

EXECUTIVE EXCHANGE...

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Another encouraging sign is the support received through the years from third source funding organizations such as The Siebert Foundation, The Martin Club, Thrivent Financial and the Theodore W. Batterman Foundation. Each organization has subsidized LWLHS through grants or matching fund projects. Most recently The Batterman foundation awarded LWLHS \$50,000 for athletic field improvements. With the use of

these funds and some amazing encouragement from donors who value Lutheran education, our outdoor property has been transformed this summer. LWLHS faculty members Bob Kasten, Dave Miskimen and Tim Gast have labored many hours coordinating the planning, excavation, seeding, rock removal and trenching that has occurred. Benevolent donors like Chad Graff of Graff Masonry, M & K Excavating of Palos Hills, IL, Rich Luce, architect and Kelly Briskie, Booster fundraising coordinator have all been instrumental in stretching the \$50,000 to the maximum and beyond.

While there remains much work to be accomplished, huge strides have been taken to improve our property, therein improving the experience of our students. All the efforts of these dedicated supports remind me of Paul's words in 1 Cor 12:27, **"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."** Watching so many committed individuals selflessly contribute to the cause of Christian education for our youth is inspiring. Each one playing a part makes a difference. Thank you.

Encouragement Needed

Finally as we forge ahead with strategic plans for the future of LWLHS there are "miles to go before we sleep". From a facilities perspective we have cafeteria, locker room, auditorium and storage needs. We would like to maintain our academic excellence and grow our programs giving more students more opportunities to become servant leaders for Christ. Perhaps our biggest challenge continues to be our existing debt service. Plans are being formulated to address these needs in a capital campaign beginning in early 2010. Your dollars, prayers and encouragement will be vital to the success of this endeavor.

Lutheran education is entering a decade of some uncertainty at every level. As a church body, we need to determine the importance of Christian education in our mission and ministry plans. Is Christian education a crucial component part of sharing God's Word or is Christian education a part of our ministry that is expendable? I can only supply one answer from one perspective. In over thirty years of witnessing Christian education at the elementary, secondary and higher education levels I can attest to the fact that the Holy Spirit works in our schools and lives are changed **eternally changed**. How many? That is hard to quantify. But if just

one life is altered and that life marries, has children and influences other lives, what kind of numbers are we talking about now?

This is the history of Christianity and how we sustain ourselves in good times and in bad. So...**Encourage one another...and become a part of it.**

Peace,

Dr. Cary Stelmachowicz

DR. STELMACHOWICZ EARNS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Cary Stelmachowicz was recently selected for a fellowship in executive leadership at the Van Lunen Center for Executive Management in Christian Schools at Calvin College, Michigan.

Created in 2007, the one-year Van Lunen Fellowships are designed for Christian school leaders from the United States or Canada with two to ten years experience in their management position. Dr. Stelmachowicz has been the Executive Director at Living Word Lutheran High School for the past eight years. He was formerly an Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin from 1991-2001.

The Van Lunen Center was established at Calvin in January 2007 courtesy of a \$2 million gift to the college from the Richard D. Van Lunen Foundation. Its purpose is to provide world-class executive management education for senior leaders of schools based on the historic Christian faith.

The Fellows program is a key part of that vision for Christian education. It is a selective one-year fellowship that assists the heads of Christian schools in refining the executive skills necessary for school management in the current competitive climate. Skills include linking vision to strategic plan, financing Christian education, mission-driven fund-raising and personal development. This multi-disciplinary approach flows from the Van Lunen Center's conclusion that effective Christian leaders must be creative and innovative, develop excellent skills that cross many management disciplines, see patterns where many see only chaos build teams across constituencies and be prime examples of their Christian tradition as they manage increasingly complex school operations.

Commenting on his selection for this prestigious inclusion into this year's fellowship Dr. Stelmachowicz stated, "It is indeed an honor to be selected for this prestigious program. Gleaning insights from fellow educators will sharpen my leadership skills."

The other local educator chosen was Robert Pauly, President of Thomas Moore High School in Milwaukee.



LWLHS SPRING MUSICAL... INTO THE WOODS

What happens after "happily ever after"? The Living Word Drama Department recently went Into The Woods to find an answer to this preponderance. In this classic Stephen Sondheim musical, familiar fairy tale characters come together to create a fresh storyline, as they find themselves pursuing their dreams at any cost. A truly ensemble cast, the actors included leading seniors Audra Handschke (Little Red Riding Hood), Casey Kegley (Prince), Ethan Tarvin (Baker), Erin Hanna (Cinderella), Kelsey Sheffield (Jack's Mother), and Andrew Petersen (Narrator).

Over fifty students shared their God-given talents while playing in the orchestra, constructing, decorating, and organizing the set, and acting. Nearly 500 people were in attendance at one of the three performances on May 1st and 2nd. Directors Kate Yahr, John Genszler, and Aaron Staub seized the opportunity to share with each audience a message of the importance of allowing God to lead us with His light through the woods of our lives.

WINTERIM: COSTA RICA

Ten LWLHS students, along with two teachers and a parent, will be traveling to Costa Rica from January 14-24, 2010. Kate Yahr, Spanish instructor, organized and coordinated the experience and will be LWLHS's main supervisor for the trip.

This immersion-education adventure is a new offering in the school's recently adopted Winterim program. Held just after the Christmas vacation, these all-day, three week classes provide the opportunity for students to partake in more experiential learning. Is there a better way to experience the Spanish language and culture than from within?

Upon arrival in Costa Rica, the group will travel to their host families, where they will stay for the next ten days, sleeping, eating, and developing relationships. Two days will be reserved for a volunteer work project at a local school. The majority of their days, however, will find participants studying in the morning with small, intense classes at a beautiful immersion school. Exploring local sites and learning native dancing and cooking will consume the group's afternoons and evenings. Planned excursions include visits to a coffee plantation, a butterfly farm, Arenal volcano hot springs, and a river cruise through the rain forest. The group is eagerly anticipating their departure and fundraising the full force.

NEW FIELDS BECOMING A REALITY THIS SUMMER

Through a generous grant from the Theodore W. Battermann Foundation of Milwaukee, and the donation of time and effort from volunteers, friends and parents of Living Word, the dreams of new outdoor athletic fields has taken some leaps forward this summer. Excavation for a new baseball diamond north of the high school is complete and the goal is to have the field fine graded and seeded this spring.

This will make it possible to have a baseball diamond ready for at least practice sessions in the spring of 2010. Graf Masonry has been instrumental in constructing a retaining wall and dugouts for the diamond. Baseball coach Tim Gast and Athletic Director Dave Miskimen are overseeing the project and also plan to complete some turf improvements to the football/soccer field this spring. Speaking of new fields, a new softball field to the west of the high school will also be excavated this summer by M & K Excavating of Palos Hills, IL. (They also completed the work on the baseball diamond in May.) The goal is to fine grade and seed the new softball diamond in the fall of '09 or the spring of 2010 when perhaps additional donations will make that possible.

Another part of the work includes the installation of a water system so there is a water source available to care for the newly seeded fields. We are working with the Village of Jackson and hope to install some water lines over the summer. Finally, we are especially thankful for a dedicated group of parents who are planning to fund and build a concession/storage facility between the football/soccer field and the new baseball diamond. Their goal is to make this "gathering place" for Living Word parents, fans and guests a reality by the fall.

If anyone is interested in helping the Living Word "Boosters" with this project, contact the Athletic Director, Mr. Dave Miskimen.

