

Enrollment issues add up

Operating budget shortfall estimated at \$10-14 million

Phil Brahm
Lindenlink Editor

Decreased enrollment for the 2016-17 academic year will cause an estimated \$10-14 million shortfall in Lindenwood's operating budget, according to university officials.

Enrollment has dropped between 5 and 6 percent across all of Lindenwood's campuses, according to Lindenwood Provost Marilyn Abbott. She said at a faculty meeting Jan. 25 that the decline is a result of downward enrollment trends being seen at universities across the

country. In the fall of 2016, Lindenwood's St. Charles campus saw a drop of nearly 5 percent in total enrollment. Undergraduate day admission held the biggest decline, falling just over 6 percent. Spring enrollment is also down about 5 percent.

While reports by The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center show national enrollment rates have declined over the last six years, administrators say Lindenwood's numbers have remained flat. Lindenwood's Chief Financial Officer, Greg Phelps, said the university planned for enrollment numbers to remain steady when budgeting for the current fiscal

year. "We had projected or assumed certain enrollments, and those haven't played out for us, so we are looking at our spending, budget and financial plan," Phelps said. "We are adjusting accordingly."

Tuition, along with housing costs and other fees, currently account for more than 92 percent of the university's revenue, according to Phelps. He said that despite the shortfall, the university is not in any immediate financial trouble.

With sales pending on its facility in Dardenne Prairie, which formerly housed the nursing program, and the Linden Wood Club on Old Friedens road, in St. Charles, Phelps

said the university expects to bring in about \$10 million in revenue. He added that returns on other investments will also add to the total. Overall, Lindenwood's endowment sits near \$140 million, according to tax documents from the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2016.

"We are not in debt by any stretch of the imagination," Phelps said. "That doesn't mean that we as administrators or the board of directors don't have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure we are wise with how we are operating the university."

Abbott said the university is already hard at work reviewing enrollment numbers and other

See Finances | Page A3



Photo courtesy of Lindenwood Public Relations
Members of Lindenwood's administration take a tour of the construction happening in the LARC, which is scheduled to be built by next fall.

New library slated to get Starbucks, virtual reality

Lena Kirchner
Reporter

Students will be able to sip a cup of Starbucks coffee while sitting in class when the new library opens next fall.

The new Starbucks coffee shop will be on one level, but a staircase will lead to a second-floor lounge.

The coffee shop will feel like a typical Starbucks, said Diane Moore, assistant vice president for facilities management. Starbucks will sell its merchandise at the new Lindenwood location and will have online ordering.

The menu will feature the same items that are offered at off-campus locations. Moore said the pricing will be determined by Starbucks.

Starbucks is partnering with Pedestal Foods to operate the store. A deal was struck between the two after President Michael Shonrock said he would like to see a Starbucks on campus. Pedestal Foods approached Starbucks, and the company liked the idea and the location, said Moore.

"It will be the same model as with Chick-Fil-A and Qdoba," Moore said. "I am also sure they will hire from within to give student workers an employment opportunity at the new location."

No information is available yet about whether students will be able to use their



Photo courtesy of Lindenwood Public Relations
The lower floor of the LARC is cluttered with construction debris.

meal plan to pay for Starbucks' products. The exact hours of operation also are unclear, but the building itself will be open 24/7, said Moore.

Student Hannah Vinyard said she is excited for Starbucks to come to campus. "It is good coffee and a crowd favorite; I am sure many people will like it," she said.

Shonrock said that the building will have some "incredible technology" that is designed to help students as they study in a highly technological age. He

said that there will be an area for gaming designers, with virtual reality components installed.

Part of the building will house a viewing theater that can be used for film students, as well as a presentation space for classes, according to Shonrock.

With the access to such technology and space, Shonrock hopes that the building will be a meeting place for students across campus and that it will be able to provide a place for hands-on

See Resource Center | Page A3

New PrideCenter safe haven for LGBTQ+ group

Michelle Sproat
News Editor

PrideCenter, a new LGBTQ+ community center held a soft opening in St. Louis Jan. 11 as a means to provide a safe space for those who need it, according to the center's co-chairs.

According to PrideSTL.org, the community center is run by the PrideCenter Committee, a subset of Pride St. Louis, Co-chairs of the committee Wolf Smith and Landon Brownfield both expressed their excitement with the development of this organization.

"We've had a great variety of people come through, and we're really here to serve the purpose to educate and provide a safer space that people can be in," said Brownfield.

Wolf Smith expressed the importance of having PrideCenter in St. Louis. Not only is the space meant for gathering, but also for education, awareness and providing a comfortable space for those who need it.

"People like to say that we're at a time when being LGBTQ+ doesn't matter anymore, but we're seeing violent crimes on the rise, we're seeing hate crimes incredible," said Wolf Smith. "We also want to provide a space where people can come, they can be themselves and they don't have to be afraid of violence."

Kelsey Smith, president of Lindenwood's Gay/Straight Alliance, said that she feels St. Charles needs a similar community center.

"There are LGBT+ youth everywhere, and limiting it to one part of the city makes it hard for them to go somewhere that will see them as a person rather than a label," said Kelsey Smith. "Knowing that Pride St. Charles is here to help is an amazing thing, but giving a dedicated space for youth to go to would be so amazing."

The organization is in the process of expanding its community outreach in hopes of bringing other organizations through its doors.

"We're working on making sure groups know that this is a place where they can host events or can host group meetings, or if they want to do some type of event off campus, they are more than welcome here," said Wolf Smith.

The committee has called the January opening a "soft opening," meaning there will be a grand opening later in the year.

"We're working on improving the space and making it look even nicer, and then we'll have a big reveal, hopefully with barbecue and stuff, once it gets warmer," said Wolf Smith.

Wolf Smith and Brownfield agreed that having the big reveal in April or May will be a great way to lead into pride month in June.

"Historically we have been known for primarily putting on the one big celebration called PrideFest at the end of June every year as a celebration of family and unity and those basic values," said Wolf Smith.

