



LAKELAND

THE MAGAZINE OF LAKELAND UNIVERSITY

WINTER
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ISSUE 1



The Mighty
MUSKIES

MA 23

The Mighty MUSKIES



Beth Borgen



Joshua Kutney



Luong Xuan Vu



Riley Jahnke

Move over, X-Men. Assemble somewhere else, Avengers. There's a new superhero team ready to save the day!

The Mighty Muskies are a marvelous mix of terrific talent that has Lakeland University and its students positioned for long-term success.

- ▶ Our fearless leader, **President Beth Borgen MBA '11**, armed with her perspective as a first-generation college grad and lifelong learner, leads creation of the strategic plan that sets the vision and tone for our institution's bright future.
- ▶ Whether he's leading a faculty meeting as our vice president for academic affairs or teaching a class of first-year students, **Joshua Kutney** has a bird's eye view of all things related to academics. Lakeland's executive vice president excels at developing academic programs and strategic partnerships that set up all students for success.
- ▶ **Luong Xuan Vu** earned his associate degree from our Japan campus. This computer science major is leaping into American culture by studying at our Wisconsin campus as part of his global academic journey.
- ▶ Talk about a powerful energy source! **Riley Jahnke** graduated in just 2.5 years with some incredible superpowers. A leader on the women's soccer team, Riley's work experience through Co-Op and Launch helped her secure a job before graduation.
- ▶ Lakeland has always been a leader in online education. **Rachel Ware Carlton**, dean of Lakeland's Kellett School, leads a visionary group that's always finding new ways for students to conveniently access their coursework.
- ▶ A native of Puerto Rico, **Roseily Carrasquillo** is a sophomore moving forward with lightning speed as a biochemistry major and a member of the Muskies volleyball team.
- ▶ **David Simon '99** is a powerful presence at Lakeland, leading the student and residence life teams along with campus safety, dining services and wellness. This Lakeland grad provides an anchor for many Muskies by guiding foundational programs our students need to succeed.
- ▶ Charles Xavier has got nothing on **Jeff Spence '83**. As the chair of Lakeland's Board of Trustees, this Lakeland grad leads the group that provides an omniscient presence for all things Lakeland.

Our cover was created by Bill Kuffel, an illustrator and graphic designer based in Central Wisconsin. He is the uncle to Lakeland graduates Catie Campion (2011) and Nathalie Cairo (2021), and brother to Lakeland Director of Library Services Ann Penke. More of his work can be viewed at his online portfolio, www.coroflot.com/wkuffel, or at [instagram.com/billustrating](https://www.instagram.com/billustrating).



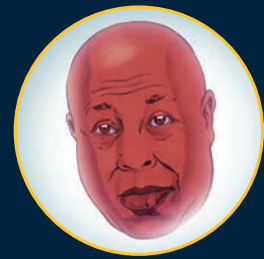
Rachel Ware Carlton



Roseily Carrasquillo



David Simon



Jeff Spence

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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

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.

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Does a college degree still matter?

Now, more than ever, the value of our contribution to society is being questioned. There is a heightened focus on college debt and 1.3 million fewer college students in the country than before the pandemic.

Does it still pay to attend a private, liberal arts university?

At Lakeland, we believe the answer is a resounding “yes” – an education grounded in the liberal arts has never been more important than it is today.

We teach our students to inquire into the world around them, develop the capacity to see other viewpoints and pursue goals that are personally meaningful while also beneficial to the public good.

Further, we know this crucial project takes full shape when students can connect the lessons of the classroom to practical experiences through cooperative education placements framed around authentic questions, problems and opportunities. Our employer partners agree and regularly speak to their strong desire for workers who can think critically, work in teams, communicate effectively and solve problems.

Is a private liberal arts education worth it? Yes, especially at Lakeland, where we intentionally pair liberal arts with experiential learning in a way that solves the college debt questions for students and their families.

This issue of Lakeland magazine states our case nicely, as these pages detail the many ways we are preparing our students for the next chapters of their lives. It also includes some inspiring stories about current students, as well as alumni who are making a difference.

Here's a quick preview:

- You'll meet Riley Jahnke, who earned her four-year LU degree in 2.5 years by taking a pathway that will become more and more common for Lakeland students.
- Big things are happening at our center locations around the state as we moved into new homes in the Fox Cities and Madison. We also signed important partnerships with several technical colleges to make it easier for students to earn a bachelor's degree.
- You'll learn more about the exciting things happening at our new downtown Sheboygan location, Jake's, A Lakeland Community, and how Lakeland is becoming a

leader in entrepreneurship and innovation for this region.

- We signed important agreements with the Sheboygan Area School District and Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation in 2022 that continue to position us as an important resource for this region.
- We are proud to launch an inclusive post-secondary college education program this fall for students with intellectual disabilities.

The pandemic has transformed higher education in ways we could not have envisioned, but we used 2022 to move Lakeland forward and we are well-positioned for the future.

None of our programs and services would be in place without the continued support of our alumni and community. A Lakeland education continues to matter, add value and make a difference in today's society. I hope this issue – which is a yearbook, of sorts, for our many accomplishments in 2022 – not only documents how Lakeland is adding value but gives you a sense of pride.

Thank you for your support of our mission and our students.

With Gratitude,
Beth Borgen, DBA
President



Entrepreneurs have opportunities to **CREATE** at **Jake's, A Lakeland Community.**



Sydney Pingitore '22 and Stephanie Hoskins

As Lakeland approaches the first anniversary of acquiring its downtown Sheboygan presence, Jake's, A Lakeland Community has quickly positioned itself as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship for the region. Led by talented entrepreneur Stephanie Hoskins, LU's inaugural Herbert Kohler & Frank Jacobson Chair for Business and Entrepreneurship, the multi-building space at 529 Ontario Ave. in Sheboygan is a destination for a variety of projects and events that is bringing the business community together.

"It's been really exciting," Hoskins said. "I love having that blank slate to develop programs and events that address what this ecosystem needs. We are working closely with several Sheboygan County

organizations, which has helped us to hit the ground running and deliver programs that are needed."

Jake's, A Lakeland Community is housed in the former Jake's Café, which was created by noted Sheboygan businessman Tryg Jacobson in honor of his parents, Frank "Jake" and Elizabeth "Betty" Jacobson, as a space that attracted and nurtured a community of creative people from all walks of life. Hoskins said that mission remains a core part of her vision.

"What we realized quickly is this area needs that physical location where people can meet," Hoskins said. "Throughout the pandemic, people didn't do lot of socializing and networking. People have

missed it and are hungry for that, and it is an important part of growing innovation in this area. We have helped people catch up on networks by becoming a hub for creating and hosting events."

In addition to networking events, Jake's has hosted numerous meetings, a play, book signings and two people have filmed projects at the site.

Jake's also continues to host a community of small businesses and entrepreneurs by renting office space. Hoskins said there are plans to expand the number of coworking memberships this spring, as well as plans to renovate some portions of Jake's to provide space for hosting more events like showcases of local businesses and

business/product pitch competitions.

Community partnerships have been key to Jake's quick start.

In late 2022, Lakeland and the Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) launched the Sheboygan County Accelerator for Learning Entrepreneurship (SCALE), a new accelerator program sponsored by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

The initiative will provide a wide variety of services, resources and expertise to help encourage entrepreneurial opportunities in Sheboygan County by investing in *(Continued on next page)*



up to six pre- or early-revenue startups per cohort, per year. Participants will enroll in a 10-week, 10-hour/week program at Jake's, which is organized by Hoskins and taught by a variety of subject-matter experts.

"We are just getting started with our entrepreneurial support efforts and looking forward to working with the SCEDC on a variety of upcoming programs like SCALE, which will help keep founders local and support new endeavors," said Hoskins, the co-founder of cloud-based software company Debtle.

Additionally:

- Jake's has partnered with the Midwest office for the Veterans Business Outreach Center, which serves active-duty personnel, veterans and military spouses who want to learn more about, then start and grow their own a small business. Jake's will be a hub for their work in Wisconsin.
- Jake's is expanding regionally by working with Progress Lakeshore, a Manitowoc County-based organization that provides a variety of services to existing and new businesses to drive innovation in Manitowoc County, and NEW North, an economic development corporation that connects investments with Northeast Wisconsin companies.
- Jake's is home to an Innovation Council, a group of founders, investors, local corporate innovation team members and small business owners that focuses on identifying gaps in Sheboygan County and driving programming to address them through Jake's and the SCEDC.

The work at Jake's will positively impact Lakeland's students. Hoskins, who is also a Lakeland business faculty member, is working with her colleagues to create an entrepreneurship curriculum that guides students through the first phases of idea generation and opportunity exploration through strategies to start a business or lead a startup. The goal is for this training to be available in a range of useful forms, whether as workshops, stand-alone undergraduate and graduate courses, or even as an emphasis within Lakeland's Business Administration major.

Jake's works closely with Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses, a nearly three-year-old effort which empowers students to create, develop, manage and lead business ventures while they develop into the next generation of emerging leaders. Launch will be heavily involved in behind-the-scenes logistics work with the SCALE and veterans efforts.

Jake's works with Sheboygan North High School to host an Innovator Fellowship program, which allows North High juniors and seniors to design and develop innovative social impact projects.

"The research on Gen Z (born between the late 1990s-early 2010s) is they are so entrepreneurially minded and that these programs

are something students want and are excited about," Hoskins said. "Students are seeing themselves in five years running their own business or coming up with their own product."

A prime example is Sydney Pingitore, a 2022 Lakeland graduate who serves as operations coordinator at Jake's. She is enrolled in Lakeland's master of science in leadership and organization development degree program, and her work at Jake's is complementing her coursework.

"One key takeaway from the MSLOD program is establishing relationships and making connections," said Pingitore, who came to Lakeland from Kenosha, Wis., served as Launch's president of merchandising for two years and was a decorated volleyball player.

"I enjoy being a presence at Jake's as I have met and established relationships with new individuals within the community from big companies, nonprofits and entrepreneurs. Those relationships are resources that are helping me understand where I want to go with my career while also allowing me to focus on the bigger picture for my organization, which is building a community."

Pingitore said the management of Jake's gives her daily lessons in time management and establishing priorities.

"There was a lot to figure out, but it has allowed me to grow and improve my organization skills," she said. "It's allowing me to see my strengths and weaknesses and where I can focus to improve. It can be stressful, but it's also a lot of fun."

Hoskins said the opportunity to support a graduate student is a great opportunity, and she's pleased with Pingitore's accomplishments, which include event creation and management and developing a networking group.

"She gets a lot of autonomy," Hoskins said. "She connects with members and gets to know and provide for them. She's interacting with people to understand their challenges and pathways. For people considering entrepreneurship, hearing those different paths and the hurdles people must overcome is really valuable for students."

Hoskins said young people with an entrepreneurial mindset don't need to leave the area to find rewarding jobs that match their passions.

"We have large corporations here that are growing their own internal innovation departments," Hoskins said. "You can learn how to develop and bring a product to market and do it for these locally based companies. Sustainability is also a major focus for these companies and that ties into innovation. It's an exciting time."

Funding for Jake's and the creation of Hoskins' position was donated by the late Herbert V. Kohler, Jr., on behalf of Kohler Co., and by Richard and Kristin (Jacobson) Bemis. ❖

TRAILBLAZER

December grad a role model for success

Lakeland University provides several pathways for students to complete a bachelor's degree. Riley Jahnke traveled most of them during her LU experience

As Lakeland evolves to meet the needs of today's students and employers, Jahnke, who completed her four-year bachelor's degree in just 2.5 years, earned her degree in a way that is becoming increasingly common for more Lakeland students.

Before graduating from Howards Grove High School, Jahnke completed 32 college credits by taking Concurrent Academic Progress Program (CAPP) courses, which allow high students to simultaneously earn high school and college credits.

She enrolled at Lakeland as a sophomore, and immediately took advantage of LU's Cooperative Education program, which allows students to work full- and part-time jobs with partner companies, earn academic credit for their work and pay for school with their wages.

Each semester, Jahnke took 18 credits – 12 in the classroom and six through her Co-Op roles. As a freshman she worked in a marketing role for Lakeland's Co-Op & Career Readiness Team. As a sophomore, she was named chief marketing officer for Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Business, the university's innovative venture that has students working entrepreneurial part-time jobs.

Last fall, Jahnke was a content intern for EPIC Creative, a full-service marketing and advertising agency in West Bend, Wis., in addition to continuing with Launch and training her eventual replacement.

She graduated in December with a bachelor's degree in communication and she recently started working as marketing coordinator at Bemis Manufacturing.

Jahnke attended Lakeland as a commuter and took full advantage of Lakeland's flexible course platforms as she took face-to-face courses, online live classes and fully online classes, which allowed her to work during the day.

She was also a key member of the Lakeland women's soccer team, having started each game for the Muskies since her freshman season and earning Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference Scholar-Athlete honors each season.

"I thoroughly enjoy everything I am a part of," said Jahnke, a recipient of several scholarships. "I like to work. I like learning in different formats and modalities, and I can hold myself accountable. It just so happens the soccer schedule works because we have morning practices, and the flexibility of online learning was huge. I'm proud to be at Lakeland."

Although she initially thought about teaching as a career, Jahnke developed a love for writing in high school and through some career discovery landed on the public relations/marketing route.

Her marketing role for Lakeland's Co-Op team introduced her to creating social media content – and told her that wasn't the right career path for her – while also allowing her to write blog and newsletter items, which further developed her skill set.

"I wanted to get experience in all aspects of marketing because there is so much overlap with communication," she said. "Having worked in the customer service industry (at both Gessert's Ice Cream and Confectionery and Lake Street Café in Elkhart Lake) I have that in-person communication down."

"I knew I wanted to get more professional on the writing side and that drove my class selection and my job experiences to help me grow those skills."

Jahnke's career choice was solidified when she landed the CMO role for Launch. She worked 15-20 hours a week developing and executing Launch's marketing strategies to increase sales and promote Launch's various ventures like Musko's Campus Shop.

At EPIC, Jahnke assisted the content team with all media needs such as press releases, media kits and alerts and blog writing. She had opportunities to interact with clients as she learned how an agency operates.

Her final semester, she worked about 15 hours a week for EPIC, 10 for Launch, took classes and played soccer.

"Launch offered me opportunities to grow the skills I wanted to grow and immerse myself in the writing side of marketing," said Jahnke, noting that Launch's professional environment prepared her well for her EPIC experience.

"At Launch, I am higher up and able to delegate tasks, and at EPIC I am the one getting the tasks. It's interesting to see the differences. It's helped me to be confident in my role to talk about the projects we're working on and ask questions when I might be confused. I've gained a lot of leadership from Launch."

Jahnke's Lakeland roots run deep. Her maternal grandmother, JoAnn Lutzke, worked for about a decade as a housekeeper at

what was then Lakeland College. Her parents, Toby Jahnke '87 and the former Amy Lutzke '88, met at Lakeland, her aunt, Jodi Lutzke, is a 1990 graduate, as are her older siblings, Taylor '13 and Garrett '16.

