

FALL 2017

ANCHORAGE

The Magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School



Middle School Fine Arts:

Christmas Concert 2016



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

IN THIS ISSUE

Annual Report: 2016-2017 | Alumni Spotlights: Where are they now?

A Message from Mr. K



What are the underlying values that influence your day-to-day actions and decisions? Has your family ever clearly identified your most important values? It's been said that if you look at your calendar and your checking account, some of your dominant core values will become clear. Stephen Covey, in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*, writes about the importance of a family mission statement and clearly articulated family values. He writes about working towards "a beautiful family culture." That sounds like something to work towards!

Just as important as identifying personal and family values, businesses and organizations also benefit greatly from having clearly articulated core values. Perhaps there are core values identified for your workplace. Whether identified or not, certain values tend to dominate the decisions and actions of most businesses. As part of the AACCS strategic goal to "unify and enhance our Christ-centered culture," a Culture Committee was formed in 2015 with the goal of clearly identifying

the underlying core values that unify all four campuses. This included a look back at our history as well as a close look at the internal culture today. The focus was on the shared values of our faculty and staff. These values influence culture and culture influences the student experience. This wasn't a project that we took lightly.

The Culture Committee met regularly over the course of a year and a half. Members of the committee included myself, administrators who report directly to me, and eight faculty members. Committee members shared many experiences and stories about the dedication, passion, and values of our faculty and staff. The easy part was identifying a very long list of core values. It was much more challenging to narrow those down and then fine tune the wording and definitions so that we actually had a list of unique values that describe the internal culture we want to nurture and sustain.

After many meetings, discussions, debates, and surveys, the committee identified four core values:

Visible Faith, Steadfast Joy, Healthy Discontent & Courageous Humility.

These values have been important at AACCS throughout our history yet, now that they are clearly identified and defined, there will be a more intentional focus on each. During the 2016-17 school year, our faculty and staff focused on one core value per quarter, with the goal of better understanding the meaning behind each one. In this magazine, you will find stories that show how these values unify our four campuses as one school with a unique culture. †

In His Service and Yours,
Rick Kempton, Superintendent

ANCHORAGE is the magazine of Annapolis Area Christian School. The magazine is distributed to school parents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of Annapolis Area Christian School. A downloadable version is also available online at aacsonline.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

We engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

STAFF

- Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*
- Bob McCollum, *Principal, Upper School*
- Rick Slenk, *Principal, Middle School*
- Elizabeth Williams, *Principal, Lower School, Annapolis*
- Karl Graustein, *Principal, Lower School, Severn*
- John Hansen, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Graham Thorpe, *Chief Advancement Officer*
- Jennifer Good, *Chief Communications Officer*

ALUMNI should direct news information to akastendike@aacsonline.org or contact the Alumni Relations office at 410.519.5300 x2116.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To email a member of the board, please use the format first initial and last name @aacsonline.org unless otherwise noted below.

- Dan Smith, President - dansmith@aacsonline.org
- Steven Boggs
- Karen Cole
- Kristin DeMarco
- Warwick Fairfax
- James Mackrell
- David Mitchell
- Mary Robertson
- Mark Solsman
- Nancy Thomas

ABOUT THE COVER

The Middle School choir praises our Lord and Savior through song during the Christmas Concert of 2016. Mrs. Wenger continues to raise up talented young men and women in the Performing Arts!

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Breanna Wheeler, '01
www.colorwheelcreatives.com

PRINTING SERVICES

Nelson Anderson, '99
Anderson Minuteman Press,
Glen Burnie & Columbia
www.minutemanmaryland.com

- 3 Campus Perspectives
- 6 Fall Festival 2017
- 8 Annual Report
- 10 Anchor Fund
- 11 Hall of Fame Inductees
- 12 Alumni Spotlights
- 14 Homecoming 2017

Campus Perspectives



Lower School :: Severn

MRS. BEYLO AND THE SEVERN LOWER SCHOOL CAMPUS

by Karl Graustein, *Severn LS Principal*

When you call the AACs Seven Lower School (SLS) campus, the first voice you hear is Mrs. Beylo's. When you walk up to the school entrance, the person who buzzes you in is Mrs. Beylo. When you enter the office, the first smile to greet you is Mrs. Beylo's. If you need anything, go to Mrs. Beylo.

