Lewis’ newly dedicated monument tells the story of a chance encounter that led to Saint John Baptist de La Salle’s legacy as founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and patron saint of educators.
Lewis in Color
Over the summer months, in addition to the summer camps and professional development workshops offered each year, Lewis hosted its first international conference on campus (see p. 6). You can imagine the publicity over the Internet and on social media! You will see this theme continue throughout the stories that follow as Lewis is attracting more people from out-of-state and internationally.
Lewis University has expanded the student profile through new academic programs and teaching modalities, as well as D-II athletics. The student body reflects an increase in out-of-state students, in international students, in residential students, and in students taking online courses.

**2019 Student Profile**

**2019 1st Year Class**
- 638 Students
- 16% Out of State
- 50/50 Gender Mix
- 40% Historically Underrepresented

**International**
- 171 Total Students
- 59 New Students
- 33 Undergraduate
- 26 Graduate
- 59 Countries Represented

**Strongest Academic Profile**
- 65 Residential
- 40% Historically Underrepresented

**Graduate Students**
- 500 Full Time
- 378 Fully Online
- 351 Frequent Flyer
- 65 Residential
- 69% Female
- 40% Historically Underrepresented

**Largest Majors**
- Aviation Flight
- Nursing
- Computer Science
- Biology
- Business

**59 Countries Represented**
- 32 Saudi Arabia
- 24 India
- 08 China
- 07 Canada
- 06 Korea
- 06 Nigeria
Michigan

Karlie Cummins
Biology major, soccer player

Karlie Cummins was a center defender for her Farmington Hills, Mich. high school team. Her Dad, a coach, suggested they look at Lewis University and that is how they discovered Lewis’ excellent Biology program.

Now a junior Biology major and a top-notch defender on the Women’s Soccer team, she knows she made the right college choice. “I like everything about the Biology department: the professors, the exceptional labs, the partnerships and professional programs, and the undergraduate research projects that inspire and encourage me,” she says.

“I chose Lewis University because of their affiliation with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) Early Acceptance program. One thing I must say about Lewis is their outstanding faculty. They showed me respect and trust that motivated me,” said Saniya.

“I watch a lot of games in the Fieldhouse; being part of the Lewis athletic community provides me with things to do and extra friends.”

India

Alka Chugh
Master’s Secondary Education-Mathematics

“I knew it was going to be a great fit because Lewis has a great reputation among the teacher community,” Alka said. Alka went to high school in New Delhi, India. She said, “My early education consisted of boring rote memorization and there was no element of fun while learning. I think Math is dreaded by many students and teachers need to figure out ways to make it appealing so that students actually enjoy their own education, which also leads to them being more invested in their own learning.”

“My professors at Lewis are just great! They are knowledgeable, and make every class an experience in itself. I found the environment so welcoming that I always looked forward to my classes, professors, and peers! I want to be a teacher who is approachable and kind. A part of being a teacher is also teaching your students about real life and human values. Without sounding too cliché, I want my classroom to be a learning ground not just for Math but also how we treat each other.”

Canada

Saniya Qadir
Biology/Pre-med major

Originally from Canada, Saniya became interested in science as a child. She said, “I was a curious child and I always wanted to know why or how.” She continued, “Science draws the link between structure and function and answers such questions.”

“I chose Lewis University because of their affiliation with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) Early Acceptance program. One thing I must say about Lewis is their outstanding faculty. They showed me respect and trust that motivated me,” said Saniya.

“Lewis offers plenty of outreach such as shadowing a doctor or research opportunities, which connects our classroom learning with the clinical experience.” She appreciates that many of her professors have excellent experiences outside academia that help students in the field.

Russia

Ted Berkus
Criminal Justice major

Ted said, “My major in Lewis University’s Criminal Justice program will lead me to a career that gives me the ability to play to my strengths and use my specific skills for a greater good, whether through helping victims of crime as a victims’ advocate, helping to counsel and rehabilitate convicted criminals as a forensic psychologist, or overseeing the progress of a parolee or probationer as a probation, parole or community control officer.”

Ted is originally from Russia and enrolled in Lewis classes offered on the College of DuPage campus as part of a unique partnership for COD students. Ted said, “I was in military school in Russia for my high school. I chose Lewis University because of the efficient program that Lewis and COD provide, and the recommendation from friends who told me that it is a very good University!”

The Criminal Justice courses are taught by Lewis full-time faculty with actual field experience resulting in a greater understanding of the real-world issues, policies and procedures that directly impact today’s professionals. Ted said, “We learn to keep the high ethical standards the field demands.”

WHY LEWIS?

We interviewed a few of our out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students to see what attracted them to Lewis.
Reflecting the excellence at Lewis University, U.S. News & World Report has once again ranked Lewis as a Top 20 Regional University in the Midwest.

“Our focus on the careers of the future and educating students to become ‘master learners’ has made us a destination college for students,” Dr. David J. Livingston, president of Lewis University, commented. “Our Catholic and Lasallian tradition also creates a supportive community atmosphere where all feel welcome.”

Lewis University saw score improvements across multiple areas including total overall score, peer institution assessment and the percentage of classes under 20 students. This builds upon gains made in recent years in graduation rates and successful job placement of graduates.
Lewis University hosted the 15th International Gothic Association (IGA) Conference July 30-August 2. This was the first time the IGA held its conference in the United States. IGA members include professors and graduate students from North, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Dr. Jamil Mustafa, professor of English Studies, brought this conference to Lewis. More than 200 participants attended sessions covering many aspects of Gothic literature and culture.

The conference opened in St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall with an organ medley of Gothic music, played by Mark Downey of the American Guild of Organists. Much to the delight of the participants, it set the mood for the week’s activities. Other opportunities unique to Lewis included an electronic music composition, Myopic Phantasy, by Dr. Mike McFerron, professor of Music, performed by percussion instructor Joshua Manchester, and students Kwintyn Porter and Lenette Leeand. A Fine Arts Open House was organized by Mark and Natalie Swain (Art and Design) featuring Gothic artwork created by alumni Mike Brown, Eli Samoska and Larissa Barnat.

Lewis English Studies majors Terri Arain, Lydia Kozlowski, Kasia Majchrowicz-Wolny, Brandon Vlach, and Jacob Volk presented papers that developed from their work in Dr. Mustafa's spring-term course on the Gothic novel.

The conference, Gothic Terror, Gothic Horror, featured plenary speakers Karen Macfarlane, Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet, and William Veeder. Karen Macfarlane is Associate Professor in the Department of English at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada. She has published on monsters in popular culture at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, most notably, “Zombies and the Viral Web” (Horror Studies, 2018), “Here Be Monsters” (Text Matters, 2016), “The Monstrous House of Gaga” (PopGoth, 2012), and “Mummy Knows Best” (Horror Studies, 2010). She has also published on contemporary politics and the Gothic, including “Market Value: American Horror Story’s Housing Crisis” (Neoliberal Gothic, 2017). Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet is Professor of American Literature and co-director of the MA Specialization Program in American Studies at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. Her publications include The Poetics and Politics of the American Gothic: Gender and Slavery in Nineteenth Century American Literature (Ashgate, 2010), The Gothic in Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture (co-editor, Routledge, 2012), and most recently, War Gothic (co-edited with Steffen Hantke, Routledge, 2016), and Neoliberal Gothic: International Gothic in the Neoliberal Age (co-edited with Linnie Blake, Manchester University Press, 2017). She has also recently published articles on Edgar Allan Poe, feminism, queer theory, war adventure and melodrama, among other topics.

Fanu, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Ambrose Bierce, Bram Stoker, Thomas Hardy, Henry James, William Faulkner, Djuna Barnes, Gaston Leroux and Andrew Lloyd Webber, Witold Gombrowicz, and Toni Morrison. He is now writing a Gothic novel entitled *Pierce*.

Special guest speaker and actor Julian Sands attended a screening of *Gothic* on Thursday evening in the Philip Lynch Theatre, staged by Andrew Nelson, Jo Slowik and Keith White (Theatre), followed by an interview with Dr. Mustafa and a question-and-answer session with the audience. Julian Sands is known for his roles in films including *The Killing Fields*, *A Room with a View*, *Gothic*, *Warlock*, *Arachnophobia*, *Impromptu*, *Naked Lunch*, *Tale of a Vampire*, *Boxing Helena*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Witch Hunt*, *Leaving Las Vegas*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Vatel*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, and *Extraordinary Tales*. On television, he has appeared in *24*, *Smallville*, *Castle*, *Dexter*, *Gotham*, *The Blacklist*, *Elementary*, and *What/If*. He has also narrated *A Study Guide to Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein* and written the preface for *John Keats and Percy Bysshe Shelley: Essential Poems*. He was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance for *A Celebration of Harold Pinter*.

The group was treated to a Gothic tour of Chicago through Chicago Hauntings, followed by a trip to Navy Pier with fireworks. The conference concluded with a banquet and “Gothic Disco” in the Academic Building.

