

# Side Out

Grove City College  
Volleyball Alumni News

Summer 2013  
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## Lisa (Lippincott '93) Champion inducted into Hall of Fame

Lisa (Lippincott '93) Champion is one of four volleyball players, along with the 1985 team, to be inducted into the Grove City College Athletic Hall of Fame on Feb. 9, 2013.

Lippincott concluded her stellar four-year volleyball career at Grove City College by earning Second Team All-America and Presidents' Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player honors as a senior in 1992.

A graduate of nearby Hickory High School, Lippincott helped lead the Wolverines to conference titles in both 1989 and 1992.

She set a new single-season program record with 386 kills in 1992 and ranked among the national leaders with a 3.62 kill average. That kill average also set a new single-season Grove City record.

Lippincott graduated as Grove City's all-time kills leader with 1,036. She earned First Team All-PAC in 1991 and 1992 and also received All-Region recognition from the American Volleyball Coaches Association in each of those two seasons. She received the team's MVP award in 1992 and as a freshman in 1989, she earned Second Team All-Conference recognition.

Lippincott credits Grove City's team mentality and her teammates, notably setters Renee Stas and Jeannie Annan, for her

individual honors and statistical milestones.

During Lippincott's career, Grove City recorded four straight winning seasons, 92 overall wins and a 27-5 conference record under the guidance of head coach Susan Roberts.

Following her career, Lippincott received an invitation to try out for the United States Olympic Festival.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in education in 1993 and added a master's degree in specialized education from Illinois State University in 2000.



President Richard Jewell '67 presents a plaque to Champion

## Team looks to improve in 2013 season

The 2012 Grove City College women's varsity volleyball season had its fill of progress and success.

The team, consisting of only one senior, four juniors, five sophomores and six freshmen, started the season off slow. A big hurdle that the team had to overcome during the beginning of the season

was finding a way to integrate all of the new faces and talents that joined the team. By mid-season, the girls were able to pull it together and beat the team ranked ninth in the nation, Cortland College, in five sets.

In conference play the Wolverines had a great showing against Bethany,

but were unable to come out on top. The Wolverines concluded the 2012 season with a record of 14-17.

The team showed vast improvement and heart throughout the entire season and should be proud of all that they were able to accomplish together.



### Inside ...

Meet the co-captains	2
Willits' career	3
Alumni in classrooms	4
Kate's Journey	7
Alumni game preview	7

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## Side Out

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Side Out is the official newsletter  
of the Grove City College  
Women's Volleyball Team.

# Coach's Corner

Hello everyone. I trust you have had a wonderful year. 2012-13 was a very eventful and enjoyable season with many highs and a few disappointments, but overall a great year.

Things here aren't all that different. We do have more buildings. If you haven't been here in the last five years you will be shocked to say the least. The newest building, STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math is an awesome building sitting directly behind Rockwell. I believe in the future they will replace Rockwell, with another Rockwell, but for now STEM is one beautiful building inside and out.

The kids are younger, I am now 42 years older than the freshmen, but all in all they are still Grove City students. Many of the players went to Europe this spring so I am sure they will have many interesting stories to tell in the fall. As usual, the players grow up and move on, many of them going onto grad school, med school, teaching, engineers and one of the better jobs ... being a mom.

We love our new Arena. The floor is awesome and the lights are so bright with no glare, so when you look up you don't get blinded. The baskets retract so we now can run two courts and that makes practices so much more effective and efficient. We just love it. I believe we have set the standard for a great indoor facility.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the information enclosed. It will give you an overview of what we have been doing this past year and what we hope to see happen in the future. Please stay in touch and let us know what you're up to. You all are a vital part of the history of our program and I don't want any of you to ever forget that. You all are appreciated and remembered.

If you ever have the opportunity to come to one of the games this fall, please come up and speak, I would love to visit with you and see how your life has turned out.

With much love and respect,

Susan K. Roberts



Susan K. Roberts

## Skinner and Mander step forward as co-captains

Senior Tara Skinner is in her fourth year as a starter and will be the strong leader of the defensive line (as libero). Skinner was a co-captain during the 2012 season, and will bring her experience, enthusiasm and leadership to the 2013 squad. A talented server and good court leader, Tara's brand of excitement for the game encourages her teammates to be at their best at all times.



Tara Skinner '14



Shelby Mander '14

Senior Shelby Mander, also in her fourth year as a starter, will be leading the offensive line as an outside hitter. As a starter, Mander has improved tremendously over the years. Shelby has a versatility that makes her very effective at many offensive positions. Shelby will be counted on to be a strong contributor from the outside. She will be a crucial factor in the success of the 2013 offense.

