

Did You Know?

Did you know Lindenwood has a connection to music superstar Taylor Swift? Swift's grandmother, Marjorie Moehlenkamp Finley, graduated from Lindenwood in 1949. After graduation, Moehlenkamp went on to host a variety show on Puerto Rican television. She also won the Lindenwood Alumnae Merit Award in 1961.

Jane Cruse Named June's Employee of the Month

Jane Cruse, Student Information System Data Integration Manager, has been selected as the Lindenwood University Employee of the Month for June.

Cruse is an alumna who earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Lindenwood in 2009 and was hired into the Department of Information Technology immediately following graduation. She worked as a programmer analyst in September of 2009 before the promotion to her current role in 2012.



Typically, Cruse's job duties include pulling content from Lindenwood's Comprehensive Academic Management System (CAMS) into Blackboard, the University's online learning management system.

"I love being able to help people, whether that's helping students or faculty members access information, troubleshooting, or providing training," Cruse said. "The job is a blessing, because it pulls on my past experience, but it also helps me grow."

Cruse was jointly nominated for the Employee of the Month Award by Jeanie Thies, PhD, Dean of Institutional Research and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, and Patrick Walker, JD, Associate Professor of Nonprofit Administration. They both

praised her extensive knowledge about the Blackboard system and Lindenwood Online, as well as her positive attitude and problem-solving skills.

“Jane has consistently shown herself to be an outstanding source of support to students and faculty, and she is unfailingly helpful, courteous, and patient, even when she receives phone calls from frantic faculty members at 5 p.m. on a Friday afternoon,” Cruse’s nomination letter stated. “She’s a knowledgeable, reliable, and efficient employee who’s essential to helping our University keep abreast of the rapidly changing technological tools that have become increasingly important in higher education.

“Ms. Cruse sets the standard for what makes an exceptional employee through her professionalism, courtesy, breadth of knowledge, willingness to assist others, and upbeat spirit.”

Cruse said she was flattered to learn she’d been named the Employee of the Month and expressed gratitude to her nominators, the selection committee, and her colleagues.

“This is a big honor,” Cruse said. “I didn’t see it coming. I’m grateful to all the faculty and staff I work with. They’re all lovely people.”

Stefani Schuette Named Executive Assistant to President

Stefani Schuette, previously a member of the Business Office staff, was named Executive Assistant to the President, assuming those duties on June 16. President Michael Shonrock announced the appointment last month.

With a 2006 bachelor’s in English from Missouri Valley College and an MBA from Lindenwood earned in 2014, Schuette has worked at the University since 2008 and served as Assistant Chief Business Officer since 2013.



Prior to her time at Lindenwood, Schuette served in a number of administrative roles, including for the National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, for which she planned the final riverfront Lewis and Clark commemoration for the Missouri History Museum in 2006.

"I am honored and excited to begin this new journey at Lindenwood," Schuette said. "This university has been my home for several years, and I look forward to helping us grow and pursue new opportunities. All of the people I have worked with in the last few years have become family, and I cannot wait to extend that family with new connections and relationships."

Kappa Delta Pi Chapter to Receive National Award

Dr. Jill Hutcheson, Faculty Advisor for Kappa Delta Pi, is pleased to announce the Lindenwood chapter of KDP will receive this fall a 2014-2015 Kappa Delta Pi Award for Education Excellence. A panel of judges selected Lindenwood's KDP chapter as one of seven recipients of the 2014-2015 Professional Development Chapter Program Award from over 600 chapters nationwide.



Kappa Delta Pi, an international education honor society, recognized the Lindenwood chapter for implementing effective professional development programs that enhance the membership experience. KDP's selection was a result of the Educator's Resource Fair held on April 21, 2015, in the Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room on campus. The fair brought two dozen community resources to campus, introducing teacher candidates to the available educational activities, resources, and field trips within the community. The fair provided Lindenwood students with an opportunity to network with local merchants, vendors, and agencies that support education.

The chapter will receive a certificate in the mail during July. KDP will feature the winning professional development program on the main website, its blog, and in a press release. The chapter will also receive a plaque at Convocation 2015 in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 22-24, 2015. For more information about Lindenwood's KDP chapter, contact Hutcheson or chapter president Nicola Batisto.

Chad Vahlkamp Named May's Belleville Employee of the Month

Chad Vahlkamp has been named the Belleville Employee of the Month for May. Joining the Belleville campus when it first offered day classes in 2009, Vahlkamp worked as a graduate assistant in the main office until he was hired as an admissions counselor in 2011.



Currently, Vahlkamp's duties include recruiting, enrolling, and admitting students into the evening programs. Vahlkamp considers customer service the top priority in his job.

"In admissions, we are the face of the University, and I always want our students to feel comfortable asking questions and feeling confident on orientation day," he said. "I have students contact me years after beginning the program just to help them with a difficult situation or get them a contact number. It feels good knowing that I left that type of mark on the student."

Vahlkamp was nominated for Employee of the Month by Kendra Kostelac, Site Director and Admissions Counselor for Lindenwood's Collinsville Center.

"I have worked closely with Chad for five years, and during that time he has been a leader and an institutional role model," said Kostelac. "His extreme engagement and success in enrollment for the spring quarter show that he is always willing to take the extra step!"

Vahlkamp said the Belleville campus has always been a meaningful place to him, from growing up across the street from campus to attending high school when it was still Belleville West.

"Seeing the changes and growth for this city is amazing, and knowing I was a part of the process motivates and inspires me," said Vahlkamp. "I feel very honored and surprised to be named Employee of the Month."

Ruettgers Shares Teacher Prep Research

Dr. Mary Ruettgers, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education, shared her research in

a presentation titled *Preparing Graduates of Teacher Preparation Programs for the 21st Century Classroom* at the International Conference on Education in Chicago, Ill., which was held May 25-May 27, 2015.

Dr. Cynthia Bice, School of Education Dean, participated in panel discussions relating to teacher training in 2015.

According to Chicago ICE Organizing Committee Chair Cengiz Karatas the conference hosted educators from 21 countries. Paper and poster presenters from 11 countries shared research on to a rich variety of topics related to educator preparation, training, and professional development; technology integration; curriculum design; socio-economic barriers; and school leadership. The conference was an excellent opportunity to discuss the current state of education, as well as avenues to improve education globally.

According to Dr. Amanda Aldridge, coordinator of charter school sponsorship, Lindenwood University began sponsoring the Gateway Science Academy in 2010. GSA is managed by Concept Schools, a non-for-profit entity based in Chicago, Ill., which hosts the annual ICE conference. Since its inception, GSA has grown from one school to four, educating 1,172 students in grades K-11 in the 2014 school year. In 2016, GSA will have its first graduating class.

School of Education faculty and staff attending the conference included Dean Cynthia Bice, Dr. Lynda Leavitt, Dr. Vanessa Cochran, Dr. Mary Ruettgers, Dr. Amanda Aldridge, and Ms. Lauren Dickerson.

Our Mission – *Lindenwood University offers values-centered programs leading to the development of the whole person-an education, responsible citizen of a global community*