

# THE MAGAZINE OF lewisuniversity

Fall 2024



## *Historic Enrollment*

Lewis University has achieved a historic milestone, setting a new enrollment record for the fall 2024 semester.



## *From the President*

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Benefactors,

I hope this message finds you in great spirits. As the vibrant colors of fall begin to transition, I am filled with gratitude and excitement to share some remarkable milestones from this semester and the bright future ahead for our Lewis University community.

For the first time in our history, we have surpassed a total headcount of 7,000 students this fall—an extraordinary 7,800 when including St. Augustine College enrollments! At a time when many universities are navigating significant challenges, this achievement is a testament to the resilience, strength, and appeal of our Lasallian mission. Notably, our incoming first-year class grew by an incredible 8%, standing in stark contrast to the national decline of 6.5% in first-year enrollment at private universities. This is an inspiring indicator of the trust and confidence families place in Lewis.

Guided by our 2021 Campus Master Plan, we are thrilled to announce an exciting new project: a state-of-the-art residence hall tailored to meet the evolving needs of our students. Construction will begin in spring 2025 on the south end of campus, with an anticipated opening in fall 2026 or 2027. Featuring suite-style living designed for juniors and seniors, this addition will enhance the sense of community on campus, inspire even more students to call Lewis University home, and serve as a powerful recruitment tool for years to come.

At our recent Board of Trustees retreat, we launched preliminary discussions on our next Strategic Plan—a bold step toward an exciting future. The Board's thoughtful engagement reflects our shared commitment to advancing Lewis to even higher levels of performance. We were deeply moved by the presence of the Vicar General of the Christian Brothers, Brother Carlos Gomez, FSC, and General Councilor, Brother Chris Patiño, FSC, who reminded us of the essential role Lasallian higher education plays in today's world. Their message underscored the power of our mission to inspire and uplift.

Reflecting on the past few years, I am humbled and invigorated by the enduring example of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. His unwavering dedication to education and his faith-driven determination to serve those in need remind us of the transformative impact of our work. His legacy continues to inspire us to dream big and move forward with confidence and purpose.

With immense gratitude and hope, I wish you and your loved ones an abundance of blessings and joy. Together, we are building a future that is not only bright but extraordinary.

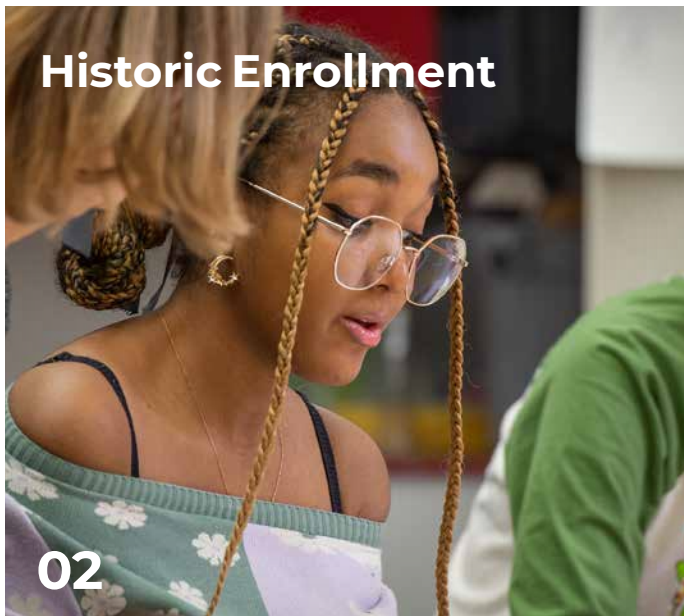
Warm regards,

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

Dr. David J. Livingston  
President

# lewisuniversity

Fall 2024



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# *Historic Enrollment*

Lewis University has achieved a historic milestone, setting a new enrollment record for the fall 2024 semester. With 7,000 registered students, the University surpassed its previous enrollment high of 6,679 in the fall of 2015. Factoring in the students from St. Augustine College, acquired by Lewis in December 2023, the total number of students enrolled exceeds 7,800.



◀ **7,800**  
Including  
Students from  
St. Augustine  
College

◀ **7,000**  
Fall 2024

◀ **6,679**  
Fall 2015

“Students and families are increasingly recognizing the academic excellence and tremendous return on investment that a Lewis education provides,” said Dr. David J. Livingston, President of Lewis University.

**“As a modern, enterprising university, Lewis is defined by its dynamic approach to education, strategic growth initiatives, and unwavering commitment to our mission and values.”**

This record-setting performance is a testament to Lewis University’s forward-looking approach to higher education. Despite challenges faced across the higher education landscape, Lewis continues to distinguish itself through its strong enrollment and innovative programs. Notably, the university will launch a new Doctor of Physical Therapy program in January 2025, further solidifying its leadership in healthcare education.

“We now offer academic programs ranging from GED through doctoral levels to meet students where they are and provide educational opportunities that will transform their lives,” Dr. Livingston emphasized. “The future for our students is very bright.”

*This record-setting performance is a testament to Lewis University’s forward-looking approach to higher education.*



# Life at Lewis

*Lewis University has reinvented the student experience to reinforce many of the things that have made **The Lewis Experience** unique – a community of learners focused on developing the complete individual.*

The Lewis Experience is our commitment to providing students with opportunities to ENGAGE in the campus community, EXPLORE interactions between their major and other courses, CONNECT student learning in the classroom with real-world experiences, DISCOVER purpose, and SUCCEED while at Lewis and after graduation.

While these pieces have always been in place at Lewis, there is a concerted effort to make sure that students have experiential learning opportunities regardless of their major. Additionally, Student Success coaches advise, guide and support undergraduate students during their Lewis journey. Faculty mentors will continue to play an active role in advising students and connecting them with real-world opportunities.

## The Lewis Experience is our commitment to providing students with opportunities to...

- ▶ **ENGAGE** in the campus community,
- ▶ **EXPLORE** interactions between majors and other courses,
- ▶ **CONNECT** learning in the classroom with real-world experiences,
- ▶ **DISCOVER** their purpose, and
- ▶ **SUCCEED** while at Lewis and upon graduation.





Every student's journey is unique, shaped by diverse experiences that leave a lasting impact. Our Flyers come from different backgrounds, but each shares a common thread: the transformative power of the Lewis Experience. **Hear from our Flyers below and in the pages that follow about their own unique Lewis Experience and how it has impacted their lives.**



**JENNA STASZEWSKI '24**  
BIOLOGY

"As a non-traditional student, I am older than most of my peers. This can be disheartening, and it is easy to feel as though you are behind in life. At Lewis, I have accomplished more than I could ever imagine five years ago. Everyone I have encountered has made me feel like I belong. I am an example of what you can accomplish by going back to school and finishing your degree, even if it may be terrifying at the start. The most significant experience I've had at Lewis was to travel to Colombia and form a bond with international students, delve into a culture different than my own, and expand my laboratory skills in the process."



**ANGELO CANTELO '24**  
MBA

"Lewis provided the opportunity for me to complete my 20th consecutive year of Catholic education. I was raised in a Catholic family from the south side of Chicago in which our religious experiences were such an important part of our lives. Although I did not know at a young age that I would attend a Catholic university, the journey that led me to Lewis to finish my Catholic education has been one of my life's blessings. I am incredibly grateful for the coaches, professors, mentors, and friendships I have built during my last five years, and being able to go to college and play college baseball with my younger brother is something that I will cherish for the rest of my life."



**KHIYA JONES**  
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR,  
HEALTH SCIENCES MINOR TO  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (MS)

"I've talked to different professors, faculty who have helped me choose my major and point me in the right direction. It's just about having a community where you can go to anyone to ask questions and they're willing to help."

# Driving Innovation and Shaping the Future

*Lewis University's commitment to innovation empowers our students with critical thinking skills, practical knowledge, and professional skills essential for their vocations. This foundation not only prepares them to excel in their chosen fields but also inspires them to generate groundbreaking ideas that can shape the future. By fostering an environment that encourages creative problem-solving and leadership, Lewis University ensures that our graduates are not just prepared for the workforce, but are also equipped to seek answers to difficult questions and make a meaningful impact on the world.*



Scan me  
VIDEO

*Tatiana Cahue, a Lewis chemistry student, details what it is like being a part of the Keleher Research Group (KRG) at Lewis University.*

## The Keleher Research Group at Lewis University

The Keleher Research Group (KRG) at Lewis University is leading scientific innovation, tackling global challenges with advanced solutions. Founded on collaboration, curiosity, and an open-minded culture, KRG is a community dedicated to advancing science and empowering future researchers.

