



Alumnus Tom Gilbertson '70 recounts his experience on 9/11/2001

“We pulled together as a country”

the

LINCOLN LOG

The Official Alumni Publication of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois.

FALL 2021

From the Office of the President



Will this COVID-19 roller coaster ride ever end?

It seems like we've been on this ride forever. Slowly climbing to the top and then being thrust downward at breakneck speed. Only to have it repeat again and again.

Like everyone else, we have no choice but to hang on and see it through.

And, toward that end, I'm pleased to report that Lincoln College has been adapting very well under the circumstances.

Lincoln College was excited to welcome students back to campus for in-person instruction for fall 2021. Despite the difficulties COVID-19 created for student recruitment, including not being able to attend in-person fairs, events, and high schools, the admissions office was able to overcome those obstacles to bring in 281 new students. The academic profile of the new class is one of the highest GPA and SAT averages in the past 8 years.

With travel restrictions in place for admissions counselors, additional strategies were put in place to recruit locally. Lincoln College saw a 20% increase in new local students, meaning students within a 60-mile radius of campus. Another bright spot in this class was an increase in transfer students. Lincoln College enrolled 76 new transfer students compared to 58 last year. Finally, 26 new international students enrolled for a total of 53 international students representing 30 countries attending LC. In spite of again being down from our historic highs from fall 2019 due to the pandemic, we press on.

One of the positive impacts of the pandemic has been that it forced us to become more innovative in delivering remote learning to students. Thanks to the lessons learned over the past year and a half, we are now moving forward with new online learning options. As we continue to focus on meeting the needs of students, Lincoln College used CARES ACT federal funding to provide laptops to our students. We will be taking a phased approach in order to protect the quality of the learning experience. Our two Organizational Leadership majors will be launching online first, beginning this coming Spring. Organizational Leadership, which offers both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Applied Science, has been the fastest growing program on our campus.

That will kick off a flurry of online degree programs, so that by the Fall of 2023, we will have nine online degree programs, including two graduate degrees.

We were already seeing a growing demand for online learning before COVID-19, but the pandemic has only accelerated that. If you stop and think about it, many incoming college freshmen have spent half or more of their high school years learning remotely.

Fortunately, our years of experience with the Accelerated Bridge to Education (ABE) adult learning program has helped us to jumpstart the online learning experience. Expanding online learning not only helps us appeal to these new learners, but it also gives us new flexibility and options for the ABE program.

One of our strengths over the past several years has been a network of articulation agreements that we have with partner institutions. These agreements can work two ways. Some serve as feeders, that allow students from other two-year programs to gain immediate acceptance and transfer credit at Lincoln College, others allow us to give our students an edge in admission to other schools for specialized study by assuring that credits they earn at Lincoln College can apply at those schools.

The latest such agreement is with the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. This new partnership allows students at Lincoln College to earn a Bachelors in Exercise Science and a Doctorate in Chiropractic. Students will complete three years at Lincoln College and then transfer to Palmer to finish their degrees.

Finally, I want to highlight an exciting new internship partnership between Lincoln College and U.S. Steel. We expect to launch next summer with two paid internships at U.S. Steel's Granite City, Illinois, plant. These paid summer internships are open to underrepresented graduates or undergraduate students majoring in Business Management or Organizational Leadership, as well as undergraduate students majoring in Criminal Justice, Conservation Biology, or Liberal Arts. The internship opportunity aims to provide job-related experience and professional networking to students who have designated their academic interests.

These internships are a direct outgrowth of our designation by the U.S. Department of Education as a Predominately Black Institution (PBI). For the past 11 years, Lincoln College has been the only rural PBI in the Midwest and one of only six rural PBI institutions in the United States.

When we gained this special designation from the federal government, it was hoped that it would enable us to secure new opportunities for our students, as more and more organizations seek to increase the diversity of their workforce. We are extremely proud to be a diverse institution and we are proud of each and every member of our student body.

I wish you the very best during these challenging times and please continue to support Lincoln College.



PRESIDENT, LINCOLN COLLEGE



Spending time with our male mentoring group, the Gents.



Attending the Astros vs. Yankees game in Houston, TX. Still hoping to convert Harrison from an Astros fan to a Yankees fan.



On Saturday, July 24 Lincoln College hosted a bus trip of students from Christ Tabernacle of Love Church.



Quality time with this year's Peer Mentors.



Alum Robert Dondeville '72 visits and enjoys his former artwork hung in University hall.



Grandchildren pictured, Harrison and Ruby.



"We Are All in This Together"

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Jason Hoffman '99

Lincoln College alum, Jason Hoffman '99, is a successful entrepreneur, artist, and owner of the Lincoln Arts Institute in Lincoln, Illinois. A native Midwesterner from Fairbury, Illinois, Hoffman's art career is very successful.

Now the owner of Jason Hoffman Studios, his artistic skills began to develop as a young adult interested in figurative drawing. "My identity as an artist, at the time, was figurative drawing," said Hoffman. "If you could represent something through drawing, I identified with that."

In junior high, Hoffman was introduced to woodworking and drafting by his teacher and mentor at Prairie Central. "He really took me under his wing and got me to another level," said Hoffman. "He transferred to the high school so I was able to work with him for another four years."

In 1997, Hoffman was recruited by Head Wrestling Coach, Dave Klemm, to attend Lincoln College. His focus was on obtaining an Associate of Arts degree under the direction of art faculty member, EJ Miley.

"I got to college and the only thing I knew how to do was wrestle and draw," said Hoffman. "Lincoln College offered me a wrestling scholarship and was close to home, so it was a good choice for me," said Hoffman.



"I-Beam High Top Table" One of six table designs



"Square Pegs Can Fit Into a Round Hole"



"Big Mistake Out"

After his time at Lincoln College, Hoffman transferred to Eastern Illinois University. He noted his first year at EIU being a pivotal point in developing a true passion for creating art.

“For the Art Education degree, three-dimensional fundamentals was a beginner class,” said Hoffman. “That is where I was first introduced to sculpture by educator and artist, Jeff Boshart. He knew I had skill and I was fascinated by the process. Art is yours. It can be your own language.”

