

## Vandalized! Tires slashed on admissions' cars



Photo by Kelby Lorenz  
One of the Lindenwood admissions cars with a "doughnut" tire in the Welcome Center parking lot.

**Michelle Sproat**  
News Editor

Vandals slashed tires on three campus vehicles parked at the Welcome Center last month, campus officials said. The vehicles were the Ford Escapes emblazoned with the university's logo.

Lindenwood University President Michael Shonrock said the university is considering putting in additional security cameras in parking lots around campus.

"We aren't trying to be Big Brother," he said. "We are just trying to keep students safe."

According to the campus security crime log, the vehicles were vandalized between 8 p.m. on March 29 and noon on March 30.

John Bowman, director of Public Safety and Security, said that the St. Charles Police Department is investigating the case. If an arrest is made, the perpetrators could be charged with property damage.

"We've arranged where [admissions] can park their vehicles under cameras so they can be closely

watched and monitored," Bowman said.

According to Todd Wilson, lieutenant at the St. Charles Police Department, the damages totaled at approximately \$700.

Lisa Hundelt, senior administrative assistant for athletics, sent an email to faculty members who recently rented vehicles through the school, saying that security officers found a 15-passenger Enterprise van with a slashed tire behind Hyland Arena.

Bowman said vandalism was ruled out of that case.

"One of our security officers was driving by on April 3 and noticed a flat and got out and looked at it and noticed slash marks on the tire," Bowman said. "But again, we don't know if that was from driving it with a flat or what."

In the email sent to faculty, Hundelt said, "Security has asked us to park all of the rental vehicles on the top lot at Hyland so the vehicles are in plain view of the security cameras."

Bowman said there have been no instances reported of student vehicles being vandalized on campus during this investigation.

## Student worker program faces new updates in job structure

**Kelby Lorenz**  
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Worker program will be shaken up again for the fall of 2017, according to an email sent out from administration.

The email, sent from Chloe Bonnard-Lopez, specialist for non-resident employee compliance, said that the changes are based on student feedback and that it will be "simplified and updated to mirror the staff and faculty employment model."

The new changes will include three updates: simplified job structure, improved rehire process and federal work study changes, according to the email.

Part of the simplified job structure includes eliminating the tiered structure for student jobs and "basing pay on job descriptions and essential job functions," the email said.

One major change to the program is the lack of graduate positions available. Instead of having designated undergraduate and graduate jobs, all students will be employed as student employees and work alongside each other, according to Amanda Price, Lindenwood director of human resources.

New job titles have also been released to students and faculty including media assistants and digital communications assistants.

Also, the email said that the new program will provide a "quick and simple onboarding process for student employees rehired within six months" to ease the process for returning students.

Lastly, the email said that students who qualify for the federal program will now be able to work up to 20 hours a week at \$9.50, which is more than a \$1 raise from the current system.

## Campus event provides fun, food, kickball



Photo by Nao Enomoto  
Lindenwood University President Michael Shonrock claps alongside Dan Grigg, vice president of development and alumni relations at the 'Kickin' it with Shonrock' staff kickball game held on Friday, April 7 at the Lou Brock Sports Complex. The event was open for all students to enjoy during the spring weather. The event also had a barbecue meal, a raffle and a photo booth.

## Switchboard operator answers call of higher education

**Kyle Rainey**  
Reporter

In a room tucked between the seemingly endless rumble of industrial copy machines and a lab with over a hundred Dell desktops, soft orange light emanates from string lights hung under two yellow pots of red flowers. A fish meanders by a window overlooking the football stadium across the room from the woman who runs the campus switchboard.

St. Louis native Taylor Henke was hired as the first full-time switchboard operator during the summer. She supervises three work-and-learn students who help her answer calls weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"As the switchboard staff, we have to stay professional, answer all the calls and direct them," Henke said. "Most of it is directing them to the right department."

She wants to be a counselor. After that she wants to be a principal. When she's not running the switchboard, the alumna is working on her master's degree in school counseling.

Sometimes she spends her lunch breaks studying for classes, she said.

She first came to Lindenwood with a dance scholarship and still likes to help provide feedback at team practices.

