

THE MAGAZINE OF
lewis university
FALL 2023

Soaring
TO NEW HEIGHTS



also inside

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
LEWIS UNIVERSITY

*“Know your students individually
and be able to understand them.”*



Dear Alumni, Friends, and Benefactors:

This quote from Saint John Baptist de La Salle has never been more important in the history of our Lasallian Mission than today. The higher education landscape is changing and we must continue to uphold our Lasallian Mission while adjusting to the changing times by understanding the needs of the community and the students we serve.

At a recent Board of Trustees retreat, we reviewed the Declaration set forth by the Brothers of the Christian Schools for the twenty-first century. One key element of the Declaration: **“We believe that today’s realities demand taking Risks and Being Creative.”**

(See sidebar note.)

While I am saddened to hear of many higher ed institutions struggling, I am heartened by the many ways that Lewis is thriving. The challenges that higher education faces as a sector is a great reminder of the important work ahead of us and the power of your support!

Over the past several years we have been bold in pursuing new partnerships, recruitment strategies, and programs. We can see the fruit of these efforts in the recent announced merger with St. Augustine College approved by the Higher Learning Commission on November 3, 2023, the growth in enrollment of international students, growth in graduate student population including non-degree and certificates and the steadiness of our undergraduate population with a focus on first-generation students. (See enrollment update on pg. 8).

We continue to make investments in new programs such as the Success Coaches (featured on pg. 6), and new buildings such as the ground breaking of South Hall expansion to support our new Doctoral program in Physical Therapy and our other Health Science programs (featured on pg. 10).

The source of the energy between our mission and vision, on the one hand, and our ability to continue to take bold creative steps forward, on the other, is the philanthropic support that you provide. When we come together and have more contributors we are able to continue to improve programs and campus life without increasing the financial burden on our students and their families.

I feel very proud of our community of support which has allowed Lewis to not only survive in these trying times but to thrive. Enclosed is an annual report which reflects the fiscal health and mission health of **YOUR Lewis University!**

Thank you for dreaming big and thinking creatively with us!

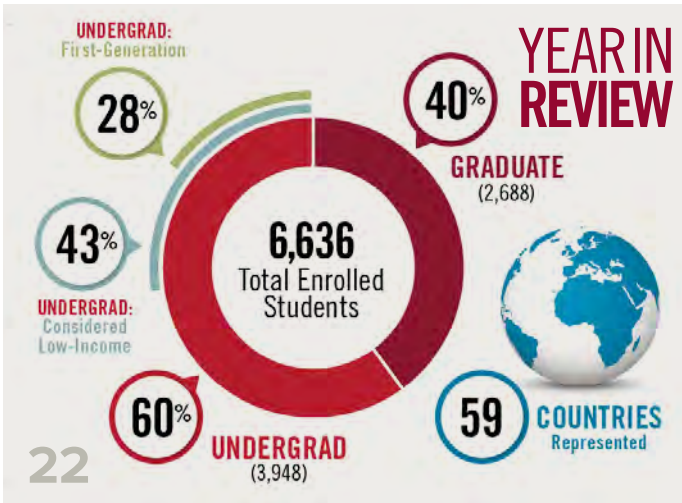
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Livingston". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Dr. David J. Livingston
President

*This is further explained:
The school must always be updated, capable of remaking itself and responding to the needs of students. For this same reason, new educational projects must be brought into being, and others must surely die. Our peoples urge us to look to rural areas, indigenous groups, migrants, poverty belts of megalopolises, and frontiers of dehumanization to respond creatively to their specific and pressing needs.*

THE MAGAZINE OF Lewis university

Fall 2023



CONTENTS

MAGAZINE

- 02 Soaring to New Heights
- 05 Meeting Students Where They Are
- 08 Continued Growth and Recognition
- 10 University Updates
- 13 Faculty News
- 15 Lewis Athletics

ANNUAL REPORT

- 21 Financial Statements
- 22 Year in Review
- 23 Alumni News
- 26 Class Notes
- 28 Stories from the Vault
- 29 Events & Opportunities
- BC Save the Dates

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR and alumni news submissions are welcome.

Send letters, news and address changes to: *The Magazine of Lewis University*, Unit 196, One University Parkway, Romeoville, IL 60446 or e-mail lamontra@lewisu.edu.

CORRECTION In the previous issue, we published a story about the origins of Bedcheck Charlie as the University mascot. Since that publication, we have been reminded of an article from the 2003 Lewis Magazine that described the key role two students from the Class of 1964, George Bora and Rich Moeller, played in officially obtaining permission to use the popular cartoon character as our mascot from the artist, George Wunder. We apologize for that omission and oversight.

RESOURCES

- Admission** (800) 897-9000 (815) 836-5250
- Alumni** (815) 836-5882
- Graduate Admission** (800) 897-9000, (815) 836-5610
- Athletics** (815) 836-5247
- University Advancement** (815) 836-5475
- Philip Lynch Theatre Box Office** (815) 836-5500

Soaring to New Heights

Aviation at Lewis is literally soaring.

Our reputation continues to gain prestige within aviation education. This fall, the department had the largest class of incoming students, with a department total of about 800. New simulators and aircraft are being added and plans are in place to begin construction this summer on a new building to meet the demand. Industry partnerships have grown dramatically with student career pathways directly into Spirit Airlines and United Airlines, with more to come. We are in the process of working toward the most rigorous international accreditation possible, AABI, aabi.aero/ (Aircraft Accreditation Board International). *The following articles provide a glimpse of recent activities.*





Duckworth Tours Lewis Facilities, Discusses Bill to Boost Aviation Education

U.S. Senator and pilot Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) toured the hangar and aviation facilities at Lewis on July 21 and met with the Aviation and Transportation Studies Department and senior administrators at Lewis to discuss her work to strengthen the aviation workforce. Duckworth, a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (CST) and Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations and Innovation recently helped introduce the Aviation Workforce Development and Recruitment Act, bipartisan legislation to address aviation workforce shortages by boosting resources to help recruit and train pilots, aviation manufacturing workers and mechanics.

“Lewis University’s location near major airports and its work to recruit veterans and underrepresented talent reinforces that opportunities for good-paying aviation careers exist right here in Illinois,” said Duckworth. “It was great to visit and highlight how the Aviation Workforce Development and Recruitment Act can support education and recruitment for the well-trained pilots, mechanics and manufacturers of tomorrow.”



“We have launched a transformative collaboration that will help shape the future of aviation. By fostering inclusive opportunities and harnessing the power of diverse perspectives, we are propelling the industry forward and paving the way for a more equitable and vibrant aviation community,” said Dr. Christopher Sindt, Lewis provost. “With Senator Duckworth’s leadership and our shared vision, we are soaring to new heights, preparing the next generation of skilled professionals who will take flight and redefine what’s possible in aviation.”

The Aviation Workforce Development and Recruitment Act would provide grants for eligible projects to support the education and recruitment of pilots, aviation maintenance workers, as well as the aviation manufacturing workforce of the future. The bill will triple annual funding levels for FAA Workforce Development Grants that support institutions that train pilots and aviation mechanics from \$10 million to \$30 million. It authorizes an additional \$10 million per year for a new grant program that supports institutions that train aviation manufacturing workers, for a total annual authorization level of \$40 million per year for aviation workforce development grants, which amounts to a five-year authorization level of \$200 million.

(Top left) Various University representatives discuss with the Senator a shared vision that can transform how Lewis serves as a regional hub for aviation education and a growing diverse workforce. (Top right) Assistant Professor Michael Julius showcases the new Air Traffic Control Lab. (Left) Dr. Ryan Phillips, Chair of Lewis University Aviation and Transportation Studies, leads U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) on a tour of the Brother Neil Kieffe, FSC Aviation Building and Harold E. White Aviation Center, among other aviation facilities.



United Airlines and Lewis University symbolically cut the ribbon on a partnership for United Aviate. The career development program is open to all current and former Lewis students.

United Airlines Joins Forces with Lewis to Develop Next Generation of Aviators

A new partnership with United Aviate, United Airlines' pilot career development program, offers Lewis University student pilots and instructors the most secure path to the airline's flight deck. Lewis is the first school chosen by United in the Chicago region.

The Aviate program adds a great benefit to the nationally recognized Aviation and Transportation program which provides academic excellence and a hands-on approach to learning that prepares students for successful careers in the aviation industry.

As an Aviate university partner, current and former Lewis University students and instructors who apply and are successful in the Aviate selection process will join the program and benefit from the secure path to a lifelong career at United.

Throughout their journey, Aviate participants will receive coaching from a United pilot, have opportunities to connect with members of the United team, and have access to travel privileges. Participants also receive a Conditional Job Offer upon acceptance, eliminating the need for additional interviews with United.

For more information about the program and an application, visit lewisu.edu/aviate/.



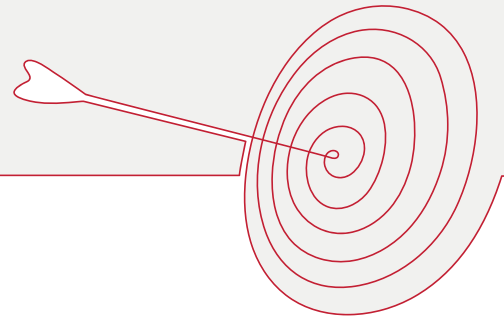
Two Women Team Up for Air Race Classic

Katelyn Gall and Makaylah Schwark teamed up for the 2023 Air Race Classic occurring June 20-23. Their team joined 40 other teams of women pilots in competition from around the country, flying a total of about 2,500 miles (about the width of the United States) across the span of four days. ARC draws competitors of all ages, from teenagers to veteran pilots in their 80s, and from all walks of life, from college students to professional airline pilots to military veterans to teachers, writers, doctors and businesswomen.

Gall is an aviation flight management major and was on the Lewis University Women's Track and Field team as a pole vaulter. The rising senior is an instrument-rated private pilot working on her commercial license and a member of the Lewis University Flight team.

Aviation flight management alumna Schwark '22 is a Lewis University certified flight instructor and recently received her MEI, certified multi-engine instructor. She has been a part of the Lewis Flight team as a competitor and coach.

The historic contest traces its roots to the 1929 Women's Air Derby, aka the Powder Puff Derby, in which Amelia Earhart and 19 other female pilots raced from Santa Monica, Calif., to Cleveland, Ohio. Today, the ARC is the epicenter of women's air racing, the ultimate test of piloting skill and aviation decision-making for female pilots of all ages and from all walks of life.



MEETING STUDENTS *where they are*

As part of the Lewis strategic plan “Students at the Center... For a Better World: 2022-2027,” a number of initiatives are taking place across the University to meet the growing diversity of our student needs and to help meet students where they are.

AI Implemented to Aid Prospective Students

The Lewis University website *lewisu.edu* recently added an Artificial Intelligence Virtual Assistant named Jett to answer prospective students’ frequently asked admission and financial aid questions. The use of Artificial Intelligence has increased rapidly by students who want their questions answered 24/7. This Virtual Assistant is able to provide answers in more than 100 different languages.

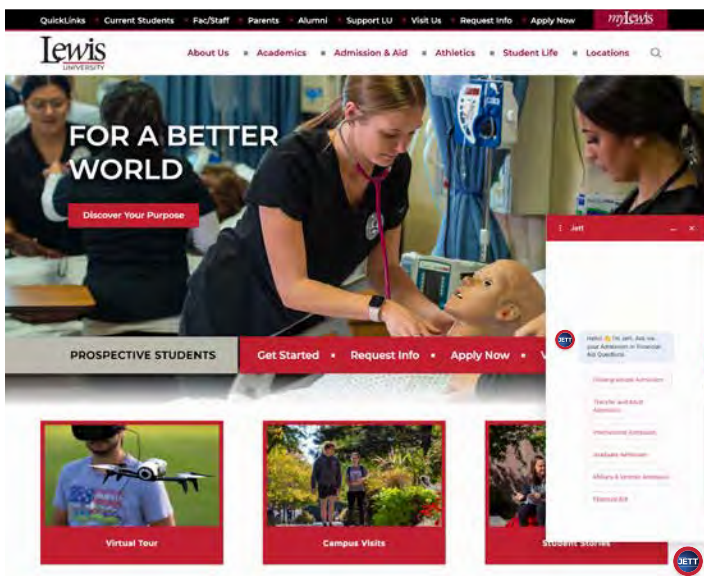
Through the use of a Chatbot or Virtual Assistant, we can provide guidance to prospective students throughout the application process. Rather than

waiting for an admission counselor to call back, a prospective student now instantly receives relevant program information and support, freeing up counselors to “take over” conversations as needed to help students through more complex questions.

