FALL SEES RECORD ENROLLMENT
Enthusiastic greetings as the Lewis University community celebrates and give thanks for 80 remarkable years of educational service. Moreover, as a Lasallian Catholic university, we are an important part of a worldwide teaching/learning movement that has been “transforming lives since 1680.” As you will see as you read this particular issue of the Magazine of Lewis University, Lewis itself is also being steadily transformed in a variety of wondrous ways, all in support of student success and the achievement of our overall Mission.

It would be difficult to overemphasize the importance and potential impact of the new $20 million addition to our Science Center, along with the soon-to-be updated current Science/Academic Building. We anticipate being in the new structure by Christmas, with classes starting in mid-January. Probably the dedication ceremony will occur about a month later. We have an excellent faculty who will undoubtedly utilize the splendid Science Center to the maximum. Our science curriculum is impressive and we have excellent students who are deeply appreciative for the learning opportunities being afforded to them.

Recently our Board of Trustees gave authorization for us to proceed in the complete renovation of Sheil Hall, our original residence hall which has been primed for remodeling for several years. In addition, we will initiate in the Spring the expansion and renovation of the Oremus Fine Arts Center, even as we wrap-up fundraising for that timely and exciting project. We are also continuing to raise funds for updating and enhancing our Sancta Alberta Chapel. Following on the remarkable remodeling of the main level of our Library last summer, we will proceed to the next phase at the end of the current academic year. Ambitious plans on how to further transform the Library will be made later in light of our evolution into a research university with a concentration on highly effective teaching, and the blending of liberal learning with professional and pre-professional education.

The multi-year enrollment surge here at Lewis has continued into this fall semester. Even in a very challenging and competitive recruitment environment, the University has realized its ambitious enrollment goals, thanks to the collaborative efforts of many dedicated and highly capable persons. This has been somewhat of a singular accomplishment in the Chicagoland region. Moreover, to the extent that we remain innovative, are committed to continuous improvement, and strategically invest in personnel, facilities and academic programs, we will continue to grow in numbers and attain an ever-improving academic reputation. In particular, we have much potential for further growth at the graduate level.

You will notice many indications of increasing excellence and Mission effectiveness throughout this Magazine. Student and faculty research is highlighted, as are academic partnerships that open up many fine learning opportunities for our students. Featured in this issue are articles on extraordinary student volunteer service; impressive faculty achievements; the attainment of our capital campaign goals and all the benefits that have resulted from that success; the quality and accomplishments of our student athletes; summer institutes and conferences provided by Lewis for area educators at the middle-school and high school levels; new revenue sources from foundation, corporate and governmental grants, and generous individual donors; and a wide variety of distinguished and loyal alumni who have been honored by Lewis, as well as others who have enthusiastically participated in diverse University events and have continued to invest in the University’s priorities and dynamic future.

Thank you for sharing in our pride and for affirming all who are making such immense progress possible. Much appreciation also for loyally supporting the steady and encouraging transformation of Lewis into a truly remarkable university where faculty and staff care immensely for our students and their whole-person development, and where there is a broad realization of the significance of our shared calling and the transformative impact we daily have in the lives of our students of various ages, backgrounds and interests.

Sincerely,

Br. James Gaffney, FSC
President
Fall Sees Record Enrollment

Another record-breaking year is unfolding for Lewis University due to continued growth in programs and enrollment. Lewis welcomed its most academically qualified and largest freshman class of more than 750 students this year.

For the first time in the University’s history, a record number of applications prompted Lewis to establish a waiting list for undergraduate admissions. Another significant first this academic year is an all-time high of nearly 6,500 undergraduate and graduate students and a record number of students living on campus.

“This year’s enrollment is indicative of how we remain fully engaged and dedicated to providing an enriching learning environment, access to distinctive academic programs, as well as a caring and competent faculty and staff. Lewis enables students to graduate as intellectually engaged, ethically grounded, socially responsible and globally aware alumni,” commented Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University.

Various initiatives and campus improvements, most notably the construction of a new Science Center which is expected to be completed in December, have continued to spur interest in several programs. All of the science and nursing programs experienced significant growth. Other programs that have swelled this year include psychology and sports management. More students than ever are enrolled in the University’s hallmark aviation programs. Along with programs on the main campus, a new Aviation Academy at the Lewis Near South Chicago Campus is offering classes in Air Traffic Control Management and Aviation Administration, providing students at that site with a convenient option to earn their undergraduate degree in a rapidly growing profession.

“In today’s economy, our students are finding that Lewis University provides a high quality education at a real value that is unparalleled in the region. It’s an intellectually engaging environment that is also recognized nationally by the Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report, Colleges of Distinction, among several others,” said Raymond Kennelly, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management.

For the fourth consecutive year, Lewis University’s annual undergraduate tuition rate increase (4.2 percent) is about 10 percent less than the national average (4.6 percent) for private colleges and universities.
Lewis University student Courtney Everett of Palos Park spent her summer interning at CBS News in New York City. The theatre and radio/TV broadcasting major edited Early Show segments to serve as podcasts. A highlight of her experience was to share history by designing a video about the last American shuttle launch, which was used on www.cbsnews.com.

“The opportunity to work in the Network Radio News department has been a complete honor,” said Everett. This summer she worked on breaking news such as the Anthony Weiner scandal, the debt-ceiling vote, the last shuttle launch, the Casey Anthony trial and the London riots.

At Lewis University, Everett gained the experience needed for the internship by serving as news director for the past two years as well as having active involvement in the television station, The Lewis Flyer newspaper, golf team, theatre, Sigma Delta, and student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC), among other activities.

The experience she gained from having her own radio show during sophomore year and group television show junior year at Lewis University prepared her for the New York experience, she said. Everett credits dedication, hard work and hands-on experience that allowed her to achieve one of her biggest dreams, which became a reality this summer.
More than 700 new Lewis University students and nearly 50 staff and Peer Ministers volunteered at “SOAR into the Community,” an impressive community service opportunity that provided assistance to 18 off-campus sites—from Daybreak Center, operated by Catholic Charities in Joliet, to Big Brothers Big Sisters, which serves youngsters in Will and Grundy Counties. The community projects were organized in association with the United Way of Will County and the United Way of DuPage County. Eight projects also were conducted on campus, in collaboration with faculty and staff for community and University projects.

The Salvation Army facility in Joliet was among the volunteer sites. Students were assigned to three areas. The first group helped to prepare for the Christmas fundraising season by readying the famous kettles, stands and related materials; the second group assisted with registration for community services and entered data gathered from the registrations into the computer system; the third group rolled up their sleeves and cleaned the kitchen of dust and debris from construction to the Salvation Army’s new facility.

Fifty students and five staff members at the Camp Fire USA Illinois Prairie Council in Lombard cleaned cabins after the summer programs, pulled weeds in the common areas, cleared grounds and removed branches and hazards along the walking trail. Additional community projects were conducted at MorningStar in Joliet and the MorningStar Thrift Stores in Joliet and New Lenox; Trinity Services in Joliet; United Cerebral Palsy in Joliet; the Lockport Township Park District, Family Shelter Service of DuPage County; Loaves & Fishes in Naperville; Green Harvest Food Pantry in Plainfield; Feed My Starving Children and Hesed House in Aurora; the Children’s Advocacy Center and Cornerstone Services in Joliet; as well as the Daybreak Center, Guardian Angel Home and Big Brothers Big Sisters, all in Joliet.
In 2009, the national office of the De La Salle Christian Brothers in Washington, D.C. and the leadership of the Lasallian secondary schools initiated a major national “branding” project led by a steering committee and with assistance of BrandEd, a consulting firm specializing in brand identity. The purpose of the project was to develop a common identity that connects the Lasallian education network in the U.S./Toronto Region, as well as establish a common language that enables everyone to define and articulate Lasallian education in an accurate, authentic and consistent manner.

The new brand strategy provides a common platform for all schools in the network to use in developing common marketing materials, talking points for promotion and recruiting purposes, and raising overall awareness of Lasallian institutions around the country. The various phases of the project, which took place from January 2010 to April 2011, included focus groups, an online survey, engagement sessions led by BrandEd consultants, and carefully designed feedback sessions and discussions about Lasallian identity.

Brother James Gaffney, FSC, Lewis University President, Raymond Kennelly, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Kurt Schackmuth ’98 ’02, Associate Vice President for Mission, represented Lewis on the steering committee for the branding project. Lewis University hosted several of the focus groups and gatherings of Chicago area Lasallian stakeholder institutions at its Oak Brook Campus during the project. More than 30 Lewis University faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and parents attended focus groups and discussion sessions, and dozens more participated in the online survey component of the project.

