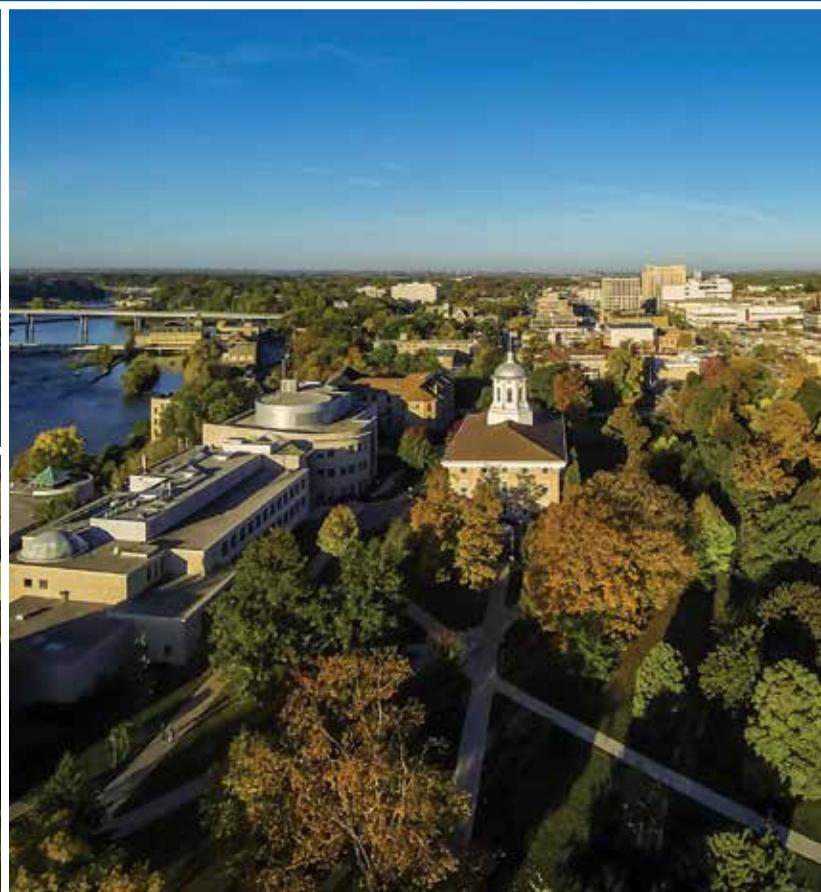




2014 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



LAWRENCE
UNIVERSITY
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Contents

Letter from the President	1
Collaboration in Action Award Recipient:	
Riverview Gardens	2
By the Numbers	4
Making Art, Making a Difference.....	6
In Our Own Backyard	8
Music for All:	10
Connecting Musicians and Community	
Upcoming Events	12
Not a Trivial Pursuit	Back cover

Dear Friends,



Many communities talk about being collaborative, committed to education and invested in building good quality of life. The Fox Cities community does more than talk—we live it.

The past year really drove that home for me, as I saw people and organizations come together to innovate, to collaborate, to develop ambitious initiatives tackling important issues. Lawrence is privileged to be a partner in some of those initiatives.

For instance, the new **Community Early Learning Center** launching this fall has engaged several LU faculty and staff members in its planning process; we are excited about the opportunities for Lawrence students in education, psychology, music and other fields to be part of the CELC's work. Along with new options for elementary teacher certification (made possible by John and Sally Mielke and the **Mielke Family Foundation**, and in partnership with the **Appleton Area School District**), the relationship with CELC will help Lawrence prepare more students than ever for careers working with young children.

We hope the partnership between Lawrence, CELC and elementary education will follow the path blazed by the university's work with **Riverview Gardens**, recipient of the fifth annual Lawrence University Collaboration in Action Award. Riverview Gardens is not only innovative in its approach to addressing root causes of poverty, it has been equally creative in its partnership with Lawrence. More than **300** LU students volunteered at Riverview Gardens in 2013–14 alone—totaling an astounding **1,038** hours—but volunteerism is just the beginning. Riverview staff have worked with Lawrence on courses that use the gardens as a living laboratory; on research and internships that help students prepare for a wide range of careers; on outreach projects that take classical chamber music beyond the concert hall; on community meetings to foster dialogue on issues of common concern; and much more. This is more than a volunteer affiliation; it is a deeply rewarding connection that helps both the college and community to thrive.