It was at this point Hoffman realized his desire to create art. He transferred to Illinois State University in Normal where he obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in May of 2005.

After receiving his Fine Arts Degree, Hoffman spent time teaching and serving as Assistant Wrestling Coach at Lincoln College before accepting a full-time position at Lincoln Community High School as a woodworking instructor.

Hoffman spent 12 years teaching Logan County’s youth at LCHS before deciding to focus his efforts on creating art of his own full-time.

Jason Hoffman Studios was born.

Building an array of different art projects, Hoffman’s work utilizes a number of different materials and tools to create an aesthetically interesting and beautiful gallery of art. Many of the projects are large-scale contemporary displays that leave the viewer astonished.

Hoffman’s solid craftsmanship has caught the eye of many local businesses, who commission his services. He is currently building an ambo, alter, two deacon chairs, and a priest chair for Holy Family Catholic Church in Lincoln.

Lincoln College is also no stranger to Hoffman’s work. The artist built several display cases that house the Lynx and athletic trophies and awards at the Lincoln Center, as well as the recent display for the Middletown Flag at Lincoln Heritage Museum.

When he’s not doing commissioned work, Hoffman likes to focus on personal projects that are introspective and imaginative.

“We Are All in This Together” features currency from all over the world found during the renovation of Lincoln Arts Institute. “Money is the one thing that ties everyone together,” said Hoffman.

Hoffman was inspired to stitch the pieces together using a different stitch pattern seen on the Middletown Flag at Lincoln Heritage Museum and the quilt displays at Peoria Riverfront Museum.



“Champlain High Top Table”



Ambo. Commission for the Holy Family Church



Inside gallery view of the Lincoln Arts Institute



Front view of the Lincoln Arts Institute

His other projects, still unnamed, focus around the subject of drug addiction.

Hoffman will display the completed works in upcoming art shows in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Rushville, Illinois.

Lincoln Arts Institute, co-owned with girlfriend Marcia Cook, draws crowds from around Central Illinois and beyond. New local artists are displayed monthly in the gallery, featuring an array of different techniques, materials, and mediums. All events and shows are free to the general public. Opening receptions are the second Thursday of each month. The gallery is open Friday’s from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. and Saturday’s from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 112 S. McLean Street in Lincoln.

More of Hoffman’s work can be found at jasonhoffmanstudios.com.

Richard Nicholls '64



Lincoln College alumnus '64, Richard Nicholls, is a retired educator and coach with more than 35 years of experience.

In 1963, Nicholls chose to attend Lincoln College, playing baseball under former Lynx coach, Chuck Lindstrom. It was the start of the incredible years to come.

“Lincoln College helped me realize that I did have the necessary skills, knowledge, and work ethic to succeed,” said Nicholls.

When considering what career path would suit him best, Nicholls recalls Lindstrom and his history professor, Onalee Balof, as having a profound impact.



Onalee Balof
History, Social Science
1904 - 1978

“Balof had charisma and knowledge of history that was so in-depth, it was incredible. She would just sit up there and make it sound like she lived there - she lived in Rome, she lived overseas. She had an incredible memory and knowledge of the subject, and that had a big impact on me,” said Nicholls.

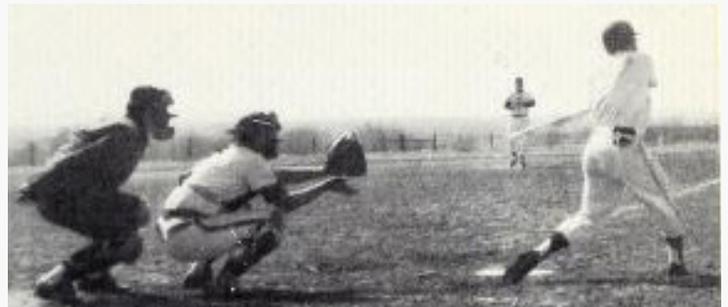
As a result of Balof's influence as an educator, Nicholls declared his major as History. Once his path was determined, Lindstrom served as Nicholls' academic advisor, mapping out his courses at Lincoln College. Nicholls was recognized for his many academic achievements at Lincoln College, including receiving an invitation-only membership to Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the American Legion Citizenship Award.

After two years at Lincoln College, Nicholls transferred to MacMurray College to continue his education and play baseball. Nicholls remained in-touch with Coach Lindstrom, as well as the many friends he made while on campus.

After four years of college baseball, Nicholls went on to play semi-professional baseball for the Palos Colonial Athletics, the Will County Athletics, and the Aurora Tigers. Former Lynx, Mike DeMent '71, played alongside Nicholls for three years. DeMent and Nicholls, along with other former Lynx baseball players, often returned to campus after graduation to participate in the fall all-star game. The two reconnected years later at a Lincoln College Hall of Fame Banquet. “When I went back for the banquet, he was there. We have stayed in touch over all these years,” said Nicholls.

It's no surprise that after his tremendously successful athletic career, Nicholls was destined to be an incredible coach.

“The discipline I had instilled as an athlete form my philosophy as a coach,” said Nicholls. “I told Coach Lindstrom my reservations about coaching and he told me I would be successful because of the person I was. That helped me be more confident.”



Nicholls up to bat in the spring of 1964.

Nicholls coached wrestling and track for Palos Middle School, between 1967 and 1990. Though Nicholls had experience playing many sports, he was given the opportunity to coach volleyball. “I never played organized volleyball,” said Nicholls. “It was the only sport I had never played myself. I had to learn it from the books.”

Richard Nicholls '64

The studying paid off. Nicholls went on to coach middle school, high school, and club volleyball for 22 years in the Chicagoland area. During his time with the Spikettes Volleyball Club, the Club's athletes earned several national championships. The most celebratory, however, was that every senior athlete received a division one college scholarship.

Outside of the court, Nicholls made a tremendous impact in the classroom as well. Initially teaching sixth grade for Chicago Public Schools, he later taught junior high within the Palos School District #118, where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Serving on a number of school district committees throughout his tenure, Nicholls played a significant role in curriculum development and shaping the Illinois goals assessment program for school standards.

