

# COMMUNIQUÉ

LINDENWOOD  
AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR  
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

## Hajiyev Selected as July's Top Employee

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Emin Hajiyev, Director of Lindenwood University's Office of International Students and Scholars, has been named the Employee of the Month for July.



Hajiyev hails from Baku, Azerbaijan, and came to Lindenwood in 2005 at the recommendation of his good friend, Yusif Babanly. Hajiyev earned a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in management of information systems from the University in 2006.

After taking three months to travel, Hajiyev returned to Lindenwood in March of 2007 to work as an international student advisor. He assisted international students as they acclimated to life in the United States, helped them with academic schedules, provided immigration advice and resources, and guided them through tasks such as obtaining state licenses and other necessary identification cards.

"Providing support is important for every student, but it can be especially necessary when it comes to international students who are a long way from home and from their parents' guidance," he said. "This is where we come in. We help them as much as we can to set them up for success."

Hajiyev stepped into his current role of director in 2008. While he still provides general support, he also oversees international admissions, financial aid, and immigration compliance issues. In addition, he assists the Office of Human Resources with issues related to employee immigration status.

It was for his recent actions in the immigration status arena that Dr. Deb Ayres, Vice President for Human Resources, nominated Hajiyev for the Employee of the Month Award.

"Mr. Hajiyev is always able and willing to assist in any circumstance," she wrote. "I received an email during a recent weekend from one of our new faculty members, who is originally from the U.S. but lives in Singapore with his wife, a

## Did You Know?

Did you know that just days before Germany surrendered in WWII, the first female American reporter to enter Berlin was an LU alumna? Virginia Irwin entered Berlin on April 27, 1945, as a correspondent for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

native of the country. When trying to enter the U.S. as a family, the faculty member's wife was turned away because the appropriate documents had not been secured in advance. She had to fly home while the faculty member and the couple's son proceeded to St. Louis," Ayres continued.

"Upon hearing this news, I emailed Emin. He is the resident expert on international student and employee work issues, and I knew he would know just what to do," she explained. "He jumped into action, met with the faculty member on Monday morning, and developed a plan to provide him with the appropriate contacts and processes to secure entry into the U.S for his wife. I know Emin will work with this employee until his entire family is reunited in St. Louis, hopefully in the very near future."

Hajiyev responded to the praise by saying he was surprised to learn he'd won an award for his efforts and was simply pleased to be able to provide helpful assistance.

"In this faculty member's case, he has a problem that is within my area of expertise, and I will do everything I can to help him resolve it as soon as possible. It's another part of my job, which I enjoy doing. I'm happy to help."

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## Hudgins Joining SIU-Carbondale Alumni Board

Dr. Molly Hudgins, Department Chair of Sports Management and Associate Professor in the School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Lindenwood University, was among four alumni elected July 1 to the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Alumni Association's National Board of Directors.

"I was very excited," Hudgins said. "It's a position where there's an interview process, then the nomination process happens. I received a great education there and got to play college golf. I'm glad to be able to give something back to the university that gave me a lot."



Part of Hudgins' role on the board will be to provide direction toward the steps SIU-C is taking to grow and help its student body.

"I hope to increase enrollment and follow the direction the university is taking," Hudgins said. "One of the things the alumni association is trying to do is encourage interest from the students. I'd like to create a little diversity to the board to attract new students and put the SIU-C name back on the map again."

Hudgins has taught at Lindenwood since 2002 and chairs the President's Athletic Advisory Committee. She earned a master's degree from Florida State University and a doctorate in jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee. She is the co-founder and president of the Future College Golf Association. Hudgins was a member of the SIU-C golf team and was named three times to the Missouri Valley Conference team and four times as an academic All-American.

The Future College Golf Association mentors junior golfers and their families through the college recruiting process. Hudgins said she's helped more than 400 student-athletes go on to play college golf at various levels since the association was founded 11 years ago. Currently, she works with about 60 clients from all over the Midwest.

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## Hogan Named June Employee of Month for Belleville Campus

A member of the Lindenwood University-Belleville community since January 2009, Dan Hogan was among the first employees to be hired at the introduction of the day program when there were fewer than 30 full-time faculty and staff on campus. In his role as admissions counselor and head soccer coach, Hogan played an instrumental role in the recruitment and growth of the traditional day student body and is responsible for starting Lindenwood Belleville's men's and women's soccer program.



Hogan currently serves as a day admissions counselor and head men's soccer coach. Last year marked his 25th year as a head college soccer coach.

"I am fortunate to have been on campus since the beginning of Lindenwood-Belleville's Day Program," said Hogan. "At this time in 2009, there were no day students or classes. It has been exciting for me to be a part of a project that started from scratch. There are many people on this campus that have worked extremely hard to get the University where it is today."

