

FALL  
2021

# LAKELAND

THE MAGAZINE OF LAKELAND UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 14  
ISSUE 1



## COMING INTO FOCUS

Launch transforms LU students



# Dear Muskies

Please enjoy this issue of the Lakeland Magazine. It is full of hope and optimism, as we navigate through 2021 and plan for what's next. As always, we will continue to focus on the changing needs of our students with an alignment to our mission and a keen eye on innovation.

Lakeland is uniquely positioned to thrive as we head into a challenging time for higher education. Not only are we preparing for a major demographic shift in 2025, but we are also preparing to expand in a way that ensures Lakeland is contributing to the overall success of the communities we serve. Whether in Sheboygan County, around the state of Wisconsin or in Tokyo, Lakeland is keeping true to its promise of affordability and accessibility for anyone with the grit to do the work. Experiential learning is now imbedded in our curriculum. It sets us apart from traditional universities while also leveraging strategic partnerships in K-12 education, technical college partners and the state's major employers. The cover story about Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses is just the latest example of how our Co-Op program is preparing the entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow.

We are well into the fall semester, and please know that we could not have gotten to this point without you. Thank you for continuing to invest in student scholarships, facility enhancements, Cooperative Education and our mission. Muskies are simply better together.

With Gratitude,  
Beth Borgen, DBA  
President



# LAKELAND

Fall 2021 Volume 14 Issue 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 individuals 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** Beth Borgen

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

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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## ON THE COVER

The student executives working for Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses are enjoying a personal and professional transformation.

## 2 3... 2... 1... Liftoff!

Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses is a unique venture that's setting students up for post-graduation success.

## 8 New Res Halls Taking Shape

The new versions of Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier Halls are both quickly taking shape as a new central hub forms on the Main Campus.

## 10 Shining on an International Stage

Lakeland had a significant presence at the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits, led by four successful recent graduates.

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Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses, LU's latest innovative venture, has had much to celebrate in its first year.

Lakeland students working for Launch have created a number of new opportunities to hone their entrepreneurial skills. Launch empowers students to create, develop, manage and lead business ventures. These experiences are part of a campus-wide initiative that instills an entrepreneurial mindset that is applicable across all majors.

Launch is one of just three student-run business ventures at the collegiate level in Wisconsin. There are currently six student executives employed by Launch, and the total workforce grew to more than 90 over the summer.

**Among the businesses and initiatives that Launch students currently or recently managed:**

- **Musko's Campus Shop**, which opened physically in August and will open online soon.
- **Elementastic**, a variety of after-school programs, interactive science shows, in-school field trips and public and company events performed by Launch student workers.
- **The City of Sheboygan's annual Memorial Day parade.**
- **Lakeland's annual Blaster's Golf Tournament** held in June at Blackwolf Run.
- **Sheboygan's 26th Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament** at the end of July.
- **A food/beverage stand at Road America** in Elkhart Lake during the summer racing season.



# LAUNCH

## Creating tomorrow's entrepreneurs

"Launch is an extension of our award-winning Cooperative Education program,



**Amanda Brandt**

*Chief Marketing Officer*  
Senior  
Kiel, Wis.

**Career goal(s):** To work at a local nonprofit as a marketing director or executive director. I would like to eventually become a CEO.

**How has your experience changed you?** My Launch experience has changed me both personally and professionally. Launch pushed me to go outside of my comfort zone and, in doing so, I have gained professional skills that landed me my first post-Co-Op job. Launch prepared me for that moment, and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Launch. Joining the Launch team was the best decision I ever made. It launched my career and led me to success.

giving students the opportunity to earn credit and a salary through top-level management and entrepreneurial experiences," said Lakeland President Beth Borgen. "What this group has accomplished in its first year is impressive, and we are excited to see what more is coming from these talented students."



**Curtiss Dokey**

*Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer*  
Senior  
Manitowoc, Wis.

**Career goal(s):** Tax associate.

**How has your experience changed you?** The Launch experience has made me a much more responsible worker. It has enhanced my business, public speaking and financial planning skills. I think the greatest experience with Launch is to have such great mentors from the community and within the university.

In addition to events management, Launch's Nonprofit Wage Collaboration provides local nonprofit agencies with interns from Lakeland at little to no cost to the nonprofit.

To date, Launch has funded more than \$55,000 in wage relief and more than 5,000 hours of labor. This equates to 13 different students being hired at 19 different internship opportunities within just over a year. This division is estimated to fund another \$10,000 in student wages



**Andrew Erbstoesser**

*Chief Financial Officer*  
Junior  
Union, Ill.

**Career goal(s):** To start and grow my own business.

**How do you expect to benefit from this experience?** I am really looking forward to being able to learn more about how to manage finances in a real business and not just in the classroom.

during the 2021-22 school year.

"Our goal is to increase the effectiveness of local nonprofit organizations by providing outstanding students to fill administrative and professional roles or customized projects or events," said John Putnam, a Lakeland sophomore serving as chief executive officer of Launch.

Launch plans to fund at least three opportunities in both the fall and spring semesters. Launch funds these positions through external donations and gives 10% of its net profit to this fund.

Launch students have had numerous speaking opportunities to tell the Launch and Lakeland stories, although many presentations have had to occur virtually due to COVID. Among the groups that students have presented to include:

- Startup Wisconsin Week
- The Student-Run Business Association Board of Directors
- The Sheboygan Early Bird Rotary and Noon Rotary Clubs
- Wisconsin FBLA Panelists
- Women in Management



**Clare Keinhofer**

*Elementastic President*  
Sophomore  
Brandon, Wis.

**Career goal(s):** Become a business analyst.

**How has your experience changed you?** As I am just starting out with Launch, I do not have much experience. However, Launch will help me become a better leader and learn more about how to create and be a part of a growing business.

- Members of Lakeland's Board of Trustees and LU's administrative leadership team
- Lakeland's Cooperative Education Advisory Board
- Lakeland Alumni Board Meeting, as well as the annual Arizona and Florida alumni events

"These speaking opportunities give each of us a chance to use our professional presentation skills as we share stories about the many opportunities available to students who are part of Launch," said Ali Wilson, a 2021 Lakeland graduate who served as Launch's event planner. "These are great ways to spread the word about our work while also showing people how Lakeland is focused on innovation and growing new entrepreneurs." ❖



**John A. Putnam**

*President of Nonprofit Division and Develop U*  
Sophomore  
Plymouth, Wis.

**Career goal:** To become a forensic accountant with the government.

**How has your experience changed you?** Launch has given me opportunities to grow in areas that benefit my career goal and in areas that benefit me as a human being. In this experience, I've become better at communicating within a team, better at presenting my ideas/work to others and better at being an accountant. Launch has taught me the importance of a well-functioning team and being on the team. These are just a couple of things I have experienced through my time with Launch.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION  
LAUNCH



# CAMPUS SHOP

Musko's Campus Shop, a 1,000-square-foot, on-campus store located in the Wehr Center lobby, had its grand opening in September. The shop is operated through Launch: Lakeland's Student-Run Businesses.

Customers will soon be able to purchase item from an online store. More information will be shared on the shop's Facebook and Instagram pages, along with updates about new products, shop specials and other news.

"The inaugural Launch leadership team has worked tirelessly to ensure a successful opening of the new merchandise store - from analyzing survey results of key target audiences to a thorough market analysis, they have done their homework," said Lakeland President Beth Borgen. "We can't wait to see the sales take off in the new venue, pop-up shops and online."

Last year, Launch was approached by the university to open a student-run campus shop. The goal of Musko's Campus Shop is to provide the Lakeland community with quality, Lakeland University-branded merchandise at approachable prices to build LU pride, university connection and Launch financial security.

"We have a lineup of newly designed merchandise for every Muskies fan," said Launch President of Merchandise Sydney Pingitore, a senior from Kenosha, Wis., majoring in marketing. "The new merchandise features designs created by

students in a variety of colors. We also have a retro collection featuring older logos and looks to celebrate our history."

Pingitore, who has worked in retail since she was 15, spoke to community professionals and independent campus shops at schools like Lakeland as part of the research phase of creating LU's shop.

"The conversations I had with these professionals guided our team in the right direction and focus," she said. "Plus, being able to visit other college shops was exciting as we brought ideas back to Launch for implementation at Lakeland."

The physical shop features glass walls and mobile merchandise displays. The displays and fixtures were purchased from other retail stores.

"We want to incorporate eco-friendly practices throughout the shop in the next 2-5 years," said Pingitore, who noted that many of the shop's shipping materials are made from recycled paper and some new clothing pieces are made from recycled thread and plastics. "Our goal is to be sustainable with every retail practice we can."

Launch has hired several other students to work for the shop, and those employees will have focused areas of expertise to assist the shop in growing its brand, store organization and goals.

"Students will be more involved with certain aspects of the store such as online orders, customer service and inventory stockers," Pingitore said.

For more information on Musko's Campus Shop, email [MuskosCampusShop@lakeland.edu](mailto:MuskosCampusShop@lakeland.edu). ❖



**Sydney Pingitore**  
*President of Merchandise Senior*  
Kenosha, Wis.

**Career goal(s):** Independent sales representative for high end retail/athletic apparel company.

**How has your experience changed you?**

Launch has given me confidence in myself to push beyond my abilities. This position has taught me so much about running a business, how important communication is and how to push through after failure. This position with Launch has given me an experience I would never get anywhere else at this age, with the schedule I have with academics and athletics, and the career goals I had in mind. I have been given the opportunity to start the foundation of a new campus shop, where my opinion was validated in every decision made within the store. Everything you see in Musko's Campus Shop is one learning experience for me, and for the student who replaces me when I graduate this May.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION  
MKE CO-OP YEAR



# MAKING MOVES IN MILWAUKEE

A dozen students make up the inaugural student cohort enrolled in the Milwaukee Co-Op Year, a new Lakeland initiative for Milwaukee-area students who need an affordable pathway to college and some barriers removed to make it happen.

These students are taking tuition-free courses for one year, earning college credits by working through Lakeland's Cooperative Education program and developing a plan for their future.

The Milwaukee Co-Op Year blends college coursework and paid employment for students who may be unsure whether they want to go on to college or work. It also provides an avenue for students who would like to begin their post-secondary education but need to work and cannot afford the expenses associated with attending a traditional residential institution.

Lakeland helps students find employment at one of Lakeland's Milwaukee-area Co-Op employer partners, which includes Usinger's and Wisconsin Steel & Tube. These select employers have committed to providing a work environment that supports a student's learning and development and includes opportunities for training and ongoing feedback. Students will work an average of 24 hours per week.

In addition to their Co-Op placements, students are taking a full schedule of courses this fall, including Composition I, Introduction to Business, College Success Seminar and Professional Protocol at Lakeland's Milwaukee Center. These courses prepare students for their experiential learning placement and academic studies.

The college success and professional protocol courses are taught by Breann Clark, a 2016 Lakeland graduate who was recently hired as learning coordinator for the Milwaukee Co-Op Year. She is also mentoring students individually, helping them develop their academic, professional and personal success plans. The full cohort meets with Clark to actively reflect on the connections between their coursework, experiential learning placement and personal success plans.

Clark received a Master of Science degree in Transnational Human Services Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2019.

The Milwaukee Co-op Year provides students with:

- A 100% tuition-funded first year of college, along with tuition-funded pathways for a second, third and fourth year.

- A collegiate experience that blends a good-paying part-time job while also earning college credits through LU's Cooperative Education program, along with classwork designed to help students plan for their future.
- Cohorted employment and courses that give students classmates to lean on and support.
- Coaching and placement assistance with part-time employment.
- Free transportation to the main campus to bring students to Lakeland sporting events, concerts, plays, musicals and other student life programs.
- Opportunities to get mentored from Milwaukee-area Lakeland graduates.

After year one, students will have several pathways, and Lakeland will provide personal mentoring to help individual students develop the best plan for their future. Choices include:

- Earn a two-year or four-year degree from Lakeland in Milwaukee or on Lakeland's main campus.
- Transfer to another college, including one of Lakeland's Milwaukee technical college partners.
- Continue into the workforce. ❖



she was a barista, giving her an opportunity to also learn how to bartend. She appreciated the short commute and the flexible, accommodating approach by the Osthoff.

The program had such a positive impact that the partnership has extended in the current academic year, helping students pay for college and give them a learning environment to help them be more successful.

“We are thankful to the Osthoff Resort team members who have continued to serve on the LU Co-Op Advisory Board to help innovate an educational experience that is rooted in work-based learning,” said Lakeland Associate Vice President of Cooperative Education & Career Readiness Jess Lambrecht. ❖



## MUSKIES AT YOUR SERVICE

The Osthoff Resort and Lakeland University partnered this past summer, the latest chapter in a long-standing relationship that has provided opportunities for Lakeland students and the Elkhart Lake community.

In spring 2021, as the hospitality industry was starting to bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic, many resorts and destinations were short-staffed. LU and the Osthoff Resort came together to develop an experience that would benefit all.

Lakeland students working part time for Osthoff Resort from May through August were earning and learning. Osthoff Resort established funds to cover student's housing expenses, while LU ensured transportation to/from work and a space where they could live with friends.

Nearly 20 Lakeland students worked in the areas of water sports, dining, housekeeping, grounds, reservations and security. The students also enrolled in Cooperative Education courses that focused on professional and soft skill development.

“I believe Lakeland University and the Osthoff

Resort hold the same vision: The best asset is our people,” said Osthoff Director of Human Resources Dan Norton. “The partnership with Lakeland University has been a great asset. It gave us flexibility with our work force needs.

“The main benefit to the partnership was that our guests can see how energetic the students are and the guest service they can provide. In addition, we have been able to keep the students' best interest as a key priority.”

Lakeland students enjoyed the opportunity for a variety of reasons.

Ethan Kiefer chose to work at the Osthoff Resort because he heard great things about them and wanted to live on campus for the summer.

