The Flyer

www.thelewisflyer.com | November 4, 2026 | Special Edition

The Voices of Lewis

Student experiences & accomplishments

The Pekol twins build a legacy beyond volleyball

ARIANA TRAUSCH
SPORTS EDITOR

Since day one, Luke and Zach Pekol have been recognized as a pair. From growing up playing the same sports to becoming Division I volleyball players at Lewis University, the identical twins have shared experiences that most siblings never will. But behind the matching faces and shared accomplishments are two young men who have spent their college careers discovering that their identities extend far beyond being brothers and teammates.

Both middle hitters for the Flyers, Luke and Zach have built an outstanding resume that includes academic honors, award-winning mathematical research and community involvement.

While oftentimes their achievements come with both of their names attached, the brothers have grown to learn that success is not always about being the same or determining who has accomplished more.

Growing up, the twins were involved in many of the same activities, from basketball and cross country to track and field. The twins didn't start playing volleyball competitively until their sophomore year of high school. Although their interests were similar, their competitiveness pushed them to challenge each other in almost everything they did.

Being identical twins also meant growing up with constant comparisons. Whether it was determining who was more athletic, smarter or better at a particular subject, the brothers often felt pressure to prove themselves individually. "I think when we were younger, especially being twins and constantly compared, I think we both had that feeling of, oh, I need to be the best at everything all the time," Zach said.

As they've gotten older, those comparisons have become less important. Rather than allowing outside opinions to determine their success or opinions about themselves, the twins have learned to appreciate their individual strengths while recognizing what they have accomplished together. Luke changed his perspective and said, "if you take away the comparison of who's better than what, and combine what we've done together, it's pretty cool."

That relationship has carried onto the volleyball court, where the brothers have spent many years supporting and competing alongside each other. However, continuing their athletic careers together at Lewis was not always a guarantee.

During the recruiting process, the twins considered attending different universities because not every program had room for two players at the same position. In the end, Lewis offered them the opportunity to continue playing together while competing at the Division I level.

The university's proximity to home, competitive volleyball program and family atmosphere made it a new home and a place where both brothers could envision themselves succeeding. "I think not many people have the chance to play a high-level college sport with their identical twin," Zach said.

While volleyball brought them to Lewis, their shared interest in mathematics has allowed them to make an even bigger impact beyond the court.

Combining the sport they love and their passion for mathematics, Luke and Zach developed a research project examining home court advantage in NCAA men's volleyball. Using data from the 2024 and 2025 seasons, the twins analyzed approximately 18 statistical categories to determine which performance measures showed evidence of an advantage for teams competing at home.

Their research eventually expanded into a mathematical ranking model that evaluates teams based on their performances at home, away and at neutral sites. By comparing their results with existing NCAA rankings and coaches' polls, the brothers developed a system designed to provide another perspective on team performance.

The twins viewed the project as about more than just a mathematics project. It was an opportunity to contribute to a sport they believe deserves greater recognition. "We're super huge advocates for growing the game and making men's volleyball more accessible, more publicity and getting it larger," Zach said.

Their experiences as collegiate athletes also influenced the research. Traveling to different universities exposed them to a variety of playing environments, from smaller gymnasiums to Hawaii's arena, which seats more than 10,000 spectators. Differences in crowd noise, court



PHOTO CREDIT: LUKE PEKOL

The twins repping their new Lewis uniforms.

familiarity and even depth perception gave the twins firsthand experiences that helped them connect their mathematical findings to what happens being at the center of it all.

The research project started in June 2025 and has now developed into many opportunities to present their findings across the country. The brothers have delivered more than 20 presentations, including appearances at universities, academic conferences and even presenting to the US Men's National Team.

One of their most exciting experiences came at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington, D.C., where both received Outstanding Undergraduate Speaker Awards for their presentations. Despite presenting at one of the world's largest mathematics conferences, the twins approached the experience with a mentality familiar to their athletic careers. "We kind of treated it pretty similar to a game mentality," Luke said. "We practiced the night before, we did a little warm-up and then we walked in and we were locked in." Their work has since been submitted for publication in a mathematics and sports journal.

Although their research is a shared accomplishment, the process has also allowed them to recognize each other's individual strengths. Luke gives credit to Zach for his ability to communicate complex information to different audiences, while Zach highlights Luke's determination to solve problems and lead when challenges arise.



PHOTO CREDIT: GRANT DORSEY

The twins are recognized for their prestigious resesrch

Outside of volleyball and academics, the brothers have also committed much of their time to community service, something they credit to their parents for valuing in their lives while growing up.

Luke became the youngest person elected to the Will-Grundy Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors at 21 years old. Zach has completed more than 1,000 hours of community service since high school and has helped organize projects benefiting local organizations.

For both brothers, giving back is not simply another accomplishment to add to their resumes. It reflects a belief they have carried throughout their lives. "I think our attitude for everything we've approached in life is leaving a place better than you found it," Zach said.

As they continue their college careers, Luke and Zach are also beginning to experience what it means to pursue different paths. Zach, who hopes to become a mathematics teacher, is currently student teaching at Lockport Township High School. Luke, meanwhile, is pursuing a career in finance and has gained professional experience through internships. For the first time ever, the brothers are regularly spending their days in different environments, surrounded by people who may not even realize they have an identical twin.

Looking back on their time at Lewis thus far, the brothers recognize that their most meaningful accomplishments cannot be defined by one sport, award or academic achievement. "I feel like being a Division One volleyball player isn't the coolest part of who we are," one of the brothers said.

For Luke and Zach, the opportunity to share their college experience has been something special. As the two of them continue growing into their own identities, they have learned that being identical does not mean their futures have to look the same. Together, they have built a legacy that extends beyond the volleyball court.





PHOTO CREDIT: GRANT DORSEY

Luke (left) serves the ball and Zach (right) spikes it.

Spotlight on Arianna Gonzalez, Oakbrook radiography program tutor

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Lewis University's Oakbrook location now offers many programs and resources for students in the Chicago area. Lewis University's mission for the Radiography program is that the college is "committed to cultivating radiologic professionals, who are ethically grounded and community-oriented leaders," which extends to students like Arianna Gonzalez.

Gonzalez is a senior student in the Radiography program, as well as the sole radiography tutor at the Lewis Oakbrook Campus, who is reachable around the clock. She mainly supports peers in the junior-level courses, which encompass Anatomy and Physiology, Patient Care, Physics, Principles of Exposure, Procedures, Radiation Protection, and Radiographic Imaging and Image Processing. Though tutoring hours are strictly limited to the weekends, she is available through many channels of communication, including via email, text, in-person office hours and online appointment booking.

Gonzalez stated, "I figured because I can only tutor on the weekends, having multiple channels of communication 24/7 is a good alternative to being supportive to my peers. I also offer one-on-one tutoring and group sessions, which is what I inquire about during booking." She also works at the University of Chicago hospital as a Radiography Tech Assistant, 20 hours a week in tandem with the Lewis Radiography program. She found that spending additional hours at the hospital apart from clinicals has given her a more concrete understanding of the discipline as a whole.

Gonzalez expressed that she enjoys the critical-thinking aspect of radiography and its multifaceted role in aiding collaborative patient care. "I never know what accommodations patients that come in for an X-ray will need. Chief complaints can range from a cough to an open fracture, but then other patients can be wheeled into the ER confused or unconscious from a multi-vehicle car accident." She loves how she can direct her career path in any direction, that she is able to perform X-rays, or go into CT scanning or nuclear medicine. Originally, Gonzalez was a daycare teacher and restaurant server with a bachelor's degree in accounting before pursuing her current major; "I decided to go into Radiography at the suggestion of my mother-in-law. She went into radiography after high school and fell in love with it, but it wasn't something I had considered because to be honest, I thought the medical field only consisted of doctors and nurses."

Gonzalez continued, "My own mother is a nurse and although it has been rewarding and fulfilling for her, it wasn't something I saw myself doing. After speaking with my mother-in-law about Radiography more, I figured I had some transferable skills and a desire to help that would be useful in the field."

When asked about a typical week's tasks in her position, she discussed how she balances school, work and life with managing tutoring availability on Saturdays and Sundays, both in-person or over Zoom and working directly with her supervisor. Things tend to run smoothest by keeping open lines of communication during weekdays through various capacities.

Oftentimes, if a student approaches her with a complex concept, Gonzalez will start by asking for a baseline of what they know in order to coordinate the rest of the session. Most times, going through the PowerPoints and having students do practice sheets are effective means of explaining complicated material. Then, as an option, she resorts to teaching them the way she first learned it, apart from the professor's instructional methods, be it mnemonics or visual models.

