

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI COUNCIL SAYS GOODBYE TO LINDSAY MARCINIAK

BY: MEGAN SWEAS '05-'06



When it came time for her to pass the torch as Amate House Alumni Council president this spring, Lindsay Marciniak (04-05) was prepared with a binder and a memory stick full of materials for the next president. This level of organization characterized her two-year tenure as president and has helped the Alumni Council become a more significant part of the Amate House community.

But Lindsay isn't just a well-organized leader, she is also a giving person. She stepped down as president because this fall she starts her Masters of Public Affairs program at Indiana University, where she will be studying non-profit management.

She has long been interested in the administrative side of non-profit work, but Lindsay credits her time at her Amate House site, Deborah's Place, with teaching her that administration must be grounded in relationships and direct service. Working with the women who lived in the transitional housing center for the first half of her year of service made the second half of the year, which she spent as the external relations coordinator in the administrative office, much more valuable. "By working with people who aren't exactly like me, I was able to learn about myself and others and develop a sense of empathy," she says of Deborah's Place. "I want to take that sense of empathy and interweave it into the work I do." Lindsay, who since Amate House has worked in the development office at the Kellogg School of Management, hopes to use her skills and sense of empathy at an international humanitarian agency after earning her Masters degree.

Her focus on people has also been evident in her years as the leader of the Alumni Council. For Lindsay, monthly meetings were

as much a time to chat and become friends with other alumni as they were for working through an agenda full of programs to be planned. The planning and execution of the annual alumni retreat was her favorite part of the council precisely because it strengthens the Amate House community. "It reminds us of what we learned during our Amate year," she says. "And it brings together people from all different years and stages of their post-Amate life."

Continuing her involvement in Amate House keeps the tenets fresh in Lindsay's life. Particularly, she says that the tenet of stewardship-from helping a friend to volunteering with Amate House-naturally comes out of a sense of community.

But sharing her time is not a burden.

"I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve in this leadership capacity," Lindsay says. "I'm impressed with everyone in the Amate community. There are people that still care enough about Amate House to take an hour out of their busy schedules to make Amate House a priority."

For Lindsay, it all comes back to the people. "The quality of people that I have met through Amate House, you can't find anywhere else," she says.



Lindsay participates in the annual Alumni Retreat.

Please continue to check out www.amatehouse.org for updated Alumni News, Events and Alumni Council meeting dates. If you are interested in being more involved with the Council or would like to suggest an event, please email alumni@amatehouse.org.

WELCOME ELIZABETH BRUEN



Amate House:
St. William, 2000-2001
Volunteer Site:
Marjorie Kovler Center
Hometown:
Winchester, KY
Graduated From:
University of Notre Dame
DePaul College of Law

"When I moved to Chicago, Amate House provided me with a community of support, faith, and service—and it still does today," Elizabeth says. "I remain close friends with many of my Amate House roommates, and I have met many other extraordinary alumni through my work with the Alumni Council."

As president, she adds, "I hope to encourage as many people as possible to become involved in the council in some way—both alumni here in Chicago and throughout the country. We look forward to providing Amate House Alumni with opportunities to build our community, share our faith, participate in service opportunities, and encourage stewardship."

PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

Please remember to pray for all Amate House Deceased Benefactors and Our Fallen Soldiers along with the following people who have passed away:

In Memory of...