I am proud that **more than half** of Lawrence students were moved to volunteer last year; this represents an incredible human investment in the success of local nonprofits and our shared quality of life. I am equally grateful for the outstanding role models and mentors our community partners provide to Lawrence students.

It is an exciting time to be here in the Fox Cities. I look forward to working together for another great year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Burstein".

Mark Burstein
Lawrence University President

Delighted to be a Destination

Shortly after acquiring a long-vacant downtown Appleton bank building, Lawrence University received a phone call from a member of the mayor's staff at the City of Appleton. It seemed that a refugee relocation effort had been having difficulty securing a collection point for donations to support families coming to the Fox Cities. Partnering with World Relief Fox Valley, the Fox Cities Kiwanis and the

City of Appleton, Lawrence provided free space for a series of successful collection drives that gathered dressers, beds, couches, bed sheets and everything in between. As the refugee relocation effort continues, the partnering organizations continue to use the building as a distribution facility. Lawrence is delighted to help make Wisconsin a welcoming destination for our new neighbors. ■

Photo Credit: Post Crescent Media



2014 Collaboration in Action Award Winner: Riverview Gardens

LEFT TO RIGHT: Kelly Nutty, director of resource management; Jane Van Auken, director of brand management and sales; Cindy Sahotsky '84, executive director; Oren Jakobson '11, director of farm operations; Hava Blair '13, manager of farm sales and markets; Emily Hoffmann, field manager; Ronan Christman '13, ServiceWorks outreach coordinator



ABOUT THE AWARD

The Collaboration in Action Award recognizes an individual or organization who, in collaboration with Lawrence University, has provided exemplary service to the Fox Cities community through strategic vision, leadership influence, long-standing commitment and enthusiasm, financial contributions, and/or volunteerism.

Although Riverview Gardens is a relatively new addition to the Fox Cities, the collaborative partnership between this socially innovative organization and Lawrence University has already taken root. The proximity of Riverview Gardens to Lawrence's campus is one of many factors that make it a popular volunteer site for Lawrence students, faculty and staff. Riverview Gardens frequently hosts Lawrence volunteer groups, including people taking part in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and a group who completed a service project during President Mark Burstein's Inauguration Weekend. Over the past year, Lawrence students logged 1,038 volunteer hours at Riverview Gardens.

Associate Professor of Geology Jeff Clark teaches *Urban Agriculture*, a course with close ties to Riverview Gardens. During the most recent offering, students enrolled in the environmental studies course collaborated with Riverview Gardens staff to generate plans of action for key projects in erosion mitigation, hoop house construction and weed management. According to Clark, "Research, perspectives and hands-on work by students helped outline and initiate important projects in the urban farm and natural areas on site."

Lawrence students and alumni have been involved with Riverview Gardens since the concept and development stages of the new enterprise. "Riverview Gardens is a great opportunity for students to put thought into action, and the people we serve benefit greatly from their impetus to action," said executive director Cindy Olson Sahotsky '84. "Many students will take what they learn at Riverview Gardens and use it to provide solutions in their own community, wherever they live. We are extremely grateful and humbled by the financial and volunteer support we receive from Lawrentians."

Sahotsky recruited volunteer Margaret Carroll '61 to mentor Polly Dalton '14 while Polly was a student intern focusing on

community engagement at Riverview Gardens. Together they developed and produced a Riverview Gardens e-newsletter. According to Carroll, Riverview Gardens is a place "the whole community can be proud of and can participate in—as a volunteer, as a guest, or as an awestruck observer of the transformation of a golf course into an urban farm. What goes on there is rare. This Fox Cities venture is a model to be replicated many times over. It puts the Fox Cities on the map."

