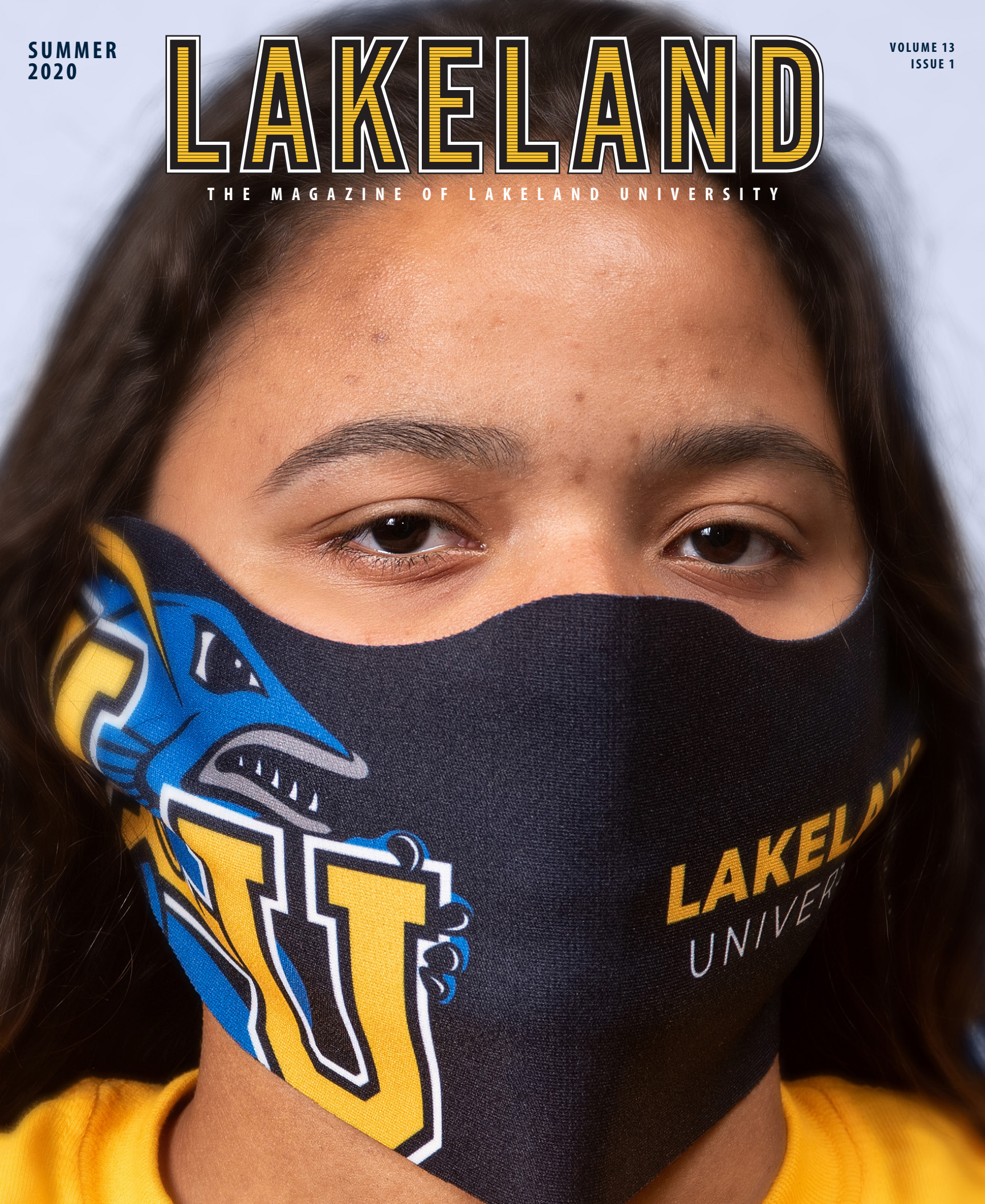


SUMMER  
2020

# LAKELAND

THE MAGAZINE OF LAKELAND UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 13  
ISSUE 1





Lakeland launched an innovative new experiential learning opportunity this past spring that will better position students for post-graduation employment.

Lakeland's new student-run business enterprise will allow students to create, develop, manage and lead business ventures while developing the next generation of emerging leaders.

"This new venture will put students in positions to make real-world business decisions, lead teams of their peers and be responsible for all aspects of the businesses from financial success to marketing strategies," said Scott Niederjohn, Lakeland's senior vice president for cooperative education and economic development. "These powerful experiences will provide students with an opportunity to develop an entrepreneurial mindset that is applicable in any field of study."

Lakeland announced its inaugural student executives who will shape and operate the operation. The executive team includes:

- **Brian Brickham**, of Egg Harbor, Wis., serves as Chief Operating Officer and

manage day-to-day operations of Lakeland's student-run businesses (SRB). He is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with a marketing major with sales management and Cooperative Education emphases and a communication minor.

- **Sara Hanneman**, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., serves as President of Develop U & Events, working to develop opportunities for professional and personal development and continued training, and see opportunities for event planning revenue sources and manage all aspects of events. She is on track to graduate in May of 2021 with a major in business administration and a digital marketing emphasis.
- **Curtiss Dokey**, of Manitowoc, Wis., serves as the Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer and is responsible for identifying and implementing internal and external Lakeland student-run business (SRB) opportunities for financial growth. He is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with an accounting major.
- **Amanda Brandt**, of Kiel, Wis., serves as Chief Marketing Officer and is responsible for successfully developing and implementing marketing strategies to help achieve the student-run businesses objectives. She is on track to graduate in May of 2022 with a double major in business administration and marketing.

Lakeland also announced its inaugural

Board of Directors that will help guide the institution's new SRB operation. The board includes leaders from a variety of Midwest businesses and organizations to help guide the student leadership team in its work. The board will work directly with the student executives, overseeing high-level direction, policy and strategy of the student-run business ventures.

**The inaugural board includes:**

- **Nona Beining**, customer insights consultant, Securian Financial
- **Monique Brickham**, assistant professor of graphic design, Lakeland University
- **Michael Jaber**, coordinator of instructional technology, Sheboygan Area School District
- **Jennifer Krugel**, HR business partner, Rockline Industries
- **Thomas Nye**, general manager & winemaker, The Blind Horse
- **Nick O'Brien**, director of innovation & engagement, FreshTech Innovation/Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation
- **Dave Sachse**, owner, Midwest Perks
- **Kristin Stearns**, CEO, Lakeshore Community Health Care
- **Donna Wendlandt**, CEO, Sheboygan County YMCA
- **Dante Williams**, 2020 Lakeland University graduate ❖

# LAKELAND

**Summer 2020 Volume 13 Number 1.**

Lakeland, the magazine of Lakeland University, is distributed to alumni and friends of Lakeland by the Communications Department. We welcome feedback and letters to the editor via email to: [gallianettidd@lakeland.edu](mailto:gallianettidd@lakeland.edu)

**LAKELAND UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Lakeland University educates women and men of diverse backgrounds, preparing them to think critically, to communicate effectively, to succeed professionally, and to lead ethical, purposeful and fulfilling lives. Rooted in the values of the United Church of Christ, Lakeland integrates the liberal arts and experiential learning to develop the whole person for success in a dynamic, multi-faceted world.

**PRESIDENT** David Black

**EDITOR** David Gallianetti, Director of External Relations

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Breanna Rae Weber, Graphic Designer

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Breanna Rae Weber and Jeff Kernen Photography

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**ON THE COVER**

Chanel Bradford of Lincoln Park, Mich., and her peers will often be in masks this fall when students return to campus.

**2 Corraling COVID**

Lakeland worked quickly to react to the challenges of COVID-19 in the spring, and the university has used the summer to prepare to safely welcome students back this fall.

**7 Our challenge to change**

As the nation grappled with the summer of protests over police brutality and discussions of funding law enforcement, a Lakeland graduate and leader draws from his experience to drive change at LU.

**10 Talent importer**

Lakeland has a tradition of welcoming students from all over the world to Sheboygan County, and many chose to call this region home. Meet José Araujo, who is thriving locally.



Although we can't gather as family in person on October 10, we invite you to celebrate your Muskie pride by joining us for a day of social celebration on our Lakeland Facebook page!



Scan the QR code to follow our Facebook page!

**Oct. 10, 2020**

**[lakeland.edu/homecoming](http://lakeland.edu/homecoming)**

COVID-19 had us all feeling like

# FISH OUT OF WATER

Considering that Lakeland has existed for 158 years, the ability for students and employees to say they were part of a historic event on campus doesn't often occur.

COVID-19 provided that dubious history as, like schools all over the world, Lakeland moved quickly to respond to the coronavirus and the rapid-changing environment it continues to create. Keeping students, employees and, when appropriate, alumni and guests, safe was a primary factor in decision making, as well as the need to deliver the ability for students to be in the best position to finish their spring semester classes.

Often, Lakeland had plans in place and was forced at the last minute to pivot quickly in another direction in an environment that was unpredictable and made planning challenging. A crisis management team led by Vice President for Campus Life David Simon, a 1999 Lakeland graduate and former police officer with extensive crisis management experience, played a huge role in leading Lakeland's efforts.

As the nation rolled out shelter-in-place plans in mid-March, Lakeland announced plans to complete the spring semester virtually, the May graduation ceremonies were postponed and all in-person events scheduled at Lakeland locations for the remainder of the spring semester were canceled, including all athletic contests.

It was an especially tough blow for Lakeland's seniors, who were robbed of their final weeks on campus together and the memories that come with that experience.

Lakeland extended its spring break by a week to allow faculty teaching in-person classes an additional week to convert them to a virtual enrollment. Faculty collaborated online together to share ideas, and many worked closely with Flossie Siebert, director of online learning, and Andrew Damp, director of instructional design, who provided critical leadership in helping convert classes to all-online platforms.

Fortunately for Lakeland, the institution was well positioned for the transition. Lakeland was a pioneer in online education, dating back to offering one of the nation's first complete online degrees in the 1990s. Lakeland's BlendEd delivery platform, which allows students to access live courses from wherever they have an internet connection, has been among the nation's most flexible formats and is very popular with students.

Lakeland's main campus and its centers were physically closed, but the institution continued to serve students. About 50 students lived in residence halls through the spring semester, a mix of international students who were unable to return to their native country and domestic students who needed to live at Lakeland for a variety of reasons. A team that included Security, Campus Life and Dining Services provided support to them, and all meals were served to go so students could eat in their rooms.

Lakeland launched a COVID-19 emergency fund to help support students who

were suffering negative financial impacts from the virus or needed some help in getting access to computers to access their classes. The Lakeland family responded, and more than \$50,000 was raised from more than 175 donors to benefit these students. Lakeland also received \$1.3 million in federal CARES Act funding, half of which was distributed directly to students. The other half was used to address a variety of COVID-19 related expenses, including a loss of \$1.3 million in room and board refunds to students who did not return to campus after spring break.

Most employees worked remotely as homes turned into makeshift offices and Microsoft Teams and Zoom meetings became commonplace. Faculty and students worked closely together to finish the semester and overcome various challenges. Lakeland's strong family connections were on full display, and there were numerous kudos from students as part of a post-semester student survey where they thanked specific faculty and staff members for going above and beyond to help them finish the semester.

Lakeland's admissions team, faced with the challenge of not being able to invite prospective students to campus for a tour, quickly rolled out virtual campus visits, which proved very popular.

Mental health was also a priority, and Lakeland's counseling staff offered virtual and phone sessions with students who needed some additional support. LU's Success Coaches also created a variety of virtual programs so students were engaged in more than just academic pursuits.

The communications and marketing staffs created a great deal of content to keep people informed and engaged. The annual Academic Honors banquet, a popular spring event, was moved online as faculty presenters did videos of their award presentations which were shared on Lakeland's website and social media. The Lakeland Concert Band also created several virtual mini-concerts as Professor Evan Chancellor worked with students from their homes to record their individual parts and bring them together into finished performances that were shared online.

In early May, Holy Family (formerly Silver Lake) College in Manitowoc abruptly announced that it would be permanently closing

at the end of the summer. Lakeland moved quickly, and in less than 24 hours from the announcement an agreement was in place allowing Holy Family students to transfer to Lakeland to complete their degrees.

