

# LINDENWOOD

Spring 2006



## The Connection

Lindenwood University  
St. Charles, MO

## Arts Center Construction Changing LU Landscape



LU President Dennis Spellmann and National Alumni Board President Cortney Hupper check out construction progress on the new Fine and Performing Arts Center. (story Page 2).

## LU Seeks Gifts to Match \$1 Million Mabee Grant

The only visual elements of construction on Lindenwood's \$32 million Fine and Performing Arts center thus far are the footings and the foundation. All of this will change this summer when work begins on the massive 10-story concrete wall that will be the backbone of the center's theater. Construction of the 132,000 square foot building is expected to take two years.

The Fine and Performing Arts Center is the cornerstone of Lindenwood's new capital campaign, "Create the Future: People, Programs and Facilities." Lindenwood has received a \$1 million challenge grant toward the funding of the new building from the J. L. and L. E. Mabee Foundation. The University must raise \$3 million by May 31, 2006, in order to receive the \$1 million award. There are naming opportunities available in the new center, and pledges are being accepted. For more information about how you can help us meet our goal, call Chief Development Officer Mike Eschbach at 636-949-4858.

A 1,200-seat main auditorium will be the signature element of the new center, and it will be host to theater, music, dance and other productions. The structure will boast a main gallery to showcase student art and professional exhibits, and double as a reception area for events scheduled in the main auditorium.



Workmen are busy with foundations and footings at the site of Lindenwood University's \$32 million Fine and Performing Arts Center.

While showcasing entertainment will be the primary function of the center, the building will provide a world-class hands-on learning environment for future educators, scholars and technicians. There will be large and medium sized classrooms, a 150-seat black-box theater, music practice rooms, a fashion design studio, a production design studio, a high-tech video suite, and vocal and instrumental music halls.

## Lindenwood Enrollment to Hit 16,000 This Year

Enrollment at Lindenwood University's main campus is thriving and anchors enrollment throughout the Lindenwood network of campuses, which is expected to top 16,000 in the next academic year.

President Dennis Spellmann said the main campus residential enrollment this fall will hit 3,400. He said about 1,600 commuters boost the main campus enrollment to 5,000.

"We fully expect to have a waiting list for housing this summer," said Spellmann. "Retention is better than it has ever been, and enrollment of new students is at an all-time high."

Spellmann said Lindenwood's solid academics and its beautiful campus are the reasons for the steady increases each year.

He also cited growth at Lindenwood's Belleville campus, and the addition of a campus in Florissant along with strong growth in teacher education sites as

reasons for growth in Lindenwood's network.

"I don't see this lessening," he said. "The need for education remains strong with the constant change occurring in the workforce...mid-career tune-ups and career changes."

**"We fully expect to have a waiting list for housing this summer. Retention is better than it has ever been, and enrollment of new students is at an all-time high."**

--President Spellmann

## Commencement May 19-20 at Performance Arena

More than 2,000 degrees will be conferred at Lindenwood University's commencement ceremonies in 2006. Graduate students will receive their diplomas during the graduate student commencement and baccalaureate service on May 19. Undergraduates will receive their diplomas at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 20. Both events will be held at the Hyland Performance Arena on the Lindenwood campus.

The Rev. David M. Blunt, pastor at Church on the Rock in St. Peters, MO, will be the baccalaureate speaker. Blunt and his wife, Kim, started the charismatic, non-denominational church in 1983. It now has more than 5,000 members.



Rev. David M. Blunt, pastor at Church on the Rock

Throughout both his local church and Principles for Life television broadcasts, Blunt's insights into the Word challenge and inspire believers to grow to new levels in their relationship with God and their service to others.

Robert N. Wildrick, president, director and CEO of Joseph A. Bank Clothiers, Inc., will give the commencement address on Saturday. Wildrick turned around Joseph A. Bank Clothiers in 1999 and made it into one of the leading names in menswear today. Wildrick is listed as one of the 100 Most Influential Executives, and his company's stock performance has been in the top one percent of all stocks on NASDAQ for the past five years.



