

COMMUNIQUE

An e-newsletter
for Lindenwood employees**Vandivier Selected as Employee of Month**

Lindenwood University Housekeeper Ronda Vandivier has been named the Employee of the Month for December, 2009. She began working full-time at the University this past fall, but her high-quality work has already been noted and praised by her peers.



"She has kept Roemer Hall looking the best it's ever been," wrote Vandivier's nominator, Financial Aid Counselor Meghan Thomson. "The bathrooms are sparkling clean, she takes care of the floors and scrubs the stairs, and just the other day I saw her scraping the walls. Ronda is an amazing housekeeper, a wonderful person, and a joy to be around. She definitely deserves this award."

Vandivier said she was shocked and humbled to be named Employee of the Month.

"I just can't believe it, but I'm really happy," she said. "Everyone here works very hard and I'm sure there are more deserving people, but I appreciate the thought and think it's wonderful they consider me that way."

Vandivier currently lives in St. Charles with her son, a senior at Orchard Farm High School, and her 10-year-old daughter. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and taking part in outdoor activities.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Lindenwood hosted the Track and Field competition of the Missouri Special Olympics in 1982? The Special Olympics started in 1968 and held its first competition in Chicago with approximately 1,000 participants from the United States and Canada. Today, the Special Olympics has more than 2.5 million athletes from 180 different countries.

SBE Team Celebrates Completion of Self-Study

The Lindenwood University School of Business and Entrepreneurship submitted this month the findings of a two-year self study to the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The move brings the school closer to its goal of receiving a 10-year accreditation from the organization.

"We went into candidacy and started this journey in 2007," said Associate Professor and Self-Study Coordinator Renee Porter, Ph.D. "A diverse group of faculty members, graduate assistants, and volunteers – along with invaluable support from the entire University- worked incredibly hard to put this together."

The ACBSP cites its missions as, "developing, promoting, and recognizing best practices that continue to contribute to continuous improvement of business education and accredits



(Back row) Jeffrey Weinrich, Karolina Lapinska, Edward Morris, James Boyd, Robert Allen. (Middle row) Anna Bialach, Annette Najjar, Maryann Townsend, Judy Eberhart, Judy Kamm. (Front row) Rebecca Goulart and Renee Porter. Not pictured are Elizabeth Ammann and Nick DuBuque.

qualified business programs." The organization judges applicants on six major standards, including: leadership, strategic planning, student and stakeholder focus, student learning and performance, faculty and staff focus, and education and business process management.

In late February, a team of peer evaluators from other ACBSP-accredited schools will conduct a Lindenwood site visit. They will meet with Dean Ed Morris, faculty, students, and alumni for several days. A final decision will be announced in April.

"They are very much focused on continuous improvement," Porter said. "To receive accreditation from the ACBSP is a true mark of quality, and it would certainly validate our efforts to demonstrate our commitment to that same cause."

Javier New Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Sarah Javier has been named Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations in the Lindenwood University Office of Institutional Advancement. Javier, who started her new job on Wednesday, January 20, was most recently director of alumni and constituent relations for Washington University Medical School.

Prior to that position, which she held for three years, she was special events coordinator and annual gifts officer for St. Louis Children's Hospital. She has a master's in public policy administration with an emphasis in nonprofit administration and management from the University of Missouri—St. Louis and a bachelor of science degree from Kansas State University.



"Her responsibilities at Lindenwood will include establishing and maintaining positive working relationships with corporations and foundations that are currently supporting or have the potential to support the University," said Lucy Morros, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "Completing the leadership and public phases of the fundraising campaign for the School of Business and Entrepreneurship will be the high priority for Sarah."

Javier said she was drawn to Lindenwood because of its dynamic growth over the last several years.

"I'm excited about all the growth and opportunity," Javier said. "Lindenwood is really taking off, and it's exciting to be a part of something like that."

She also said she thinks that Lindenwood is a valuable resource for the St. Charles and St. Louis communities.

"I think it is wonderful that so many individuals from the area are educated here and then remain in the community where they are able to make a positive impact," Javier said.

Javier and her husband, Rob, have two children—Brennan, 2, and Lillian, 11 months—and two dogs.