Riverview Gardens has tapped into the pipeline of Lawrence students with expertise in sustainable agriculture provided by the Sustainable Lawrence University Gardens (SLUG) and

Lawrence's environmental studies program. Oren Jakobson '11 was an active student leader who was instrumental in securing the necessary permits to bring a colony of bees to campus and he is now the director of farm operations for Riverview Gardens. Biology student Hava Blair '13 completed an independent study project that created a wetlands restoration plan for Riverview Gardens and she is now employed there as the manager of farm sales and markets.

"Riverview Gardens' vision is to grow into an inclusive socially innovative project changing the paradigm for addressing poverty, homelessness and unemployment in the Fox Valley and beyond. As a key force in our community, Lawrence University students, staff and alumni are integral to our vision. We recognize that the liberal arts education offered at Lawrence creates a way of thinking that fits perfectly with social innovation and the Riverview Gardens model."

—Riverview Gardens Executive Director Cindy Sahotsky '84

Although many people in the Lawrence community share a passion for sustainable agriculture, it is Riverview Gardens' mission of social change that truly brings people together.

Jeff '70 and Jone Bocher '72 Riester are Lawrence alumni and Riverview Gardens neighbors and supporters. According to Jeff, "It's wonderful that Riverview Gardens is preserving and enhancing this

central-city land, but in my view the most valuable thing is the job-training program. The innovative ServiceWorks program, aimed at addressing the root causes of poverty, homelessness and unemployment, is the truest measure of Riverview Gardens' value to the Fox Cities. Everything else takes on enduring meaning as those activities support that social mission." ■

By the Numbers

Lawrence Faculty and Staff:

Volunteer and make contributions
to **133** community agencies.

Serve on the boards of **46** local nonprofits.

Each spend on average **71.4** hours a year volunteering in the community.

35 different local employers offered internships to 45 Lawrence students.

73.1%
of the Wisconsin vendors
used by Lawrence University
in FY2014 were in the
NEW North Region.



Lawrence Students:

57 Lawrence work-study students spent more than **5,700** hours working at **9** local nonprofits (summer 2013–spring 2014).

71 Lawrence student organizations volunteered in the community this past year.



Volunteered **12,420** hours in 2013–14
at community agencies.

On average each spend **8.28** hours each school year volunteering.

Supported **144** community agencies.

52% volunteered
this past year.



ours Lawrence Academy of Music teachers and students provided **74** free public recitals, concerts or master classes to the community in 2013-14.

118 community
members received tuition
assistance from the Lawrence
Academy of Music last year.

1,782 community members participated in Lawrence Academy of Music programs in 2013–14.

Lawrence University
spent **\$5,438,819**
in the NEW North Region
in FY2014.

2,026

Lawrence alumni live
in the NFW North Region.



Local Boards with LU Faculty and Staff Members

Appleton Area Hockey Association
Eastshore Humane Association
Appleton Boychoir
Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association
Association of Fundraising Professionals - Northeast Wisconsin Chapter
ESGR
Fair Wisconsin
Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra
UNITED WAY All Saints Episcopal Church
Building for Kids
Hortonville Backcourt Club
Fox Valley Library Council
Scheels USA Youth Sports Complex
AMVETS, VFW
Fox Valley Music Teachers Association
FISHARTZ
Wisconsin Division of Federal Property
Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway
FRIENDS OF APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Fox Cities Online
Peaceful Beginnings Christian Childcare Center, LLC
Door Shakespeare Well City Fox Cities
ANGELS OF HOPE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
History Museum at the Castle
Makaroff Youth Ballet
Weis Earth Science Museum
Wisconsin Association of Colleges and Employers
Rotary
Fox Valley Literacy Council
Wisconsin Choral Directors Association
Salvation Army
INCLUDE
Red Smith
ATTIC THEATRE
PROJECT BRIDGES
Fox Cities Cycling Association

Riverview Gardens had the most Lawrence student volunteer hours at **1.038**.

785
Lawrence
students
volunteered in
2013–14

Making Art, Making a Difference

The Creation of the Documentary *Incarceration to Inspiration*

By Rose Broll '14



ABOVE: *Incarceration to Inspiration* was screened at Riverview Gardens in February 2014. The event featured a panel discussion that included Mental Health Court collaborators and participants, Rose Broll '14, as well as community leaders such as County Executive Tom Nelson.