Between classes, work, soccer and some social time, Jahnke's schedule was always packed, but she knows it positioned her for post-graduation success.

"Having that experience in college is what employers are looking for," she said. "I don't want an entry-level position or internship when I graduate. I want a job at a higher level where I will be held accountable and know I can handle the responsibilities."

Kym Leibham, Lakeland's director of strategic outreach and Launch's staff mentor, said Jahnke's work ethic and desire to expand her skills allowed her to quickly learn how to create effective, long-term marketing strategies while managing daily opportunities.

"She became an exceptional role model and mentor for other Launch team members as a trustworthy and approachable leader," Leibham said. "Riley can quickly assess opportunities and reliably create an execution approach. Launch provided her the opportunity to elevate her marketing and promotional skills while understanding how to mentor and lead her peers."

"Riley will leave a legacy with Launch, and she will positively impact her workplace throughout her career." ❖



Riley Jahnke and her parents, Amy '88 and Toby '87

Students benefit from partnerships with SASD

The Sheboygan Area School District (SASD) and Lakeland University signed two significant agreements this past year that will benefit LU and SASD students.

The first agreement, signed in the summer, expands access to free college-level coursework to eligible SASD students and teachers.

The second, signed late in the fall semester, addresses the challenge of hiring special education teachers while benefiting LU education students.

SASD students can graduate simultaneously with a high school diploma and a Lakeland Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree, making them eligible to transfer to Lakeland – as well as other universities – as a junior.

SASD students have free access to Lakeland Concurrent Academic Progress Program (CAPP) courses, which provide high school and college credits simultaneously.

As a part of the agreement, Lakeland also will provide curriculum to align with Academic and Career Planning (ACP) content. This curriculum will deepen student learning within ACP experiences for SASD students while providing the opportunity for students to earn college credit for this required work.

Additionally, SASD students can earn up to 15 credits for workplace learning through Lakeland's Cooperative Education program, and those credits apply to their Lakeland associate degree. They also can apply elective courses related to their academic and professional interests, including options

in business and technology, education and world languages.

SASD students can also enroll in open Lakeland courses either in-person on campus or online during the fall, spring or summer terms in consultation with SASD and Lakeland administration.

As part of the agreement, SASD teachers can take up to 15 credits of coursework, which helps teachers access professional development and complete coursework toward a master of education degree.

Additionally, any paid SASD staff member or a paid staff member's immediate family member will receive a 20% discount off tuition for undergraduate coursework and a 10% tuition discount for graduate coursework through LU's Kellett School.

"We understand that colleges need to evolve to meet the needs of students, their families and the community," said Lakeland President Beth Borgen. "SASD has been a great partner for Lakeland for many years, and as we talked about expanding our relationship, it made sense for Lakeland to make a significant investment in their students and teachers.

"We are working hard to remove barriers for young people to access college. This agreement is an extension of our philosophy and mission, and we hope this partnership becomes a model for signing similar agreements with other school districts."

SASD Superintendent Seth Harvatine said the district appreciates the ability to expand the relationship with Lakeland to provide benefits to students and employees.



Seth Harvatine and Beth Borgen

"This partnership with Lakeland will offer students a number of impressive resources including the ability to take free Lakeland CAPP classes and earn an associate degree in high school at no cost to students and their families," Harvatine said.

The special education teacher agreement will guarantee Lakeland students who successfully complete LU's special education program an SASD job after graduation. It comes at a time when Wisconsin school districts are scrambling to hire special education teachers.

"We are excited that SASD is willing to offer our graduates a guarantee of employment, as long as the student meets the terms of the agreement," said Lakeland Professor of Education John Yang. "The agreement further corroborates the quality of students that our education program produces, and the strong partnership that Lakeland has with SASD."

Jami Hintz, SASD assistant superintendent of human resources, said the partnership is especially timely as the district's special education needs continue to rise.

"This partnership is immensely important to be prepared to best serve the children of our community," she said. "It's a great opportunity for the district to retain student teachers who have already built successful relationships in our classrooms." ❖

Agreement has expanded services to entrepreneurs

The Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) and Lakeland University signed a partnership this past summer to provide a centralized approach to growing and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in Sheboygan County.

The SCEDC and Lakeland have created the Sheboygan County Innovation Council, which advises and guides innovation-based programming and services. Lakeland is a partner, leveraging its new presence at Jake's, A Lakeland Community, in downtown Sheboygan.

In November, Jake's hosted the Accelerate Sheboygan: 2022 County

Pitch Competition as nine contestants presented business plan and ideas to a panel of four judges for a chance to win a \$10,000 grant. The winner advanced to the NEW Launch Alliance Regional Pitch Event, presented by New North.

Stephanie Hoskins, Lakeland's Herbert V. Kohler, Jr. Chair for Enterprise & Entrepreneurship, and Ray York, SCEDC's Entrepreneurship Specialist, have leadership roles in implementing the Accelerator program.

The SEED Accelerator grant is funded by a grant that the SCEDC received from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

SCEDC Executive Director Brian

Doudna said Lakeland is a logical partner with its strong focus on entrepreneurship and providing access to innovative programs like Cooperative Education and Launch: Student-Run Businesses.

"This agreement allows us to create a hub to align innovation-based services that will aid in the creation of a stronger technical support eco-system to move this area forward," Doudna said.

Lakeland President Beth Borgen said Sheboygan County is home to many talented entrepreneurs.

"This partnership provides a central platform to build off one another's great ideas and strengths," Borgen said. "We are excited to work with the SCEDC to help develop new product ideas and strategies. Our students will have opportunities to be part of this work, plus it benefits young business leaders and startups in this region." ❖



Brian Doudna and Beth Borgen

Tech college agreements

Lakeland signed transfer agreements with four Wisconsin technical colleges last spring to make it easier for students to complete a bachelor's degree.

The agreements were approved by the UW Board of Regents in April and authorized Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids, Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay to offer the two-year liberal arts associate of science (A.S.) and associate of arts (A.A.) degrees.

Under these new agreements, students who earn the 60-credit Liberal Arts-Associate of Arts or Liberal Arts-Associate of Science degrees at one of the participating technical colleges can transfer to Lakeland with junior standing and apply all their credits

toward a Lakeland bachelor's degree. Graduates of Wisconsin Technical College System schools receive a 20 percent tuition discount at Lakeland.

The new agreements are the latest chapter in Lakeland's long history of successful partnerships with Wisconsin's technical colleges. Lakeland was among the first four-year colleagues in Wisconsin to develop pathways for technical college graduates to complete a bachelor's degree.

Through special pre-major pathways, technical college graduates will have a wide variety of academic options for their four-year degree at Lakeland, including accounting, analytics, business administration, communication, computer science, criminal justice, management information systems, marketing and psychology.

"The degrees available through these new agreements enable technical colleges to enhance the educational options they provide to their communities," LU President Beth Borgen said. "By partnering with the technical colleges in this way, we open college options to new populations of students who have the potential and ability to pursue post-secondary education. This new level of access benefits students and their families, local schools and Wisconsin communities."

The new agreements provide pathways for students to pursue their bachelor's degree without leaving the area.

"It's exciting to see private and public institutions working together for a common good – helping our students achieve their educational goals while aligning with regional workforce development needs," Borgen said. "We are always interested to partner in innovative ways to serve our students and their communities." ❖

LU, Mid-State celebrate 30-year partnership

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. – Last May, Mid-State Technical College and Lakeland celebrated 30 years of partnership to provide convenient local access to a four-year degree and beyond through Lakeland courses offered on-site at Mid-State.

The two institutions gathered on Mid-State's Wisconsin Rapids campus for a special anniversary event highlighting the achievements of the many students since 1992 who have forwarded their professional careers through classes at Lakeland's Central Wisconsin Center.

"The relationship that Mid-State and Lakeland have built through the years has been outstanding," said Shelly Mondeik, president of Mid-State Technical College. "Having Lakeland inside our own college doors to serve the central Wisconsin

area has been a win-win for not only our students but for our staff, for our employers, for our communities. We very much have worked hard together to make sure that it is a seamless transition for our students."

"We're proud to celebrate 30 years of partnership with such exceptional colleagues as Mid-State Technical College," said Joshua Kutney, Lakeland's vice president for academic affairs. "Thirty years ago, Mid-State and Lakeland envisioned an academic partnership model that many colleges and universities across the state could not quite bring into focus."

According to Kutney, the partnership was more than an innovative idea. "It was a new and better way of seeing the landscape of higher education, of

recognizing the total value of a technical college education on its own merits and as a bridge to a bachelor's degree and beyond," he said.

Lori Hebblewhite, who graduated with an accounting associate degree from Mid-State in 2017 and a bachelor's in business administration from Lakeland in 2020, said returning to school was initially overwhelming.

"Those fears quickly disappeared the first day I walked into the Stevens Point campus of Mid-State," said Hebblewhite, who works today as an associate financial analyst at Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point. "Everyone I spoke with was helpful, encouraging and patient with my ongoing questions. This support continued during each semester and as I transitioned to Lakeland." ❖

Two LU Centers find new homes

Lakeland University unveiled new Fox Cities Center and Madison Center locations last year.

Over the summer, Lakeland relocated its Fox Cities Center to Fox Valley Technical College's Appleton campus, 1825 N Bluemound Dr. Lakeland is located just inside Entrance 15 and occupies a space that includes an office presence and access to several classrooms during the spring, fall and summer semesters.

"This move for Lakeland makes so much sense," said Lakeland President Beth Borgen, noting that Lakeland has offered classes in the Fox Cities since 1982. "More than a third of the students that Lakeland serves in the Fox Cities are FVTC graduates. And now they'll be able to continue on the pathway to a bachelor's degree at a campus that already feels like home."

FVTC President Chris Matheny said Lakeland's move is the latest chapter in the two schools' long history of providing innovative educational opportunities to students in the region.

"Our graduates from Fox Valley Tech have long been welcomed with open arms at Lakeland University," said Matheny, who presented Borgen with an oversize key made by Jim Kitchen, the department chair of FVTC's Machine Tool Technology, and some of his students.

Lakeland celebrated its new Madison Center location at 2310 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3200, with an Open House in October. Lakeland moved from its previous location at 1650 Pankratz Street over the summer.

Lakeland's space occupies a portion of the third floor of the building and features four classrooms equipped with technology to support Lakeland's BlendEd course delivery model. The



Beth Borgen and Chris Matheny

center also includes office space for Lakeland advisors.

A common area for use by students, faculty and staff includes computer workstations, a copier/printer and access to a sink and refrigerator. The space features a balcony overlooking the state capital that provides a meeting space.

Students, faculty and staff also have access to a conference room, a pub-style breakroom complete with pool tables and other recreational activities that are common to all building tenants.

The building is located at the crossroads of I-90/I-94 and Highway 151 and located on the city bus line.

"We continue to offer the same academic programs and flexible platforms that our students have come

to expect as we strengthen our presence in the greater Madison area," Borgen said. "Our new space is welcoming and it already feels like home."

Lakeland developed the state's first evening degree-completion program for working adults in 1978, and Lakeland has offered classes in Madison for 43 years. Founded in 1862, Lakeland has six centers statewide. The program was based on the vision of prominent Wisconsin business leader and former Lakeland Trustee William R. Kellett.

Since its creation, Lakeland has seen thousands of adults earn baccalaureate and graduate degrees. Lakeland also has centers in Chippewa Falls, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Rapids and on the main campus in Sheboygan County. ❖

Grad delivers on promise

When Bohdan Zachary crossed the stage at Lakeland University last May to receive his bachelor's degree, it was the completion of a promise he made to his parents nearly 50 years earlier.

How fitting it would happen during Mother's Day weekend.

Zachary, an award-winning television veteran who served as vice president and general manager at Milwaukee PBS, received a bachelor's in communication as part of Lakeland's 160th Commencement.

It was the latest accomplishment of a first-generation Ukrainian American whose parents survived the Nazis and World War II and immigrated penniless to the United States. As a young man, Zachary walked away from a four-year college scholarship to pursue a career his parents didn't initially understand, but he always promised them he would complete his degree.

"The day I won my first Emmy award, I shipped it to the house, and they carried it to their dying day," said Zachary, 65. "They said, 'You've achieved it,' but I told them 'You've always wanted me to have my degree.'

"They're both gone, but in their honor, I did this. And I wanted to do it for my own self to have completion as part of my adventures in life. I hope they are watching. I'd love to believe they'll be there in spirit to see their son graduate."

The path to get to his degree is a fantastic journey that includes music icon David Bowie, movie star Cher and a distinguished career in television and media.

Early Years

The passion that fueled Zachary started at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School outside of Detroit, Mich., where he served as the publisher, primary writer and photographer for his school newspaper. He also made short films with a Super 8 camera. Thanks to his strong academic performance, Zachary received a four-year scholarship to attend Wayne State University in Detroit, and in the eyes of his parents, Wolodymyr and Olga Zacharij, graduating from college was non-negotiable.

"The guidance counselor said, 'If you want to be an engineer or dentist, they'll provide for your lifetime,'" Zachary recalls. "In my heart of hearts, I knew I didn't want to do either one of those. I didn't even know what journalism or TV production was at that time. My parents just didn't want to hear about it. I had gotten a scholarship and to them that meant I was really smart."

A series of fortuitous meetings set Zachary's career in motion. He was a member of a rock band in college and met David Bowie's manager, who told him, "You're really a New Yorker, that's where you should be."

Zachary dropped out of Wayne State in 1975, packed a bag and moved to New York City with plans to "find my life and career" at New York University. He was a skilled typist who went to work for a temp agency, and he begged for an assignment that had come in from CBS News.

His CBS bosses became his mentors, quickly dispelling the notion of Zachary attending NYU and instead teaching him storytelling and TV production. That led to a role at WNBC producing the highest-rated TV newscast in New York City for six years.

From there, he moved to Los Angeles and got connected with Cher, who, at the zenith of her acting career, launched a film development company. She hired Zachary as her first executive vice president and for two years he researched news and literary projects as possible future films that would star the award-winning actress.

"I didn't believe it would happen until I was sitting in her house," Zachary said. "We were talking and I kept waiting for questions because I thought this was a job interview. Finally, she said, 'So, how'd you like to start on Monday?'"

He then landed a series of producer roles and also founded North South Films, which made educational films for non-profit health organizations. He spent two years as a director and producer with

E! Entertainment Television.

A decade removed from his New York experience, Zachary reconnected with his former boss at WNBC who encouraged him to leave commercial TV for public TV. Zachary spent nearly 20 years at KCET, the most-watched independent public television station in southern California and the second most-watched independent public television station in the nation, rising to the role of senior vice president, broadcasting, programming & syndication.

In 2015, he was recruited Milwaukee Area Technical College president Vicki Martin to lead the team that operated WMVS and WMVT, which are licensed to MATC.

