classroom.

“So it’s a lot of data collection,” Moore said.

Lindenwood is now in the second part of the master plan process where a strategic planning committee, which has been formed by the board, takes the data, analyzes it and creates a strategic plan to find the direction they will head.

However, Guffey said it is a long-term process, and they will continue to collect more data during it.

Recently, they gathered all the data from every degree program and building to determine “how to utilize all the classrooms” to be able to give students the appropriate education experience, Guffey said.

Shonrock said the process

will be on hold until they finish the strategic plan.

Once they have a report, LSGA and students will get the chance to give their input.

“We’ll have a town hall meeting, where we invite all students to come in, and we’ll do presentations,” Guffey said. “We show what we’re thinking about, looking at different options, and then we’ll kind of bring that feedback back to everybody.”

Moore highlighted that in the process, everyone who is a stakeholder needs to be a part of the conversation, which includes board of directors, administrators, faculty and also students.

“I think students ultimately are customers and our client,” she said. “But we certainly need to understand from students the direction they want to head in their life, because that affects how we provide programming for them.”

Buzz media app now available for LU students

Phil Scherer
Reporter

Students can now download a free news app that campus officials believe will provide them with a “comprehensive news source they can access 24/7.”

The app, titled “The Buzz: Lindenwood University,” is produced by USA Today and has been in development since August of this year.

On the app, students can access information from Lindenwood’s student media outlets as well as content directly from the university.

USA Today also makes its content available on the app, as well as content from USA Today College.

Specific features the app provides include access to content from Lindenlink.com, Lindenwood’s online student media outlet, as well as the ability to listen to 89.1 The Wood, Lindenwood’s campus radio station.

Also offered are campus maps and direct links to all of Lindenwood’s official social media accounts.

Angie Royal, director of Student Involvement, said the app has no restrictions.



Photo by Kelby Lorenz
Students can download Buzz now through online app stores.

“This app is accessible to anyone, anywhere, so faculty, staff, parents, students studying abroad and alums can download it as well,” Royal said.

Lindenwood’s app is part of a group of apps that USA Today has developed for universities.

Other schools with similar apps include the University of Missouri at St. Louis, Washburn University and Wichita State.

Each provides unique

content from student media outlets and combines it with the work of the USA Today staff.

Lindenwood’s attempts to market the product began Nov. 27 and will continue as the university attempts to expand the reach of the app across campus.

“We will utilize The Weekly Roar, social media, the university’s website, print promotions, tabling at events and more,” Royal said.

SANDWICH DELIVERY



SERIOUS DELIVERY!™

**TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU
VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM**

©2014 JIMMY JOHN'S FRANCHISE, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

NEWS

Lindenwood professor does it all

Rachel Douchant “promotes freedom and virtue” and wants to improve education at LU

Walker Van Wey
Reporter

A jam-packed schedule, a two-sided business card and a wall crowded with certifications are a part of life for one of the busiest people at Lindenwood.

Those who know professor Rachel Douchant said she goes beyond the philosophy and business courses she teaches to find new ways to improve the quality of education Lindenwood students receive.

“I run the Liberties and Ethics Center,” Douchant said. “I arrange events and programs and conferences through the Hammond Institute for Free Enterprise. I’m also co-chair of the honors college.”

For Douchant, the seemingly endless list of jobs isn’t a burden because she said they focus on causes she stands for.

“Right now I’m co-hosting an event with the gender studies program,” she said. “What we really want to promote is free speech. The best

way to get behind free speech isn’t to talk about it; it’s to just do it.”

Before Douchant took on these tasks, along with radio spots on a growing number of stations and raising her two sons, she was an active student at Lindenwood.

“[At Lindenwood] I was in the Griffin Society and choir,” Douchant said. “I felt like I was incredibly involved, but I don’t know if I was in a lot of clubs. A lot of the stuff I did was off campus.”

Some of her accomplishments include the work she has done for the honors program at Lindenwood, which has tripled in size in three years.

“I think she’s turned it into much more of a socially active group,” said faculty member Richard Reighard, who has been at Lindenwood for 29 years. “In the past, long before she came around, it was just kind of an honors college. Now they’re doing more like working on social issues. Taking a proactive role in the community. Being an honors student is more



Photo by Kelby Lorenz

Rachel Douchant speaks with senior Amanda Adams in her office in Harmon Hall, Room 257, on Thursday Oct. 27.

than just grade-point average.”

“We’ve also added more honors sections, and we’re working on further perks like possible housing for honors students only,” Douchant

said. Even groups on campus who aren’t directly tied to her meet her with great support.

“She’s been very supportive of the Diversity Task Force,” said faculty member

Patrick Walker. “She was one of the biggest supporters of our trip to the Smithsonian African American museum.”

Douchant described her position “promoting freedom and virtue” and said it

was her “dream job”

“I get to promote that or at least get people to talk about,” she said. “It’s very meaningful, and I feel like that’s what everybody wants is to find work that’s meaningful.”



Photo by Madi Nolte

Computer Science Club members Tunde Akinyemi, Alex Andrei and Jeff Held proudly present the medals they earned at the ArchHacks hackathon in Spellmann Center.

LU computer science students win awards

Madi Nolte
Reporter

Three members of Lindenwood’s Computer Science Club took home top prizes in several categories of in the ArchHacks hackathon earlier this month at Washington University.

The team members were Alex Andrei, Tunde Akinyemi and Jeff Held.

At the hackathon, teams design a product within a 48-hour period that they then demonstrated for the judges, showing them what the team can do and how their product could be expanded.

This year’s competition had the overall theme of Health-Tech, which all products were to be designed around.

Akinyemi and Held teamed up with two students from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to create their product, Integraph, which aids blind students with mathematics.