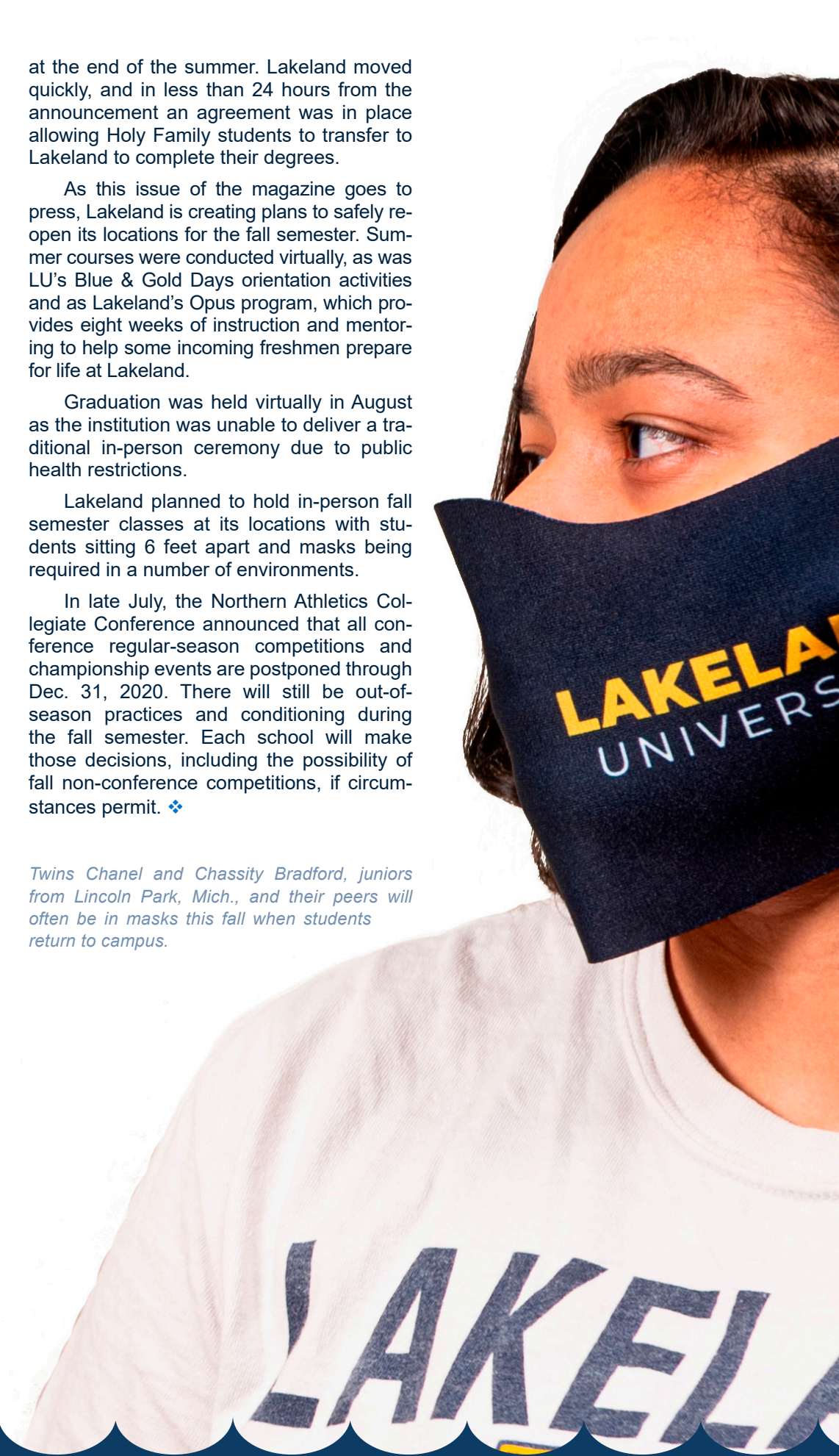
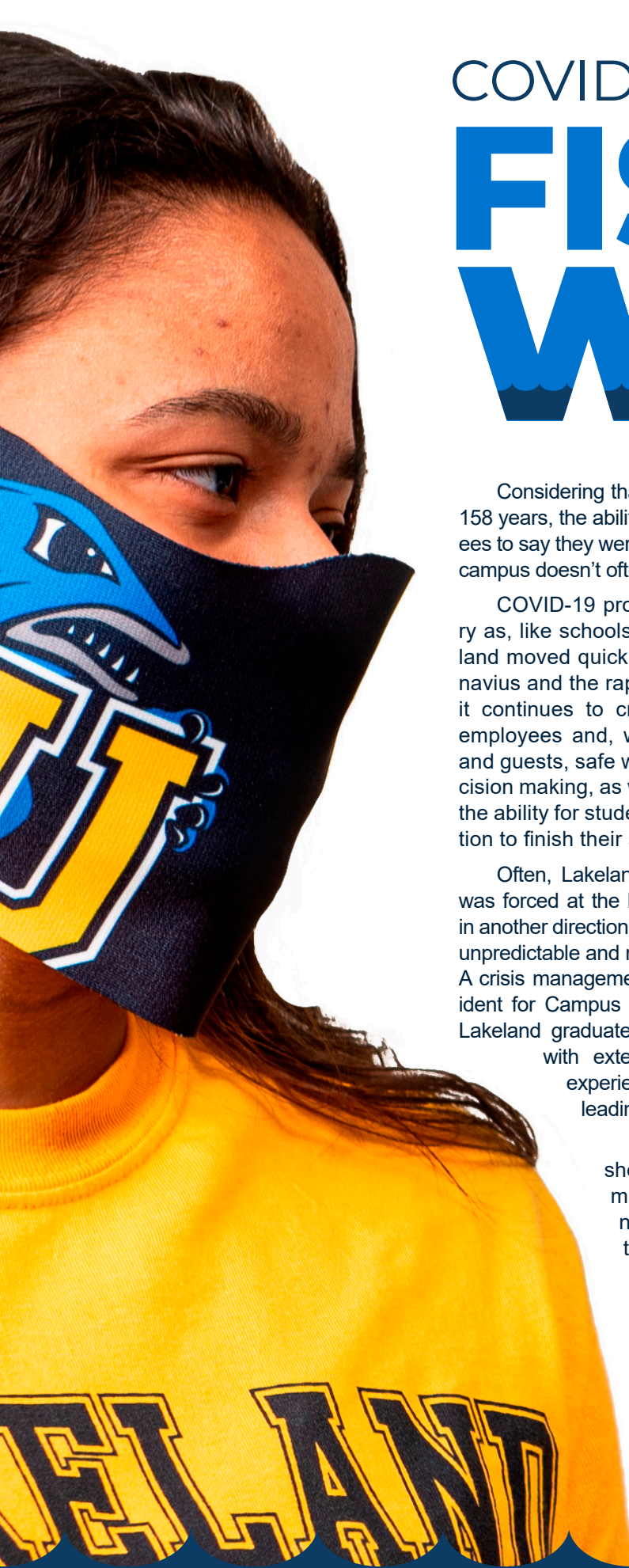
As this issue of the magazine goes to press, Lakeland is creating plans to safely reopen its locations for the fall semester. Summer courses were conducted virtually, as was LU's Blue & Gold Days orientation activities and as Lakeland's Opus program, which provides eight weeks of instruction and mentoring to help some incoming freshmen prepare for life at Lakeland.

Graduation was held virtually in August as the institution was unable to deliver a traditional in-person ceremony due to public health restrictions.

Lakeland planned to hold in-person fall semester classes at its locations with students sitting 6 feet apart and masks being required in a number of environments.

In late July, the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference announced that all conference regular-season competitions and championship events are postponed through Dec. 31, 2020. There will still be out-of-season practices and conditioning during the fall semester. Each school will make those decisions, including the possibility of fall non-conference competitions, if circumstances permit. ❖

*Twins Chanel and Chassity Bradford, juniors from Lincoln Park, Mich., and their peers will often be in masks this fall when students return to campus.*



# LUJ tackles COVID challenges

COVID-19 is, of course, a global pandemic, so it also impacted Lakeland University's campus in Tokyo, Japan. LUJ transitioned all classes to online in March, and faculty began working from home, which is continuing through the summer semester.

LUJ staff and administrators have gone through phases of work-from-home, mainly determined by the department and type of work. For the summer, the majority of staff and departments have been working from home most days. Certain departments, such as accounting, recruitment and specific management, have been coming to the campus more frequently due to the nature of the work.

The Tokyo area decreased the state of emergency in late May, allowing for the re-opening of certain non-essential businesses, but still giving strong recommendations for employees to work from home whenever possible and to avoid heavy commuting times as best they can. LUJ campus hours have been strictly limited to only 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to avoid the heavy commuting times in Tokyo.

LUJ students, faculty and staff responded to the changes with the highest levels of understanding, flexibility and cooperation. The top priority from the beginning was everyone's health, safety and ability to continue their academic goals and progress. Virtual meetings became the theme as colleagues turned to virtual platforms to

stay connected and keep the semester moving forward.

Faculty quickly transitioned to online classes and put in countless hours getting trained in the virtual platform Blackboard. Staff from the Wisconsin main campus held twice-weekly training sessions that continue through the summer.

Getting students trained and adjusted for successful engagement in online classes took some time. Students were given a variety of videos and guidelines to help them work through any issues, along with faculty and staff support and trouble-shooting support from the IT department at the main campus in Wisconsin.

"The students responded exceptionally," said LUJ Chief Operating Officer Charlie Stockman '05. "Like all university students, they would love nothing more than to be in classes and going through the more traditional college experience, but they seem to be very aware and understanding of the situation and risks of re-opening too quickly."

Students and faculty feedback and surveys showed exceptional attendance rates for the online classes, high levels of participation and class engagement and an overall feeling of "quality education" being continued.

The students' mental health was always a concern, and LUJ's professional counselor made herself available via online meetings. Students also receive various tips, advice and updates from

the Student Affairs department on coping with issues they may be facing. The Student Affairs office has held various group sessions - mainly targeting the newest students - to get feedback and offer support.

New student orientations, placement testing and course registration were all held online for the first time. Orientation videos, individual and group Zoom meetings and online tests were all developed to ensure students received the same support and services without the need to visit the campus.

For the summer semester, class participation and student engagement have been high in virtual classes, and the campus recently re-opened for students to access the library and visit administrative offices by appointment.

Looking ahead to the fall semester, the campus is being prepped for some level of re-opening that will include social distancing in classroom and public areas, posting guidelines around campus, stocking sanitation supplies and masks and other precautions.

"The major challenge is taking into consideration the inescapable train commute to the campus during this critical time," Stockman said. "The Shinjuku station has more commuters pass through each day than any other station in the world. As we look to schedule any classes being considered for in-person in the fall, we will try to avoid the morning and evening commute times." ❖

# A transformational investment

In April, the university learned it has received a \$35.4 million fixed-rate low interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development division. This loan will finance the largest investment in the main campus in the institution's 158-year history.

Lakeland will use \$26 million to construct two new residence halls to serve freshmen and sophomores, a water tower and related infrastructure. The remaining \$9.4 million will be used to refinance the university's existing long-term debt.

The two identical residence halls will be located on the area south of the Younger Family Campus Center on the sites currently occupied by decades-old Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier Halls, which will both be demolished.

Lakeland estimates the first new residence hall will be open for the fall of 2022, and the second for the fall of 2023. These

two new halls will provide Lakeland with 396 beds, compared to 291 beds available in the halls they will replace - A.M. Krueger, Muehlmeier, Grosshuesch, Friedli and Hofer (the Suites).

The Suites will also be demolished. The future of A.M. Krueger is to be determined.

"In light of the uneasiness we are all feeling during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a transformational investment that is the best possible news for Lakeland," said LU President David Black.

"This will be Lakeland's single most comprehensive project and physical investment in a main campus that was founded in 1862. And, coupled with the recent multi-million dollar renovations of the Younger Family Campus Center and Taylor Field and the advent of our Cooperative Education program, this investment will position Lakeland for future growth for

decades to come."

Black noted that Lakeland's current freshmen and sophomore residence halls are approximately half a century old and are in need of significant deferred maintenance.

"It took tremendous effort on the part of many employees and students to realize this vision," Black said. "We are also thankful to our Board of Trustees for their leadership and support."

The USDA funds, provided through the Community Facilities Direct Loan program, are designed to develop essential community facilities and foster economic growth and development in rural communities across the country.

Community leaders wrote letters of support during the USDA application process in support of the project and of Lakeland's importance as an economic driver to the region. ❖





# Our challenge to **change**

By David R. Simon, Jr. '99

*Editor's note: David Simon, Jr. '99 grew up in Detroit, Mich., and graduated from Lakeland in 1999. Following service in law enforcement, he returned to Lakeland in 2010 and served as director of campus safety and security before being promoted to vice president for campus life in 2019. We invited David to share his personal journey and his vision for Lakeland.*

Growing up in Detroit, Mich., I have personally experienced unjust police brutality and racial profiling starting at the early age of 15. I remember I was just walking to the bus stop from football practice when four white officers from the Detroit Police Gang Squad unit known as the "Big Four" stopped in front of me with their lights on. They jumped out their vehicle, approached me and I was punched in the face and thrown to the ground because I fit a description. Mind you, I was 15 years old, wearing a sweaty t-shirt and shorts and holding a milk gallon jug used for water. The city bus driver who would wait for me got off the bus to tell officers that what they were doing was unnecessary. The reply he received was, "Get your \*SS back on the bus, or you will be next."

After this particular incident, I developed a hatred for the very department of officers that was supposed to be heroic, admirable and protectors. This ingrained anger in me manifested into frustration which influenced my choice of music that I was able to identify with, which was the Hip Hop group N.W.A.'s "F\*\*k tha Police," Public Enemy's "Fight the Power," Tupac Shakur, and a host of artists who reported from the streets these same plights for many years. This was my generation's version of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" the 1960s song inspired by violence and police brutality in America.

I would go on to experience countless more incidents before leaving the state for college. This was the driving force behind my parents to get me out of Detroit, because they feared between growing up in a crime- and drug-impacted neighborhood and exposed to police violence that the odds for my survival were stacked against me.

But instead of complaining and continuing to fuel a hatred, these experiences motivated me to do something about it. I became a police officer in the exact city where this ingrained hatred started. I demonstrated humility when working with the community. I have corrected officers when I noticed the slightest inclination of wrong doing. I was determined not to be that officer, but also protect citizens from those types of officers.

This is just one shared example from my life and just one of countless stories of those who have experienced the same exact situation in America's inner cities as well as when they cross the border streets into suburban America.

### A change for Lakeland

Approximately 25 years ago, our Black Student Union (I was an officer), the Beta Sigma Omega fraternity as well as allies that consisted of non-black and brown students circulated a written petition to have a "Black American accredited studies course" added to Lakeland's academic curriculum. Our voice was heard, but not taken seriously. A faculty ally, Professor Don Francis, who was teaching a course entitled Social Change that I was taking at the time, came to our aid. I shared with Dr. Francis our plight to have a course taught at Lakeland, and he created the platform for this discussion to take place with a Lakeland key stakeholder in academics. The class was developed, but not delivered in the context it was asked for. So, 25 years later, here we are again. Current Lakeland students asking for the same type of course. I feel a personal attachment to their request as it is almost within the same context that we asked for 25 years ago.

I believe we are at a time when humility and humanity is at its most frail

point. We need to attack this problem head on! It's time we have the necessary conversations without feeling offended or offending others. The ability for Lakeland faculty, staff, administrators and students to have the difficult, but important conversations around racial injustice is critical for a safe and healthy learning environment.

But, in order for us to do so, we will need to listen to our students, not just hear them. In order for us to capture this moment, this can no longer just be high level conversations, because it will not yield any results. We need to talk directly with our students so that we can hear them and see the world through their lens.

I challenge my Lakeland family to intentionally humble themselves, open their hearts and minds and be willing to learn, and learn from each other, so that we can progressively advance together and be the Lakeland that we all long for. Know that this will be a marathon, not a sprint, as we change our culture so that will it embrace everyone, including those who come after us, so that they are mentored into a new culture that respects all. In the words of our President, David Black, be willing to know who is thy neighbor.

We will know we are making progress when diversity, inclusion and equity are no longer a topic of discussion, but rather, they are in our hearts and actions. ❖



## LU holds inaugural Juneteenth celebration

Lakeland students and employees gathered on June 19 outside the Family Campus Center to celebrate Juneteenth and dedicate a new space on campus to inspire Lakeland's commitment to peace, equity and justice.

LU Vice President for Campus Life David Simon, Jr., who organized the event, said Juneteenth will become an annual Lakeland summer celebration, and LU plans to expand the event to include Lakeland alumni beginning next June.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the U.S. Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official Jan. 1, 1863.

Lakeland President David Black announced at the celebration that the space located on the south lawn of the Younger Family Campus Center will be designated The Rosa Parks & John Lewis Plaza for Peace, Equity & Justice.

The plaza will be a reminder of Lakeland's quest for social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. It will be used as a space where the Lakeland family can gather to celebrate our diversity and to keep having important conversations. It is one of the most used entrances on campus, an area that will become busier when Lakeland's two new residence halls are completed in the early 2020s.

Leaders from Lakeland's Black Student Union and Beta Sigma Omega fraternity joined in a short program as part of the celebration.

BSU President Jasmine Smith said, "The creation of a plaza dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement is an advancement towards the right direction. There are steps to this process and obstacles we must overcome. In order to receive the change you want, you have to advocate, let your voices be heard and initiate it. Just because we have a dedicated place for a movement that supports and represents Black people doesn't mean our work stops here. This plaza is a reminder of our past, the work that is being done and the work we need to continue to do. Let's keep hope and peace in our hearts and souls and continue to fight."

Beta Sigma Omega fraternity President Brice Kensey said, "The Rosa Parks & John Lewis Plaza is one of many steps in creating change. The Plaza is a symbol of hope for our future to become brighter. This will be a place to unify the diverse, gain a level of understanding and be a safe place to step out of your comfort zone. Let's continue to stand together to fight for justice

and equality so that our voices don't become irrelevant, but push for racial discrimination to become obsolete."

Lakeland has pledged to listen, learn and take action to improve. A Zoom meeting was initiated by students in mid-June who have taken up their own cause for justice at Lakeland to help advise Lakeland on how it can improve. More conversations will continue.

