



Greetings, Flyers and Friends,

There's something special about August at Lewis. As summer begins to wind down, excitement is building across campus in anticipation of a new academic year under the leadership of our new Lewis University President, Dr. Christopher Sindt. Soon, residence halls will be buzzing, classrooms will be filled with eager students, and another generation of Flyers will begin creating memories. The energy is contagious—and it reminds us that no matter when you graduated, you're always part of the Lewis family.

Before the first day of classes arrives, we hope you'll join us at **Lewis Alumni, Friends & Family Night with the Joliet Slammers** on **Thursday, August 13!** Come on out and enjoy a fun summer evening, cheering on the Slammers alongside fellow Flyers and friends. It's the perfect way to gather our Lewis community before another exciting year takes flight. **Simply click on the graphic below for more info and to purchase tickets.**

Here's to new beginnings, familiar faces, and another great year at Lewis. We can't wait to see you at the ballpark—and on campus throughout the year!

Warmly,

The Lewis University Alumni Office Team



UPCOMING EVENTS

August

Women's Basketball Elite Camp #2 - Saturday, August 8, 2026 | Join the Lewis Women's Basketball program for the first of two, one-day elite camp experiences. Led by Lewis University coaches and current players, this camp is designed specifically for high school girls looking to improve their skills, compete at a high level, and experience campus life firsthand. | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Check-in at 9 a.m.) | Eligible Campers: Girls entering 8th–12th Grade | Camp T-Shirt included | No meals provided | To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Lewis U Night at the Joliet Slammers Game - Tuesday, August 13, 2026 | 6:35 p.m. game start | Duly Health and Care Field - 1 Mayor Art Schultz Drive, Joliet, IL | Lewis President, Dr. Chris Sindt to throw out first pitch! | Individual ticket includes hot dog or hamburger, chips, drink, and cookie. Food will be served starting 30 minutes before the game until the start of the 7th inning. | To purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE](#).

Coloring to Heal: Ruth Hong Art (Art Exhibit) - August 17 - September 20, 2026 | Gallery talk on August 27 at 7 p.m. | Making art allows Ruth Michalsen (she/her) of Ruth Hong Art to appreciate the present. She lives with complex PTSD. She uses a variety of mediums, especially her own cut photographs, to depict personal experiences. Her work explores life's themes including mental health, childhood, and self-compassion. Ruth resides in Romeoville, Illinois with her husband and two boys. | Wadsworth Family Art Gallery | Free admission

New Student Move-in Day - Wednesday, August 19, 2026 | Be a friendly face and lend a hand to first year students and their parents as they move into the residence halls! | Volunteers needed at Sheil, Founders and South Hall | For more information or to volunteer, please [CLICK HERE](#). Questions? Email Brandon McGhee at mcgheebr@lewisu.edu.

Men's Hockey Golf Outing - Sunday, August 23, 2026 | Join Lewis Men's Hockey as they hit the links to raise funds in support of the program! | Inwood Golf Course - 3200 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60431 | Shotgun Start at 9 a.m. | For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Lewis University Black August Observance - Events sponsored by the Lewis University Office of Lasallian Belonging | See below

Black August PEP Dialogue: Voices of Resistance, Creativity, and Radical Hope - Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | In honor of Lewis's **Third Annual Black August observance**, please join our Prison Education Program students for poetry, spoken word, and other forms of expression on justice, resistance, and the enduring power of Black creativity as a tool for liberation and radical hope. | 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. | University Dining Room - AS 104C (Romeoville Campus) | Zoom option available | Registration is required for this free event. | Free will donations to the Trailblazer Fund encouraged | To register, [**CLICK HERE**](#).

Third Annual "Black at Lewis" Welcome Reception - Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | You're invited to a vibrant community-building and networking event that brings together Black students (new and returning), faculty, staff, alumni and community partners. Held as part of Lewis University's Black August observance, this reception offers a space to build meaningful connections, celebrate Black presence and leadership on campus, and welcome new members of the Lewis community. | 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Faculty Dining Room - AS 103 C (Romeoville Campus) | Refreshments will be served. | Registration is required for this free event. | To register, [**CLICK HERE**](#).

