Welcome to the fall 2021 issue of The Link. My name is Michael Thomas. I am a 1985 graduate of Lakeland Community College and a 2019 Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame inductee. I also serve on The Lakeland Foundation Board of Directors as the alumni representative.

My enthusiasm and passion for Lakeland Community College runs deep, especially when it comes to the faculty, staff, students and alumni, all of whom make up the proud community and tradition that is Lakeland Community College.

My graduation in 1985 was a really long time ago; however, the time I spent as a Lakeland student continues to impact my life and career in ways I never dreamed possible. From the education I received to the connections I made, Lakeland prepared me for a life and career that has been accomplished and rewarding.

My role on the board as alumni representative provides me with a unique opportunity to give back to my alma mater by taking a fresh look at ongoing challenges and creating successful strategies which will impact Lakeland Community College now and into the future.

Our alumni play a critical role in the success of Lakeland Community College. As your alumni representative, I am always happy to hear from you. If you have a suggestion or just want to say hi, please contact me at mdt2@case.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Michael D. Thomas ’85
Director, University Technology
Case Western Reserve University
The Lakeland Foundation Board of Directors, Alumni Representative
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The Alumni and Friends Network announced four new inductees to the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame's Class of 2021. This distinction honors Lakeland graduates who have made a difference in their careers, in the community and at Lakeland.

Previously inducted members of the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame established the Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship. To date, more than $20,000 has been raised to help Lakeland students achieve their academic goals.

The 2021 inductees are: Steve Gagliardi, class of 1997; Karen Shelby, class of 1977; Dave Stumph, class of 1992; and Patricia Willson, class of 1981.
Steve Gagliardi earned his Associate of Applied Science in 1997 and in 1999, Steve graduated from Lakeland’s Basic Police Academy. He earned his Bachelor of Applied Science in criminal justice from Youngstown State University in 2019 and is a 2021 graduate of the highly regarded Police Executive Leadership College administered by the Ohio Law Enforcement Foundation. Steve received the 2009 Member of the Year award from the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 116. He began his career at Lakeland as a student worker and has risen up in the ranks from patrol officer to his current position as Chief of Police. Steve is highly involved in the Lakeland community and has a reputation for building strong relationships with faculty, staff and students. He was the recipient of the Lakeland Campus Activities Board Outstanding Service Award in 2005. Steve is also involved in several charitable causes including the American Heart Association, Indian Summers Border Collie Rescue and is a frequent plasma donor.

Karen Shelby earned her Associate of Applied Science in nursing in 1977. After completing her associate degree, she continued her education at the University of Akron. Karen embarked on a journey which would span 40 years in the nursing field, covering local hospitals and culminating in management roles at the Cleveland Clinic focused on emergency medicine responsibilities. Karen grew in her roles and responsibilities over time, resulting in a lead training role with Cleveland Clinic at their Hillcrest Hospital location. She has trained hundreds of first responders, EMTs and firefighters through this role and has established herself as a leading member of the practice of emergency medicine in Northeast Ohio, especially during these tough times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among her many honors and accomplishments, Karen received the 2020 Flags for Honor Honoree Award for work in emergency preparedness during the pandemic, was recognized by Hillcrest Hospital Magnet Committee for work on structural empowerment, received the 2000 Outstanding Service Award from the Cleveland Eye Bank and is a 1999 graduate of the Outstanding Employer Mayfield Schools EXCEL TECC Medical Technology program. She also was recognized by Cleveland Life Bank for her work with families in the emergency department. Karen also leads by example by being a key resource for family and friends when they are in need of medical care.
Dave Stumpf earned his Associate of Science in 1992 and was also the recipient of Lakeland’s Outstanding Math Student Award. While attending Lakeland, he also served as a peer math tutor. Dave went on to complete his Bachelor of Science at Kent State University in 1994 and his Master of Arts at Cleveland State University in 1998. Before becoming a full-time math faculty member at Lakeland in 1999, Dave served as an adjunct faculty member and worked in the Learning Center. Dave has impacted countless Lakeland students over the course of his 27 years of service both as instructor and as department chair. He considers “helping students understand and enjoy mathematics” his most satisfying accomplishment. Dave is deeply involved in his community serving as Pastoral Council Chair at St. Anselm’s Church and Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 193. Dave has been married for 22 years and has twin boys who are in high school.