Peter Arabia
Bonnie Aranda
Jennie Baker
Stanley Banas
Bishop Family
Arlid Borgersen
Christopher Braig
Peter Chipparoni
Mary Emily Considine
Francie Creevy
John Curran Jr.
Gregory Daly
Florence 'Babe' Darling
Dominic Dasco
Nancy Deniston
Joyce Dicken
William Doyle
John Eckenrood
Mary Franchi
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Billie Graham
Frank Greene
Dolores Rose Haderlein
Rosemary Hanley
Mark Harvey
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Kenton & Frances
Kilmer
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John Kmiecik
John & Loretta Krainz
Patrick Leahy
Kelly Marie Lillwitz

Nancy Loretto
Mary Ellen Lotka
George McCormick
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Ann Nelson
Irvin Nelson
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Linda O'Connor
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Laura O'Neill
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Maurice Quinn
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Marshall Rothstein
Walter Rzasa
John Sammons
Anthony Sciaraffa
Joseph Serafine
Mary Shepelak
Libby Skopes
Lesley Smith
Virginia Smith
Arthur Spring
Phil St. Aubin
Becky Stepusin
Monroe Sullivan
Kathleen Troy
Madonna Weldon
Tom & Marg. Werner

For Improved Health of:

Kathie Beazley
Tom Florio
Jane Haggerty
Mary Jane Haggerty
Jim Kroll
Len Moss
Rich Oberfoell
Ponciano Ranas
Dorothy Scheuring
Michael Wagar

In Honor of...

Claude Altorffer
Tim Ballard
Laura (Merritt) Bird
Bishop Family
Galioto Family
Raymond Henry Gould
Kevin & Amy Grogan
Tom Hauth
Stuart Johnson
John Watson Jordan
John Lucas
Bill Lynch
Anne Merritt
Gina Mitterholzer
Stephen Ruppert
Lauren Solarski
St. Agnes Parish & School
Carolyn Stroncek
Mary Alice Worley

In Honor of the Following Occasion:

Geneva Eisinger - Birth
Jon & Melissa Gombola - Wedding
Amy Grogan - 40th Birthday
Rev. Carl Morello - 25th Anniversary in Priesthood
Bruno & Sophie Panek - 50th Wedding Anniversary
Abbey Schumacher - Birthday
Lisa Wolff - Birthday

Celebrating 24 Years of Service to Chicago

AMATE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

The Young Adult Volunteer Program for the Archdiocese of Chicago

Spring 2008

"LIFE NEVER, EVER GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN."

SECOND YEAR NORTH HOUSE VOLUNTEER SARAH CORDES REFLECTS ON THE THE THEME OF GOOD FRIDAY IN HER SERVICE AS A HOSPICE CAREGIVER AT RAINBOW HOSPICE IN PARK RIDGE

My second year of Amate has been nothing like my expectations. While I know that none of us have had years that went according to our plans, when coming in for round 2, I thought I knew what was coming a little bit more. . . but I was very wrong. Where I anticipated celebrating new life as a doula, I found myself crying over death as a hospice worker. I also found myself struggling with a good friend's health and our friendship, suddenly being in a serious relationship, learning to become part of a new community, and trying to remember why I thought doing a second year was a good idea.



But, if there's one thing I learned from my hospice patients this year, it is that life never, ever goes according to plan. As diverse as my

patients have been, the one common theme in their lives is that life is full of surprises. Unplanned babies, sudden romances, even more sudden divorces, unexpected joys and fulfilled dreams, many unfulfilled dreams, and definitely, ultimately, the surprise of our own mortality. The transition into hospice is a difficult one for many patients and families. It signals the abrupt shift from hoping for a recovery to hoping for a peaceful death, and few people can embrace that quickly. It means letting go of your hopes and dreams for the rest of your life, letting go of your future. It is painful to watch this- to see the homeless person who never got a home, the alcoholic who didn't beat his addiction, the emotionally abusive, angry man who couldn't find peace, and know that it's over. That they, and those who

surround them, need to name these deaths, so that they can find hope in a different way, and move to new life.

Good Friday is the first stage of the paschal cycle, the stage where we must acknowledge our deaths and what has been lost so that we can move into new life. This is a scary stage for most of us! Henri Nouwen once compared death to flying off a trapeze. The flyer has to reach out her or his hands and, without grasping for the catcher, trust that the catcher will grab them at just the right second. With all our deaths, there is this sense of free falling, and hoping that

WITH ALL OUR DEATHS, THERE IS THIS SENSE OF FREE FALLING, AND HOPING THAT GOD WILL CATCH US AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.