Join Lewis at the 2026 Joliet Black Joy Parade - Saturday, August 29, 2026 | Celebrate Black August with the Office of Lasallian Belonging at the 2026 Joliet Black Joy Parade! Join us as we represent Lewis University at the City Square Celebration and experience a day of community, culture, music, food, and fun. Come honor the spirit of Black Joy as Resistance and connect with others in a vibrant celebration of belonging and resilience. There will be food, fun, and more! | Parade begins at 1 p.m. and City Square Celebration takes place from 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. | City Square in downtown Joliet - across from Rialto Theatre | To register, [**CLICK HERE**](#).

September

Adam Smith: What He Said, What He Didn't - Tuesday, September 15, 2026 | Professor Gregory Harms will provide an introduction to the thought of Adam Smith. Along the way, he will demythologize Smith, and show him to be the moral philosopher he was. Harms is an independent scholar long specializing in US foreign policy and the Middle East. He lectures, keeps a blog, and publishes articles on *CounterPunch*, *Truthout*, *Mondoweiss*, and *Juan Cole's blog*, *Informed Comment*. He is also the host of a podcast called "The Inquiry," which discusses politics, culture, and philosophy. Harms has traveled throughout Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and has been interviewed on BBC Radio. An award winning author, Harms has taught philosophy as an adjunct professor for almost fifteen years; his areas of specialization are moral and political philosophy. He spends most of his time in the company of Rousseau and Adam Smith. He is presently working on a book on the latter. | 2 p.m. | Location: AS 158A | Free admission

MAN CAVE: Volumes I and II (Theatre Production) - September 21, 2026 | The Timothy Mooney Repertory Theatre presents: MAN CAVE, a One-Man Sci-Fi Climate Change Tragicomedy, Volumes I and II! Six years ago, Tim Mooney brought "Man Cave; a One-Man Sci-Fi Climate Change Tragicomedy" to Lewis University. "Man Cave" featured "the last man on Earth, broadcasting to whatever Klingons, Vulcans or Tralfamadorians might still be listening." "Man Cave" was only one of SEVEN one-man shows, Mooney has brought to Lewis over the years. Now, Tim has returned to the theme of the original "Man Cave," with a SEQUEL. That second play now combines with "Volume I" to present a two-part "one-two punch" in a single evening! Those who caught the original "Man Cave" may remember that play ending on a "cliffhanger," with lots of people wondering just what happens next! | 7:30 p.m. | Keith White Theatre in Oremus Fine Arts Building | Free admission

October

My Town, My Country by Bill Bartelt (Art Exhibit) - October 1-23, 2026 | Gallery Talk: October 22, 2026 | Bill Bartelt grew up in Joliet, the son of a farm dealer, in the days when it was still both a "cow town" and a "railroad town." The fascination for both has never left him. During a Chicago career in show business, Bill painted the rails, bridges, and watertanks that he first loved as a kid. Travels around the countryside kept him close to his rural roots, and the hills, forests and rivers have kept him sustained and inspired. | Wadsworth Family Art Gallery | Free admission

Lewis Fest - Friday, October 2 - Sunday, October 4, 2026 | Join fellow Lewis students, families, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends for a weekend of activities, fun, and community at our annual celebration of Lewis Fest! | There will be athletic games, activities for kids of ALL ages, food and drink, theatre performances, Mass, and more. For the full weekend line up of activities and to purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE](#).

The Gods of Comedy (Student Theatre Production) - October 2-4, 2026 and October 8-11, 2026 | This is a fast-paced comedy by Ken Ludwig about two young classics professors, Daphne and Ralph, who make a career-changing discovery: a supposedly authentic, unknown manuscript of the ancient Greek playwright Euripides. When the manuscript goes missing, Daphne desperately calls on the gods of ancient Greece for help—and to her shock, the Greek god Dionysus and the Muse Thalia actually appear. Instead of quietly solving the problem, the two immortal visitors create chaos across a prestigious university campus. | Play times vary by date | Philip Lynch Theatre | For more info and to purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE](#).