Patricia Willson earned her Associate of Applied Science in nursing in 1981. Patty was the first female firefighter on the Bainbridge Fire Department in 1974. She has worked as a paramedic and a nurse. Patty is the Director of Emergency Services at Lake Health of University Hospitals where she directs three emergency departments as well as disaster planning, the EMS liaison program, nursing resources, and the American Heart Association training center. Patty has a lifelong dedication to emergency medicine and public safety. She oversees 800 EMTs and paramedics, EMS protocols, training, continuing education, and quality review. Patty serves as a leader and mentor by sharing her passion, inspiration and wisdom with her colleagues.
Lakeland Community College is proud to provide exceptional fine and performing arts opportunities for our students, staff and members of the community to share their talents and creativity, develop new skills, explore interests, and be entertained by a variety of outstanding events and experiences. From classical music, jazz and big band performances to magnificent theater productions and visual art exhibitions, Lakeland provides Northeast Ohio the chance to connect with the arts lover in all of us.

The arts play a significant role in the development of essential workplace skills. Teamwork, leadership, public speaking, self-expression and self-confidence are just a few of the critical skills learned through participation in the arts. Lakeland provides a curriculum in the fine and performing arts and a learning environment that fosters creativity, aesthetic literacy, and expressive capability through the cultivation of artistic curiosity, techniques and skills, and the exploration of creative traditions and possibilities.

Lakeland’s main performance venue is the Dr. Wayne L. Rodehorst Performing Arts Center (PAC), named in honor of Lakeland’s first college president. The PAC opened in 1974 and features professional acoustical design, a production stage, sound and lighting, a dressing room and auditorium-style seating for 400 guests, including a balcony and fully accessible seating. The only facility of its size in Lake County, Ohio, the PAC provides space for creativity and learning to flourish and ultimately advance Lakeland’s mission, vision, core purpose and core values. The PAC is home to the Arts at Lakeland and also hosts general college and community events throughout the year.
During the academic year, music, theater and other classes regularly meet in this space for instruction and hands-on learning. The physical space encourages the bridging of college, arts, and community needs, and provides a stage to grow partnerships, innovation and collaboration.

Students, Lakeland employees, community members and arts lovers are invited to actively participate in or attend Arts at Lakeland events. Organized Arts at Lakeland groups include the Gallery at Lakeland, six civic music ensembles: Civic Band, Civic Chorus, Civic Orchestra, Civic Jazz Orchestra, Civic Flute Choir and Jazz Impact, as well as Lakeland Civic Theatre.

“I have lived in Lake County for over 30 years and have always appreciated the quality of the art and music scene,” said retired music educator Jackie Zielke. “In my earlier years I played flute with the Lakeland Civic Band. Now as a retired music educator I enjoy being a member of the Lakeland Flute Choir. Participating in the master class last winter with George Pope was a real highlight for me. Lakeland offers community members and students many opportunities to play and perform.”

The Lakeland Jazz Festival, held each spring, brings local, regional, and national talent to campus, and provides educational opportunities for students of all ages from the region.
When I was in high school, the Lakeland Summer Camp had a tremendous impact on helping develop my playing and understanding of jazz music. The faculty was always A+, comprised of musicians who were playing shows all around town, so we would be able to study with them at the program and then go out and hear them live which was always a lesson in itself!

The other students my age were playing at a very high level and really inspired me to see what was possible musically.

One great memory was when during a lunch break, saxophonist Brad Wagner and other students were playing John Coltrane’s ‘Giant Steps.’ I remember hearing him play and thinking I need to really step up my playing to be able to do that. The mentorship among peers was something that was incredibly impactful to me. To see Ed Michaels sustain a music program for so many years and continuously having an output of stellar young musicians is a testament to the power of this program.

I’m incredibly thankful for the wonderful opportunities I had at a young age.