“I never really knew much about landscaping, but it has taught me a lot about how much the grounds mean to the guests and the owners,” Kiefer said. “It's great to see a smile on their faces when they first walk into the resort.”

Kearstin Schweitzer previously worked for the Osthoff as a housekeeper and for the summer



### COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SARGENTO

Lakeland has partnered with Sargento Foods to create unique job opportunities for LU students. The new effort – part of LU's Cooperative Education program – is helping students gain valuable work experience and help Sargento fill open positions.

The partnership is designed to address challenges Lakeland students faced when working production roles and the corresponding work schedules, which often conflicted with their school schedule.

Companies across the state of Wisconsin and the United States are feeling the effects of a nationwide labor shortage that has accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lakeland students work 16 hours per week, which is typical for students who work for any organization while taking full-time coursework. Students can work flexible 4- or 8-hour shifts at Sargento that accommodate

## SAY CHEESE, MUSKIES

their academic schedules.

“By creating a more flexible scheduling format, we can better accommodate students participating in our Cooperative Education program,” said Lakeland President Beth Borgen. “We continue to find ways to adjust our innovative Co-Op program to fit the needs of local employers and our students.

“Ultimately, this creates a richer learning environment while also developing a direct talent pipeline for the area's employers and significantly reducing or eliminating college debt for our students. This is simply a win-win for all involved.

“A big thank you to Sargento for being a creative partner and making these opportunities more accessible to our students, who will gain valuable experience, earn college credits and earn competitive wages and benefits to offset tuition.”

The program was especially designed for Lakeland's football players, who have an intense pre-season training camp in August followed by busy weeks that include practices and games to go with their coursework. These part-time positions pay over \$21 an hour and offer tuition benefits after 90 days of employment.

“This is a huge win for our guys who are looking for ways to continue earning income in the fall season,” said Lakeland Head Football Coach Colin Bruton. “I am appreciative of the hard work that LU and Sargento were able to put into this partnership for the benefit of all.”

While the partnership was built with Lakeland football players in mind, it is available to all LU students, including those enrolled in evening and online classes through the Kellett School. ❖

# RESIDENCE HALLS TAKING SHAPE

Construction of new versions of Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier residence halls is on schedule as the makings of a new hub in the center of campus starts taking shape.

Lakeland held a demolition ceremony in May to celebrate the next step in the largest single investment in the main campus in the institution's 159-year history.

The new halls will house freshman and sophomores. The project, funded by a \$35.4 million fixed-rate low interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development division, also includes the construction of a water tower and related infrastructure.

The two new, identical residence halls will be located on the area south of the Younger Family Campus Center on the sites previously occupied by decades-old Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier, which were demolished earlier this year.

The May demolition ceremony featured remarks by Lakeland President Beth Borgen, LU Board of Trustees Chairperson Jeff Spence '83, Lakeland Chief Financial Officer Amy Wirtz and

Boldt Company Chief Executive Officer Tom Boldt. The Boldt Company serves as the general contractor for the project.

Spence recalled that he lived in Grosshuesch Hall when he was a freshman. "This construction site is surreal to me," he said. "My time here was a blessing. This project is an opportunity to create future memories for future Lakeland students."

Boldt said his company was pleased to again partner with Lakeland on an important campus improvement.

"Higher education is a very important part of the future of our country," Boldt said. "Lakeland has a unique responsibility for all of the students who come to this campus through the experiences they have and the relationships they build with each other, Lakeland faculty and staff.

"These formative years that create the leaders of the future are vitally important. While this may be a dormitory, imagine the types of experiences students have. There are important parts of a residential campus that not all students have an opportunity to experience."

The new halls are expected to open for the fall of 2022. They will provide Lakeland with 400 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 be demolished at a later time. The future of A.M. Krueger is yet to be determined.

Along with updated housing for students, each new hall will provide resident support functions including front desk area, vending, lounge spaces, kitchenettes, study rooms, gender-neutral bathrooms, laundry facilities, recycling centers, bottle-filling stations and more.

Each building will have a basement to provide resident storage space and unfinished square footage for the ability to build out additional resident program space in the future. Lakeland will also create space on campus for use by student organizations, including Greek Life.

The new water tower will accommodate sprinkler systems which are required to be installed in the new residence halls. It will also allow Lakeland to pivot from its decades-old water well pumps, positioning the campus for future growth. ❖



By Brian Frink  
Vice President for Lakeland University Japan

When I was approached to write something for this issue about Lakeland University Japan (LUJ), I wasn't quite sure where to begin, as there are many great things happening. I've chosen to focus on two of them – expansion to offering four-year degrees and our campus relocation.

Earlier this year, LUJ received permission to offer bachelor's degrees, a historic moment in our 30-year history. We are offering the business administration major with emphases in communication, hospitality management and international business. We will also be offering Cooperative Education opportunities to our students. After receiving approval for the bachelor's degree this past summer, we had a handful of students continue their education beyond their associate degrees, giving us a small indication of what the bachelor's program will mean for the future of LUJ.

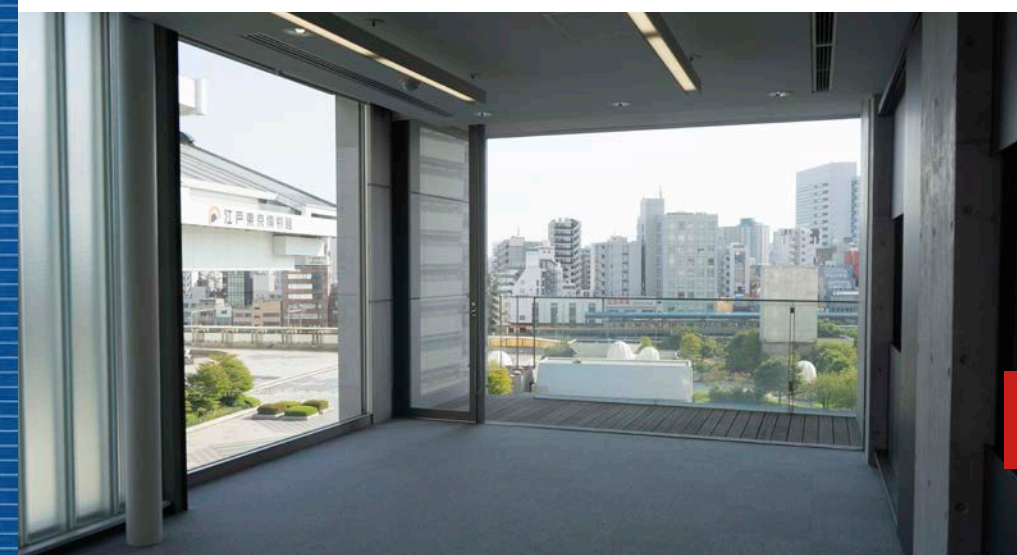
To support the business administration major and the expected enrollment growth, LUJ is moving into its new campus this January. The new campus is in the Ryogoku area within the Sumida ward of Tokyo, about 5 miles from our current location. The new campus will provide an even better experience for our students, faculty and staff.

The new location comes with several improvements aimed at student experiences:

- First and foremost, our entire campus will be 100% accessible. With 40% more space than our current campus and located in a single building, we are bringing our students, faculty and staff together.
  - Students will learn in modern classrooms.
  - A student lounge will offer a space to relax and include a café to get coffee.
  - Tutoring support and a quiet place to study will be available in our modern library.
- Cooperative Education extends learning beyond the classroom. LUJ's new campus is located next to the Edo-Tokyo Museum, the Kokugikan Sumo Arena, a large hotel and much more. The campus will also house student-run businesses like the aforementioned café, one of many opportunities for students to put their learning into practice. Students can also find opportunities to volunteer at a plethora of places nearby including middle and high schools. Along with these opportunities, everyone on campus will have access to two parks, a running path along the river and pedestrian-only streets adjacent to campus.

There are great things happening at LUJ. If you find yourself in Tokyo, please stop by campus. We would love for you to meet our students, faculty and staff and give you a tour. ❖

## JAPAN CAMPUS ENJOYING GROWTH



Students, faculty and staff will benefit from more space at LUJ's new location to go with great views of Tokyo.

# FAB F<sup>ORE</sup>



As the sports world focused on the Ryder Cup at nearby Whistling Straits Golf Course, this massive international event included plenty of presence from Lakeland University.

Four members of the 14-person Ryder Cup staff were Lakeland graduates who work full time for the PGA of America. They were part of the team that planned for years to deliver one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

That group includes:

- **Tess (Myklebust) Anschutz '14**, volunteer operations manager, who previously worked on the 2015 and 2017 PGA Championships.
- **Austin Hansen '18**, corporate services coordinator.
- **RonniJo (Nigro) Rigney '19**, volunteer operations coordinator.
- **Ashlee Wierzbach '20**, corporate merchandise on-site and financial coordinator.

In addition, Sydney Wickman, a 2021 LU graduate, was a member of the summer operations crew that built much of the infrastructure on the course, and she was part of the Ryder Cup staff working the event.

## Recent grads lead LU presence at Ryder Cup

There were approximately 30 current Lakeland students and recent Lakeland graduates working with PGA staff to manage the many hospitality venues and provide front-line corporate services.

"These students are going to being part of an event that is on a global stage," said Britanni Meinnert, the leader of Lakeland's hospitality management program who worked over a decade for Kohler's The American Club before joining Lakeland's faculty. "They will have an opportunity to interact with people and serve them in a capacity that is in line with the Kohler brand. It's something impressive to put on their resumes."

Ryder Cup Director Jason Mengel said the students offered a wide range of concierge services, everything from meeting client needs, to helping companies and guests check in, making sure guests have a great experience, being a first point of reference for questions and helping prepare their area for the day.

The students worked in teams serving the various hospitality packages, everything from the 1927 Club, a premium venue for individuals, to 50- or 100-guest private chalets.

"This is a great chance to play a key role in one of the biggest sporting events in the world," Mengel said. "It's an opportunity to experience client relations training in real time and learn how to anticipate and solve issues that might arise while delivering a high-quality experience."

Mengel said students had plenty of opportunity to network directly with C-level executives who make strategic decisions for companies as well as other dignitaries.

"It is an opportunity to impress them with their skills and how they carry themselves, positioning themselves for possible employment," said Mengel, noting that career paths in sales, marketing, sports, hospitality and operations are all possibilities.

The students worked long days, often arriving at 6 a.m. and working until well after guests have left. The students were provided a uniform and, when they were not working, they could stay and watch the event, a nice perk to get an up-close view.

The students were a mix of business administration, sport management and leadership and hospitality management majors.

Sophomore Anthony Lueck, a sports management and leadership major, hopes to one day work for the PGA of America or any

major golf company in a role similar to Hansen. His job ranged from transporting patrons to scanning tickets for company villages to building relationships with patrons.

"Not only will I benefit by seeing what goes into running a successful golf tournament, but I also get a foot into the door of an organization that I want to become a part of," Lueck said. "I also get to meet a ton of great people who I can bond with as I work throughout the week."

Lueck is a member of the Lakeland men's golf team, giving him an extra appreciation for the event and his role.

"There is no better feeling than walking around the course and seeing the view off Lake Michigan," Lueck said. "There is a certain buzz at Whistling Straits, and it can only be described as the building anticipation of the thunderous roars that will be heard this week. I am very grateful for this opportunity."

Hansen led recruitment of the team and about half of the spots are filled by Lakeland students/recent grads.

Several of the students got a taste of the tournament during a special Ryder Cup course that Meinnert taught in the spring of 2020 and again in 2021. It was an in-depth look at the event including the unique format, its history, a look at the players participating and other interesting tidbits. Guest speakers included Anschutz, Hansen and Rigney and an event planner from Kohler Co.

Meinnert said having access to those successful alumni and a partner like the PGA positions Lakeland to open doors for its students to amazing professional opportunities.

"These partnerships help us open their eyes to all the possibilities open to them after their Lakeland journey," Meinnert said. "In addition to class work, which is foundational in nature, we also give them a safe space to examine those opportunities and put their toe in the water. It opens up so much more not only career wise, but personally as well."

"I think the nurturing we do at Lakeland gives them confidence to try something new. They know we would never send them into a bad or awkward situation. We've aligned with trustworthy partnerships. Many of our students end up with jobs they never thought they would when they come to us on day one."