Denise Beylo has worked at AACs for 14 years, and she is the office

manager of our new SLS campus. Denise worked in our Annapolis Lower School (ALS) campus office for 11 years before switching to the SLS campus when we opened in August 2015. In many ways, she is the face of our campus. Everyone knows her, loves her, and praises God for her.

Students go to Mrs. Beylo for upset stomachs, a loose tooth, a bloody nose, and a scuffed knee. They go to her for pep talks when they are down and encouragement when they need to get back on track with their classroom behavior. They greet her with joy and hug her in love.

Parents call Denise for carpool changes, questions about special events, and lunch sign-up forms. They stop by her desk to drop off checks, pick up a sick child, and for parenting advice. Parents know the hard work she puts in each day, and they appreciate how Denise loves their children as her own.

Teachers and staff know they could not survive without Denise. She lifts them up in prayer, organizes birthday surprises, and offers kind words of encouragement. She makes calls, finds

forms, and coordinates details that they may not have time to complete. She anticipates their needs, plans ahead, and has an eye on the details. Teachers value Denise as a trusted friend and dear colleague.

Denise and her husband, Michael, have three children who have all graduated from AACs: Megan (2010), Brandon (2013), and Ryan (2016). Her knowledge of AACs as a parent and from her years in working at our ALS campus, has made a significant difference for all of us at the SLS campus. She guides parents as an experienced mom. She plans ahead knowing the routines of the school year. She helps teachers from her years of serving.

Denise daily demonstrates our school's core values: Visible Faith, Steadfast Joy, Courageous Humility, and Healthy Discontent. She serves others in love and to the glory of God. †

*"So, whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God."*

- 1 Corinthians 10:31



• *Lower School :: Annapolis* •

THE FRUIT THAT GOD PRODUCES

by Rene Wheeler, *LS Computer Teacher*

At the Annapolis Lower School, students are being encouraged to let God work in their lives to grow the fruits of the Spirit. The world

encourages children to grow up strong, successful, and popular. But God wants children to grow up to be like Jesus. So our best hope is to encourage students

to produce spiritual fruit by being more like Jesus. The more they conform to Jesus' identity, the more His Spirit will produce the spiritual fruit described in Galatians 5:22-23.

We started the year learning that we can only produce fruit if we are firmly rooted and grounded in Christ. Dr. I. C. Clearly, the "famous" scientist, helped us to discover truths about plants and ourselves. From his many experiments on plants, we learned a plant grows from a seed and people need salvation before they can grow fruit. With him, we discussed the fact that plants need water and Christians need God's Word for spiritual nourishment and growth.

We can grow like Jesus did—in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52). Another truth we learned was that just as plants need good soil to stand strong, Christians need to remain in Jesus to stand strong. God earnestly desires each of His children to grow ever closer to Jesus. As we abide or remain in Jesus, His character and influence changes our lives and He produces fruit in us.

Just like plants need sunlight, we need the Holy Spirit working in us to produce fruit. We will study the nine fruits of the Spirit which are listed in Galatians 5. Each week we are exploring a new fruit and seeing how we

can apply it to our lives. A meaning and key verse are being presented and every week a new grade helps us understand that fruit through skits and songs. Also each month a specific fruit will be highlighted and students who exhibited that fruit will be rewarded with a lunch with the principal.

It is our prayer that all will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior and then will allow the Holy Spirit to grow in them the fruits. In John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in Me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can nothing." †

• Middle School :: Annapolis •

SIXTH GRADE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

by Andrea Nebbia, MS History Teacher

The sixth grade class dug into their study of archeology this year with a real archeological exploration. The students got their hands dirty exploring a prepared "middens pile" on the middle school grounds, otherwise known as a dump site. Sixth graders begin their study of World History with an introduction to the tools that historians use to study the past. These tools include Primary and Secondary Sources, Geography and Archeology. Engaging in a hands-on learning experience ignited students' curiosity and passion for archeology and the study of the past. Sixth grader Christian Lemme remarked, "I had so much fun! I wish I could do it over and over again!"



Students excavated about four inches of soil and found a multitude of items that would have existed in the 20th century. Using these items, they deduced what life was like at AACCS in the 1900's. "The archeological dig was a lot of fun, but we got REALLY dirty! We learned a lot about archeology, though, so it was worth it," commented 6th grader Miriam Mastewal.

