

MODUS VIVENDI

May 2006

A Publication of The Bear Creek School

“EVERY HOUSE IS BUILT BY SOMEONE” HEBREWS 3:4



TBCS students build houses and relationships on Grand Bahamas Island. Courtney Wallis and Paige Connell with children they met on the mission trip. See page 9 for the complete story and photos.

Board of Trustees



By Kurt Maass
President

It's hard to believe this school year is already coming to a close. We have had a year full of accomplishments by our talented students and also a year full of change. In taking stock of where we are today the Board is incredibly grateful for God's loving kindness to The Bear Creek School. First, we are grateful to Nancy and Bill Price and their foundational work here at TBCS. Second, we are grateful for the amazing faculty members who teach our children and for the leadership team and staff that supports this educational organization. Third, we are so grateful for the parents who have partnered with TBCS to educate their children and entrusted them to our care. Fourth, we are grateful for and excited about the changes which are now taking place here at The Bear Creek School.

Although transition is difficult and certainly requires a tremendous amount of work, especially on the part of the faculty and leadership team, change provides a wonderful opportunity for TBCS to continue to refine the fulfilling of its mission. Change also makes us more open and attentive to the working of God and we look forward to the future He has planned for TBCS.

Executive Leadership

We are, in particular, grateful to Karen Beman for her willingness to step in and fill the role of Interim Head of School. She has partnered with newly-appointed Assistant Head of School, Karen Blankenbeckler, to build a strong leadership team for TBCS. Both of these wonderful professionals have stepped up to provide outstanding interim leadership for our school as we transition from the retiring Dr. Nancy Price to a new Head of School whom we hope to appoint by July 1, 2007.

The Board would also like to extend its thanks and best wishes to Middle School Head, Ryan Evans, as he assumes his new role as Head of Providence Classical Christian School. Ryan has provided outstanding leadership for our Middle School program since joining TBCS in 2002, and we wish him all the best in this new opportunity for professional and spiritual growth.

We're very excited about our leadership team and are looking forward to a great 2006-2007 school year.

Head Search

The Board search for a new Head of School is underway. First, we have appointed a search committee consisting of four board members and one faculty member. The board members are: Andrea Lairson (chair), Ted Robinson, David Smith, and John Rial. Donna Dunn, science department chair, has graciously accepted her appointment to the committee. Donna has nine years of teaching experience with TBCS, as well as a deep understanding of the classical education model and Christian worldview integration. We are delighted

to have Donna on the search team lending her understanding of our mission and our history, along with her calm wisdom and godly insight to this very important process.

Second, we have hired a consultant to advise us in our head search process. His name is Bret Dalton and he has a long and rich history in classical education and recruiting for leadership positions in Christian institutions around the nation. We're thrilled to have an advisor of Bret's talent, experience, and extensive contact network working with us to fill the Head of School position.

Third, the search committee has begun to meet with our community about the process and to gather information. Bret has visited the TBCS campus two times already and has met individually and collectively with faculty, staff, trustees, students, and parents. Bret will again be on campus May 30th, June 6th and 7th to continue these meetings. The focus of these meetings is to provide information about the process, solicit information from community members as to what they believe TBCS needs in its next Head of School, and to have community members give Bret information about what they think he needs to know about TBCS in order to effectively recruit our next Head of School. If you are interested in participating in these discussions please contact Alicia Williams at awilliams@tbcs.org to schedule time with Bret. Bret may also be reached at Dalton@daltongroupllc.com. Community members may also use search@tbcs.org to provide input and ask questions. That alias is monitored by Kurt Maass, Andrea Lairson and Sue Sanford. Your comments will remain confidential.

Dean Search

TBCS is actively recruiting to fill the Dean of School position. The administrative team has devoted considerable time and effort to carefully and clearly defining the Dean of School job description. A Dean Search Committee has been formed to oversee this process; consisting of administration, faculty, trustees and parent representation. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Marc Mueller for taking on the leadership of this important process. Dr. Mueller has been on the board since its inception, and has a wealth of both TBCS institutional knowledge and a deep knowledge of Christian theology and classical educational theory. With the help of Rick Heltne of VTL Search, several qualified candidates have been identified. Campus visits will be scheduled in the near future. Our goal is to have a Dean on board by the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

Strategic Development

In March of this year we began an essential marketing research project which will provide us with important insight into our school community and their needs, as well as our broader community and the demographic trends driving enrollment in the future. The results of this study will be used as we continue to refine our longer term strategic direction at the Board level. The research and recommendations from this study are also critically important as we develop our short and mid term communication, marketing and enrollment plans. Ian Symmonds & Associates from Oregon, who specialize in strategic work with independent schools, is conducting this study.

