

LCS Apologist

Alumni Newsletter

Vol 1 • 2 • Fall 2003

Serving Our Lord, Supporting Our School

Building for Success

Introducing the *LCS Apologist* number two! Which means, of course, that the first went well enough to give it another try. In fact a biannual newsletter seems to be a good fit right now so look forward to your source of Alumni news every Fall and Spring. I'd especially like to thank the A.N.T. (Alumni Newsletter Team) members for all their help in developing what I've heard to be an outstanding first effort. Tracy, Gretchen, Angie, Ili, Jason, Jonathan and Tim – Thank you. Well, actually, as it turns out this wasn't our first attempt at an alumni newsletter so my apologies for proclaiming the *LCS Apologist* to be the first. I guess Solomon is still right; there is nothing new under the sun. One of our goals for the newsletter is not to let that mistake

happen again. We would like to build a successful newsletter that will grow and be passed on to new alumni for years to come.

As any member of a successful team will tell you, one of the keys to success is good communication. The *LCS Apologist* is your tool to build good communication between your friends from LCS in hopes that we can intern develop a successful Alumni Association that will truly benefit the school and its family, of which all former students will forever be a part. Right now your LCS Alumni Association and its newsletter are in their fledgling state and need your help to grow.



You can help build a strong association by helping us to establish good communication among each other. A great communication tool for your association would be to have a database of email addresses that can be

posted on a soon-to-be-completed link from the LCS web site. Would you please email the school at pschroed@mail.lcs.k12.ne.us with your email address and email your friends from LCS asking them to do the same? Please place the words "alumni email address" in the subject line in order to expedite the process. This small effort on your part right now will help make your association a huge success for the future.

Has LCS Made a Difference?

– by Levi Kroeker, *LCS Elementary Principal*

You are what Lincoln Christian School is all about. You are living your lives, perhaps raising a family, working, earning a living. We trust that your life is better today because of having attended LCS some years ago. Otherwise, the school has not accomplished its mission as well as it should. Our prayer is that your life is better because of having been a student here.

The effectiveness of this ministry does not depend upon the size of the classes. In 1965, three students graduated from the eighth grade. A few years earlier, there had been one graduate. Seventy students filled the five classrooms, each teacher teaching two grades, except for kindergarten. At



recess, all students and teachers played together – No-Man's-Land, softball, teeter-totter, etc. Relationships were built, which have continued for years.

On May 26, 1972, fifteen eighth grade students graduated. However, a bigger event for them had occurred a few weeks earlier when they attended the annual business meeting. Here a vote was taken to add ninth grade at LCS the next fall. When it was approved, they erupted with joy! Sixteen students graduated as the first ninth grade class, in May, 1973.

A shop building was built to provide more room for the junior high classes, followed by the construction of the high school building on Normal Blvd., after the decision was made to add senior high. The

media came out to take pictures of the students carrying desks and furnishings into the newly-completed building.

Nineteen students received the first senior diplomas given by Lincoln Christian School, in May, 1978. The graduation program was held at Holmes Park Bible Church. Total enrollment that year, K-12, was 298 students.

A muddy day in late August, 1982, was the setting for the first day of classes in the new high school building at 5801 South 84th Street. The speaker at that opening chapel was Rev. Melvin Jones, one of the founders of Lincoln Christian School. He has gone on to be with the Lord, as have several others of the founders. Twenty-three seniors received their diplomas in May of that school year, 1983.

Continued on next page

Joyfully the new elementary wing was dedicated in August, 1997.

This past May, forty-nine seniors were awarded their diplomas.

Lincoln Christian School is in its 53rd year of ministering to children and young people. We trust that each of your lives is better because of what the Lord did in your life while you were here at LCS. Thanks for having been here!

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Alumni on a Mission

In the Beginning with LCS

– by Marilee McPherson, LCS Graduate

† My involvement with Lincoln Christian School began before I was born, because my parents were part of that first group of families that prayed and organized LCS in 1951.

