

MODUS VIVENDI

A Way of Life

THE BEAR
CREEK
SCHOOL
MAGAZINE

FALL 2015

COMMENCEMENT
2015

PORTRAIT OF
A STUDENT
LEADER: HANNAH
BAUERMEISTER

NEW FACES AT
BEAR CREEK

FACULTY PROFILE:
AMY FOWLER



MODUS VIVENDI

Fall 2015

Modus Vivendi is translated as a way of life or a manner of living. The Bear Creek School seeks to develop individuals for whom the classical ideals of excellence in all things, love of learning, spiritual commitment, and self-discipline have become a way of life.

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The mission of The Bear Creek School is to provide a high-quality, Christian liberal arts education in a nurturing environment that will enable each student to become the individual God intends.

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ALERTS

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THE BEAR FACTS

Each Friday during the school year, *The Bear Facts*, Bear Creek's weekly newsletter, is emailed to current parents, faculty, and staff. *The Bear Facts* contains news and announcements from each of the school's divisions and from the athletics department. This newsletter also contains a calendar of upcoming events. Back issues are archived and searchable on the school website at tbcs.org/bearfacts.

PARENT PAGE

Visit the Parent Page on our website to see the latest announcements, upcoming events, and a complete list of parent resources. The Parent Page hosts tabs for each of our school parent groups: Parent Teacher Fellowship, Grizzlies Booster Club, ParentNet, Friends of the Arts, and Parents of Alumni.

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and events by checking our On Campus page. On Campus is a mashup page featuring our school calendar, school news posts, the latest video, and recent Facebook posts.

ON THE COVER

2015-2016 Student Council executive cabinet: senior Ryan Loudenback, Treasurer, senior Ashleigh Roth, Secretary, junior Price Ludwig, Treasurer, senior Meghan McCahill, Vice President, and senior Hannah Bauermeister, President
Photo by Sini Fernandez

WHAT'S INSIDE



HEADMASTER'S SPEECH

Headmaster Patrick Carruth addresses graduates at Commencement

Pages 6-7



AMY FOWLER

Read about grade six teacher Amy Fowler

Pages 20-21



NEW FACES

Meet Bear Creek's new employees and those in new roles

Pages 27-33

CLASS OF 2015 COMMENCEMENT



6 A Commencement Message from the Headmaster

8 Congratulations to the Class of 2015

9 Graduate Reflections

12 Silence and Wisdom

AROUND CAMPUS



17 Portrait of a Student Leader: Hannah Bauermeister

20 Faculty Profile: Amy Fowler

23 Expressions of Hope

27 New Faces

PHILANTHROPY



34 From Vision to Reality

36 The Hallum Family

37 Connecting the Generations

38 Parents of Alumni Continue to Connect

38 Giving Round Up

ALUMNI



40 From the Alumni Leadership Committee

41 Alumni News and Class Notes

43 Cameron Kesinger: Focusing on International Service

46 Jesse Wetter: Following the Path Laid Out by God



A COMMENCEMENT MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

By Patrick Carruth

LOSE YOURSELF

She could tell I was not happy. She asked me what was wrong. I told her the gentleman next to us had neglected to tip the vendor and that really put me off. It was a hot day, we were at the ball park in the sun, and the young man, balancing a heavy box of beer, ice, water, and peanuts, was clearly working hard and probably making minimum wage.

"Why do you tip?" she asked. And our conversation began.

My youngest daughter and I sat for the next 15 minutes and talked about tipping, tithing, and giving in general. I explained that we have all been given much and that it's our privilege to help others because of the blessings we have been given by the Lord. It was a good father-daughter talk. Afterwards, I began thinking about this farewell address and how appropriate it would be for all of us to remember this same truth. But what, specifically, should we remember?

Several years ago a pastor named Rick Warren wrote a book called *The Purpose Driven Life*, and, I must admit I never read it in its entirety; but I remember to this day the first line of the book because of its simplicity, directness, and truth. It read, "It's not about you." **That was it.** That was the connection between my conversation on a warm summer afternoon with my youngest daughter, and our conversation

→ ***"At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in."***
~C.S. Lewis

on this warm summer afternoon today. On a day when we properly celebrate the Class of 2015, and after a week of celebrating your wonderful achievements,

I'm here to remind you of this gospel truth, **"It's not about you."**

For 13 years you have been tutored and taught, and now you stand at Commencement. But what has really been the point of all this learning? It has certainly been to encourage you to love God's world and His Word and to prepare you with the tools of living and learning. It has also been to inspire you to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind." And quite importantly, it has been to prepare you to act on the second of the two great commandments, upon which Christ proclaims, "depend all the Law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:40). That is, to "love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39).

The paradoxes of Christianity are many, "whoever would save his life will lose it..." (Mark 8:35); "to be raised, we must be buried..." (Romans 6:1-23); "to live, we must die..." (John 3:3-7). To be ourselves, we must give up ourselves. In that paradox is truth.

And I have found this to be typical of all real truth. All real truth is paradoxical. For a moment, let me explain by referencing C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. In *The Great Divorce* a group of rather caricatured characters board a bus. They know not why or where, and find themselves disembarking in a mystical and enchanted land (an allegorical heaven). They meet many Bright Spirits who seek to orient the visitors and to counsel them how to become free and remain forever in this magical land. Their counsel is consistent: **to be free and to become the individual you were created to be, you must give up your autonomy, and in doing so gain your freedom and individuality.**

Some of the visitors listen and find themselves transformed into Bright Spirits. They remain and their individuality is celebrated and glorified in this new creation. However, many of the ghosts refuse. They demand their individual rights, their individual autonomy, and cling to their individual talents and possessions. Ironically (or perhaps not so ironically), each begins to fade away from sight. Over time, their insistence on self leaves them resembling nothing but "smudges on the air."

Each of you is a wonderful and unique creation. Whether you receive awards or not, your gifts are equally important and relevant in the world. Whether championing social justice, rapping, cooking, long jumping, or making a 4.0, you each have individual gifts and passions that make you who you are and will guide who you become. God does not make mistakes. He placed you here, in this time and place, with your unique abilities, to glorify Him while becoming you. So today my challenge to you is similar to Lewis' Bright Spirits: **become the individual God intends by giving up yourself.**

But don't be confused. The Bright Spirits

were free because they embraced the paradox and gave up autonomy, and, by doing so, they became truly and uniquely individual. They became the most beautiful form of themselves they could be. What the Scriptures teach is not that all of us are to become just alike. The life of faith is not about creating cookie-cutter Christians. Instead, they teach that by forgetting yourself, you actually augment your beautiful uniqueness, your God-given individuality.

This truth is hard to understand on earth because we stand on the other side of the door, but that does not make it untrue. This forgetfulness is hard to do. In *The Weight of Glory*, Lewis describes the similar difficulty of stepping into the beauty of creation, but he also reminds us that in attempting to do so, we echo the rumor that this **will not always be so.**

"We do not want merely to see beauty; though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it.

That is why we have peopled air and earth and water with gods and goddesses and nymphs and elves—that, though we cannot, yet these projections can, enjoy in themselves that beauty, grace, and power of which Nature is the image. That is why the poets tell us such lovely falsehoods. They talk as if the west wind could really sweep into a human soul; but it can't. They tell us that 'beauty born of murmuring sound' will pass into a human face; but it won't. Or not yet.

For if we take the imagery of Scripture seriously, if we believe that God will one day give us the Morning Star and cause us to put on the splendour of the

sun, then we may surmise that both the ancient myths and the modern poetry, so false as history, may be very near the truth as prophecy.

At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in."

In the end, we "mingle with the splendours we see," not by demanding our individual right to do so, but by giving up ourselves, thinking of others before ourselves—taking up the cross and following Him.

That is what Eleanor and I were really discussing at the Mariners game. That is what Rick Warren really meant. That is what the Bright Spirits were saying to the visitors on the bus. It is at the heart of the Gospel and the heart of being truly you.

So, at long last, my "tip" to you is similar to the "tip" I wish had been given to the vendor at the Mariners game, but is actually more of a challenge than a "tip."

It is a challenge to do two things:

One—embrace the paradox; lose yourself and become the unique and glorious individual God intends.

Two—bravely engage this world by loving your neighbor as yourself.

And, in so doing, have the courage to bear the "weight of glory"—and join the "leaves of the new testament...rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so."

Congratulations Class of 2015!

Congratulations to the Class of 2015

Christopher Jeffrey Beman‡
Oregon State University

Oceanna Dawn Irene Bourdeau
Biola University

Rachael Anne Burch‡*
Willamette University

Rebecca Kay Carlson‡***
Hillsdale College

Catherine Grace Carruth
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Brown University

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University of Washington

Alexander Jacob Cody**
University of Washington

Colin Henry Diamond‡***
Rice University

Jesse Micah Domingo‡
Whitworth University

Raju Michael Dunn‡
Gap Year

Mason Paul Easley
Texas Christian University

Colin Christian Eckhoff
University of Washington

Sean Patrick Flanagan
California Lutheran University

Julia Martin Flynn*
Colgate University

Parker Alan Hayne
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Whitney Anne Woo Hom‡
Case Western Reserve University

Wendy Iris Hsia
University of California, San Diego

Emily Alice Huston‡***
Whitworth University

Sein Hwang
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Whitney Joyce Isbell‡
Abilene Christian University

Jessica Elizabeth Kirker‡
University of Washington, Bothell

Michael McLaren Lau***
Santa Clara University

Benjamin Phillip Lee***
Georgia Institute of Technology

Sen Li
University of Washington, Bothell

Zixi Li
University of Washington

Jason Ross Linnenkohl
Northwest University

Jonathan Nollan Magee‡
University of Idaho

Grace Anne Matthews‡*
University of Washington

Darryln Powers McDonough*
Baylor University

Matthew Joseph Miller‡
Gonzaga University

Phoenix Napali Moomaw***
Northeastern University

Gabrielle Victoria Nelson
Washington State University

Christine Lynn Nye‡
University of Washington, Bothell

Samantha Lee Olson*
University of Washington

Peter Gustav Perkins
University of Washington

Nathaniel William Perrine
Azusa Pacific University

Andrew Joseph Rial‡*
University of Colorado Boulder

Oluwasemilore Olawanle Sobande***
Stanford University

Lauren Elizabeth South
Chapman University

Dagny Rae Thomas*
University of Hawaii

Daniel John Wilson
Western Washington University

Adam Scott Worley***
Wheaton College

Donggyun Yang**
Carnegie Mellon University

Drew Avery Yutrzecka
The University of Arizona

Jia Ni Zhou
The Pennsylvania State University

‡ Legacy Honors (Bear Creek student from kindergarten through grade 12)

*** Summa Cum Laude (3.9 – 4.0 GPA)

** Magna Cum Laude (3.75 – 3.89 GPA)

* Cum Laude (3.5 – 3.749 GPA)

Graduate Reflections

Excerpts from Commencement Speeches
Class of 2015

Photos by Nation Photography and Sini Fernandez

After thinking about beauty for around a week, I began to realize that the power in beauty is not reserved for poems and paintings but also for experiences. One of the most beautiful experiences I have been able to participate in was the mission trip the school took to the Dominican Republic. Our team spent long hours pushing kids on swings, gardening, painting fences, and pretending to be *caballas* or horses for the kids; we did basically anything that was asked of us, and in return we were rewarded with friendships and people that took us into their homes because they were so grateful for the little work we had done. What was beautiful about the trip though wasn't just the relationships with the Dominicans but the relationships we built with one another. After being at Bear Creek since kindergarten I would have thought I knew everyone in my class as well as I could have, but spending a week serving together forced us all to become closer.