Communication Director Sue Sanford, is spearheading this process and board member Pete Petesch is serving as the liaison to the Board for this project. In addition, Sue has formed a research steering committee which includes parents, administration, faculty, and Board members. Thank you to all who have participated in this research project.

In closing, we know transitions are difficult, and the transition from a founding head to new leadership is no exception. But we would be remiss if we did not express yet again our thanks to and appreciation for Nancy and Bill Price for what they have done for TBCS over the 18 years of the school's existence. We invite your participation in the planning of a Founders Day celebration to formally recognize Nancy and Bill. As Nancy moves on to her next ministry opportunity in Africa, we ask the entire TBCS community to continue to keep her in your prayers.

As we close this school year, and families head out for summer vacations, may God be with you in all that you do.

Head of School Search

If you are interested in participating in these discussions please contact Alicia Williams to schedule time with Bret Williams at: awilliams@tbcs.org

Bret may be reached at: dalton@daltongroupllc.com

Community members may also use the following email address to provide input and ask questions: search@tbcs.org

Founders Day

If you want to be part of a team who will be working on a founders' day celebration to honor Nancy & Bill Price, please contact Sue Sanford at: ssanford@tbcs.org

The Arts

The Arts

The Bear Creek School is a unique Christian school in that we offer a Classical education based on the Western tradition of a broad-based liberal arts program. Classical education depends on a three-part process of training the mind. The early years of school are spent in absorbing facts, systematically laying the foundations for advanced study. In the middle grades, students learn to think through arguments. In the high school years, they learn to express themselves.

In addition to focusing on developing skills in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, and critical thinking, the TBCS curriculum includes an emphasis on fine arts, namely music, art, and drama. TBCS recognizes the importance of a balanced development of skills, attitudes, and knowledge and aims to enrich all students with experiences in fine arts. If the aim of classical education is to teach our students how to think and how to express themselves clearly, then a grounding in the arts is absolutely necessary.

If human beings didn't have need for ways to express themselves beyond ordinary speech, we would have no need for musicians, poets, and painters. However, all of human history records the importance of arts and artists, and our earliest records of worship in the Old Testament include roles for music and the presence of beautiful things in the temple. In fact, the most-quoted poetry in the world is from the Psalms.

To that end, TBCS offers students the opportunity to paint, act, sing, and express themselves creatively through a variety of classes.

The theater is an opportunity for TBCS students to be exposed to exceptional drama that has withstood the test of time. When we study Shakespeare or

Moliere, we examine more than just a play. We also look at the attributes that have given these great men's works a lasting quality which is as significant today as it was hundreds of years ago. Tragedy and comedy have common threads and are only separated by the finest of points.

As we define the scope of classical theater, we give opportunity for students to express their interpretation and understanding of these great playwrights. With this appreciation, it is hoped that each of our students will accept only the best from others and especially themselves as they venture into their classical education here at TBCS. Theater gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their best in a relaxing atmosphere. They learn to be brave, not foolhardy; wise, not foolish; Godly, not fools.

The arts take the ordinary—words, sound, color; all created by our Lord—and transform them into the extraordinary. Great art is a way of adoring and worshipping our Creator. Great art is in both the creation of art: writing, composing, painting, thus reflecting God's creation of all things; and the re-creation of art: performance and participation, which celebrate the things already created, thus celebrating our Creator.

The arts are our reminder that we are creations of a loving God.



Top: Kara Gallo performs in the Valley Campus production of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*.

Below: Josh Tenzler plays trombone in the 5th grade band.



Top right: Jesse Wetter and Morgan Bader in the Upper School's production of *The Hound of The Baskervilles*.

Top left: Middle School Choir.

Lower left: A still life by Hyun Jin Kim.

Lower right: Evan Dunn performs with the Upper School band.



Thank You for a Successful Auction!



Top right: TBCS Cheerleaders assist MC Tony Gill with the Family Auction raffle tickets.

Middle: TBCS Athletes take donations to buy bleachers for the gym.

Lower left: Attendees enjoy the Family Auction bidding and the wonderful appetizers from Month of Meals.



Thank you for your tremendous support of The Bear Creek School's Family and Dinner Auctions and which help us "Open Doors" for our students.

