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COMMUNIQUE

An e-newsletter
for Lindenwood employees

Hudgins to Lead President's Athletic Advisory Committee

Professor Molly Hudgins of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship has been selected as chairman of Lindenwood's new Presidential Athletic Advisory Committee (PAAC). Hudgins has a background in NCAA compliance.

President James D. Evans, Ph.D., created the committee to advise him on athletic and academic matters in Lindenwood's athletic department. The group will review Lindenwood's NCAA application and will be involved on a regular basis in reviewing graduation rates, hardship requests, academic progress rates, and more.

The PAAC includes: Professor David Arns; Booster Club Director Jane Baum; Financial Aid Director Lori Bode; Vice President Rick Boyle; Athletic Director John Creer; Senior Woman Administrator and Assistant Athletic Director Chanda Jackson; Professor Jo Ellen Kerksiek; Vice President John Oldani; Admissions Director Joe Parisi; Communications Director Scott Queen; Alumnus Bob Ramsey; LSGA President Ashley Stewart; Professor Pernell Witherspoon; Vice President Jann Weitzel; and student-athletes Parks Peterson and Kelsey Jo Vogler.

Did You
Know?

Did you know that prior to the passage of 26th Amendment in 1971 (right to vote for 18- to 20-year-olds) Lindenwood hosted numerous mock political conventions that involved area colleges? Between 1948 and 1969, Lindenwood's young Republican and Democrat student groups would announce their respective platforms, invite rising politicians to campaign on campus, and hold parades on campus roads. Afterwards, a general election was held.

Clark Secures Grant for Study of Syrian Urban Congestion

Anthony Clark, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics and Director of Lindenwood's Institute for Study of Economics and the Environment (ISEE), has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Economic Research Forum in Cairo, Egypt, to study urban congestion in Damascus, Syria. Clark will conduct his research during the summer of 2010 and travel back to Syria the following year to report on his findings.

The project proposes to examine sprawl and land conservation in Damascus in the context of Al-Ghouta, or the "Oasis of Damascus," a rapidly depleting green space surrounding the city. Clark will employ a technique commonly used by environmental economists to place a monetary value on the preservation of the remaining space.

"There have been several studies of this kind done in the United States, but there haven't been a whole lot done so far in the developing world," Clark said. "I plan to objectively assign a value to the preservation of the Al-Ghouta, and then make policy-makers aware of the existence of the study should they decide to do something with it."

Clark also is exploring the possibility of someday completing a larger study that would involve his findings from Damascus.

"I'd like to conduct a similar study in St. Charles County, which has also experienced a lot of rapid growth," he said. "The goal would then be to compare the differences in cultural attitudes between the two regions."

Bittner Recognized with Steinway Plaque

Lindenwood University Professor Emeritus Groff Bittner was joined last week in the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts by his wife, Fern, and a small group of University staff to permanently affix a commemorative plaque inside one of the University's Steinway pianos in his name. The seven-foot piano was dedicated in Bittner's honor through gifts and donations from former students and members of the community.

Bittner has touched the lives of many throughout his long musical career. He spent 41 years teaching the piano and almost every possible music class, from jazz history to musical theory. He retired in 2001 but still teaches piano part-time and remains active within the University.

The plaque honoring Bittner's legacy reads, "Groff Bittner, LU Emeritus, Professor of Music." The piano inside which the plaque was placed is signed by Henry Steinway, the last surviving member of the Steinway family.

The baby grand is one of 27 Steinways purchased by Lindenwood in 2008, which gave the University the distinction of being among only 84 all-Steinway schools nationwide.

Knotts Opens Interpreters Conference

David Knotts, Ph.D., Dean of the School of American Studies and Historic Daniel Boone Home and Boonesfield Village, last week kicked off Lindenwood University's participation in the 2010 National Association for Interpretation's (NAI) South Central Region Annual Conference. He presented "Interpretative Site Infrastructure and Its Impact on Interpretive Programming" during a pre-conference workshop on Sunday, Feb. 21, at the Boone Home. The NAI conference, titled "Heartland Interpretation: Merging the Waters of Cultural and Natural History," began on Monday, Feb. 22, and continued through Thursday, Feb. 25. Historic and natural history interpreters from Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas attended various presentations and toured different locations throughout the greater St. Louis area, including the historic Lindenwood extension campus.

Several University staff members and students also made presentations throughout the conference. Amada Moehlenpah presented "Experiencing First-Person Interpretation, a Student's Perspective," and offered a first-person interpretation of Mary Easton Sibley. Will Ray discussed, "Following the Fiddler Home: Thoughts on Using Historically Accurate and Regionally Correct Music for Your Site." Grady Manus presented "Getting into Character: What Does that Mean?" and Angela da Silva presented "The Story of Lila." Jamaica Dewayne offered "The Ins and Outs of Camping Programs on Interpretive Sites."

"The conference was a success and our Lindenwood presenters received high accolades," Knotts said. "The NAI participants said they hadn't seen this level of enthusiasm from a university before and everyone was very pleased."

Cernik Has Student Headed to London

Lindenwood University senior Maureen Bailey has been accepted to the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She will be the fourth Lindenwood student to study at the institution, which is considered one of the foremost social science universities in the world.

"This is as good as getting into Harvard or any other comparable Ivy League school," said Joe Cernik, Ph.D., Department Chair and Professor of Political Science and Political Management. "A degree from there certainly carries a lot of weight."

Bailey is currently double majoring in political science and public management at Lindenwood. She plans to travel to LSE in the fall to pursue a master's degree.

"I'll be studying comparative politics and conflict studies with an emphasis in terrorism," Bailey said. "I'll also be applying to the doctoral program."

Cernik, who has penned letters of recommendation on Bailey's behalf, will work with her to develop her doctoral dissertation proposal.

"Since Maureen wants to stay at LSE to get her Ph.D., she essentially needs to begin her master's program knowing her doctoral proposal," said Cernik. "It's quite different from the processes of American universities, so this summer we'll be working on putting that proposal together properly before she flies to London."