



Alumni and Friends:

December has arrived—and our calendar is *almost* as packed as Santa’s sleigh on Christmas Eve! From **today’s** Christmas Tree Lighting to festive holiday concerts, Sunday Mass in the Sancta Alberta Chapel, and our upcoming December Commencement celebrations, Lewis University is bursting with holiday magic and meaningful moments. We hope you’ll take a few minutes to explore all the ways you can be a part.

All of us in the Lewis Alumni Office are so grateful for the many ways you lift up our students all year long. Wishing you a joyful Christmas and holiday season and every blessing as we head into 2026!

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Christmas Tree Lighting – Monday, December 1, 2025: Join us as we light the Lewis Romeoville Campus Christmas Tree at 4:15 p.m. at Brother Leo Circle (across from North Hall). There will be caroling, cookies, and coloring in the D'Arcy Great Room afterward. All are welcome!



Holiday Concert – Wednesday, December 3, 2025: Come enjoy the Music Department's ensembles and student instrumentalists as they ring in the holiday season with a concert of music and carols from around the world. Concert takes place in Convocation Hall (SB 130) from 7:30 p.m., to 9 p.m.

Art Reception and Gallery Talk for the Senior Capstone Exhibit – Thursday, December 4, 2025:



Takes place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Gallery (FA 128) and Clifford and Rita Berglund Community Room (FA 129)



Doctor of Physical Therapy In-Person Information Session – Friday, December 5, 2025: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in SH 233 Classroom - Please contact Rhonda Richter to register at 815-836-5811.



Piano and Organ Studio Recital – Wednesday, December 10, 2025: Takes place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Convocation Hall (SB 130), Brother James Miller Chapel (SB 130H)



Mass of Celebration for Commencement Weekend – Friday, December 12, 2025: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sancta Alberta Chapel. Please [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



NEW TIME OF YEAR: Flyer Red Dinner – Wednesday, January 28, 2026: Join the Lewis Flyers Athletics family as we celebrate our 2026 inductees into the Hall of Fame at Bolingbrook Golf Club. Sponsorship opportunities are available. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



NEW EVENT: Mountainfilm on Tour – Lewis University – Saturday, January 31, 2026: Mountainfilm on Tour is coming to the Damian Auditorium at Lewis' Romeoville Campus, bringing a selection of culturally rich, human interest, inspiring documentary films curated from the Mountainfilm festival held every Memorial Day weekend in Telluride, Colorado. There is even a Chicago connection to one of the films! Desserts will be provided and there will be a cash bar. The number of tickets sold is limited. To learn more and purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Black History Month Scholar Conversation – Wednesday, February 11, 2026: All are welcome to join the Second Annual Lewis University Black History Month featured scholar conversation with Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson,



author of "We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance." Dr. Carter's book will be available for purchase at the event and there will be a book signing. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



Women's and Men's Basketball Alumni Day – Saturday, February 14, 2026: Get ready to gather with your fellow Flyers hoops alumni for Alumni Day! All basketball alumni are invited to cheer on Women's Basketball as they take on McKendree at 1 p.m. and then the Men afterward as they too take on McKendree! To register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



"Call of the Yard: Black Greek Legacy in Motion" – Saturday, February 28, 2026: Join us for an electrifying evening celebrating the rich legacy and cultural impact of Black Greek-letter organizations. *Call of the Yard* is a high-energy step show competition featuring dynamic performances from fraternities and sororities across the region. For more info and to register, [CLICK HERE.](#)



SAVE THE DATE: 3rd Annual CoHFAC Kickback: Saturday, March 7, 2026 — Mark your calendar and stay tuned for details about this year's big event in the Wadsworth Gallery and Philip Lynch Theatre!



SAVE THE DATE: Golden Flyers Reunion – Saturday, May 30, 2026: Save the Date and plan to join your fellow Flyers for a reunion designated for the those who graduated 50+ years ago. **Members of the Lewis Class of 1976** will be inducted into the Golden Flyers Society at this event. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for details coming in January!