Rachael Burch

From talking to my mom after parent-teacher conferences, I'm convinced they all knew way more about us and the things we struggled with than we ever guessed. But they almost never stepped in to lecture or to take over. In drama for instance, Dr. Lynch's direction was minimal, and it almost always took the form of a suggestion. We learned to create characters not by imitating characters he created, but by actually creating our own characters—with his mentorship and guidance to back us. The same thing was true in Student Council, going all the way back to sixth grade leadership teams—student leaders made real decisions and were charged with real responsibility, but we were continually mentored and supported by faculty advisors.

Rebecca Carlson





If I say that Bear Creek has become my home, Bear Creek is (fairly literally) my home. Not perfect. Not an Eden. No. In a lot of ways, a big mess. But a good one. A place that, even as it guides students to be the individual God intends, becomes the school God intends it to be. A place where I discover that teachers realize a student isn't a grade, an assignment, a piece of plastic to be molded to fit a cast, but a vessel to fill with fire for learning; a boy who writes for pleasure learns how to write with power and a girl enjoys analyzing Cicero as much as she does playing soccer. Where I, though I struggle at math and science, jump at the chance to take AP Biology senior year, after completing Biology junior year. And though ten-year old me shuddered at the thought, this is where I realized that a person can live and breathe the spotlights and storytelling of the stage—and thoroughly conquer her fear of public speaking. Here, a little girl lost her southern accent, but a young woman found her voice.

Grace Carruth

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” That verse is the sole reason I can say that my decision to fly alone to the United States was the best decision I've made so far. Because God is with me no matter where I am, in Seoul or in Redmond, I never gave up on my stay here with no family and no friends. That eventually led to the marvelous four years at The Bear Creek School. At this day, where I officially end those years, I want to express gratitude for what I have received from here.

Ju Ho (James) Choi

High school is surprisingly short. It's a strange feeling to think that my time at Bear Creek is now over. I am leaving a community that has supported me for thirteen years and am moving out into the broader world. And though there is a feeling of sadness to be leaving, there is also a feeling of excitement about the opportunity before me. Because I know that wherever I and all of my classmates go, Bear Creek has prepared us to thrive. Thank you.

Colin Diamond

In a large group of people it's easy to cling to those like you, the people you get or who get you. I can tell you that I don't have Mason's rap skills or Julia's knack for remembering history facts. I'll never jump as high as Jonny, run as fast as Darryln, bake as well as Regan, sing like Lauren South, or out argue Alex Cody. But I do know that I've cherished every moment with these people. From trading stories about how little we've slept or how much caffeine we've consumed to having rap battles in the street after Homecoming, I've made lasting memories with them. We're not all that similar and we love to tease each other, but deep down Bear Creek has forged a bond that I don't think we will ever be able to fully break.

Annika Hoiem

We have a culture of like-minded, yet unbelievably diverse individuals. I now look back on class discussions believing that the teacher "learned just as much from us as we learned from them." I look back on the spicy fervor of Mr. Wood who is more than willing to play devil's advocate... in the cause of eliciting a passionate discussion. The enthusiasm doesn't end there, it extends to Mr. Sorensen's teaching that has made the phrase, "Mr. Sorensen will make you like history," as clichéd as Samsung's iPhone replicas and lost patent lawsuits. I look back on massive not-very-well-planned...bank heists...sorry, sometimes it's hard to separate role playing from reality... a nod to Mr. Davison for making education come to life. I look back on my class and know that each student in my class has some quality that makes them unreservedly deserving of my respect. I found that at Bear Creek, unlike any other school, the relationships we develop are deeper and more decent and human because we are all united by common goals, by a common faith.

Phoenix Moomaw





SILENCE AND WISDOM

BY STEVEN PROKOPCHUK
MATH DEPARTMENT CHAIR
2015 FACULTY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



“ FOR IN SILENCE, YOU WILL CULTIVATE A BETTER SENSE OF WHO YOU ARE THROUGH THE EYES AND HEART OF THE ONE WHO KNOWS YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF.”

FIRST OFF, I want to thank you for giving me the honor and privilege of speaking to you on this special day. Some of you know that I can be playful, but I can also be thoughtful. When I have been most comfortable with you, I have broken out in song, I have spoken of “sneak attacks,” and I have—believe it or not—impersonated Elvis. So given the music and playlists we’ve shared, you might find my chosen topic somewhat surprising. Keep in mind that I simply wanted to send you off with something I believe to be of great value.

The theme I’ve chosen is Silence and Wisdom.

In the past, I have worked with many troubled and anxious students—people with addictions who have desperately combined drugs and alcohol in an attempt to manage pain and anxiety. Over time, I realized that similar behaviors are actually quite common in most of our lives. While these students were self-medicating in harmful ways, it is entirely possible that we may handle our own stress in a similar fashion—only our methods can remain hidden because they are practical or socially validated. I began to notice that I would sometimes respond to my own stress by immersing myself in work, putting on some music, or getting some exercise. And what could be wrong with that? Am I not fulfilling my responsibilities? Taking care of my health? Or maybe just using music to lift my spirits a little?

Blaise Pascal once wrote, “All humanity’s problems stem from man’s inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

What could such a statement mean? In this day and age, we might find it hard to relate to such a comment. Sitting quietly in a room? “I have important things to do!” “I need to be responsible and make the most of every bit of time I have! And if I do have a few spare moments, I would rather sit down and watch some sports or catch up on email.”

Today, silence is clearly an outsider, and it is frequently viewed negatively. We tend to associate it with confusion, fear, or apathy. There certainly are forms of silence which have nothing to do with liberation but this is not the kind of silence to which Pascal was referring. What then was Pascal driving at? It would be easy to dismiss his statement as exaggerated or romantic musings from one with nothing better to do with his time. But before we dismiss Pascal, consider his resume.



Photos by Nation Photography

Blaise Pascal: mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, theologian, and philosopher. Pascal made revolutionary contributions in both mathematics and physics and invented the first mechanical calculator...in the 1600s! His *Pensées* are considered one of the most important works in the French language. And he did all this before his death at age 39. This doesn't sound like someone who had nothing better to do with his time. So, is there something we could learn from Pascal? What could be the value of cultivating an ability to sit in silence?

Consider our contemporary situation, an environment characterized by sensory overload. Yet people frequently admit that they are rather uncomfortable with silence. We want to fill silence up with anything: turn on the radio, surf the net, chatter, twitter, text. By all means, keep busy or at least **look** busy. And even when we might prefer quiet, aggressive marketing is everywhere competing for our attention. But an overabundance of noise, busy-ness, and chatter can hollow out the soul.

And it's not only **sound** that distracts—visual stimulation can also be a form of noise. A 2007 *National Geographic* article called "The End of Night: Why We Need Darkness" explored problems associated with light pollution. The author boldly states, "In a very real sense, light pollution causes us to lose sight of our true place in the universe, to forget the scale of our being, which is best measured against the dimensions of a deep night with the Milky Way—the edge of our galaxy—arching overhead."

Silence enables a posture of receptivity. Silence holds the possibility of being present to me and my place in the universe. The more we try to fill up silence with chatter and frenetic activity, the more intense our estrangement from ourselves and our Creator. A mind habituated to noise often manufactures chatter as a kind of protection. We are then thrust back into diversions which intensify the problem and perpetuate the cycle.

Singer, songwriter Sufjan Stevens expresses the predicament:

*Spirit of my silence I can hear you,
But I'm afraid to be near you.
And I don't know where to begin, I don't know where
to begin.*

Where do we begin? Well, we often think of silence in terms of quiet and rest. Silence as the absence of work or busy-ness. But the silence of Sabbath is central to God's intended rhythm for creation. Sabbath can help protect us from over-valuing our work and helps us make space for the work of the Creator. In silence we can re-calibrate, recovering a sense of our mysterious significance and mysterious insignificance in the grand scheme of things. A songwriter of another generation wrote:

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your
fingers,
The moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
What is man that you are mindful of him?*

This is not a peripheral question—it is the fundamental question. The Psalm indicates that silence is more than a place of rest and quiet. There is presence and substance to be found in silence. With ears to hear and hearts to receive, a different voice emerges. It is a voice which elicits wonder. It can be disquieting and mysterious—a voice, not of fragile human words, but a primal Word. In Psalm 19, David says:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;*

In silence, we set aside our own initiatives. And if we truly and patiently listen we may discover a secret abundance in silence. We may become particularly attuned to the miraculous gift of life. And in the recognition of its givenness, we are pointed toward a Giver—the one who says, “Be still and know that I am God.” In silence, we wait

expectantly for the One who knows us better than we know ourselves, as Psalm 139 reads:

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
And are acquainted with all my ways.*

Silence illuminates our own insufficiency and our need for deeper meaning and understanding, Scripture calls this deeper knowledge “wisdom.” You are an amazing group of young people, abundantly gifted and full of promise. I have benefitted so much from knowing you as will others who will share that privilege. It is my prayer that you pursue and share wisdom with others, because it is something that our world desperately needs. The Book of Proverbs is addressed particularly to young people like you. The entire book is an urgent plea for the young to pursue wisdom, the greatest of all gifts.

Proverbs 3 states:

*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
And the one who finds understanding,
For the gain from her is better than gain from silver
And her profit better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.*

Wisdom surpasses knowledge because it provides insight and strengthens virtue. Thus, wisdom combines truth and goodness. Wisdom is not a human achievement, but a special gift from God. It cannot be derived or collected in the way we might normally gather information. The more spiritual a being is, the more our knowledge of that being depends upon a gift. A tree can be measured and analyzed, and we may feel there is little else to know about that particular tree.

People, of course, are different. You may get assessed, observed, and analyzed, and someone may then make a statement about you; and you might respond, “That is

simply not true. He doesn't know me at all." Coming to know a person is fundamentally dependent on what a person is willing to reveal about him or herself. We can see and know things about another, but true intimacy involves a mutual giving, spirit to spirit.

Now take this to the extreme: God is pure Spirit and cannot be subject to our observation and methods of analysis. Our knowledge of God utterly depends upon the means God has chosen for revealing Himself. As my favorite theologian has said, "Prayer is a conversation in which God has the initiative and we, for the moment, can be nothing more than listeners." We often associate knowledge with mastery, but true wisdom and knowledge of God is something completely different. There is no substitute for the vulnerability of reverent silence and prayer. Dispassionate academic talk about God can be dangerous, because it presupposes that God is an object that can be set alongside other objects and understood in much the same way. Such an assumption closes us off from intimacy with God.

