

LEWIS ALUMNI & FRIENDS

# MONTHLY JET-SETTER

Alumni and Friends,

Another exciting academic year is underway at Lewis University! With new students starting their journey and returning students eager to reach new milestones, the energy on campus is inspiring. We recently had the pleasure of welcoming our Flyers back, and we look forward to a year filled with learning and community. Stay engaged with us through events and other opportunities!

## 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.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

## CALLING ALL LEWIS ALUMNI SWEETHEARTS!

**Thank you to all of the Lewis Sweethearts who have responded to our recent 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. 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!

- **Flyers Baseball Golf Outing - Saturday, September 7, 2024:** We are sorry, but our golf outing has reached capacity. Hole sponsorship opportunities are still available! To sponsor this event, [CLICK HERE](#).
- **"Why World History Needs Rewriting—Constantly" - Friday, September 27, 2024:** As a part of the Sczepaniak Endowed Lecture Series, Tamin Ansary, an Afghan-American author and public speaker, will present to the Lewis University Community at 6 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo's Convocation Hall. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#).
- **Lewis Fest 2024 - Sunday, September 29, 2024:** Lewis University students, families, and alumni are cordially invited to our 2nd annual celebration of Lewis Fest! Join us for games, activities, a DJ, Lewis experiences, lunch, Flyers Men's and Women's Alumni Soccer games, and Mass at 5 p.m. in the Sancta Alberta Chapel. Check - in begins at 11 a.m. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#).
- **Flyers Alumni Soccer Games - Sunday, September 29, 2024:** Cheer on Lewis University Women's and Men's Soccer teams as they take on Truman State. The women's game starts at noon followed by the men's game at 2:30 p.m. There will be a free giveaway for all fans! Lewis soccer alumni will have a special tent with drinks and snacks during the game. Men's Soccer alumni will take on the reserve players after the game! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#).
- **Softball Exhibition Game – Sunday, September 29, 2024:** Cheer on Lewis' Softball team during an exhibition game against Loyola. The game will begin at noon at the Lewis University Softball Field and there will be free snacks & water for Softball alumnae. [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. The fun continues 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.](#)
- **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).



## MISSION & MINISTRY

Lewis celebrates Mass at the Sancta Alberta Chapel several times each week. Join us! Mass times are Monday and Wednesday at noon, Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday Mass is celebrated at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

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.](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Do you ever wonder about the people with names on our Romeoville campus buildings? Many are named after De La Salle Christian Brothers who served our institution and the Seiler Room is one of those places.

Brother Louis de La Salle Seiler was the first Dean of Lewis College, and his greatest accomplishment during the early years of the Christian Brothers' leadership was his work to achieve North Central Association accreditation for the College in 1963. His self-study report was so outstanding that the North Central Association designated it a model for other colleges and universities to emulate. The Seiler Room is located in the JFK Student Recreation and Sports Center.

## CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

On Wednesday, August 21st, our dedicated alumni welcomed first-year students to Lewis. Our alumni volunteers participated in First-Year Student Move-In Day, helping new Flyers settle into their residence halls. A heartfelt thank you to Michael Arrigo '24, Buffy Blanton '13 '18, Leticia Damian '18, Josephine Herrera-Rivera '16, Tyler Johnson '15, Penske Truck Leasing, and current student Jinane Chahine for all the assistance!



As a part of Welcome Week, on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Lewis University Community created a "Cheer Tunnel" at The Encounter to welcome new students. A walk through "The Encounter" is a tradition at Lewis and is a metaphor for the mission-inspired transformation that we hope students experience during their time at Lewis University. The Lewis experience is an opportunity for students to search for meaning and purpose in their lives. Welcome class of 2028 to Lewis!



## THANKS FOR STOPPING BY OUR EAA EVENT

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our Lewis U Alumni booth at EAA in Oshkosh at the end of July! Saturday evening's alumni gathering was a perfect chance to connect and celebrate our shared love for aviation! Congratulations to **Chris Banasik '99**, our swag raffle basket winner. We hope to see you again at next year's event!

## ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Melissa Washington '91** for her recent election as the new Board Chair for Leadership Greater Chicago, the region's premier civic leadership development organization.

Congratulations to alumnus, **Larry Kane '15** on becoming the Buffalo Grove Fire Department's new Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Gedzyk-Nieman '04 '17**, who was recently appointed Assistant Dean, Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs at Duke University School of Nursing.

Congratulations to **William Johnson '10** who was named the new Executive Director for the Elgin Area School District U-46.

Congratulations to **Rachel Stella '13** who accepted a position as Director of Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization at St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Congratulations to **Marc Loftus '14** who has been nominated for appointment to Chief of Police in the Village of Burr Ridge.