Several Lakeland athletic teams also had students working during the event serving a variety of roles, mainly working concessions. ❖

# CREATING CONVERSATIONS

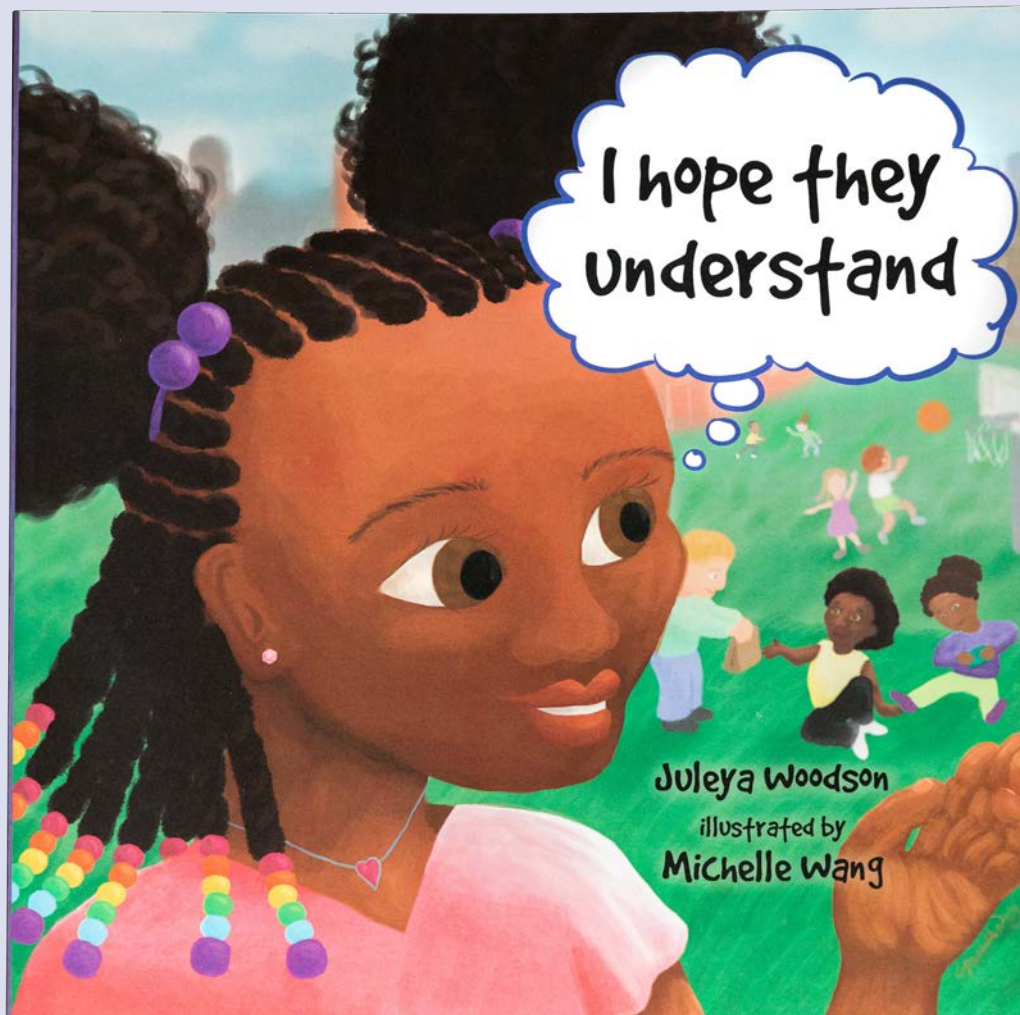
## LU grad authors children's book

Juleya (Tucker) Woodson '13 remembers a time she did not feel beautiful.

Growing up as a Black child in Evanston, Ill., she wondered why her skin wasn't lighter, or why she didn't have long, straight hair, as she began to understand racial difference and the media's portrayal of beauty.

Woodson, motivated in part by her work as Family Support Specialist with the Childcare Network of Evanston and the lack of diversity of children's literature, has published a children's book, "I Hope They Understand," to educate and celebrate racial and cultural dissimilarities, while reminding Black children of their beauty.

"It is vital adults assist children in



developing healthy racial and cultural identities so that racial and cultural differences are seen as beautiful and not distasteful," said Woodson, who received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Lakeland. "A children's book is a great way to create healthy development and start conversations about racial difference.

"Adults can't be afraid to talk about racial difference. When a child asks, 'Why is her skin darker than mine?' we need to ensure the child feels comfortable enough to ask those difficult questions and not shame them."

"I Hope They Understand" can be purchased online at the book's website [www.ihopetheyunderstand.com](http://www.ihopetheyunderstand.com).

Woodson started writing last summer when the nation was rocked by protests following the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. The media's perception of beauty also encouraged her to create a children's book.

"Media reports were reducing confidence among Black people, making us feel less secure," said Woodson, who married 2012 Lakeland graduate Keith Woodson in May of 2015. "I remember feeling afraid myself and thinking 'I can't imagine how children are feeling when they see their parents are insecure.'"

"At a time when children are starting to understand racial difference, superiority, and internalize racism, we need to remind little Black girls and boys of their beauty and educate all kids about racial and cultural differences."

The paperback book is for children ages 0-5 and will help them understand people come in different shapes, sizes and colors, and that is what makes everyone beautiful.

Helping bring Woodson's words to life are illustrations by 2014 Lakeland graduate Michelle (Fromm) Wang. Wang and Woodson were Lakeland classmates and have kept in touch on social media.

"When I learned that Juleya was working on a children's book and needed an illustrator, I was excited to work with her to make her dream a reality," said Wang, who owns Michelle Wang LLC, which offers a wide range of graphic design services for businesses and individuals, including illustrations.

"I believe this book fills a role that many parents need for their sons and daughters. It is my hope and prayer that the children who read this book will be filled with self-confidence. I hope they understand that they are special, unique and beautiful just the way God made them. This is a message that every child needs to hear, and we need to share it in a way that is easy for even the youngest child to internalize."

Woodson's goal is to help create a world that she described as more culturally competent.

"To build successful relationships and work effectively with others, we need to understand cultural difference and get to know people from different backgrounds," she said.

Juleya and Keith are the parents of 3-year-old Kayden, and she has found a lack of

diversity in children's books.

"It is important all children see themselves in the books they read," Woodson said. "It helps them thrive and feel connected to their environment and community. We need more diverse books in our schools and our communities."

"Dr. Rosemarie Allen says teach empathy, not sympathy. We need to teach empathy through the books our children read so that all children feel comfortable and

"I hope they understand, even though my eyes are a little rounder than my friends, my eyes are beautiful. 'Whisper it with me, 'My eyes are beautiful.'"

acknowledged, while understanding their differences are beautiful and not shameful."

Woodson is working with schools and bookstores in the Evanston area to provide access to the book and its message, which has been well received.

"So many people have written how much they love the book, its images, and affirmations," Woodson said. "Kids can repeat words of affirmation, which is something they can do with their parents."

In her role with the Childcare Network of Evanston, Woodson provides family support to Early Head Start and Head Start families in the Evanston area. She offers a comprehensive approach, connecting families to relevant resources, including housing, finances and/or education. She also works with teachers to develop strategies that benefit the children she serves.

Becoming an author is a natural for Woodson, as education is a centerpiece in her life, and not just through her work.

She has a master of social work with a mental health specialization from Loyola University Chicago, and this May she will receive a master of arts in organizational leadership from Judson University.

She has her eye on a doctoral program, and eventually wants to shift her career into higher education while focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion work for students. She plans to continue writing, and has done several readings and appearances since the publication of her first book.

"I want to create a series," Woodson said. "I want to create a movement similar to Black Lives Matter, but centered on educating and inspiring. I plan to create a website where people can find articles, blogs and other resources. I also want to fundraise for a specialist to work with schools and the broader community to help build wealth. The wealth gap is real."

She looks back on her time at Lakeland fondly, especially learning from Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Stroot and then-Lakeland faculty member Alicia Helion. She was named Lakeland's Outstanding Student in Psychology as a senior, a sign of her work and the good things to come.

"Professor Stroot and Professor Helion were amazing," said Woodson, who minored in writing at Lakeland. "They pushed me to be a better student and person. They recommended I tutor a few students, and while I was helping others, I grew, too."

Stroot was especially instrumental in Woodson's career path, as she pointed her down a path of social work that equipped her with the knowledge to effectively assist individuals, which followed Woodson's interest. Woodson was also a member of the Alpha Psi Alpha sorority at Lakeland, another important part of her experience.

"That pushed me," she said. "It was something different from what I was used to, and it gave me people I'm still connected to today. I did feel a sense of culture at Lakeland. I did feel represented." ❖

# TALENT IMPORTER



## Sheboygan County benefits from Michigan native's energy

As he approaches 20 years of living in Sheboygan County, Rodney Ellison has found numerous ways for his considerable energy and enthusiasm to have a positive impact.

The two-time Lakeland graduate – in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in fitness studies and in 2018 with a master of business administration – is in his 14th year with Kohler Co. currently working as a senior training specialist in a role that has him designing, installing and facilitating a variety of new learning solutions to support the walk-in bath and LuxStone shower businesses.

It is the latest stop in an impressive journey for the Pontiac, Mich., native that started with a job at Kohler's Sports Core that saw him wiping down machines and folding towels. He became a Certified Fitness Trainer at the Sports Core before returning to Lakeland in 2014 for his master's through

Kohler's tuition reimbursement program.

He spent two and a half years each in corporate security and customer service and helped create a training program to teach new customer service associates Kohler branded written and verbal communication etiquette.

After completing his Lakeland MBA, he was promoted to a human resources generalist role with a focus on learning and development. He joined Kohler's Hospitality and Real Estate division as a full-time training specialist in 2020 and was promoted to his current role this past summer.

He served as the primary architect of the New Associate Orientation program, inappropriate guests training discussion groups and took the lead on COVID-19 protocol and response communications for his division.

"Thanks to Rodney, our Learning &

Development function within Hospitality & Real Estate continues to stabilize and grow in our endless effort to encourage all associates to flourish in our service culture," said Director of Human Resources for Hospitality & Real Estate Brian McCormick.

Finding success at Kohler Co. and a welcoming community for his family has helped make the Village of Kohler home for the Ellisons.

"This area has welcomed us with open arms," said Ellison, who this fall celebrates 10 years of marriage to 2008 Lakeland graduate Sophi (Kuehl) Ellison. They are the parents of two young children, Coral and Davis. "We have made lifelong friends and love how friendly our neighborhood is. We feel like we've hit the jackpot."

The opportunity to play college football brought Ellison to Lakeland, and like so many Muskies, it wasn't long before it helped him find his broader purpose.

"I always say that Lakeland is a place that just felt right from the first day that I stepped on campus," he said. "Just like the Village of Kohler, Lakeland gave me a huge bearhug full of love and never really let me go."

"I really did find myself as a student at Lakeland, and I am a better person today because of the relationships fostered and love shared in this place that will always be considered home."

Winning multiple football conference championships and the bonds built with teammates like Ryan Maiuri '06 MAC '08 are memories that stand out for him. He joined the Beta Sigma Omega fraternity where he found support and opportunities to grow into a campus leader.

He especially recalls his relationship with a trio of 2003 Lakeland graduates, Johnnie Ferguson, James Larkin and James Hayes. "They helped me through the tough times of being away from home for the first time as I acclimated myself to college life," Ellison said. "They treated me as a little brother without knowing how much I needed them in those days. I will forever be grateful for them."

In the classroom, Ellison said he had great experiences, but he especially noted his connection with adjunct professor Barbara Dodge. "It was the right time in my life to cross paths with this remarkable person," Ellison said. "I had been told wonderful things by many faculty and staff members before, but Barb helped me see that I was special."

Ellison has remained close to Lakeland and stayed involved, from dancing in the



Rodney and Sophi (Kuehl) Ellison and their children, Coral and Davis.

Movers & Shakers Gala to being the alumni speaker for the 2020 Opening Convocation. "Being asked to come back to address the freshman class was a moment that I will cherish forever," he said.

A self-described "small city, big dreams kind of guy," Ellison said his Lakeland experience "allowed me to keep that same type of energy without getting lost in the shuffle."

"While living on campus, I was able to develop a stronger sense of accountability and work ethic outside of sports that I have been able to lean on to this day," he said. "I learned about many cultural differences and how to truly partner with people outside of my immediate peer group. Life at Lakeland taught me how to really adapt to my environment in new ways that I didn't know were possible." ❖

# LU welcomes new master's program

Lakeland Master of Music students this summer enjoyed a high-quality, intensive and rewarding experience during Lakeland's first offering of the Kodály Summer Graduate Music program. A total of 71 students from 23 states, Canada and Australia attended.

While this program is new to Lakeland, it is not new in the early music education scene. The Kodály Summer Graduate Music program was founded by Sister Lorna Zemke at Silver Lake College – later renamed Holy Family College - in Manitowoc, Wis., in 1975. The program enjoyed a coveted reputation for providing intensive training in the Kodály Concept of Music Education.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March of 2020, the disruption caused to the field of education was enormous. The financial strain and uncertainty caused by the pandemic proved to be too much for Holy Family College, and it was forced to close.

Lakeland acted quickly to offer a new home for the leading early music education program. Dubbed by those involved as “curriculum on warp speed,” the program was approved internally and later approved by the Higher Learning Commission in September of 2020.

Lakeland's Kodály program offers a Master of Music in Music Education – Kodály Emphasis program, an OAKE-Endorsed Kodály Certificate program and non-degree workshop offerings. Workshops include First Steps in Music and Conversational Solfege – Upper & Lower Levels.

At its core, the Kodály approach to music education is the philosophy that music belongs to everyone, and each person has the right to learn and understand music. Named after the Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály, the program teaches music using a variety of methods: auditory, kinesthetic and visual.

Pandemic teaching and learning moved the program to an entire virtual format, but Lakeland's expertise in online learning fully supported the program's success.

“The professors did a fantastic job of sharing their excitement and knowledge in their subject areas with us,” said student Janelle Walsh. “Classes were held over a short window of time, allowing me to focus on



it and still have time to spend with my family during the summer break.”

Participants indicated that instructors provided an experience that mirrored in-person courses, and a warm, welcoming, engaged community met them at every turn.

“This will be the best professional development I receive in my entire career,” said student Katie Toler.

Student Skyler Klein added, “Everyone is here to become a better teacher, and we learn the cutting-edge skills to do it. While I'm here, I feel as though I'm learning the ‘behind-the-scenes’ view of music education.”

Rachel Ware Carlton, Ph.D., Lakeland's director of graduate music and dean of the Kellett School, said it is an honor for Lakeland to carry on Zemke's work.

“I'm incredibly proud not only that Lakeland houses the Kodály Summer Graduate Music Program, but also of our world-class faculty that brings this incredible experience to our students,” Carlton said.

In addition to the Kodály summer program, Lakeland launched an Orff Schulwerk Level I training program. Orff Schulwerk is another approach to early music education that is summarized by the idea that children should “Sing – Say – Dance – Play” and stresses the importance of developing a child's body, ear, and mind as an integrated pathway to creative expression and comprehensive musicianship.

For several years, there were no Orff Schulwerk training programs offered in Wisconsin. Lakeland changed that this summer, when 12 music educators gathered for the first time at Lakeland for the Orff Schulwerk Level I program.

Students in Lakeland's program also have access to one of the most extensive collections of Kodály materials in the Midwest.

Sister Zemke assembled a significant collection of Kodály related library materials over the span of her career. Many of these resources are out of print and found only in this collection.

