

YOU & DIGI-KEY

Together We Can

ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS!



Are you looking for...

- A work environment that is clean and comfortable with opportunities for advancement?
- An opportunity to work directly with world-class technology and tools?
- A company experiencing long term stability and rapid growth?
- Interaction with high tech companies worldwide?
- A company offering superior employee benefits including a family health insurance plan of minimal cost to you (\$13.50 per week)?

Digi-Key may be a good fit for you!
Digi-Key Corporation is currently seeking candidates to fill a variety of positions.

Applications are available at
www.digikey.com/careers, or by calling
(218) 681-7930 or (800) 338-4105, ext. 7930.

Digi-Key is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer



230 LaBree Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Thief River Falls,
MN 56701
PERMIT NO. 8

Focus

Vol. XII, Issue 02 - Fall 2009

A Newsletter for Alumni, Staff and Friends



Class of 1999



Class of 1979



Class of 1974



Class of 1969



Classes of 1960, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65



Class of 1959



**Eleven Lincoln High School Class Reunions
Were Celebrated In 2009**



Our Mission: The Thief River Falls Education Foundation exists to promote innovative educational opportunities in School District #564 through partnerships involving alumni, parents, educators, businesses, and the greater community.

Annual Meeting Notice

*To All Members of the
Thief River Falls Education Foundation*

*The annual meeting of the
Thief River Falls Education Foundation
will be held on
Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 7:00 a.m.
at the
Foundation Office
School District Service Center
230 LaBree Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN
to consider and take action on the following:*

- 1. The election of directors for three year terms;*
- 2. To receive and consider the reports of the affairs of the Foundation for the past year; and*
- 3. To transact such other business, as may properly come before the meeting.*

Board of Directors

- Paul Ihle, President
- Steve Olson
Vice-President
- Dave Onkka,
Secretary/Treasurer
- Gloria Bjorkman, Director
- Laura Nelson, Director
- Sharon Russell, Director
- Del Nelson, Director
- Jim Dagg, Director
- Cody Hempel, Director
- Al Buhl, Director
- Denise Laymon,
Executive Director
- Karen Sich,
Administrative Ass't.

Contact Information

**Thief River Falls
Education Foundation**
230 LaBree Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-8711, ext. 228
email: foundation@
trfeducationfoundation.com
www.trfeducationfoundation.com

**Mailing Notice
and Address Correction**

The high cost of printing and mailing the newsletter makes your dues increasingly important. Please send in your dues at the level that fits your situation. Please notify us when you move or receive a new address. Once your newsletter is returned to us, another one is not sent until we receive an address update. Thank you.

The Foundation website www.trfeducationfoundation.com offers stories of interest, photos, an archive of the monthly newsletters, and more. If you would like to receive the monthly online newsletter please submit your email to: foundation@trfeducationfoundation.com and put subscribe in the subject line.



Lincoln Senior High School
Alumni Thief River Falls

Calendar of Events

2009 Class Reunions

69th ~ 1940 ~ September 25, 2009 ~ Best Western
1:00 p.m.
Tillie Gebhardt ~ 218-281-1432

Homecoming

October 2, 2009 ~ 6:00 p.m.
M.E.C. Football Field ~ TRF vs. Roseau

Hall of Fame

May 10, 2010 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Begins with social with dinner and ceremony to follow.
Best Western Inn ~ Thief River Falls

Golf Tournament

July 19, 2010

*Welcome David Stenson
TRF Education Foundation
Board of Directors Student Ambassador
David is the 2009-2010 Senior Class President
and is the son of Bob Stenson
and the late Ruth Stenson.*

News About You

NAME _____

GRADUATING YEAR _____

CURRENT LOCATION _____

PERSONAL NOTES _____

Real Faces ■ Real Places . . . We Recognize

New Dean Joins College of Law

The law school is excited to announce the arrival of our new dean, Stephen D. Easton, who comes to us from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, where he served as a Professor of Law. His specialty areas are professional responsibility, trial practice, criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence.