Mathematical functions can be extremely difficult for blind students to understand, Held said. Their product would allow teachers to make a query for any given polynomial function, and then Integraph would process the image for that graph, making a 3D model of the graph that could then be printed using a 3D printer.

Blind students could then feel the groove of where the

graph is, allowing them to visualize it, in a similar way to how Braille works.

The device won the Best Data Visualization award and the Most Effective Use of Wolfram Technologies award.

Andrei also teamed up with two students from different universities. Their product, EmBracelet, is a silicon and can be scanned by a smartphone to instantly reveal all of the person’s medical information.

The bracelet won the second place award for Best Hardware Hack and the Best Device Privacy Hack.

Akinyemi’s and Held’s awards came with a medal, as well as an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset and Raspberry Pie micro-computer for both of them.

For Andrei’s award, he came home with a collector’s edition of Watch Dogs 2 video game and a hardware-based microcomputer.

According to the ArchHacks website, more than 500 students from across the nation competed in the hackathon, from universities including Stanford, Harvard, Princeton and Carnegie Mellon.

Akinyemi, Held and Andrei said that they went into the hackathon not expecting to win any awards based on the presence of so many students from renowned colleges.

“It was one of those things that you always go into with the hope of winning, although you don’t really have the actual expectations of winning,” Andrei said. “That made winning even more exciting for us.”

Stephen Blythe, computer science professor at Lindenwood, said it was exciting that Lindenwood students were proving themselves at events such as ArchHacks.

“Such success is an indicator of the growing strength of Lindenwood’s own computer science program, as well as demonstrating that the hard work our students put in is paying off,” he said. “The exposure generated by such a strong performance will also bring more attention to computer science at Lindenwood, which will continue to help our current students and alumni throughout their careers.”

Andrei and Held had previously attended at least one hackathon prior to ArchHacks, while the event was a first for Akinyemi.

“I was going there mainly to meet other really great software developers and pick their brains and to just have fun,” Akinyemi said. “But then we ended up winning!”

The next possible hackathon for the three Lindenwood students is PennApps, which will be held at the University of Pennsylvania in January.

Dorm Hazards | Continued from A1

Moore said that the ceiling reconstruction is intended to have little disruption on the rest of the dorm.

“There will not be a lot of debris or dust caused by this repair work,” she said.

Although some students have speculated that the new air conditioning units installed in Sibley last year caused the ceiling to fall, Terry Russell, director of Residential Life, said that was not the case.

“We looked at the structures around the air conditioning units, and those were all solid,” he said.

The problem that surfaced in Ayres Hall — reports of black mold in two rooms — has been under close examination as well.

“We aren’t sure if it was black mold; there was a substance on the wall in a couple rooms on the west side of the building,” said Russell. “We’ve had experts come in to look at that, and in cases like this we do have a concern for the students.”

Two of the three residents of the rooms chose to relocate until the experts finished their testing. One of the residents opted to stay. Dehumidifiers were brought into the rooms



Photo by Kelby Lorenz

Testing has been finished in two rooms of Ayres Hall to find out the cause of spores that were found on the rooms’ walls.

to help remove moisture and reduce the amount of the substance.

While Moore said it was unlikely that the spores in Ayres Hall are black mold, the “spores” developed on the wall because water was getting into an exterior wall causing a buildup of moisture.

“It takes a few weeks to get test results back when you complete an independent air

sampling,” Moore said. “Our internal facility staff continues to monitor the moisture levels in the impacted Ayres rooms twice a week.”

Both Moore and Russell stated that the safety of the students is their top priority.

“We have some older residence halls over there [on heritage side of campus], and in my opinion all of the residence halls are safe,” said Russell.

Staff Changes

The *Legacy* and Lindenlink will have some changes in staff in the spring semester of 2017.

Essi A. Virtanen will take over as the culture editor replacing Maiken Zoëga-Nielsen, who is graduating in December 2016.

Subsequently, Michelle Sproat, current co-sports editor, will move to news and Kearstin Cantrell will remain as the

sports editor.

The rest of the positions will remain as it is: Kelby Lorenz as the editor-in-chief, Mili Mena as the design chief, Phil Brahm as Lindenlink editor and Tyler Tousley as the opinions editor.

This issue being the last of the semester, the *Legacy* staff wants to wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Clarifications and Corrections

Oct. 25 and Nov. 15 Editions

In the Oct. 25 issue of the *Legacy*, in the story “LU couple starts lip-balm business,” it stated that Bee Smooched lip balm was sold for \$4 for a single tube.

The lip balm sells for \$3 a tube and \$8 for three tubes, according to the Bee Smooched website.

Also, in the Nov. 15 issue of the *Leg-*

acy, the story “Speaker Series seeks out gem in Diamond” stated that Stuart Diamond was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

While there is a Stuart Diamond who has won the Pulitzer Prize in journalism, the musician/journalist who spoke at Lindenwood was not that Diamond.

OPINIONS

The Legacy/ Lindenlink

Staff:

Editor-in-Chief:
Kelby Lorenz

Lindenlink Editor:
Phil Brahm

Design Chief:
Mili Mena

News Editor:
Essi Auguste Virtanen

Opinions Editor:
Tyler Tousley

Co-Sports Editor:
Michelle Sproat

Co-Sports Editor:
Kearstin Cantrell

Culture Editor:
Maiken Zoëga-Nielsen

Business Manager:
Ashley Ator

Promotions Manager:
Elsa Mort

Faculty Advisers:
Susan Weich
Neil Ralston

Spellmann Center 3095 /
3100

209 S. Kingshighway
St. Charles, Mo. 63301
Telephone: 636-949-4336
Email: lulegacy@
lindenwood.edu

The views expressed
herein are not necessarily
the views of the university.

Letter to the Editor Policy:

The Legacy is proud to
provide an open forum for
a variety of opinions.