Lakeland successfully raised funds to relocate her collection from Holy Family College to Lakeland, where the library will continue to serve students in the Kodály summer program and will remain available to researchers across the globe. ❖



## Weidner completes LU masterpiece

After 30 years of faithfully serving Lakeland and its students, Bill Weidner is spending much of his retirement painting. He starts in the morning, paints all afternoon and about half of the evening every day.

“And that is perfect,” Weidner said.

The prolific artist retired from his role as associate professor of art and director of Lakeland's Bradley Gallery following the 2020-21 academic year.

It marked the end of three decades of inspiring Lakeland students through his teaching and his own creativity. He joined Lakeland's faculty in 1989, led the growth of Lakeland's studio art program and was granted tenure in 1995. He has also taught at the renowned John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wis., Northern Michigan University and the now-closed Holy Family College (Manitowoc, Wis.)

He was instrumental in creating the capstone Senior Exhibition experience for studio art majors which gives art students their first professional major exhibition. The experience puts students in control of all aspects of their senior art show, from art selection to marketing the event.

“It's only natural for a studio artist to display their art,” Weidner said. “We made sure to kick off that key component with a major show of their work at the Bradley Gallery. In addition, every school year dating back to 1989 wrapped up with the Annual Student Art Exhibition which represented the very best student work from all the art courses, along with awards including Best of Show, place winners and the People's Choice Award.”

Weidner received a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting and drawing in 1982 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a bachelor's degree in painting in 1978 from Washington University's School of Art in St. Louis, Mo. Weidner taught at schools in Louisiana, Kansas and Pennsylvania prior to coming to Lakeland with his then-wife Denise Presnell, who was also hired as an art

faculty member and co-director of the Bradley Gallery.

“Denise and I were our own bosses in the art department which meant we could design all courses exactly as we wanted them,” Weidner said. “Plus, Sheboygan is a great place to live, raise a family and make art.”

Reminiscing about his time at Lakeland, Weidner recalled enjoyable, wide-ranging conversations with the late Chris Werner, a former Lakeland band director and music faculty member, as well as opportunities to watch students grow.

“One of the biggest highlights at Lakeland was the art majors who applied for and got accepted into graduate school programs to continue their study of art,” Weidner said. “All of the art majors who applied for graduate school were successfully accepted.

“One student who comes to mind is (2010 graduate) Sara Willadsen who continues to make art. Another top-notch student was (2014 graduate) Tyler Holman, who is now a successful graphic designer.”

Weidner has been a fixture on the regional art scene, won numerous awards and been featured in dozens of exhibitions over the years. His wide repertoire includes oils, acrylics, pastels and sculpture. He also records and performs his own original music.

“After decades of making representational art, I have continued to produce abstract art using the Golden Section as my guide,” he said. “But now I no longer use it even though my work might appear as if I do. My goal, as it has been for over 20 years, is to make inventive paintings and to create objects and relationships that did not previously exist. And, most recently, my palette has become brighter.” ❖



# AWARD-WINNING MUSKIES

## DESARAE ROHDE '21

Desarae Rohde, a 2021 Lakeland graduate who serves as an emergency department nurse at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital, Sheboygan, Wis., was named 2020 Nurse of the Year for Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals in Eastern Wisconsin.

Rohde received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Lakeland this past May. A graduate of Sheboygan Falls High School, Rohde started at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in 2011 as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in the surgical department. She graduated from Lakeshore Technical College as a Registered Nurse (RN) in 2017.

“Desarae is a role model in our department who demonstrates passion, quality and excellence in nursing by continually striving to learn and become a leader,” said Cassandra Limberg, nursing manager, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital Emergency Department. “Not only is she a great nurse to work with, but she truly takes pride in being a nurse here.”

HSHS hospitals in Eastern Wisconsin include: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; and HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls. Each year, one nurse is chosen as Nurse of the Year. Nurses nominate a colleague from their unit, and those nominations are then reviewed by nursing leadership and the hospitals’ Professional Nurse Practice Council.

“All of us at Lakeland congratulate Desarae on receiving this prestigious award,” said Kerry Hamm, director of Lakeland’s nursing program. “Her dedication to serving patients and families, her HSHS colleagues and our community is an inspiration for all nurses. We are blessed and thankful that she is a member of the Lakeland family, and we have enjoyed watching her grow personally and professionally.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many difficulties, it has allowed Rohde to do what she loves most as a nurse – help people through difficult times.

“To slow the spread of COVID-19, we could not allow patients to have family members with them inside the emergency department for a period of time, which meant we all had to be more than just our patients’ medical care providers, but their family members too,” Rohde said. “This time has really reinforced for me, and many others, how important it is to be present and communicate with your patients.”

Rohde was also celebrated for becoming one of the first to offer to assist with administering COVID-19 vaccinations to the community at the Prevea Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Her caring for the community extends to her colleagues as well, as this past year she also organized a department-wide weight loss challenge in which her emergency department colleagues lost more than 150 pounds. And, during the holiday season, she led a toy drive at the hospital for children in need.

“Desarae is energetic and motivational when it comes to connecting the HSHS mission to the Sheboygan community,” said Loren Lortscher, director of clinical services at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital. “She also demonstrates a high level of technical skill and provides extreme care and compassion when she is with patients and their family members.” ❖



## VANCE HENNING '02

Vance Henning '02 is having a notable career with the City of Fond du Lac Police Department. This past spring, he was promoted from officer to detective, the latest in a series of accomplishments.

Last November, Henning was one of only 23 law enforcement officers in the United States to be selected by then-U.S. Attorney General William Barr for the Distinguished Service in Policing Award. There were 214 nominations for the award recognizing a total of 355 individual officers, deputies and troopers. The award recognizes individual state, local, and tribal sworn rank-and-file police officers and deputies for exceptional efforts in policing.

Henning, working alongside fellow award winners Detective Ryan Flood and Investigator Denny Vokes of the Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Office, sought to stem an increase in shootings, drug trafficking, illegal guns and gang activity; and the award recognized their achievements in removing illegal drugs, guns and violent criminals from city streets.

Henning helped form a coalition that included agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin that identified over 50 active, armed participants in the illegal drug trade, many with criminal gang ties.

Hundreds of hours of surveillance, interviews with numerous suspects and dozens of warrant executions led to the arrest of dozens of suspects, as well as the disruption of networks distributing cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine, including the largest single heroin seizure in the history of Fond du Lac.

Among his other noteworthy accomplishments, Henning was instrumental in helping build a local Drug Endangered Children Team, and he has provided countless hours of instruction and education for area employers and other groups on illegal drug activity awareness and recognition.

“Detective Henning has been an integral part of the department’s efforts to protect our city and the region from the scourge of violence and death that accompanies illegal drug trafficking,” said recently retired Chief of Police William Lamb.

“He shares a deep commitment to our mission to serve and protect this great city, and the pursuit of our department’s vision to be the agency that sets the standard in excellence in the law enforcement profession. He has worked tirelessly to earn this promotion and he will be an excellent addition to the detective bureau of the City of Fond du Lac Police Department.”

A Wisconsin native, Henning graduated from Lakeland with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice with a minor in sociology. He was a standout baseball player, helping lead the Muskies to two Lake Michigan Conference titles, a regional title and fifth-place finish in the 2002 NCAA Division III World Series. His accomplishments earned him induction into the Lakeland Athletics Hall of Fame.

After graduating from the Wisconsin Police Corps training program in Fort McCoy, Wis., he worked for five years for the City of Kenosha, Wis., Police Department before joining the Fond du Lac Police Department in 2007. He has served as a member of the SWAT Team since 2012. ❖



## ALI WILSON '21

Ali Wilson completed her undergraduate degree in three years. The list of what she accomplished makes it seem like she’s been a Muskie for much longer.

Wilson, who graduated summa cum laude in May with a bachelor’s degree in sport management and leadership, was named Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) Female Student-Athlete of the Year award for the 2020-21 academic year.

It’s only the second time in 15 years that someone from Lakeland has won the honor, as she joins K.C. (Blahnik) Kuehl, who won the award in 2009-10.

It is one of a lengthy list of awards and accomplishments for Wilson, an accomplished golfer who isn’t done yet. She is back at LU this fall to complete her athletic eligibility and finish a master of science in leadership and organizational development degree.

“Since I stepped foot on the Lakeland campus, I had a passion for sports and to lead,” Wilson said. “During my time as a Muskie, I have grown and developed in both respects. My communication and leadership have been the two most improved areas in my life during my three years as an undergraduate student-athlete.”

The Lincoln, Ill., native figured into a series of program firsts for the Lakeland women’s golf team. Wilson was named 2019 NACC Player of the Year after capturing individual medalist honors at the NACC Women’s Golf Championships.

At this past spring’s

NACC Championships, she led the Muskies to the program’s first team title in a playoff that secured the program’s first berth in the NCAA Division III Championships.

Wilson is a three-time all-NACC honoree after finishes of fourth (2018), first (2019) and third (spring 2021) in her first three NACC Championship opportunities.

A team captain since 2019, Wilson owns Lakeland’s career-low 18-hole score after carding a 4-over-par 75 at the Benedictine Spring Invitational in early April 2021. She also factored into the school-record 18-hole team total of 357 the Muskies posted at UW-Whitewater later that same month with an 82. Along the way, Wilson posted a stroke average of 89.35 with six event wins and 10 top-five finishes.

**Other accolades include:**

- NACC Scholar-Athlete and Lakeland University Dean’s List member in each of her three years.
- 2020-21 WGCA All-American Scholar.
- Finalist for the Clarence H. Koehler Campus Award, which is presented to the Lakeland student who best exemplifies Lakeland’s spirit through outstanding academic achievement, engagement in campus activities and commitment to the Lakeland community.



- Lakeland Athletics Woman of the Year in 2021.
- Lakeland’s Outstanding Sports Management and Leadership Student in 2021.

She was one of the founding executives of Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses, serving as lead event planner. She managed Launch’s takeover of Sheboygan’s popular Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament, the Sheboygan Memorial Day parade and Lakeland’s Blasters Golf Tournament. She also served as president for Lakeland’s Student-Athletic Advisory Committee (SACC) and an admissions ambassador.

Outside of Lakeland, Wilson served as a sports information assistant at Lincoln Christian University, as a tournament intern with the Illinois Women’s Golf Association and as a golf operations assistant at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, a golf course in Sheboygan Falls, Wis.

During the pandemic, she served as an event planning and public relations intern where she was a part of a team that helped coordinate and organize the Weltklasse Zurich Inspiration Games, a worldwide track and field event held simultaneously at seven different sites across North America and Europe, and The Method Fest Independent Film Festival.

“Being a sports management and leadership major, I think I have a greater purpose in life to advocate for all women and girls behind me looking to enter the sports industry,” she said. “I never will be able to give back to Lakeland what Lakeland gave to me. I am proud of myself for the footprints I left and will forever be proud to be a Muskie.” ❖





— ALUMS GIVING BACK —  
ANN (HARTEAU) BITTER

# PURE MICHIGAN: '93 graduate takes time to help fellow Yooper

This was a match made in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

When 1993 Lakeland graduate and veteran Kohler Elementary School teacher Ann (Harteau) Bitter got an email about hosting a student teacher in the fourth quarter of school year, she asked what school the student was from.

Lakeland.

"I can't say no to Lakeland," Bitter said.

The story gets better.

After agreeing to take the student teacher – Lakeland senior Abby Nylund – the name seemed familiar. Bitter did a web search, and discovered that Nylund played basketball at Lakeland and was from the UP, just like her.

Bitter grew up in Felch, Mich., and graduated in 1988 from North Dickinson High School.

Nylund grew up 33 miles away in Crystal Falls, Mich., and graduated in 2017 from North Dickinson's rival high school, Forest Park.

Small world.

"Everyone at Lakeland knew who she was," Nylund said. "They were like 'Oh Ann? She's great!' Then I heard she was in the Athletic Hall of Fame."

These Yoopers turned Muskies quickly got to know one another by comparing notes about back home. "Hey, do you know this person? Do you ever go here?" The answer was often yes.

Shortly after Nylund joined the fifth-grade classroom, Bitter started a unit on writing. "I tell a lot of stories, including stories about where I grew up, and use that to teach them how to write stories," Bitter said. "It was nice to have another person in the room who had context for my stories."

Nylund added, "She's telling the

I remember telling them I'm a small-town person and a K-12 school is what I want because that's what I came from in the UP."

Nylund came to Bitter's classroom after spending the first part of her student teaching experience in Sheboygan Falls with 4-year-old kindergarten students.

"I didn't know how nervous she would be about that transition," Bitter said. "She went from observing for a week to jumping right in with teaching math. It's nice to be able to be yourself with older students, but you have to get used to that being the norm."

"She's made a lot of progress. She got to know the students very quickly. Plus, I had a very personable, social, kind group."

Nylund, who is working this school year as a kindergarten teacher at Mason County Eastern Schools in Custer, Mich., admitted she was nervous initially because she had never experienced the older ages in elementary school, but she felt comfortable quickly.

Instruction was in person, although a few students switched in and out of virtual learning due to COVID situations, which gave Nylund additional valuable learning experiences.