**Lakeland also put in place several action steps, some in progress and some beginning when classes start this fall:**

- **Members of LU's administrative team will participate in a year-long diversity, equity and inclusion training** designed and led by Campus Chaplain and Ulrich Ethicist in Residence the Rev. Julie A. Mavity Maddalena, Ph.D., and Le'Shay Guy '16, LU's new director of multicultural affairs. The goals of this training are to understand how white supremacy and other forms of oppression function on interpersonal, ideological and institutional levels and how LU can address these dynamics to create a more equitable and inclusive campus environment. This work will enable Lakeland to recruit, retain and develop a more diverse campus community. It will also lead to additional training for other Lakeland employees that will focus on implicit bias and microaggressions.
- **Lakeland will be planning some LEAP sessions for this academic year that will focus on listening, learning and responding to racism.** These will be open to students, faculty and staff.
- This fall, Professor Peter Sattler will be teaching ENG 225: Multicultural American Literature, **a course that will focus exclusively upon Black literary and artistic expression**, ranging from fiction and oratory to poetry and film. Lakeland is exploring other classes related to Black history and related topics.
- As part of Lakeland's institutional strategic plan, **a climate survey of students, faculty and staff will be conducted this fall** with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. The survey will be followed up with listening sessions with Lakeland's president that will dig deeper into themes expressed in the survey.
- Earlier this year, Lakeland announced the **formation of a Committee on Mission & Culture**, and that group has met and started its work. Part of the work of this group is making sure equity and inclusion are present in all Lakeland policies and driving decision-making practices. ❖



# TALENT IMPORTER

## Thriving away from home

When José Araujo made his first visit to Lakeland in April of 2003 to visit his younger brother, Andres, he had no idea that his connection to what was initially his brother's school would end up shaping his life.

Now, 17 years later, José, who received a bachelor's (2005) and master's degree (2009) from Lakeland, is enjoying life locally and thriving as associate channel marketing manager for Latin America at Kohler Co. and a community leader.

Andres, a 2006 and 2008 MBA Lakeland graduate, started classes at Lakeland in January of 2003, and José was participating in a work and travel program for international college students in New Hampshire. During a short visit to Lakeland, he met Andres' closest friends, many of whom would become his own friends. He spoke to some professors and staff and got a feel for what Lakeland had to offer.

"At the time, I was a student at one of the largest universities in Peru, where I was majoring in science communications," José said. "The classes there were rather large – in some lectures we had over 150 students. Professors were not accessible and the content was delivered in a 'one size fits all' way, which made for a very non-personalized experience.

"At Lakeland, students are recognized and valued for their individuality. Professors and staff are readily available and excited to help, making for a more personalized experience and allowing students to reach their own goals. This was very appealing to me, and one of the main reasons why I decided to transfer."

José fondly recalls connecting

with a number of faculty members, including the late J. Garland Schilcutt, Adina Schwartz, Elizabeth Shumway, Martha Schott, Jim Kudek and Charles Stockman, as well as Mark Wagner and Caroline Korhonen from the dining services staff and members of the maintenance crew, with whom he worked during the summers.

"Being able to interact and get to know people from all over the world was the most enriching for me," said Araujo, who is giving back to Lakeland now as a member of LU's Board of Trustees. "This allowed me to make lifelong friendships with people from different backgrounds and amazing life stories.

"Learning about other cultures, how to share a living space with someone that may not think or do things like you are used to and realizing how people can sometimes be more alike than different, even though they come from the opposite side of the planet, was really eye-opening."

The decision to settle locally took root when Araujo married his wife, Suki, in 2006, and the two decided that Sheboygan County, with its access to professional opportunities, safety, great schools, entertainment and activities, would be a great place to start a family.

"It is impressive to me that in a community of its size, there is such concentration of world-class companies that are leaders in their industry," Araujo said. "Kohler, Sargento, Johnsonville, Bemis, Acuity, American Orthodontics are just a few corporations headquartered in Sheboygan County that offer an unbelievable amount of opportunities for professionals from

all trades, levels of experience and interests."

Araujo has put together an impressive resume since graduation. Prior to joining Kohler in 2015, he was program director for Partners for Community Development, Inc., in Sheboygan, and later he was senior associate director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin. He has served Sheboygan County on a number of non-profit boards, and in 2019 he was named the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee's Community Leadership Award Winner.

In his current role, Araujo and his team are responsible for everything related to communications and the vitality of the Kohler brand in Latin America, including Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America (excluding Brazil). Araujo and his team focuses on growing Kohler's brand recognition in the region through a variety of branding activities and tactics, from showroom displays to social media and print publications, events and promotions.

His role at Kohler has Araujo interacting with people from all over the world on a regular basis, and he says his ability to successfully establish positive working relationships, communicate effectively and take into account nuances that are important to ensure the success of the business were honed at Lakeland.

"Aside from the academics, having the opportunity to live with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds taught me to be open minded, respectful of other cultures and beliefs and to analyze why people may act or do things differently," he said. ❖





# Student Success

## Accounting

Lakeland University is known for having a strong accounting program, and a number of students currently enrolled have impressive resumes which have them positioned for post-graduation success.

Of the 11 students enrolled last fall in advanced financial reporting, seven will graduate in less than four years, including three students who will graduate in just three years.

"I am so impressed with these students," said Brett Killion, Lakeland's associate professor of accounting. "They have all done a great job maximizing their Lakeland experience and are great role models of what is capable within our program."

"We're also grateful to our corporate partners and all the incredible opportunities they provide for our students. They play a big role in the success of our program and setting up our students for post-graduation success."

Here's a look at the impressive accomplishments of some recent grads and some upper class students currently enrolled in Lakeland's accounting program:

### Erin Iwanski

- Graduated in three years plus one semester last December and started full-time work for CliftonLarsonAllen in the Sheboygan office.
- Had two tax internships at CliftonLarsonAllen and an international accounting internship in Costa Rica this past summer.

### Mason Ksioszk

- Graduated in three years in May and started full-time work for CliftonLarsonAllen in the Sheboygan office.

- Had internships with Orion Energy, Plymouth Foam and CliftonLarsonAllen.

### Logan Lisowski

- Graduated in three years in May and is scheduled to start full-time work for Kohler Co. in September.
- Had an internship this past summer with Kohler Co.

### Trent Nickel

- A junior who is on track to earn a bachelor's degree and master of business administration degree in five years.
- Had an internship with Kohler Co. last summer and was scheduled for second internship there this summer before it was canceled due to COVID-19. Also served an internship at Glacier Transit.

### Spencer Miesfield

- A junior who will graduate in four years.
- Has an internship next semester with Fromm Accounting in Kiel, Wis.
- Has second accounting internship this summer with Curt Joa.

### Jolene Halbach

- Will graduate in three years plus one semester.
- Had an internship with CliftonLarsonAllen last year.
- Had a full-time internship in Green Bay this spring with Hawkins Ash CPAs in Green Bay, Wis.
- Has an internship this summer with Sargento.
- Will graduate debt free in December 2020.

### Colleen Nolan

- Graduating in four years.
- Following a spring internship with Huberty CPAs, had summer internship with Huberty as a data analyst.

### Sarah Thomas

- Graduated in three years last December and was hired full-time in the accounting department at Curt Joa last September.
- Had internships with CliftonLarsonAllen in addition to Curt Joa.

### Ethan Richmond

- Graduated in three years in May.
- Had an internship last year with Bemis, then interned in the spring at Kohler in their international tax department.

### Azucel Sanchez Beltran

- Served a 1.5-year cooperative education experience with Masters Gallery.
- Had an internship in the spring with Huberty CPAs.
- Graduated in May 2020 and will start work with Huberty this summer.

### Kayla Hemb

- Graduated in three years and one semester last December and beat out 90 applicants to be a financial analyst at Fiserv in Brookfield.
- Served an internship with Veritas Financial.

### Andrew L'Empereur

- Graduated in May and is working full time for CliftonLarsonAllen in their Fond du Lac office.
- Served a tax internship last spring at CliftonLarsonAllen.

### Shosei Suzuki

- Transfer from Lakeland University-Japan.
- Graduated in May 2020. Will start full-time work for Deloitte (a "Big Four" accounting firm) soon in Japan. He already passed the FAR section of the CPA Exam a few months ago when he was still a Lakeland student. He received employment offers from two other "Big Four" firms.
- Served an accounting internship last summer in Japan.

## Biochemistry

Lakeland biochemistry students Tegan Schneider and Mitchel Larsen presented their research in the fall at the 50th annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in Chicago.

This national meeting, which was attended by more than 27,000 people, allowed the students to share their work with neuroscientists from around the world, as well as learn about all of the different work being done in the field. They were joined at the meeting by LU Assistant Professor of Biochemistry Jered McGivern.

The work by Schneider and Larsen, which was conducted with McGivern, was part of Lakeland's highly regarded Lakeland Undergraduate Research Experience (LURE) summer research program.

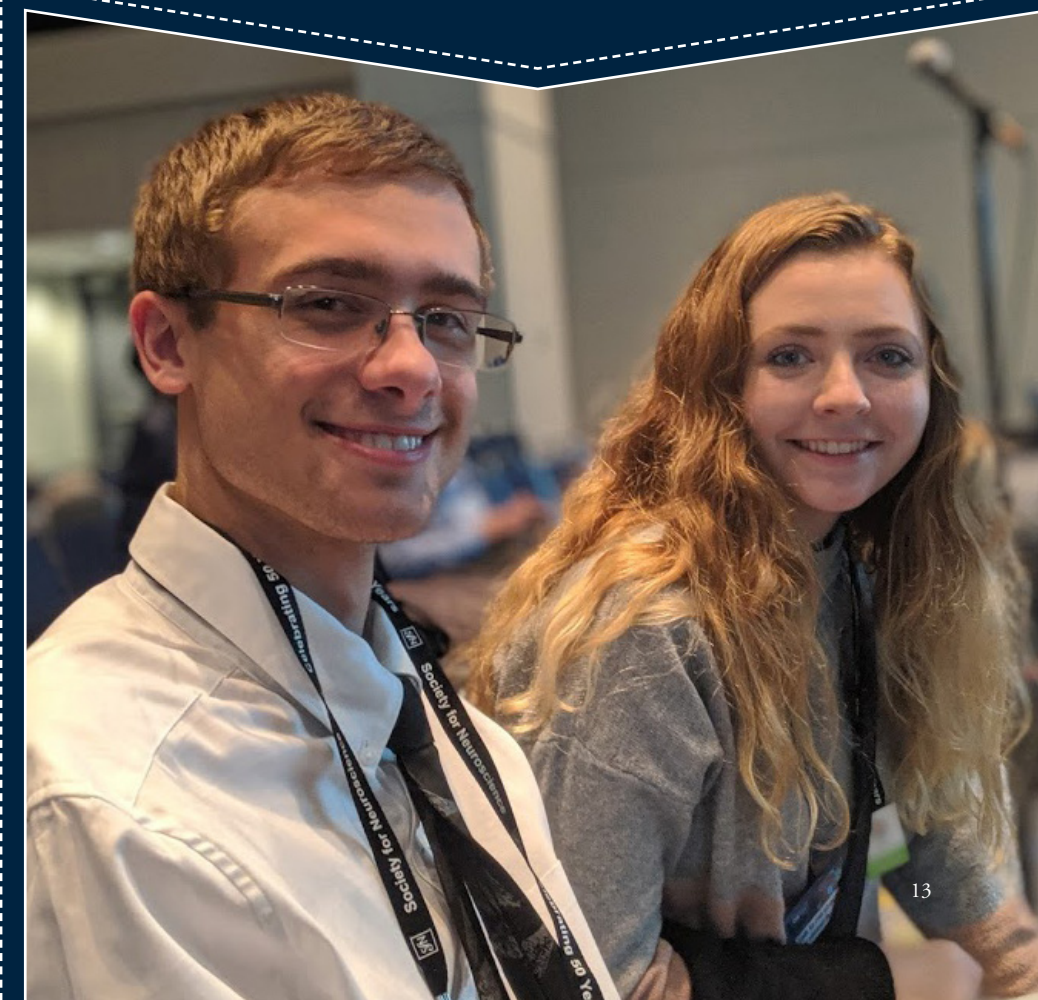
The students used a donated skin sample from an adult female to make brain tissue in a dish. The goal of their work was better understanding how neural signaling compounds (called neurotransmitters) are

regulated in the brain.

"The tissue we received was chemically 'tricked' into thinking it was fetal tissue, and then we chemically directed those cells to develop into brain tissue," McGivern said. "The whole system is still in the exploratory stage where Tegan and Mitchel are determining if this tissue acts in a way that is consistent with how normal human brain tissue might work."

"Our hope is that this type of model system can be used to not only understand normal brain function, but also in circumstances where there are defects or diseases. I am really proud of the work they're doing. It's always good to hear that people were surprised that these were not graduate students."

The students were able to attend the meeting thanks to a gift from 1969 graduate Cliff Feldmann, a generous benefactor for a number of programs in Lakeland's School of Business, Sciences & Technology.







## Exercise science

Lakeland's Exercise Science program continues to distinguish itself as one of the nation's leading programs. This spring, Lakeland Associate Professor of Exercise Science William Ebben and his students had six papers accepted for presentation at the 38th International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference in Liverpool, England.

While the conference has been cancelled due to the pandemic, the papers will be published in the "Proceedings of the 38th International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference."

Lakeland students who were lead authors include Alicia Thone (two papers), Hunter Frisk (two papers), Madison Blankenship and Megan Gold. Frisk and Blankenship are co-author on papers. Other Lakeland exercise science students who are co-authors include Evan Martin,

Jack Shevalier and Neenah Primas. Garrett Duffin and Aly Stockero, both recent graduates of the program, are co-authors.

Last summer, Lakeland's exercise science research team presented more research posters than any other participant at the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports 37th Annual Conference, in Oxford, Ohio. Lakeland students topped the 63 universities, medical organizations, sports institutes and research organizations from throughout the world who presented poster research.

When taking into consideration all formats of research presented by representatives of 127 universities, medical organizations, sports institutes and research organizations at this conference, Lakeland was tied for the third most research presentations.

"Two years ago, I told our provost, Meg Albrink, and my dean, Brian Frink, that the goal was for Lakeland to be in the top 5 percent of all universities and organizations presenting research at this prestigious international conference. We ended up in the top 2.4 percent," Ebben said.

"It is a testament to the work of the students and the outstanding support the university provides for high impact educational experiences such as research, including ample funding to support student travel expenses to international conferences."

Ebben said the program's successes has raised the profile of the university and has led to program graduates having a remarkable rate of success for gaining admissions to graduate and professional schools.

## Hospitality management

Lakeland hospitality management students competed in a Battle of the Universities in the fall at the Hotel ROI conference in Chicago. Lakeland competed against Florida International University, Northwestern Ohio University and University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

Dani Chismarick, Emma Lehr, Olivia Parrott, Trent Nelson and Nate Vanderwaal worked together as a team to present a hotel brand concept which included a construction plan, marketing plan, competitive analysis, restaurant concept, a plan for return on investment and vision for franchising in the future. Their brand

concept was a student-operated hotel on Lakeland's campus named Lodge 1862.

The project was voluntary and the students completed the work on their own time outside of their coursework.

"I'm incredibly proud of the work these ladies and gentlemen did," said Britanni Meinnert, Lakeland's instructor of hospitality management. "They came together as a team and completed a comprehensive brand concept in less than a month. The plan is incredibly viable, as well as unique. These students utilized all their learning of business and presentation skills and applied it into this project." ❖



# Celebrating the class of 2020

Lakeland's Class of 2020 has more than 700 unique success stories of graduates ready to dive into the next chapters of their lives. Here's a sample of the talented Muskies ready to use their Lakeland education.



