



the flyer presents...

Lives of Lewis

Graphics in this issue by
Alexis Pragides & Olivia Brzek

Brother Robert Veselsky: A brother to all

GRACE SUEFLOHN
MANAGING EDITOR

Humble, generous and compassionate, Brother Robert Veselsky, otherwise known as Brother Rob, has become a staple in the Lewis community. A 1969 Lewis graduate, Veselsky has spent years inspiring the next generation through teaching and campus ministry, sharing his love and positivity to each person he meets.

Veselsky's journey to become a brother began when he was a sophomore in high school. Growing up in La Grange, Ill. he attended St. Joseph High School where he was taught by the Brothers. "I remember going up to a Brother who was my homeroom, religion and study hall teacher...I had been daydreaming in study hall and I was thinking, I wonder what [the Brothers] do everyday? I knew they taught, but after school was done, what did they do?"

His curiosity led him to ask and he learned that they teach, spend time preparing classes and live in a community. Reminiscing on his initial interest, Veselsky laughed, remembering there was one thing about the Brothers that stuck out. "They would be teasing each other and kidding each other. It was neat to see. It was like they were brothers. I was impressed with that."

Young Veselsky was eager to share this new potential career path with his family. "I remember going home one day and I said to my parents, I think I want to be one of them. My parents asked me why, and I said, They seem so happy. I want to be happy like those guys."

Soon after, Veselsky uprooted his life and transferred schools to attend the Lasallian Institute in the Ozarks for students interested in becoming Brothers. Outside of class, Veselsky remembers spending his free time exploring the forests and caves on the beautiful 900-acre campus.

After graduating in 1964, Veselsky spent one year at the Institute to begin the process of becoming a Brother.

"In August of 1965, I took [my] first vows as a Brother," said Veselsky. These were vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In that same year, Veselsky was "one of 30 young Brothers who moved to Lewis to begin college."

Majoring in Theology and Sociology with a minor in Political Science, Veselsky graduated in 1969 and proceeded to teach

religion in Chicagoland high schools for 16 years.

Working in high schools was the perfect setting for Veselsky. Ever since he was little, Veselsky loved teaching. He had even started a school with local preschool kids when he was 10 to teach them reading, writing and arithmetic. He was a natural instructor and recognized the influence he had in each of his student's lives.

A desire for a change led him to Lasalle Manor in Plano, Ill. where he led retreats. He then worked as a mentor to young men who were thinking about becoming Brothers. In 1992, Veselsky "returned to Lewis to work in the University Ministry and was director of De La Salle Hall for some of those years."

Under Veselsky's guidance, the university ministry implemented a new program that has impacted students for the last 28 years. In 1995, he explained the "University Ministry was trying to figure out a way to reach more kids. As we talked, we thought about possibly putting kids as mentors for the other kids. And that's when the peer ministry program began."

The peer ministry program initially recruited 12 students as first year peers. Veselsky noted that when it was first created, the whole point of the program was to "offer acts of kindness."

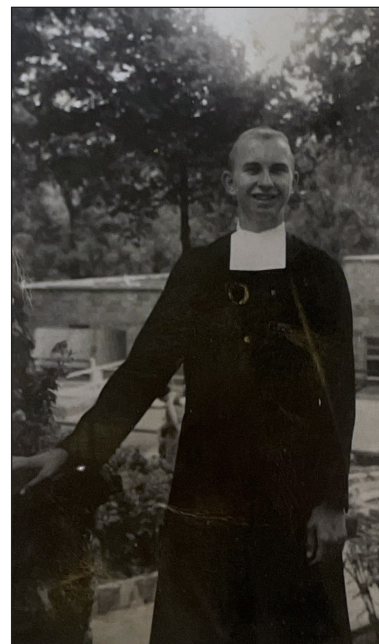
The program has expanded over the years to impact thousands of students of all grades, nationalities and religious backgrounds. Today, peer ministers host Bible studies, work in freshman halls and lead events for the whole campus. Veselsky feels so grateful for this program, giving credit to the "peer ministers [who] play a key role." Through this program, Veselsky has witnessed lives change, friendships develop and spiritual growth.

Multiple changes led Veselsky back and forth from Lewis to Memphis where he directed campus ministry at the Christian Brothers University. Since 2012, Veselsky has been back at Lewis. "The thing that drew me back to Lewis was being with you all," Veselsky said, commenting about the students. "I could have retired years ago but I have always enjoyed being with kids."

Currently, Veselsky is living on campus at the La Salle House in community with 16 other Brothers. He described how happy he was to "have the privilege and honor to walk with the young men and women attending Lewis through University Ministry."



Photo courtesy of Brother Rob Veselsky



Photos courtesy of Brother Rob Veselsky

KATHERINE GROPPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

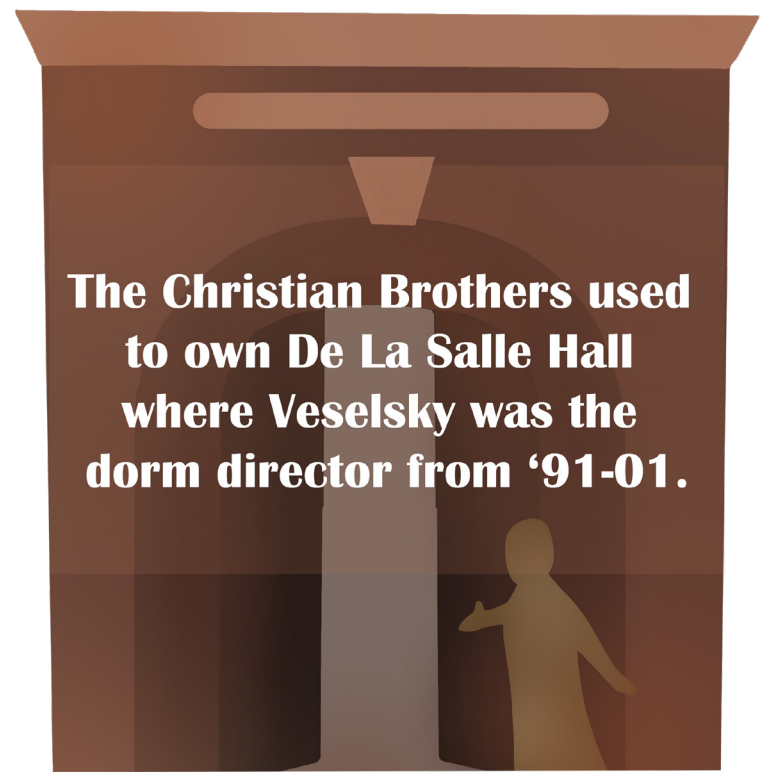
Often found lounging on one of the red chairs outside in the sun, Veselsky cherishes interacting with students and faculty alike. "Some of the discussions I have had with people were incredible. There would be faculty and staff, even the president sat down and we chatted."