RIGHT: Outagamie County judges Gregory Gill Jr. and Dee Dyer with Broll after the film screening

FAR RIGHT: Film screening at Riverview Gardens



In February 2013, I began an internship working with participants of Outagamie County's recently developed Mental Health Court (MHC). This court helps nonviolent criminals who have mental health issues, often compounded by addictions. In an effort to break cycles of incarceration, the MHC connects participants with community services and long-term mental health treatment, under intensive court supervision. I was thrilled to learn how MHC is run from the inside and to use my abilities and energy to help it succeed.

During my internship, I met weekly with two participants working on art projects (art was one of my majors), attended team meetings, and observed the Friday check-in court sessions. As spring approached, it was very clear to me that MHC was making a positive impact on participants' lives. I was also alarmed by the scarcity of these types of programs in Wisconsin (only two) and throughout the country (349 as of June 2012). So I met with MHC Coordinator Kate Kirchner, and she agreed to continue the internship through the summer so that I could make a documentary about the program's influence on the current participants.

I filmed *Incarceration to Inspiration* at the beginning of the MHC's second year of operation. The documentary advocates for rehabilitation instead of incarceration as a way of reducing recidivism (relapse into criminal behavior). We used a film-screening event as a community outreach tool for raising

awareness about the program and mental illness. A shorter version of the film will support grant applications for continued MHC funding in Outagamie County.

I think the film also helped newer participants to understand the range of resources that are offered in order to help them find where they want to be in life.

The five participants who were featured in the film were able to actually witness the changes they had made since the time I had interviewed them, providing a visual reinforcement of their progress in continuing to do constructive things for themselves. Two positively impacted participants even sat on the discussion panel at the public screening.

"Most of the time, I felt totally lost and alone and that nobody cared. Through MHC there are people that support you, respect you, genuinely care about what you're doing in your life, and want to see you succeed."

—First MHC graduate

This artistic project not only had an impact on MHC participants involved with the film, but on me as well. Since I did all the production work (filming, sound, interviewing, etc.), my organizational skills and creativity were put to the test. However, the opportunity to support the work of the MHC was a source of motivation for me. As Evelyn, the first MHC graduate, said, "What you put in is what you get out." As I learned more, I felt compelled to assist in helping some of those who are caught up in the justice system to avoid receiving the same punishments repeatedly. ■



Rose Broll '14

In Our Own Backyard

With more than 2,000 Lawrence alumni living and working in the region, numerous Lawrence alumni invest in the Fox Cities and make their homes here after graduation.



Sandy Drexler '90

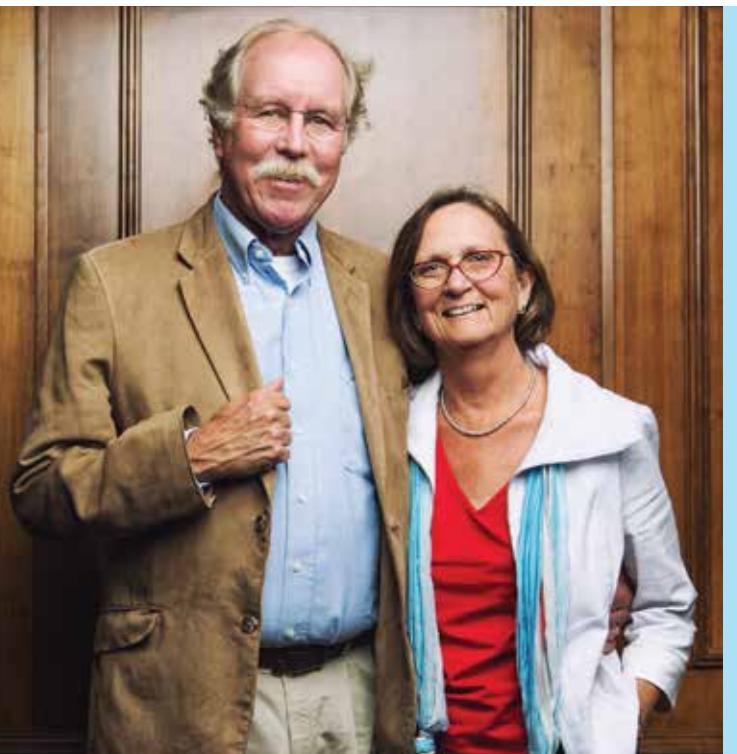
A member of the Lawrence University Class of 1990, Sandy Drexler is a community leader who works in the Fox Valley nonprofit sector. She currently serves as the vice president, resource development for United Way Fox Cities. In 2013, she and her team raised more than \$8,000,000 to invest in creating upstream, lasting change in our community.