Some of the items they discovered were bowls, utensils, writing tools, glasses, building materials, decorations, shells, and even photographic slides. History teacher Mrs. Nebbia prepared the dig site right on campus so that students could learn in an outdoor classroom without disrupting their daily schedule. Students embraced the mud and muck inherent to this field of study.

*Engaging in a hands-on learning experience
ignited students' curiosity and passion
for archaeology and the study of the past.*



“It was a great experience to see what archeologists find,” said sixth grader Ridely LeMere. Here at the middle school we do our best to use unique and fun projects that spark curiosity in a way that causes students to ask questions and want to learn more. †

• Upper School :: Severn •

BIG SISTER'S CLOSET

by Sophia Thompson, AACS senior

For Upper School girls, one of the most exciting parts of the homecoming season is finding a dress for the dance. In September, Natalie Smith and I hosted AACS's first Dress Drive. We wanted to give the underclassmen girls a chance to “dig through our closets” for homecoming dresses. Most upperclassmen girls have been to homecoming two or three times, purchasing a new dress every year. In many cases, homecoming is the only time these dresses have been worn. As a sort of “big sister” way to connect with the underclassmen, we asked all the upperclassmen girls to bring in their old homecoming dresses for the underclassmen to look through. If they found a dress they liked, they were able to borrow it for the homecoming dance and return it afterwards. We tried to emphasize that we were not only doing it for the convenience of the underclassmen girls, but also to try and build relationships with them through something as personal as sharing clothing.

We asked the senior and juniors girls only about a week in advance to bring in their dresses. We were afraid not enough girls would contribute but God blessed our efforts and we had a total of 35 dresses!

The event was held on a Friday during both lunches in the wrestling room. During that time, about 40 girls came in and tried on dresses. Even though not all of the girls found dresses they wanted to wear for the dance, they said they all enjoyed coming in and trying them on with their friends.

Because Natalie and I are both seniors, we asked junior Faith Corbin to work with us on this project as well. We all had a great time planning and participating in this event. Natalie and I are so thankful to everyone who brought in dresses and helped make this event possible and we definitely hope to carry on the Big Sister Dress Drive in 2018. †



We tried to emphasize that we were not only doing it for the convenience of the underclassmen girls, but also to try and build relationships with them through something as personal as sharing clothing.





AACS Fall Festival







In 2016/17, AACCS continued on its growth trend in a number of areas. Enrollment rose by almost 4%; Revenue by almost 9%, and Total Giving by 31%. Two key drivers that contributed to the increased expenses were our new lunch program for the Upper School, and our increased faculty/staff size to accommodate our increased enrollment. Although we celebrate the growth we've experienced, we ask that you pray with us on how we can better align AACCS for God's greater impact in the lives of our students. ⚓

by John Hansen, CPA
Chief Operating Officer



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



EXPENSES



ANNUAL GIVING

2014-2015
ACTUAL

\$512,541

2015-2016
ACTUAL

DID YOU KNOW?

99%

College
enrollment for
Class of 2017

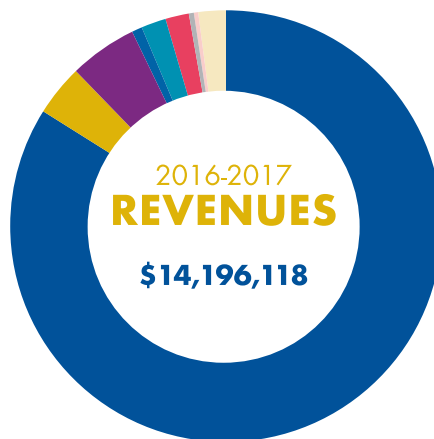
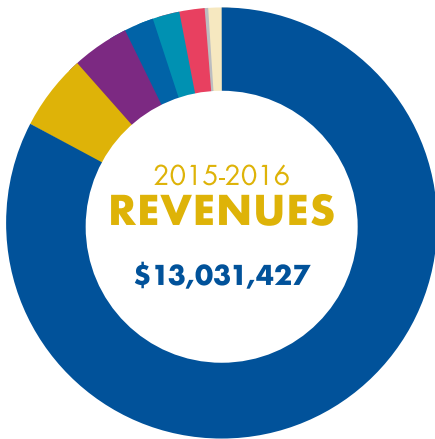
12.6%