After years of work and hundreds of contributions from constituents around the country, a formal brand was unveiled earlier this year. A new “unifying statement” will now appear on Web sites, printed materials and other forms of communication, Lasallian Education: Transforming Lives Since 1680. A new symbol has also been designed for use. This distinctive, “crossed L logo” speaks directly to an education rooted in the Catholic faith and values. The logo is a supporting identity – it is meant to complement, not replace, existing institutional logos.

The new unifying statement appears on Lewis University’s Web site and is being integrated into other forms of print and online communication where appropriate.

Visit www.lasallian.info for additional information.
Fall Convocation Highlights the Value of a Liberal Education

On Tuesday, August 23, faculty, staff and administrators gathered for the annual fall convocation. Dr. Tia Brown McNair, Senior Director for Student Success in the Office of Engagement, Inclusion, and Success at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) presented the keynote address. Dr. McNair spoke on “A Guiding Vision for Liberal Learning and Student Success.”

McNair talked about the contemporary vision for a liberal education as a dialogue that merges quality with productivity. The essential learning outcomes of a 21st century liberal education are knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; intellectual and practical skills, including critical thinking and problem solving; personal and social responsibility, including civic engagement and ethical reasoning and action; and foundations and skills for lifelong learning.

McNair spoke highly of the Lewis University Mission which realizes that the educational experience is about developing the whole person. Lewis students are engaged in service learning, applied research, internships, and in ongoing experiential learning at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

In her role at AAC&U, McNair takes a leading role in advancing the Association’s projects and meetings on student success. She is extensively involved with the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) initiative as well as a wide range of current sponsored projects around the country. Prior to joining AAC&U, McNair served as the Assistant Director of the National College Access Network (NCAN) in Washington, D.C. where she directed and secured funding for national projects on student access and success, especially for underrepresented students.

McNair earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and English at James Madison University and holds an M.A. in English from Radford University and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from George Washington University. Her research agenda focuses on equity in student learning outcomes for underserved students, student and institutional engagement, quality and assessment of high-impact practices, equity-minded data analysis for institutional change, and the alignment and quality of learning from school through two-year and four-year undergraduate education.

Peace Studies Program Leads Lewis Faculty to Kroc Institute

A team of professors from Lewis University participated in the “Teaching Peace in the 21st Century: 3rd Annual Summer Institute for Faculty” at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Lewis representatives included Dr. James Burke, Assistant Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for Ministry and Spirituality, Dr. Christie Billups, Assistant Professor of Theology and Coordinator of the Office of Service-Learning, Dr. Tracey Nicholls, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Co-director of the Women’s Studies Program, and Dr. Frank Rose, Associate Professor of Finance. George A. Lopez, an internationally-recognized authority on peace studies program development, directed the summer institute.

Designed for faculty who would like to create a peace studies program or enhance existing peace studies programs, the program engaged participants with leading thinkers regarding the contemporary parameters of peace studies as it relates to praxis, research and teaching. They explored the pedagogical, administrative and public relations challenges of peace studies. They also collaborated with their team on course development and programming.

“I was particularly struck by the Kroc Institute’s emphasis on interdisciplinary and real-world applicability as central commitments continued on page 8
SURE Program Strives for Science Breakthroughs

Six Lewis University student researchers recently shared their success after completing the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE). The eight-week SURE program encouraged research opportunities for Lewis faculty and students. The students expect to develop their research and present it at professional conferences during the 2011-2012 academic years. “The interdisciplinary science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education research program allows students to talk, learn and engage in faculty-led research. The concluding symposia displays how the unique program includes discussions on global science issues, enhances the students’ presentation skills, and provides essential lessons in professionalism,” commented Dr. Jason Keleher, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Director of the SURE program.

Lab and research work included discipline-specific research team meetings and educational field trips. Multi-disciplinary sessions were also part of the program that covered topics, such as ethics in research, technical/professional writing, library search strategies, data management and data analysis, and presentation and oral communication training. “Each of these experiments focuses on the common good and a relevance to the betterment of society. The applications and the steps moving forward are all going to make life better for people,” commented Dr. Stephany Schlachter, Provost of Lewis University.

Student topics included: James Fitman on the Role of Surfactant on Ag/TiO2 Nanoparticle Properties and Antimicrobial Effectiveness; Brian Wilhelm on Automating Marketing Analysis to Maximize Profits and Minimize Risk; Elizabeth De Waard on Examining Particle Interactions for Detector Shielding Using G4 Beamline; Aleksander Pecherek and Biofilm Development: Many Characters, Different Plots; Michael Korby on Sensing and Measurement of Frustration on Mobile Devices; and Olivia Chesniak on Synthesis of Flexible Anodic Nanomaterials for Bio-inspired Solar Energy Production.

Peace Studies Program

continued from page 8

of peace studies, because these commitments also inform my view of socially-responsible philosophy,” commented Dr. Nicholls. As part of Peace Education Committee, Nicholls has helped to organize this year’s annual Teach-In around the theme of teaching and learning peace studies. She also plans to teach a Spring 2012 course in political philosophy that will introduce students to the field of peace studies.

Dr. Burke explained the goals of the Lewis team included promotion of a praxis-oriented approach to just-peace studies and culture-building programming at the University. “Anchored in Catholic social teaching, integrating service learning as a vital pedagogical component, and committed to imaginative course development and academic freedom, we will collaborate fully to reach our goals,” said Burke.

Goals also include drafting a five-year plan for developing an interdisciplinary, cross-college social justice and peace studies program; designing a Justice and Peace Studies minor in Theology with interdisciplinary and cross-college components; crafting a “peace-through-commerce” curriculum in the College of Business; and building team cohesion through a discussion of “Strategies of Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World” with other justice-peace studies working group members.

The summer institute was so inspiring to Dr. Rose that he stayed after the conference to meet with Oliver Williams and Lee Tavis, professors in the Mendoza College of Business, who are considered experts in integrating peace studies with business curricula and research. The finance professor can see how the summer institute experience will change his classroom, particularly in one course. He said, “I think there’s more I can do in International Finance, for example, to talk about the income distributive effects of international trade, the impact of multinational corporations on human rights, the UN Global Compact, fair trade coffee, and micro financing, among others.”

Dr. Frank Rose, Dr. Tracey Nicholls, Dr. Christie Billups and Dr. James Burke attend the Kroc institute.

Dr. Jason Keleher
BOLIVIA MISSION TRIP INSPIRES STUDENTS

Lewis University students, faculty and staff were among the 25 volunteers for the 2011 University Mission trip to Sucre, Bolivia, coordinated by the Diocese of Joliet Peace and Social Justice Ministry Office. Other institutions sending volunteers included Benedictine University, University of St. Francis, Elmhurst College and Illinois State University.

“Our goals were to serve the children who live in poverty, to provide them and their families with hope and to make it easier for the people who work in the seven sites that we serve,” commented Natalie Bayci, coordinator of the trip.

The group volunteered at an orphanage, two day care centers, a hospital supported by the Joliet Diocese, a neurological hospital for children and a soup kitchen. They worked in different barrios and the students rotated so that they could experience each site.

“I went to day care centers to interact with the children in Bolivia. At those centers, I would play with the children and spread the love of God. You do not need to be able to speak Spanish to show these children that you care about them and that you are there to help; there is a universal language of love, which we all seem to understand,” commented John Michelli, who is earning a degree in social work. He added, “This trip has made me realize that I am going into the right profession and my job in life is to serve God and help other people in the world.”

Karen Dizon, a Lewis theology and art major, designed four murals for the group to paint at a day care center and at a center for children with special needs. She commented, “Throughout the process, other students were able to help contribute to the completion of the murals. It was a group effort but the most rewarding part was how the children responded to the artwork. It was amazing to see smiles on their faces. To be a part of a project that brought joy to their lives was an unforgettable feeling that I will always treasure.”

The group worked with a dentist to teach children in the barrio the importance of brushing their teeth. Donna Martin, Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, guided nursing and pre-med students as they provided assistance at the Joliet Diocesan hospital in surgery, passing medications and spending time with patients.

Twenty four duffel bags full of school supplies, vitamins and shoes were donated. More than 300 children received shoes.

“It’s so rewarding to see the impact our students had on the Bolivians and one another,” commented Martha Villegas-Miranda ’98, Lewis Coordinator of University Ministry Outreach. Student trip participants from Lewis University included: Kristen Calver, Karen Dizon, Elizabeth Guerrero, Colleen Lynch, Audrey Stutsman and John Michelli.
Summer Seminars Popular for Teachers and Administrators

More than 150 teachers and administrators attended the Lewis University College of Education Summer Seminars, earning Continuing Professional Development Credit. Registration filled quickly for the original five seminars. A sixth seminar using technology in the classroom was added to meet demand.

