



Happy February, Flyers and Friends!

February may be short, but even during this abbreviated month in the heart of winter, there's plenty going on at Lewis University! From athletic games and alumni gatherings to a highly anticipated Black History Month author visit. This month's *Jet-setter* is full of great info. Thanks for staying connected and being part of what makes Lewis so special. Happy early Valentine's Day, especially to our Lewis Sweethearts!



ROB DELANEY SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION



February 11, 2026

6 PM | EMBERS

933 S. State Street, Lockport, IL

Donations Encouraged



Scan Me

To RSVP or to
GIVE to the event.



Forever shaping the future of aviators!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

Kari Johnson Barroso: New Piano Music — Tuesday, February 3, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | To stream this performance, [CLICK HERE](#).

Women Artists at the Field with Gallery Talk & Reception — February 5 through March 13, 2026 | Gallery Talk & Reception: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 7 p.m. | Wadsworth Family Gallery

Rob Delaney Scholarship Celebration — Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | Join us as we remember Rob Delaney ten years after he lost his battle with cancer and support the Lewis aviation scholarship established in his memory. | 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. | Embers - 933 S. State St., Lockport | Free food and drink | Attendees will be encouraged to support the Rob Delaney Endowed Scholarship. To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Black History Month Scholar Conversation: Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson - Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | Scholar Conversation: 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. | Book Sales & Signing 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. | University Dining Room (AS 104C) | For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Women's and Men's Basketball Alumni Day — Saturday, February 14, 2026 | Women's Basketball vs. McKendree at 1 p.m. and Men's Basketball vs. McKendree at 3 p.m. | Neil Carey Arena | Reception for all Basketball alumni and a guest in Seiler Room during games | To register please [CLICK HERE](#).

They Promised Her the Moon — February 20-22, February 26-March 1 | Philip Lynch Theatre | To purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE](#).

Senabella Gill: The Bronzeville Diva in Concert — Monday, February 26, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | To stream, [CLICK HERE](#).

Strolling Into Legacy: Divine 9 Celebration - Saturday, February 28, 2026 | 5 p.m. to 7

p.m. | Location: Flight Deck Dining Room in St. Charles Borromeo | An evening dedicated to honoring the history, impact, and legacy of Black Greek life at Lewis University and beyond. | Two engaging panel discussions, music, food, drinks, networking opportunities, and organizational displays | For more info and register, [CLICK HERE](#).

March

Monarch Winds Concert | Monday, March 2, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | To stream, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Gros Institute F.I.R.E. | Empathy in Action: Living our Lasallian Values — Wednesday, March 4, 2026 | 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | University Dining Room (AS 104C) | Free for students, faculty and staff with a suggested donation of \$10 for community members | To learn more and register, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Third Annual CoHFAC Kickback — Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 6 p.m. Doors open for Cocktail Hour | 7 p.m. Program begins | Philip Lynch Theatre & Wadsworth Family Gallery | Sponsorships available | This year, we will be honoring Mary DeGraw, alumna, recently retired Associate Provost, and long-time, deeply loved campus leader. | To register or learn more, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Men's Volleyball Alumni Night - Saturday, March 7, 2026 | Flyers vs. Ball State (80's Night) | 5 p.m. | Neil Carey Arena | Reception for all MVB alumni in Seiler Room during the game | For more info or to register [CLICK HERE](#).

Tedx at Lewis University - Tuesday, March 10, 2026 | 7 p.m. | Philip Lynch Theatre | To purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE](#).

Lewis Career Expo (Job & Internship Fair for Students & Alumni) - Wednesday, March 11, 2026 | 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. | Lewis University Fieldhouse/Rec Center | For more info or to register as an alum, please contact careerservices@lewisu.edu.

Fourth Annual Brother Bernard Rapp, FSC Lecture on Faith & Science: Dr. Jason Keleher of Lewis University - Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 3:30 p.m. | University Dining Room | Dr. Keleher will invite participants into an interactive exploration of how scientific insights, especially from chemistry and nanoscience, can illuminate questions of faith and meaning.

DAY OF GIVING — SAVE THE DATE! | Thursday, March 26, 2026 | Stritch Hall | More information coming later this month!

Spring Sczepaniak Lecture - Distinguished historian Andrew Hartman, Professor of History at Illinois State University and author of *Karl Marx in America*, will present the Spring 2026 Sczepaniak Lecture titled "Culture Wars, Then and Now." | **Thursday, March 26, 2026** | 6 p.m. | University Dining Room (AS 104C) | For more information or to register [CLICK HERE](#).

April

President's 18th Annual Art Exhibition - April 2-24 | 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 | 12 p.m. | D'Arcy Great Room

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

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

Out of Darkness Lewis University Campus Walk for Suicide Prevention - April 26, 2026 | 9 a.m. | Student Recreation & Fitness Center | To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).