Robert N. Wildrick, CEO, Joseph A. Bank Clothiers

## Mayor York to Receive Alumni Merit Award

Patricia M. (Patti) York, the mayor of Lindenwood's hometown, the City of St. Charles, MO, will be the recipient of this year's Alumni Merit Award for Professional Accomplishment. The honor will be bestowed at the baccalaureate/graduate commencement ceremony on May 19. Elected to a four-year term as mayor in 1999, she was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2003. She is a proud Lindenwood graduate, a dedicated public servant and active volunteer.

No longer a sleepy river town, the City of St. Charles is nationally recognized as a progressive, growing city of 65,000 people, which is rich in history and tradition. As Mayor, York administers an \$89 million budget, works with the 10 City council members, directs a city administrator, 11 departments and over 500 employees. A thriving tourism industry, a riverfront casino, high-tech industry and a new Convention Center have added to the tax base of the city in recent years.

A summa cum laude graduate of Lindenwood University with a Bachelor of Science degree in communications, York also received a master's degree in communications with a 4.0 GPA from Lindenwood. She is an adjunct professor of communications in Lindenwood's LCIE program, an advanced, accelerated and challenging format of study.

York was a flight attendant for Ozark Airlines and served as the state coordinator of the Missouri La Leche League.

She was a bed and breakfast consultant for several years, and owned the St. Charles Elegant Bed and Breakfast. Her establishment was named one of the top 12 destinations by the *Chicago Tribune* editors in 1992. York owned and was president of The Main Street Group, a public relations and marketing firm in downtown St. Charles.



St. Charles Mayor Patti York

Always an active volunteer in St. Charles and area organizations and causes, York was recently appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. She serves as President of the Missouri Municipal League, is a member of the Executive Board of the St. Louis Metro Mayors group, and founded a regional Women Mayors group which meets quarterly for discussions regarding issues facing cities and towns headed by women mayors.

Four members of the York family are Lindenwood graduates: Patti, her husband, Lionel, and her sons Colin and Adrian. Adrian, who was serving in Iraq when he earned his undergraduate degree, will receive his master's degree this year. Her daughter, Lynette, attended her freshman year.

## Visiting Professor Teaches Mandarin Chinese



LU students (from left) Jamie Marten, Jennifer Lupia, Erin Craig, John McCarver and Robyn Johnson with Professor Martin Ma (second from right).

Lindenwood University students have a special opportunity in 2006-07—they have the chance to take a class in Mandarin Chinese from visiting professor Martin Ma.

Ma is a soft-spoken, friendly instructor with not only a desire to teach, but a desire to learn. And he has learned plenty from his Lindenwood students in a very short time on campus.

“The focus at Lindenwood is on the student,” he said. “Teaching here is very participatory. The way of teaching is very different for me and I have definitely changed my style of teaching since coming here.”

## Coming Home: Alum Excited About Teaching at Alma Mater

Sometimes, the shoe fits. In Cynthia Bice’s case, it’s a perfect fit.

Bice (LU Class of ’91) has spent the last six years as a professor in the education department at Drury University in Springfield, MO. Three days a week, she climbs in her car and commutes to Springfield from her Wentzville, MO home. It’s a four-hour drive.

So when Lindenwood’s Dean of Education, Rick Boyle, called about a job interview, Bice jumped at the chance to join LU’s fast-growing and highly-respected Education Program.

Her excitement wasn’t only about the possibility of ending that long commute. She confessed she was delighted about the opportunity to come back to Lindenwood and teach at her alma mater.

“Lindenwood was here for me in 1989 when I needed help,” said Bice, who worked for Eastern Airlines at the time. “The atmosphere was encouraging and supportive. I got a chance to go back to my first love, teaching.”

Ma said that when he returns to China, he will keep focused on students and a participatory classroom. He plans to share what he has learned by writing two books—one a textbook and another on cultural differences.

“In China, there are 50 to 80 students in each class,” Ma said. “Group work is seldom done, and all learning is done by memorizing. That’s quite different from Lindenwood, where students participate and are involved in their classes.”

Ma has taught English in China for 17 years. He will continue to teach at Lindenwood through next year while he earns his master’s degree.

“I am so impressed with everything here at Lindenwood and I love it already,” said Ma. “The campus is amazingly beautiful and the students are well-behaved. The faculty and staff are friendly and work in such a respectable manner.”