Now, I must conclude without even getting to discuss the Word made Flesh, the one whom the Apostle Paul calls "the Wisdom of God." I don't want to run the risk of you seeking silence for reasons I never intended.

Here is my challenge to you. Strive, aspire, invent, and take risks. Be real, be honest, and ask hard questions. Look people in the eye; care for the weak. And as you go, remember to have times of silence. For in silence, you will cultivate a better sense of who you are through the eyes and heart of the One who knows you better than you know yourself. In those quiet moments, seek wisdom and let it shape the way you go out to make a difference in the world.

I'd like to conclude with some lines from "Choruses from The Rock" by T.S. Eliot:

*O world of spring and autumn, birth and dying!
The endless cycle of idea and action,
Endless invention, endless experiment,
Brings knowledge of motion, but not of stillness;
Knowledge of speech, but not of silence;
Knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word.
All our knowledge brings us nearer to our ignorance,
Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?
...
Our gaze is submarine, our eyes look upward
And see the light that fractures through unquiet
water.
We see the light but not whence it comes.
O Light Invisible, we glorify Thee!
...
Therefore we thank Thee for our little light that is
dappled with shadow.
We thank Thee who hast moved us to building, to
finding, to forming at the ends of our fingers and
beams of our eyes.
And when we have built an altar to the Invisible
Light, we may set thereon the little lights for which
our bodily vision is made.
And we thank Thee that darkness reminds us of light.
O Light Invisible, we give thanks for Thy great great
glory!*

Thank you and congratulations, graduates of 2015!

Portrait of a Student Leader: Hannah Bauermeister

Story and Photos

By Sini Fernandez

The first thing I noticed about Hannah was her smile. It lit up her eyes and caught my attention as I was photographing the Student Council Executive Cabinet in late June. The next day she appeared in my photos again. I was on Owens Field photographing children in soccer camp, and she was one of the volunteer coaches. Hannah's young charges obviously loved her, and the feeling was mutual. Although I could point Hannah out in a crowd, primarily because I have photographed her playing soccer for the Lady Grizzlies (she is a co-captain of the girls varsity team), I had never actually met her until this week. After I finished photographing soccer camp, Hannah and I sat down to discuss her recent leadership award and her upcoming senior year as ASB President in the new Upper School building. I found Hannah's manner thoughtful and unassuming, though I was still captivated by her engaging smile.

During her junior year, Hannah Bauermeister took on the daunting task of completing the National Association of Student Councils' (NASC) Student Leaders Program and acquiring distinction as the first Bear Creek student to earn the certification as a NASC Distinguished Student Leader. For seven months, Hannah put in over five hours a week on the certification under the auspices of Bear Creek's Leadership Practicum course. NASC's Student Leaders Program is a rigorous and challenging national skill- and knowledge-based recognition program created to identify outstanding individual student council leaders in high schools who have demonstrated exemplary leadership abilities. As part



of the program, Hannah assembled an impressive 40+ page portfolio demonstrating leadership knowledge and skills including project examples, reflection, and a personal statement.

As Hannah completed the NASC application, she noted, "I had never thought about how leading the same way all the time creates a very one-dimensional leader. [The Student Leaders Program] clarified to me that while a leader has his or her own 'go to' approach, there are other styles available and certain situations will require adjustments to be made."

Hannah has been an active member of student leadership at Bear Creek since grade 6. She served as

freshman Class Representative, Student Relations committee head, Secretary, and is the 2015-2016 Student Council President. She has a heart for service and throws herself into her leadership responsibilities whether they include ongoing tasks like maintaining the Upper School monthly calendar and student message board or big events such as heading the Homecoming Week decorations committee, co-leading the Thanksgiving food drive for Jubilee Reach, and organizing an independent service project for her NASC application. Hannah demonstrates a collaborative style of leadership in which she seeks to involve as many classmates as possible, especially in additional leadership roles, and utilizes democratic and consensus building techniques to formulate team goals and expectations.

Dean of Students Jeff Gephart commented on Hannah's leadership abilities: "Hannah seeks help. She identifies the resources available to her. She works well with peers and adults and is not afraid to ask for help. I have seen her involve people on her team over and over again, she is such a high collaborator."

Hannah's heart for service extends beyond the Bear Creek community. Previously she volunteered in a senior center with the elderly, but for the last eight months (since November 2014), she has spent nearly every Sunday morning volunteering at the check-in desk in the emergency room at Evergreen Hospital. She says it's an exciting place to work as there is always something happening. Hannah has her sights set on medical school one day, so she's getting her feet wet now.

In March 2015, Hannah undertook Part B of the NASC application, the service project. Because of her compassion for elderly people, she sought

out 88-year-old Evelyn whose yard suffered from neglect because she was unable to care for it. She contacted Evelyn and her son about bringing a team of volunteers to tackle the task. Hannah printed flyers and recruited volunteers at school. She also purchased flowers to plant for Evelyn. The family supported the project by purchasing beauty bark which Hannah's team spread. Then on a Saturday at the end of the month, her team descended on the yard to weed, rake, spread bark, plant flowers, and even wash windows. Evelyn was so impressed by the work ethic and thoroughness demonstrated by the students that she wrote Headmaster Patrick Carruth a letter thanking him for Hannah and her

team of volunteers. "I just wanted to thank you and all these students. ... I wanted to tell you what a fine group of students you have. All were very polite and amazing workers. What a joy to have them; it was uplifting for me." While leading this group, Hannah needed to use the organizing, decision-making, and delegating skills she had honed while completing other pieces of the Student Leaders Program. She reflected, "The service project became one of the most gratifying

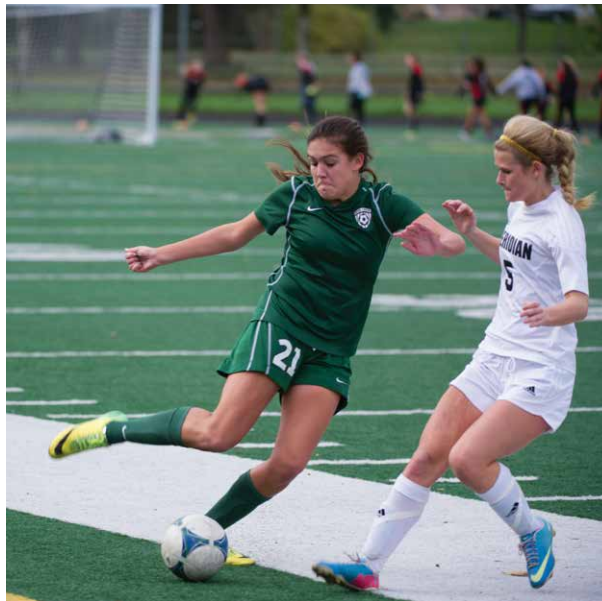
experiences in my lifetime. That intense gratification came from the challenging, developmental, and teachable moments present from start to finish. It opened my eyes to a common misconception. There is never a limit to what a leader can bring to a group. There are no projects that only require certain qualities; [every project demands a leader to] bring everything to the table." Hannah brought not only her leadership skills to bear on Evelyn's needs, but together with her friend Jill Leszynski, senior, has continued to visit Evelyn. Tim Fenderson, Upper School Division Head, notes, "It takes unusual leadership to know that the outside yard is nothing if you are lonely."

A leader needs to be passionate.

It's a fact tightly woven into my philosophy as a leader. When a student leader is eager about the task at hand and pumping up the group, the atmosphere created becomes positive.

Passion is contagious.

Last year Hannah led an eight-person Student Council action group focused on addressing an issue that had raised a great deal of concern among Bear Creek's student body: no lockers are installed in the new Upper School building. Initially, she led a brainstorming session during which group members identified all their concerns about the lack of lockers. Hannah encouraged naturally occurring leadership roles in the group such as a recorder who took notes and later emailed everyone, an elaborator who suggested solutions and helped flesh them out, and an information giver who identified problems the rest of the group had overlooked. The group then met with Headmaster Carruth who was able to explain the rationale behind the decision not to install lockers. The group also toured the new Upper School building and was able to see their suggestions come to fruition as cubbies were installed and student storage areas were designated throughout the building. Hannah says, "Administration listened to every suggestion we had and every opinion we collected from the student body. Instead of settling with no lockers, we met with the right people, presented our solution, and made change happen." Mr. Fenderson was impressed with her leadership of the locker action group. "Hannah has helped push investigation, information gathering, and the processes by which over a half dozen students helped the administration resolve some potential problems with moving into the new space...."



Hannah plans to bring her passion for leadership to her position of Student Council President in the new school year; she is excited about collaborating with her fellow Student Council Executive Council

(Exec) members and the opportunities presented by the new Upper School building. Hannah has a close working relationship with her fellow Exec members, including Treasurer Ryan Loudenback, senior, who served with her on the Student Relations committee during her sophomore year and on Exec last year (Treasurer is a two-person, two-year position). At the end of her sophomore year, Hannah had the pleasure of passing on the Student Relations committee head position to Meghan McCahill, senior, who is now her Vice President. Senior Ashleigh Roth, Secretary, and junior Price Ludwig, Treasurer, were both enthusiastic Class Representatives on Student Council last year. Together with her Exec, Hannah is

looking forward to finding new ways to communicate with the student body ("getting past posters") and bonding as a unified Upper School community. Exec members will enroll in Leadership Practicum again, developing their leadership skills together under Mr. Gephart's guidance.

Smiling, she notes, "A leader needs to be passionate. It's a fact tightly woven into my philosophy as a leader. When a student leader is

eager about the task at hand and pumping up the group, the atmosphere created becomes positive. Passion is contagious." With her passionate and thoughtful leadership, Hannah is poised to lead the Bear Creek student body into the future.

FACULTY PROFILE: AMY FOWLER

Story and Photo
By Christina Glass

IMAGINE A LITTLE GIRL assigning homework in the front yard to her neighborhood friends. Amy Fowler admits she was that girl. “I always wanted to play the teacher,” she recounted. That desire did not fade with childhood; rather, it heightened with age. In high school, her Japanese class would frequently teach the language to elementary students. It was her favorite day. So she was surprised when her peers complained about the exercise. It was then that Fowler realized she loved teaching.

Amy Fowler started working at The Bear Creek School sixteen years ago. Her first six years as a teacher were dedicated to grade 6 until she took some time off when her son was born. Upon her return, she taught grade 3, then grade 5, and eventually circled back to grade 6.

Fowler realized she loved working with older elementary students when she

volunteered at youth group. At the time, she was pursuing teaching at a primary level, but the more she interacted with junior high school-aged students the more she realized she enjoyed their banter and their sense of humor. Amy says during the upper elementary years students start thinking more independently and are becoming his or her own person. As a teacher, she comes alongside her students as they are figuring out the world. “I love seeing them grow and change. It is inspirational to be a part of their journeys, to see each grow as a person, in character and in skills,”

She is constantly looking for ways to connect with her students. “During the first quarter, I am figuring out where each student is at socially, academically, and spiritually.” By reading what they write in their journals, she discovers a lot about them. She notices how expressive and vulnerable they can be on a page.

