



## LIGHT YEARS

The Newsletter of Lutheran Campus Ministry  
at the University of Michigan

Summer, 2010

### LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY HONORS DECEMBER, APRIL GRADUATES

*Graduates! Graduates! Everywhere! Every time we turned around, it seemed as though we were honoring – and bidding farewell – to some remarkable young people. As a result, we had an unprecedented **three** Graduate Recognition Sundays. We trust you'll agree that **all** of these young people are worth celebrating!*

In December, we bid farewell to **Katie Proux** and **Christian Williams**.



*Katie Proux*

...graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature and a minor concentration in Women's Studies with a focus on gender and health issues.

She writes: I intend to start law school in the Fall of 2010. I've applied to virtually every school in the country to ensure that I have options ☺ In addition, I do not have any immediate plans for after I graduate. Ideally, I will find a job and a good animal shelter to volunteer at but I am certainly open to any suggestions that anyone has for me and my plethora of free time!

#### **Christian Williams**

...received his Ph.D. in Anthropology and History. He writes: The title of my dissertation is "Exile History: An Ethnography of the SWAPO camps and the Namibian Nation."

He writes: I started to become interested in the topic ten years ago when I traveled to Namibia as a WorldTeach volunteer. There I was assigned to St. Therese, a Catholic mission school and became interested in the school's former students, some of whom had become professionally successful and could, I thought, serve as resources to the school. While meeting with them I became interested in their stories, how they had been excluded from public history in Namibia and what the ramifications of these silences were for them and the various communities of which they are a part.

Since my volunteer years, I have been working through these and similar questions. I lived in Cape Town and wrote a master's dissertation in anthropology about St. Therese alumni. I returned to Namibia and organized a reunion at the school. I came to Michigan and studied scholarship on Southern Africa, nationalism, humanitarianism and reconciliation.

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## Graduate Profiles, continued...



*Christian Williams*

I returned to Namibia for two years on a Fulbright scholarship and then came back to Michigan to write up my dissertation (when I had the pleasure of finding the fine folks at Lord of Light!). I have taught a number of classes along the way, and am currently finishing up a seminar with Michigan undergraduates about humanitarianism and African history.

### **In an Easter update from Namibia, Christian reported:**

(My photo) exhibition, "Remember Cassinga?" focuses on the former SWAPO camp at Cassinga, Angola. Since the camp was attacked by South Africa on May 4, 1978, Cassinga has been a key site in the national history of Namibia. During the struggle, Cassinga became a rallying cry for those trying to liberate Namibia from South African rule.

Since Namibia's Independence in 1990, Cassinga Day has been commemorated as a national holiday. Despite all this attention, few people know much about the community of Namibians which lived at Cassinga. The exhibition is about this community, how its history has been told, and the victims of this and similar approaches to narrating history.

Next week I will be returning to Cape Town and launching the "Remember Cassinga?" exhibition at the University of the Western Cape where my postdoctoral fellowship is based.

At the end of April I will be taking it to Namibia where the Minister of Defense and several other prominent persons have agreed to participate in a launch.

### **Reflecting upon his time at LOL/LCM, Christian wrote:**

*From the first time I visited Lord of Light I knew I had found a place suited to my eclectic musical tastes: Bach from the organ and African gospel from the choir. Can't beat that!*

*Over the year and a half that I regularly attended, however, LOL came to mean a lot more to me than Bach and gospel. It is the first congregation that I've participated in as an adult at which I can say that I really felt at home. From the time I was in high school, I had begun to feel like the critical thinking skills I was developing and the church to which I belonged were in conflict with one another. Over time, I've become accustomed to this tension and come to see it as something valuable. But I've felt like I needed to nurture it by maintaining distance from the church as an institution - to walk with one foot in and one foot out.*

*My experience at LOL was very different. Both in sermons and conversations with members I felt challenged to interpret scripture in diverse ways and to embrace those who see or express things differently, including those who identify with different faith traditions. I valued (and value) this openness to difference greatly and it made me feel comfortable doing things that I've never done previously: like lead a Bible study. I am very thankful to have had this and other experiences at LOL and look forward to touching base whenever I find myself again in Ann Arbor.*

## FAST FORWARD TO SPRING, 2010!



*Back Row: Aaron Wenzloff, Diaan van der Westhuizen, Tim Krohn; Middle Row: Josh Van der Ploeg, Spencer Walters; Front Row: Ashley Schneider, Jackie Hibbard, Kelly Ritter*

**Jacqueline (Jackie) Hibbard** (who earned her BSE in Aerospace Engineering from U of M in 2009) received a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Space Systems from the University of Michigan College of Engineering. The team project she worked on this past year will be submitted as an NSF proposal for a University of Michigan CubeSat mission. In addition, Jackie worked on the systems engineering for an instrument going on the Solar Orbiter mission of the European Space Agency (ESA). (There are a *lot* of acronyms in engineering!) Jackie will be monitoring satellites as a systems engineer on the communications team at a Ground Station with Boeing in Springfield, VA, just outside Washington D.C.

