



# FVLA Follower

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

Spring 2008

## Principal's Perspective

Designing the future. What excitement that gives! Just talk to anyone who has had a hand in formulating something new and listen to the significance illustrated in words like, "You know, I helped shape that...They liked my idea and used it...It was my privilege to participate in launching that venture." Successful plans usually have the input of many people. That is because God has given each of us different ways of looking at things and a unique ability to understand plans from our own perspective. God's equipping of people suggests that, while He has created variety in talents, His design is to bring that diversity together with a common goal.

FVLA has arrived at the exciting time of designing the future. After forming a strong foundation from which to work,

we now seek input and reaction to the planning that is in progress. Each of you has talents, interests, and a gifted perspective. Now is the time to strengthen the developing plans as you bring your value to what is being done.

To accomplish this planning together, we have set out to inform as many people as possible about the steps forward that have been made. Sharing that information is not complete, however, without our listening to your feedback. To keep current on what is happening, please visit the FVLA website. There, click on the *Update* link on the home page and read the progress information given. Yet, do continue the

progress and contribute to the process by sharing your opinions with us. Your ideas will help us shape ways to achieve the vision with as much wisdom and interest as possible, and your sharing of ideas al-

lows you to be a special part of designing the future. The hope is that interested individuals will not only visit the site once, they will visit often because regular updates will be posted as new progress oc-

currurs. Do become involved. Share with your wisdom. You are an essential designer of the future so that together we can realize a vision of excellence in Christ-focused educational ministry for generations to come.

*Visit [www.fvla.com](http://www.fvla.com).  
Share your opinion.  
Design the future.*

## Students Serve Katrina Victims

In January four students from FVLA joined over 100 people from ten area LCMS congregations to work for a week at Camp Restore in New Orleans. They came back with a new appreciation of the call to serve and what it means to be part of the body of Christ.

Working in New Orleans took the form of a variety of jobs for the students. They installed flooring, put up cabinets, worked with drywall, cleaned up yards, painted walls, rewired a house, and restored the altar area of a church. These responsibilities brought contact with the ravaged areas of New Orleans, and, more impor-

tantly, with individuals whose lives were so dramatically challenged by the hurricane.

In the process, the students themselves were also affected. Each of them noted the special joy that came from relating to and working with people of all ages. During devotion time they found significant meaning in small group discussions about the Word of God and about what they were doing. Even the Sunday morning worship service provided a unique opportunity to discover a common bond with the people there despite the distance from home for the students.

Each one involved echoed the personal importance of the trip. They found it interesting to see another place; not as a tourist, but instead as one who came to help. In the process they were amazed by the stories from both the New Orleans people and the adults in their group which revealed a whole wealth of life experiences the students have not yet had. They came away realizing that what they did helped, but they are also acutely aware of neighborhoods yet untouched, still in need of restoration. As a result, it left each of them with the desire to continue being a Christian servant who brings hope and healing to those in need.

## Winterm: Better Opportunity. Unique Experience.

FVLA students were privileged to learn in a unique way during the first week following Christmas break. As an interim between semesters, the students enjoyed five full days of seminar experiences, listening and learning from experts in a variety of fields. The experience helped them connect faith to life. Verbal feedback from the students following the week-long event gave witness to the value for each of them. A distinctive mixture of hands-on participation, opportunity to serve, chance to openly share, and occasion to deeply ponder made each topic very meaningful. Spending a full day on each subject helped students internalize how adjustments in choices or priorities would benefit self and others.

The first day focused on computer ethics and how plagiarism, privacy, and property involve ethical decisions that need to be made. Heightened awareness of the complexity of the issues involved came from the presentations and small group work. Kurt Claussner, Valley alumnus of 1987, brought insight and connection between the students and the choices that must be made as he presented the reality of ethical challenges for them now and in their future workplace.



Then, on the second day the students were amazed to learn the truths about global hunger and the uneven distribution of food in the world. Valley graduate, Alan Loeb ('85), who is the Aurora site supervisor for Feed My Starving Children spoke to the students about world hunger, giving them examples and illustrations that made everyone realize the truths about starvation. Following a morning of learning about the hunger problem, the students and staff experienced a fitting and very meaningful culmination to that learning by packing food during the afternoon in Aurora at the Feed My Starving Children site.

Midweek the focus turned to healthy living. The day began by being educated on the deadly effects of stress and unhealthy eating, while the rest of the day focused on ways to manage or relieve stress. The importance of faith development, the use of laughter to boost the immune system, ways to listen effectively to others, and how to employ relaxation techniques were all successfully explored.



Thursday was a superb day filled with team building and problem solving activities which led to more open awareness of the needs of others and ways to look at the good of the whole when choosing things to say or do. Valley alum, Deon Hull ('81) director of Walcamp, brought his expertise to the day by leading and shaping all of the activities and conducting a variety of discussions with the students.

The seminar week culminated with an assortment of activities that revolved around the topic of living green. Students worked in groups to design a subdivision in a wetlands area taking into account what they had learned as they decided where to put houses and roads. All of the unique learning experiences of the week are part of the better opportunities that students receive at FVLA.



