

# COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD  
AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR  
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

## Simms Selected as October Employee of the Month



Donna Simms, Academic Services Representative and Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official, has been selected as the Employee of the Month for October.

The Troy, Mo., resident has been employed in Academic Services since 2005 and has served as the University's Certifying Official since 2007. In her certifying role, Simms serves as a liaison between military students and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Basically, my job is to make sure that once military scholars apply I verify things with the VA so everything is in order in terms of their benefits," she said. "I tell them, 'let me do the paperwork so you can concentrate on your studies.'"

Simms was nominated for the Employee of the Month award by Mary Stacy-Brewer, who's also an Academic Services Representative. Stacy-Brewer praised her colleague for playing a key role in Lindenwood's successful recruitment and retention of military students and for the University's accomplishment of being named to Victory Media's list of Military Friendly Schools four years in a row.

"Ms. Simms exemplifies the practice of customer service at LU and she has the patience of a saint," said Stacy-Brewer. "She puts students and parents at ease while explaining benefits and the certifying process, and they know she has their best interests at heart. She treats everyone with dignity and respect and is a valuable asset to the University."

Although Simms has not served in the military herself, she does have several veterans in her family. Serving those who have served in the armed forces is a cause close to her heart.

"You have to understand that people who have seen combat will be forever changed," she said. "So, with that in mind, I treat them how I would want someone to treat my son, daughter, or even myself. It's my contribution to our

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## Did You Know?

**Did you know that in the 1840s, Lindenwood was referred to as a "seminary and an altogether pleasant retreat for young ladies who may wish to feast of reason found in pursuing their school books, amidst pleaseant, shady groves"?**

troops.”

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## Hawk-Reinhard Publishes Essay on Religious Texts

Donna Hawk-Reinhard, PhD, Adjunct Professor of Christian Ministry Studies, has published an essay in a book titled *The Use of Textual Criticism for the Interpretation of Patristic Texts: Seventeen Case Studies*. Her essay, “Transmission Implications Regarding the Authorship of Cyril of Jerusalem’s *Mystagogic Catecheses*,” examines the true authorship of a critical religious text.

*The Mystagogic Catecheses* is a fourth century document containing lectures addressed to newly baptized Christians that explain the sacraments of baptism, post-baptismal anointing, communion, and the celebration of Mass. The two people typically associated with authorship of this document are Bishop Cyril of Jerusalem and Bishop John of Jerusalem.

In her essay, Hawk-Reinhard uses textual critical analysis to demonstrate that the current edition of the text is actually Bishop John’s edited version of Bishop Cyril’s work.

“What you do with textual critical analysis is try to figure out what mistakes were added by scribes who were copying the work from century to century and what intentional revisions were added to the texts,” she said. “Another scholar had pointed out that John had a characteristic editing style. So, I systematically applied that scholar’s research and found that there is a difference in theology between the two bishops.”

Hawk-Reinhard was inspired to explore the topic through her background in historical theology. She plans to publish additional research articles in 2013.

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## Walsh Addresses School of Education Class on Autism

Theatre Professor Donnell Walsh announced that his son, Daniel “Mack” Walsh, recently delivered an address to a class led by Assistant Professor Janis Freeman, EdD. The 24 year-old Mack, who has a high-functioning form of autism known as Asperger’s syndrome, provided students in Lindenwood’s blended Characteristics of Autism course with an inside look at his daily life.

He spoke for a full hour and used PowerPoint, a blackboard, and handouts to explain the difference between symptomatic effects of autism and general misbehavior in the classroom. He engaged students with volunteer demonstrations, humor, and a discussion session.

“He talked about how an individual with autism thinks, what his own teachers did to support him, and his personal strengths,” Freeman said. “It was great and he did an absolutely fabulous job. My students said he was the highlight of the course.”

Freeman has invited Mack to return for another presentation during the 2013 spring semester.

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