I am very excited to share some highlights from the auction with you:

- ❖ \$219,500 was raised between both auctions!
- ❖ \$22,450 was raised for the Dr. Brannan Teachers Endowment, and the Board of Trustees is donating an additional \$10,000. For the first time, teachers will receive a bonus from this Endowment.
- ❖ \$7,600 was raised toward purchasing bleachers for the gym.
- ❖ \$4,510 was raised for the Upper School Mission Trip which was used to help a village on Grand Bahama Island.
- ❖ \$13,500 was raised for Teacher Wish List Items, including new microscopes for the Grade 7 science class and a new TI Navigator System for the Math Department.

Amanda L. Smith
Annual Giving Director

The Year in Review

This year, approximately 80% of the students in grades 6-12 participated in at least one sport at TBCS.

Highlights of 2005-06

- ❖ Boys Cross Country team finished 6th in State and the Girls team finished 12th.
- ❖ Girls Cross Country won the State Academic Championship for the B classification level (levels are based on school's enrollment level).
- ❖ All Varsity teams to date have had a winning record and qualified for post season play.
- ❖ Boys and Girls basketball teams each won basketball tournaments over Christmas break.
- ❖ David Miller (Cross Country), Chad Pohlman (Boys Soccer) and Scott Moe (Boys Basketball) were named Sea Tac Coach of the Year for their sport.
- ❖ Daniel Switzer (Boys Cross Country) and Kimi Pohlman (Girls Soccer) were named league MVPs.
- ❖ 8 members of the golf team have qualified for the district tournament.
- ❖ Peter Heine, Jeffrey Kettman and Sydney Conway qualified for the State Golf Tournament. Jeffrey Kettman finished 4th in the State.
- ❖ The Boys Tennis and Girls Golf teams won the State Academic Championship for the B classification level.
- ❖ Girls Golfer Sydney Conway qualified for the State tournament by finishing 13th at the District tournament.

Next Year Big Events

The evening of September 7th will be Parent Night hosted by the TBCS Booster Club. This year, we will have renowned speaker Bruce Brown discussing "The Role of Parents in Athletics." For those of you unfamiliar with Bruce's background, the following link has his biography (<http://www.proactivecoaching.info/bio.php>). All parents at TBCS are invited to attend; more information will be available as the date approaches.

Saturday, September 9th, will be the second annual TBCS Fall Tailgate Party. Our Boys Soccer team and Girls Volleyball teams (V&JV) will be hosting The Overlake School, and the Girls Soccer team will be hosting Seattle Academy. The Booster Club will host a BBQ. We are also examining the feasibility of hosting a 5K fun run that day as well.

Tuesday, November 21st, will be the second annual Green and Gold Night. Friday, January 5th, will be Homecoming. Once again, we will host Jr. Grizzly nights for Students in grades 3-5 (Dates and times TBD).

Bleacher Update

This year, the TBCS Booster Club took on the very ambitious goal of raising funds (over \$30k) to place bleachers on the west side of the gym. Thanks to the TBCS community's generosity during the "Bucks for Bleachers" campaign, \$5K of PTF matching, and the school auction, we were able to reach our goal. The bleachers have been ordered and will be installed this summer. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and money to help make this dream become a reality! Next school year, the Booster Club will be focusing on increasing school spirit and attendance at games.



Kimi Pohlman was named to the First Team All State for girl's soccer.



Jeffrey Kettman placed 3rd in the District tournament and went on to finish 4th in the state competition in Spokane, WA.

Wellness Week

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles for TBCS Families



The Bear Creek School held the first ever school Wellness Week in April. This week-long extravaganza focusing on healthy food and physical activity choices was a big hit with our students, staff and parents. The week began with an entertaining all school assembly featuring Radio Disney promoting healthy eating to our students and encouraging daily physical exercise through energizing songs and upbeat dance moves!

Dancing along with them were our life-size fruits and vegetables, which made it even more fun! A well stocked resource table was set up to provide accurate nutrition information on various nutrition and fitness topics – from “How to choose whole grains,” to “How to calculate your target heart rate during exercise.” A prize drawing for a free six month Gold’s Gym membership was created around a “Portion Distortion” quiz that challenged contestants to identify healthy portion sizes and test their calorie-burning knowledge of different types of exercise. Congratulations to Deb Maurer and her husband who won the free membership!

Our Grizzly Galley served up some creative and healthy new ethnic dishes each day that week. Adventurous eaters who tried this flavorful and nutritious fare gave it rave reviews! Some of these dishes have now been incorporated in to our regular lunch menus. Each day our cafeteria also featured a different “Smoothie of the Day” that included fresh fruit, juices and low fat yogurt made and served by a group of hard-working parent volunteers. The smoothies were delicious, healthy and enjoyed by all!

Thanks to all the parent volunteers, teachers, staff and others who helped make this fun and educational event possible.