If you spend time with Fowler, you will come to the same conclusion. She cares. She cares about her students and about people. It does not stop within the parameters of



Her goal in the classroom is for students to feel they are known and have a place. She does this by highlighting a skill or passion that each has. A former student made stop-motion videos for fun. He was quiet and kind of reserved,

her classroom, but it extends outwardly in her community. She has a passion for certain social issues, such as the efforts against human trafficking.

but she gave him the opportunity to share his hobby with the class, and through that medium he was able to connect with other students. She sets up an environment that celebrates uniqueness and individuality.

When Amy was in junior high, she independently committed her life to the Lord. She says making that decision at that age has given her insight on what grade 6 students

are experiencing spiritually. They are at that stage in life where they are thinking for themselves and exploring their faith. Fowler then pulled out a worn Bible from her desk and opened it to a page filled with highlighted verses and notations. “When I made that decision to follow the Lord, I had this hunger for the Word. I started in the back of the Bible and checked off topics as I studied them.” At times she has taught from this Bible and shares with her students how she used it when she was younger.

Outside of teaching, Amy is a mother to Jaxon, grade 4. It is obvious when speaking with the grade 6 teacher that she loves being a mom and her family is

important to her. “We have so much fun together, and we just love to laugh.”

She is also an avid reader and loves books by C.S. Lewis, particularly *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. When asked why she likes the well-known children’s books so much, she responded with, “Lewis uses a fun story to teach something that is so deep and meaningful, and that is how Jesus taught.”

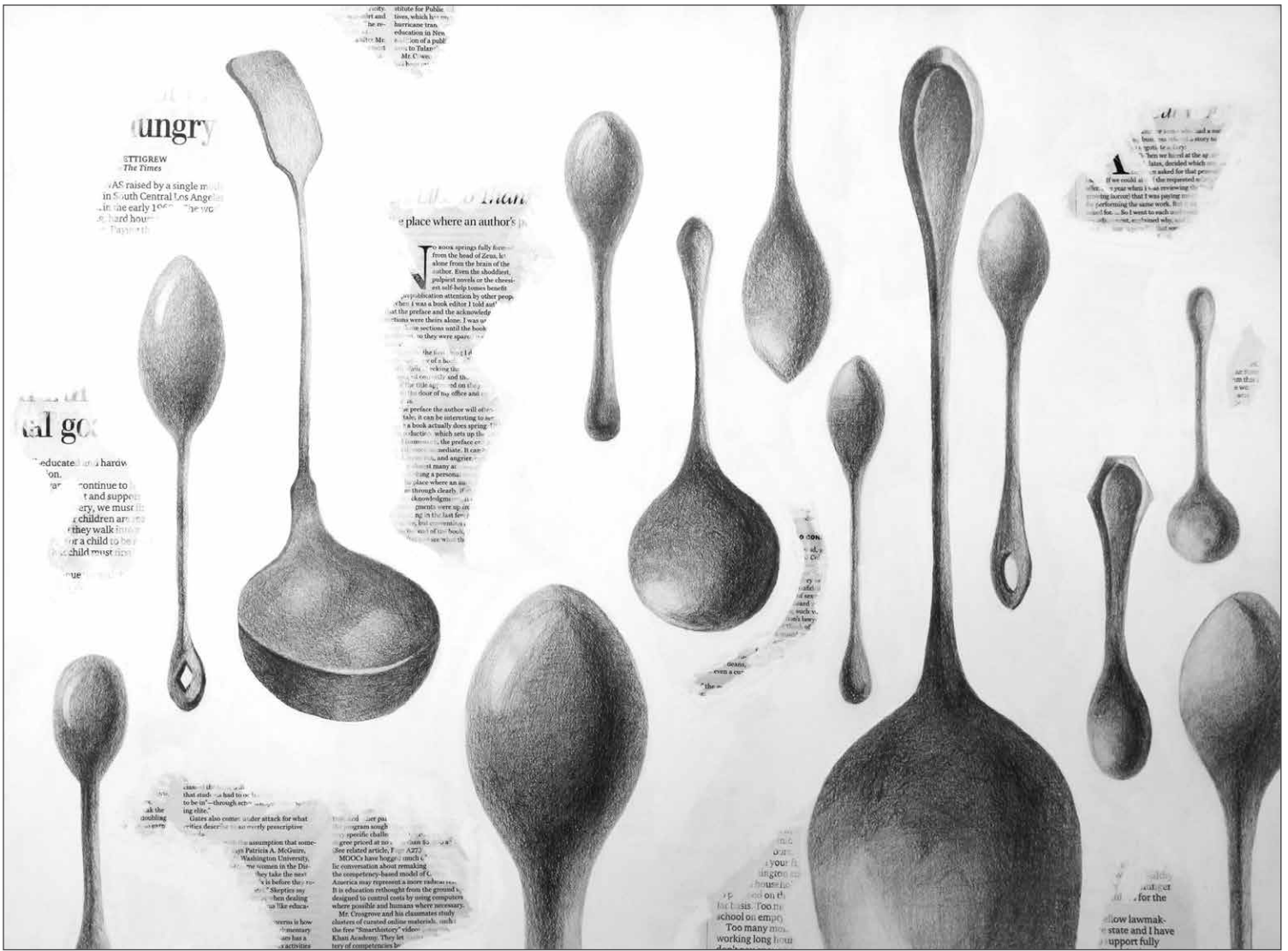
Stories help us remember, because there is an emotional connection. This is a method of teaching which dovetails with the brain research Amy studied while working on her master’s degree. In graduate school, she learned about learning. Metacognition is thinking about your thinking. She applies this concept to her teaching by giving her students clear objectives. Instead of leaving the students wondering what is being taught, there is a plan each day to learn something specifically. “It gives them a sense of accomplishment and they are proud of that.” Objectives are necessary for direction, but building connections to abstract topics helps with memory. Have you ever read something and convinced yourself of knowing the information? That false sense of confidence is given by flipping through the bold-lettered words. Do the students recognize the information or do they really know the content? This is what Fowler tests, and she challenges her students after they learn or read about a topic to explain to someone else what they have learned. If they can’t, then they probably don’t fully understand it. One must package the material in memorable ways. In short, like Jesus did.

Sometimes social and emotional struggles can create a real hindrance in the learning process. Fowler works hard to make the classroom a positive place, but if students are worried about fitting in, they are not going to pay attention. “It is hard to

compete with that.” However, she asks her students to be transparent with her and to maintain an open dialogue. If they come in and inform her that they are having a bad day, she will know to give them grace. She does what she can to come alongside them.

If you spend time with Fowler, you will come to the same conclusion. She cares. She cares about her students and about people. Her caring does not stop within the parameters of her classroom, but extends outwardly in her community. She has a passion for certain social issues, such as the efforts against human trafficking. She does not know what role she will serve, but it is an issue that tugs at her heart. Amy pointed out, “God puts passion for different things in us; just listen to God tugging you on.” She leaned into that tug at an early age when she was in her front yard passing out worksheets to her friends.

Here she is living the life God intended her to live—full of purpose, full of grace, and using her gifts and training to impact young lives.



Expressions of Hope

By Sini Fernandez

Yujin Yang, senior, found refuge in creating art. Learning English was stressful for her when she came to the United States from South Korea in sixth grade and in her art classes she was able to relax and enjoy herself. Yujin came to The Bear Creek School as a freshman and as she has worked her way through the fine arts curriculum, she has found in creating art, not only a means of expressing herself, but possibly a career.

In her junior year, Yujin chose to create a portfolio of work

around themes of hope and social justice. Many of her pieces reflect her concern for the impact civilization has on Nature or the impact people can have on one another. Although she addresses heartbreaking issues such as hunger and genocide, Yujin's art also expresses hope.

Yujin also trained last fall as a teen docent at Bellevue Arts Museum for Northwest artist Jason Walker's exhibit entitled *On the River, Down the Road*. Becoming a teen docent was a six-month commitment and involved shadowing and

practicing tours with adult docents as well as researching the artist and his body of work. Walker's work appealed to Yujin as he too portrays the interaction between Nature and civilization in his art.

Throughout the year, Yujin's pieces were recognized in several local, regional, state, and national art contests. Additionally, Bear Creek's visual arts teacher Trinity Osborn recognized Yujin at the end of the 2014-2015 school year with the Bezalel Art Award, noting that she consistently challenges herself in the classroom—honing her skill sets, going above and beyond a project's requirements, and demonstrating an inward drive to grow and excel in artistry and character.

Although her early interest in art stemmed from the

difficulties of learning a new language, she now has a longer term view and is considering a career in graphic design. To explore this idea further, this summer Yujin attended Carnegie Mellon's Pre-College Art and Design Program in the School of Art. During the six-week program, she studied industrial design and communications design. Her older brother Donggyun Yang '15 will be attending CMU this fall.

Yujin feels limited by what she can express with words, but not so with her art where there are no rules of style or grammar that must be followed. She says that although art may be interpreted differently by different people, she believes artists have individual characteristics which make their work a unique interpretation and expression of the world around us.



HOPE IN A GENOCIDE, (Above) mixed media (graphite, acrylic, ephemera), is one of three of Yujin's pieces to receive honorable mention recognition in the 2015 Washington State Art Region Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Yujin was inspired by her study of starvation during genocide

throughout history. In this piece she aimed to show “that through human kindness and acts of generosity, we can give hope amidst such genocides. To remember we are all humans, and showing kindness can be the greatest act of love to help one another.”

HOPE FEEDER, (Pictured on page 23) mixed media (graphite, acrylic, ephemera), was entered in the annual Congressional Student Art Competition for students in grades 9-12 from Washington's First Congressional District.

This piece represents a simple utensil that can provide much more than meets the eye. “It is up to us to help one another and the society in which we live. ... It is about feeding hope to those who hunger.”

JOURNEY TO THE HIVE, mixed media (watercolor, acrylic), was selected for publication in the fall 2014 Celebrating Art contest and also exhibited during WAEA's Youth Art Month Student Exhibition in March. This piece was inspired by Yujin's concern about honeybees, colony collapse disorder, and the impact the disorder might have on food supplies and hunger.



INVADER, mixed media (ink, watercolor, newspaper, raffia, branches), received the Outstanding Achievement Award for excellence in mixed media sculpture at the Puget Sound Educational Service District's Regional High School Art Show.

"A nest is built from the things around us; it holds things that the nest builder deems important. This nest represents an industrial society of skyscrapers and buildings. Unfortunately this civilization is affecting Nature. ... However amidst this destruction, there is hope. The power of Nature fights back as weeds grow on busy highways, a sign that we need to take responsibility for Nature and care for it to help restore what we invade, what is lost and damaged."



