



# LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

a program of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

The Latin American Studies Program (LASP) e-newsletter is forwarded each semester to LASP alumni, friends and contacts. Feedback is welcome at [newsletter@lasp.co.cr](mailto:newsletter@lasp.co.cr) or directly to the author.

LASP Spring 2010 Newsletter

## The LASP Experience: From the Perspective of a Sabbatical Leave Professor

By LASP Sabbatical Professor, Steve Crosby, Professor of Theatre, Alfred University



As my wife Luanne and I began the planning process for our spring 2010 sabbaticals, coming up with ideas for our semester away from Alfred University where we teach, a few self-imposed goals quickly emerged to guide us. As a professor of theatre and Luanne a professor of music, we expected to use this time away from our regular teaching duties to take on professional projects in our disciplines we are otherwise unable to do as over-

booked, full time faculty members in a small liberal arts university. After all, this is the traditional intention of a sabbatical, to charge professional batteries, right? Secondly, we have long wanted to spend an extended length of time living in Latin America. I was born in Medellin, Colombia, and raised there and in Puerto Rico within my missionary family until I was sixteen. From early on, I have been acutely aware of the value of immersion in cultures other than one's own. Luanne and I have placed a high priority on wanting our own children to have similar opportunities. This led me, during my last sabbatical, to teach with Semester at Sea, an around-the-world study abroad program for approximately 650 students, with stops in eleven countries. While these brief, four to five day stops gave the family limited exposure to other ways of life, it was not the same as living in one country for four months. Finally, I personally have yearned to live in Latin America again, in order to reconnect in some way to some of my cultural "roots". At this point in my career and time, a sabbatical leave is my only realistic option. With these guidelines defined, our challenge was to find a way to link them together.

Through the convergence of a series of unrelated and unusual circumstances, personal and professional, we learned of LASP and program director Dr. Anthony Chamberlain. With his extensive experience and connections in Costa Rica, we thought we could pick his brain about possible theatre and music contacts and use Costa Rica as our sabbatical home. Through early email exchanges, Anthony told us he had little to offer in our fields of interest, but if we were interested, LASP might be able to use us in a different capacity; that LASP had a system in place for faculty such as us, who were on sabbatical, to work with the program for a semester. We were intrigued, especially as we learned more about LASP and its goals. We decided to take Anthony up on his invitation and joined the LASP team.

## Alumni Updates

### Spring 2009

**Amanda Boggs** was in Mexico over spring break, spending time at a school where she will soon be teaching.

### Spring 2008

**Bekah VanBuren** graduated from Spring Arbor University with an Elementary teaching license with endorsements in Spanish and Early Childhood. On June 12 she will be getting married to Caleb Knowles.

**Kadie Becker** is moving to Romania in June for 2 ½ years. She will be the program manager for a study abroad semester program that's a partnership between New Horizons Foundation (a Christian organization in Romania) and Northwestern College in Iowa.

### Fall 2007

**Liliana Reza** is pursuing a Master's of Arts in Intercultural Studies at the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO, and is hoping to work with cross-cultural compassionate ministries. She works as a nanny and also as a volunteer youth leader at Ministerios Hispanos Emanuel at College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kansas.

**Anna Kingman** is headed into the Peace Corps and has been nominated for a job in Latin America doing work with Water and Sanitation. She plans to leave in August after her twin gets married in July.

### Spring 2007

**Claire Scholl** graduated from BIOLA University with a degree

We are thrilled we made that choice. The entire experience has been tremendously rewarding, far exceeding already high expectations, both for us as well as our children. Our first impression, beyond the welcome shock and exhilaration of escaping the frigid January icebox of Western New York, was the wonderfully warm welcome and complete, open acceptance by the LASP faculty and staff. We immediately became aware of and impressed with the obvious dedication to the holistic education of the student participants, the professionalism of the operation, and the unified commitment to provide in-depth, comprehensive and provocative instruction and experiences for the students.

From the first "Core Seminar" class to the last, LASP students have been challenged at every level: academically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually. Students, in response to extensive readings, charlas (lectures), study trips and interactions with a wide range of Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans, have been urged to question continuously their pre-conceived perceptions as well as those they were being exposed to for the first time, to "think critically" and to "dig beneath the surface". They have embraced this critically important approach to education whole-heartedly, with openness and honesty. The vast majority clearly have experienced profound growth at each level.

