



# Chemistry Department receives federal funding for CMI research

LUNA SCHAFER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Chemistry Department has recently been honored by a \$950,000 federal funding made by Illinois Representative Lauren Underwood.

The fund was awarded last year and officially recognized during a ceremony a few weeks ago, with aims to enhance the university's cutting-edge work in Chemical Mechanical Planarization (CMP).

CMP is a critical process in semiconductor manufacturing that ensures ultra-smooth surfaces for high-performance microchips. By combining chemical reactions with mechanical polishing, CMP removes excess material and eliminates microscopic imperfections, allowing for precise circuit layering.

The process plays a key role in modern electronics, enhancing device performance, improving energy efficiency and

enabling the development of smaller, more powerful technology. At Lewis, the Keleher research group explores new materials and techniques to advance CMP, aiming to contribute to energy-efficient semiconductor production.

Lewis University is among a select group of 14 research institutions nationwide to receive this funding. The university's position as one of the few institutions conducting semiconductor research played a crucial role in securing the money granted by Rep. Underwood.

According to Kirsten Smith, an undergraduate researcher in the chemistry department, the grant will support ongoing CMP research by providing necessary resources, including laboratory renovations, essential materials, and equipment.

"Running a research lab is incredibly expensive," Smith explained. "There are constant costs, from disposable materials like gloves to the chemicals

we use in our experiments. This funding helps ensure we can continue making progress in our work."

One of the recent renovations that the department was able to make with the money was the lab space the group has been using to conduct their research.

Smith explains that this type of research is rare, making it difficult to secure funding, even from American companies. As a result, obtaining large sums of money for such projects is challenging. She emphasizes that this funding will significantly enhance their ability to produce results, especially given how uncommon this research is across the country.

Smith, who has been conducting research at Lewis for nearly two years, emphasized the value of hands-on experience in preparing for a future career in research. "I have really liked my experience doing research at Lewis. I like that



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

Chemistry students working in the research hub.

as an undergrad, I'm able to call a lot of shots at what I do, which would not be the case in most other universities, like if I was at a larger one, I would essentially be someone's assistant, but I'm getting to run projects and experiments and they ask me for my input, which I know is not an oppor-

tunity that I would get at another university."

With this funding, Lewis aims to expand its research into new materials that could improve the energy efficiency of semiconductors, potentially contributing to advancements in the industry.

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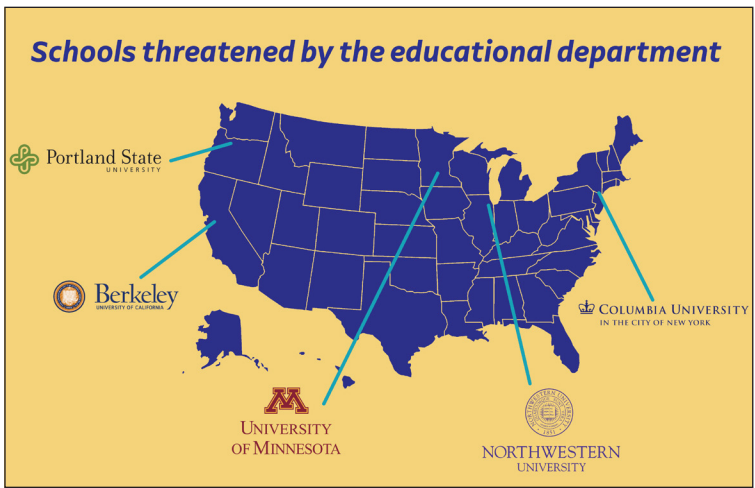
# U.S. Department of Education sues universities for anti-semitic behavior

LUNA SCHAFER  
NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 3, the U.S. Department of Education opened an investigation of several universities across the country for their antisemitic behavior.

The lawsuit against these major universities across the U. S., alleges that these institutions failed to address rising incidents of antisemitism on their campuses. The lawsuit alleges that the universities have failed to uphold students' rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act which claims that these universities have allowed a hostile environment to be persistent within their campuses, endangering Jewish students and violating federal anti-discrimination laws.

The lawsuit arose in recent months due to reports of antisemitic incidents occurring at universities such as Northwestern University, Columbia University,



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Portland State University, The University of California Berkeley and The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Lewis University was not named in the lawsuit.

The current investigations were prompted due to a surge of anti-Semitic incidents following the Oct. 7, 2023 terrorist attacks in the south of Israel. According to the Hillel International website,

it has been reported that antisemitic incidents on college campuses have increased by 700% from 2022 to 2023, with over 1,400 incidents recorded during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Norah Collins Pienta, who serves Lewis University as the Dean of Students and Assistant Vice-President for Student Life, states, "Lewis University an-

nually reviews the policies in the Code of Conduct/Student Handbook in the summer. We also have updated policies in January, if needed, and publish an updated version of the Code of Conduct. We did not update any policies for January 2025."

She continues, "We do stay informed on external happenings, including court rulings and federal legislation to determine the potential impact on Lewis. Many of us, including those on the University Leadership, are part of national associations which help inform our work as a private, La-sallian institution."

The explanation provided by Collins is that policies are rooted in the Mission and Core Principles of Lasallian Schools, which emphasize Concern for the Poor and Social Justice, Inclusive Community (CPSPSJ), and Respect

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# Free hygienic products now available

EMMA BERTOTTO  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Recently, Lewis University started a new program that provides free menstrual products in public restrooms across campus to address a critical need for students and ensure access to basic hygiene necessities. The goal is to eliminate challenges that may prevent students from attending class. Together with fostering and creating a supportive environment.

The idea was mentioned during a staff meeting of the group of Prevention & Outreach where they discussed the challenges students face in accessing menstrual products. Kayla DeCant, Project Director of Prevention & Outreach, explained, “We were discussing how outdated it felt to need a quarter to get products—most students don’t carry cash, much less change.”

The conversation led them to explore potential solutions, including looking for partner-

ships with vendors to provide products for the university community.

DeCant and her team decided to team up with Aunt Flow for several reasons. “They provide sustainable products made with organic cotton, they donate one product for every 10 sold, and their dispensers are ADA-compliant,” she explained.

These products are not covered by Flex Spending Accounts, health insurance or even from public benefit programs such as SNAP and WIC. According to national research, 86% of menstruating students have started their period without warning and did not have any supplies to use in hand, and 84% had to miss class because of this reason. One in four students do not go to school because of a lack of supplies and resources once again.

“Based on our enrollment numbers, we could have up to 3,079 students whose academic success is impacted by their

access to menstrual products,” Kayla noted.

Dispensaries around campus were installed that offer both pads and tampons. Since Aunt Flow is a company that has partnered with several schools, they have helped determine the best products for the needs of Lewis students. Their impact has seen positive results. “We’ve received great feedback, and a few dispensers were quickly emptied once installed, which showed a strong need,” Kayla said. “Now, we are seeing more regular use.”

There were a few challenges the initiative faced. The first one was securing funding. “But really, most of the challenges were just figuring out the logistics of the project. Which restrooms should we ensure get products first, when would facilities be able to install the dispensers, who would be responsible for stocking and refilling the dispensers?” Kayla expressed.

To ensure that the dispensers stay stocked, Sodexo house-



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

Dispensers that contain free hygienic products for students.

keeping refills them as part of their regular maintenance. This helps maintain consistent access to products.