In order to share your
perspectives, please send
a Letter to the Editor to
LULegacy@lindenwood.
edu. Letters may not
exceed 350 words, should
avoid obscenities and
must include the writer's
full name.

Follow us on social media:

Facebook:
Lindenwood Legacy
Lindenlink

Twitter:
@LULegacy
@Lindenlink

Instagram:
@lindenwoodlegacy

YouTube:
Lindenwood Legacy
Multimedia

Staff Needed:

Do you enjoy writing,
design or photography?
Come work for the Legacy
and Lindenlink.com to
build your résumé and gain
practical work experience.

You can contact us at
LULegacy@lindenwood.
edu.

We would appreciate
your support!

Thank you for
your continued
support of
our news
publications!

Don't stress over holidays

Tyler Tousley

Opinions Editor

Holiday season can be
time of joy and celebration,
but also a time of stress and
anxiety. There is so much to
do: buy the gifts, cook the
food, clean the house, look
presentable and hold small
talk with family and neigh-
bors you haven't seen since
last year or even longer.

On the other hand, we get
to spend quality time with
family and friends we haven't
seen since last year. We get
to see the joy when they
open their gifts and loosen
their belts a notch because
they ate just a little too much.

Sometimes, it can seem
like all of the commotion is
not worth the short celebra-
tion.

This is where I'd like to
remind everybody to take
time to themselves and to
utilize the break you have
from your normal schedule
to appreciate what and who
is around you.

It can be incredibly easy
to let the holidays get the
best of you. We focus on
what cool new gift we might
receive or stress over hosting
the perfect dinner, but that
is not what the holidays are



Photo by Essi Virtanen

Shoppers pack the halls of West County Center to take advantage of Black Friday deals.

about.

I could go into the reli-
gious background and rea-
sons that Christmas is cel-
ebrated, but I honestly feel
that in the U.S. we acknowl-
edge those religious roots,
but they are not the driv-
ing force to the celebration.
From a cultural standpoint,
it is a time of love and to-
getherness. We often forget
this.

The Huffington Post pub-
lished a "To Don't" list of
things to avoid to create a
more enjoyable season. A

few of the things they list
include avoiding elaborate
scenes on the mantel with
figurines, allowing yourself
to say "no" to attending par-
ties or doing favors when
you've already got a lot to do
and realizing that it is OK
if you do not get a chance
for every single holiday tra-
dition. I think this kind of
list is important to keep in
mind.

If you cannot make all of
the holiday parties you're
invited to, that is OK. If you
can't afford to buy more than

a card (if even that) for peo-
ple, it is OK. If you don't get
a chance to make a snowman
or see all of the Christmas
lights in the neighborhood,
it is OK.

We worry too much about
presentation and not enough
about valuing our time with
our friends and family. So
this holiday season, remem-
ber to take time to enjoy
yourself. Make the most of
your time with loved ones.
Besides, there is always time
to stress out after the holi-
days.

Lack of lights on campus is unsafe

Michelle Sproat

Co-Sports Editor

The campus of Linden-
wood University is not lit,
and it doesn't have good
lighting either.

I first realized the poor
lighting on campus when I
was walking up the stairs at
Sibley Hall, and it was hard
to see the stair in front of
me. Not only were the Sib-
ley porch lights not on, but
there wasn't a street lamp
on either.

While driving down the
street past Harlen C. Hunt-
er stadium, I noticed that
there were six street lights
along the road, and none of
them were on. Only lights
from cars passing by me lit
the way.

I was on my way to Evans
Commons for dinner. The
parking lot there was not
lit at all. It wasn't until I left
after dinner that the lights
turned on. I assume that
the lights are on a timer for
when it gets dark. However,
it seems the timer did not
take into account daylight
savings time. When the
lights went on, it had al-
ready been dark outside for
over an hour.

These instances are only
a few of many where I felt
unsafe due to the lack of
lighting on campus. The
university has the lamp
posts to provide this re-
source, but what good is a
lamp post if it isn't even on?

In the Sept. 20 edition of
the Legacy, John Bowman,
director of public safety
and security, stated that
"We're basically a walking
campus. You can get any-
where on campus within a
five-minute walk."

If Lindenwood is a "walk-
ing campus", why does it
not look out for the safety
of pedestrians? Believe it or
not, students walk around
campus when the sun goes
down, and need a way to
see where they are going.

In 2013, Saint Louis
University implemented
curved LED light strips on
nearly 200 lamp posts. SLU
claimed that these LED
lights are energy efficient
and beneficial to safety on
the campus, according to
an article from STL Today.

The city of St. Louis is
following suit and are im-
plementing the same LED
lights on more than 2,000
streetlights downtown.
In an August article from
stltoday.com, nonprof-
it group Downtown STL
Chief Executive Missy Kel-
ley stated that the lights
would be both energy-effi-
cient and cost-effective.

This would be a good
model for Lindenwood to
follow. Being a cost-effec-
tive project that could also
improve the safety on cam-
pus, there's no reason that
Lindenwood shouldn't con-
sider it.

If Lindenwood doesn't
want to implement a new
light system, it has another
option to improve the
lighting situation. It could
turn on the lights that are
already there! If it would
like to take it a step further,
it could replace the current
lightbulbs that actually illu-
minate.

If Lindenwood wants to
boast its small campus feel
and promote its "walking
campus" feel, then it needs
to make it safer to walk
through the campus at night.

LU's website may look sleeker, but could be easier to navigate

Jessica Hodge

Opinions Writer

Lindenwood University's
updated website is refreshing
and visually appealing with
the new format and the ad-
dition of videos and pictures
from on and around campus.
The overall quality of the new
look, which launched on Sept.
14, is the difference between
night and day compared to
the old layout. It is crisp and
clean, and does not look bor-
ing or out of date. Unfortu-
nately, getting past the looks

leads to a site that is not im-
mediately intuitive for faculty
and current students.