**Steve Easton
LHS '76**

Dean Easton received his J.D. from Stanford Law School and served as the associate managing editor for the Stanford Law Review. He received his B.S., summa cum laude, from Dickinson State University in business administration/accounting with a minor in political science.

Prior to entering academia, Dean Easton worked as an attorney and partner at the law firm of Pearce & Durick in Bismarck, North Dakota, and as a United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota in Fargo. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Joseph T. Sneed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, California. Prior to law school, he was a certified public accountant in North Dakota. He also spent some time in Washington, D.C., as an intern for U.S. Senator Wendell R. Anderson of Minnesota.

The transition from practice into teaching was an easy one—Easton comes from a long line of teachers. “My mom and dad were both teachers. My grandmothers were teachers. All my maternal aunts are teachers. Teaching is the family business,” says Easton, smiling. “I’ve always enjoyed the public service aspect of teaching, too—teachers leave a human legacy.”

At Missouri, Dean Easton created a new course, Famous Trials, where students examined well known trials from history starting with the Salem witch trials, Boston Massacre, Lizzie Borden, and Nuremberg Trials and continuing through to the more recent O.J. Simpson and Oklahoma City bombing trials. “The focus is on historically significant trials, on technique and public policy implications,” says Easton.

Easton is married to Marivern (Slaveck) Easton. They celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary on July 12th and have three children. Their eldest, daughter Gayle Marie, 20, is a sophomore at the University of Missouri studying special education. “She’s going into the family business, as well,” says Easton. “She’s also a singer, actress, and involved with musical theater.” Their son, Theodore (“Tedder”), 18, will start his freshman year

at the University of Wyoming this fall and is a walk-on for the Wyoming Cowboys football team. The couple’s youngest son is Nathaniel, 15, who will be a sophomore at Laramie High School. “He’s a sports nut—into golf, basketball, and baseball.”

When asked if he was into sports, Easton replied, “Definitely! Right now I am more of a ‘rooter’ than a sports fan. I root for Mizzou and Stanford, and now Wyoming has moved to the top of my list. I’ve been a Denver Broncos fan for a long time. In Missouri, I was a Broncos fan amidst Kansas City Chief fans for a decade.”

Easton met Marivern at a board meeting of the Newman Center, the University Catholic parish at Stanford. Marivern is originally from Chicago, but later moved to Henderson, Nevada where she graduated valedictorian from Bishop Gorman High School. She was the first person from that school to be admitted to Stanford University. Her background is in human biology and she was the founding director of the Missouri Valley Hospice in Bismarck, North Dakota. In Columbia she worked for the Honors College as a student advisor and later as the director of admissions for the University of Missouri Medical School. At UW, she will be joining the School of Health Sciences helping with the school’s recruiting efforts and residency placements in Wyoming.

Dean Easton is very excited about being in Wyoming. “The law school is in very good shape. It is nice coming into a dealership that has the support of the state bar and where there is such a strong faculty,” says Easton. Because of his connections to the Rocky Mountain West, coming to Laramie “felt familiar.” “I love the open spaces and I like smaller cities. Lawyers here treat each other well.”

Dean Easton has extensive litigation experience and his eyes light up when he starts talking about the area of expert witnesses, cross examination and advocacy. “The cross-examination of expert witnesses is an area where good lawyering really matters. An effective lawyer can make all the difference in helping a jury to understand the testimony of expert witnesses.” Easton is the author of *Attacking Adverse Experts* and *How To Win Jury Trials: Building Credibility with Judges and Jurors*.

Easton’s other interests include cycling, golfing, and writing. “I also ‘run’—make sure you put the word run in quotes,” laughed Easton. In 2008, Easton completed his first marathon, the Kansas City marathon. As a writer, he has been published extensively, which includes non-law publications. He and his youngest son Nathaniel have written several travel and sports articles together and are currently working on a book about the inspirational stories of athletes and coaches.