Nicholls was also involved in various extracurricular activities, sponsoring school trips for more than 20 years. Most memorable was guiding high school and college students into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Northern Minnesota and Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada. Years later, many students recalled those transformative trips with Nicholls. "A student sent me a Christmas card with a note on the back that said, "I am the person I am because of you." You have no idea the impact you have made on someone until you have those encounters," said Nicholls.

Nicholls has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award with the Marquis Who's Who of America for his outstanding contributions to his profession. Nominations for Nicholls have been submitted every year since 1973 to the Who's Who community.

"I feel so blessed the students I've taught over the past 34 years had a positive experience with me. I'm fortunate I've been able to keep in touch with so many," said Nicholls.

In retirement, Nicholls enjoys traveling with his fiancé, Karen Ann Miller, and their dog, Mona. The two have traveled to a number of national parks, sailed with National Geographic, and explored many countries abroad. In addition, they are passionate about gardening and have been recognized by Brookfield's Gardening Commission for having one of the most beautiful gardens in the community.



ROW ONE - L. to R.: John Franklin, Alan Blair, Dan Hewitt, Bob Lockenour, Jay Schloemer, Chuck Staral. ROW TWO - L. to R.: Ted Gross, Dave Mosbacher, Richard Nicholls, Leonard Janet, Bill Healy, Dean Franz, Gene Friedman. ROW THREE - L. to R.: Coach Lindstrom, Assistant Coach Dick Griffin, Bob Karr, Mike Bottom, Dennis Pilcher, John Miller, Dick Burt.

GIVING TUESDAY
November 30, 2021

Save the Date

Join us on Tuesday, November 30 to celebrate Giving Tuesday by supporting Lincoln College! Your gift will help LC students and our efforts to give them the best collegiate experience possible. As Lincoln College continues on as a four-year institution, multiple needs are carefully balanced to assure students get the maximum benefits from the generosity of Lincoln College supporters.

Lincoln College is committed to continued investment into the programs and facilities students need for an exceptional student experience. Giving

Tuesday provides the College with a single day to focus on these most urgent needs and highest priorities. To make a gift, please either mail your donation in the attached envelope or visit <https://lincolncollege.givingfuel.com/lincoln-fund> to make a difference!

GO LYNX!

For questions, please email advancement@lincolncollege.edu or call (877) 522-5867.

Lincoln College Partners with U.S. Steel

Lincoln College is pleased to announce a partnership with U.S. Steel to provide paid internships to underrepresented students. The program is expected to start with two internships at the company's Granite City Works.

U.S. Steel was formed by some of America's most legendary businesspeople, including Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, and Charles Schwab, as well as lead architect Elbert H. Gary. Over the last 120 years, U.S. Steel has played an integral part in supplying steel for countless iconic American buildings, bridges, roads, rail lines, and more.

U.S. Steel's Granite City plant, Granite City Works, is expected to host the initial contingent of Lincoln College interns. Located in southern Illinois, Granite City Works produces high-quality hot-rolled, cold-rolled, and coated sheet steel products for customers in various industries.

"U.S. Steel is pleased to collaborate with Lincoln College. We appreciate the dedication and potential of the students at this storied 156-year-old institution in Central Illinois. We look forward to this partnership to create the innovative solutions needed to provide sustainable steel to the next generation of learners," said U.S. Steel President and CEO David B. Burritt.



United States Steel

These paid summer internships are open to graduate or undergraduate students majoring in Business Management or Organizational Leadership, as well as undergraduate students majoring in Criminal Justice, Conservation Biology, or Liberal Arts. The internship opportunity aims to provide job-related experience and professional networking to students who have designated their academic interests.

"Lincoln College is excited to expand our internship opportunities with U.S. Steel. There is great value in connecting our students with potential careers and supporting hands-on learning experiences," said President David Gerlach.

Applications are available through the Lincoln College Career Services Office, with student screening and recommendations to be determined by the Lincoln College President, and all final decisions made by U.S. Steel.

"Lincoln College tailors its academic and social offerings to fit each student's interests. Partnering with U.S. Steel opens another avenue for us to meet our student's needs through internship opportunities," added Gerlach.

6-Passenger Club Cars donated to Lincoln College



Kimberly Sterling, Operations Vice President at State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Companies, made an incredible personal donation to Lincoln College. Sterling donated two 6-passenger Club Cars to Lincoln College.

"Supporting academics and lifelong learning is a huge passion of mine. Students are our future in the workplace, innovation, and shaping the fabric of our communities. I have been extremely impressed with the professionalism, commitment, and hard work of the Lincoln College faculty, staff and administration to create an inviting and enriching learning experience for all students. I love knowing the golf carts will be used to show perspective students and their families around this vibrant, beautiful campus while giving them a glimpse of the wonderful opportunities that await them at Lincoln College," said Sterling.

Alumnus Tom Gilbertson '70 remembering 9/11



Alumnus Tom Gilbertson '70, worked as an Aviation Broker for Aon Corporation on the 102nd floor of the South Tower in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

"It was a privilege to work there and look out and see Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge," said Gilbertson.

Gilbertson recalled going into his office in the South Tower of the World Trade Center as usual, arriving early between 8:30 a.m. -8:45 a.m. that sunny Tuesday morning. A little before 9:00 a.m., Gilbertson and his co-workers felt a slight jolt in the building. Assuming it was simply the elevator bumping against the elevator shaft, no one was initially alarmed.

"I got up from my desk and walked to the window where I saw brown smoke and papers flying by the window," said Gilbertson. "Our office was located southeast of the North Tower, facing east, so I couldn't see the North Tower at all and had no idea an airplane had hit it."

There was some disagreement about whether to stay in the South Tower or evacuate, knowing the building was structurally sound at that time. Gilbertson recalled thinking that if there was an emergency, his office colleagues would be safer in their current location, as the ground level might have been chaotic.

"If let to my own decisions, I would have stayed put," said Gilbertson. "The building swayed when it was windy but I was comfortable in how secure it was. I thought I was perfectly safe. The building wasn't compromised in any way," he said. In fact, World Trade Center security told employees through the public address system, "The South Tower is secure."

