

LION ALUMNI NEWS



Winter 2006-07

Volume 9 Issue 2

Marty Kuenhert '64

As he recalls it, when Marty Kuenhert graduated from LHS in 1964, he was the first graduate to attend Stanford University. He chose Stanford over USC, UCLA and Pomona College basically for three reasons: it was renowned for its academic excellence, the baseball team was one of the best in the country, and every undergraduate who wanted to could go overseas to one of Stanford's foreign campuses or on an exchange with a foreign university. Oh, and one more good reason he went to Stanford, the man who recruited him was a Lutheran.

Dutch Fehring, Stanford's legendary baseball coach, was a lifelong Lutheran, and he followed Marty's career at Lutheran High closely. He knew that Lutheran



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Alumni Generosity

Rick Brown '64 and wife Cathy want to share, "As we ease into our retirement careers in the future we had to sit back and evaluate our blessings as we started the process estate planning. I can not even come close to imagining what my life would have been without LHS. So as we start to allocate our blessings to those left behind let us not forget LHS. Mr. Bob Doering said it best when he said he was teaching us the game of life. For that we should all be grateful. In the fall of 1959 we were told that we would have a new gym, and it would be there in our senior year. I now see they meant our senior years. Please, as you look to your estate planning look at LHS as one of your charities to remember. If we all were to remember LHS for a piece of our estate we can do wonders. Finally, if you have included or plan to include LHS in your estate let, Dale Wolfgram know for planning purposes. Perhaps we can establish a Dr. Alfred J. Freitag Endowment Society. Let's lead the way and become charter members."

Melinda Riddle '91 Becomes Partner in Seattle Law Firm

Melinda Riddle, a 1991 graduate of Los Angeles Lutheran High School, was recently accepted as a law partner in the Seattle law firm of Cairncross &



Hempelmann. Upon graduation, Melinda applied and was accepted into the University of Puget Sound Honors Program. Melinda

Melinda Riddle with her nephew (Susan's youngest son)

left California for the university, located in Tacoma, Washington and graduated with honors in 1995. She earned a degree in English literature with a minor in German.

Melinda worked her way through college laboring at various summer jobs including a software company in Federal Way. Upon graduation she was employed as a grant writer for the Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Her work was so well recognized that she was solicited to be a member of their Board of Directors.

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Lines About Lions...

Pat (Oelke) Juranek '56 and Sharon (Schaefer) Apple '56

from the first graduating class of LHS celebrated their 50th year reunion and joined in the "Down In New Orleans" Dinner and Auction fun.



Arlene (Greenwaldt) Marlett '63 shares, "My condolences go out to the family of Mr. Freitag. Carol Freitag was in my graduating class. Her father was a wonderful principal and an important influence in my life that I will always remember."

Randolph (Randy) Merrill '67 is currently living in Farmington, Missouri where he works as a Customer Service Agent for Sprint through Accent Corporation. After LHS he majored in Art and minored in Biology at Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska. He and wife



Cathy have 5 sons:

Ron 34, Matt 31, John 27, Peter 17 and Sam 14. Randy has taught in various Lutheran schools for 33 years and administrated for 15 years. He received his Masters in Education/Administration from Concordia University, Seward, in 2001. Son Ron lives in St. Louis and works for Centene Corp. Matt also works for Centene and he and his wife live across the street from the Merrills. Peter and Sam live at home and are attending high school. John has served as a missionary in India (working with the dying at Mother Teresa's in Calcutta) and Japan. He also helped build a school in Haiti. He is currently studying to become an ordained minister/missionary and as such, has been sent overseas to study, first to China and now to South Korea. Randy was friends with both Tom Sylwester and Joe Stute. I took classes with Tom at C.T.C. and ran track with Joe back in our days at LHS. If anyone is interested in learning just about everything about Randy and his family, visit :

Marty Kuenhert '64 *(Continued from page 1)*

High's athletes was pretty exceptional, capturing back-to-back CIF Baseball Championships in 1963-64, with an undefeated team in '64 (34-0). Coach Fehring showed Marty around the beautiful Stanford campus on a recruiting trip, and sold him on the three points listed above. He remember being in awe of the man and the school.

www.myspace.com/randolphmerrill. He would love to add some of his old classmates to his friends list. (And yes, he still knows all the words to the LHS. Alma Mater written by Dr. Freitag!!!) He even has his old Buzz Book.

Commander Gregory Husmann '87 has been appointed assistant navel attaché to our American Embassy in Paris.

Justin Birchfiel '93 and wife Erica, a fellow emergency technician, have a two year old daughter Jessica and are expecting a second child in June 2007. Both employed with Real/Metro Ambulance of Tennessee.