Why did you choose to stay, live and work in the Fox Cities?

I have chosen to stay here for the high quality of life we enjoy and the caring people who live here. We are a community of generous, giving people who have a true passion for others. Lawrence and the Fox Cities have extraordinary leaders like the Boldt family, whose generosity is well known, and thousands of other people who give back in ways that aren't as visible. We are resilient and forward thinking and keep working to improve the community rather than being satisfied with the status quo.

How does Lawrence benefit the community?

Lawrence brings a richness to our community through its musical and theatrical performances, lectures and athletic events, many of which are free. I'm part of the steering committee for the Leadership Fox Cities traditional and executive programs, and we always try to get members onto the campus. Participants are invariably impressed by all the opportunities available to local residents.



John Peterson '73 and Marti Hemwall '73

Attorney John Peterson '73 is a passionate advocate for the health of downtown Appleton. He is a founding partner and the senior shareholder of Peterson, Berk & Cross, S.C. located on College Avenue. He currently serves as the president of the board of trustees of the Appleton Public Library and he is the president-elect of Appleton Downtown, Inc. His wife, Marti Hemwall, is vice president, community engagement at the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. After pursuing graduate studies, they returned to Appleton in 1982 and raised their two daughters in this community.

What makes the Fox Cities great?

John: Parts of the City of Appleton sit in Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago counties, which have a combined population of more than 390,000 people. It is really nice living in a city that has the ambiance of a small town. The Lawrence connection has always made us feel that we belonged even though this is not where we grew up.

Marti: Appleton offers the best of all worlds. It is small enough to be friendly, easy to get around and big enough to be interesting. It has great restaurants, entertainment, parks and schools. What an easy, safe place to live! And, to make it even better, it is an easy drive to Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and even Minneapolis, if one wants a big city. Or, if we want to get away, it is a short drive to the northwoods and our cabin.

Why did you choose to stay, live and work in the Fox Cities?

Marti: I made my career change from academia to the nonprofit sector in order to use my anthropological skills and interests in the local community. For years, I required students in my classes at Lawrence to do research on important local issues (such as homelessness, ethnic diversity, urban sprawl), or to volunteer in local nonprofits addressing the issues we were studying (such as family or children issues) or to use anthropological data collection (oral history, kinship analysis). I finally decided that I really wanted to do much of that same work and to work toward solving some of these complex challenges. My current job offers me this opportunity in a number of ways.

How does Lawrence benefit the community?

Marti: Lawrence offers an incredible richness of opportunity rare for an urban area of our size. The events, in particular, are a great addition, whether lectures, plays or music.

What is a fun fact about yourself that not many people know?

John: I love the northwoods of Wisconsin where my family has had a home for 90 years and six generations, and Marti's family had a home for 60 years. For many years during high school and college I worked on the staff of a Boy Scout camp in the woods near Antigo. There are few things we enjoy more than boating, kayaking, biking, swimming with our granddaughter, or just reading on the screened in porch at the northwoods home where I spent much of my childhood, Ivembo, in Lac du Flambeau.



Hilary Haskell '12

Recent graduate Hilary Haskell '12 is an educator in the Appleton Area School District. She teaches English Language Learners (ELL) at Appleton North High School in the Newcomer Program.

How do you see yourself making positive change in our community?

I hope that by providing a welcoming, nurturing and learning-rich classroom environment, I can inspire our high school-aged students and new members of our community to embrace whatever comes their way and to make the best out of any situation. I also hope to instill in them the belief that an education can open doors and help them achieve their goals and dreams.

What is your favorite memory of Lawrence?