“This new tool is really a win for prospective students who want answers to their admission questions in real time. This will help our counselors as well to meet the growing diversity of our student body,” said Syl Goyette, executive director of web services.

The backend of the platform will allow admission counselors to view high-quality transcriptions of conversations with prospective students, providing a take-away reference for the counselor and student. Admissions conversations can overwhelm students with a great deal of information. Automated transcriptions provide a summary of the information that can be accessed and reviewed.

This may be particularly helpful for students who require accessibility accommodations, and it is also beneficial to students who need to refer back to the information later. Conversation transcriptions can be used as a training tool for the admission counselor’s team. Live chat counselors can be scheduled during peak hours of the day based on previous performance.





New Flyer Success Network to Support Student Achievement

Recognizing the challenges and decisions faced by students during their education, a new Flyer Success Network has been put in place to empower individuals with the necessary resources to thrive academically, personally, and professionally. Inspired by the Lasallian tradition, which emphasizes student success, Lewis University's Flyer Success Network exemplifies the institution's dedication to fostering a collaborative and supportive environment.



A college education is a transformative experience. Students make numerous decisions, including selecting majors and minors, managing finances, choosing courses, exploring career options, and navigating personal life.



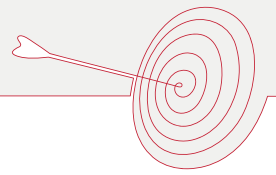
Success Coaches will provide personalized academic advising and ongoing coaching to students within their assigned program group. They will assist students with developing a path to graduation, guide first-year students and first-semester sophomores with course selection and registration, stay updated on degree requirements and course sequencing, monitor academic progress, and provide guidance for overcoming obstacles. Success Coaches will also encourage students to engage in relevant co-curricular experiences that align with their interests and major requirements.

Faculty Mentors will continue to provide expertise and guidance to students in their respective fields by offering insights into the field/discipline, helping students explore potential career paths and identifying additional areas of study that align with their post-graduation goals. Faculty Mentors also facilitate connections to research opportunities, internships, and keep students informed about departmental and industry events. They will provide academic advice and assist students in selecting courses during their junior and senior years, ensuring a well-rounded education that supports their career aspirations.

"A college education is a transformative experience. Students make numerous decisions, including selecting majors and minors, managing finances, choosing courses, exploring career options, and navigating personal life. At Lewis, we understand the complexities of these choices and how overwhelming college life can be at times. The Flyer Success Network was designed to ensure students are mentored and supported during their time at Lewis," said Toni Fitzpatrick, assistant vice president for student success.

Informed by best practices and research in student success and retention in higher education, the Flyer Success Network empowers faculty and staff to enhance the student experience through innovative use of technology and collaboration.

For more information on how you can support the success coach program contact Colleen Ahearn at cahearn@lewisu.edu.



Lewis Expands Health and Mental Wellbeing Resources through TimelyCare

Lewis University has partnered with TimelyCare, the premier virtual health and wellbeing solution in higher education, to offer actively enrolled students free and equitable access to mental

health and medical care and more comprehensive self-help and support resources.

TimelyCare serves as a 24/7/365-day virtual extension of our Student Wellness Center campus health resources, with the goal of improving student wellbeing, engagement, and retention. Lewis has a very diverse student population with non-traditional students in terms of identity, location and other lifestyle demands which may present a challenge to access care during traditional business hours. The goal of this partnership is to reduce barriers to access and promote convenience and ease of seeking health care.

The staff of the Student Wellness Center are Illinois-licensed. Through TimelyCare, on their phone or other devices, Lewis students who are outside of Illinois can select from a wide-ranging

menu of virtual care options from licensed physicians and counselors in all 50 states – at no cost and without the hassle of traditional insurance.

Some of the features included with the platform are: on-demand and appointment-based medical care including mental health and emotional support; health coaching; request for basic needs assistance and care navigation; psychiatric consultation; a peer support community; and digital self-care content resources.

“There is no greater priority than the health and safety of our students. TimelyCare’s ease of use, convenience and immediacy make it easier than ever for our students to get on-demand support,” said Dr. Christopher Sindt, provost.

The Laugh to Create Awareness Comedy Night will be on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Beverly Arts Center. Proceeds benefit Lewis’ mental health counseling services, as well as scholarships for students studying to become mental health counselors. For more information or to register for the event visit alumni.lewisu.edu/2024ComedyNight.

Comfort Canine Joins Lewis Police Department

Lewis welcomed its newest member of the Lewis University Police Department with the official swearing-in ceremony of Canine Officer Jet, with Sgt. Lyle Nettles as his dedicated handler. The June 20 ceremony was historic for Lewis as Jet is the first LUPD canine that will take on the role of being an emotional support animal on campus.

Comfort Canine Officer Jet, born at Welch Family Goldens in Colchester, Ill., has been trained by K9 Guardians in Lockport to play a crucial role in supporting the emotional wellbeing of Lewis students, faculty, and staff while interacting with LUPD. The golden retriever will provide comfort and companionship to those in need, fostering a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

Sgt. Nettles, an experienced and dedicated member of the Lewis University Police Department, has been assigned as Jet’s handler. Sgt. Nettles will ensure Jet’s wellbeing, continued training, and effective integration into campus life while continuing to serve as a shift supervisor on the afternoon team.

This new addition to LUPD was made possible through the generous support of the Will County State’s Attorney James Glasgow. Recognizing the positive impact that animals can have on mental health and emotional wellbeing, the State’s Attorney’s office provided the necessary funds to acquire and train Jet in addition to upfitting an existing LUPD squad car to be used as the canine vehicle.

“In 2012, I created the Paw for Kids program at our Children’s Advocacy Center with two loving labrador retrievers, Jackson and Mally. My love for dogs led to the creation of the League of Extraordinary Canines & Friends, a countywide initiative that



recognizes the unique attributes of our canine companions,” Glasgow said. “Jet, aptly named in light of Lewis’ famous aviation program, is the 14th canine I have been able to provide to local governments and schools by using money seized from money launderers and drug dealers. This is the ultimate irony – using ill-gotten gains for the public good.”

LUPD Chief Mike Zegadlo '96 said, “Fundamental to our approach to policing is supporting students on their personal and educational journeys. This means sometimes meeting students at difficult moments and helping them find a way to get back on track. Jet will be a great new way for our team to provide that support in an impactful and compassionate way!”

Fall Semester Sees Continued Growth & Recognition

This fall brought record numbers of students from across the globe to Lewis. While the demographic projection for traditional undergraduate students is expected to decline, Lewis is keeping pace with our traditional and transfer students while increasing enrollment from international students. Add to that an increase in national recognitions and rankings and the fall semester is very encouraging.



*Lewis University,
Fall Student
Profile (Fall 2023)*

637
FIRST YEAR

541
TRANSFER

1,058
GRADUATE

596
INTERNATIONAL

54%
STUDENTS OF COLOR

Fall 2023 Enrollment Brings Record Diversity of Students

This fall Lewis University welcomed 637 new first-year students, 541 new transfer students, and 1,058 new graduate students. Within that group includes one of our largest number of international students, 596, from around the world, including 14 graduate students at the Albuquerque, N.M. campus who are majoring in the M.S. Computer Science program.

This brings the total number of students currently enrolled in online and on-campus programs to approximately 6,670 students. These incoming students are contributing to the growing ethnic and geographic diversity of Lewis with 54 percent identifying as students of color.

“Our most recent group of incoming students are eager to earn a degree

from a nationally-recognized University. Many of our academic majors continue to see the quality of their programs recognized in the news. We are honored they chose Lewis University to support them in their academic journeys,” said Ashley Skidmore, vice president for Enrollment Management.

With the incoming surge of 596 international students, Lewis University has experienced an all-time high number of graduate students this fall. ***This increase is the result of several years of training, planning, and activities with the American Council on Education Internationalization Lab and a strategic reorganization of international efforts at Lewis University.***



Lewis Jumps to Top 15 in Midwest U.S. News Rankings

U.S. News & World Report dramatically increased its ranking of Lewis University, recognizing continual improvement and progression. In just one year, Lewis jumped nine spots with an overall rank of 13 in the Best Regional Universities (Midwest) category.

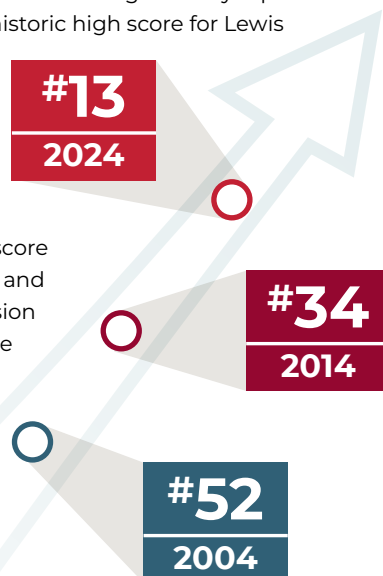
The *U.S. News* ranking of Lewis has continuously improved from No. 52 in 2004, to No. 34 in 2014, and No. 13 in 2024.

“The remarkable growth in our reputation in the last two decades recognizes our progressive and responsive approach to meeting students where they are,” said Dr. David Livingston, president of Lewis University.

The most notable change in ranking factors this year was Lewis’ Peer Assessment Score, which indicates how a school is regarded by top administrators at other institutions. The historic high score for Lewis was calculated from the weighted, two-year rolling average of ratings on academic quality received by presidents, provosts and deans of admissions at institutions in a peer assessment survey.

“Our historically high peer assessment score reflects the recognition of the dedication and expertise of our faculty and staff, the passion and commitment of our students, and the transformative impact of our programs,” Livingston added.

Lewis was also recognized for its programs in Computer Science, Engineering and Nursing.



Best Regional Universities (Midwest) Rankings

Forbes Advisor’s Rank Lewis No. 3 on Best Online Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice

The Forbes Advisor editorial team recently featured the 10 best U.S. universities offering online criminal justice master’s programs on its website. The independent team explored the most unique aspects of each program and covered critical factors to consider when choosing a school. Lewis’ Criminal Justice program was ranked No. 3 in the United States.

“A member of the Academic Alliance of the FBI National Academy Associates, Lewis University offers its students networking and experiential opportunities with its industry partners,” Forbes Advisor noted as one of the many reasons Lewis was highlighted. “In the M.S. in Criminal Justice, students learn to analyze critical issues and apply ethical reasoning to complex situations,” it added.

The online M.S. in Criminal Justice program is an excellent option for students who want to advance their careers in criminal justice. The program is flexible, affordable, and rigorous. Graduates have an enhanced personal capacity to excel in criminal justice and increased potential for career advancement. Many Lewis alumni hold high-level and public sector positions in the FBI, Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, and numerous state and local police departments.

Learn more about the M.S. Criminal Justice at lewisu.edu/academics/masterscrim/index.htm

UNIVERSITY UPDATES



SOUTH HALL RENOVATION PROJECT SUPPORTS PROGRAM EXPANSION IN HEALTH SCIENCES

The Lewis University South Hall Renovation Project kicked off September 14 with a few ceremonial swings of the hammer. The revitalization project ushers in a new era of innovation and growth in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dr. Christopher Sindt, provost, and Teresa Krejci, vice president for finance and chief financial officer, offered words of gratitude for those working on the initiative, including Mortenson, McNitt Consulting, and Baranski Hammer Moretta Sheehy.

Dr. David Livingston, president, also expressed appreciation to the supporters of the renovation. “The University is making a significant investment in expanding resources to prepare students to enter the field of health sciences, but it also takes investments from others. In order to enhance these spaces with the latest technology and resources we look to partner with our alumni, benefactors, and others in the health industry.”

He extended a special note of thanks to key benefactors, including Board of Trustee members Scott Likens’96, Ed Sanchez and Jody Sanchez.

Brother Peter Hannon, FSC, offered a blessing on the project, a multi-phased initiative aimed at revitalizing and expanding the existing building to enhance its health

science program offerings and foster collaboration among faculty and students in parallel programs.

The first phase of this transformative project commenced in October, and encompasses a comprehensive renovation of 16,000 square feet of existing space within South Hall. The ambitious renovation will result in the creation of state-of-the-art facilities, including: new laboratories (a Synthetic Cadaver Lab, Neuro Lab, Pediatric Lab, Ortho/Movement Lab, and Splinting/Casting laboratories); tutorial and meeting rooms; upgraded classrooms; new offices, lounges, and restrooms.

This significant undertaking is scheduled to continue through the summer of 2024, with a focus on meticulous planning and execution to ensure minimal disruption to ongoing academic activities.