- Dominick Farinacci, trumpeter and first Global Ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln Center

“"A strong foundation is necessary for building a successful future. The start of my foundation, which led to a Bachelor of Science in Music Education and a Master in Vocal Performance, began in the late 1970s in the Lakeland Community College Department of Music,” explained jazz and opera singer Debbie Masi Gifford. “My years at Lakeland were filled with wonderful opportunities for learning and performing under the guidance of two excellent music professors - Charles Frank and Cy Chinn, they inspired me to become the musician that I am today. Since my days at Lakeland I have gone on to teach elementary music for 26 years in the Painesville Township School System, released five CDs of jazz standards and my originals, and for the last 15 years have performed in international jazz festivals and concerts in Europe, Asia, and the USA. Music makes my heart sing and the Lakeland Community College Department of Music is, without a doubt, part of my life’s melody.”

We encourage you to become a participant of Arts at Lakeland and support the programs and facilities that make the program flourish. For more information or if you would like to support Arts at Lakeland, go to lakelandcc.edu/arts or contact Adam Cloutier, dean of arts and sciences at acloutier1@lakelandcc.edu.
Now more than ever, Lakeland Community College is the way to get local families back on track after the pandemic. For over 50 years, Lakeland has provided an affordable, quality education - teaching skills people need to get good jobs.

On Nov. 2, Lakeland is asking voters to continue support for our families and students by renewing our 1.5 mill, 10-year operating levy. Lakeland is Lake County Issue 1. Issue 1 will keep us affordable and accessible.

Here are some important facts.

**FACT: Lakeland’s Issue 1 is a renewal and will NOT increase taxes.**

- Issue 1 renews a levy originally passed in 2002. It has to be renewed every 10 years.
- Issue 1 will sustain current critical programs; Lakeland will not receive additional money to spend.
- The 1.5 mill issue costs $44.31 per year per hundred thousand dollars of property value.

**FACT: Lakeland’s Issue 1 maintains an affordable, quality education for local families.**

- Lake County’s high school students may take college classes for free, and recent high school graduates can start college affordably, helping them get back on track after the pandemic.
- One in four of Lake County high school graduates attend Lakeland to prepare for a high-demand career or transfer to a four-year university.
- More than 1,000 Lake County high school students are starting college early through Lakeland’s College Credit Plus program.
- Thousands of Lake County adults attend Lakeland for job training and retraining.
- Over 1,100 area residents have earned affordable bachelor’s and master’s degrees from four-year colleges and universities at Lakeland’s Holden University Center right here in Lake County.
FACT: Lakeland’s Issue 1 provides the education and job training people need to get good jobs.

· Lakeland teaches people skills needed to get good jobs with a sustainable wage and a promising future.

· Lakeland offers more than 140 degree and certificate programs in high-demand fields such as health care, technology, advanced manufacturing and business.

· Lake County businesses need more skilled workers to keep our economy strong.

· More than 90% of Lakeland graduates live or work in our community.

FACT: Without passage of this renewal levy, Lakeland will lose $8.4 million in operating funds and face drastic cuts.

· Without renewal, Lakeland could be forced to turn away students. For many people in Lake County, Lakeland is the only way they can go to college.

· Without renewal, Lakeland will not be able to meet the demand for training skilled workers in our area.

· Issue 1 keeps Lakeland both affordable and accessible and will NOT increase our local taxes.

Lakeland is the answer to help students start college affordably and get back on track after the pandemic. That’s why it’s critical to renew Issue 1 and sustain current programs. Election Day is Nov. 2, early voting starts Oct. 5. Issue 1 keeps Lakeland strong for our local families, workforce and economy – WITHOUT increasing taxes.

Link to Lakeland Facts video: Click here to view our video, "Lakeland Facts."
Lakeland Love Stories -
Happy Anniversary!

James and Melissa Amspaugh (Chandler)
It’s been said that nobody can spend too much time at Lakeland, and apparently that was true for Melissa and James. Both students and employees of the college, the two met when James was working in the cafeteria as a student worker where he would talk to Melissa when she’d come in for a bite to eat. The two were married in Madison, Ohio, Oct. 7, 1995, after James got down on one knee during a romantic dinner date.