Live Sound Boot Camp - Saturday, October 3, 2026 | As a music teacher or church musician, you are often the conductor, the roadie, and the sound engineer all at once. This live sound bootcamp is designed to strip away the intimidating factors of live audio and provide you with a repeatable, professional workflow. | 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. | Lewis University Romeoville Campus - One University Drive, Romeoville, IL | To register, [CLICK HERE](#). Questions? Please contact music@lewisu.edu.

"They Cloned Tyrone" (Film Screening & Discussion) - October 7, 2026 | Join us for an in person film screening of, "They Cloned Tyrone," a pulpy sci-fi mystery with sharp social commentary that follows three unexpected allies as they uncover a chilling conspiracy hidden in their neighborhood. After the screening, join us for a discussion exploring race, surveillance, power, and satire in contemporary Black cinema. | 4:30pm | University Dining Room - AS 104C | Free admission.

2026 Men's Volleyball Fall Festival - Friday & Saturday, October 9 & 10, 2026 | See activities below

MVB Legacy Golf Outing - Friday, October 9, 2026 | Join fellow MVB alumni, parents, family and friends as you hit the links to support the Lewis University MVB Legacy Endowment Fund. | Start: 9 a.m. | Sanctuary Golf Course - 485 Marley Rd., New Lenox, IL | For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#). Questions? Please contact Dan Friend at friendda@lewisu.edu.

MVB Fall Festival Activities - Saturday, October 10, 2026 | Join MVB alumni, parents, family and friends on Lewis' Romeoville Campus for a variety of activities. | One University Pkwy., Romeoville, IL 60446 | For more information and to register for any and all activities, [CLICK HERE](#).

MVB Potluck Picnic - 1 p.m. | MVB will provide the main dish and attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. | Gazebo on University Green

MVB Red/White Scrimmage - 3 p.m. | Cheer on the Flyers during an intrasquad game! | Neil Carey Arena

MVB Alumni Game - 4:30 p.m. | Alumni are invited to take the court and relive their Lewis glory days! | Neil Carey Arena

Gros Institute Memorial Event - Wednesday, October 21, 2026 | The World We Refuse, the World We Build: Resistance, Community, and Collective Survival—In a time of escalating authoritarianism, ecological crisis, and social fragmentation, resistance cannot only be about opposing what harms us. It must also be about building the relationships, practices, and forms of solidarity that make collective survival possible. Drawing on movement history, abolitionist thought, mutual aid, and years of organizing experience, Kelly Hayes will explore how refusal can become a generative force: a refusal of abandonment, isolation, disposability, political despair, and the lie that we are powerless. She will consider what it means to build communities capable of protecting one another, sustaining struggle, and expanding our sense of what is possible. This talk will invite participants to think about revolution not simply as a distant event, but as the ongoing work of becoming people who know how to care for one another, resist together, and create the conditions for a more livable world. | 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. | University Dining Room AS 104C | Registration is required for this free event. | Free will donations to Gros Institute encouraged | To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Signum Fidei: Flight Path to the Future—A Night to Soar - Saturday, October 24, 2026 | Join us as Lewis University proudly celebrates its enduring legacy in the world of aviation, all in support of the Mission Fund (providing vital financial support for students experiencing unanticipated crises, like the loss of a parent) | 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. | Westin Chicago Lombard | Cocktail attire | Reserved seating, cocktails, dinner, and dancing to the music of "Maggie Speaks" | Sponsorship opportunities available | Discounted tickets for young alumni | For more information and to purchase tickets, please [CLICK HERE](#).

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please [CLICK HERE](#). For questions, contact Brandon McGee at mcgheebr@lewisu.edu or 815-836-5123.

ALUMNI OFFICE INTRODUCTIONS

This summer, the Alumni Office welcomed a new Graduate Assistant, **Gia Pelegrino '26**, who is assisting us with content creation and marketing. If you follow us on social media (and you should!), there is an excellent chance you have already seen Gia's creative talents at work.