My favorite memory of Lawrence is being a member in Cantala women's choir. This choir gives every voice a home and helps women build friendships that last a lifetime. As a member of Cantala, my skills as a musician and leader grew tremendously. I am so grateful that Cantala Director and Associate Professor of Music, Phillip Swan believes in community building and that he imparts that belief in his flocks of singers.



Korey Krueger '95

As the operating owner of Players Choice of the Fox Cities and the president of Panther Baseball Club Inc., Korey Krueger '95 works with young people every day, utilizing sports as a way to teach life lessons and encourage personal and team development.

How does Lawrence benefit the community?

The Lawrence experience, though incredible for those who attend the school, extends past the opportunities given to its students. Last year, my son and daughter went to a lecture with me on hip-hop and its impact on our society. I saw the event listed in the local paper. I would venture to guess there were almost 100 people at the event and approximately 40 of them were not from campus. This is one example of the reach of Lawrence. When you multiply that event with many more events in music, theatre, sports and disciplines of study, Lawrence is providing the community with outlets for all interests and ages.

What is a fun fact about yourself that not many people know?

I am in a hip-hop band called ILL Genesi (a play on the Italian il genesi, the beginning). Lawrence classics professor Dan Taylor '63 helped us name the band. Anthony Arrington '96 and Rachel Gruber '13 are also in the band!

Music for All: Connecting Musicians and Community



ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT): Erin Lesser, Michael Mizrahi, Zach Ben-Amots '16, Brad Balliett, Alek Wasserman '16, Claire Bryant, Anna Elashvili at Riverview Gardens

A warming shelter is not the first place one expects to find a world-class chamber music performance, but thanks to collaboration among community partners, the New York City-based Decoda chamber music organization, and the Lawrence Conservatory of Music, that is exactly what happened this spring.

Conservatory faculty members Michael Mizrahi (piano) and Erin Lesser (flute) piloted an innovative community project that staged interactive chamber music performances in settings where such music is rarely heard. Both professors are members of Decoda, an affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall that was founded on the principles that music brings hope and comfort to people in challenging circumstances and that everyone deserves access to live music. "We believe communities are made stronger through positive interaction and shared experiences," said Mizrahi. "We also believe that music has the power to connect people, transcend social barriers and provide meaningful emotional experiences."

To that end, five Decoda members joined with Lawrence faculty and students to offer live performances at partnering sites, including Jefferson Elementary School, Riverview Gardens and the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. Performances were designed to elicit meaningful interactions between the audience and musicians while making deep, artistic connections between the music and personal life experiences.

"The performances at Riverview Gardens exceeded our expectations," said Kelly Nutty of Riverview Gardens. "We received positive feedback from everyone who attended. They expressed not only how they enjoyed experiencing the music, but the format and the dialogue between guests and musicians."



ABOVE: Alek Wasserman '16 and Zach Ben-Amots '16 perform at Riverview Gardens.

ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT): Joe Connor '15, Garrett Evans '16, Phil Dobernig '13, Colin Parsons '14 at Jefferson Elementary School

ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT): Michael Mizrahi, Sofie Yang '16, Kyle Stalsberg '16, Mariantonio Longhi '16 and Andrea Johnson '16 at the Fox Valley Warming Shelter

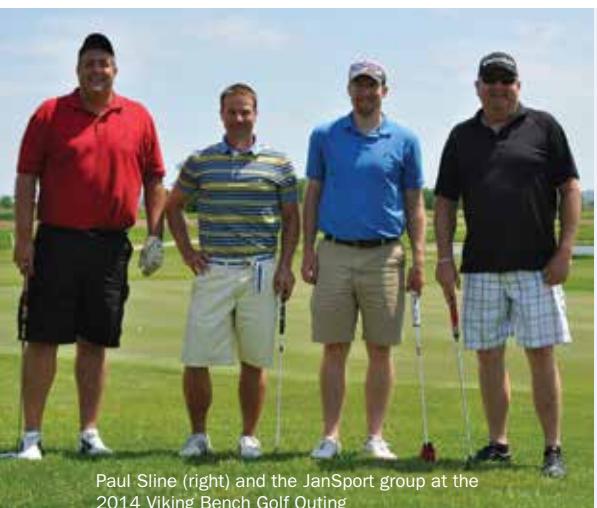
Scott Peeples, executive director of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, agreed. "The whole idea of playing music where it isn't typically heard is very intriguing and helps break down the stereotype about this sort of music not being for all people."