# 2013 Rise to the Occasion

Grove City College volleyball will be looking to capitalize on the experience and quality of this year's squad to advance into, and through, the PAC Tournament. With the return of all starters except Elisabeth Willits, the Wolverines trust that all the hard work in the spring and the summer months will have prepared them for the exciting and challenging season ahead.

This year's squad will be led by senior captains Tara Skinner and Shelby Mander, senior middle hitter Ashley Branch, all whom have started since their freshman year. Tierza Rangel will be the big gun on the right side again this year leading all returning hitters in kills.

The junior class again brings experience and depth with Delaney Algieri at the middle, Amy Collins in control at the setting position, with Frances Trenta playing a strong role in the defense along with Hannah Leirmann who owns the "woman of all trades" position.

The sophomore class brings back some young players who have gained a great deal of experience throughout their freshman season. With a solid year under their belts, they should make some outstanding contributions to the success of this year's squad. Natalija Galens and Steph Althausen will be counted on at the strong and right side positions respectively, along with Libbie Casey and Christa Currier carrying some of the hitting and blocking roles from the front line. Amy Trageser will help carry the setting role as part of the Amy duo again this season as Maddie Lussenhop steps up to make contributions from the back row.

All in all, the season shows great promise. With hard work, enthusiasm and a strong focus this year's team could be in for an awesome ride.



The 2013 squad is ready to "Rise to the Occasion"

## Willits ends successful career

Elisabeth Willits '13 ended her four-year career by leaving a memorable impression during her senior year. As a 5'9" outside hitter from North Penn High School in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, Willits was a four-year letter winner and a three-year starter. Over the course of her career she held a co-captain role, was a two-time All-Presidents' Athletic Conference Honorable Mention selection and was recognized as part of Second Team All-PAC during her senior season. Willits started off her career with Wolverine volleyball strong by leading the team in kills and hitting percentage during her sophomore season. She ended her senior season as the team leader in kill average, was ranked 10th in the conference in kill average, was second on the team in aces and third on the team in digs.

Willits was the backbone of the team during her senior season. She brought her experience, her confidence, and her ability to motivate and encourage her teammates with her every time she stepped on the court, and her teammates respected her to the utmost level. Her presence was noticeably missed while a brief injury kept her from performing for a little over a week towards the end of the season, but she returned ready to finish out the season and her career strong. Willits is an English graduate, and is the daughter of Tom and Miriam Willits.



The Volleyball teams honors their only senior

## Players study abroad

In 2013 several players and managers decided to study abroad. They actually took classes and studied, but from the sounds of it, there isn't much they have missed on their adventure. Traveling around Europe, the players visited all the great hot spots of Europe, such as Germany, Amsterdam, Paris, Greece, London, Prague, Barcelona and Switzerland.



From l to r: Lauren Schivonia, Tara Skinner, Caitlin Govan and Ashley Branch

# Volleyball alumni make outstanding contributions in the classroom

*We asked our alumni who are teaching to send along some information about what they are doing now. Here are the responses we received from those who spend their time challenging the children of the future.*

**Lisa (Lippincott '93) Champion** is homeschooling her three children who are in Kindergarten, second and sixth grades. Prior to that, she was teaching in the Kennett Square School and in Mahomet, Ill. in eighth grade geography.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed being deeply involved in the education and character training of my own children. It has been one of the most rewarding jobs I've ever had."



**Kim Walsh '08** is teaching second and third grade in New Orleans. She went on to earn her master's degree and will be returning to New Orleans to work in a Turnaround Charter school with preschoolers through second grade.

"Teaching is a way for me to work towards social justice. I want every child to have the opportunity to receive a great education regardless of their socio-economic background. I work in schools where students are failing and work to make sure that all students receive a quality education."



**Heather (Hayden '03) Golden** is teaching in the Loudoun County Public School system in northern Virginia, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. This is her 10th year of teaching second grade students at this school. She is currently the team leader, the cooperating teacher for George Mason University student teachers and the wellness representative.

"To me, teaching is a privilege. Parents place their trust in me, as they share their children with me. Throughout the school day I have an opportunity to teach them content knowledge, but also social skills, life skills and good character. I love teaching second grade. The students are so excited to learn new things!"



**Sue (Gillian '97) Dreves** is now teaching at Grove City College as an Adjunct Professor of Education and working with student teachers in the field. Previously she taught at Grove City elementary.