Art teacher Trinity Osborn reflects on Yujin Yang:

“**YUJIN** has shown exponential growth as a student-artist this year. She not only continues to challenge herself skill-wise (pushing herself to learn a medium and fully understand its capacities) but she has made that wonderful transformation as an artist in understanding what art is. This is the leap a novice artist makes, from one who creates art for its own sake and personal gratification to an artist that understands the impact of art and creates works that have a voice and express one’s thoughts.

Yujin realizes that art is a form of communication. I like to share

with students one of my favorite quotes by Edgar Degas: “Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.” What a wonderful way that we as Christ-followers might share God’s truth through our art. As Degas insightfully claims, we as artists have the opportunity to not just re-create what we observe, but to speak through our art and contribute to what a viewer interprets. This may be through a study of a seashell and how we reveal the intricate, purposeful design in God’s creation or crafting visuals of hunger and how we, as the hands and feet of Jesus, might

show compassion and God’s love by serving one another.

When she began attending Bear Creek, Yujin may have at first felt a communication barrier; however, it is through her journey as an artist and a school community intentional on connecting our students to His love and truth, that she has found her voice. She has discovered a means in which she can fully speak and be His witness as commissioned in Matthew 28:16-20. I am excited for Yujin and can’t wait to see what God has in store for her in this next chapter of her life.



FINDING MYSELF, poster color, was selected by the Teen Arts Council to be included in the 2015 20 Under 20 exhibition in the Community Education Gallery at the Bellevue Arts Museum. This display features the work of twenty aspiring artists all under the age of twenty and highlights some of the best talent of the next generation. The exhibit runs through October 4, 2015.

NEW FACES

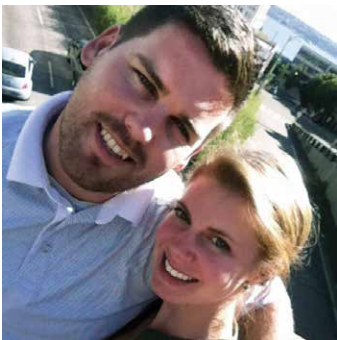


Our new Registrar, Andrea Arreola is

a native of Colombia and grew up on the East Coast of the United States. She moved to Washington State over eight years ago and

proudly calls the Eastside her home. She is fluent in Spanish and loves to volunteer in translation and ESL work.

In her spare time, Andrea enjoys exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband, Alfredo, and their two dogs, Buddy and Gucci. Her passion is to serve every student throughout their educational career, helping each one meet his or her individual goals.



Lauren Beasley will be teaching math in the Upper School. Lauren was

born and raised in Decatur, IL. After she graduated from Maroa-Forsyth

High School, she played volleyball at Southern Illinois University, where she obtained a degree in math education and met the love of her life, Taylor Beasley. Lauren and Taylor were married in December 2013 and have recently relocated to Seattle.

Lauren loves to play volleyball, read, and spend time with family and friends. She is very excited to

begin her Seattle-area teaching career in a Christian environment and looks forward to continuing the excellence instilled at The Bear Creek School.



Melissa Bond will teach math

in the Upper School. Melissa was born in Pennsylvania, but her family moved to Mississippi when she

was five. She grew up in Corinth, MS until she started high school, when her family moved to Ecuador to serve as missionaries. Interesting fact: Melissa has eaten guinea pig twice—it's a delicacy in Ecuador! Melissa holds dual degrees in math and Spanish from The University of Mississippi.

Her parents are Rod and Debbie Bond, and her two younger sisters are Andrea and Rachel. Melissa has two cats who are basically her children—Gwen and Drogo. Melissa loves video games, reading, cooking, sewing, board games, guitar, racquetball, and hiking. When she's in the mood, playing her guitar is a fun pastime.

Melissa admits she is a bit nervous about the big move and new job, but is also excited. She has found the faculty and staff at Bear Creek to be supportive and kind and can hardly wait to get to know everyone better.



Ryan Byram is the new Middle School Athletics Director.

Ryan has lived in Western Washington for most of his life, attending Cedarcrest High School in Duvall

and Northwest University in Kirkland. Ryan is very close to his family and is the proud uncle of nieces Ellie (6) and Madi (3) and a soon-to-be-born nephew. Ryan is no stranger at Bear Creek and has “enjoyed the opportunity to coach boys soccer for the past 11 years at Bear Creek and am very excited about my expanded role in the Athletics Department.” One interesting fact, Chad Pohlman and Ryan are not brothers, although Ryan admits that they do like to get the same haircut and dress alike!



Karen Firminger, our new Internal Community Liaison,

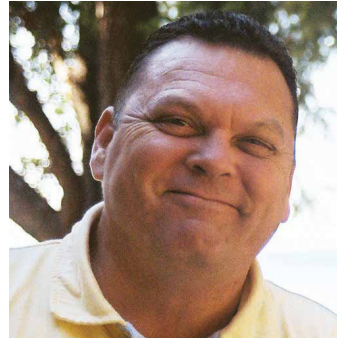
is not new to Bear Creek, but her earnest desire to see community flourish here at Bear Creek has

brought her to a new role. So, although many of you know Karen, here are just a few things she recently shared.

Karen was born in California and grew up in Huntington Beach. She is married to Shawn and they have three Bear Creek children: Brianna '09, Josh '11, and Emma '21. Karen and Shawn also have a devoted daughter-in-law, Maddi, and are proud grandparents to Kenzie Elise.

Karen has been a part of the Bear Creek community since 2002—the year Emma was born and Bri and Josh started at Bear Creek. Karen loves being in a community that is united in raising children to live a life of compassion, wisdom, and courage.

Although parents may parent differently, Karen believes that we can all agree that we want to give our children strong, powerful wings to launch themselves into adulthood. Karen feels honored to be part of a school with such a meaningful mission.



David (Dave) Gordon, Director of Operations,

is originally from Anderson Island, WA. He says living on the island was great if you like water and the

forest. Dave started working on a cow and chicken farm at the age of 13 but loved the water and was in boats all the time growing up. Fishing, boating, and hunting are his favorite activities and the Coast Guard gave him plenty of opportunities to do that. That love of water and boats saw Dave serving 22 years in the Coast Guard.

Dave and his wife reside in Auburn and their two married children live nearby with five grandchildren. Dave has always been active in the church. When their children were young, he and his wife were youth leaders, and in the last few years Dave has served as an elder of his congregation.

Dave relates that when he read the job description for Director of Operations at Bear Creek, he thought it would be a good fit because he feels children are the future and if he could help provide a good learning environment and facilities for them, that would be a great thing.



Kelsey Jobst will teach band for grades 5-8 and lead Upper School jazz band.

Kelsey grew up in Aberdeen, WA, and graduated

from Central Washington University with a degree in music education before moving to the Eastside where she has been teaching music for the past four years. She and her younger brother were both very active in music and sports growing up. Currently, Kelsey plays in the Mood Swings, an all-female big band in the Seattle area. She also serves in leadership for student ministries at Overlake Christian Church.

In her spare time, Kelsey enjoys hiking and swing dancing. She reports that she is “very excited to make the switch to a private school and join the staff at Bear Creek. I love Middle School and am excited to be part of growing the music program here.”



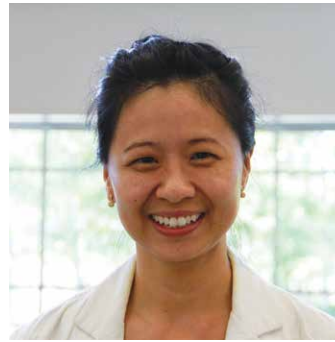
Lenore Leckvold is our new Office Coordinator. Lenore will be working at the front desk at the new Upper School building beginning in August.

Lenore grew up in Tucson, Arizona and lived there until she moved to Washington in the summer of 1979. As a child, her father was Curator of Small Animals at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. This meant there were often unusual pets at home—she was the only girl in her elementary school with a six-foot boa constrictor as a pet! Her family also provided a temporary home to baby vultures, a skunk, a baby javelina (wild desert pig), as well as various snakes, spiders, and other creepy crawlers.

Lenore enjoys reading and attending live theater and music performances and is actively involved with Fishnet Theatre, a touring Christian community theatre where she serves on the Board of Directors and has toured as an actor, producer, director, and stage manager.

Lenore reports that her “first weeks at Bear Creek have been amazing. The staff, faculty, students, and parents have all been so helpful as I learn everyone’s

names and adjust to the new environment.” Lenore is looking forward with excitement to moving into the new building and beginning her first full school year with Bear Creek.

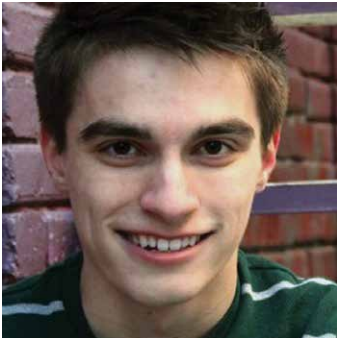


Pamela Liu will lead Upper School sinfonia. A violinist/violist, Pamela has been the Lower School string ensemble teacher at The Bear Creek School for two years. She has

led these young virtuosi in successful performances at Green & Gold Night and at the Authors & Artists events. This year Pamela will lead the Upper School sinfonia in addition to leading string ensemble groups for grades K-4 and 5-6.

Pamela is classically trained in violin performance and has received degrees from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and also from the University of Washington. She performed professionally with the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra and is currently sectional violin 1 for the Yakima Symphony, and is the Concertmaster of the community orchestra, the Cascade Symphony. Last season, she performed on stage with Harry Connick Jr. and Michael Bubl  and immensely enjoys making classical music enjoyable for all audiences.

Pamela teaches with MusicWorks Northwest, coaches the Junior and Debut levels of the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras, and adjudicates and serves music competitions throughout the area. We are delighted to have her work with our music students this year.



Benjamin (Ben) Markley joined the **Upper School humanities** faculty this fall. Ben grew up in Lawrence, KS (Rock Chalk Jayhawks) before moving to Boston to

attend Boston College, graduating with a degree in philosophy. Ben loves making music with friends, arguing about movies with friends, and playing board games with friends. When he's not with friends, he enjoys reading old books.

Ben reports, "The whole time I was exploring and learning about Bear Creek, my predominant thought was: 'Wow, I wish I could have gone here.'" Ben is excited to come alongside faculty and administration in earnest pursuit of God's glory and design in all aspects of each student's education, and hopes he can be effective in aiding that pursuit.



Facilities welcomes Thomas P. McKinnon.

Originally from Whidbey Island, Tom is a graduate of the University of Washington and lives in

Redmond with his wife, Kristin and four children. The family enjoys hiking and sailing. As homeschool parents, Tom and Kristin appreciate the classical model that Bear Creek teaches.



