

From: [Lewis University](#)
To: [Hillsman, Kathleen](#)
Subject: April 2026 Lewis U Jet-setter
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 4:01:54 PM



Holy Week and Easter Blessings!

April Greetings, Flyers and Friends,

As we welcome April, there's a sense of renewal and reflection in the air—especially as many of us celebrate Holy Week and prepare for the joy of Easter on Sunday. This season invites us to pause, give thanks, and find hope in new beginnings—values that are deeply rooted in the Lasallian mission we share as a Lewis University community.

Whether you're spending this time in quiet reflection preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter, gathering with family and friends, or renewing long-standing traditions, we wish you peace, joy, and renewal. Thank you for continuing to be an important part of the Flyer family—your connection and support, particularly last Thursday on Day of Giving, help carry our mission forward each and every day.

Warmly,

The Lewis University Alumni Office Team

Photo provided by the Lewis University Photography Club

Day of Giving Recap: Mission Accomplished, Flyers!

Day of Giving: Mission POSSIBLE – Operation Lasallian Mission soared past expectations—raising more than **\$108,000** thanks to nearly **300 amazing donors!**

Stritch Hall was buzzing all day as students



showed up in droves to write thank-you notes, spin the swag wheel, and celebrate the impact of your generosity. To everyone who gave, shared, and joined the mission —THANK YOU. You made this mission more than possible... you made it a success! If you missed it and would still like to be a part of Mission POSSIBLE, please [CLICK HERE.](#)

[Link to Day of Giving Photos](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

April

Lewis President's 18th Annual Art Exhibition - April 2-24, 2026 | Awards & Reception: April 9, 2026 at 7 p.m. | Gallery Talk: **April 22, 2026** at 2 p.m. | Wadsworth Family Gallery

Qur'an and Bible Lecture Series: Disability and Scripture - Sunday, April 8, 2026 | This event will feature Dr. Lauren Osborne (author of Hearing Islam) in conversation with Dr. Daniel Smith (both from Whitman College). Dr. Osborne will focus on deafness as it intersects with Qur'anic recitation and oral/aural traditions, and Dr. Smith will explore disability and otherness in revelation in New Testament and Biblical traditions. Halal lunch will be served. | 12 p.m. | D'Arcy Great Room

Flyers Hockey Legacy Night - Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 6:30 p.m. | Fat Ricky's Banquet Room (646 N. Independence Blvd., Romeoville | Join us for an end-of-season celebration dinner and fundraiser for the Flyers Hockey program. Space is limited so purchase your tickets now. | For more information and to purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE.](#)

5 Lesbians Eating Quiche (Play) - Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | Keith White Theatre | To stream, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy (Musical) - April 24-26, April 30-May 3, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | Philip Lynch Theatre | To purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Out of Darkness Lewis University Campus Walk for Suicide Prevention - April 25, 2026 | Hosted in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, this event raises funds for suicide prevention education, research, and advocacy, while supporting mental health resources for the Lewis campus community. 9 a.m. | Student Recreation & Fitness Center | To register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)

Lewis Rock & Jazz Band Concert - April 28, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | Keith White Theatre in the Oremus Fine Arts Center (FA-18) | To stream, [CLICK HERE.](#)

May

Lewis Spring Choral Concert - May 4, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | To stream, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra - May 6, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | To stream, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Senior Capstone Exhibition - May 7 - 17, 2026 | The Lewis University Department of Art and Design is proud to present the Senior Capstone Exhibition. This biannual art show coincides with the capstone course, Senior Project. The course challenges graduating students to put their newly acquired skills and understanding of art to the test by participating in a professional exhibition experience. | Gallery Talk & Reception: May 7, 2026 at 7 p.m. | Wadsworth Family Gallery

****NEW EVENT: Lewis U Day with the Chicago Fire - Saturday, May 9, 2026** | 1:30 p.m. | Soldier Field | Lewis University students, faculty, staff, families, alumni, and friends are invited to attend an exclusive outing at a Chicago Fire FC vs. New York Red Bulls match, where Flyer pride meets the energy of professional soccer right here in the Chicagoland area. A portion of each ticket sold will benefit the Lewis College of Business Sales Excellence program. | Questions? Contact James DeMory, DBA at jdemory@lewisu.edu. For more information and to purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Golden Flyers Reunion - Saturday, May 30, 2026 | Check-in begins at 9 a.m. in University Dining Room (AS 104C) | All members of the Class of 1976 and earlier (50 or more years since graduation) are invited to join us for Mass, photos, brunch, campus tours, and an opportunity to connect with fellow Flyers! We will welcome the Class of 1976 into the Golden Flyer Society | Discounted hotel rooms are available | For more information or to register [CLICK HERE.](#)