Hogan was nominated for Employee of the Month by admissions graduate assistant, John Grubisich. "Dan has a tireless work ethic and extremely friendly demeanor," said Grubisich. "When I first arrived on campus here over a year ago, he was the first to greet me. He has continued to mentor me throughout our time together in admissions. Dan is also a role model off campus and is well known in the Belleville community for his volunteer efforts."

President Jerry Bladdick acknowledged Hogan for his dedication to the students, staff, and faculty at the Belleville campus throughout the years. "With such a young, dynamic campus, changes are occurring here every day," Bladdick said. "Dan's outstanding leadership and ability to truly connect with students have been a constant for us over these past five years. I'm thrilled to congratulate Dan Hogan as the Employee of the Month for June."

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## Parisi Judges Miss Teen USA Pageant

Dr. Joe Parisi took a break from his duties as Vice President for Enrollment Management at Lindenwood University to board a flight early Thursday morning for the Bahamas. But sun and sand weren't Parisi's objective. He was one of the



judges for this year's Miss Teen USA pageant.

Parisi has been judging beauty pageants for a decade since Shandi Finnessey won Miss USA in 2004. Finnessey received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Lindenwood and has earned credit toward her master's degree in counseling. She was also first runner-up in the Miss Universe 2004 contest.

"When Shandi won her crown, we decided to take our relationship with pageants to a whole new level," said Parisi who has judged state pageants in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. "It's an honor to represent Lindenwood in this capacity."

After Finnessey won Miss USA, Lindenwood renamed the lounge in McCluer Hall after her. Parisi said judges are looking for more than just beauty when selecting the winners of the pageants. What a contestant gives back to the community is just as important. Finnessey has been an advocate for the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, among others.

"We knew there was an opportunity to bring quality people to Lindenwood through our character scholarship program," Parisi said. "Students have always been recruited for academic or athletic reasons, but how often do you hear them being recruited for their efforts in youth leadership programs? We are always looking for well-rounded students."

Pageant winners from four different states are currently enrolled in Lindenwood's online program, Parisi said.

Parisi and the other judges interviewed all 50 contestants Friday during the preliminary phase of the competition. During Saturday's competition, each contestant was judged in a swimsuit, evening gown and a particular talent. Parisi said the interview phase is just as important.

"That's where we get to understand who these girls are," Parisi said. "These girls want to give back through community service obligations and that is something special."

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## Biggerstaff Honored by Parkway School District

Randy Biggerstaff has committed his adult life to helping athletes heal when injured on the field of play. Biggerstaff's career as an athletic trainer spans 40-plus years. He's known as a pioneer in his field.

Biggerstaff, Department Chair for Athletic Training and Director of Athletic Training Services at Lindenwood University, has received numerous honors for his work over the years. He was inducted into the Missouri Athletic Trainers' Sports Medicine Hall of Fame in 1995, Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, Mid America Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame in 2007, Lindenwood Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009, and National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 2010.



In July, he was one of 22 Parkway alumni inducted into the Parkway Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was formed in 2004, and there have been approximately 150 inductees since, said Jan Misuraca, executive director of the Parkway Alumni Association.

"Considering Parkway is where I began my career, through the mentoring and friendships with the coaches and teachers and administration, it's probably the reason I am where I am today," Biggerstaff said. "It's a great honor."

There are approximately 73,000 graduates of the Parkway School District, Misuraca said. A 25-person committee culls through each year's list of candidates, who live and work around the world. Misuraca said it takes two months to gather information about the candidates and get in contact with them.

Biggerstaff, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education at the University of Missouri and a Master of Science in Health Management at Lindenwood, helped create the athletic training program in 1997 at Lindenwood under President Dennis Spellmann. The program was accredited in 2003. Lindenwood now has seven full-time athletic trainers and 16 graduate assistants.

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## Kalkbrenner to Compete on August 23

Lindenwood's Director of Student Development, Erin Kalkbrenner, will be competing in the distance jumping competition at Midwest NightFLY on August 23. St. Louis' Creve Coeur Park will once again play host to the premiere nighttime watersports event, Midwest NightFLY. The event's unique format brings together two worlds of extreme watersports featuring the high impact of long distance waterski jumping and "big air" wakeboarding. This day-long festival features all types of watersports exhibitions, but the event culminates at night under stadium lights.

Check out [www.midwestnightfly.com](http://www.midwestnightfly.com) for the latest video recap the one-of-a-kind event from 2013 along with amazing pictures and the latest news.

Kalkbrenner, whose husband Cole will also be competing in the event, has been competing since age 7 in three-event tournament skiing: slalom, trick, and jump skiing. She won nationals in overall and jump in 2009 and 2011 and will be competing for the title again this year in San Marcos, Texas in two weeks.