The journey of discovery began with a bang, starting with Javier Arguedas and Elmer Campos. Javier threw down the gauntlet in "charla" #1 by giving a compelling, "no holds barred" introduction to Costa Rica's positive and negative realities, touching on topics such as the "myth" of Costa Rica being the "happiest" country on earth, the rise and fall of its socialist system of government, the impact of "neo-liberalism" and CAFTA and the resultant rise in poverty and lessening of social services in recent years. Elmer followed up with an eloquently and poetically spun, deeply touching, captivating and compelling story of his early life history. He spoke of being born into and growing up in extreme poverty and how he dealt with the political dysfunction and the devastating violence in El Salvador during the '80's. His final words to the LASP'ers, "if the rich and poor of the world could leave behind misconceptions of each other, a better life could be had by all, and in this act Christ could be born again".

One after another, charlas challenged the students to broaden their thinking. Two powerful and stimulating presentations were given by Mike Rivage-Seul, helping students understand the driving, fundamental concept of "market" and various economic systems, and how they impact human rights; and the "Church as Caravan", a charla which provocatively explored the conflicting definitions and concepts of "Christianity". Other topically diverse and engaging presentations were given by Alex Grant on racism and "Cultural Diversity in Latin America"; Gloria Mayorga on the discrimination and plight of Costa Rica's indigenous peoples; the US embassy staff as they presented their perspectives on US/Latin America Relations in the context of Costa Rica; Roderick, an organic farmer speaking on "Sustainable Development in Latin America"; theologian John Stam on "Social Movements and Revolution: the Case of Nicaragua". I too was privileged to talk about the "Role of the Arts in Latin America", particularly focusing on theatre as a powerful, effective tool for influencing and bringing about social change. Students did a group reading of Osvaldo Dragun's "Historias Para Ser Contadas". From many and extremely varied angles, LASP students have had their worldviews expanded in ways most never would have imagined, as they have received strong and uniquely different perspectives on the realities of Latin America.

Study trips rounded out this incredible half semester long educational journey called "Core Seminar", powerfully complementing the topics covered in readings and charlas. The four day trip to Limón provided first hand opportunities for students to openly observe and dig into issues of racism, poverty and prejudice toward those of

in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Spanish. Claire is into her 3rd year of magic making for The Walt Disney Company as an Attractions Hostess at Disney's California Adventure Park. While working for the mouse, Claire also works part-time on the assignment desk for KTLA ch. 5, a local TV station in Los Angeles. FYI: Near the end of the Guatemala trip Claire fell off the monkeys bars and tore a ligament in her ankle, it has healed completely since then!

#### *Fall 2006*

**Rachel Schmitz** works as a case manager with Congreso de Latinos Unidos in Philadelphia, PA.

#### *Spring 2006*

**Andrea Parker** is going for her Masters in Social Work at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). She graduates in May 2010.

**Irena Loloci** graduated from MA degree in International Law/Relations from St. Johns' University in Rome, Italy (July 2009). Since then, she has been working with the World Food Programme of the United Nations and actively involved with immigrant communities in Rome. **Ashley Orlando** is moving to Mexico City in June to serve with Latin America Mission for 15 months.

#### *Fall 2005*

**Sarah Wykstra** is getting her Masters in Education and working at a Spanish immersion school as a teacher's assistant.

**Steve Wiltjer** is living in Michigan and attending seminary. He is getting married June 12 to Rachel Bush.

**Alicia Hines** is currently in Cuenca, Spain teaching English for a year.

**Renee Danielle (Theiss) Childs** and her husband are living in Los Angeles and attending Fuller Theological Seminary, to obtain

African heritage. The visit to the indigenous Bribri settlement was “eye-opening” as students learned about both the painful treatment of this minority group as well as the beauty of its cosmic views and “spirituality”. The visit to Roderick’s farm gave direct, experiential exposure to the values and benefits of organic farming. The capstone of the course, without a doubt, was the invaluable two week trip to Nicaragua, which culminated with five day home stays throughout the country. Students personally experienced in depth the complexities of Nicaragua – its history, its politics, its corruption, its spirituality and the many faces of poverty.

