

LEWIS ALUMNI & FRIENDS

MONTHLY
JET-SETTER

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Alumni and Friends:

The season of gratitude is upon us, and we are so thankful for **YOU**, our incredible Lewis University community! Your enthusiasm and support shine through in every way—whether you joined us for Signum Fidei, made a gift to the Mission Fund, volunteered during Move-In Day, or joined us for Lewis Fest last month. And for those of you who couldn't attend these or other events, you know you are united with us in the Lasallian spirit.

As we head into the holidays and into 2026, we have some fantastic opportunities to visit the Romeoville campus. Join us for our **Christmas Tree Lighting** in early December or for a new event coming in late January...**Mountainfilm on Tour 2026 - Lewis University!** In the meantime, all of us here in the Lewis Alumni Office wish you a Thanksgiving that provides time to slow down and share your goodness with those you love and those who need a bit of love.

Happy Thanksgiving!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fall Szczepaniak Lecture – Thursday, November 6, 2025: Join us as we welcome the newly named 6th Illinois Poet Laureate, Mark Turcotte, Senior Lecturer and Distinguished Writer-In-Residence at DePaul University. Mark will be presenting a poetry reading followed by a Q & A session. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Reverend Kevin J. Spiess Endowed Lecture – Thursday, November 6, 2025: Join us for a two-part event that focuses on the ethical challenges of integrating AI and business, **featuring Lewis alumnus and Chief AI Engineer at Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), Scott Likens '96**. Part one will be a lecture and Q & A session at our Romeoville campus. Part two will be a Panel Discussion at our Oak Brook campus. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Women's Volleyball Alumnae Weekend – Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, 2025: Join us for a weekend of fun as we cheer on the Flyers on Friday as they take on Drury University, and Saturday as they battle Southwest Baptist University! There will be food and drink in the Seiler Room during both games for all alumnae. Come and re-connect with former WVB teammates and make some new friends. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).



NEW TIME OF YEAR: Flyer Red Dinner – Wednesday, January 28, 2026: Join us for an evening to celebrate Lewis Flyer Athletics 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: Save the date for an exciting new event at Lewis University's Romeoville campus! Mountainfilm on Tour is coming to the Damian Auditorium at Lewis, bringing a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and inspiring documentary films curated from the Mountainfilm festival held every Memorial Day weekend in Telluride, Colorado. These films will explore themes connected to Mountainfilm's mission: to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world.

Casual mountainwear (think jeans, boots, hats, etc.) is the evening's attire and you'll want to get your tickets early as the number of tickets being sold will be limited. **Keep an eye out for ticket sales coming VERY soon.**

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Lewis University Annual Fund.



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.](#)



"Call of the Yard: Black Greek Legacy in Motion" – Saturday, February 28, 2026: Join the Lewis Black Student Union and Office of Lasallian Belonging 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. A distinguished panel of faculty, staff, alumni, and students will judge the event and award prize money to the top teams. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

CAMPUS NEWS



2025 Lewis University Department of Education Educationis Lumen Award

On Tuesday, October 22, **Gabriela Lopez-Semanjaku (Elementary Education, '19)** was surprised by Lewis' Dr. Hyeseong Lee and Dean of Education, Dr. Elizabeth Sturm with the news that she is being awarded the 40th annual Educationis Lumen Award.

Mrs. Lopez-Semanjaku teaches kindergarten at Juliette Low Elementary School in CCSD59, Arlington Heights and the school's principal, Lily Smith '02, is also a Lewis alumna (Elementary Education) and former member of the Lewis Women's Soccer team.

In her nomination letter, Principal Smith stated, "Gabi actively builds partnerships with families, ensuring that parents have meaningful access to their children's education regardless of language barriers. This inclusive approach reflects the Christian principle of serving others selflessly and breaking down barriers that might prevent families from fully participating in their children's educational journey." The award will be formally presented at the November 6th Lewis Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi *National Professional Association and Honor Society for Educators* Initiation Ceremony.

The ***Educationis Lumen Award***, established in 1985, is presented annually by the Department of Education at Lewis University to one Lewis alumnus/alumna based upon the individual's accomplishments as a professional educator. The criteria for selection include:

- *Evidence of excellence in teaching*
- *Commitment to the finest Christian ideals of education*
- *Dedication to the teaching profession*

Congratulations to Gabriela!

Lewis Fest

On Saturday, October 4, nearly 700 members of our Flyer community returned to campus to celebrate the third annual Lewis Fest—a day filled with spirit and plenty of Flyer fun! The celebration featured a variety of activities for all ages, including “Flyer Ties,” a special service station where alumni came together to tie blankets that will be donated to students using the services of the Lewis University Student Wellness Center. It was a wonderful reminder of how our community continues to care for one another and live out our Lasallian values.



Signum Fidei

On Saturday, October 25, nearly 550 members of the Lewis University community gathered at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills to celebrate the annual Signum Fidei Celebration—an inspiring evening honoring the transformative power of Lasallian education. Thanks to the generosity of our **41 incredible sponsors** and all who attended, more than **\$330,000 was raised for the Mission Fund**, providing vital support to Flyers facing unexpected hardships. During the evening's program, moving videos that exemplified the legacy and impact of Lewis educators were shared. Lewis President, Dr. David J. Livingston also took to the stage to honor Lasallian educators and recognize the sacred vocation of the De La Salle Christian Brothers at Lewis. The evening's program was emceed by University Advancement Vice President, Dr. Kip Kline, and Lewis alumna, **Allison Lankowicz '24** (Radio Broadcasting and Psychology), who currently works for News Nation in California.

