

LEWIS ALUMNI & FRIENDS

MONTHLY
JET-SETTER 



Greetings, Flyers and Friends,

As May brings the close of another academic year, we're excited to share the latest news, upcoming events, and campus highlights from Lewis University. We hope you'll stay connected, join us for upcoming gatherings, and continue to be an active part of our Flyer community. We look forward to welcoming a new band of eager, freshly minted #LewisUAlumni during commencement ceremonies in two weeks!

Warmly,

The Lewis University Alumni Office Team

Photos provided by the Lewis University Photography Club



Pictured above is the **Class of 2026 Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology cohort**. Individual College ceremonies continue to be held before Commencement in mid-May. CONGRATULATIONS to each and every member of the Lewis University Class of 2026 and soon-to-be alumnus!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

Lewis Spring Choral Concert - May 4, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | Join the Lewis Chamber Choir and enjoy a variety of choral harmony spanning the ages from the Renaissance to today.

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra - May 6, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall | Classical music performed by area youth instrumentalists under the direction of Peter Lipari.

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 | This camp is now full.

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

Sunday Mass: Celebrated on the Romeoville campus when school is in session 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.

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.

Interview with Lewis President, Dr. David J. Livingston

LUTV anchor and reporter, **Khristian Kluever '26** sat down with Lewis University President David Livingston on April 22 for an exclusive interview as he prepares to retire at the end of the year. As the university's 10th president, Livingston reflected on his years of leadership, the challenges he's faced, and the legacy he hopes to leave behind.

Khristian has accepted a job as a television reporter in West Virginia after graduation. To watch the interview, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Cleaning Up Burnham Trail

The Burnham Nature Trail on our Romeoville campus got a little spring cleaning in April in honor of Earth Day. Lewis students, faculty, and staff joined our Sustainability Club to clean up the litter that had accumulated on the trail over the winter months.

Learn more about the Burnham Trail by [**CLICKING HERE.**](#)



Ready to Fly Program

Another great year for Ready to Fly! Lewis University hosts this flight simulation every spring for neurodiverse youngsters who have difficulty flying. They get a simulation experience that includes check-in, pre-flight, a packing station, security, a fully stocked sensory room, and even (new this year) Exercise Science faculty and students in the long hallway with obstacle courses, agility ladders, and a mini trampoline. They make their way through the Lewis aviation hangar and out to an American Airline airplane to find their seat, look at a menu to choose a flight snack, and practice fastening their seatbelts and getting ready to fly! After disembarking, they get a certificate and an invitation to the adjoining computer lab to operate one of several flight simulators. This is a wonderful event for Lewis Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Aviation, and even Nursing and Psychology students to gain practical experience. Most importantly, it gives families confidence in planning vacations or traveling to see family, which sometimes would be too big a challenge without practice. Special thanks to Lewis U alumnus and Southwest Airlines pilot, **Andy Bassett '03**, who generously volunteers his time on this special day each year.



18th Annual President's Art Exhibition

Lewis University's 18th Annual President's Art Exhibition was held from April 2 to April 24 in the Brent and Jean Wadsworth Gallery. This juried exhibition showcases the top artwork from Lewis University students and alumni and it is sponsored by President, Dr. David Livingston.

Out of 101 submissions, 71 works were included in the exhibition. Eight honorable mentions and three top winners were awarded, as well as an alumni award. Winners were selected by the Faculty of Art and Design with the top three being chosen by guest juror, Nikkole Huss, MFA, program lead and professor of Art at Concordia University.

Congratulations to

First Place: **Meghan Check**

Second Place: **Long Nguyen**

Third Place: **Franchesca Ornelas**

Alumni Winner: **John McIntire**

Honorable Mentions: **Payton Frey, Skylar Hauert, Logan Knott, Claire Lyman, Katie Melzer, Erika Ornelas, Madison Sea-Macak, Kyle Starks**



Lewis University Hosts and Wins Big at DataFest 2026

Three teams from Lewis University earned awards during the American Statistical Association's DataFest 2026, a 48-hour data science competition that brought together students and faculty from across the region. The event, hosted on Lewis' Romeoville campus April 9-11, drew undergraduate students and faculty from schools in the Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area.