Looking ahead, there are future plans for the expansion of the program. “We plan to keep installing dispensers to increase accessibility,” she said. There are 141 public restrooms on the Romeoville campus, at the beginning there was not enough funding for all of them

to have dispensers, but there is a plan to get one for each in the following years.

With this initiative, the university is demonstrating their commitment to supporting students in all aspects of their lives, not only academically. “I hope this shows that Lewis University is committed to providing support both inside and outside the classroom,” Kayla said.

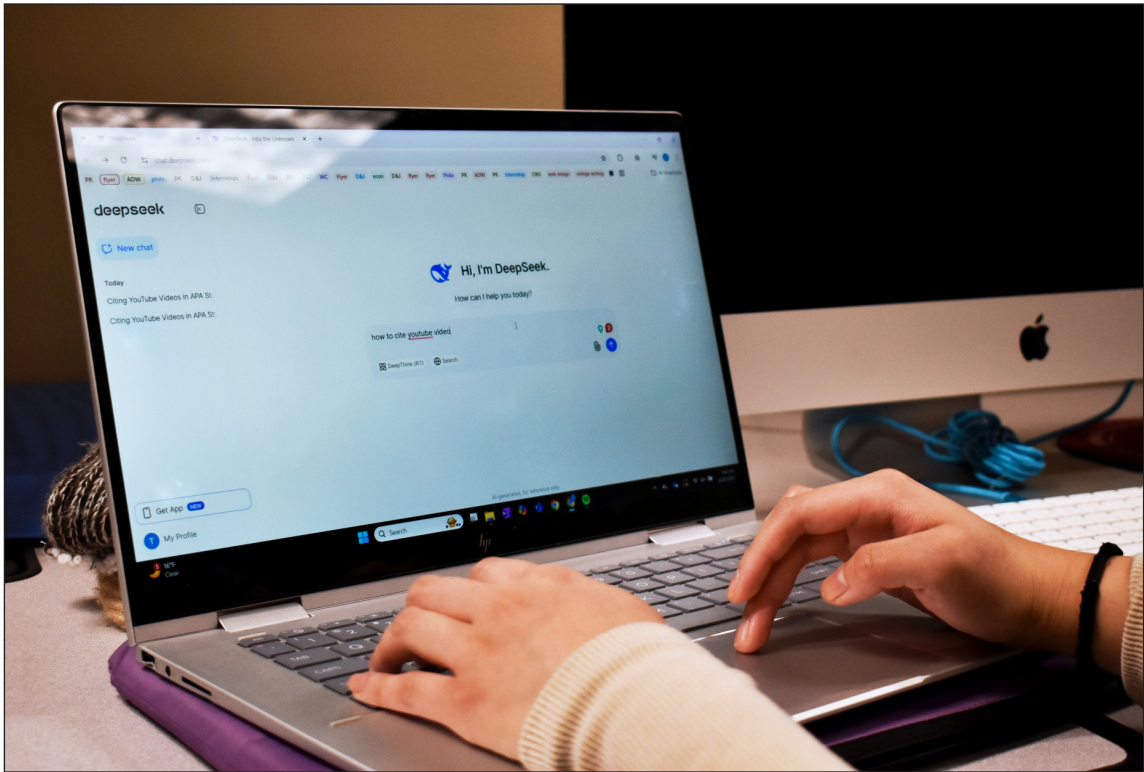
# Chat GPT competitor: Deepseek AI

EMMA BERTOTTO  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Transformations in various fields have been brought by the continuing evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) and a huge sector affected by this growth has been education. According to Mir Hyder Ali, a member of the Office of Technology (IT) at Lewis University, DeepSeek has certain strengths that make it particularly appealing for academic use, though there are areas where it is not fully developed.

“DeepSeek’s AI has notable strengths, particularly in ethical learning, which I found impressive,” Ali points out. Meaning that it can handle the information given responsibly and that it mitigates the risk of reinforcing biases, which is important in this environment since impartiality and accuracy are crucial.

Ali suggested that Deepseek AI usually ensures a better accuracy and handles misinformation thoughtfully, which as a result makes it a strong candidate for academic use. He explained that this AI is designed to be more ethical and equitable, when compared to others, aiming to minimize detrimental biases in how it processes and presents information. Ali believes these characteristics position DeepSeek as a more reliable resource, since misinformation can spread easily,



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

A student using a laptop to interact with Deepseek the new AI tool.

However, Ali notes that DeepSeek AI does have some limitations when compared to other popular AI tools, such as ChatGPT. One notable difference is the absence of certain advanced features, such as the ability to create PowerPoint presentations or graphs. So for anyone that relies on a visual aid for an assignment or presentation, not having this function can be considered an obstacle.

It can also have an impact on the traditional learning method. “Despite these strengths, it does pose a risk of replacing traditional learning methods by providing

direct answers, which could impact critical thinking,” Ali explains. In order to have intellectual development, it is vital for a student to be able to engage with the material and with this solve the problems in an independent way.

Beyond accuracy, ethical questions also endure. “There are ethical considerations like potential biases in decision-making, privacy issues and environmental impacts due to high energy consumption,” he notes. As AI continues to evolve, it is essential to ensure these issues are taken into consideration to look after both users

and the environment.

“As for the future, I believe that with its open-source nature, DeepSeek AI could drive significant innovations across various industries,” he says. The open-source nature of the platform allows for collaboration and continual improvement, which could lead to the development of additional features and increased functionality in the years to come. Though DeepSeek AI is really new and has room for growth, its ethical approach and commitment to accuracy could make it a valuable tool, especially in academic settings.

## ‘U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUES...’ CONTINUED

for All Persons. These guiding values shape the concept of the Sanctified Zone and affirm Lewis University as a place of welcome, both of which are outlined in the Student Handbook. The Sanctified Zone represents a commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where individuals actively work to combat racism, bias, and prejudice while embracing diversity.

Collins believes “Universities have a responsibility to create space for dialogue on important, and sometimes difficult, topics. Helping students engage in discussions in respectful ways happen in the classroom as well as through co-curricular programming. We continue to review learning that happens outside the classroom to help create an inclusive campus. This happens in the residence halls as well as through student organizations and club sports, as examples.”

There is a Campus Assembly policy as well as an Open and Respectful Debate Policy in the Student Handbook which were reviewed during the summer of 2024.

Lewis University continues to reinforce its commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment. Through initiatives like the Sanctified Zone and regular policy reviews, Lewis aims to create spaces for open dialogue and meaningful discussions, ensuring that its campus remains a place of respect and inclusion for all.



# OPINIONS

## Love, loss and sunk cost fallacy

JOHN COLAYO  
ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR

The claim by John Brock from the “Economics Principles of Life” that economics penetrates every facet of life was not a joke. Every part of our existence is orchestrated by this all-encompassing power. Because of how widespread it is, it influences love - the most basic and universally human feeling.

Indeed, economic considerations definitely play a role in shaping romantic desires. The limitations of “homo economicus” or economic man who pursues wealth for self-interest no longer apply to us; according to the economic historian Robert Sidelsky, we are more than just a commodity.

Amidst a society in turmoil due to economic hardship, political unrest and the impending danger of climate change, there is one matter that ought to be given top priority: one’s love life. My contemporary management professor asked us one evening, “what is risk?” With the traditional response, I answered, “Risk is the chance that some detrimental event will happen.” What an objective and cold way to describe such an emotional concept.