As an undergraduate member of the Honors program, Gia served as a Violence Prevention & Advocacy Student Advisory Committee Member, a Community Engaged Learning Facilitator, Marketing Club Vice President, and a New Flyer Guide.

Gia is currently earning her MBA at Lewis and we are excited to have her on our team!



CAMPUS NEWS

Lewis Makes Notable Contributions at 249th Electrochemical Society Meeting in Seattle

Lewis University made a notable contribution to the 249th Electrochemical Society (ECS) Meeting, held May 24-28 in Seattle, by participating in presentations and discussions spanning several innovative scientific topics. **Dr. Jason J. Keleher**, professor and chair of chemistry at Lewis University, and **Dr. Daniel Kissel**, professor of chemistry, mentored and co-authored the following projects that were presented and co-authored by students:

Structural Investigation of Redox-Active Metal-Organic Frameworks in Electrochemical Capacitors by Adam Makhlouf

Exploring CMP Waste Byproducts to Uncover Defect-Forming Mechanisms in CMP by Andrew Murphy, Amanda Warfield, Kiersten Smith, Lexany Fonseca

Photocatalytic Biopolymer-Enabled Recycling of Wastewater for CMP Slurries by Rebecca Ratajczyk, Angelina Martinez, Isabella Johnson, John Zakhari

Effect of the Macroenvironment on Defect Formation Mechanisms during Molybdenum Post-CMP Cleaning by Austin Rockaitis, Nicole Staszak, Connor Keating, Sydney Tremblay, Andrew Murphy

Lanthanide-Doped UiO-66-Based Metal–Organic Frameworks for Fluorescence Detection of Nitroaromatic Explosive Compounds by Brianna Olynyk

Acoustic Modulation of Surface Reactions in CMP and Post-CMP Processing of Wide Band Gap Substrates by Amanda Warfield, Kiersten Smith, Samuel Robles, Connor Keating, Jady Dominguez

Reimagining the Chemical Ecosystem for Reduced Mechanical Demand CMP Processes by Angelina Martinez, Rebecca Ratajczyk, Andrew Murphy, Austin Rockaitis, Amanda Warfield, Cesar Alvarado Orellana, Samuel Robles, Connor Keating, Elizabeth McDonnell

Effluent Slurry Extraction and Analysis In Cu, ILD and Mo CMP during In-Situ Conditioning with Various Types of Gritted Diamond Discs by Amanda Warfield, Samuel Robles, Connor Keating, Yasa Sampurno (Araca Inc.), Ara Philipossian (Araca Inc.)

Advancing Closed-Loop CMP: Electrochemical Recovery and Slurry Re-Use Strategies by Angelina Martinez, Rebecca Ratajczyk, James Landon (PowerTech Water, Inc.), Xin Gao (PowerTech Water, Inc.), Collin Dunn (PowerTech Water, Inc.), Alan Rassoolkhani (PowerTech Water, Inc.), Cameron Lippert (PowerTech Water, Inc.)

Improved Quality of Cu and Fe MOF Synthesis with Growth Modulators in Anodic Dissolution by Adan Martinez

The Keleher Research Group at Lewis University is recognized as a leader in fundamental research focused on ultra-clean processing and surface preparation technologies. The group has an extensive publication record in international peer-reviewed journals and is frequently invited to present its work at major international conferences. Over 25 Lewis University graduates who participated in the group have gone on to careers at advanced research and manufacturing organizations, including Intel Corporation, Entegris Corporation and Applied Materials Corporation. In addition, many alumni have pursued doctoral studies in field such as semiconductor technology, polymer science and materials science.



Lewis Biology Students Win First Place at IL State Academy of Science Meeting

Student, **Ashley Miller**, Environmental Science/Biology '26, and student, **Shaylin Roark**, Biology '26, earned first place in the Microbiology Division for Undergraduate Poster Presentation at the 118th Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science, held in Peoria. "Examining the Antimicrobial Properties within Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*) Extract Against Clinically Relevant Bacterial Strains" was presented with a poster. Faculty mentors for the project were **Drs. Jerry Kavouras and James Rago**. The research was supported by the **Colonel Stephen and Lyla S. Doherty Center for Aviation and Health**.

