

COMMUNIQUE

Russell Selected as Employee of Month

When Terry Russell retired from the Army in June of 2000, he never expected he would end up with a career in higher education. Now dean of students at Lindenwood, Russell has been named Employee of the Month for March.

After retiring from the Army, Russell came to Lindenwood to start the school's new ROTC program, which he directed for

about 18 months. From there, he was named director of the Work and Learn program, after which he became director of residential operations in March of 2003. He moved to his current post in 2006.

As dean of students, Russell, pictured above, handles disciplinary matters at the school and makes recommendations on disciplinary action for various infractions--"everything from a warning to dismissal." He is also responsible for campus security and the operations side of residential services. In short, he is responsible for the safety, health, and welfare of Lindenwood's 3,500 residential students. He said it is not much different from his experience in the military.

"Discipline issues and things like that are essentially the same," he said. "When I was getting ready to retire, ending up in academics was the furthest thing from my mind. It's funny how life works."

Russell said he enjoys the people he works with and working with the students in particular.

"Seeing a student turn things around is always nice," Russell said. "It's good to see success stories."

Russell finished his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Lindenwood and is currently working toward a doctorate in education. He said he could see himself teaching one day, or he might just decide to stay where he is.

"I enjoy what I do," he said.

As for the Employee of the Month award, he said he feels particularly honored and humbled.

"I think it has a lot to do with the people I work around," Russell said. "The whole Student Development department is a great bunch of people. They make you a better person. It's easy to do your job here."

Did You Know?

Did you know that prior to President Roemer, the presidents of Lindenwood personally leased the college from the Presbyterian Church, and were responsible for paying all expenses out of their own pocket? This presented a problem to the Presbyterian Church in 1870, when President French Strother opposed Reconstruction efforts in Missouri. As a result, the Presbyterian Church had to take Strother to court in order to regain control of Lindenwood.

Whitney Fraier Begins Work as Alumni Director

Join us in welcoming Whitney Fraier, who started work last Monday as Lindenwood's new director of alumni affairs. Fraier, who is based in the Development Office, worked most recently as special events manager at the Magic House in Kirkwood. Prior to that, she worked for the St. Charles Convention Center in 2005.



Taking over for Katy Montgomery, who left the position because of a relocation and upcoming matrimony, Fraier said her goal is to continue to improve alumni participation in the university and to get more alums reconnected with Lindenwood.

"I plan to put together more alumni events to help accomplish that," she said.

Fraier has a bachelor's in organizational communications with a non-profit emphasis from Murray State University in Kentucky, and she is currently pursuing a master's in nonprofit management in the LCIE program. She said her experience in LCIE affected her decision to try for the job.

"I really love going to school here," she said. "I love the faculty and staff, the culture and what the university stands for. It's great."

She said another goal will be to help develop a connection with current students before they become alumni.

"I will try to put some things together to help current students understand what their time here means and what they will take with them when they leave," Fraier said. "We want them to understand what it means to be an alum of Lindenwood University."

Biggerstaff Elected Delegate to General Conference

Randy Biggerstaff, manager of the Athletic Training Program, has been elected a delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Consequently, he will attend a meeting of the conference in Fort Worth, Texas, from April 23 to May 2.



Biggerstaff, pictured at right, will be one of eight lay delegates to attend the meeting, along with eight clergy delegates.

"This conference brings together delegates from all over the world who are United Methodist," Biggerstaff said. "We will be setting the doctrine, social principals and resolution that will guide the church for the next four years."

This is the second time Biggerstaff has been selected to represent the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church; he previously attended the general conference meeting in Pittsburgh in 2004. He was selected last June to attend the upcoming meeting in Texas.

Coffee Conversation Will Deal with Debate on Religion

The Coffee Conversations program this month will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, in the Anheuser Busch Leadership Room in the Spellmann Center.

The program, titled "Is Christianity the Problem?," revolves around a debate between authors Christopher Hitchens and Dinesh D'Souza at King's College in October of 2007. A panel discussion and question-and-answer session will be included in the program.

Sponsors of Coffee Conversations include Pi Sigma Tau, the Religion Program, the Philosophy Program, and the Honors College. For more information, contact philosophy@lindenwood.edu.

Mainstage Season Closing With '*Crimes of the Heart*'

The 2007-2008 Mainstage Theatre Season will close with the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Crimes of the Heart*, by Beth Henley. Performances are 7:30 p.m. on April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26.

Faculty and staff members are each entitled to two free tickets. Prices for additional tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for students (ages 5-18). For reservations, contact the Lindenwood Box Office at 636-979-4878.

This will be the Theatre Department's last Mainstage production to be held in Jelkyl Theatre. All future Mainstage productions will be held in Lindenwood's new Center for Fine and Performing Arts, opening in the Fall of 2008.

The scene is Hazlehurst, Miss., where the three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch, their grandfather, who is living out his last hours in the local hospital. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany, and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of the three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions.

In the end, the play is the story of how its young characters escape the past to seize the future, but the telling is so true and touching and consistently hilarious that it will linger in the mind long after the curtain has descended.

