



Larry Lucas

June 13, 2009

Larry Tod Lucas was born October 25th, 1947, in Los Alamos, New Mexico; the first child of Duane Lemar Lucas and Ann Arntson Lucas. Larry's life on earth ended on Saturday, June 13, 2009 after a battle with cancer. As a child, Larry learned the construction business from his father, a very successful contractor, and lived all over the four corners area as Duane's business moved from place to place. Two sisters, Karen Melfi, wife of Dan, and Debra Greiner, wife of Doug, followed at five year intervals. The Lucases finally settled in Bow Mar, Colorado, where Larry attended Bear Creek High School, graduating as valedictorian in 1965. He went on to the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he majored in economics and was a founding member of the CU chapter of the Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity along with his good friend Bruce Hyink. Bruce and his girlfriend Barbara Walker, introduced Larry to his future wife, Penny Susan Walker, Barbara's sister. Larry and Penny celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary in April, 2009. Larry earned his Bachelors degree in Economics before enlisting in the U.S. Army in the summer of 1969. Larry and Penny were married in Penny's home town of Walsh, Colorado, on April 18th, 1970. Upon finishing his military service, Larry and Penny returned to Boulder, where Larry completed his Masters in Economics, while Penny worked as an elementary school teacher. After student teaching at Aims Community College in Greeley, the couple moved to Douglas, Arizona, where Larry taught business courses at Cochise College. Matthew Tod Lucas was born May 6th, 1977, during Larry's last semester.

Larry earned his MBA at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, before taking his family to San Diego, California. Larry's career in aerospace began at General Dynamics, Convair Division, in September 1978. Erin Kathleen Lucas rounded out their family June 27th, 1979. In December, 1979, the family moved to Littleton, Colorado, where Larry started work for Martin Marietta. August 1984, saw Larry moving his family to Fort Collins, then to Lafayette in 1985, while pursuing his career at Ball Aerospace in Boulder. During that time, Larry taught off and on for Arapaho Community College and Front Range Community College, Longmont Campus. Larry also volunteered with Matt's Cub Scout pack and Boy Scouts of America, and helped with Erin's Brownie and Girl Scout troops. In 1990 Larry accepted the position of Assistant Campus Dean of Instruction at the Alpine Campus of Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs. For the next several years Larry enjoyed watching his children perform in various sports, theatre and musical events. He continued to teach part time in Steamboat, then moved to Fort Collins in 2003 to pursue a full-time teaching career and be closer to Matt and his wife Megan Dennie, as well as his new grandchildren, Alexandra 2003, Caitlin 2007, and James born May 19th, 2009. He worked as a program director and business instructor at Front Range Community College until the end of the Spring 2009 Semester. Larry was an avid cyclist, participating in several difficult bicycling tours including the Ride the Rockies, and the Colorado Border-to-Border. In recent years he and Penny developed a love of recumbent tricycling. He loved music, and enjoyed performing in various ensembles, both with his trombone and his voice, including the Larimer Chorale, the Northern Colorado Concert Band, the Steamboat Springs Orchestra, the Columbine Chorale, and others. He loved the outdoors; hiking, camping, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing with family. Larry and Penny also enjoyed visiting Erin on the East and West Coasts and abroad. Larry was an active member of the congregation at Faith Evangelical Free Church; singing in the choir, and participating in Bible study and small group fellowship. Larry was baptized January 11th, 2009. Larry was preceded in

death by his father in 2003. He is survived by his wife Penny, his mother Ann, his sisters Karen and Debra, his son Matt and daughter-in-law Megan, and his daughter Erin. He is also survived by his three grandchildren, Alex age 5, Caitlin age 2, and James Tod age 3 weeks, as well as many other devoted family and friends. Services will be held on Wednesday, June 17th, 2009 at 10:30am at Faith Evangelical Free Church, at 3920 South Shields in Fort Collins. Pastor Mark Chase will officiate. A private interment will be held at Grandview Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

TE

“ I enjoyed every endless meeting at CMC as long as Larry was there. He was kind, funny, smart, sincere, dedicated and made great sense. Everyone who knew him will always remember him and his wonderful personality and great charm...”