Special thanks are given to the following who contributed to the planning and support of this major international conference: Lisa Salazar, senior event coordinator, who worked with Dr. Mustafa to plan and execute the conference; Syl Goyette, director of web development, who created an outstanding conference website, and ran online registration; Ryan Hartigan and John Morris, who oversaw media support and technology for the panel sessions, keynote addresses, banquet, and dance; Jim Cowan and Anne Koleff, who produced the conference program and signage; Drs. Pramod Mishra, Chris Wielgos, and Nancy Workman, English Studies Department faculty, who staffed the registration area; and English Studies majors Terri Arain, Lydia Kozlowski, Michelle Lorenzen, Kasia Majchrzowicz-Wolny, Brandon Vlach, and Jacob Volk, who staffed the registration area and assisted Dr. Mustafa.

A photo gallery for some of the IGA Conference can be viewed at the conference website: lewisu.edu/igalewis/gallery/.

(Top left photo, clockwise) Conference delegates enjoy Gothic art. • The banquet features Gothic-themed food and drink. • Jamil Mustafa greets the conference delegates. • Karen Macfarlane delivers a keynote address. • Agnieszka Soltyzisk Monnet delivers a keynote address.
Women’s Basketball Team Makes Lasallian Pilgrimage

The Lewis Women’s Basketball Team, coaches and staff traveled to France May 20 – 30, during the 300th anniversary of the death of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. [See De La Salle’s story.] They visited sites associated with De La Salle, played two basketball games, and studied modern history.

Samantha Quigley Smith, Women’s Basketball Coach, said, “I wanted to create a mission experience for these players.” As a standout player at DePaul University, Samantha had traveled to France as a student. She wanted to create a similar experience for the scholar athletes at Lewis University. In her second year at Lewis, she attended the Exploring Lasallian Mission (ELM) summer seminar. She worked closely with Chris Swanson, the director of International Study Abroad, and Dennis H. Cremin, Ph.D., chair of the History Department, to plan the trip.

The team hosted several fundraising events and crowdfunding campaigns that helped bring in more than $27,000 toward their journey. These student-athletes had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of De La Salle thanks to the generous support of Lewis alumni and friends.

Cremin, who co-led the travel study said, “The students embraced the idea of a Lasallian Pilgrimage, and they were open to all of the experiences. They were especially moved by their visit to the battlefields and cemeteries along the Normandy Beaches. It was the 75th anniversary of the invasion and the connection to the past was tangible.”

Alyssa Streeter, a Junior majoring in Exercise and Movement Science, noted, “We went to France to trace the footsteps of De La Salle and to see the impact that he had on society. I was able to see that his legacy is still remembered to this day because he gave children the chance to receive an education even though they did not have the financial stability to do so.”

Stephanie Hart, a Junior majoring in Marketing, wrote, “Lasallian pilgrimage means exploring your education and bettering yourself in the way of God and the world.”

Students who participated in the trip included Dajae Black, Katherine Gardner, Morgan Glatczak, Carolyn Graverson, Lindsay Harrison, Stephanie Hart, Rachel Hinders, Jessica Kelliher, Shannon Koch Wagner, Tierney Lockett, Reilly Olmstead, Alyssa Streeter, and Kaitlyn Williams. The assistant coaches included Michael Delrose, Rebecca Eggers, Matthew Nelson, and Charnelle Reed. Quigley Smith and Cremin led the group.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

This year, 2019, the Brothers of the Christian Schools are celebrating three centuries of Lasallian education and vocations by commemorating the 300th anniversary of the passing of their founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Who was this man?

Beginnings

Born in Reims, France, into an influential family on April 30, 1651, John Baptist de La Salle decided early on to become a priest. He was ordained in 1678, and two years later he earned his doctorate in theology. While serving as a Canon in the Cathedral of Reims, a chance encounter with a layman establishing schools for poor boys set him on a new life path. Gradually De La Salle became involved in the project and soon assumed leadership of a group of rough and barely literate teachers possessing little preparation for their craft.

New Path

His first step on this new path was to invite the teachers into his home for a retreat and some basic teacher training. Later, he moved into a new house with the teachers, renounced his Church position, gave away his wealth, and formed the community that became known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools (also known as De La Salle Christian Brothers).

Building a Foundation

Even amid resentment from the Church authorities of the time, De La Salle and his Brothers, within 40 years, succeeded in creating a network of schools throughout France that featured the teaching of reading in French instead of Latin, students grouped according to ability, the integration of religious instruction with secular subjects, and well-prepared teachers with a sense of vocation and mission. De La Salle also pioneered programs for training lay teachers, Sunday classes for working young men, and one of the first institutions in France for delinquent youth.

The Mission Continues

De La Salle died near Rouen on Good Friday, April 7, 1719, with 23 active communities and 100 Brothers continuing the mission he set forth. He was canonized a saint in 1900 and named the Patron Saint of Teachers in 1950. His charisma, educational spirituality, and extensive writings inspired Catholic educators in his own time and continue to inspire educators from many traditions today.
Lewis University to Become All-Steinway School

This fall, the Department of Music at Lewis University will begin the process of becoming an All-Steinway School with the purchase of three brand new Steinway pianos. It will consistently provide music students with current, quality equipment to learn on.

"The All-Steinway School program is about much more than owning the world’s best pianos," said Dr. Mike McFerron, chair and professor of music. "It demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing the best tools of the trade for our students as they wrestle with questions that touch the very meaning of their existence."

Dr. McFerron also reflected on a quote from Brother John Johnston, FSC, 25th Superior General of the Christian Brothers. Johnston said, "The starting point of Lasallian education is the student. Our institutions exist for no other reason than to respond to the needs of students…to see ourselves as men and women called by God to whole-hearted commitment to the education of youth and adults; and as such, men and women called to have profound reverence for each student."

Johnston goes on to say, "This reverence will lead to communicating to each, with and without the words, ‘You are important. You have unique talent and potential. Strive to be the person God wants you to be.’ Reverence means approaching each student with loving and active concern. It means being ready to walk side by side with students as they wrestle with questions that touch the very meaning of their existence."

As a Lasallian university, Sindt said that, "We have an ethical obligation to support students in the completion of their degree.” Studies show that college graduates have increased lifetime earnings over non-graduates. While our retention rate from 1st to 2nd year is very good, averaging 82%, our 6-year graduation rate is 63%. Sindt would like Lewis to reach 70% in the next 3-5 years.

Several factors influence why a student leaves without graduating such as academic performance, financial issues, family or work obligations, and no real sense of belonging. Sometimes they transfer to another university that was their “first choice” school.

Similarly students who stay feel that they received support services either in academics, financially, or emotionally. They feel a connection and sense of pride in their school.

Sindt believes that Lewis can build on the Mission to become a destination campus for students. He described the attributes of a successful program to reach that goal as having: emphasis on vocation and belonging; an inclusive and supportive campus climate; professional training, facilities and technologies that enhance shared support for students; and an overall vision that aligns curriculum, advising, engagement, and academic and professional support from orientation to career.

To accomplish this enhanced student experience, several offices have been restructured and co-located in the Learning Resource Center, all reporting to the Provost’s Office. This coming year, project initiatives will include an academic advising task force, an experiential learning task force and a co-curricular task force.

Fall 2019 Convocation Outlines a Vision for Student Success

The kickoff to the fall 2019 semester for faculty and staff at Lewis University began Tuesday, August 20, 2019 with a keynote address by Lewis Provost, Dr. Christopher Sindt. His keynote entitled, “Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been: Lewis in 2030” focused on how Lewis is poised to build on its Mission for student success.

Dr. Sindt cited the writing of Tara Westover, in her book Educated: A Memoir, this year’s Common Reader. She depicts in her experience what it is to “come into knowledge.” Her quest for knowledge transformed her life. She says that “Learning and knowledge are full of mystery.”

For Tara, learning was far more than a mental experience. She uses all of her senses in the process. She states in this passage, “But that semester – the fall of my junior year – I didn’t enroll in a single music course. I couldn’t have explained why I dropped advanced music theory in favor of geography and comparative politics, or gave up sight-singing to take History of the Jews. But when I’d seen those courses in the catalog, and read their titles aloud, I had felt something infinite, and I wanted a taste of that infinity.”

Sindt also reflected on a quote from Brother John Johnston, FSC, 25th Superior General of the Christian Brothers. Johnston said, “The starting point of Lasallian education is the student. Our institutions focus on how Lewis is poised to build on its Mission for student success.

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Mass of the Holy Spirit Opens Academic Year with Focus on Happiness

Approximately 400 members of the Lewis University community participated in the Third Annual Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 11. A community picnic was hosted afterward for all those in attendance.

