



**Oct. 12, 2015 – Volume 9, Issue 6**

### **Did You Know?**

Did you know that Lindenwood co-founder George Sibley mentioned seeing a massive buffalo herd while on one of his exploratory trips to the west, when he was stationed at Ft. Osage? In 1811, Sibley described hearing what sounded like thunder for about an hour before he was able to see a herd that he estimated to be between 20 and 30,000 animals.

### **Barger Appointed President of Lindenwood-Belleville**

Lindenwood University System President Michael D. Shonrock appointed Dr. Brett Barger President of the Lindenwood University Belleville campus on Wednesday, Oct. 7. Barger had been serving as interim president since Aug. 1.

Pictured from left are President Michael Shonrock,



President Brett Barger, Barger's wife Yarah, and Chairman of the Board of Directors Jim Shoemake.

"During my period as interim president, I have been so energized by the passion shown by faculty, staff, and students," Barger said in a speech to the Lindenwood-Belleville campus. "Lindenwood-Belleville felt like family to me, and I knew without a doubt that given the chance I would most certainly want to lead this campus."

Barger spoke often of the future in his speech, quoting Thomas Jefferson's letter to John Adams in 1816, in which he wrote, "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

"If ever there were two men who had earned the right to live out their days in glorious reflection of the world-changing revolution they had accomplished, it was Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, yet they looked forward with greater enthusiasm for what was to come rather than rest in the comfortable knowledge of what they had accomplished in the past," Barger said.

He added, "Accomplish great things through devotion and hard work but always look to what is next."

Shonrock said Barger had done an "exceptional job throughout the later summer and kicking off the fall semester, building relationships with faculty, staff, and students, and enhancing partnerships with the Belleville community."

Barger, who plans on moving to Belleville, is a longtime member of the Lindenwood family, having first arrived at the St. Charles campus as a student in 1990. He was hired in 1994 and has three Lindenwood degrees: EdD, MBA, and BA. He previously served as associate vice president for operations and finance.

Barger ended his speech with a vision for the future.

"I am absolutely honored and humbled to be chosen to work with each of you towards a future that will make a profound impact on the lives of our students and through them a profound impact on our cities, our country and our world for generations to come," he said. "In the Lindenwood tradition, I ask you to join me in looking forward

with great anticipation and enthusiasm for what is to come. The best days of Lindenwood-Belleville are yet to be. Like Thomas Jefferson, I, too, 'like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.' Thank you, and let's go to work!"

## **Matt Ankenbrandt Named Employee of the Month for September**

Matt Ankenbrandt, Lindenwood University-Belleville's assistant athletic director for student life sports, has been named the campus' Employee of the Month for September.

Pictured from left are President Brett Barger, Matt Ankenbrandt, and Athletic Director Scott Spinner.



Ankenbrandt began his career at Lindenwood Belleville as a graduate assistant in September of 2012 and was hired as the full-time sports information director in November of 2013. This July, he accepted the position of assistant athletic director for student life sports, in which he oversees all student life sports, as well as the Sports Information Department.

Ankenbrandt manages all sports facilities on and off campus and serves as the liaison between the Communications Department and Athletics. He also oversees scheduling for all student life sports and has temporarily taken on the management of all NAIA sports at the Belleville campus while Assistant Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Annie Reis is on maternity leave. One aspect of Ankenbrandt's job that he is most proud of is serving as the sports information director for the National Women's Lacrosse League for the past three years.

Reis nominated Ankenbrandt for Employee of the Month.

“Matt has done a tremendous job for the athletic department in his time as sports information director,” said Reis. “This past year alone, his office generated 535 press releases on our website, as well as over 100 videos. This is more than double the amount of the previous year. He is the only full-time staff member in the Sports Information Office, but despite his limited staff, his office has managed to attend and cover every home game of every sport. Matt receives constant praise from our coaches, and we are very fortunate to have him as part of our department!”

Ankenbrand said the Employee of the Month award was an unexpected honor.

“I was really surprised to be named Employee of the Month,” said Ankenbrandt. “It’s a great honor, and I’m very appreciative to Annie Reis for nominating me and the committee for choosing me. I’ve been privileged to work at Lindenwood Belleville for the past three years.”

---

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