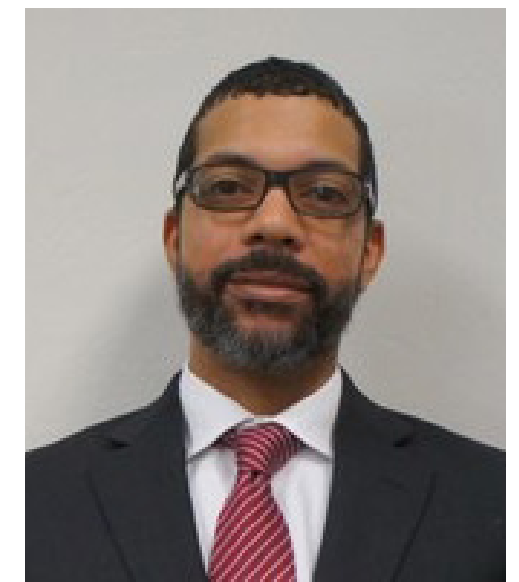
“As a lifelong learner who is constantly striving for personal improvement and professional growth, the knowledge I have gained with the Master of Science in Leadership and Organizational Development program is immeasurable. After graduation I plan to incorporate the tools I have learned to further my success, the success of my peers, my company and our community.”

**Jamie Longmiller**  
Sheboygan, Wis.  
Master of Science in Leadership & Organizational Development



“Lakeland as a whole has given me all the tools and confidence to be successful. After graduation I accepted a position at United Shore in Pontiac, Mich., where I will be part of their graphic design team. A huge thank you to everyone at Lakeland who helped me achieve this lifelong goal. I will forever owe so much to you.”

**Lexi Upson**  
Waterford, Mich.  
Bachelor's in marketing



“I currently serve as the HR manager at Shoreline Credit Union. I look forward to continuing my career with such a great organization and moving my way into an executive position at a local financial institution or finish my Ph.D. in psychology and work with soldiers that have PTSD.”

**Damien Mohorne Sr.**  
Two Rivers, Wis.  
Master of Business Administration

# Celebrating the class of 2020 cont.



“ Being someone that loves a challenge and believes in continuous self-improvement, I embarked on this journey to expand my knowledge and future opportunities. Little did I know that along the way I'd develop a passion for finance and accounting. I plan to use my MBA to grow in my current position, as well as pursue my long-term goal of becoming an innovative leader. ”

**Brittany Marone**  
Wausau, Wis.  
Master of Business Administration



“ After attaining my bachelor's degree, I believe that the MBA program at Lakeland is the next step on my path to advance my career in accounting. During my time as an undergraduate student at Lakeland, I have gained a strong educational background which has prepared me to make an impact upon the field of accounting and the communities around me. I am confident that the MBA program will give me the skills that I need to take the next step in launching my new career. ”

**Klara Ewl**  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
Bachelor's in accounting



“ Since I graduated from Lakeland with my MBA, I've taken a promotion at Froedtert Health as a project manager within the financial engagement team. Project management has always been a skill/specialty that I've wanted to develop and make my career. Graduating with my MBA not only introduced me to project management, but the coursework really prepared me for the challenges in this role. I'm excited to grow in this role and see where my path will lead me. ”

**Kyle Graesslin**  
West Bend, Wis.  
Master of Business Administration



“ I will continue working for Masters Gallery Foods in an export and data synchronization capacity. With my degree, I hope to grow my current role and stay a valued member of the Masters Gallery Foods family. ”

**Jen Moehring**  
Cleveland, Wis.  
Bachelor's in business with international emphasis



“ I'm excited to explore new opportunities this degree will allow, and growing my career at Kohler Co. I'm also looking forward to spending more time with my wife and kids this summer. ”

**Chris Bladorn**  
Janesville, Wis.  
Bachelor's in business administration



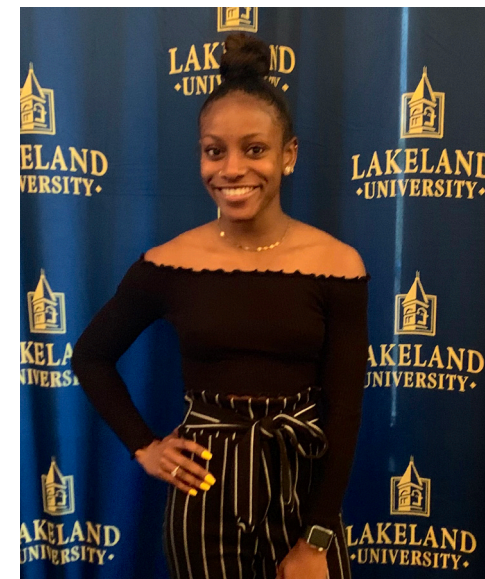
“ After completing my bachelor's from Lakeland and continuing with my MS-LOD degree, I would like to explore the path of becoming an instructor at a technical college. I know wherever I end up, this will be the result of hard work and the education I earned from Lakeland. ”

**Julie Hellmich**  
Green Bay, Wis.  
Master of Science in Leadership & Organizational Development



“ I intend to pursue a career in the law enforcement profession, specifically as a police officer. College has taught me so much more than just textbook material, and I'm beyond excited to work in a profession that has daily interaction with the community. ”

**Rachel Hasko**  
Racine, Wis.  
Bachelor's in criminal justice



“ I will be pursuing a career in law enforcement. I am looking forward to my next graduation ceremony which will be from the police academy. I am really excited to be the change and help build a stronger relationship between the community and law enforcement. ”

**Jaiila Cole-Clark**  
Matteson, Ill.  
Bachelor's in criminal justice



“ I plan to continue on with being a therapist and gaining my 3,000 hours at Insight Counseling and Wellness. ”

**Kelly Kendrick**  
Verona, Wis.  
Master of Arts in Counseling

## GIVING MADE EASY!

Become a part of our **sustainable giving program.**

**This option allows you to make automatic, recurring gifts online without the hassle of writing a check or buying a stamp!**

*"I love that Lakeland offers this easy way to automatic give monthly donations. I've been migrating almost all of my charitable giving to this format, as it makes budgeting so much easier for me, and for the organizations I want to support! I don't have to try to recall if I've already given, and they don't have to waste their resources reminding me to make my gift. Lakeland has been such a huge part of my life and whom I've become, and I feel really good helping ensure that Lakeland will be around for many generations to come."*

-Emily Rendall-Araujo '11 MBA'14

A silhouette of a building with a prominent steeple is centered against a warm, orange-hued sunset sky. The building's outline is dark, contrasting with the bright background. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*Just* breathe  
— ALUMS GIVING BACK —



**LAKELAND UNIVERSITY**

— ALUMS GIVING BACK —  
**JENNY TANCK**

**2015 grad leads free yoga**

*Editor's Note: Our Mission House/Lakeland alumni are so generous to their alma mater. This is the first in a new series spotlighting ways that our graduates give back to the university.*

Jenny (Kjin) Tanck '15 teaches free weekly vinyasa yoga classes at Lakeland's Center for Community, Equity and Belonging in Grosshuesch Hall. During classes, she helps participants breathe, move and explore the practice of yoga together.

She was introduced to yoga in 2011 during her freshman year at Lakeland thanks to some free yoga classes offered to students.

"I remember arriving to my first class, excited and nervous to try this new practice," said Tanck, who is a yoga instructor at the Sheboygan Falls YMCA. "What initially brought me to yoga was the physical movement, stress relief and to help cope with my anxiety. I quickly began to realize there was an internal shift, and larger forces within the universe pulling me to my mat.

"As my physical practice evolved, I started noticing the benefits of yoga on the mat and off the mat and in my everyday life. I was more grounded, peaceful, present and filled with more love for others and myself. I began to see and feel all of the beauty that surrounded me and that was within me."

Lakeland is where Tanck fell in love with yoga, and it's where the idea for her practice was born. Life threw her a curve ball in January of 2017 when she

was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), but she continued her practice and became a certified 200-hour registered yoga teacher (RYT) in April of 2017 through Yoga on the Lake in Kohler, Wis.

"I felt the strong desire to become a yoga instructor so I could give back to the university that so generously gifted me my practice," said Tanck, who lives in Sheboygan with her husband, 2015 Lakeland graduate Trevor Tanck, and their son, Micah. "I am honored and pleased to offer these classes for free to the students, staff and faculty at Lakeland."

Tanck said it's a privilege to witness, see, feel, and experience all the benefits yoga has to offer. She says yoga is a physical, emotional and spiritual practice.

"It helps us peel back the layers to reveal our true, authentic selves, that we are all connected and carriers of light," Tanck said. "Lakeland students experience their own light and share it with everyone else on campus and out in the world.

"Yoga has taught me that everything you need already resides within yourself. We all hold the ultimate power to better ourselves, through movement, meditation, breath and mindful living." ❖



## Lakeland adds eSports program



Lakeland landed some national attention in February when the university announced that Ahman Green, best known in Wisconsin for his Hall of Fame career with the Green Bay Packers, was named the first coach of Lakeland's new eSports program. In addition to his accomplished football career, Green is an eSports entrepreneur and longtime player.

The Packers' all-time leading rusher has been a gamer dating back to playing ColecoVision when he was a kid. While growing up in Nebraska and becoming a decorated player for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers, Tecmo Super Bowl and Madden NFL '97 were two of the games that kept Green rooted in eSports.

"This has been a lifelong passion for me, and I am excited to get the opportunity to come to Lakeland in this new role and grow the university's program from the ground up," said Green,

a broadcast personality for the professional eSports team Tempo Storm.

"It is amazing how quickly eSports is growing, and how much it has evolved over the years I have been playing. I'm looking forward to talking to gamers about Lakeland and all the university has to offer as we build this program."

During his 12-year NFL career, Green was a four-time Pro Bowler and two-time All-Pro player. He has been inducted into both the Nebraska and Green Bay Halls of Fame.

After retiring from pro football in 2009, Green's interest in gaming and the eSports industry grew, and his personality in the industry grew as he hosted a weekly eSports talk show, True Game Fans Network.

Lakeland's co-ed eSports team will debut this fall and be a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE), which serves as the governing body to more than 150 colleges and universities and sets standards for eligibility and conduct for collegiate eSports.

ESports are multiplayer online video games that are played against other NACE colleges across the country during a fall and spring season. Lakeland's team will compete in games such as League of Legends, Overwatch, Paladins, Rocket League, Smite, Fortnite, CSGO and Super Smash Brothers Ultimate. Additional games will be added in the future based on student interest and additions made by NACE.

Lakeland has renovated an existing 3,000-square foot space on the southwest portion of its campus where its eSports team will practice and compete. The space will feature 18 gaming stations, six consoles, a lounge area and space for spectators to enjoy the action.

The space will also be open to all Lakeland students during designated hours for intramural programs and individual student use. Lakeland currently has an eSports club and more than 30 students are involved, and that interest helped fuel Lakeland's decision to create a varsity team. ❖



# Teaching our teachers

When Mehraban Khodavandi arrived at Lakeland's rural campus in 1981, he, like many others, planned on just a short stay that would serve as a stepping stone to something much bigger.



A native of Iran's capital city of Tehran, he had recently completed his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was working there as a research assistant when he met then-Lakeland Board of Trustees Chair Ralph Ley. Ley suggested Khodavandi apply for Lakeland's opening for the position of chair of the department of education and psychology. It could be an opportunity to gain some leadership experience and position him for a role at a larger institution.

"I came from a big city, and Madison was like a village in comparison, but this place was even worse, it was so small," Khodavandi said with a laugh. In spite of Lakeland's size and location, he decided to accept the offer, and found he was quickly and unexpectedly immersed in Lakeland's sense of family and community that has led to so many spending most of their career here.

The man known on campus as The Persian Prince, a talented story teller with a warm personality, sharp mind and quick wit, retired at the end of this past academic year. He was named Emeritus Professor of Education and Psychology, the highest honor any university can bestow upon a faculty member. It capped a 39-year career of leadership, teaching, and mentoring that positively impacted countless lives. But, he's quick to tell you that one of the people impacted most is himself.

His first office was in (the original) Bossard Hall, the small faculty office building that was located west of W.A. Krueger (Jubilee) Hall. When Bossard

Hall was razed, he re-located to WAK, eventually settling into a third floor corner office, a space Khodavandi says has "the most gorgeous views on campus." His office is filled not only with books, but also with gifts he received over the years from students.

Remembering the early days in Bossard, Khodavandi said, "It was impossible to work in that cozy space without really knowing your colleagues. From day one, the other faculty accepted me as a member of the group; I was never treated like an outsider. Even though during my first few years I mispronounced some words, and they were quick to correct me," Khodavandi said, smiling. "We laughed about it and it was all in caring fun. I've enjoyed long friendships with many people I met all those years ago."

While reminiscing about daily lunches with the late J. Garland Schilcutt, he recalled that one day at lunch in the old Campus Center grill a student worker mispronounced his first name when calling out his food order over the loudspeaker, prompting Schilcutt to dub him Mervin. "Even a month before J. died, I received an email from him 'To Merv,'" Khodavandi said. "That closeness was created in those early days.

"They took me under their wings and I was received so warmly that after the first couple of months I knew there was no way I could leave; I felt I belonged here. What I didn't know then was just how much this place would become home, and for how long. But, if I had to do it all over again, I would want to do this kind of job and do it at Lakeland."

The sense of community became a hallmark of Khodavandi's classroom, where he was a no-nonsense teacher who pushed his students with a mix of discipline, compassion and humor. Of course, there were his legendary classroom rules:

- No hats, sweatpants, or flip flops; dress professionally.
- No looking at the clock.
- No yawning.
- No chewing gum.
- No cell phones.
- Be there 15 minutes before the class starts.
- Always come to class. If you're sick, sit in the back.
- No foul language.

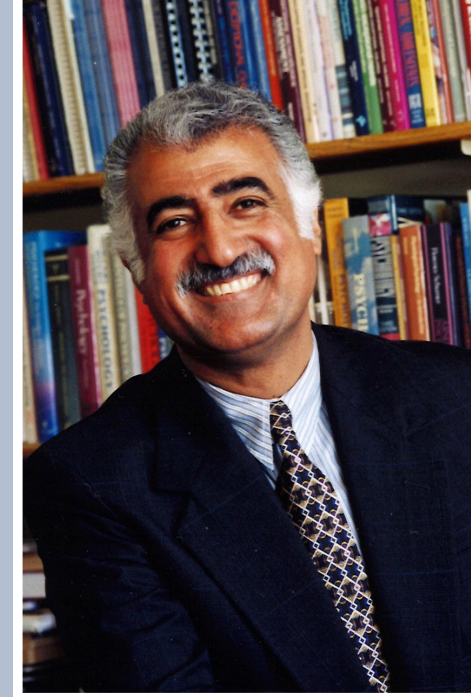
"You don't go to meetings late, or sit and look at the clock and give the impression you want to get out of there," he said. "It's amazing that in 39 years nobody ever tested (the rules), the students all complied. The funny thing is that after just a couple of years, I never mentioned the rules and yet new students knew them because the students talked to one other.

"I think the students appreciated my classroom rules. I've had so many (former) students tell me that when they became professionals, they used the same rules in their own classrooms."

Khodavandi, a dignified gentleman who followed his own rules and wore a suit to class everyday (and was named Lakeland's best dressed professor) also had two students serve as greeters outside his classroom door to welcome students as they arrived. And he closed each class by saying, "Your life is worthless and has no meaning if you don't love each other and you're not nice to each other. Be good to each other all the time, and more than anything, be good to you!"