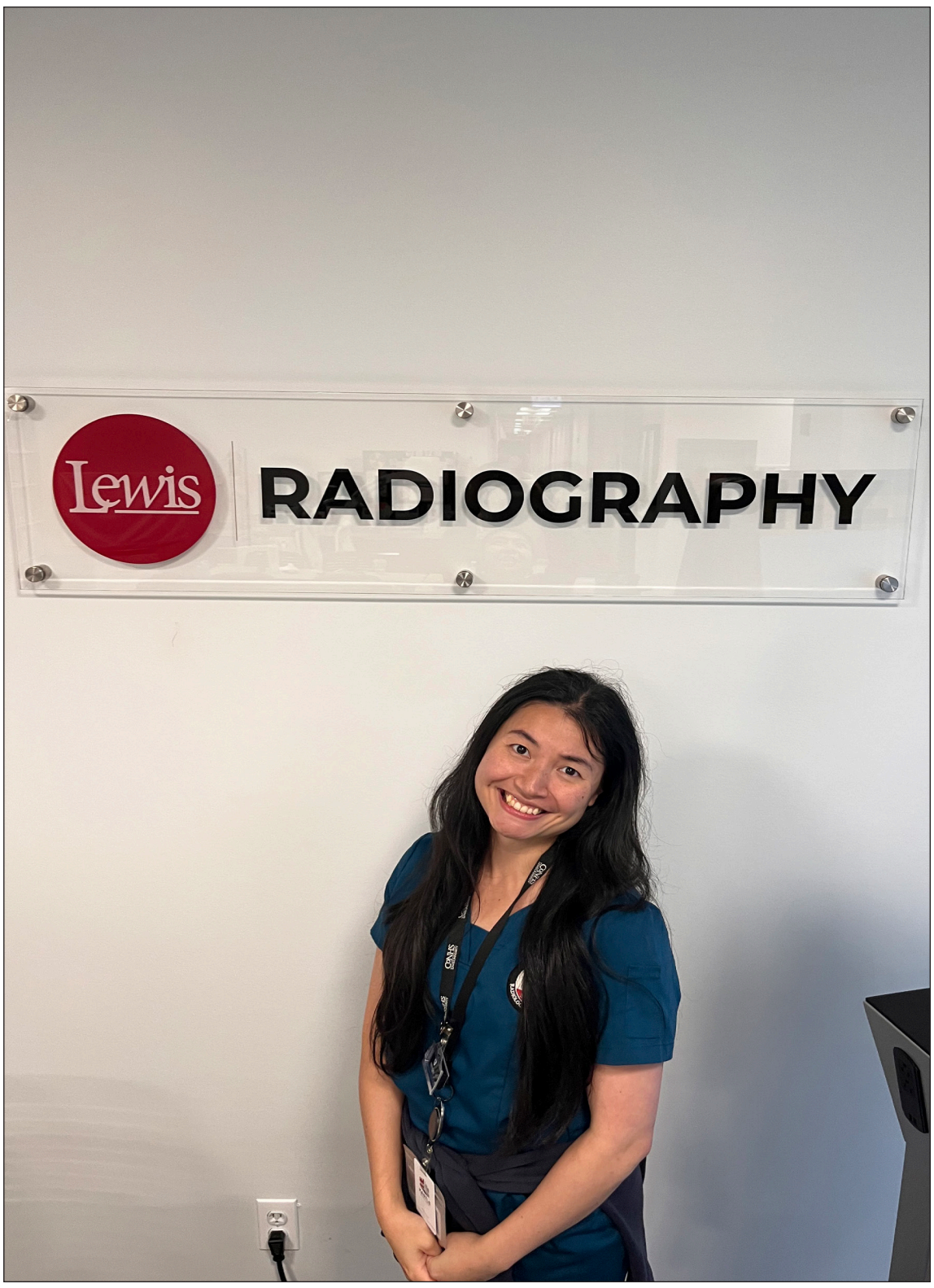


PHOTO CREDIT: ARIANNA GONZALEZ

Ariana Gonzalez poses infront of radiography department.

Arianna encourages students to study daily no matter the timeframe. Her advice to students interested in becoming radiography majors is to stay ahead and organize your time well. She emphasized, "Once you start, the next two years will require a lot of sacrifice, but it comes with a lot of laughs too. Clinical time is a different adventure every shift and you'll be surprised at what you apply from lectures and at what you would have only learned on the floor. Know that equipment is heavy, so make a point to apply proper body mechanics. Network with students from other schools and radiologic technologists because they'll have tips and tricks you can use. As always, study every day!"

She then delved into the intersectional side of her role as a radiography tutor with the Lewis faculty. "If a student or a couple of students score low in an exam, the professor of that course usually lets me know if they sent them tutoring referrals, just so I can be on the lookout."

Gonzalez keeps a solid record of classes taken in previous semesters, as compiling past study material and keeping it organized can be immensely helpful in handling unit exam information, as well as for board review for students in their last semester. She regularly checks in with the professors if they've made any minor tweaks or adjustments to their lecture content. Professors are continually accessible and any struggle with course material is remedied with a one-on-one meeting with the designated professor and/or a tutoring referral by said faculty. Online supplemental resources also prove to be helpful on her end.Following each tutoring session, she connects to the supervisor through an email, denoting the student's year status and a short evaluation of their grasp on the material. "If the student is willing to share with me the score they received from the exam or homework I helped them study for, I use that to track and document their progress as well." said Gonzalez. Arianna hopes that her fellow scholars can come to her with anything. "I like to think students leave my tutoring sessions with a little more confidence in their understanding of the subject. "Our professors formulate their exams in the language of the boards, so my job is to either help them speak it too or give them an alternative way of deciphering it." she reiterated.

Lastly, Gonzalez described how the level of support she provides to students and peers differs drastically based on where they're at, "It's wholly dependent on the kind of student you are - the undivided attention that comes with one-on-one tutoring might work better than the round robin-style tutoring that comes with the group sessions, and vice versa."

Being a radiography tutor, she works to bridge the gap between intricate theory and hands-on clinical practice to ensure hesitant learners can build precision and confidence in their studies, ultimately to become capable, patient-centered future radiographers. Through her dedication, she isn't just helping students pass their exams, she juggles her own demanding path toward certification with stepping up to guide others along theirs, exemplifying true peer leadership by guaranteeing that everyone moves forward together toward the shared goal of becoming exceptional professionals.

The Campa Chronicles: From Rome to Robotics

BEN MARTIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When someone mentions the "college experience", what does that mean? It typically depends on the student and how far they're willing to go to dive into experiences, careers, and relationships. For senior cybersecurity major Ben Campa, he has fully immersed himself in Lewis and has taken advantage of his four years here.

For Campa, Lewis was always the destination, it was always the goal. From a young age, Campa knew he wanted to chase higher education and stay local.

"In elementary school, we used to do visits to local colleges," Campa said. "In fourth grade, we took a visit to Lewis University and I liked it, I fell in love with it. I was like, 'this is my dream school', people usually pick bigger schools but for me, it was always Lewis. It was a start."

As a first generation Spanish-American student in his family, Campa has been able to recognize the level of achievement that carries.

"Yeah, it means a lot especially due to the fact of so many political tensions arising right now," Campa said. "It's kind of like carrying yourself for the people before you, your ancestors. My parents weren't able to get a college education so it kind of feels like I'm able to do it for them, but more importantly, for myself."

Campa has been able to take advantage of the LUCE program (Lasallian Universities Center for Education Rome Program) in the past, allowing him to travel to Rome and open his eyes to foreign media outlets and an outside lens on the United States.

"If you go to Europe, the news is going to have a lot about the U.S and how other perspectives view the U.S," Campa said. "For example, I got to interact with Italians and they have that negative connotation when you say 'U.S American' and it's sad to see."

During Campa's stay in Rome, he was able to experience the death and mourning of Pope Francis, the first Latin American and Jesuit pope and 266th in history. There, Campa was interviewed by ABC 7 during the pope's wake in the Vatican City.

"It was a crazy time for sure," Campa said. "I think it was the first time that ever happened with a Pope who has passed away on the Jubilee year."

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee year is every 25 years or "holy years". And the most popular Jubilee tradition is to pass through the doors of Rome's four major papal basilicas - St. Peter's Basilica, St. John's Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls which are only opened during a Jubilee year.

"I was able to be there for his last mass and I was also able to be there during his wake," Campa said.

"I think it was around 72 hours before we were supposed to travel back to the U.S. It was kind of a race against time going to the different churches. Coincidentally my phone dies at 10% as we're headed to the last church and keep in mind the language difference," Campa laughed.

"The last church was supposed to close at 7 p.m. and it was already 6:30 so I used my butchered Italian and thankfully we were able to make to the last church on time."

Back at Lewis, Campa has worked to co-found the Alpha Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) to support other Latino students who may be going through the challenges of being a first generation college student as well.

"It's a nationally recognized, and chapters exist in other schools but they hadn't established one at Lewis," Campa explained. "Being a first generation is kind of hard, looking for jobs, you don't know how to do it, writing resumes, etc.""Sometimes you don't realize how impactful those connections that you make through your networks are, because most of the time, the people who get the job are connected to someone already inside the company."

"They have a national convention each year and have a lot of good partners," Campa said. "They have companies such J.P. Morgan, Deloitte, Apple, big name companies."

"The whole purpose of ALPFA is to help those students grow more professionally, develop their professional skills so that they can actually implement them in their workforce once they graduate long after college."

Campa and his team at the end of the day are just looking to bring in as many students as they can to better equip them for their futures, and it doesn't matter what background they come from.



PHOTO CREDIT: BEN CAMPA

Campa admires the Lewis campus grounds.