With a clear mission to address real-world problems, KRG brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds to innovate in fields

like semiconductor manufacturing and surface preparation technology. In 2024, the group's impact was recognized when the U.S. Congress approved \$950,000 in funding, secured by Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14), to support research at Lewis University's semiconductor innovation center. This initiative aims to enhance production processes and address workforce demands in the semiconductor industry, contributing to Illinois' technological growth and

national security.

"This initiative wouldn't have been possible without the incredible researchers I've worked with since 2009," said Dr. Jason Keleher, chair of the Chemistry Department. Under his leadership, KRG has become a leader in ultra-clean processing and surface preparation technology, with research published in top international journals. Many KRG members have gone on to successful careers at industry leaders like Intel and Applied Materials.

Central to KRG's success are the "KRG 5C's" – compassion, collaboration, communication, community, and confidence. These values foster an environment where students balance academic and personal growth. "Being part of the research group has been the highlight of my Lewis education," said Katey Sheets '24, a KRG student, describing her work on sustainable bandage materials.

As KRG continues to push the boundaries of scientific research, it remains committed to innovation and training the next generation of scientists to tackle the world's biggest challenges.



“ With live market data, advanced software, and interactive simulations, the lab prepares students to thrive in global finance and enhances their competitiveness in the job market. ”



## The Bryan and Mary Durkin Family Finance and Trading Lab

In January 2024, the College of Business unveiled the Bryan and Mary Durkin Family Finance and Trading Lab, a cutting-edge facility that bridges academic theory and real-world financial experience. Made possible through the generous contributions of Bryan '82 '93 and Mary '82 '93 Durkin,

alumni and longtime supporters of the University, the lab stands as a symbol of innovation and excellence.

Designed to immerse students in real-world financial scenarios, the lab provides both undergraduate and graduate students with access to industry-standard

resources and real-time global financial data. Ryan D. Butt, dean of the College notes, “This transformational gift has enabled us to create a multi-functional classroom that integrates theory and practice across financial disciplines.”

More than just a classroom, the lab offers a dynamic learning environment where students can develop the skills to excel in the fast-paced world of finance. With live market data, advanced software, and interactive simulations, the lab prepares students to thrive in global finance and enhances their competitiveness in the job market.

This facility represents a major milestone in the College of Business’s commitment to innovation and excellence in education, providing students with the tools to lead in finance and beyond.





“ Many of the students who presented will continue their research during the 2024-2025 academic year, demonstrating their commitment to finding solutions that contribute to a better world. ”



## Celebration of Scholarship

Lewis' annual 2024 Celebration of Scholarship took place on April 17 and 18 in the Fieldhouse, where more than 200 graduate and undergraduate students showcased their academic focus areas and research findings to alumni judges, peers, faculty, and guests. The presentations covered a range of topics, including the improvement of charging capabilities for electric vehicles, tailoring nutritional supplements based on lifestyle and demographics, and enhancing soil water retention for better-growing conditions, among others. Many of the students who presented will continue their research during the 2024-2025 academic year, demonstrating their commitment to finding solutions that contribute to a better world. Many Lewis alumni in related fields volunteered as judges for this event.

## Brother Bernard Rapp, FSC Fellowship and Awards



The Brother Bernard Rapp Research Fellowship and Research Focus Awards provide essential support for expenses related to reassigned time for full-time faculty engaged in scientific research. This generous contribution allows faculty members to dedicate more time and resources to their research, allowing significant advancements in these vital fields.

“The fellowship has had a profound impact on my research and how I am able to support undergraduates in the lab. The award has allowed me to work with Dr. Michelle Hastings at the University of Michigan investigating RNA therapeutics. The work done there resulted in a manuscript, currently under review. I have also expanded my research group at Lewis. We were able to publish two papers this year and I was able to take undergraduates to conferences in Michigan and Louisiana. None of this would have been possible without the support provided by the Rapp Award.” **DR. MALLORY HAVENS** (professor of Biology)



“The Rapp Award has been very beneficial for me this year. It has given me time to ramp up a couple of air quality projects with

my students and to work with a community group on the ramp up of an EPA grant we were awarded to expand air quality monitoring in Joliet and the Canal Corridor.” **DR. JOSEPH KOZMINSKI** (Professor of Physics)



## Students Showcase 2024 Research at SURE Symposium

Lewis undergraduate students presented their summer research findings at the Dr. James Girard Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) 2024 Symposium on August 6.

The students researched a wide range of topics, including Alzheimer's disease, homelessness, DNA modeling, crime metrics, dye degradation, software testing, precision nutrition, graph theory, Machado Joseph Disease, neutrophil differentiation, safe storage education, microbial activity, biochar, *C. difficile* infections, occupational voice use, traumatic brain injury, physical therapy curricula and holistic admissions.

The SURE program provides students with the opportunity to conduct research under the mentorship of Lewis University faculty members.

The symposium allows students to share their findings with the University community and the public.

"The SURE Symposium is a celebration of student research and scholarship," said Dr. Brittany Stephenson, director of the SURE program. "We are proud of the work our students have done this summer, and we are excited to see what they will accomplish in the future."

The following students presented their research:

- **KIERSTEN SMITH** - "Exploring the Role of Reactive Oxygen Species on Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis"
- **RAVEN ROBINSON** - "Navigating Service Provision and Community Perceptions in a Suburban Environment: A Study of Homeless Service Nonprofits"
- **PHILIFFE TEBALAN** - "Graph Theoretical Modeling of Self-Assembling DNA of the Fan Graph Family"
- **CLAIRE GRIFFIN** - "Aligning Crime Metrics with Public Perception: A Data-Driven Approach"
- **AUDREY ANG** - "The Utilization of Whole Cell Catalysis for Dye Degradation"
- **CHUCKIE GENTILE** - "An Agent-Based Model for the Evaluation of Precision Nutrition through a Socioeconomic Lens"
- **EVAN BURNS** - "Impartial Geodetic Achievement Games Played on Connected Graphs"
- **ALEKSANDRA BOREK** - "Using Splice Switching Antisense Oligonucleotides to treat Machado Joseph Disease"
- **AARON ALLRED** - "Cyclin D3 and the Transcriptional Mechanisms Behind Neutrophil Differentiation"
- **JULIANNA HENRICHS** - "Parental Perceptions on Safe Storage Education in Illinois"
- **OCTAVIO ORTIZ** - "Microbial Activity of Rhizosphere in Soils Amended with Biochar Produced from Different Species of Invasive Plants"
- **ANGELINA MARTINEZ** - "Comparison of the Chemical and Physical Properties of Biochar Produced from Different Invasive Plants"
- **ZACHARY CAMPBELL** - "Mathematically Modeling Recurrent *C. difficile* Infections in Long-Term Care Facilities"
- **CYNTHIA LOPEZ** - "Exploring Attitudes to Occupational Voice Use in Fitness Instructors"
- **VY LE** - "Clustering Analysis of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)"
- **ARIANA ESTRADA** - "Incorporating Social Determinants of Health into Physical Therapy Curricula: A Scoping Review"
- **SAJA AHMED** - "Nursing Faculty Views on Holistic Admissions"



Scan Me  
VIDEO

*Learn more about the research undertaken by participants of the SURE program as they share their firsthand experiences and accomplishments.*

# University Updates



## Christian Brothers Conference Headquarters Returns to Lewis

**T**he headquarters of Christian Brothers Conference relocated from Washington, D.C. to Lewis University on June 1.

"We believe we are better positioning our team to continue their great support of the mission in the Lasallian Region of North America," Tom Southard, executive director of Christian Brothers Conference, said.

The Lasallian Region of North America includes the United States and Canada, where the Lasallian mission serves more than 101,800 people through a network of six colleges/universities and 61

secondary, middle and elementary schools. Twenty-six other ministries include youth and family services programs, educational centers, retreat centers, summer camps and support ministries.

"Lewis University is proud to partner with the Regional office in this way," Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, vice president for student life/chief mission officer, added. "We believe that our campus offers Christian Brothers Conference a central,

accessible location, and more importantly, an atmosphere that is imbued with the Lasallian spirit that is inspiring, hospitable, and practical."