At its core, when you experience fear, it comes from the nature of risk. Can you guess what was on the tip of my tongue? A Chinese proverb, “Pearls don’t lie on the seashore,” meaning that if you desire one, you must take a

leap of faith, outweighing the risk and uncertainty of tomorrow.

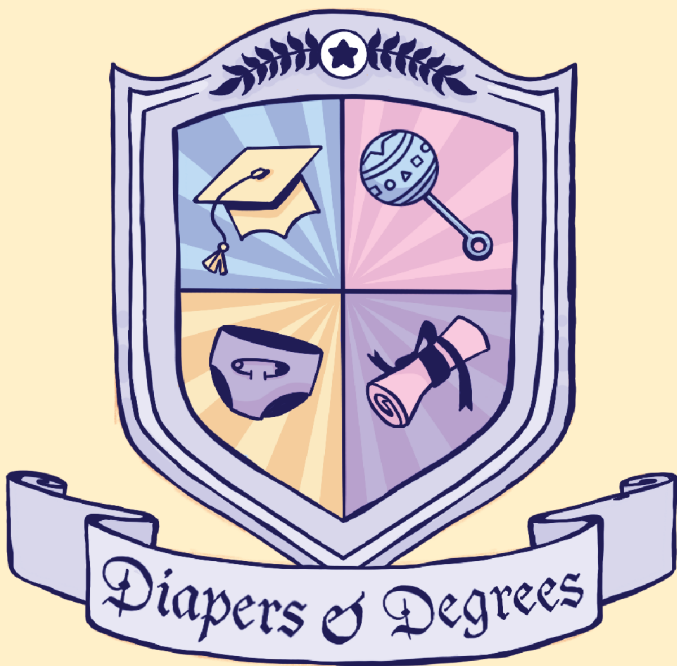
“What is sunk cost?” my professor asked. Such expenditures are irrecoverable since they occurred in the past, as mentioned in the textbook “Managing Diversity and Inclusion” by Daft. This is relevant to the idea of incremental costs, which are the expenditures associated with a choice. “Sunk costs have no bearing on choices regarding the future,” according to my professor. It’s like being on the verge of getting married but still not feeling totally at ease. When you make a decision, you almost never think about the 10 years you spent with that person. Costs like this are considered buried. A sunk cost.

One may remark that it is now time to move on and address the next investment because time is valuable as it is a treasure of life. Well, the toughest idea to battle, then, is “Ah, what a waste.” But one may argue, what is the cost of holding on? What is the cost of letting all these other opportunities pass? Actually, can anybody measure the cost of letting go? It’s simple when you’re not the one whose heart is being ripped to bits, I have been warned that love carries some danger. I’m not a risk-taker; the default economic assumption is that we are all naturally risk-averse. But in cases of liking and pursuing someone, it all depends on who you take it with - “risk all, no regrets,” I have been advised.

Supply and demand take the front stage when discussing relationships. In economics, like elsewhere, scarcity may spark desire. Have you ever encountered someone who starts out mysterious but ends up being quite interesting? The “rare resource” theory is put into practice in this way. So, remember that a little scarcity might be helpful in the dating world, but don’t allow it to become a full-blown love recession.

Like good financial management, healthy relationships need a delicate balancing act of time, energy and focus. Think of it as managing a portfolio of carefully selected investments. Go overboard on one expense, and another can take a hit. The trick is not to put all of your emotional eggs in one basket; rather, spread them out. After all, everything we do in life must be done in order to stay alive. We gravitate toward those who we believe can improve us and help us climb out of our metaphorical gutter, whether we want to admit it or not.

Everything is impacted by economics. It has an impact on who you choose to spend the rest of your life with. It helps people stay grounded. This is crucial in an era where the “love will keep us alive” mentality is heavily romanticized in film and television, when, in truth, it will never fare off. Love with a future is something you work on and work for.



## Balacing life as a new parent

STEPHANIE AGUILAR  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

College is tough and a completely different lifestyle change for incoming college freshmen.

Add becoming a parent to that mix and you have a complete course load of chaos on your hands.

When I found out I was pregnant, I was just starting my second semester of my freshman year.

Already drowning in homework, essays, and projects, my world shifted on its axis. What went from missing my

8 a.m. classes because I overslept, soon became missing classes for doctor’s appointments.

My entire world flipped upside down. What was once a girl who studied during the day and partied with friends at night slowly transformed into someone I had never been before.

I started swapping out party dresses and heels for onesies and footie pajamas.

While finding out I was pregnant early in the semester, I had my fears about whether or not I should keep going to school.

College wasn’t designed for moms with newborns, and I did not expect any of my professors to go out of their way to accommodate me, but that was where I was proven wrong.

My professors welcomed my situation with open arms and offered not only extra support in and outside of class, but gave me resources that I wasn’t aware of in my community.

Yes, going to class with a belly was not the most discrete experience, but having a community that accepted and supported me made the

transition to motherhood smoother.

The harsh reality is, no amount of support and resources can prepare you for the real thing.

There were days where I showed up to class running on coffee and barely an hour of sleep from the night before.

Even worse, I was drowning in homework because midnight study sessions soon became midnight feedings.

But the hardest part about becoming a parent in college was the isolation.

By ditching a life of partying with friends and now worrying about diapers and wipes, I became the one who watched my friends live the life I once lived through the screen on my phone.

My weekend consisted of “Cocomelon” and laundry instead of cornhole and water pong.

It was easy to feel like I was in a permanent state of limbo—I didn’t feel I belonged to either lifestyle.

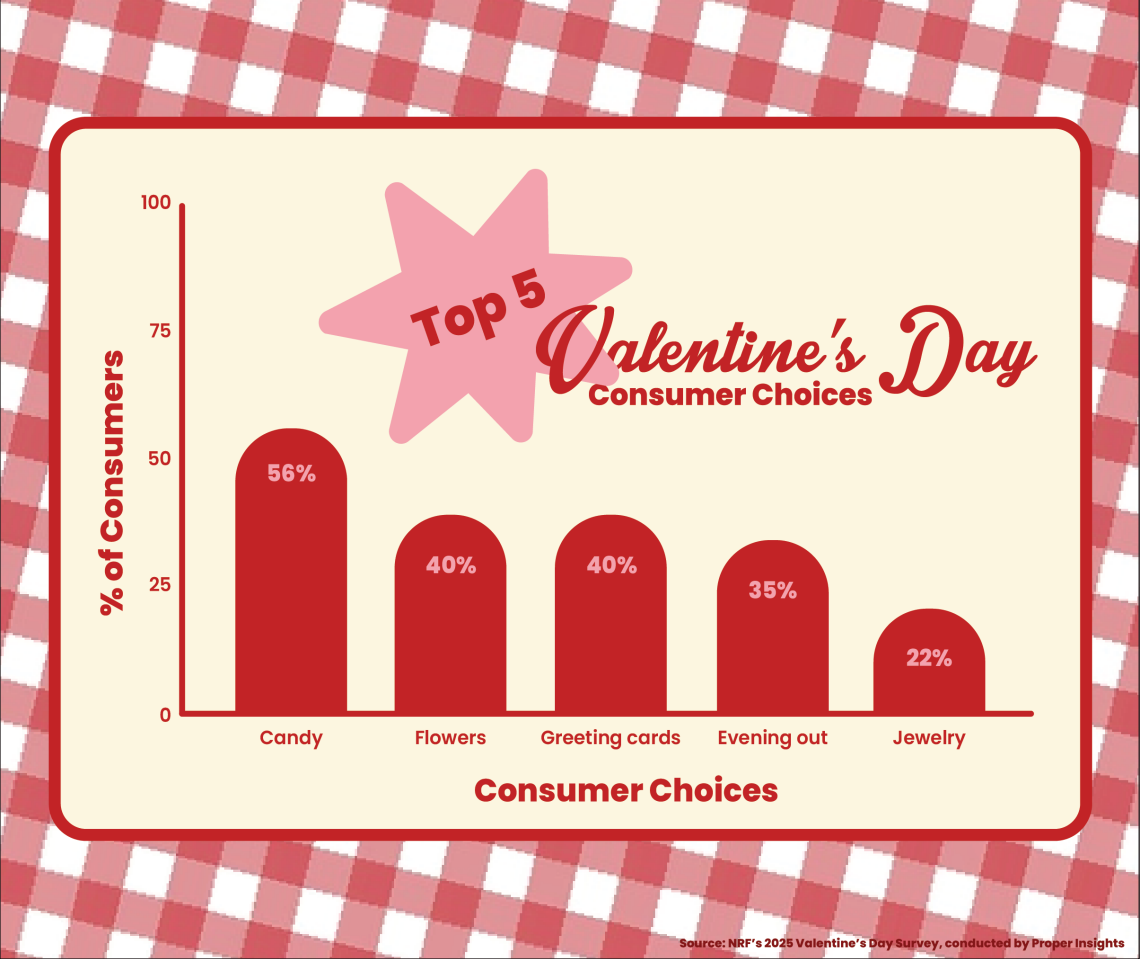
That was until I searched for others like me.