Ronald and Katie Gray (Oaks)
When friendships become romances, it’s a truly beautiful thing. Especially when it happens at Lakeland! When Ronald and Katie first met on campus at the Lake Effect Radio station, they were both in their own relationships. And then fate spoke up! While helping each other work through their respective breakups, they decided that they were actually perfect for one another.

They spent time together in virtually every corner of campus, from the radio station to the health building, and in student clubs like the Gamers Guild and Anime Anonymous. When asked about Ronald’s proposal, Katie says, “He just did,” and the two were married Oct. 21, 2019, in Painesville, Ohio.

Isiah and Dyan Denmeade (Hamercheck)
Although they spent a lot of time together on campus, from the nursing skills lab, to the E-Building and library, Isiah and Dyan were actually sweethearts long before they set foot on Lakeland’s campus. The couple, who had known each other since middle school, became engaged under a Christmas tree made of lights after they went to see a play. Dyan was so excited at the proposal that she forgot to answer, and Isiah had to ask her to say the words out loud. The two were married Oct. 28, 2017, in Eastlake, Ohio.
Alex and Kelly Boyd (Foster)
Kelly and Alex shared a number of graphic design classes together at Lakeland, but didn’t start dating until later on. However, Kelly has fond memories of the two “crushing pretty hard on each other” during those classes, so even though they moved slow, it sounds like they knew something special was in the works even way back then.

It was Halloween, 2018 that Alex asked Kelly to marry him. He took her down to the gazebo in their neighborhood, dressed in their costumes and all, where he swore his undying love for her and asked her to be his wife. “As if he didn’t know,” Kelly adds, “I had been waiting to say ‘yes’ since we met all those years ago at Lakeland.” The two were married less than a year later, Oct. 26, 2019, in Silver Lake, Ohio.

Click here to share your Lakeland Love Story, and be featured in an upcoming issue of "The Link."
Read All About it!
Lakeland in the News

**Mental health services at Lakeland to get boost from Sanvello app**
The News-Herald, Feb. 4. Article about Lakeland's partnership with mental health support app, Sanvello; Ken Browner, Psy.D., campus psychologist is quoted.

**Joe Lovano and Carol Welsman to perform as part of this weekend’s Lakeland Jazz Festival**
Cleveland Scene, March 10. Article about the Lakeland Jazz Festival online event.

**‘You made it’: Gov. Mike DeWine offers commencement address at Lakeland**
WJW-TV 8, May 8. Article about Lakeland’s virtual commencement featuring Gov. Mike DeWine addressing the graduates.

**Private colleges, two-year publics link up on pathways project**
Crain's Cleveland Business, July 14. Lakeland included in an article about transfer pathways with private colleges.

**Lakeland Respiratory Therapy program receives distinguished award**
The News-Herald, July 22. Article about Lakeland's respiratory therapy program. Dr. Catherine Kenny, respiratory therapy program director and professor, is quoted.

**Local colleges experience some fundraising successes**
Crain's Cleveland Business, Aug 22. Article on fundraising during a pandemic. Greg Sanders, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of The Lakeland Foundation, is quoted.

**Holden University Center of Lakeland Community College adds new partner**
The News-Herald, Sept. 4. Article about Lakeland’s Holden University Center adding the Case Western Reserve University Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. Dr. Laura Barnard, executive vice president and provost, is quoted.
After pausing, WonderStruck plays at Lakeland

WonderStruck Music Fest comes to Cleveland
*WKYC.com*, July 24. Article about the WonderStruck in Cleveland music festival held on Lakeland's campus.

Cleveland's WonderStruck music festival wraps up with AJR, Trombone Shorty, Portugal the Man, more (photos)
*Cleveland.com*, July 26. Article about the WonderStruck in Cleveland music festival held on Lakeland's campus.

