

COMMUNIQUE

Discount Liza Minnelli Tickets Available This Week

For a limited time, faculty and staff members may purchase two discounted tickets to the historic opening of the new Lindenwood Center and its premier performance September 11 by Liza Minnelli.

The special discount offer is good only through Sunday, August 24. Faculty and staff members must present their Lindenwood ID card and make their purchase at the Lindenwood Center Box Office. At the time of purchase, you must present the following discount code: LM4LNWD. The discounts are not available through online purchasing.

Discounted ticket prices are: \$118.50 for orchestra tickets, \$98.50 for parterre tickets, and \$86.50 for balcony tickets. There are no discounts on platinum seats. The Lindenwood Center Box Office is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon til 6 p.m.

Individuals who wish to pay full price and have the discount applied toward scholarships at the university should indicate their wishes at the box office.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Lindenwood's first wrestling coach had been the Olympic coach for the Soviet Union team? Marlen Khaykin defected to the United States in 1978, and landed at Lindenwood in 1981. Initially, with Khaykin's hiring, Lindenwood had lofty goals of having a national championship team. Unfortunately, student interest died out by 1983, and was not revived until 1990.

And The Survey Says...LU Great Place To Work

Lindenwood employees overwhelmingly responded to a Chronicle of Higher Education workplace survey, and the faculty and staff message is "this is a great place to work."

The Higher Education Insight Survey was conducted earlier this year by Modernthink for the Chronicle. It was designed to assess workplace quality and it measures critical organizational dynamics and managerial competencies. The survey response rate at Lindenwood was an impressive 51 percent, compared to the average response rate of 32 percent. The university received the results in late July.

Some of Lindenwood's highest marks came in the areas of faculty, administration and staff relations; confidence in senior leadership; collaboration; internal communications; participation in college governance; and connection to institution and pride.

Seventy-one percent of those surveyed at LU were positive about their confidence in the university's senior leadership as compared to 55 percent at doctoral and research universities. Seventy percent gave a positive response regarding faculty, administration and staff relations as compared to 57 percent at DRUs.

"I am most appreciative at the high marks given to the executive leadership of the university," said President James D. Evans. "The support of the faculty and staff is essential to the success of the university."

Rick Boyle, vice president for human resources, said the president is consistent in his "emphasis on wanting

people to feel like they are an integral part of the university. His focus is on collaboration, relationships and fairness.”

While Lindenwood compared favorably to DRUs, Boyle said the university will continue to strive to improve workplace quality. For more information on the survey, you may contact Dr. Boyle at 949-4477.

Shawn Haghighi May Employee of the Month

Shawn Haghighi, manager of the CAMS project and associate professor of computer science and math, has been named Employee of the Month for May 2008. Though he has been employed at Lindenwood since 2001 as a professor, he worked as a project manager in information technology for a number of corporations.



In June of 2007, Haghighi, at right, was made project manager of the CAMS (Comprehensive Academic Management Solutions) project at Lindenwood, which ties together the computer systems of the computer systems of admissions, housing, financial aid, the business office and academic services.

The first phase of the project, the staff portal, went live in June of 2007. The second phase, the faculty portal, goes live today (Aug. 18), and the third phase, the student portal, is scheduled to go live in October 2008. At that point, students will be able to register online, making the long registration lines at the Connection room of the Spellmann Center a thing of the past.

Haghighi said the most challenging aspect to the project was not the technical aspect but rather the personal aspect.

“People don’t like to change,” Haghighi said. “They feel comfortable in the software they are used to and don’t want to have to learn a whole new system. It’s very normal with this sort of thing. None the less, the staff participated actively. It was difficult for them, but they did it.”

Haghighi said the change was necessary because of the previous systems were not integrated, making system management very difficult. Changes to student information had to be entered numerous times in a variety of systems, as opposed to one time.

He said that he expects to continue in the project manager position on an on-going basis, because the system will require on-going maintenance. However, he said he wants to keep his hand in teaching as well.

“I enjoy the student interaction,” he said.

On the Employee of the Month award, he said he was surprised to have been selected.

“This was not an individual effort,” Haghighi said. “There is a CAMS group that has worked very hard on this project. I would like to also recognize all of them.”

International Spotlight Shines On Lindenwood At Olympics

Lindenwood pride was in full force around the country last week when NBC announcers mentioned this institution during the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics.

Two Lions competed in the 2008 Olympic Games--Sean McLelland, a current student, competed for the United States in the shooting skeet event, while Donald Thomas, an alumnus, competed for Bahamas in the high jump.

McLelland put together one of the top performances of his career at the Olympics and came up just one target short of advancing to the finals. During the five-round preliminaries, he hit 118 of 125 targets, tying his best score during an international competition. Tied for sixth in the 41-person field after prelims, he did not advance to the finals after missing one of two targets during the first round of the shoot-off. He finished 11th. McLelland will return to Lindenwood this fall and is expected to graduate this December with a marketing degree.

Thomas had one of the most unique stories of the Olympic Games. He was a basketball player less than two years ago at Lindenwood when he tried the high jump on a dare. After discovering his talent for the sport, he went on and finished second in the NAIA Indoor Championship during his final year in St. Charles.

Thomas had high expectations in Beijing after winning the 2007 World Championships. However, he has struggled this summer after an injury and that trend continued at the Olympics. Thomas cleared 2.15m and 2.20m on his first try, but failed to clear 2.25m. He ended up finishing tied for 21st in the high jump preliminaries.

Next for Thomas will be a return to the basketball court. He was recently drafted by the Harlem Globetrotters and will try out for the iconic team later this year.

Campus Improvement List Is A Long One

Many improvements to the campus have been made over the summer, and lots more are on the horizon, according to Vice President for Operations Julie Mueller.

The new and improved Roemer Hall parking lot was completed last week, increasing the number of parking spaces there by about 25 percent. But more importantly, Mueller said, improving traffic flow and reducing "gridlock."

The road improvement at the entrance to the Roemer lot will continue behind Butler, Sibley and Ayres halls and down past Hunter Stadium. Mueller said the road will become one way up and one way down, improving safety and relieving congestion."

The Roemer Hall parking lot and roadway work is a precursor to the September 18 kickoff ceremony marking the launch of renovations and improvements to our beloved Harmon Hall.

Other improvements include the new brick sidewalk from Cobbs Hall to the quadrangle area, and the wellness walking paths across campus, and of course, two new residence halls—one Pfremmer Hall and one yet to be named.

Two projects we will hear more about later in the fall are the construction of a Student Commons building near the Hyland Performance Arena and the much anticipated new student apartments, which will be constructed on the back 40 acres behind the Hyland Arena and the track.

Lunch Tent Coming Back Monday

Yes, the tent is coming back.

The large lunch tent across from Butler Library will be open for business Monday morning. The concept was so successful that another lunch tent is being added this year—this one between Parker Hall and the Spellmann Center.

Look for the same favorite fare as last year—sub sandwiches, White Castle hamburgers, Mexican fiestas, Racanelli's Pizza, and even a little Chinese!

The tents are a great way to have a casual outside lunch and get to know your new colleagues and students! They usually remain for three weeks to alleviate the early semester crowding in the cafeteria.