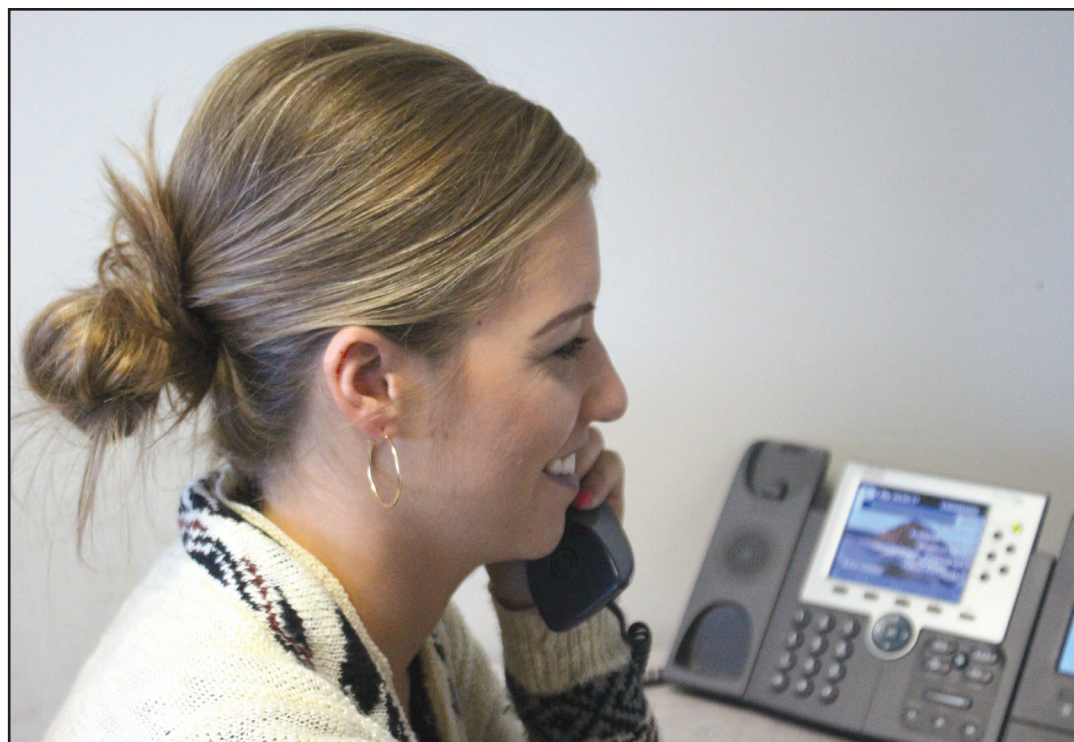


Photo by Kyle Rainey  
Taylor Henke, the switchboard operator for Lindenwood University, answers the phone.

After she graduated with a degree in social work, she did home care for two years. She was already ready to move on when she got an email from Campus Service Man-

ager Mike Tolman about the job opening in the student development department.

She said many people who call think she knows the answers to all their questions.

"We have people that will call and, without breathing, tell us their entire financial aid issue," she said. "Switchboard staff need to know important phone numbers and need to keep their calls brief. At the end of each day, they record how many calls they received and how long they spend on each call."

Copy center technician Laura Dougan spends most of her work day a copy machine away from a door to the campus switchboard office. When she first started in July of 2015, she said she was told not to use the door.

"I never hear her come in, and I never hear her leave, ever," Dougan said.

She met the current operator for the first time about a month ago when Henke came in for copies, but hasn't talked with her since. She said in the past, she's heard sounds come through her door.

"The most interaction I had is when they would sneeze and I would say bless you, and when I would sneeze, they would say bless you," Dougan said.

The switchboard became automated in 2016. Henke said they receive between 60 and 70 calls a day. She said before the transition, operators saw a larger volume of calls.

"Staff were taking every single phone call

See Switchboard Op | Page A2

# NEWS

## St. Charles County ranks in top 10 for overall health in state survey

**Kelby Lorenz**  
Editor-in-Chief

St. Charles County is ranked at the top of Missouri's "Healthiest County" list for the eighth year in a row.

The county ranked No. 1 in "health factors" and No. 2 in "health outcomes."

"The study is done annually nationwide, and it looks at different outcomes and environmental factors and many factors that go into encompassing what makes a healthy community," said Hope Woodson, director of public health for St. Charles County. "We've been fortunate that we've ranked in the top in the last seven to eight years, and I think it's important for people to know when they're looking at those rankings that it's



Photo from sccmo.org  
Hope Woodson

"Nutrition availability, education programs, all of that kind of works together to produce good outcomes like long life, longevity — a population that is very mobile and active."

**-Hope Woodson,  
director of public health for St. Charles County**

not just one factor; it's an accumulation of different factors, organizations, outcomes that all work together to give us that top ranking."

St. Charles County's No. 1 ranking in "health factors" comes from top scores

in social and economic factors, such as increasing high school graduation rates and low violent crime rates, according to the survey provided by the County Health Rankings and Roadmap.

Woodson said that while most people think of obesi-

ty or disease when they hear health factors, some are actually environmental.

"We have lots of walking trails and clean air, clean water available to us," she said. "There's a lot of different options for assistance to go and get care. Nutrition

availability, education programs, all of that kind of works together to produce good outcomes like long life, longevity — a population that is very mobile and active."

Other local counties' rankings for "health factors" include St. Louis County at No. 5, Franklin County at No. 17, Jefferson County at No. 31, Warren County at No. 38 and Lincoln County at No. 61.

Woodson said that the county works to continue achieving its status of being a healthy county through a network of organizations that meet and work to "look at the different gaps in the community and try to figure out how we can improve things that may not necessarily be the best."

### St. Charles County Health Rankings

• No. 1 in "Health Factors"

• No. 2 in "Health Outcomes"

### Drag show reels in large crowd in Lindenwood Theater



Photo by Kelby Lorenz

Cody Floyd performs as 'Duchess' to the Phil Collins song 'Two Worlds' from the movie 'Tarzan' during the fifth annual Lindenwood drag show, held on Wednesday, April 5 in the Lindenwood Theater. The Gay/Straight Alliance put on the event and raised \$768.35 for Pride St. Charles.

### Legacy staff brings home nine awards from MCMA event

**Phil Brahm**  
Lindenlink Editor

The *Legacy* and Lindenlink brought home nine awards last weekend at the Missouri College Media Association's annual contest.

"I'm incredibly proud of the work that my staff has done this past year," said Kelby Lorenz, Editor-in-Chief of the *Legacy*.

The *Legacy* design staff earned first place for best sports page design and second place for editorial/OpEd design. The paper also garnered honorable mention honors in the category of campus engagement.

Members of the Lindenlink staff won the top prize in the multimedia package category for their coverage of the Lindenwood gymnastics team's 2016 national championship. The package included writing, photography, videography and graphic design elements.

Several individual staff members also were recognized in the contest.

Staff photographer Carly Fristoe won first place and honorable mention in sports photography, as well as first place in feature photography. Editor-in-Chief Kelby Lorenz also received honorable mention in news photography.

A&E Editor Essi Virtanen won second place in the fea-

"I'm incredibly proud of the work that my staff has done this past year."  
**-Kelby Lorenz,  
Editor-in-Chief of the Legacy**

ture writing category.