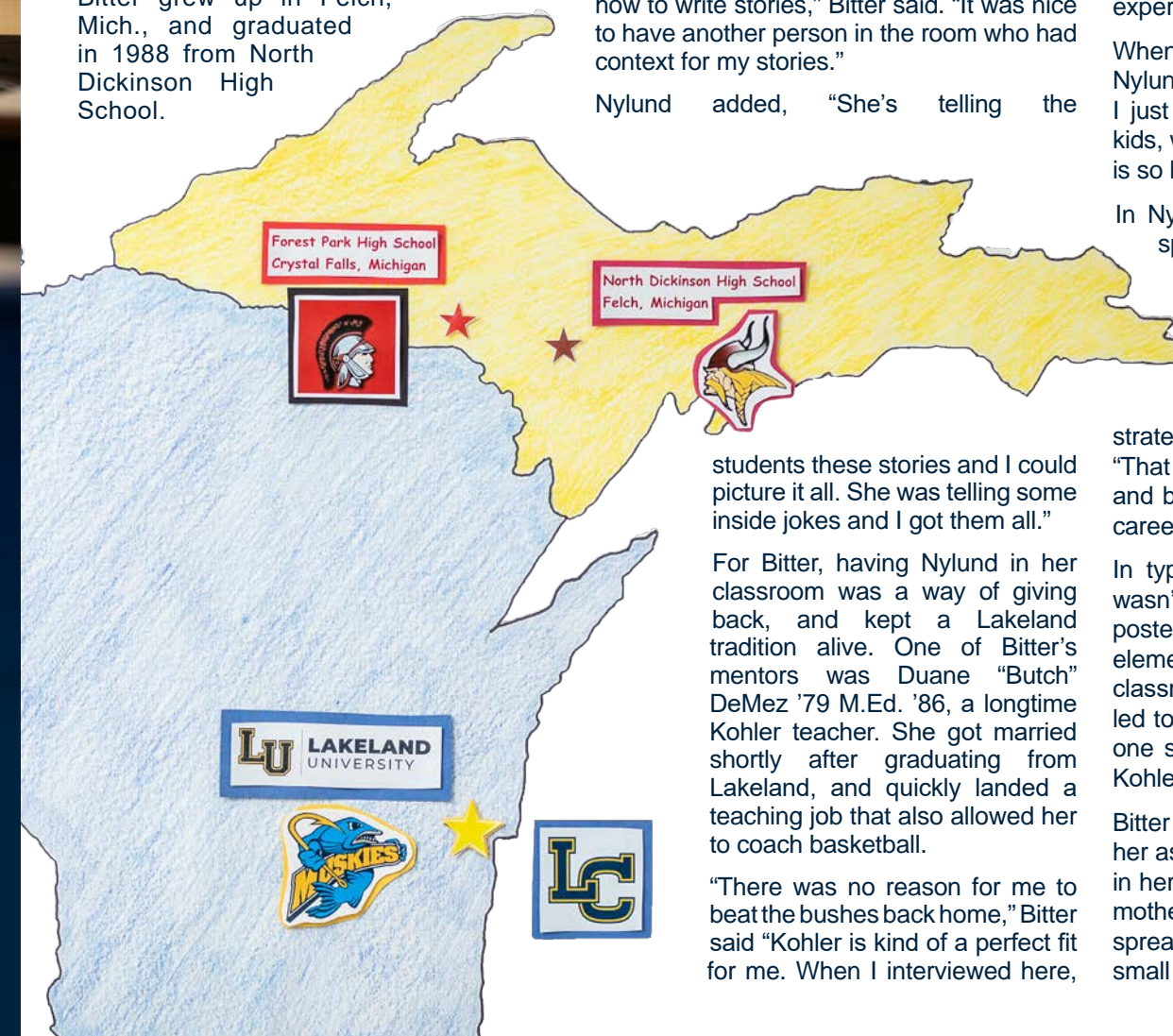
When asked what Bitter did that helped her, Nylund said with a smile, "Literally everything. I just watch Ann, the way she talks to the kids, what she says to them ... every little bit is so helpful."

In Nylund, Bitter found not only a kindred spirit, but a young teacher hungry for feedback.

"When you're learning classroom management and lesson management, Abby is almost immediately willing to try new strategies or make a change," Bitter said. "That ability to take guidance and advice and be so flexible will push her through her career."

In typical small-town fashion, Bitter's help wasn't limited to the classroom. Nylund posted on social media that she was seeking elementary level books for her future classroom. Bitter shared her request, which led to a carload of books from the parent of one student and a large donation from the Kohler Library.

Bitter had a few people from Felch contact her asking if she had a teacher named Abby in her classroom because they knew Abby's mother, Karen Nylund. Of course, word spread back home because, after all, it's a small town. ❖



students these stories and I could picture it all. She was telling some inside jokes and I got them all."

For Bitter, having Nylund in her classroom was a way of giving back, and kept a Lakeland tradition alive. One of Bitter's mentors was Duane "Butch" DeMez '79 M.Ed. '86, a longtime Kohler teacher. She got married shortly after graduating from Lakeland, and quickly landed a teaching job that also allowed her to coach basketball.

"There was no reason for me to beat the bushes back home," Bitter said "Kohler is kind of a perfect fit for me. When I interviewed here,



We had to make some adjustments due to COVID, but Homecoming in October was a fantastic celebration on a gorgeous day. We had a huge crowd for our big football win, and the baseball, softball and wrestling programs all welcomed Muskies back for activities. ❖



# ALMA MATTERS

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

**1956**

**William Schroeder**, of Woodland, Calif., celebrated 62 years of ordination and marriage this past June.

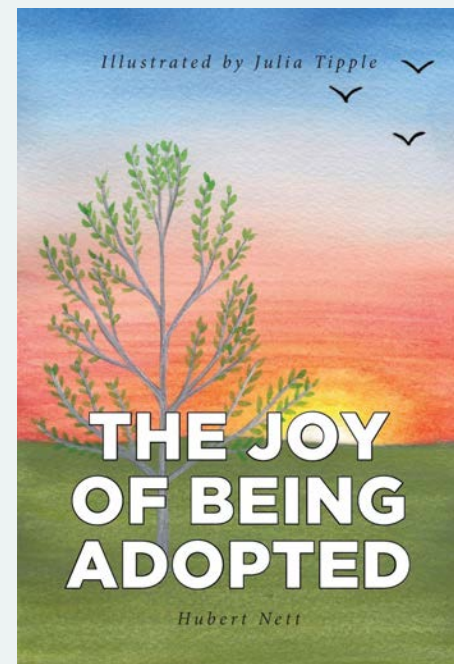
**1957**

**Selmer Spitzer**, of Bunkerville, Nev., started an all-volunteer full orchestra in Mesquite, Nev., in 2013. The group has grown in numbers and quality over the years and usually performs to a full-house audience. Because of COVID-19 they have not performed since February of 2020; but hope to return to rehearsals and concerts this fall.

**1960**

**L. Erik Torrison**, of Davenport, Iowa, was presented with the Iowa Lions Foundation-Warren Coleman Honorary Award for dedicated service in the spirit of Lions. He also received the coveted Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America for distinguish service to youth.

**1963**



**Hubert Nett** has authored a children's nature book, "The Joy of Being Adopted." The watercolor illustrations were done by his 15-year-old granddaughter, Julia Lipple. A

glimpse of the book and reviews is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). "A parcel of public property was to be developed for a walking path. Trees of many species and sizes were going to be destroyed. 'The Joy of Being Adopted' follows the life of a small birch tree as it is rescued by a family and then lives its remaining life in a small community. There are two messages in this children's story. First is that plants, like humans, have special needs and gifts and that these can be satisfied by adoption. Equally important is that animals and plants have the capability to love and be loved."

**1964**

**Tom Speich '67** has been reading books on Wisconsin's state-owned radio station for the blind for the past eight years. COVID interrupted trips and recording at the studio, but he now has a recording device at home which allows new readings for broadcast again.

**1968**

**Don Martineau**, of the Village of Loch Lloyd, Mo., celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in April and his 20th year as a volunteer/board member at Kansas City Rescue Mission.

**1970**

**Jo Drudge, of Rome City, Ill.**, received a Noble Legacy Award for 2020 from Gaslight Playhouse Inc., Noble County's oldest community theater organization. The award honors a person who has dedicated time and talent to Gaslight Playhouse, or to promoting the arts in Noble County. Drudge is well-known to generations of children who learned theater arts in Gaslight's summer Children's Theater Workshop for kids in grades 2-8. She directed the workshop since 1987 and retired in 2019.

**1979**

**Janice "Jan" Aikens** retired from the Orange County Library System in Orlando, Fla., this past January. She was a circulation clerk and worked at the library for more than eight years. Prior to that she was the communications manager for Girl Scouts of Citrus Council in Orlando and Paisano Girl Scout Council in Corpus Christi, Texas. Jan graduated from Lakeland with a degree in journalism. She was a lifestyles editor at two small newspapers in Indiana and Texas before joining the Girl Scouts.

She plans to enjoy retirement by traveling, reading, working on counted cross-stitch projects and exploring walking trails in the Orlando area.

**1981**

**Michael Schuh**, of Sheboygan, retired from Piggly Wiggly Midwest after 45 years of employment.

**1983**

**Andy Cerroni** was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in September. He has been the varsity boy's basketball coach at Sussex-Hamilton High School for 20 seasons, and before that he was varsity boys coach at Hartland Arrowhead from 1989-2000. He has more than 300 wins and made state tournament appearances with Arrowhead in 1992 and Hamilton in 2018.

Gary Larson, a professor of sport marketing in the Department of Media & Journalism at the University of South Dakota, earned the Johnson Family Outstanding Instructor Award, which is given to a faculty member in the College of Arts & Sciences who demonstrates outstanding classroom teaching and mentoring of students.

**1987**

**Jeff French '89 MBA**, who serves as Barron County Administrator, presented a program entitled "What Is a County?" in September at UW-Eau Claire-Barron County in Rice Lake, Wis. A life-long resident of Barron County, French was county finance director before taking his current role. He is licensed both as a certified public accountant and as an enrolled agent.

**1991**

**Andrew Viglietti**, of Glenbeulah, Wis., was named the Sheboygan Athletic Club (Sheboygan A's) first executive director last December.

**1991**

**James C Maas MBA '99**, of Sheboygan, Wis., celebrated retirement from a 44-year work history as a procurement professional in manufacturing. James and his wife, Lynne, also celebrated 40 years of marriage. He is currently serving as president of the board of directors of Camp Evergreen, which serves children and adults in She-

boygan with cognitive and other disabilities with a variety of services.

**1993**

**Connie Krupp**, of New Holstein, Wis., opened a new business, Wellness4life. She offers online courses, providing individual coaching via phone or Zoom, and in partnership with The Refinery Wellness Center in New Holstein is offering workshops on health and wellness. Connie and her husband have two children and five grandchildren.

**1995**



**Robert Daugherty**, vice president of talent acquisition at Lowe's Companies, Inc., was named Talent Acquisition Leader of the Year by HRO (Human Resource Outsourcing) Magazine at part of its 2021 HRO Today Forum, a three-day event that brings together HR's leading thinkers, practitioners, technologists and partners. Robert has been with Lowe's since January of 2000. He previously was head of global talent acquisition for American Airlines for over five years, and has worked in talent roles with Flowserve, Fannie Mae and Hewitt Associates.

**Patricia Scarlato** was hired immediately after graduation at the home office with American Express Financial Advisors, now American Financial Advisors. After a few years, Pat was selected to join a team of experts to develop software that would provide specific financial advice to accommodate each person's walk of life using financial planning software for up to six life financial planning areas throughout selected areas of the world. This resulted in seven patents to date.

## Put Your Checkbook Away

We have a new way for you to support Lakeland University that doesn't involve writing a check.

Here are some other simple ways you can give a powerful gift to help make a huge difference for Lakeland and its students while providing you with tax advantages:

- **Stocks:** Appreciated stock gifts are a great way to save on capital gains tax and reduce your taxable income while supporting Lakeland. Reach out to our Advancement office for the easy steps on how to direct your broker.
- **IRA Charitable Rollover:** Are you over 70.5? Directing a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA is one of the most tax-savvy ways to give. Simply direct your IRA custodian to make a distribution—you can then reduce your taxable income—to support Lakeland.

Did you know Lakeland accepts donor advised funds as well? Consider directing a grant from your DAF.

For detailed directions on how to make a stock, IRA charitable rollover or donor advised fund gift, please reach out to our Advancement department at 920-565-1023, extension 2161, or email [advancement@lakeland.edu](mailto:advancement@lakeland.edu). You can also visit [Lakeland.edu/give](https://www.lakeland.edu/give).

As always, please consult with your own tax and legal advisors when making a donation of this kind.



**Darcy (Lindelof) Johnson**, of Cedar Grove, Wis., has been named chief financial officer at Tormach Inc., a supplier of CNC machines. Prior to joining Tormach, Johnson worked with various clients as their interim CFO, partnering with Lauber Business Partners in Milwaukee. Before that, she worked for over five years as director of finance for Dynamic Solutions (DynaTrap), where she led all finance, IT and HR functions.

**1996**

**Michelle Kumbier** was named to the board of directors of Tenneco Inc. in August. She currently serves as a director of Abbott Laboratories and Teledyne Technologies Incorporated. Kumbier spent 23 years with Harley-Davidson, serving as chief operating officer from 2017 until retiring in April 2020. Prior to serving as COO, she held numerous executive leadership roles. She started her career in 1986 with Kohler Co.

**1997**

**Sara Rabe**, of Stoughton, Wis., has been

named interim pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Atkinson, Wis. She has been ordained 20 years and served congregations in Southern Wisconsin and Illinois, most recently Covenant Lutheran ELCA in Stoughton. Sara and her wife, Amy, have three children.

**2000**

**Ken Anderson '04 MBA**, of Sheboygan, Wis., was selected as a recipient of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Net Works Award in his role as South Shore Slam's head coach 16-Navy. The Net Works Award honors club coaches who went above and beyond to support their teams, clubs and community despite the loss of much of the 2020 season to the COVID-19 pandemic. "More personally, Ken showed that he was a lifeline for a few of his athletes. This team has an incredible bond, one that they will hold for a very long time, and we know it's because of the mentor that Ken is to all of them."

**2001**

**Jason Polcyn** and his wife, Katie moved to Shaktoolik, Alaska. Jason works as a special education aid and wrestling coach for the Paul F. Asickik, Sr. School. Between 2012-2019 he coached the Wolverine wrestling team to 16 separate team championship awards, numerous first-place finishers, 16 state qualifiers and was awarded Coach of the Year for Region 1 in Alaska.