Brittany Cooke '03 graduated with a BS in Biology from California State University Channel Islands in May 2006. She has found teaching the most rewarding job ever and decided to become a teacher. She is working with the L.A. Unified School District as a high school Biology teacher. Brittany says, "Nothing compares to the joy of seeing someone who thought they couldn't do anything go on to do great things all because of you."

2006 Grads Achieve Dean's List: Courtney Harris (CSUN), Amir Shahin (CSUN), Marcus Clark (San Diego State), and Anthony Bautista (USC) from the class of 2006 were all on the Dean's list at their respective Universities.

Any **Class of 1960** members interested in a 50 Year Reunion in the L.A. area in 2010? Contact Dennis Warden at 760-564-9866 or dpwarden@aol.com.

The **Class of 1962's** 45th Class Reunion is Sept. 22-23, 2007 in Paso Robles, CA . Organizer is Linda (Armstrong) Hansen (tnhansen@sbcglobal.net). Check out the Web Site <http://home.earthlink.net/~lhs40>.

Class of 1986 Our 20 year reunion is on Saturday, June 30, 2007. We will be having events that whole weekend in the Los Angeles area. If you did not already receive an email from Jim Jacobson, it means that we no longer have your current email address. Please contact Jim Jacobson at jacobsonjej@aol.com or Laurena (Petta) Townsend at laurenat@yahoo.com / 818-367-4271. We want everyone to come! Thanks, The Reunion Committee (Jim Jacobson, Gary Dempsey, Darren Lemon, and Laurena Townsend)

When Marty entered Stanford in the fall of 1964 he pictured himself going on to star in the Major Leagues, but an injury at the end of his freshman season sidetracked those dreams. Instead he threw himself into an exchange program that Stanford had with Keio University in Tokyo. He went to Japan on a summer exchange in 1965,

Dr. Gerald Brommer's 2007 Workshops

If you are interested in any of these workshops please get in touch with the contact person listed with each workshop.

February 5-9 **San Antonio, TX**
Patsy Sasek 210-967-9891 mstrdsed@earthblink.net

February 19-23 **Cavecreek, AR**
Katalin Eling 480-488-2410

March 12-16 **Vienna, VA**
Carol Milton 703-759-5320

March 18-24 **Myrtle Beach, SC**
Heather Walker 843-315-794 orr@springmaidbeach.com

April 18-21 **Huron, OH**
Ohio Watercolor Society (Members only)

May 7-11 **Montrose CA**
Liz Church 818-249-7171

May 21-25 **Trenton, TN**
Berlyne Holman 731-855-0976 2monet@earthblink.net

June 18-22 **Bend, OR**
Debra Prater 541-923-2648 www.artinthemountains.com

June 25-29 **Calgary, Alberta, Canada**
Louise Hall 403-233-7389 www.greatartworkshops.com

July 9-13 **Boone, NC**
Edwina May 800-227-2788 ext 1123

July 23-27 **Ingram, TX**
Debbie Luce 830-367-5121 www.bcaf.com

August 12-18 **Greenville, NY**
Kim La Polla 888-665-0044 www.artworkshops.com

September 10-14 **Pawtucket, RI**
Mary Lou Moore 401-726-1876 www.r.w.s.com

September 17-21 **Gainesville, GA**
Maureen Marks Files 770-536-2575 quinlanartscenter.com

October 1-5 **Albuquerque, NM**
Don Mackel 505-296-3167

October 23-27 **Henderson, KY**
Jule McClellan 270-827-3600 jule@obiovalleyart.org

November 6-10 **Succasunna, NJ**
Nina Harlan 973-584-3373

November 11-17 **Myrtle Beach, SC**
Heather Walker 843-315-794 orr@springmaidbeach.com

Now Accepting Nominations for Alumni of the Year. Looking for an alumnus who exemplifies Christian character and witness through outstanding service to the church, community, or society — or an alumnus who demonstrates outstanding accomplishment in his/her profession or special interest by utilizing the gifts and talents which God has provided. Submit nominations to Dale Wolfram at LHS or email to dale.wolfram@lalhs.org.

Ken Mitchell '66 Shares His Story With LHS Students

"I'm sure he's an inspiration to his children, his friends and his family. Ken Mitchell inched his way up Mount Everest with his broken body, His knees ached. His hands throbbled His shoulders could barely carry the weight of the 50 pounds he carried in his backpack, full of oxygen canisters, rope, clothes and extra equipment. He hardly ate. He never slept. It took hours to move a few precious yards towards the glorious summit. When it felt as if he could go no further, he thought back to his family in Orlando. His wife and nine kids urged him to climb Everest, knowing how much he loved the rush of conquering the unexpected. He made

the UNLV football team that way in 1970 as a walk-on. He did the same with the Atlanta Falcons, harassing them into a tryout, then making the team. He completed two Iron man triathlons on knees so swollen he was unable to walk afterward." (*The Orland Sentinel*, Andrea Adelson, Oct. 11, 2006) This message of perseverance is the message that Ken Mitchell brought to the current students of LHS in a special assembly in November. He shared the unbelievable strength and courage it takes to climb the world's tallest mountain. The students were very appreciative of the words and pictures Ken shared with them.

