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Lindenwood University - Campus News

Lindenwood Speaker Series will Address Impact of Gulf Oil Spill

09/27/2010

Lindenwood University's 2010-11 Speaker Series will continue at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 5, with a discussion of the environmental impact of the Gulf oil spill by three Lindenwood faculty who went on a fact-finding trip to the region this summer.

Drs. David Knotts, Deb Hopkins, and Gail Johnston will speak in the Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room, located in the university's Spellmann Center on the main campus at 209 S. Kingshighway in St. Charles. Admission is free and open to the public.

In the summer, the three took a fact-finding trip to the Gulf region to assess the impact of the spill through observation and interviews with fishing and oil industry workers and others.

Knotts has worked with several of the fish and wildlife agencies in the Gulf states as well as with local professional fishermen. He is well acquainted with the Mississippi Delta and the coastal region. He also grew up in the petroleum production industry and has a solid understanding of extraction and refining methods. As a geophysicist, Hopkins has professional experience with exploration, off-shore drilling operations, and oil extraction and has a working knowledge of the Gulf coast region. Johnston is an expert in the field of herpetology and interacted with coastal biologists during the trip.

The Lindenwood University Speaker Series, in its third year, opened in mid-September and includes seven thought-provoking speakers, from "The Rookie" Jim Morris to noted humanitarian and Navy SEAL Eric Greitens. The series runs through April 12; for a complete schedule, visit www.lindenwood.edu/speakerseries.

Lindenwood University, founded in 1827, is an independent liberal arts university offering 84 undergraduate degree programs and 37 graduate programs in diverse areas of study— in traditional and accelerated formats. Lindenwood operates a residential campus in historic St. Charles, as well as 11 extension sites throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area.