"We've had a great variety of people come through and we're really here to serve the purpose to educate and provide a safer space that people can be in."
-Landon Brownfield, PrideCenter committee co-chair

NEWS

Online classes gaining popularity

Students will be able to select new options in fall 2017

Kyle Rainey
Reporter

Students will be able to select from a wider range of online classes starting next fall, according to university faculty.

Art and Design Professor James Hutson has been helping to double the number of existing programs going online and to create new online degree programs at Lindenwood. He said current online classes have been popular among students.

"Every new online class we've created fills up the fastest; it doesn't matter if it's general ed or major," Hutson said.

Recent student surveys show that students pick online classes because they allow them to navigate their busy schedules and work at their own pace.

He said he thinks there will be fewer traditional classes offered in the future as a result of demand for online courses.

According to a May 2013 article in the Los Angeles Times, educators feel technology is capable of preventing cheating.

However, some students think that online classes are perfect for students desperate to pass classes.

Residential students can enroll in up to two online classes each semester, but commuter students have no online course limit, Hutson said.

Hutson and his colleagues are designing classes that are both rigorous academically and difficult to cheat through. Biometric software that remembers how each student types, introduction videos and essay-style questions are among the many measures the university is taking to keep students from cheating.

Some teachers think the new online classes will bolster their programs.

Chajuana Trawick, chair of the fashion design department, said she's hoping the new fashion business and entrepreneurship degree will bring more students into the program.

"A lot of our students will come if they love fashion, but [if they] don't love the construction part or the designing, then they'll leave us and go to a school that has the business side of fashion in the local area," Trawick said.

She said current upperclassman like taking the online classes already required in the fashion design program.

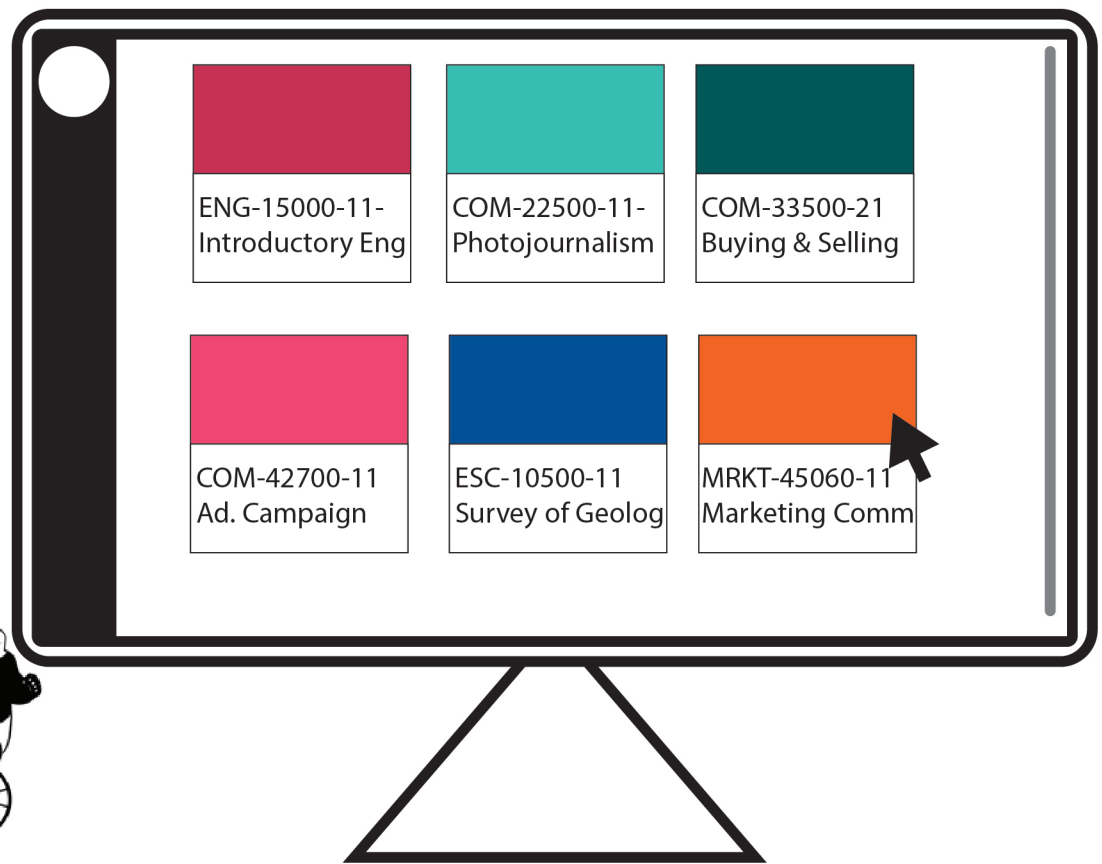
"They need most of their

Design by Kelby Lorenz

time in the studios with their design classes and so anything we can do to make it easier for them," Trawick said.

The department is planning to convert more theory-based classes to online.

Transfer students can also benefit from the new program, she said. If students transfer to Linden-



wood with all their general education classes finished, they can fill free credit hours and potentially double-major with the new program while staying on track as full-time students.

Lindenwood announced earlier this semester that two featured degree programs in game design and digital content strategy will

be available fall 2017. Faculty heading the new programs said digital content strategy will focus on teaching students how to create social-media strategies for employers, and the other will encompass designing video games.

Lindenwood also will be adding online programs in digital arts, music ed-

ucation, advertising, art history, communications, interactive media and web design and journalism.

Hutson said the university is incorporating skills like general business, graphic design and social media into online programs so students will graduate with versatile skills for modern markets.

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Reports of drug, alcohol offenses reduced across campus, report states

Madi Nolte
Reporter

Drug and alcohol violations at Lindenwood have dropped significantly, according to a biennial review released this month.

The Drug-Free School and Campuses Biennial Review reported that during the 2015-16 school year, alcohol violations fell from 132 to 106 — almost 20 percent from the previous year — while drug violations were reduced to 24 from 44 — nearly half that of the year before.

No alcohol arrests were made on campus in 2015-16. However, drug arrests were up about 11 percent, rising from 10 in 2014-15 to 14 in 2015-16.

Dean of Students Shane Williamson said more events for students on campus, especially during week-

"It's good to see that education works, and the increase in involvement is working too."