Lifelong Learner

His two-plus decades in public TV have allowed him to come full circle. Zachary grew up in Hamtramck, a predominantly Polish and Ukrainian village of immigrants, and he credits public television with being instrumental in helping his family learn English. For Zachary, Milwaukee PBS was an integral part of the community, not simply a media outlet.

He points to the powerful 30-minute documentary "Kids In Crisis" created in conjunction with a series of stories published by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about the mental health crisis faced by Wisconsin young people. The work led to two Wisconsin laws being passed.

"We featured four young people who had fought demons and survived," Zachary said. "They were unflinching and raw in telling us those stories. That's the kind of topic a commercial broadcaster might do a 3-minute story. We did it honestly, and it's one of my proudest moments. Parents have written us saying 'Thank you, now I have a better understanding of this.'"

MATC's president not only brought Zachary to Wisconsin, she also led him to Lakeland. Martin had several meetings with then-LU President David Black to finalize some new partnerships and told Zachary it would be a good place to pursue his bachelor's. He enrolled in the summer of 2019 and took all his courses online.

"What I've loved about Lakeland is there were younger students along with folks in 40s and 50s," said Zachary, who has an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences from MATC and a certificate in creative writing from the UCLA extension.

"Even though we never met in person, in the online live format we had a chance to chat with each other and on discussion boards. One of my classmates talked about her grandkids. I felt very comfortable with all my classmates, and I very much appreciate and was supported by all my instructors." ❖





GRADUATIONS

Lakeland University-Japan celebrated two historic graduation ceremonies this past year.

In August, the first four bachelor's degree recipients at LU's Japan campus received their diplomas as part of the ceremony, which was attended by Lakeland President Beth Borgen and President Emeritus David Black and held in the conference center in the new Ryogoku campus.

The December graduation ceremony marked the first time more bachelor's degrees were conferred than associate of arts degrees. U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel (in a taped message) and Sumida-ku Mayor Toru Yamamoto were the guest speakers.

Yamamoto expressed excitement at participating in a ceremony at an American university campus with graduates from diverse nations in an area steeped in Japanese tradition and history.

At the main campus in Wisconsin, Lakeland awarded nearly 700 students in May at the institution's 160th commencement.

Lakeland awarded 695 degrees as part of the ceremony, including 437 undergraduates and 258 graduate students. LU held three in-person ceremonies in the Wehr Center on Lakeland's main campus.

- Speakers at the three ceremonies were:**
- Ann McClain Terrell, president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
 - Ken Leinbach, executive director of the Urban Ecology Center.
 - Richard V. Poirier, president and CEO of Church Mutual Insurance Company.

All three speakers received a Lakeland honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. ❖



Terry Miller '09 and Kasey (Gussert) Arnhoelter '09

You look familiar...

A Lakeland reunion 13 years in the making helped 2009 Lakeland graduates Terry Miller and Kasey (Gussert) Arnhoelter personally experience the depth and connections of the Lakeland family.

When Miller, the chief clinical services officer for Aurora Health Care, met with Arnhoelter for her orientation early in 2022 for the director of pharmacy role with Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan County, he knew from her resume that she was a fellow Lakeland graduate.

As she sat through the orientation, Arnhoelter kept noticing a nameplate on Miller's desk that looked oddly familiar.

The night before the 2009 Lakeland graduation ceremony, Miller

was named winner of the Robert W. Lope Award and Arnhoelter was named winner of the Clarence H. Koehler Campus Senior Award. The physical award they were given was a nameplate to get them started on their professional journeys.

"It's one thing to have a nameplate," Arnhoelter said. "But when it looks exactly like yours ..."

Miller handed her his award and flipped it over to show his name and the year on the back. And suddenly, this orientation session became a very unexpected reunion of Lakeland award winners.

"I was standing right next to her that night," Miller said. "During our meeting, I paused when I realized we were the same people on that

stage that night. We're two people who never knew each other and didn't attend classes together, but 13 years later are sitting in the same room together.

"I can't believe that out of all those students that we ended up in the same community and it led us into these roles and the future of caring for this community."

As Aurora settled into its new facility on Union Avenue in Sheboygan, these two reunited Lakeland graduates, after playing key roles in moving the hospital over the summer, focus on providing services to patients and the community moving forward.

Miller, an Illinois native who has lived in Sheboygan County for nearly 30 years, is a key administrator, overseeing operations for 23 departments and two cancer centers. His teams support patient care and deliver operation of the building. He was local project liaison for the new building project, and for 12-plus years with Aurora he has managed projects throughout the organization with the goal of reducing the cost of healthcare.

Arnhoelter, a Kingsford, Mich., native, oversees a team of 29 people that makes up the pharmacy at the new Aurora facility, as well as the pharmacies at Aurora Medical Center Manitowoc County in Two Rivers and the Aurora Health Center on Union Avenue in Sheboygan.

While Miller and Arnhoelter are over a decade removed from their Lakeland experience, they both point to their education and relationships they formed that have shaped their approaches as professionals.

Arnhoelter often does rounds at the hospital, answering patient's questions and explaining the medications they've been prescribed. Miller said it closely resembled the personal attention that faculty provided in Lakeland classrooms.

"That caring side of Lakeland prepares you well for a career in healthcare," said Miller, who has a Lakeland bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing.

"One of the things I love about Kasey is she is humble, she listens and collaborates. If she doesn't know the answer, she goes to a content expert in her pharmacy."

Arnhoelter, in turn, underscored the support she feels from senior leaders like Miller, one of her direct supervisors. "How welcomed I have felt here takes me back to how welcomed I felt at Lakeland," said Arnhoelter, who has a biochemistry degree from Lakeland.

Miller quickly added, "You get to coach people again. You get to teach and coach. You said in your interview that's one of the things you were looking forward to."

The two have remained connected to their alma mater. Miller's daughter, Hannah, is a junior at Lakeland and in her third season with the women's volleyball team, so the Millers are regulars at LU volleyball matches.

Arnhoelter, her husband, Eric, and their two children have settled in Eric's hometown of Howards Grove where they're building a house. It didn't take long after moving back before Lakeland Professor of Biology Greg Smith and Professor of Exercise Science and Sports Studies April Arvan – both primary influences during her time at Lakeland – reached out to welcome her.

"Having those Lakeland connections and understanding the impact of those allowed me to get more acclimated here and learn what I needed to do to plan this culture and move the hospital," said Arnhoelter, a graduate of the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy who worked in pharmacy roles in Green Bay at Aurora BayCare Medical Center and Milo C. Huempfer Green Bay VA Health Care Center for over six years before her current job.

The night he won the Lope Award, Miller, who was working for the Blood Center of Wisconsin at the time, was asked about his future plans with his degree. He wasn't sure where it would take him, but he knew he wanted to stay in the area and give back.

Mission accomplished.

"That little college in the middle of the cornfields was my field of dreams," Miller said. "The relationships get you ready for

your professional life. You don't forget the people you met there and values you were taught. And those values correlate to what a lot of organizations are looking for." ❖



Pictures of Kasey Arnholter and Terry Miller and their families from 2009 graduation weekend.

Family ties

Grosshuesch family traces 7 generations at Lakeland

As David Gross approached the timeline of Lakeland's history on the second floor of Lakeland's Campus Center to get a better look at his grandfather's picture, he started to choke up.

"This is emotional," he said. "I never dreamed this would happen."

Prior to July of 2022, the last time Gross, 79, was on Lakeland's campus was in 1950. He was 6 years old, and the institution, which was called Mission House College, was overcoming the recent death of President Paul Grosshuesch, David's grandfather. The seminary was still part of the institution and 18 of the current campuses' 23 buildings didn't exist.

His visit was not just a walk down memory lane. To say that the roots of David's family run deep at Lakeland doesn't quite do it justice.

- His parents are both Mission House graduates – Donald in 1938 and the former Hildegard Heyl in 1937. They were married in 1939. Donald Grosshuesch legally changed his last name to Gross when he entered the army during World War II.
- David's grandfather, Paul Grosshuesch, graduated from Mission House and later served as president from 1931-49.
- David's great-grandfather was John Grosshuesch, a Mission House graduate who worked at the school for nearly 60 years, primarily as a professor.
- David's great-great-grandfather-in-law was Hermann Muehlmeier, one of the institution's founders who served as president from 1885-1907.

Talk about having connections.

Revisiting the Past

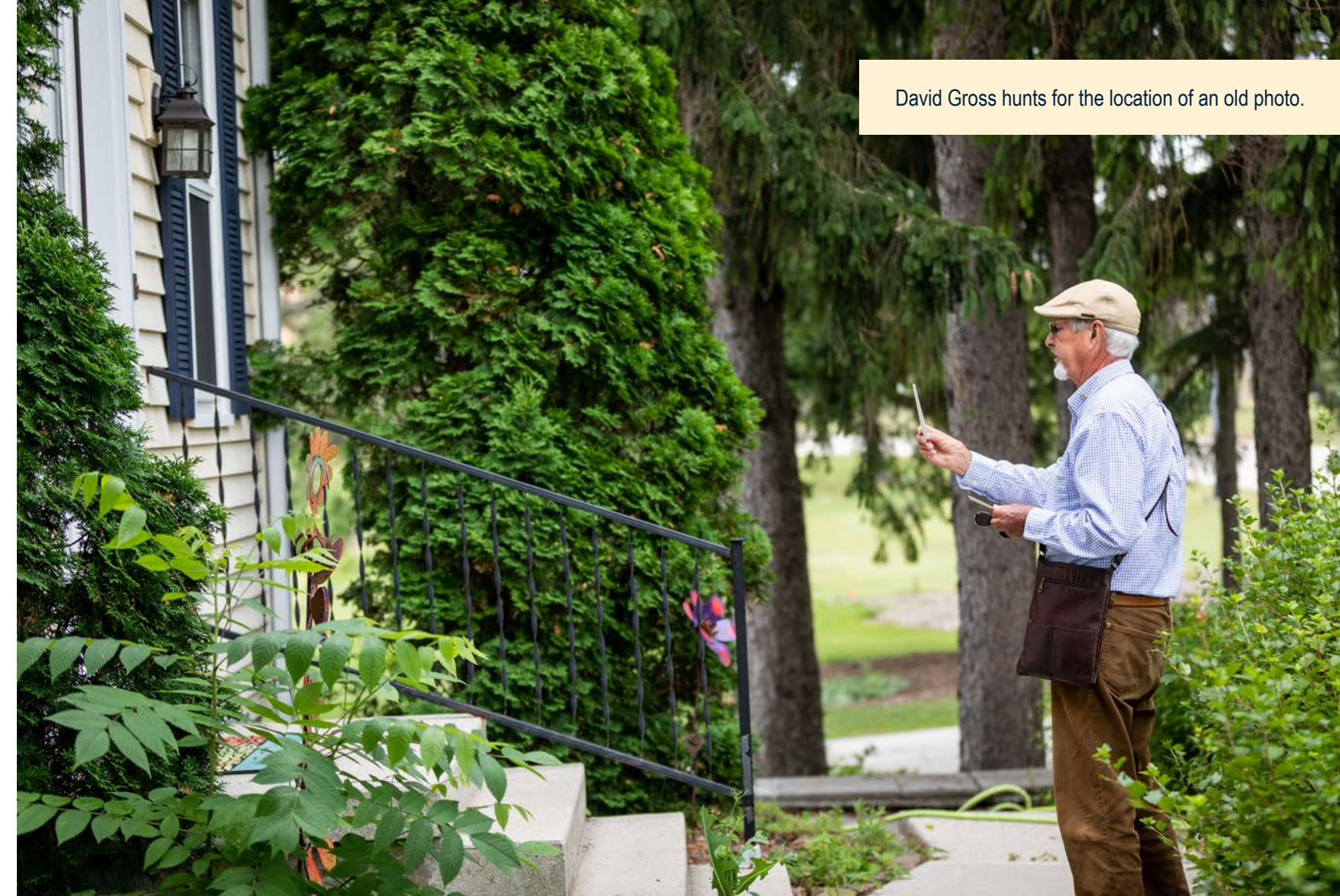
Gross, who worked 50 years at the Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, in Dufur, Ore., as a forester, a community engagement specialist and now a retired volunteer, had always been interested in revisiting Wisconsin to reconnect with the campus and Elkhart Lake, where the family lived for a time.

His daughter-in-law, Hannah, fueled last summer's visit so she could learn more about David's early roots and provide time for him to spend with his granddaughter, Ramona. Through pure chance, they booked a stay in



David Gross and his granddaughter, Ramona

David Gross hunts for the location of an old photo.



the home of Nanette Bulebosh '79 M.Ed. '97, who contacted Lakeland when she learned a bit more about David's deep connections to the institution.

During his visit, Gross explored the area, finding the Elkhart Lake house where his family lived and the elementary school where he attended. He spent several hours at Lakeland peeling back the layers of his family's history. He did not know the connection to Muehlmeier, he didn't realize his father had graduated from Mission House and a visit to the Esch Library uncovered the 1937 Mission House yearbook that included a senior picture of his mother, which he'd never seen.

Gross brought with him a few pictures, including one that showed him on the steps of a previous entrance to the president's house, where his family lived in the basement for a short



time while they waited for their home in Elkhart Lake to be completed.

"I've learned so much about my personal and family history which I never knew," Gross said. "It's been very meaningful for me. I've come away feeling a connectedness to Lakeland where grandpa ministered as president and my parents graduated, where mom and dad met and were married and where grandma (Oleta Rolewitch Grosshuech) lived after my grandfather's death.

"It filled in a lot of unanswered questions that I didn't know I really had. I feel I've become connected with Lakeland and hope to stay connected the rest of my life."

As David Gross approached the timeline of Lakeland's history on the second floor of Lakeland's Campus Center to get a better look at his grandfather's picture, he started to choke up.

(Continued on next page)

A Muskies Family Tree

A climb through David Gross' family tree quickly leads to several primary players in the first half of the institution's history.

His great-great-grandfather-in-law, Hermann A. Muehlmeier, is among the institution's true legends. Born in Germany in 1829, he emigrated to America with his mother and siblings in 1847. Following graduation from seminary in Pennsylvania, he came to Sheboygan, Wis., as a German Reformed pastor in 1853 and founded the Zion Church (now Zion UCC).

In 1854, he was among a small group of men who formed the Sheboygan classis, the governing body that would oversee local churches. Muehlmeier was named pastor of Immanuel Church in the town of Herman and, with Saron pastor Jacob Bossard, started giving instruction in their homes to young men who wished to become ministers or teachers. The seeds for Mission House were planted.

After Mission House was founded in 1862, Muehlmeier was elected the inaugural housefather in 1864 to live in the first building, supervise the students and join Bossard as the first two teachers. He was named Mission House's second president, serving from 1885 until his death in 1907.