Hamerlinck Is Director Of Geographic Information Science Center At U of W

Jeff Hamerlinck graduated from Lincoln High School in 1984, where he was a 3-year letter winner in football, co-captain of the basketball team, member of the Concert Choir and a participant in several musical productions. He attended University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, where he received his BS in Geography in 1988. He married Julie Koppenhaver in 1988 and they have two daughters – Moira, 16 and Claire, 10.



**Jeff Hamerlinck
LHS '84**

Jeff received a Master’s degree in Community Planning and Natural Resource Management from the University of Wyoming in 1992. He is just completing a PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado-Boulder and is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Theta Upsilon honor societies.

Jeff has worked at the University of Wyoming as a research geographer since 1992 doing computer mapping, spatial analysis and geographic information systems (GIS) applications. Appointments have included GIS Coordinator for the Wyoming Water Resources Institute (1994-1998), Technical Coordinator for the National Science Foundation-funded Spatial

Data & Visualization Cluster (1996-1999) and Associate Director of the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (2001-2004)

Since 2004, Jeff has served as director of the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC) at the University of Wyoming. WyGISC is an interdisciplinary research institute focused on research and development, education, and outreach associated with geographic information and its application in place based resource management and decision making in Wyoming and the West. At WyGISC, Jeff oversees a staff of 25 people and more than 45 projects on an annual basis. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional. Over the last 15 years, he has consulted extensively for the State of Wyoming, including of the Governor’s Office and the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and has conducted research throughout Wyoming and Colorado, as well as Australia and Russia.

At UW, Jeff is also a member of the University of Wyoming Deans & Directors Council and a member of the faculty in the Department of Geography, where he teaches an undergraduate course in geographic information science and technology and a graduate seminar in decision support systems.

Outside of work, Jeff enjoys reading, hiking and biking, cross-country skiing and fly fishing, and still tries to play basketball two or three times a week.

Awards and Gifts

St. Hilaire Lions Club Presents Gift To Foundation

The St. Hilaire Lions Club presented TRF Education Foundation Executive Director, Denise Laymon a check for \$8500. The Lions chose to use these funds to complete their goal of commitment to their Scholarship Fund.



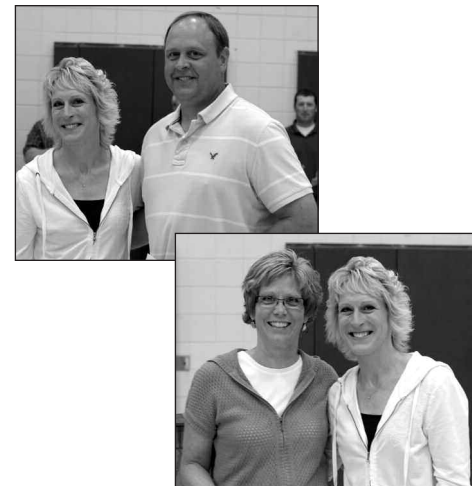
The St. Hilaire Lions Club presents a check to the Thief River Falls Education Foundation. Pictured from left: President Jeremy Williams, Foundation Executive Director Denise Laymon, Past President Larry Rahn.



The team that represented the St. Hilaire Lions Club in the Ninth Annual TRF Education Foundation/ Swenson Golf Tournament were from left: Harlow Johnson, Jeremy Williams, Jan and Jim Strandlie.

Peter Hess Memorial Award

Jeff Mumm and Mary Almquist are the 2009 recipients of the Peter Hess Memorial Teacher Recognition Award - See complete story at: www.trfeducationfoundation.com



News About You – Alumni and Friends

1930s

Evangeline (Douville) Kleist (34) Riverview, FL, says "Hi" to any '34 graduates. She is 92 and still upright. She walks 2.5 to 3 miles each day, plays bridge once a month and attends Senior Center twice a week, where she plays bingo. She has 7 great grandchildren.