The Lindenwood publications have earned 19 MCMA awards during its the two years entering in the contest. As a Division I school, Lindenwood competes against schools such as Mizzou, St. Louis University and Washington University.

The Missouri College Media Awards is an annual statewide competition sponsored by the Missouri Press Association. The organization recognizes college news publications for their work in writing, advertising, design and other forms of multimedia content.

The awards are part of the annual conference, which was held at Missouri Western State University this year. Lindenwood has been selected to host next year's conference.

### Security Briefs

#### April 2

• Campus security was notified of a disturbance at 2:45 a.m. in Guffey Hall. The disturbance allegedly started with an argument over Cane's Chicken. Further details on the disturbance were not provided by security. The case has been forwarded to the Office of Student Development for further review.

• Another disturbance was reported at 3:10 a.m. in Flowers Hall. This call also included an assault claim. The case has been forwarded to the Office of Student Development for further review.

#### April 3

• A bicycle was reported stolen in women's housing on Anneric Street between 11 p.m. on April 1 and 1 p.m. on April 2. Campus security reported to the scene, but could not find any suspects or witnesses. The bicycle has since been recovered.

• Two instances of leaving the scene of an accident/property damage were reported to campus security. The first instance occurred on the Spellmann loading dock between 7 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. The second instance occurred on Glenco Drive between 6 p.m. on April 2 and 7:30 a.m. on April 3. Security could not locate suspects or witnesses in either situation.

### Switchboard Op | Continued from A1

that the school would get," she said. "That was one person getting 400 calls a day on top of being in charge on the ID station."

Before the automated system, eight work-and-learn students ran the office, according to a November 2015 *Legacy* article. Options being considered at the time included outsourcing the switchboard, keeping the system the same with eight student workers and keeping

five student workers and automating the system.

Henke said one person has called asking if the new system was a scam or not.

"We do get regulars who call every day, if not twice a day, asking for the exact same number," she said. "When I hear their voice, I can quote what they'll say in my head."

Henke said a majority of their calls are people trying to reach the bookstore,

and students asking if class is canceled if the weather is bad. She said there's no direct extension for the bookstore, and that operators don't know about class cancellations unless there's a campus-wide alert.

She said there are some calls that stand out.

"I like when the random people call and give me their past experiences at Lindenwood and flaunt how great it is now," she said.

"The most interaction I had is when they would sneeze and I would say bless you, and when I would sneeze, they would say bless you."

**-Laura Dougan,  
copy center technician**

# NEWS

## IMWD students get real-world experience

**Lena Kirchner**  
Reporter

The interactive media and web design department at Lindenwood has a student-run firm that creates logos, websites and designs for clients.

Two classes called IMWD Firm I and II have been offered since the fall of 2013, and two more will soon be added. Firm I will be required for any major or minor in the IMWD program starting in the fall of 2018, according to Erica Blum, assistant professor of interactive media and web design.

Blum had the idea to create the firm after attending a conference. The plan was to create a real firm that takes on real-world clients to give students the opportunity to gather work experience, she said. The firm does all kinds of digital design, including flyers, social media, websites, logos, apps, etc.

"I am a strong believer of the real world," Blum said. "I learned a lot of theory during my college education, and always wished for a more hands-on education. So all our classes are based on getting our students prepared for the real world."

The IMWD firm works with clients such as Lind-



Photo by Michelle Sproat  
Jacquelyn Payeur, vice president of the IMWD club, and Kris Risner, an IMWD student, talk to other students on April 5 in the IMWD classroom, Spellmann Room 4090.

ewood's public relations department and nonprofit organizations in the area. One example of a project the firm took on recently is designing the logo for the 60th anniversary of the St. Charles Historical Society, Blum said. It is also working with LSGA to redo the

organization's logo and curate the display case in Spellmann. In addition, the firm just started to take on for-profit organizations among its clients. For instance, students are creating websites for startup businesses.

"The for-profits actually

pay to help us buy equipment," Blum said. "We do the non-for-profits for free, but the requirement is that the work needs to be accredited to the student who worked on it."

About 18 students are enrolled in the class IMWD firm and are attending the

semiweekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. regularly, but many more volunteers come in on an irregular basis. Anyone can join the firm, either by signing up for the class or volunteering. In addition, three paid student workers

perform jobs such as webmaster or video master.

"If you agree to do a project, you have to do it," Blum said. "Even though you can choose which project and which task you would like to work on, or if you even want to lead the project."

The firm meets in Spellmann Room 4090. Blum is working on installing a lab with more equipment, such as a 3-D printer and a glowforge, for the firm on the third floor of Spellmann, which will open up to the students soon.

"We do not have a marketing strategy yet, because there was no need to," Blum said. "In fact, we have to hold off clients and ask them if we can do their project next semester."

The firm gives students real-world opportunities even before they graduate, so they can get practical jobs. This is usually a huge struggle in the industry, said Becky Goban, who is a graduate assistant and the project manager for the firm.

"Because of the firm, I got two internships, which one was with the St. Louis Cardinals, so I have had a large benefit already," Goban said.

More information and work samples can be found at [imwdfirm.com](http://imwdfirm.com).

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# OPINIONS

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your continued  
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publications!**

## Opposing Viewpoints

### The U.S. is great, but not the greatest country

**Kearstin Cantrell**  
*Sports Editor*

America the beautiful is not  
America the world's greatest country.

As Americans, we hear almost  
daily about how great this country  
we live in is. Yes, it is a great country.  
Yes, we are very privileged to get to  
live in a country where we have the  
freedoms that we do.

However, that does not make  
America the greatest country in the  
world. In terms of education, violence  
and social responsibility, the United  
States is not the best worldwide.