The conference is returning to Lewis University as the Christian Brothers Conference office (then called the National Office) was opened on the university's campus in 1967 after several years of work in temporary offices. In 1993, the office moved to Maryland and Washington, D.C. in 2007.

## Lewis Welcomes Oak Point University Students

**L**ewis University agreed to be a Teach-Out institution for Oak Point University, which closed on April 19. The agreement, approved by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), ensured a smooth transition for Oak Point University students to Lewis University, so they were able to continue their education and pursue their degrees.

"This Teach-Out Agreement allows affected students to seamlessly continue their studies at Lewis University through graduation," Dr. David Livingston, President of Lewis University, said. "It is a painful decision for all involved to have to close an insti-

tution. Our goal is to help mitigate this by supporting the students and their career aspirations to the best of our ability."

Oak Point University, formerly Resurrection University, was a private, not-for-profit nursing and health sciences educational insti-

tution with campuses in Chicago and Oak Brook. Lewis accepted undergraduate and graduate students in nursing, and undergraduate students in radiography.

"Lewis University is especially well positioned to serve in this role because of the significant overlap between our mutual nursing and healthcare programs and the fact that our Oak Brook campus is only a few blocks away from their Oak Brook location," Livingston added.



## Project GO ROTC Leadership Program Held Over Summer

**T**wenty-four ROTC students from all over the United States participated in Project Global Officer last summer. The eight-week, fully-funded immersion residential program focused on teaching elementary-level Russian.

The nationwide program is open to all qualified ROTC students and offers critical language education to future military officers in preparation for overseas military and peace-making operations.

Project GO is an initiative sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the National Security Education Office. The Lewis University Foreign Language Program received a \$320,000 Project Global Officer three-year grant contract with the IIE to provide the program in 2023-2024.

## Summer Programs Bring Fun, Educational Activities to Campus

**S**ummer brings a variety of conferences and athletic events to campus with visitors attending from across the country. Additionally, several academic camps taught by Lewis faculty are offered to middle-level and high school students who are interested in a particular field.

This summer Lewis hosted academic camps in computer science, STEM fields, theology, and music. Nearly 120 students came from around the country to participate in these fun, educational programs.



## Lewis Helps with I&M Canal Anniversary Celebration

**P**hotographic collection images from Lockport's Gaylord Building were highlighted on August 4 at "Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future." The event celebrated the 40th anniversary of President Reagan's signing of legislation to create the I&M Canal National Heritage Area.

Several Lewis University students helped with the event preparations. Mason Wilson, Lewis University History Center graduate assistant, Diamond Allen, work study student, and Irena Illic, Lockport Women's Club Intern, scanned images and gathered information that were used for illustrated presentations during the celebration.

Barbara Donnelley and Jerry Adelmann presented on the historic preservation of the Gaylord Building and the creation of the National Heritage Area. Their presentation included images that capture many of the key moments in the work to preserve the Gaylord Building, which is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the early days of the National Heritage Area. These images are from the Gaylord Building's photographic collection, which students working in Lewis University's Adelmann Regional History Collection digitized in the past year.

This is one of the many partnerships that preserve local history and place it in the national context. The digital images also make the historic documents more accessible to researchers.

## Health Sciences Expand

**A**t Lewis University, students enrolled in the health sciences programs are experiencing the benefits of a new era of innovation and growth. The introduction of new programs such as the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and the BSN to DNP program has been a direct response to the increasing demand for skilled healthcare professionals. These new programs are part of the University's Health Science Expansion initiative, which aims to revitalize and expand existing facilities to increase the offerings of its Health Sciences programs and foster faculty and student collaboration across related fields.

Dr. David Livingston, President of Lewis University, expressed his gratitude to the supporters of new and expanded teaching spaces for the Health Sciences programs. "The University is making a significant investment in expanding resources to prepare students to enter the field of health sciences, but it also takes investments from others. In order to enhance these spaces with the latest technology and resources, we look to partner with our alumni, benefactors, and others in the health industry," he stated.

The expansion includes the creation of state-of-the-art facilities, including new laboratories



that are essential for the hands-on learning experiences crucial in health science education. A highlight of this expansion is the Sanchez Family Orthopedic Lab, which opened in the fall of 2024 as part of the Health Science Expansion project in South

Hall. This lab is designed to support various health science programs, with a special focus on the new Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

"The Ortho lab will be the space in which DPT students learn and refine skills necessary for the management of various orthopedic conditions. Students will learn hands-on assessment and treatment (manual therapy) as well as contemporary interventions," explains Rob Sweet, PT, DPT, director of Clinical Education.

Scott Likens donated HoloAnatomy Equipment providing state-of-the-art 3D mixed-reality learning experiences for students.



The new facilities and programs are not just an upgrade in infrastructure but a testament to Lewis University's commitment to providing exceptional education and training to future healthcare professionals. Ultimately, this commitment will make a significant positive impact on the lives of those being treated within our healthcare system.



## LEO MAPA '24 NURSING

“My favorite Lewis experience so far has been my Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP) this past summer. This is an exclusive 28-day internship for Army nursing students, and I was at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C. During this internship, I was able to practice my leadership and nursing skills by directly collaborating with Army nurses to plan and provide nursing care to patients. My cohort received more than 140 hours of clinical experience, conducted evidence-based research, and presented our research to the chief hospital staff. Our project involved ways the hospital can reduce medication errors through barcode scanning. Several faculty members at Lewis have gone above and beyond as mentors to me.” Leo gave the Lasallian Student Speaker Address at December 2024 Commencement.



Scan Me  
VIDEO

*Hear Leo Mapa discuss his Nursing experiences at Lewis University.*



## Prison Education Program Partnership

**In a groundbreaking initiative, the Illinois Department of Corrections and Lewis University have partnered to provide incarcerated adults with an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in Professional Studies. This flexible degree program is specifically designed to help students develop essential professional skills, equipping them for life beyond prison walls.**

Lewis faculty travel from the Romeoville campus to Sheridan Correctional Center to deliver the same rigorous coursework that students on the outside receive. This commitment ensures that incarcerated students are held to high academic standards, preparing them for meaningful futures.

“A college degree is the most beneficial factor in social mobilization,” says Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, director of the Prison Education Program at Lewis University. “Educational programs in prisons contribute to the quality of life not only for the students enrolled but for others inside the prison. Importantly, college graduates interrupt cycles of poverty and other social determinants that negatively impact so many incarcerated persons and their loved ones.”

This partnership is more than an educational initiative; it's a powerful tool for social change. Dr. David Livingston, President of Lewis University, highlights the broader impact: “We're proud to be in this program that will help incarcerated individuals obtain a high-quality, postsecondary education. Upon their release from prison, this can lead to meaningful job opportunities, reduce the recidivism rate, and make our communities safer. This program aligns with our Lasallian Mission of offering access to education and advocacy for social justice.”

By bringing higher education into correctional facilities, the Illinois Department of Corrections and Lewis University are not just offering degrees – they're offering hope, second chances, and a path to a better future.

# STUDY ABROAD *BUILDS GLOBAL AWARENESS*



## LEWIS SOFTBALL TEAM EXPERIENCES ROME

The Women's Softball Team traveled to Italy leaving on June 3 to play three games against Bollate near Milan, Legnano in Lombardy, and the Panthers outside Lucca before arriving in Rome on June 10.

A June trip to Italy combined athletic competition with a deep dive into the country's rich history and culture. The students enrolled in "Global History and Culture II" explored Italy's iconic cities, including Milan, Venice, Florence, and Rome. Dr. Dennis H. Cremin, professor and chair of the History Department, taught the course.

Spiritual growth occurred while students engaged in meaningful conversations about sacred spaces and the significance of Lewis University's Catholic and Lasallian heritage.

"The Lasallian tradition, rooted in the educational mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, emphasizes the importance of education, community, and faith. This ethos was reflected in the sacred spaces we visited, where the emphasis on teaching and nurturing faith was evident," said Anna Frafjord, a softball team member. "This holistic approach to education and faith resonated with me, highlighting the enduring impact of the Lasallian educational mission on individuals and communities throughout history."

The student-athletes visited many sacred spaces, including the Cathedral in Milan, the Basilica of St. Peter, and

the Sistine Chapel in Rome. These sites and others became part of the context for their conversations surrounding history and culture from 1500 to the present.

"We discussed the Lasallian global network, which Lewis is an active participant in, as we traveled to the De La Salle Christian Brothers Generalate," said Cremin.