June

Soaring Futures: Aviation Exploration Camp - June 8 - June 12, 2026 | Weeklong camp for those entering 9th through 12th grade. Explore the exciting world of aviation with interactive learning, flight experiences, and behind-the-scenes exposure to aviation careers | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily with lunch included | Harold E. White Aviation Center | For more information or to register a student, [CLICK HERE](#). Questions? Please contact Katyln Weber at kweber@lewisu.edu.

46th Annual Flyers Athletics Golf Outing - Friday, June 12, 2026 | 9 a.m. Shotgun start | Cog Hill Golf & Country Club (12294 Archer Avenue, Lemont | Lunch & Silent Auction to follow golf | Sponsorship opportunities available | Due to increased demand, golf will take place on **two courses** this year to speed up play. | To register [CLICK HERE](#).

July

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture Alumni Gathering - Saturday, July 25, 2026 | Calling all aviation enthusiasts! Lewis Aviation will once again host a tent at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin! Stop by during the week to enter our raffle for some cool Lewis swag. Then join us on Saturday evening before the airshow for food and Flyer fellowship at Booth #53. **There is a suggested donation and registration is required.** For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

CAMPUS NEWS

Mission & Ministry

The Ministry Center will be closed Wednesday, April 1 through Monday, April 6. The Easter Triduum can be celebrated at St. Dennis Church (1214 S. Hamilton Street, Lockport).

Sunday Mass: Resumes on the Romeoville campus on April 12 at 7 pm in the Sancta Alberta Chapel. Daily Mass is celebrated when school is in session Monday through Thursday at noon. All are welcome.

The Life and Dignity of the Human Person Series: Mass at 12pm in Sancta Alberta Chapel followed by lunch discussion at 12:20pm in the D'Arcy Great Room. The first theme of Catholic Social Teaching is Life and the Dignity of the Human Person. In this series, different faculty and staff throughout Lewis University will discuss what human dignity means in the context of their work and their discipline. Questions about this series? Please contact Lewis Chaplain, Father Paul Novak at pnovak@lewisu.edu.

April 13: In the Age of Artificial Intelligence - Presenter: Dr. Ziad Al-Sharif, Associate Professor of Computer Science

April 20: The Importance of Education and Work - Dr. David J. Livingston, President of Lewis University

April 27: Of the Incarcerated and Marginalized in Society - Dr. Michelle Clifton, Director of Prison Education

Mission Trip Update

After a review of current global logistics, it has been decided to move the mission trip to Winter Break (December 2026 - January 2027). This decision was while considering the challenges of rising costs, safety and stability, and accommodating a large group. If you're interested in learning more or participating, please email Nia White, Coordinator of Peer Ministry and Service at nwhite1@lewisu.edu.



De La Salle
MASS & BLESSING
of the *Signum Fidei* Windows

APRIL 7, 2026

3:30pm
Sancta Alberta Chapel

Join us to celebrate the life and legacy of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and to bless the new *Signum Fidei* Windows in Sancta Alberta Chapel. A reception in the D'Arcy Great Room will follow.

Mass Remembering Archbishop Oscar Romero

On March 24, faculty, staff and students at St. Augustine College at Lewis on the Uptown campus, attended a special Mass commemorating the 46th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Archbishop Romero was martyred in El Salvador as he celebrated Mass, just one day after calling on security forces and military in his country to stop the repression of the people.



College of Business Prospective Students Day

In March, the Lewis College of Business hosted a campus visit day at Borromeo Hall for prospective students. One of the highlights was their Student Panel: *Life at Lewis University*, where current students shared their experiences navigating academics, internships, leadership opportunities, and campus life. Hearing directly from our students is always powerful — their authenticity, confidence, and enthusiasm truly reflect the culture of our College of Business.