Teams competed by working together to analyze a large, complex real-world dataset, presented at the kickoff session. This high-pressure scenario pushed students to think creatively in order to stand out in the competition.

Lewis University students won honors in three categories.

Best in Show - **Bethany Feddes, Joshua Butny, Kyle Mahalik, David Woloszczuk**

Best Visualization - **Andres Eduardo Bodington Sanchez, Abdulrahman Khan**

Best Use of Data - **Md Mehedi Hasan, Geraldine Romero, Marwa Khanani**

The event, sponsored nationally by ASA and locally by ACCA, was organized and led by Lewis Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences faculty members, Drs. Indika Udagedara, Bo Xu and Piotr Szczurek, who coordinated logistics. See photo below.



Professor Ian Gladding Named Fulbright Specialist

Lewis University's Dr. Ian Gladding has been appointed to the Fulbright Specialist Program.

This notable honor comes from the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's international educational exchange initiative that matches U.S. academics with institutions abroad for short-term collaborative projects. This appointment places Gladding on the program's roster for a three-year tenure, making him eligible to be matched with projects at foreign institutions, such as curriculum development, institutional planning, or research.

Gladding has been a professor of International Business and Business Administration since 1999, bringing nearly 50 years of professional business expertise to the classroom.

This marks Gladding's third recognition from the Fulbright Program, as he was previously selected as a Fulbright Scholar in 2002 and a Fulbright Specialist in 2006.

Also, Gladding has been selected to present his research July 15-17 at the Nineteenth Global Studies Conference in Galway, Ireland. This prestigious international conference brings together interdisciplinary scholars to discuss the biggest issues facing the global economy.

The presentation titled, "Collaborative States and Competitive Industries: National Context and the Effectiveness of Industrial Policy" focuses on how a country's unique environment and local institutions play a massive role in the success of its economic policies.

Lewis Investment Club Excels at National Conference

The Lewis University Student Managed Investment Fund team earned fourth-place honors in two competitions at the 2026 Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium Conference, held April 10-11 in Miami, Florida.

The team distinguished itself as a top overall performer across both competitions, achieving fourth place in both the Financial Analysis Research Report and Portfolio Poster Competition. The equity research report stood out for its innovative use of artificial intelligence and Refinitiv tools, showcasing the program's forward-thinking approach to financial analysis.

Representing Lewis University were students **Daniel Baumhart, Adrian Abram, Zachary Lenz, and Marc Kirby**. Members of the club are pictured below.



Celebrating Religious Brothers Day

This week on "Conversations from Stritch Hall," **Brother Rob Veselsky, FSC**, Associate Campus Minister, shared insights on faith, service, and leadership from his journey—just in time for Religious Brothers Day on May 1. Brother Rob is pictured below.

To watch "Conversations from Stritch Hall," please [CLICK HERE](#).



New Opportunity for University of St. Francis Students

Through an exciting collaboration with Lewis, University of St. Francis graduates now have a clear, guaranteed pathway into our Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program. Each year, up to five qualified students who complete the Biology (Pre-Occupational Therapy) program and meet academic standards can secure their spot in the next step of their journey.

To learn more, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Festival del Mariachi

On Thursday, April 23, the Lewis Music Department hosted "Festival del Mariachi," a spirited musical performance at St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall on the Romeoville campus. The festival was well attended by alumni. Pictured below are alumni attendees from St. Augustine College.



Student Visit to Forvis Mazars US

In April, **Forvis Mazars US** hosted our Lewis University College of Business accounting students at their new downtown Chicago office. It was an incredible experience from start to finish.

A group of students spent the day with the Forvis Mazars team, an opportunity to move beyond the classroom and see the profession up close. We were especially excited to be among the first student groups to visit their new space.

A big thank you to the entire Forvis Mazars team, especially **Kevin Farrell**, for thoughtfully coordinating the visit and delivering an engaging session with valuable advice for our students, and to **Mike Senko**, Partner at Forvis Mazars, for taking the time to speak with our students and share valuable insights on how students can take ownership of their education and build meaningful careers.

Our students had the chance to hear from Lewis alumni, **Eric Grunst, CPA '22** and **Melanie Patterson, CPA '24**, now at Forvis Mazars. Students also connected with fellow Lewis alumnus, **Jurgen Balstrode** during the visit.