Ma says he misses his family and his native cuisine, but is thankful to be at Lindenwood. He was especially grateful to Lindenwood President Dennis Spellmann for creating this opportunity.

“He created a miracle to make it possible for a poor village boy from rural China to work and study in the United States,” said Ma.

Bice completed her bachelor’s degree in elementary education at LU. She received a master’s degree in professional and educational counseling at Central Missouri State University, and earned her Ed.D. in executive leadership and educational administration at St. Louis University.

Bice begins her job at Lindenwood on June 1, but her heart is already on campus.

“I’ve already recruited a couple of students,” said Bice,

who is married and has two daughters. “It’s like a fairy tale. I can’t wait to start my career at Lindenwood.”



Lindenwood Professor Cynthia Bice and Education Dean Rick Boyle.

## Mathews' Generous Donation Funds Residence Hall

Board of Directors member Joe Mathews will make a lasting mark on the Lindenwood campus this summer when the University dedicates Mathews residence hall.

He said that he is honoring his family with the naming of the building – two of his children and a son-in-law are LU graduates. “Lindenwood is a success story, and I especially like the fact that I am helping students,” he said.

Mathews gets a grin on his face when he talks about what convinced him to take a seat on Lindenwood’s Board of Directors in 1995. “That’s easy,” he says. “It was Dennis Spellmann and his approach to higher education. He doesn’t want anything to do with government giveaway programs. He is independent and entrepreneurial and I knew that if the members of the Board of Directors were anything like the President I would enjoy serving.”



Joe Mathews

Mathews has a hard time hiding his favorite causes -- Lindenwood and animal safety. Interviewed in his Lake St. Louis office, the walls are covered with picture of horses and other animals as well as Lindenwood memorabilia.

The head of Mathews and Associates, he also runs Sunny Ranch, a “retirement home” for horses. He and his wife, Gwen, recently donated three acres of property to house the new Warren County Animal Shelter.



## President given Community Impact Award

Lindenwood University President Dennis Spellmann has received the prestigious Community Impact Award given annually by the St. Charles County Economic Development Council.

Longtime Lindenwood friend Harlan Pals introduced the president and presented the award, which was given to honor Lindenwood and President Spellmann for their economic and cultural impact on St. Charles County.

“Dr. Spellmann has played a phenomenal role in the growth and development and superb quality of life we enjoy in St. Charles County,” said EDC President Greg Prestemon. “This award is well deserved on many levels and we are honored by our organization’s longtime association with Dr. Spellmann and Lindenwood University.”



President Dennis Spellmann

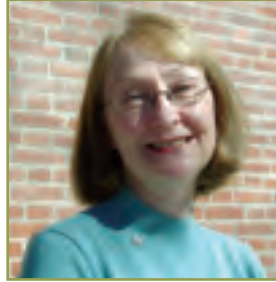
Among Spellmann’s numerous accomplishments mentioned were the dramatic increase in enrollment over the past decade, the university’s huge economic impact on the region, Lindenwood’s recent \$125 million investment in St. Charles to expand the University, and Lindenwood’s \$32 million Fine and Performing Arts Center, which is currently under construction.

“I am honored to receive this award for Lindenwood,” said Spellmann. “The University is a growing, thriving part of this wonderful county, which we can all be proud of.”

## Two Professors Are Honored for Teaching Excellence

Lindenwood has many outstanding professors, which one might expect from a teaching university. However, two have been honored this year for going above and beyond the call of duty in their service to Lindenwood students.

Dr. Jann Weitzel, dean of humanities and an education professor, received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Weitzel earned her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Northern Iowa and her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She teaches in both the Humanities and Education divisions.



Humanities Dean  
Jann Weitzel

Also honored this year was David Arns, associate professor of marketing. He received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award.

Arns joined the Lindenwood University faculty in 1999 after working more than 25 years in the field of marketing. He brings to the classroom special knowledge in the areas of public relations, public affairs, media relations, media literacy, fundraising, strategic planning, and effective communication. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1972 and a master's degree in mass communication from SIU-Edwardsville in 1988. Congratulations to Professor Arns and Dr. Weitzel on outstanding contributions to Lindenwood.



Robert M. Cox, Jr., senior vice president of administration with Emerson, presents the Emerson Excellence in Teaching award to Marketing Professor David Arns.