Looking back, Veselsky can't hide the joy he has for life and the university, saying, "[I] feel blessed [to] have the opportunity to be a Brother. To give my life for others. There has always been a pull to stay put. I've been able to meet thousands of kids, even some kids who are grandparents now. It's been a blessing to have given my life to so many people."

Veselsky's life journey offers insight to current students. With a smile, he shared that, "Simple acts of kindness can make a world of difference. Be open, try to find your passion. Take one day at a time. Reflect on your

blessings. Try to surround yourself with good, positive people." But most importantly, "Don't

take life too seriously. You have to have fun."



Lewis Through The Years

1962

Previously named Lewis College of Science and Technology, the institution changed its name to Lewis University. Additionally, Lewis University became a Christian-Lasallian college.

1964

Lewis adopted "Bed Check Charlie" as the official mascot after receiving permission from cartoonist Milt Caniff.

Progressing through Lewis

JULIA LESNICKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"This is going to sound bad, but the plan originally was to get my MBA and move on and go for a corporate job," says Michael Progress, Assistant Dean of the College of Business. Progress has now been at Lewis for the past 30 years and has successfully earned six different degrees. Obviously, things do not always go as planned and for Progress, it might have been for the best.

Progress is from Seneca, Ill., a small town about 45 minutes away from Lewis. With a graduating class of only 59 students, Progress wasn't sure where he was headed after graduation. "I think I was contemplating whether I should go into the army? Do I go to Joliet Junior College?"

Luckily, his brother lived near the university and mentioned to Progress, "You know there is a school I always pass on [route] 53 called Lewis University and it looks really nice and I have heard good things about it." After checking it out, Lewis seemed like the perfect fit for Progress and was the only university he had applied to.

Attending Lewis for the first time in the fall of 1987 as an accounting major, Progress quickly realized accounting was not the right area for him. The following semester, he declared himself as a marketing major and began a position as a student-worker for admissions, cold calling people about the university.

Additionally, he was actively involved with the University Ministry. He helped out with mass and various tasks around the chapel. "I was really concerned because I wanted to get involved [with the Ministry] but I am not Catholic," Progress

shared. "I went to see the director and he was like 'That is not a problem!' and I felt welcomed and included."

Progress went even further with the Ministry, assisting with the Koinonia Retreat and helping lead the first one in the fall of 1989. The retreats are still ongoing today which "is wonderful to see something like that carry on and get to say, hey, I was a part of that," Progress added.

Graduating in January of 1992, like any college graduate, Progress wasn't sure what he wanted to do once he completed his degree, but knew he "always wanted [his] MBA." He worked at his high school for one year and thought it was time to pursue a master's degree. The one thing that kept him from originally pursuing it was money. "I had student loans from undergrad and didn't want to take on any more debt."

Luckily, Progress was visiting campus one day and a friend mentioned that they were hiring and the university offers tuition reimbursement if you're an employee. This was amazing to Progress because this was his chance to finally obtain that MBA. He applied and took his first official role at Lewis as an Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk in the year of 1993. As a previous business major, it was a good experience and "[I] got to know everybody! Absolutely loved it!"

Progress worked this position for about two years and completed his MBA in Marketing before he learned of a new fantastic opportunity. In 1998, he was offered the position of Assistant Director for the Graduate School of Management under the College of Business. The position was not on the Romeoville campus, but it was still a part of Lewis. "By



Photo courtesy of Michael Progress

that point I pretty much knew I enjoyed [working with students] and Lewis' culture, values and mission, which aligned very nicely with my personal values and missions, so at that point I was pretty much hooked in," said Progress.

After working as Assistant Director for three years, Progress wanted to return back to the Romeoville campus, which is why he decided to take a new position. He began working for the Office of Registrar as the Assistant Registrar. His primary role in this position was to work with students and clear them for graduation. "It was nice to be able to help and navigate people, whether it was a student with last minute hiccups, so we could resolve those issues and get them on to graduate."

Progress worked in the Office of Registrar for a little over six years and finally heard there was a position at the College of Business and colleagues encouraged him to apply. He had a soft spot for the College of Business because he was involved with it as a student and it was his first job at Lewis. Progress applied and has been the Assistant Dean for the College of Business for the past 30 years now.

Only in his twenties and working for about six months as the

Assistant Director of the Graduate School of Management, Progress was diagnosed with cancer. "It was a wakeup call and definitely forced me to live in the moment." Fortunately, after a successful surgery and radiation treatment, he was cancer-free.

But throughout working all of these positions and roles, having a family, and even going through a large turning point in life, Progress was still in school earning degrees and putting smiles on people's faces. Progress, as previously stated, earned his Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and his master's in Marketing. His third degree was a Master's of Arts in Counseling Psychology and completed this degree because he "enjoyed working with students and counseling skills seemed essential [for his roles]."

The significant accomplishment of Progress's degrees is not just about the number of degrees he has, but the variety of them. His fourth degree was a Bachelor of Arts in General Studio Art completed in 2013. Progress shared, "I enjoyed the arts and just because of the creativity and it was hands-on." As for his fifth degree, it relates back to his first degree because he "wanted to stay updated in the marketing field," so he earned a Bachelor

of Science in Social Media Marketing in 2016. And finally, in 2022, Progress completed his last degree, his Master of Science in Business Analytics. "The first degree is the hardest to get and from there it was easier," says Progress.

He always had this desire to keep learning and why not, it was all free! Not to mention, Progress has earned many awards and certificates, like the Sales Excellence certificate and Service Awards from the College of Business. He is also the faculty mentor for the baseball team and enjoys supporting their games.

The most significant takeaway Progress expressed is that he loves and adores Lewis University. Everything seemed to be just by chance and, of course, there were tough times, but things all seemed to work out. "I'm happy here," says Progress. He truly cherishes the culture and has stuck around for Lewis because "getting to work with the students and not knowing what kind of day will come," appeals to him.

With 30 years under his belt, what does the future hold for Progress? Another degree? "I want a break," laughed Progress. Six degrees later, can you blame the guy?

The 2023-2024 academic year marks the 30th year for Progress.



Photos courtesy of Michael Progress

1967

Brother Paul French, FSC, is appointed second Brother President.

1969

The Black Student Union is founded.

Lewis for a lifetime: Mark Swain

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

After teaching for the past 25 years, Mark Swain has decided to set aside his love for instruction to begin his role as the College of Humanities, Fine Arts and Communications new interim dean.

Swain began at Lewis as a student in the fall of 1989 for his undergraduate degree in art with a concentration in painting. He was also recruited to play for the men's soccer team.

To say he was successful is an understatement. In the 1989-1992 seasons, Swain scored a grand total of 32 goals for the team as a striker. The goals totaled for 70 points and he remains at the 12th position on the Flyer's career scoring list. He received the All-Midwest Honors and All-GLVC during his time as a student-athlete. In 1991, the team won second place in the GLVC championship and made a comeback the following year by taking home first.

