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Did You Know?

Did you know that, in 1826, William Clark (of Lewis and Clark fame) sent Mary Sibley a letter thanking her for lending a canoe to some Indians? At the time, Clark was the regional U.S. government superintendent over Indian affairs. The Indians were at Fort Osage, where the Sibleys were stationed, and had no way of reaching Clark in St. Louis.

Kandel First to Receive New Honor

David Kandel, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, has been named the first recipient of the newly created Lindenwood University Honorary Life Staff Award. The prestigious citation recognizes a staff member that has worked at Lindenwood for 20 years or more for his or her outstanding contributions to colleagues, students, the community, and the school.

"Dave has provided direction, leadership, mentoring, and exemplary service to Lindenwood," said President James D. Evans, PhD. "We thank him for his professional dedication, and we offer him our best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors."



On March 24, Kandel was joined in the VIP Room of the Hyland Arena by his Lindenwood colleagues, his wife, his daughters, and his grandson, Louie, in a celebration of his 25 years of instrumental service to the University. He was presented with the traditional Lindenwood retirement gift and received a standing ovation during his acceptance. During the celebration, President Jams D. Evans, PhD, announced that Kandel would be the first staff member to receive the newly created designation of Honorary Life Staff member.

Kandel formally accepted the honor during the President's Council meeting on March 25. He also accepted a glass paperweight diamond etched with the following inscription: "David Kandel, Honorary Life Staff, Lindenwood, 1990-2015, CanDo Kandel."

Upon receiving the award, Kandel expressed pride in the time he's invested in Lindenwood and in the changes the University has undergone over the past two decades.

"We had some up times and we had some down times, but we made it through them all," he said. "Lindenwood is an amazing place to be now, and it's incredible to see the great things being accomplished. Every year is a better year."

Kandel will retire from his post at Lindenwood on April 1, 2015. His post-retirement plans involve

spending time with his family.

The inaugural Lindenwood University Honorary Life Staff Award was issued by presidential decree. Future award recipients will be named by the Staff Advisory Council.

Elam Named Employee of Month for March

Director of Student Life Sports Mike Elam has been selected as Lindenwood University's Employee of the Month for March.

The Ballwin, Mo., resident first joined the Lindenwood staff as an Army ROTC instructor as part of the Gateway Battalion in 2005. In that role, he was responsible for training future Army officers. After 23 years of service, he retired from active duty in 2008 and became the head coach of the shotgun sports program, as well as an Admissions and Financial Aid Counselor. He turned the reigns of the team over to the current head coach during the 2008-09 season, but left his mark, as the program won national titles in 2008 and 2009.



He continued as an Admissions and Financial Aid Counselor from 2009 into 2012, focusing on the recruitment of veteran students, along with being assigned the shooting and bowling teams. Both athletic programs grew to the largest in their respective sports.

Elam became the Director of Student Life Sports in September of 2012, taking over a department that was still in its infancy, having been established in 2010 to oversee the non-NCAA sports at Lindenwood. The department manages 27 men's and women's athletic programs with over 1,000 student-athletes and has won 11 national titles during his tenure. Elam is responsible for overseeing coaching personnel, scheduling, travel, departmental expenditures, and apparently anything else that comes along.

"There aren't too many athletic directors that are willing to shovel snow off fields all week, and then be back at 5:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday morning to provide administrative support each day," said Rugby Coach J.D. Stephenson. "His efforts were key in making our tournament a reality with 500 kids and their families and friends on campus. Mike is very old school in many methods, but he is always professional, courteous, and supports and believes in Lindenwood."

Upon hearing that he had received the Employee of the Month Award, Elam was surprised and thankful, but was quick to share the honor with the numerous staff and departments that contribute to the success of not only the Student Life Sports, but the University as a whole.

"I love my job and that is reward enough, but it is an awesome feeling to be recognized for what you do," he said. "The Student Life Sports have a great presence in the culture of the Lindenwood campus. I am very proud of the vision of our leadership, to be pioneers in our programs that set the standard across the nation. Honestly, this award is for all the coaches, professors, tutors, trainers, managers, athletes, even work and learns, and all the other employees and agencies that provide support for Student Life Sports. They are the ones that put in the time, day-in and day-out, to make our teams great. Without the village, we cannot be who we are!"

Ashley Anderson Named Employee of the Month for February

Business and financial aid office coordinator Ashley Anderson has been selected as the Belleville Employee of the Month for February 2015.