Upcoming Brother Joel Damian Business Pitch Competition

The Lewis University Innovation Hub will host the Br. Joel Damian Business Pitch Competition on April 22. This flagship event will bring together student founders, community leaders, and the broader Chicago-area innovation ecosystem. This year, seven student ventures will take the stage, spanning technology, sustainability, health and wellness, social impact, fintech, education, and open innovation.

From an AI-powered food waste platform to a biometric-driven music experience, to a fire prevention solution for families, these founders are tackling real problems with real solutions. They'll be pitching live for \$15,000 in total funding with a top prize of \$7,500. Coached by Rajiv "RajNATION" Nathan, who has helped 60+ pitch competition winners globally, these founders will be judged by leaders across business, media, and economic development. Best of luck to each one of them!

How Language Can Change a Student's Career: A Reflection from the Classroom Dr. Serafima Gettys, Chair, Department of World Languages

"In my more than 30 years of teaching Russian in the United States, I have seen many times how learning a language can completely change a student's career trajectory.

One of my most memorable examples comes from my time teaching at Stanford University. One of my students there was a physics major who decided to study Russian. Her experience with the language affected her so deeply that it eventually reshaped her entire professional path. She later worked and lived in Moscow and collaborated with Russian colleagues at Roscosmos, Russia's national space agency, including projects connected with launches at the historic Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

From time to time, I see similar sparks among my current students. One of my Russian III students, Madeline Rago, is also a physics major with a growing interest in space exploration

in Russia. Another Lewis student, Michael Pikuza, originally a Spanish major, studied Russian with me for two years and later went on to serve as a volunteer in Moldova with the Peace Corps.

Now I see another story unfolding with one of my students, **Cameron Spencer (pictured below)**.

Cameron first came to my Russian class two years ago. He had heard about the course from a classmate and decided to take it simply to fill a spot in his schedule during his junior year. Russian was the first foreign language he had ever studied, and at the beginning he struggled. But he persevered.

Today Cameron is a graduate student in the Lewis University Department of Social Work, and he continues taking Russian with me as a student-at-large. Over time I have watched his interest in the language and the culture grow stronger. That interest has already led him to seek out an internship working with Ukrainian refugees in the United States.

Cameron has also begun thinking about taking his interests abroad. He hopes to teach English internationally through **American Home Vladimir**, a cultural center in the historic Russian city of Vladimir.

With his permission, I am sharing a short excerpt from a statement he wrote about his motivation to pursue this opportunity:

'The idea of working internationally has always and will always be of interest to me. It was not until the last few years of my studies that I have been able to focus on Russia and its native tongue. What started as one of the last forms of the arts I needed to complete my bachelor's degree became a new passion for me. I indulged in all forms of media I could and continued to take language classes through my master's degree. Each class is a new challenge to retain the knowledge I have and practice the new forms I have learned.'

He also reflects on what motivated him to explore Russian culture more deeply:

'In my exploration it became clear to me that many portrayals of Russian culture in media are exaggerated or inaccurate. I want to discover the true culture—to interact with people, learn the language, and experience everyday life.'

As a teacher, moments like these remind me why language education matters. Students may begin studying a language simply to meet a requirement or fill a schedule. But sometimes the experience opens unexpected doors and leads them toward an entirely new direction in life.

For a teacher, there is no greater reward than watching that transformation happen."



Cameron Spencer

Aviation to Host Week-long Summer Camp for High Schoolers

Ready to explore the exciting world of aviation?

Soaring Futures: Aviation Exploration Camp gives high school students the opportunity to experience aviation firsthand through interactive learning, flight experiences, and behind-the-scenes exposure to aviation careers. Whether you dream of becoming a pilot, working in air traffic control, or maintaining aircraft, this camp offers a unique introduction to the aviation industry.

June 8 - June 12, 2026

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily

Harold E. White Aviation Center at Lewis University

Maximum of 12 campers

For more information or to register, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Students Explore Border Communities and Immigration Policy Firsthand

A group of Lewis University students and faculty traveled to the Arizona-Mexico border March 16-22 to examine immigration policy and border issues from a sociological perspective. During a six-day immersion trip led by Dr. Joanna Maravilla, assistant professor in the Department of Education, and Dr. Jennifer Buntin, associate professor of sociology, students traveled to Tucson, Nogales and Davis, Arizona, as well as Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

They engaged with community members and organizations working on the front lines of border issues, including Frontera de Cristo, gaining firsthand insight into the realities and diverse perspectives shaped by border policy. Students returned better equipped to think critically about immigration and to reflect on their roles as future educators and community

members.