Missions

“Every House Is Built By Someone” Hebrews 3:4

When you hear the words “Spring Break” do you picture tropical locations, sandy beaches and lots of fun? Well, 25 Upper School students had all of that – and the satisfaction of helping others at the same time. The fourth annual TBCS Mission Trip went to Grand Bahama Island to help people hurt by Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma.

Grand Bahama is one of 30 inhabited islands in the 700-island chain that makes up the nation of The Bahamas. While it is in the same country as the cruise ship destination of Nassau, Grand Bahama is a poor island that often is more Third World than First World. The hurricanes hit the nation hard last year and they are still recovering. The TBCS students were able to help several people with their recovery.

The group’s primary project for the week was to stucco a house. They also completed many other smaller projects including painting a house; fixing roofs, doors, and hinges corroded by the hurricanes’ rains; making repairs to a mission center; and distributing hygiene kits. The kits were brought from Redmond and consisted of donated items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, Band-Aids, and rice and beans.

A typical day for our young workers started with morning devotions. Then, they went to the day’s work site until mid-afternoon. As a break from both work and the heat, the kids went to the beach until dinner. After dinner, they had various planned activities such as touring the town or talking to local missionaries. A high point of the trip was meeting the locals and seeing how their efforts affected other people’s lives.

The trip was such a success that the students want to continue their involvement with the people of Grand Bahama. They are currently raising money for a used pickup truck that the island missionaries will use in their ongoing ministry.



Top right: TBCS employee and chaperone, Paul Paylor works alongside Beth Graham, Alex Higgenbothom and Marc Mueller to paint a home. “Jacob dreamed a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven.” Gen 28:12

Center: “Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” Heb 3:4

Lower left: Heather Linnenkohl, Isaac Miller and Mr. Reese prepare the stucco. “God’s solid foundation stands firm.” 2Tim 2:19

by Kelly Hughes

Last summer, Kelly Hughes, staff writer for the TBCS student publication Bear Creek Current, went on a mission trip to Burlington, Washington with her church. The following article appeared in the April issue of Bear Creek Current and is reprinted with her permission.

The mission statement of Bear Creek Current is as follows: Current is the student voice of Bear Creek, providing a quality, thought-provoking, entertaining and responsible student newsmagazine. With the exception of the opinion section, editorial content is limited to work produced by Bear Creek students.

In addition to producing the annual yearbooks, beginning this year the journalism program produced two newspapers highlighting students at Bear Creek: Bear Creek Current for grades 9-12 and PawPrints for grades 7-8. An inaugural literary magazine for the Upper School will be published and available the last week of school to all families.

Past issues of these students publications may be found on the website at:

<http://tbc.org/tbcs4/current/CurrentIndex.html>

<http://tbc.org/tbcs4/PawPrints/PawPrintIndex.html>

Simple brown huts no more the size of small classrooms align a dirt road. The windows of these huts are shattered, and the ones that remain are scratched and dirt-caked. Broken beer bottles and ice cream wrappers are under wooden picnic tables that cannot stand upright. Children walk on the dusty road shoeless in the clothes that are hand-me-downs from Target. Most of the clothes are mud-stained and a slight stench of urine lingers in the air.

The parents of these children are in the fields picking from dawn to dusk. Most cannot afford to watch over their young

sons and daughters; they leave the job to their older siblings or cousins. After all, the most important objective is to provide food on everyone's plate. These adults work long hours; the more pounds of fruit and vegetables they pick, the more pennies they are paid. Therefore, they work until their backs cannot bear the crouching stance and the darkness makes it virtually impossible for their eyes to see the fruit.



During the mission trip, the migrant worker's children play a game and do crafts on a broken picnic table. In the background is the public restroom with the mural painted by the team.

These families share a public restroom that does not consist of standard toilets, but rather separate stalls with a hole in each. Privacy is impossible. Every family shares the same one room in their small home. Beds take up half of the space; a fourth of it is used for the miniature stove; and the rest is for hallway space between the camp-looking bunk beds.

The floors are cement and dust is everywhere. No vacuums, no phones, no showers. The picture is a World Vision commercial in itself.

Yet this place is not located in the Bahamas, Africa or any third-world country. These people live in Burlington, Washington. Ironically, Washington is known for its beauty; the mountains in the horizon, the grassy plains and the luscious fruit that falls from the bountiful trees or bushes. Many of Washington's citizens are unaware of what lies beyond the meadows and fields of strawberries. It is doubtful consumers ever stop to wonder why the price of an apple is so low or why blueberries are so cheap for the pound.