The celebrant for the Mass was Rev. Burke Masters, director of the Office of Adult Formation for the Diocese of Joliet as well as the team chaplain for the Chicago Cubs. During his homily, Father Masters connected the Gospel reading of “The Beatitudes” to achieving happiness through relationship, identity and mission. He explained that happiness comes from forming a relationship with God, and it is only through that relationship that people get to know their true identities. Once people truly know themselves, they are able to fulfill their missions in life. Father Masters shared his story of finding happiness through relationship, identity, and mission.

As a teen, Father Masters’ identity was tied to baseball. He attended Providence Catholic solely to play baseball, but it was during that time that a school retreat brought God into his life. He played collegiate baseball and continued to view his sense of self through his performance on the baseball diamond and in the batter’s box. It was not until he focused on his relationship with God and he gave up his dream job within baseball and his girlfriend that Father Masters realized what he needed to do to be happy – he became a priest. And it was with his opportunity to be the chaplain for the Chicago Cubs that his life experience came full circle when he got to suit up and practice with the team. It was at that moment that Father Masters realized that God truly has a plan for each of us.

Father Masters concelebrated the Mass with Lewis University’s new chaplain, Father Dennis Lewandowski, and Deacon Michael Fekete from International Student Services. Music was performed by the Lewis University Spirit Choir, led by Jake DeMarais, coordinator of Ministry Services, and comprised of students, faculty and staff.

Open House for Innovation Hub Attracts Entrepreneurs


The Lewis Innovation Hub, a Regional Business Incubator, provides an avenue for entrepreneurial minds to expand their ideas into a fully-operating business. It offers access to equipment and resources that are not typically available to small businesses. Members can use a 3D-printing lab to construct prototypes of potential products as well as media equipment to help produce marketing materials. Hub clients are also mentored by Lewis University’s expert faculty and staff and are provided connections to the area’s Chambers of Commerce and other small business community resources.

“Our hope is that this Innovation Hub can be a place where entrepreneurs from all over the region can come and find support for their ideas utilizing the resources of our learning community. Our university was created through a land donation by two entrepreneurs, and we continue to operate in an innovative spirit today,” said Dr. David Livingston, president of Lewis University.

Located in the Lewis University College of Business, the Lewis Innovation Hub is a combined initiative between the university and the Des Plaines River Valley Enterprise Zone, which includes Will County, Lockport, Romeoville, Joliet, and Rockdale.

“We’re thrilled a program that supports entrepreneurs will be calling Romeoville home,” stated Romeoville Mayor John Noak. “The knowledge participants will gain here is sure to help them create and maintain a successful business.”
On Thursday, August 22, approximately 600 new students attending the 17th Annual First Year Flyer Convocation learned about the meaning and symbolism of The Encounter. Students participated in a ritual during which they passed through the doorway, symbolically invited by Saint La Salle to enter more fully into their Lewis experience where it is hoped that they will learn more about themselves and explore their purpose and calling.

**Monument Encourages All to Embrace ‘The Encounter’**

A chance encounter with an acquaintance in 1679 France led Saint John Baptist de La Salle to a period of great discernment about his vocation and purpose in life. That led to his legacy as the founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and patron saint of educators, which is thriving around the world as well as at Lewis University.

Lewis dedicated a new monument depicting “The Encounter” on September 24 as part of the global 300th-anniversary celebration of the death of De La Salle. More than 150 students, faculty, staff, Christian Brothers and other friends of the University gathered for the blessing and dedication of the monument, which features a 16-foot tall re-creation of the entrance to the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in Rheims, France, and features a one-of-a-kind, life-sized statue of De La Salle created by Minneapolis-based sculptor Alec Smith. Among those gathered were the monument benefactors Jay and Lori Bergman.

The Encounter depicts the moment when De La Salle met the layman and educator named Adrien Nyel. Lasallian scholars argue that his unplanned meeting changed De La Salle’s life from one of wealth and prestige in the Catholic Church to a life dedicated to the education of poor children and founding a lay religious order of men and training them to be teachers. The monument is meant to invite Lewis students and others to walk through the doorway and to reflect on their own purpose in life and that chance encounters could lead to a broader impact on others.

(Top, right) Brother Pierre St. Raymond, FSC, Professor of Chemistry, was one of the many Brothers who greeted students as they passed through the doorway during the First Year Flyer Convocation. (Above) Dr. David Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bergman, and Brother James Gaffney, FSC, pose for a photo following the dedication and blessing ceremony.
LEWIS WOMEN PILOTS SOAR TO SUCCESS IN AIR RACE CLASSIC

Megan Shaffer, Lewis University graduate student in Aviation and Transportation and Mickael Ashworth, a junior in Aviation Flight Management took to the skies June 18-21 in the 43rd Air Race Classic (ARC), the oldest airplane race of its kind in the United States.

The Lewis University team placed 8th out of 50 teams overall and 3rd out of 16 collegiate teams. They competed with more than 120 women pilots from around the country flying in this year’s race, which began in Jackson, Tennessee (U.S.) and ended in Weiland, Ontario (CAN). They flew more than 2,500 miles in four days.

“This is a great opportunity for our students to network with fellow women aviators while flying across the country,” said Megan Zahos, assistant professor of aviation and transportation at Lewis University. “We’re really proud of them.”

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.

The 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.

Air Race Classic Inc. is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with a mission of encouraging and educating current and future female pilots, increasing public awareness of general aviation, demonstrating women’s roles in aviation, and preserving and promoting the tradition of pioneering women in aviation. For more information, go to airraceclassic.org.

STUDENTS WIN SAGE SCHOLARS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Alexandra Dennis, Anna Sebastian and Jacob Kopczyk, incoming freshmen at Lewis University, have won $1,000 SAGE Scholars scholarships in a nationwide essay contest. Dennis, Sebastian, and Kopczyk were three of the winning 100 scholarship recipients who wrote an exceptional essay.

Students from all over the country submitted essays on subjects such as how they overcame various academic challenges, prepared for the college process, and what they were planning to do after graduation.

SAGE Scholars recently pledged $1 million in college scholarships over the next 5 years for students attending one of over 400 private colleges and universities in the network. These scholarships are named “gap scholarships” with the goal of helping families fill in the gap between what they have to pay for their children to go to college and what colleges and universities can offer in terms of financial aid.

SAGE Scholars Founder Dr. James B. Johnston said, “These scholarships are important to me on many levels. I know parents are excited when their children get accepted to college. However, that excitement is often replaced by an entirely different emotion when they receive the first tuition bill. So, I decided to offer students the chance to earn an additional $1,000, which will be given to them in the form of a check that can be put towards college tuition or college-related expenses.”
SUMMER STEM LEARNING CONTINUES WITH DR. JAMES GIRARD
SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Seventeen Lewis University students of biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, engineering, aviation and physics spent their summer conducting research in a 10-week program. The program concluded with a research symposium, at which students presented to the community their accomplishments.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) is a collaborative experience for Lewis University students from multiple STEM disciplines to engage in undergraduate research over the summer. Working one-on-one with a faculty mentor, the program funds these students for the summer and offers an experiential learning environment that accelerates their research careers, with many students presenting their outcomes at conferences and/or via publications.

Students’ research and faculty mentors follow:

• Michael Anonuevo presented “Efficiency of Hydrogels to Promote Human Dermal Fibroblast Production” with faculty mentor Dr. William Chura.
• Kavanaugh Dempsey researched “Cracking Encryption with Graph Matching Algorithms” with faculty mentor Dr. Jason Perry.
• Karlie Cummins presented “Creating a Methodology to Study C. elegans that Express the Human Amyloid Beta Protein Present in Alzheimer’s Disease” with faculty mentors Dr. Daniel Kissel and Dr. Mallory Havens.
• Emily Bernhard presented “Development of a Methodology to Monitor Biological Productivity of Soils Treated with Glyphosate over Time” with faculty mentor Dr. Jerry Kavouras.
• Allie Mikos researched “Investigating the Effect of Molecular Structure on Passive/Active Film Formation to Tailor Cu CMP” with faculty mentor Dr. Jason Keleher.
• Margaret Capalbo presented “A Novel Method of Measuring Airplane Thrust” with faculty mentor Dr. Ryan Hooper.
• Krystian Brzek and Steven Zeko presented their research “Cyclin D3 and Conserved Sequences Within Modified Genes” with faculty mentor Dr. Sarah Powers.
• Marco Pettinato presented “Predictive Modeling and Analysis of Softball Using Linear Algebra-based Ranking Systems” with faculty mentor Dr. Amanda Harsy.
• Karan Nair researched “Generating Nanophotonic Arrays through Capillary Self-Assembly” with faculty mentor Dr. John Parker.
• Austin Martorano presented “Fractal Dimension Acquisition Method to Aid in Diagnosis of Central Nervous System Disorders” with faculty mentor Dr. Young Jung Kim.
• Rudra Patel researched “A Mathematical Model of Clostridiodes difficile Transmission via Healthcare Workers” with faculty mentor Dr. Brittany Stephenson.
• Carly Graverson presented her research “Implementation of ‘Soft’ Cleaning Chemistries for the Improvement of Post-CMP Cleaning” with faculty mentor Dr. Jason Keleher.
• Wesam Jabali researched “Determining Functional Roles in Networks using Topological Properties” with faculty mentor Dr. Piotr Szczurek.
• Paul Buldak presented “Laplacian Simplices Associated to Graphs” with faculty mentor Dr. Marie Meyer.
• Helen Popoola-Samuel presented “The Effects of Drosha During Cancer Trials and Gene Expression” with faculty mentor Dr. Mallory Havens.
• James Sparks presented “Modeling Fan Graphs in Self-Assembling DNA Using Graph Theory and Linear Algebra” with faculty mentor Dr. Amanda Harsy.

