

LEWIS ALUMNI & FRIENDS

MONTHLY JET-SETTER



Members of the Lewis Alumni Office team meet 'Fitz the Flyer,' at Convocation.

Alumni and Friends:

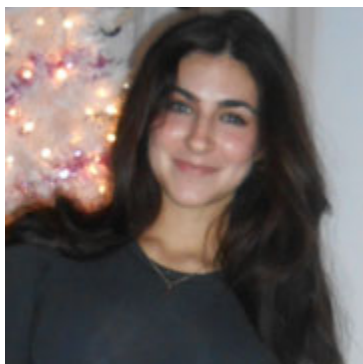
Here in the Alumni Office, the summer gives us the perfect opportunity to take stock of our engagement efforts and refocus our attention on providing varied opportunities for you to socialize, learn, and grow within the Lewis community. Coming up this fall, we invite you and your family to join us for **Lewis Fest**, a fun day of family-centered activities on our Romeoville campus. Or, plan a special evening out at **Signum Fidei**, being held this year at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills, and do some good by helping our most vulnerable students served by the Mission Fund. There are engaging lectures, the **Gros Institute Memorial Event**, art exhibits, plays, even a campus conversation with a retired **U.S. Navy's Blue Angel**, among many other campus activities planned. We invite you to take advantage of all Lewis has to offer you!

On Tuesday, August 19, Lewis leadership, faculty, and staff gathered for Convocation in the fieldhouse to reconnect and officially begin the 2025 - 2026 academic year. Just as the day was getting underway, a surprise visitor, "Fitz the Flyer," made his big debut as Lewis University's new mascot! To meet Fitz for yourself, [**CLICK HERE!**](#)

This year we have three excellent Graduate Assistants working in the Alumni Office and we think this is a perfect time to introduce them:

MEET OUR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS (GA's)

Alexa Varchetto (GA Data Management Team)



Hometown: Burr Ridge, IL

High School Attended: Lyons Township

Undergrad Major: Psychology and Criminal Justice

Grad Degree Pursuing: Master of Social Work (MSW)

Professional Aspiration: Mental Health Clinician/ Social Worker with First Responders

Why I Chose Lewis: I chose Lewis for the small class sizes and to get to know my professors and peers better.

Favorite Place on Campus: Benilde Hall

Sarah May (GA Communications Team)



Hometown: Elmhurst, IL

High School Attended: York Community High School

Undergrad Major: Exercise Science and Psychology

Grad Degree Pursuing: Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT)

Professional Aspiration: Pediatric or Acute Care Occupational Therapist

Why I Chose Lewis: I chose Lewis for its strong sense of community and the many opportunities that support my aspirations. When visiting, everyone I met was so welcoming, and it instantly felt like home.

Favorite Place on Romeoville Campus: The healthcare labs in South Hall

Anything else you'd like to share? I'm very grateful to be a part of the University Advancement team and work with such an amazing group!

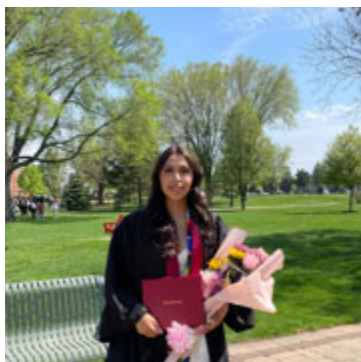
Almaraz "Alma" Barcenas (GA Scholarships)

Hometown: Joliet, IL

High School Attended: Joliet Central High School

Undergrad Major: Psychology

Grad Degree Pursuing: Master of Social Work (MSW)

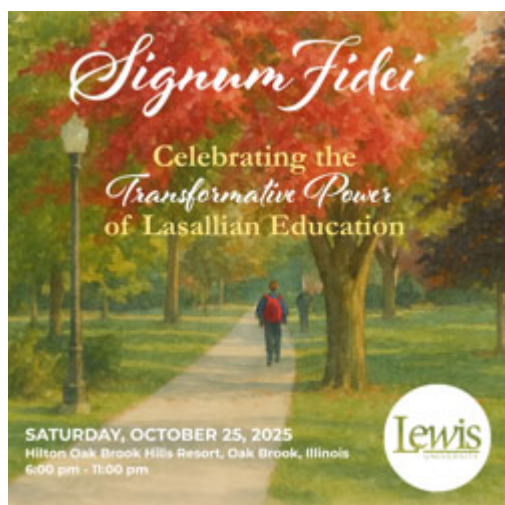


Professional Aspiration: My professional aspiration is to become a licensed social worker after earning my MSW. As a first-generation college student, I'm passionate about providing compassionate support, advocating for underserved communities, and helping others navigate complex systems.