**2002**

**Nicholas Reichhoff** recently earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy analysis at UW-Madison. He is director of school

## ALMA MATTERS

operations for the Sun Prairie Area School District.

### 2003

**Luke and Monica Pfeifer '06** became the new owners of Maxwell Mansion in Lake Geneva, Wis.

### 2005

**Richard Bowerman**, of Munising, Mich., has been appointed to the state's Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. He is the funeral director and vice president of Bowerman Funeral Home, Inc. He is appointed to represent professionals to a four-year term that began July 1, 2021. Rick and his wife, Renee (Steinert) Bowerman '05, have three daughters, Addie, Clare and Gina.

Carl T. Eriksson, of Shoreview, Minn., recently became a realtor and is now working with Coldwell Banker.

### 2006

**Holly Kohls**, of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., was featured on the Green Bay news when a construction crew found a time capsule from 1982 that featured her fifth grade class at Sevastopol School. She is self-employed helping Door County businesses stay viable through the pandemic. Holly is the mother of 2016 Lakeland graduate Alister Kohls.



**Jodie (Liedke) Mortag** and her husband, Jon, welcomed their daughter, Jolene, on Oct. 4, 2020. Jodie is an assistant professor of writing at Lakeland.

### 2007

**Camille Solberg** was recently promoted by the United States Agency for International Development to special advisor to the Bureau for Development, Democracy and Innovation. Previously, Camille was the special assistant to the senior advisor to the president on faith at the White House.

Email: solhouse5@aol.com

### 2008



**Travis MBA '10 and Brooke (Harrison) Miller '10 MBA '11** celebrated the birth of their fourth child, Faerynn Grace, on May 22, 2021. She joins siblings Brayden (6), Grayson (4) and Raelynn (2). Travis was recently promoted to vice president of supply chain operations at Advocate Aurora. Brooke is sales & marketing administrator at Aquarius Technologies LLC. The family lives in Belgium, Wis.

**Tim Romanello**, head men's soccer coach and facilities and events coordinator at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Ill., was named 2021 North Central Community College Conference Coach of the Year.

His team finished ranked sixth in national rankings and went 1-1 at the program's first national tournament appearance.



**Megan (Stock) Pickell '10 MBA**, of Libertyville, Ill., and her husband, Eric, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Anna, on Aug. 23, 2021. She joins older brothers Ryan and Tommy at home. Megan is director of program management (integration) at Takeda.

### 2009

**Travis Chell** was promoted this summer to assistant athletic director for athletic communications and external affairs at King University in Bristol, Tenn. Chell has worked as director of athletic communications at King for more than eight years.

### 2010



**Jake Frias '13 MAC** and his wife, Erin, celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Sophia Graciela, on Aug. 20, 2021. She joins big sister Mya at home. Jake was recently named high school counselor at Veritas High School in Milwaukee, Wis.



**Jake Heinemeyer and Paige Papineau '15** were married on June 5. The wedding party



included **Mitch Heinemeyer '07 '11 MAC**, **Sam Schroeder '11 '13 MAC** and **Ben Duenas '12**. Paige works as digital advertising strategist at Rocket Clicks and Jake is a school counselor and assistant football coach at the Ripon Area School District. The couple lives in Appleton.

**Joe O'Brien '13 MAC** and his wife, Megan, welcomed their daughter, Kinsley Layne, on August 24. Joe is dean of students and the varsity head football coach at Sheboygan North High School. Kinsley joins siblings Brody, Madison, Eli and Finnley.

### 2011

**Emily Rendall-Araujo MBA '14** began the role of director of senior services with the City of Sheboygan in December 2020.

**Sam Schroeder '13 MAC** and Brittany Jurek '14 got engaged on July 3, 2021. Sam is head men's basketball coach at Lakeland. Brittany is as admissions advisor at Lakeshore Technical College.

**Angela Thomas** returned to school for an accounting degree at Lakeland. Her story was highlighted in the WICPA On Balance Magazine Publication for May/June 2021. She was recently appointed to chair of the board of the Wisconsin Institute of CPAs.

### 2012

**Katie Koch**, of Galt, Cali., was featured on PBS last September for her work as a no-till farmer and local florist – all while navigating parenthood.

**Aaron Kraemer** served as the head coach for North Large All-Star Team in the annual Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Star Football Game. He is a high school social studies teacher, head varsity football coach and head track and field coach at Rhinelander, Wis., High School. Aaron and



his wife, Kayann (Botana) Kraemer '18, have one daughter, Clara.



**Rebecca (Littlefield) VandenLangenberg MBA '15**, of Neenah, Wis., and her husband, Evan, celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Jema Red, on Jan. 23, 2021. Rebecca is a lead cost estimator with Menasha Packaging.

**Becca VandenLangenberg MBA '15** and her husband, Evan, celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Jema Red VandenLangenberg, on January 23, 2021. Becca is lead cost estimator for Menasha Packaging and the family lives in Neenah, Wis.

### 2013



**Robby Frias '14 MBA** married Katie Thornton on Dec. 4, 2020, in Oak Lawn, Ill. The couple celebrated the birth of their son, Ryan James, on July 26, 2021. Robby has been an officer with the Worth, Ill., Police Department for five years.

**Dana (Henrichs) Hughley** started a new job as transportation analyst at The Vollrath Company in September. Dana and her husband, Logan Hughley '13, have a daughter, Jacee Lou.

**Seth Zipperer** was a recipient of the 2020 Future 15 Award, which are presented to 15 young professionals in Manitowoc County who have given back to the community, showed leadership and helped in many ways to make the area a great place to live and work.

### 2014

**Mikal and Tess (Myklebust) Anschutz '14**, of De Pere, Wis., celebrated the birth of their first child, Charlotte "Lottie" Ann, on June 4, 2021. She was 6 pounds, 15 ounces and 21 inches. Mikal is a financial advisor at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company. Tess is championship volunteer operations manager for the 2020 Ryder Cup at PGA of America.

**David Green**, of Dallas, Texas, was promoted to manager of inside sales with the Dallas Mavericks. He has worked for the team for nearly six years, and previously worked for the Los Angeles Clippers and Northwestern Mutual.

**Christian Jaskulski and Carley Flanery** got engaged in November. The couple plans to move to California, and Chris is starting a new job with the sales and marketing team at Stanford University.

## ALMA MATTERS



**Taylor and Rachael (Milner) Jandrin** were married on Nov.11, 2020. A reception was held this past summer in Green Bay due to COVID. Taylor is Door County community support program case manager. Rachael is a public health nurse in Door County. The couple lives in Sturgeon Bay, Wis

**Nic Malouf MBA** was named director of partnerships this past June with the Wisconsin Herd, the NBA G League affiliate of the Milwaukee Bucks. Nic spent the previous four years serving as EAA's senior business development manager, where he was responsible for all aspects of advertising and sponsorship sales. Nic also worked in a retail management role prior to his time at EAA.



**Tyler Oslund** was recently promoted to materials specialist at Pierce Manufacturing/Oshkosh Corporation, where he has worked for three years. His new role entails more people and project management, as well as more specialized materials tasks. Tyler and his wife, Alyssa, have two children, Adelyn (9) and Paisley (5), and the family lives in Little Chute, Wis.



**Charlie Sparrow** married Mara McKenzie on Oct. 18, 2020. Charlie is market development manager for Wisconsin at Sazerac Company. They are expecting their first child in 2022.



**Jenny (Kjin) and Trevor Tanck '15** celebrated the birth of daughter Chelsey Elaine on July 23, 2021. She joins older brother Micah at home in Sheboygan. Trevor is a commercial lines underwriter at Acuity Insurance, and Jenny is a registered yoga teacher at the Sheboygan County YMCA and at Lakeland.



**Justin and Taylor (Daus) Ward '14**, of Wisconsin Dells, Wis., celebrated the birth of their first child, Jaxson James Ward, on

March 8, 2021. He was 9 pounds, 8 ounces and 21 inches. Justin is sales manager at Holiday Shores Marina. Taylor is a chemistry teacher at Wisconsin Dells High School.

**John and Anna (Faust) Wormwood '15** both started new roles recently. John was promoted this summer to account manager in the Residential Generators Division at Kohler Co., where he has worked for more than seven years. Anna started this fall as a middle school special education teacher with the Howards Grove School District. They have one young son, Jack, and the family lives in Sheboygan, Wis.

2015



**Brooke Aiazzi** married Joe Miller in March 2021 in Scottsdale Ariz. The wedding party included Cole Aiazzi '15, Claire Cardarelle '15, Jenna Ward '16 and Shaina Carlson '15. Brooke is event coordinator at Central Arizona College. The couple lives in Phoenix, Ariz.



**Joey Burris** and his wife, Chelsea, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Camryn (Cami) Elizabeth Marie, in May. She joins older

brother Carter at home in Madison, Wis. Joey is an account manager at TEKsystems.

Kaitlin Deschane graduated with a master's degree in history from Harvard University Extension School in the spring of 2021.

**Kurt Jansen** recently was named a technical recruiter at STS Technical Services. Kurt and his wife, Gaby (Cappaert) Jansen '16, live in Howards Grove. She is senior account manager at Engaged Marketing Co. in Sheboygan.

**Lindsay Kleckner**, of Wauconda, Ill., was recently promoted from kennel technician to animal warden at Lake County Animal Care and Control.

**Aimee Thrune** started a new role as seventh grade math teacher at the School District of Lodi, Wis., this fall. She had been a teacher and coach for the past six years in the Oostburg School District. She is engaged to Erik Meyer and the couple are planning a May 2022 wedding.

2016

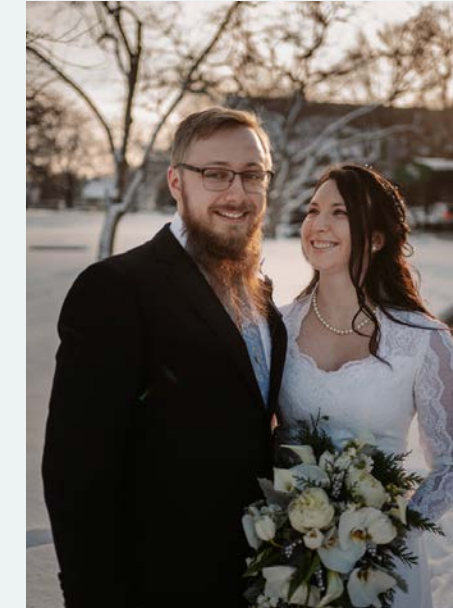


**Callie (Olson) Best** and her husband, Tyler, celebrated the birth of their first child, Graham Truman Best, on April 12, 2021. Callie is director of operations at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrison-Crawford Counties. The family lives in Corydon, Ind.

**Christopher Donlon**, of Elkhart Lake, Wis. was elected president of the In-Plant and Mailing Association Board of Direc-

tors (IPMA), serving a six-year term starting January 1, 2021.

2017



**Brianne Frank** married Jim Burton in January 2021. The wedding party included Hannah Scherer '18. Brianne is a junior R&D chemist at Sheboygan Paint Company. The couple lives in Sheboygan.

**Jacob Servais** started a new job at Hall of Fame and stadium tour sales executive with the Green Bay Packers this past summer. He previously worked nearly four years for the Eau Claire Express baseball team, serving over two years as the organization's general manager.

**Molly Talaska** is young professional public relations & administrative coordinator with the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce.

2018

**Rachel Conery** returned to Michigan's Upper Peninsula as a K-12 physical education teacher at North Dickinson County School in Felch, Mich. She had been working as health/wellness/recreation facilitator at the Senior Activity Center of Sheboygan.

**Becca Giessen MAC '21 and Marcus Williams '19** got engaged on June 11, 2021. The couples lives in Sheboygan and is planning an October 2022 wedding. Marcus is a correctional officer at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution. Becca is a school counselor at Washington Middle School in Manitowoc.

**Mason Ross and Meghan Etten '19** got en-



gaged on June 12, 2021. The couple lives in Green Bay and they are planning a fall 2022 wedding. Mason is an insurance underwriter for Family First Life. Meghan was recently promoted to financial analyst II at Schneider.

2019

**Miranda Jacobson** returned to Lakeland this fall as women's basketball graduate assistant coach. She had been working in resort management roles in California.

**Tori Lauren**, of Gwinn, Mich., recently was named Lake States fiber supply senior analyst at Verso Corporation, a producer of specialty and graphic papers, packaging and pulp.

**KJ Odom** started as an admissions counselor at Lakeland this summer. He is also a student in LU's master of science in leadership and organizational development program. He will work with the Milwaukee area/surrounding counties. Odom had been working as a member of the LU residence life team.

2020

**Isaac Anderson** returned to Lakeland this fall to become graduate assistant coach for the men's basketball program.



**Carlos Campus and Amanda Majewski '20** were married on June 26, 2021, in Peshigo,

ALMA MATTERS

Wis. The wedding party included **Abby Nylund '21** and **Hannah Kanyuh '20**. Carlos works as a graphic artist at Precision Marketing Group. Amanda is a 3-year-old teacher at KinderCare. The couple lives in Janesville, Wis.

**Rachel Hasko** was sworn in as an officer with the Sturtevant (Wis.) Police Department and she graduated from Gateway Technical College's Law Enforcement Academy.

**Brandon Herrin** started as an admissions counselor at Lakeland this summer. He will work with eastern and central Wisconsin, as well as the southeastern states.

**2021**  
**Nicole Barth MSLOD** received her commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in a ceremony held at Lakeland on July 31. Nicole's brother, Aaron, a 2018 Lakeland graduate, helped pin her Second Lieutenant bars on her uniform as part of the ceremony. Her father, Pete, is head cross country and track and field coach at Lakeland. Up next for Barth is six months basic officer course training in Quantico, Va., where she will learn infantry skills to be a platoon commander and train and evaluate her academic, leadership and military skills.