His goal was to create a group of caring educators who would behave professionally towards students, families and colleagues.

Along with his role in the classroom, Khodavandi was also director of Lakeland University's Graduate Education Programs and the Senior Fellow of the Center for Advanced Disciplinary Studies. Over the decades, he served as a student advisor, student organization advisor, member and chair of numerous committees, department and division chair, dean of graduate studies, North



Central Association of Colleges and Schools liaison, Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) liaison, chief academic officer of the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC) and co-director of the Malawi Teacher Education Program.

Under his leadership, Lakeland's education program developed into one of the best in the state. "I am gratified that thousands of students who were certified through Lakeland's program are now teaching in Wisconsin, throughout the U.S. and around the world," Khodavandi said.

Through Khodavandi's initiatives, the MTEC program led to hundreds of students achieving alternative certification to teach in Milwaukee Public Schools in special education, reading and other content areas that lacked teachers. "The most successful classes are those where you see a change in behavior," he said. "After only one year, we could see the difference the program was making."

"I was also so proud of the Malawi program because you could see the students were learning, and you could see the results in Malawi," said Khodavandi, who visited the tiny African nation twice. "The students who graduated through Lakeland's undergraduate and graduate programs have become decision makers who are writing curriculum for their country and serving as directors of schools. You could see the progress in human capital.

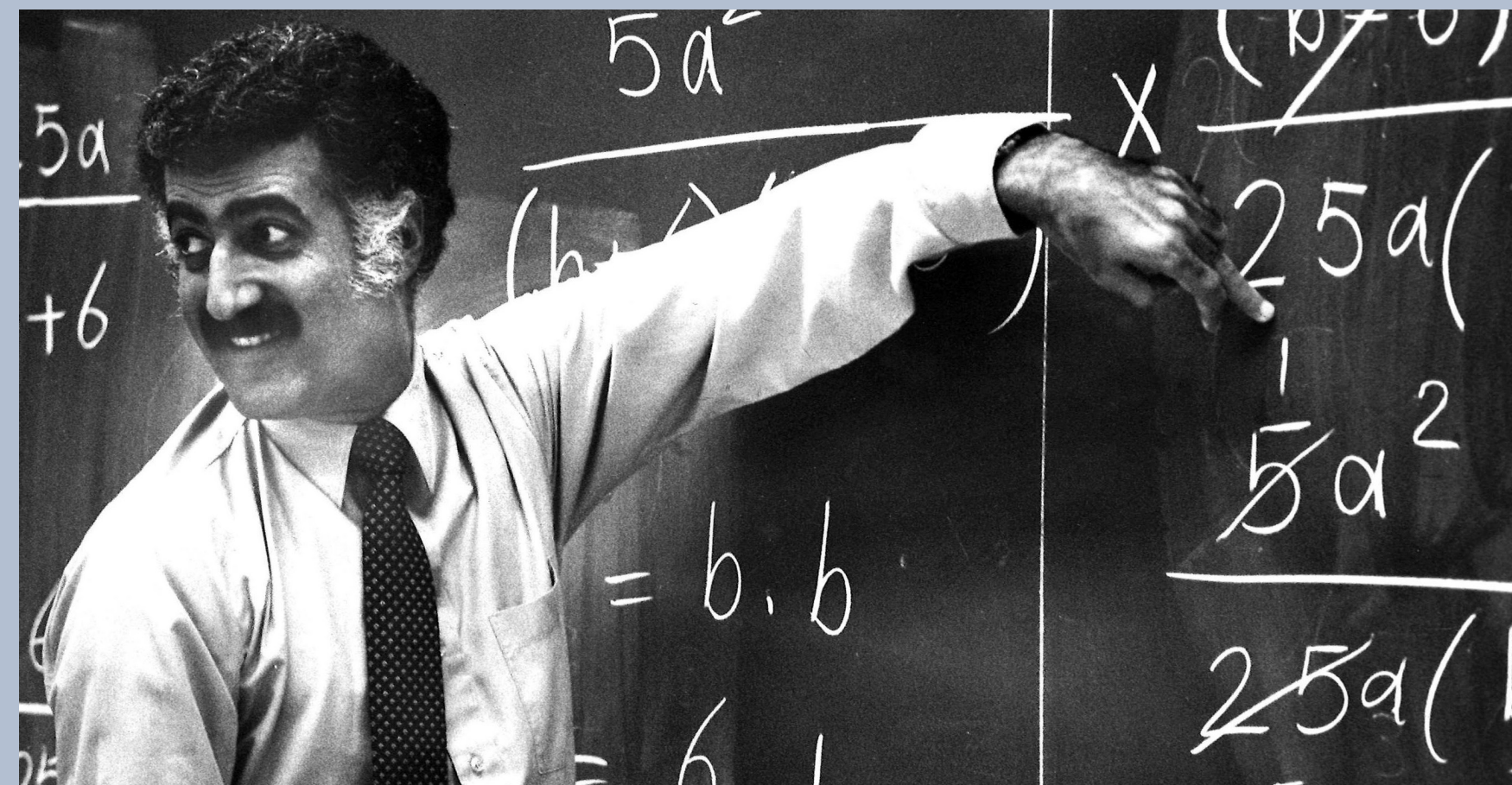
When those students left Lakeland and returned home, they were well prepared to contribute to the educational development of Malawi."

For years, Khodavandi joked about retiring and moving to Arizona, but when Lakeland officially announced his retirement, messages and calls came pouring in from students for one of Lakeland's most beloved professors:

- "Your guidance during my years as an undergrad student, and your influence in shaping my own internal monologue, are two things I can never repay you for."
- "When I came to Lakeland many years ago, I was not sure what my future would hold. After getting to know you and seeing your passion, I knew teaching was it! 26 years later, I'm still at it and no one has been more influential than you!"
- "You taught us the curriculum and challenged us as future educators, but more importantly you taught us how to be good people. I cannot thank you enough."
- "I just want to thank you immensely for having such a positive impact on my learning. You truly care and love your students and it showed every day you walked through the door."
- "Even to this day, whenever I start feeling negative, I think of your class and your optimism and I smile. You have taught me to view the glass as half full."

Khodavandi has been humbled by the expressions of love and support. "I never realized I had this much impact on students," said Khodavandi, the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the 1997 Underkoffler Excellence in Teaching Award, a multi-time winner of Lakeland's Outstanding Professor of the Year award and a winner of the Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Member award.

"Students knew they could always count on me and that I wanted them to be successful. I genuinely cared for them, and they saw that. They did not see me as a teacher transferring content to them, but rather as a facilitator of their learning, and I'm proud of that." ❖





# Student success is at her core

Throughout her four decades of serving as an educator, the students were always front and center for Pam Engebretson.

She retired at the end of this past academic year, igniting tributes from former students as news of her retirement was shared. A member of the Lakeland family beginning in 1988, Engebretson served Lakeland as both a staff and faculty member at the main campus and our centers. She became known for being a teacher with high standards who both challenged and advocated for her students.

During her 32-year tenure at Lakeland, among the roles she served were:

- Director of residence life.
- Dean of students.
- Assistant director of the Milwaukee Center.
- Associate dean of the Kellett School.
- A variety of adjunct teaching roles.

She eventually transitioned to full-time faculty where she was assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies. She coordinated LU's Honors Program and led a re-design of the content. She was director of Lakeland's academic advising, was director of CORE I, created several writing-intensive courses and served on numerous committees. She was named winner of the Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2005.

To honor her legacy for being student centered, we asked some of her

former Lakeland students to provide some memories of their time with her.

## Lisa Stephan '90 MAC '06

*Executive director, Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization*

I met Pam in the late 80s when I was finishing up my undergrad degree at Lakeland. She was hired as the director of residence life. Pam was always an educator at heart – training, leadership development and capitalizing on teachable moments outside of the classroom. When I returned to Lakeland in the early 90's to join the staff, Pam had joined the faculty and was teaching full time. Over the years, her teaching load changed around a bit, but she never lost her core practice of meeting students where they were at, hearing them out, challenging them to do just a little bit more than they believed they could and celebrating student victories.

Our most beloved connection was the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Pam was very familiar with the instrument and consistently requested that I share the assessment with her students, whether it was a CORE I class, Freshmen Honors, Learning Skills or CORE III. Pam was a strong advocate for students learning their preferences and understanding differences. We laughed, shared many “aha” moments and carried an unspoken understanding of human behavior through the MBTI. I still see students share MBTI tidbits and reflections through social media that they learned while studying with Pam.

I admire Pam's ability to connect not only to knowledge and information, but deep understanding as it applies to the bigger picture. Please don't expect to skim the surface when you engage with Pam - it's a waste of her precious, introverted time! Controversial subjects and tough conversations? Grab your coffee and notebook – I promise you are going to learn a few things. And don't ask her to be on a committee to simply check the box. Never short on opinions, suggestions and opportunities, Pam was a powerhouse for problem solving and generating new approaches.

## Santino Laster '05

*Supervisor of security, Froedtert Hospital*

Pam is such a special teacher and mentor. She cared for you, but by the same token, held you accountable. Pam allowed me to grow and to find myself by allowing me to not make excuses, and not giving me the answers. I didn't realize at the time that she was teaching me to navigate life. Pam so graciously helped me step out of my comfort zone. When I wanted to quit, she pushed me to go further. She was like a mom who wanted to empower and create an environment of learning from missteps. She was always empowering you to never give in to the pressures that will give you the mindset to want to walk away. Because of Pam, I have persevered and kept on my journey, and I will teach and mentor my children the same way.

## Barkha (Limbu) Daily '07

*Owner/chef, the cheel and the baaree*



I took a writing class with Pam in college which literally transformed the way I wrote. Being a non-native speaker of the English language, writing was always a challenge. I focused more on grammar and errors instead of the real subject. That's because I learned English as a second language and was always worried about the correctness of the paper. I remember clearly when she said, “Just start writing! Write everything your heart and mind desires on the subject. Do not worry about each sentence and word. You can always go back and change.” She never made me feel small because of my weakness, but showed

that there was room for me to grow. She was always kind, ready to help and her door was always open, just like her heart. She introduced the process of critical thinking to us. She reminded us all the time not to look at subject matter the way it appears, but to look at it from multiple perspectives and question everything. She never told us what to think; she taught us how to think. She inspired and motivated us to be better people. Her influence on my life can never be erased.

## Zach Mock '19

*Commercial lines underwriter, Acuity*

As a freshman in Pam's honors class, it was the best way I could have ever started my college career. The best aspect of Pam's class is how she made everyone feel like a valued member of the group. Pam's goal was not just to get through another semester with a group of students. She wanted to make strong, model Muskies out of us. The skills she taught us are skills that I continue to think about today as I continue my post-graduate career path.

I learned many things having Pam as a teacher and mentor, but two of the most important lessons I have learned are that go-to people will receive the best opportunities, and always take the time to self-reflect. Pam was always a model go-to teacher, and someone students could depend on. I consistently work to follow in her footsteps and model her behaviors in my daily life. Having that attitude that says you're ready to help was enforced by watching Pam as a teacher and mentor. Anytime I went into Pam's office, she would want to know how life was going, classes, etc. Whenever her students were having problems in life or school, Pam was able to put the counselor hat on. She helped students solve problems on their own by having them self-evaluate and discover the solution to their problems by talking it out. The amount of “aha” moments I experienced with Pam really helped me as a student and as a leader.

## Austin Hansen '19

*Corporate Services Coordinator, 2021 Ryder Cup*

When I was a freshman coming into Lakeland it was my goal to get in and get out as quickly as possible. My first Pam class was CORE I. Pam made me slow down and think constantly, not just to rush through things like I had planned. Topics of discussion that I thought were totally unrelated to my major (business), Pam would prove to me how all things are related. There were more life lessons than anything in her class and, much like my job today, no day/class was the same. You were constantly looking at items in a different perspective and light to help better move yourself away from the “cave” we lived in (for anyone who took CORE I with Pam, she loved the “Allegory of the Cave” by Plato). Pam was able to show us consistently throughout the class that we all came from different upbringings/“caves,” and yet we could relate to one another as people and, more importantly, friends.

I was lucky enough to have Pam as my academic advisor my freshman year. She knew what classes I would do well in and she always wanted me to stop in and see her even after I wasn't one of her advisees. Her mentorship and letting me know I could come to her with questions was instrumental in my success. She pushed me to the honors program, student government, always seemed to check in with me after a golf tournament went well and her smile would light up any room. When I look back and think about my college experience, Pam is one of those people who made my time at Lakeland so memorable. She lived up to the mantra, “we want Lakeland to forever be your second home,” and she did that through caring deeply and helping often. ❖



# ALMA MATTERS

Submit your news about employment changes, marriages and babies to [advancement@lakeland.edu](mailto:advancement@lakeland.edu).

**1956**

**John Clausing**, of Durham, N.C., recently wrote a book on the history of Epworth Unit-

ed Methodist Church's 30 years in Haiti. He now edits and publishes a newsletter for the mission in Fond Doux, Haiti. Anyone desiring to hear more of the mission or the book should contact John at [pjclaus@aol.com](mailto:pjclaus@aol.com).

**1957**

**Selmer Spitzer**, of Dawson, N.D., and Bunkerville, Nev., is currently in the midst of serving as conductor of the Southern Nevada Symphony Orchestra.

**1960**

Martha Baumer, of Columbus, Ohio, was presented with the 2019 Antoinette Brown Award at the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in June 2019. The Antoinette Brown Award is given to UCC clergywomen whose lives and ministries exemplify Brown's spirit of trailblazing leadership in church and society. Martha served as a pastor in established congregations and as the founding pastor of the United Church of Santa Fe, N.M. A professor of practical theology at Eden Theological Seminary, she served as chair of the UCC's Executive Council, was an architect of the background document of the Ministry Issues Pronouncement and was one of the first women to serve as a conference minister.

Floyd Henschel and his wife, Gail, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 30, 2020. Unfortunately, a public celebration in May was canceled because of COVID-19.

**1961**

Paul & Judith '62 Koepke, of Goshen, Ind., joined about 35 Lakeland graduates in February in Tucson, Ariz., for an annual snow bird gathering. Lakeland President David Black and staff members shared updates about what's happening with the university. "Always grateful for the unique bond of our beloved alma mater!"

**1962**

Karl Vercouteren is spending time during stay-at-home days in The Dalles, Ore., writing blogs about historic buildings in his town. The local art center commissioned a print and mural by a Portland artist who took photos of buildings and stacked them together in a grand collage. Vercouteren, whose interest in history goes back even before he became a Lakeland history major, writes several paragraphs each week about a building that is

then posted on "All Together The Dalles"--the Art Center's website for the project.

Email: [kjverc@gmail.com](mailto:kjverc@gmail.com)

**1967**

James Mohr, of Neilsville, Wis., completed his 41st Birkebeiner Race in February. Jim is a member of the group "Spirit of 35," which commemorates the 35 skiers who participated in the first Birkebeiner in 1973. Jim says this honor allows him to wear a special racing bib and start at the head of the pack, "which means I can watch a lot of people pass me."

**1969**

Roy B. Evans, of Milwaukee, Wis., was recently awarded with the 2019 Frank P Zeidler Public Service Award, which celebrated his work as an attorney and a community activist with more than 40 years of education and civic-minded service and experience.