Why I Chose Lewis: I chose Lewis University because of my positive experience I had as an undergraduate student. The professors genuinely care about their students, take a hands-on approach to teaching, and offer strong support to help students succeed both academically and professionally.

Favorite Place on Romeoville Campus: My favorite place on the Lewis campus is the Nature Trail. It's a great spot to relax, recharge, and connect with nature!

FEATURED EVENT



Signum Fidei: Celebrating the Transformative Power of Lasallian Education - If you are an educator, this is the night we celebrate YOU! We are excited to honor the unique impact of those who have chosen to teach at Lewis University and those who have graduated from Lewis and are using their talents in education (including coaches and retired teachers as well). Our Lasallian educators ARE Signum Fidei (the Sign of Faith) for so many and we hope you will join us in celebrating them as we support Lewis University's Mission Fund!

Join us **Saturday, October 25, 2025** at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills for an open bar, full dinner with reserved seating, inspiring program, and plenty of dancing. "Maggie Speaks," the band that performed for us at the House of Blues, will provide the music. Sponsorships are

available, and **discounted tickets are being offered for educators and young alumni**. There will even be a special gift for each Lasallian educator who attends. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Baseball Golf Outing – Saturday, September 6, 2025: Our day on the links at Wedgewood Golf Course in support of Lewis University Baseball is sold out! If you'd like to support Flyers Baseball as a hole sponsor, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



A Black Film & Dialogue Series on Resistance and Reclamation – Wednesday, September 17, 2025: Join the Office of Lasallian Belonging, the Legacies of American Slavery project, the Sociology Department, and the African American Studies program for the launch of "Refusing Silence: A Black Film & Dialogue Series on Resistance and Reclamation," a three-part co-curricular film and dialogue series inspired by Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson's powerful work. The first film will be shown on September 17th with others to follow. To register for the series, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



Prospective Student Visit Day - Saturday, September 20, 2025: Can you spare a few volunteer hours to help out with check-in and accompany prospective students on campus tours? Nobody can answer questions about Lewis better than our alumni! If you'd like to help, please contact Brandon McGhee at mcgheebr@lewisu.edu.



College of Aviation, Science, and Technology Lecture with U.S. Navy (Retired) Blue Angel, Russ Bartlett - Wednesday, September 24, 2025: Join Lewis University's College of Aviation, Science, and Technology for a guest lecture by Captain Russ Bartlett, U.S. Navy (retired). Russ became a combat-seasoned F/A-18 Hornet pilot and was a squadron commander twice. Join us as Russ shares his experiences as a Blue Angel. To register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



College of Aviation, Science, and Technology Guest Lecture: Dr. Venkat Srinivasan - Thursday, October 2, 2025: Lewis University's CoAST welcomes Dr. Venkat Srinivasan of Argonne National Laboratory to campus to discuss recent advances in energy storage technologies. Dr. Srinivasan coordinates energy storage activities at Argonne, and fosters collaborations between National Laboratories, industry, and academia, to translate lab innovations into market impact. To register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



Lewis Fest – Saturday, October 4, 2025: Join us for our third annual Lewis Fest, a day filled with Flyer fun for students, families, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends! In addition to lunch, there will be plenty of activities including a bounce house, airbrush tattoos, DJ, performance by the Flyer Spirit Squad, caricatures, henna art, and Women's Volleyball game against Upper Iowa! Join us at the Alumni Office's no sew blanket station and help make blankets for the Student Wellness Center! To register for Lewis Fest, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



Men's Volleyball Fall Festival Weekend – Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11, 2025: Join us for the MVB Fall Festival, a fun weekend of MVB connection and community. The weekend kicks off Friday with the annual MVB Legacy Endowment Golf Outing at Sanctuary Golf Course, followed by a Red/White scrimmage that evening at Neil Carey Arena. There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available! On Saturday, the MVB potluck picnic will be held on the University Green, followed by an alumni game at Neil Carey Arena. To register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