**Abby Baumgartner** is working as a graduate assistant coach with the Lakeland women's volleyball program.

**Josh Becker** was sworn in as officer in August with the Sheboygan Police Department.

**Tralese Campbell** is serving as a graduate assistant for Lakeland's master of arts in counseling program.

**Cameron Ekum** is working as a graduate assistant coach with the Lakeland women's volleyball program.

**Abby Nylund**, of Ludington, Mich., is a kindergarten teacher at Mason County Eastern Schools in Custer, Mich.

**Megan Will** signed to play professional basketball with Plamen Pozega, a team in the Republic of Croatia in Southeast Europe on the Adriatic Sea.

IN MEMORIAM

Ralph Mueller '58

Ralph Mueller, a 1958 Lakeland graduate and former Lakeland employee who devoted his life to giving, passed away on August 11, 2020. A celebration of Ralph's life was held in Marshfield, Wis., in October of this year.

Ralph grew up in Waukesha, Wis., and after graduating high school he attended Lakeland where he was re-acquainted with a fellow Lakeland student, Diane Danner '57. They knew each other casually from summer youth camps, and became better acquainted when they shared the stage in several Lakeland dramatic productions and when Ralph would give Diane rides home to Milwaukee. They were married in October of 1958, and their love of theater and music was something they would share all of their lives.

After graduation, Ralph worked at Lakeland for 17 years, starting in admissions and working his way up to development director and assistant to the president. Diane taught biology for a number of years and the couple lived on Prof Row for a time.

The couple moved to Pontiac, Mich., where Ralph was the development director and started the fundraising efforts at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for 10 years. Although the Muellers left the college campus, Diane and Ralph remained dedicated members of the Lakeland family. They regularly hosted Lakeland's annual Arizona alumni gathering, they were co-chairs of the Sesquicentennial Campaign and helped plan the celebration, and have been regulars at the annual Blasters golf tournament, Movers & Shakers Gala and other alumni gatherings throughout the year. Ralph and Diane were 1862 Society and Founders' Society members.

In 2015, the Muellers were honored with the President's Richard C. Preuhs '65 Award, which celebrates alumni who dedicate part of their career to Lakeland. Ralph received the Service to the College Award from Lakeland Alumni Association in 1977.

In 1984, Ralph and Diane moved to Marshfield, Wis., where Ralph began



work at Marshfield Clinic as development director for the then-Marshfield Medical Research Foundation. The Muellers received the Legacy of Philanthropy Award from the Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS) Foundation, which honors those who are widely recognized as community philanthropists and make a significant impact on Marshfield Clinic and the community.

In their later years, the Muellers split their time between their home in Marshfield and a winter residence in Mesa, Ariz.

In a 2010 interview for a story in Lakeland Magazine, Ralph credited his Lakeland experience for his impressive career. "I didn't care much about education when I arrived, but this place turned me on to it," Ralph said. "Lakeland has done everything for me. I wouldn't be where I am today and still enjoying it if not for the college."

IN MEMORIAM

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

Dean Lehman '45 of Huxley, Iowa, on Jan 7, 2021.  
Rev. Carroll J. Olm '46, of Whitewater, Wis., on Sept 26, 2020.  
LaVerne (Conrad) Fehrer '50 of West Bend, Wis., on July 27, 2020.  
Rev. Jean Paul Zenke '50 of Aitkin, Minn., on Oct. 26, 2020.  
Donald Koehn '50 of Hartland, Wis., on Jan. 6, 2021.  
Daniel Schowalter, '51 of Muskego, Wis., on Nov. 5, 2020.  
Frances (Thundercloud) Wentz '53 of Black River Falls, Wis., on Dec. 6, 2020.  
Dale Kuck '53 of Port Washington, Wis., on March 8, 2021.  
Betty (Seider) Spielvogel '55, of Shawano, Wis., on Oct. 7, 2020.  
Robert Long '56 of Storm Lake, Iowa, on Nov. 24, 2020.  
Gene Eckardt '56 of Sheboygan, Wis., on Aug. 3, 2021.  
Rudy Bertram '57 of Herman, Minn., on Dec. 12, 2020.  
Ann (Fledderjohn) Pergande '57 of Stow, Ohio, on Jan. 21, 2021.  
Ralph Mueller '58, of Marshfield, Wis. and Mesa, Ariz., on Aug. 11, 2020.  
Gilbert (Gib) Sternitzky '58, of Plymouth, Wis., on April 20, 2021.  
Beatrice A. Meyer '59, of Atlanta, Ga., on April 24, 2021.  
Karl A. Schleunes '59 of Charlotte, NC., on May 15, 2021.  
Leon Sanville '60 of Sheboygan, Wis., on Jan. 18, 2021.  
Ray Quasius Jr., '60 of Kiel, Wis., on Feb. 11, 2021.  
Robert Wagner '60 of Norwalk, Ohio, on Jan. 25, 2021.  
Jerome "Jerry" David Spalinger '60, of Sheboygan, Wis., on June 21, 2021.  
Paul Koepke '61 of Goshen, Ind., on Feb. 11, 2021.  
James Kleefisch '63, of Milwaukee, Wis., on Jan. 27, 2021.  
Cornelius Vander Zeyden '64 of Breitung Township, Mich., on Jan. 1, 2021.  
Philip Hayward '64 of The Villages, Fla., on Feb. 19, 2021.  
Mark DeWitt Everix '64 of Aurora, Ill., on March 7, 2021.  
Carolyn Latham "Carol" Mickley '64, Marysville, Ohio, on July 17, 2021.  
Frederick Phillip Kretlow '65, of Sarasota, FL., on July 19, 2021.  
Barbara (Fried) Pahr '65, of Plymouth, Wis., on Sept. 22, 2021.  
Carol (Levenhagen) Olson '66 of Alexandria, Va., on May 18, 2021.  
Julia Stettler '66 of West Bend, Wis., on Aug. 16, 2021.  
David W. Mayer '67 of Fredericksburg, Tex., on Jan. 7, 2021.  
Augusto Basombrio '59 of Neillsville, WI., on May 15, 2021.  
Kenneth Baroun, '69 of Allentown, Penn., on March 10, 2021.  
Constance "Connie" Y. Richardson '69, of Sheboygan, Wis., on June 27, 2021.  
James T. Holl '69 of Oregon, Ohio, on Aug. 5, 2021.  
Terry Thiessen '70 of New Holstein, Wis., on May 27, 2021.

Jane Steffen '70 of Brownfield, Maine, on April 13, 2021.  
Elease "Skip" Davis Jr '70, of Mason, Ohio, on Aug. 25, 2021.  
Alan L. Beach '71 of Saint Joseph, Mich., on Dec. 26, 2020.  
Lawrence John "Larry" Kaderabek '72 of Manitowoc, Wis., on April 28, 2021.  
Carole Kay Loehr (Hewes) '73 of Fond Du Lac, Wis., on May 30, 2021.  
Cathy (Carline) Wankle '73 of Oracle, Ariz., on Feb. 6, 2021.  
Carole Kay Loehr (Hewes) '73 of Fond du Lac, Wis., on May 30, 2021.  
Alvina J. Horzen '74 of Oshkosh, Wis., on Nov. 11, 2020.  
Mary Blissett '76 of Reading, Penn., on Sept 23, 2020.  
Joseph Ziegler '77 of Sheboygan, Wis., on Nov. 2, 2020.  
Peggy A. Kress '78 of Sheboygan, Wis., on Dec. 23, 2020.  
Judith Kroll-Brooks '83 of Oshkosh, Wis., on Oct. 29, 2020.  
David A. Dever '84 of Sheboygan, Wis., on Dec. 10, 2020.  
Gary Williams '84 of Fort Myers, Fla., on Apr. 12, 2021.  
Evelyn Vastis '85, of Lakemoor, Ill., on June 16, 2021.  
Bruce Hillman '87, of Merrillville, Ind., on Sept. 10, 2021.  
Jeffrey C. Ritter '87 of Madison, Wis., on May 14, 2021.  
Irrussell Williams-Edwards '89 of Marvell, Ariz., on Dec. 17, 2020.  
L. Scott Crandall '91 of Stevens Point, Wis., on Aug. 24, 2020.  
Mary Mikolajczak '91 of Green Bay, Wis., on Feb. 19, 2021.  
Ken Welker '98 of Green Bay, Wis., on Oct. 31, 2020.  
Susan Margo (Jackson) Oullette '99 of Waukesha, Wis., on Sept 4, 2020.  
Velta M. Clark-Hill '99 of Port Arthur, Texas, on Sept 28, 2020.  
Linda A. Burlingame '01, of Chippewa Falls, Wis., on June 9, 2021.  
Debbie Degefa '01, of Upper Darby, Penn., on April 18, 2021.  
Richard Sullivan '02 of Eau Claire, Wis., on March 17, 2021.  
Jolynn (Schefsky) Kuehl '05 of Sheboygan, Wis., on March 7, 2021.  
Jay Thomas Rollin '05, of Green Bay, Wis., on July 2, 2021  
Sanata Lau '05, of Marshfield, Wis., on July 7, 2021.  
Cindy Dates '06, of South Beloit, Ill., on Sept. 23, 2021.  
Brian Kluender '07 of Wisconsin Rapids, Wiis., on May 9, 2021  
Gina M. Bogenschutz '08, of Neenah, Wis., April 24, 2021.  
Kevin Hildebrand '08 of Lemont, Ill, in September 2020.  
Gail (Boelter) Karstaedt '08 of Sheboygan, Wis., on March 17, 2021.  
Jennifer Pagel '11 of Kimberly, Wis., on Nov. 2, 2020.  
Amanda Conrad MAC '12 of Freedom, Wis., on Oct. 19, 2020.  
Jerilyn Marie Johnson '19, of Bowler, Wis., on June 18, 2021.  
Randall James Moyer '20, of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., on July 19, 2021.

# scene on campus

## 2008 graduate delivers Opening Convo Keynote

Kempton Freeman '08, cultural advisor for the Appleton (Wis.) Area School District, delivered the keynote address at Opening Convocation in September as Lakeland celebrated the start of the 2021-22 academic year in the Bradley Theatre.



Kempton Freeman '08 delivered the keynote address at Opening Convocation in September as Lakeland celebrated the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

The first in his family to graduate from high school and college – and he is on track to add a master's degree to his resume in May of 2022 – Freeman returned to Lakeland as an

accomplished leader who is a strong advocate for racial justice, education and inclusivity.

Lakeland has become a staple in his life, Freeman said, and the audience included members of his family and close friends he gained as a Lakeland student.

“Be thankful for your time here,” Freeman told the students. “Take your time and enjoy it. Cherish friendships and the bonds you will make here. Lakeland changed me in ways I never would have imagined.”

Freeman created the first Black History Month celebration for the Appleton School District, an event now in its fourth year. He's also worked with Fox Valley city leaders on race relations and other topics.

## Online accounting program earns national accolades

Accounting.com has ranked Lakeland University #5 on its Most Affordable Online Bachelor's in Accounting Programs of 2021 list.

The website applauded Lakeland for its plentiful scholarship opportunities for online students, noting the William R. Kellett Scholarship that offers renewable aid, awarding \$5,000 annually to full-time students.

The website says of Lakeland's program, “Students have the luxury to switch between online, hybrid, and in-person courses to meet their academic needs. The school offers a fraud and forensics track for accounting majors, which can set up students in a career to identify and report corporate crimes. The program values real life experience and places students in internships with major institutions like Bank First National, Sargento Foods and the IRS.

“The online accounting program familiarizes students with many aspects of real-world accounting jobs. One of the school's core goals involves teaching desirable universal skills such as problem-solving and asset management.”

## Nearly 700 earn degrees at 159th commencement

Lakeland awarded degrees to nearly 700 students on May 1 at the institution's 159th commencement.

Lakeland awarded 690 students degrees as part of the ceremony, including 483 undergraduates and 207 graduate students. LU held three in-person ceremonies at Taylor Field on Lakeland's main campus. The ceremonies were live streamed, and Lakeland also held two virtual ceremonies.

As part of the ceremony, Lakeland honored two of its own.

- David Black, who served as Lakeland's president twice and retired at the end of this academic year, was named President Emeritus. Black's two presidencies – from 1989-97 and 2017-21 – saw some of the most significant growth in Lakeland's history.
- Mehraban Khodavandi, who retired at the end of the 2019-20 academic year after 39 years as a member of Lakeland's faculty, was named professor emeritus. Khodavandi led and developed the institution's education program, and he served many leadership roles during his tenure.

Speakers at the three ceremonies were Louie Gentine, owner and chief executive officer of Sargento Foods; Sister Lorna Zemke, retired director of the Kodaly Programs and director of graduate music at Holy Family College

in Manitowoc, Wis.; and 1970 Lakeland graduate Dave Pierce, assistant professor and undergraduate sport management coordinator at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, Mo.

All three received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

## Lakeland names top teacher for 2021

Britanni Meinnert, instructor of hospitality management and a two-time Lakeland graduate, was named the 2021 winner of the annual Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Meinnert, who also serves as chair of Lakeland's Business and Technology Division, was Lakeland's 30th winner of the Underkofler, which recognizes outstanding performance in undergraduate teaching.

A full-time member of Lakeland's faculty since 2015, Meinnert is known for being an enthusiastic advocate, advisor and mentor for her students and a joyful colleague. She is the architect of countless field trips, experiential learning opportunities, practicums, Co-Ops and internships that set her students up for post-graduation success.

In nominating Meinnert for the Underkofler Award, students offered these thoughts:

- “Professor Meinnert's way of teaching is like nothing I've ever experienced. She is easily the most personable and understanding teacher I have ever had, and she makes learning fun and easy. I struggled a lot my first year at Lakeland, and after taking classes with Prof. Meinnert, she helped me realize that I can be successful in college.”
- “Britanni is an expert in the hospitality industry, and her experiences shine through in her teaching. As someone currently working in the industry, I love comparing her experiences to my own.”
- “Britanni has pushed me in the classroom more than any other



Britanni Meinnert was the winner of the 2021 Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

teacher, and it has shown me that I am capable of so much more than I previously thought. I honestly do not think I would still be in college if it wasn't for her. Britanni is a person that I look up to and is a role model for me and a number of other students.”