The book "A History of Mission House-Lakeland" notes, (Muehlmeier) had given a life's work to the school. More than any other man he had guided the institution and pleaded its cause in the church. He had done so at great personal sacrifice, but with an unshakable conviction that his was a calling from God."

Gross' great-grandfather, John W. Grosshuesch, married Sila Muehlmeier, one of Hermann's six children. John was born in a log cabin on campus, graduated from Mission House in 1878 and was known as the "grand old man" of Mission House after working at the school for 56 years, including 38 as a professor.

Gross' grandfather, Paul Grosshuesch, graduated from Mission House College and Seminary. Prior to being named president in 1931, he was a minister for 22 years, including pastor of the Zion Reformed Church that was founded by Muehlmeier.

Known by the nickname "Prexy," Grosshuesch guided the institution through creation of the first rooms on campus for female students to live, the birth of the intercollegiate athletic program and the Muskies mascot, construction of the original portion of the library and the first gymnasium (Founder's), as well as the Great Depression and World War II.

His presidency was included a plan to relocate the college to



David examines some of his family's artifacts.



David Gross and his granddaughter, Ramona, beside a picture of David's grandfather.

Sheboygan. In 1945, a group of Sheboygan citizens offered to donate a 232-acre site north of the city for relocation of the college, which would be renamed Chapel Heights. Grosshuesch was on leave from Mission House making fundraising calls to raise dollars to fund the move when he was killed in an auto accident on September 26, 1949, in Iowa.

Gross doesn't have any real memories of his grandfather, although among his photos is one of him as a child with Paul and Oleta.

A Return to His Roots

The Gross family moved from Wisconsin to New York when David's father took a job with Time Life Inc., then he moved to Arizona with his mother and brother in 1959 when his parents divorced. David graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in agriculture with a specialty in watershed management.

During his freshman year, Gross was offered a summer job with the Barlow Ranger District in Dufur, Ore., and he returned in subsequent summers before being hired as a professional forester when he graduated. He later became manager of the Youth Conservation Corps on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service named him a National Volunteer Award Recipient for his work promoting employment and volunteer opportunities on his forest

and his work with at-risk youth.

His last previous visit to Wisconsin was in 1961 the summer before entering college to visit his grandmother, Paul's wife, Oleta, in Sheboygan. She died in 1980.

The most recent visit included his 7-year-old granddaughter, Ramona, and she became the seventh generation from the Grosshuesch family on the Mission House/Lakeland campus.

This visit to campus that lasted about four hours was 72 years in the making.

"My expectations were to maybe find the house and the school in Elkhart Lake, visit the village, drive around Lakeland and that was about it," Gross said. "My expectations were met a thousand times over. I owe my very being to Mission House, now Lakeland, because it was there that my mother met my father. These are my roots." ❖



NEW DIGS

Lakeland re-dedicated its two newest residence halls in August, honoring two of the institutions leaders and celebrating the completion of the largest single investment in Lakeland's main campus in the institution's 160-year history.

Lakeland constructed new versions of Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier Halls to serve freshman and sophomores, along with related infrastructure. The project was primarily funded by a \$35.4 million fixed-rate low interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development division.

The re-dedication ceremony featured tours of

Grosshuesch Hall and a picnic that brought more than 300 people to campus.

Lakeland Board of Trustees Chair Jeff Spence '83 recalled moving into Grosshuesch Hall in 1978 where he met classmate Jay Grosshuesch, whose grandfather, Calvin, was a brother to Paul Grosshuesch, the building's namesake.

"It was the first time I moved away from home, and it represented an opportunity for growth," Spence said. "The learning that happened there was just as important as the learning that happened in the classroom. These buildings represent that space where students can find

themselves. When we put students together, we create a community that allows them to grow beyond measure."

The halls are named for Herman Muehlmeier, one of the institution's founders who served as president from 1885-1907, and Paul Grosshuesch, a graduate of the institution who served as president from 1931-49.

David Gross, the grandson of Grosshuesch and great-great-grandson-in-law of Muehlmeier, spoke on behalf of the family. Seven generations of the Grosshuesch family have been part of Lakeland's 160-year history, and several members of the family attended the ceremony. ❖



Students help create new event

Elkhart Lake celebrated a successful Elktoberfest in September which culminated the efforts of a successful partnership between the Elkhart Lake Chamber, Elkhart Lake Tourism and a talented group of Lakeland marketing students.

Folks in Elkhart Lake had talked about creating a new fall event for several years. As the village emerged from the COVID pandemic, the idea of an Oktoberfest-type celebration took shape.

When Elkhart Lake Chamber Executive Director Melissa Koehler got a message from Lakeland marketing teacher Kim Viglietti searching for a project for her marketing management course, the planning kicked into high gear.

“Lakeland’s interest could not have come at the more perfect time,” said Kathleen Eickhoff, executive director of Elkhart Lake Tourism. “This was an amazing gift. It gave us an opportunity to have some young minds about the age of people we’re trying to bring into the village help us come up with new and fresh ideas.”

Viglietti, a resident of Elkhart Lake, was searching for a hands-on learning project for her spring capstone class that would allow her students to take the knowledge they had acquired from previous classes and put it all together in a real-world situation.

She divided her 15 students into small groups, and the class delivered a complete marketing plan with financials, logo ideas, a plan for the weekend’s activities and targets for attendance from local and non-local visitors.

Lakeland students researched Oktoberfest celebrations held all over the world, and generated ideas to match Elkhart Lake’s goal of hosting a family friendly event.

“We came into their class three times,” said Koehler, who worked as director of Lakeland’s Milwaukee Center from 2002-07. “The first time we talked through the event and shared information about Elkhart Lake. The second time was a brainstorm session with several members of the planning committee, and the last time the students presented their plan. Many times, we shared ideas back and forth via email directly with students.”

Elktoberfest weekend featured a stein social to kick off the event, a 5K Wine & Beer Run/Walk, traditional Oktoberfest games for adults, a Root Beer Garten and various children’s activities, a fall community breakfast and plenty of live music.

Students helped write a successful Travel Wisconsin JEM Grant application, a process that Eickhoff said requires significant research and ideas that will show the grant selection committee an event that’s unique and worthy of funding.

“The work the students did was very inspiring,” Eickhoff said. “They really brought some exciting and clever ideas that we think were a big reason we got the grant. The root beer garden was a key component which was their idea and we loved it.”

Skylar Garza, a member of the class who graduated in May and is working as social media coordinator for the Heiser Automotive Group, said the experience helped her learn she loves event planning.

“There is something almost breathtaking watching ideas that were scribbled on the whiteboard come to life,” Garza said. “This experience also taught me that not every idea or concept makes it to the final draft and that’s okay.”



As part of their research, Garza and a group of fellow classmates drove through Elkhart Lake to learn more about the community and draw some inspiration.

“The class worked together like a real project management team or marketing team would in order to complete a project,” Garza said. “We did a lot of work, however, it didn’t feel like it. Our class collaborated extremely well making the workload less stressful and overwhelming.”

Garza said the project allowed students to demonstrate they understood how skills they learned in the classroom translated to real-world situations.

“Lakeland is always offering unique experience for students,” Garza said. “Kim Viglietti, specifically, uses her connections, knowledge and talent to ensure her students are prepared for post-graduation and I am so thankful for the opportunities she has created.”

Viglietti said she hopes to work with Elkhart Lake in the future after they delivered a perfect opportunity for her students to learn.

“I’m very proud of these students,” Viglietti said. “This was the cream of the crop and we put our best foot forward.” ❖

Writing major practices her passion

Lakeland junior Marian Cramer grew up in Dousman in southeastern Wisconsin where the town mascot is a bullfrog and they hold a frog jumping contest. Her first job was working at the town’s frog-themed gas station.

“Although it’s every girl’s dream to work at a frog-themed gas station, I’m hoping to work as an editor while writing my own novels on the side after graduating,” Cramer said.

This frog turned fish is currently taking full advantage of a unique Lakeland major and some work experiences that have solidified her career goals.

She’s double majoring in English with a professional writing emphasis and in the state’s only bachelor of fine arts in creative writing program.

Outside the classroom, Cramer served as an intern and helped plan last November’s Great Lakes Writers Festival. She’s also an assistant editor for Lakeland’s literary magazine, “Seems,” and she’s worked for the Bradley Theatre staff since her arrival as a freshman.

The combination of classroom and experiential learning – a hallmark of Lakeland’s Cooperative Education program – has Cramer well on her way to her dream of becoming a published author.

“I’ve known I wanted to be an author since I was 7,” Cramer said. “I wanted to see my name on a book, to hold it in my hands ... this is my book.”

She grew up in a household surrounded by art forms. Her father, Bret, was an English major in college who often sang in their church, and both her parents performed in high school theatre, which led to their four children also doing theatre. Bret read bedtime stories to his children, often novels, and Marian remembers her father doing voices for all the animals in “The Wind in the Willows.”

Marian started playing the flute when she was 11 (she was in the LU Band for a time) and was writing novels at 7.

She graduated from Kettle Moraine School for Arts and Performance, a public charter school that’s part of the Kettle Moraine School District. She came across Lakeland and its creative writing program by chance thanks to an email based on her academic interests. During a Lakeland campus tour, a lunch conversation with Associate Professor of Writing Jodie Mortag – and winning Lakeland’s full tuition Humanities & Fine Arts Scholarship – sealed the deal.

“I really want that relationship with my professors,” Cramer said. “I want them to know who I am.”

Oh, they know.

“She is a true artist,” Mortag said of Cramer. “She is the real deal. She proves that art is not dead for this generation. She will go to graduate school for an MFA. She will have a book out someday. She is one of the most talented, mature, intelligent and intuitive students I have seen come through the program.”

Learning by Doing

The skills Cramer is learning through her Lakeland experience are the initial chapters of a bright future.

Cramer is one of three interns that helped Mortag plan the Great Lakes Writers Festival. Cramer frequently communicated with Lakeland’s marketing team and peers managing social media accounts to help promote the event, in addition to helping Mortag with logistics.

A member of Lakeland’s Honors Program, her potential final project is creating an event for high school students in the region to visit LU, participate in a writing workshop and learn more about the creative writing program.

“What would an event like that look like? This experience has been really helpful to see all the steps that go into it,” Cramer said. “It feels a lot less daunting.”

She’s in her second year assisting with the publication of “Seems,” and the work ranges from selecting submissions for publication to copy editing to the layout and printing process. It’s also helping her prepare for her own successful writing career.

“I’ve sent out my work to see if I can get it published, so it’s nice to be on the other end,” said Cramer, who also keeps a personal journal. “I want to start sending out more now that I have that experience.”

Future In Focus

The next stop will be graduate school, and Cramer expects to focus on a newfound passion – poetry writing – thanks to a freshman-year class with former Lakeland Professor and award-winning poet Karl Elder.

She received additional validation during a 1-on-1 meeting last spring with visiting writer Dawn Hogue ’90 M.Ed. ’00. “I walked in and she said, ‘I thought you’d be a lot older. Your poems just feel so mature,’” Cramer recalled. “I just kind of found my groove.”

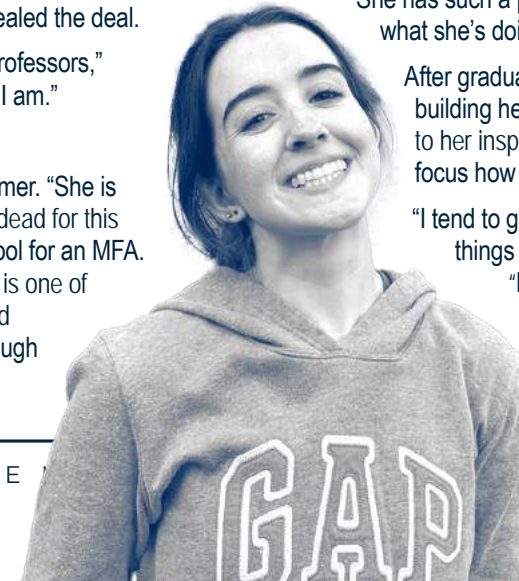
She also has Mortag, a kindred spirit who is always encouraging Cramer to read her work in public at literary events and open mic nights, which she enjoys.

“She’s probably one of the best writing teachers I’ve ever had,” Cramer said. “She has this way of connecting with everyone. She almost tailors her advice to the student and what each student needs. She has such a positive vibe. You can tell she has a lot of passion for what she’s doing.”

After graduation, Cramer plans to work as an editor while building her writing career. She hasn’t ruled out teaching thanks to her inspiring mentors at Lakeland who have helped her re-focus how she approaches her work.

“I tend to gravitate toward wanting criticism so I can work on things and what’s wrong so I can fix them,” Cramer said.

“But there is also something to be said for looking at what I am doing well. That’s forced me to take step back and look at that in my work, as well as other people’s work.” ❖





LU launching Life & Career Studies program

Lakeland University will launch an inclusive post-secondary college education program for students with intellectual disabilities this fall.

Lakeland's Life & Career Studies program, based at LU's Main Campus in rural Sheboygan County, will provide an engaging, full-time residential program for students with intellectual disabilities that features a four-year, personalized curriculum designed to promote academic, social, personal and professional growth.

"The various elements of this program will foster self-determination and provide a gateway to meaningful employment and independent and community living for our students," said Kate Dvorak, director of the Life and Career Studies Program who serves as the students' primary advisor.

Lakeland's program is the sixth of its kind among Wisconsin colleges

and universities, the fourth that is an inclusive on-campus, residential program. Lakeland's program is now accepting applicants for enrollment in the fall of 2023.

Preparation for meaningful employment is a major program focus. Lakeland will leverage its Cooperative Education program, which provides real-world learning in paid positions with Co-Op partner companies and organizations. Students will receive career-related instruction and coaching integrated throughout their coursework. Each student's final year of study is devoted to a paid internship and transition.

"Lakeland is well positioned to implement this program given its commitment to diversity and inclusion, and expertise and experience in offering quality Cooperative Education programming that prepares students to

succeed after graduation," Dvorak said.

Along with attending regular academic and Cooperative Education classes, students receive specialized instruction relating to independent and community living through a selection of seminars and 1:1 coaching tailored to their needs. Students will also have the opportunity to complete an institutionally endorsed audited certificate comprising academic coursework consistent with their interests and plans for the future.

Students enrolled in the program will be immersed throughout the university community—academics, arts, athletics, student life and career exploration. Peer student mentors will serve in a variety of roles to support students in these areas.

For more information, visit the program's website at lakeland.edu/life-career-studies. ❖



Emerging entrepreneur

Message Like

Intro

The day that 2016 Lakeland graduate Michael Esiobu lost his 9-to-5 corporate job is the day his career – as they say in the social media world – blew up.



Armed with an always-growing skill set and accomplished track record of marketing and social media success, the 30-year-old entrepreneur has amassed an impressive professional portfolio.

Twice this past year, Esiobu took time out of his often-hectic schedule to visit his alma mater to speak to marketing classes. He shared his story, answered students' numerous questions and offered tips for students to get started on their own entrepreneurial journeys.