Gilbertson's co-worker was a volunteer firefighter in Long Island and urged the group to evacuate. However, the final decision was made when Gilbertson's co-worker ventured to a north wall window and saw the horror that was not visible earlier. The co-worker made eye contact with a woman standing in the window, hundreds of feet from the ground, preparing to jump from the North Tower. "She was hysterical," said Gilbertson.

"The way the airplane hit the North Tower directly, it took out all sets of staircases at the core of the building, so there was no way down," said Gilbertson.

Gilbertson and his four co-workers began to travel to ground level. The first elevator took the group to the 78th floor sky lobby. At the sky lobby, over a dozen high-speed elevators took employees to ground level in less than 25 seconds.

"We walked out of the elevator and into the ground-floor lobby, taking a right turn toward the mall area," said Gilbertson. "As we went through the glass doors to the mall, the whole building shook. We looked out toward the entrance doors on Liberty Street and saw flaming debris hitting the ground."

Gilbertson proceeded to the subway with his co-worker, taking the train to 23rd Street and walking to mid-town around 34th Street. It was at a diner in mid-town Gilbertson and his colleague finally learned the magnitude of events unfolding and about the towers collapsing.

Not all were so lucky. Gilbertson's boss, Ed Nicholls, opted for the stairs instead of the elevator. Deciding it was taking too long, he climbed back up to the 78th floor sky lobby to use the elevators. At that time, the second plane hit the South Tower. A woman in the lobby was struck by pieces of the marble wall, and did not survive. Nicholls, though suffering a dislocated shoulder from the flying debris, hurried back to the stairs to descend the remaining floors. That is where he met Moira Smith, a 13th Precinct New York City Police Officer. The officer escorted Nicholls to safety outside before going back in the South Tower for others. Smith perished in the collapse of the South Tower, one of 60 NYPD and Port Authority officers killed that day.

Gilbertson recounts the following days as surreal. "I was in shock. I felt numb. They brought in counselors to help us cope. There were a lot of memorial services. It was a tough time," he said. "There was a lot going on. It was a bad, bad day. People on television that morning knew more than we did. We suspected it could be a bomb but didn't know," said Gilbertson. "It was pure luck getting out on time."

In his hometown of Cranford, New Jersey a memorial was erected in honor of the six individuals lost in the disaster.

"You have to go on. You have no choice," said Gilbertson. "We pulled together as a country and did what we had to do. Even to this day, seeing a picture of the burning towers is very rough for me. You can't even fathom why someone would do this."

Gilbertson and the four others that accompanied him in the elevator on September 11, 2001 remain in touch, connecting near the anniversary of the attacks each year.

"Our country can have a short memory. You can't ever forget what happened and what people are capable of," said Gilbertson.

Tom Gilbertson resides in Cranford, NJ with wife Jane. The two have three adult children, all married, and seven (soon-to-be eight) grandchildren.



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC

Lincoln College Launches New Major in Music

Lincoln College launched a new Bachelor of Arts in Music degree beginning Fall 2021. The new degree is the latest major added to Lincoln College's growing list of programs available for bachelor degree students.

“This degree is particularly exciting because the program allows students to choose from two paths: Music Performance and Production and Music Business and Production. The Bachelor of Arts in Music degree is practical, modern, and designed to transition students directly into careers,” said President David Gerlach.

Lincoln College determined that a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree would be a good fit for students and set about designing curriculum that focused on modern production technology and business, along with traditional performance opportunities.

Students in the Bachelor of Music program have hands-on learning opportunities with nationally recognized music industry professionals hosted in the Johnston Center for Performing Arts building.

The Music Business and Production path offers students an interdisciplinary array of courses in music production and publishing, audiovisual editing and finishing, recording arts history, and the overarching business fundamentals that govern the music industry. Successful graduates will enter the workforce with practical musical knowledge, production skills, and business acumen.

The Music Performance and Production path combines foundational music training with an emphasis on music performance as an integrative process that includes theater, audiovisual storytelling, recording arts production, and film media. Students will participate in all stages of the conceptualization, production, and performance of original music. Coursework encompasses songwriting, visual and audio production, and the presentation of live events on campus and in the community.



The curriculum includes practical skills that prepare students for careers in the multi-faceted and fast-paced music and performing arts industries,” said Lead Faculty for Music Denise La Grassa. “Musical knowledge and performance skills prepare students for careers as performers, music and fine arts administrators, community teaching instructors, an advanced degree in music performance or education, or a career in the recording arts, among other potential professional paths” La Grassa added.



Visit lincolncollege.edu for more information.

MUSIC

FACULTY



Dr. Denise La Grassa

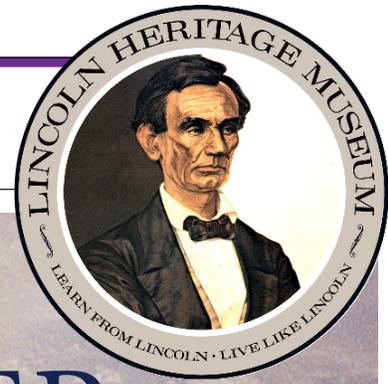
Lead Faculty for the Music program

“Live at the Castle Theatre” is Denise La Grassa’s latest album to showcase her immense power and feeling, and sophisticated yet melodic songwriting. “Sunshine in the Toxic Ballroom” and “Pieces of Peace” from “Live” are hints of what’s to come on the bluesy LP “The Flame,” scheduled for an early 2022 release. New City Magazine (Chicago) Music Editor Robert Rodi recently notes, “... she’s also sufficiently a woman of her time to pull in influences as diverse as funk and folk. And her compelling contralto owes more to Grace Slick than Sarah Vaughan.” Denise’s evolution to blues began with 2015’s slow-burning “The Blues Ain’t a Color,” the soundtrack to her one-woman show of the same name. It played to diverse audiences at various Chicago venues, including a summer run at the revered Theatre Wit. The album delivered torching ballads including the stunning “One More Tear” and the gospel/blues inflected “Davina’s Song.”