Several other students from the Department of Biology presented their undergraduate research at the ISAS Meeting that included close to 30 other participating organizations.

Maryam Sohail Warraich, Biology, presented her poster, "Characterization of Communities in Experimentally Reduced Microbiomes of *Daphnia dentifera*." Kavouras served as faculty mentor, and the research was funded by a **STEM Research Initiative Award**.

Mustafa Altamimi, Biology, and **Husam Aldajah**, Biology, presented "The Effects of Allicin on Clinically Relevant Bacteria." Kavouras served as faculty mentor for the project, and the work was also supported by the **Colonel Stephen and Lyla S. Doherty Center for Aviation and Health**.

Participation in the annual meeting provided students with the opportunity to share their research with the broader scientific community, engage in scholarly dialogue, and gain valuable experience presenting original work in a professional setting. Lewis students are pictured above with Dr. Kavouras.



Air Quality Research at Lewis

As wildfire smoke increases air quality concerns, you can read about the research Lewis has been doing for several years to better understand the air we breathe. Physics Professor, **Dr. Joseph Kozminski** and his students are partnering with Warehouse Workers for Justice to monitor air quality throughout Will County using sensors that measure harmful fine particulate matter.

Read the Chicago Tribune Media Group article by Environmental Reporter, Christiana Freitag by [**CLICKING HERE.**](#)

Lewis University Student Named Illinois CPA Society Scholar

Lewis University student, **Anna Topor** has been selected as one of 61 accounting students who received the Illinois CPA Society Accounting Scholarship from the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois. The Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS) awarded a record of \$161,000 in scholarships to students across 23 colleges and universities. Scholarship recipients were selected across seven categories recognizing students for their academic achievement, leadership, and financial need. The CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois aims to offset tuition costs and allow recipients to focus on their education in preparation of the growing demand of trusted accounting and finance professionals.

Soil Research with Colombian Students Continues

During the month of July, faculty and students from the Universidad de La Salle in Bogotá and the Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia in Tunja visited Lewis University to collaborate on a project focused on soil degradation.

Developing practical solutions to soil degradation is essential for rural farmers in Colombia because healthy soils directly support food security, household income, and community resilience. Sustainable soil management can improve crop productivity, reduce vulnerability to drought and erosion, and help farming communities protect the natural resources on which

their livelihoods and future generations depend.

The group worked with Lewis Biology and Chemistry students and faculty to examine biochar produced from different plant materials as a potential sustainable solution.

Sustainable soil management can improve crop productivity, reduce vulnerability to drought and erosion, and help farming communities protect the natural resources on which their livelihoods and future generations depend.

Dr. Jerry Kavouras, professor and chair of Biology shared methods to assess the activity of microbial communities in soils. **Samantha Hebrard Flores (Biology '27)** led a workshop where she demonstrated how to use cultural approaches to assess biochar and its effects on soil microbes. Soil microbes are essential to agriculture because they decompose organic matter, recycle nutrients, improve soil structure, support plant growth, and help protect crops from disease. Studying soil microbes is important because it helps us understand the long-term sustainability of agricultural systems.

Dr. Jason Keleher, professor of Chemistry, and his graduate students provided an opportunity to use advanced chemistry techniques and equipment to analyze chemical and physical properties of biochar samples produced by the Colombian faculty and students. These measurements help assess the biochar's quality, persistence in soil, ability to improve nutrient availability and soil chemistry, and overall suitability as a safe and effective soil amendment.

"By connecting faculty and students across cultures, these partnerships expand academic expertise, promote intercultural understanding, and develop innovative responses to complex global challenges", shared Dr. Kavouras. "They also provide meaningful opportunities for students to participate in research that reflects the Lasallian values of solidarity, respect for human dignity, and responsible care for communities and the environment."

These activities advance Lewis University's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan by providing future-ready, high-impact learning through hands-on research; promoting inclusive impact through global and intercultural engagement; and supporting strategic growth through international partnerships. The project also reflects thriving innovation by developing sustainable solutions to environmental challenges and strengthens Lewis University's high-performing, mission-centered culture by preparing students and faculty to use their knowledge and talents to improve communities around the world.

