



Reconnect: ILCM Alumni Association Newsletter

December 2014



PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR ANOTHER FALL

IN THIS ISSUE

How a Funeral Made Me Less Nervous About Reunions

by Amanda Claxton

I recently attended a funeral for a parent of a close friend of mine growing up. The funeral was in my hometown, and many of my old friends still live in the area. Since I lived in Oregon for 6 years and now currently live in Mississippi, I've fallen out of touch with a lot of friends. However sad, going to this funeral turned out to be an opportunity to reconnect with them.

Getting ready for the funeral, I focused on how glad I was to be able to be there for my friend and show support for her and her family. It didn't occur to me that I would be seeing a lot of people that I hadn't seen in a long time. Had I realized, I would have had what Liz Lemon in the show *30 Rock* calls "camp jitters." I would have worried about what they would think of me now and what we would talk about. I'm glad it didn't occur to me to worry, because the conversation came so naturally. Although it was pretty surreal to be talking about childbirth and children's TV programs instead of slumber parties and crushes.

I'm so glad that I went to the funeral and reconnected with old friends. Afterwards, I exchanged texts, Facebook posts, and messages with my friends confirming that they are just as happy about reconnecting as I am. It's unfortunate it took a funeral to bring us back together. Why wait until then?

The experience made me realize that there were reasons that we were friends in the past. Those reasons still exist and make it easy to connect now even when we haven't talked in years. Realizing that makes me a lot less nervous about reunions. Now I am even more excited about attending our ILCM reunion. And, I hope you are too.

Do you have a story to share about how you've reconnected with other alumni? Know someone who does? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact either Amanda Claxton at amandamay_8@hotmail.com or Rachael Jannusch at rejannusch@live.com. Thanks!

Alumni Association

In its first year, the Alumni Association has come a long way and has a lot planned for the upcoming year.

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ILCM Reunion 2015

The reunion team has been hard at work since last year's reunion. Find out when the annual reunion will take place in 2015!

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From Frisbees to Comfort Dogs

See how campus ministry continues to evolve to serve the Eastern Illinois University Community and build the kingdom of God.

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MEET THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Julie Belan

When were you a member in Campus Ministry?

I was a member of Campus Ministry from 1999-2002.

What have you been up to since graduation?

I currently reside in Romeoville, IL with my husband David and our 2 Corgi Dogs, Wrigley and Gracie. I have been working for EJ Equipment, Inc. as the Inside Sales Manager for 8 ½ years.

What are you most excited about for the Alumni Reunion?

I am excited to see everyone that was touched by Immanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry come together again as a family. I have made long-lasting friendships from my years with ILCM and it will be great to see everyone again.

What are you looking forward to the most with the ILCM Alumni Association?

I am looking forward to assisting in building an association that will be able to prayerfully assist current students and continue connections with past students.



Do you know any Alumni that we may have lost touch with? Please let us know and encourage them to join our facebook page!

Alumni Association

by Rachael Jannusch

By now, you have heard that ILCM has an Alumni Association. The current board comprises of alumni from various eras of campus ministry.

The board members have been busy getting the Alumni Association up and running. We have been fortunate enough to utilize various means of communication to meet across state lines. Even though the internet has proved to be cumbersome at times, it is a great tool to help us come together to continue to do God's work.

We started meeting this fall with the intention of growing the Alumni Association to better serve alumni and current students. While our mission statement is still a work in progress, we are close to finalizing our mission.

« Reconnecting relationships while guiding and supporting current students on their journey... »

As our mission and vision come together, each member is using their unique talents to continue to grow the Alumni Association.

Right now the Alumni Association is focusing its energy on upcoming bi-monthly newsletters, the summer reunion, and building the alumni association.

We are always looking for people to share their talents. If you are interested in sharing your talents with the Alumni Association, please contact the board member from your era. Don't see someone you remember? You can always contact a board member or Greg for more information.

Current board members include Greg Witto, Kevin Hastings, Julie Belan, Carol Ann McCullum, Amanda Claxton, Aaron Heldt, and Rachael Jannusch. We will feature board members each newsletter issue.

Help us find some alumni with whom we have lost touch! If you know of someone on facebook that is currently not on the alumni association page, please encourage them to join the page. If someone you know did not get this newsletter, please let us know! We want to make sure everyone stays in touch.



Kevin Hastings

When were you a member in Campus Ministry?

I was a member and active leader in ILCM from 1996-2000 earning my bachelor's degree in 1998 and master's degree in 2000.

What have you been up to since graduation?

I currently teach math at Parkland College in Champaign. Since graduating my hobbies include playing organ, Cardinals baseball, Illini football, and spending time with friends and family.

What are you most excited about for the Alumni Reunion?

I am most excited about the reunion to meet up with old friends and spend time at Immanuel Lutheran again.

