

Jobs for Illinois Graduates

Litchfield High School

Reflections on the Past Year....

By: Ms. Karla Kloss

If someone would have told me this time last year that I would be teaching the Jobs for Illinois Graduates Program at Litchfield High School, I would have probably said, "What? What is the Jobs for Illinois Graduates Program?"

Being an English teacher, I had never heard of the JILG program. I was hired on a Thursday night in the second week of August 2008, and I began work the very next day!

This has definitely been a year of getting out of my comfort zone and into new areas in the world of education. When I found out that I would only be in the classroom with the kids two hours of the day, and that I would spend the remaining school day either doing follow-up calls/visits with last years JILG Class of 2008 or

documenting time spent with all of my students (follow-up and seniors), I naively wondered how I would fill all of those office hours! I quickly found out that I had nothing to be concerned with *how* to fill up my time! My concern quickly changed to "How am I going to get all of this done in such a *short* amount of time each day!"

The only complaint I have of the JILG program is that I would have preferred more classroom time with the students and less computer documentation time. Overall, though, this has been a great year of learning and growing for me.

At this point in time, it is extremely doubtful that the JILG program will be back next year. I am very saddened by this as this is a wonderful program.

I had really looked forward to doing the follow-up with my own JILG 2009 students next year. I already had many ideas of things that I would like to do differently both in the classroom and with follow-up.

This year was definitely a learning year for me...learning what the program was all about, learning proper procedures for documentation, and learning the curriculum. I was really looking forward to being able to put my own personality into the program next year, and to improve many aspects of the program for next year's students.

So as this year is coming to an end, I must wonder where I will be this time next year? Where will life have brought me in this world, and what will my reflections be this time next year....

Many Thanks To Many People....

By: Ms. Karla Kloss

My biggest fear in doing this is that I will leave someone out! The first people that I must say a big "thank you" to are Mr. Juenger, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Heck, and the members of our school board. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be here teaching in your district and at Litchfield High School! Thank you for your vote of confidence in hiring me, and thank you for

all of your support and encouragement...it has meant a great deal to me!

Next, I would like to thank last year's JILG instructor who moved to Springfield High School to take over its JILG program—Mr. Brian Neighbors. Not only did Brian leave the program in a very successful state when I took over, but he also spent a day

and a half with me in the office last August explaining the in's and out's of the JILG program. He was always available whenever I had questions or concerns this past year. Thank you, Brian!

I also need to thank a wonderful person, Mrs. Linda Spicer, who has been my JILG Regional Manager this past year.

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Meet The JILG Class of 2009 Members

Trevor Gibson Plans To Become an Illinois State Police Officer and He Is Devoted To His Family

Trevor Gibson is a member of the JILG Class of 2009 who is a very responsible and driven young man. Many young adults right out of college do not have the demands on their time and life as Trevor does. However, he seems to be a very easy going young man who takes life as it comes and who is giving 200 percent to see his dreams come true.

Trevor's best memory of high school is when he met his girlfriend, Nicole, who is now his wife. They have been married for a year now, and they have a beautiful son. Trevor said that they would eventually like to have two more children at some point.

Nicole Gibson is not only Trevor's wife, but she is also his best friend. "She's my world," Trevor said. "She can always bring me up when I'm down. She would do anything for me or our son."

After graduation Trevor plans to attend Lincoln Land Community College for two years. Then he wants to transfer to University of Illinois at Springfield where he will get his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Then Trevor wants to pursue a career with the Illinois State Police. "I have always dreamed of

being a State Police Officer," Trevor stated. "My dad has also influenced me and he has encouraged me to be a State Police Officer."

While in high school, Trevor said that the teacher who had the most impact on his life was Mr. Gray. "Mr. Gray has taught me not only about cars, but he has also taught me a lot of useful life lessons."

The person who has had the biggest impact on Trevor's life is his dad. "My dad has taught me pretty much everything I know," Trevor said. "My dad knows what to say in the worst of times and does so in a confident way," Trevor added.

In five or ten years Trevor sees himself living a happy life with his wife and his son. He sees himself achieving his dreams with very few bumps or hills along the way. At his most successful in life Trevor said, "I see myself as being a workaholic—someone who is trying to make more and more money. However, I also will be loving my family with everything that I have," he said.