Educationally, the United States  
actually falls below the average line  
in most subjects when compared to  
the rest of the world.

According to National Public Ra-  
dio, in the 2016 Program for Interna-  
tional Assessment of Adult Compe-  
tencies study, high school graduates  
in the United States have the same  
mathematical skills of high school  
dropouts in other countries.

To make matters worse, the same  
study reported that the United States  
came in last, right behind Poland, in  
terms of technology skills.

Having a high school diploma  
and no more education than a high  
school dropout in another part of the  
world does not seem like a victory for  
the United States in any way.

Similarly, the United States has not  
seen victory in terms of violence.

According to CBS, a study per-  
formed by the American Journal of  
Medicine reported that when com-  
pared to 22 other high-income coun-  
tries, "Americans are seven times  
more likely to die from violence." The  
same study also reported that murder  
is the second leading cause of death  
for Americans 15 to 24.

That level of violence is not some-  
thing that, as an American, I'm proud  
to say is in effect in my country. It's  
not something that I'm willing to let  
slide for the sake of believing that the  
United States is the greatest country  
in the world.

I'm also not willing to ignore the  
lack of social responsibility we have

here in the United States.

In my experience, Americans are  
extremely introspective in the fact  
that we tend not to pay much atten-  
tion to what is going on in the world  
outside of the United States.

In the United States, we use more  
resources than necessary. What  
makes it worse is that we have an  
overabundance  
of resources in  
comparison to the  
lack of resources in  
other parts of the  
world.

Americans con-  
stitute 5 percent of  
the world's popu-  
lation but consume  
24 percent of the  
world's energy, ac-  
cording to World  
Bank Develop-  
ment Indicators.  
However, energy  
is not the only re-  
source we overuse.

World Bank  
Development In-  
dicators also says  
that on average,  
Americans con-  
sume 159 gallons  
of water a day,  
while more than  
half of the world's  
population lives  
on 25 gallons.

The issue with  
our overuse of re-  
sources isn't the  
mere fact that we  
overuse resourc-  
es. The problem is  
that it is reflective  
of our values as a  
people. We value  
our own com-  
fort, success and  
livelihood, even  
if that means ig-  
noring the greater  
issues plaguing the  
world around us.

That is something that "the great-  
est country in the world" would not  
let happen.

### Freedom makes the U.S. the greatest country

**Matt Hampton**  
*Reporter*

Too many Americans now hold  
the attitude of "I don't like Amer-  
ica. Obviously America isn't the  
best country in the world."

Why? I think Americans should  
believe their country is the best,  
not out of the belligerent national-  
ism pushed by many right-wingers  
(including the president), but be-  
cause of the exceptional freedom  
and opportunity America main-  
tains.

Now, this is not to say that  
we're perfect, or that we  
have never done any-  
thing wrong. Ev-  
ery country

countries impose overbroad re-  
strictions on free speech.

Countries such as Sweden and  
France have high taxes and harsh  
business regulations. Others, such  
as France, have also banned wear-  
ing religious apparel in public  
schools.

No other nation upholds the  
liberty of its people as strongly as  
the U.S. Though Europeans may  
be more tolerant than Americans,  
their laws don't guarantee their citi-  
zens' inalienable rights, and their  
cultures are more collectivist and  
less individualist.

Not only have we stood out as  
the original example of freedom  
and prosperity to the world, but  
we're also a global leader in cultur-  
al, technological and commercial  
innovation.

America is the land of new  
money, where individuals can start  
a business and create new wealth  
and jobs.

This is why six of the 10 rich-  
est billionaires are American  
self-made entrepreneurs, ac-  
cording to Forbes, and why  
America has the world's  
strongest economy,  
with an average in-  
come higher than most  
European countries.

The promise of person-  
al liberty and economic op-  
portunity is why tremendous peo-  
ple from all over the world come  
to live here, and our ability to in-  
tegrate their diverse cultures into the  
American tradition has brought us  
great benefit.

Though American economic  
freedom and mobility have recent-  
ly suffered, and despite our weak  
health care and education systems  
and large national debt and incar-  
ceration rate, America is still the  
best country in the world.

This is because America is more  
than just a set of people, but a set of  
values, values which have made us  
a global cultural, military, political  
and economic leader and the freest  
place on Earth.



Photo by Kelby Lorenz

has flaws, and the U.S.  
has done terrible things in the past.  
However, it is our American values  
that allowed us to become a land of  
freedom, prosperity and greatness.

Certain people view the Consti-  
tution as an antiquated nuisance,  
but what makes America great are  
the constitutional institutions and  
principles guarding rule of law and  
limited government.

Now some may claim that surely  
the U.S. is no freer than any other  
democracy, but the truth is, the  
other Western societies some  
would like America to imitate are  
not as free as they seem.

Civilian firearm ownership is  
heavily restricted in Japan, Aus-  
tralia and Britain. Germany, the  
Netherlands, Canada and other

## Regression for autism masked as 'progress'

**J.T. Buchheit**  
*Chief Copy Editor*

The White House paid lip  
service to autism on April 2  
by participating in Autism  
Speaks' "Light It Up Blue"  
event to commemorate Au-  
tism Awareness Day. While  
this may seem like a step  
forward, it is actually a giant  
regression from the progress  
America was making regard-  
ing autism.

Autism Speaks is the most  
well-known organization regard-  
ing autism, and it is en-  
dorsed by many celebrities.  
However, this does not make  
it a good organization.

For many years, Autism  
Speaks' main goal has been to  
find a cure for autism, which  
is of grave concern to many  
autistic people such as myself.