Joining the Belleville campus in 2011, Anderson began her service to the university as a graduate assistant in the main office while earning her Master's in Business Administration. As a GA managing the front desk operations, she demonstrated exemplary customer service skills and was hired to lead the Business and Financial Aid Office in 2013. In this role, she serves as the primary contact for the campus' 2,200 students, as well as parents and university personnel, on issues related to financial aid and billing. Anderson evaluates students' financial aid needs and their eligibility for various types of assistance.



Anderson was nominated for Employee of the Month by Jessica Coser, academic services assistant, and Mandie Wood, academic services coordinator.

"Ashley is not only extremely approachable, but highly passionate about providing top notch service to students and families," said Coser. "Dealing with financial situations can be challenging, and Ashley handles every situation with ease and grace. Her department sees so many students on a daily basis, yet Ashley always keeps everything organized and running smoothly."

"I am honored and truly touched to be named Employee of the Month," said Anderson. "My goal each day I come to the office is to do the best possible job that I can, so that when I leave for the day, I can feel accomplished knowing I did my best. To be recognized with this award is really beyond words!"

Ball Presents at Literature Conference in San Antonio

Andrew Ball, Assistant Professor and LCIE Humanities Program Director, delivered a presentation at the American Literature Association Symposium: God and the American Writer conference in February in San Antonio, Texas.

Ball discussed an essay, "'Our Comrade Christ': Competing Christologies in the Literature of Capital and Labor," examining the ways in which the economic experience of modern Americans fundamentally shaped their theological ideas.



Ball contended that combatants in the early 20th century conflict of capital and labor projected the economic theory that best served their class interests onto their metaphysical ideas. Each class produced a revised image of God by deifying its defining attributes, aims, and mores, thereby investing with salvific import the kind of social and political activity supportive of their needs. In addition to uncovering the centrality of economic sacralization in the social upheavals of the machine age, Ball also exhibited the pivotal role played by literature in this largely unregarded phenomenon.

Ken Johnson Debuts Book on Dance Hall Era in Missouri

Education Professor Ken Johnson has been making the rounds promoting his new book, *Moonlight Serenade to City Lights: Rare Images of Bands and Orchestras from the Dance Hall Era in Missouri*. The book consists of about 230 rare photos of the musicians that played in Missouri's dance halls, collected

by Johnson painstakingly over a period of several years.

He recently told St. Louis Public Radio that, growing up in rural Missouri, music was always around him, especially from age 9 to 11, when his bedroom sat adjacent to the dance hall that adjoined his grandparents' gas station and restaurant in Morrison, Mo. He talked of hearing the bands play while he went to sleep.

In that period, families would go to the community dance hall to eat, drink, listen to live music, and dance. Several years ago, Johnson began collecting photos for a family history project. His father and grandfather played drums, and his mother played banjo and sang. Initially, he collected 20 to 25 photos, and someone suggested to him that he should publish a book of photos, but to do that, he knew he would need in excess of 100.



Photo courtesy of
St. Louis County Library

Over several years of working on and off on the project, making phone calls and driving from small town to small town, ranging from St. Louis to Hannibal, Columbia, Jefferson City, Rolla and points in between, he visited families of musicians who had played in the dance halls. Some photos were hanging on walls in living rooms and kitchens. Others were sitting in boxes in basements and attics.

The book, published by Reedy Press, is a truly one-of-a-kind collection of images from a by-gone era. Johnson has done author appearances for the book at the Kathryn Linnemann Branch of the St. Charles City-County Library and at St. Louis County Library Headquarters. The response from the public and the media has been amazing, he said.

Both presentations had large audiences, with many people purchasing multiple copies of the book and several staying behind to talk to him. One man from Jefferson City remarked to him, "This is a treasure." In addition to the St. Louis Public Radio interview, the book was mentioned in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, as well as two other newspapers and two magazines. He was recently interviewed by *Missouri Life* magazine for an upcoming issue and also by KETC-TV's *Living St. Louis* program.

"The experience has been one of the most rewarding of anything I have ever done," Johnson said. "To sit and visit for an hour with a musician, listen to his or her story, borrow a photo from them, and now, years later, see their excitement and joy when it finally ends up in a book—it has been wonderful."

Johnson has a number of other appearances scheduled, including the historical societies in Gasconade County; Washington, Mo.; and Fulton in April, along with one at East Central Community College in Union. On June 23, he will speak at St. Louis Public Library (1415 Olive St.) at 7 p.m., and he will speak at 1 p.m. on July 12 at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

The 152-page hardcover book sells for \$35. For more information, contact Johnson at kjohnson@moonlightserenade-to-citylights.com.