Trevor said that he and his family will put down roots wherever there is a job opening



when he finally has completed all of his education and training.

In closing, Trevor said that his motto in life is "Live your life; don't worry about what other people think." Yes, Trevor Gibson is a very wise young man indeed!

Scott Hogue Wants Education, a Good Job, and a Family

Scott Hogue, JILG Class of 2009, said that this last year has been his best year of high school. "I made new freshman friends," Scott said, "and I had so much fun...there was never a dull moment with the gang!"

His funniest memory of high school is when he, JD, and Maverick jumped off the tube, and he almost broke his leg. The teacher at LHS who has had the most impact on him is Mrs. Stevenson. "She helped me when I struggled with math," Scott said. Scott's best friend is Evan Smith.

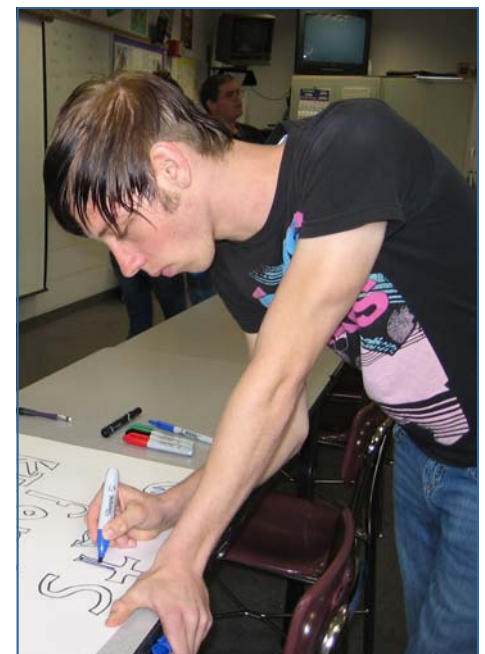
After high school Scott plans to attend Lincoln Land Community College for two years then transfer to a 4-year college. Then Scott

hopes that he will be prepared enough to get a good job!

In 5–10 years Scott hopes that he is married with two children, and he hopes to have a good paying job. Scott said that although he would like to explore, he will most likely settle down in Litchfield.

To the incoming freshmen Scott says, "Have fun while you can because the next four years will be the best of your life, and if you blink, it's gone!" To his friends who will be seniors next year Scott says, "Enjoy the last year. You may never see each other again!"

At this point in his life, Scott's motto is "Enjoy being a kid!"



Danielle Kalaher Wants To Be a Cosmetologist in California

Danielle Kalaher has many good memories of her years at LHS. Her most unusual memories of high school are dealing with all of the “scandals” with the teachers. Dani’s best memory is this year when she and Rachel sang at the Talent Show and they got second place.

The funniest memory is “Free Hugs” Day. “I had gotten in trouble by Mr. Wetzel for my shirt that said free hugs,” Dani explained. “So the whole school made free hugs shirts for me!”

Mrs. Swift is the teacher who has had the most impact on Dani in high school. “She is really easy to talk to,” said Dani, “and she’s really easy to relate to.”

Dani’s best friend is Ciara Bohlen from Staunton. “She has been there for me throughout high school, and she never judges me. She loves me for who I am.” Ciara is also the person who has had the biggest impact on Dani’s life thus far. “Ciara has opened my eyes to so much in the world. I love her so much!”

After high school Dani plans to go to SIUE or to the Paul Mitchell School in St. Louis. In five years she hopes to be graduating from SIUE or to be an established cosmetologist. In ten years Dani hopes to be living and working in California where she definitely wants to put down her roots.

Dani does not want to get married or have children. At the most successful time in her life, she wants to be living in California, having a successful career as a hairstylist and make-up artist for runway shows and photo shoots.

To the incoming freshmen Dani’s advice is to not freak out over high school. “It’s the best time ever,” she said. “You make friends and high school is really fun.”

To next year’s seniors Dani says, “Live up your senior year! It’s the best year of high school!”

Her motto for life is “Life’s short, so let’s party!”



Danielle Kalaher was the Service Learning Coordinator for JILG’s Illinois Career Association this past year. Best of luck to Danielle as she moves on to bigger and better things in her life.

Mrs. Susan Garrison Impacts Many Lives at LHS

All teachers aspire to have a positive impact on the lives of their students. There are many teachers at Litchfield High School who have accomplished just this feat.