Computer science and mathematics major Marco Pettinato said, “SURE has been a great experience for me. I am considering graduate school, and this has given me some great exposure to what that would be like. It has been all that I could have hoped for and then some. I would definitely recommend it to all students.”

Keynote speaker and Lewis University alumnus Dr. James Girard ’67 donated $500,000 to the program. Hence, the SURE program will now be called the Dr. James Girard Summer Undergraduate Research Experience.

Girard is currently a professor of chemistry at American University in Washington, D.C. He attended Cathedral of St. Raymond School and Joliet Catholic High School before earning his Lewis University bachelor’s degree in chemistry, cum laude.

Current Lewis University faculty members Dr. Jason Keleher, Dr. Joseph Kozmins and Dr. Jerry Kavouras (founders of the program) were present to accept the donation and celebrate 10 years since the start of the program. Faculty member Dr. Susan Sheffer, who was also a founder of the program, was unable to attend the ceremony.
ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARDS LEWIS STUDENTS WITH CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE

For the second consecutive year, Lewis University was recognized by the Electrochemical Society as a Chapter of Excellence.

The Electrochemical Society recognizes up to three student chapters — one being named the Outstanding Student Chapter and up to two being named Chapters of Excellence. In order to be recognized, there must be apparent contributions, activities, outreach, and participation that correspond to the mission of the Electrochemical Society. More specifically, the student chapter must focus on advancing theory and practice at the forefront of electrochemical and solid-state science and technology, and allied subjects.

The Lewis University student chapter of the Electrochemical Society was featured in the Electrochemical Society Interface publication (see link: interface.ecsdl.org/content/current) to showcase the student chapter. The article features a picture of the Lewis University student chapter and faculty mentors while highlighting some of the events the chapter organized this past year. The article also showcased the most recent publication from members of the chapter titled: “Unraveling Slurry Chemistry/Nanoparticle/Polymeric Membrane Adsorption Relevant to Cu Chemical Mechanical Planarization” (see link: jss.ecsdl.org/content/8/5/P3022.full) which was in the top five most downloaded papers published for the journal.

For the ECS Lewis University Student Chapter, the 2018–2019 academic year was focused on sharing passion for science with the community. One of the chapter’s standout events was a “Spooky Science” Haunted House event held just before Halloween, where the chapter was able to show the connection between science and the Halloween experience. ECS members transformed the Science Center labs into different themes such as forensics, astrophysics and optics which attracted over 400 people.

Dedicated to reaching out to the community, the Lewis University Student Chapter held numerous demonstration shows throughout the academic year at various schools and libraries that promote STEM, ultimately allowing the participants to do hands-on science.

Lewis University chemistry students also traveled to Dallas in May to present their research at the 235th International Electrochemical Society Meeting. Dozens of Lewis University students presented their research during the general student poster session.

Dr. Jason Keleher, chair and professor of chemistry, serves as the faculty adviser for the Lewis University ECS Student Chapter.

BIOLOGY STUDENTS MAKE SMITHSONIAN ‘OUTBREAK’ EXHIBIT THEIR OWN

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History’s “Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World” exhibition came to campus October 21-23. The exhibition highlights how pathogens can spread to people from wildlife and livestock, why some outbreaks become epidemics and how human, animal and environmental health are connected. It also covers topics such as infectious disease spread and treatment, and features pathogens such as Influenza, West Nile Virus, HIV and others.

Lewis University students in the Biology Transitions program added to the exhibit with information on the West Nile Virus including 3D models, printed in the Lewis University Maker Lab.

Lewis University Biology students from the Scientific Inquiry course who created some content for this exhibit include Faith Alfrejd, Abby Bruyn, Natasha Cornelious, Fatimah Jabali, Alexis Jawdat, Eujean Kang, Rubab Kazmi, Jill Komives, Mía Macias, Stephanie Orozco, Amanda Stepień, James Szymanski, Angelica Vega, Alyssa Walsh, and Zainab Yaseen.

The Biology Transitions program supports transfer students with demonstrated financial need and academic promise to succeed in STEM disciplines at Lewis University. A nearly $1 million National Science Foundation grant provides funding for 28 scholarships over five years for transfer students who are pursuing bachelor’s degrees in biological sciences.
Chair of Biology Co-Authors Journal Article
Dr. Jerry Kavouras (Biology) collaborated with Dr. Carla Caceres from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to co-author an article published in the Journal of Theoretical Population Biology entitled, “Indirect effects in a planktonic disease system.” Their work was supported by the National Science Foundation.

Mustafa Invited to Speak at National Symposium
Dr. Jamil Mustafa (English) was invited to speak at the 2019 Kaiser Permanente National Bioethics Symposium in Portland, Oregon. His talk, “Today’s CRISPR Babies Case and Frankenstein’s Vision of Scientific Progress without Moral Limits,” was given on October 4 with Dr. Thomas May of the Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University. Drs. Mustafa and May addressed the bioethics of genetic modification from the interdisciplinary perspectives of literature and medicine.

Tovar and Misischia Participate in International Conference
Dr. Lynn A. Tovar (Justice, Law, and Public Safety Studies) and Dr. Cynthia Misischia (Biology) presented at the Academic and Business Research Institute International Conference in Washington D.C. on October 18-19, 2019. Their presentation was entitled “Short-term travel study: program design, student-awareness and faculty development.”

Gibbons Provides Professional Development in Southern Illinois
On August 12-13, 2019, Linda Gibbons (Nursing) presented a School Health and Physical Assessment update for nurses in schools in the Vandalia Region #3 Office of Education. Nurses in the southern part of the state of Illinois have few professional development opportunities available.

Chair of Music Has Work Performed at Carnegie Hall...Again
On November 22, the piano work of Dr. Mike McFerron (Music) entitled “…apprehension of the eternal will” premiered in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as part of the Composer’s Voice concert series by pianist Matthew McCright. Composer’s Voice, listed by Time Out New York as “one of the premier showcases for promising composers,” presented the piano works of eight contemporary composers including McFerron. In 2011, McFerron’s work “Loving Is” was performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the Opera Shorts concert.

Markovic Publishes Article on Boko Haram

Boysen and Cherry Present at Annual Conference
Drs. Sheila Boysen and Michael Cherry (Organizational Leadership) presented at the 70th Annual Catholic Cemetery Conference Convention & Exposition on October 1, 2019. The Convention was held in Chicago and their presentation was titled, “Creating Leaders for the Future: Succession Planning.”

Veale Attends Inaugural Conference
Dr. Tina Veale (Speech-Language Pathology) was selected to attend the inaugural Faculty Development Institute at the national office of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association from September 20-22, 2019. Speech-Language Pathology faculty from across the country discussed curriculum reform in the discipline, including ways to enhance interprofessional education, evidence-based practice, cultural competence, and practice at the top of the license.
Drs. Kwiatkowski-Egizio and Buss Co-Present at National Conference

Dr. Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio (Secondary Education), Dr. Jennifer Buss (Special Education), Fr. John Belmonte, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Joliet, and two Lewis University teacher candidates presented at the National Catholic Educational Association 2019 Convention and Expo in Chicago in April. The session was titled "University + Diocese = Catholic Educator Program for Teacher Candidates," which refers to the Catholic Educator Program that Drs. Kwiatkowski-Egizio and Buss along with Fr. Belmonte created in 2016. The presentation featured a panel discussion along with the goals for the program, including useful tips, challenges of implementation, and the needs of teacher candidates as they prepare to become spiritual leaders in their classrooms.

Belgio’s Paper Wins Award at International Management Conference

Dr. Elizabeth Belgio (Business Administration) presented a research paper at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management that was held from August 9-13, 2019 in Boston, Massachusetts. This annual conference attracts over 10,000 attendees from 82 countries, and the research Belgio presented was titled “Do rewards and recognition drive engagement? A quantitative study at a Fortune 500 organization” and focused on key drivers of employee engagement at a global financial services company. The research paper won the Academy of Management’s Information Age Publishing Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper award.

Zahos Selected to Ride with Blue Angels

Megan Zahos (Aviation) assistant chief pilot and assistant professor of aviation was nominated as a Chicago area “key influencer” and selected to fly with the Blue Angels on August 13. The Blue Angels were performing for the Chicago Air and Water Show. Zahos was chosen by the Blue Angels for her positive influence in the community.