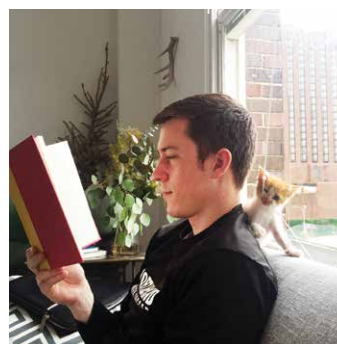
Jessica Miller, Bear Creek's new Attendance Coordinator, is also a brand-new Washingtonian, originally from San Jose, CA, having grown

up in and around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Jessica reports that she is happy to be joining her sister, brother-in-law, cousin, and soon-to-be nephew here in Washington. Sadly though, she has had to leave behind her beloved bunny, Claude, in California (he prefers the sunshine).

Jessica enjoys drawing and painting, playing the piano, hiking, soccer, and recently became completely hooked on swimming. When asked to provide a couple of interesting facts about herself, she shared that she has read every one of Charles Dickens' novels and even journeyed to London once for the sole purpose of visiting his house. And a more obscure fun fact: Jessica is "fairly certain she has an extra stomach created just for pancakes!"

Jessica is thrilled to be joining the staff at Bear Creek and is "thankful for the opportunity to be at a school that values the Bible as the foundation for education."



Bear Creek has a new Middle School Latin teacher.

Nathan Pettit was born in Ohio, but grew up in Kansas City, KS. He has four sisters and one brother

but since his older siblings are more distant in age, growing up he was closest with his younger sister, Rebekah. She is married and lives in Greenville, SC. Nathan and his new bride, Sarah, have a kitten

named Simba. Nathan's family never had cats growing up, and he was taught to dislike them; however, he does have a soft spot for Simba and is glad that he and his wife will have a pet in Seattle.

Nathan really enjoys reading and discussing anything within the realm of biblical studies. This summer he spent time reading books that offer historical information about first century Israel and books that investigate the hermeneutical methods of the gospel authors—and no small wonder—with multiple degrees in biblical languages and studies from Northland International University and a master's in biblical exegesis from Wheaton College. Nathan loves languages. He has spent the last nine years studying Ancient Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, and enjoys each of them for different reasons.

Nathan also loves ice cream and coffee; it's a rare day when he doesn't have a cup of coffee or scoop of ice cream. *The Emperor's New Groove* is one of Nathan's favorite movies and he can quote nearly the whole thing—go ahead, ask him! He also enjoys sports, growing up playing basketball and swimming competitively, and he continues to enjoy them today. Over the last couple of years, Nathan has become more interested in baseball and soccer, partially due to the success of the Kansas City professional teams (the Royals and the Sporting KC).

Nathan has a lot of life goals. One of them is to learn how to throw a football spiral; another is to write a book that people would enjoy reading and that would edify the church.

Nathan says he is “stoked about coming to Bear Creek!” He reports that he had a great time when he visited Bear Creek and the area last spring and looks forward to getting back into the classroom. Nathan is eager to give and learn and is excited about the setting Bear Creek provides to do both.



***Tina Rial,
Assistant for
Academic Affairs,***

has worked at Bear Creek for 12 years as a classroom assistant. She is excited to have her new full time position

now that she and her husband John are empty nesters. Their children, Morgan '12 and AJ '15, are both Bear Creek alumni.

Tina enjoys playing tennis, running, and visiting Texas and Colorado to see her kids. Tina is grateful to be a part of the Bear Creek community in her new role supporting the faculty and staff dedicated to Christian education.



***Mark Scholdt joins
our Upper School
humanities faculty***

this fall. Mark was born and grew up in Seattle. He has a bachelor's in history and Christian theology from

Whitworth University, a master's of divinity from Princeton University, and most recently, a master's in education from Seattle Pacific University.

Mark's lovely wife Emily has been a member of the Bear Creek community since 2009 and currently serves in the Office of College and Academic Advising. The couple is expecting a wonderful new addition to their family at the end of December.

Mark is a passionate board-game enthusiast and enjoys creative writing as well. He relates that he has “loved working with students for years in ministry, and I am very excited to join a community where education and ministry are one and the same endeavor.”



Coleman Severson recently joined the Information Technology (IT)

Department. He has lived on the Eastside almost all of his life and loves the Northwest. In July,

Coleman married Kirsten, the love of his life.

Coleman is a big consumer of media—music, TV, and movies. He’s a huge movie buff/snob, so if you’re wondering whether or not you should see a movie, he will probably have an opinion about it. Coleman enjoys working with computers, but tries to keep it in balance. He is a black belt in karate in the Shudokan style. It’s admittedly been a few years since he has practiced, but he did dedicate a pretty substantial portion of his life to the pursuit, and the principles still stick with him.

Coleman and Kirsten love sushi (and most other East Asian food). In September they will join a new church plant called Sola Church in Bothell and are really looking forward to being a part of that community from the very beginning.

Coleman was at Microsoft for a while, but it really wasn’t a good fit for him. He believes that working in IT at Bear Creek has been a godsend for a lot of reasons. IT jobs are the only jobs he has ever had, and to be able to find one in education, where he would like to establish a permanent career, is really cool. Coleman says, “It’s great to work somewhere where I feel I have a real purpose to what I’m doing.”



Hannah Sharr, new Middle School English teacher,

is originally from Breckenridge, CO but has most recently moved to the Pacific Northwest from Salt Lake City, UT. Hannah’s

parents live in Big Sky, MT and she has three younger sisters: Tessa, 24; Hope 20 (a senior at SPU); and Molly (who will be a freshman at Azusa Pacific in the fall).

Hannah likes to snowboard, hike, watch movies, and find the best restaurants in new cities! And she absolutely cannot wait for the opportunity to get to know the Seattle area. Hannah holds a bachelor’s in English and a master’s in teaching from Biola University. She is excited to join the Middle School team in shaping young minds and character. Hannah has always wanted to live in the Pacific Northwest and says she “is thrilled the Lord has opened the door to work at such an amazing school.” We couldn’t agree more!



Anuja Singh will be teaching computer science in the Lower School.

Anuja was born and raised in Delhi, India. Her father was an army officer, so they moved

to different cities across the country. She and her family moved to Seattle five years ago and love being here.

Anuja’s husband, Abhi, works for a Bay Area tech company and advises startups. Their son Swastik is 12 years old and Aum is 9, and they both keep Anuja and Abhi on their toes with their never-ending curiosity!

Anuja enjoys reading fiction, finding that with each book it's almost as though she is taking a new journey. Every book expands her horizons and gives her something new and different to enjoy.

Anuja has a master's in computer science and has worked for many large tech companies before taking a break from corporate life to do volunteer work. Anuja says that she has always been fascinated with the power of education, and "found my passion in applying my skills to helping children reach their full potential, grow in this new world with computer literacy, and shape their futures."

Anuja loves working with kids on their creative exploration of technology and design, and expects to contribute meaningfully to their overall growth at Bear Creek.



Ryan Summers will teach English

in the Upper School this fall. Ryan was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in Southern California, about 15 minutes from the beach.

Although he never "got into" surfing, he enjoyed beach volleyball and ultimate Frisbee. Ryan returned to Pennsylvania to obtain a bachelor's in English and a master's in education with a concentration in literature and literacy from Penn State.

Ryan relates that he's not really a sports fan, but he does love to play nearly any sport; staying fit is important to him. He also enjoys playing music; he even played in a band through high school and college. And, of course, reading is his great delight!

Ryan feels that Bear Creek seems like a natural fit for him: a small school with high standards where reading, thinking, listening, and writing engage the community in pursuing truth, exploring creation, and building relationships.



Stacy Tardy will be joining the Upper School science department.

Stacy has been a classroom assistant at Bear Creek for many years. She and her husband of 25

years, D.C. Tardy, have 4 children: Miaoyi '11, Micah, Julia, and Joy. After labor and delivery nursing and hospital teaching in Texas, Stacy taught high school biology, chemistry, and physical science and believes that teaching is the most rewarding and one of the most challenging careers. Stacy relates that, "Bear Creek is an ideal Christian, classical, and college preparatory place for our four children to attend school. The collaborative and supportive teaching community is quite unified and is a blessing to join this year."

Stacy's family has two pets, a lovable Cairn terrier named Betsy Ross and a Beta fish. Her hobbies include reading, Bible study, teaching first grade Sunday school, giving tea parties, and photography.

FROM VISION TO REALITY

Over the past 12 months, students and parents alike watched as our new Upper School and Fine & Performing Arts Center building took shape. God's providence was apparent at each stage as we moved from an empty field, through the foundation, steel framing, drywall, and finishing touches. We were blessed with unusually dry weather, a talented, dedicated general contractor, and skilled workers. Altogether, more than 500 workers and 480 families contributed in ways large and small to create this amazing new environment for our Upper School students. We are grateful to everyone who helped make it a reality!





MARCH



MAY



JUNE



JULY

THE HALLUM FAMILY

CHRIS AND JODI HALLUM enrolled their daughter, Avery, in kindergarten at Bear Creek in 2011. Now, four years later, they have become deeply involved in the life of Bear Creek. Jodi serves on a number of volunteer committees, including the Advancement Committee and the Campaign Ambassadors. Both she and Chris take time to chaperone field trips and help out with school activities as they are able. In a recent interview, they reflected on why they support Bear Creek with their time, talent, wisdom, and financial resources.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT BEAR CREEK?

We appreciate that the education our daughter receives at The Bear Creek School is one where the teachers can teach the whole child—mind and spirit. We love that all subjects are taught through the lens of our Creator, which is consistent with what we teach at home. We also value the supportive adult community that we find here.

The school is so intentional about everything. One good example is how the field trips are closely tied to what the students are learning in the classroom. The students aren't going to the Arboretum for a nice walk; the visit is tied into the science curriculum, understanding nature and botany, and wise stewardship of the earth.

HOW ARE YOU TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN TO BE GENEROUS?

Throughout our marriage, we have made philanthropic



commitments. We are blessed, and we believe in the edict that to whom much is given, much is expected. As Christians, obedience to God includes giving back to the community. We try to help Avery see how she can make an impact in the world by participating in the school food drive and other community projects and by allowing her to be involved in the selection of the children we sponsor through World Vision. We are laying the groundwork for her to understand that it's a domino effect, that when everyone does what they can in his or her own small way, it makes bigger things possible in the world.

*We are part of
God's plan, and
it takes everyone
working together
to accomplish
His will.*

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT BEAR CREEK?

We have great faith in the leadership of Bear Creek and in the school as a whole. We believe that our investment of money, time, and wisdom, combined with so many others, collectively propel Bear Creek forward. Our gifts build on a strong foundation, and go to work right away to make a difference. For us, Bear Creek is a mission field. There is a huge return on our giving; it is a long-term investment not just in our own kids, but for children in the future as well. When you give what you can, everything multiplies and enriches the community. And giving brings us great joy.