In the 2009 JILG students’ biographies Mrs. Susan Garrison’s name kept coming up as the teacher who has had the biggest impact on the students’ lives.

Mrs. Garrison is a very personable, nurturing, and caring individual. These traits can be seen in her whether she is in the classroom, the teacher’s workroom, the hallway, or even when she is out in the community.

These traits have not gone unnoticed by most, if not all, of her students. In fact, many of the students from JILG’s Class of 2009 have named Mrs. Garrison as the teacher who has most had a positive impact on their lives while they have been here at Litchfield High School.

Alisha Sinclair stated that Mrs. Garrison has taught her many life lessons while Alisha has been here at LHS. Erin Dragoo said that Mrs. Garrison has helped her a lot with her plans for the future.

Shane Voyles named Mrs. Garrison the teacher who has had the most impact on him because as Shane explained, “She has taught me how to cook.”

However, Kate Zimmerman’s thoughts about Mrs. Garrison are an excellent tribute to this wonderful teacher. “Mrs. Garrison is always there for her students,” Kate said. “She is there whenever we need someone to talk to. She never passes judgment on anyone. She also never looks down on someone because that person has made a mistake.”

May everyone be fortunate enough to have a “Mrs. Garrison” at some point in his/her life! Thank you, Susan Garrison!



Highlights of the 2008-2009 JILG Program at LHS

LDC

The year began by selecting class officers who attended the Leadership Development Conference in Flora, Illinois, on September 24th and 25th. At this conference the officers learned leadership and teamwork skills. They took these skills home and became leaders at LHS. Also, each officer had a specific job to accomplish, and they learned about these jobs during the LDC.



The LHS Illinois Career Association officers and Ms. Kloss attend LDC in September.



The trust fall was the most popular activity of the team building ropes course during LDC.

I & I Ceremony

The Initiation and Installation Ceremony was a time when all JILG members were inducted into the student lead organization known as the Illinois Career Association. The ceremony also installed the ICA officers. The

ceremony was meaningful because it was planned and arranged by the students.



The Illinois Career Association officers take their installation oaths.



Shane Voyles signs the ICA banner as a symbolic gesture of unity and commitment to the Career Association.

Service Learning

The students began service learning early in the school year by conducting the annual school wide fundraiser for the Coats for Kids organization. The JILG students organized everything for the fundraiser and raised \$3078 for the Coats for Kids organization..

On probably the coldest and windiest weekend in December, the JILG students could be found outside of Walmart ringing bells for the Salvation Army. The students showed their compassion for those less fortunate in our community by volunteering their time during the Christmas Season.



Mrs. Swift's 3rd hour class brought in \$811 which was the most money raised by a class for the Coats for Kids fundraiser.



Donald Ryan, Ms. Kloss, and Steven Scribner ring bells for the Salvation Army outside of Walmart in December.

In the Classroom

JILG students are expected to be a part of projects that take them away from the classroom. However, they still have much classroom work to complete during the year. They began the year learning about leadership and team membership. One of the major assignments during this unit was for each student to interview and to write an essay about someone who was an important leader in his/her life. Many of these were published in previous issues of this past year's newsletter.

Another major unit this year was for each of the students to research a career of his/her choice and to present a Power Point presentation to the class explaining that career. The



Jeff Sperry gave an outstanding presentation on his chosen career as a firefighter.

students were able to learn about many different career options during this career unit.

Another important assignment this year was an interviewing/writing assignment where the students were paired up with a classmate. The students interviewed one another then wrote a biography about his/her partner. These biographies, along with pictures of each student, were published in various 2009 newsletters.

During the final nine weeks of school, the students worked on the many different parts of a professional portfolio. All of the students had the opportunity to leave the program with their own portfolios to assist them in all of their future job searches.

Classroom Guest Speakers

Throughout the year the JILG students were very fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to many good guest speakers. From representatives from the different branches of the military to representatives from various colleges, and even former JILG students, the 2009 JILG Class learned a lot from those who graciously shared time with us.

In September SSG Kevin Vettorel from the US Air Force came in to speak to the students. He brought with him three airmen who had finished basic training and who were beginning their specialized training for their chosen Air Force jobs.

Also in September, the JILG students heard from a representative from Patricia Stevens College, SSG Gregory Perrin from the US Navy, SSG Charles Lovingood from the US

Army, and Karen Price who represented Hickey Business School.