Nearly 30 people attended the “Reading Strategies for the 6-12 Classroom” seminar. Dr. Chris Palmi, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, introduced teachers and administrators to several strategies: 4-2-1 Guides, Save the Last Word for Me, Anticipation Guides, Word Family Trees and Directed Reading Sequence Activities. Teachers left the workshop with new ideas to enhance reading across the curriculum and foster a deeper understanding of content for all learners.

Dr. Lauren Rentfro, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, presented “So When Did I Become a Brain Surgeon? I Thought I Was a Teacher: What the Brain Likes and Doesn’t Like in the Classroom.” Participants left the workshop with resource ideas and ready-to-use activities. They learned basic brain anatomy and function. Through examples and activities, the ties between brain structure/function and classroom behavior/learning were examined. A wide variety of activities were modeled, discussed and created to provide a working knowledge of brain-friendly teaching strategies.

Dr. Barbara Mackey, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Program Director of ESL Program, presented “English Language Learners in P-12 Schools.” The workshop for P-12 educators and administrators focused on the special needs of English Language Learners in schools. The development of first and second language and the critical link between language and culture was presented. Participants also examined strategies for effective instruction and assessment of ELLs and suggestions for strengthening school and family partnerships.

Dr. Dorene Huvaere, Chair and Professor of Secondary Education, Dr. Suzanne O’Brien, Associate Professor of Elementary Education and Program Director of M.A. Elementary Education, Evening and Type 29 to Type 03 Programs, and Dr. Pam Jessee, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, presented “Co-teaching and Collaboration to Enhance Learning.” Participants were introduced to the models of co-teaching. They saw the models in action through a demonstration of their ability to work together in the classroom setting. Communication skills, the need for negotiation, and honest, open feedback were discussed with tips for working together to improve student learning.

To meet the demand, Dr. Seung Kim, Associate Professor of Secondary Education and Program Director of M.Ed. C&I, Instructional Technology, presented two sessions on “Creating Multimedia Instruction for Student-Centered Learning.” One was held at the Oak Brook Campus and the other at the Romeoville Campus. The workshop introduced a variety of ways to create and present instruction with multimedia elements such as video, audio, animation and links for student-centered learning. Participants had hands-on experience using SMART Notebook and free collaborative Web 2.0 tools, such as PBworks, Movie Maker, Glogster, etc. Participants are now able to produce instructional materials using multimedia and design collaborative class projects with Web 2.0 tools.

(Left) Dr. Suzanne O’Brien (red jacket), Associate Professor and Director of M.A. Elementary Education, leads a discussion with participants in the “Co-teaching and Collaboration to Enhance Learning” seminar. (Right) The seminar led to much conversation among participants and the facilitators. More than 150 people attended the Summer Seminars presented by the College of Education.
Lewis University provided a two-week workshop in June entitled, “GREW: Green and Renewable Energy Workshop,” for 25, K-8 teachers in Joliet District 86. It focused on teaching mathematics and science of renewable energy to teachers.

The workshops employed a combination of lectures, videos, field trips, computer exercises, hands-on experiments and ongoing self-guided action research projects to help convey essential issues related to energy production and delivery and its corresponding environmental impact.

Some of the lectures/activities included:

- “It’s Electric! An Introduction to Electricity” by Dr. Joe Kozminski, Associate Professor of Physics
- “How Electricity Gets to Our Homes” by Dr. Ray Klump, Associate Professor and Chair of Math/Computer Science
- “Fuels for Thought: The Many Sources of Energy” by Dr. Joe Kozminski
- “Environmental Impacts” by Dr. Jerry Kavouras, Assistant Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Science
- “My Roof is Greener than Yours: Techniques for Greening Buildings” by Dr. Jerry Kavouras
- “Cleaning Up Our Act: Identifying and Reducing Environmental Contaminants” by Dr. Jason Keleher, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- “Teachers’ Corner: What’s Clicking? What’s Not?” by Dr. Lauren Rentfro, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, Dr. Dorene Huavere, Chair and Professor of Secondary Education
- “Here Comes the Sun: A Brilliant Introduction to Solar Energy” by Dr. Joe Kozminski and Dr. Jason Keleher
- “Let’s Smash Some Atoms: Goin’ Fission with Nuclear Energy” by Dr. Joe Kozminski
- “Webquests” by Dr. Lauren Rentfro
- “Planning Your Year” by Dr. Lauren Rentfro and Dr. Dorene Huavere
- “Getting Your Lab Skills On” by Dr. Jason Keleher
- “Computer Productivity Skills” by Dr. Cindy Kersey, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
- “Coding for Kids: Writing Computer Programs Using Scratch” by Dr. Cindy Kersey
- “Fuel Cells: Little Energy Sources that Can” by Dr. Jason Keleher
- “The Grid’s Future: Good and Bad” by Dr. Ray Klump

Each topic was accompanied by an in-depth and practical discussion of how those concepts and skills may be presented in the classroom, both as a way to educate students about energy issues and to help them learn important skills they need to master in their math and science classes. Class discussions and experiments included use of nanoparticles in reducing pollution contaminants; the physical principles behind work, energy, and power; electricity production and the electric power grid, and the importance of protecting our energy infrastructure against cyber attackers.

Field trips included trips to an energy-independent water conservation facility in Romeoville (Metropolitan Industries, Inc.), a wind farm near DeKalb, an urban solar farm in West Pullman, and nuclear and renewable energy exhibits at Argonne National Laboratory.

Funding for the workshop was provided by an Illinois Math and Science Partnership Program Summer Institute Program grant of $160,000 through the Illinois State Board of Education. It is part of a national initiative to provide increased education for students in the areas of science, technology, and mathematics. The grant is also expected to fund budget proposals for materials the workshop participants will use in their classrooms during this academic year.
Partnerships Provide Students with Unique Benefits

Lewis University has developed agreements with a variety of regional organizations to provide our students with access to degrees and job opportunities based on areas of academic distinction. Recent partnerships are highlighted below.

**Criminal/Social Justice and Fire Service Administration Offered at the COD Homeland Security Center**

College of DuPage (COD) students will now have an opportunity to earn a Lewis University Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal/Social Justice and a Bachelor of Arts in Fire Service Administration from Lewis University onsite at COD’s Glen Ellyn Campus.

Students who complete an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at COD, and students who complete an Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice at COD and take the necessary additional courses, are eligible to apply to this onsite program. The goal of the agreement is to provide students with a seamless transition between the programs.

The initiative to develop this agreement was student-centered and faculty-driven. The articulation took months of planning which included extensive reviews of syllabi, curricula, faculty credentials, and course content.

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In the main entrance to the Homeland Security Education Center is a steel beam from the New York City World Trade Center Towers. Security in the United States changed dramatically on 9/11 and COD felt it would be a permanent reminder and tribute to the men and women who lost their lives that day.

This multi-jurisdictional training center features a full-scale indoor street scene for force-on-force exercises, forensics and cybercrimes labs, a smoke room with moveable walls, a fire and scaling tower, and a full-size ambulance.
COD students earn their Associate degree at COD, and continue to take courses onsite at COD which are taught by Lewis faculty. Lewis faculty will continue to assess and enhance the onsite program. The state-of-the-art facility will provide mutually beneficial ongoing relationships for Lewis students and COD students.

**Pinnacle Airlines**

Alumna Captain Dolores Pavletic ’83 has been instrumental in helping Lewis to form a partnership with Pinnacle Airlines that would allow Lewis aviation students who qualify to become full-time employees and commercial pilots for Pinnacle upon graduation from Lewis. Normally graduates must complete a CFI requirement to build up their flight hours before they are eligible to fly commercially. Lewis students will be able to by-pass this phase and become directly eligible to hire, doing their training with Pinnacle at the same time they are logging flight hours.

This program is possible because Pinnacle believes the qualities of the individuals who successfully complete Lewis University’s aviation degree program(s) meet or exceed all standards with which they measure pilot qualifications and professionalism.

Pinnacle Airlines is headquartered in Memphis, Tenn. Students would be hired by their affiliate airlines - currently Pinnacle Airlines, Inc. and Mesaba Airlines.

**Podiatric Medicine Offered as New Professional Health Major**

Lewis University has partnered with the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine (OCPM) for an accelerated program for undergraduate majors. Lewis University juniors who have completed at least 90 semester hours and with concentrations in Biology or Chemistry may earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Lewis University at the successful completion of their first year of study at OCPM. With three additional years of study at OCPM, students may qualify to receive the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

University students who wish to enter OCPM must complete the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and submit an official acceptable test score (22+). For outstanding students, there is a special contingency admission into the program. If a student maintains a GPA of at least 3.5 in science or overall coursework during the first three years of his/her undergraduate program at Lewis University, the student will continue automatically into the OCPM curriculum with scholarship consideration. If the 3.5 GPA is not maintained, the student will enter the regular applicant pool for admission candidacy.