For me and my family, I now ask: “Have we met those goals we set for ourselves”? A simple answer: a resounding yes, yes, yes - and we are only two months into it with two more to go! For my family, we have had that intense “living abroad” experience we had hoped for. My sixteen year old daughter Leah has been a fulltime participant in LASP, embracing it to its fullest, including the Nicaraguan home stay. In addition to Core Seminar, she has taken the intense language component as well, going from speaking no Spanish two months ago to being completely conversant, to the point of insisting we speak no English at home. The Costa Rica/LASP experience has been life changing for her. Jesse, our twelve year old son, has thrived as he too has learned so much in this living laboratory of Costa Rica, especially in his special interest areas of eco-systems, birding and reptiles. He too has made good progress with Spanish and has learned so much about the social and cultural aspects of this country, lessons that can only come from living here. For Luanne and me, beyond attending the tremendously stimulating charlas, joining all the study trips and through our lively interactions with the many terrific people (faculty, staff, students) connected to LASP, we have been re-charged in ways we had not anticipated. Luanne, in terms of professional development, has been prepping a vocal recital and joined a Mozart chorale in San Jose, making important music connections here in Costa Rica. For me, beyond reinvigorating my interests in Latin American theatre movements for the charla and the highly rewarding activity of guiding students in individual research projects in this field, I have focused on productions I will be directing next year, and am preparing to perform with a Shakespeare Company in Alaska this summer.

So yes, this has been a terrific sabbatical leave in every dimension, and that yearning desire to live in a Latin American country has been partially fulfilled; I just wish it could be for longer. None of us want this journey to come to an end. For me, I feel like I have come “home”, with an added bonus: being able to share it with my family.



An excited group of students pose for a picture their first night in Costa Rica



Another group of students takes a lunch break outside of LASP

an M.A. in Cross Cultural Studies. **Nate Irvine** is getting married on May 16, 2010 to Danielle Posthuma. Danielle is in her 2nd of 4 years at the graduate school of the Illinois College of Optometry. Nate still works for The Salvation Army at the Divisional headquarters as the Director of Youth Evangelism and Discipleship.

**Kat Thompson** is in her third year at SIAS International University in XinZheng, China. She teaches Oral English to sophomore students, and also enjoys traveling in Southeast Asia.

**Alicia May** is headed to Arizona State University to get her Masters in Social Work and a certificate in Latino Cultural Competency.

*Spring 2005*

**Lindsey Bailey** has moved to Washington, DC and taken a job with The Salvation Army World Service Office as their Anti-Human Trafficking Program Manager. It is a job in which she'll be able to travel and raise awareness about human trafficking at the same time as designing and managing potential projects to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

**Karen Crowder** is currently finishing a two and a half month international internship in Aguascalientes, Mexico. She will graduate with her master's in social work from Dominican University in May.

**Laurie (Lane) Howell** just got married to John Howell Jr. in October and recently bought a house in Brunswick, Maine. Laurie is teaching Spanish for the third year and loving it!

*Fall 2004*

**Josh Van der Ploeg** will graduate from the University of Michigan Law School in May. He is moving to San Francisco this fall to work at the law firm Latham & Watkins in either the Environmental Law



**Don Javier** presenting about coffee in Costa Rica while **Laura Barnard** translates on the trip to Limón



**Heather Perez** made a new friend in Limon

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## News From the Semester

By Laura Frey, LASP Program Assistant 2009-2010

As I reflect back on the first part of this spring semester, I can hardly believe there is such little time left of my internship with LASP. Time sure flies by when you're having fun, as well as when you are continuing to grow and live outside of your comfort zone! Though it seems like this semester has just begun, we have already come a long way in the LASP experience.



The first four weeks were occupied with Core Seminar, Spanish classes at ICADS and our annual trip to Limón. We have had the opportunity to share this semester with Steve and Luanne Crosby and their family (Leah and Jesse) as they are currently on sabbatical from Alfred University in New York. Luanne has brought a breadth of knowledge and experience in music, while Steve enriches our

learning through his extensive knowledge of theatre and production. During Core Seminar we were able to hear from speakers such as Mike Rivage-Seul, who taught us a new way of viewing market systems and liberation theology. One of our most treasured speakers, Don Elmer Rodriguez Campos, reminded us of the importance of solidarity while sharing his impactful life story: "Antes de ser hermanos, tenemos que ser mas humanos." [Before we can be brothers, we have to be more human (humane).]