One of the most exciting aspects of this renovation project is the addition of a new Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program, which will significantly broaden Lewis University’s health science offerings. The DPT program is expected to welcome its first cohort of students in January 2025, pending approval for the CAPTE accreditation required for the program.

Applicants should apply through the PTCAS system at <https://ptcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

LEWIS UNIVERSITY AND ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE COMPLETE FIRST STEP OF MERGER

With the approval of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission, St. Augustine College has joined Lewis University as of December 1, 2023.

This exciting step forward brings together two historically significant institutions and maximizes their ability to advance educational opportunities connected to the most in-demand careers of the future.

From its humble beginnings in 1932, when 15 students enrolled in an aviation-focused curriculum, to now becoming the eighth largest, private, not-for-profit university, in Illinois, Lewis University has been a leader in integrating liberal arts with professional preparation. St. Augustine College, established in 1980, was the first bilingual institution in the Midwest creating a welcoming environment for Hispanic students in Chicago to enroll and achieve in college. Today, St. Augustine serves Hispanic and other under-represented groups, graduating students in high-demand majors, such as Respiratory Therapy and Early Childhood Education.

“This affiliation was possible because two institutions, fully aligned in their mission of serving students, are becoming stronger together”, Dr. David Livingston, president of Lewis University, said.

“St. Augustine College always has reached out to students often overlooked by traditional higher education. The expanded opportunities our affiliation with Lewis University will be transformational to

entire families in the Chicago area”, Dr. Reyes Gonzalez, president of St. Augustine College, said.

The final step of the process will occur following formal approval by the U.S. Department of Education. Until that final step occurs, Lewis and St

Augustine will actively partner while maintaining their separate and independent accreditations and degree-granting authority.

“In a future that will require increased levels of training and education for success, we can serve as a model for all of higher education that through collaboration, rather than competition, students will be the ultimate beneficiaries”, Dr. Livingston, concluded.

Visit lewisu.edu/st-augustine/ for more information.



ALUMNI TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY TO FRANCE ARRIVES MAY 21-JUNE 1, 2024 AT LEWIS

Alumni travel is an excellent method that colleges and universities use to bring members of their extended community back together around common interests. It is a wonderful vehicle for re-engagement with previous classmates as well as for meeting new alumni with common interests from other graduating years. Lewis University was missing this opportunity even though it felt linked to our Lasallian Mission and values, especially those of association, knowledge, and wisdom.

As we grew and kept moving forward, an alumni travel program might have just gotten overlooked. However, out of the shutdown of student travel abroad caused by the COVID pandemic, came the idea for a new Lewis alumni travel program. In Spring 2020, when her upcoming 3rd Study Abroad trip to Greece was canceled for Dr. Eleftheria Karapas, associate professor of Graduate Nursing, it left 28 approved nursing students without the exciting adventure they were anticipating. During subsequent encounters with these students, they would ask, "Professor, are we ever going to Greece?" And because the outlook with the pandemic was so tenuous, she would say, "By the time we can go, you will all be alumni."

It was at this point that Dr. Karapas began thinking more intently about this matter. Out of

curiosity she started to explore whether Lewis had an alumni travel program. When she found out there was no such program in place, she then tried to determine why this was never established, speaking with people on campus with long Lewis histories. In exploring if this was an idea worth developing further, she felt encouraged by our campus thought leaders and supported by the Provost from the onset. She worked on developing a new program for Lewis Alumni Travel that could be adapted to different groups of Lewis graduates with common interests. It is built upon the concept of the Lasallian lifelong learner seeking purposeful engagement through meaningful association with other alumni.

Dr. Karapas built this first trip, Journey Through France – Exploring Culture and Traditions, Enriching Mind and Soul for Lewis nursing alumni who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary as a Lewis program. This 10-day trip leaves May 21, 2023 for Paris and will be led by Dr. Karapas and Dr. Dennis Cremin, professor of History. Being the first alumni venture, France was the obvious choice for its ability to offer a rich tapestry of history, art, religion, and the healing arts. Most importantly, it will allow the alumni to make the pilgrimage to Reims, visit the home of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and other



important sites that shaped his vision and led to the foundation of the Christian Brothers. The trip is to be reflective and restorative for participants; there are structured times along the way for guided group discussions, tying into the themes and events of the places visited.

Now, lifelong learners who have graduated from Lewis will have some creative and fun opportunities to gather in new places and continue their Lasallian learning together albeit

in a non-traditional way. Dr. Karapas hopes that other groups and degree programs within the University, will see this as a way to reach back out to their own alumni, building a unique Alumni Travel event to re-engage their former students.

Sign up and detailed information for the nursing alumni travel program can be found at alumni.lewisu.edu/file/2024-Journey-Through-France.pdf on the alumni website.



PROJECT GO GRANT RENEWED FOR ROTC CADETS

The Foreign Language Program recently renewed its \$320,000 Project Global Officer grant contract with the Institute of International Education (IIE) for 2023-2024.

Project GO is a nationwide program open to all qualified ROTC students offering fully funded opportunities in critical language education. Project GO's broad goal is to prepare future military officers for overseas military and peace-making operations.

Lewis University Project GO will provide a residential 8-week program in Elementary Russian for 28 ROTC cadets and midshipmen in the summer of 2024. The Project GO director is Dr. Serafima Gettys, associate professor and coordinator of the Foreign Language Program.

Any interested ROTC cadet should register at <https://www.lewisu.edu/projectgo/webinars.htm>



RESEARCH IN COLOMBIA PRESENTED AT MIDWEST NOYCE CONFERENCE

Lewis University was well represented at the 2023 Midwest Noyce Conference in St. Louis on October 21. Four faculty and six students attended the conference for Noyce scholars. The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program provides scholarships and programmatic funding support to recruit and prepare STEM majors and professionals to become K-12 teachers.

Kara Hosman '20, a secondary education graduate student and biology alumna, and Dr. Jerry

Kavouras, chair of biology, presented "Improving Cultural Responsiveness as a Member of an International Research Team."

They discussed how the program "Soil, People, the Environment, and Food for Life" benefited students interested in a career as high school STEM teachers. The program was an international collaboration with the Universidad de La Salle in Bogota, Colombia and University of Delaware where students and faculty study the problem

of climate change and soil degradation and the potential of biochar as a solution. The program also sought to improve cultural competencies and communication skills as the students worked as a research team and participated in cultural activities and field trips in Colombia and the United States.

Lewis faculty Dr. Dorene Huvaere and Dr. Teresa Bixby collaborated with faculty from Aurora University, Northeastern Illinois University, and Elmhurst University to share "Recruiting

and Retaining Racially/Ethnicity, Linguistically, and Gender-diverse STEM Teacher Educators Who are Prepared to Teach Students in Culturally Relevant Ways."

Dr. Huvaere served on the conference's steering committee. She has been instrumental in obtaining Noyce funding for two grants for future STEM educators.

To learn more about the Noyce program at Lewis, visit lewisu.edu/noyce/.



JET FUEL REVIEW TAKES CMA PINNACLE AWARD FOR 5TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the fifth consecutive year, Lewis University's *Jet Fuel Review* has earned recognition the College Media Association with the Pinnacle Award. This year, the student-run magazine won third place in the "Best Literary Magazine" Overall Design category for Issue #25, its Spring 2023 edition.

The journal features work by Lewis University students and faculty as well as international artists, and includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, interviews, book reviews, art and eBooks.

The high-octane literary journal staff includes students, alumni, and faculty. The editors include Selena Tomas, Lauren Lotarski, Samuel McFerron, Haley Leon, Jovaughn Williams, Harper Saglier, Alexandra Martinez, Alyssa Khuffash, Patricia Damocles, Stephanie Karas and Andrea Y. Rodriguez.

Dr. Simone Muench, professor of English Studies and director of Creative & Professional Writing, serves as the chief faculty advisor for the student magazine. Dr. Jackie K. White, professor *emeritus*, served

as reader and consultant. Alumna Mary Egan '11 is the founder of the magazine.

Persons of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to submit their creative writing and artwork for review with the chance of being featured in the next issue of the *Jet Fuel Review*.

Visit jetfuelreview.com to read the latest issue and submission guidelines.

Sartell Presents Paper and Receives Grant for Calligraphy Research

Dr. Elizabeth Sartell (Assistant Professor, Theology) presented a paper entitled “Mystical Calligraphy: Writing Across Worlds” at the American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual conference in San Antonio, Texas from Nov 18-21. There, she shared her research on the ways in which the calligraphic or written forms of the Arabic letters are interpreted symbolically in Islamic mystical traditions. Dr. Sartell also received a Wabash Center grant for her project, “Calligraphy & Creativity in the Classroom.” The \$5,000 grant will provide funding to incorporate arts-based experiential learning into her Islamic Studies classrooms.

Sherry Collaborates with Lasallian Colleague and Lewis Alumnae on Publications

Dr. Daisy Sherry (Associate Professor and Program Director, DNP) collaborated on two recently published articles. The first was a collaboration with Dr. Frances DiAnna Kinder from La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pa. Their article published in the November 2023 volume of *Axis: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education* is entitled “Advanced Practice Nurse Faculty Perception,” and it explores the perceptions of Lasallian Advance Practice Nurse (APN) educators in dual roles of faculty and health care provider.

The second article entitled “An Introduction to Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Excellence in Nurse Education: Literature Review” was published on January 12, 2023 in the *Asian/Pacific Island Nursing Journal*. This paper aims to describe the findings of a literature review that introduces DEI concepts for excellence in nurse education and their related benefits. It was written with Emily Ganek, Romy Antonnette P. Sazon, and Lauren Gray, recent Lewis University alumnae from the MSN Nurse education track.

Stone and Kissel Co-Author Paper with Students

On June 9, 2023, Dr. Kari Stone (Associate Professor, Chemistry) and Dr. Dan Kissel (Associate Professor, Chemistry) published a paper in *American Chemical Society Omega* entitled, “Buffer Effects in Zirconium-Based UiO Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) That Influence Enzyme Immobilization and Catalytic Activity in Enzyme/MOF Biocatalysts.” This work was published with two Lewis undergraduates and two Lewis graduate students as coauthors.

Muench Recipient of Fellowship in Poetry

Dr. Simone Muench (Professor, English Studies) is the recipient of a 2023 Illinois Arts Council Agency Fellowship in Poetry.

Tsai, Page, and Alumnus Publish Research Article

In Fall 2023, Dr. Kami Tsai (Assistant Professor, Psychology) and Dr. Lesley Page (Professor, Organizational Leadership), along with Lewis University graduate, Cameron Edom (B.A. Psychology, '21), published a research article in the *Journal of Managerial Issues*. The article is titled “The Roles of Positive Affect, Leadership, and Support in Student Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Vitente Publishes Two Articles in Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation Journal

Dr. Arvie Vitente (Professor and Program Director, DPT) recently published articles on the feasibility of administering Timed Up and Go via Telerehabilitation and the validity and reliability of virtually obtained functional outcomes in older adults in the Telehealth Special Issue of *Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation Journal* (November 2023). These pilot studies mark the beginning of ongoing research into the validity, reliability, and feasibility of telehealth-obtained outcome measures, including Timed-Up and Go, 2-minute step test, and 30-second chair stand test. Preliminary findings suggest that these measures can be conducted virtually with accurate scoring and results.

Honnold Presents Papers at Two International Conferences

Dr. Adrienne Honnold (Assistant Professor, Music) presented papers at two international conferences in 2023. At the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM) Conference held at the University of Minnesota in June, she presented a paper entitled “The Saxophone is ‘Alright,’” which explored the saxophone’s connotative function in Kendrick Lamar’s hit song which is considered the anthem of the Black Lives Matter movement. In September, Honnold presented a paper at the International Conference on Women’s Work in Music hosted by Bangor University in Wales. The presentation featured an overview of topics related to Elise Hall (1853-1924), a pioneering saxophonist, patron, and impresario who was integral to the early history of the saxophone. Honnold and Dr. Kurt Bertels of KU Leuven in Belgium recently co-edited a book about Hall, *The Legacy of Elise Hall: Contemporary Perspectives on Gender and the Saxophone*, which will be published in March 2024.

Business Analytics Chair and Assistant Professors Present at MBAA International

Drs. Ibrahim Mescioglu (Professor and Chair, Business Analytics), Eunjung Lee (Assistant Professor, Business Analytics) and Zheng Zhou (Assistant Professor, Business Analytics) presented their research at the Society for the Advancement of Information Systems track of the Midwest Business Administration Association (MBAA) International 2023 Conference on March 22-24 in Chicago. The College of Business faculty presented “Graduate Business Analytics Curriculum Update: A Case Study in Pedagogy and Assessment.”