## LU Converging on New Journalism Degree

A new journalism program offering a bachelor's degree in the field will be introduced to the Lindenwood curriculum this fall. The journalism course of study will focus on the new trend of "converged" media, said Journalism Program Manager and Assistant Professor Julie Beard.

"As society becomes more electronic, it is imperative that students learn to write for many types of media," said Beard, a former KSDK-TV reporter. "We are training our students so that they will be prepared for whatever revolutionary changes the new media may bring."

The University already has a number of students who have switched majors to journalism, and many prospective transfer and high school students have expressed an interest in the new curriculum. Three new faculty members will be hired

to teach journalism and other communications courses.

New courses to be added this fall include Introduction to Journalism, Promotional Writing, and Newspaper Design, which will be added to current courses which include Feature Writing, Magazine Writing and Editing for Publications. "If you learn to write well, you can teach yourself to do anything," Beard said. "Students who know how to write will never be wanting for employment."

Because Lindenwood is located in a major metropolitan area, students will have access to internships at a variety of major media outlets. "We are already known for our outstanding electronic communications studies," Beard said. "Adding a journalism degree is a natural extension of our course offerings."

## Board of Directors Freezes Tuition for 06-07 Academic Year

Lindenwood University is freezing tuition and room and board for full time undergraduate students for the 2006-07 school year. President Dennis Spellmann said Lindenwood's executive board approved the freeze to benefit current and future students.

Lindenwood's tuition and room and board cost for the full year will remain \$15,600, with a 10-hour per week work commitment.

Spellmann said many institutions across Missouri were looking at a tuition increase to offset hefty cost increases in fuel and medical services. He said Lindenwood's growth

on its main campus and at off-site locations will cover those anticipated increases.

"We are debt free, and growing, so we are able to do this for our students," said Spellmann.

To accommodate its growth, Lindenwood has spent more than \$50 million in recent years on six new residence halls and a new campus center. The University has broken ground on a \$32 million Fine and Performing Arts Center. The University also has added many program improvements along with 15 new faculty members this year.

## Honors Convocation Will be April 30

Students and faculty will celebrate Lindenwood's annual Honors Convocation at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 30. The time-honored ceremony will be held in the Lindenwood University Cultural Center.

Hundreds of students will be honored for their academic accomplishments and successes, their community service and their athletic endeavors.

In addition, several student scholarships will be awarded. Provost James Evans will preside over the ceremony.



Provost James Evans speaks at last year's Honors Convocation.

## LU Dedicates Lou Brock Sports Complex



St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer Lou Brock was honored earlier this month at the dedication of the Lou Brock Sports Complex on the Lindenwood campus. Lindenwood recently completed a \$1.5 million renovation of the baseball and softball complex. Brock is pictured at left with his wife, Jackie, a member of the Lindenwood University Board of Directors.

## Planned Giving at Lindenwood is Easy

There are a variety of opportunities available to alumni who want to help assure the continued success of their alma mater. The University relies upon alumni, corporations, foundations and friends in order to remain financially secure and academically strong for the generations of students to come.

Your support of the Annual Fund and referral of students top the list of support options. The Annual Fund is considered the backbone of the University as it sustains a scholarship program that affects thousands of students and provides for everyday operations of the University. Referring a student keeps the University strong because a robust enrollment and tuition also help us to make ends meet.

Lindenwood alumni can now take advantage of online giving through the University website, [www.lindenwood.edu](http://www.lindenwood.edu). When accessing the site click on Alumni and Friends, the category Donate Online, and enter your payment arrangements. Or simply use the convenient envelope provided with your Connection. If you would like to refer a student, call the admissions office at 636-949-4949 and they will be happy to assist you.

There are a number of other planned giving options to consider. They include:

### Butler Society

This group is named in honor of Colonel  
*Continued on Page 8.*



Visit our  
updated Web site!

[www.lindenwood.edu](http://www.lindenwood.edu)

Click on "Alumni"

Update your information with us on the web at "Latest News" or contact us at the Alumni Office  
636.949.4975

or via e-mail

[alumni@lindenwood.edu](mailto:alumni@lindenwood.edu)

We want to hear from you!!!