He reflected on losing his first full-time job after graduation, noting that he saw it coming and felt prepared thanks to the social media marketing work he had already been doing and the networking skills he learned at Lakeland.

Today, he lives in Milwaukee and works remotely, using an app to plan out each day to keep himself on track.

"Losing that first job was one of the best things that's happened to me," Esiobu said. "It gave me the push to start my own business. I always loved working with social media, and while I was at Lakeland, I created paid promotions for some artists that helped grow their traffic."

He recalls small talk with someone at the gym while working out one day that led to a job doing social media campaigns for a solar company. That led to additional work for more solar companies as he designed social media campaigns that helped grow followers and increase sales.

Revine Media was born in those days, and Esiobu has put together a team that does the day-to-day creative work that allows him to continue growing his business. He estimates he's generated more than \$5 million in sales for his clients through his work.

"There are a lot of great products out there, but they're not always sure how to market them," Esiobu said. "The key to content it's all about the hooks. What can I say in 5 seconds



to get you to listen?"

Esiobu's work on guerilla marketing and social media campaigns helped Unfinished Legacy, now in its fourth year, generate significant sales.

He spends a lot of time each week creating new content. The Crash Dummies podcast started in June of 2021 and has more than 400,000 monthly listens on its various platforms, more than 700,000 followers between Tiktok and Instagram and has been ranked in the top 10 nationally among comedy podcasts based on downloads.

Born in Nigeria near central Africa, Esiobu came to Lakeland in 2012 as a football recruit and following a standout football career he had a tryout with the New York Giants and was invited to the San Francisco 49ers preseason camp.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and minor in healthcare management. He served an internship with Aurora at their Sheboygan hospital as he constantly focused on networking and getting in front of new people.

"Networking with people is really important," Esiobu said. "But don't go into it just thinking 'what can I get out of this?' Go in thinking 'How can we help each other?'" ❖

ALMA MATTERS

Submit your news about employment changes, marriages and babies to advancement@lakeland.edu.

1951

Bernice Wendel has published two books, "Letters From Korea 1954" and "Random Recollections of Random Lake Wisconsin."

1956

Wayne Stroessner has discovered a new hobby - woodworking. You can see his work at waynescraft.com.

1960

Mary Ann Van Leur received the Governor's Service Award from Governor Tony Evers for over 20 years of service as a retired senior volunteer program volunteer. This entailed many Appleton and surrounding communities of non-profit service work.

1964

Sam Graber and Tom Speich '67, former basketball teammates at Lakeland from Mineral Point Wis., were inducted into the Mineral Point High School Basketball Hall of Fame in December. They began their journey together shooting baskets in the Speich driveway when Sam was in seventh grade at St Mary's school, and Tom in eighth at MP Public. Sam is also in the Lakeland Hall of Fame.

1971

Lawrence Balleine recently completed a series of five novellas which trace the sabbatical journey of Michael Lattimore as he visits the dairy farm regions of Wisconsin. Titles include: "Entertaining Angels," "An Angel Among Us," "Angels in Disguise," "Encouraging Angels" and "Angels to the Rescue." The series is available from Amazon. The final volume includes a major "shout out" for Lakeland.

1973

Irv Kaage retired in September after 37 years as president of Transor Filter. Under his leadership, the company established a global presence with manufacturing facilities in Chicago and Shanghai, China,

along with offices in Tokyo and Brazil.

Michael Okray, not having raced competitively until 2005, has placed in the top three of his age group 164 times. He is 71. He has competed in five marathons, three half-marathons, four mud races and numerous 5- and 10K races

Gary Spielman was honored by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards for serving 30 years as a member of the Beaver Dam Unified Board of Education.

Stan Zoller received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Journalism Education Association. He has previously been honored for his work in Journalism and Journalism Education by the Chicago Headline Club, Dow Jones News Fund, Journalism Education Association, National School Press Association and the Kettle Moraine Press Assn. He has also been recognized by the Citizen Advocacy Center for his work in transparency and openness in government.

1976

Jeff Johnson is enjoying retirement with his wife, Linda. The couple travels, he plays pickleball and golf and they spend time with their grandson, CJ.

1981

Dawn Hauck retired from TJMaxx after 40 years of employment. She worked for a time in the corporate office in Boston and in the training department traveling to open stores all over the U.S. In retirement, she hopes to foster a child to adopt and work with Reading Corp.

1982

Cindi Ritter retired as a physical therapist assistant and took a position as coordinator of caring ministries at Zwingli UCC in Monticello, Wis.

1986

Deb Sixel, after 35 years in education, retired on June 30, 2022. She started as a middle school teacher in Chilton, went into administration at Lakeshore Technical College and returned to the public school setting in Kiel, serving her last 18 years as director of curriculum, Kiel Middle School principal and co-administrator of Between

the Lakes Virtual Academy.

1987

Ben Berg was head coach of the 2021-22 Carmel High School girls basketball team from Mundelein, Ill., which won its first state championship.

Rick Meyer was inducted into the Land O' Lakes League Baseball Hall of Fame in June in a ceremony in Waukesha, Wis. Rick was a player, manager and general manager with the Plymouth Flames for 20+ years. He was a three-time Northern Division MVP, 14-time all-star and 11-time all-league honoree. Rick is also in the Lakeland Athletics Hall of Fame. He is general manager at United Feeds, Inc.

1990

Catherine Yekenevitz is enjoying retirement and lives at Cedar Ridge Apartments in West Bend, Wis.,

1991

Brenda (Bruegger) Raad, of West Bend, Wis., completed her doctorate of higher education leadership degree from Alverno College and was named dean of general studies at Fox Valley Technical College in October. She most recently served as the dean of general studies at Moraine Park Technical College.

Carla Vorpahl, social worker at Sheboygan South High School and Wilson Elementary School, was named Wisconsin School Social Workers Association (WSSWA) School Social Worker of the Year.

1993

Ann (Harteau) Bitter, after teaching fourth and fifth grade for 25 years at Kohler Elementary School, is now teaching sixth and seventh grade English and language arts at Kohler Middle School.

Dwayne De La Pena graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University in May with a master's degree in social worker. He recently passed the National Social Worker's Exam and is a licensed master social worker in the state of Texas. Dwayne is currently employed at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, working as a social worker in the hospital's pulmonology clinic.

Michelle Wood was promoted to a signing director at CliftonLarsonAllen.

1995

Mike Hoffman was appointed president and chief executive officer of SBI, a Go-to-Market Growth Advisory. Hoffman, an experienced executive leader and former Private Equity operating partner, has served as SBI's Chief Operating Officer since he joined the company in 2018. Before joining SBI, he was the founder and CEO of inSelligent and an operating partner at Marlin Equity and Francisco Partners.

Joanne Horvath joined Rogers Behavioral Health as chief financial officer. She has more than two decades of experience in healthcare finance leadership, including her role as vice president of finance and treasury at ThedaCare.

1996

Michelle Kumbier was named Briggs & Stratton senior vice president and president of turf and consumer products. She was previously chief operating officer at Harley-Davidson.

2000

Dale Kooyenga was recently named senior vice president for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce, the leading professional business association in Wisconsin serving as the pro-business advocate and leader of effective collaborations that grow the region's economy. He most recently served in the Wisconsin State Senate (2018-2023), and prior to that he served in the State Assembly. He is a CPA who has also served as a chief financial officer for several companies. He currently serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and is married with four children.

2003

Christine Barnard was appointed by Governor Tony Evers in September of 2021 to the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health for three years. In May, she received Essentia Health's Volunteer of the Year Award for completing 261.5 hours of volunteer work in 2021 during COVID and received the Independent Living Center's 2022 Relentless Badger award for Advocacy Work for people living with mental health & substance use issues.



James Larkin married Mayra Escamilla in November in Sheboygan. **Johnnie Ferguson Jr. '03** was the best man, and other members of the wedding party included **Lawrence Adams '02, James Hayes '03, Rodney Rice '04, Corey Roberson '03, Ana Roberson '19, Jovan Sanders and Calvin Thomas '02**. James is WIDC-supervisor and team leader at Kohler Co.

2004

Casey Thousand was named head women's basketball at Northern Michigan University in May. She was head coach at the University of Illinois Springfield for the past three seasons, and previously was an assistant coach at Northern Michigan.

2005

Mike Gappa was inducted into the Land O' Lakes League Baseball Hall of Fame in June in a ceremony in Waukesha, Wis. Mike was a catcher with the New Berlin Lakers for over a decade. He was a nine-time all-league honoree and 10-time all-star selection. He is a solutions architecture manager at Fiserv.

2006



Heather (Heberlein) Klahn married Joe Klahn in September. They welcome a son, Dawson, in December of 2021, who joins stepsisters Brianna and Camryn at home in

Greenbush, Wis. Heather joined Vollrath in September as a customer service rep II.



Jodie (Liedke) Mortag and her husband, Jon, welcomed their second daughter, Ada Violet, on April 7, 2022. Jodie is an associate professor of writing at Lakeland.

2007

Ryan Bork was named head golf professional at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms. He previously served as assistant pro at Town & Country Golf Course in Sheboygan, Wis. He also currently serves as head men's golf coach for Lakeland.

Mallory (Charlier) Cornelius was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year at the 2022 Current Young Professionals annual award ceremony. She is the founder and president of VaryAbility, an employment consulting firm that helps individuals with disabilities achieve their employment goals by pairing them with employers. Her husband, Andrew, is also a 2007 Lakeland graduate.

Tyler Schmitt was named an interim baseball assistant coach at Washington University in St. Louis. Tyler had been on the Bears' staff for the past six seasons as a part-time assistant coach. He resides in Affton, Mo., with his wife, Erica, and their three children.



Veronica (Hilke) Lampe MAC '07 signed her contract as Lakeland's director of the Master of Arts in Counseling program on July 7, 2022, 45 years to the day that her mother, Lakeland Faculty Emerita Eileen Hilke, signed her first contract to teach at Lakeland. Her parents, Tom and Eileen, joined her for a special moment at Lakeland's campus.

Hilke, who retired as a full-time faculty member of Lakeland's education faculty in 2010, holds a special place in the institution's history – she was the first female to be named a full professor, and she initiated the college's first graduate course. She was named faculty emeritus, the highest honor for a faculty member, at commencement in 2010.

Lampe, who has been serving as interim director of LU's MAC program for the last year and an adjunct instructor for Lakeland since 2014, previously worked in teaching and counseling roles at Christ Child Academy and Seton School in Sheboygan, with Associated Psychological Health Services, Lakeshore Technical College and the Kiel Public Schools.

2008

Allison (Komaromy) Norman and her husband, Zach, Hi-Lo Bakery in Sheboygan in June. She is a mathematics teacher at Sheboygan North High School.

Alli Weiss and her wife, Colleen, welcomed their second child, Cordelia Cora, to the world in August. Her older sister, Jubi, is beyond excited. Alli is in her 14th year of teaching fifth grade, the last seven years in Wauwatosa.

2009

Matt Holm MBA '18 started a new role as senior account manager at Kohler Co. after 13 years of supply chain-related positions. Matt and his wife, **Kelly (Hopfinger) '08** and their daughters, Hailey and Hannah, live in Howards Grove, Wis.

2010

KC (Blahnik) Kuehl MAC '13 and her husband, Steve, welcomed their second son, Callan, in June. He joined big brother Connor. She works at Acuity, and the family lives in Sheboygan, Wis.

Stephen Nietzel is engaged to Katelyn Donaldson. He is business manager at a Honda dealership in Michigan City, Ind. They live in La Porte, Ind., with their daughter, Mia Marie Renee Nietzel.

2011

Adam Benson and Gretchen Fulmer '15 were married in Costa Rica in March of 2022. Their second child, Paisley Jayne Benson, was born in August, and she joins older sister Alaina. Gretchen is the life enrichment director at Ebenezer Senior Living at Edina, Minn. Adam works in sales/key accounts at Value Merchandise International.



Sam Schroeder MAC '13 and Brittany Jurek '14 were married in July in Green Bay, Wis. The wedding party included **Cade Carroll '15, Trevor McKown '11, Brittany Reindl '14, Chelsea Gile '14**



and Brittni (Peterson) Diedrich '14. More than 50 current and former Muskies attended. Sam is head men's basketball coach at Lakeland. Brittany is admissions advisor at Lakeshore Technical College.

The couple lives in Howard Grove, Wis.

2012



Sam (Schnell) Clark was promoted to wellness supervisor at Network Health Insurance in Menasha, Wis. Her husband, **Craig Clark '14**, is a fifth grade teacher at Carl Traeger Elementary School in Oshkosh. They live in Appleton with their son, Baker.

Cindi Schaefer completed her Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from Northern Illinois University in August and in December she started a new job as dean of early college at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Ill.



Eric Vandivier MBA '16 and his wife, Dayton, celebrated the birth of their second child, Tristan, in December. He joins big sister Addy. Eric is a senior tax accountant at GreenStone Farm Credit Services and the family lives in Appleton, Wis.

2013

Logan Hughley started his own trucking company, JDL Transport, last May. His wife, **Dana Hughley '13**, is the senior analyst – international transportation, export and hazmat operations at Kohler Co.

Dawn Scannell was appointed executive director of The Arc Fond du Lac in October of 2021. She joined The Arc Fond du Lac team in 2019 and previously work in accounting roles with CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen) and Schenck, SC. The Arc serves the intellectual and developmentally disabled community in the Fond du Lac County area.



Christian Jaskulski married Carley Flanery in St. Lucia and they welcomed their daughter, Isla. Members of the wedding party included **Jaryn LaBine '12, Jarred Querio '11 and Casey Wusterbarth '13.** Christian is a resident fellow and account executive in ticket sales & service at Stanford University.



Taylor and Rachael (Milner) Jandrin celebrated the birth of their son, Griffin, in October. Taylor works as a Door County

community support program case manager. Rachael is an RN in the Women's Center at Door County Medical Center. The family lives in Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Dan Zea-Zapata started a new role as morning show host at 103.7 KISSFM in Milwaukee in January.

2015

Samuel Busse and his wife recently purchased an ownership portion of Tapped on the Lakeshore in Two Rivers, Wis. The business hopes to help people build deeper connections with each other in person without electronic devices.



Shaina Carlson is engaged to Camren Zemlock and the couple is planning a summer 2023 wedding. Shaina successfully donated her left kidney to her childhood friend's dad/former basketball coach. They shared the story of the successful transplant across different media platforms and at her former elementary school. Shaina is an administrative assistant at Electa Quinney Elementary School in Kaukauna, Wis.

Erik Pritzl MBA was appointed Oconto County administrator in October. He had previously served as executive director of the Brown County Health and Human Services Department.

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Alister 'Al' Kohls joined the board for Northern Door Pride, a new local nonprofit queer organization devoted to improving the inclusivity and safety of northern Door County for queer community members and visitors.

