Lindenwood University has hundreds of eminently qualified professors who share their professional and life experiences in classrooms, conduct ongoing research, and serve as professional role models for the next generation of artists, scientists, communicators, social workers, psychologists, educators, historians, researchers, and more.

The Academic Edge provides electronic briefs for and about them—those who keep the University on the Academic Edge.

Daring Dasovich Proposes an "Expert" Speakers Bureau for Lindenwood
Dr. Steve Dasovich has many exciting adventures to talk about in presentations to community groups and prospective students, including the raising of the Montana, a steamboat that sank in 1884. This month the anthropologist and new faculty member approached the Executive Office about creating a new page on the University's Website that enables professors and professional staff members to post bios, topics for presentations, and contact information that will be available to any group seeking a guest speaker.

Q: How will a speakers bureau benefit Lindenwood?

A: There are two major benefits that come to mind. First, recruiting. If our speakers target audiences that are likely to have high school age students in attendance, such as speaking to high school classes about topic specific subjects, especially tied to research, we get that extra opportunity to introduce and sell LU that other institutions usually will not get. I say tie it to research because, despite how interesting a subject might be, nothing is as interesting to a prospective student, serious about a subject or career option, than being able to participate in projects and research. Just being able to learn
about a topic is what everyone else offers. We need to show hands-on capability to these possible students.

Second, these talks increase awareness of LU and our academic capability. Parents of high school or middle school aged children will remember that an LU professor gave a talk about something that was of interest to them and keep that in mind when considering colleges. Also, an increased awareness of LU by the general public has many, often overlooked benefits for things like fundraising, community stature, and political influence.

**Q: What kinds of presentations do you give that relate to Anthropology?**

**A:** I am on the speaker’s bureau for the State Historical Society of Missouri. The two presentations listed there are:

- *The Civil War in the Arcadia Valley, Iron County, Missouri: History and Archaeology*
- *The Missouri River: Graveyard of Ships.*

Other presentations I have given include:

- *Section 106 Compliance (a topic for developers and engineers)*;
- *Earthen Fortifications in Missouri, The Archaeology of Old Main Street, St. Charles, Missouri*;
- *The Archaeology of Old Main Street, St. Charles, Missouri*;
- *Underwater Archaeology*;
- *Underwater Archaeology in Missouri*;
- *The Utilization of Animal Resources in Prehistory*;
- and a general Archaeology talk meant for younger audiences.

**Q: Do you have any suggestions on preparation for other LU professors who might want to make themselves available for presentations through the speakers bureau?**

**A:** Pick a topic you know well, have conducted research on, hopefully with students, and for which you have excellent visual representations for use in a PowerPoint presentation. Hopefully the topic will be one that the individual has dealt with while at LU so that the direct tie between the University and the research is evident.

**If anyone is interested in being included as a potential guest speaker, send an email with the words "LU Experts" in the subject line to jbeard@lindenwood.edu.**
New English Professor's Publication about Polish American Writer

Dr. Justine M. Pas is a bilingual immigrant from Poland and recent American citizen who was the first in her family to attend college. She has a special interest in supporting first-generation college students.

Pas says she plans to continue research while teaching at Lindenwood, and she recently learned that one of her articles was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Jewish Identities*.

Q: Since you are a new faculty member, why don't tell us a little about your area of expertise and the classes you’re teaching at Lindenwood.

A: All of my degrees, including my Ph.D., are in American Studies. I specialized in American literature with an emphasis on comparative ethnic and immigrant literature.
Prior to arriving at Lindenwood University, I taught Comparative Literature at Oberlin College in Ohio. I am currently teaching World Literature and Composition for Non-Native Speakers. I look forward to teaching literature courses in my areas of expertise, including Literature of Immigration, African American, Latino, and Jewish American Literature.

Q: Can you briefly summarize your article “Writing American Literature in Polish: Post-Holocaust Jewish Identities in Jadwiga Maurer’s Short Stories” in the Journal of Jewish Identities?