After a briefing on the ground, Zahos took off in an F-18 Hornet with Lieutenant Cary Rickoff. The segment aired on ABC 7 Chicago with Rob Elgas and can be viewed at abc7chicago.com by searching the keyword “Zahos”.

Marketing Chair and Professor Co-Author Journal Article

Dr. James Oakley (Marketing) co-authored an article for the October 2019 issue of The Journal of Health Politics, Policy, & Law with Denis G. Arnold from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte entitled “DTCA Self-Regulation by the Pharmaceutical Industry: The Exposure of Children and Adolescents to ED Commercials.”

Discover the latest research, read a thought leader’s perspective and learn about the quality faculty at Lewis University.

lewisu.edu/experts
LEWIS EARNS NCAA DIVISION II PRESIDENTS’ AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The NCAA announced on Thursday afternoon (Oct. 24) that Lewis University was one of 32 schools to receive the Presidents’ Award For Academic Excellence. This award is presented to Division II member schools earning an Academic Success Rate (ASR) 90 percent or higher.

Lewis has a four-year ASR of 92 percent and is one of five schools in the Great Lakes Valley Conference to receive the award. The GLVC and the Northeast-10 conference led Division II’s 24 conferences in ASR rates, with five athletic programs posting scores of 90 percent or more.

“The 32 schools recognized with the Presidents’ Award for Academic Excellence are dedicated to supporting the academic success of student-athletes,” said Gary Olson, president of Daemen and chair of the Division II Presidents Council. “What is even more remarkable, 11 of these schools have been recognized each year of this program. We commend the institutions for their commitment to academic excellence and dedication to preparing student-athletes for life after college.”

The Academic Success Rate is the percentage of student-athletes who graduate within six years of initial collegiate enrollment and includes virtually all Division II student-athletes.

Unlike the federal rate, the Division II ASR includes nearly 34,000 nonscholarship student-athletes and accounts for those who transfer to a Division II school after initial enrollment elsewhere, while removing student-athletes who leave school while academically eligible. The national ASR for the four cohorts of student-athletes who entered college from 2009 to 2012 is 73%.

Division II student-athletes continue to graduate at a higher rate than the general student body. Even when using the less-inclusive federal graduation rate, the 2012 entering class of student-athletes graduated at a rate of 61%, compared with 52% for the general student body.
LEWIS ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES SECOND CLASS OF ACADEMY OF COACHES

Lewis University Director of Athletics Dr. John Planek announced the second class of the Lewis Academy of Coaches. The nine-member class will be honored as part of Academic Alumni Day during halftime of the men’s basketball game against Missouri-St. Louis on Saturday, January 25 at 3 p.m.

This year’s class include Jerry Tokars (Class of 1955), John Schimanski (Class of 1972), Jaime Garcia, Jr. (Class of 1973), Michael Flaherty (Class of 1973), William Leeberg (Class of 1974), Michael Manderino (Class of 1977), George DiMatteo (Class of 1976), Debra DiMatteo (Class of 1977) and Brienne Isaacson (Class of 2003).

TOKARS ’55
Tokars began his coaching career as an assistant at De La Salle High School in 1956. He served as an assistant for five seasons before becoming head coach in 1961 and remained in that job until 1983. In 1977 he led De La Salle to a third place finish in the state. He then coached for several years at Richards High School in Oak Lawn turning around a struggling program, winning 52 games in three years. He coached briefly at Moraine Valley Community College and from there went to Leo Catholic High School in the early 2000s before finishing his coaching career as an assistant at Amos Alonzo Stagg High School. Tokars is in several halls of fame, including those of De La Salle, the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association and the Chicago Catholic League.

SCHIMANSKI ’72
Schimanski served as the head baseball coach at Joliet Catholic High School from 1979-1988, during that time his team’s record was 323-101. His 1982 team won 53 games, a record that still stands. He won conference baseball championships in 1980, 81, 82 and 88. His 1980, ’81 and ’88 teams were Illinois High School Association state finalists. His team won the 1983 summer state baseball championship. He was named the IHSA Coach of the Year in 1981 and ’88. 18 of his players signed professional contracts and five made it to the major leagues. Schimanski also spent 12 years as head baseball coach at Wheeler High School where he went 218-136. In 22 overall seasons as a baseball coach he posted a record of 541-237. He is in the Lewis Athletics Hall of Fame and the Brother Rice High School Hall of Fame.

GARCIA ’73
Garcia began his coaching career at Providence High School leading them to two state championships, four quarterfinal appearances and a 350-112 record. He moved on to coach in the Chicago White Sox minor league system from 1988-1996 with the Gulf Coast League White Sox (1988-91), the South Bend White Sox (in 1992-93), South Bend Silver Hawks in 1994 and Prince William Cannons in 1995-96. He managed the GCL White Sox in 1991 guiding them to a 30-29 record. He also coached in the Milwaukee Brewers system with the Beloit Snappers in 1997, the Texas Rangers farm system in 1998-99. Garcia was with the Kansas City Royals organization from 2000-02. He was with the Charleston Alley Cats in 2000 and served as the Royals’ Latin American pitching coordinator in 2001-02. He coached for the Cincinnati Reds system next, with the 2003 Dayton Dragons and the GCL Reds from 2004-06. Garcia was assistant pitching coordinator for the Houston Astros from 2007-10. He was the Astros minor league pitching coordinator in 2011 before becoming pitching coach for the GCL Astros in 2012. Garcia moved to the Detroit Tigers chain as pitching coach of the Erie SeaWolves in 2013 and 2014.

FLAHERTY ’73
Flaherty began his coaching career as an assistant at St. Rita High School in Chicago. From there, he moved on to Mendel Catholic High School, guiding the Rangers’ basketball team to six regional titles, including a second place finish in the state tournament in 1982. Flaherty coached at Thornridge for 22 seasons where he guided the Falcons to four consecutive conference titles from 1988 to 1992, including an Elite Eight finish in the IHSA State Tournament in 1989. He spent the last 10 years of his coaching career at Mount Carmel where he was named the Chicago Catholic League South Coach of the Year for the 2015-16 season. Flaherty finished his 40-year coaching career with 760 wins.

LEEGERG ’74
Leeberg coached for 34 years at Montini Catholic. He served as head coach for 31 seasons and three years as an assistant where he compiled a record of 732-288 for a .718 winning percentage. The Broncos won 12 conference titles, 11 regional titles, came in second place at the 2005 IHSA Class A state tournament and a third place finish at the 2002 IHSA state tournament. More than 400 players competed for Leeberg with 31 of those going on to earn an NCAA Division I scholarship. He won numerous outstanding coaching awards from the SCC Conference and the State. He is a member of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.
Manderino took his first coaching post as an assistant at Mendel Catholic High School where he served for eight seasons, including the 1981-82 campaign when they took second in the IHSA Class AA state tournament. In 1984, Manderino was elevated to head coach at Mendel. His 1991 and 1994 teams both advanced to the IHSA Class A state tournament. The 1994 team also won the Chicago Catholic League title. His success carried over to Leo High School as he won the Catholic League crown in each of his three seasons there beginning in 1997-98. His inaugural team at Leo advanced to the Class A state tournament where it took fourth place. After departing Leo in 2000, Manderino served as an assistant coach at South Suburban College for four seasons before taking over the Prairie State College men's basketball team in 2004-05. He's been at Prairie State for the past 16 years and his 19-12 record in 2007-08 marks his best showing with the Pioneers. His 19-12 finish in 2007-08 marks his best showing with the Pioneers. Along with basketball, Manderino has also been a successful high school baseball coach. He was the head coach at Mendel from 1977 until 1997. Manderino took over the head coaching duties at Thornridge High School in 1998 and continues to coach there in addition to teaching in the school's special education department. For his coaching accomplishments, Manderino was named as the Catholic League's Basketball Coach of the Year in 1994 and 2000 and the Baseball Coach of the Year in 1985. In 2001 and 2008, the Northwest Indiana Times chose Manderino as its baseball Coach of the Year.

Dimatteo '77
George DiMatteo began his coaching career as a graduate assistant with the Western Illinois baseball team. He was hired as Aurora University's head baseball coach in 1979 and held that position until being named assistant baseball coach at Lewis in 1983. He became the Flyers head softball coach in 1984. During his illustrious 31-year softball coaching career he accumulated a career record of 1,032-539-6 for a .656 winning percentage. His 1,032 victories is currently 11th all-time in Division II softball history. In all three NCAA Divisions, DiMatteo stands 33rd all-time. During his tenure at Lewis, his teams advanced to ten NCAA Division II regional tournaments, won nine GLVC titles and captured the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference championship once. 12 of DiMatteo's teams were ranked in the final NFCA national poll, the Flyers were ranked second in the 2001 final poll, the highest the program has ever been ranked. He guided the 2001 team to the NCAA Division II championship game where it finished runner-up to Nebraska-Omaha. That season the program won a school record 55 games. In 2000, he and his assistant coach Keith Grenke were selected National Fastpitch Coaches Association NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region Coaching Staff of the Year after the Flyers reached the NCAA Championship for the first time in school history. He was also named the Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year in 1994.

