

*Below please find the 29th edition of **Communique**, a weekly newsletter for Lindenwood University employees. If you have an item for **Communique**, please email squeen@lindenwood.edu*

LU Absorbs Most of Insurance Increase

Lindenwood University employees will see about a 5 percent increase in health insurance premiums with Group Health Plan next year. That increase is small, however, in comparison to the overall increase, of which more than two-thirds is being absorbed by the university.

Vice President for Human Resources Rick Boyle said Monday morning the university sought the “lowest possible impact for the greatest number of our employees.”

Modifications to the plan were necessary as well as the premium increase. Boyle said that by raising the prescription co-pays for brand name medications to \$40 and non-formulary medications to \$75, Lindenwood was able to keep the increase to premiums at a much more manageable level. Prescription co-pays for generic medications will remain the same as last year at \$12. All other features of the plan will remain the same.

The employee portion of the cost of the new plan will be as follows:

Employee	\$105.00
Employee + Spouse	\$263.00
Employee + Children	\$263.00
Employee + Family	\$473.00

If you are currently enrolled in the current GHP plan, you do not need to do anything. You will automatically be enrolled in the revised plan. If you are not currently enrolled in the plan and would like to enroll effective January 1, 2008, or if you would like to terminate your coverage, you must contact Joyce Townsend no later than December 17, 2007.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Boyle at 949-4477.

Idel McCullough October Employee of the Month

Idel McCullough in the Financial Aid Office has been named Employee of the Month for October. McCullough will have been at Lindenwood as a financial aid officer for 10 years in February, prior to which she worked in financial aid for 18 years at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

She said that prior to coming to Lindenwood she knew John Feely, who suggested she apply at Lindenwood, which she did. What followed was an interview with the late President Dennis Spellmann, and the beginning of her time at Lindenwood.

“Idel has always been customer service-oriented,” Feely said. “She’s also very good at her job. It’s rare that you find someone who has both.”

Her job involves the review of thousands of student aid reports, which must be verified before being sent on. All money coming in from student loans must also be verified before being sent up to the Business Office and applied to the students’ accounts. Then, there are phone calls and visits from students and parents with questions about their financial aid, not to mention forms that have to be processed for special cases and when, for example, a student’s job status changes.

Nonetheless, she said she is surprised to have been named Employee of the Month.

“I am shocked to have been selected for this,” she said. “Of all the people here, that’s pretty hard to believe.”

Employee of Month Nominations Due

Don’t forget to submit your nominations for Lindenwood University’s November Employee of the Month. The program is to honor top employees at the university who serve in an exemplary manner. All nominees must be permanent full-time or part-time employees who perform at a high level and who exhibit a positive and supportive attitude.

To nominate someone, please write a 75- to 100-word essay explaining why a particular employee should be considered. Some qualities might include outstanding achievement, performance, creative contributions, or improvement beyond what is normally expected of employees; demonstration of outstanding service to LU; and projection of a friendly, considerate attitude toward faculty, staff, students and visitors.

Nominations are not complete without the enthusiastic support of the employee's supervisor. Please send nominations to Judy Shanahan (jshanahan@lindenwood.edu) in the president's office.

Class to Deliver Bottled Water to Drought-Stricken Town

Professor Geri Schultz and the students in her international business class have arranged to have thousands of bottles of water transported to the drought-stricken town of Orme, Tenn., on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 20. A truck with the water will leave Lindenwood's campus at 7 a.m. for Orme, which is three hours from St. Charles.

The water and the trucking services have all been donated, thanks to the efforts to Schultz and her class, who took on the project after hearing about the town of 125 people, which is virtually without water service because of severe drought conditions in that region of the United States. The students' goal was to provide the water in time for Thanksgiving, and that is going to happen. A water project to connect the town to a more reliable water supply is still months from completion.

Water was donated by Clearbrook Water of Mid-America Coffee and Ronnoco, Dasani and Coca Cola. Trucking services were donated by Hogan Trucking.

Legacy Goes Live Online

On the President's historic day of Investiture, the Journalism Program proudly unveiled the online version of *The Legacy*. The electronic student publication is located at www.lulegacy.com. Those who register will receive e-mailed versions of the newspaper and can post on message boards.

"It's important for our students to have as much experience in converged media as possible," said Journalism Program Manager Julie Beard. "We're obviously very proud of the print version of *The Legacy*. Professor Tom Pettit, as newspaper adviser, Lab Production Manager Dune Trull, as well as Managing Editor Dan Sonderman and Assistant Managing Editor Melissa Cossarini, have done a fantastic job launching the newspaper. Today's journalists, however, must be cross-trained in a variety of media platforms."

Most stories at www.lulegacy.com will be taken from the print version. However, the Web publication already has an Opinion page. Students, faculty and staff are invited to submit letters to the Editor as well as thoughtful, well-researched Commentaries. Submissions should be made through the online site. *The Legacy* newspaper will be introducing an Opinion page in the near future as well.

"The online publication gives LU journalism majors Web experience," Beard said, "and also serves as a portal to a larger audience. There is the potential of unlimited readership on the Internet, and we expect Lindenwood students to respond well to this familiar, newer medium."