*Jackie has been an integral part of this community for five years. She has shared her musical talents in choir and as an instrumentalist, currently serves as the student representative to the LCM Board, is an active member of Eli's Running Club and shepherded the campus pastor through her first U of M Hockey Game – in the student section! In addition, she was the preacher for graduate recognition Sunday. With her permission, Jackie's sermon will be posted on our blog at: [www.lollcm.blogspot.com](http://www.lollcm.blogspot.com) ~ ps*

**Tim Krohn** earned a Master of Music in Conducting with Teacher Certification through the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Tim is seeking a job in Instrumental Music Education.

*Sometimes referred to as a "one man band," for the past five years, Tim has served as Director of Music Ministries at LOL/LCM but that doesn't begin to elucidate the depth and breadth of talent Tim has brought to our common worship. He is a true pastoral musician. Mention his name to folks in the Michigan Synods or to a member of the ELCA Worship staff and you're likely to hear, "Oh, I LOVE Tim Krohn." Prior to becoming Director of Music Ministries, Tim served as Interim Choir Director, Campus Ministry Coordinator and a Peer Minister. To say that Tim lives at the heart of the community's life would surely be an understatement. **Tim preached on Music Recognition Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.** ~ ps*

**Kelly Ritter** received her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance with Music Education Certification from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. She has earned University Honors and been named a James B. Angell Scholar. She notes: I am currently teaching 5th and 6th grade choir and kindergarten general music in Dexter part-time. I hope one day to get a full-time elementary music teaching position!

*We are grateful that Kelly has so generously shared her vocal and instrumental gifts with LOL/LCM this past year. To give you a glimpse of her amazing skill, when she decided to learn to play banjo, she went on line...and did it! ~ ps*

**Ashley Schneider** earned her Bachelor of Arts in Classical Archaeology from the University of Michigan. She writes: I'm excited to graduate and will be sticking around Ann Arbor for the summer working for the University's Museum of Zoology as a Museum Technician in the Bird Division. I plan to continue my career in the museum industry and hope to move somewhere WARM eventually, just as soon as I can bear to part with Ann Arbor and my beloved U of M!

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**Josh Van der Ploeg** received his J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School. This fall, Josh will join the San Francisco office of Latham & Watkins, where he will specialize in energy finance/regulatory law or in environmental litigation. Josh would like to express sincerest thanks to Pastor Sue and to the entire LOL/LCM family for providing him with such a loving, nurturing church home throughout his three years at U of M. The welcoming sense of community at LOL/LCM greatly enriches the lives of everyone it touches - both inside and outside the parish walls - by spreading the Good News of Christ's love through the Gospel, and by continuing the fight for peace and justice for all God's creation.

*Josh is a natural evangelist who exudes warmth, openness and good humor when inviting others to explore this faith community. He has brought those skills to bear in his service as a Peer Minister and as a lector. He had special interest in Pr. Cherlyne Beck's visit as she married his parents! ~ ps*

**Diaan van der Westhuizen** earned a Ph. D. in Architecture from the U of M's Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. In July, Diaan will defend his dissertation, "Finding Place in Urban Space. The Role of Place Accessibility in Physical Activity and Urban Movement: Implications for Urban Design and Research." He hopes to secure a faculty position at a South African university, probably starting in September. Possibilities include: The universities of Johannesburg, Pretoria and the Free State.

*Diaan has sung in the choir and supported the music ministry at LOL/LCM in many ways. We're excited to see how the future unfolds for Diaan and partner Jason Cloen but we will miss them very much.. ~ ps*

**Spencer Walters** received a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He will be taking the Pennsylvania Bar exam in July before returning to Washington, DC, where he will join the law firm of Covington & Burling.

*Spencer is another great invitational evangelist who has shared his gifts as an Interim/Backup Peer Minister, lector, baker (and he cleans up, too!) and willing presence, always ready to lend a hand when needed. ~ ps*

**Aaron Wenzloff** earned a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He recently received a Skadden Fellowship which is designed to provide funding to work for 2 years on a project that provides legal services to the poor and those who are disadvantaged. Aaron's project will be with Connecticut Legal Services in Bridgeport and Waterbury, representing low-income tenants facing eviction from foreclosed buildings. Aaron was also one of a few students to receive the inaugural award for completing Michigan Law's "Pro Bono Pledge" by providing at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services before graduation.