Dimatteo '77

Isaacson '03
Isaacson has been the volleyball coach at Naperville Central for the past 13 seasons where she has led her team to an impressive record of 282-56. She coached her team to state championships in 2005 and 2007. Prior to becoming a Redhawk, Isaacson spent three seasons at Wheaton Warrenville South High School where she assisted the Tigers on their 42-0 State Championship in 2001. She has spent the past 20 years as a successful coach and administrator for Junior Olympic clubs. Isaacson has qualified many teams for Junior Olympics and won a bronze medal with her 2001 17-1 boy's team. She played for Lewis in 2001 and 2002 after transferring from Western Michigan. Her 4.12 kills per set in 2001 still ranks fourth all-time in school history in a single season. Isaacson was a First Team All-GLVC selection in 2001.

Join us as we honor these alumni at
ATHLETIC ALUMNI DAY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 / 3PM
LEWIS’ KELLIHER NAMED D2 CCA SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Lewis University’s Jessica Kelliher was named the Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association (D2 CCA) Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year on Tuesday (Sept. 3).

Kelliher closed her collegiate career as the all-time leading scorer in Lewis and Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) history with 2,764 points. She climbed to fifth all-time in Division II history in points scored while her 1,093 field goals made are good for second all-time in Division II history. Kelliher was named the D2 CCA Ron Lenz National Player of the Year and was named the Google Cloud Academic All-America Team Member of the Year for Division II Women’s Basketball. She is a two-time WBCA and D2 CCA First Team All-America selection and a two-time Google Cloud Academic All-America First Team selection. Kelliher was the GLVC Player of the Year for each of the past three years and was the GLVC Freshman of the Year in 2016. She won 20 GLVC Player of the Week honors during her career.

Kelliher was the recipient of the GLVC’s Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award which is awarded annually to one male and one female student-athlete in the conference. She is also a three-time GLVC Scholar-Athlete for women’s basketball. Kelliher bolstered her 3.86 cumulative GPA with a near-perfect 3.93 mark this past spring semester after a 4.0 in the fall. She is an eight-time Dean’s List selection, received the Brother David Delahanty Award for academic excellence four times and garnered the Senior Departmental award in Organizational Communication.

LEWIS UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS TO HOST FOURTH ANNUAL FLYER RED DINNER

The fourth annual Flyer Red Dinner – presented by the Lewis University Athletic Department – will be held on Thursday, March 26 at the Drury Lane Theatre and Conference Center in Oakbrook Terrace at 6:30 p.m. The dinner is a fundraising event to benefit Lewis Flyer Athletics, its 23 teams and more than 450 student-athletes.

There will be a cocktail hour to start the night, followed by dinner and a celebration of Flyer Athletics, closed out by a final program that includes honoring the inductees of the Hall of Fame Class of 2020 as well as the Lasallian of the Year. The Hall of Fame Class of 2020 will be announced in December or January.

For more information on partnership opportunities please contact Lewis Associate Athletic Director of External Operations, Tim McBride at (815) 836-5228 or by email at tmcbride1@lewisu.edu. Come join in a celebration of Lewis Flyer Athletics.
FLYER ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

For updated schedules of all Flyers games, visit lewisflyers.com

MEN’S BASKETBALL
11/16 @ Northwood (Midland, Mich.), 12PM
11/17 @ Grand Valley State (Allendale, Mich.), 12PM
11/21 @ Ashland (Ashland, Ohio), 4:30PM
11/23 @ Central State (Wilberforce, Ohio), 4:30PM
12/1 @ Ferris State (Big Rapids, Mich.), 12PM
12/3 vs Illinois Springfield*, 5:30PM
12/12 @ St. Francis (Joliet, Ill.), 5PM
12/18 @ Parkside (Kenosha, Wis.), 4:30PM
1/2 @ Indianapolis* (Indianapolis, Ind.), 6:30PM
1/3 vs Rockhurst*, 5:30PM
1/11 vs William Jewell*, 1PM
1/16 @ Quincy* (Quincy, Ill.), 7:30PM
1/18 @ Truman State* (Kirkville, Mo.), 3PM
1/20 @ Illinois Springfield* (Springfield, Ill.), 7:30PM
1/23 vs Lindenwood*, 7:30PM
1/25 vs Missouri-St. Louis*, 3PM
1/30 vs Indianapolis*, 7:30PM
2/1 vs Bellarmine, 3PM
2/6 vs Druy* (Springfield, Mo.), 7:45PM
2/8 vs Southwest Baptist* (Bolivar, Mo.), 3PM
2/13 vs Maryville*, 7:30PM
2/15 vs Missouri S&T*, 3PM
2/20 vs McKendree*, 7:30PM
2/22 vs Southern Indiana* (Evansville, Ind.), 3PM
2/27 @ Missouri-St. Louis* (St. Louis, Mo.), 7:30PM
3/6-3/8 @ GLVC Tournament (Edwardsville, Ill.)
3/14-3/17 @ NCAA Midwest Regional

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
11/16 @ Northwood (Midland, Mich.), 12PM
11/17 @ Grand Valley State (Allendale, Mich.), 12PM
11/21 @ Ashland (Ashland, Ohio), 4:30PM
11/23 @ Central State (Wilberforce, Ohio), 4:30PM
12/1 @ Ferris State (Big Rapids, Mich.), 12PM
12/3 vs Illinois Springfield*, 5:30PM
12/12 @ St. Francis (Joliet, Ill.), 5PM
12/18 @ Parkside (Kenosha, Wis.), 4:30PM
1/2 @ Indianapolis* (Indianapolis, Ind.), 6:30PM
1/3 vs Rockhurst*, 5:30PM
1/11 vs William Jewell*, 1PM
1/16 @ Quincy* (Quincy, Ill.), 7:30PM
1/18 @ Truman State* (Kirkville, Mo.), 1PM
1/20 vs Illinois Springfield* (Springfield, Ill.), 5:30PM
1/23 vs Lindenwood*, 5:30PM
1/25 vs Missouri-St. Louis*, 1PM
1/30 vs Indianapolis*, 5:30PM
2/1 vs Bellarmine, 1PM
2/6 vs Druy* (Springfield, Mo.), 5:45PM
2/8 vs Southwest Baptist* (Bolivar, Mo.), 1PM
2/13 vs Maryville*, 5:30PM
2/15 vs Missouri S&T*, 1PM
2/20 vs McKendree*, 5:30PM
2/22 vs Southern Indiana* (Evansville, Ind.), 1PM
2/27 @ Missouri-St. Louis* (St. Louis, Mo.), 5:30PM
2/29 @ Lindenwood* (St. Charles, Mo.), 5:30PM

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL
1/3 vs King, 7PM
1/4 vs BYU, 7PM
1/9 @ Ohio State*, 7PM
1/11 @ UCSD (La Jolla, Calif.), 9PM
1/12 @ George Mason (Fairfax, Va.), 6PM
1/13 vs McKendree*, 7PM
1/17 vs Ohio State* (Columbus, Ohio), 6PM
1/19 vs Ball State*, 6PM
1/22 vs Lindenwood*, 7PM
1/27 @ Purdue Fort Wayne* (Fort Wayne, Ind.), 6:30PM
1/29 vs Loyola*, 7PM
3/6 @ Stanford (Palo Alto, Calif), 9PM
3/7 @ St. Francis (Joliet, Ill.), 7PM
3/13 @ Loyola* (Chicago, Ill.), 7PM
3/18 @ Princeton, 7PM
3/21 vs McKendree (Lebanon, Ill.), 7PM
3/28 vs Purdue Fort Wayne*, 7PM
4/2 vs Ball State*, 7PM
4/4 vs Ohio State*, 7PM
4/9 vs Lindenwood* (St. Charles, Mo.), 7PM
4/11 @ Quincy* (Quincy, Ill.), 4PM
4/18 @ George Mason (Fairfax, Va.), 4:30PM
4/22 @ MIVA - Semifinals
4/25 @ MIVA - FINALS
5/5-5/9 vs NCAA Championships (Fairfax, Va.)

Home games/matches are in bold
* conference game/match
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

COMMITTED TO THE PRESENT
Dear Alumni and Friends,

The next several pages show information about Lewis University’s fundraising growth over the past several years. However, the most critical messages are in each individual story. There are stories of our students encountering transformative experiences and stories of benefactors who are living with purpose. These are truly moments to celebrate!