Halfway through Core Seminar we took our annual trip to Limón, a weekend full of cultural diversity and delicious beans and rice. Alex Grant visited us to kick off the trip, challenging us to examine our own prejudices and the dangers racism plays not only on a personal level, but structurally as well. During the weekend we were able to visit the Bri-Bri indigenous group at the Kéköldi reserve, and spent some quality time getting to know one another at Playa Cahuita and before dancing the night away as a group during our last night in Limón.

After the end of Core Seminar we traveled to Nicaragua, beginning in Managua and making our way to various home stays, and then on to Granada. In Managua we visited important historical sites such as Loma Tixcapa and La Plaza de la Revolución. We also had the opportunity to visit the Catholic church Santa Maria de los Angeles, where Hermana Luz Beatriz showed us the beautifully painted murals on the inside of the church highlighting not only Nicaraguan history, but how religion

or Project Finance department. **Julie (Mathis) Flanders** received her law license November 2009. She opened her own immigration law practice in December 2009.

### *Spring 2004*

**Larissa (Christman) Sanger** was married in October of 2009 to Ben Sanger and will graduate from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine as a doctor of medicine.

**Shireen (Zameni) Trujillo** and her husband, Esteban, are moving to Madrid, Spain in August of this year for a year or two as missionaries for their church.

**Sarah (Buxton) Sanchez** and her husband Daniel welcomed their first baby, Benjamin Daniel Sanchez, on October 26, 2009.

### *Fall 2003*

**Sarah (Dooley) Sotelo** has joined forces with Boston-area abolitionists to found a faith-based safe house for local victims of human trafficking. To learn more, please visit [AmirahBoston.org](http://AmirahBoston.org).

**Beth Flansburg** will become Beth Knutsen on March 26th when she gets married. She teaches Spanish at Glacier Peak High School.

**Amaris Miller** will graduate from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA in May 2010 and start family medicine residency at Lancaster General Hospital in June.

### *Spring 2003*

**Josiah Murphy Deeter** was married to Adam Deeter May 24th, 2009, and they now live in Salem, OH. Josiah is the office manager of the Youngstown Community Center for the Deaf, helping to provide social and communicative services to Deaf, HH and CI clients in NE Ohio.

### *Fall 2002*

**Jennifer Gardner** graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a Master of Science in

is woven in to that history as well. After a few days in Managua, students headed out on home stay experiences for six days throughout the western part of Nicaragua. I had the opportunity to stay in the pueblo of Buenos Aires, Ticuantepe with a group of students, and it was wonderful to spend time playing kickball together and sharing with our new Nicaraguan families in the short time we had. We ended our trip by returning to Granada for some group reflection and a boat trip to some of the isletas in Lake Nicaragua. Overall, it was a trip full of discovery not only about culture and history but about solidarity, hospitality, loving our neighbor, and receiving love in return.

In the next few weeks we will complete a new Faith and Practice seminar, hearing from different speakers on religion in Latin America and stories of how people have put their faith into practice in this context. The students will continue their Spanish classes in the afternoons, though they will be arranged now by concentration to change things up a bit. For the first time, we are trying to take all LASP students to Cuba this semester. In mid-March, the Advanced Language and Literature concentration will take off for Cuba, while Latin American Studies and the Environmental Science Concentration will most likely be traveling to Cuba at the end of the semester. The ALL trip will focus on culture, theatre, art and literature, while the LASC and ESC concentrations will have a program more tailored to history and politics.

During the month students are in their concentrations, the ESC group will be traveling the country, speaking with scientists and visiting many parks, such as Corcovado National Park, Playa Ostional (a wildlife refuge), and the Quetzal Education Research Center (QERC). After their Cuba trip, ALL students will have home stay experiences in Grecia, taking Spanish classes two days a week and completing "internships" the other three days, involving anything from English teaching to working in a serpentarium. The LASC students will spend the first month or so of their concentration scattered throughout Costa Rica, living with host families and also have "internship" experiences in schools, on farms and many other locations.

So time goes on, LASP goes on, and through challenges and changes we all move towards our goals and aspirations for the future while treasuring all the past has for us. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to "repeat" the LASP experience, and have had one of the best years of my life. I look forward to seeing where we all go in the future as we take what we have learned and let it change first ourselves, and then the world.