## Florissant Added to LU's Growing Network

Lindenwood University teamed up with Johnny Londoff Chevrolet and Florissant Mayor Robert Lowery Sr. to save a historic city building in Florissant and improve higher education opportunities in that community.

A new Lindenwood campus is now located in the former Our Lady of Fatima Church and school building. University officials, community leaders and many neighbors celebrated the school's grand re-opening with a ribbon-cutting March 9.

Adding Florissant to the Lindenwood network of campuses is important strategically, said President Dennis Spellmann. "There is a real need for Lindenwood in this community. We are here for the long haul and are proud to be Florissant's Hometown University."

More than 400 students are enrolled at the site. The goal is to increase enrollment to 800 in the near future.

Mayor Lowery brokered the deal that brought Lindenwood to his town after the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis closed Our Lady of Fatima. LU purchased the church, school and parking lot, while Londoff purchased adjacent ground to store vehicles.



Florissant Mayor Robert Lowery and LU President Spellmann cut the ribbon as Provost Jim Evans and Board Chairman Jim Shoemaker look on.

## Planned Giving (con't).

James and Margaret Leggat Butler, who, during the early 1900's funded construction of nearly half of the Heritage campus buildings with an investment that today would equal more than \$25 million.

Butler Society members provide necessary resources for a variety of University needs. Membership is available at the Associate level with pledges of \$25,000 or more; Members level with lifetime gifts of \$25,000 and above; Patron level with lifetime gifts of \$50,000 and more, and Benefactor level, with lifetime gifts of \$100,000 and above.

### Sibley Heritage Society

Named in honor of Lindenwood founders Mary Easton Sibley and Major George Sibley, membership in this group requires your written notification to the Lindenwood development office that you have remembered Lindenwood in your estate plans.

### Charitable Remainder Trust

Property and other assets can establish a trust that provides you a lifetime of income, after which assets will be conveyed to Lindenwood.

### Endowed Scholarships and Honors Awards

Lindenwood's endowment fund secures a strong and stable future through a responsible, diversified investment strategy. Endowment funds are permanently invested and provide a growing income in perpetuity.

Alumni and friends may establish endowed scholarships in their name or the name of a loved one, or endow lectures, professorships, performances or student honors awards.

These are just a few of the many opportunities you might consider in support of your alma mater. To discuss philanthropic planning strategies, call Mike Eschbach, Chief Development Officer at 636-949-4858. Lindenwood provides consulting services to its alumni and friends with the assurance of confidentiality and at no charge.



## Welcome From the Alumni Board President

Dear Friends,

Spring is here, and Lindenwood University has never looked more beautiful. I am excited to be President of the National Alumni Association during such a phenomenal time. Our enrollment is climbing each year, and Lindenwood continues to be academically strong and financially secure.

A huge part of Lindenwood's success is our dedicated alumni who volunteer their time and resources as well as refer students. The following are a few examples of how you can be involved with your alma mater:

- Mentorship Program- lend your expertise to help an upcoming Lindenwood graduate
- Financial Support- provide valuable scholarship dollars to students attending today.
- Class Agent- help us keep in touch with your classmates.

Mark your calendars for October 20-21 for Homecoming and Reunion 2006. Homecoming and Reunion 2005 were a huge success with three countries and over 25 states represented.

Please feel free to e-mail us (alumni@lindenwood.edu) news about you—for use in the next Connection.

Most Sincerely,



Cortney Hupper

Lindenwood Alumni Board  
President, Class of 1999



## Alumni News

### Tucker Named Principal at Edward Jones

Suzanne Tucker (LU Class of '96) has been named a principal with Edward Jones' Holding Company, the Jones Financial Companies, L.L.P. She is one of only 55 individuals chosen from more than 32,000 associates to join the firm's 262 principals.



Suzanne Tucker

A native St. Louisan, Tucker earned a bachelor's degree in business from Lindenwood. She joined Edward Jones in 1985, and since 2005 has served as interim senior director for infrastructure.

### Caldwell Receives AT&T Honor

AT&T Inc. has awarded its top honor for excellence among women managers and leaders to Paula Day Caldwell (LU Class of '81) for her significant contributions to the company and community activities.



Paula Day Caldwell

The long-time Dallas resident was the recipient of the company's Catherine B. Cleary "Woman of the Year" Award, named after the first woman to have served on AT&T's board of directors.