During his undergrad, Swain met his wife, Natalie, while they were both students. They were at the Flyer's Den, which at the time, was an on-campus bar. Eventually, the two married, and had two kids together. This has attributed to the wonderful experience he had on campus as well. Now, his wife also works here as the coordinator for the Oremus Fine Arts Gallery.

In 1995, Swain began teaching at Northern Illinois University (NIU) after earning his Master's in Fine Arts. Two years later he found his way back to Lewis as a computer graphic design professor. He held many positions starting as a badge faculty member and eventually advancing to a full-time faculty member. From 1997-2006, Swain partnered his role as a faculty member and continued his engagement with the soccer team as the assistant men's soccer coach. This was an amazing experience for him since he went full circle from being a player on the team to coaching years later.

Being a part of the athletic community was one of the highlights of his undergraduate years. When he was assistant coach, he loved helping the students through the same challenges his coach had helped him through, both on and off the field. Staying involved with the team as the men's team faculty mentor seemed natural to him, as interacting with the members of the team is an experience he cherishes dearly.

The variety of positions has helped Swain fully grasp the meaning behind the university's mission statement and values. Through his experiences, Swain has learned to prioritize each student first and foremost. He understands that college is a very challenging and shaping experience so he wants to help students prepare for life during this important time.

One of the many things Swain enjoys about working at Lewis is the students. He is always thinking about the students, asking the question, "What can we do that is best for the students?" He has encountered various students during his career and always seeks to expand their potential. He believes that each student needs constant nurturing and revisioning and it is his job to help educate the future.

Swain believes that the mission of the university creates a caring and understanding culture. He notices that students, faculty and staff are very open, show empathy, and are quick to help. The community in which Lewis is based upon is one of the remarkable things that made him come back after being away for so long.

The Lasallian values of the university are also something that he holds dearly. When he was a student, the Christian Brothers had an extremely positive impact on him. Swain mentioned that the mission of the university makes the people warm and welcoming, allowing him to think of his students and coworkers as individual human beings instead of a group or

larger scale. He reports that the Lasallian mission makes it easier to get to know every person and value the uniqueness of everyone in the university. He also feels that the university mission has helped him create a more fulfilling life.

Swain has been able to apply the lessons he learned as a student to larger scale opportunities like parenting and teaching. The idea of assisting the underserved and helping others obtain an education is something that Swain thinks of fondly, saying it is one of the Christian Brothers' greatest impacts.

Lewis is a special and extraordinary community that Swain has witnessed develop over the years. He was thrilled to come back to Lewis and expand on the wonderful time he had here as a student. Throughout his years at the university, he has learned to love it more and more each year, noting that this connection drives him to remain at Lewis. However, the strongest part of the university is the mission and values followed by staff and students alike.

Being kind and non-judgmental may seem like common sense to many, but the LaSallian work and Christian Brothers have worked hard to ensure that this is the case. He applies the ideals and values of the university, whether it is to his family or with work. When pausing to think about this, Swain realized he wanted to be here all along. Swain has a goal for his students to look back fondly on their time at Lewis, just as he does.



Photo courtesy of Mark Swain

Swain was recruited to play on the men's soccer team in fall of 1989.



KATHERINE GROPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

1970

The college was booming with an increase in enrollment, which reached up to 2,000 students. With the new enrollment, many additions were made to the campus, such as the learning resource center, gym, new classrooms, laboratories, and residence halls.

1971

The College of Nursing is established.

Marcella Martinez: The Lewis legend

COLLIN MCCARTHY
CONTRIBUTOR

The search for a better life and greater opportunities is why many immigrants seek new beginnings in the U.S. Luckily, for Marcella Martinez, she found both – leaving behind the world that she knew to join her brothers in the U.S. Only two days after arriving, Martinez got her first job at Lewis working for Sodexo as a housekeeper. That was almost 26 years ago, and Martinez found more than a job. She found a home, a husband and a family; all here, at Lewis.

Martinez first traveled to the U.S. in 1998 from Mexico. Her brother, Julio Kennedy, was her gateway to Lewis. It was upon his own recommendation that she would join him in working as housekeeper for Sodexo. For Marcella, her love for Lewis and its students has kept her here all these years. She even says the summer is her least favorite time of the year because of how empty the campus feels without the students.

Regardless of her love for the university, she does miss home. "It's a little hard because you're leaving the family over there [in Mexico] and it's only my two brothers over here...But you know, I came here and I stayed here because I like it," said Martinez.

Lewis is where Martinez found her footing, place of employment, and love of her life. Shortly after starting at Sodexo, she met Juan who also worked at Lewis. The two got

married and had three children: Carlos, Dave and Omar. Looking back on her 22 years of marriage, she commented how Lewis was the beginning of not only her life here in the U.S., but the beginning of her own family.

Martinez's tenure has spanned over four decades and she has seen the university grow and evolve throughout the years. "I think it's good for the university. It's grown up. When I see a new building being built, I think 'Oh new students! I'm happy!' Sometimes I think it's a little more work, but I'm feeling good because [the university is] more grown up."

Since the beginning, Martinez has worked in housekeeping for the campus. "I love the Rec Center and the people that work over there and the students. I feel comfortable there. All the 'hellos' and 'his' from the students make me feel at home."

Not only does she have a love for the students but Martinez is a secret weapon for our athletics recruitment. "In the Rec Center when I see the parents coming with the coaches, I talk to the parents. Come back, come over here. I recommend it. It's very nice. It's a beautiful school." Martinez continued, "I tell the students, I [will] see you next year!" She says they protest, but insists that she does in fact see them as incoming freshmen the following school year.

Martinez's connection with the students goes deeper than

just a surface level interaction. She is a smiling face to students in passing. "I sometimes have notes in my door, or I hear 'Hi Miss Marcella, can I have a hug?'" Her energy brings comfort to students, being a source of calm when things are stressful.

Despite English being her second language, Martinez finds a way to break the language barrier. Her friendly demeanor and willingness to connect with students allows anyone from any background to see Martinez as an important part of their lives, and experience when attending Lewis. She will be the first to tell you that she cares for all students. Whether they be commuters or residents, they are all important to her.

"Lewis is my second home. Lewis and Sodexo have given me so many opportunities. I'll try to never leave here. Maybe you'll see when I'm old, then I'll leave, but I'm not thinking of any other job than here right now," said Martinez. She has become a staple among students and faculty. The Director of Student Recreation and Wellness, Jill Siegfried, calls her a "Lewis Legend."

Martinez's dedication to Lewis is more than just housekeeping and being a part of kitchen staff. These students have become a part of her family and she has become essential to the Lewis community. She wants to see each student succeed. "I saw a student who was sitting at a table during class time. I kept seeing him

so I said why don't you go to class? Your parents are spending a lot of money to send you here. You should go to class. Then I stopped seeing him and wondered what happened to him. Then during graduation I saw him and he brought his parents up to me and said, 'This is Marcella. She's the one that convinced me to get back to my classes,'" said Martinez.

When she's not at Lewis, treating the students like they are her own, Martinez has her own family to cheer up. With three high school students at home, and two dogs, Orio and Snuky, she and her husband have their hands full and many mouths to feed.