CAMPUS NEWS

Dr. Seung Kim (Education) Completes ISTE Educator Certification

Congratulations to Lewis' Dr. Seung Kim (Education) who just completed her International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Educator certification. This lengthy and rigorous certification, "focuses on pedagogy, not tools or devices. ISTE Certified Educators demonstrate mastery of the ISTE Standards for Educators." Dr. Kim



has incorporated these standards into her courses to prepare Lewis preservice educators with the skills and pedagogy needed for teaching with emerging technologies, including A.I.



Lewis student and U.S. Army veteran, Henry Gilson '26

Veterans Day

During the week of Veterans Day, American flags were proudly displayed on University Parkway of Lewis' Romeoville campus, to honor all those who have served or are currently serving our country in the U.S. Armed Forces. The flags were installed by Lewis ROTC students and Student Veterans Affairs staff.

On Veterans Day, student, **Henry Gilson '26**, a History and Secondary Education major, gave an Arts and Ideas presentation on the canine warriors of the Vietnam War. Gilson, a U.S. Army veteran, discussed the critical role these dogs played, saving an estimated 10,000

to 15,000 American lives by detecting ambushes, booby traps, mines, bunkers, and tunnels.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Lewis' own K9 officer and emotional support dog, "Jet," paid a visit to the attendees in University Dining Room.



Jet Fuel Review Wins National Recognition

Lewis' *Jet Fuel Review* magazine recently won the College Media Association's Pinnacle Award for "Best Literary Magazine Cover." Congratulations to Catherine Fatigato, Jimena Araiza,

Katharine Svehla, and Nicole Kaminski for their creative vision.

City Lifestyle Magazine Features Lewis Nursing Program

The Nursing program at Lewis University was recently featured in *City Lifestyle's* magazine article by Nicole Swanberg Wright, "[The Quiet Heroes: Nurses.](#)"

Wright praises the program, saying how at Lewis, "nursing is more than a career path: it's a calling to serve, heal, and bring comfort." The program itself stands out for its balance between technical mastery and compassionate care.

Additionally, Lewis offers a diverse clinical experience across an extensive network of clinical sites, allowing students to rotate through many specializations. Due to the small class and clinical sizes, professors and mentors are better able to connect with their students and get to know them, which allows them to provide personalized feedback and encouragement.

Dr. Pam Taylor, chair of the Department of Nursing, goes on to state that this generation of nurses embodies hope because "despite challenges, they persevere with determination and creativity."

Aviation Expertise

In the wake of the recent UPS jet crash in Louisville, NBC Chicago turned to aviation expert, **Lewis' Erik Baker**, to help the public understand the technical similarities to the 1979 O'Hare disaster. Read the full story by [**CLICKING HERE**](#).

Lewis Students Volunteer at Joliet Food Pantry

Members of Lewis University's Phi Alpha Theta Mu Eta Chapter offered their support to the community on November 13 by volunteering at the St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Joliet, Ill. Read more about this service activity by [**CLICKING HERE**](#).

Sports Media Summit

On October 17, nearly 50 students from nine area high schools joined us at Lewis for the 2025 Sports Media Summit. Attendees learned directly from industry experts at NBC, the Big Ten Network, and WGN while exploring careers in sports media. Pictured below is **Mike Berman** from NBC Chicago Sports.



Conversations from Stritch

On October 30, **Father Paul Novak, OSM, Lewis University Chaplain**, joined "Conversations from Stritch" to talk about the impactful role of University Ministry in the lives of students. To watch this episode, please [CLICK HERE](#).

"Conversations from Stritch" is a weekly series hosted by Lewis University that features discussions with faculty, staff, and sometimes students. Topics vary widely and can include academic programs, university events, faculty achievements, and current initiatives. The series is presented live on Thursdays at noon.

MISSION & MINISTRY

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass: Monday, December 8, 2026 at 12 p.m. in the Sancta Alberta Chapel on the Romeoville Campus — All are welcome!

