

# COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD  
AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR  
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

## Grounds Crew Selected as 'Employees' of the Month

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The Lindenwood University Grounds Department has been named the collective Employee of the Month for March.



## Did You Know?

**Did you know that Alexandra Tolstoy, daughter of Leo Tolstoy, visited Lindenwood in 1943? She spoke about the time she spent as her father's secretary, being imprisoned by the Bolsheviks, and Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.**

The group of six full-time and two part-time employees is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and beautification of the University's main St. Charles campus and many of its local extension sites. They cut grass, plant flowers, trim trees, and many other tasks to ensure the grounds remain in excellent condition.

They also go above and beyond to keep the campus functional during inclement weather, which was plentiful during the most recent winter season.

"The crew's tireless and incredibly successful work to keep normal operations going in the midst of an unusually severe winter bordered on heroism many nights," said James D. Evans, PhD, Lindenwood President. "I don't think it can be overstated the enormous challenge these employees met or how dedicated they are to this University."

During snow events, the crew members work in shifts around the clock to pre-treat surfaces, plow and shovel snow, clear roads and pathways, and continuously treat re-frozen areas as needed. The department's approximately 50 Work and Learn students also assist in snow and ice removal efforts.

"The Grounds Department certainly deserves the Employee of the Month recognition," said Joyce Norman, Director of Campus Facilities. "The Maintenance, Housekeeping, and Grounds departments are all responsible for our campus and its surroundings, but the Grounds Department is the one that receives the phone call at 2 a.m. stating that it's snowing or a tree has just blown over across the road on the main drive."

Kyle Routh, Director of Grounds, was quick to return the praise and to credit all those who help keep the campus both operational and beautiful.

“It’s a group effort. The guys on my crew work hard, and we all work together with maintenance and housekeeping and our Work and Learn students to do what needs to be done.”

**Pictured:** (Back row, left to right) Kevin Moffitt, Vernon King, Edmund Kues, Michael Stoops, Rick Vogt. (Front row, left to right) Todd Kapeller, Joseph Runyon, Kyle Routh

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## Cernik Publishes ‘Guns, Campus, and the Courts’

Joseph Cernik, PhD, professor of political science, and public administration, has published an article, “*Guns, Campus, and the Courts*,” which was recently named to the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Top Ten download list in several topic areas. The paper was ranked number two on the AARN: Other Anthropology of Education list of recent top ten papers, ranked number five on the Education Law eJournal list of top ten papers, and ranked number three on the LSN: Education Law: Primary & Secondary Education list of top ten papers.



“It was a surprise to me, particularly seeing that I was listed along with faculty publications from the University of Michigan Law School and University of Pittsburgh School of Law and several other well-known universities,” said Cernik. “SSRN has an international audience; the site that has some two million people who log on.”

The paper examines several U.S. federal court cases about guns on school campuses and was originally published in Vol. 1, Issue 2 of Lindenwood University’s *Journal of Educational Leadership in Action* in 2013. The web edition of the publication and article can be viewed online at [www.lindenwood.edu/ela/issue02](http://www.lindenwood.edu/ela/issue02).

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## Dames to Participate in Science Foundation Event

Christina Dames, PhD, Lindenwood University assistant professor of anthropology and sociology, has been selected to participate in the 2014 National Science Foundation’s Short Courses on Research Methods.



The courses, taught by experts in methods for studying culture, will take place July 21 through August 1, 2014, at the Duke University Marine Laboratories in Beaufort, N.C. Dames will participate as a student in two intensive five-day courses on cultural domain analysis and statistics in ethnographic research. Both courses are meant for professionals who have doctoral degrees in anthropology and who want to learn new methods for analysis.

“I’m excited about the courses because I’m developing an ethnographic field school for Lindenwood students and these courses will give me an opportunity to learn about new methods and to refine my skills in the methods that I already know and use,” said Dames. “I’m looking forward to having two weeks to interact with my colleagues in cultural anthropology to hear about what they are doing in their research.”

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## McMaken Publishes Book on Karl Barth

W. Travis McMaken (PhD), assistant professor of religion, saw publication of his second book late last month. A work in progress since 2010, the book was published by Pickwick, a theological press, the book is entitled *Karl Barth in Conversation*. McMaken is the book’s lead editor and contributed to the book by writing the content of the preface.



McMaken said the volume undertakes to put the thought of Protestant theologian Karl Barth, hailed by Pope Pious XII as the greatest theologian since Thomas Aquinas, in conversation with other significant thinkers within the broader theological tradition and in other fields. For example, the volume contains a chapter on the intersection of Barth’s thought with developmental psychologist Robert Kegan, and another on the work of filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen. A volume will be made available in the Lindenwood University library, he said.

The volume also contains a chapter written by Matthew J. Aragon Bruce, PhD, assistant professor of religion at Lindenwood. Bruce’s chapter stages an interaction between Barth and the other pre-eminent Protestant theologian of the modern period, Friedrich Schleiermacher. His chapter is entitled “Schleiermacher and Barth: On Theology as the Science of the Divine Word.”

McMaken’s first book, *The Sign of the Gospel: Toward an Evangelical Doctrine of Infant Baptism after Karl Barth*, was published by Fortress Press last summer. McMaken said that book helped establish him as an authority in this field, which overall made him a better thinker and teacher. He said he is happy to have this work finished and is excited to start working on his next book about Helmut Gollwitzer, a 20th century German theologian who led church movements against Hitler in WWII.

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## Van der Graaf to Speak at Education Conference

Vanessa van der Graaf, EdD, Associate Professor of Teacher Education in the School of Education at Lindenwood University, was invited to present as keynote speaker for the Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, on April 11 at St. Charles Community College.



The theme of the conference is “Stepping Up to

Leadership.” Van der Graaf will deliver two keynote addresses: “Social and Emotional Intelligences Add Depth to Leaders” from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and “Maximize Opportunities to Develop Emotional and Social Competence” from 3:30-4:00 p.m. Both presentations will be in the auditorium at St. Charles Community College, located on Mid Rivers Mall Drive in Cottleville.

During the keynote addresses, van der Graaf will explore intelligence from an emotional and social perspective, as opposed to a cognitive perspective, and highlight the benefits of health, performance, and success. More specifically, she will discuss stable interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships and balanced organization, all of which are key components of leadership.

The keynote addresses will foster an awareness of emotional and social intelligences relevant to participants’ personal and professional lives. The sessions will discuss the connection between success in the workplace and the importance of becoming more emotionally and socially competent.

Her most recent national presentation focused on improving teacher preparation programs within a changing global society for the Critical Questions in Education Conference.

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