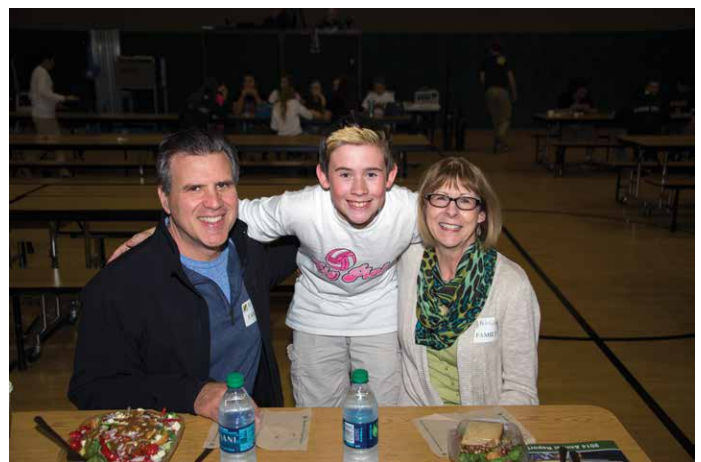
CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS

IN THESE DAYS OF TEXTING, emailing, tweeting, and posting you might start to believe that written communication is dead or dying. And if you even know what a telegram is, you would probably bet that it is long gone as a form of communication. Well, not at The Bear Creek School! Our version of a written telegram, the Grizzly Gram, is alive and well.

Each year, just before school starts, the Office of Philanthropy and Community Engagement (PACE) sends grandparents a blank Grizzly Gram (the grizzly bear is the school mascot), inviting them to write a special note to their grandchild. These are then delivered during the first days and weeks of school. Grizzly Grams connect an older generation with a younger one in a unique and unexpected way. The response is tremendous from both grandparents and students. Last year we delivered more than 600 Grizzly Grams, which arrived from all over the world, often with pictures enclosed or stickers attached. Students of all ages love receiving them. It is a wonderful way to strengthen the bond between the generations.

Grizzly Grams are not the only way for grandparents and students to connect. In the years that we are not hosting a Grandparents Day (our next one will be fall 2016), we invite grandparents to enjoy lunch on campus with their grandchild. Last year, more than 75 grandparents enjoyed a Bear Creek lunch at Bear Creek. It is fun to walk into the cafeteria and see a grandparent seated at the lunch table surrounded by not only their grandchild but their grandchild's friends as well. It's hard to tell who is having the most fun, the adults or the students.

As the 2015-2016 school year begins, we anticipate busy days delivering lots of Grizzly Grams, and we look forward to welcoming many grandparents for lunch throughout the year.



Parents of Alumni Continue to Connect

ONCE A PART of The Bear Creek School, always a part of the Bear Creek community! The Parents of Alumni Leadership Committee, comprised of volunteers Holly Alleva, Mary Matthews, Cherie Miller, Clare Mehta, Cindy McCahill, and Deb Perry worked hard this year to plan a variety of activities to bring parents of alumni together for fellowship, fun, and service. The committee also hosted a gathering of parents of seniors to address issues and questions about launching a child to college, and created a small send-off gift presented to parents at An Evening of Honors.

Our next parents of alumni gathering will be on October 16 at the Woodhouse Wine Estates in Woodinville. Watch your mail and inbox for details. If you are interested in joining the Leadership Committee, we welcome new members! Contact Debbie Marchione at dmarchione@tbcs.org for more information.



Alumni and Parents of Alumni groups came together for a tasty brunch and then assembled 75 Easter baskets for children served by Olive Crest.



More than 60 people enjoyed an evening of wine tasting and great food last fall.

GIVING ROUND UP

THANK YOU to everyone who supported The Fund for Bear Creek and the Auction this past year. Your generosity to The Fund helped us fund field trips and extracurricular activities, upgrade our technology to support new curriculum initiatives, and provide tuition assistance to families who would otherwise be unable to receive the benefits of a Bear Creek education.

We are also grateful to the many guests who enjoyed dinner and fellowship while raising more than \$324,000 overall for The Bear Creek School at Auction 2015: On the Red Carpet. Net proceeds from the Auction this year were directed to the

REACH UP Campaign. Thanks to the generosity of guests, the Fund-A-Need raised \$116,800 to purchase equipment for our new Innovation Labs.

Matching gifts for donations and volunteer hours from companies such as Microsoft, Bank of America, AT&T, Shell Oil, and many others helped to magnify the impact of gifts from our community.

These two primary fundraisers play a critical role in transforming a Bear Creek education from excellent to extraordinary. The generosity of the Bear Creek community is inspiring!

WAYS TO GIVE

THERE ARE MANY WAYS to support Bear Creek. We rely on the financial generosity of our community of current and alumni parents, grandparents, and alumni to sustain our extraordinary programs.

This year, for the first time, we will be offering you the ability to make an automatic recurring gift to support the Annual Fund. It's an easy way to make a gift and spread out the payments in monthly increments over the school year. Your contribution is automatically debited from your bank account or charged to your credit/debit card each month. This steady, reliable support helps us better plan our budget and enables you to more easily invest in our students. Look for details on the website at tbcs.org/support.

You may give a one-time gift by check or by credit card using our secure online giving form. Bear Creek also accepts gifts of stock or other appreciated securities, sponsorships for events such as the auction, and planned gifts such as bequests or trusts. And, if you take advantage of your employer's matching gift program, your gift can go twice as far.

As a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization, your gift is tax-deductible. For more information or assistance with giving, contact Debbie Marchione, V.P. for Philanthropy and Community Engagement, at 425-898-1720 ext. 339 or dmarchione@tbcs.org.

A GIFT FOR THE AGES

Planned gifts such as bequests or trusts are a meaningful way to leave a legacy while helping to educate future generations of Bear Creek students. Our students leave Bear Creek ready to impact the world as leaders with wisdom, confidence, and courage. If you have already made a provision for The Bear Creek School in your estate plan, please let us know so we may say thank you and recognize your generosity.

FROM THE ALUMNI LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

**BY HUGH FOSKETT
ALUMNI LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER
CLASS OF 2004**

Being an alumnus of Bear Creek has meant different things to me over the years. Back when I graduated, it meant I was finally free to get out into the world and go live my life without perceived “entanglements.” I didn’t know what life was going to offer me, but I was sure it was going to be awesome. As it turns out, attending Bear Creek was what was awesome in my life. Being part of a Christian academic community equipped me with

valuable tools; tools that I’ve been using ever since my graduation. Bear Creek gave me a great education, and not in the way of memorizing facts or reading classics. At Bear Creek, I learned how to reason, how to analyze, how to think for myself. You might roll your eyes and not think much of this, but as a former teacher, let me promise you these are skills that are not widely taught in schools today. But more than the education,

Bear Creek provided a wonderful atmosphere with teachers who openly talk about their faith in Christ. It’s a rare and outstanding school, and I’m proud to call myself an alumnus.

If you have come to share my sentiments and would like to help give back to the school that has given you so much, then join the Alumni Leadership Committee and start getting involved. If you’re not certain this should be your next step, consider coming to an alumni gathering, or simply update your contact information at tbc.org/alumni in order to stay current with events happening at Bear Creek. There are plenty of opportunities for the voices of the alumni to be part of Bear Creek, but we need your help actually making that voice heard.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Fall Alumni Gathering (formerly the Bowling Bash)

Wednesday, November 25

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Flatstick Pub, Kirkland

Reconnect with classmates and friends for appetizers, mini-golf, and fun at this all-ages pub on the Kirkland waterfront.

Homecoming Basketball Game

Friday, December 18

6:00 p.m.

Enjoy free pizza and popcorn, half-time contests with prizes, and cheer on the Grizzlies!

Spring Brunch and Service Project

Saturday, March 5

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Work together with fellow alumni and parents of alumni to create Easter baskets for the children of Olive Crest.

Watch your email for more information and registration information.

ALUMNI NEWS AND CLASS NOTES

Class of 2004



THOMAS DUFFY

Thomas Duffy and his wife Sarah welcomed their second child, Agnes Thérèse in May.

Over the summer, Lydia toured Scotland with family. She saw lovely castles, amazing waterfalls, and more sheep than she could count. She even spent a day with Scottish relatives she had never met before. It will likely be a year before they are all together again, so she is grateful for the time spent with her family.

On the way home from Scotland, Lydia stopped in Madrid to visit the team and meet the community with which she will be working. The first night she arrived there was a party for all the ladies, which was such a fun way to start her visit! They sang karaoke, shared tips on doing nails, and did a lot of laughing. That week she was also able to visit Iglesia VidApassionada (where she will work), attend one of the life groups, join the English Unplugged group, visit the youth centers where they hold English classes, and try out her Spanish. Meeting everyone made her excited to return and hearing everyone say “see you in August” made her feel so welcomed and at home there. (The photo is from a 2011 trip to Madrid to visit friends.)



LYDIA IMHOFF

Lydia moved to Madrid, Spain in August. She cannot wait to see what God does for the next two years as she works with a church and a non-profit leading English conversation groups and women’s discipleship, planning community events, writing curricula, and organizing volunteers. She is excited to finally use the Spanish she learned at Bear Creek!

Class of 2006

HAROLD KIM

Harold is pursuing a combined J.D./M.B.A. degree at University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He finished his first year of his J.D. program and will start the first year of an M.B.A. program this September. He worked last summer as an associate at Yoon & Yang LLC in Seoul, Korea.

INNESS PRYOR

Inness lives in Seattle's Madison Valley with her boyfriend and the two dogs that they rescued last year. They are really goofy! She is in graduate school at Seattle University, studying community counseling. She won't graduate until 2017, so is still figuring out what populations she wants to work with. In September she will travel to Italy for a study abroad course on emotional intelligence.

Class of 2007

EVAN DUNN

Evan and his wife Shannon moved to Philadelphia in August, so that she could attend the University of Pennsylvania's master's program in international education development. They will spend a year in Pennsylvania, and then they will return to Washington. He works in digital marketing so he was able to take his work with him.

ALEX HIGINBOTHAM

Alex is excited to be finishing up the second year of his M.B.A. at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business. He graduates in June of 2016, and hopes to go into marketing management. This summer he took Bear Creek students to RockRidge Canyon in Princeton, Canada for Young Life camp.



NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

Phoebe Jane Williams was born August 21, 2015. Nick, his wife Luisa, and big brother Luis Miguel are all very happy.

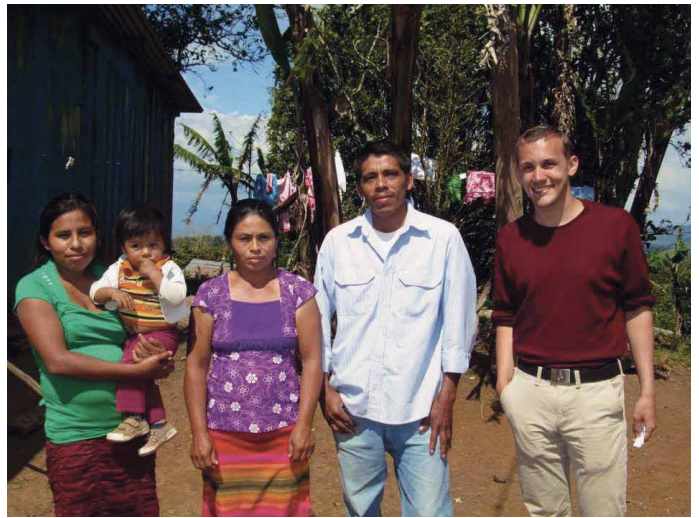
Class of 2008

NATE CASTLE

Nate was hired as the eighth employee of a tech startup called Pebblebee back in March as a marketing and business development manager. He really loves his job and the company. He hasn't moved far, as he lives just down the street in Kirkland! He notes for those who just finished college or who are about to graduate, that the next few years are long in terms of finding one's place in the world. But he advises them to "keep your head up and know what you are looking for and you will find it."