Her 2009 album “April Dreams” received critical praise from numerous outlets, including Jim DeRogatis of NPR’s Sound Opinions, who heard “... an impressive but never showy range and a self-assured, conversational delivery that brings to mind a jazzier Aimee Mann.” Denise’s progression into blues and roots music is grounded in her early love of soul and R&B, with Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, John Lee Hooker, and Al Green particular favorites. Astute ears will hear Charlie Parker and Sarah Vaughan also found their way into her songwriting and performance, making her music difficult to put into a single box.

Denise’s songwriting began at age six when she took a fistful of freshly written songs to the front steps of her suburban Chicago neighbors and serenaded them with her morning’s work. That spirit blossomed when she discovered The Second City in Chicago on break one summer from college. “I couldn’t believe what I found. A school for people like me! I left college and soaked up improv writing and acting. Within a year I was traveling with The Second City Touring Company and having the time of my life.” One of her favorite bits was inventing songs on the spot from audience shouted ideas.

Denise has also written and produced numerous musical one-woman shows and landed small parts in a couple of made for HBO movies, including Hometown Boy Makes Good with Anthony Edwards (she’s the funny secretary). You can still catch her portrayals of real-life people on the TV show “Unsolved Mysteries.”



ALWAYS REMEMBER

Commemorating 9/11 After Twenty Years

Lincoln Heritage Museum and Lincoln Arts Institute Announce Joint Project for 9/11 Recognition

The Lincoln Heritage Museum launched a community-based art project for display during the Museum's Always Remember: Commemorating 9/11 After 20 Years special exhibit, which opened September 11.

Community members helped create an original painting that honors the memory of 9/11 and also become a permanent part of the Museum's collection. Local artist and owner of the Lincoln Arts Institute, Jason Hoffman, started the painting and oversaw the community's participation. Members of the public, regardless of age or skill level, were welcome to participate in creating the unique work of art.

Hoffman designed and built a special display case for the Museum's Middletown Flag project. That project placed on permanent display in the museum a restored hand-stitched American flag that was created by the women of Middletown, Illinois, and used at an Aug. 8, 1860 campaign rally for then-presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln in Springfield.

"In a way, I see this painting as a continuation of the Middletown Flag project. In the 19th century, the women of Middletown came together to offer support for their preferred presidential candidate by creating a beautiful work of art that lives on today," Hoffman said. "I hope that through this painting we can create a unique 21st century piece of art that will show future generations how the Lincoln community was united in support and remembrance for those who lost their lives twenty years ago."

"We are very appreciative of the Lincoln Arts Institute's support of the Museum and of Jason's willingness to provide the artistic guidance to make this a truly memorable project for everyone in the community," Olivia Partlow, Director of the Lincoln Heritage Museum, said. "This project is important this year, but it will be even more important as time goes by and future generations can look back and see how people in 2021 remembered and honored the events of Sept. 11, 2001."

The artwork is part of a new 9/11 exhibit that features pieces of steel beam from Trade Center Tower 1, an American Airlines uniform worn in New York City on September 11, and other artifacts.

Lincoln Heritage Museum is open Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information please visit Lincoln Heritage Museum's website at <https://museum.lincolncollege.edu/>.

Lincoln Heritage Museum Hosts Week of Celebration

In lieu of the 2021 Grand Soirée, Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College hosted the Week of Celebration, a fundraiser celebrating the life and stories of Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Heritage Museum September 20-25.

Lincoln Heritage Museum was hopeful an in-person Soirée event would be permitted this fall, however, due to new CDC guidelines regarding indoor masking and growing concerns about the Delta variant, the difficult decision was made to transition away from the heavily attended indoor gala.

Instead, Lincoln Heritage Museum offered free admissions to patrons during the Week of Celebration. Visitors experienced a walking tour through Lincoln's Life, with each room representing a different period. The brand new 9/11 exhibit was on display featuring pieces of steel beam from Trade Center Tower 1, an American Airlines uniform worn in New York City on September 11, along with other artifacts.

During the Week of Celebration, the community had the chance to enter raffle drawings for fun prize packages at the Lincoln Heritage Museum. Community members also participated in the Celebration Wine Pull where \$20 bought a randomly selected bottle of wine. Wine ranged in value from \$5-\$150, with several bottles valued over \$50.

“This is the second year that the pandemic shifted our plans for fall fundraising,” said Olivia Partlow, Director of Lincoln Heritage Museum. “Although it was quite different than the Grand Soirée, I was excited to have the opportunity for more community involvement during this year’s Week of Celebration.”

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has hindered critical funding for Lincoln Heritage Museum. Funding supports the acquisition and preservation of important artifacts, creation of new exhibits, educational outreach, and the development of free community programming. Lincoln Heritage Museum attracts tourists to the community from all over the world.

Lincoln Heritage Museum has received a great deal of recognition for design, educational opportunities, and historical artifacts. The Museum was the recipient of the prestigious Wendy Allen Award, a national award recognizing exceptional achievements in promoting scholarship about Abraham Lincoln. The Museum has also been named one of the 30 most amazing university museums in the world by Bestcollegesonline.org, and fifth most astounding collegiate museum in the nation by EdSmart.





Photo Credit: Jovana Jeremic

Student SPOTLIGHT

Zaknafein Luken

Lincoln College student, Zaknafein Luken '22, is making a name for himself in film. Luken, a senior in the Radio, TV, and New Media program, has received numerous accolades over the last year.

Luken's honors were in the Short Form/Non-Fiction category for his original short film, "Hate is Not Welcome Here," a piece that examines racial injustices and social issues. The film is a narrative piece featuring interviews and testimonials from Lincoln College students, faculty, and staff members. Radio, TV, and New Media students Jovana Jeremic, Adam Hoffman, and Spencer Davis assisted as stage hands and cinematography for the film.

"When I first posted "Hate is Not Welcome Here" on social media, there was an overwhelming amount of positive feedback which told me people were emotionally impacted by this film," said Luken. "The film is easy to watch but packs a punch," added Luken.

Luken explained that a Lincoln College staff member initially reached out to encourage him to enter the film into festivals. "I am a firm believer in not passing up any opportunity," said Luken. "I felt like I created something anyone could watch and connect with."