For children, the impact of a live chamber music performance was a valuable, visceral experience. The opportunity to focus attention, engage with music and appreciate art and talent in an up-close, familiar classroom setting imparted skills and inspiration that can carry over into other aspects of the students' lives. Cheryl Meyer, music specialist at Jefferson Elementary, said, "The presentation had a great flow. It engaged the students, provided review and application of music terms, and built to the Schumann trio. Nothing needed to be said after that performance."

In June, Lawrence received an arts and culture grant from unrestricted funds within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley to expand the Music for All project into the coming year. The funding will bring members of Decoda back to campus to help Lawrence students and faculty learn interactive performance methods, write scripts, create entry points into musical works and engage nontraditional audiences across the Fox Cities.

Building upon the success of the pilot project, the grant will also enable a series of concerts, most of which will be free and open to the public. Brian Pertl '86, dean of the Conservatory of Music, casts an exciting vision for this community initiative. "This project allows our faculty and students to find new ways to actively engage audiences from schools to warming shelters to concert halls in a meaningful, moving dialogue with the music. I see this project as part of a musical renaissance in Appleton and beyond." ■

Upcoming Events



Paul Sline (right) and the JanSport group at the 2014 Viking Bench Golf Outing

“ JanSport has been in the Fox Valley for more than 30 years, and now flies the flag of our corporate parent VF Corporation, the largest apparel manufacturer in the world. JanSport has always been a great supporter of community events and causes around the Fox Valley. Lawrence University has been a great partner in helping us to continue and grow our commitment to the area. We were fortunate to be able to host our national product launch meeting at the beautiful Warch Campus Center this past December. It was such a great experience we are returning again this December!

President Mark Burstein has been a great addition to the university and brings a new level of commitment to the community. JanSport is proud to be associated with Lawrence in any way we can. ”

—JanSport Vice President Paul Sline



Athletics

Join Lawrence and the 10 other colleges in the Midwest Conference at the 292 varsity games in which Lawrence participates. With 22 varsity athletic teams competing in the Midwest Conference and Northern Collegiate Hockey Association, there are many opportunities to show your Vikings pride. From basketball and fencing to swimming and track, more than 25 percent of students participate in varsity athletics.

Check out the latest news, rosters, and schedules at www.lawrence.edu/athletics.



Theatre and Opera

Lawrence has been staging opera and theatre productions since 1930. In addition to various scenes, plays and musicals, Lawrence also offers one fully staged and orchestra-accompanied opera each year! Keep an eye out Winter Term for Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*, the opera for 2015, and its four performances. Along with the Lawrence's theatre productions, creative senior projects are also performed throughout the year.

For shows, dates, and tickets, please visit go.lawrence.edu/theatre.



There are so many events at Lawrence for you to attend (and we hope you do!). Please visit Lawrence's online calendar at go.lawrence.edu/events to learn about all the events on campus. Be sure to check often as new events are added almost daily. Many of our campus events are free, but for those that aren't, please visit the Box Office online at www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/box_office to buy tickets.

Would you like to receive calendars and invitations to Lawrence events?

Send an email to dev_operations@lawrence.edu with your name and contact information, and ask to be added to our events list.



Convocations

Listen to speakers ranging from the Lawrence president to renowned novelists, scientists, activists and more. With five different convocations, there is an opportunity to enjoy a wide range of topics throughout the year. Two convocations take place in fall, one during winter, and two during spring. As always, convocation is free and open to the public.

Please visit www.lawrence.edu/info/news/convocations.



Lunch at Lawrence

For nearly 40 years, this community luncheon series has featured faculty talks on a wide range of interesting topics. Six programs are offered each year, providing plenty of opportunities to enjoy a delicious meal and insightful discussion.

Registration is required for this program, please view the schedule at www.lawrence.edu/info/community/lunch_at_lawrence.