The new website caters
more toward prospective stu-
dents rather than the current
students and faculty. It seems
strange to calibrate the web-
site to accommodate those
just skimming through the
website, which is one of many
websites prospective students
look at, rather than to those
who are constantly on the
website.

It took me a good few min-
utes to get a feel for the web-
site and relocate all of the tabs

I need as a current student. At
first, I was in a hurry to log in
to my portal, but I could not
find the tab, so I had to search
for it in the search bar option.
Websites that require more
than three clicks to get where
the user needs to go seem
counterintuitive.

Right now, if the student is
using a browser that doesn't
have their preferences, the
new website requires current
students to click four times to
get to his or her Lionmail, Stu-
dent Portal and Canvas portal.
It does not seem like much,
but it draws back from the ac-

cessibility of the site. Having
to click four times is not going
to keep current students and
faculty from using the web-
site; it is a necessity, anyway.

Compared to Mizzou and
UMSL's websites, for current-
ly enrolled students, it only
takes two clicks to get to his or
her student email and portals.
That is half as many clicks.
It may not seem like much,
but it makes a big difference.
Aside from the excessive
clicking, the website is better
formatted than the previous
incarnation and does deserve
credit for that.

Not walking at graduation is something I won't regret

Maiken Zoëga-Nielsen

Culture Editor

Now that Thanksgiving is
over, the semester is almost
done, and for some of us that
means that school is almost in
the past.

This semester has one of the
largest December graduation
classes, and I am a part of that
bunch. Honestly, I can't put
into words how ready I am to
leave because I was suffering
from senioritis most of my ju-
nior year as well as my senior,
so I'm super excited.

However, I will not be
walking in the graduation cer-
emony, and I have gotten quite
a lot of opinions about that.
Though I recognize that a lot
of those opinions come from
a good place, I really don't ap-
preciate hearing them because
they are forming a raincloud
over my graduation happiness.

The most common reac-
tions I get when I say I'm not
walking, is that I'll "regret it in
the future," or that I "should
celebrate my degree with the
other graduating students,"
and I get where that might
apply to most students, but it
doesn't apply to me.

First, I will not regret it in
the future. I don't believe in re-
grets, and I don't have any, so,
no, I will not regret not walk-



Illustration by Tess Augustyn

At the end of the graduation ceremony, students throw their caps in the air in celebration.

ing.

Second, I have zero inter-
est in spending a day listen-
ing to "we did it" and other
self-empowering motivational
speeches, because I don't real-
ly see my degree as an achieve-
ment as much as an eventual-
ity. I always knew I'd get my
bachelor's degree; it was never
a struggle or a "hopefully
if I make it through" kind of
thing, so I can't associate with
any of the victory speeches.

Another reason for my not
walking is that, as an interna-
tional student, my family is

in an entirely different coun-
try, and though my mom of-
fered to fly over here to attend
the ceremony with me, it just
wasn't worth the cost for a
flight ticket in my eyes.

In general, I think the idea
of walking is a very cultural
thing that is inherent to the
U.S., maybe also other coun-
tries, I don't know. But it's not
inherent to mine.

Where I come from we re-
ceive an email saying "congrat-
ulations, etc." when we earn a
bachelor's degree, and that's it;
the celebration is for you and

your family to decide.

I will celebrate with all of
my family when I get home,
but I don't have any desire for
or connection to the gradu-
ation ceremony, and I wish I
didn't have to explain that to
everyone who doesn't under-
stand because it makes me feel
like I have something to de-
fend, which I don't.

I am happy to be graduat-
ing — like through-the-roof
happy — I just don't want the
ceremony. So just let me have
that without raining on my
parade.

SPORTS

Student athletes battle the brain

Concussions' effects can be dangerous if left unchecked, trainer says

**Kearstin Cantrell
Walker Van Wey**

*Co-Sports Editor
Reporter*

When it's fourth down and the punt team comes on the field, Lindenwood defensive back Wesley Thomas can't shake a memory from his junior season.

"I'll always think, 'This would be the perfect time for me to get hurt,'" Thomas said.

In the fall of 2015, Thomas suffered a concussion that trainers described to him as mild brain bruising before telling

him his season would likely be over.

Effects set in immediately and even went as far as to cause Thomas to collapse in a Lindenwood cafeteria.

According to the Journal of Athletic Training, an estimated 300,000 sports-related concussions annually make athletics the second leading cause of brain trauma among people ages 15-24.

Despite the rising prevalence of concussions in collegiate athletics, many don't truly understand the impact that a concussion can have on daily life in the present and the impact it can have on future health if ignored.

Forty-one student athletes at Lindenwood, like Thomas, have had to endure the trials that come with being concussed this semester alone, according to Director of Athletic Training Randy Biggerstaff.

"I was really sensitive to light and sound," Thomas said. "It was hard for me to stay awake, but when I was, I was sick a lot and couldn't keep much down."

Effects like these could often be the extent of injuries, but Thomas' symptoms went even further, moving from distracting and irritating to intense and painful.

"Junior year I had headaches before and after every game," Thomas said. "Pretty bad migraine-type of headaches too. No matter what I took, it was still just like a piercing."

According to Lindenwood athletic trainer Tom Godar, this is not uncommon.

"One thing that is known is that the symptoms of concussions will typically increase if an individual tries to ignore their injury," said Godar. "Much like any other injury, damaged tissue needs time to heal. Complex systems, such as our neurological system, need time to return to normal function."

Getting proper rest is often difficult for athletes, who are taught to push through a rough practice, an intense workout or the daily stressors that come with being a student athlete.