Finding support from fellow student parents helped me feel a sense of belonging in my community again.

From trading notes to trading tips and tricks on how to get our babies to sleep, we found the supplemental support that helped push me to where I’m at in school today.

To other young parents navigating their way through college with little ones, you’re stronger than you think and progress is progress.

There is no textbook timeline you need to follow, you’re doing amazing by doing it at all.



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER















# CAMPUS LIFE

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# SPORTS

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# TEMPO

## Kendrick Lamar takes over Super Bowl LIX halftime show

JADEN ELMORE  
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

The Super Bowl has always been a huge part of American Football and entertainment. It was planned back in 1966 when the National Football League (NFL) and American Football League (AFL) agreed to merge together. The first game took place on Jan. 15, 1967, with teams Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs going at it. However, another reason to watch the Super Bowl is the halftime show performance.

The first Super Bowl performance of 1967 featured the University of Arizona and Grambling State Marching Band. The halftime show was more of a traditional band performance without any major artists performing. Eventually, the halftime show productions would change as more artists performed there. Famous artists such as Michael Jackson, U2, Prince and many more have performed at the Super Bowl.

On Feb. 9, 2025, Kendrick Lamar was the headliner for the Super Bowl LIX halftime show. Lamar

took the stage in New Orleans delivering a symbolic performance that had many on the internet questioning what he was trying to portray. His choice of songs and the guests he brought on stage showed the true meaning of his halftime show.

To start the 13-minute setlist, he previewed an unreleased track. It is said to be a possible song for Kendrick's next album. He then transitions into "Squabble Up," which sets the tone for the performance.

After this, he transitions into "Humble," "DNA" and "Euphoria," each song delivering a powerful performance. The introduction to "Man at the Garden" reflected his ability to deliver and fabricate complex narratives in his performance.

He then performed the song "Peekaboo," which elevated the performance. The choreography sequences between the dancers and Kendrick were astonishing. He then teased the audience with a subtle beat of the intro of the Grammy winning song "Not Like Us," the 2024 diss record that had pretty controversial lyrics towards the rapper, Drake.

The song "Not Like Us" was a blistering record in the spring of 2024. Kendrick Lamar and Drake indulged in a rap battle, which got personal as each threw controversial accusations against each other. With all that controversy, people wondered if this would be played on one of the biggest stages in the world. Lamar did perform the song, and like any other song, some lyrics had to be censored, especially the controversial word "pedophile," which Lamar uses in the song. Even with the censorship, the audience's engagement highlighted the song's impact.

The controversy was not only about certain song choices but also the NFL's decision to have Lamar perform. The NFL received backlash for choosing Kendrick over another notable rapper, Lil Wayne, who expressed disappointment on social media. Wayne's reasoning for the disappointment was because he is from New Orleans and expected to be chosen for the Super Bowl instead of Lamar.

Guest appearances also added depth to Lamar's performance.

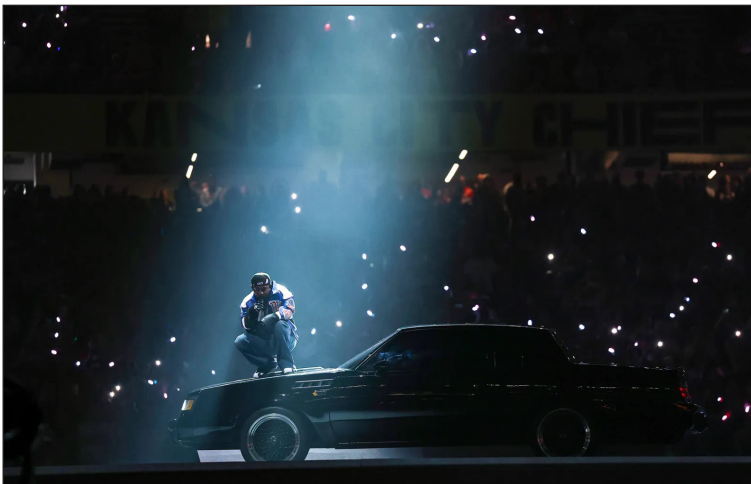


PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.ROLLINGSTONE.COM

Kendrick Peforming at SuperBowl LIX.

Kendrick introduced singer/songwriter "SZA" to perform their hit songs "Luther" and "All The Stars." Their voices transcended in their music, which showcased the strong chemistry between the two.

SZA wasn't the only guest Lamar brought on stage, as he had well-known actor Samuel L. Jackson, who dressed up as Uncle Sam, while tennis player Serena Williams and producer Mustard made brief appearances.

Lamar's Super Bowl performance was a reflection of bold,

unfiltered, unapologetic, and thought-provoking expression. With a mix of both impactful messaging and visuals, Lamar gave a set that was both entertaining and interesting. It marked both personal and cultural elements that left many viewers more connected with the music. While it did spark conversation about whether it was good or not, it also highlighted how the halftime show can evolve and allow more diverse and impactful performances going forward.

## Underrated modern rom-coms

TYRA CORPUZ  
MANAGING EDITOR

Romcom's seem to be a dying art. Nothing ever hits like the classic 90s and 2000s comedic romances' that Gen Z has grown up on. Even the box office's biggest hit "Anyone But You" does not even compare to beloved movies like "13 Going on 30" or "10 Things I Hate About You."

Throwing in a bunch of random hot actors and calling it a day doesn't make for a good movie, it makes for poor chemistry. So here are some modern day rom-com recommendations that met the 2000s standard of a little outlandish but extremely heartwarming and laugh-inducing.

### Rosaline

The star-crossed lover's trope has been done time and time again. In this retelling of Romeo and Juliet, the film doesn't actually follow either of these classic characters, instead it follows Juliet's cousin and Romeo's jilted ex, Rosaline. In this comedic retelling of the Shakespeare classic, the audience follows Rosaline as she tries to separate Romeo and Juliet, while trying to ignore her annoying yet charming suitor, Dario.