Frontera de Cristo builds relationships and creates safe, welcoming environments for migrants and communities by supporting local ministries. Through this work, the organization fosters trust and promotes a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding border issues.

Institute for Workforce Education Health Sciences Career Academy Held at St. Augustine College at Lewis

In late March, twenty students from Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy experienced their orientation and first day of classes in the Medical Office Assistant program, supported by a Robert R. McCormick grant. These seniors will earn an industry-recognized certification and receive assistance with employment upon completing the program. Congratulations to school leader, Alberto Mendez and the Institute for Workforce Education team for facilitating this opportunity.



Study Abroad in Rome, Italy

From the Piazza della Minerva to the iconic Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Lewis students explored Italy during this year's J-term travel study program. As Alexis Anderson, an Air Traffic Control major expressed, "This is a fun way to complete some general education courses and have a new adventure."



Practical Lessons in Fundraising from University Advancement

Several weeks ago, Naomi Tselepis, Major Gift Officer in Lewis University Advancement, shared insights into sponsorship acquisition, fundraising, and budgeting with students in a Special Events class.



Faculty Publish Interprofessional Study Advancing Precision Education in Health Sciences (*Published: March 1, 2026*)

A team of Lewis University faculty has published what is believed to be the nation's first interprofessional study explicitly advancing Precision Education across multiple health and data-driven disciplines.

The Philippine Journal of Physical Therapy article, "*Precision Education in Health Sciences Education: A Call-to-Action for Developing an Interprofessional Strategy*," proposes a united framework for precision-driven, competency-based education across Data Science, Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), Nursing, Exercise Science, and Social Work.

The article shows how Precision Education can personalize learning while still upholding rigorous, profession-wide expectations and advancing equity.

"We are excited about what this work represents—not just as a publication, but as a model for future interdisciplinary initiatives at Lewis," **Dr. Arvie Vitente**, commented.

The founding director of the Lewis University DPT program served as the principal author, along with collaborators **Jennifer Bosworth, Robert Sweet, Rebecca Cozzi, Christopher Galloway, Piotr Szczurek, Melanie Obispo-Young, Eron Bozec, Erica Brkovic, Tina Bobo, and Jennifer Lubinski.**

Lewis Presenters at TOPS Summit

In late February, **Hayley Miller**, Associate Professor of Communication, and Digital Media & Journalism major, **Gianna Ciaccia** represented Lewis University at the Teens Overcoming Pressure (TOPS) Summit, hosted by the National Hook-Up of Black Women (Joliet Chapter) at Gompers Junior High School in Joliet. TOPS is a powerful program that equips teens with tools, resources, and education to promote healthy decision-making and strong futures. Professor Miller and Gianna participated in a panel with the Joliet Police Department and Will County Health, answering student questions on a variety of subjects, including mental health, college readiness, relationships, and more.



College of Business's Dr. Harris Has Paper Accepted for Presentation at MBAA International Conference

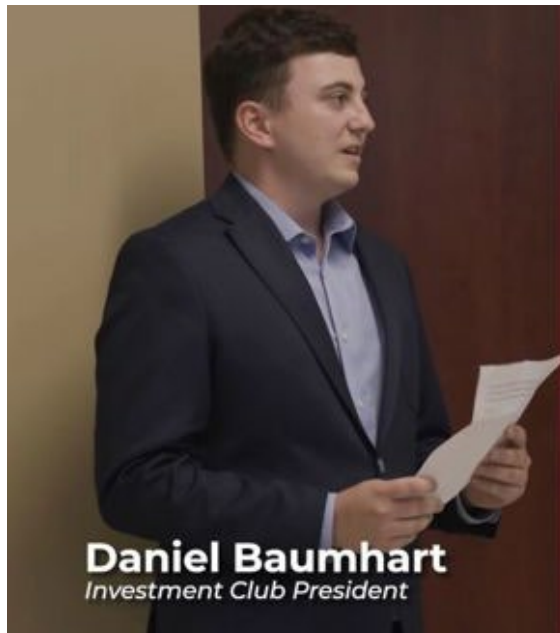
Dr. Robert Harris, PhD, PMP, DASM, CSM's paper, "Mobile Telecom Impact in Sub-Saharan Africa: 'Young Lions' Tell Their Story," was accepted for in-person presentation at the 2026 Midwest Business Administration Association International Conference in Chicago in late March. This achievement highlights Dr. Harris' impactful research examining the transformative role of mobile telecommunications across Sub-