Summer International Learning Abroad in Italy

During a recent international learning experience in Turin, Italy, Lewis students (pictured below) enrolled in *Sociology 290: Diversity and Social Justice*, and the interdisciplinary seminar, *Christians as the Romans Saw Them*, explored history, culture, and social justice firsthand while earning experiential learning credit.

A highlight of the trip was visiting Collegio San Giuseppe, a Lasallian school founded by the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1875. Students connected with graduating seniors, toured the historic campus and rare book collection, and learned about the school's after-school program supporting recent immigrants. Experiences like these deepen students' understanding of global perspectives while strengthening the bonds of the international Lasallian community.



Muench, White Earn Publication in Prestigious Literary Magazine

Dr. Simone Muench, a professor in Lewis' English Studies Department, and a professor emerita of English studies, Dr. Jackie K. White, were honored with the publication of two of their works in the Spring 2026 issue of Emerson College's literary magazine, *Ploughshares*.

Their works, "Remedios Varo as Night Sky" and "Ithell Colquhoun's Landscape of Scylla and Pines" reflect the magazine's high standards for publication, demonstrating vivid, inventive and emotionally rich writing.

Internship Spotlight: Kimberly Roman

Last spring, College of Business student, **Kimberly Roman** (pictured below) completed an internship as a Learning Ambassador in the Learning Department at an Amazon Sortation Center. Her responsibilities included training and onboarding associates, providing support to team members, and participating in safety initiatives to help create a positive and productive work environment.

Reflecting on her experience, Kimberly shared:

"One of the biggest skills I gained during my internship was public speaking. By conducting my own training classes, I improved my communication skills and became more confident speaking in front of groups. I also gained a deeper understanding of operational management, leadership, and the importance of effective onboarding and training processes."

Kimberly noted that the most rewarding aspect of her internship was serving as a trusted point of contact for associates and helping others navigate challenges and questions throughout their workday. The experience also strengthened skills that will support her future career goals in healthcare administration, including communication, time management,

problem-solving, leadership, and the ability to remain calm in fast-paced environments.



Wanted: Flyer Internship Opportunities

Do you own or work at a company that offers internship opportunities to college students? Lewis' College of Business is eager to connect with you! If you would like to explore partnering to provide internships to Lewis CoB students, please contact Brie Brubaker at brubakbr@lewisu.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS



EAA Airventure Oshkosh

We so enjoyed seeing all of the Lewis alumni, families, and friends who stopped by our basecamp at EAA Oshkosh either during the week or on Saturday evening, July 25, for the alumni gathering (pictured above). Thank you to everyone who contributed to Aviation's **"Cleared for Takeoff"** campaign to raise funds for an airplane to be used in flight competition. For more information about the campaign, please contact Nick Caulfield, Executive Director of Flight Operations at ncaulfield@lewisu.edu.

The winner of our Alumni Office swag raffle is **Mike Clennon from the Class of 1994!** Congratulations, Mike! You will be sent a gift of some cool Lewis swag so please enjoy it with Flyer pride!

To see photos from EAA, please **[CLICK HERE](#)**. See you next year in Oshkosh!



Congratulations to Lewis Alumni Board Representative, **Grace Petersen '24** and Calvin Warren '20 (both pictured above), who were engaged to be married in July.

Congratulations to **Joseph Chapa '26**, Institute for Workforce Education (IWE) Data Management Coordinator at our St. Augustine College Uptown campus, on his May graduation from Lewis' College of Aviation, Science, and Technology with a Master of Science degree. As the first in his family to earn a graduate degree, Joseph celebrated this significant milestone surrounded by family and friends.

Congratulations to alumna, **Gisele Perez '24**, who earned her Master's degree in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago in May.

Congratulations to Elmhurst Police Department Commander **Anthony Cuzzone '15**, who, along with his partners, received an award for exemplary action for his response on February 17, 2026 to a distraught teenager threatening to harm himself. Using crisis negotiation skills, they successfully persuaded the teen to accept assistance.