Relatively speaking, Washingtonians are wealthy. The people who live in Washington are Americans, entitled to American rights and American dreams. It is like any state in the affluent U.S. Although Washington does have its share of internal poverty—such as the homeless or urban city dwellers striving to make the minimum wage—these problems are to be expected; every state has some amount of poverty. Moreover, Washingtonians are aware of these evils and are constantly trying to find solutions to overcome them whether it is through the soup kitchens or politics.

However, few efforts are made to help the migrant farmers who labor in the fields. Despite the fact that two-thirds of these people are classified below the poverty line in the U.S. and make an average of eight-thousand dollars a year, they are ignored because most are guest workers from Mexico.

And Washington's state government, along with all the other state governments in America, is aware of this fact. Since the job of picking fruit is hardly in demand, farm owners hire foreigners to

do the labor. Washington State permits the workers to stay and allow the children to use the school systems. However, these people can never fully have the rights of an American citizen such as state paid medical care or right to an attorney. Instead they are confined to stay in shacks and live in poverty—without protection of any government institution.

Last summer, the youth group from Northwest Presbyterian Church went on a mission trip to help Mexican migrant workers in Burlington, Washington. Although the team could not help do any of the manual labor in the fields, the group concentrated on cleaning the camp by making flower pots with the migrant children or painting a life-size mural to cover the public restroom's dull brown color.

"I hadn't realized how bad the situation was with the migrant farmers until I got there," says Heather Hunt. "It disturbed me that this was practically happening in our backyard...it made me want to do something."

Besides cleaning up the environment, the students and leaders entertained the children by doing crafts, putting on puppet shows, and providing them snacks. Some children attended summer school to make up for time they had missed while traveling to Washington, but the majority of the kids remained at the migrant camp. There were few teenagers in the camp—most were already daily workers in the fields.

"I bet most of the kids, if not all, will remain migrant workers for the rest of their lives," says Julianna Patrick, a senior who went on the mission trip. And she is not far from the truth; of the estimated 900,000 migrant children, only 50% will graduate from high school. Some children start working as young as ten or eleven

despite child labor laws; the farm bosses exempt them from the law since they are foreigners. Several children work twelve hour days during the "peak" season in order to make enough money to feed their families—and they end up doing the same job for the rest of their lives.

"The adults seemed tired... and hopeless," says senior Hayley Hunt. The approximate life span of a migrant farm



Forming bonds with children like Alicia was a memorable part of the experience for many of the students on the mission trip.

worker is only 49 years of age. Perhaps this is due to the fact of the little medical treatment these workers can obtain; none can afford health insurance and Medicaid refuses to provide for them since they are not citizens of the U.S. Also, very few have the benefit of sick days. Because the workers make less than minimum wage and have no days off, many will go on working despite being sick in order to feed their families.

"Our government ignores them," Patrick stated, "They just allow them to come through temporarily to do the work that no one wants." And the migrant workers cannot even get American benefits.

So why does our government refuse these people American citizenship despite offering them jobs in the U.S.? The answer: cheap labor. Employers can pay the foreigners thousands less than the American worker because the minimum wage is not required. For this reason, Latinos and Mexicans make up 92% of the U.S.'s migrant farmers. Some American economists debate whether migrant workers' jobs should be reserved for unemployed Americans. Would providing the jobs to unemployed Americans boost the economy? It is unlikely since they would have to be paid fully.

As for the migrant workers, citizenship is out of the question. The U.S. would have a lose-lose situation. No jobs will be provided for the unemployed; moreover, the migrant farmers would have to be paid minimum wage and gain American benefits—which would be costly. For now, given that no Americans wish to pick fruit as an occupation or extend grace, the migrant workers will continue living in their poverty.

"My dream is that someday I will go to college and get a different job," says Fausto, a fifteen-year-old migrant worker who was forced to drop out of school to help feed his family. "I hope that I will get to live in a big house and have a family."

As a high school dropout, this will be hard to achieve.

Getting Your Heart's Desire

The Brave New World of U.S. College Admissions 2006

By Dr. Marc T. Mueller

George Bernard Shaw once commented that there are two tragedies in life. One is: not to get your heart's desire. The other is: to get it (i.e., to get your heart's desire). This is another way of saying, "Be careful what you wish for."

College admissions officers across the U.S. say 2006 was one of the most brutal admission seasons ever. Scores of well-known colleges and universities received a record number of applications this year for admission and accepted a smaller percentage of these than ever before. Once again, TBCS seniors did very well this season and the entire TBCS community has just reason to be very proud of the accomplishments of our seniors in the arena of college admissions.