Vitente Appointed Secretary of the Clinical Education Commission of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy

Dr. Arvie Vitente (Professor and Program Director, DPT) was appointed Secretary of the Clinical Education Commission of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) in October 2023. The commission is dedicated to supporting ACAPT’s mission to enhance physical therapist (PT) clinical education by identifying academic PT needs, serving as a key advisory voice, guiding effective initiatives, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the dissemination of best practices for excellence in PT clinical education in the country.



450+ STUDENT-ATHLETES RECEIVE A BOOST

In the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship, the 450+ student-athletes kicked off their fundraising efforts this year. Their dedication, along with the incredible generosity of two individuals, Tim Ferrarell '79 '83, Men's Basketball, and Jim Sefcik '69 led to a fundraising campaign that left the entire Lewis community cheering!

Tim Ferrarell '79 '83 and Jim Sefcik '69 were the driving forces behind this year's successful campaign. They challenged the Lewis community to step up to the plate by offering to match all donations dollar for dollar up to \$45,000.

"In order for us to continue building championship programs, we need support from alumni and friends in addition to the investments the University is making. I am matching gifts because I believe our coaches and athletes are champions, and I want to encourage us to build a pipeline of support over the years so that we can be nationally recognized as a Division 2 Powerhouse! Go Flyers" stated Tim Ferrarell '79 '83.

With the promise that every gift made would double in impact, 516 alumni and friends eagerly stepped up to answer the challenge and raise \$148,685 for our student - athletes.

The 450+ student-athletes would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated in supporting the Flyers. In particular, a special thank you goes out to Tim Ferrarell '79 '83 and Jim Sefcik '69, whose investment in our Flyers has left an indelible mark on the future of our athletic programs.

Your support will make a real difference and help our student-athletes soar to even greater heights.

Together, we can continue to build a legacy of success on and off the field!



MEN'S SOCCER SEASON ENDS IN FIRST FINAL FOUR APPEARANCE SINCE 2009

The Lewis University men's soccer team's season came to an end as the Flyers fell to reigning national champion Franklin Pierce 3-2 in the NCAA DII Final Four at the Matthews Sportsplex on December 7.

Revell tried to quickly score to start the match but it was off target. Franklin Pierce responded on the attack as Aaron Sanchez Sanchez found Younes Addar Khanoussi for the goal in the eighth minute which made it 1-0.

The Ravens looked to quickly make it 2-0 with a pair of shots but one was off target and Doppelhofer saved the other one. Revell went on the attack for the Flyers looking to knot it up at 1 but FPU's goalie saved it.

FPU recorded four more shots in the first half but none found the back of the net including a pair of saves by Doppelhofer. Kuba Chrapczynski looked to tie the match right before the half but his shot went out right.

Franklin Pierce came out of the second half looking to take a 2-0 lead early but their shot went out top right. Lewis was able to tie the contest at 1 after Revell found Gorodnickis and his shot found the back of the net.

FPU was able to respond two minutes later and tie the contest in the 64th minute as Addar Khanoussi converted on his second goal of the contest. The Ravens moved quickly looked to take the lead after firing off numerous shots but Doppelhofer was able to save them.

FPU broke through and took the lead in the 77' after Rodrigo Parafita Bestilleiro found Antonio Lampreia Lima for the goal to make it 3-2. FPU recorded five more shots the rest of the way looking to build on its lead but Doppelhofer picked up three saves to keep the score 3-2.

Lewis finishes the season 13-4-6 after making the program's third ever trip to the NCAA DII Final Four and first since 2009.

Lewis Leaders:

Goals: Charles Carlback (1), Arturs Gorodnickis (1)

Assists: Mikey Revell (1)

Shots: Gorodnickis (2), Revell (2)

Shots on goal: Carlback (1), Gorodnickis (1)

Saves: Sebastian Doppelhofer (9)

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS



WOMEN CAPTURE GLVC CROWN, FINISH 15TH AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS; SMRCKA WINS GLVC RUNNER OF THE YEAR

The Lewis University women's cross country team finished 15th overall at the NCAA DII National Championships on Nov. 18. The Flyers finished with 428 points to conclude the 2023-2024 season.

Leading the way for Lewis was junior Hannah Smrcka, who finished the 6K race with a time of 21:01.5. Senior Anna Kozak was the next Flyer to cross the finish line after recording a time of 21:42.4.

Senior Abbey Kozak was not far behind Anna as she finished with a time of 21:42.5. Senior Caroline Pacer-Ryan crossed the finish line next for Lewis after recording a time of 21:44.4.

Sophomore Kate Guderjan was right behind Pacer-Ryan after finishing the race with a time of 22:02.1. Following Guderjan was junior Naylah Allen who recorded a time of 22:09.8. Graduate student Rachael Morrison finished the race for Lewis recording a final time of 22:55.6.

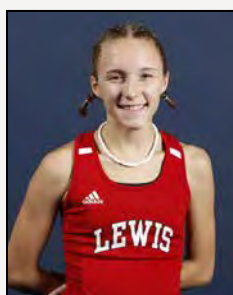
Lewis Results (6k)

(47th) Hannah Smrcka –21:01.5
 (84th) Anna Kozak–21:42.4
 (85th) Abbey Kozak–21:42.5

(90th) Caroline Pacer-Ryan– 21:44.4
 (122nd) Kate Guderjan–22:02.1
 (138th) Naylah Allen–22:09.8
 (191st) Rachael Morrison–22:55.6

Earlier in the year, the team won its **fifth GLVC Conference Title** after finishing with 28 points.

- Hannah Smrcka won the GLVC Championships and won GLVC Runner of the Year.
- James Kearney won GLVC Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year.



Smrcka



Kearney



Horgan

Earlier in the year, the team won its **16th GLVC Conference Title** after finishing with 44 points. Evan Horgan GLVC Freshman Runner of the Year.

- James Kearney won GLVC Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year.

MEN CLAIM GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE, FINISH 21ST AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS; HORGAN WINS GLVC FRESHMAN RUNNER OF THE YEAR

The Lewis University men's cross country team finished 21st at the NCAA DII National Championships on Nov. 18. The Flyers finished with 549 points. This concludes the Flyers 2023-2024 season.

Leading the way for Lewis was junior Charlie Wirth who finished the 10K race with a time of 30:42.9. Freshman Evan Horgan was the next Flyer to cross the finish line.

Senior Sean Ryan was not far behind Horgan as he finished with a time of 31:35.3. Senior Evan Jamrozy crossed the finish line next for Lewis after recording a time of 31:40.6.

Senior Casey Quintana was right behind Jamrozy after finishing the race with a time of 31:47.3. Next up for Lewis was senior Daniel Arimi, who had a time of 31:59.5.

Payton Goudreau finished next for the Flyers after the senior crossed the finish line with a time of 32:19.6.

Lewis Results (10k)

(52nd) Charlie Wirth–30:42.9
 (106th) Evan Horgan –31:24.4
 (124th) Sean Ryan–31:35.3

(130th) Evan Jamrozy–31:40.6
 (137th) Casey Quintana–31:47.3
 (158th) Daniel Arimi–31:59.5
 (184th) Payton Goudreau–32:19.6



LEWIS WOMEN'S SOCCER FALLS TO MCKENDREE IN GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP

The Lewis University women's soccer team ended its run in the GLVC Tournament with a 1-0 loss to McKendree in the GLVC Championship Match. Grace DeVaux, Bekah Nielsen, and Anna Stearns were named to the GLVC All-Tournament Team.

During the first half, McKendree attacked early, recording the first shot on goal in the match in the fourth minute, but Nielsen made the stop. The Bearcats kept coming with shots on net in the 21st, 27th and 30th minutes, with Nielsen racking up three more saves to keep the match scoreless.

McKendree got on the board with a goal at the 42:48 mark, as the shot went just inside the top-left corner of the net. Lewis was unable to record a shot in the opening half.

Culver recorded the first shot for the Flyers in the 49th minute, sending the ball on target, but it was saved by the Bearcats goalkeeper. Nielsen had another big save in the 57th minute to keep it a one-goal deficit.

Nielsen kept Lewis close with two more saves, in the 65th and 84th minutes before the Flyers went back on the attack in the final five minutes. DeVaux got a shot on goal in the 88th minute, but the save was made. Morgan Krupp took a shot in the 89th minute, but it went wide.

The women's soccer team advanced to the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship on PKs against top seeded Maryville 0-0 (3-0) on Friday (Nov. 10) at Corwin Clatt Stadium at the Eastside Centre in the GLVC Tournament Semifinal round.



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SECURES THIRD STRAIGHT GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP

The No. 2 seed Lewis University women's volleyball team swept No. 1 Missouri-St. Louis Sunday (Nov. 19) to win the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship. The Flyers hit an incredible .442 in the match and had 12 blocks to secure its third GLVC title in a row.

Lewis seniors Bella Ray, Lauren Stenman, and Juliana Van Loo earned GLVC All-Tournament Team honors.

It was 2-2 early, but UMSL went on a 7-0 run with four kills and two aces to take the lead. After a Lewis timeout, the Flyers went on a 13-4 charge with five kills and four blocks to snag the advantage.

Later, an 8-3 push for Lewis made it 23-17 Flyers. The Tritons took three of the next four points, but a service error secured the set for Lewis. The Flyers hit .414 in the opening set.

Lewis started the second set hot, taking a 6-2 advantage after back-to-back aces by Hickey. After a timeout by UMSL, the Tritons took six of the next eight points, all on kills, to even the score at eight.

The teams traded runs and were tied up again at 13, when the Flyers used a 5-1 run to regain the lead. UMSL took three of the next four points, but that was as close as the set would get.

Avery Holubar capped a 4-0 Lewis run with a service ace to make the score 23-17 for the Flyers. Schlechte finished off the set win with a kill, as the Lewis offense stayed hot, hitting .433 in the frame.

The Flyers scored the first two points of set three, but the Tritons pushed back with a 6-2 run including five kills to take the early lead. Later, four consecutive UMSL attack errors headlined a 5-0 Lewis run to go ahead 10-7.

The Tritons got back to within one, but four straight Flyers kills made it a 16-11 advantage and prompted another UMSL timeout. The Tritons scored four of the next six points before the teams traded 4-0 runs, with Lewis calling a timeout to regroup holding a 22-19 lead.

From there, it was all Flyers. A block, an attack error by the Tritons, and a kill by Schlechte secured Lewis' third consecutive GLVC Championship. The Flyers hit .481 and frustrated UMSL attackers with seven blocks in the final set.

GLVC COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS' ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Great Lakes Valley Conference announced on June 29 that Lewis University had 41 GLVC Council of Presidents' Academic Excellence Awards.

The recipients of the GLVC Council of Presidents' Academic Excellence Award exemplify the outstanding student-athletes in the GLVC. Each honoree has exhausted his or her eligibility in the intercollegiate sport in which they participated and maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average throughout their entire academic career.

To be eligible for this award, the student-athletes must have competed in the GLVC for a minimum of two years and completed 96 credit hours. A student-athlete can only earn the distinguished honor one time in his or her career.

GLVC Council of Presidents' Academic Excellence Award Student-Athletes

David Ascencio, Matthew Helwig, Cherokee LeBeau, Atakan Sahinkaya, Vlado Zrnica, Kae Barth-Lofton, Stephanie Hart, Ryann Ogarek, Lauren Ramsey, Kayla Dench, Ricardo Del Toro, Daniel Ford, Jonathan Goetsch, Sophia Wilks, Ian Fitzpatrick, Leighton Rutherford, Cole Roth, Soren Thrawl, Paige Bracey, Skylar Lucich, Daniel Manger, Jose Mendoza, Julia Barenbaum, Alexandra Dennis, Abigail Gustafson, Allison Lankowicz, Faith Lewis, Carrie Anderson, Maggie Joutras, Adrian Wlodarz, Constance Senese, Marit de Lau, Pedja Trifunovic, Anastasiia Salenko, Jovana Vujanovic, Justin Rivers, Kyla Chalmers, Jozlyn Garcia, Victoria Hagg, Jena Martin, Alexandra Martinez



16 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, 299 ATHLETES EARN ACADEMIC ALL-GLVC HONOR

The Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) announced on June 26 that the Lewis University Athletics Department had 16 programs earn Team Academic All-GLVC awards, which was tied for the most in the league along with Maryville University.

The GLVC recognizes each team from member institutions which have maintained a 3.30 grade point average for the academic year.