Due to our different way of  
thinking, many autistics have  
made extremely valuable con-  
tributions to the world. Sa-  
toshi Tajiri, who is confirmed  
to have Asperger's Syndrome,  
used his obsessive interests  
in video games and the col-  
lection of different species

**How "progress" is actually  
regression for those with autism**

- Finding a "cure" implies something needs to be fixed
- Focusing on the caretakers does not help autistic people
- Focusing on the caretakers also shows those with autism as a burden
- Lighting the White House up with blue won't create access to health care or employment

Design by Tyler Tousley and Kelby Lorenz

of bugs to create what eventu-  
ally became the Pokémon  
franchise. Eliminating autism  
could lead to the eradication  
of a very important section of  
the population.

Additionally, Autism  
Speaks focuses on the care-  
takers of autistics and does  
nothing to help those who  
actually have it.

It created the documenta-  
ry "Autism Every Day," which

featured a mother talking  
about how she contemplat-  
ed murdering her autistic  
daughter and killing herself.  
This was all said in front of  
her daughter.

It also created the short  
film "I Am Autism," which  
says how autism will wreck  
parents' lives and rip their  
marriages apart.

Autism Speaks also has  
no autistic members on its

board. It did at one point,  
when notable autism advo-  
cate John Elder Robison was  
on the board, but he resigned  
because the board did not  
take his suggestions into ac-  
count.

He told the organization  
about how autistic people  
do not like being told they  
are defective and need to be  
eliminated, and he offered  
many suggestions on how to  
help autistics. His comments  
fell on deaf ears, however, as  
public statements released by  
the organization while he was  
on the board continued to  
treat autistic people as broken  
objects.

However, Autism Speaks  
may have begun to turn a  
corner last October when it  
changed its mission state-  
ment to drop the word "cure."  
Although many autistics  
found it to be too little, too  
late, at least it was a step in  
the right direction.

We also have been seeing  
autism being portrayed in  
a more positive light in the  
media. "Sesame Street" intro-  
duced an autistic character,

and the blue Power Ranger  
was confirmed to be autistic  
as well. Both of these char-  
acters are showing the unique  
attributes that those with au-  
tism possess.

This is certainly promising  
for the future of people with  
autism. But the progress be-  
ing made looks to be coming  
to a screeching halt.

Donald Trump proclaimed  
that the administration would  
encourage "innovation that  
will lead to new treatments  
and cures for autism." This  
drags us back to the pits of ig-  
norance and completely dis-  
regards what many autistics  
actually want.

Instead of lighting up a  
house to support a misguid-  
ed organization, they should  
work on providing access to  
health care and employment.

Trump and his political  
associates are showing that  
that they support the view  
that autistic people should  
not exist, and this danger-  
ously regressive viewpoint makes  
me extremely worried about  
the future of the autistic pop-  
ulation.

# SPORTS

## Lions take national standings

The Lions have made a name for themselves recently on the national stage. Lindenwood athletics has created a reputation for national achievement in the past, and has continued to preserve that reputation this academic school year.

Synchronized swimming competed at nationals April 4-9 in Oro Valley, Arizona. The team took the top four spots in duets, the top two spots in solos and earned the national title for its team division.

For Lindenwood cheerleading, the end of the season brought a fourth national title after competing April 5 to April 9 in Daytona, Florida. This year the team took the Large Coed Division II title. The team also took fourth in All-Girl Division II and fifth in Intermediate Small Coed II.

The Lindenwood Lionettes took their first program national title on April 7. The Lionettes were one of seven teams to advance to the finals in Jazz Division II and ultimately took the gold.

Lindenwood shotgun sports competed at nationals March 27 to April 2. For the 14th time, the team earned the national title at the Association of College Unions International Collegiate Clay Target National Championships.

The Lions gymnastics team competed in the 2017 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate National Championships April 7 to April 9. The team had multiple top performances individually and took third as a team.

In addition to the teams pictured, Lindenwood roller hockey earned first place April 9 at the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association Division I Championship played in Ft. Myers, Florida.

*Information from Kearstin Cantrell*



Photo by Kyle Rainey  
Senior synchronized swimmer Alyson Haylor performs her solo routine on Feb. 26 at the team's Sunday Funday performance.



Photo by Carly Fristoe  
Members of Lindenwood cheerleading's large coed squad perfect their stunts before nationals at practice on March 30.



Photo by Carly Fristoe  
Freshman Breanna Franklin performs her floor routine on March 5 at a meet hosted by the Lions in Hyland Arena.



Photo from [www.lindenwoodlionsssls.com](http://www.lindenwoodlionsssls.com)  
After taking the gold in Jazz Division II at nationals, the Lionettes pose with their hard-earned trophy, the first in program history.



Photo from [www.lindenwoodlionsssls.com](http://www.lindenwoodlionsssls.com)  
The Lindenwood shotgun sports team poses with its 14th national winning trophy after competing on April 2.

# SPORTS

## Lindenwood w. rugby player makes debut with Team USA

**Nick Feakes**

Reporter

Women's rugby player Anna-karen Pedraza achieved one of her biggest goals when she made her debut for the USA women's national team against Canada.

The La Quinta, California, native was included as a substitute for the USA and made her first international appearance, or "cap," as it is known in the rugby world.

She took her place on the pitch in the 54th minute of the 39-5 loss to Canada on March 28.

The game was the first of two in the Can-Am series held in Chula Vista, California.

Despite being the youngest member on the team at the age of 20, Pedraza held her own on the pitch, said USA rugby head coach Peter Steinberg.

"She came off the bench in the first match and did well," Steinberg said. "She has a great pass, and despite being so young, she showed good leadership and communication."

Coming out of high school, Pedraza wasn't an All-American like many of her teammates at Lindenwood were.

In fact, she didn't make the U20 national team either. This would be the equivalent of a baseball player skipping the minor leagues and going straight to the major leagues.

However, that didn't stop Pedraza from working at her goal.