What are you looking forward to the most with the ILCM Alumni Association?

The alumni association excites me most as I feel it will help us keep up with old friends while also connecting with current students and supporting them in their journey to become alumni of the ministry as well!

Reunion 2015

by Julie Belan

Circle your calendars and save the date! After thoughtful consideration of current alumni input and the board members of the Alumni Association, Immanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry Alumni Association will be holding our 2nd Annual Reunion September 2015, in Charleston, IL.

Reunions are a chance for all of us to share our memories and laughs with each other and our families! What a perfect excuse for us to come back to Charleston to have a look around campus and Immanuel to see what's changed – and to see what's still exactly the way you remember it!

Plans are in the early stages, but the event will kick-off with a Friday night icebreaker

event. Saturday evening will bring the banquet dinner, and our weekend will conclude with a Family Picnic. A Campus Ministry Sunday worship service is even in the works! More details about the weekend will be coming shortly! Stay tuned for specific date.

ILCM Alumni Reunion September 2015.

Do you want to help out in some way? Do you have questions about the reunion? Please contact either:

Julie Belan at corgismom2@gmail.com,
Kelly Gebhart at Kelly.m.archie@gmail.com or
Dave Kane at davekane4@yahoo.com.



From Frisbees to Comfort Dogs: Campus Ministry Update

by Greg Witto, Your brother in Christ and partner in the mission

Some of you remember when we purchased 400 blue mini Frisbees to distribute during the homecoming parade. Maybe you remember constructing washer games for Relay For Life. Perhaps, you recall staying up most of the night for the midnight party when we painted the entire Student Center in one evening. Or you might recall late night journeys through the Indiana countryside in the old church van on our way to the Peer Ministry Retreat.

Well, this year we managed to have the famous K-9 Comfort Dogs, Ruthie and Darlin, from Lutheran Church Charities (Chicago) join us for the annual Panther Palooza RSO fair on the south quad. This year, we greeted hundreds of students who stopped by to pet the dogs and chat with us. As a result of this traffic, we collected almost 80 interest cards providing possibly the best response since Panther Palooza began. As you know, one thing remains consistent in Campus

Ministry no matter when you were here: always be ready to try something new for the sake of the gospel, with the prayer that we are following God's plan for building up of His kingdom.

From our efforts at Panther Palooza, we put into practice a new and improved database. Through this database, we can communicate with students using detailed information for indicated specific interests such as service ministry, small group Bible study or sports. This allows us to personalize our communication and create many opportunities. ILCM has involved a multitude of students in service ministry at Fox Ridge State Park, our Early Childhood Center, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Immanuel's Sunday School, Praise music leaders, and serving community members and organizations through a new ministry endeavor called 20/20 vision. This initiative invites students to gather friends and collectively provide \$20 to which ILCM adds another \$20 to

purchase supplies to serve these people and agencies.

We believe these service ministry opportunities encourage young adults to put their faith into action as we continue to seek ways to "...*build one another up according to their needs...*" (Eph 4:29). In addition to this swell of service activity, we continue to provide some of the familiar fellowship opportunities: dine-for-a-dollar, movie nights, scavenger hunts, camp fires, small group Bible studies, Blues Hockey game, homecoming float, co-rec volleyball, the traditional Thanksgiving meal and decorating the SC for Christmas. So yes, times they are a changing, but there is still plenty to recognize as we continue to share the Good news of the One who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow!

We look forward to sharing with you glimpses of ILCM activity while we continue to serve the EIU community.

Blast from the Past

"The most memorable events with ILCM during the fall would have to be Homecoming and the Thanksgiving meal. Homecoming was always a lot of work, from planning a theme to pomping to putting the finishing touches on the float! It was always exciting to see the final product and then be a part of the parade! The Thanksgiving meal was a great way to connect with the congregation and share a fantastic meal together! It was a great time in fellowship with each other to plan and participate in these two great events!"

-Ann Voss, graduated in 2010 with bachelor's degree and 2012 with a master's degree, both from EIU. Ann now resides in Libertyville, IL where she is a Speech-Language Pathologist at ManorCare.



"Christmas was always an especially fun time at the Student Center. You could always look forward to the Christmas party where we played Christmas song charades and made our traditional human pyramid. I also have memories of being in a relay race and wrapping a present with one hand and oven mitts on... ha! Good times!"

-Carol Ann McCollum, graduated in 2008 with bachelor's degree. Carol Ann now resides in Salem, IL where she is a high school math teacher.



FAST FACTS

100%

Alumni that are excited about the reunion next year!

28%

Approximately 28% of alumni live out of the state of Illinois.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the ILCM website at www.ilcm.info and be sure to join the ILCMA-Immanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry Alumni Facebook page.



Reconnect:
ILCM Alumni
Association
Newsletter

902 Cleveland Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920