Lindenwood men's ice hockey goalie Michael Hails said his freshman year, he was hit in the head when another player crashed the net. Hails said this incident caused immediate confusion for about 30 seconds.

However, the incident did not keep him from finishing the game.

"After the period I took a couple Advil and kept going," he said.

It wasn't until after the game that a few teammates noticed Hails' pupils were not even. Later, Hails was confused about where he was and noticed he wasn't feeling well.

Hails said trainers kept him off the

ice about a week, then he started biking for a few minutes a day. After two weeks, he was back at practice. Another week later, he was playing again.

"I honestly don't think it was long enough since we still don't know a whole lot about what happens [during concussions]," Hails said. "I think it's worth taking the extra precaution. The thing with sports is the pressure to get back if you're a key player or have the pressure of losing your job. I know a lot of guys kind of rush to get back."

According to Godar, the best way to treat concussions is rest both physically and mentally.

"While physical rest is a simple concept, cognitive rest may be a new term for individuals," Godar said. "This type of rest includes limiting activities that require focused attention and concentration, and

stimulate an increase in activity within the brain."

Lindenwood student support and accessibility coordinator Jeremy Keye is tasked with helping student athletes get accommodations for their academic work.

Though many concussion cases come from contact sports like football and hockey, both Godar and Keye said they see concussion cases across all teams and cheerleading as well.

"I have probably evaluated more than 100 suspected concussions in football players alone at Lindenwood University," said Godar. "In addition to those that I have directly evaluated at the time of the incident, I have also seen student athletes suffering from concussions in almost all other athletic programs, including everything from lacrosse to synchronized swimming."

Shelby Werkema, a diver and captain on Lindenwood's diving team, said she became concussed while trying out a new skill on a trampoline.

"I was flipping and was supposed to land on my back and something happened, and I just panicked in the air, which is just a fluke accident, and I landed on my lower neck," said Werkema. "My body kind of lawn chaired and folded on top of me."

At first, no one suspected she had a concussion, she said, so she continued to take part in light practice as well as a meet.

"My coach kind of left it up to me on what I thought I could handle," Werkema said. "I've never experienced migraines or a concussion, so I was just kind of going off what I was feeling and what I thought my body could handle."

Werkema said while she did not feel pressure from her coaches to compete, she still felt that pressure from herself.

"I really wanted to do it more for my team, even though I knew I was hurting," said Werkema. "I've gone through competing in pain because I have gone through previous injuries."

As Werkema's symptoms worsened, she was tested for a concussion and immediately pulled from physical activity as well as monitored with her mental activity.

"Taking physical rest was one thing because I knew my body was injured," said Werkema. "School, being two weeks behind it's terrible catching up. I physically rested well, but mentally I did not."

Six weeks later, accommodations still are being made because Werkema is not fully healed.

"I'm a psychology major, so all my professors understand how serious it is to have an injury to the brain and how you need to take time for it to heal," she said.

She said she has had to learn the hard way, like many student athletes, that the brain is a force to be reckoned with.



Photo by Carly Fristoe

Lindenwood running back Calen Campbell is tackled in a game against Pittsburg State on Sept. 24. The game ended in a 50-19 loss for the Lions.

Weekly Sports Recap

Nov. 25-27



Women's Ice Hockey
5-1 win at at Minnesota State University Mankato
1-1 tie at at Minnesota State University Mankato

Men's Basketball
81-65 win vs. Hannibal-LaGrange College

SPORTS

National coaching search underway

Phil Scherer
Reporter

Vacancies for the head coaching positions with Lindenwood's football and women's volleyball teams are expected to be filled within 30 days, according to a Lindenwood athletics official.

National coaching searches have been underway for both sports since Nov. 15 when Lindenwood announced that former football coach Patrick Ross was being relieved of his duties and women's volleyball coach Ron Young was retiring.

According to Brad Wachler, vice president of intercollegiate athletics, the process should go fairly quickly.

"The sooner we can get these positions filled, the better," he said.

Wachler has decided to run the coaching searches himself instead of delegating the responsibility to an outside firm.

"I think there's a lot of value in outside firms," Wachler said. "But this is a really important hire for the university and for the department, so I want to be fully engaged and involved in that search process."

Wachler has received many opinions and suggestions about who should be



Photo by Carly Fristoe. Former football head coach Patrick Ross on the sidelines during the Lions 2016 season.

hired, specifically for the football opening, but that ultimately the decision will be made based on past connections he has made.

"I have a list and I reach out to those individuals to see if they're interested."

He said that most of the coaches he is interested in are the ones he has to pursue himself, because most of them currently have good positions elsewhere.

"It's a very sensitive pro-

cess," Wachler said. "They don't want their current institution thinking that they are looking for a job and are out on the market."

As far as where he is looking for candidates, he said it "truly is national."

He is not excluding anyone from Division I, Division II, Division III or the NAIA. Wachler said that he wants the right candidate to have experienced success building a program at whatever level

they come from and to have some connection to the Midwest and the recruiting base here.

Overall, Wachler said he received positive interest in both of the open positions and believes that a great candidate will emerge.

"For both football and volleyball, I think they're great jobs," he said. "I think we've got a great infrastructure and the ability to win, and I think that's attractive to people."

LINDENWOOD Student Athlete Spotlight

Landon Shuffett

Sport: Billiards

Age: 22

Birthplace: Greensburg, Kentucky

Year in school: Senior

Major: Early Childhood Education



Photo from lindenwoodlionssls.com

Q: When did you first start competing?

A: I played my first pool tournament at the age of 6. The older that I got the more tournaments I began to play in!

Q: What has been your favorite billiards memory?

A: A few of my favorite moments in my sports career was running my first 100 balls in Straight Pool (also known as 14.1), winning my first junior national title and also winning my first collegiate national title.

Q: Who are the most influential athletes to you?