In the months that followed, Luken's film was submitted to a number of film festivals and competitions. His intuition that the film was something special was confirmed.

He was the recipient of the prestigious Emmy Award, announced June 22 in the 45th Annual Mid-America Emmy Awards competition, sponsored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). Luken also received honorable mention honors in the category of Best Editor.

NATAS has 19 regional chapters that organize award ceremonies of their own, awarding Emmy statues similar to those given out at the national ceremonies. They also administer their own regional scholarship and student productions award programs.

Luken also entered his film in nine international and domestic film festivals. His submissions included "Hate is Not Welcome Here," as well as his original documentary, "Our Cause is Just," a Civil War documentary based upon letters written by brothers Henry and George Hawes and half-brother James Ewing—all three soldiers in battle—to parents John and Esther and family back home in Atlanta, Illinois.

The Independent Shorts Awards in Los Angeles named, “Hate is Not Welcome Here” Best Microfilm. Luken also placed 2nd in the category of Inspirational Film for the Top Shorts Film Festival in New York City, losing the top spot to a short film featuring Hollywood megastar, Kevin Bacon.

Luken took home 3rd place in the Ebert Film Festival in the category for ages 19-21. He was honored for his award at red carpet events in Champaign, Illinois on September 11 at the Virginia Theater and in Chicago at the Shakespeare Theater September 19.

Other festivals Luken qualified for include the Starved Rock Country Festival of the Arts (FOTA) and Young Filmmakers.

Despite being busy with film festival entries, working, and being a full-time student, Luken recently completed a summer internship with ‘Twas Entertainment, a multi-media production company based in Los Angeles that develops, creates, and produces family content. After years of creating for big studios, owners Brenda Chapman ’82 and Kevin Lima, whose resumes include a number of family favorites including: Disney Pixar’s Brave, Tarzan, 102 Dalmatians, Enchanted, and Dreamworks’ The Prince of Egypt, started ‘Twas Entertainment.

“I knew Brenda Chapman ’82 was connected to Lincoln College and I wanted to shoot for the stars, getting experience that was bigger than me,” said Luken. “I figured their company was the best way to test my skill and passion for filmmaking.”

After persistently emailing and requesting a summer internship opportunity, Kevin Lima agreed to hire Luken.

Luken served as Lima’s assistant, read scripts in development, worked on casting projects, and gave feedback and summarizations on potential projects. “Kevin would mentor me on the proper way to submit recommendations,” said Luken. “I was given incredible opportunities, even sitting in on a pitch project with Paramount Studios. I’m very much in debt to him. I learned so much.”

“Zak was by far the best intern experience I have had,” said Lima. “His dedication to ‘Twas and his commitment to furthering his own goals made for a perfect collaboration. He has raised the bar for all other interns that pass through my door.”

Luken hopes to move to Los Angeles, California following his graduation from Lincoln College to continue his dream of filmmaking.

Hate is Not Welcome Here can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OaFInxjoUE>.



Photo Credit: Jovanna Jeremic

Alumni WEEKEND

Lincoln College's Alumni Reunion resumed in-person festivities on the Lincoln College campus July 30-31.

Events began Friday, July 30, with the Annual Lynx Golf Classic at the Lincoln Elks Golf Club. The golf outing and awards presentation is a major athletic fundraising event for Lincoln College Athletics. Fifty-four golf foursomes enjoyed morning and afternoon sessions followed by a dinner reception at the Lincoln Center.

Other alumni and friends enjoyed guided campus tours, a Logan County Route 66 Tour, and a Meet & Greet at the Lincoln Heritage Museum Atrium, which included light hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Saturday, July 31, events included pastries with the President, guided campus tours, new exhibits and tours at the Lincoln Heritage Museum, a special historic Lincoln bus tour, and the Alumni Dinner & Awards Program.

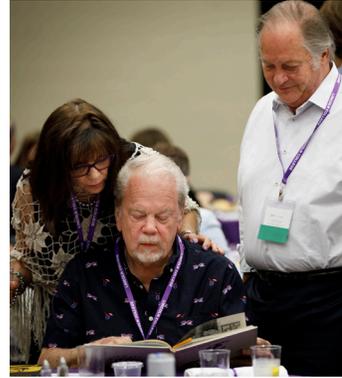
The Alumni Dinner & Awards Program hosted a cocktail reception in the Lincoln Center. This year's honorees included Steve Isenstein '70, Ann (Beaver) Wolpert '84, Robert W. Rang '71, Celia "Cees" (Harmon) Jeckel '64, and Linda Armstrong.

Due to cancellations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, classes celebrating their 25th, 50th, 70th, and 75th anniversaries in 2020 and 2021 received special recognition and an official LC Swarovski crystal alumni pin at the dinner.

"We were very excited about combining the Annual Lincoln College Golf Classic with alumni weekend this year! After having to postpone or cancel events in 2020 due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to reconnect for a weekend filled with lots of great fellowship and activities," said Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Debbie Ackerman '83.



Friday Night Meet & Greet



Taking a look at yearbooks



Visiting with Abe



The fun began Friday, July 30, at the Lynx Golf Classic



Linda Coleman '71



Reviewing memories from 1969-1971



Reunited!



Awards Dinner



Kevin & Ruth Davenport



Welcome back class of 1970



Welcome back class of 1971

Alumni AWARDS

On July 31, six were recognized at the Alumni Dinner. Congratulations!



Honorary Alumna Award

Linda Armstrong

It would be hard to find anyone more loved by students than Linda Armstrong. Her official duty is to verify student and staff IDs as they enter the dining hall, but that does not begin to describe her role and importance to LC. Ever-present at sporting events, Linda and her husband Mike are far more than simply fans of our student athletes. They are among their biggest supporters in everything at Lincoln College. Linda is an “auntie” to students away from home, always helping and always encouraging them to be their best. For her outstanding support of our students, faculty, and staff, we are pleased to recognize Linda Armstrong with this award.



