

COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

**Grounds Crew Selected as
'Employees' of Year**

**January 5, 2015
Volume 8, Issue 9**

Did You Know?

Did you know that prior to joining in 2010, Lindenwood has been previously involved with the NCAA? Even though Lindenwood teams had never played in NCAA competition, the college was involved in a highly successful summer sports program sponsored by the NCAA between 1969 and 1980. The program, taught by Lindenwood students, was for children in low-income neighborhoods. Lindenwood students taught the kids.



Per tradition, President James D. Evans recognized the 2014 employees of the month at the annual Lindenwood University Christmas party and then revealed the winner of the employee of the year award.

The employees of the year were the Lindenwood Grounds Crew, which had been named Employee of the Month as a group after the particularly snowy winter of 2013-14 for their work repeatedly treating and clearing the campus' roadways and sidewalks.

"I don't think I can overstate their dedication or the enormous challenge these employees meet time after time," Evans said. "They worked in shifts around the clock to pre-treat surfaces and plow, shovel, and clear roads and pathways, and then they did it again."

Kyle Routh, Grounds Supervisor, briefly expressed his gratitude on behalf of his group, which includes Todd Kapeller, Vernon King, Edmund Kaus, Kevin Moffitt, Joseph Runyon, and Rick Vogt.

The other employees of the month that were recognized included Routh, who was employee of the month individually earlier in the year, Dale Lauer, Tracy Hanners, Chris Rumsey, Eric Harris, Wade O'Heron, Greg Scaturro, Emin Hajiyev, Lisa Hundelt, Lis Ziegenfuss, J.D. Stephenson, and Rebecca Keim.

The party, held at the Columns Banquet Center in St. Charles, was attended by more than 500 people.

Years of Service Celebrated at Christmas Party

Lindenwood launched a new recognition program at this year's Christmas party in which employees were honored for 5, 10, 20, 30, and 40 years of service to the University. To be recognized, an employee had to have reached one of those lengths of service by the prior July 1. Recipients were awarded pins commemorating their length of service.



Vice President Deb Ayres and
President James D. Evans

All told, approximately 70 people were presented years-of-service pins, the vast majority of which for five or ten years. In addition, four were recognized for 20 years: Kelly Ahne, Carl Hutter, Terry Kapeller, and Deb Nicolai. Three were presented pins for 30 years: Elizabeth Ammann, Rao Ayyagari, and Grant Hargate.

Finally, a 40-year pin was presented to a sole employee, President James D. Evans. The presentation was followed by a sometimes whimsical slide presentation, narrated by Vice President for Human Resources Deb Ayres, honoring his time at Lindenwood.

Keller Selected as Belleville's Top Employee in October

Stacy Keller has been selected as the Belleville Campus Employee of the Month for October. Keller currently works in Academic Services as the athletic eligibility coordinator. She joined the Lindenwood staff in 2012 as the campus' first full-time athletic eligibility coordinator upon transition into the NAIA. In her tenure so far, the number of sports at the Belleville campus increased from 22 to 36.



As athletic eligibility coordinator, Keller oversees the eligibility of 800-900 students and monitors the academic progress of all student-athletes. She serves as the interpreter of NAIA and institutional eligibility rules, policies, and procedures, as well as the liaison with the NAIA and NAIA Eligibility Center.

Keller was nominated for Employee of the Month by her colleagues, Dan Frazier and Sandy Mulitsch.

“Stacy is a joy to work with and has represented Lindenwood University with integrity and honor,” said Frazier. “She sets the standard for eligibility for an NAIA school.”

“In just two years, Stacy has learned to interpret all the NAIA guidelines, many of which, in writing, look more subjective than objective,” said Mulitsch. “Stacy is a team player, and in addition to her regular duties, she pitches in to help Academic Services during peak times like graduation planning, enrollment days, and the first day of classes. Her experience and professionalism are felt across campus.”

“I was speechless when Dr. Bladdick presented the award to me,” said Keller. “I am very honored and thankful to be named the Employee of the Month since there are so many deserving and dedicated employees on this campus. I feel that I owe a lot of my success to my wonderful colleagues in Academic Services and Athletics. They have provided me with great support during the 2 ½ years that I have been here.”

