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LINDENWOOD

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COMMUNIQUE

An e-newsletter
for Lindenwood employees

Assistant A.D. Chanda Jackson named Employee of the Month for March

Lindenwood University Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator Chanda Jackson has been named Employee of the Month for March. She has worked in several different positions at the University since earning a master's degree in business administration from the school in 1995.

"Since I was a kid there have been two things that I've loved, athletics and numbers," she said. "If you look back through my history those two things are always present."

Jackson has served as an accountant, assistant controller, assistant women's basketball coach, head women's basketball coach, and assistant professor of accounting throughout the years. She currently oversees financial and marketing matters as Assistant Athletic Director and plays a crucial role in Lindenwood's NCAA Division II membership application process as Senior Woman Administrator.

"Besides her teaching load and normal duties, Chanda has worked tirelessly assembling critical data and financial information for components of Lindenwood's NCAA application," wrote her nominator. "Her sports marketing efforts have also been admirable and appreciated. She quietly goes about her work and always keeps the best interests of student-athletes and this institution at heart."

Jackson said it took her a few moments to fully absorb the news when she learned she'd been named Employee of the Month.

"I am totally humbled because I feel I've been blessed to work with a lot of people who are deserving of this award," said Jackson.

Did You Know?

Did you know that in 1933, President John Roemer was one of 142 college presidents that appealed to educators in Germany to resist the Nazi's attempt to discriminate against Jews and other minorities? This prescient appeal stated that unless the civil rights of the Jews were respected, the Nazi's abuses would turn into widespread hatred.

Gietschier Presents Paper on Baseball Court Case

Steve Gietschier, Ph.D., Lindenwood University Curator, presented a paper titled "The Cobb-Lajoie Battle Goes to Court: John J. O'Connor v. St. Louis American Baseball Corporation" on March 12 during the 17th annual NINE Spring Training Conference in Tempe, Ariz. The conference is sponsored by *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*

Gietschier is a member of the journal's editorial board and also serves on the conference advisory committee. His paper demonstrates how the history of American baseball can be illuminated by research of public records, specifically those of the St. Louis Circuit Courts.

During his presentation, Gietschier discussed an incident that occurred during the 1910 American League season involving the St. Louis Browns and the Cleveland Naps (later called the Indians). A Browns third baseman, allegedly acting on instructions from his manager named O'Connor, played unusually deep when Cleveland's star player Lajoie came to bat. Lajoie took advantage of this situation by bunting repeatedly,

thereby garnering enough base hits to pass Ty Cobb and win the AL batting championship. In the wake of this unusual behavior, the Browns fired O'Connor who then sued and won the case, claiming he was under contract for 1911.

Records of the trial and its review by the Court of Appeals were only recently uncovered.

"Some of my friends are archivists who are currently doing some work downtown," Gietschier said. "They called me about this case and I thought it would make a good topic for a presentation. I have to say I'm grateful to Lindenwood Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Gene Overall for helping me understand what I was reading in all those legal documents."

Johnson Named Social Worker of the Year by NASW

Congratulations to Debra Johnson, Lindenwood University Associate Professor of Social Work and Criminal Justice, who was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. Johnson received the award on Saturday, March 13, at the association's 2010 Annual Symposium.

The theme of the conference was "Social Workers: Agents of Change"; Johnson was honored for her lifetime professional contributions to the social work profession, as well as for her commitment to social work education.

She was honored along with NASW legislators of the year Mike Sutherland, of the Missouri House of Representatives, and John Griesheimer, of the Missouri Senate.

"I feel very honored to be recognized by my peers for my contributions to the social work profession," Johnson said. "After 31 years in the field, I still love working with people and teaching students the skills and resources they need to become professional practitioners."

Francis "Honored to be Part of Lindenwood Family"

Lindenwood University announced last week that it has hired Saint Louis University assistant coach Tony Francis as its new women's basketball coach. Francis accepts his first collegiate head coaching job after spending eight seasons as an NCAA Division I assistant coach.

"You just can't get any better than the environment at Lindenwood University," said Francis. "There's so much momentum at Lindenwood with the possible move to NCAA Division II. It's an exciting place and I am honored to be a part of the Lindenwood family."

At Saint Louis, Francis was the recruiting coordinator and he helped the Billikens land some of the top talent in the St. Louis area and beyond. He was also in charge of developing the team's post players. Francis helped the Billikens win 82 games. He was a member of the staff in 2002-03 when the team finished fifth in the Atlantic-10 and advanced to the WNIT. That squad had the second-best winning percentage at Saint Louis over the last 23 years.

Prior to coaching at Saint Louis, Francis was a successful head coach at Silex (Mo.) High School from 1994-2002. In eight years, he led the Owls to a 159-67 record and won five district and five conference championships. His top team came in 2001 when Silex won the Class 1A Missouri state championship.

Francis is familiar with the Heart of America Athletic Conference—he played basketball at Culver-Stockton College. He then began his coaching career there as a men's student assistant, helping the team win the 1991 HAAC Championship. He graduated from Culver-Stockton in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

Francis and his wife, Rhonda, have two daughters, Lexis and Arianna.

[Click to Watch Francis' Press Conference \(YouTube\)](#)

Castro to Read With Eve Jones on April 30

Michael Castro, Chair of the LCIE Communications Program, will read from his new poetry book, *The Bush Years*, at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 30, at the Lindenwood University Cultural Center Auditorium. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be provided, and books will be available for sale.

The book was recently published by JK Publishing and follows publication of four of his translations of poems by Hungarian Gypsy poet Attila Balogh in the international magazine *Left Curve*. *The Bush Years* is Castro's seventh published book of poetry; he has also won numerous awards.

Joining him in the reading will be Eve Jones, who teaches poetry in Lindenwood's MFA in Writing program. Nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Jones work has also appeared in numerous journals and her first book of poetry, *Bird in the Machine*, was recently published by Turning Point.