

KNIGHT LINE

A publication of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools

50th Year Reunion 1958-2008

Members of the first graduating class to attend LSE all three years re-united in Lincoln last July to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their liberation from high school. Eighty-two classmates, representing 60 percent of those living, plus spouses made up the 145 in attendance. They were joined by retired teachers Roy Churchill, Don Darnell, Tom Douglas, Bob Hall, Art Hillman, Bob Lohrberg, Calvin Melson, John Reta, and Larry Vaughan. Activities included golf, tours of the high school, the International Quilt Center, UN-L's athletic facilities, and "A Night to Remember" banquet at the Country Club of Lincoln. A special 'yearbook' was mailed to class members prior to the event. Dave Myers of Lincoln chaired the 18-member committee.

May the classes of years ending in '9' enjoy equal success and good times next year! ★

Update Your Information

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools maintains databases for all graduating classes of Lincoln high schools. But the information is only as up-to-date as graduates themselves provide.

Please go (this minute!) to www.foundationforlps.org, click on 'alumni,' then on 'Update your information.' You will save countless hours of effort and frustration for classmates (usually Lincolniters) trying to find you when it's time for your class reunion. Update your information whenever you move or change e-mail addresses. It's free and it's easy! ★

Southeast High Champions Fund

As part of the Foundation's Great Schools...*Forever!* campaign, the Southeast High Champions Fund has been created. This endowment fund will provide innovative programs and help educators advance their curriculum now and for future generations. Today, Southeast has a student population of over 1,600. Because needs for students and schools change throughout the years, the Southeast High Champions Fund will help fund initiatives that will make a difference for students and teachers for years to come. As demographics change, these funds provide innovation, equity and balance.

The Southeast High Champions Fund will be managed by the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools. A school community selection committee, including parents and alumni, will be established by the Foundation, along with the principal of Southeast. Grant recipients will be selected from a pool of yearly applicants.

You are invited to become a Southeast High Champion and help make a difference at your school through this living endowment! ★

Upcoming Reunions

Reunion planning is in full swing for many Southeast alums. The following classes are currently planning their celebrations and have identified their contact person. Please feel free to give them a call or email with your name and contact information. The more the merrier at our reunions! ★

Class	Contact	Date
1959	Dr. Stuart Embury Box 206 Holdrege NE 68949 lseclass59@live.com	Sept 18-19, 2009
1960	Joe Johnson, Jr. 402-560-1202 jwjjr@inebraska.com	4/30-5/2/2010
1963	Anne Mulder Senkbeil 402-423-6524 asenkbe@lps.org	Oct. 3, 2008
1974	All City High School Reunion lsafford@lps.org	Summer 2009

The Knight Line wants to hear from you!

It's amazing how swiftly one can go from Southeast Senior to Senior Citizen, but that's the reality for this correspondent from the Class of 1959. Since I am older than most of the 25,000 seniors who have graduated from LSE over 53 years, I will need to rely upon you 'kids' to inform me of news about yourselves, your families, and your classmates. Please put "LSE NEWS" as the subject and e-mail me: rayoung@windstream.net or fax published articles to the Foundation office, 402-436-1692, earmarked for Knight Line News.

Ruthann Chubbuck Young,
Knight Line correspondent



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LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Update on SE Alums

Dr. Stuart Embury ('59) and his wife, Lynn, of Holdrege, NE have donated their Library of American Art books, numbering more than 12,000 volumes, to the University of Nebraska Libraries. The collection is one of the top five inventories of American art in private hands in the world, and the gift is valued at more than \$350,000. The collection will be housed in Love Library's Rare Books section, which is being renovated to house it. Stuart Embury began the collection in the 1970's with the purchase of The Graphic Work of Renoir by Dr. Joseph G. Stella, and it "just kept growing. We ran out of bookshelves in our home," he said.

Hope none of you reality show fans missed this summer's return of ABC's *The Mole*, hosted by LSE grad **Jon Kelley** ('83). The *Mole* gained loyal fans during its four-season run, but ABC took it off the air for four years before bringing it back in June with non-celebrity contestants. All ten episodes took place in South America. Whether the show will continue this fall remains to be seen. Jon Kelly lives in Los Angeles and reportedly is engaged or recently married. He earned a BA in Broadcast Journalism from UN-L, where he was a member of the football team. He has co-hosted the weekend edition of the entertainment news show *Extra* and served as *Extra*'s primary correspondent from 2001-2007. Prior to that he was the lead anchor on Fox Sports Network's *Baseball Today*.