WonderStruck music festival day 2
*Cleveland.com*, July 26. Photos from the WonderStruck in Cleveland music festival held on Lakeland's campus.
The Lakeland Photography Fund was created to assist the Lakeland Photography Department in engaging students in the art of photography as a tool for self-exploration and education. The intent of the $10,000 gift is to develop photographic skills and to encourage self-expression through the use of those photographic skills. Students from the fields of photography, graphic design, and other fine arts areas will be invited to apply in writing as to their reasons for inclusion in the pilot project. Up to 15 students will be chosen to participate and will be given disposable cameras to accomplish the project. At the conclusion, between three and five student photography portfolios will be selected and a compilation of their work will be developed into individual photo books. All student participants may have pieces of their work displayed in a photography exhibit at Lakeland. In addition, the gift allows for the purchase of much needed photography equipment.

The John P. Murphy Foundation awarded The Lakeland Foundation $12,000 for the purchase of an English horn and crotales to be used by the Lakeland Music Department for private lessons, music classes and civic ensembles. The addition of these instruments will provide music students with a full concert band or orchestral experience and support the Arts at Lakeland mission to provide a learning environment that fosters musically aesthetic literacy and expressive capability through the cultivation of musical techniques and skills and the exploration of creative traditions and possibilities.

The Joseph A. Cocozzo Endowed Scholarship Fund was established through a legacy gift from the late Joe Cocozzo who served on The Lakeland Foundation Board of Directors from 2000-2019. Joe graduated from Kent State University with honors. He enjoyed his career in business and marketing and worked as the publisher for many newspapers across the country including the Lake
County News-Herald. Joe loved all sports and was well-known at Lakeland for his expert golf swing. Joe believed in the power of education for everyone and was a champion for those who came or returned to college as nontraditional students. This scholarship will benefit male students in their final year of study at Lakeland.

The 2021 Campus Safety Grant, awarded by the Ohio Department of Education, will provide support for a variety of projects and equipment that will help ensure the safety of the college community. These include: 1) completion of the collegewide rekeying project at Mooreland Mansion, the service garage and the Holden University Center; 2) purchasing four police radios for communication between county agencies, allowing supervisors to keep a radio at home in order to communicate in real time during an emergency; 3) installing exterior speakers so emergency notifications can be heard outside; 4) purchasing portable messaging system trailers that will allow campus police to expand on emergency messaging to the college community before entering facilities.

The STEM Public-Private Partnership (STEM 3P) Grant, awarded by the Ohio Department of Education, will allow Lakeland to implement a pilot program, STEM 3P: Improving ITCS Education and Employment Opportunities for Area High School Students. Lakeland will collaborate with four area high schools and four regional businesses to provide students with education and career development in the high growth job sector of information technology and computer science. After completing this program, students will be more likely to obtain employment when they graduate from high school or from Lakeland.

"After completing this program, students will be more likely to obtain employment when they graduate from high school or from Lakeland."
Performing arts have been a part of our lives since childhood. David’s first opportunity to venture into music came from finding his father’s trumpet in the back of a closet. Being a big band jazz enthusiast, his father would wake David up whenever the "Tonight Show" band with Doc Severinsen was featured for a full tune. David’s mother loved musical theater and treasured her collection of original soundtracks.

Jane recalls family trips to the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, evenings at Rabbit Run Theater and many Wednesday nights at church choir practice. Live music was heard at home on an old upright piano, accordion and keyboard and occasionally a trumpet or clarinet.

David played trumpet in the Lakeland Community College band while obtaining his associate degree and has played in the Lakeland Civic Band for over 30 years.

Our early exposure to the performing arts created the appreciation we have today for all arts disciplines. We are active participants as audience members, financial supporters, board members and performers. We know that music and theater have the power to engage and challenge as well as entertain. We also know how effective the arts can be when used as a therapy to heal and comfort.

The arts not only changes lives, it changes a community. We are grateful for all that Lakeland Community College does to enhance and promote the arts and we proudly support their efforts. Won’t you join us in supporting the arts at Lakeland?

David & Jane Steger
As you think about Lakeland Community College, we hope you hold fond memories of your college experience and the education you received and believe that Lakeland helped you achieve your dreams. We hope that you are proud that Lakeland is an anchor in the community dedicated to making a positive impact on the quality of life of our region.

It is your legacy, passion, and generosity that keep Lakeland moving forward in its mission to impact lives through learning.