According to Lindenwood women's rugby head coach Billy Nicholas, Pedraza always puts in extra skill sessions and strength-and-conditioning work to propel her to the next level.

Nicholas said Pedraza has the right attitude and the desire to succeed.

"We talk a lot about the desire to be successful at the next level and the will to work to get there, and Annakaren has both of those," Nicholas said. "She'll continue to apply herself and take advantages of the opportunities ahead of her."

Pedraza said her continued dedication is due to her desire to succeed in the sport she loves and achieve the goals she has set for herself.

"I remember about two years ago, I told my mom I wanted at least one cap, and I'd be happy," Pedraza said.

It turns out one cap wasn't enough for Pedraza. She went on to start for the team in the second game of the series against Canada on April 1.

Unfortunately the USA again lost to the Canadians. This time it was 37-10.

The biggest opportunity ahead of Pedraza is the Women's Rugby World Cup in Ireland, which runs August 9 to August 26.

According to Steinberg, Pe-



Photo by Carly Fristoe

Anakaren Pedraza holds the ball as she coordinates with her teammates during a game against Life University on Nov. 22, 2016 in Hunter Stadium. The Lions beat their rival in two matches that day 24-14 and 46-5.

draza "has a great shot at making the World Cup team," something Pedraza has her sights set on as well.

"I want to buckle down with school and put in academic work," Pedraza said. "Train for upcoming matches with Lindenwood and focus on finishing

up the season. Then go back to train with Team USA to make the World Cup squad."

USA has been drawn in Pool B of the tournament and will have to win at least two out of three games against Italy, Spain and England if it wants to progress through to the quarterfinals. The

team will play all of its games in Dublin.

"To see Annakaren evolve over the last two years into a position she didn't really play much until she got here has been amazing," Nicholas said. "She is a sponge and will continue to get better and better."



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### LINDENWOOD Student Athlete Spotlight

## Wes Degener



Photo from [lindenwoodlions.com](http://lindenwoodlions.com)

**Sport:** Baseball  
**Age:** 21  
**Birthplace:** Columbia, Illinois  
**Year in school:** Junior  
**Major:** Criminal Justice

**Q:** How long have you been playing sports competitively?

**A:** As long as I can remember; maybe 5-6 years old

**Q:** What is the greatest moment in your sports career so far?

**A:** My greatest moment was hitting a walk-off home run against Emporia State.

**Q:** What are your game-day routines/superstitions?

**A:** I really don't have anything leading about to the game besides drinking a cup of coffee, but when getting ready to hit, I have to put my left batting glove on first, then my right and then the elbow guard.

**Q:** What is your biggest sports fantasy?

**A:** Travel the country playing baseball.

**Q:** Who is your favorite athlete?

**A:** Bo Jackson

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

**A:** The most influential people in my athletic career would be my immediate family: mom, dad and brother Jake. Whether I had a good or bad game, they would be there in any way that they needed to be.

**Q:** In 10 years, what do you see yourself doing?

**A:** I'd love to still be playing baseball, but if not, then I would like to be in the DEA.

Information from Kearstin Cantrell

# A&E

## Student film portrays love, challenges

Sarah Langston uses her personal experiences to tell story of sisterhood, deafness

**Kelby Lorenz**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Exploring the bonds of sisters, overcoming obstacles and the value of working together are the themes for one of the seniors' capstone films.

Lindenwood digital cinema arts major Sarah Langston pulled from personal experience when writing her film "Voice of Sisters."

"The film is about two sisters, one of who is a musician, and one of which is deaf," Langston said. "Due to that, they have a lot of communication issues, and so the film hones in on one issue of [those] communication issues and how they resolve it and how they become closer."

Although she is not deaf herself, Langston's interactions with deaf people have inspired her and shown her a whole world of different perspectives.

"You don't think about how many people live with that type of situation until you deal with every single day to see someone who is deaf," she said. "It's just a combination of knowing those people and interacting with a number of people who have learned sign language and those people that you would never know they were deaf until you started interacting with them."

These interactions helped mold the idea for "Voice of Sisters," even though it wasn't the original idea that Langston had for the plot.

"My idea was to have one girl, who had some sort of really big issue," Langston said. "And to have one man, whose name

was Murphy, whose big issue was that he was undiagnosed ADHD and severe to where he couldn't focus for a damn. Then it looked like it was going to be a two-hour film, and we were like 'nope.'"

Langston had begun to develop the story of Bridgette and Gypsy, and worked on both stories until she decided to do something more substantial with the plot.

"I think, mostly, the one thing I want people to sympathize with is that you having some sort of difficulty doesn't mean that you can't get over it, in a way," Langston said. "At first, Bridgette is very stuck in her ways, and so is Gypsy. And when they realize that they are just trying to help each other to get closer and they both bend is the only time it works."

Langston said that the underlying message for her film is that "it's not up to one

person," and she wants the film to show the emotional connection that develops between the sisters and to create peace between them.

"Growing up with sisters, peaceful was not something that always happened," Langston said with a laugh. "My mom used to do this thing that when me and my sisters would start arguing, which was on the daily, there was this church song called 'Love at Home' that she would start singing as loud as she could. It made [us] realize that we should stop yelling at each other."

Brie Howard, who plays the character Bridgette in the film, said that she loved working on the project and that playing the role was "such an honor."

"Bringing a deaf character to the forefront of a film has the potential to be empowering, impactful and thought-provoking for audience members in all walks of life," Howard said. "My biggest goal was to portray Bridgette accurately and in a way that made people reassess their own feelings and actions towards the deaf community."

Howard said that working with Langston was "a joy" and Langston "overflowed with passions for this project."

As for the development of Bridgette's character and its impact on the audience, Howard hoped that love and the challenges the character faces will provide an understanding of the deaf community.

