

# Mr. Luke Ostrander

## A LOOK INSIDE TEACHER'S FIRST DAY

Allison **Dethlefs**  
Megan **Morrissey**

Luke Ostrander opened his eyes to the obnoxious beeping of the small, white alarm clock he has owned since middle school. It was 6:20 a.m., too early to wake up for someone who is not a morning person. Ostrander hit the snooze repeatedly until the clock read 6:50 a.m. when he reluctantly rolled out of bed.

After a quick shower, Ostrander put on the clothes he had carefully laid out the night before: a light blue, button-down shirt, a striped tie and khaki pants. He has always been a big fan of planning ahead. He decided to skip breakfast and instead opted for a sugar-free Red Bull (slightly healthier than the regular variety). Grabbing his royal blue, Marian bag that he had packed in preparation for the day to come, he headed out the door.

As he got into the car, Ostrander turned on his CD-player so that the thrum of Gavin DeGraw pounded in sync with the raindrops pelting his windshield. Ostrander liked the rain and muggy weather; they put him at ease and made the day seem promising.

As he drove, he did his best to quell the slight anxiety gnawing at his stomach. This was to be his first experience dealing with the Marian student body in full force. After a six-minute drive down 72nd Street, he pulled into Marian's faculty parking lot—stall number 25—and climbed out of his dark blue Volkswagen Jetta, ready for the day to begin.

Once inside the building, Ostrander promptly began working on his morning to-do list. Task number one was setting up the microphones and checking the sound systems for the morning assembly and class meetings.

Returning to his office, Ostrander reviewed the syllabus he had prepared for one of the classes he is most excited to teach—Sociology II. Ostrander continued working, tucked away in his new office that lay hidden by the biology rooms, stopping only to snatch a Special K bar out of a well-stocked snack drawer in his desk.

Before he knew it, it was already time to go to the assembly. The hallways were loud and crowded, and the energy in the air was almost tangible.

On his way, Ostrander stopped at a nearby drinking fountain to fill up the gold aluminum water bottle he carried. He arrived at the East Gym, excited to experience his first taste of the Marian student body's school spirit. Ostrander was impressed by the girls' excitement as they cheered for their dance team, welcomed new teachers, accepted their fourth consecutive U.S. Cellular Cup and shouted their way through the Marian fight song.

As the mass of chattering girls split up for their class meetings, he tagged along with the juniors. Ostrander was surprised when the class officers ran the entire meeting by themselves and enjoyed seeing their unique personalities shine through. After putting all of the microphones away, he went back to his classroom and typed up some "getting-to-know-you" sheets for his Theatre Seminar and Sociology II classes. "I'm awful with names and faces," Ostrander later said.

With not much left to do, he settled into his office and turned on some Lady Gaga, ready for his classes to start. He was excited and anxious to see everyone, not only the familiar faces from his time teaching at Holy Name and directing the previous year's musical, but the new ones as well. Amid the sea of blue and the slightly smaller pond of green (he appreciated being able to identify the seniors), he knew he stood out as a new teacher, but already felt that he was becoming part of the welcoming Marian family.

Luke Ostrander joins the Marian faculty this year with much more than a teaching background. Originally from Fort Dodge, Iowa, he attended Creighton University, where he received his undergraduate degree in English and his Masters in education. During his last two years of school, he began a four-year stint of teaching at Holy Name, along with teaching summer school sessions at the Millard Public schools. However, his goal has always been to teach at the high school level, preferably at Marian, Creighton Prep or Duchesne.

"I've always wanted to teach high school students," Ostrander said. He likes the fact that older students are able to move past simply memorizing facts and begin to truly comprehend and question what they are taught.

He was excited to receive the position of drama director at Creighton Prep in 2009, a position that he will continue to hold during this school year. As the drama director, he helped direct the fall musical and the spring play, but was not able to teach any classes.

These experiences did, however, give him his first experiences working with Marian, leading him to the position he currently holds. "There were no openings at Marian," Ostrander said, "so Mrs. Toohey created my job for me." Ostrander views Marian as the perfect fit for him. "It has a very good reputation," he said. "The standards to which Marian holds itself are very high." He also likes the way that Marian is as much a family as it is a school and that it continues what has been his lifelong commitment to Catholic education.