Their studies in Rome included taking a walking tour of historic sites like the Piazza Navona. They also enjoyed some local traditions, such as tossing coins into the Trevi Fountain, as well as a visit to the Vatican, St. Peter's Basilica and the Coliseum.

"This has been an amazing trip. We have visited so many wonderful cities including Venice and Florence," Head Coach Becky Pearl said. "Our student-athletes could not believe all the boats cruising along the Venice canals."

Students were enrolled in the Global History and Culture II course. Cremin added, "Being in the actual place where the history occurred makes the lessons so much more engaging and memorable."



## STUDENTS GAIN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Twelve Lewis University students participated in a trip to the Netherlands, where they completed the Comparative Criminal Justice Systems course.

The Travel Study course was led by Dr. Hannah Klein, assistant professor of Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies, and Dr. Rachel Wells, assistant professor of Social Work. This unique program offered an in-depth exploration of how the United States and the Netherlands approach crime, justice and prevention.

Highlights of the travel component of the undergraduate course included tours and lectures at key locations - Peace Palace, International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice, and unique cultural experiences - visits to the Cannabis College, Anne Frank House, and the Dutch Resistance Museum.

Students gained an in-depth understanding of the nations' differing policies, practices, and procedures. Through lectures, discussions, and analysis, students examined the social, cultural, and international political factors that shape these systems.



## BIOLOGY EXPLORES BIOCHAR, HYDROCHAR PRODUCTION IN COLOMBIA

Dr. Jerry Kavouras, professor and chair of Biology at Lewis University, recently blogged about how “Travel Study Explores Biochar and Hydrochar Production from Food Waste in Colombia.”

Dr. Kavouras’s blog post highlights his third educational and research trip to Colombia. Accompanied by environmental science majors Angelina Martinez and Alex Krupa, Dr. Kavouras collaborated with Dr. Rosalina Gonzalez from the Universidad de La Salle in Bogota on the production of biochar and hydrochar from food waste.

During the visit, Lewis University students worked alongside their Colombian peers, conducting chemical analyses to determine the effectiveness of the locally used methods.

Dr. Kavouras presented to the Colombian National Police Crime Lab and discussed soil microbes and relevant identification techniques at the National Geographic Institute of Soils in Colombia (IGAC).

The group visited the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation, which supports education, women’s empowerment, and business creation in impoverished areas.

The trip also included cultural experiences, such as enjoying traditional Colombian cuisine and visiting the Salt Cathedral, an underground Catholic church built by miners. These activities enriched the students’ understanding of Colombian history and culture.



## PHILIPPINES MISSION TRIP

On Monday, May 13, 2024, a group of dedicated Lewis University students and staff embarked on a life-changing Mission trip to the Philippines. Over the course of several weeks, these Flyers partnered with local Filipino villagers in Bago City to build cinder block houses – structures that would not only provide shelter but also symbolize hope and new beginnings. The tagline for the trip, “Build a house, build a home,” perfectly captures the essence of the mission: to construct physical dwellings while creating lasting connections that will be etched in the hearts of all involved.

This transformative journey was made possible through a partnership with Gawad Kalinga, an organization at the forefront of community development in the Philippines, and the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod. The participants resided at St. La Salle and worked closely with local students, reinforcing the Lasallian values of service, community, and education. Thanks to the generous support of donors, members of the Lewis University community were able to engage in service learning and make a profound impact on both the villagers and themselves.

For many of the participants, the trip was a deeply personal and spiritual experience, offering insights and lessons that would

remain with them long after their return to the United States.

“What the trip meant to me was an experience so pure and powerful that it defied the expectations of what the human experience continues to offer. Through a journey with people who were once strangers, they graciously opened their hearts and offered us something more special than we could have ever imagined, which was a gift of genuine kindness, unwavering generosity, and unconditional love.” David Abrutis ’24, Computer Science.

“My trip to Bacolod has been my greatest experience in life and my favorite so far at Lewis. It has taught me so much about love and God and helped me grow as a person. This was a great experience, and I’m grateful I was able to attend this trip. I can’t wait to go again next year!” Hunter Brough ’26, Exercise Science.

“The trip helped me look at the world in a different way and exposed how people in other cultures and situations live and think. Being able to meet and live alongside the people in the Philippines showed how we can all help care for each other better and learn from one another.” Colin ’25, Marketing.

# FACULTY NEWS



## Muench Publishes, Wins Awards, and Receives Fellowship and Residency

In May 2024, Dr. Simone Muench's (Professor, English Studies) full-length poetry collection entitled *The Under Hum*, which she co-wrote with Dr. Jackie K. White (Professor, English Studies, retired) was published by Black Lawrence Press. She was the recipient of a Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing Poet & Author Fellowship award and was the May 2024 Recipient of a Ragdale Foundation Writing Residency from June-July 2024.

## Mustafa's Book on Blaxploitation Films is Published and Receives Awards

In the fall of 2023, Dr. Jamil Mustafa's (Professor, English Studies) book, *The Blaxploitation Horror Film: Adaptation, Appropriation and the Gothic*, was published by the University of Wales Press. The book demonstrates how Blaxploitation horror films appropriate Gothic archetypes to engage the major social and political issues of the 1970s, and it has been nominated for several awards.

## Mustafa and Wielgos Co-Edit Special Magazine Issue

In the spring of 2024, Dr. Jamil Mustafa (Professor, English Studies) and Dr. Christopher Wielgos (Professor and Chair, English Studies) co-edited a special issue of *Humanities* titled *Gothic Adaptation: Intermedial and Intercultural Shape-Shifting*. The essays in this issue investigate Gothic adaptation across media. Among them is Mustafa's "Monsters in Mirrors: Duality, Triangulation, and Multiplicity in Two Adaptations of *Jekyll and Hyde*," which uses the theory of deconstruction to demonstrate how adaptations of Stevenson's tale employ triangulation to deconstruct themselves.

## Kozminski Talks Physics Growth at Lewis at APS Conference

On March 5, 2024, Dr. Joe Kozminski (Professor and Chair of Physics) gave an invited talk entitled "Strategies for Physics Department Growth at Lewis University" at the 2024 American Physical Society March Meeting in Denver, Colorado, the largest annual Physics conference in the world. The talk, in the Forum on Education's session "How Departments are Supporting the Future of Physics," highlighted the modernization and growth of the Physics major over the last 10-12 years and the work done on the PhysTEC Recruiting Grant to more actively promote Physics Teacher Preparation pathways at Lewis.

## Sartell and Billups Collaborate on Interfaith America Grant

In collaboration, Dr. Elizabeth Sartell (Assistant Professor, Theology) and Dr. Christie Billups (Associate Professor and Chair, Theology) received a \$10,000 Interfaith America Inspiring Campus Change Grant to expand and sustain religious accommodations (dietary and academic) and structural support (interfaith staff) for Lewis' growing diverse, interfaith student body.

## Powers and Students Present Research at Immunology Conference

Dr. Sarah E. Powers (Professor, Biology) presented research outcomes generated in collaboration with Lewis undergraduate students Kylie Horvath, BS '23, and Aiysha Shamsi during a poster session at IMMUNOLOGY2024 held May 3-7, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois. This conference is the largest annual all-immunology event worldwide, organized by the American Association of Immunologists. The session was entitled "Evaluation of cyclin D3 as a transcriptional regulator in a neutrophil differentiation model."

## Honnold Co-Edits Book About Undervalued Female Saxophonist

Dr. Adrienne Honnold (Assistant Professor, Music) co-edited a new book entitled *The Legacy of Elise Hall: Contemporary Perspectives on Gender and the Saxophone*, which was published in March 2024 by Leuven University Press in Belgium and is distributed by Cornell University Press in the United States. The book was co-edited with Dr. Kurt Bertels and was released on the 100th anniversary of Elise Hall's death. Despite her career's profound impact, Hall remains relatively obscure in broader musical communities, and despite her tireless work as an impresario, patron, and performer, her contributions have been historically undervalued. By analyzing the sociocultural factors surrounding this innovative musician through a contemporary lens, this volume collectively affirms her place as one of the pioneers in the history of the saxophone.

## Markovic Participates in UN Counter Terrorism Global Compact and Co-Authors Book Chapter

Dr. Vesna Markovic (Professor and Chair, Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies) was invited to participate in Civil Service Organizations consultations for the United Nations Counter Terrorism Global Compact draft guidance. She was invited to participate because of her submission on this topic in 2020 for draft guidance. They completed the Compact and held a session to review the draft to make edits in Spring 2024. There were 12 people outside the committee from the workgroup from all over the world participating.