Do you have any idea what they were up against? Consider the following statistics:

1. James Miller, Dean of Admissions (DoA) at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, received record applications from 18,313 students this year and accepted only 13.8% of them, a record low.
2. Karl Furstenberg, DoA at Dartmouth College, reported the largest pool of applications ever received in the history of Dartmouth: 13,937 applications received for 1,075 freshman places. He accepted only 15%, a record low.

3. Lee Stetson, DoA at the University of Pennsylvania, admitted only 17.7% of a record 20,479 applications in 2006. Of those who applied with perfect SAT scores, 70% were rejected! That stunned many applicants.
4. Stanford University took top honors in the category of picky selectivity. In 2006 it admitted only 11% of its record 22,323 applicants and adding insult to injury, admitted only 17% of the approximately 1,800 high school valedictorians who applied. The rest were rejected.
5. Not to be outdone by Stanford, Princeton University accepted only 17% of the 1,886 valedictorians who applied this year. The rest were tossed into file 13. This also stunned many applicants, including Brooke Epstein, valedictorian at Brimmer & May School, Chesnut Hill, MA. In response to her rejection by Princeton, she commented, "You work so hard for four years and you spend a lot of your life preparing for this, and it's hard when someone doesn't think that's good enough."
6. UC Berkeley topped the list of schools with record applicant pools, having received a record 41,700 applications in 2006! UCB says at least 75% of these were tossed. It is worth noting that UCB spent over \$12,000 in postage to mail out rejection letters to the 30,000 unsuccessful students who applied this year, mere chump change compared to the \$225,000 they took in application fees! Obviously, people see something more to UCB than its rather dull campus!
7. Swarthmore College, a small prestigious liberal arts school in Pennsylvania, received 4,850 applications for 372 spots in its

entering freshman class this year. Thousands of these applicants never made it to the short list, a fact only slightly mitigated by the college's claim to give TLC to each and every student who applied!

The reasons for these lop-sided statistics are many. First, there are larger numbers of students applying for college in the U.S. than ever before. U.S. demographics predict that the number of high school grads will continue to go up. By 2012, the number of H.S. grads will be up 11% over current record levels. Second, growing numbers of students are applying to multiple schools in order to increase their chances of getting into a good school. In some areas of the country, the average is six applications per student. But a few students this year reported they applied to at least 20 schools, a promethean task which probably cost them at least \$1,000 just to process the paper work! Third, 75% of college applications for 2006-07 were made online, using the Common Application provided by an online NFP. Obviously, applying electronically makes it easier to apply to multiple schools. Fourth, college and university admissions officers report that they are seeing larger numbers of more highly qualified applicants than before, making the selection process even trickier.

In this environment, student applicant strategy is aptly summed up by Robert Turba, college admissions counselor at Stanton College Prep, Jacksonville, FL. He says, "This year [2006-2007] it's become really clear just how competitive the process is." Turba says he advises his students to add extra schools to their application roster, "... because there is no way to know, counselor or student, from where the acceptance will come." But on the other side, the expansion and use of multiple student applications has caused college and university admissions officers

to expand the use of "Waiting Lists." They explain this is necessary because it is becoming harder to know who will accept an admissions offer once it is tendered. Multiple applications can result in multiple offers. Students can be picky too. Hence, what goes around, comes around.

Given this state of affairs in the U.S., some people may be forgiven for believing that the college admissions process in the U.S. *has become one step removed from a lottery system!*

Beyond near-perfect SAT scores, near-valedictorian grades and first-place awards in science fairs, music competitions and sports tournaments, admissions officers claim they are looking for that "extra something."

College admission committees deny that they employ secret or proprietary algorithms in determining the profile of the entering class. However, they admit that some decisions are based on the need to round out the profile of the entering class, picking up students with special backgrounds in Russian literature, computer science, art history or European languages. Sometimes, student applicants are favored if they come from geographical areas not otherwise represented in the entering class, such as Wyoming, North Dakota or Montana.

Even so, for those who received successful offers this season from well-

known schools, what were the critical success factors in these applications? This question is haunting thousands of high school seniors, including high-achievers, who are reeling from rejection letters this spring.

Beyond near-perfect SAT scores, near-valedictorian grades and first-place awards in science fairs, music competitions and sports tournaments, admissions officers claim they are looking for that "extra something." The following are examples of that "extra something" which adds "extra zip" to a successful student application:

1. A passion or commitment to something, communicated in a clear voice.
2. Intellectual curiosity.
3. Creativity.
4. Sincerity in the pursuit of volunteer activities and community service.