-Shane Williamson,
dean of students

ends, have helped to reduce the violations. In addition, more student organizations have formed and a position for the Campus Activity Board was created since the 2014-2015 school year.

Williamson said emphasis on alcohol and drug education in First Year Experience events for freshmen also has contributed, leading to students being more knowledgeable and making better decisions.

"I was very glad to see the decrease when I put the report together," Williamson said. "It's good to see that education works, and the

increase in involvement is working too."

Other actions Lindenwood has taken to reduce the incidents include random drug testing of student athletes and increased training of residential directors.

Williamson strongly encouraged anyone battling alcohol or other drug issues to visit the Student Counseling and Resource Center, which is situated in Evans Commons.

"I hope that in two years when I put the next report together, there will continue to be a decline in violations," she said.

Briefs

Sex Assault in Campus Housing

Allegations of a sexual assault reported in campus housing last week were "unfounded," according to St. Charles Police.

Lt. Todd Wilson, public information officer for the department, said Thursday that investigation of the incident was closed and no charges would be filed.

John Bowman, director of public safety and security at Lindenwood, said the university is conducting a Title IX investigation of the incident, which was alleged to have happened during the early morning hours of Jan. 21 at a home on Charbo Street.

Jackson gets plea hearing rescheduled

A hearing for a St. Louis man facing felony charges has been rescheduled. Marcus Jackson was driving a car Nov. 6 that ran into the back of another car on Interstate 70.

The other car was occupied by four Lindenwood students. Jackson was charged with felony leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Lindenwood student Marianne Olyslager died from complications following the crash. Jackson's hearing is now scheduled for Feb. 6.

Clarifications and Corrections

Jan. 17 Issue

In the Jan. 17 edition of the Legacy, the story "Access to counseling center leads to rise in students seeking help" spelled Joe Cusumano's name wrong.

NEWS

Lindenwood SAAC raises money for Make-A-Wish

Michelle Sproat
News Editor

Not only do Lindenwood student athletes support each other, but they also support their community.

All National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II schools have a partnership with the national Make-A-Wish foundation. Lindenwood's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee takes its involvement a step further.

"We're not required to fundraise money, but it's something our students have adopted and said yes, this is an important cause for us," said Casey Finnell, assistant athletics director for Academic Services and the SAAC adviser.

Last year, the SAAC hosted a Make-A-Wish fundraiser during a men's basketball game. The night doubled as a wish reveal party for Donovan Johnson, a Make-A-Wish participant.

According to the NCAA website, schools have to raise \$8,500 to host a wish reveal. If a conference does not have a school reach the \$8,500 mark, the highest fundraising school in the conference will host a reveal.

In 2015-16, Lindenwood

ranked 15th in the nation with \$6,900 raised. This amount was the highest in its conference, leaving it eligible to host another reveal due to this accomplishment.

Brad Currier, SAAC vice president of Community Outreach, said that donating to a cause like Make-A-Wish is simple.

"It's a relatively easy way to significantly change individual lives," said Currier. "It doesn't take much when we put out a big group of people who are passionate about this cause to make a difference."

On Feb. 2, the SAAC will have a 50/50 raffle and a donation collection during the men's basketball game against Missouri Western State University. All proceeds will go to the St. Louis chapter of Make-A-Wish.

Finnell encourages students to come out to the event and donate.

"If everybody on this campus donated \$5, we'd easily have enough money to grant two wishes," said Finnell. "Money is tight for everybody, especially college students, but what Make-A-Wish does is normalize a kid's life, not just for a day or a couple of days, but it creates great memories."

Businessman speaks on capitalism, poverty



Photo by Carly Fristoe

Hernando de Soto speaks about his book "The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else" in Harmon Hall's Dunseth Auditorium on Jan. 27.

Finances | Continued from A1

data to make financial adjustments. She added that the university is planning for enrollment in 2017-18 to remain similar to this year's decreased numbers.

At last week's faculty meeting, Abbott said one way the university was tightening the operating budget was by eliminating 10 faculty positions. Eight positions will be reduced through attrition, and two other faculty members have been notified that their contracts will not be renewed.

At the same time, multiple personnel positions will be added to high-demand and

newly-formed degree programs in hopes of boosting future enrollment.

"We are doing a lot of things to try to grow our enrollment, and we feel we will see some results," Abbott said at the meeting. "If it becomes clear later in the spring and early summer that it's not the case, then we might have to make some further adjustments."

A tuition increase has not been ruled out, but Abbott said if a proposal is made, "students will receive the information as soon as possible."



Photo courtesy of Lindenwood Public Relations
The new staircase under construction in the LARC.

Resource Center | Continued from A1

learning.

"In some ways, we hope that it will be like another living room for some students," he said. "It's a beacon of educational opportunity, and we hope that it becomes a gathering spot for students."

According to the Lindenwood Doors to the Future campaign, the \$21 million library also will house library collections, classrooms, mul-

timedia labs with an editing suite, group study areas and student career services.

The construction of the new library is on schedule, Moore said. Administrators currently are in the process of picking out furniture.

"It's going to be an exciting building, designed to cater exactly to the students' needs," Moore said.

University Commons provides convenient options for students

J.T. Buchheit
Reporter

The University Commons is always bustling with activity, and the buzz is expected to grow with the addition of an Arby's and a Midwest BankCentre.

According to Diane Moore, assistant vice president of facilities management, construction is underway for the restaurant and bank as well as the Cedarhurst Assisted Living.

Students at Lindenwood are a large reason for the activity across the street. The shopping center, which opened in 2014, is popular with Lindenwood students who can easily walk across the street to the businesses, including new ones that are in the making.

"We get college students in here every day," said Kyle Kofron, assistant manager of Potbelly Sandwich Shop. "I think they make a pretty good part of our business. I did notice that when you all were on break, that it was a little bit slower."

Many businesses work with Lindenwood to promote the college's events and sports. Potbelly showcases the college's activities.

"Our bulletin board, it says 'Lindenwood Lingo' and we've got a lot of Lindenwood events over here," said Kofron. "Someone posted a women's basketball poster. I've got a wrestling poster, some other stuff like that."