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God will catch us at the right moment. I have felt this in my second year, in letting go of the job I thought I had, in letting go of my friend, in letting go of my first year, and in letting go of many of my hopes and expectations. And I see it in the lives and deaths of the 168 plus patients I have seen die this year. It is in naming these deaths that I have allowed myself to be blessed by what comes after. Good Friday is not the joyful part of the Easter season, but it is the first part. What have we lost? And where do we go from here?



Amate Magic was a hit! Thank you for your generous support. Please save the date for our most "Magic" event yet: Friday, May 1, 2009.

For information please contact: info@amatehouse.org

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

The dictionary defines "Spring" several ways. One definition reads, "to come into being by growth." Certainly that applies to our Volunteers who have worked so hard this year. Their experiences have changed them for life and have prepared them to participate more fully in the grace and the love embodied in Catholic Social Teaching. So too has the hard work of Roberta Muoio and Lisa Wolff in recruiting paid off – we are in the final stages of accepting Volunteers for the 2008–2009 program year. The growth of the current Volunteers leads us to the growth of another Amate House year of serving the needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago. We wish our Volunteers a bright future, much success and a life after Amate House that is filled with "love in action."

Spring is also defined as "to proceed or originate from a specific source or cause." This July we begin the celebration of our 25th year. We are preparing for a great celebration. Plans are in the works and we would be absolutely delighted for you to join us in our endeavors. A major highlight of the year will be our 25 Ton Food Drive: A Faith That Cares, Shares. With the help of the Catholic high schools which will act as drop off/sort points, and their local parishes which will supply canned foods, we hope to collect 25 tons of food. The food will then be sorted and delivered to food pantries all over the Archdiocese. With the price of food increasing almost 30% this year, we are being told that our efforts will make a huge difference as food pantries all over the Archdiocese are going empty.

Please consider volunteering to be your parish representative for the food drive. The commitment is very minimal. You will be responsible for delivering bulletin inserts to your parish bulletin administrator for the month of October, encouraging participation in your parish, and finally acting as a leader and our contact person on November 1, 2008. This is a one week's time commitment spread out over a couple months. Pray and ask God to lead you in a way that will help literally thousands of people to eat enough to sustain their lives.

Then join us for Amate Magic at Navy Pier on May 1, 2009. It promises to be one of the biggest and best yet!

Finally, thank you for your generous support. You make possible the great works that are being done by the Amate House Volunteers each day. May God grant your family and our world with a peaceful summer.

John Lucas

JESSICA LEW, SOUTH HOUSE VOLUNTEER

JESS SERVES AT NORTH LAWDALE COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE NORTH LAWDALE NEIGHBORHOOD. SHE CREATED AND RUNS THE LIBRARY AT NLCP. BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM HER REFLECTION ON THE 5TH STATION OF THE CROSS: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS.

Like Simon, I see their humanity. While there is sometimes shame, embarrassment, and suffering to each student's life, there is also a light inside that burns for a brighter future. I am constantly amazed with the wisdom each child has gained from the under-resourced communities in which they live. Never have I faced the difficulties they have. Yet I was able to relate to them. I have connected to that deeper level of trust and friendship. Students, like Martisha Woods, have told me that they see me as an older sister or a mentor. And it warms my heart that I have gained the students' trust and have developed meaningful relationships with them. I am here to witness others' struggles, learn from them and help them carry their burden. Each day I am rewarded when I experience Christ in each of the 450 students who walk the halls of NLCP.



VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- POTS & PANS
- TOASTER OVEN
- COFFEEPOT
- LAWN FURNITURE
- GRILLS
- CARS
- WASHERS/DRYERS

HAVE THESE LYING AROUND?
IF SO, CALL US!