The movie takes the classic and spins it on its head with its

modern language and complete reimagining of a side character turned into a main character. The film's modern-day translation of the Renaissance era is easy to follow and humorous to watch.

### Set it Up

Glen Powell's romcom reign started here. Starring alongside Zoey Deutch, the story follows two overworked assistants, Charlie and Harper, as they try to set up their overbearing bosses to get together. An unlikely friendship blossoms between the two assistants as they mastermind their two bosses' love story. The audience watches as they put their bosses in the most ridiculous situations, orchestrating meet cutes and dates while also slowly falling for each other. The chemistry and comedic timing of the actors allow for each character to feel connected and real, despite the outlandish dialogue. "Set it Up" is one of Netflix's rom-com must-watches.

### The Map of Tiny Perfect Things

"Groundhog's Day" meets "Paper Towns" as two teens try and find every tiny perfect moment in the day to break out of the time loop they are trapped in. Mark, our main character, becomes intrigued with Margaret as he realizes he is not alone in this



Posters from modern day rom-coms.

PHOTO CREDIT: IMDB

repeating prison. They explore the town in search of answers, finding beauty and humor in things people don't normally notice, like unheard talents or simple coincidences.

The heartfelt film captures the coming-of-age feeling with moments of trying to chase fleeting happiness and moments of serious conversation. It's a film that leaves the audience smiling and appreciating every little joy in life.

### Plus One

Being in your twenties sucks, especially for Ben King and Alice Mori. After Ben accidentally hit on an engaged woman and Alice was brutally dumped, the two close-knit college friends make a pact to be each other's plus one to every single wedding they were invited to this summer. Ben, as the hopeless romantic, and Alice, as the recently dumped cynic, the

opposite pair connect as they face the string of emotional toasts, dances and dinners they agreed to endure together. The goal was to simply make the weddings more bearable, but as time goes on they realize that love is messy and complicated and beautiful. Their arguments feel just as raw and genuine as their sweet and humorous conversations. "Plus One" is a movie that makes the audience feel the characters' every emotion as if they are in a relationship with them, leaving viewers rooting for them even when they make mistakes.

### Your Monster

This movie is like if "Beauty and the Beast" was set in modern times and Belle was a starving actress and the Beast was the monster in her closet. The movie is a fun twist on the rom-com genre with its themes of love and re-

venge.

After Laura's curative cancer surgery, she gets dumped by her boyfriend, Jacob. In flits of rage and remorse, she finds comfort in the newly appearing monster in her closet. Together, they bond, trying to help Laura achieve her Broadway dreams and get over her ex.

The odd pairing is quite entertaining and jarring to watch as Monster and Laura begin to find their similarities with each other. There are even times when the audience can ignore the fact that the love interest is an ugly beast and see how vulnerable each character is. The horror rom-com is definitely a must-watch for enjoyers of unconventional love stories and jarring endings.

Modern day rom-coms are changing with the times, check these out for new fun additions to your watchlist.



# Making the best of 'Cozy Grove'

**RAYNE GRABOWSKI**  
TEMPO EDITOR

Fishing, mining, collecting local foragables and exploring are all common elements within cozy games. The typical cozy game has several relaxing factors, including intriguing character plots, decoration and life simulation elements. "Cozy Grove" is no exception to these standards but has its own unique charm that immerses players all the same.

The game is from the perspective of a Spirit Scout. Spirit Scouts help ghosts, otherwise known as spirits, to move on to the next life. With this in mind, the first scene is the player arriving on an island called "Cozy Grove" for their first solo mission. This mission, as the scout discovers early on, was doomed. It's not the correct assignment.

Nonetheless, the player continues with optimism in the face of danger. There are many stranded spirits on the island with little to no memory of their lives before. The player has to collect items and do various tasks for the spirits to unlock more of each character's life story. The spirits also provide spirit logs, which can be used to unlock more spirits and their storylines.

The spirits within the game



PHOTO CREDIT: STORE.STEAMPOWERED.COM

Players can collect badges within "Cozy Grove" for various tasks.

are drawn as bears. Each spirit has its own profession and can perform those tasks upon the player's request. This adds several useful aspects to the game such as cooking and crafting along with obtaining specific materials.

"Cozy Grove" emphasizes the importance of patience, as each spirit takes a different amount of time to open up to the player.

The game has a real-time clock,

meaning that the time in game is the same as the real world. Patience is exercised, as only one quest per day can be given from each character. Certain items take many days to attain, forcing the player to take their time with the gameplay. Additionally, some quests are for purely monetary or decorative rewards rather than receiving spirit logs.

The graphics in this game are 2D but move very smoothly.

The color palette of the game starts off in black and white except for the player. As quests are completed, areas light up. This allows trees and plants to grow in these areas, but they don't stay lit forever. At the start of each day, the areas lose their light and regain it once another quest is completed.

Each character has a heartwarming story to discover. These stories are innocent but

they also contain darker subjects. Stories of family and friends are included, ultimately leading to death. Many spirits were stuck on the island through unfortunate events, while others had big dreams that ended in disaster. The stories of the spirits make up the charm of the game.

"Cozy Grove" does fall into the cozy game category. It was released on March 19, 2021, on Apple devices but was removed from the platform on February 25, 2024. However, the game was also released for Play Stations 4 and 5, PC, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch on April 8, 2021 where it is still available.

The game does have a DLC titled "New Neighbors." It was released on April 26, 2022, and included several new characters. These characters don't have the one quest per day rule of the originals, though. The longest wait is what the player needs to obtain the materials for the quests.

"Cozy Grove" may not be incredibly action packed but it is relaxing and meaningful. The characters each have their own virtues, making players reflect on their own lives while hearing the stories of others. As the player helps each spirit, the value of life and the people in it is apparent in the game's design.

# Rebuilding Black Wall Street: A Conversation with Victor Luckerson

**STEPHANIE AGUILAR**  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

During Community Hour on Wed. Feb. 12, Lewis hosted award-winning author, Victor Luckerson, for a discussion into his book, "Built from the Fire: the Epic Story of Tulsa's Greenwood District, America's Black Wall Street." The discussion was held in the University Dining Room, as well as over Zoom to make the event accessible for everyone.

Victor Luckerson is an author and former journalist for renowned companies such as Time Magazine and The Ringier. Falling in love with the art of writing, Luckerson knew it was only a matter of time before his dream of writing a book came true.

"When I visited Greenwood in 2018, I saw that this history wasn't being widely acknowledged by the people of Tulsa and throughout the United States, so I really wanted to be able to sequence that history more thoroughly," explains Luckerson on his inspiration for his book.



PHOTO CREDIT: [HTTPS://WWW.VICLUCKERSON.COM/](https://www.vicluckerson.com/)

Victor Luckerman talking about his book, "Built from the Fire."

"Built From The Fire" follows the Goodwin family who lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood District, which in the early nineteen-hundreds was known as Black Wall Street. The turning point for a community thriving in Black wealth and excellence was the Tulsa Race Massacre.

The Tulsa Race Massacre was a government-led white mob that

invaded the Greenwood District and destroyed properties and businesses for thirty-five blocks, while also murdering more than 300 people. The Race Massacre permanently shifted the Greenwood District from a place of Black wealth and excellence to a place of ruin and the need for rebuilding.