Increase in
endowment
giving

2,207

Graduates
since 1985

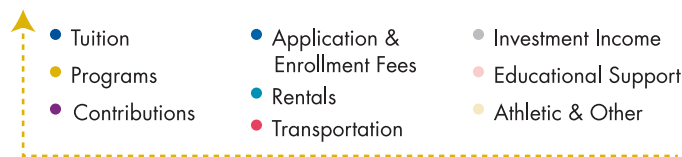
Year in Review



*For if the readiness is there,
it is acceptable according
to what a person has,
not according to what
he does not have.*

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12

REVENUES



2016–2017
ACTUAL

\$539,256

\$708,183

31.3%
INCREASE
in giving

150+

Churches
Represented

18

International
Students

ENROLLMENT

LOWER SCHOOL 264

MIDDLE SCHOOL 218

UPPER SCHOOL 416

STUDENTS RE-ENROLLED 704

NEW STUDENTS ENROLLED 194

FULL TIME TEACHERS 82

FULL TIME STAFF 54

3.7%
INCREASE

898

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

136

FACULTY & STAFF
(full time equivalent positions)

Stewardship is Distinctly Christian

by Graham Thorpe, '97

This past September I reread one of my favorite books. It is called *The Sower* and it is written by Scott Rodin and Gary Hoag. This book is first and foremost an encouragement to those who engage in distinctly Christian fundraising work. It is meant to be a worthy reminder of why followers of Christ need to be urged to readily examine how they are being wise and eager stewards of what God has given them. It once again challenged me and

at the same time prompted me to be thankful. Our school community is filled with generous and wise stewards. The kind of people who see the hand of God at work on the four campuses of AACS and choose to sow life, hope and joy into families and kids. This is foundational at AACS – a school community that partners with each other in so many ways. A community like that is also distinctly Christian.

And AACS must remain distinctive. It must never stray from holding fast

to Christ and proclaiming allegiance to the call and mission He has placed on this organization and those who lead it. When our community gives, the work that is being done at Annapolis Area Christian School is emboldened. It is strengthened. Our collective witness is broadened and our Lord and Savior is praised.

I'm thankful for a community that co-labors in this work and my prayer is that they will be blessed and in turn bless others. ✝



"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:14-16



AACS is a proud participant in the Delmarva Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

The five-digit code to designate AACS is 22852.

For more info, visit www.cfctoday.org.



Congrats to the 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees!

STEPHANIE (COLE) FEILD

Class of 1999 • Soccer & Lacrosse

PAT McMAHON

Class of 2006 • Wrestling

CAL NAPOLITANO

Class of 2007 • Lacrosse



Founded in 2010, the Annapolis Area Christian School Athletic Hall of Fame was established to pay tribute to those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the quality and tradition of AACCS athletics. The example the Hall of Fame members demonstrate is an encouragement and a challenge to those both outside and within the school. While not exclusive, the following attributes will be principal factors in selecting someone into the Hall of fame: Christian character, recognized athletic excellence, leadership and commitment.

*“Do you not know that those
who run in a race all run,
but only one receives the prize?
Run in such a way
that you may win.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24

For more information on the Athletic Hall of Fame
and to view inductee bios, please visit the
Athletics Tab online at aacsonline.org.

Nelson Anderson

Class of 1999

Is there a teacher that you remember having been particularly influential?

There wasn't necessarily one teacher, but several teachers reinforced good values in my life. A few, in particular, stand out in my mind to this day.

Mr. Derechinsky was such an encourager - he always told me I could be more in life than what I thought I wanted to be.

I looked to Mr. Grunert as a moral compass. I'll never forget the way he would talk to me about his wife in a very loving way...it made a big impression on me as a teenager. It gave me a picture of how I wanted to be as a husband.

Mr. Short was one of those very relatable and fun teachers. We had many conversations back and forth to Vermont traveling with the AACCS ski club. The conversation that resonated most with me was his description of eternity which I found extremely comforting and even anticipatory, as this was something I was always fearful of as a child.

How has AACCS helped to prepare you for where you are today in life?

More so than the academic education, it was the biblical foundation that was laid in my heart. I didn't appreciate it at the time, but I have come to value as an adult.

Did you go to college?

I did not attend college. Working as a machinist and boat mechanic



Nelson & Eleanor, as high school sweethearts at AACCS

through high school, I continued that directly after high school. Soon after, I was asked to help at a boat show to sell boats, where I was recruited to work in sales for a government contractor selling IT solutions.