Other Musical Offerings

Lawrence has many opportunities to hear a wide variety of music from talented performers. Different musical groups on campus provide a range of performances that are open to the public. Some of the groups include:

- Concert Choir, Cantala and Viking Chorale
- Lawrence Symphony Orchestra
- Lawrence University Percussion Ensemble (LUPÉ)
- Lawrence University Jazz Ensemble (LUJE)
- Lawrence University Jazz Band
- Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band
- World Music
- New Music
- Lawrence Adult Music Program (LAMP)*
- Girl Choir*
- Early Childhood Music*
- Music for Special Needs*
- Summer Music Camps and Classes*

*Lawrence Academy of Music

For more information, performance dates or times, please visit go.lawrence.edu/performingarts.



Speakers and Discussions

Throughout the academic year, Lawrence offers many lectures, symposia and colloquia on a wide range of topics. Examples include the Povolny Lecture Series in International Studies, the Spoerl Lectures in Science and Society and the Fiction and Poetry Lecture Series.

Please visit go.lawrence.edu/filter-events.

CIVIC LIFE PROJECT

Civic Life Project

Part of a liberal arts education is to help students become engaged citizens in our democracy. That is what the Civic Life Project is all about. In the second year of the program, Lawrence students once again heard from leaders in the Fox Valley about issues facing their communities. With community mentors, students produced five short documentaries that came out of these conversations.

Before Bars: the story of disproportionate imprisonment of minorities

Living with Dementia: the challenges faced by caregivers and individuals suffering from the disease

Labeled for Life: the challenges sex offenders face reintegrating into our community

If you can't reach 'em, you can't teach 'em: the achievement gap in Appleton-area schools

Domestic Violence and Schools: the effects of domestic violence on children's performance at school

Please join us! On **October 28** the Civic Life documentaries will be shown at **Fox Valley Technical College** at **6:30 p.m.** Following each film, a conversation between the audience and the filmmakers will take place.

For more information contact: catherine.a.tatge@lawrence.edu.



Not a Trivial Pursuit

By Abigail Hindson '16

The Lawrence University Gaming Club may be all about play, but when it comes to community service, they're not fooling around. As a Service Corps member, I approached the club in October 2013 about designing and implementing a computer class in response to a Fox Valley Literacy Council (FVLC) request; they were eager to get involved.

By February 2014, 10 Lawrentians completed tutor training and planned a 10-week curriculum. From March to May, we taught 20 FVLC students computer skills such as keyboarding, using Microsoft Office, Internet navigation and email.

This project is just the latest in a series of growing collaborations between Lawrence University and the Fox Valley Literacy Council. It all began in 2008 when FVLC Executive Director Christine Cheevers approached LU Volunteer and Community Service Director Kristi Hill about establishing a partnership between the university and the nonprofit. That year there was just one LU student tutoring at FVLC. With the advent of the college's Service Corps program, which provides a student liaison between the campus and community organizations, the number has grown to 25. In fact, Lawrentians now make up nearly 10 percent of all volunteer tutors at Fox Valley Literacy Council.

LU student volunteers serve some of the more than 300 adults seeking to improve reading, writing, math and English Language Learning skills. Tutors gain valuable insights and

experience to supplement their formal education. Gabriella Makuc '16, a tutor with FVLC since 2013, said that "as someone who is considering teaching in the future, it's been really beneficial to try and explain things I've known my whole life to someone who doesn't have that experience."

Lawrence students aren't the only ones involved with the council's mission. "The organization has benefited enormously from the partnership with the university beyond volunteer tutoring," said Cheevers. Provost and Dean of Faculty Dave Burrows joined FVLC's Board of Directors in 2010 and served as board chair from 2012 to 2013; this year, he was joined on the board by the director of Lawrence's teacher education program, Bee Connell Mielke Professor of Education Stewart Purkey.

Every year, Lawrence students, faculty and staff also participate in the Council's spelling bee, which raises money and awareness for FVLC's literacy work. In 2010 and 2011, the Lawrence team even brought the spelling championship title to campus.

Lawrence continues to find innovative ways to partner with FVLC—a partnership that not only the Gaming Club, but also the greater Fox Cities community, can call a good move. ■



Abigail Hindson '16



Lawrence University student volunteers teaching computer skills courses

