



# FVLA Follower

† a Christ-focused discipleship experience †  
brought alive in an outstanding learning community

Summer 2005

## Principal's Perspective

FVLA's vision, to be a *Christ-focused discipleship experience brought alive in an outstanding learning community*, is what daily guides our planning and our work. An event that gave living witness to who we are as a school and what we are about was the graduation of FVLA's 16 seniors on May 28th. The church was filled, excitement abounded, and tears were shed as all assembled celebrated the significance in their lives of the mission of FVLA, the culture lived, and the Gospel shared. As was evident in the valedictory address by Christl Bishop, member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dundee, graduates experienced four years of a wonderful education that prepared them for college. In addition, she noted that it was through their total educational experience that they also learned acceptance and respect for one another as individuals lovingly created by God with each being His uniquely gifted and forgiven creation. That understanding was important in how the students viewed themselves and how they accepted, supported,

helped, and learned from one another.

These graduates are both confident and competent for the next steps that life will bring. For one of those individuals, a year of schooling will then be followed by a direct call into the mission field. The rest plan to attend college, with about half continuing their education at a community college before transferring to a four year program to finish their career pursuit. The other half of the graduates will attend four year programs at state universities and private colleges. Those students attending four year colleges were offered over \$300,000 in academic scholarships from the colleges to which they applied.

FVLA is proud of the accomplishments of these graduates and the high standard adhered to in their work and in their service. We look forward to continuing the same culture and giving new students entering the program the opportunity to live, grow, and learn to excel as disciples of Christ well-equipped academically and well-prepared for service in our world.

## FVLA Staff

### Principal

Janet Zimdahl

### Asst. Principal

Janet Burmeister

### Teachers

Rev. Hannibal Frederich  
Hannah Gurnett  
David Kuhfahl  
Karl Lauer  
Kathy O'Connor  
Dorie Pearson  
Jean Rahn  
Peg Youngren

### Support Staff

Merilee Werrbach

## Fox Valley Lutheran Academy Class of 2005

**Christl Bishop** - Honors Program Concordia University, River Forest, IL - theater

**Leanne Bowers** - Elgin Community College - early childhood and special education

**Rebekah Carlton** - Ambassadors for Christ Missionary School San Antonio, Texas - mission work

**Charles Frederich** - Northern Illinois University - advertising and marketing

**Aurelia Freedman** - Elgin Community College - nursing

**Katie Krupp** - Elgin Community College - pre-veterinary science

**Warren Lloyd** - Elgin Community College - railroad engineer or mechanic

**Charlotta Madsen** - Elgin Community College - graphic design

**Ashleigh Mounger** - Northern Illinois University - athletic training

**Tera Pfortmiller** - Concordia University Wisconsin - early childhood education

**Benjamin Poyer** - North Central College - computer science

**Tony Scarpinato** - Concordia University Wisconsin - primary education

**Wesley Turk** - Kishwaukee Community College - business

**Saul Vega** - Elgin Community College - nursing

**Kurt Woock** - Christ College Honors Program at Valparaiso University - communication and philosophy followed by law school

**Peter Youngren** - Elgin Community College - computer programming

## School Year Ends with Seven Weeks of Special Events

From mid April to the end of the school year, there were special activities each week that brought the school community together for learning, fellowship, and enjoyment.

**Lutheran High Day** The flurry of activity began on April 15th when FVLA invited Christ Lutheran Academy and Faith Lutheran High School for a day filled with fun and worship. Students participated in Bible Scattergories, Tri-bond, and Lutheran High Bingo followed by a pizza lunch. An afternoon of Olympic competition preceded the closing worship which was led by students from Concordia University Wisconsin. The whole day was a special celebration of the three schools' oneness in Christ.

**Vocations Day** One week later the annual Vocations Day brought in presenters from a variety of career fields including law, business, and church work. All of these speakers shared with the student body their career experiences and preparation along with their belief that they are living out their vocation as a calling from God. In the afternoon the students went to various locations in Elgin to hear of careers in both the financial field and in news reporting. Upon reassembling back at school, it was apparent that the goals in organizing the day had been met and internalized by all.

**Mystery Dinner Theater** Many weeks of preparation culminated at the end of April with the presentation of the Spanish Mystery Theater. The students in fourth year Spanish under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Jean Rahn, wrote and presented a mystery play. In addition to the drama, during the play's intermission the audience enjoyed a fine dinner which was prepared by the students and their teacher and served by some of next year's incoming freshmen. Those in attendance were not only impressed with the drama production, they were pleased to see the students so obviously enjoying presenting

their work.