Years later, I left the corporate world in a huge scary leap of faith and purchased my father-in-law's printing company. When we bought it, we were four employees strong, and now, 13 years later we have 37 employees and we are the largest out of the 900 franchises worldwide.

If you could do it again, would you take a different academic path, or are you satisfied with the route you followed?

In hindsight, I would have gone to college. At the time, I didn't think I needed it for what I wanted to do in life. However, now that I find myself on a completely different path than I had planned, there are definitely things learned in college that would have benefited me.

What was your first job?

Working for my dad as a boat mechanic when I was 12.

How has your career created value in your life?

Not only has it provided for my family, but it has also shown me the value of relationships and service by meeting people's needs first.

How long have you been in business?

13 years.

What services does your company provide?

Digital and offset printing, direct mail, exhibits and displays, apparel, and promotional products.



Nelson with his family.

Since your business is growing, tell me about what the future looks

We are launching a Marketing Services division called Full Sail Media. We are still developing the brand but the positioning will be to deliver a highly responsive customer experience through the creative integration of traditional and trending media. We feel customers need a total one stop solution and want to deal with a company that understands the integration of market-ing strategy and the tangible marketing products.

To whom and for how long have you been married?

I married my high school sweetheart, Eleanor (Dailey) Anderson, '99, and we have been married 16 years as of last June.

How many children do you have and how old are they?

We have two girls, Madison (12) and Sydney (10), and one boy Isaac (7).

What does the word "family" mean to you?

Unconditional Love - God has shown me through HIM that family is more than blood. He has not only given me a great family, but also brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers within HIS family. This was something that truly displayed itself in my life when our son Isaac was sick.

What are you most proud of? Why?

I'm most proud of the relationships I have with friends, family, and peers. They are a big part of who I am as a person.

If you could possess one super-human power, what would it be?

Wisdom or at least the ability to read minds ... lol. †

David Bell Class of 2016

My name is David Bell and I graduated from AACCS with the class of 2016. I could hardly wait to get to West Virginia University (WVU) and start my freshman year. I was nervous and excited about beginning this new chapter. Today I am a sophomore at WVU studying Criminology. I also joined the Air Force ROTC Program in my freshman year with the goal of becoming a pilot.

College is so different from high school - let's just say that I really appreciate the days where I have two classes for a total of an hour and a half. College offers many opportunities for you to do things you enjoy while making lifelong friends who enjoy doing the same things. I enjoy playing intermural sports with my friends and getting together for the WVU football and basketball games. The first group I became involved with is CRU, a group whose purpose is to fulfill the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith and sending them to win and build others; and helping the Body of Christ do evangelism and discipleship. Joining the group was the best decision I have made. Not only did I meet some of my closest friends there, it felt great to be a part of a community of Christians and people I could trust.

AACCS was great at prepping me for my college experience. At AACCS I learned to prioritize my school work and push hard at all that I do. In college, it can be very easy to get distracted by all the things going on, putting school work on the back burner. AACCS taught me to take my classes seriously and put my work first - then take time to do other things. AACCS taught me many important skills that prepared me for college. Knowing how to listen to a

lecture, pull out the important information, and take good notes to study has given me a big advantage in college.

I really enjoy college. It has been a great time to meet new people, try new things, and be challenged in new ways. College is a unique experience very different from AACCS, but because of the relationships and skills I built at AACCS I have felt prepared the entire way. ✚

“AACCS was great at prepping me for my college experience.

At AACCS I learned to prioritize my school work and push hard at all that I do.”



David Bell with Shuttle Commander Captain Frederick Gregory



HOMECOMING





2017



LOWER SCHOOL :: ANNAPOLIS

710 Ridgely Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

LOWER SCHOOL :: SEVERN

61 Gambrells Road
Severn, MD 21144

MIDDLE SCHOOL :: ANNAPOLIS

716 Bestgate Road
Annapolis, MD 21401

UPPER SCHOOL :: SEVERN

109 Burns Crossing Road
Severn, MD 21144



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

410.519.5300

aacsonline.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILLERSVILLE, MD
PERMIT #22

Save the date!

**2018 Spring Spectacular
Dinner & Auction**

***A Night in the Islands...
a Luau and Pig Roast***

**Saturday, April 21
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Kilby Athletic Center
AACS Upper School**

Auction ~ Live Music ~ Island Flair

Proceeds benefit the AACS Anchor Fund

**For more information, contact 410-519-5300 x2116
or akastendike@aacsonline.org**