

# MONTHLY JET-SETTER

Alumni and Friends,

October is here, and the Lewis University campus is alive with the vibrant energy and colors that usher in a new season. As students settle into their routines and dive deeper into their academic pursuits, we're reminded of the incredible community that supports their journey—our alumni. This month, we're excited to share stories of success, upcoming events, and opportunities for you to stay engaged with Lewis!

## FEATURED EVENT: SIGNUM FIDEI CELEBRATION



Join us as we support the Mission Fund on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at **Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge**. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the main program beginning at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy delicious food and drink, a student art show, music by the LU Band with guest student performers, dueling pianos, a student DJ, dancing, and much more! We will honor **Bryan '82 '93 & Mary '82 '93 Durkin** for their invaluable contributions to Lewis University and remember the life and legacy of **Dr. Juan Ojeda**, St. Augustine College Dean of Students. Sponsorship opportunities are available. The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

## CALLING ALL LEWIS ALUMNI SWEETHEARTS!

**Thank you to the Lewis Sweethearts who responded to our request!** If you haven't, and you and your significant other are Lewis Sweethearts (both of you graduated from Lewis University), please email [alumni@lewisu.edu](mailto:alumni@lewisu.edu) and let us know. We would also love for you to attach a photo from your Lewis days as well as a current couple's photo. If you know of a Lewis Sweetheart pair, please let us know as well. We are offering a special ticket price

(\$100/couple) and are planning a little something special for our Lewis Sweethearts at Signum Fidei on October 19! We want as many Lewis Sweethearts in attendance as possible. **The deadline to submit your Lewis sweetheart photos to be included in the night's celebration is Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.** To register for Signum Fidei at the special rate, [CLICK HERE.](#)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Save the date or register for an upcoming event. We hope to see you soon!

- **Karen Conti Presentation - Wednesday, October 2, 2024:** Karen Conti is a distinguished litigator with 37 years of legal experience and is known for her involvement in high-profile cases. During her presentation, she will speak about her experience as a lawyer, her stance on the death penalty, and the role of women in law. Copies of her book will be available for purchase. The event, sponsored by The College of Education and Social Sciences, will start at 4:30 p.m. in the D'Arcy Great Room SA 119. It is a free event. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)
- **Open Mic Night at Embers – Thursday, October 17, 2024:** Join us at 7:30 p.m. at Embers Tap House (933 S. State St., Lockport, IL). This event is hosted by the English Studies "Jet Fuel Review" and the Music Department and is open to the public. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)
- **Lewis Men's Volleyball Fall Festival Weekend - October 18-19, 2024:** The MVB Legacy Fund Golf Outing will kick off the weekend's activities on Friday with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. at Sanctuary Golf Course in New Lenox. The fun continues the following day with an inter-squad game, Parent & Alumni Potluck Picnic, and alumni game. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#) Afterward, join the greater Lewis community at Signum Fidei (details and registration link above)!
- **Gros Institute Memorial Event - October 22-23, 2024:** The first event, "*Shared Sorrow, Shared Hope: Bereaved Israelis and Palestinians Choose Peace*," will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m. in the University Dining Room. Join bereaved Israeli and Palestinian members of the Forum as they share their stories of loss and their unique choice to work toward reconciliation. Join us on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for a viewing of the film, "Disturbing the Peace," which examines the transitions that many of the members of the group made from combatants to partners for peace. We will pause the film to allow for small group discussion and to consider how the general principles the group embodies are applicable to conflicts in our own lives. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)
- **Friday, October 25, 2024 - Women's Basketball Friends & Family Tip-Off Dinner:** Following the exhibition game vs. University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, join the Women's Basketball team at Salerno's Pizzeria & Sports Bar from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)
- **Women's Volleyball Alumnae Weekend – November 15 & 16, 2024:** Join us in Neil Carey Arena for a weekend of games, food, and friendship as we cheer on the Flyers at two games! We will have food and drinks for our Women's Volleyball alumnae in the Seiler Room during both games. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)
- **Open Mic Night at Embers – Thursday, November 21, 2024:** Join us at 7:30 p.m. at Embers Tap House (933 S. State St., Lockport, IL). This event is hosted by the English Studies "Jet Fuel Review" and the Music Department and is open to the public. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you are someone who supports Lewis University, we invite you to tell us why. We would like to know your story and what drives your generosity toward Lewis! Please share your WHY with us by clicking [HERE](#).