New Business Professor 'Fell in Love' with LU

Lindenwood University has welcomed Okey Peter Onyia, Ph.D., as Assistant Professor of Marketing in the School of Business and Entrepreneurship. He brings to the position a wealth of experience in the areas of marketing, communications, branding, and advertising.

Originally from West Africa, Onyia worked for 18 years at an ad agency in Lagos, Nigeria. After achieving great success, he made the decision to take another professional path.



"I'd worked hard and risen to the level of CEO within the company," he said. "I just reached a point where I felt I'd done everything I wanted to do."

Onyia began pursuing a doctoral degree in marketing from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2005. He served as a marketing tutor at the school between 2006 and 2008, and also worked for 14 months as a marketing teacher at nearby Bournemouth University.

Upon earning his doctorate in 2009, Onyia began searching for a teaching position that would allow his wife and five sons, who currently still reside in Nigeria, to join him.

"It came down to a few prospects all around the United States," he said. "But when I visited, I just fell in love with St. Charles and with Lindenwood."

Wisdom's Doctoral Dissertation Being Published

Sherrie Wisdom, Ed.D, Assistant Professor in the Lindenwood University School of Education, has been notified that her doctoral dissertation will be published by Lambert Academic Publishing (LAP). *Predictors of Academic Success for High School Students: The Correlation Between Middle School Missouri Assessment Program Scores and Freshman Year Grade Point Average* will be available for purchase soon.

"The organization specializes in academic and scholarly works from around the world, so it's not unusual for them to publish dissertations," said Wisdom. "But I did think it was unusual they chose mine."



Wisdom earned her doctoral degree in education from Lindenwood in December, 2008, and began teaching as an adjunct professor at the school in January, 2009. By June, she had become a full-time faculty member.

"I've had a delightful year," Wisdom said. "It was a pleasure being a student here and now it's a pleasure working here. I'm still finding it to be a very exciting change."

Wisdom's dissertation also can be accessed on-line through the Margaret Leggat Butler Library website. Visit www.lindenwood.edu, click on the "Library" tab located at the top of the page, and use the drop-down menus to search by keyword or author.

'Go Red' Luncheon Set for Friday, Feb. 5

Lindenwood University faculty and staff are invited to attend a free "Go Red" luncheon from 12-12:50 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, in the Anheuser Busch Leadership Room of the Spellmann Campus Center. The luncheon coincides with the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day and kicks-off the University's participation in the campaign to raise awareness about women and heart disease.

The event will feature motivational guest speakers and a personal survival story from Theater Professor and LCIE Program Assistant Coordinator Marsha Parker. A heart-healthy lunch will be served and door prizes awarded.



Additional details about the luncheon will be provided in the *Daily Digest* and on the LindenWell portion of the University website. Visitors to the site can also learn about becoming involved in the LindenWell employee program, incentives for earning WellBucks, and the 10,000 Steps website.

For more information, contact Assistant Professor of Health and Fitness Sciences Annie Alameda at 949-

4152 or by e-mail at aalameda@lindenwood.edu.

LU Represented at Black and White Ball

Select faculty and members of the Lindenwood University Black Student Union attended Grammy award-winning artist Nelly's fourth annual Black and White Ball at the Chase Park Plaza in December. They were in attendance to recognize the recipients of a scholarship annually presented by the University in partnership with Plaza Motors and Nelly's record label, Derry Ent.



"The 2009 Black and White Ball scholarship winners, Jeremy Word and Terranique Campbell, were invited," said Shane Williamson, Ph.D., Director of First-Year Programs. "It was neat because their names were called and they stood and were recognized during the event."

Lindenwood announced during the previous year's Black and White Ball that it would award two, four-year full-tuition scholarships to deserving students. Nelly visited the University in April to formally present the funds to the then-incoming freshmen.

"We have mailed the 2010-2011 scholarship application packets to high schools in the St. Louis Metro Area," Williamson said. "The Black and White Ball Scholarship Evaluation Committee will make their selections and the winners will be announced again in April, when Nelly will be back to award the scholarships."

The opportunity is open to all incoming first-year students who meet the University's admission requirements and demonstrate academic success, leadership, and financial need. Applicants must also submit a 200-300 word essay describing their personal goals and aspirations for college and their plans for applying their education and talents in the future.