

# November 2009

(taken from the Quarterly Charger Newsletter)

## ALUMNI FOCUS



Colin Koth (center) with his sister, Kara, and his brother, Landon

Colin Koth attended Sioux Falls Christian from sixth grade through high school, graduating in 2008. Colin's parents are Mark and Odena Koth, who have two other children at SFCS: Landon, a sophomore, and Kara, in the eighth grade. Colin is presently attending the University of Sioux Falls, where he is a communications major; some of his favorite classes are Business Communica-

tion, Acting, and Intro to the Bible. Although he hasn't decided what he will do in the future, he is considering business or teaching/coaching as a career. Colin devotes full time to his studies during the school year, but during the summer does roofing to earn some extra money.

When asked at what age he became a Christian, Colin reflected back to an important day when he was six years old, singing praise and worship songs with his mom. When she asked if he would like to ask Jesus into his heart, he said, "yes," and his mom helped him make a commitment to Christ.

Colin is close to both his mom and dad and talked openly about his senior year when his family faced a life threatening crisis; his mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. During a time of deep introspection of his faith and a time of anger at God for allowing cancer in someone so good, Colin discovered a deeper faith and a closer walk with his Lord. His faith became

more intentional and a deeper prayer life resulted. Colin prayed fervently for his mom and God answered that prayer positively by healing his mom.

While the year 2008 was one of Colin's most difficult and challenging years because his mom had cancer, it was also one of his best years at SFCS. During Colin's senior year, his hard work and athletic training paid off, and he won the Howard Wood 400 Special event. In addition, his track team won the Class A State Championship for SFCS!

Colin credits his coaches, Jim Groen, Mike Schouten, Brock Rops, and spiritual life director, Luke Vander Leest, for mentoring him spiritually and encouraging him to take Christianity seriously. Along with his home and church, Sioux Falls Christian has been an integral part of Colin's spiritual growth in many ways. The ability to talk about God and have classes taught from a Biblical world view impacted his personal life, and, to quote Colin, "Being involved with a good group of guys and being accountability partners were huge blessings."

These blessings—a Christian school and great friends—are things Colin would advise students not to take for granted and he would like to give the following message to the students at SFCS: "Let God take control of your life and look to Him for guidance. Life is like a race and God can help take you to the finish line." With Colin's love for sports, running in particular, it's no surprise that his favorite verse is Phil. 3:14: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Colin relates to the imagery in this verse and strives, as he expressed, "to live a life that glorifies God and not oneself." These are wise words coming from one of SFCS' younger alumni and they are a great reminder for all of us to let God take control as we "run the race of life."