

COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD
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Did You Know?

Did you know that Butler Hall turned 100 years old in February? The building was named after Lindenwood's greatest benefactor, Col. James Butler. Butler and his wife, Margaret Leggat Butler, gave Lindenwood approximately \$3.5 million (around \$55 million in 2015 dollars) between 1907 and 1918.

Chief Financial Officer David Kandel to Retire April 1

When David Kandel joined the staff at Lindenwood as CFO in 1990, the Business Office had a staff of five people. Now, the Business Office and Accounting have combined staffing of more than four times that number.

Kandel has seen a lot of other changes, too, as Lindenwood grew from a small college to a university that is anything but small. He throws out some comparative financial data.

"Back then, we had only one payroll," Kandel said. "Now we have six. The general ledger had 298 accounts. Now, we have more than 8,000. It was before the growth of the athletic program, before all the new buildings, and before all the off-campus sites."

The financial operations blossomed and grew as the campus and the student body expanded. Now, after nearly 25 years, Kandel is retiring. On Jan. 1, he passed the title of Chief Financial Officer to Greg Phelps, and on April 1 he will retire the rest of the way. He says he successfully lobbied for LU employees to be able to wear blue jeans to work on that day.

Kandel's route to Lindenwood was a bit of a circuitous one. Born in Pennsylvania, he grew up in Teaneck, N.J., where he attended college at Fairleigh Dickinson University and earned a bachelor's in business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

Later, in 1971, he met his wife, Sandy, while stationed at Fort Leonard Wood with the Army Reserves. She was in the USO. They had four daughters (Maggie, Becky, Ellie, and Jackie), three of which attended Lindenwood.

Prior to his time at Lindenwood, Kandel worked at Main Hurdman KPMG and then CASA, St. Louis Conservatory and Schools for the Arts.

Before coming to Lindenwood, Dennis Spellmann spent a brief time consulting at CASA, during



which time Kandel met him. Four or five years later, Kandel said he found out Lindenwood was in need of a CFO and applied. Spellmann was, by then, president of Lindenwood.

"I'm not sure if he remembered me or not," he said. "I don't know if my resume popped their eyes, but my references sure did. I had some really nice letters of recommendation."

Kandel said he post-retirement plans will surely involve spending time with his family, most notably his 18-month-old grandson, Louie.

"I've enjoyed my time at Lindenwood," Kandel said. "It's a great place with a lot of great people."

Wehrli Selected as February's Top Employee

Dana Wehrli, Director of Career Development at Lindenwood University, has been named the Employee of the Month for February.



The St. Charles resident began working at Lindenwood in 1998 as Associate Director of Career Development. She cultivated formal recruiting partnerships with a wide range of companies and provided career coaching to countless students and alumni before being promoted to her current role as Director of Career Development in 2000.

Since that time, Wehrli has provided leadership and strategic direction to the department and served as a career development course instructor for junior and senior level undergraduate students. Her additional accomplishments include overseeing Lindenwood's Community Work Service and America Reads programs, substantially decreasing requisition costs by transitioning to an online career management tool, introducing a Career Networking Night event, scheduling more than 600 interviews for education majors within area school districts, and conducting an average of 35 career planning workshops each year.

"Dana's team did an outstanding job planning and executing the most recent career fair here at the University," wrote Wehrli's nominator Judy Kamm, Associate Professor in the School of Business and Entrepreneurship. "Dana exemplifies professionalism. Everyone is eager to work with her, and she is eager to work with everyone."

Wehrli's service as Chair of the Lindenwood University Staff Advisory Council was also praised by supporting nominator Ryan Guffey, Vice President for Student Development. In the role since summer of 2014, Wehrli's duties include planning and leading scheduled council meetings, establishing agendas for all meetings, overseeing strategic planning processes, and serving as point of contact for all matters brought before the Executive Committee.

She also currently serves or has served on the Lindenwood Student Service Council, the American Association of University Women, the St. Louis Human Resource and Career Services Association, the St. Charles Housing Authority, the Lindenwood Circle K Club, the Lindenwood PanHellenic Association, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, and the Lewis and Clark chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management.

"I am very fortunate to be working in a career that I'm passionate about and thoroughly enjoy, which makes it very easy to step up to the plate and volunteer in other areas when the opportunity presents itself," Wehrli said.

She also described her receipt of the Employee of the Month Award as an honor and praised her

colleagues for the role they play in making Lindenwood a great place to work.

"There's so much that I like about my job," she said. "The top-notch faculty and staff here are a pleasure to work with, and they truly are some of the most dedicated and hard-working people I have ever met."

Parker, Stidimire Honored at Belleville Sibley Day Employee Dinner

Marsha Parker, Director of Theatre, and Vernon Stidimire, Custodian, were recognized as recipients of the inaugural Faculty of the Year and Employee of the Year awards, respectively, at the Belleville campus' Sibley Day Employee Appreciation Dinner on Feb. 18.