Some workers from the businesses even come to campus to participate in events. Great Clips workers passed out coupons to students who attended last year's Dark Carnival.



Photos by Carly Fristoe

Top: Construction for Cedarhurst Assisted living across from Lindenwood's campus.
Bottom: Midwest BankCentre being constructed across from the Lindenwood campus.

"Anytime you guys have something going on, we like to donate baskets and prizes," said Great Clips Manager Vicki Cowley. "We'd like to get more involved if you

guys need anything from us." Many businesses have perks for those who attend Lindenwood. For instance, Potbelly's provides free drinks to those who possess

Lindenwood IDs.

"It's always fun to have students come in," said Kofron. "They brighten our day up, and I enjoy helping them out too."

OPINIONS

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Single-person rooms should be need-based

J.T. Buchheit

Reporter

Having a single room is a medical necessity for some students, and Lindenwood's planned room hike is putting them at risk.

The price for a single-occupant dorm room is being raised by a range of \$100 to \$750, according to a Nov. 29 article in the *Legacy*.

I currently have a single room in Cobbs Hall, which a therapist gave me a written recommendation for. I have Asperger's Syndrome, a social disorder that, among other things, requires me to have large amounts of alone time, and a lack of that can be detrimental to my health and well-being.

People who require these accommodations should not be subjected to higher prices as a result of needs they cannot control. They could have any number of medical conditions, some of which can be very personal.

According to Jeremy Keye, access services coordinator at Lindenwood, any type of social disorder can cause a need for a single-occupant room, as well as food allergies or insomnia.

If a student with one of these conditions can no longer afford a single room and has to have a roommate, there is no telling what that roommate could do to exploit that person's medical conditions, such as taking advantage of a major food allergy or simply letting others know about this person's medical issues.

However, this is not to say that everybody who wants a single-occupant room should receive discounts or even a solitary room at all. According to Director of Residential Life Terry Rus-



Design by Tyler Tousley

sell, the 50 single-occupant rooms on campus go to the students who request them first.

I don't think this is the way administrators should go about giving these rooms to students. Those who want these rooms simply for convenience and can be in a shared dorm room with few personal drawbacks should pay full price or be denied a single-occupant room entirely in order to save space for those who actually need them. A note from a certified professional should be what determines if someone gets one of these rooms.

Enrollment at Lindenwood currently is about 500 students fewer than a year ago, and many vacancies exist in the dorms. If the university can't even fill all of the rooms, the prices should not be raised to further drive away students who need the single-occupant rooms; rather, these rooms should just be more exclusive by only being given to students who need them.

Russell said he is trying to make the residences fairer to students and change the costs to suit the living conditions. I agree that people living in double-occupant rooms

shouldn't have to pay the same amount as those living in places with higher-level amenities, such as a personal bathroom or off-campus housing, but single-occupant rooms should not be included in this.

I know many decisions about the costs are still up in the air, and Russell did say that students with disabilities would be taken into consideration when deciding on these factors. That's good, because these exceptions need to happen. For some students, single rooms are perks; for others, they're necessary to stay in good health.

Online classes are not the best way for all to learn effectively

Tyler Tousley

Opinions Editor

Online classes at Lindenwood are increasing in popularity, and even though I understand why, I don't think that online classes are the best choice for many students.

I get the appeal of not having to be in class physically. And online sections allow students with busy schedules to have a more flexible option for completing their coursework. It also is beneficial to commuter students, such as myself, who may choose an online class so they can work from home instead of driving to campus. I took two of my gen-ed courses online at Lindenwood, and although I did well, I don't think I would necessarily suggest it to another student.

This format requires students to do much of the teaching themselves. The professors of these sections provide material, such as notes, videos and additional resources, but students have to take these things and go through them on their own. I was fortunate enough to have professors who were very responsive and helpful when I emailed with questions, but it is not nearly as convenient as discussing it in person with them.