Daily & Sunday Mass: All are welcome to attend Mass, which is celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at noon, as well as on Sundays at 7 p.m., in the Sancta Alberta Chapel on the Romeoville campus.

Did you know? There is a student-athlete Bible study group that meets weekly at Lewis. In addition, there is a Women's Spirituality Group, student food pantry, Peer Ministry group, prayer spaces designated for diverse faith expressions, and much more offered by Lewis Mission & Ministry.

Mission Trip Open to Alumni

Lewis University is making the Lewis Mission Trip to the Philippines available to alumni! The trip, which takes place from **June 6–21, 2026**, is a unique opportunity to work alongside Lewis students, living out your Lasallian values while building homes and sharing in the culture of those you serve. An information session with additional details will be held in March. The trip costs approximately \$3,000 per participant. If you're interested in learning more or participating, please email us at alumni@lewisu.edu.

PREPARE FOR THE NEW YEAR



December invites us to slow down, celebrate, and look ahead—as we gather with loved ones, reflect on the year behind us, and prepare for a fresh start in the new one. It's also an ideal moment to think about how we can carry that sense of hope and generosity forward.

With **FreeWill**, you can create your FREE, legally valid will in just 20 minutes—a simple, thoughtful way to care for the people who matter most and, if you choose, include a lasting gift that supports future generations of Flyers.

As we wrap up the year and look toward new beginnings, there's no better time to plan for what matters most. **[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.**

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.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Katelynn Dunleavy Welch '24**, who has started in a new position as Investigative Assistant in the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office.

Congratulations to **Jinane Timany Chahine '25**, who recently joined PENN Entertainment Company as a Marketing Services Representative.

The Jet Fuel Review Issue 30 Reading Launch on November 20 featured alumni, **Stephanie Karas '21, Patricia Damocles '20, Lauren Lotarski '24, and Zachary Klozik '20.**

Open Mic Night at Embers in Lockport on November 20 was hosted by alumnus, **Jovaughn Williams '24**. Keep an eye out for Open Mic Nights next semester and join in the creative fun!

On November 6, Lewis welcomed back one of its own as **Scott Likens '96**, Chief AI Engineer and Principal at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, served as the College of Business' Reverend Kevin Spiess Endowed Lecturer on Contemporary Ethical Issues. The lecture, titled, "Navigating Ethical Issues with AI in Business," took place midday on Lewis' Romeoville campus and included a Q & A session. Later that evening, Likens participated in a panel discussion at Lewis' Oak Brook campus.



Alumnus, **Scott Likens '96** stands outside of Lewis' **Thomas "Fly Guy" Likens Virtual Reality Lab**, donated in honor of his father. Scott is a committed and generous supporter of several significant technology-related projects at Lewis University.

FLYERS ATHLETICS

Some Highlights

Flyers **Women's Cross Country** finished 14th at Nationals. Learn more about this amazing finish by [**CLICKING HERE**](#).

Flyers **Men's Cross Country** finished 12th as a team and Evan Horgan finished 7th as an individual earning All-American honors. Learn more by [**CLICKING HERE**](#).

Coach Dunson earned his first win as our Flyers **Women's Basketball** Head Coach. Read more by [**CLICKING HERE**](#).

Check out Women's & Men's Basketball Alumni Day and Men's Volleyball Alumni Day info above in "Events!"

For all Athletics news, please check out the official [**Lewis Athletics website**](#).

Photo courtesy of Mai Dao, Lewis Photography Club



arts & ideas

Don't miss the exciting fall lineup of our Arts & Ideas program—featuring highlights like a sneak peek of the award-winning *Jet Fuel Review* and the Senior Capstone Exhibition. To learn more and discover the full schedule of Arts & Ideas offerings, click [HERE](#).

If you are a supporter of Lewis University, we would love to hear from you! Your story and the reasons behind your generosity are inspiring, and we want to know what motivates your support. Please take a moment to share your "WHY" with us by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Together, we are building brighter futures and a better world!

Support Lewis University by December 31!

Questions about anything you read in this month's *Jet-setter*?
Please email alumni@lewisu.edu.



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