Caldwell is responsible for leading a customer service maintenance organization that supports some of AT&T's largest business customers.

Married, with three sons, Caldwell also serves as vice president of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Dallas.

### Spies Assumes Command of Army National Guard History Unit

Major David Spies (LU Class of '00) assumed command of the Missouri Army National Guard's 135th Military History detachment in Jefferson City, MO. Spies began his military career by

serving in the Army for ten years, first on active duty and then in the Army Reserve. He currently teaches 7th grade in the Francis Howell School District in St. Charles.



### Blanton Honored

Longtime LU board member Ben Blanton, left, receives the Sibley Medallion of Honor Award from President Spellmann at last year's Butler Society Dinner. The medallion is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated a deep commitment to Lindenwood.

### Mike Roberts Receives Lindy Award

The Communications Division's annual Lindy Awards presentation on April 6 was a night to honor budding LU stars of film, television and news production, as well as to pay honor to those alumni who have distinguished themselves in the communications profession.

The contributions of Mike Roberts (LU Class of '71) have benefited St. Louisans for decades and the University is proud of this illustrious alumni's role in the communications industry and

the business world.

Roberts, a former St. Louis alderman and entrepreneur, launched Roberts Broadcasting Company, a diverse \$500 million company which owns television stations, strip malls, hotels, and a resort community in the Bahamas.



Michael Roberts

### Humanics Wins National Award

Lindenwood University's highly decorated American Humanics program has done it again. LU's team of American Humanics students, faculty and staff recently received the Excellence in Student Recruitment Award at the American Humanics Management Institute in San Diego, CA.

The award is given to the collegiate American Humanics program with the highest number of students receiving certification in the previous academic year. More than 500 students from 57 colleges and universities participated in the AHI nonprofit management education conference. The purpose of the management institute is to expose junior and senior students to experiences they will encounter as nonprofit professionals.



Class of 1975 members enjoy the reception sponsored by the St. Charles Alumni Club on the first night of reunion 2005.



Alma Fleck Bergmann 1969, Sherry Kelleher Fill 1969, Barbara Roth Boswell 1970, and Nancy Peters Dale 1969, catch up on the latest news about classmates at the opening reception.

*Homecoming*  
**2005**

- Hundreds of alumni registered and attended activities at the 2005 reunion.
- Participants included alums from three continents and 25 states.



At left, 50-year class reunion organizer Zilpha Curtin pictured with President Dennis Spellmann.



LU President, Dennis Spellmann visits with class of 1955 members (Didge, Dorothy, Darla and Sylvia) during half-time at the LU Lions football game in Hunter Stadium.



Betty Moore Buck member of the honored class of 1955, Wil Buck, and Marilyn Mitchell Gordon, 1956 discuss weekend events.



Justin Meeks, Class of 1996, greets Professor Sue Tretter, American Studies & English, at the opening reception.



Classmates from 1960, who every five years plan to meet at the Lindenwood reunion, greet Hiroko Fujiwara Egawa of Tokyo, Japan (far right), who is a regular attendee.

## Women's Hockey Wins Title

Although Lindenwood University entered the title game of the 2006 ACHA Women's National Championship with a 28-3 record, all three of those losses had come against the team on the other bench in the championship game—Robert Morris College.

But Lions Coach Vince O'Mara wanted his players to focus on the fact that they had won one of the four regular season meetings with the Eagles, and two of the three losses had come by just one goal.

Apparently, O'Mara's psychology worked. Kat Hannah scored a goal late in the final period to tie the game and send it to overtime. And less than a minute later, sophomore forward Kristen Dlugos scored the game winner and send the crowd at Lindenwood Ice Arena into a frenzy.

## Divers Lead Lindenwood

A pair of divers helped the Lindenwood men's and women's swimming and diving teams place higher at the NAIA national championships than ever before.

On the strength of senior Kyla Kachman's national titles in the 1-meter and 3-meter diving, the Lindenwood women placed fourth with 237 points. Junior Tom Lucido was second in the 1- and 3-meter diving competition on the men's side and his points helped the Lions finish second with 243 points.