Team Academic All-GLVC Programs

- Women's Tennis (3.66)
- Women's Basketball (3.62)
- Women's Golf (3.61)
- Men's Golf (3.60)
- Women's Track and Field (3.59)
- Men's Cross Country (3.58)
- Women's Volleyball (3.57)
- Women's Cross Country (3.56)
- Softball (3.54)
- Men's Tennis (3.53)
- Women's Soccer (3.51)
- Women's Swimming (3.49)
- Baseball (3.48)
- Women's Lacrosse (3.46)
- Men's Track and Field (3.38)
- Women's Bowling (3.35)

Academic All-GLVC Student-Athletes

A total of 299 Lewis student-athletes were selected to the 2022-23 Academic All-Great Lakes Valley Conference Team. The 299 selections are the most in school history.

Lewis had 36 student-athletes with perfect 4.00 GPA's for 2022-23 which is also the most in school history.

35 ATHLETES EARN BROTHER JAMES GAFFNEY, FSC DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD

The Great Lakes Valley Conference announced on Wednesday (June 28) that 35 Lewis University student-athletes earned the Brother James Gaffney, FSC Distinguished Scholar Award.

The award is named after Gaffney, who served as Lewis' President for 28 years and was a two-term Chair of the GLVC Council of Presidents. The award is given to student-athletes who achieved a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average during the course of the academic year.

Br. James Gaffney, FSC Distinguished Scholar Award Winners

Michael Alt, Jack Blazeovich, Ray Cantelo, Matthew Torres, Ian Bollinger, Nolan Dalep, Josh Steinkopf, Charles Carlback, Jayrell Garcia, Matthew Senese, Kirill Sidorko, Boris Reckow, Kathryn Schmidt, Erica Lohr, Madilyn Calloway, Kristen Ess, Abigail Kozak, Rachael Morrison, Dayanna Sanchez, Sydney Wolf, Meltonique Bowen, Paige Bracey, Alex Dennis, Kenedi Jones, Faith Lewis, Alejandra Melo, Meghan Bontrager, Maggie Joutras, Gabi Nilles, Constance Senese, Grace Suefloh, Jozlyn Garcia, Hannah Alvey, Emma O'Neill, Bella Ray

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S VOLLEYBALL EARN TEAM AWARDS

The United States Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association announced the collegiate volleyball teams that have earned the USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award and Lewis women's volleyball and Lewis men's volleyball were part of the two programs that were awarded this distinction.

The award, initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale.

The women's volleyball team recorded a 3.57 combined GPA during the 2022-23 school year. The program was one of 155 Division II schools to earn the award on the women's side.

The men's volleyball program achieved a 3.45 team GPA for 2022-23. The men were one of 43 collegiate men's programs to receive the award.

USTFCCCA ANNOUNCES 2023 NCAA TRACK AND FIELD ALL-ACADEMIC ATHLETES

All-Academic Athletes for the 2023 NCAA Division II Track & Field seasons were announced by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) and Lewis had 10 men recipients and 13 women were also awarded.

The criteria must be met to be named an NCAA Division II All-Academic Athlete:

- Minimum cumulative grade point average of a 3.25 on a 4.0 scale through the end of the semester of competition.
- Must have completed at least 24 semester hours/36 quarter hours through the end of the semester of competition at the institution.

Transfer students and/or graduate students are to include only grades earned at the current nominating institution.

The student-athlete must have achieved an automatic or provisional qualifying mark (individual or relay event) for either the indoor season or outdoor season.

USTFCCCA All-Academic Student-Athletes

(Men) Will DeBolt, Daniel Ford, Ian Morrison, Zach Olenek, Justin Rivers, Aubrey Smith, Tyler Toussaint, Connor Wagner, Charlie Wirth

(Women) Kyla Chalmers, Jaden Christian, Anna Kozak, Khristel Martindale, Alexandra Martinez, Rachael Morrison, Rose Ogbuli, Caroline Pacer, Nadia Roberts, Hannah Smrcka, Aliza Van Den Elzen, Sydney Wolf, Faith Wyman.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL LANDS 19 ON ACADEMIC ALL-MIVA

The Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (MIVA) announced on Tuesday (June 13) that Lewis University had 19 MIVA Academic All-Conference award winners which led the league.

There were 107 athletes in all who received the award. Lewis had 19 representatives which led the MIVA,



Loyola-Chicago was right behind with 18 and McKendree landed 16 student-athletes.

To be eligible, student-athletes must have achieved at least a career 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale after the completion of the spring semester.

Academic All-MIVA Student-Athletes

Isaac Benka, Cole Brillhart, Chase Celichowski, Ryan Collins, John Davis, Nathan DeGraaf, Syver Drolsum, Antonio Elias Rodriguez, Kevin Kauling, Connor Keating, Alec Lehnert, Tyler Morgan, Nico Paula, Jared Phelan, Max Roquet, Michael Sack, Tyler Simpson, Cole Sweitzer, Piotr Wymoczył



CORRECTION. On page 21 of the Spring '23 magazine, we omitted the following sentence in the Max Strus article. "Debra Strus, his mother, played basketball and volleyball at DePaul and was inducted into the University's athletics Hall of Fame in 2000." View the republished article online by scanning the QR code or visiting lewisu.edu/publications/magazines/.

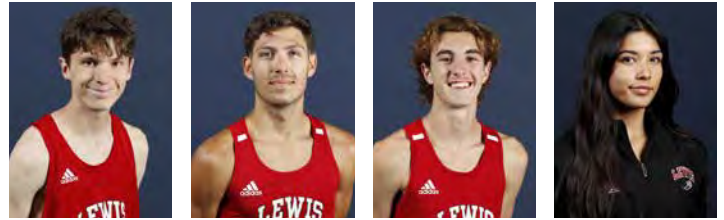


ANDRE DRAFTED BY VANCOUVER WARRIORS IN 2023 NLL DRAFT

Graduate Student Drew Andre became the second Lewis University men's lacrosse player to be drafted in the National Lacrosse League as the Vancouver Warriors used its sixth round, 84th pick to select the middle from Pitt Meadows, British Columbia, Canada.

"Drew has played a critical role in building Lewis Lacrosse into the program we are today," Lewis Men's Lacrosse Head Coach Joe Perruzzi said. "His growth and maturation into an elite leader, teammate and player has been an asset to our program and our ability to compete at the highest level of Division II. He has the skill and work ethic to be a successful NLL player and I am so excited for him to get his opportunity!"

Andre has played four years for Lewis as a middle from 2020-2023 as part of the first class for the Flyers. Andre has played in 46 games for the Flyers over his four years and has recorded 38 goals and 55 assists which has made him the all-time leading point scorer for a midfielder in program history during his four years at Lewis.



Torres

Dunn

Thomas

Hernandez

FOUR LEWIS TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES COMPETED AT USA TRACK AND FIELD U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four Lewis University Track and Field Athletes competed in the USA Track and Field U20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon from Thursday, July 6-Sunday, July 9.

Matthew Torres, Zach Dunn and Owen Thomas ran in the 10K race, while Denise Hernandez (Naperville, Ill.) competed in the long jump competition.

During the season, Hernandez qualified for the NCAA DII Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Lewis Women's Track and Field Alumni Cierra Pulliam also competed in the senior division.

JOHN PLANEK ACCEPTS OPPORTUNITY CLOSER TO HOME



Athletics Director Dr. John Plank has taken a position as Director of Athletics at Dominican University, effective October 31.

For 12 years, the Division II intercollegiate athletic department of Lewis University achieved unprecedented success under his direction. Currently, three of Lewis University's teams are nationally ranked including women's cross country (8), men's cross country (11) and women's volleyball (14). The men's soccer team is currently ranked fourth regionally.

Plank led the Lewis Flyers to unprecedented success.

- Learfield Cup finishes that were all-time highs for the university.
 - › In 2016-17, Lewis University captured a fourth-place finish
 - › In 2018-19, Lewis University earned a sixth-place finish
- Five teams advanced to the Final Four with a national final appearance in men's volleyball while the women's basketball team reached the Elite Eight.
- Women's volleyball appeared in 10 NCAA tournaments
- Women's basketball appeared in the NCAA tournament nine times
- Men's basketball made four NCAA appearances

In the 2022-23 season, Lewis won the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Commissioner's Cup for the best overall performance in the conference's core sports. Lewis won GLVC championships in women's volleyball, women's indoor and outdoor track and field and softball while women's basketball, men's soccer, and men's indoor and outdoor track and field all finished as GLVC runners-up and qualified for their respective NCAA championships.

Also last year, Lewis University's women's golf had an individual earn a trip to the NCAA national championships, while men's swimming had six swimmers qualify for the NCAA regionals along with one women's swimmer.

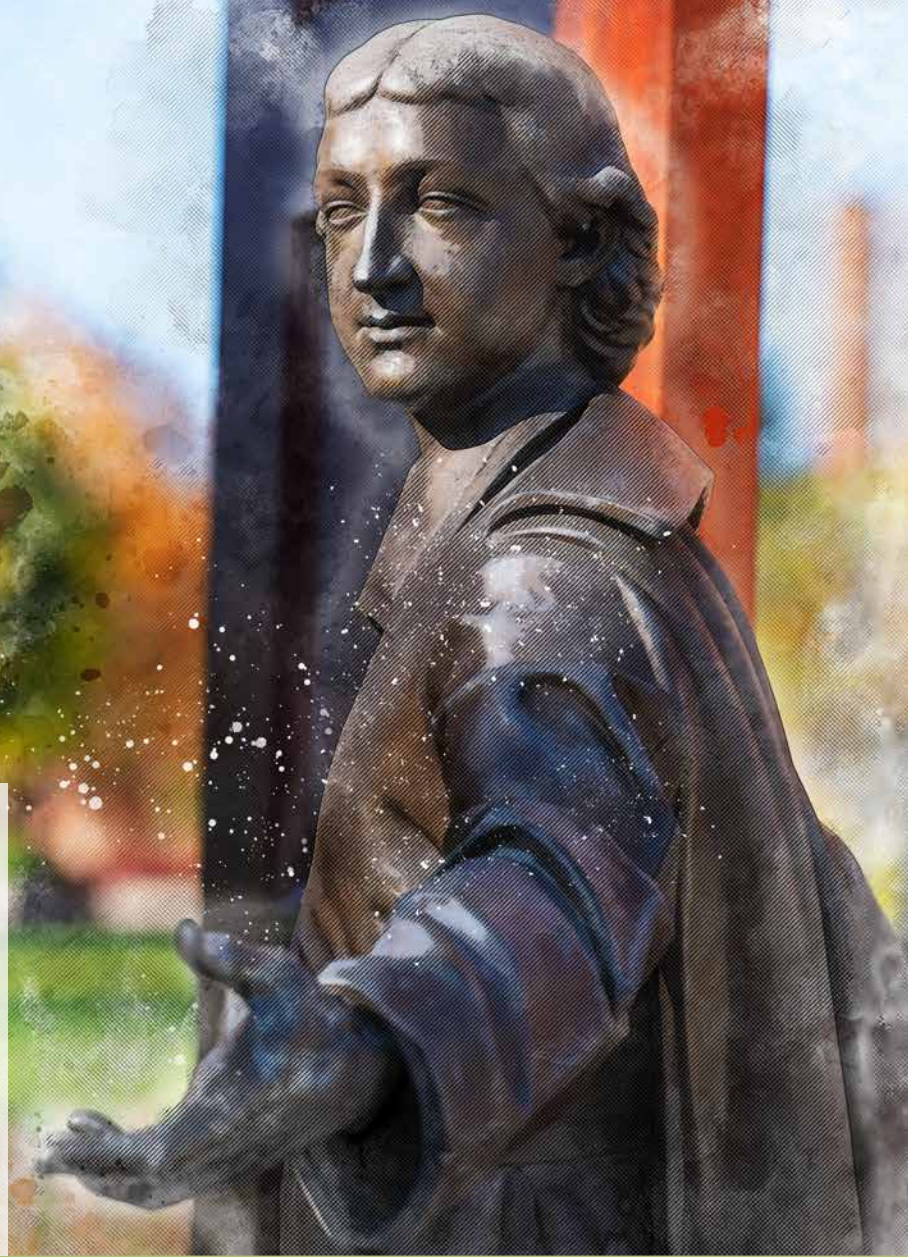
Beyond success on the field, Flyer student-athletes achieved historic success in the classroom during his term.