However, as much as Martinez loves living in the U.S., she hasn't forgotten her roots. Both her and her sons have gone to visit where her family is from back in Mexico. "It's a different life." She says. Her sons only know life in the U.S. but they know that while their mom may be from Mexico, her home is here.

Martinez has not only made a life here, but has impacted so many more lives by the way she carries out each day. The job she got two days after arriving from Mexico has turned out to be a huge milestone in her journey. She is a real life example of the American dream.

Martinez began working at Lewis just two days after arriving in the U.S.



Photos courtesy of Marcella Martinez

1972

The Department of Social Justice was created, which later became Criminal and Social Justice.

1975

In July, a significant step in the development of Lewis University occurred with the accreditation by the North Central Association of graduate programs (master's and first professional degree levels).

Lewis athletics power couple

LUNA SCHAFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Born in Topeka, Kan. in 1975, Dan Friend participated in various sports throughout his high school career, such as: baseball, football, tennis and basketball. He discovered volleyball while his sister worked at a facility as a lifeguard and grew fond of the sport. At the age of 17, he started playing volleyball casually. At Washburn University, Friend joined the club volleyball team while majoring in Athletic Training and Exercise Science. The passion for athletics led him to play in the summer, travel for tournaments, and become a student assistant coach. After completing undergrad, Friend worked for a doctor at a rehab facility and began as a part-time assistant coach.

At this point, Friend knew that he wanted to coach at the college level so he pursued a master's degree at the University of Kansas in Sports Administration while working as an athletic trainer. These years challenged him to balance coaching, work and his studies. At 25-years-old, he secured the head coaching position for the men's volleyball team at Newman University which is a DII school. Starting the program from scratch, he led the team to the national championship after only three years of being there. When a coaching opportunity opened up at Lewis he decided to apply for it. Now, after 20 seasons, Friend reflects on his impressive coaching journey since August of 2004.

"For me, it was an opportunity to coach at the highest level." As excited as he was to continue his career at Lewis, he encountered an unconventional start as a coach to the team. The team had secured the national championship in 2003, the year prior to Friend's start as head coach, but their national title had been revoked.

In response, scholarships were cut down from four and a half to only three and no international recruiting or official visits were allowed.

Friend knew he had to do whatever he could to maintain the integrity of the program. "We had to kind of rebuild from scratch and so we basically brought 15 freshmen

in that first year." In 2009, when those players were seniors, the team finished second in the division and was ranked in the top 15 of all men's teams in the nation. The success continued when, in 2012, they won the conference tournament and progressed as far as finishing as the national runner-up in the NCAA Division I tournament. These achievements attracted young players from across the nation and increased the competitiveness of the recruiting process for the team.

Because of his position at Lewis, Friend was able to obtain different titles revolving around the volleyball world. Some of those include being part of the American Volleyball Coaches Association as a member of the board directors and men's NCAA Division I and II representative, which puts him in charge of leading the DI and II Men's Head Coaches Committee. He is also the coach for U23 Men's Beach USA National Team.

Loralee Smith was born in Mishawaka, Ind. in 1976. She studied Marketing and Management during her undergrad at the University of North Carolina Asheville before obtaining an MBA with a focus on Marketing at University of Central Missouri (UCM). During her pursuit of a master's degree, she served as a graduate assistant for UCM's women's volleyball team. She was impressed by the program's structure and found the environment exciting. After the second assistant left, the head coach offered her the position, even if just to finish her master's. Accepting the role reshaped Smith's career path, solidifying her desire to pursue coaching.

At the time Friend accepted the position as men's volleyball Head Coach at Lewis, he and Smith were engaged and had a long-distance relationship for two years. Luckily, the position for head coach of the women's volleyball team opened up and Smith decided to take the leap of faith to apply and create a new future with the program.

Smith explains that because of her athletes, coaching does not feel like a job and she feels grateful that she can enjoy what she does for a living.

"The fact that the majority of the time [the team] can still



KATHERINE GROPPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

look at it like it's this fun opportunity of a family environment it just makes my job better, it makes going to the gym awesome, and it makes riding on buses fun because we play games." Smith acknowledges the pressures associated with being a student-athlete and this helps her to value all of the work that her players are putting in. By being there for each other and keeping a positive attitude, Smith adds that these components majorly contribute to success on the court.

Friend and Smith married in 2008 and on June 5, 2016, the two welcomed their daughter Rae Analyn Friend who was born as a micro-preemie. A micro-preemie is when a baby is born before 26 weeks and under one pound and 12 ounces. Rae weighed one pound and four ounces when she was born and spent 115 days inside the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Because of their experience, both parents decided to create a foundation in her honor, called the Rae Strong Foundation. To fundraise the money, the foundation hosts multiple games throughout the year. The money goes directly to NICU organizations that help families that are going through a similar situation as Smith and Friend experienced.

Smith and Friend have been able to create more than just careers at Lewis. During their 20 year relationship, they have been able to create a family and a legacy that has impacted Lewis athletics and families who have received aid from their foundation. Both coaches feel grateful to be a part of the Lewis com-

munity as it has given them the opportunity to learn, grow and become who they are today.

By prioritizing excellence inside and outside of the court, Friend and Smith have been able to create a family-driven culture where athletes grow and improve in all aspects of their lives.

Friend and Smith married in 2008 and eight years later welcomed their daughter, Rae Analyn Friend.

1980

Lewis expanded its programs to off-campus sites. Growing to Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park, a graduate center in Oak Brook, and sites in Schaumburg and LaSalle/Peru. As well as downtown Chicago.

1982

Brother David Delahanty, FSC, was inaugurated as President.

The Schackmuth legacy at Lewis

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Kurt Schackmuth practically grew up at Lewis. He is one of the few who knew where he wanted to go to college since he was a young child. "My dad would bring me here in the summer with him and he would give me a briefcase and the two of us would come to Lewis with our briefcases together," reminisces Schackmuth, the Vice President for Student Life and Chief Mission Officer.

"I used to come here regularly with my dad who was a Sociology professor." Schackmuth's father, Thomas Schackmuth, had been a part of the Lewis community since the late 1960s and tragically lost the battle to leukemia in 1981. Schackmuth was six years old when he lost his father, the role model in his life.

It was thanks to his father that Schackmuth came to Lewis to finish what his dad had started. To honor Thomas Schackmuth, the Lewis community gave the Schackmuth family full scholarships to attend the university and continue the family legacy.

It was during those summer days spent in the office with his father that Schackmuth fell in love with Lewis. "My dad would give me things to do in the office and he would work on revising his courses and attending meetings," says Schackmuth.

The college application process was quick and stress-free as Dr. Schackmuth only applied to one school - Lewis. During his senior year in high school, Schackmuth spotted a Lewis admissions recruiter.

Coincidentally, Ron the counselor was hoping to catch a word with young Schackmuth as he was a student in one of Thomas' Sociology classes. It was Ron who helped Schackmuth with his application and who recommended a specific residence hall to Schackmuth that fit his aspirations perfectly.