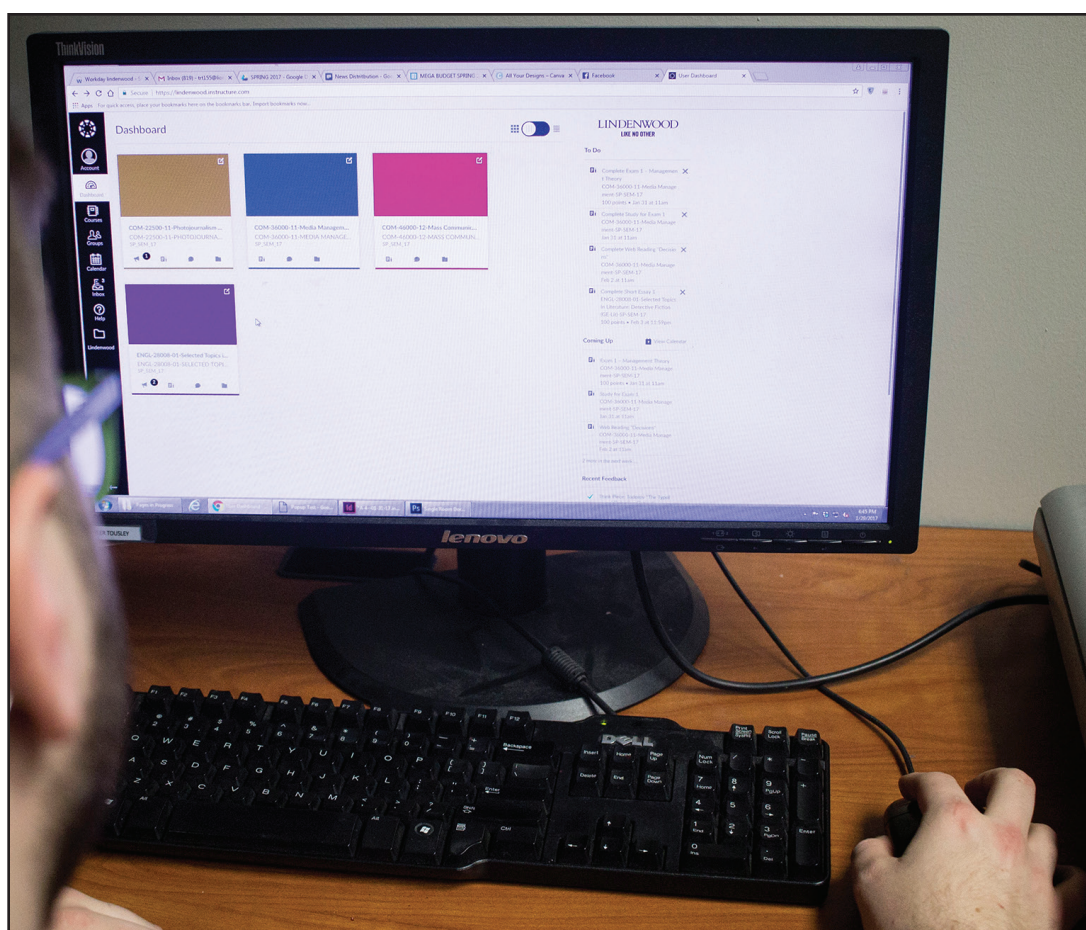


Photo Illustration by Kelby Lorenz

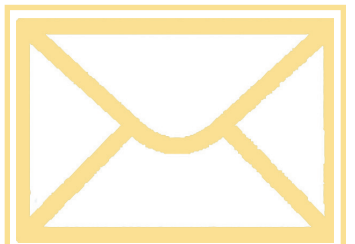
A student checks his Canvas dashboard for new assignments in his classes.

My concern is that I do not think I retained anywhere close to the same amount of information as I do when I am in class. Perhaps it is just my learning style, but I would be surprised if I am alone. I don't tend to skip class, and I get grades I am happy with, but I find that I often have a difficult time finding mo-

tivation to go to class or do homework, a struggle I've had since I started school. When I was taking an online course, in addition to motivating myself to do homework, I had to find motivation to sit down by myself to learn about a topic I was not entirely interested in.

I understand how a tradi-

tional student would want to take an online class, especially athletes who have a difficult time scheduling class around practices. I do, however, think there are more benefits to in-class format courses. Save the online classes for commuter students and those who work full-time and need flexible class schedules.



Letter to the Editor

Kole Mann

Reader

My name is Kole, and I am a trans man. For those of you who aren't aware of what this means, I am biologically female but use male pronouns and present a male appearance to the world.

As to why I do this, inside I feel like a man. I feel uncomfortable with being referred to as female, and when I'm viewed as a man, there is an indescribable feeling of rightness with it. Soon I will be undergoing hormone treatment so my body will take on more masculine traits, like a beard and Adam's apple.

Many trans people experience something known as dysphoria. This is a feeling of wrongness with one's body, as though it is built wrong. For some, this is extreme and being seen as their biological sex causes great stress and even physical symptoms of sickness. For others, this is less so, or even non-existent. Everyone experiences gender differently.

There is a reason I bring this up and highlight some of the basics behind what being trans is.

Last semester I went to housing to discuss my options for the future. One of the things I brought up was where I would live.

After all, if I am not a woman, why should I live in women's housing?

But when I asked what options the school had for trans students, I was simply thanked for sharing this information and told that there are single rooms in the women's dorms on old campus.

It was a slap in the face. The director of housing was so helpful with every other issue I was having with my housing situation and was certainly eager to help. But the school simply had no answer for me, which, of course, is an answer in and of itself. There are no options for trans students other than being forced to live in the dorms of the opposite gender.

The solution isn't easy, but it has been addressed in other universities across the country. UMSL has neutral housing options. Webster has coed dorms. There is absolutely no reason for Lindenwood to ignore the trans population of the school.

It appears that the administration wants to wait until it deems the trans population here at Lindenwood large enough before it takes action to make policy regarding us.

The only problem with that is that administrators don't have any idea how many trans people are living on campus. Most trans people are out selectively.

After all, why would you be out to everyone when it's likely for you to be attacked for using the restroom or when you know there are no housing options for you?

SPORTS

Grad students study supplement use

Athletes work with human performance department to gain knowledge

Michelle Sproat
News Editor

Getting a hands-on experience is a valuable element of Lindenwood's master's program in human performance.

Chad Kersick, the program director, said that working in a lab setting in his undergraduate program changed the way he looked at learning.

"The lab environment is an opportunity for students to learn how to be a good leader, how to be a good individual worker, but most importantly how to be a good teammate," he said.

In the human performance program, graduate students have the ability to create studies, work with human subjects and gather research to analyze. They even have the ability to publish articles about their findings.

Charles Smith, a graduate student in the program, is currently working with

members of the rugby team on a study about a supplement called Beta-Alanine and its effect on athletic performance.

The initial data collection for the lab involving the rugby players began on Jan. 9 and 10. Smith said that the team will continue its regular training for the next six weeks while also taking the supplement four times a day. On Feb. 20 and 21, the team will return to the lab and post-testing data will be collected.

Kersick said rugby players were selected for the study because of the dynamic of the sport.

"They're very competitive, they train and practice hard and they are very serious about what they do," said Kersick.

Although Smith is the coordinator of the study, he said that doing research on supplements was not something he was originally fond of.

"As I went through Beta-Alanine [research], I got a little bit more involved with it, and I liked the versatility of it," said Smith. "It's important to me to be doing this study because it's a project that I think has the possibility to help shape and expand the field of Beta-Alanine."

Kersick emphasized the importance of having a student-run lab with his intervention being scarce.

"My role as the director is to promote a positive culture," he said. "From a hands-on perspective, I'm out there testing next to the grad students and the undergrads just like everyone else."

Although the lab wraps up in February and Smith graduates in May, the journey of the Beta-Alanine study will not stop there. Kersick said that he and Smith will travel to Las Vegas this summer to present the data at the National Strength and Conditioning Association conference.



Photo by Michelle Sproat

Charles Smith instructs the men's and women's water polo teams during their strength training session at the Sports Science Center in St. Peters.

Kersick said that being a part of the lab experience is about more than just getting

published and showing off data.

"When we look at the lab, a lot of people see papers and

research labs and presentations," said Kersick. "I see engagement, empowerment, self-actualization."



Photo by Carly Fristoe

Breanna Franklin performs her floor routine at the gymnastics home opener on Jan. 15.