Dr. Markovic co-authored a chapter in the book *Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Africa*, which is part of the Sustainable Development Goals Series. The chapter is entitled: "Financial Exclusion, Gender, and the Lure of Boko Haram."

## Interdisciplinary Team from Colleges of Nursing and Health Sciences and Business Publishes Article

Dr. Michele Riley Kramer (Professor, Nursing), Dr. Lesley Page (Professor, Organizational Leadership), and Dr. George Klemic (Professor Emeritus, Business) published an article entitled "Hardwiring for growth: Using posttraumatic growth (PTG) to thrive in a disruptive environment" in the June 2024 edition of *Organization Development Review*.

## Kramer and Page Featured on Leadership Podcast Episode

On April 22, 2024, Dr. Michele Riley Kramer (Professor, Nursing) and Dr. Lesley Page (Professor, Organizational Leadership) were panelists on an episode of the podcast called *A Leadership Beyond*. The episode entitled “Well Being - Individual, Team, Organization, Societal – Part 1” and featured Kramer, Page, and Jeremy Vesta, Chief Operating Officer of Curally.

## Mathematic Professors Lead Research Experience at Brown University

From June 10-August 2, 2024, Dr. Amanda Harsy (Professor, Mathematics), Dr. Adam Schulze (Assistant Professor, Mathematics), Dr. Brittany Stephenson (Associate Professor, Mathematics), and Dr. Cara Sulyok (Assistant Professor, Mathematics) ran the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM) at Brown University. The theme of the eight-week Summer@ICERM program was “Mathematical Models to Predict, Prepare, and Prevent,” and in this time, five student teams worked on projects involving mathematical modeling applied to epidemiology and sports analytics. Eighteen undergraduate students and four graduate teaching assistants from institutions across the United States worked collaboratively with the Lewis professors.

## Communications Professors Travel Study Paper Wins National Recognition

John Kilpatrick (Professor, Communications) and Hayley Miller’s (Associate Professor, Communications) paper on experiential learning in travel study was awarded to the top paper panel in Communication and Innovation in Practice at the National Communication Association (NCA) conference in National Harbor, Maryland in November, 2023. Kilpatrick and Miller presented their paper entitled “The Traveling Storyteller: Experiential Learning Through Domestic Travel Study” at the conference on November 18, 2023.

## McFerron’s Composition Takes Two Global Music Awards

In June 2024, the recording of Dr. Mike McFerron’s (Professor, Music) Sonata no. 2 was awarded two silver medals in the Global Music Awards’ Composer and New Release categories. McFerron’s sonata is a dramatic composition written in 2022, telling the story of inexplicable loss of the child victims in the Sandyhook Elementary school shooting. The work has been described as “poignantly expressing life’s inscrutable emotions, particularly, anguish and bereavement.” His Sonata no. 2 was included on an album titled “Midwest Piano Sonatas” by acclaimed pianist, Kristín Jónína Taylor who commissioned and premiered McFerron’s sonata. The album was released in August 2024.

## Schultz Presents Papers on Teaching History in Polarized Times and Farm Ownership in Jim Crow Georgia

On January 5, 2024, Dr. Mark Schultz (Professor, History) organized a panel discussion called “Bridging the Liberal-Conservative Divide in the Classroom” at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. The panel discussion focused on “Teaching US History in Polarized

Times,” and his own paper addressed the need to incorporate conservative, liberal, and radical texts, evidence, and interpretations into history classes. As our society has become increasingly polarized, learning to understand each other’s perspectives and engage in respectful discussion has become increasingly important.

On April 6, 2024, Schultz presented a paper entitled “African American Farm Ownership in Jim Crow Georgia,” at the Georgia Archives History Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. His paper highlights black farm ownership in Georgia between Reconstruction and the Civil Rights Movement. Before northern industries began hiring African Americans for the first time during World War I, the difficult path to farm ownership offered the only viable path to upward mobility to most African Americans.

## Drake Brown Published Two Book Chapters

Dr. Sarah Drake Brown (Associate Professor, Secondary Education) published two chapters in 2024. “Teaching History in a Place with a Different History: Theory, Policy, and Practice in the United States and England,” appeared in *History Education and Historical Inquiry* and examined how competing visions of history teaching and learning shape the identities of novice history teachers and the meaning of historical inquiry in classrooms. “Searching for Metaphors: Exploring Teacher Candidates’ Epistemological Frames,” was published in *Teachers and the Epistemology of History*. The research uncovered the distances that exist between beginning teachers’ theoretical understandings of history as a discipline and the work they do as history teachers. She co-authored these chapters with Richard Hughes, a historian and history educator at Illinois State University.

## Tapia Participates in Round Table Discussion

In March 2024, Dr. Natalia Tapia (Professor, Justice, Law, and Public Safety Studies) participated in “Popular Culture and Criminal Justice: A Round Table” at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.

## Xu is a Panelist at AI Event

On May 9, 2024, Dr. Bo Xu (Assistant Professor, Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences) participated as a panelist at an event titled “Unlock Your Business Potential With AI”, organized by West Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Dr. Xu shared his knowledge on the differences between generative AI and traditional AI, discussed the reliability of AI, and provided insights into the future of AI.

## Vitente Represents New Mexico at APTA House of Delegates Meeting

On July 21-22, 2024, Dr. Arvie Vitente (Professor and Program Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy) served as the Chief Delegate representing the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) New Mexico at the APTA House of Delegates 2024, held in Kansas City, MO. The House of Delegates is APTA’s policymaking body that meets annually to make decisions on critical issues that impact the association and the physical therapy profession. Additionally, the House elects national leaders, including members of the APTA Board of Directors and the APTA Nominating Committee.

# *SIGNUM FIDEI* CELEBRATION

*What a Night!*

The annual Signum Fidei Celebration in support of Lewis University's Mission Fund was a resounding success, raising over \$532,000 on October 19, 2024.



The funds contribute significantly to Lewis's \$50 million comprehensive campaign, *Students at the Center, For a Better World*, which aims to provide quality and affordable education for all students. This campaign not only supports the Mission Fund but also fuels scholarships, campus enhancements, and critical programs designed to shape and empower future leaders.

This year's *Signum Fidei* brought together one of the largest groups to date, a powerful testament to the many individuals committed to making the Lewis experience possible for so many. Their presence and generosity echo the core Mission of Lewis University: to put students at the center of all we do.



A highlight of the evening was honoring **Bryan '82 '93 and Mary '82 '93 Durkin**, whose contributions and ongoing support embody the values of Lewis University.



The night also provided an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of the late **Dr. Juan Ojeda**, a cherished member of the St. Augustine community, whose impact continues to resonate with students.



# Special Thanks

to our incredible sponsors for their continued commitment and generosity, which make these vital efforts possible year after year.

- |   |   |
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## SIGNUM FIDEI CELEBRATION

*A Tradition of Generosity*

<p><b>36+</b> <b>SPONSORS</b> <i>of Signum Fidei Celebration</i></p>	<p><b>785</b> <b>DONORS</b> Raising Money for The Mission Fund</p>	<p><b>\$532,000</b> <b>RAISED</b> for the Lewis The Mission Fund</p>
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### Mark your calendars!

Next year's Signum Fidei is already in motion and scheduled for **Saturday, October 25, 2025.**

Your support fuels our unwavering commitment to place students at the center of all we do, empowering our Flyers as they work to create a better world!





**Thursday, March 21, 2024, was a day of celebration for the Lewis University community. Not only did it mark our annual Day of Giving, which raised funds for 20 projects, but it was also the official unveiling of our comprehensive campaign, “Students at the Center, for a Better World.”**

The day was filled with excitement and community spirit as alumni, students, faculty, and staff gathered at Stritch Hall for the on-campus celebration. The event was a testament to the strong bonds within the Lewis community and a shared commitment to enhance the university’s future.

Among the projects benefiting from the funds raised were the Illinois State Police Youth Camp at Lewis, enhancements to the Philip Lynch Theatre, the Flyers Career Launch Internship Fund, and the new St. Augustine College Endowment. In addition, nominated scholarships like

the Dr. James V. Krejci Annual Scholarship and the Sr. Joye Peace and Justice Scholarship also drew strong support. Sr. Joye stated, “The need for peace is evident in our world, country, church, and communities. I want to support the efforts of peacemaking provided and championed by Lewis University. Lewis offers the next generation the skills and context for building alliances of peace.”