Similarly, an agreement has been signed with the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science through its Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine (Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine). Students may earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Lewis University and a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. This program will require a minimum of three (3) years of attendance at Lewis University followed by four (4) years of attendance at the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.

**Engineering Agreements with IIT**

Students, who successfully complete the coursework requirements of the joint program between Lewis University and Illinois Institute of Technology, will be eligible for a Bachelor of Science in an approved Physics program from Lewis and a Bachelor of Science degree in either an approved Aerospace Engineering program or an approved Mechanical Engineering program from IIT. It is anticipated that a student enrolled in these program will complete both degrees within five years. Students must satisfy all published requirements of the institution granting the degree. Applicants must be admissible to both Lewis and IIT, as determined by the respective admission offices.

**Additional Partnerships**

Lewis offers additional health-related dual admission partnerships with Logan College and Palmer College for Chiropractic Medicine, with Northwestern University for Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiation Therapy, and Vascular Ultrasound Technology, and with the College of DuPage for Dental Hygiene. An accelerated program with the John Marshall Law School is available for pre-law students. For additional information on any of these programs, please contact the Office of Admission by e-mail, admission@lewisu.edu, or by phone at (815) 836-5250.
Lewis University honored Lowell Stahl at the 13th annual Signum Fidei Celebration on Saturday, September 10 at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago. The event was attended by approximately 500 guests, netted nearly $200,000 in scholarship funding for the Lewis Mission Fund, and provided an elegant venue to announce the successful completion of the University's Campaign for Lewis University: Touching Hearts & Minds. The words Signum Fidei, meaning “Sign of Faith,” are a symbol of the commitment to the Catholic and Lasallian spirit that provides vision and purpose for Lewis University, and the Signum Fidei Award honors an outstanding individual who represents that spirit through their contributions to society and the University.

Lowell Stahl has a long and accomplished career in real estate and finance and has been a very faithful and generous friend to Lewis University. A member of the Lewis University Board of Trustees and alumnus of Saint Patrick Academy (now Saint Patrick High School) in Chicago, he has been a consistent benefactor to Lasallian education. His generosity has impacted many through scholarships, programs and facilities such as The Stahl Center for Entrepreneurship and Real Estate at Lewis University and the Stahl Family Theatre and the Lowell I. Stahl Cultural Centre at Saint Patrick.

After graduation from high school in 1952, Stahl worked at various jobs and entrepreneurial ventures before beginning his real estate and insurance career, where he quickly achieved a high level of success, purchasing the company by the late 1950s. In 1974, he opened the first Century 21 franchise in the Chicago area, pioneering the concept of real estate franchising in northern Illinois. He served as President and Chairman of the Chicago Real Estate Board and District Vice President for the Illinois Association of Realtors and was identified by the Chicago Real Estate Board as one of the 25 most prominent real estate professionals in Chicago history. He sold his Century 21 interests in 1995 and became majority shareholder and Chairman of Labe Federal Bank, where he brought his innovative business practices to the evolving financial industry. Under his leadership, Labe Bank registered significant growth and success over the years, which led to its sale in 2005. Stahl is now a partner in PFS Group, a real estate financing company, and has served as a member of the Lewis University Board of Trustees since 2008.

In addition to a ceremony and video tribute honoring Stahl, the evening included a silent auction, gourmet dinner, entertainment by the Lewis University Jazz Combo, live auction and raffles (see page 25). Well-known Chicago area meteorologist Rick DiMaio, a Lewis University Instructor of Meteorology, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President, said, “As our major annual benefit event for scholarship support, the Signum Fidei Celebration was our most successful ever and provided a splendid opportunity to focus on the quality of Lewis programs and our Catholic and Lasallian Mission.”
Alumni Achievement Awards

Lewis University presented awards to eight alumni on Saturday, September 24, 2011 as part of the Homecoming and Family Day Celebration. At a special Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner attended by family and friends of the honorees, Brother James Gaffney, FSC, Lewis University President, presented Cherilyn Murer of Homer Glen, Ill. with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and seven other Lewis alumni were honored for achievement within their fields.

Cherilyn Murer ’75  Distinguished Alumni Award

Cherilyn Murer completed her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal/Social Justice with honors from Lewis University in 1975, and also served as Director of Community Development and Coordinator of Community Arts Development for Lewis. She went on to earn a Juris Doctorate, with honors, from Northern Illinois University in 1978, a finance certificate from Harvard University, a marketing certificate from Stanford University and was designated a Certified Rehabilitation Administrator. She is currently President and CEO of Murer Consultants, Inc., a nationally-recognized, legal-based healthcare management consulting firm which she founded in 1985, providing guidance for national and international commissions and Presidential task forces. Cherilyn serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine, has authored more than 160 scholarly articles and is co-author of six books on healthcare management. She was appointed by the Governor of Illinois to the NIU Board of Trustees in 2005, and served as Chair from 2008-09. Cherilyn also recently became a member of the Lewis University Board of Trustees. She is a founding member and current Chair of the Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center and a member of the prestigious NIU College of Law Board of Visitors.
Jaime Garcia ’73  
*Achievement in Sports Management*  
Jaime Garcia of Sarasota, Fla., graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 from Lewis University and later earned a master’s degree in Spanish Education from Indiana State University in 1977. As a student, he was a member of Phi Kappa Theta and the men’s baseball team, playing under the legendary Coach Gordie Gillespie. He went on to become an extraordinarily successful coach himself, guiding teams from Providence Catholic High School to state championships, and earning Hall of Fame distinction from both Lewis University and Providence Catholic. He is currently the Pitching Coordinator for the Houston Astros Minor League.

Karen Hackett ’87  
*Achievement in Business*  
Karen Hackett of Chicago, Ill., received her Master’s in Business Administration in 1987. Hackett has more than 20 years of experience in association management, and currently is the CEO of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. She was previously the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives. In 2009, she was awarded the Association Forum’s Samuel B. Shapiro Award for CEO Achievement.

Lydia Kellogg ’99  
*Achievement in Aviation*  
Lydia Kellogg of Arlington, Va., earned a Bachelor of Arts in Aviation Administration. She was an active student as a member of Koinonia, Alpha Eta Rho-Lambda Rho Chapter, Women in Aviation, and the Lewis University Flight Team. Her career in aviation administration began with airport consultancy for Landrum & Brown, working on the O’Hare Modernization Project. Since 2007, Lydia has worked for Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA), an organization representing local, regional and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports in the United States and Canada. She currently holds the position of Director of Public Safety and Security.

John Kilpatrick ’92, ’08  
*Achievement in Radio/TV Broadcasting*  
John Kilpatrick of Oswego, Ill., earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio/TV Broadcasting in 1992 and a Master of Science in Information Security in 2008. While at Lewis, he was active in many student organizations and worked as Director of Student Activities, beginning the first video store at Lewis University. After graduation, he worked as an editor for MPI Home Video before returning to work for Lewis in 1994. Kilpatrick is currently the Director of Television Operations where he has grown the television program substantially. He was employed at Harpo Studios for 14 years as an editor for the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, and has earned three Emmy Awards.

Father John Merkelis, O.S.A. ’96  
*Achievement in Education*  
Father John Merkelis of New Lenox, Ill., is a lifelong learner, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Villanova University (*cum laude*) in 1978, a Divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in 1984, a graduate degree in Religious Studies from St. Louis University in 1991 and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Lewis University in 1996. He is currently the Pastoral Director for Providence Catholic High School where he has served in various roles since 1988 including Principal, Guidance Counselor and Kairos Spiritual Director.

Dr. Charles Slack ’68  
*Achievement in Healthcare*  
Dr. Charles Slack, of Chicago, Ill., graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1968 and earned his M.D. at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1972. He completed a postgraduate residency in orthopaedic surgery at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center, serving as chief resident his last year, and also completed a fellowship at Rush University Medical Center in Spinal Surgery, including care of spinal trauma, congenital and developmental spinal disorders. Dr. Slack has been a board certified orthopaedic surgeon since 1979, and is currently the owner of Illinois Bone and Joint Institute, a large group practice of orthopaedic surgeons with multiple locations throughout the Chicagoland area.