Gymnastics team works to defend winning ways

Ashley Lowtharp
Reporter

The Lindenwood gymnastics team has been on the road to success this season in an effort to uphold the winning legacy the team has created for itself.

"Our expectations for this season are to uphold the legacy that the alumni have left behind for us," junior Kayla McMullan said.

Last semester the team earned a cumulative GPA of 3.7.

"A lot of our success in the classroom is a skill that each girl has developed while growing up," McMullan said. "We all work together to ensure that each girl on the team is getting the help that they need."

The team has also been working hard to ensure success outside of the classroom. So far the Lions have seen improvement at each of the first three meets.

The team came out of the gate taking fourth at Northern Illinois University and saw a second-place success only a week later at the State of Missouri Meet.

One more week of strenu-

ous training and determination brought the team a score of 191.025 and a first-place win against Southeast Missouri State.

The success the team has seen already hasn't been achieved on accident. It's taken hours of preseason training as well as a focus on quality since the season has begun.

"During season we aren't able to practice as many hours because we are traveling and competing every weekend," said sophomore Katey Oswalt. "We have to make a point of being efficient in our use of time at practice, weights and rehab."

The team will host three additional meets and follow a rigorous travel schedule prior to competing at the Midwest Conference Championships in Chicago in March, where it won the conference title in 2015 and 2016.

Then it's crunch time for the Lions.

The Lions will then be on the prowl to Seattle for the 2017 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate Team Championships April 7 and 8 and April 9 for Women's Gymnastics Individual

Finals.

Much like the conference title, Lindenwood has won the USA National Championships two years in a row and will be defending the title once again this year.

However, the team does not expect past success to ensure a title this season.

"Just because we won nationals the past two years does not mean that the title automatically belongs to us this year," said Oswalt. "If anything, we expect this year's competition to be fiercer than ever, and we know we're going to have to work even harder to earn a third title."

While defending conference and national titles is a driving force for the team this season, the team has had to make commitment to hard work and humility an even larger focus this season.

"After winning back-to-back national titles, mentally we have approached this season as if there was not a single national title in our history book," said McMullan. "We've had to reiterate that success doesn't come easily and that we have to earn all of our successes"

Rugby player sets sights on U.S. national opportunities

Nick Feakes
Reporter

AnnaKaren Pedraza is taking steps to become Lindenwood's first player to make the U.S. national rugby team.

The California native was invited to the USA Rugby Women's National All-Star Competition in Lakeland, Florida, held Dec. 29 to Jan. 3. The competition is a training camp used to kickstart the national team's preparations for the Women's Rugby World Cup to be held in Ireland.

Pedraza said she was determined to learn and pick the brains of the national team veterans at the competition.

"Camp is always physically demanding and difficult when you are surrounded by nothing but the best athletes," she said. "As I got there, the coaches stressed that the purpose of the camp is not to learn but only to showcase the skills each athlete had. But I tried to steer that out of my mind and focus on learning and gaining the experience of playing with top rugby players."

Not only did Pedraza attend the camp, she also excelled, said Lindenwood women's rugby head coach Billy Nicholas.

"AnnaKaren really stepped up at the women's level," he said. "At the camp she was moved from the development team to the senior team and had some strong, impactful moments on the pitch."

The Lindenwood junior was one of only a handful of college athletes invited to the camp, an impressive feat.

Pedraza started playing rugby at the age of 15 in her hometown of La Quinta, California, after she heard that a local team was starting and holding tryouts.

One person who stoked Pedraza's rugby fire in her ear-



Photo by Carly Fristoe

AnnaKaren Pedraza contributes to win against Life University.

ly days was close friend and New England College rugby All-American Isaiah Lopez. Lopez said he witnessed Pedraza's drive for success when she first started playing rugby.

"I knew immediately she had the competitive drive to be a really great player," he said. "Our high school used to run conditioning together, and she was always challenging me to a race during every sprint."

After turning into a standout player in California, Pedraza was offered a rugby scholarship to attend Lindenwood.

At first Pedraza wasn't sure what to expect coming to St. Charles and not knowing how she would stack up to her older counterparts. Especially in the sport of rugby, it is a big change as athletes have to adjust to balancing the full-time training load that comes with being a varsity college athlete and the workload that comes with starting college.

"Coming to Lindenwood, I was nervous," she said. "Being a starter was a goal; soon it was starting for the Sevens team."

As Pedraza's career as a Lion has progressed, her goals now include winning national championships and representing the U.S. in international matches with the national team.

It seems for now that Pedraza will be able to achieve any goal she puts her mind to, having already progressed substantially, allowing her to tick off many boxes in her short time at Lindenwood.

Nicholas said Pedraza will continue to better herself because of her hard work and discipline off the field.

"She has an extremely strong work ethic," he said.

After school, Pedraza plans to continue to push for honors with the women's national team, a feat that only seems a matter of time away.

Weekly Sports Recap

Jan. 27-29

<p>Women's Basketball 76-70 win at Fort Hays State University</p>	<p>Men's Volleyball 3-1 loss at Quincy University</p>	<p>Men's Basketball 71-62 win at Fort Hays State University</p>
<p>Women's Ice Hockey 1-0 loss at Rochester Institute of Technology 5-0 loss at Rochester Institute of Technology</p>	<p>Men's Ice Hockey 9-0 win vs. Missouri State University 8-1 win vs. Missouri State University</p>	<p>Roller Hockey 5-4 win at Michigan State University 7-2 win at Grand Valley State University</p>

SPORTS

Finding future athletes for LU

Coaches, recruitment coordinators use various methods to attract talent

J.T. Buchheit

Reporter

Lindenwood recruits athletes from every corner of the country and around the world, and it's up to the coaches and recruitment coordinators to ensure their teams have talented athletes coming in by using a variety of methods.

Men's water polo coach Dave Miller uses an online system to find athletes and travels to various large-scale events throughout the country.

According to Miller, the water-polo hotbeds include Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and California.

Joe Kosciw, men's volleyball assistant coach and recruitment coordinator, prefers to ask for videos of athletes that he has his eye on.