You may have heard recent news about private universities closing their doors or dealing with hardships. These adversities are due to a decline in enrollment as a result of the changing demographics and a reduction in the number of 18-year-olds. Illinois is projected to see annual declines in the number of these students every year leading up to 2026 when there will be a 15% decline in the number of 18-year-olds in the state. This has a staggering impact on private universities that rely on tuition dollars from this population to support operations. We are intensely committed to planning strategically for a sustainable path forward while continuing to live out our Mission each day.

**Lewis University has always stayed true to our Lasallian roots of ensuring we continue to provide a high quality and affordable education to a diverse range of students. We will keep this enduring vision alive!**

There is no doubt of the immense value of a Lewis education – we witness this on a daily basis and hear from many of you about how Lewis set the trajectory for your life.

Part of the equation for continuing a high quality education at the most affordable rate possible is to rely on support from benefactors and generous partners. Concurrently, our promise to you is that we (the Lewis community) will continue to work hard to operate within our means, develop solutions to the foreseeable enrollment challenges, and create innovative partnerships so that your contributions can continue to have the greatest impact on the lives of our students.

Our collective dedication will allow Lewis University to continue to serve deserving students each year. Thank you for your support this past year and your continued commitment!

Enjoy the stories that follow.

Gratefully,

Dr. David J. Livingston  
*President, Lewis University*

Luigi B. Amendola ’01  
*Vice President, University Advancement*
YOUR GENEROSITY EXPANDS BEYOND LEWIS WHEN STUDENTS...

PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER RESEARCH

RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

PREPARE FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

LIVE THEIR CALLING & SAVE LIVES!

STUDY ABROAD
President’s Circle members make annual gifts of $1,000 or greater. Brian Sherry is an example of how gifts come “full circle.”

Brian Sherry ’16 ’18 goes to work each day as a design and development engineer at Deep Coat Industries in north-suburban Sugar Grove, Illinois. Deep Coat Industries recently developed a new process for metallizing equipment and computer systems. Metallizing is a thermal spray coating process utilized to protect equipment, and humans, from injury. Brian’s daily activities at work can run from client management, to monitoring 3D printers, to analyzing the chemistry behind the metallizing process.

Brian, who graduated with a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in chemistry from Lewis, says he spent the majority of his time learning from his mentor, Dr. Jason Keleher, department chair and associate professor of chemistry. Brian credits Dr. Keleher’s research lab for challenging him to solve problems faster, work smarter, and understand the importance of meeting a deadline for a project. Brian loved his time in Dr. Keleher’s lab so much that he donated $1,000 of his first paycheck to it.

“Dr. Keleher always works incredibly hard to get whatever we needed through grants or company-funded projects, so I figured once I had the means to give something back, I would donate my first week of pay to the lab.”

Brian says Dr. Keleher always challenged his students to think outside the box and make creative thinking a habit, something that Brian first started learning while building lab equipment as a student. The result of being pushed to his creative limits, Brian says, was being the most qualified and prepared candidate for his job.

“Dr. Keleher and I were always pushing the boundaries of what could be made or studied with unconventional methods. It was the engineering and design work that we put into the numerous ‘invented’ technologies used in the lab that gave me the opportunity to interview with my current company. It is safe to say that thinking outside the box and constantly inventing new ways of doing things is the reason I got my current job.”

Brian is just settling into his new role but he has set his sights on one day taking the lead in his workplace.

“Working at a small company is great and the people I work with are hopeful that the company will continue to grow. My goal is to take my current position as a sole engineer into a team or department leadership role if we get to the point where more engineering resources are required.”

Brian hopes to continue to be an active alumnus in the Lewis community, specifically in Dr. Keleher’s research lab, and help Flyers achieve their dreams of earning a chemistry degree!
There is a story behind each gift designated to build the endowment. For the Bonacci family, Lewis has been a vital part of their lives since they can remember.

Bette and Nicholas dedicated their lives to working with students at Lewis. Ruth and her siblings hope that this scholarship will help students finish their degrees at Lewis and go on to lead successful lives.

“Great sacrifices were made so that my siblings and I could receive a Catholic education growing up,” says Ruth. “A Catholic education and generosity were two very important family values. And that is really what this scholarship is all about.”

Ruth graduated from Lewis in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and currently works as a middle school special education teacher in Dyer, Indiana. Nick also graduated from Lewis after earning his bachelor’s degree in Aviation Maintenance. He now works as a pilot for United Airlines after many years of passionately watching his father work in the Lewis Aviation Department. The youngest sibling, John, went on to study engineering and now works for a firm in Sarasota, Florida.

Ruth is proud of the decision that was made to establish a scholarship in honor of her parents at Lewis, and is excited to see what type of impact it leaves on the future generations of Flyers.

“Lewis has a lot to offer students. Every time I am on campus, there is a new building or room or statue to see and it is incredible to know that it is a growing campus. It makes me happy to know Lewis is vibrant and expanding; this scholarship will be able to make a difference for many years to come!” adds Ruth.

Ruth Bonacci-Klaeser ’77 can still recall some of her fondest memories from childhood being at Lewis. Growing up, Ruth lived on campus with her now late parents, Bette (Bradford) Bonacci ’63 and Nicholas Bonacci ’54, and younger brothers, Nicholas Bonacci ’90 and John Bonacci.

Both Bette and Nicholas were Lewis alumni and dedicated employees at the University.

Bette was a professor in the English Department and Nicholas worked as chairman and professor in the Aviation Department, as well as a coach of the Lewis Cross Country team.

After losing both parents, Ruth and her siblings began to reminisce about their fondest memories on campus. They soon realized that their parents’ legacy was one that needed to remain at Lewis.

“My entire life has been at Lewis,” says Ruth. “As I stood there looking at the Lewis campus on the day of my mother’s funeral, I knew that I did not want today to be the end of it.”

Soon after, Ruth and her siblings decided that establishing a scholarship in the family name would be a very fitting way to honor their parents and the legacy they left at Lewis. And so the Bonacci Family Endowed Scholarship was created.

“From a very young age, my parents instilled in my brothers and me not only the importance of a Christian education, but also the importance of living out a Christian life. It would seem to follow that a scholarship at Lewis would honor their love as parents and as dedicated teachers for their students,” adds Ruth.
Each private scholarship awarded to a student correlates to donors living out their purpose.

After about five years of working at Lewis as a Flight Instructor and a Flight Team Coach, Rob pursued his dream career as a First Officer for ExpressJet Airlines. It came as a shock with family and friends when Rob was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma. Although his career as a pilot was put on hold, he spent his time at Lewis selflessly sharing his passion for aviation. In 2016, he lost his battle at the young age of 31.

In moments like this it is hard to know what to do, but three Lewis alumni and good friends of Rob – Andy Bassett ’03, Josh Brown ’02, and Pete Miller ’04 – decided they could do something that would allow Rob’s passion for flying and legacy live on!

In 2016, they established the Robert Delaney Memorial Scholarship. “A scholarship seemed like an appropriate way to ensure future generations of Flyers would know Rob’s name and assist others in living their aspirations,” says Pete.

The annual scholarship has made a difference in the lives of several students over the last few years. But why stop there? Andrew, Josh, and Pete were determined to make an even bigger impact. They worked tirelessly to plan fundraising events, participate in giving campaigns, and ask for additional gifts from alumni, faculty, parents and friends to support the scholarship. As a result, this year all their hard work paid off. This scholarship in Rob’s memory reached endowment which means this scholarship, in perpetuity, will empower more students with a dream!

“I know first-hand what it’s like to want nothing more than to excel in the aviation program and often the financial stress can temper the excitement for learning. I also hope that in awarding the scholarship, Rob will be remembered for his own zest for life and learning, and particularly aviation. If only we could replicate his earth-shattering high fives, and hand one out to every scholarship awardee!”

This endowed scholarship in Rob’s memory will empower more students with a dream!
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am a senior double major (HR Management/Psychology) here at Lewis with a grade point average of 3.7. My goal is to eventually be involved in training/development for an ethical company/organization. I want to help others learn and grow, so that they can hopefully get a fair shot at living the American Dream. After graduation in December, I’m hoping to find an entry-level HR position to begin working towards my aforementioned goal.

Right after my freshman year here my mother (and only parent) was diagnosed with terminal cancer. It wasn’t long before she couldn’t support my two siblings and me anymore, and most of my wages (working at the local Wal-Mart) went toward keeping what we had. I also missed a semester’s worth of credits between not being able to miss work for workshops, and by being the primary person that brought her to treatment during my sophomore year. If not for this I would have already graduated. By my junior year, my grandparents were able to take over the primary caregiver role to allow me to return to a greater focus on school. The reprieve would be short-lived however, as my mother would lose the fight against cancer in July of the following year (2018). Since then I’ve been doing my best to help my 70-year-old grandparents take care of my siblings (as I cannot financially support them) and finish my education.

My education is of particular importance to me as I’m one of the few members of my family to graduate high school, and the only one to even pursue a college degree. My capacity as a student has never been an issue, only the funding required to be one. I see completing my education as the crucial first step to getting my family out of poverty and into the middle class.