773.376.2445



"I BELIEVE THAT SERVICE IS NOT ABOUT DOING FOR ANOTHER, IT'S ABOUT WALKING WITH THEM."

FROM A VOLUNTEER REFLECTION DELIVERED AT AMATE MAGIC BY JEAN REIDY, LITTLE VILLAGE VOLUNTEER

I have been moved by the stories of countless patients in our predominantly Spanish-speaking clinic in Humboldt Park, but the story I want to share with you tonight is not about a typical Erie patient. He emigrated from Europe, has no telephone, understands almost no English and certainly no Spanish. Despite our persistent offers for a doctor who speaks his language, he refused-like so many of our patients, he feels at home at Erie.

This patient is a member of a specialty clinic I manage; he was enrolled because of his uncontrolled blood levels. I began to meet with him each week to discuss his medication, diet, and blood pressure. One Tuesday, I attempted to explain to him that he now had to take two pills instead of one. After ten minutes of tortuous miscommunication, I searched around the room for a teaching aid. I took two cotton balls and with a permanent marker I wrote 5mg on one and 1 mg on the other. In one last desperate attempt to reach understanding, I put them both in my mouth. "Oh!" he exclaimed, "I take 5 and 1 together, I take 6 mg every day!" I have seen this patient's health steadily improve, and my time with him each week went from being the most frustrating to one of the most rewarding parts of my job.



This story is just one small example of how I have come to



realize that my work at Erie is not about doing grand life-saving acts, but rather, accompanying our patients through some of life's most vulnerable moments. In just three short years, thanks much in part to my year here at Amate House, I went from craving lavish gifts, to knowing deep down that the best gift was the grateful kiss on the hand this patient gave me each time before he walked out of my office.

It is because of my time at Erie, in my community and in the Amate group at large, that I can say I am walking out of Amate a stronger woman than I walked in. I asked my fellow volunteers about ways in which they have changed and these are just some of the things they said:

My time in Amate has shown me that you can't always do it alone; but if you try and fail, you will find support in unexpected ways. Amate House has allowed me to appreciate differences among people. I have seen that vulnerability within community life leads to enormous growth. I have gained perspective through Amate: I now know that I am infinitely connected to all the trials, joys and sorrows of this world.



THE THINGS WE CARRY IN OUR HEARTS

LAUREN SOLARSKI - VINCENT & LOUISE HOUSE AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



By the time you read this, our possessions are probably already packed into boxes, and moved out of The Vincent and Louise House. The lonesome building on DePaul University's campus waits patiently for a new group of volunteers to arrive, to enrich and transform their lives during a year spent dwelling within its four hugging walls.

Remember the day we first arrived? An eager nervousness filled the rooms, as with curious anticipation we greeted one another and the adventure before us. We were different people then. As the months progressed we changed from strangers to a family united by a love we never imagined possible. And through it all, we grew incredibly close: through the Thursday community nights, painful realizations of global injustices, crowd-



ed house dinners, prayer at Sunday night student mass, triumphs and disappointments at our service sites, hectic schedules, sleepy mornings at the Soup Kitchen, challenging discussions during class together, humbling disagreements, reflection on retreats, laugh-

WE WILL NOT FORGET THIS YEAR.

ter-filled cuddle fests, educational visits to other communities, and intense late-night conversations that lasted until we heard morning birds. As we leave, there are things we will not need to pack into those boxes because we carry them now in our hearts. We know the strength and inspiration that are found in community. We hold the truth that all people are created in God's image and deserve love, and we realize it is easier to give this love than many think. We understand how necessary it is to fully appreciate our blessings, to mind our resources, to live simply and deliberately. We are conscious of suffering, and aware that an injustice that affects one individual affects us all. We are evermore passionate in the quest for change. And next year when we no longer live in community we will probably have moments when we succumb to fears, to pettiness, to disillusion, and apathy. But now, after this experience in Amate House, we know what it means to put love into action. And we know all that is possible. We will not forget this year.