"Normally we like to ask for video first," said Kosciw. "Could their game translate to the collegiate level, and if they can, will they make us better? Could they push to be a starter? Can they be an impact player right off the bat?"

For women's rugby coach Billy Nicholas, establishing relationships with coaches



Photo from lindenwoodlions.com
Dave Miller

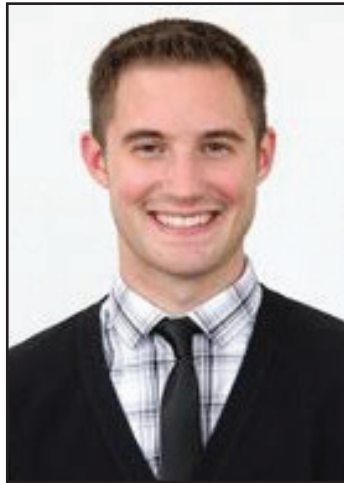


Photo from lindenwoodlions.com
Joe Kosciw



Photo from lindenwoodlions.com
Billy Nicholas

at the high school level is the most important way of acquiring desired athletes.

"There's a ton of programs around the country at the high school level, so for me, it's about creating a relationship with high school coaches that I trust to recommend athletes to take a look at," he said.

Like Miller, Nicholas also travels to tournaments to seek out talent and potentially bring them to Lindenwood.

"I get game footage sent in, and I also have the ability to go out and see players play in tournaments and kind of

evaluate them from there," Nicholas said.

Nicholas never knows for sure what he'll be getting. Although coaches recommend players, it takes more than skill to play rugby at Lindenwood.

"Initially, we definitely look for that skill component, and after that, we have players come in, take visits with us, have phone calls and then kind of focus on the character component as well," he said.

The nearest rugby program at the high school level is in Kansas City, so talent at that level can be hard to find.

But this doesn't deter Nicholas from looking at younger players.

"They are starting some at the youth level called Rookie Rugby, and we hold free clinics with them once a month on campus, and we have 20 or 30 youth come in for that," he said. "But at the high school level, it's tough because of our geographic area, so we tend to have the majority of our students on our team come from out of state."

For volleyball, recruiting athletes can be difficult because its conference status is different than that of other

"Could their game translate to the collegiate level, and if they can, will they make us better? Could they push to be a starter? Can they be an impact player right off the bat?"

-Joe Kosciw, men's volleyball assistant coach

sports at Lindenwood.

"We're going against the likes of Ohio State and Loyola, and a lot of kids like to go West Coast," said Kosciw. "There are only 40 schools that play men's volleyball, and they all play for the same championship."

Miller admitted that it can be difficult to get water polo players to come to Lindenwood due to its status as a club sport.

"A lot of people would rather go play varsity with better athletes," said Miller. "We do get quite a few real-

ly good athletes from international. It's difficult to get athletes from California and Florida. They just don't want to travel here because they have so many opportunities in their home state."

Miller said he has a list of about 150 athletes on his recruitment list, and he hopes to get about 32 of them to come to Lindenwood.

Lindenwood's status as a small college in the Midwest can make it a daunting task to recruit desired athletes, but the staff does their best to make athletics successful.

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LINDENWOOD Student Athlete Spotlight

Davon Thomas

Sport: Rugby

Age: 22

Birthplace: Kansas City, MO

Year in school: Senior

Major: Corporate Communications

Photo from lindenwoodlions.com

Q: How long have you been playing sports competitively?

A: 16 years.

Q: What are your game-day routines?

A: I like to relax on game day to try and ease my nerves. I'll spend time alone and listen to chill music, then switch to more hype songs the closer it gets to the game.

Q: Who have been the most influential people in your sports career?

A: My family, my teammates and my coach, Billy Nicholas.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: One of my favorite athletes, hands down, is Serena Williams! She is perfect. She trains hard, has a crazy work ethic and is body goals [for me].

Q: What is your sports fantasy?

A: To play in a Seven's tournament overseas off the beach in front of a large audience in the final cup match.

Q: If you could vacation anywhere, where would it be?

A: I'd go to Jamaica.

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

A: Hardworking, genuine, positive.

Information from Kearstin Cantrell

A&E

Women's views on war portrayed

Play takes audience on journey with six women through Vietnam War

Essi A. Virtanen
A&E Editor

The fourth wall will be shattered in the Emerson Black Box Theater when the docu-drama "A Piece of My Heart" opens Thursday.

Graduate directing student Rosalia Portillo said she picked this show for her second-year project because she has "always been drawn to history" and what people can learn from it.

"I really love pieces that leave people talking," Portillo said.

"A Piece of My Heart" is a play written by Shirley Lauro based on the book "A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of 26 American Women Who Served in Vietnam," by Keith Walker. The six female characters of the play are inspired by stories from the novel.

"This play, what is unique about it, is that the focus is not on the war and on the big battle scenes," Portillo said. "It's on how these women endure while they're overseas, and then how does it impact their lives, and in the end, it's that camaraderie that was built between them."

Freshman acting major Alison Arana, who is performing in her first show at Lindenwood, had an enlightening experience after reading the book and finding the woman her character Whitney, a Red Cross volunteer, was inspired by.

"I think from that point moving forward after I found her was just trying to do as much justice to what she went through and respecting everything that happened to her," Arana said.

Acting senior Jenah Bickel, who is doing her senior project on "A Piece of My Heart," said, "Some of the words are like word for word what they put in this book and so just going through and realizing that people said these things and people actually went through these things is so much more impactful."

Portillo said what the play is about is the characters' personal struggles and seeing it "through a completely different lens."

Bickel, who is a head nurse in the play, agreed.

"This show is about individuals who experienced this," she



Photo by Lindsey Fiala

The six women of 'A Piece of My Heart' are on stage in the Emerson Black Box Theater during a scene in which the characters see all the injured soldiers around them.

said. "It's not about whether it [the war] was right or wrong."

Portillo said the documentary feel of the show comes from monologues, explanations of the events and the breaking of the fourth wall, where the actors talk and act directly to the audience.

She said "fragmented" is an adjective to describe the show because it is experienced as a memory showing time before, during and after the Vietnam War located both in Vietnam and in the U.S.