The 2008 Outstanding Broadcasting Award of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at UN-L went to **Alisa Miller** ('88), president and chief executive officer of Public Radio International. You can see and hear Alisa on her four-minute YouTube talk titled "How does the news shape the way we see the world?" No stranger to awards, she was also honored this past May as one of Lincoln Southeast's Distinguished Alums.

Kathryn Piper, Class of 2011, became a second-generation Shirette when she was one of three freshmen selected through audition for the dance team last year. She continues this year in the dance steps of her mother, Tracy (Froscheiser) Piper ('84), who was a Shirette during her years at LSE and served as Shirette sponsor when she later taught at her alma mater. Dad Chris Piper is also an LSE grad in the class of '80.



One of six prestigious Heinz Awards, administered by the Heinz Family Philanthropies, was bestowed upon **Susan Seacrest** ('71) in Pittsburgh last October in recognition of her efforts as the driving force behind improving the health of groundwater. She founded the Lincoln-based Groundwater Foundation some 24 years ago after becoming concerned about possible links between pesticides and nitrates

in groundwater and elevated rates of leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in Nebraska. She served as president of the Foundation until last year, when she opted to return to her first love, students. She is now a counselor at Lincoln's North Star High School, working to implement more ground water focus into the earth science curriculum. Seacrest donated her portion of the \$1.25 million award entirely to the Groundwater Foundation as a challenge grant to start building an endowment fund.

You probably know the fame and success of the band Maroon 5, playing for sold-out crowds of thousands, selling millions of CDs and touring the world. But do you know that the band's guitarist, **James Valentine** ('96) is "still the same person he used to be?"

According to his mom, Shauna Valentine, James hasn't changed despite the glare of the spotlight. "He comes home, and he's just James." He once made an unannounced visit to Southeast's band class, surprising his former teacher Bob Krueger and invited the teacher on stage when the band played at Pershing. His former journalism professor at UN-L, Stacy James ('66), said Valentine's attitude is less "rock star" and more "just plain nice." James is 17 credit hours away from completion of a degree in advertising and vows he'll come back to finish his degree someday.

Aaron Wright ('94), son of LSE alumni Judy (Sorensen) Wright ('63) and L. Bruce Wright ('62) of Lincoln, is busy touring the nation as bass guitarist for the popular blues-rock band "Indigenous." The band has played in every state except Maine and North Carolina and is solidly booked. The group recently finished a gig at B.B. King's Blues Club on Broadway in New York. On October 5 they will play the House of Blues in New Orleans. Check out www.indigenousocks.com and their latest CD from Vanguard records.

Sarah Wright Vossoughi ('95), sister of Aaron Wright (above), is Midwest sales manager in Chicago for the magazine *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, celebrity food TV network host of "Thirty Minute Meals" and author of numerous cookbooks. In New York recently, Rachael Ray honored Sarah as Top Sales Person of the Year for 2006-2007. Sarah's mom Judy (Sorensen) Wright ('63) happened to be there at the time and attended the celebration. She described Rachael Ray as "a bundle of energy." Dad L. Bruce Wright ('62) modestly downplayed Sarah's success, but admitted he is "proud."

Pennsylvania State University has named **Kim Cook** ('75) its inaugural laureate. Cook is a professor of music in cello in the College of Arts and Architecture there. The renowned cellist has performed as a soloist in Austria, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latin America, Russia, and the United Kingdom, as well as throughout the United States. She will serve as laureate for one academic year, performing throughout the Penn State system of more than 20 campuses, and at events across the state. Kim's mother, Doris, and her brother, Jonathan Cook ('84), reside in Lincoln. Jonathan, an independent computer software developer, is serving his ninth year on the Lincoln City Council.



North Star High School English Department Chair **Melanie (Bills) Farber** ('90), was named Outstanding Educator by State Farm last May. Melanie and husband, Matt, and their two young daughters live in Gretna. She is the daughter of Mary (Danley) Bills-Strand ('71.)

Caleb Jensen ('96) is a copywriter for Portland, Oregon advertising agency Wieden & Kennedy, known for Nike ads. A colleague reports that Caleb has "that real dedication to the process of writing that separates good creative copywriters from not-so-good ones." His former professor, Clint Runge, describes him as "really clever, ready for anything and always willing to take on a challenge." The former architecture major found his creative niche when he switched to advertising and says he now looks "forward to coming to work every day." Caleb is the son of Barbara Eaton ('71) and Greg Jensen ('69.)