De La Salle hall, modern day home to the Courtyard Café, numerous classrooms and residence halls was solely a residence hall in the early 1990s. The hall was operated by the De La Salle Christian Brothers and it was separate from the other residence hall systems. The hall was known as a "study-dorm" and most of the students were quiet and focused on their studies, which Schackmuth admits fit him well as he was not in-

terested in traditional college affairs such as going out and partying. The residence hall housed the retired Christian Brothers as well as current male students. The residents were on opposite wings from one another but convened together for breakfast and lunch in what is today known as the Courtyard Café. During his undergraduate time at Lewis, Schackmuth studied history and was Vice President of student government and sat on various administrative committees.

During his undergraduate summers, his contributions to the university did not stop as he painted residence hall rooms and cleaned bathrooms in the hall. Schackmuth commented that he was one of the many history majors during his generation that also ended up working at Lewis.

"I learned a whole lot about the brothers, about the Lasallian mission and about who they (the brothers) were and about what they did in a really informal setting," says Schackmuth. Not only did Schackmuth gain knowledge from the Brothers, but friendships and mentorships as well. "I loved being in De La Salle hall, there was a really strong sense of community," reminisces Schackmuth. "I always say that that residence hall experience for me, living with the Brothers, was my early formation in the Lasallian Mission."

During the process of becoming the La Sallian commencement speaker for the class of 1998, Schackmuth began seeking more information about the university's mission. Following his graduation, Schackmuth approached retired Provost and President of Mission, Stephanie Schlachter, and let her know about his interest in working on the La Sallian mission work.

It was a short time after he walked the stage that Schackmuth returned to work at the University Ministry. He officially began working at Lewis in 1998 and he is now in his 25th year here.

It was both his experience living in the De La Salle residence hall and working with Schlachter that Dr. Schackmuth attributes as the groundwork that set him up for the work he is continuing today. He shares his passion for the university's mission claiming he feels, "a really strong commitment to developing it and advancing it."

During his early years working at the university, Schack-



All photos courtesy of Dr. Kurt Schackmuth



muth pursued a Master of Business Administration (MBA) which he figured would be a compliment to a history degree, graduating from the program in 2002.

It was during the early 2000s, that Schackmuth received advice from Schlachter to continue his education and pursue a PhD. He received his doctorate in higher education from Loyola University Chicago in 2011, working full-time while taking classes.

It was during his time as a

young Lewis employee that Schackmuth began learning more about the history of Lewis and he continues to share and present that story whenever he gets a chance.

It is at Lewis that Schackmuth has discovered a purpose and a vocation. "There are not a lot of people that when they talk about their jobs they talk about that it gives them a real sense of purpose or meaning, and I wake up everyday energized around coming here," said Schackmuth. "I don't see this as

a job, I really see this as a calling."

Schackmuth aspires to continue advancing the La Sallian mission forward and also to help create an environment that shapes and supports the development of students. He shares that he not only loves the people he works with, but loves that he gets to be surrounded by students everyday.

He finds that his passion lies in making a difference in their lives.

1984

Lewis presents an honorary degree to President Ronald Reagan. The Arts & Ideas series is launched.

1988

In October, Brother James Gaffney, FSC, was inaugurated as President. Major construction and renovation program underway at Lewis.

Family, the key to success

JOSEPH FERNANDEZ
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Coming to the U.S. at 10 years old in 1978, Administrative Assistant for Communications, English Studies & Foreign Languages Program, Maria Sanchez, has been on a long journey to Lewis. She was born in Guanajuato, Mexico, but Sanchez grew up on 26th street in Chicago, where she was raised in a hardworking family with three sisters and a brother, where her father ran his own landscaping business. Learning from her parents was a key part of her childhood, "At the beginning, it was very, very hard. But then, everybody was in school. Everybody was moving forward, and my dad said, "We're here to grow, to have the American dream. So we would study a lot," stated Sanchez.

Education has always been a staple in Sanchez's life. Unfortunately, since Spanish was her first language, she started school in the U.S. at a disadvantage. However, that didn't discourage her from believing in the education system and continuing to pursue her studies. "It was a struggle because I didn't know anything. I started in seventh grade, and then I went to school all the way, and I believe education is very important," said Sanchez.

The constant push from her parents to work hard at such a young age drove her to academic success. Sanchez graduated from Jones Commercial High School (now known as Jones College Prep) in 1985, and now proudly displays her diploma in her office at Lewis.

After high school, Sanchez worked for Ryerson Steel Company as an accounts receivable and accounts payable clerk for 14 years. Sanchez has four daughters: Jacy, Stephanie, Madeline and Emily. While her children grew up, Sanchez began working in the field of education. Starting at the Valley View School District in Romeoville as a bus driver for special education students from 2006-2008, and eventually as a professional secretary at John J. Lukancic Middle School from 2008-2018.

While Sanchez may have not started working at Lewis until 2019, her ties to the university started with her daughter Jacy who graduated from Lewis in nursing in 2015. As a result of her daughter's great experience at Lewis, Sanchez knew she wanted to work here.

Sanchez enjoys working for Lewis because she embraces the university's mission and culture. "The mission, the justice, the knowledge, the wisdom, all the five elements, I bring them everyday."

The positive message that Sanchez provides everyday makes her very proud to be able to spread these values to everyone around campus on a daily basis. "If I'm happy at work, everyone is happy... Let's put it this way, if you ask me for help and I'm helping you, I get happy because I feel I am fulfilling my goals." Sanchez also is very enthusiastic about the English department as a whole, stating that she is always encouraging students to enroll in English courses and that she feels that the courses are essential to education.

Immersed in the Lewis culture, Sanchez wakes up eager to come to work everyday stating, "This is a very happy place to work." Not only does she enjoy the culture, but rather the people around her that make Lewis a joyful place to be on a day-to-day basis. "I work with professional people, and when I do my work, they acknowledge me...Also, when they talk to you, they act very professional...So I believe that if you work with professional people and they treat you right, you're happy working for the university," says Sanchez.

Sanchez has carried on her great work ethic that she has maintained all of these years into her work at Lewis, "I love coming to work and being productive," says Sanchez.

She expressed her love for the campus, admiring both its beauty and the landscape as a whole. "[The grounds staff] do a very good job, getting all the flowers, in every season, they install new bushes, new flowers, for every spring, summer, fall and winter."

Sanchez also spoke about her involvement with extracurricular activities around



All photos courtesy of Maria Sanchez

the school, discussing the English Department's weekly tea times in the De La Salle building. "We have tea in our English department every Friday, I like to help out. The students have tea, they talk to the professors, it's like community hour," mentions Sanchez. Also speaking about participating in activities at the rec center, "I get to walk, I go to the health center...We have a group of friends, and we play pickleball, so that's nice."