The director of the production is Marsha Parker, dean of the Fine and Performing Arts Division. The student director is Danielle Lorenz. The stage manager is Lindsay Bartlett. The cast includes Brian Kappler, Adam Loyd, Wendy Bradford, Brandi Kujawa, Whitney Cornick, and Emily Richman.

The set and lighting designer is Donnell Walsh. The properties mistress is Jane Kohlen. The set dresser is Kelley Keough. The costume designer is Donna Northcott. The technical director and sound designer is Michael Kantz.

For more information, contact Ted Gregory, director of theatre, 636-949-4966, or via e-mail at tgregory@lindenwood.edu.

Evans to Speak at Iowa State Alumni Event in St. Louis

Lindenwood President James Evans, Ph.D., will speak this Saturday at a special event for the Iowa State University Alumni Association Club of St. Louis. Evans, who earned his master's in psychology and his doctorate in research psychology from ISU, will speak on the evening of Saturday, April 19, at Giovanni's on the Hill. Nick Reding, retired vice chairman of Monsanto and an alum from ISU, will also speak at the event.

Natural Science Club Assembling March for Babies Team

Lindenwood's Natural Science Club invites the Lindenwood community to help in the fight against premature death and birth defects in infants. The club is assembling a team for March for Babies (formerly, WalkAmerica) for the March of Dimes. The walk is Saturday, April 26, at 9 a.m. in Forest Park. All are invited to take part. Walkers and sponsors are needed.

"We had a great time last year with the small team we had," said Jennifer Firestine. "We want to make a bigger difference this year!"

If you would like to sign up to collect donations and to walk, please go to this website: <http://www.marchforbabies.org>. Click on "Register Online Now," then "Join a Team," then type in "Lindenwood Science Club." You can set up a website where others can donate directly through the site, or you can collect donations using a printable form.

If you can't walk but would like to donate, please go to this website:
http://www.marchforbabies.org/s_team_page.asp?SeId=386897&si=7A4FFD59-608A-48D1-B906-FF991132A7DE to donate online for the club. If you have any questions, contact Firestine in Young 415 (x4188).

Lindenwood Scores Two National Titles!

Lindenwood athletics department won two national titles on Sunday with its two dynasty programs extending their national championship streaks. The Lions roller hockey team won its seventh straight NCRHA Division I National Championship, and the Lindenwood shooting team won its fifth consecutive ACUI Intercollegiate Clay Target National Championship.

The roller hockey squad had little trouble reaching its championship match. Lindenwood shutout all three opponents during pool play and allowed just two goals during its first two games in the single-elimination tournament. In the semifinals, the offense took over by scoring 11 goals in an 11-4 win over UC-Irvine.

That victory set up a championship contest against Missouri-St. Louis, the only team to beat the Lions over the last three years. Lindenwood jumped out to a 2-0 lead after one period and then traded goals the rest of the game in an eventual 6-3 victory. The Lions won thanks to their special teams unit, which scored three power play goals and one shorthanded goal.

Brandon Barnette led the team with 11 goals throughout the tournament, Tommy Bruce had a team-high 10 assists, and Bruce and Kyle Gouge led Lindenwood with 16 points apiece. Goalkeeper Dustin Brown won six games in goal, allowing just nine goals and having two shutouts.

The Lindenwood shooting team was in a back-and-forth battle through four days with Texas A&M. The Lions led by just two targets going into the final day and the team wrapped up the title by winning the final event, American Trap, by four shots. Lindenwood finished by hitting 1,528 out of 1,600 targets, while Texas A&M was runner-up with 1,522 targets.

Individually, six Lindenwood shooters earned All-American honors by finishing in the Top 10. Mark Schutzuiz led the way with a third-place finish after hitting 383 out of 400 birds. Nicholas Gamel finished fourth with a score of 378, Robert Auerbach was fifth with 375, Matthew Hoffman was eighth with 369, Michael Hahn was ninth with 367 and Travis Mears was tenth with 366.

In the women's individual standings, Lindenwood's Alexandra Chiang was the top finisher by being the runner-up after hitting 338 targets. Jenna Mclean was third with 329 targets, Jessica Forbes was fourth with 326, and Corina Bass was fifth with 322.

The Lindenwood athletics department has now won six national championships during the 2007-08 school year. Besides the two titles yesterday, the Lions won the men's water polo, wrestling, women's ice hockey, and dance championships. Over the last seven school years, Lindenwood has now won a total of 30 national championships.

Lindenwood Athletic Headlines (April 14-20)

The fifth-ranked Lions men's volleyball team will head to the NAIA National Invitational Tournament this week in Parkville, Mo. The six-team tournament starts on Thursday. The team will look to extend its streak of reaching the NAIA Final Four every year since the program was started nine years ago by picking up at least one win in pool play matches versus second-ranked California Baptist and fourth-ranked St. Ambrose.

The Lindenwood bowling teams will look for national titles at the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships, which also starts on Thursday. Both squads enter the event ranked fourth in the country.

Three athletic programs will compete in conference meets this week. The men's and women's tennis teams will look for HAAC titles while the women's lacrosse team looks for another CPWLL crown.

The complete Lindenwood athletics weekly newsletter is available at this link:
<http://www.lindenwood.edu/athletics/newsletter/current.pdf>