**Heather (Fraiz '09) Stobaugh** only taught for one year in the public school system in Charlotte, N.C in first grade. Although she does not teach at this time, she is currently doing research at Tufts University regarding international aid work.

"Although I only taught for one year, it was the most challenging and rewarding year of my life."

**Heather (Oates '99) Wheeler** has taught 9th-12th grade Spanish and APV in Boyle County, Danville, Kentucky for the past 11 years. She has also been the softball coach there for several years prior to having her children.

"Teaching means making a difference in the lives of my students. It means waking up each morning knowing that there is a greater God-given purpose to what do each day. It means watching students grow into individuals who will have a positive impact on our world and our society. I'm fortunate to do something that I am passionate about each day and being a teacher is a large part of my identity. Teaching has also given me the opportunity to put my leadership skills to use and allows me to be creative. I love my job. It is what I was designed to do."



**Liz Jones '12** is teaching at the Calvert School in Baltimore, Md. She teaches fifth grade drama and sixth and seventh grade English. Liz is in her first year.

"This is only my first year teaching but I love it so far! Teaching is a wonderful and valuable occupation because it allows me to directly impact the lives of dozens of impressionable children each day. One of my favorite aspects of teaching is the energy involved. I love that it is a hands-on and interactive occupation and I love the enthusiasm that the students bring each day. Every day is different, but each is such a blessing! I am so thankful for where God has placed me this year and trust His will in the years to come."



**Casey (Englebert '01) Ferry** is currently substitute teaching for the Warren County School District in Pa. Prior to having children, she taught fifth grade at Grace Brethren Christian School in Clinton, Md. She also coached volleyball for a few years with her mom.

"I just love that moment when a student finally masters something after some hard work. Teaching is a great responsibility and involves a lot of thankless work, but the blessings are priceless."



**Amy (Lippincott '97) Swan** has been teaching at the International Community School in Singapore for the past two years with the fourth grade as well as the MS volleyball coach.

"I loved teaching my own children for six years as a homeschooler. Now, I work in a Christian school, the only International Christian School in Singapore, and the girls attend that school. I enjoy being able to see them throughout the day as I teach fourth grade. It has been a great way to invest in the lives of many kids from around the world."

**Renee (Kalp '98) Lego** teaches in Sharon, Pa., at Case Ave Elementary. After her first daughter was born she took early retirement. Upon resigning from her position in Sharon, she was offered a position at the church she is attending as the Director of Children's Ministry. She still works at the church – Grace Chapel Community Church in Hermitage, Pa. It has been a blessing to both her and her family for the past 10 years. She is currently the Director of Children's Ministry – oversees all the happenings of kids aged birth – fifth grade as well as serve on the administrative team that helps to lead, guide and make decisions for our church.

"I love teaching kids because it means I never have to grow up. In what other profession do you get to dance, sing, play games and have fun? But seriously, teaching kids – whether it is in a classroom at school or a classroom at church – is very rewarding. It is definitely the place that I feel called to, the place I am humbled to serve in, and legacy I want to leave!"

**Chris (Carlson '91) Jenkins** taught 10 years before taking five years to stay home with her children. Since going back, she has taught for six years with first graders at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Strasburg, Va.

"Teaching has been a part of my life forever. Both my parents were teachers. I witnessed them enjoying their job and it inspired me to become a teacher. Ironically, both of my sisters are first grade teachers too. We have a lot to share! I love children and enjoy what I do for a living. Children are such sweet, loving people! They get so excited at the little things in life. I got my masters in reading at the University of Virginia which has been beneficial since a big part of my day is teaching reading to first graders. It is thrilling to watch them go from an early reader to an independent successful reader. I can't imagine doing anything else! God is good and led me in the right direction. Teaching is a calling!"

**Jackie (Bell '90) Berry** teaches at North Madison Elementary School. It's the school she attended as a child and is now in her 23rd year. She has been teaching since I left Grove City. She taught at the district middle school in the sixth grade, but has been teaching fourth grade since her ninth year as an educator. She is a teacher, after-school tutoring coordinator, mentor, value-added specialist (DIVA) and instructional leader in the district. BC (before children) she was also the girls' basketball coach and fast pitch softball coach, for five years.

"Over the years, I have come to realize how much I enjoy learning from each of my students every day. I have been blessed with wonderful opportunities to enrich the lives of others by instructing, guiding and nurturing life-long skills that create responsible, caring, respectful citizens that one day will lead our nation. My passion and desire for teaching remains alive, even more than when I first began, despite the ever increasing challenges that face our youth."