Congratulations to double alumna, **Nicole Whitehead '05 '10**, who is the new Vice President of Human Resources at College of DuPage.

Congratulations to Lewis double alumnus and employee, **Calvin Warren '18 '20** and his wife, Viviana, on the birth of their son and future Flyer, Hans in May.

Congratulations to alumna and former General Manager of WLRA, **Meaghan Glavac '18** on her July marriage to David Mejia.

Congratulations to the following Lewis Biology alumni who have been placed in their medical residencies:

Yusuf Ahmad: Loyola University Medical Center (Diagnostic Radiology)
Abshar Khan: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (Preliminary Medicine)
Muhammad Khattak: University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix (Internal Medicine)
Sumrana Nazib: Advocate Christ Medical Center (Pediatrics)
Caroline Nowak: Advocate Christ Medical Center (Pediatrics)
Maya Samardzija: AdventHealth Hinsdale Hospital (Family Medicine)
Lilia Vargeese: Grand Strand Medical Center (Neurology)
Syed Ali: Taking a Transitional Year Before Beginning Residency in Erie, PA

Alumna Spotlight



Lisa Caparelli-Ruff '02
Will County Regional Superintendent Reflects on a Career Built Around Service, Safety and Opportunity

Dr. Lisa Caparelli-Ruff (pictured above) has spent her career focused on one goal: helping students succeed.

A proud Lewis University alumna, Caparelli-Ruff earned graduate degrees in special education and educational leadership. She credits her time at Lewis with helping her grow from a classroom educator into a leader capable of creating change across entire school systems.

“Lewis taught me that leadership is really about service,” Caparelli-Ruff said. “It is about listening, bringing people together and making decisions that truly help students and families.”

Caparelli-Ruff began her career as a special education teacher at Bolingbrook High School. She later served as a dean and moved into administrative roles overseeing special education and student services. Each position strengthened her belief that every student deserves support, dignity and a real path forward.

In 2023, she became the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Will County. Today, her office supports approximately 106,000 students across more than 160 schools and 34 districts.

Since taking office, Caparelli-Ruff has made school safety a top priority. Her administration helped install bullet-resistant security laminate at 21 Will County high schools and organized the county's first large-scale school reunification exercise, bringing educators, police, emergency officials and community partners together to prepare for a crisis.

She has also worked to address the challenges students face outside the classroom. Her office launched Will County's first regional truancy summit, connecting schools with judges, attorneys, social-service agencies and community organizations. The goal is not simply to punish absenteeism, but to understand why students are missing school and help families overcome those barriers.

"Students do not leave their problems at the schoolhouse door," she said. "We have to look at the whole child and work together to make sure they have the support they need."

That same philosophy can be seen at Lincoln School, the Regional Office's alternative school. Under Caparelli-Ruff's leadership, the school has expanded student supports, improved its facilities and created more opportunities for students to earn credits, graduate and prepare for careers.

Her office has also supported students experiencing homelessness, expanded alternative-learning programs, distributed Spanish-language books and recognized outstanding educators through the county's Educators of Excellence Awards.

Caparelli-Ruff remains connected to Lewis University through her service on the advisory committee for the College of Education and Social Sciences. For her, giving back to Lewis is a way to support the next generation of teachers and school leaders.

"Lewis gave me the confidence and preparation to think bigger about what was possible," she said. "I am proud to be an alumna, and I hope my work shows students that one person can make a difference, but real change happens when people work together."

Her advice to Lewis students is simple: stay grounded, keep learning and never forget the people behind the decisions.

"Titles come and go," Caparelli-Ruff said. "What matters is whether you used your position to help others and leave your community stronger than you found it."

That belief continues to guide her work across Will County as she builds partnerships, strengthens schools and creates more opportunities for every student to succeed.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Every Lewis University alum is a member of the Lewis Alumni Association. If you would like more information about how you can get involved as a volunteer in the classroom, as a mentor, on social, etc., please contact Brandon McGhee '08 '10 at mcgheebr@lewisu.edu.



