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To promote the open discussion of ideas on the campus of Lindsey Wilson College, letters to the editor are accepted and encouraged. All letters must be typed and include the author's name, email address, and telephone number for verification purposes.

The RaiderView editorial staff reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style, and community standards of taste and decency. In addition, the editorial staff reserves the right to comment on any letter in the form of an Editor's Note.

Letters should, in general, be limited to 300 words. Letters may be edited for length by RaiderView editors, but the letter writer will be given an opportunity to reduce the length of the letter whenever possible.

Anonymous letters will not be published in RaiderView unless a compelling reason exists to honor anonymity.

Send all questions, comments, and letters to the editor to raiderview@lindsey.edu.

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Perspectives

An International Perspective

By Karl Vidamour
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I am an international student currently doing a study-abroad year at Lindsey Wilson College (LWC). I am from Northern Ireland and a student at Queen's University Belfast. Queen's is a university of around 23,000 located in the capital of Northern Ireland, Belfast, a city of around 300,000 people.

So when I knew I was coming to Columbia, Ky., to study at LWC, a small private college in a small town in south central Kentucky, I knew it would be a very different year than what I am used to, and it has been.

I arrived on the 13th of August 2014 during what seemed like a heatwave but it was just an average summer day in Kentucky. My naivety was apparent from day one.

I arrived at LWC with an open mind and what I thought was a good understanding of American society. I was wrong.

As an international student, I have seen and experienced LWC in a way many people do not. There have been many more differences than what I expected there would be between Northern Ireland and Kentucky; however, there are also a surprising amount of similarities.

First, I speak English as a first language, which is hugely advantageous over many other international students. My English is very different from American English, which posed its own problems as I didn't always account for this. In Ireland, we don't just have our own slang and phrases that are different, but the entire way people use language is different, humor and levels of profanity for example are different.

This all took some getting used to and there

is still often a cultural communication barrier when I am trying to communicate despite sharing the same language.

One of the most advantageous factors, which allowed me to settle into life at LWC quickly, was that Ireland shares the same pop culture as America. I also watch "How I Met Your Mother" and I know who Will Ferrell is, as astounded as some people are to hear this.

Every day I get a new question I have never heard before about what Ireland is like or how our culture is. Students at LWC are genuinely interested in me and make international students feel at home.

Being from a large university in a large city, daily life at LWC is very different. There is a strong sense of community here.

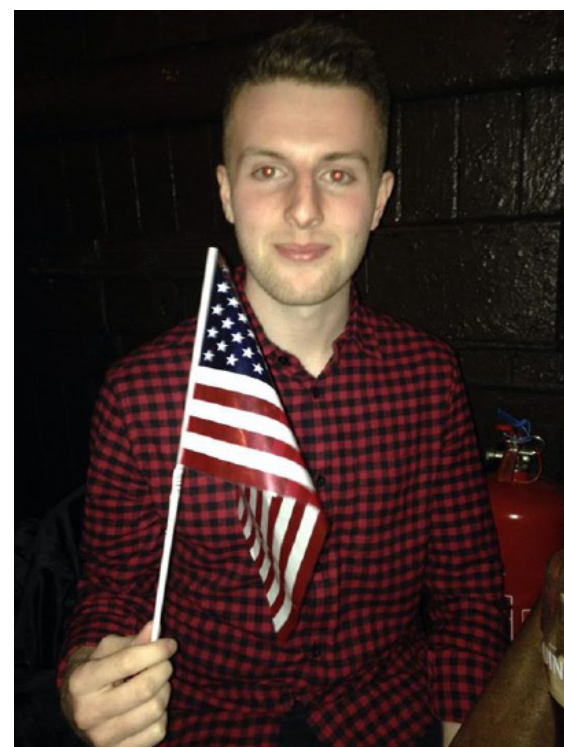
Every day, on the short walk to class, I will be stopped by a few people just to say "Hi" and ask me how I am. Every day, every student eats in the same building. This sense of community is something many universities don't have and something that people at LWC might not realize is so special about it.

This year has not been without its struggles. When I first arrived, I felt homesick and alone for the first month. Although I knew I couldn't sit in my room and feel sorry for myself.

The best thing to do for any student, not just international students, in this situation is to get involved in as many things as possible, not to lock yourself in your room and wait for people to come to you.

Furthermore, I struggled with classes, not because they were particularly challenging, but because I am used to sitting in a theatre and struggling for an hour to take notes on a lecture. The classroom environment is different in the USA; teachers want students to take part and discuss things in class.

As this year draws to an end, I will return



Karl Vidamour, an exchange student from Northern Ireland, has spent this year studying at LWC.

to Belfast to finish my degree but I will still consider myself a Blue Raider.

LWC is a special place. The staff and students form a strong community, international students are not marginalized or ignored, and we are included as part of the LWC community.

This year has been one of the most beneficial years of my life, I have learned and laughed so much. I would highly recommend studying internationally to all students. I would also like to thank everyone at LWC for making me feel like I have been here my whole life.



Denied Access

Accessibility causes issues for students

By James D. McIntosh Jr.
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Imagine you are a commuter with an infant child, and imagine pushing that child around the campus of Lindsey Wilson College (LWC) in a stroller. That is often my situation.

Now imagine being a disabled person in a wheelchair trying to get around campus. That is not my situation, but I can see how difficult it must be by using the stroller. LWC's main campus is inaccessible.

Let us look at merely a few examples.

Example number one is the Turner Leadership Center. As a commuter, I have to park behind Turner. Although the lack of automatic doors can cause some

difficulty, I can get to the bottom floor fairly easily by going up the sidewalk ramp. If I want to get to the top floor or another building, however, I have to take a longer walk and a much less convenient trip.

There is no simple sidewalk leading to the front of Turner from the back. I have to go down a few more feet to another sidewalk ramp, go uphill and around the outside of the building, and walk down the street. I then have to make the return trip to get back to my car.

Of course, I do not have to walk down the street if, for some reason, I want to take an even longer trip along the sidewalk that goes past such out-of-the-way places as the Administration Building, Phillips Hall, and the Everett Building.

Imagine trying to get from one place to another, or even simply

from one floor to another, in the rain or on a cold day.

"LWC may be a nice school with some nice people that provide some good services to students, but accessibility is not one of those services...."

Goodhue's situation may be even worse. There is no way for a person in a wheelchair to get to the top floor unless they manage to walk or have someone carry them.

The Slider Humanities Center, thankfully, has a convenient eleva-

tor. The only problem is that when I come out onto the second floor, I am confronted by a door with an actual doorknob, and it opens into the small space directly in front of the elevator.

I know I am not alone in such concern. As I saw in the minutes for a Student Government meeting a little while back, someone raised a student concern about the low number of disabled parking spaces on campus. They even seemed to question if LWC is simply putting in as few disabled parking spaces as is legally possible.

LWC may be a nice school with some nice people that provide some good services to students, but accessibility is not one of those services. Accessibility leaves a lot wanting on this campus.

Bookbag

By Caitlin Sharpe

