

Michelle Giessman Selected As Lindenwood's First Employee Of The Year

Michelle Giessman has been selected as Lindenwood University's first Employee of the Year. The award was announced Dec. 15 at the Lindenwood Christmas party at the LU Club.

Giessman, who serves as Lindenwood's director of housing, received an LU desk clock as a commemorative gift.

Giessman was Employee of the Month in August. She has been working at Lindenwood for 11 years, starting as office coordinator for Campus Life. She began working in housing in 1998 when there were just 1,100 residential students at Lindenwood. Now there are 3,500. Six new residence halls have also been built during her time in housing, with two more under construction and plans in the works for the addition of several apartment-style housing units.

Giessman's experience with Lindenwood goes back a long way. Her grandmother and great uncle both worked at the school in the 1950s and '60s. Michelle's mother worked at Lindenwood before Michelle was born, and her sister, Marsha Parker, dean of Fine and Performing Arts, is an alumna and has worked at Lindenwood for 19 years. Additionally, all three of Giessman's children have attended the school.

"I'm very honored to be the first employee of the year," Giessman said. "I was really surprised when my name was called."

The other employees of the month for 2007 were Pauline Hammen (January), Hollis Heyn (February), David Knotts (March), Rick Boyle (April), Emilie Johnson (May), Cathy Hart (June), Kacky Garner (July), Michelle Giessman (August), Larry Quiggins (September), Idel McCullough (October) and Bert Griffin (November).

Giessman 2007 Employee of Year

Communique Features New Design

LU Board Member Honored

Survey Reveals Freshman Data

Everyone knows how important Colonel James Butler's contributions to Lindenwood were to the success of the University during the 1920s, but did you know that he very nearly gave the money to the University of Michigan instead? Apparently, Colonel Butler changed his mind at the last minute when a clerk from the area Presbyterian synod, Rev. John H. Miller, wrote a letter explaining how the money would make a greater difference at Lindenwood.

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Communique Features New Design

The Communique e-newsletter comes to you this week with a new, attractive design that will include better graphics and pictures. The design was created by professor Darren Collier, who teaches in the Fine and Performing Arts Division, and webmaster Jason Waack. The two are featured in the accompanying photo. Collier is on the left and Waack on the right.

Communications Director Scott Queen said the new look is a welcome change for the newsletter, now entering its second year.

"It's awesome to have such talented people on campus," Queen said. "It's great to be able to showcase their work this way."

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LU Board Member Honored

Lindenwood University Board Member Jim Issler has received the T. Kenyon Holly Award, presented annually by the Two Ten Footwear Foundation to a leader in the footwear, leather, or allied industries. Issler, President and CEO of H.H. Brown Shoe Company, Inc., was recognized for his charitable, civic and public services that has extended beyond national boundaries. Issler's philanthropic and community concerns have had a ripple effect on numerous sectors of the less fortunate, particularly in China, where his leadership has made possible the China Initiative, providing training for China's first 40 public health officials. Congratulations, Mr. Issler.

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Survey Reveals Data About Freshman Class

As part of the First-Year Experience program for incoming students in August, all first-year students filled out the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE), a standardized, nationally administered survey designed to provide information about the backgrounds and expectations of first-year students.

The results of the survey provide fascinating details about the backgrounds of our incoming students, as well as their attitudes toward their college experience, that could be useful in planning future programs. Shane Williamson, director of first year programs, recently prepared a report on the survey findings.

A total of 774 students completed the survey; more than half of the students (52 percent) live within 50 miles of Lindenwood. Most (76 percent) of the students graduated from public high schools, and 88 percent averaged a B- or higher. A majority are first-generation college

students; the survey reveals that 39 percent of their mothers and 41 percent of their fathers (or corresponding guardians in either case) had earned bachelor's degrees.

Nearly half (43) of the students had taken at least one advanced placement course in high school, and 47 percent completed at least one honors course. More than 80 percent of the students feel their high school education prepared them to write and speak clearly and effectively and think critically and analytically, and an even greater number (94 percent) feel their high schools prepared them to work effectively with others.

Large percentages of the first-year students also expect to be academically engaged in their first year. Equal numbers, 78 percent, state they expect to participate in class and work on assignments that require synthesizing material from multiple resources, and nearly 90 percent say they intend to ask professors for help when they do not understand an assignment.

Many students are employed, and more than 70 percent anticipate working 6 to 20 hours per week in jobs either on campus or off. Perhaps as a result, a majority of students are also concerned about their ability to manage their time effectively, which Williamson cited in the report as a cue to spend more time on the subject in the LUL 101 class.

A substantial majority of the students placed a high value on the following: challenging academic experience (86 percent); support to help succeed academically (96 percent); opportunities to interact with students who are different ethnically, racially, socially, etc... (82 percent); support with coping with non-academic responsibilities (73 percent); support to help thrive socially (75 percent); and opportunities to attend campus events and activities (84 percent). "The BCSSE provided us with good insight into who our students are when they began college in August 2007," Williamson said.

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New Faculty Member Nominated for Community Service Award

Julie Turner, who joined the Non-Profit Administration faculty last summer, has been nominated for an Honors Program Award for service to the community. St. Charles Business Magazine and Commerce Bank announced the nominees for the award on Jan. 15.

Turner is among 53 nominees for the award, which is in its third year and is designed to recognize those who are "instrumental in giving back to those in need" in St. Charles County. She and the other nominees will be honored at an award ceremony on Feb. 13 at the Columns Banquet Center in St. Charles. Tickets are \$35 each and are available for purchase by calling 636-946-4234.

"I am extremely flattered and humbled to be considered for this recognition," Turner said. "I have been very fortunate to devote so much of my professional and volunteer life thus far to the nonprofit sector and consider it a privilege to now be able to help—in any way—shape the skills and harness the wonderful passion and idealism that our students have who, too, want to devote themselves to purposeful careers in the nonprofit sector."

Turner has a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy development from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, as well as a master's in educational administration from Michigan State University and a bachelor's in sociology from Hope College. She has also worked at Washington University, the Wentzville School District, and as a director for various educational and community service organizations.

She has received a number of awards before this one, including a Junior League Board of Directors Award, 40 Under 40, sponsored by the *St. Louis Business Journal*, and the Award of Excellence from the Community Human Services Division.

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Congrats to Turnipseeds

The men's and women's ice hockey family has grown again. We would all like to congratulate men's assistant coach Mark Turnipseed and his wife Julie (LU Alum) on the birth of their first child. Myleigh Rose Turnipseed was born Monday, January 7 at 9:39 p.m., and she weighed in at 7 lbs 10.5 oz. Mom, Dad, and baby girl are all doing great!

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