

News

# LT alumna creates scholarship

## Father-daughter relationship honored

By **Kate Thayer**  
Staff writer

After receiving a scholarship from a fellow Lyons Township High School alumna, Annie Meyer of La Grange was inspired to give back, while honoring her late father's memory by celebrating the kind of relationship they had.

Meyer was a recipient of the Donald P. Travis Memorial Fund, which was started last year by Brookfield resident Lisa Travis, a 1999 LT graduate. Travis, whose father died during her senior year in high school, decided to start the scholarship for students who have lost a parent.

Meyer, whose father died during her junior year at LT, also wanted to honor her dad and give back to the LT community.

However, she is taking a different approach.

"I realized there are four kinds of people who would receive this award — a son or a daughter who has lost their mother or father," she said. "As much as I can relate to a son who has lost his mother, it is not the same. I thought it would be awesome if I could find someone who could understand what the relationship with my dad meant to me."

The Father Daughter Scholarship, In Memory of Richard J. Meyer, will honor an LT graduating senior, who describes her current relationship with her father in an essay. Applicants also must have a 3.0 grade-point average and plan on attending a two- or four-year college.

Meyer, now a freshman at the University of Iowa, will read the essays, due at the end of the month, and decide who will receive the scholarship. She has been working to secure donations as she studies biology.

LT College Coordinator Kelly McCrum said she anticipates at least one \$500 scholarship to be given out in May. She said donors have until early May to contribute funds. Donations may be addressed to



McCrum's attention at Lyons Township High School's North Campus, 100 S. Braimard Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

"(The scholarship) really captures the importance of the (father-daughter) relationship," she said. "It is unique — it is not for a student who has lost a parent, but for one who can appreciate their parent."

Meyer said she is looking forward to reading the essays, and hopes to find a daughter who had the same kind of relationship she had with her dad. Although many would think reading about students who still can talk with their fathers could be painful, Meyer said "nothing warms my heart more than to see dads and daughters."

She also said she hopes to impact the recipient of the Father Daughter Scholarship just as Travis impacted her life. Meyer and Travis still keep in touch and Meyer said Travis serves as a role model.

"If it wasn't for (Travis), I never would have done this," Meyer said.

Meyer said she is sure her dad would be honored by a scholarship in his memory, but most of all she said she pictures him looking down on her and joking. "He must feel like the coolest guy with a scholarship in his name. He must be proud and honored, but with his attitude — he was always saying things like that."

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Kate Thayer's e-mail address is [knt@libertysuburban.com](mailto:knt@libertysuburban.com)



Lyons Township High School alumna Annie Meyer walks with her dad, Richard, in 1994. Annie, now a freshman at the University of Iowa, started a scholarship in her dad's name, after receiving a scholarship for students who have lost a parent started by another former LT student last year.

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