

COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD
AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

Stephenson Named Employee of the Month for October

November 3, 2014
Volume 8, Issue 7

JD Stephenson, Director of Rugby Operations and Director of Student Life Sports Facilities, has been named the Employee of the Month for October.



Did You Know?

Stephenson was named to his current position at Lindenwood University in August 2013. Prior to that, he had served as a graduate assistant and backs coach for the rugby program since 2011.

Did you know that during the 1968-1969 academic year, Ayres Hall was the first men's dorm on campus? The back half of Ayres was the location of the cafeteria until the Spellmann Center opened in 2002.

Ryan Guffey, PhD, Vice President for Student Development and Global Affairs, nominated Stephenson in recognition of his response to the untimely death of student Charles Labry, a Lindenwood junior and member of the men's rugby team. The Beaune, France, native was struck by a vehicle and killed while walking along Interstate 70 early on the morning of Oct. 18.

A memorial service was held for Labry at Hunter Stadium that same day. Teammates, friends, students, and coaches shared stories and paid their respects. Stephenson had kind words to say about his player.

"Charles was an exceptional student-athlete with a love and enthusiasm for life second to none," he said. "His passion for his girlfriend, friends, and family was truly amazing, and he will be forever be in our hearts and minds moving forward. We will all miss Charles and must remember to always celebrate his life through our fond memories and experiences with him."

Stephenson was quick to share credit for the organization of the Oct. 18 memorial.

"Those closest to Charles were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the event, especially undergraduate student Johnny Davies," said Stephenson. "He was key in helping get wreaths, make flyers, secure the location, and get some

of those closest to Charles to speak.”

Stephenson also helped organize an additional memorial service on Sunday, Oct. 19, in the Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room of the Spellmann Campus Center. Lindenwood staff and students took turns remembering Labry during the service.

The following Saturday, Oct. 25, the men’s rugby team hosted the inaugural Charles Memorial Shield Match at Hunter Stadium. Stephenson said the match will be held annually against Davenport University.

“It was a culminating event,” he said. “The cheerleaders were there, the band was there, students came out to sing the national anthem, and our boys put on a haka, a traditional dance, as a sign of respect for Charles.”

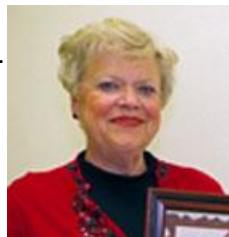
Stephenson said he and his team are appreciative of the ongoing support they have received in the aftermath of Labry’s death.

“The continued support of our close-knit organization and family that is Lindenwood has been tremendous. It’s been great for the program, the players, and for myself,” he said.

Parker Receives Belleville Employee of Month Honors

Marsha Parker has been selected as the September Employee of the Month for Lindenwood University-Belleville.

A Lindenwood alumna and employee, Parker has had a longstanding relationship with the University for several decades. She was a student in Lindenwood’s last all-female freshman class and attended LCIE classes as a graduate student after the university transitioned to co-ed.



Parker began working at Lindenwood University in St. Charles in 1986 and has served in such roles as the Director of Evening and Graduate Admissions, Director of Alumni Relations, Dean of Fine and Performing Arts, and Dean of Communications. She joined the Belleville campus three years ago and currently holds the title of Professor and Director of Theatre. She has served as the Chair of Lindenwood Belleville’s Faculty Council and is a member of the Educational Policies Committee. She currently teaches, directs theatrical productions on campus, and provides props and costumes for all productions.

In addition to her teaching duties, Parker has always been an enthusiastic supporter of her students both inside and outside the classroom. She has served as a faculty advisor for Linden Scroll, Lion Line, Lionettes, Cheerleaders, Lindenwood Student Government, Alpha Sigma Phi, and Lindenwood Ambassadors. One of her most significant Lindenwood projects was her authorship of the lyrics for Lindenwood University’s alma mater.

“Not only is Marsha an exceptional professor, advisor, and colleague, she goes above and beyond the call of duty routinely,” said her nominator, Nick Moramarco. “Specifically, this past July, Marsha took charge of preparing the Auditorium for Sen. Dixon’s services. Additionally, she has been helping in Admissions with an endless number of ghost schedules and has assisted Academic Services with evaluation of transfer credit equivalencies.”

“I was surprised and honored to be named Employee of the Month,” said Parker. “It is always special to receive recognition from your peers, but here at Belleville, there are so many people who assume so much more responsibility than their basic duties that I’m not sure if I should be singled out. Thanks so much.”