The book further focuses on

not just the aftermath of the massacre, but the process of rebuilding the Greenwood District, and other obstacles faced throughout the 20th century. One of the other main themes in "Built from the Fire" is the act of resilience the community faces.

Gentrification is a major issue discussed in "Built from the Fire." Luckerson wanted to bring to light the strength that is hidden in this neighborhood of Tulsa. From the race massacre, gentrification, and continuing racial setbacks throughout today's America, Luckerson encompasses how the Greenwood District is still fighting the same fight from over 100 years ago, refusing to be erased.

Luckerson's focal point being the Goodwin family shows this theme of resilience throughout the book. The Goodwin family survived the race massacre, along with the gentrification of Tulsa and is still a part of the rebuilding of the district today.

"When I went to Greenwood, I met with a legislator representing the Greenwood District, her name was Regina Goodwin. I interviewed her and she told

me how her great grandfather moved to Tulsa in 1914, survived the race massacre, and rebuilt his life with his children and grandchildren. They're the only family who has been on Black Wall Street the entire time," recalls Luckerson.

Luckerson's discussion allowed for faculty and students a chance to learn about a piece of Black history that is not as represented as it should be. Luckerson wrote his book to bring light to the hidden pieces of Black history, emphasizing the current silencing seen in American teaching today.

The event left a lasting impression, influencing thought-provoking and meaningful dialogue about history, representation and activism. Hosting authors such as Victor Luckerson, Lewis aims to continue fostering critical conversations on diversity, equity and inclusion on campus.

To learn more about Built from the Fire and Victor Luckerson, visit [www.vicluckerson.com](http://www.vicluckerson.com), or email him directly at [vic.luckerson@gmail.com](mailto:vic.luckerson@gmail.com).



# CAMPUS LIFE

## Schmitt Scholars provides free business attire for students

**DELANEY COLEMAN**  
CAMPUS LIFE ASST.

During community hour on Feb. 19, the Schmitt Scholar program students hosted an event to empower students through their wardrobe. Business attire was supplied by donations from community members at Lewis and the Sugar Grove Public Library.

The free business closet was hosted in the University Dining Room next to Charlie's Place. As community hour progressed, more and more students filled the room to try on and take home some outfits.

All the clothes offered were free for all genders and sizes, so there were plenty of professional outfits for everyone to create. Business fashion and free clothes brought students together to try things on, be creative and have fun with their friends. There were shirts, skirts, suit jackets, slacks, shoes and bags for women of all sizes and styles.

Danny Jimenez, a sophomore nursing student, recog-



**VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER**

*Students taking advantage of the free professional closet provided by Women in Business.*

nized the inclusivity, "I appreciated that the free closet was for all students and not just women." For men, there were suits, dress shirts and ties available. Some of the items had never been worn and still had tags on them.

Jimenez continued, "It's great to have clothes for upcoming internship opportunities, job interviews or just to have nice things to wear out."

Maya Lesniak, a sophomore aviation administration major and member of the Women

in Business club, mentioned, "Some schools like Northern Illinois University have year round free closets that are always supplied for students. We would love to do something like this, but we don't currently have the resources or

the space because we'd have to pay to staff it and be able to get the clothes on a more regular basis."

The benefits include allowing everyone to feel more confident in their bodies during interviews and not needing to spend excessive amounts of money on clothes they may only use a few times.

On the other hand, some students may be going to an internship and need professional clothes everyday. Having this resource available regularly could help underprivileged students have free access to clothes that would put them at the same level as their peers. New clothes offer students a unique sense of confidence which is always a necessary interview skill.

Lesniak also commented, "However we do have a survey for students as they're leaving to let us know what we can do better and if they'd like to see something like this year round!" Now it's the students turn to voice their opinions for this to become a more regular opportunity.

## Celebrating presidents on campus with a special lunch

**IRENA ILIC**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In honor of President's Day, on Feb. 17 Lewis University celebrated its President, Dr. David Livingston. Campus dining service, Sodexo, hosted a President's Day Luncheon to mark the occasion. The luncheon was open to all students, with a special invitation sent to the presidents of campus clubs and organizations in an effort to celebrate their leadership and commitment. Brown Dining Hall was decorated with American flags and presidential memorabilia with menu specials influenced by Dr. Livingston.

Sodexo general manager Brandie Jevtic comments on the successful event, "This was actually an idea from our marketing team, something new to celebrate since we are on campus for the holiday and a small way to celebrate Dr. Livingston's leadership. The marketing team worked on the connection with student organizations to get them to

come out. We had well over 20 students come to celebrate from the student organizations. We hope that this was the start of a new tradition for future President's Day luncheons in the years to come! This definitely was a team effort and it's a pleasure to lead such a great group of people that are part of the Lewis Dining Team."

Dr. Livingston became the 10th President of Lewis University in 2016, bringing over 15 years of academic leadership experience with him. With an academic history in theology, Dr. Livingston embodies the LaSallian spirit.

Before coming to Lewis, he served as President at Lourdes University, Vice President for Advancement at Mercyhurst University and taught religious studies at numerous institutions. His doctoral work looks at forgiveness and reconciliation through a theological and ethical aspect with his concentration focusing on religious and cultural responses to domestic violence.

The President's Day luncheon served items such as deep dish pizza, charcuterie boards, flatbreads with burrata and balsamic glaze, spaghetti and meatballs, Italian beef and more. The dishes were inspired by one of President Livingston's favorite T.V. shows, "The Bear."

Set in Chicago, the show follows a world-class chef through his challenges in reviving his family's struggling sandwich shop. The show was a huge hit when released in 2022 with a new season on the way.

The event was attended by numerous students serving on campus organizations who enjoyed the unique menu. Senior finance, economics and spanish major Alex Camacho was glad to join the luncheon as the Vice President of Student Senate. "Presidents' Day reminds us of the strength and foundation of our Lewis community, much like the hearty layers of a deep dish pizza—rich, substantial, and built to last," said Camacho.



**PHOTO CREDIT: SODEXO**

*Lewis University President Dr. David Livingston (center) at Brown Dining Hall with campus organization presidents.*



# Career Fest and Internship Fair

**BRYNN KOEHLER**  
CAMPUS LIFE &  
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, Feb. 14, Lewis, along with other colleges in the College Career Consortium of Illinois co-sponsored the 2025 Career Fest and Internship Fair at the Embassy Suites in Naperville. Open to all majors, the fair offered a range of information on career and internship opportunities.

From local, state and federal government to higher education, healthcare and legal industries, over 120 organizations covering a broad spectrum of professions were there to present opportunities for career advancements and internships.

This most recent fair is marked as one of the largest job and internship events of the school year, and one of the biggest opportunities for students to explore future career paths and professions.

Throughout the year, Lewis works to offer several fairs, expos and other events for students. These events can be especially helpful for students



Career Services office located on the first floor of the LRC.

VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

who are not sure about their major or what they want to do after graduation.

Sophomore undecided major, Elaina Veome, says “I think Career and Internship fairs are really important no matter what major you are. They are a great opportunity

to get access to information and explore new interests that you may not know you have.”

According to the Complete Guide to Liberal Arts Colleges, declaring a major is a taxing emotional and financial commitment. For many students, even those who are sure of

their major, dedicating years of education to one course of study is daunting, especially if they are not aware of what opportunities they have after college.