"I hope the audience sees the love, loss and challenges Bridgette faces every day," Howard said. "I hope they see her intelligence and her heartbreak when the people around her struggle to understand her needs. I hope the audience sees this film and seeks a deeper understanding of the people in the lives who are members of the deaf community."

Langston said that even if the film is a "drastic failure," that it would be okay to her, because she would have done her best.

"What I think is that people forget when they get to higher-level classes or they get into big semester pieces, they start worrying about just themselves," she said. "But we have to remember that if one of us fails, then we've all failed. Yes, you want something good, but is it worth you having a really great piece and someone else having nothing because you weren't willing to help them?"



Photo by Kelby Lorenz

Senior Sarah Langston directs actors during a shoot on April 1 in Butler Library for her capstone film, "Voice of Sisters," that will premiere May 3.

## Photography is expression, writing history through lens

**Kyle Rainey**

*Reporter*

The digital world enables people to share their lives through photography. Whether it would be a pancake breakfast, a fashion shoot or a graduation, photography professor Krista Frohling said taking pictures is a way of writing history.

"Photography is about simplification," Frohling said. "You have the entire world to photograph, but you have to narrow it down just to the points and pieces that you see as the most important."

She said in contrast, other art mediums like painting, drawing and sculpture are about adding to canvases and creating.

Frohling is also the head photographer at her startup, Lamore Rose Photography. She discovered photography when she was a teenager, and said her inspiration came from the black-and-white photographer Ansel Adams, whose specialty was sceneries.

"Photography is a way to learn how to see the world without a camera," Frohling said, summarizing a quote from Dorothea Lange.

Being a photographer has helped Frohling appreciate the way light touches trees, buildings and cars. She wants her students to zoom in beyond the big picture, emphasizing smaller points.

"It's learning to see the world with a little more detail and noticing how light hits things," she said.

Graphic design senior Carolyn Hartmann is currently taking a class over the technical aspects of cameras.

"Photography is about simplification. You have the entire world to photograph, but you have to narrow it down just to the points and pieces that you see as the most important."

**- Krista Frohling, professor of photography**

"I think for a good design, you always need a good photograph to base it off of," Hartmann said. "Photography and design go hand in hand."

She said one photography assignment that stood out to her was a photojournalism assignment that required her to take pictures of the public.

She said it was interesting to walk around a busy area and capture people in the moment, but it also made her feel like a paparazzo.

Hartmann said photography takes skill because it requires an understanding of the technical aspects of a camera and an understanding of lighting.

"I don't like still life," she said. "I don't like that it's staged. I like more candid, spontaneous [photos]. It's more eye-catching to me."

She said the hardest part of getting the right shot is making sure the camera settings are right.

"There's much more than your mom taking a picture of you standing in front of a monument," Hartmann said.

She said she is using a digi-

tal single-lens reflex camera to take photos for her graphic design art exhibition, where photos will be projected on walls.

"I thought the iPhone takes such great photos, but when I actually used a DSLR, I see how much more crisp and clear those photos are," she said.

Frohling's advice to photographers is to take two steps closer to the subject.

"If your photos aren't good enough, you're not close enough," she said, quoting war photographer Robert Capa.

Frohling said the current digital age is bringing about the second round of the democratization of photography with the access to cameras on multiple devices. The first example of this was in the early 1900s, when a more available camera made it easier for more people to take pictures.

She said it's opened up a whole new world of believability in photography, because people don't necessarily need professionals to take photos they trust.

"It's also diluting the art



Photo by Madi Nolte

Photography professor Krista Frohling owns many cameras, but her folding film camera and Nikon D810 DSLR that she uses for work are her favorites.

of photography and some facets as well," she said.

Hartmann said she likes to walk around campus and take photos, finding different lighting environments. In contrast, Frohling said she loves taking pictures in studios, where she's in control

of many elements of the photos.

"We photograph, we make art and we create things about what is important to us as a culture," Frohling said. "What they're photographing, even on their iPhones, is expressing to future generations what we found important."

# A&E

## LU alumna goes all in with acting

Ana Castillo doesn't believe in backup plans as she pursues her dream in LA

Essi A. Virtanen

A&E Editor

Alumna Ana Castillo packed her belongings in one suitcase on her graduation day, May 14, 2016.

Three days later, she left her life at Lindenwood behind and traveled to Los Angeles without a plan but with a strong will to start building her career as an actress.

"I had no idea what I was going to do," Castillo said. "I just knew I had to be here."

Her first impression of Los Angeles wasn't what she expected.

"I went there super excited because I pictured everything so elegant, glamorous and all of these things, and I went to Hollywood Boulevard, and I started crying," she said.

She saw homeless people and was taken over by the smell of urine. She thought everything she had imagined about Los Angeles was a lie.

Yet slowly, the city started growing on her, and almost a year later, Castillo is still living there. She decided to spend her Optional Practical Training there, which is "a temporary employment" that can last up to 12 months and is directly related to an international F-1 student's major area of study.

"This city is really tricky, but you learn to love it, and now I don't want to leave, because I feel there's so much that I can accomplish here," she said.

Castillo received a bachelor of arts degree in acting and a minor in digital cinema arts from Lindenwood. Originally from Colombia, she came to Lindenwood in January 2013 and graduated in three and a half years.

She was most active in the theater, film and international student communities at Lindenwood. She acted in 10 theater shows and worked in many short films, including her own, "Confinement," which was an official selection for the Latino Film Festivals in New York City and Atlanta. It was her last Lindenwood project, which she wrote, produced, directed and acted in.

Castillo's adviser at Lindenwood, assistant professor of theater Nick Kelly, met her in the Fundamentals of Acting class.

