



FOR THE LOVE OF WINTER

Reconnect: ILCM Alumni Association Newsletter

January/February
2015

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Preparing for the Reunion

by Amanda Claxton

After much thought and discussion, we are happy to announce that the date for our 2015 ILCM Alumni Association Reunion is **September 25-27**. Hoping for the best possible turnout, it is very important to have the event when many alumni are available to attend and when it will be the best possible experience. Keeping these two factors in mind, we debated the merits of different weekends in the summer, in the fall, homecoming weekend, and parents' weekend. We heard informally from many of you when you would be available. We considered what else would be happening on campus to make the weekend a great event. We feel like September 25-27 will be a terrific time to enjoy each other's company while visiting EIU.

It's kind of a big deal

We are very excited to have a reunion to reconnect campus ministry alumni. As we are just beginning to form our alumni association, we want to create a reunion weekend that's kind of a big deal. With this being one of our first alumni events, there

is value in having a more formal, structured event to support our desire to reestablish connections we made years ago when we were blessed to participate in ILCM. It's going to be really fun to reminisce, but even bigger than that it's going to be pretty amazing to come together with other alumni who still feel so positively about their experience in ILCM and to consider how ILCM can continue to be a blessing in our lives.

Your involvement is important

In the future as we build connections, we anticipate many opportunities for your participation. We have genuinely appreciated your feedback and input into when you are available to attend events, your preferences, and your experiences. Please continue sharing, participating, talking to other alumni, and getting excited about our shared past and our future together. Our relationships with each other are what made ILCM a great experience in the past, and reconnecting will make it a great experience in the future.

September 25-27, 2015

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MEET THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Rachael Jannusch

When were you a member in Campus Ministry?

I was a member of Campus Ministry from 2008-2013.

What have you been up to since graduation?

I currently reside in Quincy, IL working as a Registered Dietitian at Blessing Hospital

What are you most excited about for the Alumni Reunion?

I am really looking forward to catching up with friends and meeting other people who were touched by ILCM.

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

ILCM played such a large role in my life in college and I am excited for the continued presence. I am honored to be a part of a great organization and can't wait to see where God continues to lead us.

Campus Ministry Update

by Hannah Osborne

This past semester, we had a lot of fun events. We were blessed to have the Comfort Dogs visit us twice this semester--once at the beginning, and once during finals week. The Comfort Dogs helped us to reach over 100 students on campus. We are continuing to work towards getting a comfort dog at ILCM!

We built a float with great success, and even placed in our category! Our annual Christmas party was filled with delicious snacks, fun games, and great friends! Our white elephant gift exchange yielded some hilarious results! We continued the finals week food frenzies and provided meals for many stressed students!

Next semester, we are looking forward to our small group Bible study, intramural volleyball, and hopefully more interactions with the comfort dogs! We have two retreats upcoming as well: Peer Ministry Leadership Conference and the Best Practices in Ministry. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we move forward in ministry.



Pictures: Students enjoy a road trip to see a Blues game (above). Students putting the finishing touches on the float (below).



Aaron Heldt

When were you a member in Campus Ministry?

I was a member and active leader in ILCM from 2006-2010 while earning my business degree.

What have you been up to since graduation?

During the day, I am a marketing specialist for NuMark Credit Union in Joliet, IL. At night, I host trivia shows at various restaurants and bars in the suburbs of Chicago. On Sunday mornings, I play the organ and serve several local churches in my area.

What are you most excited about for the Alumni Reunion?

I'm excited to see old friends, meet past alumni and talk to current students.

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

I am looking forward to working together with everyone and making new friends.

Love Blossoms at ILCM

by Carol Ann McCullom

How did you and Kyle meet?

Kyle and I met in the campus ministry praise band. He played drums and I sang. The first time we met, we were leading worship at a summer conference and I completely ignored him to hang out with my friends. But the more and more time we spent together, the more I liked him. 😊

What did you do on your first date?

Kyle invited me out for coffee at Jackson Avenue on the square, in Charleston. We enjoyed chatting over bagels, coffee and a game of checkers. It was open mic night so we had a chance to enjoy some local musical acts. Little did we know it was the anniversary of John Lennon's death so we ended the night by joining hands with a few hippies and singing "All You Need is Love" in a big, swaying circle.

Rumor has it that there was a catastrophe the very first day you started dating.

On our first day as an "official" couple we went on the annual campus ministry ski trip. I am a very "safe" skier - keeping to the easy slopes and skiing at a leisurely pace. Kyle, on the other hand, was a little more daring. I was proud to say I had gone the entire day without falling, my clothes were dry and my body wasn't hurting. However, Kyle convinced me to go down the slopes one last time. So as I was taking in the view of my last run, all of a sudden, out of nowhere, I go flying/spinning/tumbling through the air and even my skis popped off. Laying in a

daze in the snow my first thought was, "Grrrr.... Alright, who did this?!" And of course, it was Kyle who had totally lost control of his snowboard and came plowing into me by accident.

How did campus ministry provide an opportunity for you to get to know each other better?

Like all dating couples we were able to share likes and dislikes and interests, but campus ministry allowed us to go a little deeper more naturally. We were both in praise band, small group leaders and overall very active in campus ministry. All of these activities provided a great opportunity to connect on a deeper level.

Do you believe that campus ministry provided a spiritual foundation for your relationship?

We are fortunate that our faith was at the center of our relationship from day one. I am so thankful that I met my spouse in campus ministry, in particular, a Lutheran one. Religion can sometimes be a huge hurdle for couples but we were blessed to meet already inside the church.



What is your favorite memory of you and Kyle during your time in campus ministry?

There are so many memories - our homecoming float "Gilligan's Island" where he was Gilligan, just goofing around at the student center, and all of the social events we hosted. But my favorite memories are the times we spent in praise band - practicing, meeting for lunch at the EIU Union on Thursdays, and going on the road to lead worship for other congregations.

When did you get married?

We got married on July 9, 2011.

What are you both up to now?

I am teaching high school math at Salem Community High School in Salem, IL. This year will be my seventh year teaching Algebra 1 and Geometry. Kyle recently graduated law school from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and passed the Bar exam in October. He is now working for the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C. I plan to finish the school year and move to Virginia where we will begin a new, and exciting, chapter in our lives.

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 the Alumni Association at ilcmalumni@gmail.com. Thanks!

Around the House

We asked alumni to take pictures of ILCM memorabilia from around the house and here is what you shared. We encourage you to take pictures and post on facebook for others to view!



Blast from the Past



Alumni prepare for a volleyball game. ILCM has participated in the Charleston co-ed volleyball league during the Spring Semester and even on campus as a part of the Intramural League.



Here are some alumni enjoying skiing during the annual ski trip.



Alumni Amanda, Jared, Katie, Kyle and Ann share a devotion at the Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat in February of 2009.

FAST FACTS

5

Alumni that sustained an injury during the ski trip.

235

As of February 1st, the number of days until the ILCM Reunion on September 25-27th.

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.

