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LINDENWOOD
AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

Finnegan Selected as Employee of Month for May

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Barry Finnegan, Dean of Academic Services, has been named the Employee of the Month for May. Originally from Ireland, he arrived at Lindenwood University as an undergraduate student in 1998 and has been with the school ever since.

Finnegan served as graduate assistant, academic services representative, registrar, and associate dean before assuming his current role in 2006. He is now responsible for ensuring the integrity and accuracy of all academic records, as well as overseeing the University's Registrar and Athletic Certification Offices and institutional reporting officer.

The annual Lindenwood Commencement exercises also fall under Finnegan's purview. He handles everything from determining the eligibility of participants to organizing student and faculty lineups.

"My job is great because I get to be in the mix of faculty, staff, and students on a daily basis," he said. "And, the nature of the work allows me to work with future, current, and past students. It's pretty neat to be able to follow their success stories all the way through."

Finnegan's knowledge, courtesy, and professionalism were all areas of focus in the nomination letter written on his behalf by Jann Weitzel, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

"Barry is my go-to person," she wrote. "He understands all issues having to do with academic services, including articulation agreements, schedules, catalogs, data reporting, transfer equivalencies, etcetera. He is able to manage the academic services personnel in a collegial yet professional manner, and faculty members do not hesitate to contact him with questions and concerns. They find him approachable and congenial."

Having recently undergone back surgery, Finnegan has been working from home for the past several weeks. He said receiving the Employee of the Month award has helped keep his morale up as he recuperates.

"My staff is amazing and they make me look good," he said. "But I was still surprised and shocked to be given such a huge honor. It's just the boost I need to help me recover quickly so I can return to campus in early August."

Did You
Know?

Lindenwood first attempted to offer evening coursework as early as 1922? According to one dean's report, teachers from area St. Charles schools requested that Lindenwood make classes available in the evening so they could finish their degrees. The first class had 15 enrolled.

Employee Picnic is Wednesday, July 13

All Lindenwood University full-time employees and their guests are invited to attend the 2011 Employee Family Picnic from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, at the Robert F. Hyland Arena. The picnic will feature free food, games, and an opportunity to watch the live landing of an Apache helicopter.

“We know everyone’s busy and there are lots of things that take away from employees’ time with their families,” said event organizer Eric Stuhler, Director of Planned Giving and In-House Legal Counsel. “This event is a chance for families to come together and have some fun.”

In addition to great food and games, the evening will be filled with ice-cream, pony rides, pedal boat rides on the lake, and musical entertainment. A raffle will offer attendees the chance to win a 32-inch flat screen television.

Employees are invited to wear casual clothes to work on the day of the picnic. Guests are also encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs to the event.

The picnic will take place rain or shine, with activities being moved inside in case of inclement weather. Please RSVP with the number of adults and children planning to attend to Maddelene Collins at 636-947-4700 or mcollins@lindenwood.edu.

President to Outline University's Economic Impact

Lindenwood University President James D. Evans, Ph.D., will deliver a presentation on the University’s economic and community impact during the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce membership meeting on Wednesday, July 20. The luncheon address will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room of the Spellmann Center.

Evans’ presentation will include information from the recently published report, Lindenwood: A Major Midwestern University. Key points will include the positive financial and civic contributions the school makes in the region and the ways in which the University serves as a vital economic engine for the city and county.

“Taking higher education’s effect on workforce job skills into account, Lindenwood’s annual economic impact on St. Charles County alone is estimated to exceed \$600 million,” said Evans. “In addition to populating the economy with educated professionals, the University also brings diversity, arts, culture, and entertainment to St. Charles.”

The presentation will outline the contributions of Lindenwood’s student “servant leaders” and volunteers, who annually spend thousands of hours advancing the greater good of the region, Evans said. The school’s continuous efforts to enrich the culture of the community through various events, entertainment, and educational offerings will also be highlighted.

Chamber members and individuals interested in joining the organization are invited to attend. The cost is \$20 per person if payment is received by Friday, July 15, after which it increases to \$25. To register or to learn more, call the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce at 636-946-0633.

Belleville Trio to Present at Midwest Conference

Lindenwood University-Belleville professors Sarah Patterson-Mills, Ph.D., and Therese Chavaux-Turnbull, Ph.D., along with graduate

assistant Ron Helvey, have been named presenters at the annual Midwest Research-to-Practice Conference Sept. 21-23 at Ameristar Casino in St. Charles, Mo. The trio will discuss their report, "Defining High-Quality Online Participation and Its Roots."

The piece explores online graduate participation in a blended classroom, specifically in the area of counseling. A main goal of the work is to contribute to the limited knowledge regarding effective uses of online technology in the classroom.

"There haven't been any graduate studies of this kind in counseling that we can find," said Patterson-Mills. "We hope to counter some of the reluctance to use online technology by showing it has its place in certain counseling courses and can increase critical thinking skills in the field."

Data for the project was gathered from online graduate student blog posts as part of a course participation requirement collected during the fall 2010 semester. Patterson-Mills, Chavaux-Turnbull, and Helvey have since been independently rating the more than 1,300 responses collected and using them to develop an online quality assessment system.

"We want to define what is a higher education critical thinking post and develop a universal rubric so online instructors can gauge the overall quality of a response," said Patterson-Mills. "We are then examining certain ways in which instructors can use online language to scaffold their students to the next level of thinking, which is taking theory and applying it to novel situations."



NCAA Advances Lindenwood to Second Candidacy Year

Lindenwood University has completed another step on its way to becoming a full member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II. President James D. Evans, Ph.D., Athletics Director John Creer, and others were informed by the NCAA this afternoon that the school has been approved to advance to the second year of candidacy in the membership process.

"We are very pleased," said Evans. "Our athletics department and many members of our faculty and staff have been working very hard on this transition."

Evans said that in the past year, Lindenwood has taken "best practices" visits to NCAA Division I and Division II schools, increased staffing, and strengthened an already firm institutional commitment to compliance and the well-being of student-athletes.

Lindenwood has completed its transition to athletic scholarships, has fully implemented an active Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and has completed updates of the institution's compliance manual and student-athlete handbook. Lindenwood began following all NCAA rules on July 1, a full year ahead of schedule.

The NCAA Division II membership committee will vote next summer whether to move Lindenwood into a provisional year in 2012-13. Assuming all expectations are met in that provisional period, Lindenwood will become a full NCAA member in 2013-14.

Lindenwood will play as an independent this upcoming season after ending its 40-year association

with the NAIA in May. The Lions and Lady Lions were recognized as one of the top five overall programs in the NAIA for 12 of the last 13 years, according to the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings.

Lindenwood will join the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) for most sports in 2012-13. The MIAA is one of the strongest conferences in NCAA Division II and includes schools from Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska.