Can You Provide 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.

Celebrating 40 Years at Lewis University

Congratulations to **John Carey '85, '06**, Director of Electronic Media, who recently celebrated 40 years at Lewis University!



Two Lewis Students Earn Awards at National Math Conference

Luke and Zach Pekol (pictured below), twin brothers and members of the Flyer Men's Volleyball program, recently presented at the 2026 Joint Mathematics Meeting, the largest gathering of mathematicians in the world. Each of them earned the prestigious Pi Mu Epsilon Student Speaker Award for their standout presentations. To learn more about these amazing student-athlete brothers and their awards, please [CLICK HERE](#).



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Fr. Louis B. Studer, OMI '71**, who served the pre-novitiate students for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at the Lewis campus from 1967 to 1971. Fr. Studer was ordained in 1976 and is now celebrating his **GOLDEN JUBILEE**. May God bless him in his 50th year of priesthood!

Congratulations to **Daniele Navarrete Vilegas '21, '23**, swimming coach at University of Findlay in Ohio, who was selected as one of the six coaches receiving the 2026 Jean Freeman Scholarship, which recognizes coaches whose contributions have brought recognition to their institution and reflect the values exemplified by Jean Freeman, longtime swimming coach at the University of Minnesota.

Natalie Zegadlo Bryan '20, digital print coordinator at United Engravers, was recently featured in *Wide-Format Impressions*, a leading industry publication focused on the wide-format printing and visual communications market. In it, Natalie talked about the impact of a Lewis professor on her education journey. To read the feature, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations to **Christopher Hanusiak '22** (Accounting), who became a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the state of Illinois in April.

Bridget Terrones '12 was recently invited on "The Marketer's Podcast," put on by an international marketing agency called, "Ultratend." During the interview, they asked Bridget about her career journey and specifically about the Bridget Folliard Terrones Annual Scholarship at Lewis University. To listen or watch the podcast, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you to alumna, **Kelly Kolton, '17** (pictured below in center in red), who participated in the Cheryl G. Murer Women in Business Club Senior Executive Leadership Panel last month. At the event, students had the opportunity to hear firsthand from three accomplished leaders as they shared insights on navigating their careers, overcoming challenges, and leading with confidence after college. In addition to Kelly Kolton who is Sr. Marketing Manager at Stout, the panelists included **Melissa Napier**, Sr. Vice President and Corporate Controller of Conagra Brands, and **Danelle Thoreson**, Managing Director at Accenture.

If you are interested in sharing your professional journey with Lewis students, please contact the Alumni Office and we can connect you with the appropriate campus partner. Email alumni@lewisu.edu.



Innovative DNA Research Published by Lewis Alumni

The research results of Lewis University Mathematics alumni, **Philiffe Tebalan** and **Evan Burns** were recently published in the Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Mathematics Journal. "Graph Theoretical Modeling of Self-Assembling DNA of the Double Cone Graph" explores how mathematical modeling can be used to improve the way DNA molecules self-assemble into complex Double Cone Graph nanostructures.

Working under the guidance and mentorship of **Dr. Amanda Harsy**, professor of mathematics, the

study was conducted during Tebalan and Burns' undergraduate studies in mathematics at Lewis University.

The Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Mathematics Journal is a peer-reviewed publication that features high-quality mathematics research from undergraduate students across the country.



Ryan Cunningham '19

"I graduated from Lewis 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."

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

Men's Lacrosse

The top-seeded Lewis University men's lacrosse team captured its second GLVC Championship in three years with a record-breaking 16-10 victory over Maryville at Lewis Stadium to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. Malikye Good led the Flyers with six goals to become the program's all-time points leader as the team improved to 13-3 on the season. Picture below by Beth Donahue

Women's Golf

The Lewis University Women's Golf team has qualified for the NCAA Division II East Regional for the first time since 2022 and will compete as the No. 9 seed in Findlay, Ohio, from May 4–6.

Track & Field

Lewis University Men's & Women's Track & Field teams are heading down to Bolivar, Missouri to defend their GLVC Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The competition runs from April 30 – May 2.





Peace of Mind Begins with a Plan—Learn More with FreeWill

FREEWILL 

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 planning today can provide a lot of peace 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 hope, one Lewis University, Lasallian-educated leader 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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