Her love for education was certainly always strong and being able to pursue her educational goals was another major factor for why she wanted to come work at Lewis. "I always wanted to become a certified public accountant but I have four kids. It was hard for me to go back to school." Sanchez was hoping to start school in 2020 but ran into some roadblocks. Thankfully, she is back on track and ready to take college courses in the spring of 2024.

Sanchez will be pursuing her degree in finance in order to pursue her dream of

aiding the Spanish speaking community with their taxes. "I love numbers. I remember when I came from Mexico, I scored really high in math because in Mexico, I think math is advanced," says Sanchez.

After a long journey, Sanchez is looking forward to completing her goal that she has had since she was a child just arriving in the U.S. looking to achieve the American dream.

Sanchez's daughter attended Lewis and this inspired her to come work for the university and pursue a degree.

1990

Lewis men's baseball, coached by Irish O'Reilly, takes third place in the NCAA Division II National Championships. LUCEP was established to offer accelerated undergraduate degree completion for adult learners.

1991

Lewis receives a gift of \$2 million from Harold E. White to facilitate the construction of a new Aviation Center.

Professor Pramod Mishra sets goals beyond the classroom

LANIE PATTERSON
TEMPO EDITOR

Dr. Pramod Mishra is not just an English professor at Lewis. He is a fishing enthusiast, gardener, tennis player and soccer fan. His passions have taken him all over the nation. He has fished the Louisiana bayou, the shores of the Carolinas and Florida, Lake Erie, Niagara Falls and off the coast of Long Island. All these hobbies have kept him busy and happy, always with something to do.

Mishra grew up in a small village in Nepal, and attended school there until his middle school closed due to financial issues. After that, he went across the border into rural India for school. It would've taken him a full day to walk back and forth between home and school, so he stayed in a thatch dorm all throughout the rest of his high school career.

Mishra went to a Bhagalpur University, on the banks of the Ganges, to earn his first of several degrees in English. Then he went back to Nepal before getting a full-ride scholarship to Northern Illinois University in the U.S to earn his master's degree. From there, Mishra attended Duke University where he earned his PhD in English.

During his education, Mishra gained a multitude of teaching experiences. He had taught at a college in Kathmandu, Nepal and at NIU while studying for his graduate degree. When he was at Duke, he

taught two courses as a graduate instructor: Writing and Literature. His first full-time job at a liberal arts college in the Quad Cities, where he taught for roughly six years.

In 2009, Mishra decided to apply for other positions at various universities which led him to Lewis. When he looked up Lewis, what stood out to him were the university's pillars which included, knowledge, wisdom, fidelity, justice and association. He was really attracted to these principles, because his previous places of employment did not have these types of values stated in their mission. Justice is something that really was important to Mishra. When he came here, he was introduced to the Christian Brothers. He says that Br. Lawrence Oel-schlegel, Br. James Gaffney, and many others inspired him with their examples of selflessness, giving up so much for their students' education.

In 2010, Mishra decided to make Lewis his home. He liked that Lewis was close to Chicago, but at the same time had rural surroundings. When he got to know his colleagues, he got to see how the mission at Lewis impacts the people who work here. Over the years, Mishra has emphasized how essential the mission is to new faculty. He tells candidates about the mission statement and its impact, which includes how everyone looks out for each other and how the people here care



COURTESY OF DR. PRAMOD MISHRA

so much for their students.

Despite his experience at larger universities, Mishra wants to stay here at Lewis. "Lewis has become important for me. It has a good salary scale, good facilities, good class size all these things make it a very attractive place, and everything here is good for me."

The Lewis Christmas dinners that are held for the faculty and staff is one of Mishra's favorite events this time of the year. He likes how the administration supports the faculty and staff and feels sentimental when they all gather together. Any time that he can spend with the Brothers are moments that he cherishes.

What Mishra wants more than anything is for his students to know that everyone here at Lewis is here to support them. He explains that "typically students who are first generation college students or who come from minority backgrounds are underprepared when it comes to academia." College is where these students learn fundamental skills like writing, speaking and critical thinking. He wants them to be constantly learning, starting from the first day of class all the way up until graduation. Their goal should be not just to learn the content, but in English classes particularly, how to write.

Lewis has been a blessing for Mishra in many ways. When he became chair of the English de-



COURTESY OF DR. PRAMOD MISHRA

partment back in 2017, the motto he made for himself and his employees was that the workplace should be a joyful place. To him, enjoying where you work should be the main goal. Mishra wants to meet students where they are and help them rise to where they need to be. To him, "the Lasailian mission is to help each other, and

to help students learn the best they can, no matter where those students are in their life and whatever preparation they have coming into the university." He wants students to feel confident and prepared while here at Lewis and be able to carry this into their future careers and endeavors.

**Mishra earned his PhD
in English from
Duke University.**

1994

On April 7, a revised Mission Statement is adopted, celebrating the values of Knowledge, Wisdom, Fidelity, Justice, and Association.

1995

A new logo is adopted, incorporating the Sancta Alberta Chapel bell tower.

1997

Lewis accepts a donation of a Boeing 737 aircraft from United Airlines. First Signum Fidei Celebration to benefit need-based scholarships for Lewis students. First online master's degree in nursing case management offered.

A journey through Athletic Training

JADA HARVEY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Choosing a career can be very stressful. At a very young age, students must begin to think hard about what they may do for the rest of their life. Those who don't may go through numerous majors before landing on the one they call home. However, that was not the case for Jen Janczak.

Athletic Training (AT) caught her eye all the way back in high school. Her school athletic trainer, Ron Freeman, was one of her first inspirations. "We were one of the few schools around that had an AT... I was really interested in what he was doing and it just seemed like a lot of fun," says Janczak. Her interest expanded and she decided to volunteer with Freeman as a student AT.

Apart from Freeman, Janczak's true mentor was Ken Stiff. As her brother's friend and current AT student at the time, Janczak shared that he was "a great resource and gave me great information and direction." Their close connection allowed for several opportunities in the field, including interning with him and even working with him for several years.

These two trainers helped instill her passion for AT. Although they had slightly different methods, Janczak described how they were "consistent [about] serving the student-athlete. Both of them were very dedicated to that."

She soon went on to work at Loyola University under Dr. Pietro Tonino, who also happened to be the medical director and team doctor for Lewis. Janczak recalled that "about 15 years ago he asked me to come out to Lewis, since they were short-handed...to work part time." It was in 2008 when she was first introduced to the Flyers.

She served here as a part-time worker for about two years before the head trainer decided to step down from her position. Janczak had no intention of leaving her work as per diem, but her colleagues encouraged her to take the position after seeing all that Janczak brought to the table. In 2010, she asked herself why not try? and officially called the Flyer campus her home.

Her career took off and in 2018 was offered the NCAA role of Senior Woman Administrator, as well as Healthcare Administrator. Janczak explained that "at each institution there



COURTESY OF ELENA GUBERA

needs to be a person regarding medical decisions that does not need to answer to the coaches. The Health Care Administrator has the final say."