A: The most influential people in my sports career have been Shane Van Boening and Wu Jia-qing from China.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: In 10 years I'd like to still be active in Christian ministry (specifically the Crossings Church), have a small family and still be playing pool and music.

Q: What are three words that would best describe you?

A: Loyal, studious and chill.

Information from Walker Van Wey

all eyeglasses 50% OFF

USE IT BY
DEC 31
OR LOSE IT

BEAT THE YEAR-END RUSH.
2017 is right around the corner!
Use your flex spending account on eyewear before the year is out.
Plus, we accept all major insurance plans!

Ray-Ban COACH MICHAEL KORS NIKE
BURBERRY TORY BURCH EMPORIO ARMANI



Photo by Lindsey Fiala. Student athletes doing a morning workout in the Field House two weeks ago.

Athletic programs hold students over break

Walker Van Wey
Reporter

While the holidays are a time when most students go home to visit family and friends, some student athletes are held back at school for games, practices and other team events.

As a freshman, missing out on family time can be a little disappointing, but over time the disappointment numbs and exchanging holiday pleasantries over the phone becomes the norm.

"I just don't really even think about it as much anymore," senior women's basketball player Beth Maenpaa said. "My family is really good about it, so I just try to focus on the good about staying instead of the bad."

The players on the men's team find themselves in the same situation, and though there's the same disappointment, parents and players alike see through the disappointment and recognize the good in the athletes staying back.

"My parents obviously want to have me home, but they understand and support me," men's basketball player Max Meylor said.

The older players actually have a way of helping the underclassmen by keeping each other's minds off the break by spending time together as a team.

"With the freshmen being in the dorms, we try to get them out of there as much as we can so they're out of the dorms, and we're all together," Maenpaa said.

Although decades of holiday traditions are in place, new technology has helped the team get together and enjoy their own "family" time.

"We watch a lot of movies together and certain Netflix shows together, so I'm sure there's going to be a lot of bingeing," Maenpaa said. "Sometimes we go to the mall and go shopping for our secret-Santa gifts."

Christmas break is no different as they find even more to do that both bonds the team and eases break.

"I think the funnest part

is when we go Christmas caroling together," Maenpaa said. "It's off campus, and we can be goofy with it so everybody always has fun with it."

Social media, text messages and other similar outlets have made missing the holidays sting a little more as the posts become more family-oriented and the smiles become a little bigger around Thanksgiving and even more so on Christmas.

"It does kind of stink that on Christmas break you see what your friends are doing, and you're stuck here," Maenpaa said.

Always thinking of the athletes, Meylor and Maenpaa are both fortunate enough to have coaches who make their homes available to the players for the holidays as well.

"We have a Christmas party every year together," Maenpaa said. "His wife and daughters bake for us, and that's awesome. Even though we can't go home and have holiday fun with our family, we'll still have it here as a team."

schedule your eye exam today!

1910 FIRST CAPITOL DR.
ST. CHARLES, MO
636.669.0556
CROWNVISIONCENTER.COM

Requires purchase of a complete prescription pair, including frame and lenses. Receive 50% off your eyeglass frame and 50% off lens materials and coatings. Does not include sunglasses, polarized lenses, Transitions, Maui Jim, Tom Ford, Oakley, Tiffany & Co., accessories, contact lenses, LASIK or medical procedures. Cannot be combined with any other discounts, promotions, or insurance plans. Not valid on previous orders. Some restrictions apply. See store for full details. Limited time only.

CULTURE

Improv show to bring laughs in finals week

Andy Nicholson
Reporter

The theater department will be hosting its final improv show of the semester at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6.

Nick Kelly, assistant professor of theater, said the

show's theme will center around the Christmas holiday.

"They'll probably wear ugly Christmas sweaters or something like that," Kelly said.

Music majors, acting majors and musical theater majors from Lindenwood

make up a majority of the troupe.

This is the 21st year that Lindenwood has had an improv troupe.

"It has fluctuated from big groups to small groups," Kelly said. "It started with a group of six; now we're a group of 10. We've had

up to 15 members at one point."

Group members go through an audition process at the beginning of the year. They do basic improv exercises, and then as the audition continues, they go through harder exercises in order to be chosen.

"The entire show is improvisation," said Kelly. "We don't pre-plan anything. Everything is given and taken from the audience."

CeCe Day, a sophomore, has been on the team for three semesters now. She has participated in seven improv shows.

"I'm really looking forward to the holiday show because we usually have a great turnout, and the crowd is hyped for the Christmas theme," she said. "We have so many new and hilarious members on the team this year so this show is going to be epic."

John Fisher, a senior, has been on the troupe for two and a half years.

"The next show is my last at Lindenwood, so I'm looking forward to hopefully making Lindenwood laugh one last time," he said. "I enjoy the chance to create something new with the group."



Photo by Legacy Archives
Lindenwood graduate Mallorie Carney performs in the improv show in the spring of 2015. This semester's improv show will be on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Emerson Black Box Theater.



Photo from Legacy Archives
Members of the improv show perform in the Black Box Theater in the spring of 2015.

St. Louis #1 Pizza. It's a Square Meal Deal!

Special Deal for Lindenwood Students!

Lindenwood day at Imo's is every Monday! All students with ID receive a free order of Bosco Sticks with the purchase of any extra large pizza!

2160 First Capitol Dr.
(636) 946-5040
The Square Beyond Compare™

We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express.

LU faculty and students star in "Star Wars" play

Kyle Rainey
Reporter

A clueless Luke Skywalker and a cheesy Darth Vader are among several characters who will be bringing a recreation of the "Star Wars Holiday Special" to life in St. Louis this December, with many roles being filled by Lindenwood University students and staff.

Lindenwood associate theatre professor Donna Northcott is directing the show. She has been working with two local actors to recreate the 1987 "Star Wars Holiday Special," a show that only aired once and that she challenges people to watch all the way through.