Through only the means available to me, I would not have been able to attend a single semester of college education, let alone two majors’ worth.

I realize that by no means were you obligated to help me, or anyone else for that matter. The fact that you, among others, have been so generous to do so has given me hope that I can turn around my family’s fortunes – or at least lay the groundwork for those who come after me to do so. It’s taken me a long time to really put this letter together because I tried so hard to find a way to put that feeling into words. At this point I’ve simply accepted that I cannot. I hope with all my heart that I someday can reach the point that I can do my part to pay this type of kindness forward...to be able to give out of generosity, and not out of obligation.

Sincerely,

Patrick M ’19
Some donors are parents of students, some are alumni, some are faculty, some are trustees. Michael Parker is a donor who has many relationships with the University.

“After I graduated, with all the responsibilities I had, I sort of lost touch with the University. Family life and three children will do that to you. When I was contacted about being more involved at Lewis University, it was at a perfect time to get involved. … but there’s a point in which everyone realizes they have something that they can offer, whether it be resources, leadership, or even participation.”

Michael Parker ’77, alumnus and Vice Chair of the Lewis University Board of Trustees.

For Michael, giving back is about changing the path for students like him. Throughout the years, he has served on the Board of Trustees and established three scholarships that help around five students a year – including minority students, members of the Black Student Union, and members of the Gospel Choir.

Michael steps beyond the financial contribution, beyond the role of a donor, and places a face to the name on the receiving end of a scholarship. Perhaps the most significant gift that he makes to Lewis University is his role as a mentor to those students receiving the scholarships while they are in school, as they cross the stage at graduation, and as they grow in their careers.

“It is amazing to me how many students have pressing financial need as they endeavor to complete their education. There is little choice for these bright students: find a way to pay for the education through scholarships, work, or otherwise, or incur loans as the means to finance the education. Watching them get their first job, get married, start a family, or get their first promotion is an amazing thing. I try to see all of the students that have received my scholarships on the podium at graduation, where I am representing the University as a trustee.”

Michael Parker with his scholarship recipient Kyle Hayes ’14 ’15

“My life experiences are going to be important. At that point when you can reach back and help someone, even if by mentoring alone, do it! You’ll be amazed at how good it feels to help someone avoid the pitfalls and watch them grow,” Parker says. Give back he has, in both time and donations.
SAVE THE DATE
ALUMNI DAY
MAY 2, 2020

BEER & BACON
FOOD • BEER
LIVE BAND
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES
Discounted Uber Rides Available

Also, Celebrating the Reunions for Our New Golden Flyers!
CLASS OF 1969, CLASS OF 1970

SAVE THE DATE
DAY OF GIVING
APRIL 3, 2020

To stay up to date on upcoming events, visit alumni.lewisu.edu/EventListing

For more information, contact Colleen Ahearn at cahearn@lewisu.edu
Danielle Alicz ’19 (Music) accepted an assistantship offer from Northern Arizona University. This will allow her to pursue her Masters of Music in Music Theory tuition-free, while working as a teaching assistant. Best of luck, Danielle!

Jessica Kelliher ’19 (Organizational Communication, Psychology) has signed to play women’s basketball in the 2019-2020 season with the DP World Ladies Antwerp of Belgium. Kelliher finished her Lewis career as a two-time First Team All-American and is the leading scorer in Lewis and GLVC history with 2,764 points.

Kendale McCullum ’19 (Sports Management) has signed to play the 2019-20 season for Uni Baskets Paderborn in the German Barner 2 Basketball Bundesliga in the Pro A Division. During his career at Lewis, McCullum was named the Great Lakes Valley Conference’s Player and Defensive Player of the Year and was a NABC All-America selection.

Abby Becker ’18 (Sociology) will be moving to England to continue her volleyball career. Abby will be pursuing a master’s degree overseas as well. Best of luck, Abby!

Amanda (Dennin) Cagle ’17 (MBA) and her husband welcomed a son, William James, on February 19, 2019. He weighed in at six pounds, eight ounces.

Megan DuBois ’15 (M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction) ’18 (M.Ed. Educational Leadership) has been promoted to the Assistant Director of Student Services at Romeoville High School. DuBois was previously a Specialized Instruction and Resources Coordinator with the Valley View School District 365U.

Michael Bolling ’15 (Multimedia Journalism) is the new social media on-air host for the Chicago Cubs.

Andrea (Earnest) Kurt ’15 (Mass Communications) and Anthony Kurt ’16 (Secondary Education and Mathematics) were married July 27, 2019, in Lemont. They met on campus in 2014 when they both worked for The Flyer newspaper.

Amy Mlynarski ’15 (Chemistry) ’17 (M.S. Chemistry) is the 2019 American Chemical Society Volunteer of the Year for the Joliet Local Section. Amy annually organizes multiple chemistry demonstrations for the local area and her efforts have enabled ACS Joliet to reach more than 3,000 students within the community in the last two years.


Jared Pyatt ’15 (Sports Management) and Kelly (Bowler) Pyatt ’15 (Finance, Economics) got married on August 10, 2019.

Cassandra (Myers) Catalano ’13 (Chemistry, Criminal Justice) and John Catalano ’12 (Political Science, Philosophy of Law) got married on June 20, 2019.

Mary (Carroll) Frahm ’13 (Public Relations/Advertising, Psychology, Marketing) has been named the new head coach of the women’s volleyball program at Heartland Community College that is set to debut in Fall 2020. Frahm was previously an assistant volleyball coach at Illinois Wesleyan.
Mark Serratore ’10 (Radio-TV Broadcasting) recently completed his goal of seeing all 30 Major League Baseball stadiums. He started the journey in June 2009 with a game in Milwaukee and finished in June 2019 in Oakland. It took him 10 years and 3 days to see them all!

Shannon Hamm ’01 (Special Education) ’06 (Certificate General Administration) has been selected as the new principal of Circle Center Grade School is Yorkville, Illinois. She previously taught first through third grade, was co-principal at Saratoga CCSD 60C in Morris, and was an assistant principal at Troy CCSD 30-C in Shorewood, Ill.

2000s

Michael Englehart ’07 (M.A. Organizational Leadership) has been selected to serve as interim CEO of Mount Carmel Health System in Columbus, Ohio. Englehart has worked at Trinity Health since 2018 as senior vice president for medical groups and ambulatory strategy.

Nigel Graham ’05 (Criminal Justice, Philosophy) has been selected to be an associate judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Illinois. After graduating from Lewis, Graham earned his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago in 2009. He is currently an attorney with the McDonough County Public Defenders’ office in Macomb, Ill.

Michelle Wisniewski ’05 (M.A. School Counseling) ’10 (M. Ed. Educational Leadership) is the new Assistant Principal at Parker Junior High School in Flossmoor, Ill.

Roxanne Jackson ’04 (M.A. Graduate Education) has been approved to the position of Assistant Director of Student Services at Valley View School District 365U. Jackson was previously Assistant Principal and Special Education Director at Rhodes School in River Grove.

2019s

Lisa Johnson ’98 (MBA) co-authored Imagination@Work (Silver Tree Publishing), a book that explores opportunities to improve interpersonal relationships in the workplace. Lisa is also the owner of HR Know-How, LLC in Bardstown, Ky.

Benjamin Mitchell ’96 (Finance, Economics) is the new Regional Head of Multinational Americans for Allianz Global Corporate and Specialty SE.

Harold Ebenroth ’95 (Aviation Maintenance) has become the first Dassault Falcon 900EX EASy pilot to earn FlightSafety’s prestigious Master Aviator. Harold is the President and CEO of Airservice Bremgarten GmbH based in Eschbach, Germany. He has over 10,000 hours total flying time and holds FAA and EASA licenses, and is type rated in the Dassault Falcon 900EX EASy, Boeing 737 and Saab 340 aircraft. He graduated with honors from Lewis University with a degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, and has worked for commercial and private aircraft operators in the United States and Europe since then.

Michael Worthing ’94 (Radio/TV Broadcasting) was recently named BP’s Associate Director of State and Government Affairs. Worthing’s extensive previous work background includes serving at Public Allies Chicago under Michelle Obama before she became First Lady of the United States.

Kristina Paquin ’93 (Radio/TV Broadcasting) has joined Yamaha Corporation of America as Vice President of Operations.

1980s

Michael Sack ’89 (Criminal Justice) retired from his position as a Cook County Probation Officer after 30 years.

Marco Parducci ’86 (Psychology) has been sworn in as a new member of the Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Board.
Visit alumni.lewisu.edu for event and volunteer opportunities.
IGNITE THE FUTURE NOW!

Further questions? Contact Dennisa Walker, Director of Alumni Engagement at dwalker@lewisu.edu, (815) 836-5228

Gifts can be made online at: alumni.lewisu.edu/Giving

All gifts dated before January 1, 2020 will receive Tax Credit for 2019. Gifts made online need to be made prior to midnight on December 31, 2019.