1940s

Pearl (Kompelien) Ramsland (42) spends four winter months at her home in Bradenton, FL. She came back in May to her home in Plymouth, MN and her children and grandchildren in the area.

John G. "Jack" Wagner (45) Ft. Myers, FL, celebrated his 61st

wedding anniversary with his wife, Dorothy, on August 29. They have 6 children, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. He has pleasant memories of junior high in St. Hilaire and senior year at TRF. He is a vocalist with local musical groups, with presentations of popular 40s and 50s music. He is known as "Monterey Jack."

1950s

Gary D. Smith (53) Chinook, MT, is still traveling. Recent trips include Europe and the Danube; Lake Andrusia near Bemidji; Reno, NV; Upper Michigan and Gig Harbor WA to see their granddaughter. He says hello to the Class of 1953.

Burnell (Kast) Egger (54) Rochester, MN. After being widowed in 2008, she is learning to enjoy townhome living and traveling in retirement from her dairy farm.

Fern (Nohre) Traverso (55) Prescott, AZ. Her husband, Robert, passed away last year. She is keeping busy taking college classes, traveling and keeping in touch with family and friends. She is looking forward to the Nohre family reunion this summer.

Audrey (Sorenson) Isaacson (58) Federal Way, WA, is still doing a lot of boating. Her boating club is going to Canada this summer.

1960s

David & Judy (Oski) Dupree (67) TRF, have recently downsized big time to apartment living. They love their new home and won't miss mowing lawn and shoveling snow. Judy will retire Dec. 2009, then they can both go to AZ for a few months in the winter.

Invest Today . . . Empower Tomorrow

Your support to the Foundation is important. Becoming a supporter offers an easy way for you to accomplish your charitable dreams, while enhancing educational opportunities for the youth.

Planned Giving

- Bequests
These gifts are the simplest and most common planned gifts and can be set up easily.
- Life Income Gifts
- Matching Employer's Gift

For your convenience you can read about planned giving options and make gifts online at: www.trfeducationfoundation.com



SUPPORT FORM

Name: _____ (Maiden) _____ LHS Class Of _____

Friend of Education _____

Spouse's Name: _____ (Maiden) _____ LHS Class Of _____

Friend of Education _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Check here if new address

Telephone No.: _____ Cell No. _____

E-mail: _____

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

- \$25 and above ~ Sustaining Supporter
- \$500 and above ~ Founder
- \$5,000 and above ~ Builder
- \$10,000 and above ~ President's Club
- \$25,000 and above ~ Named Endowments

Payments To Be Made

- In Full Now \$ _____
- Semiannually \$ _____
- Beginning _____, 20 _____

REMEMBER, YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please Make Checks Payable To
Thief River Falls Education Foundation
230 LaBree Ave. South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

The Foundation is looking for volunteer writers who would like to contribute stories to the printed Focus newsletter. If you have an interest in writing, or have suggestions for special interest stories and feature articles, we would like to hear from you.

For more information please contact
Denise Laymon at
(218) 681-8711 ext. 228 or
email: foundation@trfeducationfoundation.com

Greetings Prowler fans!

2010 is the year for another Hall of Fame banquet. I encourage any and all of you to make nominations for this prestigious award. Over the years we have inducted over 90 individuals to the Prowler Hall of Fame.

Membership is reserved for those who have distinguished themselves by making exceptional contributions to enhance the stature of School District #564 in one, some, or all of the following areas: Significance of Achievement, Quality of Leadership, Significance of Performance and Quality of Service.

Qualifications for the Prowler Hall of Fame are:

- Has graduated from Lincoln High School ten (10) years prior to nomination, and/or
- Has served the School District in a capacity that considerably contributed to the well being of the district and its students, and/or
- Has demonstrated how contributions to and success in our society in a chosen field reflects the quality and stature of the School District, and/or
- Has unselfishly supported the School District in ways that considerably contributed to the well being of the District and its students and staff.