## Did You Receive Mission Fund Assistance When You Attended Lewis?

We would love to hear your impact story if you are willing to share it with us. If so, please email Kathleen Hillsman at [khillsman@lewisu.edu](mailto:khillsman@lewisu.edu).



## HONORING OUR VETERANS & ACTIVE MILITARY AT LEWIS

Again, this Veterans Day, we would like to recognize and honor all active-duty military and veterans connected to our Lewis University community. Please submit the names of the service members you'd like included (living and deceased alumni veterans, family members, and friends). We will honor all those individuals with a flag display at the main entrance to Lewis the week of Veterans Day. There will be a Veterans Day ceremony from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Lewis University hangar, sponsored by Arts & Ideas. More details are forthcoming.

The deadline to submit a name is Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. To submit the name(s), please [CLICK HERE](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Lewis University offers a **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)** program? This unique 10-week program allows students from various disciplines to engage in collaborative research, working closely with faculty mentors on projects specific to their fields. Beyond conducting research, participants come together weekly to discuss essential topics like research ethics, data analysis, scientific writing, and resume building. Students gain hands-on experience that accelerates their academic and research careers, often leading to conference presentations or published work. The program culminates in a research symposium where students showcase their summer accomplishments to the community.

Undergraduate student, Kiersten Smith, and Dr. Daniel Kissel are on a mission to revolutionize Alzheimer's Disease treatment through the research they completed during the SURE program this summer. To hear from Kiersten on her research, [CLICK HERE](#).

## CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

On Sunday, September 29th, Lewis University welcomed students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff to campus for our second annual **Lewis Fest**, and the turnout was incredible! Nearly 600 attendees came together for a day filled with Flyer Fun, including lively activities, a DJ, and a delicious lunch. The celebration featured exciting alumni soccer games for both the



Women's and Men's teams, and the Softball team hosted an exhibition match against Loyola. The day concluded with a beautiful Mass in the Sancta Alberta Chapel, bringing the community together in reflection. It was wonderful to see so many familiar Flyer faces enjoying the day!



**United Aviate** hosted a **Welcome Back Event** for our students on campus on September 4th. Our partnership with United Aviate offers a direct hire pipeline program that gives our students an edge in securing pilot positions. Senior Recruiters for the Aviate & Pilot Hiring Programs explained the process of applying to the United Aviate Program.

United is more than just pilots! Additional presentations were given by United's HR Diversity and Inclusion Director and Network Operations Director which were of interest to the College of Business audience. The presentations involved areas of finance, management, air traffic strategy, modeling and simulations, data and operational analysis, airspace and surface operations and much more!

Approximately 100 students attended presentations by various areas of United Airlines followed by a fun Aviate-hosted barbecue. The event was an opportunity to network with United staff. The opportunities to engage Lewis University with United Airlines are broad and we are excited to explore!



## THE POWER OF A LASALLIAN EDUCATION

Meet Fernanda, a student from Universidade La Salle who spent seven transformative months at Lewis University. During her time here as an international student, Lewis became her home. While working in the College of Business office, she connected with professionals who opened doors to global Lasallian institutions, leading to a summer internship in the marketing department of a multinational company.

Beyond her studies, she embraced every opportunity to explore Chicagoland. Whether ice skating in downtown Chicago, savoring the iconic Giordano's Chicago-style pizza, or improving both her English and Spanish, Fernanda made the most of her experience.