Eileen Mizwicki ’09  
*Young Alumni Award*  
Eileen Mizwicki of Chicago, Ill., graduated from Lewis University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education/Special Education, receiving the De La Salle Medallion for Exemplary Volunteer Service. While a student at Lewis, she participated in many volunteer events and was instrumental in the development of STAND (Students who stand for social justice). Mizwicki has worked for Chicago Public Schools and is completing a yearlong teaching assignment in Honduras for the Olancho Aid Foundation, Inc.
Opera by McFerron and Yordy Premieres at Carnegie Hall

The Remarkable Theatre Brigade Company performed “Loving Is” as part of the Opera Shorts concert on November 4 at Carnegie Hall. The opera scene is the work of Dr. Mike McFerron, Professor and Composer-in-Residence at Lewis University. Opera Shorts is a highly acclaimed concert series of 10-minute operas that have featured the music of highly regarded composers including Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winner, John Corigliano, and Pulitzer Prize winning composer, William Bolcom.

Dr. McFerron began working on the scene in collaboration with Dr. Jonathan Yordy, Executive Director of Major Gifts at Lewis University, more than one year ago. Featuring a libretto by Yordy, “Loving Is” is inspired by the legendary story of Tristan and Isolde that has enchanted audiences since the 12th century. “The story of Tristan and Isolde provided a great springboard for me and Jonathan to comment upon some of life’s most fundamental questions regarding desire, free will, faith and fidelity,” said McFerron. In “Loving Is,” Tristan goes mad with violent jealousy upon suspicion that his lover, Isolde, has fallen in love with another.

Local audiences will have an opportunity to hear the second performance of “Loving Is” at 7:30 p.m. on November 22 when The Remarkable Theater Brigade Company brings Opera Shorts to Lewis University as part of the Arts & Ideas Performing Arts Series.

Dr. Jonathan Yordy and Dr. Mike McFerron
The most successful campaign in Lewis University history wrapped up at the Signum Fidei Celebration this fall in Chicago. Despite the current recession and slow economic recovery, the campaign exceeded its goal by more than $1 million, supporting facility and program expansion to meet student demand.

Trustees and Campaign Co-Chairs Edward Prodehl and Dennis Tonelli announced the results of the Campaign for Lewis University: Touching Hearts & Minds, a six-year initiative focused on raising funds for scholarships and facilities at Lewis, at the recent Signum Fidei Celebration fundraiser held on September 10, 2011 (see page 25). Prodehl and Tonelli announced the final campaign results of $31,018,872 raised, exceeding the goal announced two years ago at the 2009 Signum Fidei Celebration, and making it the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in University history.

A video presentation reviewed the transformative developments at Lewis University made possible through funding from the campaign, including more than 70 new endowed and annual scholarships, plus the James A. LaGrippe Pastoral Center and Victoria LaGrippe Meditation Garden, the Professor Donald L. and Suellen K. Cordano Heritage Circle and Founder’s Garden, the John and Jeannette D’Arcy and Family Great Room, the Lewis Family Room, Time Plaza, The Colonel Stephen S. and Lyla Doherty Center for Aviation and Health Research, enhancements to the Sancta Alberta Chapel, The Lowell Stahl Center for Entrepreneurship and Real Estate, renovation of the College of Nursing and Health Professions facility, a new Science Center, phase one of the Oremus Fine Arts Center expansion and renovation, Fitzpatrick House improvements and the Chicago Aviation Education Partnership.

“Achieving the objectives of this very ambitious campaign continues to propel the University forward toward our goal of being the regional university of choice and an institution of distinction,” said Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University.

Momentum is on the University’s side, with eight consecutive years of record-breaking enrollment, as well as new facilities, renovations and programs being added each year.

“It is impressive to see all that the campaign accomplished and that the University has succeeded despite a difficult economy,” said Len Bertolini, Interim Vice President for University Advancement.

“Our success is very telling about the strength of the Lewis community.”
Lewis’ Kelly McConkey Just Can’t Get Enough Of Flyer Volleyball

by Brett Lyons

Most college students can’t wait to obtain their degrees and graduate to the next chapter of their lives.

In the case of Kelly McConkey, saying goodbye to the women’s volleyball program wasn’t so simple.

McConkey, a 5-foot-11 defensive specialist from Naperville North High School, was set to conclude her volleyball career this past spring when she celebrated her Senior Night. McConkey missed the 2008 season when she took a medical redshirt, leaving a year of eligibility available should she decide to play this fall.

Being away from her teammates and closest friends on the court would have been too significant of a loss for her personally. After spending many months debating whether she should play this season, McConkey decided at the last possible moment in April to compete with the team.

“Ultimately coming back was just the right thing to do for me,” McConkey said. “I was never not set on coming back. There was always that thought in the back of my mind that I wanted to be here.

“It was probably the last week of school, maybe finals week, that I thought ‘All right fine, let’s do this’. I switched some stuff around and made it official.

“It was an amazing feeling.”

McConkey wasn’t the only member of the team who struggled with what appeared to be her departure from the program. Head coach Lorelee Smith admitted it would have been difficult to see her very first Lewis University commitment walk out the door.

“I would take (Kelly) on any team I ever coach at any point in time,” Smith said about her fifth-year senior. “She embodies the Lewis women’s volleyball spirit, the swagger and the identity really well. I feel that if somebody decides to come back for a fifth year and it wasn’t something that you can go in and talk to her. I do that all the time.”

McConkey said that in addition to missing her friends and the sport of volleyball, her coach was another strong influence in the decision to return action.

“I don’t want to say she’s like a second mom,” McConkey said. “She could be like an aunt – like a family figure you can go to and talk to about anything and a lot of times I do.”

This decision for McConkey meant having to rearrange her classes for this fall. Initially, McConkey planned on student teaching this semester and graduating with her Special Education degree in the winter.

Once she finalized playing one more season, McConkey had to delay such plans until the upcoming spring.

Ultimately, she feels that this was the best case scenario for her moving forward. She is currently enrolled in specialty elective classes such as sign language, which she feels can help her professional career once college is complete.

In the end, McConkey did what felt right.

Kelly McConkey

During her career at Lewis University, McConkey has played for three Great Lakes Valley Conference championship squads, including two trips to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.
Cooper Sisters Join Forces On Lewis Women's Soccer Team

by Brett Lyons

Sibling rivalries in sports add a personal, in-depth dimension to the game. When those siblings just happen to be on the same team, it thickens the plot even more.

Libby and Hillary Cooper, both products of Batavia High School, are Division I transfers to the Lewis University women’s soccer team. Libby, a junior, made the transition to the Flyers after her freshman season at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"I transferred because I wanted a better balance of school and soccer," Libby said. "D-I focused a lot on the athletic portion and I wanted to get a better balance. I had 30,000 kids at [UW-Milwaukee] so there were hundreds of kids in my class," Libby continued.

After playing her first season for the Flyers, Libby reached out to her younger sister Hillary to join her in Romeoville. Hillary had completed her first year at Eastern Kentucky University and was homesick.

"Honestly, I was just far from home," Hillary said. "I wanted to be closer to home because it makes it a lot easier on me and my parents."

Hillary was able to learn everything about the program from Libby. Her older sister was able to tell her all about the size, degrees and facilities that Lewis offered. Coupled with the leadership from Lewis head coach Chris Koenig, Hillary was packing her bags for Romeoville.

"[Chris] really looks out for us and cares for us a lot," Libby said of her head coach. "He relates to you on a personal level, so he gets to know us a lot.

"Some head coaches don’t like to directly interact with the players – they'd rather just have their assistants do that," Libby continued. "Chris does that really well."

"With both siblings on the team, the chemistry between them on and off the field changes slightly. When it comes to playing the sport, business is business – and both sisters are conscious of that."

"I know what she’s going to do," Hillary said. "It’s easier for me to get down on her and tell her ‘this is what you’re doing and this is what you need to be doing.’ Some people would take that personally. It’s easier for me to relay messages to her and get after her about stuff."

Playing with your sibling is a unique experience not many get to experience other than in the backyard. The Cooper sisters enjoy the opportunity and make the most of it as two friends who grew up playing soccer together.

"It’s fun," Libby said. "I kind of know what she’s going to do because I grew up with her and I’ve seen her play a lot. Sometimes we get into sisterly arguments," Hillary continued. "It’s comical for other people. You’ve got to know going into it we’re going to have nit-picky arguments being around each other all the time but I find it a lot of fun."

Hillary and Libby admit they take stabs at each other as only sisters can. While most of the “arguments” the sisters get into are light-hearted, they don’t take any of the comments too seriously and for good reason too.

"We know they’ll be teammates long after they stop playing soccer."

Johnson Named Head Cheerleading Coach

Lewis Director of Athletics Dan Schumacher announced that longtime Flyer assistant cheerleading coach Carla Johnson has been elevated to head coach following the retirement of Eric Osburn. Johnson, who has served as an assistant coach since 2004, has played a key role in helping the Flyers to five consecutive top-10 finishes at the NCA Collegiate Nationals, including a first-place finish at the 2007 AmeriCheer National Championships.