The induction ceremony will be on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Best Western Inn in Thief River Falls. A social hour will begin at 6:00 with dinner and ceremony to follow.

I look forward to receiving many nominations from you and hope that you can attend the banquet in May. Applications available at www.trfeducationfoundation.com, TRF Education Foundation office or LHS Activities Office.

Sincerely,

Mike Biermaier
Prowler Activities Director
218-681-7140

Notables

A Note From The Superintendent . . .

Thank you for the kind welcome to Thief River Falls. I am honored, humbled, and grateful to have been selected as your Superintendent of Schools. I am motivated and enthusiastic for the school year to begin, as "Prowler Pride" radiates throughout our community and within the students of this fine institution.

It is a privilege to introduce myself to the students, families and community members of ISD 564! My name is Laine Larson. I am a lifelong learner who began my education and graduated from high school at Kindred, ND in 1979. I received my Bachelor of Science degree from North Dakota State University in Family and Consumer Science and Child Development/Family Relationships. My Masters Degree was attained at Bemidji State University in Special Education, my Principal Licensure from St. Cloud State University, and my District Superintendent License at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

On May 1, 2009, my family and I purchased a home in Thief River Falls and are thrilled to have relocated into this wonderful community. We recently moved here from Bagley, MN where I served as a Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Elementary Principal, and Superintendent of Schools for a total of 26 years. My hob-

bies include traveling, reading, entertaining, singing, scrapbooking, theater, gardening, spending time with family and friends, boating, and shopping.

Warren, my husband of 25 years, is a Community Benefit and Public Policy Coordinator with MeritCare Health System. Our eldest daughter, Elise, is a student at the University of North Dakota School of Law. She graduated from Concordia College, in May 2009, with degrees in Political Science and Environmental Studies. Lauren, our youngest daughter, is a sophomore at Concordia College majoring in Elementary Education and Spanish. My family and I appreciate the many kindnesses you have shown and feel fortunate to live in a community that openly values education, teamwork, and student achievement.

I appreciate all that the Education Foundation does for students and the Thief River Falls School District. The Foundation offers additional opportunities and resources which enhance our current district offerings as we prepare our children to be the "Next Great Generation." I am proud to be a member of the Thief River Falls school district team and look forward to partnering with you in the near future. Thank you and "Go Prowlers!"



Laine Larson

Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator



Sara Olson

Recently I had the privilege of visiting with a couple former students who had recently graduated from college. While busy teaching we sometimes forget the personal connections that we make - how our words stay with our students years after our interactions. I believe that it takes a village to raise a child, and that each person involved has the potential of leaving a significant and positive difference in their lives. It was evident that the Thief River Falls Schools

had left its impact as these women had already accomplished many wonderful things in their life.

I, too, am a product of the Thief River Falls School District. After graduation from Lincoln High School I attended Moorhead State University and following my

student teaching experience in Reigate, Surrey, England I graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. I returned to Thief River Falls and have served in many areas including: Science Technician at Challenger, Gifted Education, middle school theater, first grade, first/second grade looping teacher, and second grade. During that time I received my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas.

I also coached Destination Imagination for many years, including a year when my team qualified for and competed at the international competition in Tennessee.

Recently I became the Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator for our district. This position has already given me the opportunity to see how the staff in this district are dedicated to providing students with the great education they deserve, just as those two young women proved to me that evening.

change are my wife and three daughters. Karlene and I have been married for 11 years and have had the fortune of having three healthy girls: Bailey (9), Paige Olivia (6), and Piper (2). There is nothing better than having three "Daddy's girls!"

My family and I love to travel, we especially like to take in a Minnesota Twins game. My other interests include fishing (where I serve as a guide to my close friends), hunting, and spending time with friends and family.