**1971**

Lawrence Balleine recently published a brief novel entitled "Entertaining Angels." The story zeroes in on change and loss experienced by a Wisconsin dairy farm family and moves toward a restoration of hope that comes as a result of a visit by a stranger. The novella was published by Parson's Porch and Book Company and is available online through Amazon Books.

**1972**

Dick Gibbs, of Sheboygan, Wis., recently retired from Crafted Plastics as sales manager and part owner. Dick and his wife, Bonnie, recently celebrated 47 years of marriage together.

Email: [richardfgibbs62@gmail.com](mailto:richardfgibbs62@gmail.com)

**1973**

Stan Zoller, of Buffalo Grove, Ill., will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Journalism Education Association at its fall conference in Washington, D.C. JEA gives this award to retirees for lifetime dedication to journalism education in the form of advising or other contributions to the profession. Stan also received JEA's Medal of Merit Award for significant contributions to the organization. He has also received the Pioneer Award from the National Scholastic Press Association, presented to individuals who make substantial

contributions to high school publications and journalism programs outside of their primary employment. Stan has also been honored by the Chicago Headline Club the Chicago chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists with a Peter Lisagor Award for exemplary journalism. He retired from teaching in 2013, but continues to be an independent journalist and lecturer of journalism at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill.

Email: [SEZoller@gmail.com](mailto:SEZoller@gmail.com)

**1974**

Bernard Beenen sold his business in the Fox Valley in June 2019 and retired. He has been traveling and doing contracted work as back office management support for independently operated restaurants.

Email: [bernardbeenen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bernardbeenen@sbcglobal.net)

**1976**

Jeff Johnson retired in 2017 from Basic Fibers and Recycling Facility, which he ran in Los Angeles, Calif., for 30 yrs. He is now loving Las Vegas. Jeff has one grandson living one mile away with his son, Charles, and wife, Nicole. Two other siblings live in California and visit frequently.

**1979**

Wayne Wildman was the recipient of the 2020 Wesley Tepy Community Service Award in the Arts, an honor awarded by the Lakeshore Wind Ensemble Association. The award was presented to Wayne during the UW-Green Bay, Manitowoc Campus Lakeshore Wind Ensemble's "Winds of March" concert in March.

**1983**

Andrew Smith OPoc '83 of Oshkosh, Wis., took life vows with the Order of Preachers, Old Catholic (Dominican). By tradition, he took the name Brother Aquinas in honor of St Thomas Aquinas.

Email: [revfrandrew.smith@gmail.com](mailto:revfrandrew.smith@gmail.com)

**1985**

Jean (Haltaufderheide) Born retired this June after 30 years serving the School District of Sheboygan Falls. Jean held several positions in the district including middle school teacher, reading specialist, director of instruction and superintendent. She worked in education for 35 years. The five years prior to Sheboygan Falls she taught middle school reading at St. Matthews in Green Bay, Wis., and Randolph School District, Randolph, Wis.

Email: [wjborn@charter.net](mailto:wjborn@charter.net)

Joy (Hill) Williams, of Fort Myers, Fla., recently started a new job teaching high school art.

**1989**

Terrence Wick, of Hartford, Wis., is one of three recipients of the 2020 APA TOPSS Charles T. Blair-Broeker Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Psychological Association (APA) Committee of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS). This national award recognizes outstanding teachers in psychology.

**1990**

Bruce Abraham, of Oshkosh, Wis., retired from Mercury Marine, Div. of Brunswick Corp., in 2016 after 30-plus years. His last position was director of process improvements - procurement/Master Black Belt. Since retirement, he has cherished the time to get back into the gym and has taken up pickleball, playing four to five times per week.

Email: [wiscorpio53@yahoo.com](mailto:wiscorpio53@yahoo.com)

**1994**

Anthony Grazzini, of Cicero, Ill., earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from the National College of Education at National Louis University last June. The topic of his dissertation defense was Advocating for One Way Dual Language Programs in High School.

Email: [anthonygrazzini@gmail.com](mailto:anthonygrazzini@gmail.com)

**1996**

Staci Schluechtermann, of Random Lake, Wis., presented two sessions at the Corptax Connect Users Conference in San Diego, Calif., in November. The four-day conference was attended by over 1,000 tax professionals. Staci's sessions focused on how tax departments can leverage the tax software solutions offered by Corptax to assist in preparing the reports necessary for ASC 740 reporting requirements and state tax apportionment reporting for compliance. Staci has spent the past 17 years implementing tax software and process improvements for clients across the country.

Email: [sschluechtermann@wi.rr.com](mailto:sschluechtermann@wi.rr.com)

**1997**

Tony Call, of Phoenix, Ariz., started a new role at General Dynamics Mission Systems in Scottsdale, Ariz., last summer.

James "Jamie" Schramm MBA '10, of Sheboygan, Wis., accepted the position as campus executive officer of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Sheboygan and Manitowoc Campuses.

## Enswailer named Trustee Emeritus

Dick Enswailer '63 was named Trustee Emeritus to mark his retirement after 30 years of service as a member of Lakeland's Board of Trustees.

Enswailer started as a trustee in 1988 and retired in 2019. He was instrumental in creation of the annual Blasters Classic Golf Tournament, which has funded portions of the education of numerous Lakeland students.

During his time on the board, Lakeland constructed Verhulst, the Laun Center, and Wehr Center expansion and five of its 10 residence halls (Hill, Morland, Kurtz, Brotz, South). Lakeland also had significant renovation of the Chase Science Center, the Younger Family Campus Center, Taylor Field and the Nash Center.

In mid-2018, America's Credit Union Museum named its new research library in Manchester, N.H., for Enswailer on his retirement as Cornerstone Credit Union League President/CEO.



## Women of influence



Lakeland was well represented as Insight magazine named the winners and nominees of its inaugural Women of Influence Awards.

Integrity Insurance President Jill Wagner

Kelly, a 1992 graduate who also received her MBA from Lakeland in 2005, was the winner of the Corporate Leader award.

"I attribute my leadership style back to my professors who took the time and cared to help me be successful," Kelly said. "Lakeland gave me a liberal arts degree that exposed me to the big, broad universe of opportunities ... and also allowed me to focus on areas I was passionate about for my career. That well-rounded education gave me perspectives that I've incorporated into my leadership philosophies and my career opportunities."



Greater Green Bay Chamber President/CEO Laurie Radke, who received her MBA from Lakeland in 2009, was the winner of the Difference Maker - Business Community award.

"Lakeland University is near and dear to my heart," Radke said. "I worked there for more than a decade, and was able to see firsthand how education can transform one's life path. I had a strong desire to elevate my business knowledge and knew the caliber of the MBA program and the flexibility Lakeland offered would fit into my already-full life as a wife, mom and professional working full time. I'm grateful for the university's role in my career and personal development alike."

Among the nominees were Olivü owner Caitlin Brotz, a 2005 graduate and a member of the LU Board of Trustees; New North Executive Director Barbara LaMue, a 1995 graduate; and Lakeland Assistant Professor of Computer Science Cindy Lindstrom.

## ALMA MATTERS

ment profession at strategic policy and executive leadership levels. He is one of approximately 200 professional emergency managers to graduate from this program.

Parish Webster MAC '05, of Green Bay, Wis., was promoted late last year from sales to a leadership role, Administrative Services Unit Supervisor at CONNECT powered by American Family Insurance. He has been with the company for three years.

### 2005

Jose Araujo MBA '09, of Sheboygan, Wis., associate marketing manager at Kohler K&B Latin America, was the recipient of the Hispanic Professional so Greater Milwaukee "Community Leader Leadership Award." Jose



We love seeing Muskies return to campus for alumni athletic games. Our basketball and volleyball programs all held events this past year.

has long been recognized for his community contributions, including being named the 2013 Sheboygan County Young Professional of the Year Award, the 2014 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award from Lakeland and one of Madison365's 2016 48 Most Powerful Latinos in Wisconsin.

### 2006

John Campbell of Marietta, Ga, accepted the position as vice president, Business Development-Financial Sector, for Ventus GNS, a Connecticut-based provider of managed network-as-a-service solutions for financial institution enterprise connectivity. As a subject matter expert in ATM, debit and banking operations, John spent the previous three years as director, STAR Network ATM acceptance at Fiserv, formerly First Data.

### 2008

Sarah Dehring is athletic director at Alma College. She has served as the interim athletic director.

Thomas Kelly, of Valparaiso, Ind., is teaching general education U.S. History at Merrillville High School. He previously taught for four years at an alternative school for kids who made some poor choices but were trying to get back on track academically. Additionally, he taught special education at Merrillville High School for four years. When the opportunity presented itself, Tom moved over to general education to teach U.S. History. "I really gained a love for history by taking Richard Wixon's courses at Lakeland." Tom coaches three sports at Merrillville. He is the head freshmen football coach, an assistant wrestling coach and the head JV softball coach. Tom also just bought a new house in Valparaiso.

Email: tk63215@yahoo.com

Casey Kralovetz was recently promoted by Stihl from sales manager at Intermountain Stihl to branch director of Stihl Northwest. He will lead the development of advertising and marketing plans for the territory which encompasses Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. He started his nine-year career at Stihl in 2011 in Virginia Beach, and in his most recent role he was responsible for sales operations in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah. He is married to Brenda (Paulson) Kralovetz '09 and the family has moved to Washington.

Tyrece Warner, of Las Vegas, Nev., works in communications, marketing and social media at American Addiction Centers. He has also launched a very successful gaming community YouTube channel called LS Vision that features his graphic design skills and his love for gaming.

### 2009

Michele Leiden recently became an adjunct instructor of finance at Lakeland's Green Bay Center.

Email: LeidenM@lakeland.edu.

### 2010

Celine (Elzinga) Farquhar and her husband, Ben, welcomed baby boy number two, Ryan Elzinga Farquhar, on March 2, 2020. He joins older brother Calvin at the family home in Herndon, Va. She is director of talent acquisition at Prosegur USA.



Sara (Roberts) Hall and her husband, Darren, celebrated the birth of Carolyn Elizabeth Hall on May 21, 2020. She joins older brother Dylan at the family home in Escanaba, Mich. Sara is administrative assistant at UPSB Financial Services.



Maria (Santelli) Rogers MBA '12 and her husband, Nick, welcomed Emma Jo Rogers on June 3, 2020. She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. The family lives in Stoughton, Wis., and Maria is a senior account manager at Derse.



Cathy Sims started a new job last fall as a Life Enrichment Coordinator at Foothills Place, an Enlivant Assisted Living community, in Tucson, Ariz.

### 2012

Sam (Schnell) Clark and Craig Clark '14 wel-

comed their first child, Baker Thomas Clark, on May 21, 2020. He was 20.75 inches and weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces. Sam is senior wellness coordinator at Network Health Insurance in Menasha, Wis. Craig is a fifth grade teacher at Carl Traeger Elementary School in Oshkosh, Wis. The family lives in Appleton, Wis.



Rebecca (Littlefield) VandenLangenberg MBA '15, of Neenah, Wis., was promoted to lead cost estimator at Menasha Packaging in October 2019.

Eric Vandivier MBA '16 married Dayton Moening on June 29, 2019, in Hartland, Wis. Members of the wedding party included Mikal Anschutz '14, Josh Regal '12, Justin Ward '14 and Sam Schroeder '11 MAC '13. Eric is tax & accounting manager at Green-Stone Farm Credit Services.



## Do you have an opportunity to connect with a Muskie?

Our alumni are represented in a variety of work environments. There are many options for alumni to connect with our Cooperative Education program, including mentoring, practice interviews, job shadows and informational viewing and guest speaking.

Visit [Lakeland.edu/get-involved](http://Lakeland.edu/get-involved) or contact the Career Readiness office at [career@lakeland.edu](mailto:career@lakeland.edu)

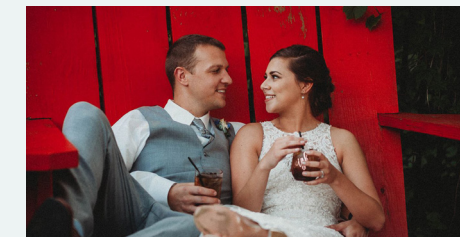
### 2013

Brittany Myszk, of Edgar, Wis., graduated from Trinity School of Medicine in 2018 with a Doctorate of Medicine (M.D.) In 2019, she matched into a family medicine residency with the University of Wisconsin Wausau Program at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. She is currently a PGY-1 family medicine resident physician at Aspirus.

### 2014

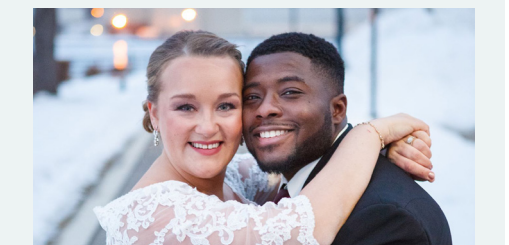
Kimberly (DeJong) Czarnesky recently completed a Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Capella University. She is a clinical program therapist with the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in Moose Lake, Minn.

Eric Strzok married Kyleigh Decorah on August 17, 2019, in Wausau, Wis. Members of the wedding party included Sam Schroeder '11 MAC '13, Rylee Hernandez '13, Josh Regal '12, Jason Richardson '12 and Billy Hughes '10. Eric is entering his seventh year of teaching, and will be fifth, sixth seventh and eighth grade math teacher and technology coordinator for the Elcho School District. He's also in his fifth year as the school's head boy's basketball coach.



### 2015

Kendrick Burks married Brittanie Malwitz '15 on Feb. 1, 2020. Members of the wedding party included Alyssa (Nelson) Dieringer '12, Lindsay (Rogers) Klabecek '12, Kristina (Borts) Cheever '12, Ashley (Jennings) Hall '15, Jessica (Carter) Malwitz '16, Leshay (Jones) Guy '16, Patrick Johnson '16, Marvin Warfield '16, Demonta Hall '15, Joshua Guy '16, TJ Bedford '14, Tyler Malwitz and Romain Johnson '16. Brittanie is the service manager at Wells Fargo Bank and Kendrick is the technical systems analyst for Piggly Wiggly Midwest. The couple lives in Sheboygan, Wis.



Brenda Hazelwood is working as a case manager with Whole Health Clinical Group in Milwaukee, Wis.

Email: [Brenda.hazelwood@mcfi.net](mailto:Brenda.hazelwood@mcfi.net)

Kurt Jansen married Gaby Cappaert '16 on Sept. 28, 2019, in Elkhart Lake, Wis. The wedding party included Lexie Greenheck '16, Trista Barron '16, Danny Wimmer '15, Joey



## ALMA MATTERS

Burris '15 and Brandon Hagenow '16. Kurt is assistant men's basketball coach at Lakeland. Gaby is director of communications at Engaged Marketing. The couple lives in Howard Grove.



Christine (Goldschmidt) Runkel, of Burlington, Wis., is high school counselor at Clinton High School.

Matthew Yancy, of Bonduel, Wis., works at Oshkosh Corporation in their Global Procurement & Supply Chain Department.

### 2016

Andrew "Andy" Crivellone proposed in January during a wrestling tournament to his girlfriend, Morgan, who said yes. Andy is a special education teacher and wrestling coach at Plymouth High School in Plymouth, Wis. "My stomach was kind of in knots, but I was prepared for it because I ran it over in my mind a bunch of times," Andy said, "and it worked out exactly how I planned it."