Feutz Selected as December Employee of Month

Nearly a month after her house in St. Peters burned down, Jessica Randolph's emotions were still raw. On a Sunday evening in November, Randolph and her husband were talking in a hallway in their home when they smelled smoke. Within seconds, the Randolphs scooped up their 10-month-old daughter and carried her outside to safety.



Just as quickly as the Randolphs were displaced from their home, they found support from Lindenwood University, where Jessica works as a teacher and advisor in the Exercise Science Program. Betsy Feutz, who is the Director of Strength and Conditioning at Lindenwood, helped set up a campus-wide effort to raise funds to support the Randolphs. For her compassionate efforts to help a fellow co-worker, Feutz is the Lindenwood University Employee of the Month for December.

Feutz ('04) graduated from Lindenwood with a bachelor's degree in athletic

training. She said the irony of receiving the honor is she nominated Dr. Paul Wright as Employee of the Month because he came to her about starting a fund-raising effort. Wright is an associate professor in the School of Sport, Recreation and Exercise Sciences.

I'm really surprised," Feutz said. "Dr. Wright should get a lot of the credit. He also did a lot for this."

Feutz said Randolph's husband called her the morning after the fire and she was stunned. Feutz and Randolph have worked together at Lindenwood for six years. Feutz said she immediately called her dean.

"The response we received was humbling," Feutz said. "We have so many amazing co-workers here. When items would get dropped off, we'd get them to her. The Lindenwood community was the backbone to that whole experience. Our men's soccer team raised \$600. Students within the exercise program helped. It gives you goose bumps to think how much support they've received."

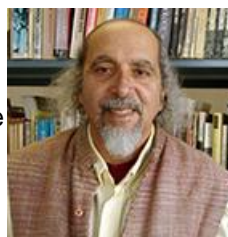
Randolph said the support her family has received has been really amazing. She said she feels supported by the whole university.

"They pulled donations from the entire school," Randolph said. "We got things from people we'd never met before. People donated clothing. We didn't have anything. Betsy being there and her assistance ... she came by every day for the first week. I'm eternally grateful."

Randolph said her family has relocated to a townhome and the house could be rebuilt in the same location within six to nine months.

Professor Emeritus Castro Appointed St. Louis Poet Laureate

Dr. Michael Castro, Lindenwood University professor emeritus, has been named St. Louis' first poet laureate. Castro, who taught at Lindenwood for 32 years, retiring in 2012, was chosen from a field of 65 nominees by an outside taskforce; the selection was ratified by St. Louis' Board of Aldermen.



According to an article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Castro was the taskforce's unanimous choice. He began the post on Jan. 1 and will serve a term of two years. He will make at least six appearances a year in his new role.

"I would hope, as poet laureate, to bring the various strands of the poetry community together through initiating some programs that would accomplish that and bring in diverse audiences," Castro was quoted as saying in an article published by KWMU, St. Louis Public Radio.

Castro has published 10 volumes of poetry and a book of prose on the poetry of Native Americans and is a founder of *River Styx* literary journal and its reading series. He has been recognized locally and nationally for his work.

"Few communities are lucky enough to have someone like Michael to become their first poet laureate, said Aaron Williams, chairman of the task force that selected Castro, in the *Post-Dispatch* article. "He really is a game-winning grand slam of a nominee and human being to lead this post for the first time for our community."

During his time at Lindenwood, Castro was a favorite of students, many giving him credit for awakening the poets that slept inside them. He launched Lindenwood's MFA in Writing program in 2002, currently chaired by Beth Mead, and he was named a Fulbright Fellow in 1990 to study the art and culture of India.

Peter Carlos, who was Castro's first hire at Lindenwood and was a student of his at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, helped found the Duff's Poetry Series with Castro.

"I consider Michael Castro to be one of the finest poets to come out of St. Louis," said Carlos, director of LUTV-HD and a teacher in the MFA in Writing Program. "He is considered one of the great visual poets. You have to see him perform."