"But we're not Latino exclusive," Campa said. "We're open to anyone. It's a mentoring program and then we're also open to all majors. We're actually trying to diversify so that everyone can benefit. Not only, let's just say, business majors, we want everyone to benefit."

The interest in cybersecurity and engineering was sparked at an early age for Campa while he was in middle school and that's where he learned what he wanted to pursue.

"When I was in middle school I used to be part of this STEM robotics club," Campa said. "It was basic programming of course, but it was kind of fun. Especially the challenges because if you mess one thing up, it messes the whole entire thing up so you kind of have to have that problem solving mindset."

While Campa is involved with tech, he's also spent time thinking about what the future might hold for its development. Specifically how artificial intelligence will play into the picture.

"You can just use a quick Google search now and find anything, but that doesn't mean it just gives you leeway to not learn anything at all," Campa said. "And the thing with cybersecurity is that it's changing. It's changing at a crazy rapid speed."

With how much time people spend on social media now, Campa worries being online will take away from social interactions between people going forward.

"Now that social media is growing, and now AI, people's social skills are getting a little bit worse over time. So I think the big differentiator nowadays is gonna be how you can present your findings. AI can implement solutions. But it's you, your critical thinking that really makes the difference."

Using the education he's gained from both business, and tech, Campa has gone from IT engineer to CEO of Tech Connection. A very simple but hands-on approach to working with modern technology built by putting the opportunity straight into student's laps firsthand.

"Back in 2024, I was actually part of the entrepreneurial summit they used to have here at Lewis," Campa said. "Any student that wanted to build their startup, they just had to fill out an application form. Essentially describing their idea."

"The way it works is let's say you have a laptop you want but no longer use," Campa said. "You can't just throw that away because of the batteries. So you give it to us, and then what we do with that is we give students learning opportunities."

"With the current job market, they want experience," Campa said. "But nobody wants to give you the experience. We give students hands on experience being able to fix laptops and learning more about the field so they're able to get their entry level IT job."

"We like to give students ride along opportunities as well," Campa said. "And then after the laptops are fixed, we give it to families and students so it's kind of like a whole cycle."

Campa has built the most out of his Lewis experience and hopes younger first generation students can look to colleges like Lewis in order to learn and explore opportunities like he has. "Getting out of your comfort zone, it really takes you places," Campa said. "Just get involved, those networks are what gets you to the next level of everything."

TYRA CORPUZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
tyrarayavcorpuz@lewisu.edu

NATALIE KRZECZKOWSKI
NEWS EDITOR
nataliemkrzeczkows@lewisu.edu

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
ASST. NEWS EDITOR
abigailsjacobson@lewisu.edu

GURLEEN KAUR
OPINIONS EDITOR
gurleenkaur@lewisu.edu

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
TEMPO EDITOR
raynegrabowski@lewisu.edu

KEIRA JOHNSON
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR
keiraljohnson@lewisu.edu

JADE VARGAS FRANCO
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
jadevargasfranco@lewisu.edu

CASSIDY PIERSON
ASST. CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
cassidympierson@lewisu.edu

ARIANA TRAUSCH
SPORTS EDITOR
arianactrausch@lewisu.edu

BEN MARTIN
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR
benjaminrmartin@lewisu.edu

BRIANNA JANUSKA
SPORTS, CAMPUS LIFE & OPINIONS
COPY EDITOR
briannaljanuska@lewisu.edu

JOANNALY SANCHEZ
TEMPO & NEWS
COPY EDITOR
joannalyasanchez@lewisu.edu

ADITI GHOSH
ONLINE COPY EDITOR
aditighosh@lewisu.edu

LEAH MCCANDLESS
LAYOUT EDITOR
leahnmccandless@lewisu.edu

KEARA VASQUEZ
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
kearavasquez@lewisu.edu

ANDREW KIM
NEWS & CAMPUS LIFE
PHOTOGRAPHER
andrewykim@lewisu.edu

MAI DAO
SPORTS & TEMPO
PHOTOGRAPHER
maindao@lewisu.edu

SHANNON MASHEK
MODERATOR
masheks@lewisu.edu

Abbey Sullivan and Two Sips Coffee

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
TEMPO EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: ABBEY SULLIVAN

Sullivan developed untraditional coffee flavors such as birthday cake.

Mornings can be rough. When pairing that with an 8 a.m. class, it's nearly impossible to get out of bed. For most people, the best part of waking up in the morning is a cup of coffee they're about to drink. This is no different for Abbey Sullivan, the founder and owner of Two Sips Coffee.

Abbey Sullivan is a twenty year old junior and double majoring in digital marketing and marketing at Lewis University. She transferred to Lewis during her sophomore year for the volleyball team, but stopped playing last August to prioritize her mental health. She loves finding hidden gems like coffee shops and small businesses. Most weekends, she finds herself traveling into downtown Chicago to try a new coffee shop or bakery.

Two Sips Coffee, previously named Snapshot, was inspired in January when Sullivan saw a TikTok video of sorority students selling sandwiches out of their house during their finals week. Adding her love of coffee to the mix, Sullivan pulled in her friend and the two of them began to figure out ways to make something similar happen at Lewis. Nico Paula, one of Sullivan's best friends from volleyball, joined Sullivan as she started the business.

Sullivan and Paula created syrup flavors in Sullivan's dorm room while dealing with supply and branding. In Sullivan's words, she "... just dove in head first…" Eventually, five months later, the pop-up coffee shop Snapshot came to Lewis in May.

Sullivan has liked the idea of coffee shops since she was little and wanted to bring a similar feeling to the Lewis campus. As there are no coffee shops on campus, Sullivan and Paula took it upon themselves to make one. Over the multiple events, Sullivan felt a sense of pride as students brought back friends and discussed their favorite flavors.

Paula graduated that Spring, so Sullivan continued the business on her own. She decided to change the name, which resulted in months of debating her options. She eventually chose Two Sips Coffee to recognize the dream she had with her sister of opening a coffee shop. Despite not working with her sister on this, Sullivan said, "... the idea of the two of us always wanting a coffee shop stuck with me."

Since its start in May, Two Sips Coffee has been established with an LLC and an official wholesale partnership with Metric Coffee, a specialty coffee roster in Chicago known for their high quality. Through this partnership, Sullivan has been able to use their coffee in Two Sips Coffee's drinks while also accessing educational content. Sullivan commented on the partnership by saying, "Having Metric as our coffee partner allows us to build that [high quality] foundation while still putting my own spin on everything that is served."

Throughout the lifetime of Two Sips Coffee, Sullivan has formed relationships with other coffee shop owners in Chicago, both inside and outside of the Metric Coffee partnership. Being welcomed into a community that has "been willing to share their knowledge and experiences…" is something that Sullivan has been incredibly grateful for despite not expecting the helpful advice the Chicago pop-up community shares regularly.

Sullivan is managing Two Sips Coffee as a one woman show alongside taking a full course load. There are several aspects to owning a business outside of marketing, and she has received support from Lewis's school of business and Sodexo.

Additionally, her family has helped her learn the financial side of business as well. In her eyes, Two Sips Coffee has become a chance to "... make mistakes, learn from them, and see the results of my [her] own work." To her, Two Sips Coffee is a hands-on version of her education. Sullivan has said managing Two Sips Coffee resembles a full time job but says, "That is something, however, I would not trade for anything."

Despite her major, Sullivan's biggest challenge at the moment is marketing. Since Two Sips Coffee is relatively new, Sullivan's main focus is on the technical and business sides — dealing with profits and costs, researching equipment and setting up events — so the marketing has fallen to the wayside. She is confident that once the business elements become second nature to her, the marketing will fall into place.

Having started Two Sips Coffee with no experience in the coffee business, Sullivan has learned through asking questions, making mistakes and figuring things out along the way. She has said that she started Two Sips Coffee with no idea whether or not it would work out but she had the determination to make it happen. Between her determination and willingness to learn everyday, Sullivan's biggest lesson is that everything doesn't have to be figured out in order to start.

With the success of Two Sips Coffee, Sullivan also noticed shifts in herself. Before this, she was an athlete. Her entire life had been centered around volleyball, so stepping away was a difficult decision for her. Two Sips Coffee brought out a completely new side of her, one that thrives on creativity while still benefiting from the discipline and drive she developed as an athlete. Throughout the business's lifetime, Sullivan discovered that "... you should never limit yourself to one version of who you are."

Sullivan sees the future of Two Sips Coffee in the experience of getting coffee, which has been a priority to her since day one. She wants people to remember the excitement of trying new flavors and conversations had while ordering. Fully happy with the pop up concept, Sullivan likes the flexibility of not being tied down to a specific storefront as well as the creativity it provides her. To her, owning a pop up business is beautiful in the way that no one has a specific way they expect it to grow. Sullivan wants to explore career options besides Two Sips Coffee but is excited to find new opportunities for the business.





PHOTO CREDIT: ABBEY SULLIVAN

The aesthetic views of SnapShot and Two Sips coffee.













PHOTO CREDIT: ABBEY SULLIVAN

Sullivan and Paula did several pop up events during Spring 2026's finals season.