*Fox Valley Lutheran Academy...*

## NHS Souper Bowl Success

A relatively new tradition at FVLA has become the National Honor Society's Souper Bowl Week held annually prior to the Super Bowl Game. During a week of fun-filled activities, students join together to help others in need. NHS students decided that, instead of collecting cans of soup this year, the project would be to collect money for Feed My Starving Children. To do this, NHS members organized a Penny War challenge. As school started on the first day of competition, students were seen running through the halls to collect pennies that NHS members had placed around the building to set the tone for the week and build enthusiasm. Penny War organizers Alicia Woock and Katherine Unruh stated, "The level of involvement this year was awesome!" The final result of \$800 collected made for a tangible indication of the students' commitment to help.



One of the traditions of the week has always included theme days. This year each theme day had some application to the underprivileged. For example, on one day students wore pajamas and carried stuffed animals while simultaneously thanking God for warm homes and enough food to feel stuffed. They also reminded each other that they can help children in other countries who have no home and have never been stuffed with nutritious food. On the last day of the week a shortened class schedule gave the school community an opportunity to watch *Facing the Giants* after which everyone competed in the traditional student football game as they celebrated a successful week of giving.

## NHS Inducts New Members

National Honor's Society Venture Chapter Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, was a festive event. The bright, late winter morning sunlight streaming through stained glass windows seemed to brighten as Tim Groskopf, a current chapter member, commenced the ceremony with his words of welcome. Assistant Principal and NHS Advisor Jan Burmeister then offered her audience the enlightening story of NHS from its earliest beginnings and described what is required of each member of the Honor Society. The qualities of an NHS member, she explained, include excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

The feature of the ceremony was the induction of five new members who each helped explain the importance of those identified qualities in the functioning of society and in the ways that groups work together. The new inductees, Trisha Parker, Georgiana Ismail, Sarah Mounger, Samantha Pfortmiller, and Tegan Pfortmiller, each offered their meaningful messages with enthusiasm and confidence while parents, classmates, and teachers listened to their words of wisdom and reflection.



Ms. Burmeister then administered the induction pledge to renew and confirm student commitment to excellence. Principal Janet Zimdahl concluded the event by offering her words of congratulations to NHS members for their successful induction into a society that stands for some of FVLA's central goals: enabling a constantly growing faith in Christ, developing powerful servant leadership, modeling lasting integrity, and striving for excellence while engaging in sound learning.

## Alumni: Passionate Connection. Powerful Influence.

Alumni vision committee members have made significant progress in clarifying a vision of what a Valley alumni association can do. Their next step is to formulate strategies for the goals they have set.

**Mission:** To strengthen the connections, broaden the influence, and grow together as a Valley alumni community.

**Goals:**

- > Establish connections that enable growth as a Christian community.
- > Strengthen the bond of alumni to each other.
- > Engage alumni in realizing Valley's goal and vision as:
  - = vocal supporters publicly marketing the advantages of Lutheran secondary education.
  - = volunteers who bring their talent to design, build and sustain the future.
- > Provide financial support to:
  - = build and maintain the school and its program.
  - = provide scholarship aid to students.

... giving each student a greater opportunity to excel

## Exciting Additions to Website

The FVLA website, [www.fvla.com](http://www.fvla.com), has added three new features. A very popular addition unites a spiritual community by giving people an opportunity to pause and reflect on their own journey of faith. Each week the school's chief administrator posts a spiritual reflection linking some personal thoughts with Biblical truths. These reflections can be accessed by clicking on the *Devotions* link on the home page. Visitors will even find the chance to subscribe and receive the devotion via email each week. A second new added link is called *Support FVLA*. This page was designed to give answers to the question people often ask about how to support the school's vision. The variety featured gives everyone the privilege of choosing ways most suitable to them.

The most recent addition to the website is accessed by clicking on the tab called *Update*. Here current information is found on the planning and progress being done to realize the school's goal of building a sustainable model learning organization that is the area's premier provider of Christ-focused quality education. As the reader assimilates the news presented, there is even the opportunity to offer feedback or reaction to the plans and progress being made. Existing postings are dated so that everyone is readily able to recognize the timeline of accomplishments as they are completed. What a special way to keep current on information and become involved with realizing the preferred future! Visit the website today.

## New Venue for Dinner Auction

The excitement of a new location for FVLA's 24th annual dinner auction permeates the planning now taking place. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 19th, at the Holiday Inn in Elgin. The evening's activities will revolve around the theme *Designing the Future* as the excitement begins at 4:30 P.M. with the silent auction. This offers a wonderful time for fellowship and gives attendees the chance to walk through the auction arena, bid on a wide array of donated gifts, and talk with fellow Valley supporters. At 6:00 a delicious Chicken Florentine dinner will be served as silent auction bidding continues. After dinner the culmination of the evening will feature the live auction. A special preview to this year's event which highlights featured auction items is available on the school's website at [auction.fvla.com](http://auction.fvla.com).

More than 200 supporters of Lutheran ministry annually attend this event. Alumni from over 30 graduating classes of the school join both current and alumni parents along with others supportive of Lutheran secondary education in finding the dinner to be a most enjoyable time. For those who cannot attend, advertising in the auction booklet or donating items for bidding is very helpful to the overall success of this important fundraiser. Further information on how to donate or to make a reservation for the \$50 per person ticket can be made by calling the school office at 847-468-8207 or by visiting the FVLA website at [www.fvla.com](http://www.fvla.com).

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## Spring 2008

### Fox Valley Lutheran Academy

220 Division Street  
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**Dinner  
Auction  
April 19, 2008**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
**U.S. Postage  
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