“For undecided students, like me, I feel like career fairs are helpful to give us informa-

tion and peak new interests to help decide what we want to do,” Veome continues.

Major declaration and career decisions are stressful for some because many equate it to an aspect of their identity, according to the National Career Development Association. Attending events that offer information and access to opportunities reassures students of their interests and puts them on a path to explore ones they did not know they had.

Students at Lewis have constant access and support from career services, not just through job fairs and expos, but online and in-person counseling from advisors.

“I feel like Lewis does a lot to give students access and connections to career paths and opportunities,” Veome says. “It’s easy to find information and people to ask.”

Outside of career fairs and expos, Lewis still offers plenty of resources to make connections and explore possibilities, including advisors and faculty on campus who are constantly available to help.

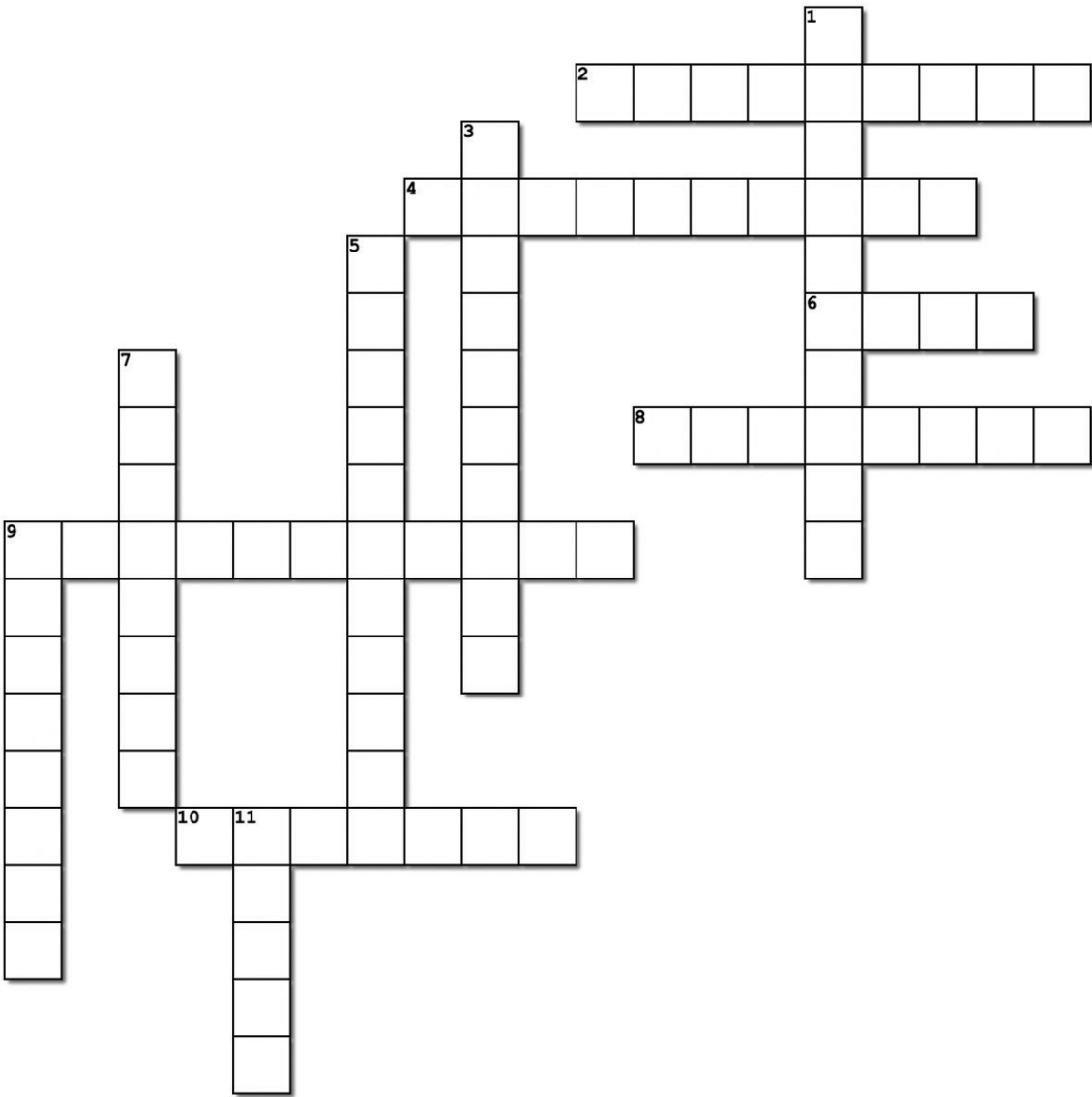
## Campus Crossword

### Across

2. The Sanctified Zone represents a commitment to fostering a safe, \_\_\_\_\_, and supportive environment.
4. What position does Myah Templeton play?
6. The chance that some detrimental event will happen.
8. A virtue emphasized in “Cozy Grove.”
9. It can also have an impact on the \_\_\_\_\_ learning method.
10. ‘Your \_\_\_\_\_’ the movie that’s a modern twist of ‘Beauty and the Beat.’

### Down

1. The goal is to eliminate some of the barriers to academic success and also, creating a \_\_\_\_\_ environment for students.
3. What emotion does having new clothes give a person?
5. The song \_\_\_\_\_ was a blistering record in the spring of 2024.
7. What state is Tulsa in?
9. Dr. Livingston’s favorite show.
11. What island did the softball team travel to?



### Rules:

- Return completed puzzle to room JP-012 before March 5th
- First 3 winners to present a completed puzzle will win a gift card

HOPE  
& LOVE



◆ are best when shared ◆

DONATE BLOOD

Wednesday  
February  
26

9:00AM - 2:00PM



STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION  
LEWIS UNIVERSITY



MEN ENTERING NURSING  
LEWIS UNIVERSITY

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy  
meal and drink plenty of  
water before donating.

STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION  
OF LEWIS UNIVERSITY

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY DINING ROOM  
Route 53, Romeoville 60446

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED/WALK INS WELCOME

Please book an appointment online using the QR Code  
attached:-

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Every donor impacts 3 lives in the Community.  
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# SPORTS

## Women's basketball nationally ranked for the first time since 2019

**GRANT DORSEY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's basketball team is back in the national rankings. The Flyers were ranked for the first time since 2019, taking the #22 spot on Feb. 11. In the updated rankings for Feb. 19, the team was ranked #21 after securing two important road wins at McKendree and Maryville.

Two other teams in the Midwest Region, Grand Valley State and Ashland, were ranked #3 and #8 respectively. Lewis earned 114 votes, which placed the team in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division II top 25.

Before being ranked, the Flyers were only receiving votes. The voting committee first took note of the team's successes in early Jan. They would continue to receive votes until their first ranking on Feb. 11.

Assistant coach Tierney Lockett, who has been a part of Lewis women's basketball for the past 10 years, is excited for what is still left in store with this team.

"Our team chemistry and camaraderie is the reason for all of our success and it starts

with our culture," Lockett said. "I'm looking forward to the remainder of the season as we get into conference tournament play."

In the early stage of the season, the team avenged last season's losses to Michigan Tech and Wisconsin-Parkside, while only losing one non-conference game to Northern Michigan. Conference wins over Drury, McKendree, Missouri-St. Louis and Maryville have led the team to an impressive 16-1 conference record.