I began attending as a kindergartener in September 1960. I enjoyed my years in school and graduated from the eighth grade in the spring of 1969, as far as students could attend at the time. After high school, I attended Grace University, UNL and Bryan School of Nursing, finishing up at Grace with a B.S. in 1978. My husband and I married later that year, and as a military family we moved several times over the next eight years. Following two years of seminary we went to Africa for a year as short-term missionaries at a hospital in northwest Zaire. Upon returning home, we found a position in a family practice clinic in Geneva, Nebraska, where we lived until 1995.

At that time, the oldest of our five daughters was in junior high, and we could already sense the struggles she and our other girls would have in a public school environment. My father's health was also failing, and we decided to move back to Lincoln. My father went home to be with the Lord in 1996 and we have remained at LCS, because we want our children to be taught from a Biblical point of view by people who love the Lord. Also as a consequence of moving to Lincoln, I began volunteering at the school as an accompanist and after two years I was offered a part-time job at LCS as a music para-professional. It has been amazing how He has brought me back to LCS and is using the school in my children's lives, over 50 years after my parents helped start a small Christian school in east Lincoln.



In every newsletter we would like to spotlight an alumni and their family who has made ministry their fulltime job. If you know anyone who has attended LCS and is now working in some facet of ministry, please let us know.



Missionary Pilot

– by Robert Free, 1986 LCS Graduate

† My name is Robert Free. I attended LCS in kindergarten and from 3rd through 12th grade, graduating in 1986. I attended UNL for two years, majoring in computer science; then, in the spring of '88 I left UNL to work full time, until the fall of '91. It was then I began my first semester at Moody Bible Institute, majoring in Missionary Aviation Technology, a five-year program, with the intent of serving as a missionary pilot.

After completing the theological segment of the program, I took a year off to work and save up money in order to attend the technical (aviation) segment. During this time I met and married my wife, MaryLea. We moved to Tennessee in May of '94, where MaryLea worked to support us while I finished school, graduating in 1997. We were accepted with South America Mission that same year, and after 3 years of full time work and support raising, we left for Bolivia in March of 2000. We're now back on furlough (as a family of 5 – Skye, Jaric, and Coral) until June of 2004, having served overseas for 3 1/2 years. (By the way, if you're a believer, you're in full-time ministry; your occupation is irrelevant.)

What were the benefits of having attended LCS? First, a solid Biblical foundation: while many of my peers were only just beginning to form their foundations, I was "adding on." Second, a solid academic foundation: I found the transition from High School to University fairly easy, my study habits had already been well-formed, and my knowledge of grammar was far above the average freshman's. Would I say that attending LCS guaranteed success? Come on. But was it advantageous? Absolutely.

"Taking Care of Business" Campaign

School Board Progress Report

– by Jason Dworak, 1989 LCS Graduate

As referenced in the first *LCS Apologist*, the LCS school board initiated the "Taking Care of Business" campaign last February with the goal of tackling four issues of primary importance to the vitality of the ministry of our school. I am happy to report tremendous progress in each of these areas. A few highlights in each area include:

RETENTION: Having seen the retention rate slip from the mid 90 percentile to the mid 80's over the last several years, this became a primary focus of the campaign. Several initiatives including proactive board contacts, greater communication, emphasis on the importance of Christian education and other efforts resulted in the retention rate increasing back over 90% this year.

RECRUITMENT: Many new efforts including billboard advertising, yard signs, a four-page newspaper insert and the new "LCS Difference" video resulted in nearly 100 new students for this year.

VOLUNTEERISM: With the retention efforts and improved communication has come a greater sense of ownership of the school by the parents. While this is an ongoing point of emphasis, we have seen a noticeably higher level of involvement by enthusiastic volunteers and alumni.

FUNDRAISING: The final element of the campaign is to raise sufficient funds (\$1.5 million goal) to eliminate all debt plus

establish a scholarship fund. I am happy to report that total contributions and fundraising efforts for last fiscal year totaled \$423,000. With a focused fundraising strategy, one on one contact with donors and your help, we will move closer to our goal this year.

Thank you for your prayers and efforts to help the ministry of LCS be all that it can be to the glory of God.



Since LCS

Looking back

– by Andrew Drevo, 1999 LCS Graduate

It is a great honor to be able to share with you all what God has done in my life since my days at LCS. I am so thankful that I can look back at my 8 years at LCS with such great memories.