Patrick Johnson returned to Lakeland this summer as an assistant football coach on defense. He had been on the football coaching staff at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Romain Johnson married Alexandria Lazneby on Dec. 13, 2019. Romain is freshman admission counselor at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wis.



Summer Larzelere, of Raleigh, N.C., is tax manager at Faith Bynum, CPA, PC.

Callie Olson married Tyler Best on July 27,

2019, in Lexington, Ky. Bailey Grayvold '18 was a member of the wedding party. She is director of operations at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrison and Crawford Counties in Southern Indiana. She also went from chaplain candidate to chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve.



Bryce Skelton was promoted to coordinator of intramurals, club sports and camps/assistant baseball coach at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., this summer. He has served as a part-time assistant baseball coach for the past three seasons.

### 2017

Kayla Clark received a master of business administration degree from Averno University. She returned to Lakeland this summer as an assistant women's basketball coach.

Matt Stolz is living in Cape Girardeau, Mo., where he is assistant volleyball coach at Southeast Missouri State University.

### 2018

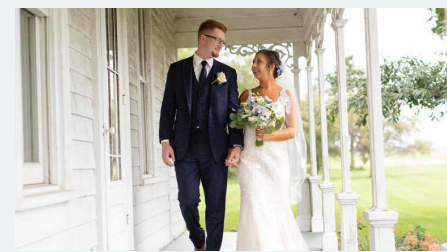
Mason Ross is a senior sales account executive at Schneider National. He is living in Green Bay, Wis., with Meghan Etten '18.

### 2019

Taylor Bush is a residential care specialist working with non-verbal autistic children at Genesee Lake School in Oconomowoc, Wis.

Kyle Domark married his wife, Olivia, on Sept. 21, 2019. Pat McDonald '19 was a member of the wedding party. Kyle is a content analyst for Facebook and the couple lives

in Austin, Texas. He also recently started a business, KD Decals, designing decals for cars/businesses.



Dakota Hunter and Kayla Hemb '20 got engaged on May 22, 2020. Dakota is a staff accountant at Gustave A. Larson in Pewaukee, Wis., and Kayla is a financial analyst at Fiserv in Brookfield.



Dylan Lange has received a Research Assistantship in the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders at Northern Illinois University (NIU). He is in his first year in the Doctoral of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at NIU. His research work includes evaluating the clinical decision-making of third-year DPT students, as well as work with patients with Parkinson's disease.

Logan Rigney accepted the position of lead housekeeper at The American Club in Kohler, Wis.

Emilie Schartner received a scholarship and will begin pursuing at master's degree in international education management this fall at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Calif. ❖

# IN MEMORIAM

*Lakeland University has been notified of the following deaths of alumni and friends:*

Florence (Neuhaus) Shekoski '36 of Two Rivers, Wis., on March 26, 2020  
 Clorinda (Schmoll) Morris '37 of Syracuse, N.Y., on Sept. 30, 2019  
 Eleanor (Woldt) Zoerb '48 of Manitowoc, Wis., on Sept. 25, 2019  
 Virginia (Lehman) Beer '48 of Beachwood, Ohio, on June 5, 2019  
 Evelyn (Roslin) Alwin '50 of Janesville, Wis., on April 18, 2020  
 Jean Schuster '50 of Menomonee Falls, Wis., on Feb. 20, 2020  
 Joan (Knickel) Malson '50 of Fond du lac, Wis., on Aug. 22, 2019  
 Delberg Schmidt '51 of West Bend, Wis., on July 9, 2019  
 George Degen '52 of Plymouth, Wis., on June 1, 2019  
 Joanne (Grover) Garner '53 of Plymouth, Wis., on May 22, 2020  
 Marvin Deerhake '53 of Bicknell, Ind., on Nov. 27, 2019  
 Mary Anne Deerhake '54 of Bicknell, Ind., on June 23, 2019  
 Dorothy (Walters) Koch '55 of Moorhead, Minn., on Sept. 17, 2019  
 Judith Baumer '55 of Plymouth, Wis., on July 13, 2019  
 Maynard Beemer '55 of Appleton, Wis., on Aug. 6, 2019  
 Marilyn (Bierbaum) Frost '58 of Bryon, Minn., on Nov. 8, 2019  
 Gene Thieleke '58 of Madison, Wis., on Aug. 1, 2020  
 Jerry Flueckiger '60 of Berne, Ind., on Oct. 6, 2019  
 Richard Hammann '60 of Franksville, Wis., on Dec. 25, 2019  
 DeLyle Spindt Henschel '60 of Waupaca, Wis., on June 17, 2020  
 Diana (Pelzer) Diedrich '62 of Oconomowoc, Wis., on Oct. 21, 2019  
 Philip Krueger '62 of Boise, Id., on Nov. 2, 2019  
 Dennis Dhein '64 of Seattle, Wash., on Dec. 6, 2019  
 Wayne Ruppel '64 of La Crosse, Wis., on June 3, 2019  
 Glenn Dumonthier '65 of Rocky River, Ohio, on March 20, 2018  
 Clarence Drewry '66 of Plymouth, Wis., on May 31, 2019  
 Daniel Dettmann '66 of Green Bay, Wis., on Aug. 12, 2019  
 Ronald Thimmig '66 of Sheboygan, on Aug. 23, 2019  
 Wesley Seyller '66 of Kansas City, Mo., on Dec. 29, 2019  
 Jill (Randen) Palmer '67 of Le Sueur, Minn., on April 24, 2020  
 Barbara (Glaser) Bassewitz '68 of Naples, Fla., on Nov. 18, 2019  
 Phillip Parker '68 of Plymouth, Wis., on July 22, 2020  
 Charles Kellogg '69 of West Hatfield, Mass., on Jan. 9, 2020  
 Gary Meade '68 of Wauwatosa, Wis., on July 13, 2019  
 Jay Pfrang '68 of Plymouth, Wis., on Aug. 26, 2019  
 Jack Aldag '69 of Sheboygan, on Dec. 29, 2019  
 Robert Zaininger '69 of Sandwich, Ill., on Nov. 26, 2019  
 Ronald Knoener '69 of Plymouth, Wis., on Dec. 25, 2019  
 William Munns '69 of Sheboygan, on June 18, 2019  
 Jeffrey Love '70 of Fort Collins, Colo., on July 31, 2019  
 Kathryn Rust '70 of Muskego, Wis., on Feb. 13, 2020

Michael Jacobs '70 of Indianapolis, Ind. on Nov. 27, 2019  
 Barbara (Hulbert) Little '71 of Seattle, Wash., on Dec 15, 2019  
 Keith Schroeder '71 of Milwaukee, Wis., on April 3, 2020  
 William Eernisse '71 of Grafton, Wis., on March 7, 2020  
 Mildred (Dumas) Jones '72 of New York, N.Y. on June 14, 2019  
 Donald Krause '73 of Hartford, Wis., on May 22, 2019  
 Peter McCauley '73 of Glendale, Wis., on Aug. 7, 2018  
 Stephen Huesemann '73 of Sheboygan, on Oct. 28, 2019  
 Bonnie Cleveland '74 of Seymour, Wis., on Jan. 6, 2017  
 James Hamman '74 of Helena, Mont., on Oct. 17, 2019  
 Jean (Samsal) Toepel '74 of Kohler, Wis., on May 5, 2020  
 Margaret Zahn '74 of Sheboygan, on May 23, 2020  
 Bodwid Literski '75 of Albany, N.Y., on Jan. 6, 2020  
 Virgil Wanezek, Jr., of Sheboygan, on Dec. 13, 2019.  
 Mark Evans '77 of Estero, Fla., on Aug. 12, 2019  
 Ruth (Blackburn) Morgan '78 of Dandridge, Tenn., on Feb. 8, 2020  
 Mark Schowalter '79 of West Burlington, Iowa, on Oct. 29, 2019  
 Mary Eggert '79 of Mesa, Ariz., on Sept. 28, 2019  
 Nancy (Sleger) Gatyas '79 of Lake Zurich, Ill., on Aug. 20, 2019  
 Lori Eaton '80 of Oshkosh, Wis., on Mar. 11, 2018  
 Steven Baumann '80 of Albany, Ore., on Dec. 18, 2019  
 Diane (Lucka) Rosenheimer '81 of West Bend, Wis., on Oct. 7, 2019  
 Robert Suess '84 of Neenah, Wis., on Dec. 22, 2019  
 Lisa (Landwehr) Whelton '88 of Sheboygan, on Sept. 17, 2019  
 Allan Bobbee '89 of Goodyear, Ariz., on May 14, 2019  
 Gregory Walker '89 of Sheboygan, on Aug. 8, 2019  
 Robert De Both '90 of Green Bay, Wis., on June 9, 2019  
 Walter Blodgett '92 of Waterford, Wis., on Aug. 19, 2019  
 Dawn Espie '93 of Green Bay, Wis., on June 25, 2019  
 Robert Thompson '93 of Milwaukee, Wis., on Oct. 28, 2015  
 Diane Wittkopf '95 of Brookfield, Wis., on Nov. 2, 2019  
 Ellen Thayer '95 of Grand Rapids, Mich., on Aug. 20, 2019  
 Faye Tchmeier '95 of Marinette, Wis., on Jan 20, 2020  
 Susan Kocken '97 of Brussels, Wis., on Feb. 26, 2020  
 Gregory Hagman '01 of Eau Claire, Wis., on Dec. 4, 2019  
 Sonja Nichols '01 of Sheboygan, on Sept. 4, 2019  
 Marie Perry '10 of Milwaukee, Wis., on Feb. 3, 2020  
 Eric Ziebell '13 of Oshkosh, Wis., on Sept. 16, 2019  
 Christopher Olejniczak MAC '15 of Green Bay, Wis., on Feb. 27, 2020  
 Gail Pizarro, of Stoughton, Wis., a Lakeland adjunct instructor, on Nov 9, 2019

# scene on campus

## Lakeland Promise helps address debt crisis

Last fall, Lakeland announced a new program to tackle the student debt issue and lead some graduates to enter the workforce with money in the bank.

The Lakeland Promise will provide qualified Wisconsin students an opportunity to attend Lakeland tuition/fees free for four years, up to three years for transfer students. Lakeland is Wisconsin's first private college to offer a free tuition promise program for qualified students.

The Lakeland Promise will cover tuition and fees through the Wisconsin State Grant, Federal Pell Grant and other Lakeland funding. Students can earn money through Lakeland's award-win-

ning Cooperative Education program, which allows students to work part- and full-time jobs at co-op partner companies. Wages from co-op jobs, along with federal loans and outside scholarships, can be used for textbooks, room and board and other expenses.



Members of the Beta Sigma Omega fraternity spent time this past school year volunteering on a variety of projects at the Humane Society of Sheboygan County.

The Lakeland Promise is for in-state dependent students whose household adjusted gross income is less than \$40,000 or independent students with an adjusted gross income of less than \$15,000. Students whose expected family contribution (EFC), as determined by the Free Appli-

cation for Student Aid (FAFSA), is less than \$1,700 will also qualify, regardless of adjusted household income. Students will need an unweighted high school or transfer grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

Additional details are available at [Lakeland.edu/promise](http://Lakeland.edu/promise).

## LU part of national student success pilot

Lakeland has partnered with the college readiness and student success platform RaiseMe to launch a micro-scholarship-based student success initiative for new and returning Lakeland students. Lakeland is one of just 10 institutions in the country piloting RaiseMe's Student Success Platform.

The program, which aims to promote college persistence and retention for current college students, will reward students with personalized, incremental and achievement-based scholarships ranging from \$10 to \$100 each to be applied toward tuition in the following academic year. Lakeland students can earn up to \$750 in scholarships per academic year. Initially, the program is for students enrolled in Lakeland's traditional program on its main campus.

"By completing activities like mapping out a four-year plan with their academic advisor, uploading their professional resume on Handshake, joining a student organization, attending convocations and more, RaiseMe's micro-scholarship program rewards our students for building engagement and community," said Sam Poullette, Lakeland's vice president for enrollment management.

"Programs like this and our Cooperative Education program are innovative ways that Lakeland is tackling the student debt crisis so our students can graduate with little or no tuition debt."

The program is meant to supplement and enhance the robust financial aid support Lakeland already provides to all students. RaiseMe is rolling out its student success platform on more college campuses throughout the year, but they are prioritizing partnership with institutions that

have a track record of prioritizing student access and success.

## Student opportunities at Japan campus expanded

A new partnership between Lakeland and Virginia Wesleyan University will expand opportunities for students attending the campus in Tokyo that was founded by Lakeland almost 30 years ago.

These exciting opportunities include expanded programming and co-branding of international possibilities under the name Lakeland University Japan and Virginia Wesleyan University Global.

Students starting at Lakeland University Wisconsin, Lakeland University Japan and Virginia Wesleyan University will have access to a variety of pathways that include studying in Tokyo, Wisconsin and/or Virginia. The pathways include completion of a soon-to-be-approved bachelor's degree in business administration at the Tokyo campus, which will allow students to complete their education at any of the locations.

LUJ is truly an international university, teaching more than 300 students from 30 countries. Its English speaking degree program is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and LUJ is one of two approved American universities approved by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to operate in Japan.

The will create stronger study abroad opportunities for international students in the United States. The addition of a school on the East Coast will provide international students who study at Virginia Wesleyan easy access to places like Washington D.C., New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

LU and VWU students and faculty will also have the opportunity to travel to the Tokyo campus, which is located in Shinjuku, part of Tokyo's central government and business district.

## LU, Esslingen University announce partnership

Lakeland's latest study abroad opportunity for its students is rooted in the

homeland of settlers who founded the institution more than 150 years ago.

Lakeland and the Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, located in Esslingen, Germany, signed a cooperation agreement earlier this year. The City of Sheboygan and Esslingen have been sister cities for more than 50 years, and Sheboygan officials played a major role in helping making this partnership happen.

Students attending Lakeland or Esslingen will be able to learn and live at the partner university. Stays can last one semester or the entire academic year. Both institutions will also pursue opportunities for faculty exchange.

While this opportunity is available to students in all majors, studying in Esslingen is ideal for students majoring in one of Lakeland's business programs, said Scott Niederjohn, Lakeland's senior vice president for Cooperative Education and economic development.

In addition to their coursework, Lakeland students will also have access to free German language, history and culture courses, as well as participation in an International Friends Program for German and international students with activities and trips to locations around Europe.

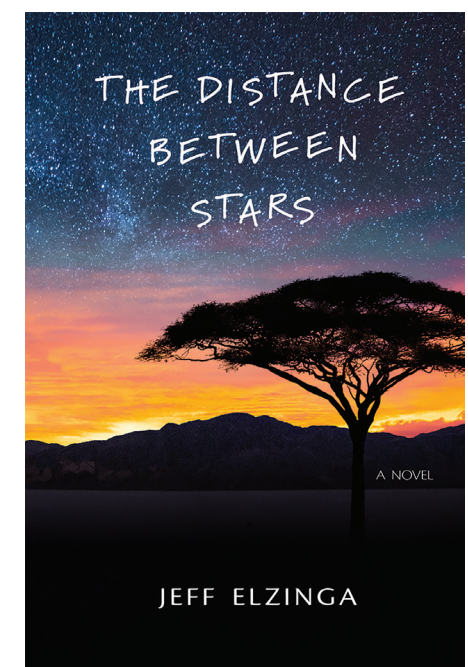
## Popular colloquia series features alumni

Lakeland continued its popular colloquium series this past year. The programs allow current students to hear from accomplished alumni in a panel discussion, followed by smaller breakout sessions.