Lewis Crossover – Saturday, October 11, 2025: Calling all Cross Country alumni and Flyer fans! Join us as we cheer on our Cross Country men and women, enjoy refreshments at our alumni tent, and catch up with fellow Flyers. To register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



Gros Institute Memorial Event – Wednesday, October 15, 2025: Join us for a two-part event hosted by the Gros Institute. Part one is focused on the 100-Year Vision for Dismantling the Law of Colonialism. Part two is focused on Organizing for Systems Change and Repair. To learn more and register, please [CLICK HERE.](#)



Women's Soccer Alumnae Game & Cornerstone Award Presentation – Friday, October 17, 2025: Join us in the alumnae tent with free food and drink as the team takes on Drury! At halftime, we will present the Cornerstone Award. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Men's Soccer Alumnae Game – Sunday, October 19, 2025: Join your fellow Men's Soccer alumni in the alumni tent as you cheer on the Flyers as they take on University of Missouri - St. Louis. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Fall Sczepaniak 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. 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 old WVB teammates and make some new friends. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The Office of Lasallian Belonging invites you to a powerful series of events this fall and beyond—highlighting stories, scholarship, and social justice. We hope you'll join us for these meaningful experiences, in person or online. Space may be limited, so be sure to register in advance. To view a full listing of events and register, click [HERE](#).

The Philip Lynch Theatre has announced four shows for the upcoming 2025-2026 season. The shows include "Trouble in Mind," "Airness," "They Promised Her the Moon" and "Sister Act." To learn more about the shows and get a the full schedule, click [HERE](#).

CAMPUS NEWS



Move-In Day

On Wednesday, August 20, we proudly welcomed the newest members of the Flyer family to campus. It was a day full of excitement, energy, and smiles as students began their Lewis experience.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our alumni, **Nora Dalton, Leticia Damian, Theresa Hambrick, Tyler Jankowski, Grace Petersen, Kamila Rincon, and Mark Petnuch**, who generously volunteered their time and enthusiasm to make Move-In Day a success—your support helps create a welcoming start for our newest Flyers!

Pilgrimage to The Encounter

As part of Welcome Week on Thursday, August 21, Lewis faculty and staff came together to line the sidewalks and greet the Class of 2029 during the cherished tradition, the Pilgrimage to The Encounter. This walk symbolizes the beginning of each student's unique Lewis experience, guided by the Lasallian Mission and values that have brought them here. Each year, it is a meaningful ritual that fosters a sense of belonging and marks the beginning of each student's journey as a Flyer.



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. In addition, we invite you to join us for a special Mass of the Holy Spirit on Wednesday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. in Convocation Hall. As we begin a new year of learning, studying, and growing together, this Mass offers an opportunity for all to recognize

God's presence in our lives and join in prayerful unity. All are welcome—regardless of faith tradition—to gather in prayer, reflection, and community.

Mission Trip to the Philippines

From June 8 to June 22, 2025, with the support of generous donors, five students and five faculty/staff members from Lewis, traveled to Bacolod City, Philippines to build community, serve those in need, and experience a new culture. Throughout the two-week trip, the group stayed at the retreat center at LaSalle University and helped build a home for a family of four in Gawad Kalinga Village, managing to do it two days ahead of schedule. The also spent time with members of the community, learning about their culture, and cooking local cuisine. One trip highlight was visiting homes built by Lewis Mission Trip participants over the past 15 years and distributing gifts collected during Mission & Ministry's Christmas Giving Tree. Before returning to the U.S., the group gifted 2000 lbs. of rice to the Gawad Kalinga Village community, enough to feed 102 families for two weeks.

If you are interested in making a gift toward the next Mission Trip to the Philippines, please **[CLICK HERE](#)**. **If you are interested in potentially participating in the annual Mission Trip to the Philippines next year, please email alumni@lewisu.edu. We are currently exploring the possibility of including a limited number of alumni on this trip.**



Newest Home Built in June by Lewis Mission Trip Participants in Gawad Kalinga Village, Philippines



June 2025 Mission Trip Team



Peer Ministers

Meet our 2025–26 Peer Ministers, pictured on the left! These student leaders are dedicated to fostering the spiritual, emotional, and social growth of their peers—meeting students where they are and encouraging them to take steps in their faith journey. They serve our community by facilitating retreats, leading Bible studies, and creating spaces for meaningful interfaith dialogue.

FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to **Dr. Steve Sherwin** (Assistant Professor, JLPSS) on recently publishing his book, *A Guide to Meditation Training*.

Congratulations to **Dr. Mike McFerron** (Chair of Music) on his original electroacoustic composition "Motion in Flow" for fixed media being selected for an October performance at Queens Tape Music Festival in Astoria, New York.

Congratulations to **Dr. Arvie Vitente** (program director, Doctor of Physical Therapy program) on becoming an associate editor for the *Journal of Innovation in Health Sciences Education*.

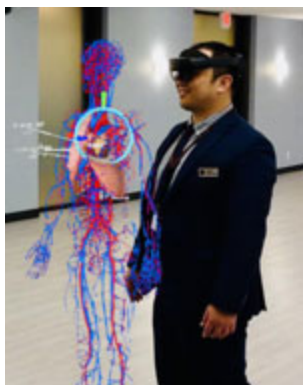
Congratulations to **Drs. Amanda Harsy, Marie Meyer, Adam Schultze, and Brittany Stephenson** (Mathematics faculty), who presented and organized various sessions at the MAA Mathfest.

Dr. Jerry Kavouras (Chair of Biology) shares the latest news, awards, and student stories from the Lewis University Biology Department in their annual newsletter. Click [HERE](#) to access.

NEW SEASON, NEW PLAN



September marks a season of fresh starts—a time to reset, refocus, and prepare for what's ahead. As you check off back-to-school lists and settle into new routines, take just 20 minutes to create your **FREE will** through FreeWill. It's a simple, meaningful way to protect the people you love and, if you choose, leave a lasting legacy at Lewis University. Much like the first page of a brand-new notebook, this moment offers a clean slate—and the peace of mind that comes with knowing your future is planned. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



EXPLORE GRADUATE DEGREES AT LEWIS

Discover new career possibilities with our brand-new [Doctor of Physical Therapy](#) program. By working hand-in-hand with faculty, you'll be trained to become a preferred practitioner making a meaningful difference in the lives of people in various communities and populations. You can train in Acute Care, Orthopedics, Neurorehabilitation, or a niche practice of your choosing. [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 mcgheeb@lewisu.edu.



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

Meet **Samantha Renovato '10**. From first-generation college student to Global Leader in Inclusion & Belonging and Community Impact at Ingredion, Samantha Renovato '10 has built a career rooted in the Lasallian values that first drew her to Lewis. Her journey—shaped by mentors, student involvement, and real-world experience—set her on a path to impact lives around the world while staying grounded in community and service. [Read more](#) about how Samantha is living out Lewis Mission values in both her professional and personal life.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Rachel Stella '13** who married Dante Frustini May 10, 2025 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rockdale, Illinois.

Congratulations to **Kevin Schillinger '22** on starting a new position as Marketing Specialist at Summa America.

Congratulations to **Caitlin Winckler '23** on starting a new position as the Media and Content Specialist at Naperville Community Unit School District 203.

FLYER FAVORITES (NEW!)

Flyers, Share Your Summer Reads!

Don't you love a good book recommendation? We want to hear from you. Give us your top five best reads from summertime '25 so we can share the top picks with your fellow Flyers. Next month, we'll share the top submissions here in the *Jet-setter*. Share your favorites by clicking [HERE](#). Each month we will feature a different "Flyer Favorite" category so stay tuned.

FLYERS ATHLETICS



On August 25, the Lewis University Athletic Department proudly launched its Athletics Annual Funds Campaign. This initiative fuels the success of more than 500 student-athletes, providing the resources they need to excel in competition, in the classroom, and in the community. Your generosity helps

strengthen our championship culture and inspires our Flyers to reach new heights. To learn more, click [HERE](#).



ARTS & IDEAS



Lewis University's Arts & Ideas program is back this fall with an exciting lineup of events! From engaging gallery talks and art exhibitions, to captivating theatrical performances, there's something for everyone. Click [HERE](#) to explore the full schedule of fall programming.

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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