Jim Miller, DoA at Brown University, puts it this way: "I think we're all looking for kids who are committed to something, extracurricularly, intellectually, and hopefully both."

When looking at a student applicant, the committee asks this fundamental question: "Is this for real?" Questions of authenticity and credibility arise because parents can and do pay thousands of dollars for private coaching, counseling and advice from a growing army of outside admissions counselors. As a result, admission officers say it is more difficult than ever to distinguish genuine or sincere commitment to a passion from the crass practice of profile grooming. Admissions committees don't like artificial packaging, profile grooming, and over-coaching of applicants by outside firms. Lee Stetson,

DoA at the University of Pennsylvania, says, "It's hard to find the nature of such an individual and what his/her passions are." Admissions committees are looking for real, authentic people with holistic character traits and achievements.

So there you have it: *passion, commitment, sincerity, curiosity, creativity*. Obviously, without excellent grades and test scores, even gifted students stand little chance of getting into top-quality U.S. schools today. But without the traits listed above, even the best test scores and grades may not cut it in getting your heart's desire in the ultra-competitive world of college admissions. This year's results are ample proof of that and a painful reminder that times have changed in U.S. college admissions!

Which is worse, not to get your heart's desire in college admissions, or to get it? We'll examine that vexing question more fully in the next issue of *Modus Vivendi* when we explore the stellar success of TBCS graduates during the last 3 years in getting into top-ranking U.S. colleges and universities. We'll examine the personal philosophy of Karen Beman, our interim Head of School and former Director of College Advising at TBCS, and get her take on the state of college admissions in the U.S. today. Mrs. Beman, by the way, and her staff, are directly responsible for the outstanding success of the TBCS' college admissions program in recent years. Other topics examined will be the growing role of private schools in college admissions, the trap of Early Decision, the growing number of successful students who are saying "No" to elite schools, the paramount importance of finding the best fit for each student, and finally the myth of institutional prestige and selectivity in relationship to their undergraduate teaching quality, concrete student learning and student earnings potential after graduation. Stay tuned.

Erin Kadeg '03

Erin will be graduating from Vanderbilt University in May with a BS in biology. She will be starting graduate school at Vanderbilt in the fall to work on a nurse practitioner degree.

Anna Kadeg '05

Anna is completing her freshman year at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. She has been accepted into the Point Loma School of Nursing for her sophomore year.

Kathryn Mueller '05

Kathryn sang with her choir, Boston University Symphonic Choir and Orchestra, at Carnegie Hall in New York. Kathryn played "Maria" in TBCS's musical *The Sound of Music* last spring.



Jennifer Baker '02

Jennie is in her senior year at Berkeley after completing her junior year abroad at King's College in London. She graduates on May 14 with a BA in English and high honors. She has been on the Berkeley Poetry Review and the Berkeley Fiction Review. She is also a member of the Tri Delta Sorority.

Jennie will be moving back to London upon her graduation to spend a year doing an internship with Mountbatten Business Internships (a Cambridge University sponsored program).

Geoffrey Baker '04

Geoff just returned from a year abroad in Florence, Italy, attending Pepperdine University's campus abroad. He traveled extensively to Germany, France, England, Ireland, Turkey, Holland, Greece, and Spain. He attended the Olympics in Torino, Italy, and Easter Mass at the Vatican! He looks forward to his junior year back in Malibu. He just declared a sports medicine major.

Nathan Shomber '03

Nathan is completing his junior year at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana. He is majoring in Computer Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science. This summer he will be doing an internship at Microsoft.

Danny Jacobson '03

Danny, who will be a senior next year at Claremont McKenna college in California, took an internship this summer at Price Waterhouse Firm in southern California.

David Jacobson '04

David, who will be a junior this fall at Biola, is doing the Torrey extension program at UC Berkeley.

Katie Moravec '05

Katie is completing her freshman year at the University of Washington. She has been very busy between classes and her sorority functions. She belongs and lives in the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She is planning on applying to engineering school next year so has been busy taking calculus, differential equations, physics, chemistry, etc. She is very excited about having recently been offered a summer internship at Boeing.

Stacey Pereira '04

Stacey is a sophomore at the University of Washington. She is a part of "Greek Row" and lives in the Gamma Phi Beta sorority house. She is studying in the pre-med program. She also works part time at Lulu Lemon (sports/yoga wear) at Bellevue Square.

This year, she joined the UW crew team and got to travel to California as one of the rowers on the Women's Novice Eight boat. The huskies placed second (by 3 seconds) in their race against the California Bears on April 22, 2006, in the Cal-Washington Regatta.