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**Bridging cultural gaps: Allie Roma, Karly Sikma, Paige Woods, Matt Dearstyne, Paul James and host siblings enjoy a Super Bowl party in San José**



**Linnea Ness, Raquel Ayala, Allie Roma, Michelle White, Heather Perez and Matt Kee pose for a picture in front of El Teatro Nacional**

Technology, focused in Quality Management. Jennifer is currently completing her RN while working as a Quality & Risk Specialist in the Department of Healthcare Quality at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.

**Spring 2002**

**David and Sarah (Gosselink) Hille** are in their 4<sup>th</sup> year working as the Field Station Managers of the Quetzal Education Research Center in San Gerardo de Dota, Costa Rica. Their first child, Adele Marie, was born on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Clínica Bíblica.

**Fall 2001**

**Michelle Wunsch** earned an M.A. in International Communication from American University in 2007. She worked for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an Immigration Officer after that, and is currently a Program Manager with a youth exchange organization – States’ 4-H International Exchange Programs ([www.states4Hexchange.org](http://www.states4Hexchange.org)). This summer, she’ll be managing all the details for U.S. teens going to Costa Rica and Costa Rican teens visiting the U.S., including orientations for the two groups. **Kim (Amerman) Fullton** and her husband (James) recently returned home from a 6-week trip to Brazil with their four newly-adopted children: Maynara (10), Abraão Lucas (8), Luana (6) and Brayan (4). Mother and Father (Mamãe and Papai) and all four children are doing well and feeling abundantly blessed. The family lives in New Haven, CT.

**Spring 2001**

**Chris Qualls** is the leader of a youth group at the Beijing International Christian Fellowship and is developing a backpacking program in China.

**Fall 2000**

**Olivia (Church) Vallecillo** was



Emily Eaton and her Spanish teacher



Matt Dearstynne hones his tortilla-making skills in San José

married to a Nicaraguan, Lenin Garmendia Vallecillo, in December 2007 and lives in Charlotte, NC. She still remembers her lovely Nicaraguan family and loves mixing her American traditions and culture with her Nicaraguan husband's.

**Alysa (Sauder) Short** graduated from grad school with a Master's in Spanish in 2007 and was married in June 2009 to Mark Short. They live in Pettisville, Ohio and Alysa continues to work as a high school Spanish teacher and K-12 ESL teacher.

**Susannah Knust** was accepted to the University of Tennessee to pursue her doctorate in Sport Psychology and Motor Behavior beginning in the fall of 2010.

**Lisa A. Hewitt** graduated with her Ph.D. in December 2008. She and her husband Scott have twins, Noah and Lillian, born May 22, 2009. Lisa works as a school psychologist in Fort Worth.

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## Employment Opportunities in Latin America

1.



**Lighthouse International School**, a Christian Elementary and Middle school in Guachipelin, Escazu, seeks aspiring teachers for the 2010-2011 school year.

-Qualifications:

- University Degree in Education or related field
- Minimum 2 years of teaching experience
- 100% English
- Christian
- Dynamic, creative instructor
- Excellent team player
- High academic standards

Salary compensation is competitive and will be in accordance with candidate's qualifications and experience.

-Send resumé to [info@lighthouse.ed.cr](mailto:info@lighthouse.ed.cr)

-For more information, visit [www.lighthouse.ed.cr](http://www.lighthouse.ed.cr)

2. **Samaritan's Purse** - a Christian relief and development organization - is looking for qualified people to serve in Haiti for the Earthquake response.

-Field experience required, French proficiency a plus.

-For specific info and job descriptions please go to:

[http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/Employment\\_Listings/International\\_Positions/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/Employment_Listings/International_Positions/)

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### *Fall 1999*

**Tabitha Bard** is getting married to Jamie Anderson on November 28, 2009 and will be moving to Ocean City, New Jersey with her new husband who writes, edits and works as a Youth Pastor at Ocean City Baptist Church. Tabitha is in the process of job hunting.

**Jen Benjamin Shuck** and her husband welcomed their daughter, Abigail, last October. Jen is now a stay-at-home mom to the two kids, Asher (2) and Abigail (6 months).

### *Fall 1998*

**Denise Tindle**, recently returned from Mexico City where she was a missionary at a children's for 10 years. She is now the Office Administrator for a prison ministry in Missouri.