Reflecting on her journey, Fernanda shares, "I have returned home with a heart full of memories that I will carry with me forever. I am in total gratitude to all the people that made this time a lifetime of unforgettable moments. Like we always say: 'Long live Jesus in our hearts, forever!'"

## ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Ari Kissel '23** on his new role as Associate | Trainee X:plore Financial Services at KPMG Deutschland.

Congratulations to Dr. Amanda Harsy, Dr. Alyssa Hoofnagle (Wittenberg University), and three Lewis math major alumni: **Megan Vesta '23**, **Harvey Campos-Chavez '24**, and **Will DeBolt '23**, who had a book chapter published in the *Springer Nature's Handbook of Visual, Experimental and Computational Mathematics: Bridges Through Data*.

Congratulations to **Isaac Jean-Paul '16** on competing for Team USA at the 2024 Paris Paralympics and winning the silver medal in the men's long jump T13.

Congratulations to **Kelly Rohder-Tonelli '15** on being named the 2024 Athena Award recipient by the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to **Dr. Mardy Philippian '20** for joining the editorial board of Edinburgh Critical Studies in Early Modern Literature and Disability.

Congratulations to **Alexxis Johnson '23** on her recent promotion to Assistant Principal for Student Services at Montini Catholic. She joins fellow Lewis alum, **Chris Tiritilli '13**, Principal.

Congratulations to **Julia Lesnicki '24** on her new role as a Digital Platforms Coordinator for the St. Louis Blues.

We sincerely thank **Eric Grunst '22** from FORVIS Mazars, **Danielle Mulligan '23** from Plante Moran, **Nicole Pierwola '24** from Porte Brown LLC, **Mary Lancaster '88** from Wermer, Rogers, Doran and Ruzon and our esteemed Board of Trustee member, as well as **Amber Esparza '19** from Elder Hanson & Company, LTD. for attending the Accounting Fair and serving as recruiters for their respective companies.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Meet Carolyn Brodnicki Serdar '99 '02. At Lewis, Carolyn found a place where she could challenge herself and discover her vocation through supportive experiences like campus ministry and the theater program. She now leads a team that helps students develop skills for today's job market. To learn more about Carolyn's life after Lewis, [CLICK HERE](#).

## FLYERS ATHLETICS

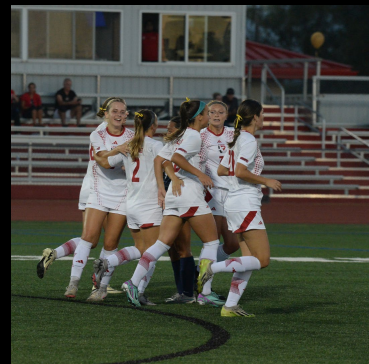
We are thrilled to announce that we are halfway to reaching our





goal of raising \$160,000 through the annual Athletic Funds Campaign. Your generous contributions directly impact the success of our 500+ student-athletes and 23 sports teams, enabling them to excel both in competition and in the classroom. With your continued support, we can elevate our Flyers to even greater heights. To make a gift and contribute to our championship culture, [CLICK HERE](#).

Below are a few photos from the recent Men's and Women's soccer games against Upper Iowa. To stay up-to-date on all things athletics, [CLICK HERE](#).



### INTERESTED IN EARNING AN ADVANCED DEGREE?

Our customizable [MBA](#) is designed for those who aspire to more. Built from 3 career-focused, stackable micro-credentials, you'll gain the specific skills and knowledge you need to move your career forward. What's more, you'll benefit from the connections you make with our alumni, our faculty, and our professional partners, allowing you to take greater ownership of your career trajectory.

[Apply now](#) or contact the Office of Graduate Admission at (815) 836-5610 or [grad@lewisu.edu](mailto:grad@lewisu.edu) to learn more.

### Continuing Education Courses for Career Advancement

Are you looking to advance your career? Lewis University's Continuing Education program offers online courses that are both informative and engaging. Choose from a wide range of topics including leadership, business analysis, marketing, and technology.