Saharan Africa, amplifying the voices and experiences of the region's emerging leaders — the "Young Lions." Dr. Harris is an Assistant Professor in the College of Business' Organizational Leadership program.

Meet a Flyer: Daniel Baumhart '26

Daniel is honored to receive the Business Administration Award for Scholastic Achievement and Service Excellence from the Lewis University College of Business.

"This recognition means a great deal to me, not just because of the title, but because of the environment that made it possible. Over the past few years, the business building at Lewis has become more than classrooms. It has been a place where conversations about corporate governance, portfolio strategy, ethical AI, and long-term decision-making turn into real collaboration and real growth.



This semester alone, I've had the opportunity to:

- Work alongside faculty mentors on a systems-thinking approach to AI ethics and corporate governance for the Lasallian Societal Impact Case Competition
- Lead deeper portfolio analysis and attribution work in preparation for the Miami Investment Conference
- Engage alumni and host industry professionals in the Finance & Trade Lab
- Collaborate with peers who genuinely care about raising the standard

None of it feels transactional. It's challenging, extremely fun, and I've met quite a few great friends, both alumni and current students. The mentorship, accountability, and relationships

built through these experiences have been transformational for both my professional and personal development. Lewis has created an ecosystem where students are expected to step up — and are supported when they do.

I'm grateful for the faculty who invest their time, the teammates who push each other, and the opportunity to represent the College of Business well as graduation approaches. I'm focused on finishing strong and excited for what's ahead!"



Women's History Month: Women's Leadership Forum

In celebration of Women's History Month in March, **Dr. Bushra Malik**, Assistant Professor of Business Analytics in the College of Business participated in Lewis' Women's Leadership Forum. The event brought together an inspiring community of women across all levels of leadership—creating space for mentorship, meaningful dialogue, and shared growth. Dr. Malik reflected on the experience as energizing and deeply rewarding, highlighting the enthusiasm and engagement of participants.

When asked to define success, she shared a perspective that resonated across the room: "Success is freedom of choice, presence in the moment, impact on others, and the alignment of my reality with my dreams. My journey is my success. My stories are my success. Everything else is decoration."

Her words serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of purpose-driven leadership and the continued impact of women supporting and uplifting one another.

ALUMNI NEWS

The LUTV crew volunteered with **Halimah Shukair '23 (Public Relations & Advertising)**, a member of HH NextGen which offers children's services in Countryside and adult programs in Hodgkins. The mission of NextGen is to support the mission of Helping Hand by engaging young leaders in advocacy, fundraising, and volunteer service to benefit individuals with disabilities and their families. Halimah is pictured below on far left.



2026 TEDx at Lewis University Alumni Presenters

TEDx at Lewis University, an opportunity for members of the Lewis community to give very timely talks on some of today's most relevant topics, took place at the Philip Lynch Theatre on March 10. Two of the presenters this year were Lewis alumni.

Sky Christensen '22, HR Professional

Skyler Christensen is an HR business partner with extensive experience driving workforce strategy and employee engagement across both corporate and manufacturing environments. She has supported organizations in talent management, retention, DEI initiatives, and operational HR, including leading impactful programs on the shop floor and developing talent pipelines through university partnerships. A proud Lewis University alumna, Sky combines her academic foundation in human resources with real-world experience to bridge the gap between business strategy and people strategy. Growing up in a union household, she learned early that work is more than a paycheck; it represents legacy, pride, and human connection. Whether she's coaching leaders, facilitating workshops, or mentoring emerging professionals, Sky brings empathy, curiosity, and an unwavering belief in the power of people to drive performance and purpose.

