From the Editor

Lynn University’s 50th Anniversary Weekend celebration kicked off with a groundbreaking for the campus’ new International Business Center.

The business center will soon be home to Lynn’s largest academic unit with nearly 1,000 students—the College of Business and Management—thanks to a $6 million lead gift from an anonymous donor who also put forth a $3 million challenge match.

Christine Lynn, chair of the board of trustees, stepped forward with a $1 million gift for the challenge; and Marlene Goldstein also contributed $1 million toward the match on behalf of her late husband.

Within these pages you also will read about more gifts, including one big surprise.

We thank these, and future, donors who will make this new center a reality; and we remain forever grateful to those who, for 50 years, have dedicated their time, money and energy into making Lynn the strong institution it is today.

This groundbreaking serves as a milestone in Lynn’s 50-year history and gives us even more reason to be excited about continued growth and evolvement in serving our students and our community.

Joyce

Joyce B. Shelfo
Director of Cultural Communications

Lynn breaks ground on new business center

Marlene Goldstein, Alhaji Muhamadu Indimi, Christine Lynn
1. Students from 70 nations are currently enrolled in the College of Business and Management.

2. U.S. Marine Corporal Valconi opens the procession.

3. Students carry banners representing the nine business majors.

4. Dean Thomas Kruczek leads a procession of business faculty.

5. Planes from Lynn’s aeronautics school greeted guests from above.
FOR

ATIONAL BUSINESS CENTER

GROUNDBREAKING

GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTER (IBC) TOOK PLACE ON ITS FUTURE SITE ON CAMPUS—JUST SOUTH OF THE KEITH C. AND ELAINE JOHNSON WOLD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER—ON MARCH 22.

With nearly 400 in attendance, the fanfare began with U.S. Marine Corporal Valconi, who served in Afghanistan and is currently a Lynn University MBA student, carrying the American flag.

Thomas Kruczek, dean of the College of Business and Management, led a procession of business school faculty—dressed in full academic regalia—to their seats. He proceeded to the stage where he handed a note to the announcer that four faculty members were running late, but were on their way.

Attention was then drawn to the sky where two planes, piloted by the four “tardy” faculty members from Lynn’s Burton D. Morgan School of Aeronautics, dipped their wings as a greeting to guests.

Following was a procession of flags representing 70 nations, carried by students in the business school’s nine majors: aviation management, entrepreneurship, event management, fashion and retail management, hospitality management, international management, investment management, marketing and sports management.

President Kevin M. Ross opened the program by welcoming guests and recognizing donors and members of the Board of Trustees, the President’s Alumni Advisory Council (PAAC) and the Business Advisory Board, as well as those special guests who traveled from around the world to join in this festive occasion: Ibrahim Gambari, a former Under-Secretary-General of the United States, and Dr. Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi, last year’s honorary doctoral degree recipient.
Noting the procession of business students carrying their national flags, President Ross said, “As you can see by the flags, students from all over the world have come to attend Lynn’s College of Business and Management. From Albania to Zimbabwe, students in this college currently represent 70 nations.”

The $14.5 million IBC will be built with the help of an anonymous $6 million gift that brings with it a challenge: if the university raises $3 million, the donor will match it with an additional $3 million.

“It means so much to have this donor make such a substantial investment in our university, and words cannot fully express how tremendously grateful we are for their support. This donor has not only made a difference at Lynn, but also has graciously given around the world and truly embodies the global spirit of our new International Business Center,” said President Ross.

“We are close to receiving that matching gift, as we have thus far raised an additional $2.1 million out of the necessary $3 million.”
Then the biggest surprise of the event occurred: Shahid Ullah, chief operating officer of Afren plc., a London-based oil and natural gas exploration and production corporation, stepped to the front of the stage and quietly stated to President Ross that he and his partner, Dr. Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi, founder and chairman of Oriental Energy Resources Ltd. and a Lynn parent, will close out the anonymous donor’s $3 million challenge with a donation of $900,000.
The audience rose in applause as President Ross announced this new gift. “We staged a lot for this groundbreaking ... a procession of flags and planes flying over, but I can assure you this was not part of it.”

Major donors Christine Lynn and Marlene Goldstein were invited to say a few words.

“This new state-of-the-art building will definitely keep pace with more interactive learning styles that meet the demands of the 21st century business environment,” said Mrs. Lynn. “We are excited about this project and again, thanks to our major donors. Also, please know that we would be extremely happy to entertain any alumni or donor who would like to remain anonymous. We would certainly accommodate their wishes in this regard.”

Marlene Goldstein stepped to the podium and spoke on behalf of her late husband, Arnold, a much-loved professor in Lynn's College of Business and Management who passed away in 2010.

“Dr. Goldstein would have been very proud having been involved in the philanthropy, conceptualizing and shaping of this very needed, new building. While we are only at the groundbreaking ceremony, this project has been years in the making and I am very happy and thankful to know that my late husband had the opportunity to help lay the groundwork for this project.”

She was followed by Dean Kruczek, whose first word was “Wow!”—referring to the spectacular day and the promise of a new, vibrant business center. “The
International Business Center is going to be so much more than just a building … it will forever change the way we teach, mentor and guide our students.”

He continued, “This fabulous new building also will make us one of the only universities in the United States with an innovative program we’ve dubbed ‘Beyond the Classroom’ that will provide office space for outside companies, thereby allowing our students to observe and intern right here on campus.”

“This brilliant design will represent the confluence of what Lynn is about,” he added. “It places a high value on providing flexible spaces for different learning styles in a structure that places sustainability at the heart of its design. I can’t think of a better place to teach future business leaders the skills they’ll need to succeed in a dynamic and ever-changing global business environment.”

Ivana Pancevska, ’10, ’13, a current MBA student from Macedonia, spoke about how much Lynn helped her grow as a business professional, crediting the support network the university provides its students. Ivana’s senior year internship translated into her current full-time position.

The ceremony came to a close as the brass ensemble from Lynn’s Conservatory of Music played during the recession of flags. President Ross invited everyone to pick up a shovel and a hardhat to break ground on the new center.
As of this writing $12.2 million has been raised toward the $14.5 million goal.

Christine Lynn’s gift of $1 million names the Christine E. Lynn Lobby.

Marlene Goldstein’s gift of $1 million names the Goldstein Lecture Suites.

The first classroom has been named by the Sanger Family. Mark Sanger ’11 is an alumnus of Lynn’s College of International Communication.

Study rooms have been named by Oguz and Serife Ercanturk from Istanbul, parents of former Lynn student Bora ’12; Ric and Gale Fischer from Chicago, parents of Matthew ’11, ’13; Bob Levinson, senior development officer at Lynn; Linda Sandelman; Mark and Marilyn Swillinger; Judge Chad and Tammy Carey; Brooks ’75 and Maria Eden; and Luis Gonzalez ’99, a member of the President’s Alumni Advisory Council (PAAC).

Fundraising continues for naming opportunities. For more information, contact Judi Nelson, vice president for development and alumni affairs, at 561-237-7161 or email to jnelson@lynn.edu.