The Schilcutt School of Business and Entrepreneurship Colloquium featured:

- Matthew Baness '14, senior legal risk specialist, Discover Financial Services.
- Rachel Ojala Dumke '96, talent development manager, First Bank Financial Centre.
- Jonathan Rindt '05, senior portfolio manager and financial advisor, The North Point Group at Morgan Stanley.
- Jacob Servais '17, general manager, Eau Claire Express Baseball.
- The School of Humanities and Fine Arts Colloquium featured:
- Callie (Olson) Best '16, chaplain candidate and first lieutenant, U.S. Army Reserve.
- Becca Elliot '14, graphic artist, 4imprint.
- Matthew Olson '99, president, Signal-fire, LLC.

- Emily Rendall-Araujo '11 MBA '14, fund development director, Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County.
- The School of Science, Technology & Education Colloquium featured:
- Rieck Beiersdorf '02, doctor of dental surgery, Advanced Dental Care Clinic.
- Jacob Milbrath '14, seventh grade science teacher, Horace Mann Middle School.
- Lee Neagle '03, co-founder and chief operating officer, Certa Scientia Consulting.
- Suzette Rosas '17, graduate student, Medical College of Wisconsin.



## Jeff Elzinga publishes debut novel

Lakeland Professor Emeritus Jeff Elzinga published his debut novel, "The Distance Between Stars," this spring through Water's Edge Press.



Fast-paced and never dull, Elzinga's novel plunges readers into a tense convergence of political and personal events where U.S. Consul Joe Kellerman must set aside his personal feelings to rescue an abrasive African American journalist who has gone rogue in the highlands of a volatile African country on the verge of civil war.

While set in fictional Umbika in a

time before cell phones, the novel could not be more relevant to today's themes, in particular the effect of racial disparity and unchecked authoritarian rule.

Lakeland Assistant Professor of Graphic Design Monique Brickham designed the cover and a map inside the book. Elzinga's website, [jeffelzinga.com](http://jeffelzinga.com), was created in part by Eric Naumann, one of Brickham's Lakeland graphic design students, who did the work as part of his capstone course this past spring.

Elzinga's novel is available online at a number of outlets including Amazon, Water's Edge Press, Indiebound, Ingram and Bookshop.com.

Elzinga worked for more than 20 years as a leader and professor at Lakeland before retiring in 2018. He helped to create and directed for its entire 17-year run Lakeland's Malawi Teacher Education Program. In early 1991, Elzinga joined the U.S. Foreign Service, and his family was posted to Africa. He served as the only political and consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe, Malawi, and later as one of several political officers at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia.

## LU experts part of virtual job shadow

Deborah Bilzing, director of the counseling program, and Alex Liosatos, director of Lakeland's Health & Counseling Center, were guest experts this spring on Inspire Sheboygan County's virtual Behavioral Health Job Shadow.

More than 150 students from throughout the Midwest had an opportunity to hear from experts in various counseling fields. Students were able to ask us a variety of career questions and learn what skills are needed to become a counselor. Liosatos represented Lakeland and professional counseling, while Bilzing represented LU's MAC program, school counseling, higher education counseling and student affairs.

Lakeland's participation was made possible by Joe O'Brien, a two-time Lakeland graduate who works as a school counselor at Sheboygan North High School.

## Five LU faculty members promoted

Five members of Lakeland's faculty were promoted this past academic year. April Arvan, Paul Pickhardt and John Yang were promoted to full professor. Jered McGovern and Adam Tompkins were promoted to associate professor.

Arvan, who leads Lakeland's sport



Lakeland partnered with Jefferson Elementary School in Sheboygan to do a student exchange. Jefferson students spent a day at Lakeland, and LU students spend a day at Jefferson so the children could interact with college-age role models.



Members of Kim Viglietti's Logistics & Supply course toured Masters Gallery Foods' Plymouth facility to see their automated lines and learn how the company deals with supply chain, potential bottlenecks and even Bullwhip Effect on a perishable products.

management and leadership program and also serves as director of athletics, joined Lakeland's faculty as a full-time member in 2007 after serving for years as an adjunct instructor and coach. She was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2010.

Pickhardt joined Lakeland as a full-time biology faculty member in 2006 after serving as a post-doctorate research associate at Stony Brook University and Dartmouth College. He was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2012.

Yang, a member of the education faculty, joined Lakeland in 2004 and was awarded tenure in 2010. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the education program and in the general education sequence, with regular delivery of courses in educational technology, lower-level mathematics and education.

McGivern, who teaches biochemistry and chemistry, joined Lakeland's faculty in 2014 and is in his sixth year of full-time, tenure-track service. McGivern came to Lakeland from Carroll University where he was an adjunct lecturer and served as a postdoctoral industry consultant at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Tompkins joined Lakeland University-Japan as a full-time history faculty member in 2013. He teaches American history and government courses at the Tokyo campus, and he has provided institutional service on scholarship committees, search committees and policy committees.

#### LU biology prof part of Alaskan research

Lakeland Professor of Biology Paul Pickhardt travelled to the tundra of Alaska last summer as an invited scientist and fourth member of a research team headed by ornithologists and conservation scientists.

The team, which included researchers from Georgetown University, Cornell University and the Smithsonian Institution, was part of a large migratory connectivity project. Their goal was to capture previously marked birds and mark individuals of two different species to help find conservation solutions for threatened migratory birds.

Two of the four researchers involved are the lead and senior authors of a highly publicized Science magazine report documenting bird declines of 2.9 billion across North America in the last half century.

The research team spent two weeks searching for previously banded and geotagged birds. All of the handled and cap-

tured birds were successfully released to their nesting areas and were monitored to insure that the birds were not negatively impacted from their capture and tracking devices.

"I'm optimistic that my participation in this collaborative research could provide summer research and/or graduate school opportunities for Lakeland science students interested in bird research and/or conducting field research associated with migratory bird species," Pickhardt said.

#### LU staff testify in Madison

Sue Bialk, associate director of financial aid and educational funding, testified this spring on behalf of Lakeland in favor of the Veterans Bill for Private College/Universities in front of a committee of the state legislature. Patty Taylor, senior director of financial aid and educational funding, earlier testified with a different committee in favor of the same bill, which would allow veterans who wish to attend WAICU institutions more access to financial aid.

#### Ulrich Scholars program thriving

Lakeland's Ulrich Scholars program, which provides scholarships and learning opportunities for students studying religion, is flourishing. This past year there were nine Ulrich Scholars attending Lakeland who were studying as a religion major or minor; two graduated in May.

The program is funded in part by an endowed fund established in memory of the Rev. Reinhard Ulrich, Ph.D., long-time Lakeland philosophy professor and noted United Church of Christ theologian/ historian.

As part of their education, Ulrich Scholars must develop and implement a social justice project that involves the wider community. Some examples of recent activity:

- One scholar completed an internship with the chaplain at the Sharon Richardson Hospice.
- Two scholars helped other LU students in a project to address food insecurity for students in the Sheboygan Area School District.
- One scholar helped start a faith sharing group, Catholic Muskies, and volunteers to help teach confirmation for the parishes in the area.
- The scholars have served food to the homeless in Milwaukee, hosted a Lati-

no simulation experience and helped lead a Blessing of the Animals service at Lakeland.

Beginning this fall, the Ulrich Scholars program will award one full tuition scholarship and nine \$20,000 scholarships.

#### New Sheboygan County Scholars named

Lakeland University will welcome its sixth class of Sheboygan County Scholars to campus this fall. This program retains some of the area's most promising young people and prepares them to assume future leadership positions within the region.

The Class of 2024 includes:

- Alycia Herr, a graduate of Sheboygan North High school;
- Allison Klemme, a graduate of Sheboygan Falls High School;
- Ethan Lilyquist, a graduate of Plymouth High School;
- Sam Scharenbroch, a graduate of Sheboygan South High School.

Scholars are selected as part of a competitive process and receive a full-tuition scholarship to attend Lakeland. The program fosters the intellectual development, professional networking and leadership skills of the next generation of Sheboygan County's corporate, professional and civic leaders.

Each year, up to four students are selected. Upon acceptance into the program, scholars will be expected to excel academically, be engaged in campus life and the Sheboygan community through volunteer opportunities and maintain the highest ethical standards.

The scholars will have bi-annual gatherings with Lakeland President David Black, have access to external/non-Lakeland leadership development and training and networking opportunities and communication strategy and comprehension put into practice through team building activities.

#### Lakeland teachers published

- Scott Niederjohn, senior vice president for Cooperative Education and economic development, co-authored a new book entitled "Teachers Can Be Financially Fit: Economists' Advice for Educators." The book uses relatable case studies to dispense practical financial advice to educators. The book consists of 14 chapters covering a comprehensive group of topics specifically curated for educators teaching at the K-12 and university level, including saving for retirement, man-



#### TEDx

Lakeland University hosted its second TEDxLakelandUniversity in February. Through the theme "Five Years from Now," nine presenters helped envision possible futures in a variety of topics.

Three LU students and three faculty members were among the speakers for the event in the Bradley Theatre. The speakers and their topics were:

- Randall Moyer (Lakeland student) – Using a positive mindset to overcome adversity.
- Maia Reed (LU student) – Lifelong learning.
- Emily Sonntag (LU student) – Evolving the training of educators.
- Yaron Zoller (LU business faculty) – Inclusion, not just diversity.
- Mary Dantzler (LU adjunct faculty) – Changing our communication with the dying.
- Lisa Koenecke (LU adjunct faculty) – Changing from a bystander to an ally.
- Marilyn Bugenhagen – Mutuality helps people navigate thresholds.
- Marissa Jablonski – Developing a new relationship with plastics.
- Toni Marinucci – Diets aren't the answer.

Lakeland's TEDx event also includes a screening of TED Talks videos. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently, under a free license granted by TED.

TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, is a media organization which posts talks online for free distribution, under the slogan ideas worth spreading. The TEDx Program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences.

aging debt, investment strategies and real estate. He also co-authored "Then and Now," a new section in the "Economic Episodes in American History" textbook. The section provides a new resource for teachers in comparing the economic impact of COVID-19 to the Spanish Flu.

- Lisa Koenecke, an adjunct instructor in Lakeland's Master of Arts in Counseling program, has published a book entitled, "Be an Inclusion Ally: ABCs of

LGBTQ+." Koenecke's book illuminates the path to becoming a supportive ally personally and professionally. It is a fast, funny, and ready resource for educating yourself and others about the LGBTQ+ community. With wit and wisdom woven throughout, the book is a goldmine for individuals who have questions, but don't know whom to ask. It also celebrates the reader for being willing to learn more and create an inclusionary workplace or school. ❖



## Underkofler winner

Monique Brickham, assistant professor of graphic design, was named the 2020 winner of the annual Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Brickham, who joined Lakeland's faculty in 2016, is Lakeland's 29th winner of the Underkofler, which recognizes outstanding performance in undergraduate teaching.

Brickham has developed a reputation at Lakeland for being an innovative, rigorous teacher who challenges her students while creating an open and accepting classroom environment. She was also lauded for being available to her students to address a wide range of needs, often outside of traditional work hours.

Many of Brickham's class projects require students to interact with off-campus clients to replicate real-world settings that prepares them for post-graduation success. As one example, her students developed marketing materials

for local non-profit organizations. Under Brickham's guidance, the students met regularly with members of the agencies to assess their needs, discuss and set goals and review drafts of logos, fonts and brochures.

After months of work, the students presented their results at a public forum, which included representatives from the agencies. It allowed the students to create materials that none of these organizations would have been able to afford.

Brickham led the creation of Lakeland's graphic design major as a standalone program. She has also been instrumental in the redesign of the Mac lab and she has chaired the Program Development Committee.

She came to Lakeland as both a graphic design practitioner and teacher, with, at the time, more than a decade of experience in the industry, including serving as graphic designer at Lawrence University and working in freelance roles.

She has a master of fine arts in graphic design from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, a bachelor's in communication and the arts with a graphic design emphasis from the

### In nominating Brickham, students offered these thoughts:

“  
*Monique is one of the main reasons that I chose to come to Lakeland. On my second visit I was able to meet with her and instantly I knew I liked her. She is so enthusiastic about graphic design that it makes me more passionate about all my studies.*  
 ”

“  
*It takes a good professor to put in extra office hours for their students, but it takes an incredible professor to be there for students when we are texting at two in the morning. She continually goes above and beyond for her students.*  
 ”

“  
*Her involvement with local businesses and non-profits goes above and beyond what professional development entails. Her concepts and passion for design thinking have elevated students and non-students alike, be it in their co-op experiences, her interns or community members looking for that little piece of knowledge to help bring their ideas to fruition.*  
 ”

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and web design and development certificates from Fox Valley Technical College.

The Underkofler Award is presented through the Alliant Energy Foundation and the Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges, Inc. ❖

## 55TH ANNUAL

# Clarence H. Koehler Campus Senior Award

Lakeland University senior Shyanne Koski, an education major from Random Lake, Wis., was named the winner of the 55th annual Clarence H. Koehler Campus Senior Award, the university's top award for undergraduate students.

The Koehler Award is presented each year to a Lakeland senior who best exemplifies “The Lakeland Spirit” by his or her participation in and support of the university's programs and activities. To be eligible, graduates must complete all their undergraduate years at Lakeland and maintain a high level of academic achievement.

The other finalists for the 2020 Koehler Award were Cailyn Branback, Neil Rohde, Molly Schwibinger and Dante Williams.

Koski assembled an impressive résumé of leadership, connecting Lakeland to the community and service to the institution during her four years.

For three years, she led STEAM Girls Rock, which focuses on Lakeland students mentoring girls at Plymouth middle school and high school in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Koski arranged meetings in Plymouth and at Lakeland with the girls to participate in fun STEAM-related activities and projects.

Koski led the creation of a partnership between Lakeland and Pawsitism, a local nonprofit organization that trains service dogs for children with autism. She helped recruit student volunteer trainers for the upcoming year, and helped to train the dogs by bringing them to Lakeland's campus and other public locations.

Koski came to Lakeland as part of the Sheboygan County Scholars program, and she gained entry into Lakeland's honors program, which challenges students to design their own research project. Her work focused on the education of students with autism in an inclusive classroom.

She served as president of the Student Activities Foundation Board and the Pi Kappa Gamma sorority, and she was actively involved with the Lakeland band and math club. She served as a resident assistant, an academic tutor, a Blue and Gold Champion and a campus ambassador. She was also a community volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Junior Achievement and Aurora Memorial Hospital.

Her love for Lakeland has become a family affair, as her mother is also enrolled at Lakeland as a student.

The Koehler award is named for the Rev. Clarence Koehler, who graduated from the college in 1937 and from the seminary in 1939. He later became a member of the college's board of trustees and was chairman of the board in 1957 when he passed away at age 48.

The Rev. Koehler was an outstanding student and participated in numerous activities on campus, including music, athletics, student publications and managing the campus bookstore. He maximized his college experience, and this award honors that spirit. ❖





**LAKELAND  
UNIVERSITY**

**W3718 South Drive  
Plymouth, WI 53073**

Lakeland was honored by U.S. News & World Report among the best schools in the Midwest region in advancing social mobility for its students.

Lakeland tied for 33rd among Top Performers on Social Mobility among regional universities in the Midwest and was third best in Wisconsin.

*“Economically disadvantaged students are less likely than others to finish college, even when controlling for other characteristics. But some colleges are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants.” ❖*