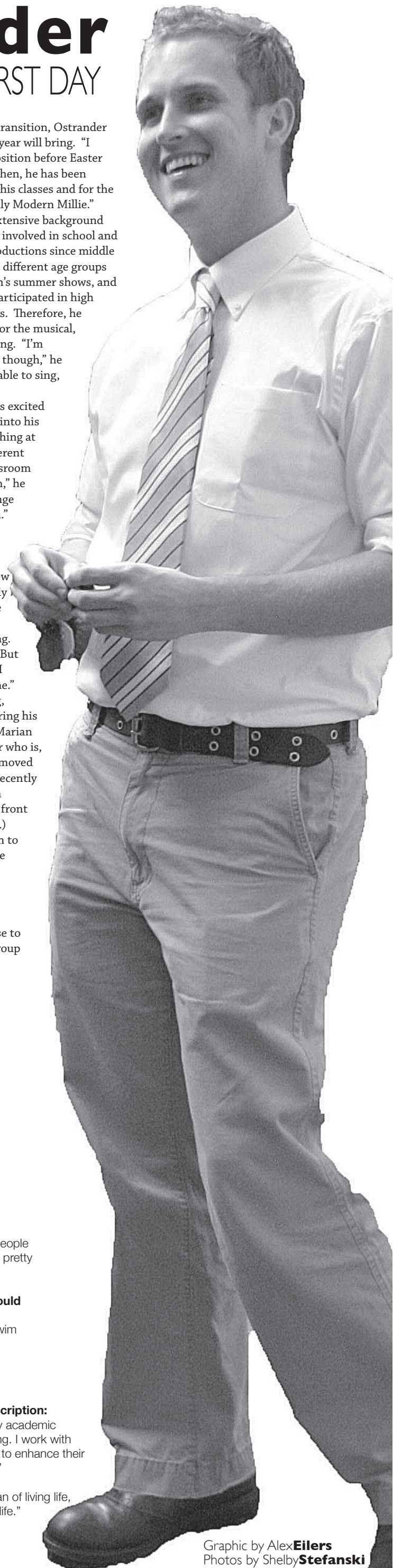
Although he knows that moving to Marian

will be somewhat of a transition, Ostrander is excited for what the year will bring. "I found out about the position before Easter break," he said. Since then, he has been diligently planning for his classes and for the fall musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

Ostrander has an extensive background in theater; he has been involved in school and community theater productions since middle school, worked with all different age groups while directing children's summer shows, and coached, judged, and participated in high school speech programs. Therefore, he is particularly excited for the musical, which he will be directing. "I'm nervous about casting, though," he said. "Millie has to be able to sing, dance, and act."

Overall, Ostrander is excited to begin the transition into his first school year of teaching at Marian. "It will be different going from a co-ed classroom to an all-girls classroom," he said. "You have to change your teaching approach." However, he said he is up for the challenge—an experience that he predicts will be both new and fun. "I will probably miss having boys in the classroom sometimes," Ostrander said, laughing. "Guys joke differently. But I'm not afraid of girls. I think we'll get along fine."

More than anything, Ostrander is eager to bring his unique perspective to Marian as a young male teacher who is, as he put it, "not too removed from pop culture" (He recently attended the Lady Gaga concert in Kansas City: front row tickets on the floor.) He says his introduction to Marian has already gone very well, thanks to the helpful and welcoming staff and students. "It will be fun to bring my knowledge and expertise to teach such a talented group of young ladies."



## NEW FACES

teachers eagerly begin their first year



**Señora Andrea Gonzalez**  
Spanish Teacher

### Favorite Vacation:

"We went to Hawaii last summer and saw an active volcano. It was amazing to be in the presence of the Earth renewing itself"

### If you were an animal what would you be?

"Butterfly-definitely a butterfly. I love positive change."



**Señorita Cassandra Rivera**  
Spanish Teacher

### Favorite T. V. Show:

"Glee. I love music. I love when people sing. It makes me happy and it is pretty funny."

### If you were an animal what would you be?

"Sea lion because then I could swim and lie on the beach all day."



**Mrs. Karen Brown**  
Attendance Office Supervisor

### Hobby:

"Tole painting- decorative painting of objects"

"I am a lot of fun, but I can be everybody's mom. In the sense of 'you better mind your p's and q's' but if you need a mom hug, I am here."