LaVeta Zurkammer Alumni Award

Celia “Cees” Jeckel ('64)

Since 1962, Lincoln College has been part of Cees Jeckel’s life. During nearly 60 years of association with Lincoln College, Cees has been a traditional student, parent of two graduates, an employee, a non-traditional student, a part-time employee, and a sports fan at Lincoln College. The LaVeta Zurkammer Alumni Award was established in 2011 to recognize and honor Lincoln College alumni whose love and enthusiasm for their alma mater are demonstrated by their life-long dedication to and involvement with Lincoln College, its mission and programs. Cees more than exemplifies the intent of this award.



Young Alumni Achievement Award

Kevin Davenport ('09)

Describing himself as a serial impact entrepreneur, Kevin Davenport is the founder of the award-winning nonprofit training academy, The Ideal Candidate and author of the book by the same name. He is the Program Manager for the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Chicago Urban League, CEO of The Ideal Training Academy and Co-Founder and COO of Ideal Digital. His contributions to the community have been recognized through many awards, including the Mayors Award of Excellence - City of Aurora; For Women and Diversity (FWD) Award; Community Impact Award from the Chicago Housing Authority, the Community Development Award from the Chicago Community Trust – Young Leaders Fund and The Face of Chicago Business Magazine.



Alumni Achievement Award

Ann L. Beaver Wolpert ('84)

After graduating from Lincoln College, Ann Wolpert went on to earn degrees in Theatre and Education at Illinois State, as well as Master’s Degrees from Indiana Wesleyan in Education and the University of Northern Colorado in Theatre Education. An accomplished and dedicated educator, Ann has built a distinguished career teaching English and theatre for more than three decades. Her many honors and awards include directing more than 60 productions, including the state champion Contest Play in 2003, three state runner-ups and four championship Group Interpretations.



Alumni Achievement Award

Robert Rang ('71)

From Hollywood to Washington D.C., from Paris to Las Vegas and even on the ocean, Robert Rang’s creative touch has defined the look of some of the world’s most prestigious venues and most significant events. If you have been on a Royal Caribbean cruise, seen the Lido in Paris, viewed the inauguration of President Clinton, tuned in to Jeopardy, watched Dance Fever or the Academy Awards, you’ve probably seen some of Rang’s work. The list of his accomplishments is so long that it is inevitable that more will be omitted than can be included.



Alumni Achievement Award

Steven Isenstein ('70)

A successful businessman and generous benefactor of Lincoln College, Steven Isenstein graduated from Lincoln College in 1970 and went on to the University of Denver, where he received his Bachelor’s of Business Administration in 1972. While at Lincoln College, Isenstein compiled an impressive record of achievements that would continue after graduation. At Lincoln, he was a Dean’s List student, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Vice-President of Circle K, winner of the Roy Clapper Business Award, and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. As a supporter, Isenstein has established two scholarships, supported the Campaign for the Lincoln Center and has been instrumental in connecting Lincoln College with foundations and other donors able to provide additional financial support.

Class Notes



Paul Simon, class of 1961, is semi-retired from having his own insurance brokerage firm for 48 years. He attended Northern Illinois University, where he met his wife Colleen; Paul taught elementary school for eight years after college. Paul and Colleen celebrated 53 years of marriage this year and have two sons, one living in Singapore with his wife for the last 17 years, and the second living with his family in the Los Angeles area; they have three grandchildren, 18 and younger.

Allan Kaufman, class of 1966, is an Ambassador for The Alliance for the Great Lakes, raising public awareness of the issues, problems and concerns about the Great Lakes, which affect eight states and parts of Canada and are the greatest source of fresh water in the world and for over 50 million people, through speaking and social media. He has also been a diver at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and an assistant SCUBA instructor. (at right in photo)



Jon Hage, class of 1974, is living in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Christopher Gray, class of 1995, has been named President of Erie County Community College of Pennsylvania. Gray served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Labor Development at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, IL for the past four years.



April (Smykal) and Kellen Harrison, class of 2005, met at LC and dated from their first semester, had three amazing children, and recently had their dream beach wedding. April writes, "One could think we like to do things a li'l backwards and untraditional, but traditionally our way." Congratulations April and Kellen!

Kevin Davenport, class of 2009, was promoted from Program Director to Interim Director for the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation with the Chicago Urban League. He was also featured on "The Face of Chicago Business" top 50 influencers.



In Memory

Our deepest sympathy to the families of those listed below. Due to space limitations, we are only able to publish each person's name, age, class year, and date of death.

1940s

Mary Jane (Stone) Rutledge, 96, 1941, September 8, 2017.

1950s

Lawrence J. "Larry" Thalmann, 88, 1950, October 1, 2018; Lorretta May (Shawgo) Thomas, 84, 1956, May 9, 2021; Ward H. Brining, 82, 1958, March 15, 2021; Noel G. Fischer, 83, 1958, February 22, 2021; Richard D. "Dick" Gardner, 87, 1958, May 11, 2021.

1960s

William T. Montgomery, 80, 1960, July 28, 2020; Therese K. "Terry" (Strother) Halaska, 79, 1961, April 3, 2021; Roger A. Ackerman, 78, 1963, October 17, 2020; Lynne M. Crompton-Hanson, 78, 1963, June 15, 2021; John W. "Jack" Sparacio, 78, 1963, June 21, 2021; Samuel M. Blackwell, 76, 1964, December 3, 2020; William J. Harris, 85, 1964, December 14, 2019; Robert L. "Bob" Lockenour, 76, 1964, April 17, 2021; Bruce R. Ward, 75, 1964, May 15, 2019; Charles Michael "Mike" Bottom, 76, 1965, May 15, 2021; Paula M. (Gallagher) Bakpa, 75, 1966, June 24, 2021; Bonnie (Bolnick) Schwartz, 71, 1967, December 28, 2018.

1970s

Stephen T. Gliddon, 70, 1970, November 30, 2020; Edward W. Koczorowski, 70, 1970, September 5, 2020; Harvey B. "Brad" Hudson, 69, 1971, June 12, 2020; Jeffrey K. "Jeff" Stoffels, 67, 1971, October 30, 2018; Debra P. (Maniatis) Warren-Rogers, 68, 1971, July 26, 2020; Jay W. Collier, 69, 1973, July 4, 2021; Sandy R. Hendrickson, 69, 1973, February 3, 2021; Sandra E. "Santee" Smith-Deilkes, 69, 1973, June 20, 2021; John P. Domeier, 65, 1975, June 10, 2021; Lisa A. Winegardner, 66, 1975, March 16, 2021; Mitchell S. "Mitch" Cohen, 62, 1977, July 21, 2018; Jesus R. Carranza, 63, 1978, April 13, 2021.