“Carla has played a big part in our success as a cheerleading program and I am pleased that she will take our team to new heights in the future,” Schumacher said.

Brandon McGhee, who was previously the volunteer assistant coach, has been elevated to a full-time assistant coach.
Lewis University Stadium Unveiled

Lewis University unveiled a new multi-purpose athletic and recreation complex/track on Friday, September 23 on its main campus in Romeoville. The collegiate athletic complex features a multi-sport field and a NCAA-certified, nine-lane competition track. The stadium is located on the south part of campus west of the Dorothy Day Residence Hall. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies also were held at the renovated Neil Carey Arena in the JFK Sports Center.

"The entire student-body will benefit from this new athletic and recreation complex, which is one of many recent capital projects underway at Lewis University," commented Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President. "These facilities will be used for intramurals, sports clubs, student recreation and practices, as well as extensive intercollegiate athletic competition," he continued.

The nine-lane competition track and field event areas are the second of its kind in the state of Illinois, in addition to the Eastern Illinois University’s track facility. The complex includes stadium bleacher seating available for at least 500 and eventually up to 2,500 fans and a state-of-the-art scoreboard. The complex is also media friendly with a press box for members of the media and game operations personnel. The modern athletic and recreation complex featuring the most advanced field-turf surface available provides Lewis University with some of the best facilities of their type in the Midwest.

Participating in the ceremony were: Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University; James LaGrppe, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees; Trustee Mohra Gavankar and James Harvey, Dan Schumacher, Director of Athletics; Jill Siegfried Director of Student Recreation, Fitness & Wellness; Adam Burkhardt, Assistant Director of Student Recreation and Fitness; Wayne Draudt, Executive Vice President; Robert DeRose, Vice President for Business and Facilities; Dr. Nancy Workman, Faculty Athletic Representative and English Professor; Evan Fiffles, Head Men’s Soccer Coach; Chris Koenig, Head Women’s Soccer Coach; and Dana Schwartz, Head Coach, Men’s and Women’s Track and Field. Mayor John Noak of Romeoville and Ken Osmun of Wight Construction participated in the ribbon cutting as well. Students participating included: Philip Hodur and Kamille Ferguson. Intramural Athletes participating included Kyle McKinley and Amanda Rock. Several alumni athletes participated in the ceremony as well.

Roger Karns Named Lewis Men’s And Women’s Swimming Head Coach

Roger Karns has been named the Flyers’ fifth head men’s and women’s swimming coach in school-history.

Karns, who is entering his 32nd year as a swimming coach, has coached NCAA All-Americans, High School All-Americans, Junior and Senior National Qualifiers and Olympic Trials Qualifiers throughout his distinguished career. He is an American Swim Coaches’ Association Level Five coach.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve as head swimming coach at Lewis University," Karns said. "The team is made up of great young men and women and I am very excited to be working with them."

"Lewis is an outstanding institution of higher learning and I am honored to be a part of the University," Karns continued. "I look forward to building on the tradition of success at Lewis and helping the team grow."

Most recently, Karns served as assistant coach at Grand Valley State University from 2008-11. Karns helped the Laker men’s and women’s teams to top-10 finishes at the NCAA Division II National Championships in each of his three seasons. Individually, Grand Valley State earned 200 All-America Awards during Karns’ tenure.

He was also influential in helping Grand Valley State to a pair of Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships. The men won in 2010 while the women took home the title in 2009.

Before arriving at Grand Valley State, Karns was the head swimming coach at Wawasee High School in Syracuse, Indiana from 1989-2008 where his teams amassed a 359-130-2 dual meet record. Karns guided Wawasee to nine boys and three girls Indiana Sectional team championships. Wawasee finished second in the Indiana State meet in 1994, seventh in 1993, 10th in 1997 and 2003. In addition, Wawasee claimed four Northern Lakes Conference girls titles and three boys crowns.

Individually, Karns coached 17 NISCA High School All-Americans, three state champions and four that earned runner-up honors. Karns was named Northern Lakes Conference and Indiana Sectional Coach of the Year 18 times. Prior to Wawasee, Karns was the head coach at NorthWood (Ind.) High School from 1983-89.

Karns graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor’s degree in education in 1980 and earned a master’s in education from Indiana University-South Bend in 1990. Karns was a two-year letterwinner in swimming at Ball State (1975-76) and was a part of a then record-setting 800 free relay team.

Karns replaces Steve Thompson who took a position at North Carolina State University.
Guy Claude Ngbwa-Ngbwa Proud To Be Part Of Lewis University

by Brett Lyons

For some, sports are a recreational hobby to beat boredom and stay athletically fit after school.

Personal stories aren’t written just based on an individual’s on-the-field performance. Every athlete who has ever played has a story – some more serious than others.

The story of Guy Ngbwa-Ngbwa is a difficult story to digest. The 22-year-old Lewis University men’s soccer player has been through family hardships so inhumane they are nearly indescribable.

In 2007, Guy’s father, Jean-Claude Ngbwa, became the mayor of Ebolowa – a city in Cameroon, Africa. The job required 24/7 attention and Guy would rarely see his father at home.

His father’s agenda was to defend the common man against the country’s governmental rule. Uproars broke out all across the country, schools were closed for months and Guy’s father was on the receiving end of death threats.

The torment continued until one day when Guy’s half-sister was found slain. There was never any proof that the government was responsible for the murder, but Guy’s father knew his family was in severe danger.

The family would move around southern Africa to different cities but never felt like they were truly out of harm’s way. In order to know his children were safe, Guy and his siblings were relocated to a small city 25 miles northwest of Paris, France to live with relatives. Guy’s parents stayed behind to continue the fight for the rights of the common man.

“My dad told me it was better for us to go somewhere else – a more peaceful country,” said Guy.

Free from the threat of danger, Guy was ready to attend college. He initially wanted to study political science and become like his father. He had decided to come to America, where he had hopes of playing soccer to offset the costs of tuition.

Playing soccer was an important part of Guy’s childhood because that served as a means of socialization with other children. A simple sport with a simple concept was a means of escape from the horrors of daily life for Ngbwa-Ngbwa.

“Soccer has been basically 50-60% of my social life,” Guy said. “I started moving a lot around the world every four years. Soccer was my only way to socialize with people and make new friends. Without soccer, I’d be lost. It’s not always good for a kid who is 12, 13 years old to move around and lose his friends, start a new life and start making new friends and then leave them again and start a new life.”

Hoping to continue playing while furthering his education, Guy chose Georgia Premier College in Atlanta, Georgia, but was unable to play during his one and only semester in Atlanta.

Guy would transfer to Mountain State University in Beckley, West Virginia. He was finally able to play competitive soccer and study computer science – which would serve as his newest passion.

Guy was inspired to change careers after living with his uncle in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – the only family he has in the United States. His uncle’s house would serve as his residence during Christmas, Thanksgiving and summer breaks throughout the school years.

After spending three semesters in Appalachia, Guy would once again change zip codes. The athletic program at Mountain State was on the brink of folding. Guy wanted to continue playing soccer along with his studies.

The decision to transfer yet again was made after Guy made a visit to Lewis last spring.

“Comparing Lewis and my old school, there was no choice to make,” Guy said. “There was no doubt in my mind I wanted to come here and get a better degree. The soccer program was really, really good.”

For once, Guy feels settled and at ease completely. Per his father’s will, he will remain in the States until he finishes his degree. That means that even on breaks, he is unable to return to France to see his siblings and especially Cameroon to see his parents.

Guy still finds ways to keep in touch with his relatives. His father, who he describes as his role model, regularly exchanges e-mails and phone calls with his son. Guy’s father pushes him to be all he can be and remain strong until his college career and studies are complete.

“People just won’t understand what I went through,” Guy said. “People from back home will.”

“[Americans are] willing to understand, but if you’re not around it’s hard to get it,” Ngbwa-Ngbwa continued. “It’s hard to feel what’s going on.”

Things are normal again for a young man who has seen and gone through more turmoil than any human being should have to endure in his or her entire life time. Guy has a plan, a future and most importantly, hope to carry him forward in life.

“I can’t even believe it,” Guy said. “Thinking about the opportunity I have here that I didn’t have back home makes me want to stay here.”
Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program makes it possible for full-time undergraduate students from financially challenged and disadvantaged backgrounds to persist through the rigorous Bachelor of Science Nursing Program. This scholarship program complements University efforts to recruit and retain individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The College of Nursing and Health Professions works closely with the University Admissions Office and high school counselors to identify and recruit students needing financial assistance. Once enrolled, the Coordinator of Retention provides on-going support and guidance for students and faculty providing services including: monitoring student progress toward degree completion, providing supplementary educational opportunities; as well as encouraging and establishing peer mentoring relationships.