Ashleigh Monticello works as a rehab exercise therapist/CT at Dirker Chiropractic in Sheboygan. Her daughter, Layla, turned 3 in January.

Becca Ann Stemwell is an art teacher for Milwaukee Public Schools at a K-8 school. She was recently promoted to team lead for art, music and physical education.

2017

Brianne (Frank) Burton was recently promoted to R&D chemist 1 at Sheboygan Paint Company.



Aimee Thrune married Erik Meyer in May. **Taylor Jandrin '14**, **Emily (DesJardins) Prunick** and **Amber Peterson MAC '16** were in the wedding party, and the couple was married by **Callie (Olson) Best '16**. Aimee teaches seventh grade math and coaches high school volleyball and basketball at the Lodi (Wis.) School District.

Braden Woods joined the College of DuPage as an assistant volleyball coach and media specialist (print collateral, digital/social media, and recruitment).

2016

Joshua and **Le'Shay (Jones) Guy MAC '20** celebrated the birth of their son, Joshua Jr., on September 18. He was 7 pound, 4 ounces and 20 inches long. Josh is a customer service rep for Kohler Co. Le'Shay is director of student diversity, equity, and belonging initiatives and assistant director of the Ulrich Center at Lakeland. The family lives in Sheboygan, Wis.

Gaby (Cappaert) Jansen started a new role as a marketing project manager at Sargento Foods, Inc. Gaby and her husband, **Kurt Jansen '15**, are expecting their first child later this year. They live in Howards Grove, Wis.



Brooke Corrigan and **Eric Nygaard '19** were married in June in Sheboygan. **Miranda Jacobson '17** served as maid of honor. Others in the wedding party were **Rachel Hasko '20**, **Alexia (Janz) Del Ponte '18**, **David Del Ponte '18** and **Austin Hansen '18**. Eric is a CPA with CliftonLarsonAllen and Brooke is a dentist with Alluvion Health. The couple lives in a 115-year-old house in Great Falls, Mont.



Brandon Farmer and **Elizabeth Randa '22** celebrated the birth of their son, Miles, in June. He was 5 pounds, 12 ounces and 18 inches long. Elizabeth works for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Brandon is a master of music therapy student at Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minn.



Mikayla Hilton and Dallas Stover are engaged and planning a March wedding. Mikayla is a recruiter at mCubed staffing. The couple lives Lincoln Park, Mich.

Ashley Lehman graduated last May with a master's degree in applied behavior analysis from Northern Michigan University. In July, she moved to Sheboygan where she works as a behavior treatment therapist for IMPACT - Inspiring Minds Pediatric Autism Consultation & Therapy.



Jacob Nault accepted a call as pastor at Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, Wis.

2018

Steve Canales and **Hannah Scherer** are engaged and planning a 2023 wedding. Hannah started a new role as marketing generalist at Ansay & Associates, LLC, and she was named a 2021 Future 5 award by the Young Professionals of Fond du Lac. Steve is Facilities Project Manager at Washington County, Wis.

Austin Hansen started a new role at manager of premium services with the Minnesota Vikings after working for nearly four years with the PGA of America.



Peyton Petersen and **Rylee Garand '19** are engaged and planning a September wedding in Lakeland, Fla. (of course!) Peyton is the owner of Digitized Branding and he also works as a lead manager for CG Financial Services, a wealth management company based out of Michigan. Rylee is an art teacher at her alma mater, Charlotte High School. The couple lives in Punta Gorda, Fla., and they made it through the recent Hurricane Ian.

Drew Richard is engaged to Amanda Holt and they are planning a December 2023 wedding. Drew owns and operates his own baseball hitting instruction business, D.R. Hitting. He travels to facilities, fields and high schools to provide individual, group and team lessons. He has been invited to coach at a camp with several of the bigger baseball influencers/coaches in the TikTok community. Follow him on Instagram or TikTok at D.R. Hitting or on Facebook at D.R. Hitting- Coaching & Instruction.



Mason and **Meghan (Etten) '19 Ross** were married in October in Green Bay. Members of the wedding party included **Rylee Garand '19**, **Peyton Petersen '18**, **Logan Krueger '17**, **A.J. Zickuhr '19**, **Jake Reichow '21**, **Carleigh Johnson '19**, **Brianna Johnson '19** and **Jack Merrill '18**. Mason is a senior sales account executive at Schneider. Meghan is a financial analyst at Schneider. The couple lives in Elkhorn, Wis

Three Lakeland graduates are among the most influential business leaders in Wisconsin according to BizTimes Media's new publication, Wisconsin 275.

New North President & CEO **Barb LaMue '95**, Port of Green Bay Director **Dean Haen '10 MBA** and Road America President & General Manager **Mike Kertscher '17** are among the leaders selected as part of the project.

The BizTimes list profiles 275 Wisconsin business leaders in a variety of industries, doing business in all corners of the state. ❖



Becca Giessen MAC '21 and **Marcus Williams '19** were married in October. The wedding party included **Eric Prestay '18**, **Karen Kline '16**, **Amanda Sutton** and **Elizabeth Apostolik '20**. Marcus is a police officer in Manitowoc, Wis., and Becca is a school counselor at Manitowoc Washington Middle School.

2019

Emma Lehr recently started a new role as meeting and events coordinator for Destination Kohler. She lives in Sheboygan, Wis.



Emily Marten married Aaron Tollefson in November. She recently started a new role as external account specialist at Menasha Packaging. The couple lives in Neenah, Wis.

Zachery Mock started a new role as an

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alumni engagement officer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in August.

RonniJo (Nigro) Rigney started a new role at volunteer operations manager with the PGA of America for the 2023 KPMG Women's Championship.



Cameron Sharp and AJ Zickuhr '19 are engaged and planning a fall 2023 wedding in Iowa. Cam is an account administrator at Cottingham and Butler in Dubuque, Iowa. A.J. is administrative manager at Sports Screenprinting.

2020

Amanda (Majewski) Campos is a first grade teacher at Valley Christian School in Oshkosh. She lives in Oshkosh with her husband, **Carlos Campos '20**.



Shyanne Koski married Colin Barrington last April. She is a middle school math teacher for the Oostburg School District, and the couple lives in Oostburg.

Nick Raasch and Davan Fleming were married in November. Davan is the licensed athletic trainer at Appleton East High School, and Nick is an account manager for Kimberly Clark and coaches football at his alma mater, Clintonville High School.

Karisa Rowland moved to the eastern shore of Maryland in 2022 and she is a judicial assistant for an administrative county judge.

Mary Schmidt recent passed her CPA exams.

Ashlee Wierzbach is senior coordinator, corporate merchandise for Legends. She lives in Sheboygan, Wis.

2021

Ally Lira is in her second season as an assistant coach with the Lakeland softball program and she advises the LU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She is enrolled in Lakeland's master of science in leadership and organizational development program.



Josh Becker and Kayla Potter are engaged and planning a September 2023 wedding. Josh is a police officer for the city of Sheboygan and Kayla is the first assistant manager at Maurices in Kohler.

Spencer Miesfeld, an associate at Hawkins Ash CPAs in the Manitowoc, Wis., office, achieved his Certified Public Accountant designation.

Aaron Smith is marketing and sales coordinator for Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, Wis.



Austin Watts and Tia Poe '22 welcomed their daughter, Leela Ann Watts, in November. She was 8 pounds, 10 ounces and 21.5 inches. Austin is a distribution associate for Millipore Sigma and Tia is a credit operations specialist for Associated Bank. The family lives in Sheboygan.

2022

Stenisha Bowen is working at Professional Service Group as a mentor for children and enrolled in the master in psychology with a concentration in child development program at Southern New Hampshire University.



Sterling Gardner recently graduated from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's police academy and he earned the Academic Achievement Award for his class.

Jacy Klaske is an associate at Hawkins Ash CPAs in Manitowoc, Wis.

Briana Peterson is a fourth grade teacher at Rock Ledge Intermediate in Seymour, Wis., and also coaching the high school girls basketball junior varsity team in Seymour. ❖



Kris Saiberlich '08, KC Kuehl '10 MAC '13, Brittanie Martin '10 and Chad Schreiber Med '99

Hall of Fame welcomes 4 new members

Lakeland inducted three standout athletes and one of the institution's best coaches into its Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming weekend.

The inductees were:

- **Chad Schreiber**, former men's and women's volleyball coach.
- **Kris Saiberlich**, a 2008 graduate, for basketball.
- **KC (Blahnik) Kuehl**, a 2010 graduate, for basketball and softball.
- **Brittanie (Paulus) Martin**, a 2010 graduate, for volleyball.

The incoming class increased membership in Lakeland's Hall of Fame to 180.

Schreiber is among the institution's best coaches, leading the creation of a powerhouse women's volleyball program and serving as the architect for the men's program.

In 16 seasons as Lakeland's head women's volleyball coach, the Muskies were 310-247 with eight conference championships and six trips to the NCAA Division III national tournament, tied for the best in school history among all programs.

The program won five consecutive conference championships from 2001-05 and made four straight NCAA Tournament appearances from 2002-05. Off the court, Schreiber's teams won the National Team Award for Academic Excellence five times, and he coached

numerous all-conference and all-region players.

Schreiber established Lakeland's men's club volleyball program in 1996, and quickly guided the team to national prominence, winning the club national championship in 2008 and playing for the national title in three out of five seasons at one stretch. The program was ranked in the nation's top 25 for 11 consecutive seasons. In 2007, he was named National Coach of the Year by NIRSA.

He was one of eight memorable coaches featured during Lakeland's All-College Reunion as part of Lakeland's 150th anniversary celebration in 2012. The same year, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference Hall of Fame.

Schreiber is director of the Professional Division of QPS Employment Group. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three children, Cameron, Logan and Carter.

Saiberlich was a four-time first team all-conference player for the men's basketball team. He finished with 1,494 points, currently 11th on the career scoring list, and he's still the career leader in every 3-point shooting category with 324 in his career, 110 in a season and 10 in a game. He's also Lakeland's career free throw shooting leader at 91.5 percent.

A conference All-Rookie selection as a freshman, Saiberlich played in 106 games in his four-year varsity career, starting

104. He was regularly among the nation's NCAA Division III leaders in free throws and 3-point shooting.

As a senior, he helped lead the Muskies to the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference postseason tournament championship, winning three road games, all in overtime. The Muskies also won the LMC regular season championship his sophomore season.

Saiberlich, a mortgage loan officer with National Exchange Bank and Trust, lives in Fond du Lac, Wis., with his wife, Jillian, who received her MBA at Lakeland in 2011. They have two sons, Myles and Eli.

Kuehl was named 2010 NACC Woman of the Year and was the conference's Player of the Year and an all-region performer in both women's basketball and softball.

She was a four-time CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District first team honoree and a two-time Academic All-American, as well as a four-time NACC Scholar-Athlete and two-time Lakeland Female Athlete of the Year.

As a softball player, Kuehl was a two-time Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-Great Lakes Region team honoree, three-time first team all-conference and second team as a freshman. She is the career record holder in hits, runs, HR and walks and single season record holder in batting average, runs, HR and walks.

As a basketball *(Continued on next page)*

Hall of Fame cont.

player, Kuehl was first team All-Conference and D3hoops.com 2010 All-Region Second Team as senior, second team all-conference as junior and sophomore and a member of the conference all-Freshman team. She is seventh in career scoring, third in career rebounds and eighth in career steals. She helped lead the 2009-10 women's basketball team to a conference tournament championship and an NCAA Division III Tournament berth.

Kuehl, a commercial lines underwriter at Acuity Insurance, lives in Sheboygan, Wis., with her husband, Steve, and their son, Conner.

Martin was a two-time American Volleyball Coaches Association Division III All-America honorable mention and two-time AVCA Division III All-Midwest Region team member. She was 2007 Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference Player of the Year and a three-time All-NACC first team honoree.

Martin graduated with program records for digs in season and career digs. She is currently second in career digs and second in career kills. She was also a 2009 CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine All-District 5 women's volleyball academic third team honoree. As a freshman, she was an honorable mention all-conference selection and a member of the league's all-rookie team.

Martin was a leader in helping the Muskies to three straight conference regular season and tournament titles and two consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Martin, an inside sales professional with Power Solutions International, lives in Magnolia, Texas, with her husband, 2007 Lakeland graduate Matt Martin, and their two sons, Bennick and Mace. ❖

IN MEMORIAM

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

Jeanne Mayree (Meier) Opperman '48, formerly of Fostoria, Ohio, on Aug. 21, 2022.
Rev. Glenn Coleman '49, of Vermilion, Ohio, on Dec. 23, 2022.
Allen C. Demmin '50, of Middleton, Wis., on May 22, 2022.
Fred C. Lickerman '51, of Skokie, Ill., on Sept. 28, 2022.
Kenneth Raymond '51, of Campbellsport, Wis., on Dec. 9, 2021.
Helene Sabina Krampe '51, of Washington, Mont., on Sept. 16, 2022.
Marilyn J. Gander '52, of Burlington, Wis., on May 26, 2022.
Rev. Dr. Marjorie A. B. Thompson '52, of Brookville, Ohio, on June 17, 2021.
Ruth Grosshuesch '54, of Oostburg, Wis., on Dec. 31, 2022.
Marian Gerke '05, Sheboygan, Wis., on Feb. 9, 2022.
Paul J. Veenendaal '56, of Sheboygan, Wis., on Aug. 9, 2022.
Paul Baumer '56, of Columbus, Ohio, on Jan. 12, 2022.
Rev. Harvey William Reh '56, of Warren, Mich., on March 26, 2022.
Richard C. Kraus '57, of Lilbum, Ga., on March 1, 2022.
Wayne W. Duvel '57, of Richland Center, Wis., on Nov. 22, 2021.
George Edward Francis Meyer '58, of Plymouth, Wis., on Oct. 24, 2022.
Rev. Dr. Gerald Ray Wick '60, of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., on Oct. 10, 2021.
Leland "Lee" A. Braunel '60, of Manitowoc, Wis., on Dec. 30, 2022.
Kenneth M. Neumann '60, of Marshfield, Wis., on May 15, 2022.
Muriel Kathryn (Reichert) Wondergem '61, of Grand Rapids, Mich., on May 13, 2022.
Ronald "Ron" R. Westerhouse '61, of Fond du Lac, Wis., on Aug. 22, 2022.
Benjamin J. Cribb, Jr. (Jay) '62, of Lake Villa, Ill., on Aug. 16, 2022.
Richard Pankratz '62, West Chester, Pa., on Feb. 1, 2022.
Sandra Dorothea (Thiessen) Wise '62, of Green Bay, Wis., on Dec. 4, 2021.
Robert Ten Hanken '62 '04, of Damascus, Ore., on May 22, 2022.
Ellen Grace Trewartha '63, of Janesville, Wis., on Nov. 8, 2022.
John C. Dassow '64, of Stevens Point, Wis., on Nov. 29, 2022.
John M. Freimuth '64, Palos Heights, Ill., on Dec. 1, 2021.
Jacob "Jack" N. Jung Jr. '65, Sheboygan, Wis., on March 30, 2022.
Ruth E. Kellogg '65, West Hatfield, Ma., on Feb. 22, 2022.
Dennis E. Holbert '67, of Key West, Fla., on June 29, 2022.
Howard H. Wetzel '67, Hartland, Wis., on April 19, 2022.
David Alfred Klumb, Sr. '68, of Morton, Ill., on April 13, 2022.
Maris Ann Fried '69, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., Feb. 9, 2022.
Byron G. Hacker '70, of Chilton, Wis., on June 21, 2022.
Jeff Cate '70, of Ashland, Wis., on May 5, 2022.
Jerald O. Weyer '70, of Manitowoc, Wis., on April 1, 2022.
Adriana Rutz '71, of Oostburg, Wis., on Nov. 18, 2021.
Ronald L. Roloff '71, of Appleton, Wis., on Jan. 22, 2022.
Rev. Mark E. Jaberg '72, of Little Elkhart Lake, Wis., on Feb. 11, 2022.
Roxanna Mittelstadt '72, of Auburn, Wa. on Dec. 7, 2021.