By the day’s end, an impressive \$110,000 and counting was raised, surpassing our goal!

Ed and Jody Sanchez, once again stepped forward to generously match gifts dollar for dollar

up to \$25,000! We could not be more grateful. Additionally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Pepsico, Angelo ’89 and Jeanne ’91 Lazzara, and Thomas and Sarah Lemaire, who offered Day of Giving matches. These matches provided an early boost to our campaign and were crucial in achieving our remarkable results.

We also want to extend our sincere thanks to Sodexo, Fat Ricky’s, and Crumbl Cookies of La Grange for providing delicious treats throughout the day for everyone who came to Stritch Hall to celebrate with us.

The success of this year’s Day of Giving and the launch of our

comprehensive campaign reflect the unwavering dedication of the Lewis University community to place “Students at the Center, for a Better World.” Thank you to everyone who participated and made this day unforgettable.



*Scan me*  
**VIDEO**

**JAMIE VOUSTROS '19'22**  
*shares how the scholarship created by this event impacted her Lewis experience and life after Lewis.*

**\$181,000  
COMMITTED**

**20 PROGRAMS  
SUPPORTED**

**429 GIFTS  
COMMITTED**





**LEWIS  
FLYERS**

**GLVC  
COMMISSIONER'S CUP  
BACK-TO-BACK  
CHAMPIONS  
2022-23, 2023-24**

# 2023 GLVC COMMISSIONER'S CUP

Lewis University athletics is thriving, with 24 sports and 450 student-athletes representing the Flyers with distinction both on the field and in the classroom. The unwavering support from the Flyer community – alumni, parents, donors, faculty, and university leadership – has been essential in making these achievements possible.

For the second straight year and the third time in school history, the Lewis University Athletic Department has won the prestigious Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Commissioner's Cup. This accomplishment is a testament to the collective efforts of the entire Flyer community. "Winning the Commissioner's Cup for the second consecutive year is a culmination of efforts by so many within the Flyer community," said assistant vice president for athletics, John Ashaolu. "From our alums, parents, and donors to our faculty and our leadership – including President Dr. David Livingston and Provost Dr. Christopher Sindt – and countless other administrators who continually support our athletic program. Through their tireless work ethic and dedication to providing an elite student-athlete experience, our esteemed staff of coaches, athletic trainers, and administrators are essential to this success. These collective efforts play an important role in winning this award in consecutive years and sustaining a championship culture."

Beyond the Commissioner's Cup, Lewis finished 20th in the Learfield Sports Directors'



**450**  
STUDENT  
ATHLETES

**3.44**  
AVERAGE  
GPA

**20<sup>TH</sup>**  
LEARFIELD SPORTS  
DIRECTORS CUP

**41**  
STUDENTS WITH  
PERFECT 4.0 GPA

Cup, highlighting our Flyers' athletic success on the national stage. However, the accomplishments of Lewis student-athletes extend far beyond competition. With a department GPA of 3.44 for the 2023-24 academic year, the Flyers exemplify the true meaning of a student-athlete, with 20 out of 21 teams achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Remarkably, 41 student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA, highlighting their dedication to academic excellence. The women's volleyball team not only won its third straight GLVC

Tournament Championship and advanced to the NCAA II Midwest Regional but also led all women's sports with a team GPA of 3.76. The men's cross country team also excelled, achieving the highest male team GPA of 3.56 while winning the GLVC Championships and placing second at the NCAA II Midwest Regionals.

These accomplishments are a direct reflection of the Flyer community's commitment to supporting our student-athletes in every aspect of their Lewis experience.



## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY FINISH SIXTH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Lewis women's cross country team concluded its season at the NCAA DII Championships as the Flyers finished in sixth place with 255 team points. This marks the highest the women's team has finished since 1997.

Head Coach James Kearney said, "22 seconds between our number 1 and number 5 runner is one of the best spreads of the entire country and something we take a great deal of pride in. The legacy our seniors have left behind is something that I cannot appreciate enough and will impact future teams for a very long time."

Junior Josephine Bober (Lockport, Ill.) was the top finisher for Lewis after picking up a 43rd place finish in the 6K race after crossing the finish line at 21:32. Graduate student Caroline Pacer-Ryan (Wheaton, Ill.) was the next runner to cross the finish line after finishing in 49th place with a time of 21:36.

Graduate student Sarah May (Elmhurst, Ill.) finished at 21:37 which landed her in 50th place. Abbey Kozak (Lockport, Ill.) finished in 64th place with a time 21:46. Hannah Smrcka (Corry, Penn.) finished in 77th place at 21:54. Graduate student Anna Kozak (Lockport, Ill.) recorded a time of 22:24 which landed her in 129th place. Junior Kate Guderjan (Frankfort, Ill.) rounded out the Lewis runners after recording a time of 22:28 with a 134th place finish.

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP

Women's Volleyball won its fourth straight Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship on Sunday, Nov. 24 as the Flyers took down Rockhurst 3-1. Lewis becomes the second school in the GLVC to four-peat as GLVC Tournament Champions. The team finished with a 22-10 record. They will go on to compete in the NCAA Championship.

### Game Breakdown:

Kills: Bella Ray (Plainfield, Ill.) (17); Digs: Ally Hickey (Granger, Ind.) (26), Hannah Alvey (Mapleton, Ill.) (18); Assists: Lily King (Channahon, Ill.) (18), Rachel Kaczorowski (Carpentersville, Ill.) (16); Aces: Ray (3); Blocks: Emma O'Neill (Papillion, Neb.) (6), Ray (5), Natalie Stefanski (Plainfield, Ill.) (5).

The Flyers earned the 4th seed at nationals.

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES IN 12TH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Lewis University men's cross country team concluded its 2024 season at the NCAA DII National Championships as the team finished in 12th place with a total of 349 points. Sophomore Evan Horgan (Loves Park, Ill.) was named an All-American after finishing in 13th place overall out of 262 runners. Horgan became the first men's All-American since Michael Leet in 2016.

Sean Ryan (Independence, Ky.) finished in 61st place with a time of 30:55 in the 10K race. Gavin Jenkins (Flint Hill, Va.) finished next for the Flyers, with a time of 31:24.

Jacob Kodrick (Brownsburg, Ind.) finished in 92nd place as the senior finished with a time of 31:26. Zack Dunn (Merrillville, Ind.) ran the race in 31:31, which gave him a 109th-place finish. Charlie Wirth (Greenville, Wis.) finished in 163th place in the 10K race after recording a time of 31:58. Casey Quintana (Mishawaka, Ind.) rounded out the Lewis runners at 32:40 in the meet, which landed him in 204th place.



## MEN'S SOCCER FALLS TO #4 TIFFIN IN SECOND ROUND OF DII NATIONALS

The Men's Soccer team was defeated by the Tiffin University Dragons 3-1 in the second round of the DII National Tournament on Sunday, Nov. 24. They earned the spot after winning the GLVC Regular Season and Tournament Championship against Maryville.

Cristian Perez (Cicero, Ill.) had two shots on goal and scored one.

Saves: Sebastian Doppelhofer (Liebmannweg, Austria) (2)

The Flyers started the first five minutes of the game on the attack holding the ball in their offensive zone. The Dragons would catch Lewis in transition and scramble their defense. A shot which was pushed to the side by Doppelhofer but did find the back of the net to give Tiffin a one-goal lead.

At the half Tiffin was leading by two.

Lewis struggled early in the second half to hold the ball in their offensive side for extended periods of time. Once again in transition the Dragons put up another goal to lead by three in the elimination match. Perez carried the ball across the top of the box and with his left laces hammered one into the left side of the goal. While Lewis did possess the ball more in the second half they fell to Tiffin 3-1.

# Flyer Reunions



## Celebrating our Legacy at Lewis Fest: A Tradition of Community and Connection

On September 23, 2023, Lewis University proudly hosted its inaugural Lewis Fest, a day dedicated to celebrating the enduring Flyer spirit. The event brought



together students, families, alumni, faculty, and staff for a day of Flyer-themed activities, reinforcing the sense of community that defines Lewis University.

More than 600 attendees, ranging from children to adults, participated in the festivities, which included face painting, an obstacle course, a home run derby, a soccer shoot-out, and flight simulations. The Alumni Beer Tent

provided a special reunion space for members of the classes of '83, '93, '03, and '13 to reconnect and reminisce.