- 299 Lewis University student-athletes selected to the 2022-23 Academic All-Great Lakes Valley Conference Team
- 36 student-athletes had perfect 4.00 GPAs in 2022-23
- Lewis University Athletics Department received in the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence consecutively from 2016 – 2022

"I want to thank John for his leadership and the tireless dedication he brought to Flyer Athletics," said Dr. Christopher Sindt, provost. "Under his leadership Flyer athletes have achieved great success in the classroom and in competitions. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LEWIS UNIVERSITY



Benefactors, Alumni, and Friends of the University:

We often say that the connection between mission and vision is philanthropy. It is because of the generous support of our Alumni and Donors that Lewis University continues to have a bold vision for the future.

The next several pages highlight the financial strength of Lewis University and more importantly the impact of your generosity. Thank you for believing in our students. I look forward to seeing you on campus or at one of our upcoming events.

Colleen Ahearn, Vice President for University Advancement

Statement of Financial Position (thousands)

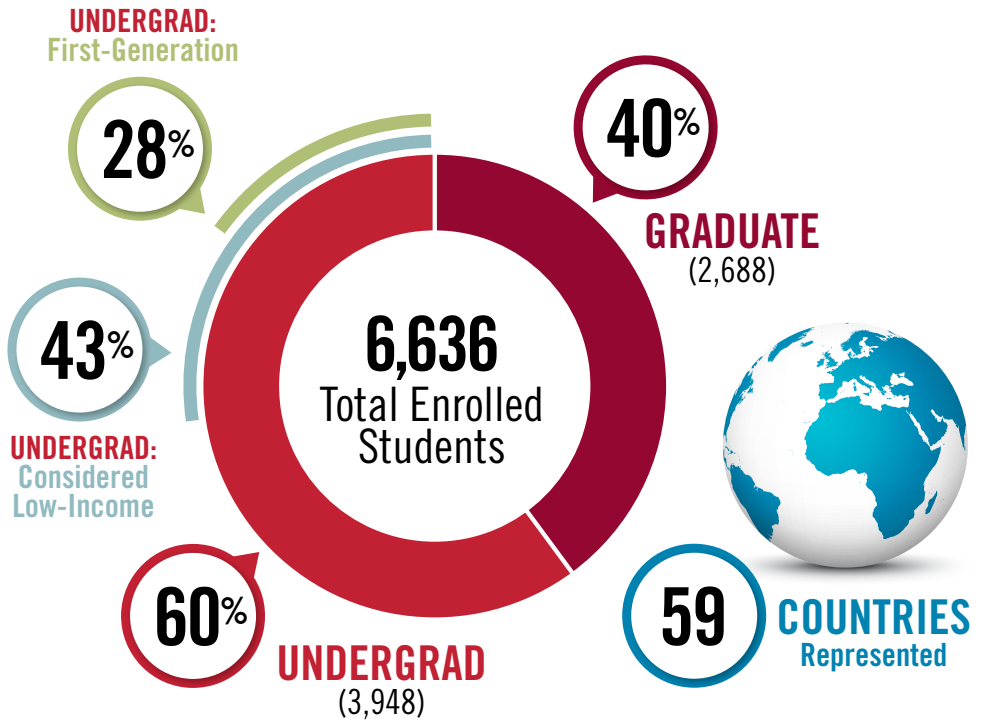
	6/30/23	6/30/22
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$16,778	\$17,759
Investments	113,107	105,050
Receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets	19,246	16,568
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation	137,545	134,885
Total assets	286,675	274,262
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Payables, accrued expenses and other liabilities	21,214	22,207
Long-term debt, net of unamortized debt issuance costs	70,520	72,207
Total liabilities	91,734	94,414
Net assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions	157,705	147,523
With Donor Restrictions	37,236	32,325
Total net assets	194,941	179,848
Total liabilities and net assets	\$286,675	\$274,262

Statement of Activities, With and Without Donor Restrictions (thousands)

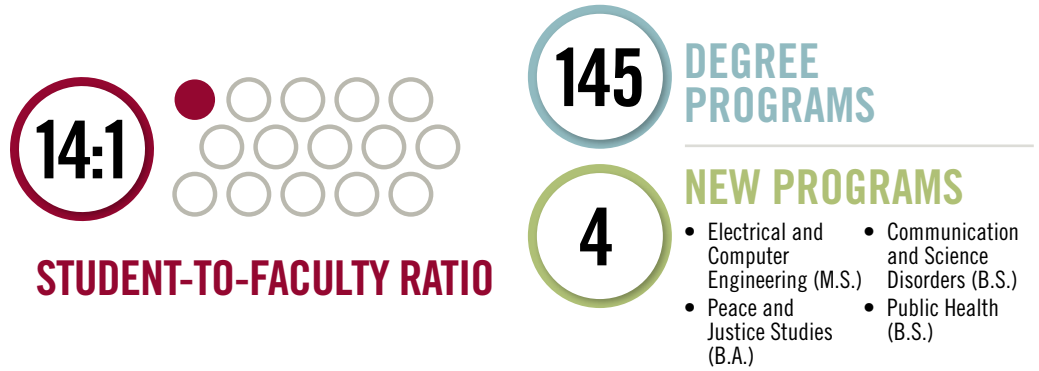
	Year ended	
	6/30/23	6/30/22
Revenue, Income, and Other Support		
Tuition and fees, net	\$103,910	\$100,132
Contributions	5,907	4,823
Government Grants and contracts	6,105	13,407
Other Income & investment return designated for operations	3,056	3,003
Auxiliary enterprises	10,571	10,404
Total revenue, income, and other support	129,550	131,769
Expenses		
Total expenses	123,285	119,888
Change in Net Assets Before Other Activities	6,265	11,880
Other Activities		
Investment return less amounts designated for operations	8,827	(6,804)
Change in Net Assets	15,093	5,077
Net assets, Beginning of Year	179,848	174,772
Net Assets, End of Year	\$194,941	\$179,848

YEAR IN REVIEW

DEMOGRAPHICS



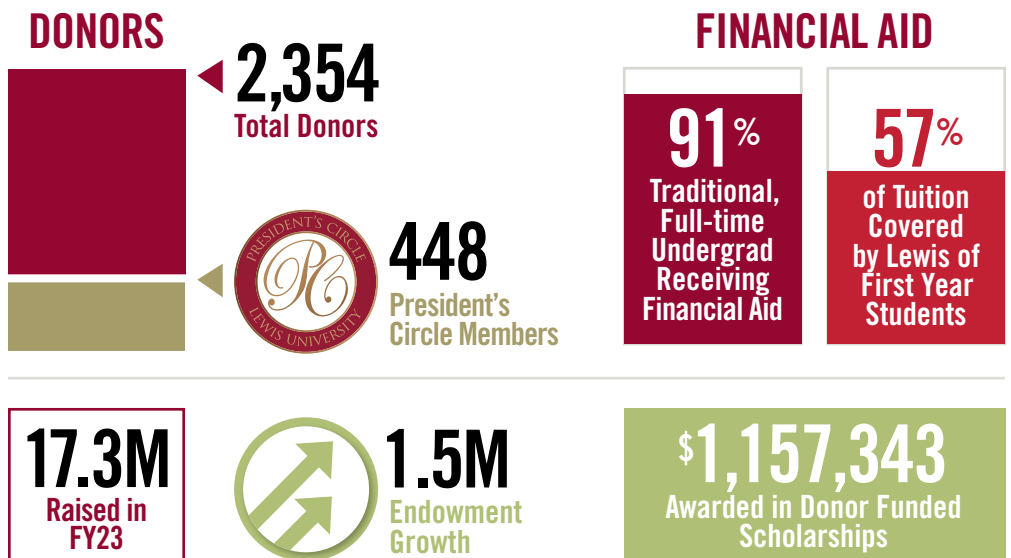
ACADEMICS



ALUMNI



BY THE NUMBERS





Chris Lawson (pictured on the left) being inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame. (Below) Generations of visionaries: Chris' father, Arthur Lawson, planted the seeds of KLOT's success, and now his son has brought that vision to life. A legacy fulfilled through shared dreams and determination.

Chris Lawson '83 Inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame

In Lewis' history of aviation, few names resonate with as much passion, dedication, and hard work as alumnus Chris Lawson. On October 5, 2023, the aviation maintenance graduate from the class of '83 received a well-deserved honor by being inducted into the prestigious Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame. His journey in aviation is not just about personal achievements; it's a story of fulfilling a legacy, transforming an airport, and nurturing the dreams of countless aspiring aviators.

For more than 30 years, Lawson has served as the General Manager of the Lewis University Airport (KLOT). But his connection to this airport runs much deeper. He began his journey as a teenager and young adult, working under the guidance of his father, Art Lawson Sr., who was then airport manager. Art, a visionary with grand plans for the airport's future, sadly passed away before he could see them come to fruition.

Determined to fulfill his father's dreams, Lawson stepped into his father's shoes and embarked on a journey that would leave an indelible mark on the aviation community.

Under Lawson's stewardship, Lewis University Airport has undergone a remarkable transformation. Captain Albert "Al" Friehe, an aviation maintenance graduate of the class of '92, summarizes the airport's evolution, "If it were not for the passion, dedication, and hard work of Chris Lawson, combined with the help of administrative assistant Patricia Neale and lead engineer Ron Hudson, the Lewis University Airport would not be what it is today."

One of the most significant accomplishments during Lawson's time at KLOT has been the expansion of the airport's infrastructure. Dr. Livingston, president of Lewis University, emphasized, "Mr. Lawson helped support the growth of Lewis University's flight program over the last 30 years. He was instrumental in adding the new North/South runway, now 6,500 feet long, and extending the East/West runway to 5,500 feet. Additionally, a new terminal building with executive hangars and a Control Tower have been added under his leadership."

Lawson's commitment to seeking approvals and funding from federal, state, and local representatives has played a pivotal role in turning dreams into reality. He has truly been a driving force in creating KLOT.

Lawson's influence extends far beyond infrastructure development. His mentorship has inspired countless individuals to pursue their dreams in aviation. Captain Michelle Miller Dietz, an aviation flight management graduate of the class of '95, reflects on Lawson's impact, "Chris was my first aviation employer. I was a freshman at Lewis University when he hired me. Chris stepped in at a crucial time in my journey to keep my dream alive. I doubt he knows the impact he has had on my life...KLOT would not be where it is today without Chris. And frankly, neither would I."

Captain Ken Stengle, an aviation administration graduate of the class of '95, concurred, "I witnessed the airport transform into an aviation marvel due to his hard work, dedication, and passion for the aviation profession. Chris' tireless work with everyone around him has made it a pleasure to be part of the history in making Lewis University Airport what it is today."

Lawson is a living testament to the power of dedication, hard work, and the pursuit of big dreams. As



an alumnus of Lewis University, he has not only achieved personal success but has also given wings to the aspirations of countless aviation professionals. His unwavering commitment to the aviation industry and the future of aviation education continues to create a better world.

In recognizing Lawson's contributions, we celebrate not only his induction into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame but also the enduring spirit of aviation excellence that he embodies. His legacy will forever inspire the next generation of Flyers to soar high and dream big, reminding us all that with passion and determination, the sky is never the limit—it's just the beginning.



Mary Lancaster '88 Honored for Outstanding Business Practice

Mary Lancaster '88 who earned an accounting bachelor's degree from Lewis University, was honored with the Adam Smith Award on November 29 at St. Charles Borromeo at Lewis University.

Lancaster is a Lewis University Board of Trustees member. For more than 30 years she has practiced public accounting and auditing of governmental entities, not-for-profit entities, healthcare organizations, employee benefit plans, and commercial enterprises. The certified public accountant became a partner of Wermer Rogers Doran & Ruzon, LLC in 2014.

She is also a member of the College of Business Executive

Advisory Board, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Illinois CPA Society. Lancaster has served in various leadership roles throughout the community, including the Cathedral of St. Raymond School Board and Will Grundy Center for Independent Living.

Dr. Larry Hill, professor of Economics in the College of Business, is the founder of Adam Smith Week, a week dedicated to various activities that demonstrate the role of economics and business in our society. It is recognizably named after Adam Smith, the "Father of Economics."

Schackmuth '98 '02 Appointed to International Council for Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission

Dr. Kurt Schackmuth '98 '02, vice president for Student Life and Chief Mission Officer at Lewis University, was recently appointed to the new International Council for Association and the Lasallian Educational Mission (CIAMEL). Brother Superior General Armin Luistro, FSC, appointed Schackmuth to a three-year term as the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) designee for CIAMEL, effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

"Kurt's knowledge and experience of the mission, as carried out in RELAN and in the Institute, along with his own formation, leadership roles and vocational commitment, made him an ideal candidate for the responsibilities that will be entrusted to CIAMEL as we continue our own synodal journey of shared decision-making in the Lasallian family," Brother General Councilor Chris Patiño, FSC, commented.

Brother Luistro and the General Council considered the strong recommendation by leadership in the Region, Brother Visitors and those responsible for the educational mission.

Schackmuth has served at Lewis for 25 years in a variety of mission and student success-related roles. Among his notable accomplishments, Schackmuth leads the summer Exploring Lasallian Mission (ELM) formation program, which has contributed to the education and Lasallian formation of more than 600 Lasallians since its inception 17 years ago. He also spearheaded the development of The Encounter monument on campus, which is inspired by the pivotal moment in the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle that would lead to the founding of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He was recently appointed to the position of vice president of Student Life at Lewis,



focusing on a number of student support areas.

"Dr. Kurt Schackmuth is a highly respected educator and leader in the Lasallian community at Lewis University and beyond," said Dr. David Livingston, Lewis President. "We're delighted he will be serving on CIAMEL as the council sets strategic direction for the global educational mission of the Institute. His appointment exemplifies the importance of empowering lay partners as they work together with the Brothers to outline a vision of a successful future for the entire Lasallian family."

In addition to his service at Lewis University, Schackmuth has been active in advancing the Lasallian mission in the Midwest District, RELAN and beyond. He served on the Midwest District's Mission and Ministry Council for two terms and on the Regional Lasallian Education Council for nine years, concluding his service this year after six years as chair. He is a presenter for the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice and a graduate of the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, both regional formation programs. He currently serves on the board of Montini Catholic High School in Lombard, Ill.



(Top) Keegan Zack, a senior in the Exercise Science Program, will start his internship with Team Zone Athletics in December. (Right) Jeana Bain '04 and her husband, a powerhouse duo, partnering with the Joliet Park District to shape the future of aspiring athletes.

Championing a Community

In the heart of Joliet, Illinois, Lewis University alumna Jeana Bain '04, has embarked on a mission to transform her community through the power of sports. Jeana, who graduated with a degree in Organizational Leadership, is the visionary force behind Team Zone Athletics, a venture she founded in January 2023. The mission of Team Zone Athletics is to enrich the lives of young athletes and foster within them a strong sense of community.

Her story is one of inspiration and determination, grounded in the values instilled in her during her time at Lewis University. Her business is all about building community while recognizing and promoting the transformative power of athletics. Bain recognizes that the physical, social, and emotional growth that happens within athletics, can positively change a child's life.

Team Zone Athletics isn't just about sports; it's about creating a network of support for young athletes. During its inaugural year, the organization demonstrated its dedication to this mission by donating over \$22,000 to support existing youth football programs in the area.

Bain's inspiration for this community-driven model traces back to her time at Lewis University. "Lewis is all about community and relationships, and that is important

to me," Bain explained. "When I started Team Zone, I wanted it to be beneficial for the entire community. This is why Team Zone became a sponsor of all the youth football and cheer programs in the area. We want kids to play and have fun, and youth organizations to benefit as well."

Bain's journey exemplifies the idea that community values can be the driving force behind entrepreneurship and philanthropy, and Team Zone Athletics is living proof of that.

Bain wants her business to provide a professional experience for fellow Flyers studying sports management. She recognizes the value of experiential learning, an essential aspect of her time at Lewis University.

"When you take a chance and start something new, it is important to have a good foundation of family and friends and a good education – Lewis University. The relationships made along the way and the experiences are so important. That is why I am so excited to be able to come back to Lewis and offer educational experiences for university students. After being a student and benefiting from learning, I can now give back and offer lessons and experiences to current students," explained Bain. She describes it as a "full circle moment."

In the winter, Team Zone Athletics will welcome four Lewis students to their team. Keegan Zack, a senior in the Exercise Science Program, will start his internship with Team Zone Athletics in December. He envisions establishing his own health and wellness enterprise down the road. Joining him are Brian Holmes, Denise Hernandez, and Alysia Arias, all sophomores. These students will play a pivotal role by running Speed and Agility Camps for kids in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. They also will lead Tiny Flag Football sessions for athletes aged 4-6.

"We can't wait to see these college students plan, interact, and have a positive impact on so many youth athletes in the community," Bain enthused.

Bain's journey is a testament to the enduring impact of a Lewis University education and the impact that can be made when community values, education, and sports intersect. Team Zone Athletics is not just a sports organization; it's a beacon of hope, dedication, and community-building, led by an inspiring Lewis alum.

As Bain continues to create a better world in her community, she serves as an embodiment of what it means to give back, foster growth, and shape future minds.

CLASS NOTES



MORITZ CONRADS '15 (*Aviation Maintenance*) was highlighted in [AviationPros.com](https://www.aviationpros.com) for being named a 2023 Aircraft Maintenance Technology (AMT) 40 Under 40 Maintenance Professional for his work as a Sr. Maintenance Manager at Spirit Airlines.

ZAKIYA COWAN '19 (*English*) read her poetry at South Suburban College on October 5, 2023.

TRACI GAYDOS '02 (*Theatre*) earned her Certified Meetings Professional certification from the Events Industry Council in July of 2023.



ASHLEY LISEK '15 '20 '22 (*Nursing, DNP*) and Christopher Gomulka were married on August 5, 2023.

ANTHONY LYEN '14 '19 (*Journalism & Elementary Education*) was appointed Principal of St. Daniel the Prophet School.

SARAH MAALI '20 (*Biology*) started a new position as a Laboratory Scientist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

JIM PISANI '05 (*Business Administration*) has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Life Fitness, the global leader in commercial fitness equipment.

NATALIE PRAGOVICH '21 (*Nursing*) married Logan Pragovich on October 8, 2022 in Rockford, Ill.

JOE PRZYBYLA '00 '01 (*Criminal Justice*) was appointed Chief of Police at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

SAMANTHA RENOVATO '10 (*Psychology*) was featured in Hispanic Executive for her work at Ingredion as Director of Global DEI. She has two formal mentees, one located in Mexico and the other in Singapore, as a part of a pilot phase program she is working to develop.

DENISE WIDUP '81 (*Mathematics*) retired June 30, 2023, as Senior Lecturer of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin - Parkside in Kenosha, Wis.

ALEXANDRIA WILSON '23 (*Paralegal Studies, Peace & Justice Studies*) was named the 3rd Annual Will County Legal Opportunity Scholarship Recipient.

JOSEPH P. MERIGOLD '78 (*Aviation Maintenance*) operated the Control Tower for Fly-ins at the Special Olympics Plane Pull at Lewis in April.

MEGAN NEVEROUSKI '22 (*Psychology*) got engaged.

ANDRES PAZ-COLOS '19 (*Aviation Flight Management*), First officer at Republic Airways stated "I was very fortunate to fly a brand new Republic Airways Embraer 175 into my alma mater, Lewis University, for the Illinois Special Olympics Plane Pull. I got to share this with my good friend **RAYMOND SANCHEZ '18** (*Aviation Flight Management*) and it was an experience I will never forget! I'm grateful for both Republic Airways and United Airlines for the opportunity and sponsoring this amazing event!"

LEIF HOLMSTRAND '10 '12 (*Aviation Flight Management & Business Administration*) was recently married.

CODY DROZD '15 (*Biology*) accepted a postdoctoral associate position at the University of Pittsburgh in the lab of Dr. Charleen Chu! He is looking forward to expanding skills and making an impact in Parkinson's Disease research.



STEVEN BAKER '23 (*Aviation Maintenance Technology*) received his bachelor's in Aviation Business Management at 60 years old. "Lewis University helped me through it all. It was a blast to go back to school and do homework. It was hard, but well worth it," stated Baker. Photo courtesy of Monarch Photo LLC in Plainfield.

DR. NANCI REILAND '04 '18 (*Nursing*) was chosen as part of a small team that is developing a BSN at St. Mary's University.



CARLY MANNIX '16 (*Sport Management*) and **ANGELO ALONGI '14** (*Sport Management*) were married on June 2, 2023, in downtown Lemont! Their bridal party included six Lewis alumni. "We wouldn't be where we are today without Lewis!"



TERRY LOFTUS '17 (*Information Security*), Assistant Superintendent and Chief Information Officer for Integrated Technology Services for San Diego County, appeared on a panel at the White House to discuss cybersecurity in K-12 schools on August 8.

THE HONORABLE BONNIE WHEATON '78 (*Law*) will serve as the next chief judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court.

DAVID SALBEGO '96 (*Computer Science*) began his tenure as the new Chief Information Officer and ITD Division Manager at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Dr. John Greenwood

The University was saddened to learn that Dr. John Greenwood, professor *emeritus* of Social Psychology, passed away on November 2, 2023. John was an esteemed and beloved member of the Lewis University community from 1986 to 2018.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, December 2 at First Congregational Church, Naperville, Ill. Several of those in attendance spoke of John's passion and advocacy for those who did not have a voice at the table. A kind and compassionate man, he truly was called to teach.

During Dr. Greenwood's tenure at Lewis, he served on a number of committees including the University Planning and Budget Review Advisory Committee (UPBRAC). Dr. Greenwood also received the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award in 1993. One of the University's most prestigious faculty and staff awards, it honors an educator (not limited to a classroom teacher) who exemplifies the ideals



He explained that the purpose of the scholarship aligned closely with the Mission of the University, emphasizing the importance of providing "opportunities for individuals who normally don't have many opportunities available to them."

of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

In 2004, Dr. John Greenwood established a scholarship to provide assistance to those students majoring in psychology and/or human resource management who demonstrate financial need and are recognized

as a member of a minority group or as an international student. In addition, students must be actively involved in service activities at Lewis or within the community.

"Lewis University has given me tremendous opportunities and support throughout the years, and I wanted to give back

to the University and to our students," said Dr. Greenwood.

He explained that the purpose of the scholarship aligned closely with the Mission of the University, emphasizing the importance of providing "opportunities for individuals who normally don't have many opportunities available to them. One of the big problems for these students – particularly minority and international students – is financial aid shortages. So, I decided to make a contribution to assist those who are struggling financially."

A past contributor to other Lewis scholarships, Dr. Greenwood also was instrumental in initiating a second scholarship for human resource management majors through membership in his local chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). A founding member of the Southwest Suburbs-Chicago Chapter of the SHRM, Dr. Greenwood served on the Society's Board of Directors.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT J. BENEDICK '71
(7/2/2022)

DAVID S. JOHNSON '67
(1/17/2022)

LEONARD KATAUSKAS '55
(6/12/2020)

SUSAN A. MCCARTHY '82
(7/16/2023)

RONALD L. MICHALSKI '56
(12/7/2020)

ANDREW J. MOSCA '62
(9/1/2022)

JOSEPH M. PETREIKIS '75
(11/30/2022)

JAMES RUTTEN '68
(11/30/2022)

HARRY R. SEBESTA '61
(1/2/2023)

PAUL C. SOHM '58

JASON P. QUIGLEY '01
(12/22/22)

CORRECTION

JOHN J. LUCENTA, JR. '68
(2/9/23)

CORRECTION

We apologize to **SUELLEN CORDANO** for an incorrect listing in the last magazine. Suellen is still alive and very active in her community.

Landon J. Wade '12

I went to Northern Illinois University when I left high school. I then took a big gap and worked for six years in a law firm. Then I joined the police department and I noticed some common themes. If you wanted to climb up the ladder and be more effective for people in the community, you probably wanted to have some rank. Lewis seemed to be the track for officers who ascended to the role of sergeant or lieutenant. I knew people who spoke highly of the University. The criminal and social justice program was said to be the most highly praised in the area. A lot of police officers and bosses went through Lewis' program.

The instructors I came across in my personal journey were not just instructors who gravitated toward academia. They still contributed to the justice system. They were people who taught and were part of the public safety environment. It inspired me not to take any more gaps. From the day I finished Lewis, I jumped right into the program at University of Chicago. I stayed engaged and I adopted a sense of academic urgency. When I started attending Lewis, there was a component to my life I had been missing. I had always believed in learning and having a formalized structure. Lewis gave me that back.

My greatest takeaway was that it tied me to my path and it gave me a vision for the future. When I got to Lewis, it reminded me how dear academics at the collegiate level were to me. It reminded me of the success I had enjoyed in academics throughout my formative years. It also gave me a glance into the future because a lot of the bosses who were managing at command staff level had experienced Lewis. Likewise, a lot of the ranking members of our chain of command were instructors at Lewis. It kept me attached to what could have been, what was happening, and what could be.

Avis Montalvo '04

What I liked was the fact that when I spoke with Lewis' School of Education, they just gave me a lot of positive feedback because I had gone to about six other schools within a 50-mile radius, and Lewis was the one that, when I left, I said, 'Yes, I can do this.' That's what I needed because I left the school before it in tears because they just didn't make me feel like it was possible. I went to Lewis, and they said, 'Well, there's going to come a point in time where you're going to have to take a leave of absence. You might want to check on that with your job, but we'll help you through it.' The tone and positive spins that were put on it were amazing.

My husband and my two sons came to my graduation. My father even came from out of state with my sister so that he could see me graduate because all my life, I wanted to be a teacher, and I did not start teaching until I was in my 40's. I remember one semester I had 22 hours because I was determined to graduate. I graduated within two years because I wasn't getting any younger. I had postponed a year too because my son was starting high school, and I felt I owed it to him to be available for his freshman year.

I went from the first semester that I was there, not knowing anyone and sitting in my car and crying in between classes because I just didn't know if I could do what I needed to do. As time went on, I met people, and I had a great support group as far as my professors and the different educators that were there. I had lots of support and they were willing to work with me, so my confidence grew. I worked very hard and I managed to pass my classes. When I think of Lewis, I think of the people I met when I was there and the great educators who showed me how things should be done. I had people behind me, pushing me forward, giving me all the encouragement that I needed.



Lewis University's Golden Flyers Reunion: Celebrating 50 Years of Memories

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Lewis University's campus came alive with nostalgia and excitement as the institution welcomed back its cherished alumni for the Golden Flyers Society's 50-year reunion. This annual event honors those who graduated from Lewis half a century or more ago, and this year, it was the class of 1973's turn to join this exclusive society. The day was filled with heartwarming reunions, shared Lewis experiences, and the creation of new memories among familiar faces.

The Golden Flyers Society at Lewis University serves as a testament to the enduring bonds forged during one's college years. Alumni who graduated 50 or more

years ago are inducted into this esteemed group, which provides them with a platform to reconnect with fellow alumni.

The festivities began at 10 a.m. with the opportunity for campus tours. Alumni strolled through familiar halls, revisited old haunts, and marveled at the growth and changes that had occurred since their time at Lewis.

At 11 a.m., a special Mass for the Golden Flyers took place in the Sancta Alberta Chapel. The celebration allowed alumni to reflect on their journey since graduation and to remember the Lasallian values instilled in them during their time at Lewis University. It was a touching and meaningful part of the day, filled with gratitude and reflection.



Following the Mass, a lunch reception awaited the Golden Flyers. It was a time to gather, share stories, and catch up on each other's lives. Laughter and heartfelt conversations filled the room as old friends rekindled their connections.

Looking ahead, the tradition will continue as next year, on May 18, 2024, Lewis University will have the honor of inducting the class of 1974 into the Golden Flyers Society.

The Golden Flyers Reunion at Lewis University is more than just a gathering; it's a testament to the lasting impact of education and the enduring bonds formed during one's college years. As each class joins the Golden Flyers Society, the legacy of Lewis University continues to grow, reminding us all of the importance of cherishing our past while looking forward to the future. It's a celebration of 50 years of memories and the promise of many more to come!





A Sigma Delta Reunion

Sigma Delta (1976-1982) alumni gathered at Krapils in Worth, Ill. last July 13 to meet up, catch up and reminisce about the past!



Alumni Rally to Assist on New Flyer Move-In Day

On Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 25 dedicated Lewis alumni, including groups from Penske Truck Leasing and Christian Brothers Services, returned to lend a helping hand for Freshman Move-In Day. The sun blazed overhead with record-breaking temperatures, but the scorching heat couldn't deter the enthusiasm of these volunteers as they assisted the newest Flyers with settling into their new homes in Founders, Sheil, and South Halls.

The Class of 2027 received a warm and memorable welcome thanks to the tireless efforts of these alumni, whether they were carrying heavy bags, assembling furniture, or offering a friendly smile and words of encouragement. Our alumni went above and beyond to make sure that the newest members of the Lewis University community felt right at home.

The dedication of alumni volunteers on this day set a positive tone for the incoming class and demonstrated the strong sense of community and support that defines the Lewis University experience. In the face of sweltering temperatures, the alumni volunteers exemplified the Flyer spirit of resilience and service, proving that a little heat couldn't dampen their commitment to their fellow Flyers.

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all the volunteers who made Freshman Move-In Day a resounding success!



Lewis University Alumni Soar at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh

Each summer, aviation enthusiasts from around the world gather at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh for a week to celebrate experimental aircraft. This year, on July 29, Lewis University proudly hosted the EAA AirVenture Alumni Gathering, a memorable occasion that brought together 98 alumni and numerous aviation enthusiasts from the University's Aviation Department. The event served as a heartwarming reunion, allowing attendees to rekindle old friendships and share their love for flight. The airshow was a show-stopping spectacle that celebrated the wonder of aviation. Throughout the week, the Lewis University booth was abuzz with activity with many alumni stopping by to reconnect.





Lewis Fest: A Day of Flyer Fun and Community Celebration

On September 23, 2023, Lewis University hosted its inaugural Lewis Fest. The day, filled with Flyer-themed activities, was an opportunity for students, families, alumni, faculty, and staff to come together as a community and enjoy some fun on Lewis' beautiful campus. More than 600 adults and children attended Lewis Fest and members of the classes of '83, '93, '03, and '13 had opportunities to reunite at the Alumni

Beer Tent. The day's activities included face painting, an obstacle course, a home run derby, a soccer shoot-out, flight simulation, and other family fun activities. At 3 p.m., the Women's Volleyball Team took on Southwest Baptist University and won.

Lewis Fest served as a reminder that the Flyer spirit endures, transcending generations and connecting the entire Lewis community!

Our Future Innovators: SURE Scholars

For over a decade, Lewis University has been fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation through the Dr. James Girard Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program. Since its inception in 2010, this program has been a hands-on learning opportunity for Lewis students.

This year, 13 enthusiastic undergraduate students seized the chance to be a part of this transformative research program. Hailing from diverse fields of study including: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Criminal Justice, and Nursing/Health Sciences, these students embarked on a 10-week journey, as they were mentored by a faculty member.

The essence of SURE lies in its experiential learning environment, providing students with hands-on exposure to the intricacies

of scientific research. In the spirit of collaboration, students work across multiple STEM disciplines, fostering cross-pollination of ideas and the development of holistic problem-solving skills.

The SURE program has proven to be a springboard for student success, both academically and professionally. Graduates of the program have showcased their achievements at conferences, contributed to publications, and presented their findings at the research symposium hosted by Lewis University at the conclusion of the program.

These accomplishments underscore the program's effectiveness in nurturing the next generation of STEM leaders. SURE not only equips students with the technical skills required for their chosen fields but also

fosters critical thinking, creativity, and a deep appreciation for the scientific process.

As Lewis University continues to emphasize the importance of research and hands-on experience in STEM education, the SURE program stands as a shining example of the university's commitment to its students' success. It is a testament to the belief that by providing opportunities for collaborative research, we are sowing the seeds for groundbreaking discoveries and creating a better world.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience would not be possible without the generous support of James Girard and Constance Diamant, Eduardo and Jody Sanchez, Michael G. Graverson, the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, Russ and Dawn Smyth, Karl F. Vogel and Mary C. Hanley.



Tuskegee NEXT

Lewis University's Office of Advancement, in partnership with the Aviation Department, was a sponsor of the 6th Annual Red Tail Ball for Tuskegee NEXT. The event took place on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at the DuPage Airport in West Chicago.



Girls Create with Technology

Erika and Danielle, project managers on our Tenant Solutions team, had the opportunity to inspire and empower our youth by sharing their expertise in STEM education with 25 talented middle and high school girls. Together, we're shaping a brighter future for women in science, technology, engineering and math fields!



Cool Science Investigators Camp

Through the University's CSI summer camp program, students in grades 6-9 became crime scene investigators as they conducted real-world forensic DNA analysis. The girls also learned about cardiology and how the heart works. Campers examined genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and looking at pollinators in the campus environment. The program builds on emerging research that shows that if science is taught in an integrated, contextualized way it leads to better student understanding of the subject matter, and improves students' attitudes toward the scientific disciplines. Women from Ingredion and Girls for Science Foundation spoke to the girls to inspire them to go into STEM-related fields of study.



Veteran's Day Tribute

Members of the Lewis University community submitted the names of loved ones who have either served our country or are serving currently. To honor these

individuals, the Lewis Alumni Office and the Office of Veterans Affairs and Recruitment coordinated a week-long flag display tribute at the entrance to the Lewis campus in Romeoville. To check out the full list of names, scan the QR code.

Thank you to all those who participated. A very special THANK YOU to the veterans who have served our country!





WLRA Celebrates 50 Years of Broadcasting Excellence

WLRA, Lewis University's student-run radio station, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special event on November 4 at the Romeoville campus.

WLRA was founded in 1973 by a group of Lewis University students who wanted to create a radio station that would play music that was not being played on other stations in the area. The station has since grown to become one of the most popular radio stations in the Joliet region.

"We are proud of the station's history and excited to continue to provide our listeners with the best possible programming," commented John Carey, associate professor and director of the Andrew Center for Electronic Media for 38 years. "It is inspiring to see the far-reaching impact of WLRA's work, whether it's raising funds for a children's hospital or launching a media career."



Current and former WLRA staff members, as well as Lewis University students, faculty, staff, and friends attended the event to reminisce and ensure the radio station continues to thrive for many years to come. The event showcased the radio and television broadcasting studios with tours of the station in De La Salle Hall. Funds were raised for the endowment for technology and broadcasting scholarships. Contact John Carey at (815) 836-5400 or John Kilpatrick at (815) 836-5656 for more information about the WLRA Queue Club.

Thanks to the many sponsors of this event.

The station provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the radio industry. WLRA also provides the community with a source of entertainment and information. WLRA is a member of the National Association of Broadcasters. WLRA is a non-commercial, educational radio station licensed to Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. The station broadcasts at 88.1 FM and streams online at lewisu.edu/wlra.



Signum Fidei

LEWIS UNIVERSITY

Impacting the Future, Celebrating the Past!

The House of Blues welcomed more than 300 attendees for the annual *Signum Fidei* Celebration on Saturday, October 21. It was inspiring to see Lewis supporters celebrating in association with one another. Event attendees enjoyed entertainment from Chicago native band, Final Say. Thanks to our Lewis community and the generous sponsors of this year's event, \$310,000 was raised to support the Mission Fund! All proceeds from the event help provide critical assistance to students experiencing unanticipated financial hardships.

Sixty-two generous sponsors helped support the evening. Their support for Lewis University's Mission Fund enables Lewis University students to receive the financial assistance needed to continue to pursue their dreams.



*Thank You to our
Signum Fidei Sponsors!*

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Mary Fisher



Honoring a Lasting Legacy

The Harold E. White Legacy Society includes alumni and friends, faculty, staff, and retirees who provide an educational legacy for Lewis University students either through a gift in their estate plans or some other type of planned gift arrangement.

The impact of planned gifts was essential to the establishment of Lewis University. The first planned gift was made by Michael Fitzpatrick and his sister, Frances Fitzpatrick. It consisted of over 170 acres of farmland to the Archdiocese of Chicago. This land was ultimately used to house the first buildings of Lewis University and remains a significant part of the Romeoville campus. Their exceptionally generous and far-sighted gift made in the 1920s not only allowed what is now Lewis University but continues to benefit the University today.

The impact of other planned gifts is also clearly evident: a number of buildings that are home to programs of distinction; endowed scholarships that have provided generations of financially challenged students with the benefits of a quality Catholic education in the Lasallian tradition; and many other endowed programs that have promoted a variety of research initiatives. These significant investments continue to provide students with learning opportunities beyond the classroom, while also further enhancing the academic reputation of Lewis University.

The current members of the Legacy Society have continued the tradition of legacy giving, and their planned gifts will also impact the future of Lewis University!





BUILD A LEGACY TODAY THAT WILL LAST FOREVER AND PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND CAUSES YOU CARE ABOUT MOST.

Lewis University has partnered with FreeWill, an online tool that guides you through the process of creating a legally valid will.

It's easy to use, free of charge, and can be completed in 20 minutes or less on a secure website. In addition to taking care of your loved ones and their future, you can use this tool to start your legacy with Lewis University.

Ensure peace of mind, create a lasting legacy that reflects your values and interests and consider a bequest to Lewis University that will continue to support student enrichment, ground-breaking research and innovative ideas for years to come!



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start your
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**Generous contributions
have helped Lewis University
open doors for students to
pursue their dreams!**

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SAVE THE DATES



02.24.24



03.21.24



05.18.24