Shout-out to former Lewis faculty member, Marc Smith and **Mark Eleveld '95 '97!** Check out this fantastic story about these two gentlemen and their collaboration in the podcast realm. Marc Smith taught a "Slam Poetry" class at Lewis in 1992 and, during that time, taught student, Mark Eleveld in his class. Marc Smith continues to play a pivotal role in Chicago's poetry scene. To learn more about this Flyer collaboration, [CLICK HERE](#).

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, Lewis University's Aviation and Transportation Department experienced a "blast from the past!" Roger Hougham, who turned 95 years old in August,

returned to campus to revisit his aviation roots. Hougham attended Lewis from 1954 to 1955 and served as a flight instructor at Lewis from 1955 to 1956. He and his friends, Bill Arbogast (who also attended Lewis and served as a Certified Flight Instructor in the 50's), and Doug Reeves, all with the Prairie Aviation Museum in Bloomington, Illinois, made the trip to Lewis in honor of Roger's upcoming birthday.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT HIS VISIT.](#)



### FLYERS ATHLETICS

Our Annual Athletic Funds Campaign has launched! Your support empowers our 500+ student-athletes and 23 sports teams as they pursue excellence both on and off the field. Together, we can help our Flyers soar to new heights. To make a gift and contribute to our championship culture, [CLICK HERE.](#)

To stay up-to-date on all things athletics, [CLICK HERE.](#)



### Lewis University Softball

This June, the Lewis University Softball Team enjoyed an international team trip to Italy! The Flyers played a number of games while travelling, learning, eating Italian cuisine, and enjoying "la Dolce Vita" (the Sweet Life). Thank you to all those who helped make this dream trip possible by supporting Lewis' Softball Team.

To read more about their journey, [CLICK HERE.](#)



## INTERESTED IN EARNING AN ADVANCED DEGREE?

Let us help you open new doors! Education is key to success. With a Lewis University graduate degree or certificate, you can acquire the in-demand skills that make employers sit up and take notice. Our faculty members provide the personal attention that will help you gain the skills and knowledge necessary to impact the world for the better. Whether you're looking to further your career in Healthcare, Technology, Education, Aviation, or Business, discover how we can help you achieve your goals. Check out our [list of programs](#) or contact us at (815) 836-5610 or [grad@lewisu.edu](mailto:grad@lewisu.edu).

## Advance Your Skills with Expert Led Continuing Education Courses

Imagine enhancing your professional skills and achieving your career goals from the comfort of your home. Lewis University's online Continuing Education courses offer the perfect solution with flexible schedules and cutting-edge topics.

Lifelong learning is no longer optional but a necessity. As automation and AI transform the workplace, employees must continually update their skills. According to the Pew Research Center, 87% of workers believe that continuous learning and training are crucial for keeping up with changes in the workplace. Lewis University provides a variety of Continuing Education courses that support lifelong learning and career development.

Our courses include project-oriented lessons, quizzes, and hands-on assignments to ensure a comprehensive learning experience. With new sessions starting monthly, there's no better time to invest in your future. Visit our [Continuing Education Catalog](#) or contact our admissions office at [continuinged@lewisu.edu](mailto:continuinged@lewisu.edu) for more details.

## ARTS & IDEAS



The Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Gallery's upcoming exhibit, *Motherwell, Melanesia, & Monsters* from the Private Collection of Mike Sobczyk, will be open to view starting August 26 through September 20. There will be a Reception and Gallery Talk on September 5 from 7-9 p.m.

**Mike Sobczyk** graduated from Lewis College (now Lewis University) in 1970. He became interested in ethnographic art, mostly from New Guinea, by frequently visiting the Field Museum from a young age. Mike gained more knowledge about New Guinea and contemporary art when a friend recommended that he visit several

Chicago art galleries. This exhibition consists of works collected from the late 1970s through the present time.

## ATTENTION MAY 2024 GRADUATES

We want to hear about your life after Lewis! Share your journey by completing our Alumni Survey, and stay connected with all things Lewis University—events, reunions, career fairs, and more. Plus, you'll score a bumper sticker and a chance to win some Lewis swag!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY.](#)



Save the date  
**March 4,  
2025**

7 p.m. | Philip Lynch Theater | Reception to follow

**TED<sup>x</sup>**  
**Lewis University**

x = independently organized TED event

## 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!

The deadline to submit a proposal is October 1<sup>st</sup>. To submit a proposal, [CLICK HERE.](#)

## 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.](#)



### STAY TUNED...

In next month's edition of the Jet-setter, we'll begin collecting names for our special flag display to honor veterans within the Lewis community. Keep an eye out for the link next month to submit the names of those you'd like to be recognized.

## **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).

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