The highlight of the day was the Women's Volleyball Team's victorious match against Southwest Baptist University, a perfect opportunity for Flyers of all ages to support our student-athletes.

Building on the success of this inaugural event, Lewis University hosted its second annual Lewis Fest on September 29, 2024. The Flyer family once again came together to enjoy games, activities, a DJ, and a communal lunch. Fans cheered on the Flyers during the Women's and Men's Alumni Soccer games, and a Softball exhibition game. The day's celebration concluded with Mass at the Sancta Alberta Chapel.

Lewis Fest fosters association among Flyers and introduces students to the larger Flyer family. It's a day that reminds us all that the Flyer spirit transcends time, bringing together the entire Lewis community with shared memories.



## Celebrating 50 Years of Memories: The Golden Flyers Reunion at Lewis

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Lewis University's campus buzzed with nostalgia and excitement as the Golden Flyers Society welcomed back its cherished alumni for their 50-year reunion. This annual celebration honors those who graduated from Lewis half a century or more ago, offering them a special place within this esteemed group. The class of 1973 was the star of this year's event, joining the ranks of the Golden Flyers and rekindling bonds that have endured through the decades.

The day was a heartfelt journey down memory lane, beginning with campus tours at 10 a.m. Alumni strolled among familiar halls, revisited old haunts, and marveled at how their beloved campus has evolved over the years. The morning's highlight was a special Mass in the Sancta Alberta Chapel at 11 a.m., where attendees reflected on their journeys and the Lasallian values that have guided them since their time at Lewis. This sacred gathering was a moment for gratitude and connection, uniting the past with the present in a meaningful way.

Following Mass, the celebration continued with a lunch reception where alumni shared stories, laughter, and memories, reigniting the connections that began 50 plus years ago. The room was filled with the warmth of old friendships and the joy of new memories being made.

The tradition continued on May 18, 2024, when Lewis University once again welcomed back 81 alumni for the 2024 Golden Flyers Reunion. The day's festivities included a Mass in the Sancta Alberta Chapel, a Class of 1974 photo, brunch in the University Dining Room, and the induction of members of the Class of '74 into the Golden Flyers Society. Brother James Gaffney, FSC, a special guest, helped induct these new members into the society, adding to the day's significance.



The event concluded with campus tours and a toast on the patio.

The Golden Flyers Reunion at Lewis University is more than just an event; it's a celebration of the lasting impact of a Lasallian education, and the enduring bonds formed during one's college years. Each class that joins the Golden Flyers

Society adds to the legacy of Lewis University, reminding us all of the importance of cherishing our past while looking forward to the future. As our Flyers celebrated 50 years of memories, they also looked forward to the promise of many more to come, continuing the proud tradition of Lewis University and its alumni.



### The Inaugural CoHFAC Kickback Event

On Friday, March 22, 2024, the College of Humanities, Fine Arts and Communications (CoHFAC) came alive with energy and excitement as it hosted its first-ever “CoHFAC Kickback” event. This special evening was designed to celebrate the talents of CoHFAC students and highlight the vibrant activities within this Lewis College. With 148 alumni in attendance, the night was a perfect blend of fun, creativity, and community.

Guests were treated to an open bar, delicious food, and a variety of engaging activities, including karaoke, a photo booth, and “painting & poetry on the go.” The evening also featured bar games, theatre performances, and a Lewis Alumni Art Exhibit, showcasing the incredible talent of our CoHFAC students and graduates. The event was not just a celebration of the present but also a tribute to our rich legacy. A special moment of the night was dedicated to honoring the late Keith White, Professor *Emeritus* and former chair of the Theatre Department, whose invaluable contributions helped shape the Lewis community.



Scan me REGISTER

**REGISTER NOW!**  
**2ND ANNUAL COHFAC KICKBACK**  
**MARCH 8, 2025**

*Honoring John Carey Lifetime Achievement Award*  
[alumni.lewisu.edu/2025-CoHFAC-Kickback](http://alumni.lewisu.edu/2025-CoHFAC-Kickback)

# ALUMNI IN ACTION

## *How you can make a difference!*



Scan me  
VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering plays a vital role in shaping the future of Lewis University and its students. We hope to engage 10,000 alumni as they help us prepare today's Lewis students to build a better world. One impactful way to contribute is through volunteer opportunities such as Move-In Day, Prospective Student Day, as an alumni speaker at commencement, or on a career panel. Your involvement not only enriches the students' Lewis experience but also strengthens our community and fosters a culture of giving back. Join us and make an impact! Scan the QR code to learn more about volunteer opportunities and how you can stay engaged in the Lewis University community.  
[alumni.lewisu.edu/VolunteerOpportunities](http://alumni.lewisu.edu/VolunteerOpportunities)

### Join the President's Circle: Make a Lasting Impact

By making an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, you can become a distinguished member of the President's Circle at Lewis University. This exclusive group of donors plays a vital role in advancing the mission of St. John Baptist de La Salle, ensuring that we can continue to serve our students and address the areas of greatest need.

President's Circle members are more than just donors – they are key partners in our Mission. Your contribution helps build a strong foundation for the university, providing essential support that directly impacts our students' lives. Whether you choose to give through a personal check, credit card, matching gift, planned gift, or other means, your generosity makes an impact.

In addition, as a member of the President's Circle, you'll also gain access to unique opportunities to engage with the Lewis University. You'll be invited to exclusive events, including the annual President's Circle Dinner, where you can connect with fellow members and university leadership. These gatherings offer a chance to see firsthand the impact of your philanthropy and to be part of our community that is shaping the future of Lewis.

Joining the President's Circle is more than just making a donation – it's a commitment to excellence and a pledge to support the next generation of Flyers. We invite you to make your mark and help us continue the mission of transforming lives through education.



### Your Legacy, Our Flyers' Future: Join the Harold E. White Legacy Society

The Harold E. White Legacy Society includes alumni and friends, faculty, staff, and retirees who provide an educational legacy for Lewis University students either through a gift in their estate plans or some other type of planned gift arrangement. The impact of planned gifts was essential to the establishment of Lewis University. The first planned gift was made by Michael Fitzpatrick and his sister, Frances Fitzpatrick. It consisted of over 170 acres of farmland to the Archdiocese of Chicago. This land was ultimately used to house the first buildings of Lewis University and remains a significant part of the Romeoville campus. Their exceptionally generous and far-sighted gift made in the 1920s led to what is now Lewis University, but continues to benefit the University today. The impact of other planned gifts is also clearly evident: a number of campus buildings that are home to programs of distinction; endowed scholarships that have provided generations of financially challenged students with the benefits of quality Catholic education in the Lasallian tradition; and many other endowed programs that have promoted a variety of research initiatives. These significant investments continue to provide students with learning opportunities beyond the classroom, while also further enhancing the academic reputation of Lewis University.

*make a difference*

## Meet Cheryl Bradfute '84, a Legacy Society Member

Lewis University provided Cheryl Bradfute '84 with an exceptional education and a wonderful college experience. She hopes the university continues to cultivate this environment for both traditional and nontraditional students. When she was seven months pregnant, Cheryl and her husband, John, moved to Joliet, Illinois. Their first daughter was born in May of 1981.

In August of that same year, Cheryl took out a student loan and started taking classes full time at Lewis. "I was one of the only students with a young child at home and student debt," Cheryl shared, "but Lewis was supportive of our family in every way."

Cheryl double-majored in English and journalism and maintained a nearly straight A average while at Lewis. She enjoyed writing poetry, studying political science

and attending plays produced by the drama department, such as "West Side Story." She even joined the English department on a trip to the Stratford Shakespearean Festival in Ontario, Canada. "It was nerve-racking leaving the baby behind, but it was such a wonderful experience," she said.



When John received an offer for a new job in another city, Cheryl's journalism professor, Bob Puhala, agreed to be her long-distance advisor so she could complete her degree. "Lewis was very understanding and wanted to help us keep our family together and keep me in the Lewis family," she said.

Cheryl's education at Lewis University paved the way for a successful career in advertising, television and marketing. She has been a freelance writer and photographer and even started her own business creating custom window treatments and draperies.

A proud alumna, Cheryl has been supporting Lewis on an annual basis since the '80s. The couple recently named Lewis as a beneficiary of an individual retirement account. "I know firsthand that not everybody can afford college," Cheryl shared.

