

Alumni

Upcoming Events

November 1, 2009

Sunday Nights on Campus for RLS Alumni at Bradley University, Peoria. Find out more on the RLS website [Alumni page](#) and RSVP on the [RLS Facebook page](#).

March 19, 2010

Annual Dinner Auction at Giovanni's

Defining Moment

by Coach Devin Smith, Athletic Director at RLS

This past weekend, Coach Boburka and I traveled to Hillsdale, Mich. to watch alum, Mat Szula a 2005 graduate, play college football. Little did we know we were going to share in a "Defining Moment" in a young man's historic day on the gridiron. Athletics provides several moments that one will remember forever, but for me, football is a sport made up of very few "Defining Moments" throughout a game and even fewer when reflecting upon one's playing career.

Hillsdale played NCAA DII #1-ranked Grand Valley State Lakers on Homecoming. It was a story of Biblical proportions as GVS' enrollment of 23,000 dwarfed Hillsdale's 1300 student population, and GVS had dominated Hillsdale football for the past 15 years. The visiting Lakers had tallied 49 consecutive conference wins over the past 5 years and nabbed 4 National Titles in the past 10 years. Yet, there seemed to be a sense of optimism surrounding the Hillsdale faithful at the campus-wide tailgate prior to the game.

Continued on p. 2

While You're Young and Hungry! Sunday Night Pizza

It's true, when they're young (and not so young-check out Mr. Scott Erdman '91) they're hungry! RLS 2009 Alumni attending Rock Valley and Rockford College gathered with Pr. Carol Gates, Scott Erdman, Margie Henning, MaryJo Bertram and Donna Honzel at Old Chicago Pizza on Sunday, September 29 for an evening of pizza and conversation. Those attending: Ian Anderson, Seth Nord, Jake Johnson, Mike Wight, Paul Shaffer, Grant Lamb. What we learned....

"High School is so much better than college. Don't change anything. High School needs to be hard so that you are prepared for college so that it's nice and easy."

"It would be better to write several papers in English with different writing styles. Such as Chicago style of writing, MLA and APA, we need to learn to differentiate the styles."

"Speak more 'math language' the language professors speak in college math classes."

"Don't change anything in band!"

"We're so prepared for college!"

Thanks for joining us.

Bradley University students, come to Avanti's on Main at 6:00 pm Sun., Nov. 1 at for a FREE Pizza Dinner. Pr. Carol Gates will be your host.



"Defining Moment" continued from p. 1

Former walk-on and co-captain Mat Szula recorded 9 total tackles and registered a number of hurried passes when he blitzed. Szula, starting middle linebacker, played every defensive play, as the Charger defense made several 3rd down stops and goal line stands as Hillsdale came from behind in the closing minute to tab a 27-24 win. The spirited Hillsdale fans charged the field in the monumental upset, and I can assure you that fellow RLS alum Ben Meinert, Coach B, and I jumped over the stadium wall and joined in the craziness of the celebration.

The "Defining Moment" was not all the great defensive plays or the upset win of the top-ranked team in the nation, but it was when Mat Szula



broke away from the fans and gathered the team for prayer. The nucleus of the teammates took a knee as they surrounded Szula who leads them in prayer at the conclusion of each and every game. Many of the fans did not notice as their celebration flowed into the streets and parking lots surrounding the stadium, but Coach Boburka and I stood and smiled. "Defining Moments" in young people's lives are not noticed by many, but that day we saw that a young boy from Rockford Lutheran had transformed into a Godly man leading other men. What a "Defining Moment."

The next day, Mat texted and offered a thank you for taking the time. Mat went on to say that I had been at two of his most memorable sport experiences of his life (wins over Winnebago and GVS). I thanked him for allowing me to share in those experiences but mostly for allowing me to share in his "Defining Moment".... leading men in prayer. He texted back, "I pattern myself after Paul which is illustrated by the passage in 1 Corinthians 9." Let us look for these "Defining Moments" in our lives here at Rockford Lutheran and share the joyous occasion with one another. This is a great place with a great ministry. We must continue to go beyond our busy schedules and notice God's great work here at Rockford Lutheran. Thank you to everyone who has shared in the ministry of Rockford Lutheran and our athletic programs.

Alumni Relive Memories at Annual Dinner & Dance

by Cindy Beyer and the Alumni Committee

The Annual Alumni Dinner and Dance was a wonderful success honoring Keith Wilson and Dr. Jurgenson on Saturday evening, October 3.

The classes of 1969 and 1999 had a chance to reconnect and share a few laughs. Classes of 1969, 70, 73, 75, 77, 78, 80, 88, 89, 91, 92, 95, and 99 were all represented.

The highlight of the evening was giving everyone in attendance a chance to share "a memory of Lutheran High." Answers included painting the dam, being able to be involved in a variety of activities, friendships that are still prevalent today, going to a new school

that didn't even exist but was being formed, and finally, the sacrifices parents have made for their children to have a Christian education.

After dinner, the band, *Bullet* played for non-stop dancing, and many more former alumni arrived for the dance.

What a wonderful reconnection to all the former students and faculty at LHS.