Every conference game matters, as the seeding for the conference tournament is determined by the GLVC's points system. Wins on the road against higher percentage teams, like Drury and Missouri-St. Louis, have helped propel the team into first place. Lewis aims to get back to back regular season championships to claim the top spot in the conference tournament.

A regular season champion, however, cannot be crowned until Lewis and Quincy face off on Feb. 27, the final home game for the Flyers.

Quincy is not too far behind the Flyers, as they have only lost two conference games.



GRANT DORSEY / SPORTS EDITOR

*The Lewis women's basketball team celebrates a three-pointer.*

The winner of that game will earn the #1 seed in the conference tournament, as things stand. The Hawks are looking to spoil the Flyers bid and get their first regular season title and third GLVC tournament title, a feat they have not accomplished since the 2004-2005 season.

Last season, the team won their first conference championship since 2013, putting a halt to Drury's seven year run. Three Flyers were named to

the All-Tournament team after the 79-67 win. Grace Hilber, Taylor Gugliuzza and Tournament MVP Jenna Badali led the team through last season's title run. With Hilber coaching on the sidelines now, Gugliuzza and Badali look to continue their on-court leadership as the team enters the final stretch of the season.

Badali, in her fifth year of eligibility, looks to put the cherry on top for her college career by winning another one. "It's

not an easy thing to win one championship, let alone two," Badali said. "Winning again would be awesome. That feeling is something you remember forever."

The Flyers head to the GLVC Conference Tournament in St. Charles, MO from Mar. 6-9. Games will take place in Hyland Arena at Lindenwood University. Coach Newell and co. look to soar to victory and claim an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

## Flyers make a splash at conference

**KREE NUNNALLY**  
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

From Feb. 11-Feb. 15 the swim team took a trip to Elkhart, Ind., to compete at the GLVC conference tournament. Both men's and women's saw success as the women placed 4th overall and the men placed 5th overall. The Flyers await their fate, hoping their next stop will be the NCAA tournament.

During the regular season, the women held a record of 8-6, but also protected home with a 6-0 record at Lewis pool. The men went 10-2 protecting their home pool as well by going undefeated at 6-0 also.

During the tournament, the women's team had three top-six finishes in the 1650-yard freestyle, 200-yard backstroke and 400-yard freestyle relay. One of those athletes was sophomore Dominique Dinghoff, who placed in the 1650-yard freestyle with a time of 7:23.21. Freshman Amelia Marsicek performed well, too, placing sixth in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:02.56.

Additionally, Marsicek, freshman Morgan Vis, senior



PHOTO CREDIT: JARED MCFARLANE

*Larissa Bueno Alves getting ready to compete.*

Larissa Bueno Alves and sophomore Maria Kretosz led the Flyers to a sixth-place finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

On the men's side, the Flyers finalized the GLVC Championships earning their second bronze medal in the men's 400-relay with a time of 2:57.22. The relay teams consisted of freshman Mahmoud Abdelkarim, senior Nico Jacinto, freshman Tom Thalau and junior Matt Howard. Sophomore Valentin De Frutos added to

the men's success with his performance in the 1650-yard freestyle. He finished with a time of 15:43.27 and earned sixth place. Jancito had a great weekend, as well, placing 4th in the 100 meter relay with a time of 43.77.

The number of freshmen competing in the relay showcases the ample amount of underclassmen on the team, which is different compared to other sports. The men's team consists of 11 underclassmen

with leadership coming from four seniors. The situation is similar for the women's team as well. The women have a total of nine freshmen and three seniors including Bueno Alves. It is crucial for seniors to have leadership skills to guide underclassmen to great relay performances.

With a large number of underclassmen, it can be difficult for an upperclassman. As a senior Beuno Alves has an appreciation for her underclassmen.

She said having this many underclassmen "was definitely different, but they definitely made it easier...and they motivate each other as well, so it wasn't that hard." This unity made the success in the relay easy.. Bueno Alves said "you're racing the other teams, but they were racing together, as a team. It is just to have fun and, you know, try to catch whoever is next to us and try to beat them together."

The Flyers have one more confirmed meet from Feb. 21-Feb. 22 at the University of Chicago's Last Chance Invite. Their performance there could solidify their chances of going to the NCAA tournament.

With the Bueno Alves' last meet nearing she says, "There's not huge expectations, try not to put expectations on it and those things just happen naturally." This is a process of "just trusting whatever we've done the whole season, trust the coaches, trusts of process and then... the results came by themselves" Bueno Alves hopes that her team falls back and just enjoys every aspect of this final meet.



# Surfing waves and swinging bats

CHRISTIAN GOODE  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

At the start of the month, the softball team, led by coach Becky Pearl, took a journey from the cold midwest all the way out to the 80 degree tropical island of O’ahu, Hawaii, for the first time in Lewis’ softball history.

The week was full of excitement, fun and softball. The Flyers played eight games over the course of four days. Two of the teams were native to Hawaii with the others coming from the midwest, as well as one from California. The trip was an overall success with the team excited as ever and wanting to return.

This trip acted not only as an opportunity to play softball but also as a way for the team to bond and grow as friends. The team took two days to get acclimated to Hawaii and the tropical atmosphere.

They did many activities including visiting Pearl Harbor, going to the beach, getting food, experiencing a genuine luau, snorkeling, canoeing, hiking and seeing whales and sharks. These new experiences built the team up with new memories and strengthened friendships, internalizing an environment of family and unity.

Coach Pearl said her team “loved it, it was beautiful they were super appreciative. Until you properly get there you don’t realize how amazing it



The Lewis Softball team in Hawaii.

PHOTO CREDIT: CYDNEY DROUSAIS

really is. We only had one girl on our team who had actually been there prior to this trip.” She said, “the best part was seeing them experience it, seeing how they reacted and how they behaved.”

The Flyers went 2-6 overall, and, while the losses were many, the team learned a lot. Their wins came early, starting them off strong.

However, with nine new players, it would take some time to get acclimated to everyone’s strengths and weak-

nesses.

Though the results did not reflect what they wanted, the experience helped show the team where they are at and what they need to work on to make it far into the season. Coach Pearl said that the realizations they made there will be very helpful for the future.

While the team did lose six games the Flyers gave those teams a run for their money. Most of the games were only won by one or two points. The Flyers worked hard and

showed that even in the early season they were ready to compete at a high level.

The trip to Hawaii also provided them with valuable information about themselves. With many young and new players, the team will have a lot to work on to grow and get stronger. The team anticipates returning to Hawaii and continuing this trip as much as they can. The next time they expect to return will be in two years during the 2027 season.

As the softball team returns

to Illinois, they are eager to prove their worth and showcase their abilities. This has been seen in the double-header against Roosevelt where they dominated the competition just one week after Hawaii, going 7-0 both games. The Flyers are back and more ready than ever.

With their next set of games at the Rosemont Dome on the way, they are ready to use their skills learned in Hawaii to overcome any obstacle thrown their way.

## PLAYER PROFILE

TAYLOR GUGLIUZZA



Graduate Student | Criminal Justice Major

- Reached 1500 career points
- 1x All-GLVC tournament team
- 2x All-GLVC second team
- 1x All-GLVC third team
- GLVC regular season and tournament champ

STATISTICS

Q  
&  
A

Go-to pregame song?

Rich Baby Daddy by Drake.

Favorite basketball memory

Winning the GLVC tournament last year.

Who inspires you?

My mom and dad because they had to work hard for everything they received, so it makes me want to do the same.