With numerous titles come numerous stressors. Whether it be rehabbing student-athletes, making doctors appointments, filling out paperwork or tending to coaches' requests, Janczak's schedule is always demanding. Despite the tasks that "empty her bucket," she said that the aspect of her profession that always fills her back up are the student-athletes. She could be swamped with a million things to do "and then the student-athletes come in and my bucket fills up, especially when people are laughing, engaged and they're interacting."

However, there are days when the stress can be too much. For example, there are times when she just cannot figure out what is wrong with an athlete. The frustration eats away at her. On those days, "I just take a deep breath, step away from it, then I find, within a day, I'm back to thinking about why the athlete is not taking that next step." She explained how her curiosity drives her to go back to her resources to search for the answer. When she finally puts the pieces together and finds the little nugget of information she was looking for, her stress depletes. With a new idea

planted in her head she "can't wait to go back in and try it."

That desire to learn more is what fuels most health professions. As medicine improves, so will methods of rehab and related fields. Janczak explained the importance of keeping oneself updated with new trends in medicine. To stay up to speed, she educates herself in the field of health and wellness. She reads athletic training, physical therapy, orthopedic and sports medicine journals, as well as attends seminars and conferences. These resources provide a lot of information in order to keep up with recent findings or developments. "It all comes together and it is always changing," says Janczak.

The learning process and communication carry over into Janczak's training room everyday. Her goal is to have a relationship of "open communication...and a lot of collaboration" with her fellow ATs. Change is always occurring, so the trainers must all be on the same page with the same mindset. "Very often, when someone is receiving care, another AT may come over and watch and ask questions. They also might come over and say let's consider something else," said Janczak. This openness in conversation in the training room is what keeps everything balanced and pulls everyone's expertise together.

of going through the motions and just giving them exercises to do, Janczak reminds herself that everyone who steps into her room is a unique individual, so she should treat them as such. "I look at my student-athletes through a different lens than I did before coming to Lewis." This mindset helps her to convey information appropriately. Knowing her athletes more personally will allow her to understand how to talk to them. She wants her impact to be positive and hopes that her time here "has made me more aware of treating athletes as individuals and not as ankle sprains [and] knee sprains."

As time goes by, her ambition never changes; she wants every athlete that she treats to take steps forward and to succeed. Whether it be physical treatment or an interaction with a student, she hopes to simply be able to carry them to a better mental state. They then have a small, but very positive, memory that they can remember with her. "What's really special to me is when the alumni come back and they say, Jen! or when I get a call from someone who graduated a couple years ago asking about their knee and I haven't talked to them in four to five years. That makes me feel good because they trust me enough to want to know my opinion," says Janczak.

This tight-knit Flyer family is what has kept Janczak's heart at Lewis. "That's what it really comes down to. The community. The community of the athletes, the coaches, the ATs. I think athletics is kind of its own little world."

Janczak began as the part-time AT in 2008 and was promoted to Head AT two years later.

2000

The School of Education achieved NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) accreditation.

2003

The School of Education became the College of Education in the fall. Lewis saw a record-breaking enrollment, with increases in freshmen, transfer, and graduate students.

2004

Major construction done for growing student population improvements were completed in De La Salle Hall, including a new Courtyard Café, bookstore and mailroom, additional classrooms, and faculty offices.

Dr. Stephen Sherwin: Serving justice and teaching empathy

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Since 2007, Dr. Stephen Sherwin has been a cornerstone of the Justice, Law and Public Safety Department at Lewis University. With over 38 years of experience in law enforcement within the Chicago Police Department, Sherwin offers an empathetic and compassionate perspective for his students.

His journey to Lewis began during his tenure at the Chicago Police Academy where he served as the head of recruit training. A turning point came when a friend, Dr. James (Jim) Houlihan, proposed the idea of Lewis University collaborating with the academy for recruitment purposes.

Through his close connection with Houlihan, Sherwin's journey reflects a deep commitment to helping others. Retirement wasn't the end but instead marked a shift into academia, where he continues to inspire and mentor students. Sherwin's relaxed yet impactful approach embodies the belief in the lasting influence of guidance and shared knowledge, creating a positive ripple effect that extends beyond the classroom. His genuine passion for assisting others is the driving force behind his ongoing dedication to student success.

The motivation for Sherwin's transition to teaching at Lewis was rooted in creating a professional relationship with the faculty and staff, and shifting his thoughts towards teaching, particularly with Houlihan, and others, including Michelle Mega, the Director of Academic Partnerships.

"In 2005, as retirement unfolded, the prospect of joining the university emerged," Sherwin stated. "I was drawn in by the positive atmosphere and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on students. I embraced the chance to contribute to the academic community and apply my experience in a different setting."

Reflecting on his decision, Sherwin emphasized the welcoming and accommodating nature of the faculty and staff at Lewis. The collegiality he experienced fostered an environment where everyone is open, conscientious and friendly. Regardless of what he was doing, his ultimate goal was to help people.

His decision to remain at the university was solidified by the relationships he formed with the president, colleagues, administrators and students. There was a casual yet professional feeling when he began his work as a professor.

To truly understand the leader he would become we have to look further back at Sherwin's journey.

Joining the Marine Corps at the age of 17, he began his military career as a Private First Class (PFC) in 1963. Through hard work and dedication, he ascended the ranks, later becoming a leader both independently and as the head of a fire team. His skills as a supervisor and steward further developed when he assumed the role of a platoon leader after serving in Vietnam twice.

Reflecting on his military experience, Sherwin shared, "I always paid attention to the older veterans, learning everything I could. I've faced individuals attempting to shoot me, stab me and bite me. Through numerous engagements that jeopardized my life, I always paid attention and learned from each experience."

Sherwin's resilience is evident as he recounted various dangerous situations as a police officer (after his time in the marines), emphasizing that, despite the challenges, he usually received apologies or expressions of remorse from those who posed a threat. His military background undoubtedly shaped his perspective and approach to life, instilling a sense of resilience and a commitment to continual learning.

Sherwin's strong desire to guide has led him to currently take active roles in various clubs and events within the criminal justice community at Lewis. One significant event he contributes to is the Justice, Law and Public Safety Career Day, an annual gathering each fall semester made for students.

This event is presented collaboratively by Lewis' Department of Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies and Career Services. It provides students with a valuable and practical networking opportunity to actively explore and navigate potential career paths in their field of interest.

"This year, we've experienced exponential increases in the number of agencies that come to our institution, offering valu-



MICHAEL SACK / CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

able information to students about job and internship opportunities. When they arrive, students select tables of interest upon entering the event. Every 10 minutes, a bell rings, signaling a change in tables. This unique format ensures they have the chance to engage in meaningful conversations with representatives from each agency," Sherwin highlighted, emphasizing the dynamic and interactive nature of these events.

Interacting with agents from various agencies such as the DEA, Homeland Security and numerous local law enforcement and federal entities, along with engaging with alumni, instills individuals with increased confidence. These interactions provide a valuable opportunity for people to connect and engage with professionals in their desired fields, potentially uncovering interests in positions they hadn't considered or didn't know existed.