Tony Greene

Franklin Middle School Assistant Principal

My name is Tony Greene and I'm back working in the Thief River Falls School District as Associate Middle School Principal. I started my teaching career 10 years ago at Challenger Elementary before leaving in 2007 to become the High School Principal at Marshall County Central School District. Prior to my teaching tenure, I did my undergraduate work at Bemidji State University and my graduate work at MSU-Mankato and MSU-Moorhead.

It is great to be back to work with so many good people that I have strong relationships with. I feel like I never left. The ones most excited about the position

Notables

Lincoln High School Principal

I am excited to be the new Principal at Lincoln High School. There is an extremely talented staff at LHS and I am going to enjoy working with them. I was previously at Franklin Middle School for eleven years (3 as a teacher, 8 as assistant principal). I am also the Head Baseball Coach. Franklin was an amazing place to be each and every day and I know Lincoln will be the same.

I am a 1993 graduate of LHS, attended Northland, then Bemidji State for all of my undergraduate work. All of my graduate work was completed at Mankato State University.

My wife Mya and I have three boys, Tayton who will be in 5th grade at Challenger, Gunner who will be in 2nd grade at Challenger, and Gannon (2) who kind of roams

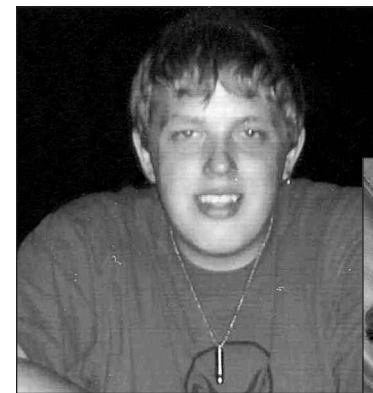
wherever he wants! My wife works in the financial aid office at Northland College. We enjoy heading to Lake of the Woods, spending time with friends and hanging out in the yard.

I love being a PROWLER and the high school will bring even more energy to what it means to be a Prowler. My biggest mission is to continue what has become "The Prowler Way," teaching students to be responsible, respectful, and to have a positive attitude. Lincoln is the last stop before students hit the real world. It is a privilege and honor that we will take seriously in preparing students for their great adventure in life.



Shane Zutz

Scholarships



The **Michael Holmer Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to a Lincoln High School graduate/graduates who will be attending a technical school, studying automotive repair/mechanics, and who have a GPA of 2.5. Michael was a Lincoln High School Senior who passed away October 2008 as a result of a vehicle accident. The family advocates the use of seat belts. This scholarship was established in his honor by his family and the community.

The **Dorothy M. Olson Memorial Scholarship** has been established by her children from the proceeds of donations given in her memory when she died in March of 2009. One scholarship will be awarded annually beginning in 2010. The goal is to provide assistance to a Lincoln High School graduate to continue their post-secondary education with a major in music. They must have a GPA of 2.5 or better.

Memorials

Donations Have Been Given In Memory Of

- William "Bill" Nohre
- Betty Swanson • Ruth Stenson
- Floyd Klopp
- Lowell & Marge Swenson
- Lorraine Amundson Slade
- Marjorie Swenson Loraas
- Delina Pederson Becker
- Kenneth Habedank • Billy Bye
- Al & Phyllis Sollom
- Jeannine (Erickson) Jacklitch
- Andy Magnuson • Jack Erickson
- Clarice Yngve
- Wallace Aaron Smith Phelps
- Carol Southard Loftin
- Clifford Horter • Wesley Johnson
- Beverly Kays • Fran Sorvig
- Rayma Melin • Solveig Swenson
- Roy G. Lee • Clara G. Paulsen
- Chipper Strand

Enclosed is my tribute/gift of \$_____ to the Thief River Falls Education Foundation in loving remembrance of _____ or in celebration of _____

An attractive card will be sent in your name to the family of the deceased or honoree. An acknowledgement of your gift will also be sent to you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Please send card to:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

From:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to the Thief River Falls Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization.
All gifts are tax deductible.