Congratulations to our silent auction and the 50/50 raffle winner.

50/50 CASH RAFFLE WINNER:

- Rodger O'Connell - Winning amount: \$7,625 (*half of \$15,250*)

SILENT AUCTION WINNING BIDDERS:

- Calling All Flyers Fans: Kevin Newquist
- Coach with One of the Best: Daisy and Brian Sherry
- Private Chicago Skyline Flight for 2: Scott Ahlman
- Gridiron Glory: Notre Dame vs. Navy: Nora Dalton
- Holiday Dinner with The Christian Brothers: Gail Qualeatti

To view photos from the event, click [HERE.](#)



Tele Town Hall

On Tuesday, October 14, Dr. David Livingston hosted Lewis University's first-ever Tele Town Hall, bringing together more than 1,500 members of the Flyer community by phone. Participants heard updates about the University and learned more about the Signum Fidei Celebration, including the story of a nursing student who was able to graduate in 2023 because of financial assistance from the Mission Fund. Thank you to all who participated in the Tele Town Hall meeting!

MISSION & MINISTRY

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.

Romeoville Campus Christmas Tree Lighting - Monday, December 1 at 4:15 p.m. at Brother Leo Circle in front of North Hall: Join Dr. Livingston, Fitz the Flyer, students, faculty, staff, and fellow alumni families as the campus Christmas tree is lit! Afterward, enjoy caroling, cocoa, cookies, and coloring in the D'Arcy Great Room as we kick off the Christmas season together. All are welcome!



Mission Trip

Lewis University is seeking five alumni to join the annual Mission Trip to the Philippines, taking place **June 6–21, 2026**. This transformative experience offers the opportunity to live out our Lasallian values through service, cultural immersion, and community engagement. An information session will be held in March to share additional details about the trip, which has an estimated cost of \$3,000 per participant. If you're interested in learning more or participating, please email us at alumni@lewisu.edu to express your interest.

GRATITUDE THAT LASTS



November is a time to pause and give thanks—for the people, experiences, and opportunities that shape our lives. As we reflect with gratitude this Thanksgiving season, it's also a wonderful moment to consider how we can extend that gratitude into the future. Through **FreeWill**, you can create your FREE, legally valid will in just 20 minutes—a simple way to care for those you love and, if you choose, include a meaningful gift that continues to support future generations of Flyers. This season of thankfulness is the perfect time to plan for what matters most. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



EXPLORE GRADUATE DEGREES AT LEWIS

Lewis University's **Master's in Project Management** has acquired accreditation from the PMI Global Accreditation Center for Project Management. This honor allows us to provide our graduates with a level of prestige that makes them a preferred candidate in the Project Management industry and sets them up for greater success as the field continues to grow. [Apply now](#) or contact the Office of Graduate Admission at (815) 836-5610 or grad@lewisu.edu 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

Art Exhibition at St. Luke's in Evanston, Illinois

PORTALS: Photography by Gustavo Herrera Yepez

Sundays through November 23 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Gustavo Herrera Yepez is a photographer, painter, designer, and curator whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. His photography has recently been shown in Amsterdam, featuring his powerful documentation of Mexico's indigenous communities.

Beyond his artistic practice, Gustavo has curated exhibitions for the National Museum of Mexican Art, Bridgeport Art Center, and Evanston Art Center. A passionate educator, he trains students underrepresented in the arts in museum practice and mentors young professionals seeking museum accreditation.

Gustavo holds a degree in art education from **Lewis University** and currently serves as exhibition preparator for the National Museum of Mexican Art and as an instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Congratulations to **Sedric Willis '78** on his compelling performance as Juror No. 9 in *Twelve Angry Jurors* at Lone Star College.

Congratulations to **Natalie Bryan '20**, who was recently featured as a rising star after turning her passion for design into a thriving career at United Engravers.

Congratulations to **Cherokee LeBeau '23** on his recent position as the Central Adaptive Resource Center Manager at Minooka High School.

CHICAGO MARATHON



Congratulations to all of our students and alumni who ran the Chicago Marathon and proved that dedication, perseverance, and determination go far beyond the classroom!



FLYERS ATHLETICS



Our Flyer athletes are off to an incredible start, showcasing the strength and spirit of Lewis Athletics! The women's Cross Country team captured their fourth consecutive GLVC Championship—and seventh overall in program history—while the men's team earned their third straight GLVC title with another dominant performance. Adding to these remarkable achievements, Head Coach, **James Kearney was named GLVC Women's and Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year**, a well-deserved recognition of his leadership and dedication.

In other exciting news, the athletic department announced the addition of **Women's Flag Football** as the newest varsity sport, set to begin competition in the 2026–27 season. With this addition, Lewis Athletics now boasts 23 varsity programs, continuing to expand opportunities for our student-athletes to excel. Click [HERE](#) to stay involved with Lewis Athletics.

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

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



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