Did you know that you can leave a legacy at Lakeland by including a planned gift to The Lakeland Foundation into your estate plans? When you do so, you provide a gift that will endure far into the future and help thousands of students achieve their goals, aspirations and dreams. You will become a member of The Lakeland Foundation’s esteemed Legacy Society. This group of donors receives special recognition and special opportunities to engage with Lakeland.

What is a planned gift? There are many ways that you can leave your legacy through a bequest in your will, the transfer of a life insurance policy, annuities and more. Some options provide income to you during your lifetime and still allow you to provide for your family. You can determine how you want your legacy gift to be used, and we gladly will honor that request.

We ask that you consider the impact your legacy could have on future generations of Lakeland students. Legacy gifts of any size can make a lasting difference. To learn more, click here to visit our planned giving webpage.

If you have already remembered us in your estate plans, we hope you will let us know so that we can ensure that your wishes are properly handled in the future.

We are happy to work with you and your financial adviser or attorney to find the best option to fit your needs.

To learn more, please contact:
Greg Sanders at 440.525.7086 or gsanders3@lakelandcc.edu;
Laurie Principe at 440.525.7714 or lprincipe@lakelandcc.edu;
or Tina Baucher at 440.525.7103 or tbaucher1@lakelandcc.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Greg Sanders ’92
Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of The Lakeland Foundation
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In Memoriam

 Florine O’Ryan served as president of the Lakeland Alumni Association for over 20 years and passed away April 25, 2021, at the age of 91. Flo was married to her husband and former Mayor of Willoughby Hills, Mort O’Ryan, for 63 years. Flo and Mort established the Patty O’Ryan Frantz Scholarship Fund in memory of their daughter and were constant supporters of The Lakeland Foundation. Flo received the Women of Achievement Award in 1994 and the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame Alumni & Friends Award in 2013.
Lakeland Community College - Arts at Lakeland 2021-2022 Season

Sept. 23 – Nov. 5, 2021  “The Skull and Skeleton in Art VII: Folk Art to Pop Culture”
Nov. 18, 2021 – Feb. 4, 2022  “Lakeland Community College Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition”
Feb. 20 – April 1, 2022  “Celebrate Women’s History Month – from WOMAN XV…Created by women, of women and about women”
April 10 – May 4, 2022  “Lakeland Community College Visual Arts Student Exhibition”
May 19 – July 15, 2022  “12th May Show at Lakeland Juried Art Exhibition”

Oct. 17, 2021, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Band - “Road Trip: A Musical Journey Across North America”
Oct. 24, 2021, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Chorus - “Strength in Community”
Nov. 7, 2021, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Orchestra - “Orchestral Homecoming”
Nov. 14, 2021, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Jazz Orchestra and Lakeland Jazz Impact - “A Tribute to the Music of Sammy Nestico and the Great American Songbook”
Nov. 21, 2021, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Band - “Passport to Europe”
Dec. 3, 2021, 7 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Flute Choir - “Tis the Season”
Dec. 5, 2021, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Chorus - “Holiday Gifts”
Feb. 27, 2022, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Band - “Ocean Voyage: Music of the Sea”
March 6, 2022, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Orchestra - “A Family Affair”
April 10, 2022, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Chorus - “April Showers of Song”
April 24, 2022, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Orchestra and Lakeland Civic Band - “Musical Collage”
May 1, 2022, 4 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Jazz Orchestra and Lakeland Jazz Impact - “A Salute to the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra”
May 6, 2022, 7 p.m. - Lakeland Civic Flute Choir - “Night Across the Lands”

SPECIAL EVENT - The 50th Lakeland Jazz Festival - March 18-20, 2022

Lakeland Civic Theatre - Director Dr. Martin Friedman presents “Assassins”
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by John Weidman
This sinisterly humorous musical revue takes a journey through the dark side of the American dream, as it explores the lives of nine people who either killed (or tried to kill) one of the Presidents of the United States.
Post-play discussions will be hosted by Greg Truhan, Lakeland professor and program director for the criminal justice program, former police officer and retired senior special agent with the United States Secret Service (USSS).

For mature audiences.

For more information about Arts at Lakeland events and ticket purchases, visit lakelandcc.edu/arts