Tom Elvin - June 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ My sincere sympathy to the Lucas family. Larry was a very caring person and a true gentleman.”

John Vickery - June 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Dear Penny, Erin and Matt, Our hearts go out to all of you as you grieve the loss of Larry. You all were such fabulous neighbors, and we will always remember those times fondly. Larry was such a gentle and thoughtful man. He always greeted us warmly and found time for neighborly chat. He was infinitely friendlier than our dog, Kipsy. His persistent patience as he attempted to befriend our dog who greeted him daily when walking home from work at CMC is a simple testament to what a fine, caring man we all knew and loved. Our prayers are with you as you bear the pain of losing such a fine husband and father. Love from all the Howard family. Dan, Sally, Emily, Cooper and Henry”

Howard Family - June 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ I have a distinct memory of walking to my car at the end of the workday several weeks ago and seeing Larry from behind walking slowly to his car. It struck me then that that might be the last time I would see him, and indeed it was. I was saddened when I returned from a trip to California last week to learn that I had missed Larry's service. Larry and I started at FRCC during the same week nearly four years ago and his gentle spirit made an impression on me immediately. I feel lucky to have known him and I send a wish for peace to his loved ones.

Stacey Hogan - June 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Penny and Family, Michelle and I send our deepest sympathy and heartfelt prayers to you all. Larry was a wonderful man who will be missed dearly. Your heart would be warmed by the ripple of influence that is surfacing from the loss of this friend of ours. I will always remember Larry's laugh and sense of humor. He had the ability to be aware of everyone's special events and made a note to connect with them. God's Blessing to You All, Brian & Michelle and Family

Brian & Michelle Hoza - June 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Dear Penny and family, We are so sorry to hear of Larry's death. You were such an active part of Steamboat Springs-CMC.Kiwanis,Lift-Up, etc. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Jane and Bud Romberg

Jane and Bud Romberg - June 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Penny and Family, Larry did a lot of wonderful things for a lot of people but remember that you and the kids and grand children were first in his life, his thoughts and his love always. He was my dear friend as well. God Bless all of you. Carol

Carol Weber - June 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Dear Penny and family, I was so saddened when I heard of Larry's passing. He was a wonderful man with a positive attitude. I will remember him for his great love for life and family. Please accept my deepest sympathy, Denise Roach

Denise Roach - June 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ While I didn't know Larry personally, I know he deeply and poignantly touched the hearts of his family. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Lucas Family.

Devon Schroeder - June 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ I am so sorry to learn of Larry's passing. Please accept my sincere condolences. I worked with Larry at CMC for many years. He was my supervisor when I was the Library director. It was always a pleasure to talk to Larry as a friend or as a co-worker. As ever, Peggy

Peggy Dorr - June 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Penny and Family, I am so grateful that I made it to the memorial service for Larry. He is definitely a star in my life and I owe it to him for getting me to pick my trombone up again after 18 years of not playing. He did it by convincing me that it would be fun, and playing music with him was always FUN!! Without him, I would have never known that I was a "bi-labial fricitator" as Larry informed me. His smile was always genuine and his laugh contagious...I will miss him.

Steve Smith - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Dear Penny and family, I'll never forget the night my pilot light went out on our furnace and my son and I got really cold. And with one phone call and 15 minutes later, Larry was knocking on my door to bring us his space heater!! Larry, you will be truly missed!!!

Laura McGinnes - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Larry was such an inspiration to those of us in the choir at Faith. He demonstrated Christ's love to everyone, asking about our struggles even in the midst of his own, praying for us, and showing his love for others. He was a wise, compassionate, and Christ-like man who we will miss greatly. Please know that we are praying for you but rejoicing that Larry is with the Lord.