"She jumped into everything," Kelly said. "When I told her to work on an American dialect, she did. When I told her to explore character, she did. When I told her don't just play you, play everything, she did. I never had to give her the same note twice."

Castillo said training under Kelly gave her many skills, including breaking down and memorizing cold-reads in five minutes as well as having a thick skin and confidence in auditioning.

"I was trained well enough where I can be confident and to where I can make bold choices, where I can make the room be interested in



Photo from Ana Castillo

Ana Castillo got her first role in LA last fall. She played the protagonist called Maria for an independent TV-pilot "Yo Soy Mujer" that was filmed in the beginning of November 2016. It "humors telenovelas while delivering an important message about women empowerment," Castillo said.

what I'm doing even though I'm not a known person," she said.

In Los Angeles, Castillo is interning at a casting office and working as a brand ambassador and a model while focusing on auditioning.

Castillo said the biggest challenge for actors in Los Angeles is that everyone in the city is an actor and the fact that there is so much competition because of it.

"You really don't need to ask what do you do, because you're assuming already that they're an actor," she said. "And that's very frustrating, because most people don't have training at all in being actors."

However, she said that if you stay focused and work hard, you will make it.

"But you have to be patient, because it'll probably take 10 years or more," she said. "And that's like the reality. I'm not making these numbers up. People ask you, 'Oh, how long have you been here? Oh, a year? You have nine more to go.' It's a thing here."

Castillo said having a support system is important, and part of hers is a computer science major, Brendan Ochs, who is a common face in Lindenwood's short films.

"As an actress, she [Castillo] is immensely talented and still loves learning to further hone

her craft," Ochs said. "She is a pure student of the art. She is going to make it, and it's just a matter of time. She will get her break."

Kelly said Castillo sets the example for all of his students by "going after" the life she wants.

"Go out there and get to work," he said. "That is exactly what I expect from anyone that wants to become an actor. She proves that you don't have to be doing this since you were 3 to have a career. You just have to be smart, always be learning and go after this career."

Castillo said she hopes for more growth in the future, both personally and professionally. She was accepted to New York Film Academy for a master's degree in acting, and if finances will allow her, she will start there in September. For now, the plan is that she will go back to Colombia to pursue a career there when her OPT is done at the end of June.

Castillo said she's "going full in" acting. She does not believe in backup plans, because if you have one, then you are lenient to go for it.

"The way I look at things, there's no way I'm not going to make it, because I don't have another choice," she said. "There's nothing for me to pull back into. I don't have another choice. I have to act; that's what I'm trained for, that's what I've been doing and that's what I love."



Photo by Benjamin Wilson

Besides auditioning, interning at a casting office and working in brand promotion, Ana Castillo also does modeling in Los Angeles.

## Students taken to world of comics via class

Lindsey Fiala

Reporter

Lindenwood is broadening its horizon of classes with the addition of a new comic-book class.

Larry Quiggins, associate professor of theater, will teach the new class, which is called Special Topics: The World of Comics, in the fall of 2017.

Quiggins said having the class is extremely important.

"The comic book is an American art form, one of the few that other cultures and countries have embraced to tell stories," he said. "Comic books reflect society and the world around them, so they are an excellent learning point to see how society viewed the world around them at different points in history."

Assistant professor of interactive media and web design Erica Blum said the class will be available for everyone to take.

"There is a need for this class," Blum said. "Even though comic books are traditionally done by hand, they are all moving to the computer. It's a natural fit [in IMWD]."

When Quiggins went to Blum with the idea for the comic-book class, she quickly agreed.

"I think the answer was just yes when he mentioned it to me," Blum said. "I said we will absolutely take it."



Photo by Lindsey Fiala

Larry Quiggins has his office shelves filled with comic-book character items. Spider-Man is his favorite.

The new class will teach the history of sequential art and the history of comic books, dating back all the way to the first comic book.

"We will discuss both comic strips and comics," Quiggins said. "They are connected, yet they have a separate life as well."

The class also will cover comic artists, companies and the different genres of comics as well.

"There are other genres outside of superheroes," Quiggins said.

"There are romance, horror, western, science fiction and fantasy."

Quiggins plans to talk about how comic books reflect the time in which they were created.

"I could pull out a comic book from the '40s and be able to see what society was like during that time," Quiggins said. "Same with the '50s, '60s, '70s and even today."

Blum said Quiggins is one of the biggest comic-book fans she has ever met, so it made him the perfect

fit to teach the new class.

"This class is his baby," Blum said. "I joke about how I am a comic-book nerd, but Larry trumps me. I hate to say it, because I like to believe that I am the biggest comic-book nerd."

Quiggins is "very excited" to be teaching the class next semester. He used to teach a class on sequential art for graduate students and very much enjoyed it.

"I know that this class is going to

be able to sell itself to the students," he said.

Quiggins has been interested in comics from a young age.

"Ever since I was a child, I have read a comic book every night before I go to bed," Quiggins said. "I've been doing it for so long that I don't think I could go to sleep without reading one."

He became a serious collector at the age of 12.

"I traded my baseball-card collection to a guy for his comic-book collection," he said. "I have over 50,000 comics in my collection. All of my expensive ones are in the bank."

Before becoming a professor, Quiggins owned a comic-book store, Bug's Comics and Games, from 1990 to 2004 in Florissant, Missouri.

"I started the store from scratch," Quiggins said. "From the beginning, it was very successful."

Quiggins decided to close the store once he started teaching full time. He is happy with his decision, because he loves teaching. Now he gets to combine both of his passions.

"Comic books are my escape and a passion that borders on addiction," he said. "There is nothing like reading a story that is told by sequential art."

COM 29005 Special Topics: The World of Comics class will be offered at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays next fall.