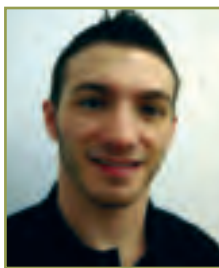
Lindenwood hosted the NAIA national swimming and diving championships at the Rec-Plex in St. Peters. California Baptist swept the team titles for the men and women in the three-day competition.

## Wrestlers 2nd; Rio Pins Five

The men's wrestling team had a tremendous season, falling just short of repeating as NAIA national champs.

The Lions finished second to Dana College at the 49th annual NAIA Wrestling Championships in Sioux City, IA. Dana racked up a tournament-record 193 points, with the Lions tallying 164.

Mike Rio (157 pounds), Mark Dickman (149) and Jake Dieffenbach (165) all won individual national titles for the Lions. In fact, Rio, who won the national title last year, won all five of his matches by pin. The virtuoso performance was so monumental that Rio was named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the national tournament and was featured in *Sports Illustrated*.



LU senior Mike Rio, featured in *Sports Illustrated*



The LU men's basketball team celebrates its conference championship.

## Men's Basketball Has Season to Remember

In their first and only season together, Johnny Viehland and Ryan Cherepkai got the men's basketball team to the Promised Land.

The Lions lost in the NAIA Final Four to eventual tournament champion College of the Ozarks, but it was certainly a season to remember. LU finished with a school-best 26-10 record, and made the school's first-ever Final Four appearance. Leading the way for Lindenwood was Viehland, who was a first-team NAIA all-American.

"He was our leader all year," said Cherepkai, the Lions' first-year coach. "He did a great job. He just had games where he refused to let us lose. He was our first-ever first-team all-American and he deserved it."

Viehland averaged 16.8 points and 8 rebounds per game and he carried the Lions during their tournament run.

## Seat Campaign Honors Donors

If you travel to Rome, Italy and visit the ruins of the ancient Colosseum you will notice that in the best seating sections you will still find the names of prominent citizens and senators carefully carved in the seats. Imagine, 2,000 years later the fidelity of those special patrons is still on public view.

How would you like to have the same opportunity at your alma mater? OK, so Hunter Stadium is not the Roman Colosseum, but after the multi-million face lift completed last year the stadium has never looked better. For a \$1,000 gift payable over four years (less than \$21 a month), we will honor you by placing your name on a permanent plaque located in the VIP seating section. Who knows, maybe they will be talking about your loyalty and fidelity in 200 years!

We will have a special yearly VIP reception for donors and you will get a deep discount on season tickets as well. This campaign was a big success last year and we still have some seats available for naming opportunities. For more information give Brett Barger, Director of Athletic Management and Marketing, a call at 636-949-4366 or e-mail him at [bbarger@lindenwood.edu](mailto:bbarger@lindenwood.edu).

# LINDENWOOD

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## The Connection Spring 2006

### It's Time to Celebrate~2006 Reunion is October 20 – 21

We hope that you will join us at Lindenwood's annual Homecoming and Reunion Weekend in October. Beginning with registration on Friday afternoon, followed by a reception in the VIP Room of the Performance Arena, you will find a variety of activities to keep you busy while renewing old acquaintances and taking in the many changes at your alma mater.

The class of 1956 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with special events for classmates who attend. Please contact Jan Riddle ([jlrstlmo@aol.com](mailto:jlrstlmo@aol.com)) and Marilyn Gordon ([mmgstlmo@aol.com](mailto:mmgstlmo@aol.com)) for details on activities and hotels. Several other honored classes are also planning gatherings during the weekend.



The Class of '55 gathers for a group picture at Reunion 2005

If the comments from attendees at last year's reunion are any indication, you will be amazed at the growth of the campus and pleased by the faithful attention given to the architectural heritage of the University. Lindenwood University is a success story, and we are eager to have you continue be a partner in that success. Remember that you can support Lindenwood and make a difference by referring a student. Call the admissions office at 636-949-4949 for information.

Reunion registration is from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, October 20, in the Hyland Performance Arena. For more details check out the alumni section of the Lindenwood Web site at [www.lindenwood.edu/alumni/](http://www.lindenwood.edu/alumni/). Or call the Alumni Office at 636-949-4908.

#### Honored Classes:

1956 • 1961 • 1966 • 1971 • 1976 • 1981 • 1986 • 1991 • 1996