Meinnert, who graduated from Lakeland in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management and again in 2010 with a master of business administration, draws from 14 years of working in the hospitality industry.

## MAC program leader wins state-wide award

Deborah Bilzing, Ed.D., who recently retired as director of Lakeland's Master of Arts in Counseling program, was the 2021 recipient of the Mary Gehrke-McAllister Leadership Award presented by the Wisconsin School Counselor Association (WSCA).

This award annually recognizes individuals within the school counseling profession who demonstrate profound impact on the school counseling profession and lives of students. Bilzing's nomination included multiple examples of how she exemplifies what a leader within the school counseling profession represents.

In announcing the award, the WSCA said, “Dr. Bilzing goes above and

beyond by making a personal connection while also supporting students and faculty in her program. Dr. Bilzing always engages the voices of key stakeholders in her roles. She has sought a curriculum that reflects experiences and perspectives of diverse populations. Dr. Bilzing has worked to develop a counseling faculty and pedagogy that reflects diversity, equity and inclusion.”

Bilzing became director of Lakeland's MAC program in January of 2010. Under her leadership, the program ensured that MAC program graduates had pre-approval from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and from the Department of Public Instruction.

## LU, local schools announce teacher collaboration

Lakeland and the Sheboygan Area School District (SASD) are collaborating on a local solution to a national issue by home-growing more Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) teachers for SASD.

The Kohler Teaching Scholars Program, made possible by funding from the Kohler Trust for the Arts and Education, will provide scholarship support that, coupled with Lakeland's Cooperative Education program, will create a unique, competitive pathway for Lakeland students to become SASD teachers and make a difference in the Sheboygan community.

The partnership addresses a need. Nationally, more than half of public school students are BIPOC, but only 18 percent of teachers are. Additionally, the number of education degrees earned dropped 15 percent from 2008 to 2015, according to a 2019 study by the Economic Policy Institute. The turnover rate for BIPOC teachers is 20-23 percent higher than for white teachers, according to an article in the February 2021 American School Board Journal.

In Sheboygan, approximately 49% of SASD students are BIPOC, while less than 3% of their teachers look

like them.

Lakeland and SASD are piloting an immersion school through LU's Co-Op program at Wilson Elementary School in Sheboygan. Lakeland students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in teaching learn pedagogical techniques from SASD teachers.

In addition to attracting more students into Lakeland's education program through this initiative, Lakeland will offer scholarships to SASD juniors and seniors who are enrolled in dual credit courses that lead into Lakeland's education program.

### Lakeland faculty news

Three Lakeland faculty members were recently promoted by the LU Board of Trustees, and two were awarded tenure.

- **Andrew Karls, Ph.D.**, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of biology.
- **Nathan Stewart, Ph.D.**, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of communication.
- **Iskra Gencheva, Ph.D.**, of the Tokyo, Japan, campus was promoted to associate professor of humanities and history.



Lakeland held its commencement ceremonies outside for the first time in decades to accommodate for COVID as LU celebrated its Class of 2021.

"As a large school system, it is imperative that the Sheboygan Area School District is able to attract and retain quality educators who reflect the diversity of our student body. The ability to enhance our partnership with Lakeland University to grow and develop future teachers through the support provided by the Kohler Teacher Scholars Program will certainly help in achieving this goal," said Seth Harvatine, superintendent of the Sheboygan Area School District.

Stewart joined the Lakeland faculty in 2017. He has distinguished himself as a gifted and innovative educator, dedicated to academic rigor and student growth. He has pioneered strategies for student engagement in multiple course formats and thoroughly revised the communication curriculum to meet the changing demands of his field and the needs of LU students, including the integration of Cooperative Education in the major.

Karls joined Lakeland in 2015. He is a

dedicated and serious teacher with a passion for working with fellow faculty to improve the Lakeland experience for all students. An expert in human physiology and biochemistry, Karls regularly incorporates applied research utilizing human kidney cell lines into his biology courses so that students can actively connect their knowledge to the world around them.

Gencheva joined Lakeland's faculty in 2010 and became a full-time assistant professor in 2012. She is a well-respected teacher whose commitment to developing subject matter expertise is matched only by her support for the success and well-being of her students. She is a world-renowned and award-winning scholar in ancient history and late antiquity who has used her work and accomplishments to introduce students to the research process and to promote LUJ in Japan and abroad.

Lakeland welcomed three new full-time faculty members to the main campus this fall.

- **Aimee Burns, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of communication.
- **Robert B. Callahan, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of business administration.
- **Joe Pollock**, who has taught for Lakeland as an adjunct instructor over the past year, assistant professor of studio art.

Burns recently successfully defended her doctoral dissertation to complete a Ph.D. in Media and Communication from Bowling Green State University. Her emphasis area was interpersonal communication, and her work included a graduate certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her dissertation is titled "Identity and Romantic Relational Meaning-Making After Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence."

Callahan comes to Lakeland from Holy Family College in Manitowoc where he served as the institution's president. He was instrumental in reversing long-term declines in freshmen enrollments

and improving the financial position of that institution prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has served as an enrollment manager and senior level administrator at Mount Mercy University, Urbana University and Keuka College.

Pollock has more than 15 years of experience teaching studio art and graphic design courses in diverse academic settings, ranging from K-12 to higher education. In addition to his diverse set of skills in studio art and design, Pollock also works in the areas of video production and motion graphics, exploring their potential as communicative mediums for artistic expression and personal narrative.

### Green Bay Center partners to create new family shelter

Lakeland's Green Bay Center is partnering with the Oneida Nation community to help with the opening of a new family shelter.

Safe Shelter, 2155 Hutson Road in Green Bay, Wis., will open this fall for individuals in need. The shelter will provide 14 family rooms of various sizes, giving local families or single adults in need a clean, safe place to live.

Lakeland organized a drive to collect donations of items needed in the shelter. Additionally, one of Lakeland's students is doing marketing and fundraising for the shelter as a Cooperative Education project, giving the new space some additional assistance as it gets started.

"We are working directly with both the student and Safe Shelter to provide all we can to make all parts of this project a success," said Green Bay Center Director Jennifer VandenAvond. "This partnership and project are wonderful examples of how we can leverage our resources with our community partners to make great things happen in our community."

### Exercise science student places third at international conference

LU exercise science student Hunter Frisk recently placed third in the Young

Investigator Award competition at the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports research competition. It was part of the 39th annual conference in Canberra, Australia, in September.

Frisk virtually presented the study titled, "Kinematic and kinetic features of the horizontal hang clean performed with a variety of loads." Co-authors include Lakeland exercise science students Megan Gold, Brian Biggs, former Lakeland student Maximus Ramming and Associate Professor of Exercise Science William Ebben.

"This is an amazing achievement, to receive such a recognition at a large, prestigious international biomechanics conference," Ebben said. "Hunter did an outstanding job, and the co-authors deserve credit as well."

Gold also virtually presented the study titled, "Biomechanical analysis of loaded plyometric exercises." Co-authors included Frisk, Biggs, Madison Blankenship and Ebben.

Ebben said Lakeland students were likely the only undergraduates presenting research at this conference.

Frisk's award continues a trend of research excellence as evidence by other research awards, including the same award which was won by Lakeland University graduate Garrett Duffin in 2019.

Both studies will be published as papers in the conference proceedings.

### Successful alums share expertise with current students

Lakeland held its annual academic colloquium sessions last December. These virtual events were great opportunities for current LU students to network with successful Lakeland graduates, who shared their post-graduation stories and tips for success.

### Science, Technology & Education Colloquium

Featured Alumni Panelists:

- **Emily Desjardins**, Registered nurse.
- **Megan Gomez '16**, Assistant

district attorney, La Crosse County.

- **Megan Horzen '12**, Seventh grade English-language arts teacher, Urban Middle School.
- **Grace Jairo '11**, Research scientist, CDC Foundation.
- **Tristan Lubinski '06**, Senior translational genomics scientist, AstraZeneca.

### Humanities & Fine Arts Colloquium

Featured Alumni Panelists:

- **Karina Aguirre Vazquez '19**, Intake coordinator, certified application counselor, Lakeshore Community Health Care.
- **Gwen Seeboth '97**, Owner, Seeboth Delicatessen.
- **Vanessa Vander Weele '15**, Volunteer and community engagement coordinator, Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County.

### Business & Entrepreneurship Colloquium

Featured Alumni Panelists:

- **Rylee Hernandez '13**, Head men's basketball coach, Williston State College.
- **Brad Kopetsky '01**, Senior vice president and assistant general counsel, Northern Trust Corporation.
- **Dale Kooyenga '00**, State senator, CFO at Qualified Water Systems & Major in the U.S. Army Reserves.
- **Terri Yoho '84**, former Executive director, Kohler Foundation.

### Students will benefit from new addition to library

Lakeland's John H. Esch Library welcomed the Hayssen Academic Resource Center this fall to its new home on the second floor.

The HARC's move from Old Main helps further establish the library as an academic hub to meet the needs of 21st century students.

The HARC is the primary home for Lakeland's academic tutors and

provides all students a quiet place to study or do group work.

The space includes two flex rooms similar to the popular spaces in the Younger Family Campus Center that provide students access to large flat screens for group work.

There are two test rooms for those needing special accommodations or a proctor to take an exam. Those spaces can also be used by individual students as study spaces when not being used for testing.

Students have access to tea and coffee as well as numerous study aids like post-in notes, multiple-color highlighters and stress balls.

The HARC traces its roots back 20 years when the Hayssen Family Foundation provided funds to create a space for an academic resource center on the third floor of Old Main Hall. Initially there was one, large open area and six computers that used dial-up modems to connect to the campus network.

The HARC grew over years thanks to funding from the Hayssen Family Foundation and the Bemis Foundation that provided for offices and testing rooms and upgraded computers.

Chicago native wins 56th annual Koehler Award

Tralese Campbell, a senior from Chicago, Ill., majoring in criminal justice, won the 56th annual Clarence H. Koehler 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" through 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 2021 Koehler Award were Janai' Farr, Megan Goeser, Abby Juozapaitis, Trenton Nickel and Ali Wilson.

Campbell is a graduate of Providence



Tralese Campbell, a senior from Chicago, Ill., won the 56th annual Clarence H. Koehler Award.

St. Mel High School who attended Lakeland as a Hurvis Scholar, which is financially supported by the Caerus Foundation. Motivated by her academic success and her concern for others, Campbell is putting together an impressive, versatile record of service and involvement during her time at Lakeland.

She got involved with LU's People of Virtue organization that led to her mentoring children at Jackson Elementary School in Sheboygan. From there, she became a Lakeland Resident Assistant, a role that allowed her to serve her peers as a mentor, resource and role model.

Those experiences opened the floodgates for her involvement at Lakeland. She became captain of

the LU Cheer team, which led to participation in a number of campus-wide events including the inaugural Pride Walk to support the LGBTQ community, International Food Festival, International Night and Essence of Heritage as she embraced Lakeland's diversity.

She was a member of the Black Student Union and Global Student Association, and she was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Campbell is now a graduate assistant for LU's master of arts in counseling program. She plans to go to law school and aspires to be a judge focusing on juvenile delinquency and related issues. ❖

Welcome to the family

Two experienced fundraisers and relationship builders joined Lakeland's advancement team this year.

- **Taylor S. Loest** joined LU as associate vice president of advancement in April.
- **Sarah Rudnick** joined Lakeland as director of corporate and foundation relations in October.

Loest manages the advancement team, which includes fundraising and alumni relations. He manages LU's major gifts program while developing and executing strategies, programs and initiatives for the effective identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of major gift prospects.

He came to Lakeland from the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wis., where he served as corporate relations coordinator for three years. In that role, he engaged small businesses and large corporations who supported JMKAC, created successful new partnerships and helped the institution grow its support.

Prior to joining the JMKAC, Loest

spent eight years as a member of the development team at his alma mater, Ripon College, in Ripon, Wis., including two years as director of major giving. He was part of a team that led Ripon's first comprehensive campaign in 25 years that grew the college's endowment from \$40 million to almost \$80 million in five years. He was also part of a team that launched the first brick and mortar campaign in institutional history to meet a \$4 million cash requirement for a USDA rural development loan.

His professional career also includes working at the Brandon Public Library for just over four years, including serving as library director, and 10 seasons as Ripon High School's theatre director.

Loest received a masters of arts in arts administration from Goucher College in Baltimore, Md., a bachelor's degree from Ripon with a double major in history and theatre and an associate of arts and science from the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac.

Loest lives in Sheboygan with his wife, Katie, and their children.

Rudnick will take the lead in raising funds for the university by building and maintaining relationships with some of Wisconsin's largest corporations—many of them found locally in Sheboygan County—and regional foundations. She will identify programs and needs that align with existing and future corporate and foundation support.

She will also serve as the advancement liaison to Lakeland's award-winning Cooperative Education program, creating stronger bonds that advance student experiential learning and expand philanthropic support to control



Sarah Rudnick

the cost of higher education.

Rudnick came to Lakeland from St. Norbert College where she served as director of grant development for 11 years. She identified funding opportunities from federal, state, local and private foundation and guided faculty and staff through the application process from initial proposal development to submission and award administration. She was instrumental in applying for and receiving a NSF S-STEM award for just shy of \$1,000,000 as well as a DOJ Campus Grant for \$300,000.

Prior to her job at St. Norbert, she served as development director for the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing in Chicago. She received a law degree from DePaul University College of Law and a bachelor's with a double major in legal studies and history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She lives in Elkhart Lake with her husband, Paul, and their daughter. She is a member of the Elkhart Lake School Board and the Elkhart Lake Library Board. ❖



Taylor S. Loest



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