Giving back to their community is not just a hobby for the Bradfutes; it's a priority. They also actively support various veterans, education and arts organizations, understanding the importance of community support. "If God has blessed you with an abundance, don't hold onto it," Cheryl said. "John and I are in a position to give back, and I believe we are called to do so. I'm forever grateful to Lewis for all they have given me."

Current members, like Cheryl, have continued the tradition of legacy giving, and their planned gifts will also impact the future of Lewis University! If you are interested in making a planned gift, please contact Brandon Hoeft, Executive Director of Development, at (815) 836-5399 or [bhoeft@lewisu.edu](mailto:bhoeft@lewisu.edu).

## WAYS TO GIVE

BELOW IS A FULL LIST OF WAYS TO MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT TO LEWIS UNIVERSITY.



### PLANNED GIFTS

a signed intention form stating the value of the gift



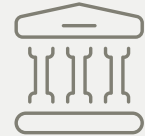
### ONE-TIME GIFTS

check, cash, or credit card



### PLEDGES

a three-year to five-year commitment with an initial payment



### PAYROLL DEDUCTION

only for faculty and staff;  
[alumni.lewisu.edu/  
PayrollForm](http://alumni.lewisu.edu/PayrollForm)



### GIFTS-IN-KIND

a credit for the fair market value of a gift, to align with a University need



### IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION



### GIFTS OF STOCK



### BLENDED GIFTS

any combination of the above



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

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

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

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



**Scan the  
QR Code to  
start your  
FREE will!**

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

# In Memoriam



## Remembering Keith White

Lewis University and Keith White family and friends hosted a “Tribute for Keith White” on Thursday, June 20, to commemorate a life well-lived.

Born and raised in Joliet, Keith attended Joliet East where he was a member of Kolage, and began his acting career under

Arlyne Nuti, graduating in 1973. That summer, he performed at Lewis University’s Tangerine Tent where he met his mentor and friend Chet Kondratowicz. In the fall, he became a student at Lewis where he saw and assisted in the construction of the Philip Lynch Theatre and performing in the first production *Scapino*. He performed in more than 26 productions at Lewis, his favorite being *Amadeus*. During his years at Lewis, he was also fortunate to study ballet under Claudette Soltis, director of the Joliet Ballet Society.

His first job after graduating in 1977 was with the Indianapolis Ballet, but theatre was his first love. He became an Equity actor at Chicago’s Candlelight Dinner Playhouse for two years. Missing the academic aspect of theatre, he returned to Lewis as the Theatre Manager in 1980, which he held for 11 years. He attended Northern Illinois University and received an MFA in acting and became a full-time faculty member in 1994. At the Philip Lynch Theatre he directed more than 70 mainstage productions and 10 Heritage Theatre productions of which he was a founding member. He retired from Lewis in 2020. He also performed for the Joliet Drama Guild and at the Rialto Theatre with Theatre Connection.

In 2004, Lewis University awarded Keith the De La Salle Medallion for Exemplary Volunteer Service and in March of 2024 the first Dean’s Lifetime Award for Excellence. For 20 years he was Board President of Regional Care and Director of the annual Regional Care Aids Walk.

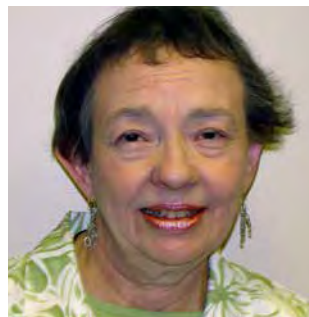


## Brother Raymond McManaman, FSC

Esteemed Professor *Emeritus* Brother Raymond McManaman, FSC passed away on the evening of October 30, 2024. Brother Raymond was one of the seven original Brothers to arrive at Lewis in 1960 and retired as a Professor in the Theology Department after 51 years of service to the University. He personified the

mission of the Brothers through his warmth, sense of humor, and genuine care for the students. Brother Raymond was presented with the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award in Spring 2016 for his unparalleled length of service and excellence in teaching. He was named an Honorary Founder of Lewis University in Spring 2021. A native of Waukegan, Ill., he obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, a Master of Arts from Seattle University, a Doctor of Ministry from Aquinas Institute of Theology, and a Doctor of Sacred Theology from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Brother Raymond enjoyed reading and following Notre Dame football, the Chicago White Sox, and the Lewis athletic teams, especially the Lewis baseball team.

The most recent honor in recognition of his enormous contributions to Lewis University was the naming of the street that runs across the front of campus (from North Hall across the front of the LRC to Stritch Hall), “Brother Raymond Drive.”



## Sue Pajak

Sue Pajak, former Administrative Assistant in the Chemistry Department, passed away on June 16, 2024. Sue was an esteemed and beloved member of the Lewis University community from 1989 to 2015. Sue received the De La Salle Medallion for Exemplary Volunteer Service in 2003.

Michael A. Barth '72	12/27/2022
Ralph R. Bechtold '74	
Glenn B. Bergmark	3/13/2024
William Black '65	5/24/2024
Robert M. Brusich '77	1/9/2024
Ruth A. Colby	10/15/2023
James Corrigan '68	5/27/2024
Robert C. Engels	5/17/2024
Jean M. Erdmann '77	4/8/2021
Arthur M. Fennell '58	2/19/2024
John H. Frisch '54	1/18/2024
Hugh Fullmer '68	3/1/2024
John J. Gabel '86	9/29/2024
Vernon L. Gaugush '61	9/1/2024
Gary A. Grissinger '74	1/13/2024

Michelle V. Gucik '20	3/1/2024
Dale F. Hennebry '72	5/15/2024
William T. Hepperle '69	1/18/2024
Thomas A. Hernandez '88	4/15/2024
Madeline E. Hughes	10/23/2024
James Klick	10/31/2024
August J. Martinucci '76	1/11/2023
Paul Martinucci	8/6/2020
Raphael Mascari	1/22/2024
Joseph P. McKeever '62	10/18/2023
Jane McLean	8/1/2023
Raymond McManaman	10/30/2024
Robert A. Miller '52	9/11/2023
Juan Ojeda	1/12/2024
Lawrence Ollearis	12/6/2024

Sue Carole E. Pajak	6/16/2024
James M. Peterson '69	12/6/2023
Robert J. Rose '57	8/2022
Paul J. Rubino	11/29/2023
Fred J. Steinmann '70	11/27/23
Catherine A. Stubitsch '86	2/16/2024
Anna Mae L. Svrusis '00	12/15/2023
Gerald M. Thom '71	10/22/2021
Peter D. Valek	11/1/2019
Michael L. Voss '98	10/20/2024
William A. Wetstein '55	12/15/2022
Patrick C. Wheaton '88 '93	4/29/2024
Keith J. White '77	6/8/2024
James H. Worst '70	2/22/2024

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## FEBRUARY

**Blank Slate - Paul Simmons**  
February 6 - March 14, 2025  
Wadsworth Family Art Gallery

**Laugh To Create Awareness**  
Saturday, February 8, 2025  
7 pm, Beverly Arts Center

**Coaches Academy**  
Saturday, February 8, 2025  
Halftime of Women's basketball game  
Neil Carey Arena

**Kodachrome**  
February 14-16 & February 20-23, 2025  
Philip Lynch Theatre

## MARCH

**2025 CoHFAC Kickback**  
Saturday, March 8, 2025  
Doors open at 6 pm, Philip Lynch Theatre  
& Wadsworth Family Gallery

**Ensemble Chaconne:  
Music of Shakespeare's Plays**  
March 25, 2025  
7:30 pm, St. Charles Borromeo  
Convocation Hall

**Flyer Red Dinner**  
March 26, 2025  
Bolingbrook Golf Club

**Day of Giving**  
Thursday, March 27, 2025  
Join us for food, games, prizes, and  
raising funds for our students!

## APRIL

**President's 17th Annual Art Exhibition**  
April 3 - 25, 2025  
> **Gallery Talk and Reception**  
April 10, 2025  
Wadsworth Family Art Gallery

**Baseball Anniversary**  
April 12, 2025

**Ride The Cyclone The Musical**  
April 25 - 27 & May 1 - 4, 2025  
Philip Lynch Theatre

## MAY

**Golden Flyers Reunion**  
May 31, 2025

## OCTOBER

**Signum Fidei Celebration**  
October 25, 2025

*Save the Dates*

[alumni.lewisu.edu/events](http://alumni.lewisu.edu/events)