Martha Villegas Miranda '98, Director, TRIO Talent Search

Martha Villegas Miranda, MSSW, LSW, CPC, is an accomplished alumna of Lewis University, graduating in 1998 and making history as the institution's first bilingual Lasallian commencement speaker. The daughter of Mexican immigrants from Michoacán, she brings a legacy of resilience to her work as an educator, social worker, and storyteller focused on

healing, cultural identity, and empowerment for first-generation and historically resilient communities. A proud mother to her daughter, K'trina, Martha currently serves as Director of the TRIO Talent Search REACH program at Broward College, advancing college access with compassion and purpose. With over 25 years of experience, she helps individuals transform their stories into leadership. A nationally recognized speaker and award recipient, Martha believes storytelling—like the monarch butterfly, is a journey of transformation, remembrance, and renewal that invites us to rise, again and again.

Frank Glowaty '67 Scholarship Opportunity

The family and friends of **Frank Glowaty '67** established the Frank Glowaty Legacy Scholarship for Catholic Education "to honor an extraordinary man who has been continuously recognized for demonstrating outstanding dedication and service in support of Catholic Education." For the fourth year, two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to two individuals who attend one of eight Catholic universities and Lewis University is one of them. For more information about this scholarship please contact Charlene Glowaty at frankglowatylegacy@gmail.com. To apply for the scholarship, [CLICK HERE](#).

Alumni in their Own Words



Thomas Soderquist '10, Senior Specialist - Product Stewardship at Abbott (pictured at far left)

"I work in Product Stewardship within the Environmental Health & Safety department for Abbott's Core Diagnostics business. I make sure the materials used in our products comply with global chemical regulations such as EU REACH, EU RoHS, U.S. Conflict Minerals, and California Prop 65. Day to day, I gather and analyze

regulatory data on substances in our products, monitor emerging chemical hazards, elevate new regulatory impacts to upper management, interpret compliance information from suppliers, and respond to customer inquiries about our environmental and human health compliance.

My earliest biology research experience with **Dr. Jerry Kavouras** sparked my interest in working in the environmental protection space. With that, my biochemistry background and my chemiluminescence research with **Dr. Jason Keleher** have been valuable assets in my current role. I'm very happy with my career path and grateful for the scientific foundation I gained at Lewis University."

Adam Fisher, MPH '09, Senior Director of Finance & Administration, Cancer Services at UC San Diego Health

"I am the Sr. Director of Finance & Administration for Cancer Services at UC San Diego Health, where I lead strategic and operational financial oversight for a large, complex, and rapidly growing clinical enterprise. I manage more than \$600 million in annual expenses and supports over 750 FTEs, serving as a key advisor on financial planning, performance, and long-



term growth. Since stepping into the role in 2022, I have partnered closely with executive and clinical leadership to guide expansion, optimize services, and support major investments. My work has contributed to sustained growth, with current projections nearing \$1 billion in net revenue.

Prior to this role, I spent nearly five years in Decision Support, advancing to a Service Line Manager position while supporting multiple service lines with forecasting,

reporting, and business planning. I also played a key role during the COVID-19 pandemic by developing financial models that informed critical system-wide decisions. I earned a B.S. in Biology from Lewis University in 2009 and an M.P.H. in Healthcare Management & Policy from San Diego State University in 2011, grounding my leadership in both science and healthcare administration. I attribute much of my career trajectory and success to my time at Lewis U with **Drs. Roberts, Kavouras, & Zimmer** in which I gained foundational understanding of human biology and the medical field. Originally from the Chicagoland area, I now live in San Diego with my wife, two children and dog, balancing a passion for healthcare strategy with family life and personal interests like sports and golf."