**Cara (Denniston '03) Enny** was teaching second grade at the Monarch Academy for three years, a public charter school following the expeditionary learning model. She will be teaching special education next year after taking some time off for maternity leave.

"Teaching has been a fulfilling and eye-opening experience. I have enjoyed getting to know each of my student's strengths and weaknesses and have been challenged to use this information to help them be the best learners they can be."

**Sarah Hamsher '97** has earned her Doctorate in Education and is continuing to teach at Malone University in Canton, Ohio. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in the special education field.

"In the elementary classroom and now in the higher education context, I continue to learn as much from my students as they learn from me. My involvement in both settings has been a blessing and a privilege. In my current higher education setting, the internal rewards of challenging and enhancing pre-service and practicing teachers' pedagogy and then seeing their reflective practices in classrooms is priceless. I'm humbled that God has used me to educate those who mold and shape our youth."

**Dawn (Conser '94) Arthurs** has taught junior high and high school math for two years at Real Life Christian Academy in Salem, Ohio. When they closed their secondary program, she was privileged to be a part of the beginning of Heartland Christian School in Columbiana, Ohio, where she teaches junior high and high school math for the past five years. She spent a year filling a maternity leave at Brookfield High School teaching geometry and basic math before teaching junior high math at her alma mater, United Local in Hanoverton, Ohio, for three years. She's been a stay at home mom for the last eight years with her children Dara (11), Daniel (8) and Dena (6). She and her husband have owned and operated Main Street Theater in Columbiana, Ohio since 2007 and for the last two years and has done some subbing at Heartland Christian where her kids attend.

"I greatly enjoyed my teaching years. I always enjoyed math in school and explaining it to students in ways they could understand was always very gratifying. I enjoyed the challenge of coming up with more than one way to explain concepts so that more of the class could understand. Although I do not desire to teach full time while owning a business and having young children, I have enjoyed subbing and will continue to keep my license current as you never know what the Lord has in store for you!"

## classrooms cont.

**Heather Good '12** is teaching at her high school, Punxsutawney Christian School, and is in her first year teaching 7-12th graders. She is also teaches Bible, health, speech/media, and physical education. She also assists with the girls' volleyball team.

"I don't really have an answer for 'over the years,' as this is my first year as a teacher. But, I have absolutely loved every minute of working with my students. There have been some times when I would like to pull out my own hair, and I've been extremely busy, but overall I really enjoy my job. I'm amazed every day at the potential in all of my students, and my goal is to help them see in themselves what I see in them on a daily basis. I also hope that my students know that I care about them more than they could ever imagine."



**Kirsten (Pedersen '04) Meyers** has been teaching at the Hilton Central School District in Rochester, N.Y., at Merton Williams Middle School (a seventh and eighth grade building) since graduation in 2004, almost 10 years! She is a science teacher that teaches life science (like biology) and physical science (chemistry and physics combo).

"While teaching is very exhausting as more demands are placed on us, it is also very rewarding. I'd say some of the best memories I have are seeing that 'light bulb' go off on a kids face when they understand a new concept in science.

I also appreciate the relationships I build with students and later get to see where they go to college, or what they study.

It is very encouraging to be given the title as their first real science teacher and how that sometimes hooks them to do something with science later!

**Karen (Smith '86) Gerndt** worked for seven years at MacMurray College (Ill.) and Methodist College (N.C.) She primarily taught the science-based physical education classes: exercise physiology and structural kinesiology along with coached volleyball and softball. She worked for 17 years with a hospital-based education: speaker's bureau/public speaker on general health and wellness topics. She then moved into developing and implementing web-based behavior change/ education programs – weight management, tobacco cessation, back care and healthy eating.

Currently she is the Senior Project Manager for the Education, Training and Peer Support Center for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) managing projects related to eight signature programs that support people living with mental illness as well as their loved ones.

"Impacting someone's life in a productive manner with, and through, education has been the thread of my professional career. It is a service that has long-reaching impact and has been extremely fulfilling. I couldn't imagine doing anything that didn't have education woven in somewhere."



Other individuals who are still in the teaching field are **Erin Mayne**, who is in Columbus Ohio, **Sarah (Gardner '02) Wyatt**, who is in the Richmond area and **Meg (Roberts '97) Ryan** who is located in Louisa, Va. I'm sure there are more, but sometimes information can be fleeting.

I hope you all enjoyed this section and next year I will try to come up with another area where we can highlight other fields.