**Prom Week** The first week of May was filled with daily activities in preparation for the prom at the end of that week. The evening before the prom, a bonfire held on Valley's property site provided a wonderful time for fellowship. Parents grilled food as everyone gathered around the huge bonfire to eat and visit. The highlight of the week, the prom itself, was held in the idyllic setting of Lord's Park. Lovely weather and students truly enjoying a chance to be together as a group made this year's event very special. Parent peak, a prom tradition, gave the families an opportunity to take pictures and share in the excitement of the evening for a while midway through the dance.



**Spring Concert** During the second week of May the spring concert featured individual, small group, and full choir performances from both the choir and handbell groups. As the audience listened to a wide variety of music, they were treated to impressive examples of individual and collective talent.



**Honors Night** An annual tradition is the Honors and Awards Dinner which occurred during the week preceding graduation. This event celebrated publicly the individual accomplishments of students in the areas of athletics, academics, and service. A special highlight

of the evening was the recognition of each senior, featuring their contributions to high school life during their time at FVLA along with the formal announcement of their college plans and academic scholarships received.

**Graduation** The finale event of the year was on May 28th when a church packed with family and friends celebrated the graduation of the senior class. The entire afternoon was an obvious display of the climate and culture of FVLA...*a Christ-focused discipleship experience brought alive in an outstanding learning community.*

Please visit the FVLA website at [www.fvla.com](http://www.fvla.com) for more pictures from these exciting activities.

### Board of Directors

#### Chairman

Terry Pfortmiller  
St. John's — Elgin

#### Vice Chairman

Andrew Locke  
Lord of Life — La Fox

#### Secretary

Kyla Jacobsen  
St. John's — Elgin

#### Members

Warren Bernau  
St. Peter — Schaumburg

Vince Elders  
Immanuel — Batavia

Joe Heinz  
Immanuel — East Dundee

Carol Hipple  
St. Paul's UCC — Elgin

Ann Lesh  
Good Shepherd — Elgin

Lynda Ranieri  
St. Peter — Schaumburg

Cori Smith  
St. Peter — Dundee

*Fox Valley Lutheran Academy...*

## Runner Advances to State Meet

Junior Sam DuBose made a mark for FVLA this track season. During the season he ran in 8 meets competing in the 800 meter, 1600 meter, and 3200 meter races. In the 800 meter, which he ran in 6 meets, he finished first 4 times with his best time being an even 2:00. He ran the 1600 meter in all 8 meets and was able to finish first six times. His best 1600 time was a 4:33 at the Huntley meet.

However, during training he focused mostly on the 3200 meter for post season competition which helped him place first in this event in five out of seven races. His best time for the season was at the Kane County meet where he finished third with an impressive time of 9:48. In post season competition, Sam captured first at the Genoa-Kingston sectionals with a 3200 meter time of 9:52.3. This advanced him to the state meet where he finished in 14th place with a time of 9:53.18. Sam continues to train this summer in hopes of competing again next season in both the state cross country and track meets.

## 21st Annual Dinner Auction

Two hundred people—alumni, parents, students, faculty, board members, and other supporters of FVLA—shared a wonderful evening of fellowship and excitement for the school’s ministry at the annual dinner auction on April 23rd. It was a grand event where those in attendance shared memories of Valley’s rich tradition, ate a delicious meal, enjoyed visiting with each other, and looked to the future with energy, hope, and commitment to reflect the light of Christ in the school’s ministry and in each individual’s own life. In addition, the auction joined many people together in raising important funds for FVLA. A \$35,000 profit made this event the premier fundraiser of the school year. It is astounding what a community of people together, through faith in God’s sustaining power, can accomplish! Now both those people who attend yearly and those who came for the first time are eagerly marking their calendars for Saturday, April 22, when the 2006 event will be held.

## Alumni Plan Fest, Reunion, and Website

Ann Lesh ('81) and Kurt Claussner ('87) have spearheaded the organization of a Valley Alumni Association. They’ve been busy for the past several months talking with alumni and working on the beginnings of this organization. Initial planning has resulted in the development of a website where Valley alumni can reconnect with friends from years ago. Design of the site is nearing completion, and [www.valleyalumni.com](http://www.valleyalumni.com) should be live in early July. Besides connecting with each other on the Internet, alumni and their families can spend an afternoon together at the Alumni Fest on Saturday, July 30th. This fun-filled activity will be held from 2-5 P.M. on Saturday, July 30th at Mount St. Mary’s Park in St. Charles. Alumni should bring their own soft drinks, water, or snacks and can come and go anytime during the afternoon. It will be a great chance to connect with old friends.