Lines about Lions Alumni News and Updates: Tell us about your accomplishments, proudest moments, etc. We welcome your news items and photos and will include them as space permits. Change of address and other information that helps to keep our data base current is appreciated. Please mail this form to LINES ABOUT LIONS, LALHS, 13570 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342, fax: (818) 367-0043 or E-mail: lalhsoffice@yahoo.com.

Change of Address

Name _____ Year of Graduation _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

News: _____

Marty Kuenhert '64 *(Continued from page 2)*

and again on a full year scholarship in 1968. He didn't plan it that way, but that Stanford-Keio exchange program led to a lifetime of work and living extensively in Japan.

Looking way back, he credits his Lutheran up-bringing for his affinity for Asia. His first church as a child was Trinity Lutheran in downtown Los Angeles. When he was quite young a Chinese family, the Chans, joined the church. His parents became sponsors for the Chans, and the two families kind of adopted each other. Gerry Chan attended Lutheran High between his sister Carole's class ('56) and sister Brenda's class ('61), and Ronnie Chan was in the class of '64 with Marty. Dr. Chan was the family dentist, and Marty spent many happy weekends at the Chan home. When his Japanese friends comment on how well he uses chopsticks, He usually shakes them up a bit when he explains, "Well I learned early from my Chinese relatives."

Thinking back about his Lutheran High days, he states,

"The school provided ethnic diversity and I really did learn that all souls are equally valuable. The solid Christian education I received has served me well wherever I have lived and worked."

God has blessed Marty in many ways and allowed him to spend most of his life working in sports. He has been a sports agent in Japan representing athletes such as Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky and Jimmy Connors. He has also been a sportswriter and broadcaster who has rubbed elbows with the sporting elite as part owner and president of the Birmingham Barons when Bo Jackson and later Michael Jordon played for them. He now holds a key executive position with the Rakuten Eagles, Japan's first expansion pro baseball team in 50 years.

Marty says' "Yes, life has been good, because God is great... and many of the doors which have opened for me started with the wonderful education and life experience I received at Lutheran High School from 1960-64. Thank you... thank you all!"

Melinda Riddle '71 *(Continued from page 1)*

In the Fall of 1997 Melinda enrolled in the University of Puget Sound Law School. While studying for her law degree she gained experience as a clerk for the Attorney General's office. The University of Puget Sound Law School was eventually purchased by Seattle University, a Jesuit School. With the law school now relocated to Seattle, Melinda moved there as well. She worked for Joan Watt, a dean of the school of law. In her final two years of law school, she was an editor on the Law Review Staff and attended a Mock Trial Competition. She was an extern for Judge Brandt, a federal bankruptcy court judge, for a semester. She particularly enjoyed her work in bankruptcy court and felt that might be the area of law in which she would specialize.

Melinda graduated cum laude in 2000 from the Seattle University School of Law. Melinda returned to Tacoma where she clerked for a year for Judge Burgess, a federal district court judge for the Western District of Washington. She interviewed and was hired by the Perkins-Coie law firm in Seattle in 2001 where she stayed for two years. In May 2003, she was hired by the prestigious Seattle law firm of Cairncross & Hempelmann. Melinda works in the general commercial litigation group. In November 2006, after only three

short years at the firm, she was offered a partnership.

On the personal side, in November of 2003 she bought a house on Capitol Hill. This is an area of Seattle where she had always wanted to own a home. The house is over 100 years old yet in 1927 some paper work from the city said the house might last only another 15 years! Melinda spends time working on the house helping it to survive. She loves living in the Northwest and, on the few occasions when she has leisure time, enjoys snow skiing, snow shoeing, sailing, and other sports that are available. She is also kept busy with an active yellow lab, which will always be an enthusiastic puppy!

Melinda became engaged in November 2006 to David DeLanoy. David is a Seattle-ite who works for a seaport managing company. They are planning a September 2007 wedding.

Melinda's parents Bill & Judi Riddle live in Burbank. Her brother Raymond (LHS 1989) is married to Nichole. They live in Henderson, Nevada with their four girls. Susan (LHS 1994) is married to Joe Kusumi. They live in Burbank with their three boys. There is a considerable amount of traveling and phoning done by all concerned to keep in touch during the Holidays and 'just because'.

LION ALUMNI NEWS is a quarterly publication produced by the LALHS Development Office to provide information about, for, and of interest to LALHS alumni. Participation and input from alumni is welcomed and encouraged.

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