John Stokovich '73, of Libertyville, Ill., on Oct. 5, 2022.
Veronica R. (Hytry) Gilles '73 of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., on Jan. 18, 2022.
Judith J. Schlehle '74, of Sheboygan, Wis., on March 1, 2022.
William "Bill" K. Lamberton '76, of Kohler, Wis., on May 10, 2018.
Anthony "Tony" Urbas '80, of Plymouth, Wis., on Oct. 28, 2022.
Ron Thorpe '81, of Oshkosh, Wis., on July 5, 2022.
James "Jim" Graf '82, of Sheboygan, Wis., on Oct. 24, 2022.
James V. Guido '82 of Phoenix, Ariz., on Oct. 22, 2021.
Willie Allen Lewis Jr. '83, of Antioch, Ill., on June 24, 2022.
James Hosley Gore Jr. '83, of Milwaukee, Wis., on Dec. 5, 2022.
Sim Safford '84 MEd '07, of Sheboygan, Wis., on May 13, 2022.
Francine Enright '86, of Howard, Wis., on July 20, 2022.
Kathy Beyer '86, of Green Bay, Wis., on Dec. 24, 2022.
Debra A. Rose '87, of Green Bay, Wis., on Feb. 14, 2022.
Maureen E. Turner '88, of Deforest, Wis., on Jan. 3, 2023.
Catherine Kummer De Witt '88, of Tucson, Ariz., on Oct. 24, 2022.
Robert "Bob" Michael Giesler '88, of Green Bay, Wis., on Dec. 28, 2022.
Natalie (Thu Dang) Blanke '90, of Plymouth, Wis., on Aug. 22, 2022.
Fred D. Gerondale '91, of Green Bay, Wis., on June 17, 2022.
Robin A. Stibbe '91, of Hayward, Wis., on June 11, 2022.
Harold Lee (Harry) Streekstra '92, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., on June 8, 2022.
Frederick Wuethrich '93, of Appleton, Wis., on Jan. 25, 2022.
Ralph "Papa" Milton Tingley '93, of Green Bay, Wis., on Oct. 30, 2022.
Janice L. Braden '94, of Milwaukee, Wis., on April 20, 2022.
Laura Maurer '94, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., on Dec. 15, 2022.
Lilian C. Jaaska '94, of Milwaukee, Wis., on Jan. 12, 2022.
Matthew Fechtmeyer '94, of Hales Corners, Wis., on May 22, 2022.
Nancy A. Moland '94, of Ocala, Fla. on Oct. 21, 2022.
Denise M. Mazzara '94, of Madison, Wis., on July 5, 2022.
Cheryl Lyn Koons '96 of Racine, Wis., on Oct. 14, 2021.
John James Tanel '96, of Brookfield, Wis., on Jan. 17, 2022.
Sharlene Young '96, of Milwaukee, Wis., on Feb. 23, 2022.
Thomas Lewis Stueck '96, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., on Dec. 23, 2021.
Edward Jay Lemke II '98, of Katy, Texas, on Nov. 30, 2021.
Kurt Daniel Foth '98, of Kaukauna, Wis., on May 17, 2022.
David Eugene Lemon '99, of Merrill, Wis., on Fe. 27, 2022.
Gregory A. Gilbert '99, of Kimberly, Wis., on June 28, 2022.
Mark K. DeNeve '99, of Spring Valley, Minn., on Dec. 6, 2022.
Stephen E. Doud '00, of Eau Claire, Wis., on Feb. 6, 2022.
Maureen L. (Durkee) Gebhard '01, of Milwaukee, Wis., on Sept. 30, 2022.
Lori Ann Davis '02 MBA '09, of Madison, Wis., on March 25, 2022.
Mark Jeffery Smith Sr. '03, of Random Lake, Wis., on Aug. 10, 2022.
Cheryl Marie McChesney '04, of Venice, Fla., on Jan. 25, 2022.
Cynthia June Girard '05, of Sheboygan, Wis., on April 12, 2022.
Diana L. Bauer '05, of Cedar Grove, Wis., on Oct. 14, 2022.
Judy K. Abendroth '05, of Beaver Dam, Wis., on July 22, 2022.
Leonard J. Rizzo '07, of Green Bay, Wis., on Nov. 24, 2021.
Alex DeTennis '08, of De Pere, Wis., on Nov. 29, 2021.
Alan Gregory Minks '11 MBA '15, of Neenah, Wis., on Jan. 7, 2022.

Dorothy (Verhage) Mohr '42, of Sheboygan, Wis., died on Sept. 21, 2022. She was 102.

She attended Mission House College shortly before the start of World War II and she met the man who would become her husband, George Mohr, who graduated from Mission House College and the Seminary. George served as pastor of churches in Illinois and Minnesota before the couple returned to Sheboygan when he was called as pastor at Zion UCC for 25.5 years. Zion UCC was founded by Mission House co-founder the Rev. H.A. Muehlmeier and later by former Mission House president Paul Grosshuesch.

Dorothy, a former teacher, was an active member of the Lakeland Women's Auxiliary until it was disbanded, serving as president, secretary and treasurer. She was also a charter member of the 1862 Society.

The Mohr family has a long relationship with Mission House/Lakeland College. George and Dorothy's three sons all attended Lakeland and two are graduates, Jim in 1967 and Bill in 1970. George's father, John Mohr, attended Mission House. Jim, George and John Mohr were all ministers in the UCC. ❖

A memorial service and luncheon for **Elaine (Pelzer) Rettig '67 and Lynn Rettig '67** was held at Lakeland in October to celebrate their lives. Elaine died on July 26, 2022, and Lynn died on Aug. 13, 2022. They were both 77.

Lynn and Elaine met during their time as students at Lakeland and were married for 55 years. Both had long, distinguished careers in education, Elaine as an award-winning public elementary school teacher and Lynn as a high school English teacher, reading coordinator and an elementary school principal. ❖

Florence A. Jetzer, a former Lakeland employee and the mother of Mary Jo Jetzer, Lakeland's academic advising coordinator, died on November 10, 2022. She was 94. Florence worked at Lakeland from 1974 until she retired at the end of 1991. She was supervisor of housekeeping when she retired. ❖

HOME COMING



Homecoming 2022 brought dozens of familiar faces back to campus for a full day of fun and reconnecting.



scene on campus

Kimmy McKay wins 57th annual Koehler Award

Kimmy McKay was named winner of the 57th annual Clarence H. Koehler Award, the university's top award for undergraduate students on the main campus.



Kimmy McKay and service dog Harry.

She led the creation of Muskies Puppy Club, an official Lakeland student organization that works with Pawsitism Inc., a Sheboygan, Wis.-based nonprofit that trains service dogs for children with autism.

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. The

other finalists for the 2022 Koehler Award were Nathalie Cairo, Zach Cotton, Skylar Garza, Megan Gold, Jessica Leicht and Jean Louis.

Pawsitism and Lakeland had a strong partnership, and McKay, a Bolingbrook, Ill., native who graduated in December 2021 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, wanted to see the partnership grow so dogs in training could live every other week on campus with their Lakeland student trainer. She earned certification to be a trainer and worked closely with Lakeland officials to make Muskies Puppy Club a reality.

Her passion for the program morphed into her project for Lakeland's Honors Program. McKay delved into research about the impact of service dogs on children with autism and their families.

McKay was a four-year member of the women's volleyball team, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, frequently made the Dean's List and was a NACC Scholar-Athlete Award winner numerous times. She worked a Cooperative Education job with Lakeland's sports information department. She was a four-year member of Lakeland's Criminal Justice Club, serving as president in 2021, and was a member of Lakeland's Powerlifting team and Pen Pals club.

McKay works in code enforcement with the Bolingbrook, Ill., police department.

Madison Center grad named top graduate student

Harriet Gomez, who graduated in August with a master of science in leadership & organizational development degree through LU's Madison Center, was named the inaugural winner of Lakeland's Outstanding Kellett Graduate

Student Award.

Gomez, who grew up in Gambia, West Africa, had a leg amputated following a car accident when she was 5, and due to a lack of resources in the third-world country she went without prosthesis until she was 10. She was motivated to one day help others in Africa with limb loss and limb difference and she recently founded the non-profit Dreams Foundation Africa Inc.

Gomez earned an associate degree at Madison College in marketing and completed a bachelor's degree in marketing with honors at LU in 2019. She created Dreams Foundation Africa with prior experience as an entrepreneur, skills she learned from her LU undergraduate courses and a strong, personal drive.

As she started taking MSLOD classes, her husband, who serves in the military, left for duty, leaving her at home caring for two children and juggling her career and her new master's-level coursework. She often studied and completed homework when her children were asleep, a practice common for many Kellett School students.

Wis. Rapids grad wins top undergrad award

Keith Melvin, who graduated in August with a bachelor's degree in organizational management from LU's Central Wisconsin Center in Wisconsin Rapids, was named the inaugural winner of Lakeland's Outstanding Kellett Undergraduate Student Award.

Melvin is a teacher in Mid-State Technical College's emergency medical services degree program and was named 2020 EMS Educator of the Year by the Wisconsin EMS Association for his commitment to *(Continued on next page)*



Elizabeth Stroot and Underkofler winner Anthony Liguori

students and emergency services.

The father of six is the EMS chief for a coalition of seven volunteer fire departments on the southside of Marshfield, Wis., and he serves as president of the North Central Fire Rescue Association, a group that creates and delivers training, public education and community outreach.

He is a member of a state subcommittee of the National Association of EMS Educators, which has led to membership on committees to write and rewrite technical college curriculum for EMT emergency responder and community paramedic programs.

Psychology professor named top teacher for 2022

Professor of Psychology Anthony Liguori, Pd.D., was the 2022 winner of the annual Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, which recognizes outstanding performance in undergraduate teaching.

A member of Lakeland's faculty since 2013, Liguori is known for challenging and motivating students through rigorous courses while also getting to know them through teaching, academic advising and

mentoring so he can position them for future success.

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

- "Every class that I take with him I feel like I have learned so much. He cares about his students and wants to see them enjoying the content and subjects just as much as he does."
- "His classes have continuously challenged and inspired me to push myself further than I thought I could go. Everything he does shows how passionate and eager he is to share his knowledge with his students."
- "He truly is a mentor to me for the work he does as well as the way he teaches. He not only helps me to succeed in psychology, but in figuring out my life path and class schedule with efficiency and care. I really appreciate all that he does for students both in and out of the classroom."

Liguori has served as chair of the Program Development Committee, worked with his psychology colleagues to revise the psychology major on two separate occasions, served on the admissions committee and participated in scholarship

days and faculty panels for incoming students and their families. He has also served as a mentor to new faculty.

He established LU's Psi Chi chapter (International Honor Society in Psychology) and serves as the faculty advisor. He has also acted in several of Lakeland's theatrical productions.

Green Bay veteran named inaugural top adjunct teacher

Julie Hodges, an adjunct instructor in Lakeland's master of arts in counseling program for 16 years at the Green Bay Center, was named the inaugural winner of Lakeland's Outstanding Kelleff Adjunct Award.

Hodges, who has worked as school psychologist for the past 20 years, the last six with the Denmark School District, is known for doing what it takes to meet students where they are, including offering alternate assignments and meeting students at a different time while maintaining academic rigor.

Hodges understands the lifestyle of a non-traditional student because she was one. She served in the U.S. Air Force from 1990-97 and was honorably discharged as a Desert Storm veteran. During that time, she received her bachelor's degree in psychology.

Comments from Lakeland students who nominated Hodges for the award show that her approach has powerful impact:

- "Julie's knowledge base and ability to make content relatable is the best that I've had at Lakeland and in other master's programs."
- "She checks in on the 'pulse' of the class often and does what she can to make requirements achievable WITHOUT excusing or reducing them."
- "From the very first class that I had that was taught by Julie, I could tell that she was teaching at Lakeland to truly make a difference in the future counselors in the program. She is the most respectful teacher I have had in this program,

but also found a way to balance being respectful with being able to push us to become our best selves."

Elizabeth Stroot retires, named Emeritus Professor

Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Stroot, Ph.D., the architect of Lakeland University's psychology and Master of



Elizabeth Stroot

Counseling programs, retired in June. She was named Emeritus Professor of Psychology by Lakeland's Board of Trustees, the highest honor for a faculty member.

When Stroot arrived at Lakeland in 1999, the psychology major had 11 students and seven of them were graduating seniors. By the time she won the Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2010, she had designed a new psychology major and minor (2003-04), and the program had grown to nearly 60 students and a second full-time faculty member. She updated the major and minor again in 2012-13, and more recently

in 2017-18 with her two new psychology faculty colleagues.

Stroot ran the psychology club and the psychology laboratory for many years and presented research conducted with her students at regional conferences. Psychology continues to be one of Lakeland's most popular programs. In 2009-10, Stroot designed and wrote the curriculum and led the development of Lakeland's counseling program, which is one of LU's most popular graduate offerings.

Students knew Stroot for teaching some of LU's most demanding courses with a dose of humor and compassion. Her 23 years at Lakeland included an extensive track record of leadership and service to the institution. She was instrumental in creation of Lakeland's Institutional Review Board, a group that evaluates and approves research projects by students and employees, and also helped create LU's Hmong American Student Association.

Lakeland again part of U.S. News rankings

For the fourth consecutive year, Lakeland is among the top schools in Wisconsin and the Midwest in advancing social mobility for its students, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2023 list of Best Colleges.

The rankings note, "Economically disadvantaged students are less likely than others to finish college, even when controlling for other characteristics. But some colleges are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants. The vast majority of these federal grants are awarded to students whose adjusted gross family incomes are under \$50,000."

Creative writing major among nation's most affordable

Lakeland's bachelor of fine arts in creative writing has been selected for creativewritingedu.org's national list of the

most affordable creative writing bachelor's and master's programs for 2022.

