

LADY LIONS SOCCER ALUMNI

EST. 2006

Catching up with...

Class of 2009: Captain Laura Abbott (Polacci)

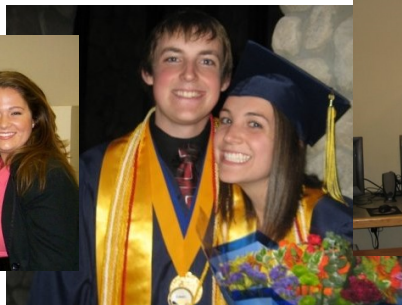
Laura came into my classroom as a freshman with a big smile and full of life! That smile never left her throughout her four years as a Lady Lion! I appreciated that Laura could be caring off the pitch, but fierce when need be. As a freshman she showed leadership qualities and I knew that one day she would lead the Lady Lions as Captain. She became captain at the right time! It was her senior year and we only had ten players. It was a tough year, yet that smile and her tenacity never waived! Her love for her teammates was infectious and she gained the respect of those she came in contact with. Through her hard work, she was recognized in her senior year by receiving 1st Team All-League honors. In recognition of players who played four years of Lady Lions Soccer, they become part of The Four Year Club. For Laura, she is recognized as our first Four Year Club Member! What a great example she has been to our program in giving meaning to our Four Star Philosophy: Faith. Character. Heart. Service. Since graduating from Big Valley Christian High in 2009 she has graduated from college, married, and lived out of state for awhile....I'll let you catch up!

Catching up with Laura!



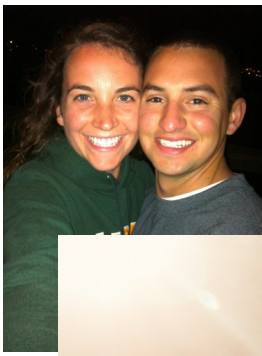
When did you graduate Big Valley?

I graduated from Big Valley in 2009



Where did you attend College? Degree?

I attended college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and graduated with a BS in Counseling and Family Psychology and a minor in Biological Sciences.



Tell us about your family. Husband? Children?

I met my husband, Seth, while attending school at Cal Poly (we met playing a pickup game of soccer with a mutual friend!) and knew within days that he was the man I would marry. We got engaged eight months later and were married November 2, 2013. I moved with Seth to Omaha, Nebraska, after our wedding and we lived there for six months before returning to Southern California. We have two pets (a dog and a cat) and are excited to start a family of our own in the near future!



What is your 9-5 job?

Prior to moving to Nebraska I worked as an Individual Rehabilitation Specialist at a non-profit organization, specifically working with at-risk youth in the foster care system and their families. In Omaha I worked as a Family Permanency Specialist (case manager) for families and youth with open court cases, many of whom were also in foster care. Since returning to California I have been nannying for a family with a little boy who is about to turn one. My passion is working with youth and families, and I hope to return to school one day to become a licensed mental health therapist.

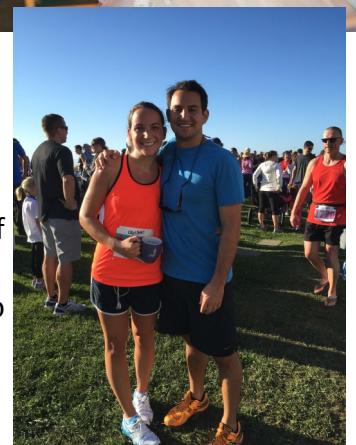
In the last ten years what has been your proudest moment?

My proudest moment within the past ten years has been marrying Seth and navigating through our first year of marriage together. I have learned that marriage isn't about getting but about giving and have learned how to put some one else's needs before my own. I am so happy to have met Seth and have a husband who strives to honor God and loves and respects me – I think we are a great team!



What are the most important lessons you've learned since graduating from high school?

An important lesson I have learned since graduating high school has been to continually place my trust in the Lord. I spent too many hours in college worrying – about grades, changing my major, family situations, and events that were out of my control, when I learned that being prayerful in any situation often brings peace, and worrying only leads to more worry. Another lesson I have learned is to be content with what I have and to be thankful for each day I am given. I think one of the greatest lessons I have learned is to take the time to truly listen to and learn from each person I meet.



What is your favorite memory with the Lady Lions?

I had so many great memories with “the sisterhood” but if I had to choose just one it would be the time we spent before each game to set aside our goals and encourage one another. I felt like I was challenged by the goals my fellow teammates would set each game and that I was really able to grow and push myself to become a better athlete.



How has your involvement with the Lady Lions helped you?

I think my involvement with the Lady Lions helped me really understand what it takes to be a team player. Mr. Limon would remind us that a team is only as strong as their weakest player, which really challenged me to learn from teammates who excelled in different areas than I did and also to encourage and build up those who were struggling in areas I wasn't.

In what ways do you believe your involvement with the Lady Lions changed you?

Reflecting on my years spent at Big Valley, many of my favorite memories involve being a part of the soccer team. I was never the best player, but I was challenged by Mr. Limon to give 110% in everything I did on and off the field, and that is something that I have challenged myself to continue doing. My senior year we didn't even have 11 players on our roster, but Mr. Limon continued to dedicate his time and energy to coaching our team, even during the off season. He really set an excellent example for me to really pursue my dreams, through both difficult and easy times. I can see now what this program has become, and the many players who have been challenged to grow both spiritually and as athletes through the Lady Lions Soccer Program, and am thankful that Mr. Limon has demonstrated to me what can happen when you listen and obey the Lord's calling on your life.

 *Lady Lions Soccer Sisterhood*
Together we win. Together we lose.
We are the Lady Lions of Big Valley Christian!