Keimari Keli: The theater experience and the road to artistry

TYRA CORPUZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



PHOTO CREDIT: LEWIS UNIVERSITY FLICKR

Keimari Kelis performs the 'National Anthem' at the Innaguartion of President Sindt.

Though the department may be small, the students enrolled in the major have made it quite mighty. Every student in theater has been heavily involved in every single production throughout their years at Lewis, whether it be behind or in front of the stage, and Keimari Kelis is proof of that. The junior theater major, with a minor in music industry, has been in almost every concert, play or musical on campus since enrolling at Lewis.

Kelis has been a part of the curricular courses Rock Band (now named Popular Music Ensemble) and Mariachi Band since her freshman year. Both bands have had significant parts in the music department, as they have been a part of all the cumulative combined concerts as well as performed at on- and off-campus events. Outside of the curricular bands, Kelis has performed solo at a venue in downtown Lockport, The Roxy, as well as the recent Inauguration of President Sindt, and is set to perform the National Anthem at the Fall graduations.

One of the opportunities that Lewis was able to provide was a nonconventional performance venue: a prison. In collaboration with the music department and Prison Education program, students were able to create a set list to perform their own work at Sheridan Correctional Center. Kelis discussed the process of even being considered for the performance, "We had to sit through an hour long informational chat. They told us what not to wear, what to wear, what we could bring, what we couldn't bring. It was just me and my lip gloss."

She continued to list the strict set of rules they had to follow, such as no jackets, no phones and you had to bring your ID but left it at the door after checking in. The experience was definitely crazy, but she appreciated being able to have a chance to perform in a different environment and with her original songs. Kelis performed "Move On" and "Boy (I'm Crazy)" and the audience really enjoyed it.

For the final song, the entire group who participated in the collaboration performed together, "We ended up all singing a group song that we wrote together about persevering life, you know, just even when life is hard, continuing and pushing through for a better day and a better opportunity and a hope for a better life."

"It was beautiful. [The prisoners] really enjoyed it. They were screaming 'Encore! Encore!' and the prisoners even ended up having a performance." She thought the experience was a different avenue to see how music can connect people, "It was amazing to see so much talent and the prisoners were very nice."

However, that's not the only performance that has stuck with Kelis. In her freshman year, the theater major landed the role of Jane Doe in the musical "Ride the Cyclone." The show focuses on a group of six Canadian chamber choir teenagers whose lives are cut short after a freak roller coaster accident. The teens awake in limbo and are forced to tell a story of their lives to a mechanical fortune teller. The prize: coming to terms with their fate and a second chance at life. The six compete through song to impress the fortune teller and fight to be resurrected.



PHOTO CREDIT: CECE KUPIEC

Keimari Kelis performs "The Ballad of Jane Doe" during rehearsals of "Ride the Cyclone."

Kelis' character was easily one of her favorite and most treasured performances, describing the teen as "the apple of my eye." The character was one part of the mystery of the accident as her body was found beheaded, with the only identifier being her school uniform. Without proper identification, and no face to a name, the coroner named her "Jane Doe." She spends her time in despair as, without a name, she cannot remember who she was.

"Ride the Cyclone" was one of the most talked about shows done at Lewis, due to its more raunchy, edgy tone than the university crowd was used to. They were then nominated for the number "Ballad of Jane Doe" at American College Theatre Festival Region 3 in 2025. Kelis was able to lead her character's song and was honored to be nominated.

The performance was definitely a fun learning experience. In the original set, they had a moving ladder piece where she would be moved around the stage throughout her song; they had to rework it because it was too large to transport. Kelis mourned that ladder, "Instead of bringing this huge, clunky, funky ladder, which I loved hanging off. They thought I was gonna fall. I said, 'if I fall, so what? I won't fall again.'"

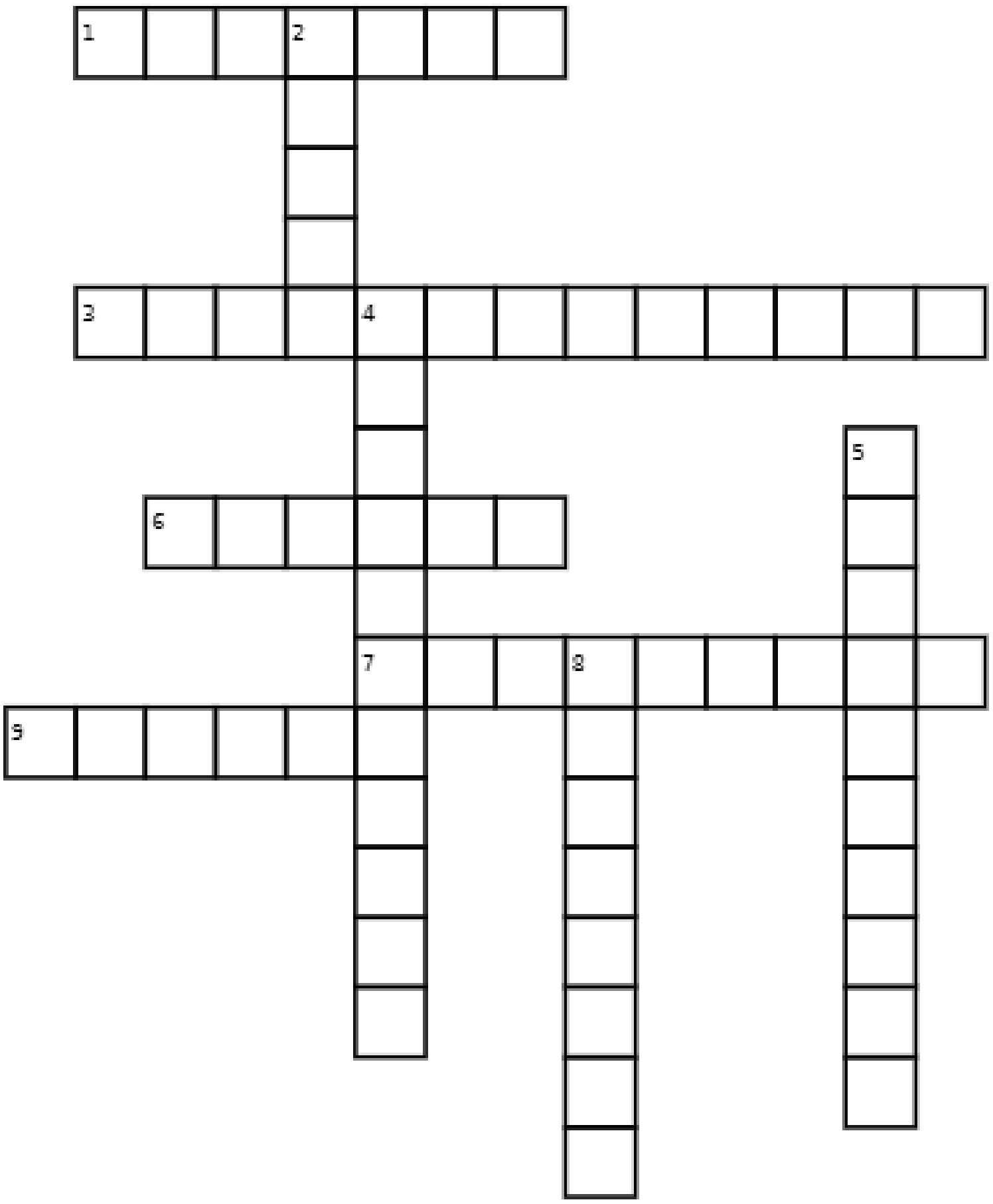
The production ended up using a large storage box with wheels to give the same effect. Kelis beamed thinking about her favorite role, and one of her favorite performances, "[The ballad] was great, it was amazing. The only thing we changed was the ladder, and the rest of the performance was just really amazing."

Other shows she has been a part of have been "Puffs," "Trouble in Mind," and "Gods of Comedy," and while she loves acting, she is more of a musical person. This past January, she was also nominated as a singer for Music Theatre International and more recently, she's taking charge of behind-the-scenes work as assistant stage manager for the upcoming show, "Deathtrap."

She described her role, "I make sure everyone is at places before the show starts. I'm the eyes and ears for the stage manager while they're up in the booth calling the shots." When asked if she was excited or scared to take on this role, she shrugged it off coolly, "I'll be bossy if I have to."

Since her start at Lewis, Kelis has been heavily involved in all theatrical productions and performances, not just the departmental ones, but for clubs and of her own accord. Her love for the arts is strong, "I just love performing, honestly. Whether it's karaoke, whether it's unsuspecting people just listening to me and I don't know they're there. I don't care. I just like to sing. That's all my heart wants to do. There's nothing else."

Whether it is in the background helping manage the upcoming play Deathtrap or at Stagecoach for a student lead concert on Nov. 6, Kelis can be seen around campus embracing the arts always.



Down:

2. Keimari Kelis described Jane Doe as the _____ of her eye?
4. Arianna works at the University of Chicago as a ____ Tech Assistant?
5. What were the sorority girls selling in the TikTok that inspired Two Sips Coffee?
8. the twins have learned to appreciate their individual strengths while recognizing what they have accomplished _____

Across:

1. Who is the president of the LIM club?
3. What major is Campa?
6. Jada Law became managing editor of Jet Fuel _____
7. Macali approaches every challenge with _____
9. Alessandra hopes people learn more about Swipe Out _____

RULES:

Complete the crossword by reading the stories

Return the completed crossword to room JP-012 by Nov. 12th

First 3 winners to present a completed puzzle win a gift card

RECONIZING *Artists*





Two Hearts, Zero Degrees.

Mehedi Hasan, Senior, Data Science



Sweet Chicago Skyline

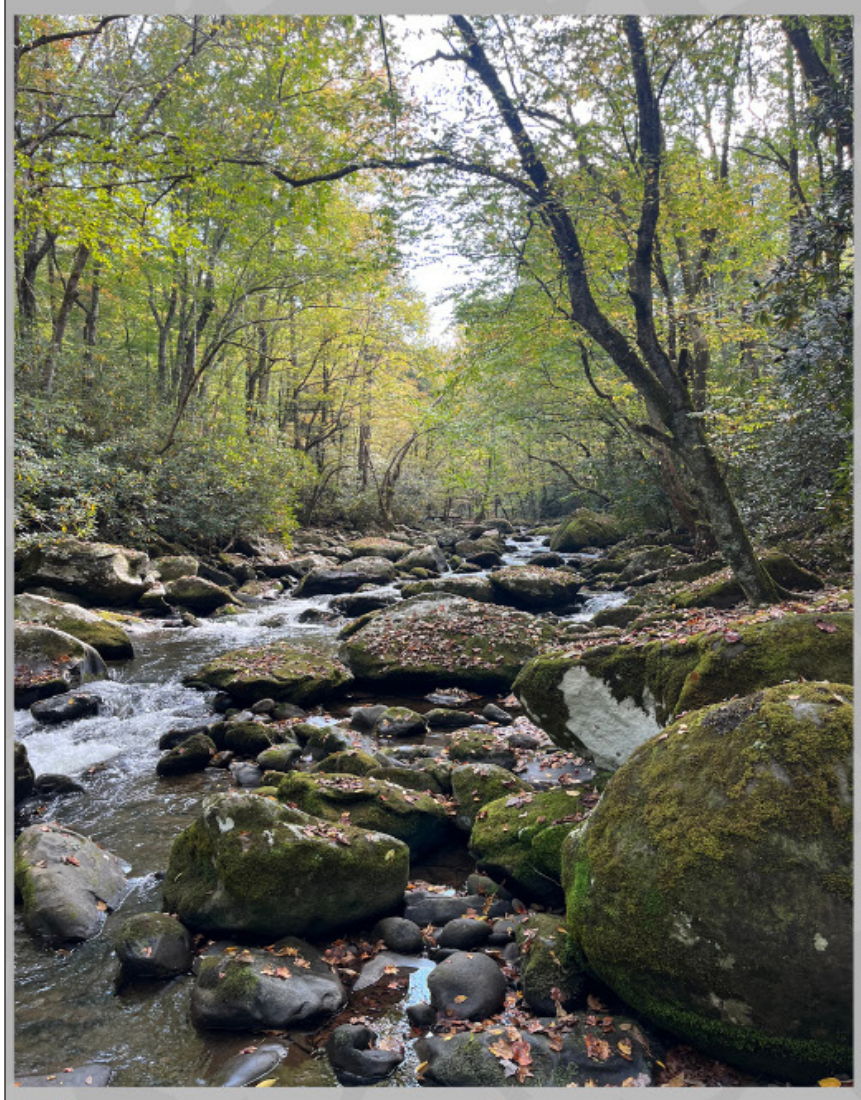
Mehedi Hasan, Senior, Data Science



Emotional Support

Gurleen Kaur, Sophomore, Psychology





The stream between the Mountains

Joseph Parker, Junior, Aviation Administration



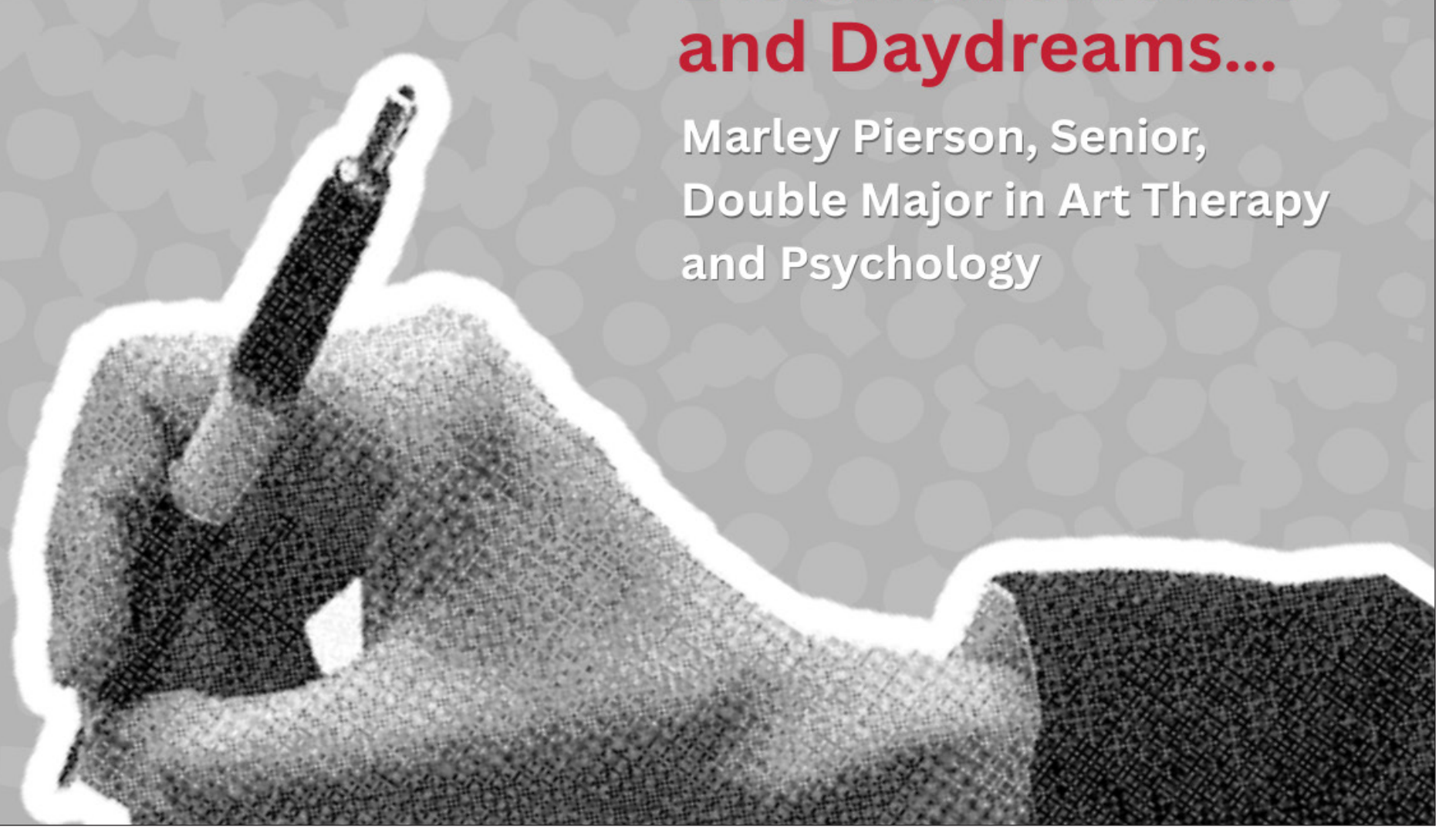
Kamino

Hunter Porn, Senior, Criminal Justice



Distant Memories and Daydreams...

Marley Pierson, Senior, Double Major in Art Therapy and Psychology



Finding home through faith: Macali 's journey from the Philippines to Lewis

OPINION EDITOR
GURLEEN KAUR

When people think about international students, they often picture someone adjusting to a new country, learning a different culture and pursuing an education far from home.

While that image is true, it rarely captures the full story.

Behind every international student is a journey filled with sacrifice, courage, personal growth and countless moments of uncertainty.

For Nina Macali, an MBA student at Lewis University, that journey has been defined by faith, resilience, service and an unwavering commitment to staying true to her roots while embracing new opportunities.

Originally from the Philippines, Macali grew up in a close-knit community where family, faith, gratitude and service were central parts of everyday life.

These values shaped her worldview long before she considered studying abroad.

"Growing up in a close-knit Philippine community taught me that life is best lived in service to others," Macali shared.

Her upbringing instilled a deep respect for family, community and gratitude, values that continue to guide her every day.

Those values would eventually travel with her across the world when she made the decision to pursue a Master of Business Administration at Lewis University.

Like many international students, Macali knew studying abroad would offer opportunities.

What she could not fully prepare for was the emotional challenge of leaving home behind.

Moving to the United States meant being thousands of miles away from family, familiar traditions and the comfort of a community she had known her entire life.

While exciting, the transition also came with uncertainty.

During those moments, her Catholic faith became her greatest source of strength.

"Prayer has always been my anchor," she explained. "Moving across the world brought a mix of excitement and anxiety, but turning to God gave me peace during moments of longing for home."

Faith gave her stability during periods of change.

Although she was navigating a new educational system, a different environment and unfamiliar experiences, her spiritual foundation remained constant.

Interestingly, America was not entirely unfamiliar to Macali.

She had visited different states before moving here.

Still, she says living in the U.S. as a student felt completely different from visiting.

"It's ironic how a country you've experienced before can feel entirely brand new once you're living here as a student," she reflected.

Yet despite the challenges, Macali quickly found something many international students spend years searching for: a sense of belonging.She credits welcoming professors, supportive friends and genuine connections at Lewis University for helping her feel at home much sooner than expected.

That feeling of belonging is especially important for international students.

Often, they arrive carrying not only academic responsibilities but also emotional pressure.

They are adapting to a new culture, learning different social norms, navigating immigration regulations and building support systems from scratch.

At Lewis University, however, Macali found a community where she felt valued and supported.

The university's Lasallian mission emphasizes respect, inclusion, service and concern for the individual.

For Macali, these values were not merely words on a website or a mission statement displayed around campus.

They became a lived experience.

As a Catholic woman, she feels a particularly strong connection to the spiritual identity of Lewis University, "The Lasallian values at Lewis feel like an extension of home," she said.

"They nurture me not just as a graduate student, but also as a Catholic woman striving to live out her faith."

Her academic journey reflects those values as well.

As an MBA student, Macali is pursuing a rigorous program that requires leadership, strategic thinking, financial analysis, communication skills and problem-solving abilities.

Graduate school is demanding for any student, but balancing those expectations while living in a foreign country requires even greater determination.

Yet Macali approaches every challenge with gratitude.

Rather than seeing business education solely as a pathway to career success, she views it as an opportunity to develop skills that can help others.

This perspective became especially evident through her work with the La Salle International Foundation.

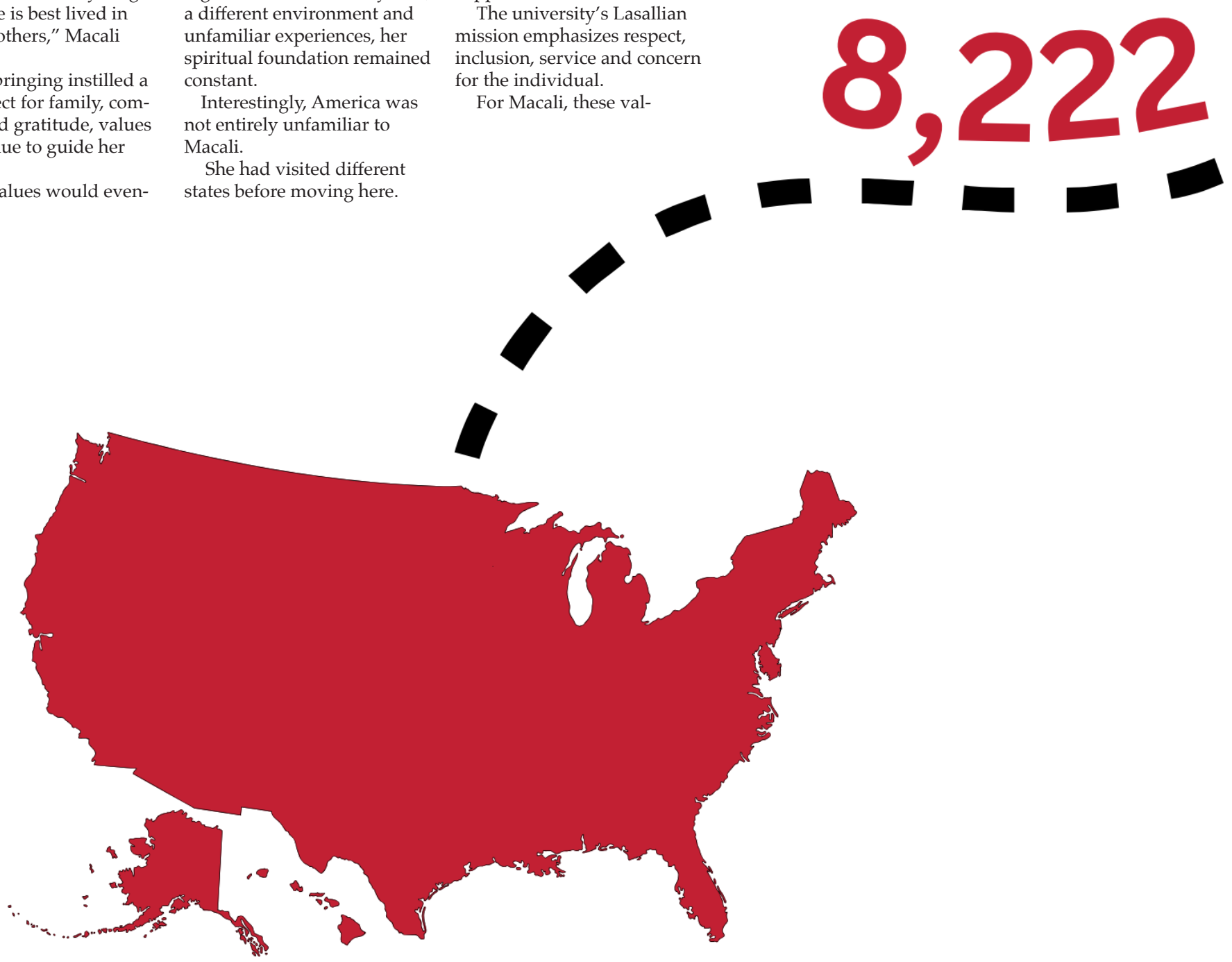
During her internship and project assistant role, she supported a community-based development initiative in the Philippines, applying skills such as financial statement analysis, budget tracking and data visualization to projects that benefited communities back home.

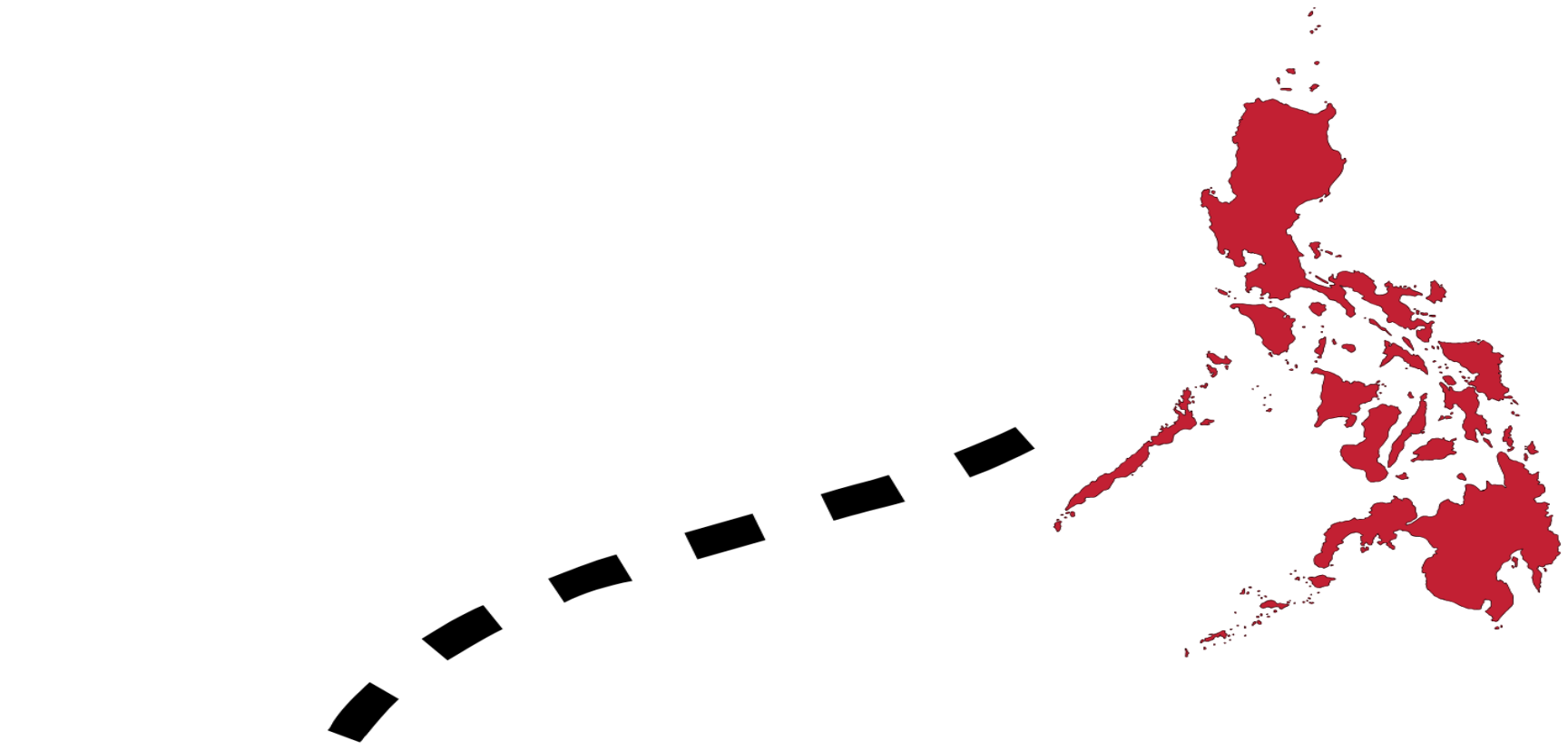
Through that experience, she was able to connect her MBA education directly to service.For Macali, success is not simply about personal achievement.