May

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 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

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.**](#)

CAMPUS NEWS

Dr. Jamil Mustafa Publishes Chapter in Book on Disability, Illness, and the Vampire

A chapter by Dr. Jamil Mustafa, professor of English Studies, has been published in [**Disability, Illness, and the Vampire in Literature and Culture**](#) (Routledge, 2025). "Vampirism and/as Mental Illness: 'Martin' and 'The Transfiguration'" focuses on George A. Romero's "Martin" (1977) and Michael O'Shea's "The Transfiguration" (2016), two films in which vampirism seems psychological rather than supernatural. To demonstrate how these films draw and blur the line between vampirism and mental illness, the chapter employs Jacques Derrida's theory of deconstruction, which moves beyond binary oppositions, including sane/insane, an antithesis vital to canonical vampire tales. Following their fictional antecedents, "Martin" and "The Transfiguration" question the sanity of both vampires and vampire hunters. In so doing, these films deconstruct the relationship between mental and physical disability, and that between fact and fiction.

62nd New Employee Mission Orientation Workshop & Commissioning Service

In January, Lewis hosted its 62nd Mission Orientation Workshop & Commissioning Service and welcomed approximately 50 new colleagues into our University community. This workshop on our Lasallian, Catholic Mission is offered twice a year and continues to be one of the most energizing and meaningful experiences shared with new employees. The team of presenters included **Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, Brother Phil Johnson, FSC, Fr. Paul Novak, OSM, Dr. Maryellen Collett, Dr. Dominic Colonna, Dr. Shireen Roshanravan, and Margaret Martinez.**



Delta Sigma Pi President, Marc Kirby Attends Presidents Academy in St. Louis in January

"Had a great experience this weekend attending Presidents Academy in St. Louis with Delta Sigma Pi. The past few days were filled with leadership workshops, open discussions, and conversations with chapter presidents from across the country—a lot of focus on communication, accountability, and what it actually takes to build a strong and sustainable organization."

Lewis DPT Program Doctors Contribute to Publications

Lewis DPT's **Dr. Arvie Vitente** is a co-author of Chapter 33 ("Electromyography & Electrical Stimulation") in Umphred's Neurological Rehabilitation (8th edition), helping advance evidence-based neurorehab education and practice. In addition, **Dr. Vitente**, **Dr. Rob Sweet**, and **Dr. Michael Maninang** are contributing authors in the Philippine Journal of Physical Therapy, Volume 4, Issue 3, contributing an editorial, original research, and commentary, advancing physical therapy education and practice.

New Nursing & Pharmacy Technician Labs at St. Augustine College at Lewis University

In January, a ribbon-cutting celebration of the new Nursing and Pharmacy Technician Labs at St. Augustine College at Lewis was held. This milestone reflects Lewis' mission in action, connecting students to in-demand job opportunities through hands-on, purpose driven learning, rooted in service and excellence.



Meet a Flyer

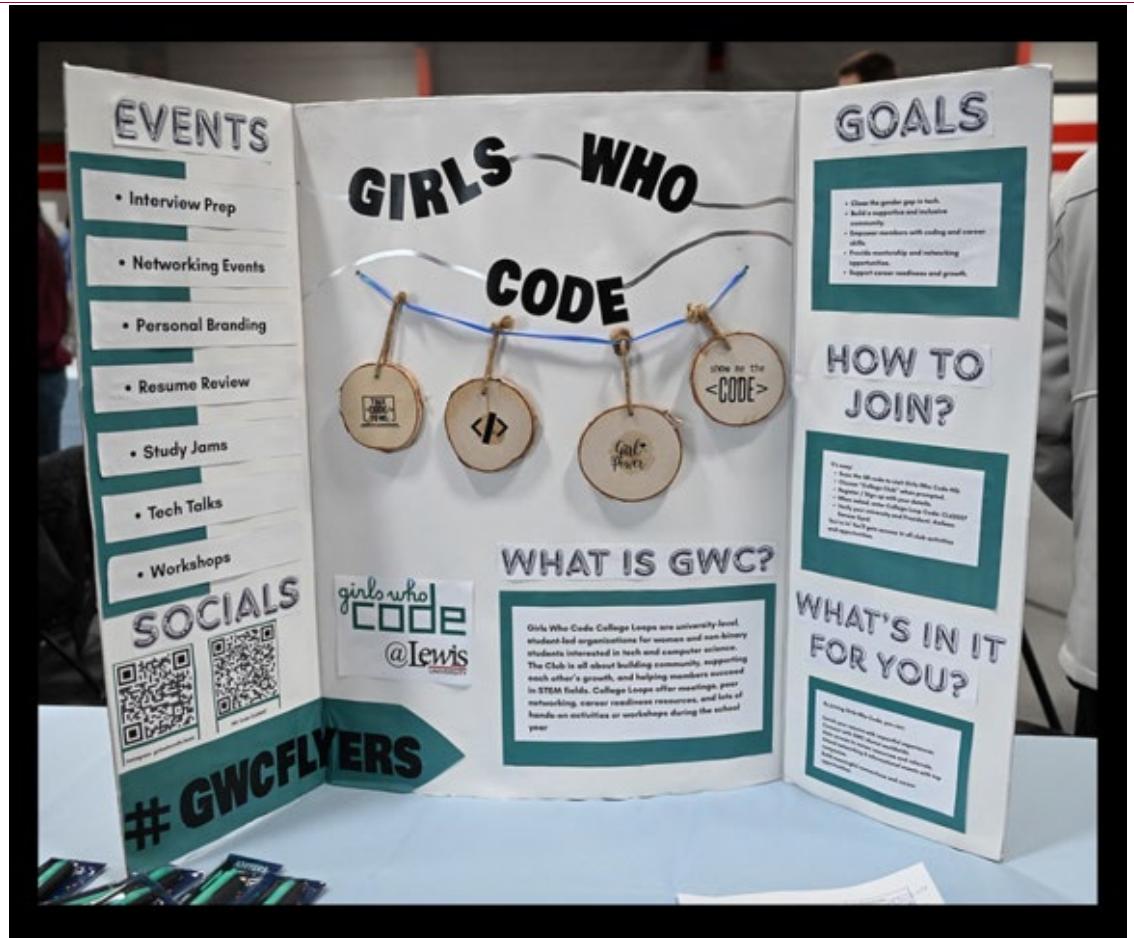
Mason Piscitelli,
Aviation Flight
Student