Support through the program allows the University to provide financial assistance in the form of significant direct grants to students. Funding under the SDS Program is allocated with preference to baccalaureate nursing students for whom the cost of attendance would constitute a severe financial hardship. Lewis University was first awarded the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration in 2009. The award for the 2011-2012 Academic Year was $108,459.

$25,000 Female Flyers Scholarship Challenge

University Advancement is pleased to announce that Lewis friend and benefactor Diane Ballweg has generously offered a challenge gift of $25,000 to permanently endow the Female Flyers Scholarship. With this challenge gift, she is asking Lewis alumni, parents, and friends to contribute an additional $25,000 to match her personal gift. The Female Flyers Scholarship will recruit talented young women to pursue Aviation and Transportation Studies at Lewis University.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, of the nearly 600,000 active pilots in the United States, approximately six percent are women and only slightly more than three percent are ATP rated. Women account for only 3.85 percent of the more than 500,000 non-pilot aviation jobs in the United States. Ballweg is a passionate supporter of women in aviation, and she has attended and participated in the Lewis University Aviation Conference for Women and Minorities. She recognizes the vital need to increase the number of women in aviation, and she has issued this scholarship challenge to personally address this issue and to inspire others to join in this important cause. To learn how you can support the Female Flyers Scholarship, please contact Kathryn Risor-Heise, Director of Annual Giving, via e-mail at risorhka@lewisu.edu or by phone at (815) 836-5471.

Illinois State Board of Education Grant Supports STEM Workshops for Teachers

Lewis University was the recipient of a $160,000 grant through the Illinois State Board of Education for the “Illinois Math and Science Partnership Program Summer Institute Program, as part of a national initiative to provide increased education for students in the areas of science, technology, and mathematics. The grant enabled Lewis to offer a 2-week workshop in June for 25 K-8 teachers in Joliet District 86, and included a follow up session in August. The workshop focused on “Green and Renewable Energy” and taught the mathematics and science of renewable energy to teachers, employing a combination of lectures, videos, field trips, computer exercises, hands-on experiments, and ongoing self-guided action research projects to help convey essential issues related to energy production and delivery and its corresponding environmental impact.

Each topic was accompanied by an in-depth and practical discussion of how those concepts and skills may be presented in the classroom, both as a way to educate students about energy issues and to help them learn important skills they need to master in their math and science classes. Details on the topics of the sessions can be found in the article on page 11. Lewis has been notified that the grant is renewed for the summer of 2012.
The 13th annual Signum Fidei Celebration, held at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago on September 10, was attended by approximately 500 Lewis alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff and students, and netted nearly $200,000 for The Lewis Mission Fund.

In addition to honoring Lowell Stahl with the Signum Fidei Award, the Lewis community enjoyed cocktails and appetizers during an elegant reception in the Red Lacquer Room, entertainment by students from the Lewis University Jazz Combo, a silent auction filled with fabulous merchandise and two raffles and a live auction. As dessert was served, Trustees and Campaign Co-Chairs Edward Prodehl and Dennis Tonelli, made a special announcement revealing results of the recently concluded Campaign for Lewis University: Touching Hearts & Minds. During the live auction, a special request to generous guests for funding for The Mission Fund raised more than $54,000. This segment got off to a great start through a generous $15,000 gift from Board of Trustees member Russ Smyth, and his wife Dawn, and a $5,000 gift from Trustee Tim Ferrarell and his wife Carey. The Fund, established in early 2009, provides extra financial assistance for enrolled students whose families have been impacted by economic hardship, enabling them to complete their degrees. Lewis students participated in the event, selling raffle tickets and mingling with guests. Students Michael Friar and Brittany Moore, both recipients of assistance through The Lewis Mission Fund, were featured in a video thanking donors for their support.

Wight & Company has been a generous Signum Fidei Celebration sponsor since 2004, and returned as the premier $25,000 sponsor of the event. Other major sponsors of $10,000 or more included: Mr. Lowell Stahl, Follett Higher Education Group (Lewis University Bookstore), Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gabriel, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Prodehl, Mr. and Mrs. William Rybak, Sodexo Inc. and Affiliates; and Mr. and Mrs. Joel Stava.
Young Alumni Outreach for Lewis’ 80th Anniversary

During the month of September, members of the Young Alumni Board gathered to call fellow alumni to invite them to Homecoming, update their information, and invite them to make a special gift in honor of Lewis’ 80th Anniversary. Young alumni are being asked to consider a gift of $8 a month for the 80th Anniversary year. These gifts can be automatically charged to a credit card on a monthly basis. If you would like to contribute or would like more information, you can visit the Alumni Giving Web site www.lewisu.edu/give or contact Kathryn Risor-Heise, Director of Annual Giving, via e-mail at risorhka@lewisu.edu or by phone at (815) 836-5471.

A Tradition of Thanksgiving at Lewis

In keeping with our Catholic and Lasallian Mission, Lewis has initiated a tradition of gratitude and thanksgiving that engages our students and educates them about the importance of philanthropy. The first effort took place on August 26 as more than one hundred incoming freshmen gathered to write personal thank-you notes to our donors. These students wrote almost 3,000 personal notes! In the late fall, Lewis freshmen participated in a three-day Thank-a-thon to make thank-you calls to our donors. Our hope is that this will become a lasting tradition at Lewis that will inspire our students and let our donors know how much they mean to our students and to the University.

Fall Phone-a-Thon

Thank you to all of the alumni, parents and friends who contributed to the fall phone-a-thon. Spring phone-a-thon will begin in January, 2012.

Flyer Network is more than 35,000 Strong!

Utilize the online network of more than 35,000 Lewis University alumni by finding fellow Flyers in your workplace, professional organizations, and throughout your community.

Just update your contact information with us at www.alumni.lewisu.edu, include your professional information, and you will be listed in the Flyer Business Directory, found in the CONNECT/CAREER SERVICES section of the Web site. You can search for alumni by organization name, industry or profession, and updating your information will ensure that you’ll receive updates and invitations to events and networking opportunities from Lewis. And find even more in-depth networking information by joining the Lewis University Alumni LinkedIn group, now with more than 2,000 alumni members!

Benefits of Membership

As a Lewis University graduate, did you know that you are automatically eligible for alumni benefits including a Lewis scholarship for your children, discounts on products and services from Apple, Adidas, Dell, Overstock, Brookstone, Liberty Mutual and more? Visit alumni.lewisu.edu/alumnibenefits for more information and discount codes. If you would like to offer a benefit or discount to Lewis alumni, contact us at alumni@lewisu.edu or (815) 836-5545.
Welcome New Members of the Harold E. White Legacy Society!

It is with tremendous gratitude and appreciation that we wish to welcome and recognize the newest members of the Harold E. White Legacy Society. The Society is named in honor of the former local newspaper magnate who gifted more than $10 million to Lewis through his estate in the early 1990s. An aviation enthusiast during his lifetime, the funding was fittingly used to construct the Harold E. White Aviation Center on Lewis’ main campus in Romeoville and also enabled the purchase of upgraded flight simulation and other aviation-related educational equipment.

During the past 18 months, the following individuals have either established a new planned gift commitment or informed the University that a gift to Lewis is included in their estate plans. Eight additional individuals have also done similarly during this period but wish to remain anonymous.

A full listing of the Harold E. White Legacy Society’s membership is published each year in the Lewis University President’s Annual Report. Membership is offered to individuals who have informed the University of the completion of one of the following:

- Made a gift provision for Lewis in their will or living trust
- Made Lewis the owner and/or partial or full beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- Named Lewis the partial or full beneficiary of an IRA or bank account
- Established a Charitable Gift Annuity with Lewis
- Named Lewis the partial or full beneficiary of a charitable trust

Society members enjoy a number of benefits at Lewis, while also enjoying the satisfaction of knowing that they are supporting the University’s future. Establishing a planned gift for Lewis will not only allow you to leave your own legacy, but will also help provide a high-quality education rooted in our Catholic and Lasallian tradition to future generations of students.

For more information about planned giving or becoming a member of the Harold E. White Legacy Society, please contact Len Bertolini, Interim Vice President for University Advancement, at (815) 836-5267 or bertolle@lewisu.edu.