It is about using knowledge and opportunities to make a difference.

Outside the classroom, Macali is equally involved in campus life.

She works at the Faculty Center, where she has gained valuable experience in





professional communication, workplace collaboration and customer service.

Working on campus has allowed her to better understand American work culture while also building meaningful relationships with colleagues and faculty members. What stands out most is how she describes her workplace.

"My peers and colleagues never made me feel like the new person or an outsider," she shared.

They welcomed her from day one and helped create an environment where she felt respected and included.

That experience demonstrates something important about Lewis University.

Students are not simply recognized for where they come from.

They are appreciated for who they are.

Macali's life at Lewis extends beyond academics and work.

She is also someone who embraces life's simple joys.

Whether exploring new places, traveling, spending time with friends, attending Mass or capturing beautiful scenery through photography, Macali enjoys experiences that allow her to appreciate both the world around her and the people she shares it with.

Her love for travel reflects a natural curiosity, while her passion for taking photos allows her to preserve meaningful moments and memories from her journey.

These interests reveal another side of who she is. Beyond being an MBA student and campus employee, she is a well-rounded individual who finds value in exploration, creativity, relationships, faith and personal growth.

In many ways, that balance has become one of her greatest strengths.

Being an international student often requires wearing multiple hats at once. Students must be scholars, employees, leaders, cultural ambassadors, friends and independent adults simultaneously.

Macali manages all of those responsibilities while maintaining a positive outlook and commitment to service.

Her experience is also a reflection of the broader international community at Lewis University.

Lewis has become home to students from dozens of countries, creating classrooms filled with diverse perspectives and experiences.

International diversity is not simply acknowledged here. It is actively celebrated.

International students enrich campus life by bringing different viewpoints, traditions, languages and cultural experiences into conversations and classrooms.

They challenge assumptions, encourage global thinking and help prepare all students for an increasingly interconnected world.

According to Macali, Lewis does an excellent job creating opportunities for those connections to happen naturally.

Whether through MBA group projects, campus events, residence hall interactions, dining hall conversations or student activities, she believes Lewis fosters meaningful relationships between domestic and international students.

Support from the Office of International Student and Global Scholar Services has also played an important role in her success.

She describes the support she has received from both faculty and staff as exceptional, noting that their patience, kindness and willingness to help made adjusting to life in the United States significantly easier.

When asked whether pursuing international education has been worth the sacrifices, Macali does not hesitate.

"Yes, absolutely," she said.

While being away from her homeland requires emotional strength, the growth, community, opportunities and spiritual grounding she has gained have made the journey profoundly worthwhile.

Looking back, she sees tremendous personal transformation.

The young woman who left the Philippines was hopeful and eager but still learning to navigate independence.

The woman she is today is more resilient, confident and prepared for the future while remaining deeply grounded in her faith and values.

For students considering a similar path, her message is simple yet powerful:

"Trust in God's plan and don't let fear hold you back. Prepare yourself well, hold tightly to your faith and values, and remember that you carry the warmth of your roots wherever you go."

For Nina Macali, Lewis University has become much more than a place to earn an MBA.

It has become a second home. It is where she has grown academically, professionally, spiritually and personally. It is where she has strengthened her leadership skills, expanded her worldview, built meaningful friendships and discovered that belonging can exist even thousands of miles from where a journey begins.

Her story reminds us that international students do more than cross borders. They build bridges, strengthen communities and enrich campus life in ways that extend far beyond the classroom.

Through students like Macali, Lewis University continues to demonstrate that diversity is not merely welcomed.

It is celebrated, valued and woven into the fabric of what makes the Lewis community so special.

She ends with, "Step forward with humility and courage, you are far more capable."



PHOTO CREDIT NINA MACALI

Nina Macali is grounded in her faith, more resilient, and humbly confident in her ability to serve others.

> "The woman studying and working at Lewis today is grounded in her faith, more resilient, and humbly confident in her ability to serve others and embrace whatever path God leads her down next."
> - Nina Macali

Jada Law steps into the leading role of JFR's managing editor

BRIANNA JANUSKA
SPORTS, CAMPUS LIFE
& OPINIONS COPY EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: JADA LAW

Jada Law talks at JFR event at Wadsworth's Family Gallery.

Each semester at Lewis, the on-campus literary magazine, Jet Fuel Review (JFR), publishes prose, poetry and artwork from across the world within each issue of its biannual journal. This semester, the student-led literary magazine received a change in leadership as senior English major, Jada Law, stepped into the position of Managing Editor.

Remembering her first impression of the magazine, Law recounts, "I thought it was a club so I had contacted [faculty advisor] Dr. Muench about it and she was like 'Well, no. It's like a course and everything,' and I was like 'ok cool.' So I talked to her about it and that's what got me into it and ultimately helped me decide on becoming an English major as well."

Joining JFR in spring 2025 as an assistant prose editor and assistant social media editor, Jada has worked her way up, going from Associate Managing Editor to her new position this semester as Managing Editor.

Reflecting on her journey to the role, Law recalled, "Originally I didn't even like think in a million years that I would do that [position]... my first semester there I was just like a social media editor and I worked very closely with Jimena who was going to become a Managing Editor already… and she was like 'I think you would be a good Associate Managing Editor' …So it was kinda like a natural thing."

Although being an editor is not Law's only role on campus, currently working as a Resident Assistant on campus and a writing center mentor, the role has come with its own unique characteristics. "I think it's probably the leadership that comes out of it," Law noted as a difference the Managing Editor position has been. "I'm also like the main source of communication for things compared to like my other jobs... and it's pretty like a demanding job as well cause I have to do so many hands-on things and just in general making sure things run smoothly so I think that's what makes it different from just being a regular employee somewhere else."

However, the contrasts that becoming Managing Editor has highlighted extend beyond Law's various responsibilities on campus. Through this new position, the importance of communication has also been a distinctive feature compared to her other courses.

Thinking of challenges the role has presented, she discussed, "I don't like talking if I don't need to. So I think in this role I am more like forced to be a communicator which has been pretty nice cause I've learned to talk to different types of people from all walks of life and how to communicate in a professional manner to people and how to get my point across also in a professional manner, so that has been extremely helpful. But it was a big adjustment since when I came to college I was used to never talking in my classes so that was very different for me."

Fortunately, the role has also been complemented with people who have assisted Law to succeed as Managing Editor. Within Jet Fuel Review, student editors have the opportunities to assist in various roles in addition to reviewing journal submissions. These include editorial positions such as layout, marketing and development, social media, art and design, web design, and blogging editors, who each contribute to the success of Jet Fuel Review. "I think what's helped me the most is knowing that I have a team to fall back on which has helped me and I think the fact that I wasn't just thrown into the position."

Becoming Managing Editor has also introduced skills that have been invaluable beyond the classroom. In Law's words, "Just like telling people that you worked in a leadership position where you're making an entire journal and you have proof of that journal is like great to put on your resume…networking with like different artists, different writers, things like that I think is so helpful…we learn so much about like how to email someone, professionalism... that have been like so helpful in being a part of JFR and I think I'm going to continue to apply those things into my future."

Throughout her JFR experience, Law has introduced guest authors on campus during the Creative Writing Series hosted by Lewis University's English studies and Jet Fuel Review, solicited authors and artists to submit to an upcoming journal, assisted with fundraising events and has read upcoming work from JFR contributing authors alongside fellow editors at in-house launches celebrating a new publication of JFR. These experiences in addition to discussing prose submissions with fellow editors for upcoming journals.

With various opportunities available throughout her time with the class, for Law, "It's like a class I never like experienced before and I think it's so fun…Like, I think we're used to being in classes and we don't even talk to some of the people in there, but in this class you have to communicate with them. You make new connections, I've made new friends from JFR…I think my advice is really just join and you're gonna have a good time."

Finishing her senior year in the following spring semester, Law looks forward to the opportunity of continuing her position as managing editor next semester. Thinking ahead to next semester, she anticipates, "I think what I'm most looking forward to is just growing as a person… even from when I first started being at Jet Fuel Review and I was just an editor to now, I feel like I've grown so much...I'm like really looking forward to, just seeing myself grow into the position more and more, because I do think it's been really helpful for me just like personality wise."

On Nov. 19, Issue 32 of Jet Fuel Review launches in-house in the Art Gallery at 4 p.m., followed by an Open Mic Night at the Flyers Den at 7:30 p.m. Students can get involved with Jet Fuel Review by registering for Publishing Practicum, which is open to all majors and is available as an experiential learning opportunity.





PHOTO CREDIT: JADA LAW

JFR welcomes students at fall engagment fair and hosts bake sale.

Alessandra Morales: her busy yet enriching campus life

KEIRA JOHNSON
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: JAY VILLEGAS

Alessandra Morales representing Alpha Psi Lambda.