"It's been great fun because it's a cast of 13 really fun, talented, creative actors," Northcott said. Most of her actors play multiple parts, which requires quick costume changes.

Northcott owns two theatre companies, one that focuses on Shakespeare, and another called Magic Smoking Monkey that focuses on lighter productions like this Star Wars comedy.

She said some of the scenes are as short as a single line, so actors don't have a lot of time to get into character.

"This is kind of what you would end up with if a bunch of kids had 50 bucks in their mom's garage and decided to mount Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, building all the sets out of cardboard," she said. "As in fun. It's very loose with high energy."

Assistant professor Nick Kelly is playing Darth Vader in the play. This is his second time playing Darth Vader in one of Northcott's productions.



"Usually when you're doing a [Magic Smoking] Monkey show, you play four to five characters," said Kelly, who also is playing several other characters, including a stormtrooper. "It's a lot of running back and forth for a lot of people, and tons of costume changes."

Kelly said the hardest part of the show has been working around his baby son. His wife is playing Princess Leia in the show, so figuring who will stay home with the baby can be a challenge.

He said that it's always fun to get onstage at rehearsals.

"I really get a kick whenever I get a chance to perform with the students," Kelly said. "That's just icing on the cake for this one."

Lindenwood sophomore Duncan Phillips is playing the part of Luke Skywalker in the production. He has been in Northcott's classes and is currently in Kelly's audition class.

He said seeing his professor on set of the show is unique.

"It's completely freaky seeing your professor force-choke stormtroopers during a sex ed talk on the Death Star," Phillips said.

He said that when he and Kelly are on stage practicing their lines for the show, it's almost like they've never had a student-teacher

dynamic. Phillips said that it has been tough balancing school and his first professional show. In addition to "Star Wars," Phillips is also in a Lindenwood play titled "Piece of My Heart," a heavy piece about female nurses in Vietnam.

"It gets very solemn sometimes," Phillips said. "It's nice to alternate between that and running around with toy lightsabers with Nick Kelly wearing a black bucket on his head as Darth Vader."

Phillips said their costumes and props add a lot to the show.

"I have a terrible blond wig," he said. "The costumes, they make it so hard to hold a straight face."

Northcott said that they all take the craft of comedy very seriously, and that a lot of work has gone into how phrases and scenes are structured.

"If we can give people one hour where they just laugh, then that's a wonderful thing we can do for people," she said. "We want people to laugh themselves silly."

The "Star Wars" Magic Smoking Monkey production will be held at the regional Arts Commission on Delmar Street in University City. Show times will be Dec. 2-3 and 9-10, at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. each day.

CULTURE

Get off the couch

Lindenwood University events:

Speaker: Richard Millett
Nov. 29 | 7-9 p.m. | **Dunseth Auditorium**
As a part of the International Speaker Series, Millett will speak on the topic of whether democracy is in danger in Latin America. The event takes place in Dunseth Auditorium at Harmon Hall.

Tri Sigma's FroYo Fundraiser
Nov. 29 | 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. | **FroYo, 2040 First Capitol Dr.**
The sorority Tri Sigma will be hosting a FroYo fundraiser for the FroYo across from Schnucks this Tuesday, so head on over for some delicious frozen yogurt.

"A Christmas Carol"
Dec. 1-3 | 7:30 p.m. | **The Lindenwood Theater**
The Christmas tradition continues with this year's performance of the classic play. So grab your friends and head over to the J. Scheidegger Center for some Christmas spirit.

Fall Fashion Show
Dec. 2 | 7 p.m. | **The Emerson Black Box Theater**
This Friday the J. Scheidegger Center will host the Fall fashion show where original student work will walk the runway. Head over there and see what's stirring in fashion and maybe get some inspiration yourself.

Capstones Screening
Dec. 7 | 7 p.m. | **Young Auditorium**
Go watch what the film students have been working on all semester at the screening of their final short films.

Improv Show
Dec. 6 | 7 p.m. | **The Emerson Black Box Theater**
Head over to the J. Scheidegger Center for some finals week entertainment on Tuesday Dec. 6 and get your laughter on. The Nick of Times Players will perform an improv show in the holiday spirit.

ALS Carnival
Nov. 30 | 7-10 p.m. | **Butler Loft**
Phi Delta Theta is hosting a carnival in to raise money and awareness for its philanthropy, the ALS Foundation. There will be lots of games, so go have a fun night out before finals kick in.

Winter Fest
Dec. 1 | 6-9 p.m. | **Evans Commons Lawn**
CAB will be hosting a Winter Fest with ice skating, hot chocolate and holiday crafts this Thursday, so join the fun in the spirit of the season.

Fall fashion show to display work of graduating senior

J.T. Buchheit
Reporter

Students are preparing to display their newest unique outfits at the annual fall fashion show in the Emerson Black Box Theater.

Lindenwood students will collaborate with students at various high schools in the area to display local designs.

"One of our senior students is going to show her mini collection, and our pattern-making class, each of those students will showcase one design," said Chajuana Trawick, assistant professor of fashion design.

Trawick believes this fashion show will mirror past shows in terms of the work presented. She is confident that students participating will be able to wow the audience.

"I think it's going to be really good," she said. "The quality of work ideas came from a critique of one of our senior students, and I think it's going to be really high-quality work."

One of the students participating, Raven Pulliam, will be presenting a fall collection of 12 pieces, including mesh, bright colors and exposed zippers. She also will be venturing into some new territory by working with knit.

"Most of the time, we work with woven materials, so I'll be working with a knit



Photo by Nao Enomoto

Graduating senior Raven Pulliam is working on renderings for a collection during a class earlier this semester.

fabric, like a jersey-Spandex material," she said. "I've never done this many pieces at one time either."