*Joining Aaron on this next adventure will be his wonderful spouse, Allison Gorsuch, who will be completing her PhD at Yale. ~ ps*



By now, we hope you have already begun to use GoodSearch/GoodShop. You can download and install the **GoodSearch** toolbar on your computer by going to: <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx> . That way, it will always be there to remind you to **GoodSearch** and **GoodShop**.

Once you've entered your charity of choice: **"University of Michigan – Lutheran Campus Ministry"** – all of your **GoodSearch** and **GoodShop** monies will automatically be deposited into the LCM account.

They've put a handy **"GoodShop"** button at the top so you can check to which online stores participate in **"GoodShop"** and, if so, what percentage of your purchase LOL will receive. Included are handy (and tempting) links to amazon.com and eBay are already part of the toolbar.

It costs you nothing to raise funds for LCM in this manner. It's a real winning combination!!

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## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

*In addition to blessing our graduates, we bid farewell and Godspeed to two wonderful women:*



*Rebecca Coulborn*

LOL/LCM's resident infectious disease specialist, Rebecca Coulborn has taken a position serving as an Epidemiologist with Doctors Without Borders in Sokoto, Kwara, Nigeria.

Rebecca is sharing her vast expertise in overseeing measles and meningitis surveillance field teams, crunching data and falling in love with the people.

Her May 24<sup>th</sup> Facebook update notes: *Moved to a new house. It is very nice...but has no internet. Bummer. I do, however, now have an ac unit in my room that works about 50% of the time. Hooray! Work is going well, and to the amusement of the neighborhood, I have started jogging. (I can only run for about 40 minutes in the heat, though.)*



*Anna Svatikova*

A native of Slovakia who lived under the communist system before the downfall of the Soviet Union, Anna (at first reluctantly) received a first-class education at a Lutheran school. Her hesitation? The school was some distance from her hometown. However, it strengthened her faith and prepared her well for future education.

Anna was sponsored for her studies in the U.S. by an ELCA parish in Iowa. She came to the States 14 years ago. Anna has studied in Iowa and Minnesota and received her medical degree in Canada. She has been working at the University of Michigan Hospital and will soon begin her residency in internal medicine/cardiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN (her first choice!)

Anna is married to Martin Suchy. Like Anna, Martin also studied in Iowa and Minnesota. He will be spending another year in Michigan completing his MBA in Finance at the Ross School of Business at UM. This summer, he has an internship at Medtronic where he's met **Patrick Lyon**, another LOL/LCM alum!



*Rick Durance, UM '11*

### **ALUMNI OFFER 1:2 MATCH ON GIFTS TO LOL/LCM**

Concerned about the loss of the Thrivent *Giving Plus* Matching Gifts program, an alumni couple (who wish to remain anonymous) have offered to **help LOL/LCM raise \$10,000 by giving \$1 for every \$2 donated to LOL/LCM by alumni and friends from now until October 31, 2010.**

You may submit your gift in the enclosed envelope or give online by visiting the LOL/LCM web site @ [www.lordoflight.org](http://www.lordoflight.org) and clicking on **DONATE**.

Please be sure to indicate that your gift is designated for **Lutheran Campus Ministry**.

Thank you! And *many thanks* to the generous couple who are sponsoring this fundraiser!

### **THIS JUST IN: BIXBY EARNS PINK HOOD!**

**Kelly Ann Bixby** (Michigan '06) has earned her Master of Music in Voice Performance and Pedagogy (with Honors!) from the famed Westminster Choir College of Rider University!

## **THE LCM NETWORK REFLECTIONS ON GREAT CONNECTIONS**

*by Bryan Weinert*

What a wonderful journey for me thus far! Since I became Director of the Student and Alumni Outreach program for LOL/LCM in April, 2009, I have met with 32 alumni/friends of campus ministry with another 14 "in the works" for the summer. Thus far, most visits have occurred in the Ann Arbor area but one in particular was unusual and personal.

In April, my wife, youngest daughter and I went to southern California to visit Loyola Marymount University where Emmeline will enter college this fall. While in Los Angeles, we had the opportunity to have dinner with Gail Booren, a UM and LCM alum of the 1990's. Gail not only shared her positive experiences of campus ministry and UM, she also provided some personal perspective on life in the LA area for my daughter, including tips on getting around town, places to see (and not to see!) and advice on independent living in the big city. Emmeline is planning to reconnect with Gail this fall.