Before Alessandra Morales became involved in campus organizations and community projects at Lewis University, she made a promise to herself in a high school notebook. After transferring schools three times, she felt she had missed opportunities to connect with classmates and get involved. College would be her chance to change that. Now a senior nursing student with a social work minor, Morales has spent her college years following through on that promise and helping other students find their place.

She wanted to apply herself academically, grow professionally, and become someone people could turn to when they needed help. Socially, she hoped to know people on a first-name basis. By sophomore year, she was meeting students across campus and learning about their cultures and experiences. Those conversations helped her recognize needs that might otherwise have gone unnoticed, including students struggling to get enough to eat.

Food insecurity became a major focus of her involvement. Morales noticed that access to fresh fruits and vegetables could be limited, particularly during the summer when dining options were reduced. Through Latinos in Medicine, she helped bring a community garden bed project to life. Her goal was to give students access to fresh produce while building something that could eventually serve the surrounding community, where the cost of groceries could make healthy food difficult to afford.

Another idea grew out of something she was already doing for friends. Morales remembered sharing her extra meal swipes with students who needed food between classes. Some stayed on campus from early morning until evening, with schedules that made driving home unrealistic. After speaking with another student about a similar initiative at a civic leaders conference in Chicago, she brought the idea forward. Ezra Sampson turned it into the Swipe Out Hunger initiative, which allows students to donate meal swipes to help others.

Morales is careful to recognize the people who helped these ideas become possible. She credits Sampson with bringing the meal swipe initiative to life. The same spirit of collaboration shaped Latinos in Medicine, which she cofounded with Brianna Leon. The two met through nursing tutoring, something Morales did from the second semester of freshman year through junior year. Leon was one of her mentees and approached her about creating a space for students entering medicine.

Although Morales had seen growing diversity among nursing students, she felt there was still a need for a place where students could discuss the challenges of entering higher education and health care. "On campus there still wasn't really a place for Latinos entering medicine," Morales said. Latinos in Medicine became a space for Latino students and other minority students to celebrate their cultures and address those barriers together. Morales served as secretary before stepping back during senior year to focus on her nursing courses and social work minor.

Her involvement has extended across campus. She served as community chair for LASSO and participated on the Hispanic Serving Institution board, where she raised concerns about the multicultural center and its potential to become a more active gathering space. As an honors student, she completed projects on child abuse awareness and infectious mononucleosis. She also served as an associate member educator in her fraternity, helping six members join the chapter, and remains involved as its secretary. For a second year, she is president of the Inter-Greek Council, working to connect Greek organizations and support their activities.

For Morales, understanding what students need starts with spending time among them. She was inspired by Katelynn Munoz, whom she remembers as a past LASSO president who knew people by name, remembered details about their lives, and checked in on them. Morales tried to bring that same care to her own leadership. Getting to know the people she invited to events helped her build relationships and understand what support could make a difference. "I feel like you really have to do that groundwork," Morales said.

Keeping up with everything has not been easy. For a time, Morales took 18 credits each semester while managing leadership responsibilities, clinicals, work, and personal challenges. She sometimes had to turn down plans with friends or skip events to prepare for an exam. Discipline helped her stay on track, but she also credits a supportive community that noticed when she needed help.

During the second semester of sophomore year, Morales experienced homelessness. She describes the period that followed as a dark time that continued into junior year. While navigating those circumstances, she continued her academics and campus responsibilities. Looking back, she recognizes resilience she had not seen in herself as a freshman. She also learned that caring for others needed to include taking care of herself."I think I learned that I am much more resilient than I feel like I was freshman year," Morales said.

As junior-year coursework became more demanding, she realized she could not keep accepting every opportunity. Stepping back was difficult because she still wanted to do everything. Eventually, she became more comfortable saying no, setting boundaries, and speaking up for her own needs. She could still become the person she had imagined in high school while protecting her health and well-being.

Her advice to students who want to make a difference begins simply: write the idea down. Then find friends who can help discuss whom it would serve, what it should accomplish, and what it would take to make it happen. She also encourages students to find mentors who offer practical guidance while making them feel capable of moving forward. Different perspectives, she believes, can help an idea develop beyond what one person could create alone. "Write your idea down and then get some friends to help you," Morales said.

After graduation, Morales hopes Latinos in Medicine continues supporting minority students and encouraging younger students to consider higher education and health careers. For the garden, she envisions high school volunteers helping during the summer and a campus market where students and local minority vendors could sell products. Vendor fees could support future planting. These remain goals for the project's growth.

She also hopes more students learn about Swipe Out Hunger and donate their extra meal swipes. To her, support should reach students who may not feel comfortable talking openly about food insecurity. Morales plans to return and stay connected with Latinos in Medicine and her fraternity. Thinking about the opportunities she has taken and the people she has helped, she feels she has made her high school self proud.

Brianna Leon and the journey behind building Latinos in Medicine

NATALIE KRZECZKOWSKI
NEWS EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIANNA LEON

LIM Members with Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago.

What makes diversity in our community important? Diversity brings people with different backgrounds together, drives creativity and problem-solving, and strengthens communities and organizations. Without diversity, communities can be strained and lack creativity and safety among individuals. A uniform society can be formed, leading to distinct social and political trade-offs. With the help of Brianna Leon, a nursing major in her sophomore year, and the president of Latinos in Medicine (LIM), she helped embrace diversity within herself and her community by promoting her club and her story in the community.

Leon is excited to have her story shared with the community, including being featured in *The Flyer* newspaper. She says it is an amazing feeling to get a chance to share her story. She wants to inspire others to create their own community. "I believe everyone has their story and deserves to be able to share it with everyone, and I am so happy I am able to."

Leon was involved in a soccer community before college her entire life. Her community had similar interests and motivation, which made Leon passionate about her sport. Once she came to Lewis University, Leon realized how much her sports community truly mattered.

Leon not only wanted to find a community that had the same career goals as her, which was medicine, but also her culture. The nursing major who originally came to Lewis for comfort and scenery found a way to be an advocate for Latinos by creating her club. "Another thing that made me really want to start LIM was how much I realized ethnic background matters, especially when there was not as much representation of a club about being Latinx or the desire to be in healthcare. It felt like something was missing, missing for people like me, and that's what led me to create something so beautiful like LIM."

LIM is a social club that meets during community hour every Wednesday, and they discuss past and future events. Leon makes sure that her clubmates feel appreciated at meetings, asking them questions about their lives to understand her peers and make strong connections. LIM does a mix of educational and social events, ranging from social media posts on Instagram to videos on midterms and the importance of voting.

Latinos in Medicine taught Leon what it meant to be a leader in the medical field: everyone is their own leader. Leon learned things about herself that she didn't know at the beginning of her Lewis journey, and she developed strong friendships and companionship in her community. She felt the urge to hold her friends and connections gained from LIM close because of the desire for success. Leon stated how she felt about what she learned from her LIM experience, "I also became more grateful and realized how lucky I am to even be studying medicine or nursing and the true gift that I was given, even though it's a fight every day in this hard and demanding major, but I am so thankful every day that I get to be stressed academically and work hard because I know it will all pay off."

Leon felt like her club influenced Lewis University by bringing people together, especially first-generation college students like herself and other peers involved in that community, and people who are figuring out their studies and how their future will unfold. Leon feels like nursing school is one of the most difficult things she has done, but she knows it will be worth it in the end. Being surrounded by people who are working hard every day makes a huge difference for Leon , impacting how she handles her strenuous coursework.

Leon's personal life was an important factor in creating Latinos in Medicine, and she wanted us to know what this club is and what it can offer to students in and outside of Lewis. One of the main things with LIM is visiting other schools, including elementary schools. They raise awareness at other schools, teaching children how to be their own "health hero." A health hero in the LIM community means understanding how to take care of yourself and the importance of self-hygiene, staying healthy, and spreading positive behavior to the community and yourself.



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIANNA LEON

LIM Members at Joliet West National Science Honors Society.

LIM goes to high schools and talks to young adults about a large variety of healthcare professions to pursue. LIM attempts to target larger populations of children of color, hoping to create a safe and relatable environment for them. "We normally target schools with a higher population of children of color who look like us and maybe had the same struggles as we did growing up to let them know that anything is possible no matter where or what background you come from."

LIM doesn't just focus on emotional and personal backgrounds in communities, but they focus on giving children and families accessible resources for college, such as applying for colleges, scholarships and FAFSA. LIM was able to network with the mayor of Chicago and his team, which was an educational experience for LIM by advocating for people of color and their struggles in the community.

Brianna plans on creating diversity in healthcare by expanding her club by continuing school visits and expanding to more communities. The target audience for LIM isn't just the Latino community, but all types of communities. Leon feels blessed to have members of different backgrounds and the same passion, creating diversity in healthcare. "I can not wait to see how much more we will grow and the future of LIM once I graduate."

Leon believes that college is where you make lifelong friends and experiences that are impactful, following you throughout your career. She hopes that once everyone has their future careers, the lessons learned in LIM will have a positive effect. She wants these lessons to be carried through medical care. "Our mission is all about diversity in healthcare and the importance of why we need diversity in anything. As we move forward, we will keep raising awareness of our mission even after Lewis."