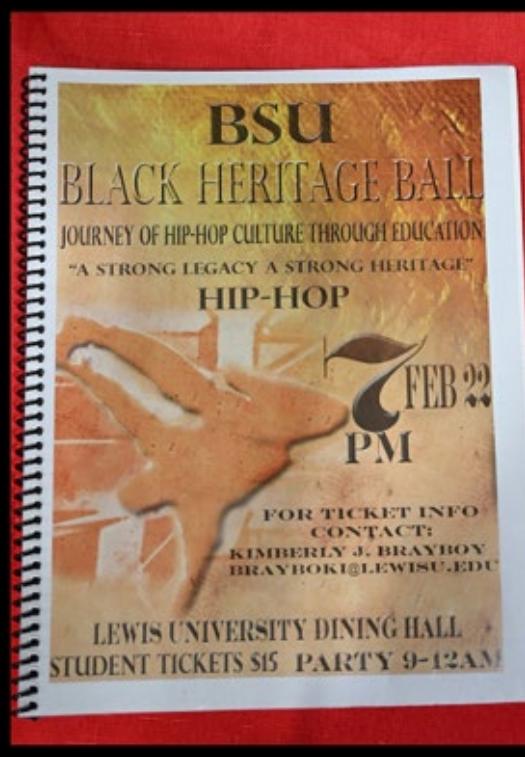
"A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to officially join the Republic Airways team and was able to complete my RJet Ambassador training at the Republic Training Center in Carmel, Indiana. While I was there, in addition to my training, I was also able to tour our MX hangar the Indianapolis airport and even fly the E170 in the full motion sim! Starting this month, I will be serving as our Lewis campus ambassador for Republic Airways and will educate students about our cadet program and the pathway to becoming a First Officer. I am so excited for this opportunity and am grateful to everyone at Republic who made this possible!"

Third Annual Winter Welcome Fair

On Wednesday, January 28, Lewis Student Engagement hosted its Third Annual Winter Welcome Fair in the Fieldhouse, where new and returning students had the opportunity to connect with student organizations and clubs, and learn how to get more involved.

Photos provided by the Lewis Photography Club





Mountainfilm on Tour at Lewis University

On the evening of Saturday, January 31, a curated program of short documentary films that debuted at the Telluride Film Festival, were shown in the Brother Damian Auditorium as part of Mountainfilm on Tour at Lewis University. The event, attended by Lewis alumni and friends, began with a reception in the Courtyard Cafe. Then guests proceeded to the theater to watch two blocks of films with an intermission in between. The ten films shown showcased for example, stories of the first women dory captains on the Colorado River, a rock-climbing program in Memphis that is transforming the lives of young people in an underserved neighborhood, and a pair of extreme heli-skiers taking on the Chugach Range in Cordova, Alaska, just to name a few.

Thanks to all who joined us!

MOUNTAIN FILM ON TOUR LEWIS UNIVERSITY



MISSION & MINISTRY

Join us for Daily & Sunday Mass: All are welcome to attend Mass, which is celebrated when school is in session 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. Please join us!

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.

2025 Mission Trip to Philippines



WHAT BETTER WAY TO SAY, "I LOVE YOU?"