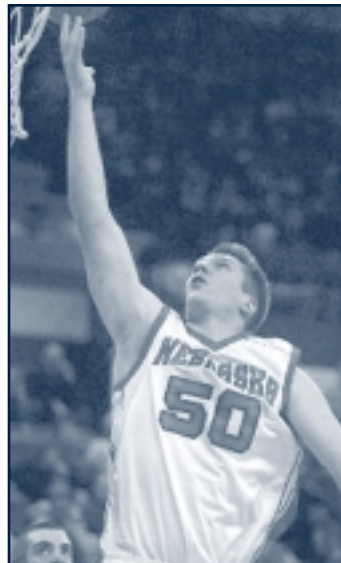
After I graduated in 1999, I headed north to Sioux City, IA to play basketball at Morningside College. I had the unbelievable privilege of playing with my older brother Matthew for two years. God was also faithful in bringing a man from a local church into my life to disciple me and help me mature in my faith.

My time there would quickly end however, and God, through a divinely orchestrated chain of events, opened up the door for me

to come back home and play basketball for the Huskers. My first year here at Nebraska was filled with many adjustments. They included learning a new basketball system, learning to live at home again, learning a new campus, and becoming involved in a campus ministry called the Navigators.

The 2002-2003 basketball season was my first opportunity to play as a Husker. It was not the kind of year that I had envisioned as we struggled through injuries and inexperience. But going through it taught me a lot about why I play the game. That it is not just about wins and losses, but about doing

my best to use the abilities God has given me for His glory. As I think about that even now, I am excited as to what God has in store for my final year of college both on and off the court.



The college years have flown by and I am excited to see what God has in store for me next. God has revealed part of that plan already as I am recently engaged and look forward to getting married this summer! If God's plan is anything like it has been since high school, then I can honestly say I have no idea where I will be in another 5 years. But wherever that may be, I know it is exactly where God wants me!

Blessings to you all as you continue on in your faith!

Galatians 2:20

And the President is...

Over the course of time we tend to forget who really did what in high school. Some of us may have told stories of being class President, many have denied being class President, and still others have longed to get together just to set the record straight. So we thought it would be fun to set the record straight by listing the class Presidents from years gone by. So if you have forgotten who your class President was or wondered who dropped the ball for not having that 15-year class reunion, here is the official list. The cat's out of the bag now! If you find your name on that list please feel free to email me at cfree@lps.org or call the school at 488-8888 to let us know how we can help you promote your upcoming class reunion or post pictures or articles in a column that we'd like to call "Reunion Review".

'78 Dena Mishler	'92 Andrew Welch
'79 Sharon Shaffer	'93 Travis Lockyer, Ryan Meers
'80 James Bowley	'94 Lance Schrader
'81 Michele Penn	'95 Aaron Marshbanks
'82 Randy Larsen	'96 Andrew Manes
'83 Joel Addink	'97 Timothy Schukar
'84 Michael Meyers	'98 Tyler Morten
'85 Michael Penn	'99 Justin Harms
'86 Christopher Lyon	'00 John Hoogeveen
'87 William Lahman	'01 Benjamin Miller
'88 Jesse Quam	'02 Gabe Lovelace
'89 Brent Peters	'03 Allen Gilbert
'90 Justin Dworak	'04 Andrew Miller
'91 Jared Anderson	

And the winner is....



The shield has it! The winning shield design was submitted by ili DESIGN. I'd like to thank all those who gave input on selecting an image that truly represents the mission of your newsletter.

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5801 South 84th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68516

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The LCS Alumni newsletter, the *LCS Apologist*, was founded in January of 2003 with the purpose of providing LCS alumni with an informative and useful way to stay in touch with friends, family and teachers from Lincoln Christian School.

Our Vision:

Serving our Lord, Supporting our School.

Our Mission:

To live out our faith in Jesus Christ our Savior through our given occupations and to graciously support Lincoln Christian School with our prayer, gifts and abilities.

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Check www.lincolnchristian.org and click on the big "A" icon for Alumni news.