Sherwin is also affiliated with Alpha Phi Sigma, an honor society designed for Criminal Justice students. The organization hosts events and various workshops to assist students in preparing for their future careers in law enforcement.

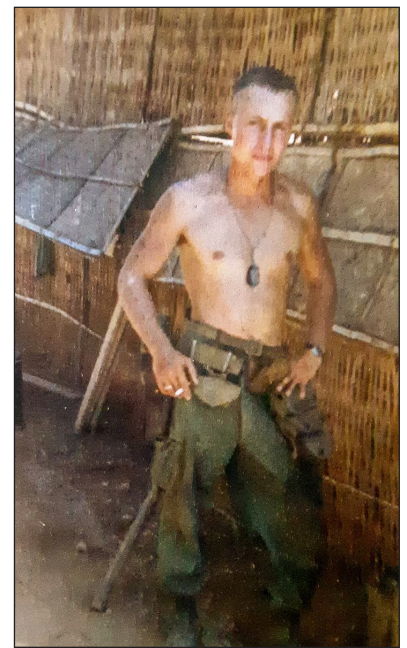
In addition to his campus re-

sponsibilities, Sherwin has launched a new podcast of his own. The podcast is called "At a Glance," available on Spotify, and explores diverse topics on the world of criminal justice. The latest episode, delving into the theme of Thanksgiving, adds a thoughtful perspective to his engaging and insightful series on different subjects.

Sherwin's scholarly pursuits delve into multifaceted areas within the realm of criminal justice. He is passionate about researching higher education initiatives aimed at enhancing police-citizen relations, refining policing methodologies, exploring the benefits of mediation and conflict resolution, and examining the ethical dimensions of policing.

With an experienced view on the evolving landscape of law enforcement, his work strives to contribute valuable insights and innovative approaches to create positive shifts in police-community dynamics. Valuing peaceful alternative methods of policing and how to communicate within different roles of law enforcement.

Sherwin's commitment to research is a testament to his overarching goal of pushing for positive change and promot-



COURTESY OF DR. STEPHEN SHERWIN

ing ethical standards within the field of criminal justice.

"The very idea of being affiliated with Lewis University and having the opportunity to teach here has had a profound impact on me personally. It is incredibly gratifying to teach at my age, especially within my field, as it keeps me constantly energetic. Simply doing nothing is just not enjoyable. Being a part of this community and having the opportunity here makes me feel incredibly fortunate."

2005

Pope John Paul II residence hall opens. Lewis established their first doctoral program, an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership for Teaching and Learning.

2007

Lewis was selected by the FAA to offer the only undergraduate program in the state of Illinois for air traffic controllers, and a master's for adult nurse practitioners began, with the subsequent ongoing development of various nurse practitioner specializations.

2014

St. Charles Borromeo transformed the College of Business. The College of Nursing and Health Professions opens an addition of 25,000 sq. ft.

Jacianna Lendor: Breaking barriers in Aviation

JADA LAW
CAMPUS LIFE REPORTER

From the outside, Jacianna Lendor looks like your typical freshman student at Lewis University. She lives on campus, goes to her classes on time and has a group of friends that she hangs out with throughout the day. However, she happens to be in pursuit of something that is uncommon to women in the Black community, a career in aviation.

Lendor grew up on the south side of Chicago with two parents who immigrated to the U.S. from the Caribbean. She was born and raised in the Windy City her entire life before coming to the quiet suburb of Romeoville.

"Striving toward a future in aviation was not always my main goal," Lendor stated. Like most teens, she was unsure of what she should pursue in college. However, after going on her first discovery flight (an introductory flight for those interested in aviation, flying felt natural to her. Lendor went on to explain "[Flying] awakened a newfound passion within me. I had never felt so certain about any other career path until that moment."

Lendor started her flight training at the early age of 16-years-old. At the time she was still adjusting to her first years of high school, but she made sure to work hard toward gaining her Private Pilot Certificate. She earned her certificate later that year at the age of 17.

When her high school chap-

ter finally came to an end, deciding where she wanted to pursue further flight education was her next step, and she landed at Lewis. "It stood out to me compared to the other colleges I looked at because of its excellent flight program, having a national weather service and an airport on its campus. These amenities were too great for my major to pass up on. Not to mention that I earned a great scholarship for the school," said Lendor. She also went on to explain how she enjoyed the fact that Lewis is based in the Midwest because she is heavily familiar with flying around the Chicagoland area.

Since arriving at Lewis, Lendor has been able to fully immerse herself in aviation. She enjoys the aviation program and noticed that it has a variety of different aviation majors you can focus on including: maintenance, management, air traffic control and several more.

Though being in aviation is something that Lendor truly loves, the major came with some new challenges that she had to learn to overcome.

It is quite uncommon for Black women to enter the aviation workforce. So much so that according to Sisters of the Skies, an organization consisting of Black female pilots, there are under 150 Black women pilots in America. This means that Black women make up less than one percent of all professional pilots in the U.S.

With the goal of becoming a commercial airline pilot in the future, Lendor says "It



KATHERINE GROPPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

can already feel intimidating attending my flight block at Lewis and not seeing many students that look like me. So, it can take away a sense of comfort." However, she understands that this is only a small bump in the road and came to the conclusion that "when you know you belong just like everyone else, there is not too much that you have to worry about."

Yes, the percentage of people who look like Lendor in her future job may not be huge, but she feels incredibly blessed to get the chance to add to the number of Black women in aviation. As time goes by, she hopes that number will continue to grow.

Since joining the Lewis community this year, Lendor has been incredibly content with her choice to study here. "I definitely think I made the right decision by becoming a flight major at Lewis, since being here I haven't had any doubts." She emphasized that being here at this university has shown her what type of student/learner she is and is thankful for identifying that part about herself because it will benefit her for the future moving forward.

Lendor knows that she has a long road ahead of her before becoming an airline pilot. With that journey, challenges are going to arise no matter what, especially as a Black female. However, being here at Lewis has taught her that "everyone should pursue what they love despite the obstacles



COURTESY OF JACIANNA LENDOR

that may be thrown their way."

A lasting piece of advice she wanted to give to any Black woman that is aspiring to enter the aviation world is to "Do it. Don't let the fact that it is dominated by white people intimidate you and keep you from pursuing something that you may really enjoy. You'll never know if something's

meant for you if you don't try it." She believes that everyone should feel confident in themselves and continue to work hard toward their goals. Lendor also asserts that you should allow yourself to do what makes you happy because "at the end of the day, this is your story and you get to decide how it's going to be told."

Lendor started her flight training at the young age of 16.

2021

The new Lewis University 2040 Campus Master Plan was approved. The intent being to provide future-focused, reality-based parameters that respect the history and values of Lewis University while providing guidance for future decision-making.

2023

Lewis seeks to continue to foster Catholic and Lasallian values in its educational programs and campus life. The University offers a unique blend of liberal learning and professional preparation, which promotes personal growth and competence.