### *Fall 1997*

**Andrea Gerhart** recently returned from a couple of years teaching English in South Korea. She is finishing her MA in Intercultural



Kristin Lege with her host sister in Nicaragua



Taylor Robbins, Kristy Schick and Britney Villhauer pose with Nicaraguan families and friends



Laura Stephens converses with her newest Nicaraguan friend

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## Announcements:

**Reunion:** LASP's Fall 2004 alumni are planning a reunion this summer, June 11-13, in Chicago. Interested alumni who haven't received a Facebook invitation should email Josh Van der Ploeg at [jvderp@umich.edu](mailto:jvderp@umich.edu).

**Facebook groups:** The following semesters have recently created facebook groups. If you are from these semesters, check out the groups in order to re-connect with your classmates and share updated pictures!

- Spring 1997
- Fall 1995
- Spring 1993

Studies/TESOL at Wheaton College, and hoping to find a job teaching English for Theological purposes. Andrea just completed a short mission trip to Haiti over Spring Break to help with clean up efforts after the earthquake.

### *Spring 1997*

**Jennifer (Witherow) Mendoza** and her husband Chapo had their 3rd baby Klaire Daniela Mendoza on Nov 3, 2009. Klaire joins Keili Araceli (7) and Kody Lorenzo (3).

### *Fall 1996*

**Matt Taylor** and **Christy (Nilson) Taylor (Spring '98)** continue to work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea, serving as Bible translators with the Nukna people. They have four children, Kaitlyn (7), Nathan (5), Justin (3), and Julianne (1). They are currently in Dallas, Texas, where Matt is finishing up his MA in linguistics at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics. [www.taylormissions.com](http://www.taylormissions.com)

### *Spring 1996*

**Shayla (Wilson) Arnett** and her husband Eric had their first baby on March 18, 2009, Alexis Ann Arnett. Shayla also still works at a credit union (part time now) as a teller, speaking Spanish every day with the hispanic members.

### *Fall 1995*

**Brian Greller** is working as an IT Specialist for an architectural firm in Seattle (using Spanish on occasion with the Mexico City office!). He spends free time working with youth in a low-income apartment complex and watching his niece & nephews.

**Lisa McMurry Bowen** has been married for 12 ½ years and has 2 children, Isaiah, 5, and Hannah, 2. **Ian Miller** and his wife Tami celebrated the birth of their son Jack, on June 16, 2009. He joins big brother Camden (3). The Millers live in Snohomish, WA,



Emily Scheie and Britney Villhauer make friends with a monkey during a boat tour of Lake Nicaragua



Britney Villhauer visits Volcán Poas



Anthony Waldrop pondering which trail to take during Spring Break in Monteverde



Anthony Waldrop, Anna Peery, Heather Perez on a rafting trip during spring break with Los Santos tours (sustainable, locally based tour company santostour.net)



LASP students and their teachers celebrate graduation from Spanish classes

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where Ian is in his 8<sup>th</sup> year as a school administrator.

**Spring 1995**

**Johanna (Webster) Buck** and family welcomed Grace Charlotte Buck on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Fall 1993**

**Cara Copeland** recently finished a Masters degree in Sociology from Portland State University. She is teaching part time and serving as a Health Coach to help people get to a healthy weight and maintain it for life.

**Fall 1992**

**Eric Liljenstolpe** just got married to Karol Sancho Araya and still lives in Costa Rica.

**Fall 1989**

**Betsy (Dewey) Evans** lives in Minnetonka, MN, with her husband Lonny and their three kids, Pete (14), Tommy (12), and Elena (12). Her husband is a teacher and Betsy runs a marketing/PR agency called Ignite Communications.

**Fall 1988**

**Sharon (Wiens) Schorr** participated in a Fulbright Teaching exchange in 2002 to Mexico City. She graduated from the Universidad de Salamanca with a masters in Spanish Language and Culture 2009. Sharon currently teaches Spanish at Medina High School in Medina, Ohio. She is married with 3 children: Josh (17), and twins Sydney and Trey (2 ½).

*Moved recently? Started a new job? Have any new additions to your family? Send your own update for the next newsletter at [newsletter@lasp.co.cr](mailto:newsletter@lasp.co.cr).*