In addition, the students got to hear from Class of 2008 JILG student, Samantha Aubuchon. Samantha had just returned to Litchfield after being honorably discharged from the US Air Force's basic training camp because of health issues.



Samantha Aubuchon, JILG Class of 2008, spoke to the students in September about her experiences this past summer while at Air Force basic training.



SSG Charles E. Lovingood of the US Army spoke with JILG students about the various careers that are available to them through the Army. He also shared some of his own experiences of when he was in the infantry.

In October JILG classes got to hear speakers from DeVry College near Chicago and from Lincoln Tech College. November brought in speakers from Robert Morris College and Ranken Technical Institute. In addition, the students got to hear from JILG Class of 2007 member, Aaron Davis.

Aaron, who is a red beret in the Air Force, was home for a brief visit before going to Florida for more special forces training. His brother, Anthony, accompanied Aaron while Aaron spoke to the classes. Anthony will be joining the Air Force after graduating from LHS this spring. He hopes to follow in his brother's boot steps and also become a member of the Air Force's elite red beret group.



Aaron Davis, a red beret in the US Air Force, and his brother Anthony spoke to students in November.

In January JILG classes got to hear a very interesting presentation by Lisa Masters of Hickey Business School. Her presentation was entitled *The Unspoken Interview* and it focused on all of the nonverbal elements which occur during an interview.



Lisa Masters from Hickey Business School.

Thank You to All

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There really is not enough space to list all that Linda has done for not only me, but all of the specialists in her region. She is a consummate specialist who expects the best from all of us...including herself! She has been a tremendous role model to each and every one of us this year. She is a strong, yet nurturing, leader who definitely leads by example!

Thank you seems so insufficient for all of the time Linda has given to me helping me to learn the ropes of the JILG program. She has been gracious, helpful, patient, yet always guiding me, again by example, to do my best. She does this with all of us because she has a deep and sincere love for all of the kids in the JILG program. This is evident and inspiring in all that she has done and said this year. So, again, Linda, thank you so much for all that you have given me this year!

Next, I would like to thank all of the staff members and teachers at Litchfield High School and Middle School. For fear of leaving someone out, I will leave it at that! However, just know that I couldn't have made it this year without the support, help, and encouragement from ALL of you!

Last, but certainly not least, I need to thank all of my students whom I was fortunate to be in the classroom with this year. They came into class last August expecting Mr. Neighbors and found out that they had a new JILG instructor. Most have been very patient and accepting despite my flaws and struggles with learning this new program! They were supportive, hard workers, and wonderful sports this year! Thank you very much JILG Class of 2009! My thoughts and prayers are with you all! May success and happiness be yours in life!

We're On The Web
www.jilginc.org

JAWS Week

JILG Awareness Week (JAWS) was celebrated January 26th—30th at Litchfield High School. Monday, January 26th was Scarf Day, Tuesday was Hat Day, Wednesday was College Day (AND a snow day—no school), Thursday was Career Day, and Friday was Sports Day.



David Jenkins, who was the 2008-09 Most Outstanding JILG Student, dressed for Career Day during JAWS Week.

CDC

The Career Development Conference was held on April 29, 2009. The purpose of this conference was to celebrate all of the hard work that every student demonstrated throughout the year. There were various competitions ranging from conference theme and conference cover design to the best JAWS week poster or the best portfolio design.

The students were also treated to two entertaining, yet interesting and relevant guest speakers. Mr. Ted Wiese was the keynote speaker for the day. Mr. Wiese is known as one of America's best youth leadership development consultants. He works with thousands of students every year to teach and enhance their leadership skills. All in the audience were impressed with and were kept laughing by Mr. Wiese.



Mr. Ted Wiese with a Springfield JILG student.

As a wrap up to the conference, our own Dani Kalaher modeled an interview outfit in the CDC's style show. Dani showed, as did the other CDC models, that a professional interviewing outfit can be purchased for \$30 or less.



Rachel Shrader and Danielle Kalaher pause for a moment during the CDC for a beautiful picture. Danielle is wearing the interviewing outfit which she modeled for the CDC style show.

The 2008-2009 JILG year came to a close on Saturday, May 16th with the graduation of those students in the JILG program. Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of the JILG Class of 2009!