1980s

James O. "Jim" Turley, 61, 1981, May 25, 2021; Diane L. (Healea) Cole, 75, 1989, June 6, 2021.

1990s

Christopher N. Oberheim, 44, 1997, May 19, 2021.

2000s

Ryan D. Metz, 35, 2005, August 22, 2019; Jaime L. Singley, 41, 2006, February 13, 2018; Lewis Demetrius Funches, 22, 2020, July 2, 2020; Keyera Gant, 25, 2022, August 9, 2021.

Normal Campus/ABE

Velma M. (Trost) Lawrence, 91, 1988, May 26, 2021; Mary F. Matthews, 64, 1989, May 2, 2017; Karen A. (Barry) Bossingham Goodrich, 71, 1993, June 13, 2020.

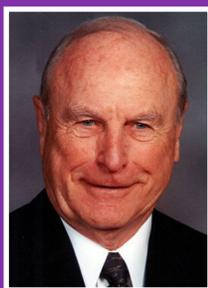
We also extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the following members of the Lynx family:



Florence Elizabeth "Betty" (Funk) Peacock, wife of Trustee Emeritus Saf Peacock, passed away April 23, 2021 in Arizona; she was 91. Generous benefactors of Lincoln College, the Peacocks expressed their passion for education by establishing the Saf and Betty Peacock Endowed Scholarship, which has provided financial support to multiple students annually since 2004. She also served on the Illinois

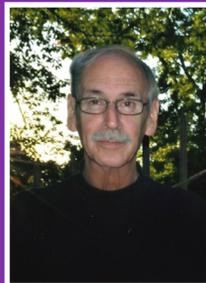
Board of the Nature Conservancy and was the first president of the Logan County Park and Trail Foundation. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, two children, and many grand and great-grandchildren.

Trustee Emeritus Robert H. Roberts passed away April 22, 2021, in Decatur, Ill.; he was 92. A trust and estate lawyer, Roberts stepped down as an LC Trustee in May 2015 after serving for over 30 years, including three years as Chair. He was a veteran of the Korean conflict, a 50-year-plus member of Kiwanis, and served many other professional and civic organizations including the Illinois Bar Association, Illinois Bankers Association, Macon County Farm Bureau, Decatur Memorial Hospital and Macon County Historical Society. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen and is survived by three children and several grandchildren.



Honorary Trustee John W. "Jack" Sparacio '63 passed away June 21, 2021, in California following a long illness; he was 78. As a Lynx, Sparacio played baseball for Coach Lindstrom and went on to graduate from Western Michigan University, Northwestern University and Columbia University. He had a long and successful career in manufacturing, and received the LC Alumni Achievement Award in Business in April 2013. He served as

a Lincoln College Trustee from 2012 to 2018 and was recognized by the Board as an Honorary Trustee in September 2018. He is survived by his wife Cyndi, his children and stepchildren, and five grandchildren.



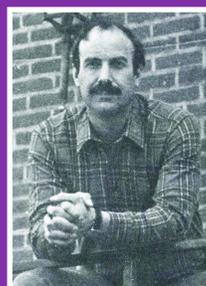
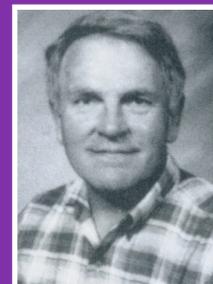
EJ Miley, Jr., long-time Lincoln College art professor known for his canine paintings and creator of the Zimbie-Whiting visual arts award, passed away in Lincoln May 21, 2021; he was 67 and is survived by his wife Tammy (May) Rich Miley '98, '07.

Retired Illinois Congressman **Robert H. Michel**, recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at commencement 1977, passed away in Arlington, Va., February 17, 2017; he was 93.

Scott Carson **Moriearty**, friend of LC who helped establish the Frances Lane Moriearty Memorial Endowed Scholarship, passed away July 27, 2021 in Massachusetts; he was 74.

Former Normal-campus faculty **Gloria J. Nuhn-Schweinberg**, former Normal-campus English faculty, passed away in October 2020; she was 70.

David W. Schroder, intrepid biology and chemistry professor for nearly 40 years, passed away in Lincoln July 24, 2021; he was 78 and is survived by his wife Barbara McLaughlin Schroder, two children and two grandchildren.



Dr. J. Michael Bowers, who served as Dean of Students and Dean of Administration from the early 1970s to the early 1980s, passed away June 19, 2021 in Kansas City, MO; he was 77. He is survived by his wife Mary Kay (nee Syndergaard), a former director of Student Services at LC, and two children.

Claude Van Fossan, long-time member of the Lincoln campus Buildings and Grounds staff, passed away in Lincoln May 20, 2021; he was 81.

Lincoln College appreciates the many ways alumni and friends support our mission of empowering students to reach their full potential through gifts in honor or memory of their classmates, teammates, professors and other campus members. **Thank you!**

the LINCOLN LOG

Lincoln College
Office of Alumni Relations
300 Keokuk Street
Lincoln, IL 62656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Attention Parents! If the address lists someone who no longer lives with you, please send your student's correct address to: Lincoln College - Office of Alumni Relations, 300 Keokuk Street, Lincoln, IL 62656 or e-mail alumni@lincolncollege.edu

*Events are subject to change due to COVID-19 circumstances

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES + EVENTS

2022 **7**
MAY **May 7, 2022- Honors Convocation
and Commencement**

2022 **29**
JULY **Lynx Golf Classic**

2022 **29-**
JULY **Alumni Reunion Weekend**

NOW OFFERING

Online Programs

Visit

lincolncollege.edu

To learn more about our degree options.

ONLINE DEGREE OPTIONS:

Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership

Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership

More coming soon!