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

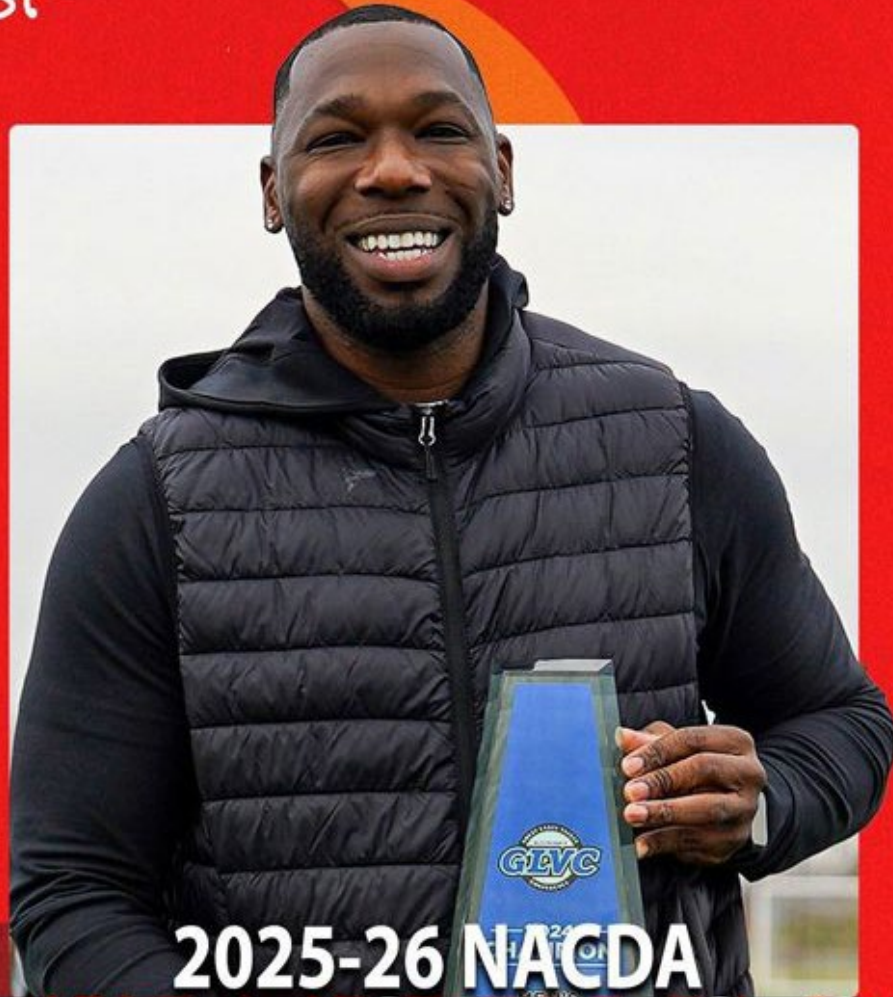
Every Lewis University alum is a member of the Lewis Alumni Association. If you would like more information about how you can get involved as a volunteer in the classroom, as a mentor, on social, etc., please contact Brandon McGhee '08 '10 at mcgheebr@lewisu.edu.



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

Congratulations to **John Ashaolu, Assistant Vice President for Athletics** who was named a National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics 2025-2026 Athletic Director of the Year!



2025-26 NACDA
**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
OF THE YEAR**
JOHN ASHAOLU

Men's Volleyball

During their Spring Break, Flyer Men's Volleyball traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to compete in the Outrigger Tournament. Men's Volleyball alumnus, **Perry Sartori '81** made the trip and served as our alumni correspondent on the road. With daily reports, Perry took us along to the beach and Pearl Harbor memorials, and shared conversations with parents, coaches, and our Lewis Assistant Vice President for Athletics. To view Perry's "MVB Aloha Updates," [CLICK HERE.](#)



Women's Track and Field

The Flyers delivered a strong finish on the women's side at the GLVC Indoor Championships, placing second overall with 127 team points. Host UIndy narrowly claimed the team title with 132 points, while Lincoln University finished third with 101 points in a tightly contested team race.

Denise Hernandez (*Naperville, Ill./Naperville North HS*) highlighted the day in the field events, capturing the GLVC title in the triple jump with an NCAA qualifying mark of 12.18 meters. Her championship performance provided a major boost in the team standings and solidified her spot on the national stage.

In the pole vault, **Brynlee Keeran** (*Catlin, Ill./Catlin HS*) cleared 3.74 meters to earn a first-place finish and add another gold medal to the Flyers' total. The depth of the vault squad proved valuable as **Malaina Telschow** () and **Sofia Olsson** (/) both cleared 3.49 meters to finish sixth, contributing key team points in a competitive field.

Olivia Cox delivered one of the biggest personal performances of the meet in the shot put, recording a significant personal-best throw of 13.41 meters to place fourth overall. Her breakthrough mark added crucial points during the final day of competition.