Alan Nelson - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *My Thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I will miss Larry, it was a joy working with him at FRCC. He always had a pleasant greeting for me and a big smile. His passing is a great loss. Bless you all and know that he is in a better place and no longer in pain!*

Janet Clark - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Larry will be missed in the halls of Front Range Community College. My thoughts and prayers are with Larry and his family.*

Matt Stilwell - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *With Deepest Sympathy.*

Jane N. Christensen - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Larry Lucas*

Scott and Carol Christensen and Family - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *Remembering our discussions about economics and history during a very special trip to Germany in the summer of 2000.*

George Bagwell - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *Our deepest condolences, Larry was an important part of the development of CMC Alpine Campus and we will be forever grateful*

Ed and Jayne Hill - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ There have been many conversations this week fondly and respectfully remembering Larry. He was a fine man who we are all proud to have known. We here at the CMC Alpine Campus and in Steamboat Springs share in your loss.

Terry Hunter - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I will miss working with Larry - he always had a smile on his face.

Kris Binard - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Penny and family, we want to express our love & sympathy as you grieve the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. We enjoyed getting to know you and Larry in our small group and remember being thrilled when Larry accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. We always enjoyed your insight and contribution in our study. Larry was a quiet and humble man for so many accomplishments; the service today was beautiful and we feel like we know much more about your life. Thank you for sharing during Larry's illness; you were both a real inspiration for living for the Lord through the experiences of life. God bless you.

Terry & Paula Clifton - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ I am sorry for your loss. I worked as an adjunct instructor at FRCC in Larry's program. He served as a mentor and friend for several years. I will miss him and his friendship. My wife Jenny also got to know him as an advisee and the man she made snikerdoodles for. Please accept our sincere condolences. Scott and Jenny Walker.

Scott Walker - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Larry was always such a pleasant person to work with. I enjoyed him and his humor during out years together at CMC

Sally Wither - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Dear Penny, Matt, and Erin, Larry was one of the kindest people I have ever known, a man who truly exemplified the "gentle" part of the word gentleman. His passing is very sad as our world needs as many Larry's as we can get. Over 30 years ago Larry and I shared the intense experience of NAU's MBA program, where only 8 of the original 29 students made it through on time. I was one of those 8 only because of Larry's willingness to help and his ability to always keep things in perspective. To this day I will never forget his famous advice to me before we left Flagstaff: "Don't make vast decisions based upon half-vast ideas." That has served me well and I will never forget my old friend. May God bless you all. Tom Liesz

Tom Liesz - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Larry Lucas

Bob Baker - June 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ Lucas Family, I share my condolences with you. Larry was a great man and the best instructor I ever had. He truly believed in what he taught and made sure that everyone was getting the education that they deserved. He was a dedicated individual to education and to his family. He spoke about his family a lot in class, you could tell he was very proud. I'm sorry that the world has lost such a wonderful person, he was truly one of a kind. But as I like to think about it, God decided to call him home. My heart goes out to all of you and I would just like to say that he will be missed. God bless you all! Anna Marie Almanza

Anna Marie Almanza - June 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Dear Aunt Penny, Matt, and Erin, We are so sad about Uncle Larry. He was such a great man and a positive influence in all of our lives. I am so thankful to him for being such a great big brother to my mom and Aunt Karen. I will miss his great sense of humor, wonderful laugh, and big hugs. He has left a big hole in our hearts. We are thinking of you and praying for you. We love you all!

Lindsay and Ryan Bazz - June 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Penny, Matt and Erin, Our deepest sympathy to you in the loss of Larry - and truly what a loss. I'm happy to have worked with Larry for all those years at CMC and shared Oct. birthdays with each other. He was a great guy. May your memories always warm your hearts and make you smile. Our thoughts & prayers are with you now and in the days to come. Take care and God Bless. Tom and Jeannie Wager

Jeanne & Tom Wager - June 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ I will miss Larry's cheerful smile around the halls at Front Range. He was always friendly and upbeat, even when it was clear he wasn't feeling well. He was an example to me of how to live with integrity, despite circumstances, and to rejoice in all things. I am sorry his family will be without him, and I am praying for their comfort right now.

Shawna Jackson - June 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Lucas Family, I was sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was my instructor for a class at Front Range Fall '05. He was a man of compassion and integrity and truly cared about his students. When I thought of him today a vague story about a pink bunny suit entered my mind you probably remember more than I do. May you have peace during this time.

Sherri - June 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ I am blessed to have known and worked with Larry this past year. I will remember his deep passion for his family, his students, and his co-workers.

SeonAh Kendall - June 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM