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Did You Know?

Did you know that prior to the 2009 creation of *The Confluence*, Lindenwood's peer-reviewed regional studies journal, the University had published a periodical using the same name? Between 1968 and 1972, *The Confluence* was a creative writing magazine. One of the highlights of its brief run was an interview with Ken Kesey, author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Maddelene Collins Named May Employee of the Month

Maddelene Collins, Executive Assistant to the Executive Offices, has been selected as the Lindenwood University Employee of the Month for May. She arrived at Lindenwood in 1999 with a wealth of professional experience, including time spent as an assistant to a senior vice president at a major food distribution corporation.



She originally worked as a Database Coordinator in Lindenwood's Development Office, which later became the Office of Institutional Advancement. She was transferred to Academic Services but would occasionally be asked to provide assistance in the Executive Offices. She worked briefly in the Office of Admissions before being recruited to her current role in 2003.

Collins is often the first person that visitors encounter when they enter the Lindenwood Executive Offices in Roemer Hall on the St. Charles campus. She happily offers direction and guidance to staff, students, and patrons needing general assistance, but her foremost duty is to provide daily administrative support to Julie Mueller, Vice President for Operations and Finance and Chief Operating Officer, and Brett Barger, Associate Vice President for Operations and Finance.

"I'm a helper," said Collins. "It's my job to be informed and to make sure things are done the way they wish them to be done, whether they are physically in the office or not. I serve as an extension of them, and I help make sure valuable time isn't wasted and things keep running smoothly."

John Feely, Associate Dean of Graduate Education Initiatives, nominated Collins for the Employee of the Month Award in recognition of her dedication to helping others.

"I'm always bringing some type of report or paperwork or request to the Executive Offices, and Maddelene always tries to be helpful and is always sweet," Feely wrote. "She truly helps, and at times when I'm rushing around trying to get something done, it's nice to have her step up and offer that extra assistance."

Collins' response to learning she had received an award was modest. She said it was nice to feel valued in her position but that she simply enjoys doing her job.

"Like I said, I'm a helper," she said. "I enjoy working with people, and the more steps I can save someone, the better."

Debbie Suttles Named Belleville Employee of the Month for April

Director of Veteran Affairs and School Certifying Official Debbie Suttles has been named the April Employee of the Month for Lindenwood University-Belleville.

Suttles joined LU-Belleville in a part-time role in July 2013 and became a full-time employee in 2014, just in time for the opening of the Major General William L. Enyart Veterans Success Center. Suttles was instrumental in the creation of the center and the development of key services for veteran students. She recently submitted an essay that prompted Lindenwood University-Belleville to be named as a Top School in Military Advanced Education's 2015 Guide to Colleges & Universities. Under her leadership, the number of VA students using military benefits at the Belleville campus increased from 75 to 126 in less than a year.



Suttles serves the campus' VA students in a variety of ways—ensuring they receive their benefits in a timely manner, placing them with a tutor and other academic resources as needed, assisting them with their deployment transition, and organizing appreciation activities for them throughout the year. She is also active in the community, networking with local employers who want to hire veterans or offering services that may be useful to them.

Suttles was nominated by Ashley Anderson, Business and Financial Aid Office Coordinator, and Mary Reuter, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of Community Relations.

"Debbie is an absolute pleasure to work with, and she makes navigating Lindenwood University-Belleville so much easier for our military students," said Anderson. "Our campus is appealing for new and continuing military students because of her!"

Suttles said she was pleased by the recognition. "Receiving the Employee of the Month award was a wonderful surprise and honor."

Adjunct's Career in Government Finance Earns Award

Lindenwood Adjunct Instructor Dan Smith recently received a prestigious award for a long and successful career in finance. The Missouri Government Finance Officers Association honored Smith with an Excellence in Government Award, which is given to those who exemplify leadership and integrity. Smith is the director of finance for the city of Creve Coeur and has worked in municipal government for most of his 40-year career. At Lindenwood, he teaches governmental and nonprofit accounting for the Robert W. Plaster School of Business & Entrepreneurship.



According to a Creve Coeur press release, Smith "used his financial expertise to spearhead several financial initiatives resulting in substantial savings for the city" and has been a passionate advocate for "the professional management of governmental financial resources."

Smith's lauded career has resulted in a wealth of practical experience that he has been able to share with students enrolled in LU accounting classes.

"One of the things I believe that separates Lindenwood's programs from others is the desire to incorporate actual work experiences into the educational/learning process," Smith said. "Therefore, I try to provide my students with actual work experiences relating to governmental and nonprofit accounting. I believe this gives them a more complete education. I also think it gives the students some insights into actual work situations."

The Government Finance Officers Association awards finance officers whose contributions are innovative and provide significant value to the local community. Smith said these are values he incorporates in his classes.

"Obviously I want all my students to be successful," Smith said. "I believe I can give them not only the technical or educational skills they need to be successful, but also some of the practical or work skills needed to be successful. This includes integrity, professionalism, and a work ethic."

Adjunct Brown Selected for Prestigious PBS Educators' Program

Patricia Brown, Adjunct Instructor in the Lindenwood University School of Education, has been selected as a 2015 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators program participant. She is one of 100 K-12 educators in the United States to be selected as a participant and one of only 30 applicants chosen to serve as lead digital innovators.



Brown is employed full-time as a technology integration coach for the Ladue School District. She has been an adjunct instructor at Lindenwood since 2009, teaching graduate-level courses related to technology, gifted, and character education.

The PBS LearningMedia Innovators program, which is in its third year, recognizes tech-savvy K-12 educators who are serving as leaders in the education technology field and in incorporating digital media in classrooms. All 2015 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators will receive year-long professional development opportunities that include virtual training, access to premium and exclusive resources from PBS LearningMedia custom service, invitations to special events, and access to a free PBS professional development course. LearningMedia digital innovators will also receive ongoing support in their community from their local PBS member stations.

As one of 30 selected program leads, Brown will receive an all-expense paid trip to Philadelphia, Penn., to participate in the 2015 PBS Learning Media Digital Summit and the International Society for Technology in Education conference in June. All lead PBS digital innovators will also receive a Samsung Galaxy tablet to continue their use of technology in the classroom.

"I'm honored to be selected to participate in this distinguished program, and I'm looking forward to connecting and collaborating with education professionals across the country," Brown said. "I'm also excited about all the learning opportunities I'll have at the upcoming summit and at program events throughout the year."

Kristy Tucciarone Named LSGA Professor of the Year

Dr. Kristy Tucciarone, Program Chair of Advertising and Public Relations: Corporate Communications, joined the faculty at Lindenwood University in the fall 2015 semester, and at the May faculty meeting, she was named Professor of the Year by the Lindenwood Student Government Association.



Tucciarone recounts sitting in the faculty meeting when LSGA President Samuel Rudloff and Vice President Mary Boudreau took the stage and began describing the recipient of the award.

“Jason Lively was sitting next to me,” she said. “He nudged me and said, ‘That sounds like you.’ I said, ‘No, that sounds more like you.’ Then, they started talking about advertising, and I knew.”

Tucciarone said the experience was more special for her because she received the award from Boudreau, a former student of hers who has overcome a hearing impairment.

“She’s full steam ahead,” Tucciarone said. “She gave me a big hug, which made it even more wonderful.”

Prior to coming to Lindenwood University, Tucciarone worked for 15 years on the communications faculty at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, where she single-handedly built the advertising program. She said she was drawn to Lindenwood because it is a teaching institution.

“The focus is on the students,” Tucciarone said. “I like research, but my first priority is that I’m educating tomorrow’s workforce.”

Prior to her academic career, she worked for DIMAC Direct, referred to by *Ad Week* as the world’s largest direct marketer, as a liaison between the clients and the creative and production teams. Before that, she worked at an advertising and public relations agency.

Tucciarone earned at UMSL a PhD in education leadership and policy studies and a bachelor’s in communications. She has a master’s in corporate communications from Lindenwood’s LCIE program. She said her experience at Lindenwood has been very positive.

“I was overwhelmed to see the amount of respect the other program managers have for each other, the students, and the institution,” Tucciarone said. “We operate as a whole.”

Tucciarone hit the ground running in her first year, and she speaks proudly of the accomplishments of her students. In the program’s first year of affiliation with the American Advertising Federation, two of her students were named “Most Promising Multicultural Student,” for which they were awarded a trip to New York in February for an industry immersion program. Nine of her students recently graduated in Alpha Delta Sigma, the only advertising honor society in the world, and one student won a St. Louis ADDY Award.

One student competed in a competition through Advertising Women of New York and came in the top three for creative execution.

“Another group of students recently competed in the National Student Advertising Competition, and while they didn’t win, the advertising plan book they generated has resulted in internships and jobs for some of the students,” Tucciarone said.