The ranking says this about Lakeland's program, which is the only one of its kind in Wisconsin:

"Lakeland University's BFA in Creative Writing is priced right and designed as a comprehensive course of study that prepares students for exciting careers in fields like creative writing, editing, and publishing. Students in this program complete three tiers of creative writing workshops that are taught by an experienced faculty of published writers and poets. They also take a variety of other fine arts courses and complete an internship for a truly well-rounded program. Just some of the internship opportunities available include national literary journals, the national book press 'Seems,' the Great Lakes Writers Festival, the Lakeland Community Book Read, and The Mirror, the campus digital media outlet."

Student-Run Business venture celebrates anniversary

Launch: Lakeland Student-Run Businesses celebrated its two-year anniversary in 2022, marking a year of continued growth. Launch's businesses position LU students to pursue developing the well-rounded skillset that today's employers are seeking.

Since beginning the student-run businesses in 2020, Launch has started and currently operates five successful businesses. This includes Musko's Campus Shop, Elementastic, Develop U, Non-Profit and Event Planning.

In the second year of operations, Launch hired more than 80 student employees through five different businesses, provided more than \$50,000 in wage relief to local non-profits and has set up Launch for financial success through strategic budget planning.

Launch's annual report is available online at Lakeland.edu/launch.

West Foundation awards LU \$50,000 grant

Lakeland received a \$50,000 grant from the Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation to fund three projects.

A portion of the grant will cover a dozen new teaching microscopes for microbiology and upper-level biology laboratory courses. The new microscopes will provide students with equipment similar to what Lakeland graduates will use post-college.

Grant funds will be used to purchase several dozen performance chairs for the Bradley Fine Arts Building. The new chairs will be used by Lakeland students and staff, as well as the 1,200-1,500 middle school/high school students who attend music events Lakeland hosts annually.

Funds will also be used to purchase 20 trees to be planted on the main campus. Like communities throughout the country, the emerald ash borer has meant the loss of more than 40 trees on Lakeland's campus. Grant dollars will help restore this loss and increase trees across campus for future generations to enjoy.

Faculty, student study in Belize rainforest

Six Lakeland students and two faculty participated in a unique study abroad course that had them conducting research in the rainforest of Belize.

It's the seventh time Lakeland has offered Tropical Ecology in Belize, which was created in 2008 by biology professors Paul Pickhardt and Greg Smith. Pickhardt led this trip with biochemistry professor Jered McGivern. Students on the trip included Mya Fettes, Quinn Gardner, Gerardo Ibarra, Gavin Malwitz, Brandon Uhlean and Kaylee Zipperer.

Belize is a tiny country east of Guatemala on the eastern coast of Central America. The centerpiece of the 15-day trip is nine days and eight nights at the Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education (BFREE), a private, protected

area of 1,153 acres.

After spending part of the first day in the local market to buy food for their visit, the group walked six miles in 95-degree heat to reach the BFREE jungle and conduct their research. The trip also included one night in a Mayan village, three days of coral reef explorations in a barrier cave and a visit to the national zoo.

The Belize travel course, which receives generous funding from 1969 Lakeland graduate Cliff Feldmann, will next be offered in May of 2024.

Colloquium events invite successful alums back to LU

Nine successful alumni returned to campus near the end of the fall semester for the annual colloquium series. Lakeland annually invites graduates to campus that represent majors from LU's three primary academic schools. The speakers participate in panel discussions attended by current and prospective Lakeland students.

Attending the Humanities & Fine Arts Colloquium were:

- **Karina Aguirre Vazquez '19**, Community services coordinator at Partners for Community Development, Inc.
- **Jessica Leicht '22**, Graphic designer and video producer at Shorewest Realtors
- **Fabian Qamar '14**, Musician.

Attending the Business & Entrepreneurship Colloquium were:

- **Darcy Johnson '95**, Chief financial officer at Tormach
- **Eric Kriete '99**, Owner of The Silver Fern Pub
- **Girts Rubenis '08 MBA '20**, Engineering project management coordinator at Johnsonville.

Attending the Science, Technology & Education Colloquium were:

- **Tiffany Diven '13**, English and journalism/communications teacher at Sheboygan North High School

- **Kalie Novak '18**, Police officer at Plymouth Police Department
- **Ben Stellmacher '10**, Director of food safety and quality at Johnsonville.

LU history professor featured on Chicago radio

Lakeland Professor of History Rick Dodgson, an expert on America in the 1960s, was featured on Chicago's WGN Radio. Dodgson, the author of the 2013 book "It's All a Kind of Magic: The Young Ken Kesey," was interviewed about the life of Kesey and his book on the recent anniversary of Ken Kesey's death. Kesey is the American author of the celebrated novels "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" and "Sometimes A Great Notion" and a significant figure in the rise of the American counterculture in the 1960s.

LU hires familiar face to lead men's wrestling program

Veteran wrestling coach Mike DeRoehn, a familiar face on the NCAA Division III wrestling scene, returned to Lakeland last fall as head men's wrestling coach and director of strength and conditioning for LU athletics. DeRoehn has a wealth of experience, highlighted by successful head coach roles at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and UW-Oshkosh in addition to Lakeland.

He returned after serving as health & fitness coordinator for the Two Rivers School District, where his wife, Nicole '12, is a special education teacher.

DeRoehn's first tenure at Lakeland saw him guide several conference championship teams and NCAA qualifiers. He also served as assistant athletic director and developed the first program's dedicated wrestling space.

Exercise science grads present research in UK

Two graduates of Lakeland's exercise science program presented research at the 2022 International Society of Biomechanics in Sports (ISBS) Conference in Liverpool, UK. Megan Gold and Hunter Frisk, who both graduated in

May with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, attended the conference, held at John Moores University.

Gold and fellow LU student Brian Biggs were finalists for the New Investigator award. Lakeland undergraduate exercise science students took third place for this award in 2019 and 2021.

LU student, faculty member present at symposium

LU student Dakota Fenn and Professor of Biology Greg Smith presented a research poster at the Summer Research Program Poster Symposium at Marquette University. Fenn, a junior biology major from Sheboygan Falls, Wis., and Smith conducted their research through Lakeland Undergraduate Research Experience (LURE), a summer research program that has students and faculty working together.

Broadway Bootcamp is unique opportunity for high school students

Lakeland will host the second annual one-day Broadway Bootcamp for high school students this April 1. Led by Tony-nominated artists and Lakeland faculty, students will experience coaching by industry experts in voice, dance and acting.

Students also receive practical advice for entering and working in the theatre industry. Participants rotate through workshops in voice, dance and acting followed by an afternoon intensive course and panel discussion with musical theatre professionals. Learn more at Lakeland.edu/broadway. ❖

LAKELAND FACULTY NEWS & NOTES

One Lakeland faculty member was granted tenure and promoted, and three other faculty members were promoted.

Tenure and promotion was awarded to **Jodie Mortag**, associate professor of writing. Promotions were awarded to **Britanni Meinnert**, assistant professor of hospitality management; **Rick Dodgson, Ph.D.**, professor of history; and **Cindy Lindstrom, Ed.D.**, professor of computer science.

Mortag, a 2006 Lakeland graduate who joined Lakeland's faculty in 2013, has led development of new LU writing courses. The 2017 winner of the Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, Mortag has served several leadership roles, including Core I Coordinator, Assessment Coordinator and she led virtual advising training sessions for her colleagues during COVID. Recently, she has led development of processes to create more points of contact between prospective students and faculty to support enrollment efforts.

Meinnert, a two-time Lakeland grad who became a full-time faculty member in 2015, also serves as associate vice president for Cooperative Education and Career Readiness. Meinnert has led the development of LU's hospitality management program, and she was the 2021 winner of the Underkofler Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. She previously served as chair of Lakeland's Business and Technology Division.

Lakeland welcomed several new full-time faculty members to the main campus this academic year.

- **Leili Afsah-Hejri, Ph.D.**, joined LU this spring as assistant professor of chemistry and food safety & quality. She brings an extensive mix of teaching and award-winning research. She comes to LU from California where she worked as food safety specialist for the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of California Merced.
- **Mark Heimermann, Ph.D.**, who taught the last two years at Lakeland as visiting faculty, became assistant professor of English. Heimermann has served on LU's interdisciplinary studies committee and the remedial education task force. Prior to coming to Lakeland, he taught at Holy Family College as assistant professor of English for three years.
- **Lorinda Lewis, Ph.D.**, a longtime Lakeland adjunct professor, joined as visiting assistant professor of business administration. Lewis has been an adjunct faculty member with Lakeland since 2017, and she brings decades of professional experience in

Dodgson, who joined Lakeland's faculty in 2007, leads Lakeland's history department. He has created relationships with numerous off-campus organizations to create internship and other real work opportunities for his students. Dodgson has created ways for Lakeland to have impact in the community, including hosting a series of community forums let voters meet local political candidates.

Lindstrom, who joined Lakeland's faculty in a full-time role in 2009 after teaching as an adjunct for several years, leads LU's computer science program. LU's program has been named among the nation's Best Online IT Degrees. She worked with local and regional educational partners to establish an educational path for high school students to Lakeland. Several of her students have performed research with humanoid robots and how they can aid students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to better understand and express emotions.

numerous areas including continuous improvement, change management, logistics, supply chain, operations research/analysis and leadership of lean initiatives.

- **Alexis Pegram-Piper, Ph.D.**, a former adjunct at Lakeland, returned as assistant professor of composition. She taught at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the past five years. She was named winner of the Award for Using Unique and Effective Teaching Styles. She previously taught composition as an adjunct instructor at Lakeland and has experience teaching at several institutions.
- **Madeleine Wattenberg, Pd.D.**, joined as assistant professor of writing. She completed a doctoral degree in English and comparative literature and a graduate certificate in women, gender and sexuality studies from the University of Cincinnati. She is an award-winning poet and her debut poetry collection, "I/O," was a finalist for the 2021 Miller Williams Poetry Prize. ❖

ALUMNI AWARDS

Lakeland honored four individuals and inducted the newest members into the Emeritus Club during Homecoming weekend.

Membership into the esteemed Emeritus Club is limited to alumni with a Mission House or Lakeland College graduation date of at least half-a-century. Each year, the newest members of this respected club are inducted during Homecoming and recognized for their longstanding relationship with their alma mater. All Emeritus Club members and classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972 were welcomed this year.

Lakeland presented four individual awards:

Honorary Alumni Award – David Black

David Black is a dynamic leader and his two presidencies saw some of the most significant growth in Lakeland's history. He initially served as Lakeland's president from 1989-97, then returned in 2017 and completed his second tenure at the end of 2020. He initially left Lakeland

to become president of Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia. He retired from that role in 2013.

Enrollment nearly doubled during his first tenure, thanks in part to development of Lakeland's first graduate programs, the founding of Lakeland's Tokyo, Japan, campus in 1991, significant building projects on the Main Campus and expansion of the evening and online programs.

During this second tenure, he led the introduction of Lakeland's Cooperative Education program, which led to several of the largest freshman classes in Lakeland's history. His second tenure also included growth of Lakeland's Tokyo campus to a four-year degree program, as well as securing a USDA loan to fund new versions of Grosshuesch and Muehlmeier Halls, part of the largest building project in the history of the main campus.

Black retired at the end of the 2021 academic year. At Commencement in 2021, he was named President Emeritus. In July of 2022, he took over as chair of the Lakeland University Japan Management

Board, one of the governing bodies for LU's Tokyo campus.

Service to the University Award – Darryl Moore '96

Darryl Moore '96 is a school performance coordinator for Milwaukee Public Schools. He works in MPS District's Central Office building in the Department of Research, Assessment and Data. Together with a regional superintendent team, he helps support 25 schools, their principals and their leadership team with the school improvement plans and student achievement that are in the region.

Moore is also a minister at Abundant Faith Church of Integrity. Additionally, he is a real estate professional and investor. He has been married to Cottrina Moore for almost 22 years and has two children, Sydney Moore and DJ Moore.

Moore has always had a genuine interest in his alma mater that is conveyed through his visits to campus, attendance at the Essence of Heritage annual event, correspondence with current and past students and through his philanthropy. He invests in the future of the Black Student



Kate Baer '05 MAC '15 with her husband, Mike, and her mother, Laurie Schwartz.

Union, the Beta fraternity and Beta Psi Nu sorority with support and compassion. He has also furthered the Betas' Greek life experience by supporting a travel experience to a national conference.

Service to the Community Award – Kate Baer '05 MAC '15

Kate Baer '05 MAC '15 is the executive director of the United Way of Sheboygan County. Under Baer's leadership, the United Way of Sheboygan County (UWSC) quickly established itself as a major community resource during the pandemic and a hub for information regarding non-profit needs and support during the pandemic, which included raising over \$280,000 for COVID-specific pandemic relief as well as the creation of a Nonprofit Resource Network.

Recently, UWSC committed to investing

over \$2.127 million for the 2022/2023 fiscal year addressing the most critical issues and creating hope in action in education, health and financial stability for families and individuals in need.

She has been involved in a variety of organizations and causes during her professional career and spoken in numerous community forums on issues in her expertise. She is a leader with the Sheboygan Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Social Sector Initiative, which is working to support nonprofits throughout Sheboygan County within these areas.

Professional Achievement Award – Steve Vollmer '02

Steve Vollmer '02 is currently executive creative director at JTsa Sports, a portfolio of teams and venues owned by Alibaba

Group co-founder Joe Tsai that includes the Brooklyn Nets, Barclays Center, the Long Island Nets of the NBA G League, the New York Liberty of the Women's National Basketball Association, and the San Diego Seals and Las Vegas Desert Dogs, professional indoor lacrosse teams in the National Lacrosse League.

Vollmer has extensive experience working in professional sports, starting with a graphic design role with the NFL and later leadership creative positions with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Brooklyn Nets and Rooftop2 Productions, Inc.

He has regularly shared his story and experiences throughout his career with Lakeland students as a classroom speaker and in mentor roles, providing them with unmatched words of wisdom and best practices. ❖



Darryl Moore '96 (center, tan jacket) joined by members of his family, classmates, friends and other Lakeland alums.



Two-time Lakeland graduate **Joe O'Brien**, the dean of students and head football coach at Sheboygan North High School, was the Opening Convocation speaker in the fall of 2022. The Illinois native graduated from Lakeland in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He helped lead the football team to two conference championships and twice earned the team's Fighting Muskie of the Year Award. He overcame significant knees injuries during his Lakeland career. Following graduation, he was named a graduate assistant coach with the football program, and he completed a master of arts in counseling degree in 2013. He serves as a member of the MAC Advisory Board. He joined Sheboygan North's staff in 2014 as a school counselor. ❖

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For a paper form, reach out to the Advancement Office by calling 920-565-1023 ext. 2161; or emailing advancement@lakeland.edu.

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WE PICTURE YOU AT *Homecoming* THIS YEAR!



SEPT. 30, 2023



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