"It's these women while looking back, working through it in time; there's a lot of layers to it," Portillo said.

Bickel said more than anything, the play is about the women's journeys and how they come out of it.

"It's just that progress of each character and the difference of them in the very beginning of the show and at the very end," she said.

To balance the seriousness, Portillo said there also will be some funny moments.

What Portillo hopes from

the show is to help people understand and appreciate women's roles in Vietnam and for it to be an educational experience.

"I think it will be great for the audience to walk away having learned something and also creating interest in not just this big idea of war, but the people who serve and how it impacts them, for the good and the bad and in between," she said.

Additionally, Portillo hopes the play will show the importance to respect those who served and caring for other people's stories in general.

"Reach out to the people around you and get their stories, because at the heart of it, that's what's really important," she said. "Hearing other people's stories and understanding other people's experiences enriches you as a person as well."

"A Piece of My Heart" runs in the Emerson Black Box Theater at the J. Scheidegger Center from Feb. 2 to Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The show is a free, non-ticketed event.



Photo by Lindsey Fiala

Freshman Alison Arana (left), Patience Davis (right), Alexis Baker (back left) and Jenah Bickel (back right) in a rehearsal on Jan. 28 in the Emerson Black Box Theater during an attack scene.

Students focus of art exhibit



Photo and information from Madi Nolte
Lindenwood students pose at the "Nature vs. Nurture" closing reception Friday, Jan. 27. From left: Kelsey Orf, Kimberly Elfrink, Emily Stuchel, Candice Lake and Zac Farmer. This was the fourth year in a row for a group of Lindenwood students to take part in curating their own exhibit. This year's curating team had been planning for the exhibit since September and was led by Farmer. The pieces exhibited were predominantly graphic- or computer-based, in addition to photographs, prints and drawings that were all in some way related to nature.

Lindenwood Film Series Spring 2017



Young Hall Auditorium, every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.
The screenings are free with Lindenwood student ID.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (2014)

Recounts the adventures of Gustave H, a legendary concierge at a famous European hotel between the wars, and Zero Moustafa, the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend.

Thursday, Feb. 2

GROUNDHOG DAY (1993)

Phil (Bill Murray) is a weatherman out covering the annual emergence of groundhog from its hole. He gets stuck in a blizzard and is stuck in a time warp, having to relive the day over and over again until he gets it right.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

TURBO KID (2015)

Set in a post-apocalyptic year of 1997, the film follows an orphaned teenager who goes on an adventure to save his female-robot companion from the hands of an evil warlord who controls the only water supply.

Thursday, Feb. 9

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (2015)

A burned-out loner of a post-apocalyptic wasteland escapes from a tyrannical warlord and his marauding clan. He must work together with a detecting member of the clan and warlord's wives to find sanctuary in a chase to the death.

Information from Andrew Millians

A&E

Must-see films coming to theaters this spring

Information collected by Matt Hampton from IMDB.com and Movieinsider.com

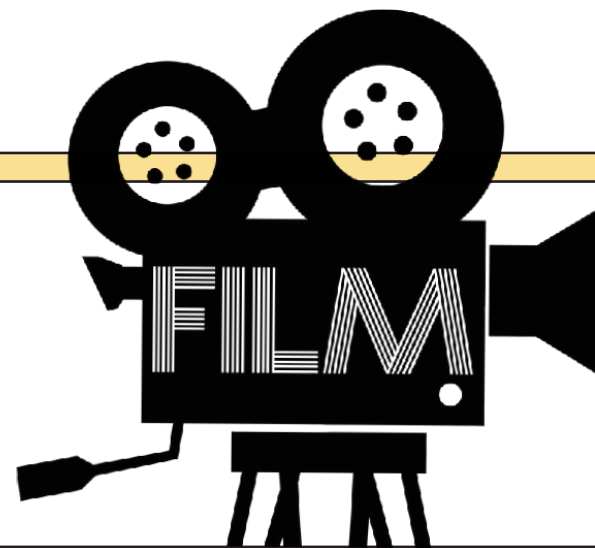


Photo from Copyright © 2017 Universal Studios
"Fifty Shades Darker"



Copyright © 2016 Universal Studios
"The Fate of the Furious"



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"Logan"

'Fifty Shades Darker'

RELEASE DATE: Feb. 10

Coming out just before Valentine's Day, this sequel to the 2015 erotic romance "Fifty Shades of Grey" is based on the novel by E.L. James and continues the story of Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) in her struggle with her relationship with handsome millionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan).

'The Great Wall'

RELEASE DATE: Feb. 17

In this dramatic thriller, a European soldier (Matt Damon) finds himself imprisoned within the Great Wall in imperial China. He must defend the nation against the horde of vicious monsters that besiege it from beyond the wall.

'Logan'

RELEASE DATE: March 3

In this bleak episode of Marvel's X-Men series, Logan, a.k.a. Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) is found hiding out in a desolate location and caring for his aging mentor, Professor X (Patrick Stewart). However, he will be forced to save the world from malevolent forces that threaten it.

'Beauty and the Beast'

RELEASE DATE: March 17

This live-action remake of the classic Disney film features many well-known stars, such as Emma Watson, Luke Evans and Ewan McGregor. It retells the beloved fairy tale of a prince trapped in the body of a horrid beast trying to win the heart of a young woman.

'The Fate of the Furious'

RELEASE DATE: April 14

This new installment of the Fast & Furious franchise sees the return of many of the characters from the previous films. In this action-packed film, the team reunites to travel across the earth to thwart an anarchist intent on sending the world into chaos.

'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales'

RELEASE DATE: May 26

Jack Sparrow is back again. In the fifth film of the Pirates of the Caribbean series, Sparrow (Johnny Depp) must search for the esoteric Trident of Poseidon to protect the world from being ravaged by a horde of ghost pirates.

LOVIN' THIS CONTEST

Do you think you and your special someone are the #cutestever?
Stop by our Journalism Lab on the third floor of the Spellmann Center to fill out an application to join our cutest couple contest!

The cutest couple will win a prize package including a dinner prepared by Chef Steve Giuffrida in a private room of the Evans Commons on Thursday, Feb. 16.

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FROM FEB. 8-11.

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