**Mr. Andrew Bauer**  
Spanish and Campus Ministry

### Favorite Book:

"The Old Man and the Sea.' Hemingway is the man."

### If you were a kitchen utensil what would you be?

"Not an ice cream scooper because those never work when you want them to."



**Ms. Elizabeth Souba**  
Student Success Coordinator

### Job Description:

"Basically academic counseling. I work with students to enhance their learning."

"I am a fan of living life, enjoying life."

Graphic by Alex **Eilers**  
Photos by Shelby **Stefanski**  
Allison **Dethlefs**

# A SUMMER to Remember:

## Girls Journal About Their Time Abroad

Kaitlin Johnson  
Lexi Walz

3rd day @ ILAC center

June 11th, 2010

Where do I even begin?! So much has happened but I'm not sure how to form my thoughts or write it all down. Last night we had an amazing reflection on Dominican life and how we all felt about the sights, smells & interactions we experienced in Santiago that morning. Later in the night, we all bonded through a very eye-opening game of boundary breakers. I felt so blessed to be in the presence of such inspiring, beautiful girls. We are connected in a special way now and share a unique bond, our very own familia.

This morning we visited Conani, an orphanage in Santiago. I knew the outing was bound to bring many difficult emotions but otherwise had absolutely no idea of what I would see or how I would react. We entered Conani with open minds & hearts, eager to let these Dominican children into a loving embrace. The kids absolutely blew me away. All they wanted was love, attention, and a friend to play with. Luckily, this was all I could give. We held them, played with them, and enjoyed being together for the short amount of time we could stay. Somehow, speaking wasn't necessary. I forgot to mention the cameras! The kids could not get enough of them. They were constantly grabbing, trying to take a photo or two. I will never forget how these children, with severe disabilities, gave themselves over to perfect strangers. I have never felt so needed and full of purpose as I did holding a handicapped child in my arms. That was enough. I am realizing how here in the Dominican Republic everything I have to offer is plenty.

Journal entry courtesy of Megan Andreasen



**Open Arms.** Junior Megan Andreasen holds a child at Batey Libertad, on the Dominican Republic trip this summer. Photo courtesy of Megan Andreasen



**Down Under.** Seniors Molly McCarthy and Emily Holt feed kangaroos in Australia. Photo courtesy of Chloe Wilwerding

Thursday June 10, 2010

Yesterday morning we went to breakfast in the hotel basement and then left for the Vatican. We met our tour guide, Heidi, and went to the Vatican museum. The museum was really interesting. After the museum, we went to the Sistine Chapel. It was really pretty and I got to see someone get their camera taken away (photos aren't allowed). We later went to St. Peter's Square and got to see the pope giving his public address. Since we couldn't get in to see the church, we went to the Vatican gift shop. I bought some postcards and stamps, so that I could have the Vatican seal, and I bought some other presents for my family and friends and had them blessed. After lunch we went back to see the church. It was gorgeous, but it was kind of dark. Our old bus driver surprised us by picking us up and taking us to gladiator school, which was pretty intense, and then drove us to dinner. After dinner we went to the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish steps. The Trevi was beautiful and the Spanish steps were huge. We walked back to the hotel after seeing the Spanish steps and went to bed.

Journal entry courtesy of Ellen Juracek

embarking on new adventures

Everyone's energy is rushing as we walk up, even chloes! once we reached the midtop of the Bridge it started to pour. I'm not talking about a little sprinkle I'm saying it is/was down right pouring. Guess we are really getting the hang of embarking on new adventures! Mick, our tour guide, was brilliant! He really took a liking to us! Well informed & very funny. Oh yeah Cara & I spit from the very top. Now we will forever remain one with the bridge. scariest moment of the entire walk was at the end when I slipped walking down the stairs. I didn't fall just stumbled, very frightening. After the bridge climb we met up with Tooney at a near by building. We then proceeded to walk to a restaurant. (Italy I might add) According to plans we were suppose to go to mainly beach, but decided it was too rainy. so New plan or I guess PLAN B walk to the botanical garden. then walk to hotel then caught an opera in the opera house

Journal entry courtesy of Molly McCarthy



**Italian Adventures.** Sophomore Ellen Juracek and World History teacher Mrs. Kim Rimmick stop for a picture in front of the Coliseum. Photo courtesy of Ellen Juracek