A: "Writing American Literature in Polish" examines the work of the Polish Jewish American author Jadwiga Maurer as emblematic of displacement, language, and home. As Maurer's short stories make clear, Holocaust survivors are not only physically separated from the land of their birth and embedded in a foreign language and culture, but their homes have been destroyed and thus relegated exclusively to the realm of memory and, of course, literature. As they rebuild their lives in the U.S., Maurer's characters negotiate the traumatic legacy of the Holocaust while enduring the daily complexities of cultural and linguistic translation. Relying on a corpus of materials including interviews and archival materials in Poland and the U.S., my article argues for the inclusion of Maurer's writings within American ethnic and immigrant literatures as it sketches Maurer's biography and the publishing history of her stories.

Q: How do you hope to continue your research activities at Lindenwood?

A: This semester has been rather challenging since I am teaching a full load of new courses, so research has taken a back seat to lecture preparation and grading. I look forward to a more balanced teaching and research agenda in the Spring. At that time, I hope to finish revising my article about Eva Hoffman's immigrant memoir, Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language (1989) and begin writing an article about the essays authored by Irena Klepfisz, an immigrant Holocaust survivor and a radical feminist activist. My article on Hoffman's memoir is titled "Immigrant Domestications: Eva Hoffman's Memoir in Polish Translation" while the one on Klepfisz's essays is titled "Irena Klepfisz and the Art of the Personal Essay."
Advancement encourages faculty members to actively pursue grants. You provide the expertise/content, and Grants Manager Melissa Kline (x4908) will handle the application.

Speaking of grants, congratulations to Professor Crawford who sought and won an important grant worth more than a quarter-of-a-million dollars.

Crawford acquired a grant involving Lindenwood-Belleville Dean of Academics Paige Mettler-Cherry. Here are the details:

Project Title: Assessment of Ecological Function of Created Wetlands

Grant Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Project Principal Investigators: Dr. John Crawford – Lindenwood University (St. Charles); Dr. Paige Mettler-Cherry – Lindenwood University (Belleville); and Mr. Andrew Kuhns – University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)

Grant Amount: $317,205.00

Project Duration: 2011-2013

Project Description: The current biodiversity crisis has received a great deal of attention over the past two decades. Currently, extinction rates for plants and animals are estimated to be 1,000 times higher than background rates from the fossil record. While there are a number of factors that have contributed to these declines, it is widely accepted that the primary threat facing wildlife is habitat loss and degradation. Seasonal
wetlands (also known as vernal pools) are shallow, depressional wetlands that occur throughout the Midwestern and Eastern United States. Distribution and abundance of seasonal wetlands are regarded as an indicator of overall ecosystem health and are especially important to numerous species of plants and amphibians. In addition to their biological importance, these seasonal wetlands play critical roles in hydrology (surface water storage and groundwater exchange), biogeochemical cycling, and energy exchange (via amphibian production and dispersal) to adjacent terrestrial habitat. Despite their ecological significance within the landscape, seasonal wetlands typically receive minimal regulatory protection at both the federal and state levels because they are often small (less than 0.5 hectares) and hydrologically isolated. Within Illinois, wetland conversion and drainage has been especially extensive where an estimated 90% of original wetland area has been lost. Therefore, protection of remaining wetlands and creation of functional replacement wetlands to mitigate unavoidable losses is a high priority within the state. The primary goals of our study are: 1) to determine reference seasonal wetland condition in southeastern Illinois; 2) to determine the ecological success of created seasonal wetlands in southeastern Illinois; 3) to develop improved methodologies for evaluating seasonal wetlands; and 4) to develop improved methodologies for creating (design and location) seasonal wetlands to increase quality and quantity of wetlands in Illinois.

If you have news about academic projects, research, publications, workshops, or classroom techniques, email jbeard@lindenwood.edu. Be sure to include the words "Academic Edge" in the email subject line.