Don't miss the exciting lineup of our Arts & Ideas program. To learn more and discover the full schedule of Arts & Ideas offerings, please [CLICK HERE](#).

FLYER ATHLETICS



Cheerleading Wins Bid to Attend Nationals in April

This summer, **Lewis Cheerleading** (pictured above) attended the NCA Camp at DePaul University. At camp, a team must compete and earn a certain number of points to qualify for Nationals. This year, the team won their division and earned a Silver Paid Bid to Nationals. The last time the team earned this recognition was in 2022. The team is looking forward to an exciting season and heading to Nationals in Daytona Beach Florida next April.

Ashaolu Named to NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee

Lewis Assistant Vice President for Athletics **John Ashaolu** was named to the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee. Ashaolu will begin his term on September 1, 2026, and continue through August 31, 2030. "It is an honor to be appointed to the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee," Ashaolu said. "I look forward to working alongside outstanding colleagues from across the country to help provide a first-class championship experience for our student-athletes. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Lewis University and the GLVC in this national leadership role." The committee is responsible for sport-specific governance and championship administration, with authority over playing rules, playing and practice seasons, recruiting and the administration of the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship, including bracket selection and seeding.

Paula and Davis Earn CSC Academic All-America At-Large Honors

Lewis student-athletes, **Nico Paula** (Men's Volleyball) and **Tyler Davis** (Men's Lacrosse) were recognized as College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-America honorees as part of the At-Large Team, the organization announced in early July.

Three Flyers Earn USILA Scholar All-American Accolades and Men's Lacrosse Collects USILA Team Academic Award

The United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) revealed that three members of the Lewis University men's lacrosse team earned Scholar All-American accolades for the 2025-26 academic year. Individually, *Logan Suchy*, *Caden Donahue*, and *Paul Ruskoski* were tabbed as USILA Scholar All-Americans. To be named to the USILA Scholar All-American Team, student-athletes must carry a cumulative GPA above a 3.50. The athlete also must be an All-American, a member of the North-South team or an outstanding league

or conference player. The student-athlete will have also "behaved in a manner that has brought credit to himself, his institution and to college lacrosse both on and off the field," according to the USILA.

As a team, the Flyers were named an USILA Academic Team Award recipient as well. The team award goes to all teams that earned a 3.0 GPA or higher. The Flyers ended the year with a cumulative GPA of 3.42. It is not the first team academic award the red and white earned this season as they were also named a 2025-26 Team Academic All-GLVC award winner.

Lewis Men's and Women's Volleyball Programs Collect AVCA Team Academic Award

The American Volleyball Coaches Association announced on July 23 that the Lewis University men's and women's volleyball programs earned the 2026 AVCA Academic Team Award. The award is presented to programs that finish with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher.

The Flyer men posted a 3.54 GPA, while the women recorded a 3.58 GPA. It marks the 17th consecutive year the women's program has earned the award, while the men have received the honor in five of the past six years. It also marks the first time since the 2023-24 season that both programs have posted a cumulative GPA above 3.5.

Dunson Selected as Host Committee Ambassador for WNBA All-Star Weekend

Lewis University women's basketball head coach Dodie Dunson Jr. was selected as a host committee ambassador for the 2026 AT&T WNBA All-Star Weekend, which took place in Chicago from July 24-25. As one of 14 ambassadors, Dunson helped promote the event while supporting community initiatives throughout Chicago. "I'm truly honored to serve as a host committee ambassador for the 2026 WNBA All-Star Weekend," Dunson said. "This is an incredible opportunity to celebrate the continued growth and impact of women's basketball while representing both Lewis University and the city of Chicago. I'm grateful to be part of an event that shines a spotlight on the remarkable athletes, coaches and leaders who continue to elevate women's sports, and I look forward to helping inspire and empower the next generation."

Summer Project in Neil Carey Arena

Below is a sneak peek at the beautiful floor in Neil Carey Arena!



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Questions about the Flyers Annual Fund? Contact Megan Lewis at 815-836-5244 or mlewis12@lewisu.edu.

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Questions about anything you read in this month's *Jet-setter*?
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