Technology is a driving force behind the changing landscape of work. By offering a curriculum focused on the newest technology trends, we prepare our students to leverage these tools for

career advancement. Whether it's mastering data analytics, coding, or digital marketing, our courses provide the technological proficiency required in today's job market.

Our continuing education courses are designed to fit your busy lifestyle, with 24/7 access and flexible start dates. Learn from industry experts and connect with peers in our interactive online discussion areas. Visit our [Continuing Education Catalog](#) or contact our admissions office at [continuinged@lewisu.edu](mailto:continuinged@lewisu.edu) for more details.



## MISSION & MINISTRY

Lewis University invites you to celebrate Mass at the Sancta Alberta Chapel throughout the week. Whether you're a student, alum, or community member, we welcome you to join us. Mass is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m., and Sundays at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcomed!

A reminder the annual Blessing of the Pets at Lewis will take place on October 3rd, at 5 p.m. in the Victoria LaGrippe Meditation Garden (in the San Miguel Center). All are welcome to bring their pets of all kinds! To register for the Blessing of the Pets, [CLICK HERE](#).



events for life long learners

## ARTS & IDEAS

The 2024-25 Theatre Season opens with "Superior Donuts", showing October 3rd-6<sup>th</sup>. **Tickets are on sale NOW!** We look forward to seeing you in the Theatre. To purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

Lewis University's Arts and Ideas program presents an exhilarating array of events this fall semester, featuring a senior capstone exhibit, captivating music performances, and engaging theater productions. To explore further, [CLICK HERE](#).



## TEDx AT LEWIS

Save the date for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual TEDx Lewis University event on March 4, 2025. We are now issuing this call for proposals for our fifth TEDx event. A good TEDx talk presents a unique perspective, experience, or idea that is relatable, relevant, and impactful. It can also be delivered comfortably in 18 minutes or less! **Today is the last day you can submit!**

## FREEWILL



Protect your loved ones by crafting a will through FreeWill. Lewis University has partnered with FreeWill, an easy-to-use online platform that guides you through creating a legally binding will in less than 20 minutes. It's quick, free, and ensures your loved ones' future

security. Plus, you can leave a lasting legacy at Lewis University. To create your free will now [CLICK HERE.](#)

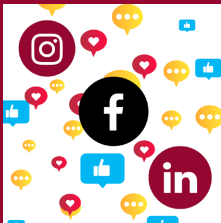
### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE LEWIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

Become an Alumni Representative! Alumni Representatives make a commitment to serve their alma mater with their time, talent, and treasure. Would you like to learn more about the responsibilities of serving as a Lewis U Alumni Rep? [CLICK HERE.](#)

### LOOKING TO MAKE A JOB CHANGE?

To check out Lewis U's Career Services resources for alumni: [CLICK HERE.](#)

Interested in volunteering as a classroom speaker, career advisor, mock interview analyst, or professional resource for students? Or maybe you'd like to represent your company at one of Lewis' job fairs? If so, please email [alumni@lewisu.edu](mailto:alumni@lewisu.edu) and we will connect you!



### CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To check out a comprehensive listing of all of our Lewis U social media channels, [CLICK HERE.](#) Like and follow the Alumni social media pages to receive updates on upcoming events and stories from Alumni.

### ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Register or update your information in our Lewis Alumni Directory! This is a great way to connect with classmates and network with fellow Flyers. To update your information or register, [CLICK HERE.](#)

### LEWIS U NEWS

To check out all the latest news from Lewis U, [CLICK HERE.](#)

### MAKE A GIFT

Consider making a gift to Lewis University and change a life in the process! There is no greater gift than an education, particularly one rooted in Lasallian values. To choose your impact area and make a gift, please [CLICK HERE.](#)

Questions? Please email Kathleen Hillsman in the Alumni Office at [khillsman@lewisu.edu](mailto:khillsman@lewisu.edu).