## Meet the Wolverines



Class of 2014

Class of 2015



Class of 2016



### Make a Gift

A special thank you to all those who have donated so generously to the small but vital alumni account for volleyball. If you would like to donate, please send your gift to the Development Office (100 Campus Drive, Grove City, PA 16127) and place Women's Volleyball on the memo line. Thanks again for all you do and have done to make this such a strong and unique program!

# Kate (DiMarco) McKenzie's journey

Look how beautiful this picture is. This is what you would find if you knocked on my door, any time of day or night. I'd have my hair and makeup tastefully done. There would be a slight, natural rosy glow on my cheeks. I'd be wearing some cute outfit that matches my complexion. Liam would be snuggled peacefully and quietly on my chest. Harmony.

NOT.

Probably what you'd more likely find is a frazzled, un-showered, smelly, blotchy, mascara-under-the-eye-zombie-lady wearing Eau de Spitup and accessorized with burp clothes and baby wipes.

No one ever prepares you for the spit up shower. I mean, there's really not anything anyone can say to let you know what it's going to feel like to be projectile vomited on with warm, acidic breast milk (especially when it slides down your shirt deep into your nursing bra. I mean, it sort of ends up back where it started). I'm hearing drums and Lion King's "Circle of Life," here people.

Also hilarious, is the fact that stuff like that always happens when I'm alone. Last night the spit up shower was literally minutes after Jason had driven away from the house. Bueller? Bueller?

I love this picture. I really do. And it needs to be framed and put on my desk and my wall and my screen background on my computer. But I also need a picture of zombie mom. Although,

I think it's etched pretty permanently on my mind.

A final thought: If I wasn't getting thrown up on, it would mean I didn't have a baby. It would mean I didn't have Liam. That I wasn't a mom. If I had the option of being warned ahead of time before signing on the dotted line, well...do it! Warn me. And then,

**hand me the pen!**

(And a few baby wipes, please.)



Kate and her son, Liam

Those of you who know of her journey can only imagine how awesome the photo above is. Liam was a preemie and Kate spent MONTHS flat on her back, prior to delivery, and here is the result.

## 2013 Boston Marathon

Mike Dreves '97, Sue (Gillian '97) Dreves and Jen (Plyler '08) Coyne all went to the Boston Marathon this past spring looking forward to an awesome adventure. For Mike and Sue, their run had success written all over it, both running an awesome race, 7 - 7:45 a mile for 26 miles. They both crossed the finish line and were elated that they had made such good time on their first try at the Boston Marathon. They went on to their hotel and prepared themselves to head back to Grove City.

Jen, on the other hand, was running a great time considering her pregnancy, and was abruptly stopped one mile from the finish line. Not knowing what was going on, her husband Jon '08, thankfully found her while riding his bicycle alongside the route.

Well, as you all know the end of the story was such a tragic end to such an exciting day, all of us will never forget, especially those three.

We are all so proud to have had three Grove City College alumni represent the school in such great fashion. Even through all the tragic events, we are so happy that God was watching over them that day. If you want to read more about Jen Coyne's adventure, you can catch it on the Alumni Newsletter. It's a great story.



Jen Coyne



Mike & Sue Dreves at the Boston Marathon

## Homecoming alumni game preview

This upcoming fall 2013, an alumni game will be held during Homecoming weekend on Saturday, October 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Arena. Following the game, lunch will be provided in the Conference Room of the Physical Learning Center. This is the 40th anniversary of the volleyball program here at Grove City College. I hope that many of you will come and join the celebration of a strong and solid program as we head into the next decade. See you then.

RSVP for this event by contacting Coach Susan Roberts at [skroberts@gcc.edu](mailto:skroberts@gcc.edu) or (724) 458-2129.



2012 Alumni Game participants

# Major Upset



The women's volleyball team celebrates after their upset of Cortland.

By Elizabeth Willits and Amy Collins

The SUNY-Cortland women's volleyball team was ranked ninth in the nation, so when the unranked Grove City women's team was set to play them at the York Invitational Tournament, no one thought they had a chance to win. The team went into the game knowing they had nothing to lose and tried not to be intimidated.

Cortland was surprised when the Wolverines came out strong and fought their way to a fifth game. By the time the fifth game started, the Wolverines were playing their very best, and the Cortland coaches stood on the sideline in disbelief. Grove City won the final point, and everyone began to celebrate. The team was happy to hand Cortland what would be one of only two losses for their season.

Although the game did not count towards the conference, it was a great victory that brought the Wolverines together and showed them that they were capable of big wins. It was one of the best memories of the season, and left the Wolverines feeling accomplished and proud.

100 Campus Drive  
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**WOLVERINES**  
GROVE CITY COLLEGE