Pulliam's professor, Nasheli Ortiz, urged her to go out of her comfort zone this year and try a new type of fashion. Ortiz wrote names of garments on pieces of paper and had each student draw one. According to Ortiz, many fashion students have "styles" that she tries to pull them out of at times.

"I love to make them go

out of those boxes that they put themselves in," she said. "The random process helps them to get outside of that box without thinking that I am doing it to make their life difficult."

When Pulliam took her turn to draw, she ended up choosing activewear.

"I work at a mall, so I was going around so I could see what kind of street inspiration I could get from everyday people, and to me now, activewear has taken a whole

different turn," said Pulliam. "Before, people were doing sweats and hoodies and stuff like that, but now they're wearing leggings with fun colors, they're having cutouts and mesh and different types of materials that I've never seen before. So that was fun for me to experience that."

Ortiz had students choose music genres in the same manner, and Pulliam drew Tokyo pop. She researched Tokyo and its culture and analyzed the streetwear of To-

kyo's citizens.

"I found that a lot of people like to wear bright colors," she said. "They like to be fun, vibrant; they like to be enthusiastic with how their color choices were. But they also had black mixed in, and it seemed to me that they had more of a '90s feel too; some of them would wear older jerseys, so I kind of wanted to incorporate that with the fun colors and all of that."

The fashion show is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

Film student wins award for short film at festival

Maiken Zoëga-Nielsen
Culture Editor

Senior film student Valentin Merlet recently won the Judges' Award at the Fault Line Film Festival 2016 with his short film "Renounce."

"I sent my video to a film festival that happens two hours from here," Merlet said. "They contacted me, telling me that my movie was selected. This is already a good thing because in film festivals, when your movie gets selected you can go there, and they are going to show your movie to everyone there."

Merlet's film won the Judges' Award, the second-most prestigious award in the festival, and \$250.

"At the end [of the ceremony], I went onstage, and they asked me a couple of questions about the movie and how I see myself in the future, and they gave me my award," Merlet said.

The film has only one on-screen character, who is played by Lindenwood graduate student Lincoln Magee.

"I really like to only have one character in my movies," Merlet said. "It's really nice to give a little background story and expand the future a little bit. I watch a lot of series about people who are stuck somewhere and need to get out. I love this concept."

The short film was originally produced for one of Merlet's classes, Directing for the Camera, which is taught by Digital Cinema Arts professor Peter Carlos.

"He's a great student," Carlos said about Merlet. "He's an interesting filmmaker, and he's



Photo courtesy of Valentin Merlet

Valentin Merlet and his fiancée Colina Sette with Merlet's award.

turned into a better filmmaker over this semester."

Carlos worked with Merlet to submit his movie to the festival.

"This [award] was a surprise for both of us because we kind of did it late and got it in," said Carlos. "He had a good story and he just put together a good film."

Merlet, who is originally from France, came to Lindenwood in 2013 where he started as an international business major, but later switched degree programs to digital cinema arts.

"I wasn't happy, and I wasn't really good with what I was doing," Merlet said about his first major. "I decided to change it to be happy and to do something that I really care about."

The short film Merlet directed was produced in collaboration with Pierre Jahn, cinematography senior at Lindenwood, and recent Linden-

wood alumnus Julius Damenz. Damenz was the director of photography on the film, while Jahn was in charge of sound and lighting.

Damenz has recently been working in Los Angeles, but was back in the area for a couple of weeks.

"It was a fun shoot," Damenz said. "It was just a few of us in a basement on a Friday night. It was pretty smooth, and Val and I had a similar idea of how the film should look and feel, so there really wasn't a lot of discussion."

Carlos, who also worked with Damenz before he graduated, is impressed with Lindenwood's film students.

"We have some very talented students who are starting to get recognition for their work," Carlos said.

Merlet's short film "Renounce" is available to watch on YouTube on Merlet's personal channel.

Theater department to present this year's "A Christmas Carol"

Matthew Hampton
Reporter

Lindenwood's annual production of "A Christmas Carol" will be performed Dec. 1-3 on the main stage of the J. Scheidegger Center.

Additionally, two high school matinee performances are set for Nov. 29 and 30.

Director Philip Gill said he focused this performance on keeping the spirit of Christmas and goodwill toward humanity at the forefront.

"Sometimes you get a spooky adaptation; sometimes you get something that focuses in other directions, and so I wanted to bring it back to the base," he said.

Gill said the cast has been rehearsing since mid-October and continually improving and developing their characters.

Freshman P.J. Capettini plays the lead role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

"He's a really depressed man, and he's got a lot of issues," he said of his character. "He's a very lonely person, and he closes off anyone who gets around him, and he just lives for money because that's all he knows. He's a pretty sad guy."

Because he had never seen "A Christmas Carol" until he got cast in it, Capettini said he had to do a lot of reading about his character and ask his director for suggestions to develop his performance.

He said he enjoys working with Gill as a director because he thinks he does a good job of motivating his actors.

"He wants everything to come from your own inspiration, because when it comes

"He wants everything to come from your own inspiration, because when it comes from yourself, it means a lot more as an actor than if a director just gives you what they want."

-P.J. Capettini, Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol"

from yourself, it means a lot more as an actor than if a director just gives you what they want," said Capettini. "If a director just says 'Well, here is how I want you to play it,' it's not going to be authentic, but Phil, Phil makes you work for it."

Although he has been acting for three years and played the lead in "Twelfth Night" in high school, Capettini was initially worried about having such an important role in "A Christmas Carol" as a freshman.

"It frightened me a lot, and I kind of psyched myself out at the beginning," he said.

In addition to 20 Lindenwood students, five children, ages 8 to 13 are cast in the show as well.

Gill said, "they add a lot of excitement and energy to the cast."