FREEWILL 

February is the perfect time to show your love for the ones you love.

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 approach Valentine's Day, give yourself the gift of peace of mind and care for your loved ones by planning for your and their future. [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

Rachel Stella '13 (Mass Communications) married Dante Frustini May 10, 2025 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rockdale, Illinois. Congratulations and God's blessings on Rachel and Dante!

Congratulations to **Erin Vandermore, LCMHC-S '02**, who will be receiving the **Innovation/Creativity in Counseling Award** at the North Carolina Counseling Association (NCCA) conference this February. Erin is a licensed therapist in Western North Carolina and is the founder of "**Mind Circuit**," a mental wellness app that uses science-based bilateral stimulation tools and micro practices to help reduce anxiety, calm the nervous system, and build daily regulation habits. Erin also has a new podcast, "**Notes to My Nervous System**," down-to-earth, gentle conversations

about stress, safety, and resilience. Erin also has recently had a new book published, **"Wired to Heal,"** a practical, science-informed guide for everyday nervous system care and trauma-aware living. This book can be purchased through Amazon at: <https://a.co/d/fT8w2fw>

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Ryan Cunningham '19

"I graduated from Lewis in 2019 with a degree in Environmental Science. I'm currently the Recreation & Education Program Director at Double J Riding Club, where I design and oversee hands-on educational and recreation programs for children and families. My work blends environmental education, community programming, and staff leadership, drawing on experiences from camps, zoos, and informal learning environments. My time at Lewis University played a major role in shaping my path, particularly through the mentorship and support of Dr. Kavouras. His guidance and encouragement helped me build confidence in applying environmental science beyond the classroom and reinforced my passion for experiential, community-based learning, something I continue to use every day in my career."

Allison Brandle Timm '17

"My name is Allison Timm, and I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Lewis and a Master's degree in Respiratory Care Therapy from Rush University. I am currently a Respiratory Therapy Supervisor at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. I also developed a Respiratory Residency program for newly hired RTs to provide mentorship, a structured/detailed orientation, and focus on emotional/professional development. I work with all patient populations in general care and critical care environments. What I really loved during my time attending Lewis University was the support always available and provided. I would not have found this profession without the great help and advice from the advisors who helped me along the way."



NEEDS FOR THIS PATIENT

- Trach circuit with auction
- Secretion burden was low, so additional cough assist equipment not necessary
- Hypoxic burden was not high, and an oxygen blender was not needed
- Suction equipment and backup bag assist always provided
- At least one family member demonstrated proficiency with trach and ventilator care before dismissal
- Home vendor and respiratory therapist on call identified

Mateo Diaz '21

"I work as the Lead Microbiologist in an in-house laboratory for a personal care products company, supporting products such as shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, and body wash. My primary responsibilities include microbiological quality control testing of finished goods and raw materials to ensure product safety and compliance. I also oversee environmental monitoring within the manufacturing facility, including managing microbial control of the water system and verifying facility and equipment cleanliness through ATP surface swabbing. As a Biology major at Lewis, I gained a strong foundation in laboratory techniques that prepared me well for my current career in Quality Control. During my time at Lewis, I had initially planned to pursue postgraduate studies in the medical field. I never considered lab work as a future career option until I was invited to conduct research with Dr. Kavouras. I earned my bachelor's degree in biology in 2021, and nearly five years later, my fondest memories of my time there come from the collaborative research experiences I shared with my peers and our mentor, Dr. Kavouras."



FLYERS ATHLETICS

Flyer Red Dinner

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Flyer Red Dinner** on January 28! It was a fantastic night celebrating the legacy of Flyer Athletics.

Congratulations to our 2026 Hall of Fame honorees:

David Locker '99 — Men's Cross Country and Track & Field
Magdalena Paszta '98 '00 Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
1996 Lewis Women's Cross Country Team
1997 Lewis Women's Cross Country Team
Kevin Coates '11 — Men's Swimming
Tony McCormick — Athletic Trainer (Aug 1986 - May 2001)

Congratulations to the Brother Raymond McManaman Lasallian of the Year:
Chuck Crowder

Athletics Featured on "Conversations from Stritch"

Interested in learning more about the new Lewis Athletics Hall of Fame display and getting a preview of the 2026 Flyer Athletic season? Check out the recent "Conversations from Stritch" with **John Ashaolu**, Assistant Vice President for Athletics, **Dan Friend**, Head Coach of Men's Volleyball and Assistant Athletic Director for Strategic Initiatives, as well as hosts, Lewis U President, **Dr. David Livingston**, and Provost, **Dr. Chris Sindt**. To watch this episode, please [CLICK HERE](#).

For all Athletics news, please go to the official [Lewis Athletics website](#).

Photos below provided by the Lewis Photography Club



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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, please [CLICK HERE](#).

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. 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*?
Please email alumni@lewisu.edu.



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