On the track, **Mary Edwards** (*Indianapolis, Ind./North Central*) led the distance crew with a runner-up finish in the 3,000 meters, crossing the line in 9:54.82 to earn eight team points, while also hitting the provisional mark. **Josephine Bober** (*Lockport, IL/Lockport Twp HS*) also contributed in the event, placing seventh with a time of 10:11.70.

Men's Track and Field

The Flyers closed out the GLVC Indoor Championships on Sunday inside the Athletics & Recreation Center in Indianapolis with a strong final push, ultimately placing second overall with 117 team points. Host UIndy claimed the team title with 145 points, while Lincoln University finished third with 93.50 points.

The headline performance of the day came from **Neil Erasmus** (*George, South Africa*) in the heptathlon, delivering an NCAA qualifying performance while capturing the conference title. Erasmus dominated across multiple events, winning the 60-meter dash (7.19), long jump (6.90m), 60-meter hurdles (8.67), and pole vault (4.80m). He also placed third in the shot put

(11.56m), fourth in the high jump (1.79m), and fourth in the 1,000 meters (3:00.12), compiling a championship-level all-around performance that added a major point total for the Flyers.

In the high jump, **Abraham Christian** (*Huntley, Ill./Huntley HS*) soared to a first-place finish with an NCAA qualifying clearance of 2.11 meters, delivering another gold-medal effort in the field events. **Brian Holmes** (*Naperville, Ill./Naperville North HS*) added to the scoring in the 60-meter hurdles, placing fourth overall with an NCAA qualifying mark of 8.10.

On the track, **Cagini Pilgrim** (*Castries, Saint Lucia*) continued his strong showing at the championships, placing fifth in the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.90. He followed that performance with an impressive third-place finish in the 200 meters, crossing the line in 21.93 to add valuable points for the Flyers. **Adrien Manning** (*Shorewood, Ill./Minooka*) followed closely behind in the 200 meters, placing fifth in 22.00 to contribute additional points.

The distance crew once again made its presence known. **Evan Horgan** (*Loves Park, Ill./Belvidere North*) broke the meet record in the 3,000 meters, capturing the conference title in 8:04.41 and adding another championship performance to his weekend resume. **Brendon Shea** (*Hershey, Pa./Hershey*) also delivered key points in the event, finishing fourth in 8:30.55.

Two Flyers Compete at NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships - One Earns All-American Status

Juan Jose Castro (*Cali, Colombia/Corporacion Cultural Colegio Aleman*) and **Amelia Marsicek** (*Centennial, Col./Regis Jesuit*) represented Lewis at the 2026 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships with Marsicek earning All-American status for her performances. For Marsicek, her crowning moment came in the 200 back A-Final as she placed fourth with a school-record time of 1:58.16 to earn All-American accolades. In her prelim round, she posted a time of 1:58.33 to punch her ticket to the final. Earlier in the weekend, she earned a 14th place finish in the 100 back, posting a time of 55.58.



Scenes from Flyer Athletics









Flyers Hockey Wrap Up

This year marked the return of Lewis D3 Hockey, and this group took on the challenge of building something from the ground up. Thank you to our players for buying in and competing the right way, and to our coaching staff for leading, teaching, and laying the foundation.



Spring Cleaning for Your Future with FreeWill



As you're clearing out closets, organizing drawers, and making space for what matters most this spring, it's also the perfect time to tidy up something just as important—your plans for the future.

With **FreeWill**, you can create your will in just minutes—at no cost—and gain peace of mind knowing your wishes are clearly in place. It's simple, secure, and one more way to care for the people and causes you love, like Lewis University.

This spring, take a moment to refresh, renew, and plan ahead.

Because a little organization today can make a lasting impact tomorrow. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Lewis University President's Circle

Through your annual gift of \$1,000 or more, you can become a member of Lewis University's President's Circle. PC members are invited to exclusive events like the President's Circle Dinner in December and receive invitations to engage with University leadership throughout the year. Together and by association, our President's Circle members continue to fuel our thriving Lasallian Mission.

Would you like to speak to someone about becoming a President's Circle member? Contact Krysten McGee at 815-836-5966 or at kmcgee2@lewisu.edu.



***Together, we are creating a better world, one Flyer at a time.
THANK YOU!***

Support Lewis University

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