Anna Lavin '05

Anna is completing her first year at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. She has just been accepted into the nursing program there and loves living in the sun. She played soccer for the school last year and really enjoyed her experience, despite suffering a concussion and a broken ankle. She has earned a soccer scholarship for next year so, barring any other injuries, will return to the team and Pt. Loma next year. She will be traveling to Peru on a medical mission trip at the beginning of this summer and then will be in Redmond until she returns to school in August.

Jocelyn Dunn '04

Jocelyn is a junior at the University of Washington. She has applied to the International School of Business, specializing in accounting. She hopes to study in Nairobi, Kenya next spring. She is very active in a Christian campus group called RUF and has served with them at the Yakima Indian Reservation renovating houses and working with children. She also volunteers weekly with the U District Life Choices.

James Ross '05

James is attending Pepperdine, in Malibu, California, where he is majoring in physics. Continuing the adventure marathoning that he started with The Last Marathon, which he ran in Antarctica with his father, Dave Ross, in February 2005, James just completed the 2006 North Pole Marathon at the Russian Barneo base at 89 degrees 20 minutes north on the polar ice cap. Temperatures during the run dropped to -23 Centigrade (-9 F). Following the run, he hid a geocache at the exact geographic North Pole, 90 degrees north. He plans to continue his adventure running this summer as he, his siblings Katie and Robert (both TBCS students), and his parents run the Safaricom marathon in Kenya in July.

Kristina Aronson '05

Kristina is just completing her freshman year at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She has had an excellent year and at this point, is planning on a political science major in preparation for law school. She is in their honors program and has been working as a writing tutor as well as at a local barn, continuing to improve her horse back riding skills. She ran cross country in the fall and did very well, she was the only runner from Rollins to go to the NCAA Division II Southern Regional Finals. She is involved in the Campus Outreach program and went to New Orleans with an intervarsity group from Orlando to help with clean up last November. She is looking forward to a two week educational trip to SE Asia this month with the Political Science Dept. They will be in Singapore and Hanoi. She will have more news about that experience when she returns 6/1.

Letters from Alumni

Becca Mar ('03)

Hi! In response to the alumni update request, I have almost completed my junior year at Northwest University (Kirkland, Wash.). One new activity you might be interested to know about is that this spring semester I was a staff reporter for the university's newspaper, "The Talon Journal."

A Scripture verse that has inspired me might encourage current TBCS students: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24).

Jessica Linnenkohl '05

Completing my freshman year at Seattle Pacific University in less than four weeks seems so unbelievable right now! It is shocking how fast this year has flown by. I have made so many memories that intertwine me on a path I can already look back at and praise God for the work He is doing in my life. There have been a number of challenges, and it has been a daily struggle to surrender absolutely to His will- because it hurts- but afterward so much growth comes out of it.

This last year, I have been on hall council for my residence hall, participated in the Celtic Society, Circle K, and Outdoor Clubs, have enjoyed volunteering at many places including local homeless shelters, food banks, and schools teaching Junior Achievement, and have participated in many on-campus events as well.

Shannon Coughlin '02

I will be going to graduate from Central Washington University on June 10th, 2006, with a major in nutrition and dietetics and a minor in dance. I have worked hard these past four years at college and have always said how much Bear Creek helped get me ready for my college experience. I have kept busy with the Orchesis Dance Company on campus for the past four years. We just had their big spring show and I am thankful to have my free time back, although I am sad that I am not going to be dancing anymore this year.

I am sad to see my college experience end, yet at the same time, I am glad to be done. I have worked hard in order to graduate in four years; I have had no real summer break for the past two years because of summer school. This will be a huge change for me to not have to go to school anymore, yet I am very anxious and excited to see what the Lord has in store for me in the future.

If you are a TBCS Alumni or parent, send us a note and tell us what you are doing. Your classmates, friends and teachers would love to hear how you are doing.

Send to modusvivendi@tbc.org



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Modus Vivendi is a publication for The Bear Creek School community, past and present. Article suggestions should be sent to modusvivendi@tbcs.org.

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Humanities • Sciences
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Modus Vivendi is translated as *a manner of living or a way of life*. TBCS 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

June

- 16 Last day of school
US End of year party
- 17 Graduation
- 20 Used Uniform Sale

August

- 21 US Fall sports begin
- 30 New Family Ice Cream Social
Redmond Campus
- 31 New Family Ice Cream Social
Valley Campus

September

- 5 First day of school
- 9 Sports Kick-Off Tailgate
- 11 MS Fall sports begin
- 23 M/U Grade Level BBQ

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 develop into the individual God intends.