How gratifying to have LCM connections all over the country! The common experience Gail and I shared in different eras allowed us to make a strong interpersonal connection. This is the ideal of campus ministry and alumni outreach: to keep folks connected to LCM and to one another as we seek to live out our faith across the dimensions of time and space.



*Gail Booren & Bryan Weinert*

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## MEET THE 2010 YODER SCHOLAR: ALYSSA BAILEY



*Yoder Scholarship Committee member Alison LeCloux presents this year's Yoder Scholarship to Alyssa Bailey.*

### **In her application essay, Alyssa wrote:**

I try to serve others not only through my daily interactions with friends and classmates, but also through the activities I do outside of the classroom. Ever since my experiences as a counselor at Michi-lu-ca, I have been drawn to work with the cognitively impaired population. I started coaching special Olympic sports about a year ago. In this particular activity I see God's work most clearly – the unabashed and non-judgmental love portrayed by the athletes helps me experience God's love and teaches me how to display it better in my daily life.

I also serve as a peer minister at Lord of Light. I wanted to become involved with peer ministry because what better and easier way to spread God's love than by just being friendly and welcoming? As a peer minister I learned how to interact with students in order to make them feel comfortable at LOL. While it sometimes can be scary to start awkward conversations with strangers and frequently get shot down, it is very rewarding to see a student that you personally welcomed, come back to a service.

If I have had even a small part in that person's faith journey, I would be ecstatic! The opportunities for me to play piano at LOL are also very special to me. I am very grateful to be able to share my love for music with others as an act of service.

Another activity I enjoy is volunteering at Mott's Children's Hospital. I play piano every week for kids and their families in order to create a relaxing setting to help them escape their exhausting and stressful situation. When I am not playing piano, I interact with the kids and families. The relationships I have built at Mott, whether with the patients or the staff, have strengthened my dedication to service through medicine and my love for children.

I have even been blessed to play at the annual memorial service which commemorates all the children that have passed away in that year. This opportunity helped me decide to become a pediatrician. I heard testimony from different doctors at the memorial service. These testimonies made me realize that if I became a doctor I could become one of two different kinds – one that became completely detached from their patients or one that became part of that patient's life and cared for the patient with love and devotion. While committing myself so heavily to my patients will eventually lead to greater heartbreak and despair, I believe it is this kind of love, an equal love for all of God's children, that is necessary in medicine.

My mom always says that anything you do that has great gains also has great losses.

**I believe that in order to learn the most from my profession and do the best service possible, I must risk a lot by putting my entire self into the care of the patients.**

The losses will be great, but the reward will be that much greater.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*We sincerely regret that space limitations preclude us from printing this year's Graduate Recognition Sunday sermons in their entirety. Following are brief excerpts from each of two thoughtful reflections on faith, life and Lutheran Campus Ministry:*

### Jackie Hibbard

Lord of Light was my rock during my college years. Though the Michigan economy was faltering, college friendships came and went, and the classes sometimes felt like academic boot camp, it was at **this** church that I learned I didn't have to bear it alone. The fellowship, the music, the food, and of course, the cocker spaniels, helped me grow in faith and recognize Jesus' presence more clearly in my life.

### Tim Krohn

As someone standing before you today, supported DEEPLY by friends that I consider family and family that I consider close friends, I feel richly and wholly loved.... and it is through this love that you have generously shared with me and with one another that I have been able to know Christ, to LOVE Christ, and to be inspired to reflect Christ's love, your love, to others throughout our journeys. Victory is ours through God who loves us. Amen

*You can read Jackie's and Tim's complete sermons on the LOL/LCM blog at: [www.lollcm.blogspot.com](http://www.lollcm.blogspot.com).*

*We are certain you'll enjoy them!*



## Thrivent CHOICE

**Thrivent Choice** is a new program that lets members choose where Thrivent Financial gives back to Lutheran organizations.

### Thrivent Choice REPLACES the Giving Plus Matching Gifts Program.

To be able to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars, benefit members (age 16 and older) will be eligible if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Pay \$800 or more in annual premiums for qualifying insurance products.
- Have contract values of \$20,000 or more in qualifying products.
- Hold qualifying Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership positions

This summer, qualifying Thrivent members will receive information on how to designate their Thrivent Choice dollars.

**Please designate YOUR Thrivent Choice dollars to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan!**



*Felipe Ballas-y-Acuña  
Class of 2026*