In addition to these activities, the classes of 1985 and 1986 are working on their own reunion to be held on August 20, 2005. They need updated information on as many members of those classes as possible so they can send out invitations and information about the event.

For more information on any of these alumni opportunities or to help with names and addresses of alumni, call the FVLA school office at 847-468-8207 or email [info@fvla.com](mailto:info@fvla.com). Information will then be forwarded to the appropriate alumni planning committee.

## Calendar

- August 2 –  
Registration and  
New Student Orientation
- August 23 –  
School Begins;  
Opening Service
- September 7 –  
Back to School Night  
for Parents
- September 23 –  
Annual Walk-a-Thon
- October 12 –  
All-School Testing

## From The Heart of Alumni Ann (Short) Lesh ('81)

Ann Lesh has served on the FVLA Board of Directors for the past year. After graduating from Valley Lutheran High School in 1981, she continued her education by earning an Associate in Science degree from Elgin Community College, followed by a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University. She is currently working part-time for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elgin as the Director of Assimilation and Small Groups.

Ann explains how her past experiences in Lutheran schools have helped shape her passion today for Lutheran education. "I am very blessed that my parents sent me to a Lutheran grade school and high school. I not only received a quality education, but I truly benefited from Christ-centered learning. The variety of experiences I had were most helpful in developing my leadership skills and self-confidence."

Using those leadership skills in the

board setting, Ann has been a valuable asset to FVLA sharing her enthusiasm and helping in the development of alumni programs. "I am proud and honored to be called to serve on the board at FVLA. I look forward to helping ensure that this high school ministry continues for generations to come."

Ann and her husband Mark live in South Elgin with their daughter Rachel and their son Jacob.

*... giving each student a greater opportunity to excel*

## Foreign Students Reflect on Their Visit

When asked to sum up his entire experience in America in five words, 19-year-old Lars Schaedler responded, "American dream, life experience, friends." The same question posed to 17-year-old Rasmus Blidegn brought forth an ecstatic, "It was really, really awesome!" The memories and experiences these two young men had during their time in America also left a significant impact on the FVLA community.

Prior to this experience, Lars had never traveled beyond Europe. Intrigued by the stories from friends back home in Bremen, Germany, Lars decided that studying in America was an opportunity he needed to take. Looking back at his first weeks here, Lars recounted his warm welcome by everyone at FVLA. Besides finding many new friends, he was able to keep up his homeland soccer passion by playing on the Chicago Fire U-19 team and helping coach several other Chicago Fire teams. Travel was an added benefit to his Fire experience, and he fondly recalls his team trip to Morelia, Mexico, as well as his time in Tampa Bay, Florida.

While a part of the FVLA family, Lars participated in many activities and especially enjoyed the field trip to Chicago, homecoming week, and prom week. He engaged in many discussions regarding comparisons between the American and German cultures, and during the year gave an informative presentation to the student body on Germany and his life there. In parting, Lars had these words to share, "I really enjoyed my stay with everyone. I'm really going to miss everyone, and I cannot wait to come back to the United States for college. Then I can visit with friends and talk about 'the good old times'."

Similar to Lars, Rasmus had traveled extensively in Europe but never beyond. Nevertheless, Rasmus entered the doors of FVLA with a grin and an air of excitement. His positive mood was always contagious, and he loved to be immersed in the

American culture. The highlight of his experience was the friendships that he formed, and he expressed deep thanks to his host parents for sending him to FVLA. He believes that his American experience would not have been the same if they had decided to send him elsewhere for school.



While at FVLA, Rasmus discovered many things including the game of basketball. Even though he had never touched a basketball before his trip to the U.S., Rasmus excelled at the sport, enjoying a solid season with the Falcons. Another discovery was American baseball. Rasmus had never before played baseball, much less attended a professional game, so the young men of FVLA instructed him in its joys, techniques, and rules. A highlight for him was his trip to a Chicago White Sox game. Parting

thoughts from Rasmus were, "It has been an awesome experience and everyone has been wonderful. I appreciate that the teachers helped me in classes, and I want to thank my friends for showing me what it really is to be an American."

Their American experiences had a profound impact on each young man. In turn, all who had the opportunity to work with them also changed. Lars and Rasmus returned to Germany and Denmark on June 1, but their time among the staff and students of FVLA was a joyous one and will not soon be forgotten by anyone involved.

### Contact FVLA

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