His most recent and exciting accomplishment was raising \$55,000+ for their new product that is still in development. "We are looking to use the technology to decrease rate of assault on college campuses around the U.S."

Cameron Kesinger: Focusing on International Service



As Cameron Kesinger '11 unpacked his boxes in a small apartment in South Texas this summer, he mused over the path that led him to his new role with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) helping undocumented, unaccompanied children in immigration detention centers navigate the U.S. justice system. ProBAR is a national effort to provide pro bono legal services to asylum seekers detained in South Texas by the United States government. Kesinger will visit with the children, some as young as three or four, to hear their stories and help determine what legal services they need, and at times accompany them to court. He is both excited and nervous, but his deep commitment to helping these children is readily apparent.

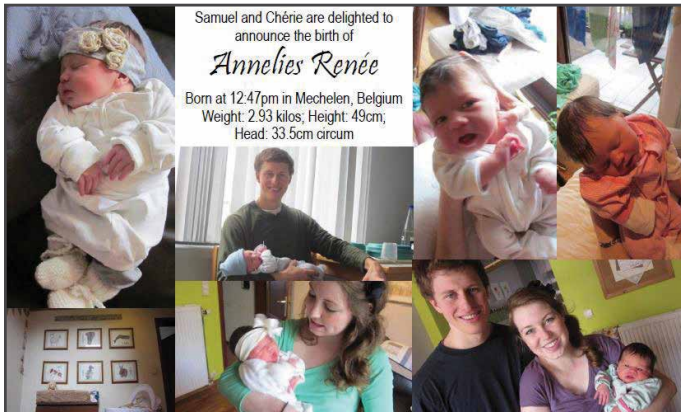
This is a natural next step for Kesinger, arising out of his commitment to humanitarian needs and his international studies degree. At Macalester College in Minnesota, he found fulfillment in volunteering for organizations focused on helping immigrants and refugees. His experience with other cultures also includes service in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Hong Kong.

In February, Kesinger will move again, this time to Brazil, as a Fulbright Scholar, where he will teach English and work with professors at a public university. He will also spend time volunteering or working on an independent project in the

community. Kesinger states that he wants to be “approachable and personable as a teacher, just like my teachers were at Bear Creek.” He further reflects that, “the teachers I had at Bear Creek were truly committed to their students and invested in their success. I continue to maintain contact with some of my teachers, and I really value those relationships.”

“I would not be the person I am today without Bear Creek’s faculty,” Cameron continues, “and I’m very proud to be associated with the school.”

Class of 2008 Continued



SAMUEL POMEROY

Sam and his wife Cherie announced the birth of their little girl, Annelies, on May 23, 2015. They are very happy and very sleepy.

Class of 2010



PAYUM ABTAHI

Payum graduated from Westminster College in Salt Lake City in June 2014. He now lives in El Paso, Texas and works as a pilot, flying for a private charter company. They fly Bombardier Learjet 55 aircraft throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. He is having a blast traveling all over North America.

MEGAN CHEEVER

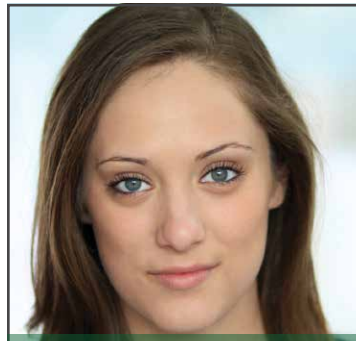
Megan moved to Austin, Texas last year. She graduated from the Academy of Art University last December with a B.F.A. in illustration. She runs her own freelance business, and has been serving as a character concept artist for Cloud Imperium Games since August 2014. Megan is currently working on the highly-anticipated PC game *Star Citizen*. Her life is very busy, and she enjoys the warm sunshine of the south, although she admits that she misses the beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

Class of 2011



ANGELA MARTUCCI

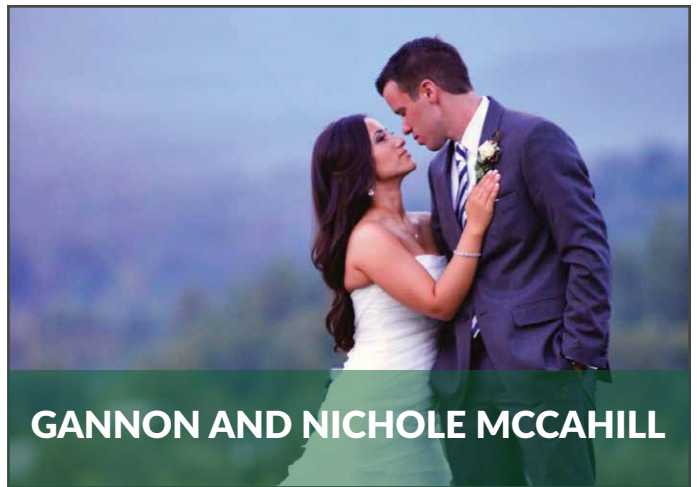
Angela works as an assistant account associate at MSLGROUP, a public relations firm in Seattle. Over this past year, she successfully developed an in-house stop-motion production program for MSLGROUP. Leading the program, she has produced eight creative stop-motion videos for clients with more to come in 2015 and early 2016. With this success and a full year in the working world under her belt, she is excited to continue to grow professionally in the field of social and digital media. This past September, Angela got engaged to Chris Hiring. The two have been enjoying their long engagement and can't wait to be married this October (and for their honeymoon to Disney World). In addition to working and wedding planning, Angela and Chris have moved back to the Eastside from downtown Seattle. Now, they are even closer to the outdoor activities they love: hiking, biking, and camping. This past year has brought a lot of changes, but great ones.



KIRA GEIGER

Kira has earned rave reviews playing Sergeant Sarah Brown in the University of North Carolina School of the Arts' 50th anniversary production of *Guys and Dolls*. She graduated in May

from University of North Carolina School of Arts with a B.F.A. in acting. She moved to New York City in August to pursue a career in theater and television.



GANNON AND NICHOLE MCCAHERILL

Gannon graduated from Baylor University with degrees in finance and real estate in May. He married Nichole Crews '11 on June 21 and moved to Dallas in July. Nichole graduated from Baylor as well with a degree in nutrition. Gannon will be working as an investment analyst at J.P. Morgan's Private Bank, and she will be working for Target as an executive team leader.

Jesse Wetter: Following the Path Laid Out by God



“I can’t always see around the next bend, but when I look back, I see how God has guided me along the path, and how He opened doors for me along the way that led me to where I am now.”

After graduating from The Bear Creek School in 2008 as a ‘legacy’ student (having enrolled in kindergarten at Bear Creek), Jesse was accepted into the University of Washington, Bothell, graduating with a bachelor’s of science in biology. He chose the Bothell campus in part because of the smaller class sizes, which felt more like Bear Creek than the huge lecture halls of UW’s main Seattle campus.

After college graduation, his path began to take a variety of twists and turns. Jesse continued to place his trust in God, even when it was hard to understand where he was supposed to be headed. While he knew he wanted to be in the field of medicine, he was unsure if he should focus on a clinical or administrative role. During college, he had volunteered at Evergreen Hospital, and eventually was hired full-time in patient registration in the Emergency Department. At Evergreen, he refined his direction, settling on becoming a doctor. After taking the MCAT in 2014, Jesse was admitted to the UW School of Medicine, one of just 240 new students accepted (out of 8,000 applicants). It is both the culmination of a long-term dream, and the start of a new one. He is headed to Spokane this fall to begin his training. He looks forward to integrating his faith into patient care, remembering always that

God has given him the gifts and skills he needs to study medicine.

When Jesse reflects on the path that has brought him to this point in his life, he notes that it was important for him to take the time to figure out what he wanted to do, and productively explore different options. Looking back, he sees how God provided opportunities in every deviation from the course he first thought he would follow.

Jesse has stayed involved with Bear Creek over the years, particularly through the drama department. He notes how Dr. Ron Lynch influenced him while he was a student, and he now counts Dr. Lynch as a mentor and friend. Jesse regularly volunteers to help build sets and assist with the technical aspects of Bear Creek drama productions.

“Bear Creek was home for me; it is a significant part of who I am. It feels a lot like visiting family when I’m there. It’s important for me to keep in touch. And, it’s a small way for me to say thank you to Bear Creek and Dr. Lynch for all they’ve done for me.”

“Bear Creek gave me more than just a great preparation for my academic future; it cemented my moral foundation as well. It truly gave me ‘the armor of God’ and provided me with a solid spiritual footing to meet the challenges of the broader world.”

We wish Jesse the best as he moves forward on his path.

Class of 2013



MIYA HIGASHIYAMA

Miya is a junior at Pacific Lutheran University. Her love for singing, teaching music, choir, and opera has continued into her collegiate endeavors as she works toward a B.A. in music. She has been blessed with the opportunity to perform three opera roles at PLU, sing in over fifty choir concerts thus far, work thirty hours in the local public schools helping teach choir, and even made her professional debut with the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra last April. One of the favorite highlights of her year was when the premiere choral ensemble at PLU, The Choir of the West, took gold prize at the Anton Bruckner Choir Festival in Linz, Austria on its International Tour of Europe. This fall, Miya will be singing in Offenbach's opera *Orpheus in the Underworld* on the PLU stage, while beginning to seek out graduate schools to pursue a master's of music in opera performance.

In the photo above, Miya sings the role of Rosina in a July 2014 performance of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. She is pictured in the pink frilly dress.

Class of 2015

DONGGYUN (CHRIS) YANG

Over the summer, Chris interned at the Research Center for Human Natural Defense System in South Korea. He will attend Carnegie Mellon University in the fall and wants to pursue a career in the medical field.

STAY CONNECTED

We want to keep you up to date about what's happening with your Bear Creek family. Please take a moment to update your information at www.tbcs.org/alumni so we can stay in touch.

Like us on Facebook: Bear Creek Alumni
Follow us on Twitter @BearCreek_Alum
Connect with us on LinkedIn: The Bear Creek School Alumni

Submit a Class Note for the next issue of *Modus*
Call us at 425-898-1720 ext 339 or email modusvivendi@tbcs.org





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www.tbcs.org

*The Bear Creek School Upper School Building
Dedication and Ribbon-cutting Celebration
September 12, 2015*