New Harold E. White Legacy Society Members

- Mr. Clifford & Mrs. Rita Berglund
- Mr. George & Mrs. Regina ‘78 Block
- Dr. Michael J. ’69 & Mrs. Linda Cunningham
- Mr. James & Mrs. Ann Goodwin
- Dr. John & Mrs. Susan ’99 Greenwood
- Estate of Dr. Russell & Mrs. Edna Harvey †
- Mr. Stanley ’63 & Mrs. Mary Louise Honacki
- Mr. Kenneth Kriza ’67
- Ms. Rose E. Mancuso
- Mr. Vincent K. McGirr
- Estate of Mr. George Michas †
- Brother Michael Quirk, FSC, EdD ’75, ’79
- Mr. William ’73 & Mrs. Jane Rybak
- Mr. Eduardo & Mrs. Jody Sanchez
- Mr. David G. ’68 & Mrs. Marcille Sandahl
- Dr. Byung-In Seo ’94
- Mr. James P. Szczepaniak ’60
- Mr. Thomas J. Secor ’68
- Mr. Russ & Mrs. Dawn Smyth
- Mr. Joel ’78 & Mrs. Debra Baron ’78 Stava
- † indicates deceased
1960s

Vernon Gaugush ’61 (Liberal Arts) was honored this June at the 20th anniversary of the annual Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Wausau, Wis. Vernon is responsible for bringing the tournament to its location in Wisconsin, and his determination and enthusiasm have fueled its progress over the past 20 years. Currently, Vernon is the Clubhouse Manager at Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon, Wis.

John Senffner ’67 (Business Administration) worked to combat the Arizona wildfire this summer. John is a Captain at a local Arizona fire department and was highly involved in controlling the devastating fire.

1970s

Patrick Daley ’78 (Speech) traveled to Rwanda, Africa on a mission trip in support of the orphanage/school that was founded by his church in response to the 1994 Genocide. This particular trip celebrated the first ever graduating class of high school students.

1980s

Mark Bickel, attended ’82-’84 (Finance) has accepted a new position as General Manager for the Washington South branch at Devcon Security.

Rick Migliacio, attended ’78-’79 (Aviation Maintenance) was selected to receive Alaska Airlines’ Legends Award for demonstrating his commitment to excellence, in addition to his unique spirit, professionalism and integrity. Rick received recognition during an awards ceremony in Seattle, Wash. on May 12, 2011.

1990s

Marvin Francis ’92 (Graduate Criminal/Social Justice) recently retired from his position at Walgreens as a Project Coordinator within the Accounting Department.

Doree (Matczak) Krage ’91 (Journalism) and husband Blaine Krage ’91 (Journalism) are pleased to announce that their daughter Nicole is attending Lewis this fall. Nicole graduated with high honors from Glenbard East High School, Class of 2011, in Lombard, Ill. She has not yet declared her major at Lewis.

2000s

Allyson Berglund ’07 (Biology) earned her Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, Ill. She was awarded the Scholl Distinguished Scholar Award and was an Orthopedic Specialty Clinic and Clinical Radiology Clerkship Honors recipient. In July 2011, Allyson began a three-year surgical residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard Teaching Hospital, in Boston, Mass.

Katrina Binaku ’08 (Chemistry) is pursuing her graduate degree in Chemistry at Loyola University in Chicago, Ill. She is also working as a Teaching Assistant within the undergraduate Chemistry Department at Loyola and was recently awarded “Teaching Assistant of the Year” (2010-2011).

Denis Block ’07 (Accountancy) has accepted a position as the new Assistant Director of Lasallian Formation at the Mission and Ministry Center at St. Mary’s College of Moraga, Calif.

Wayon Collins ’05 (Graduate Public Safety Administration) is currently employed at Loyola University within the Campus Police Force as a Watch Commander. He expects to work another 30 months before retiring from law enforcement to spend time with his family.

Sharon Canariato ’07 (Graduate Nursing/Business) has accepted a new position as the Executive Director at the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders.
Michael Eck ’06, ’08 (Marketing, Graduate Business) relocated to the Phoenix, Ariz. area where he is an account strategist for I-ology, Inc., a digital marketing agency.

Jalil Hazboun ’05 (Graduate Business) is a Program Officer for the International Youth Foundation.

Jamie Siedlaczek ’09 (Finance) has been welcomed to Executive Links, LLC as the second female representative hired within the metropolitan area of Raleigh, N.C. In her new role, she hopes to assist and teach students how to improve their golf performance.

Matthew Starr ’10 (Political Science) is pursuing his Graduate degree in National Security Studies while working as an Admissions Advisor at DeVry University. Matthew has also been elected Tax Collector of Plainfield Township.

2010s

Riverside Police Chief Tom Weitzel ’00 and ’02 (BA and MS Criminal/Social Justice) was appointed President of the West Suburban Chiefs of Police Association on Friday, September 16, 2011. The association was formed in 1960 and promotes networking and training for their members, and also serves to follow and promote legislation affecting the communities within the near west suburbs. Other members of the Chiefs Association include the Illinois State Police, Cook County Sheriff’s Police, and the FBI. Chief Weitzel is a resident of Homer Glen, Ill.

Weddings

Jamie (Boswell) ’09 (Nursing) and John Partyka were married on October 1, 2010 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Orland Park, Ill., Jamie is a Registered Nurse at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Ill., and John is a Logistics Analyst at MedSpeed in Elmhurst, Ill.

Monika (Muranski) Drozd ’10 (Elementary Education) and husband, Adam Drozd were married on June 18, 2011.

Future Flyers

Jeana (Coats) Bain ’04 (Graduate Organizational Leadership) and Brian Bain welcomed their third child, daughter Julianna Madison Bain, on July 11, 2011. Big brothers Jackson and Bryce were thrilled to meet their new sister.

Valerie (Olis) Beeler ’06 (Nursing) and Chris Beeler welcomed the birth of their daughter, Noelle Mallery Beeler, on April 5, 2011.

Shannon (Eagle) Kuempel ’02 ’09 (Human Communications and Graduate Business) and Kurt Kuempel ’02 ’07 (Aviation Administration, Aviation Flight Management and Graduate Business) welcomed their second child, Broderick Andrew Kuempel, on January 11, 2011. Older sister Alexis was excited to meet her younger brother. The Kuempels celebrated their second wedding anniversary on May 24, 2011.

Doug Wendt ’01 (Aviation Administration) and Michelle (Farina) Wendt ’02 (Aviation Administration) welcomed their first baby, Emery Michelle Wendt, in July 2011.

In Memoriam

William P. Byrns ’69 (English) passed away on August 21, 2011.

Christopher Schulz ’97 (Graduate Education) passed away in May 2011.

Robert Weber ’73 (Marketing) passed away on June 6, 2011.

Scott Tezak, Student (Aviation Administration) passed away on May 6, 2011.

Eugene Littlefield ’11 (Aviation Maintenance Management) passed away on October 1, 2011. Mr. Littlefield recently completed his bachelor’s degree at Lewis at the age of 81. He had flown 200 different types of planes, was inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame and was named a master pilot for more than 50 years of flying without a crash.
Homecoming & Family Day

1. Martin ‘09 and Daphne Bankston and the lead singer for 80s band The Breakfast Club live it up at Oktoberfest.

2. John Dragas ‘61 with wife, Barbara and Brother James Gaffney, FSC, reunite with classmates at the Golden Flyer Luncheon.

3. Anne LaGrippe shows her Lewis spirit at the Golden Flyers Luncheon.


5. Amy Weierman ‘05 celebrates with husband Robert ‘98, after winning a $500 airline gift card in the Spirit of Lewis promotion.

6. Jack Azman ‘55 and Lillian Randich come together with the Lewis University Cheerleaders at the Golden Flyers Luncheon.

7. Laura ‘93, Jessica, and Lauren Barnes spend some family time together at the Legacy Reception.
A spirited Lewis grandparent enjoys the music at Oktoberfest. Ashley Gazda and family grab some lunch at the Lewis Flyers Family Luncheon with Brother James Gaffney, FSC. The Women’s Volleyball team achieves a big win over Northern Kentucky during the Homecoming weekend. Yvonne Smith ’75, Valerie Davis ’80, and Michael ’77 and Angelique Parker at the BSU/NHPC Reunion, which raised more than $7,400 for the Trailblazer Scholarship. 2007 Alumni and friends enjoy a good time at Oktoberfest. Future Flyers enjoying Fun on the Green.
Alumni Outings

Swan Lake Golf Outing:

Chicago White Sox:
2. John ‘78 and Patti ‘79 McIntire and family cheered on the Sox.
3. Part of the Lewis alumni Sox cheering squad.

Chicago Yacht Club:
4. Lisa Martinez with Marion and Jo Ann Sornat.
5. Debra and Rich Crowley ‘91 with Eric Boafo ‘06.

Hairspray Theatre Reception:
7. Mohra Gavankar, Linda Phillips and Br. James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University.
Lewis Wind Quintet Concert Reception: Andrew '73 and Candice Langert enjoy the reception at the inaugural concert for the Lewis University Wind Quintet.

Arlington Race Track: Alumni and Friends enjoy a beautiful day at Arlington Race Track.

Patrice Cavallo Stark '79 and Brad Stark.

What's new"