Parker received the first annual Faculty of the Year Award Elected by Peers, as well as the first annual Faculty of the Year Award Elected by Students. Votes were collected from full-time faculty and the student body, respectively.

"The awards I received made a profound impact on me—as profound an impact as Lindenwood has made on my life," said Parker. "I am honored and so glad to be a part of the LU-Belleville community and am sure Mary Easton Sibley would have been thrilled to see how her dreams have been realized on the Illinois campus."

A Lindenwood alumna as well as faculty member, 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 in 2011 and currently holds the title of Professor and Director of Theatre. Parker has also 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 faculty advisor for numerous clubs and student organizations, and one of her most significant Lindenwood projects was her authorship of the lyrics for Lindenwood University's alma mater.

Vernon Stidimire was the recipient of the first annual Employee of the Year Award. The winner is selected from among the previous year's Employees of the Month, and votes are cast by the Belleville campus faculty and staff. Stidimire was named Employee of the Month for December and was honored to be recognized as Employee of the Year for his contributions to the campus community.

"I just really appreciate everybody at Lindenwood very much," said Stidimire.

Stidimire has served as a custodian at the Belleville campus since October 2013. Prior to that, he worked on campus as a food service staff member for Pfoodman, now Pedestal Foods. Stidimire oversees the maintenance of the main gym in the Lynx Arena, all locker rooms, and the Fitness and Training Center. In addition to his assigned duties, Stidimire takes it upon himself to varnish the floors in Old Main Hall, bringing back the old gleam to the historic building's original tile.



Parker



Stidimire

Jessica Bentele Named Belleville Employee of the Month for January

Jessica Bentele has been selected as the Belleville Campus Employee of the Month for January. Joining the Lindenwood Belleville family in September 2013, Bentele serves as Assistant Librarian for the campus. Her duties include building the library's collection, engaging with faculty members to bring in new titles, and creating an open and inviting space for students to study. Bentele demonstrates leadership and active staff/student involvement through her creation of a book club on campus and her participation in the Belleville Staff Council. She has also taken it upon herself to provide much of the library instruction to students and visits freshman experience courses, as well as several graduate evening courses, to speak about library services and research techniques.



Bentele was nominated for Employee of the Month by Jeanna Vahling, Head Librarian.

“Jessica has been a tremendous asset to the library and the Lindenwood Belleville community as a whole,” said Vahling. “She has stepped up to fill in for me while I’m out on military leave, and we couldn’t provide the wonderful library services without her. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing and talented individual.”

Bentele was announced as the Employee of the Month at the Sibley Day Employee Appreciation Dinner on Feb. 18.

“I am honored to be thought of so highly in a place where coworkers feel more like family,” said Bentele.

Five Professors Participate In Alton Symphony Concert



Williams

Wehmeier

Herrell

Heyl

Price

A Lindenwood University associate professor was joined by four adjunct instructors as participants in the Alton Symphony Orchestra's One for All, All for One concert Feb. 22 at the Hatheway Cultural Center of the Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill.

Shane Williams, Associate Professor in the Lindenwood School of Fine and Performing Arts, resumed his role as music director and orchestra conductor. Adjunct instructors Keith Wehmeier sang as tenor, Katherine Herrell as alto, Jeffrey Heyl as bass, and Sarah Price as soprano in quartet and solo performances.

The concert also included performances by the Great Rivers Choral Society, the Alton Youth

Symphony, and a 12-year-old vocalist, Lauren Cerbin, the 2014 Deborah L. Fox Guild Award winner.

Wehmeier has sung with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus for four seasons and was recently part of a small ensemble that performed in Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* at Carnegie Hall in New York, N.Y. He has appeared in the world premiere of *Champion*, an opera in jazz by Terrence Blanchard, and in *Carmen* at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

Herrell is a former elementary and middle school music specialist and a former member of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, and has been active in liturgical music performance for more than 30 years. She recently performed in Benjamin Britten's *Abraham and Isaac*.

Heyl is presently the director of music at Green Trails United Methodist Church in Chesterfield, Mo. He is also an adjunct instructor at Urshan College in Florissant, Mo., and a faculty member at the Community Music School in St. Louis. He owns his own private voice studio and has performed opera, oratorio, recital, and musical theatre.

Price is a lyrical presenter of opera and concert works and the cabaret stage. She has performed throughout the United States, Italy, Austria, and Germany, including lead roles in *Tosca*, *Turandot*, and *Carmen*. She is the winner of the St. Louis Artist Presentation Society Competition, the Elgin Opera Competition, and the Southern Illinois Young Artist Competition. She currently maintains an active voice studio and also serves as director of music and worship at St. John United Church of Christ in St. Charles, Mo.
