

SPRING 2015

ANCHORAGE

The Magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School

ACTORS TAKE ON:

Into the Woods



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Perspective | Alumni Legacy



A MESSAGE FROM MR. K

By Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*

NURTURING OUR DISTINCTIVE CULTURE

This past weekend Barbara and I had the privilege of attending the Senior Candlelight Ceremony for our 2015 graduating class. If you've never attended one of our Candlelight Ceremonies, you're in for a treat when your son or daughter reaches that milestone. It's held in the Kerr Center, beautifully decorated by volunteer parents and teachers. One-by-one, seniors line up to share their message with the audience. Tears, laughter, joy, memories, and proud moments fill the room as student after student approaches the microphone to talk about his or her years at AACs.

Now that I've attended three of these memorable ceremonies, I can say with certainty that every year there is a single common thread that runs through the messages our students share on this evening. The theme is relationships.



Every one of the students began their message with a focus on relationships formed at AACs. I'm not just talking about standard relationships that any student forms in any school, I'm talking about teachers, staff, friends, and AACs parents who become like second families for our students, who can always be counted on, who lead students to Christ, who love unconditionally. The stories they tell are genuine and heartfelt. Barbara and I sat in the audience filled with thankfulness for being a

part of this tremendous Christ-centered community.

Most of our students also talked about their relationships with their parents. They spoke about how thankful they were for the sacrifices their parents made to enable them to attend a Christian school. There were so many parents in the audience, many with tears, who had a wonderful reminder that all of the challenges and busyness had been worth it, and all of the life lessons had actually been learned.

*The pursuit of a maturing
Christ-centered culture
and community will be
our mission driven focus.*

I share this with you as a reminder about the importance of our Christ-centered culture in which relationships such as these can form. It is my number one priority as I hope it is yours. In our Strategic Plan as well, the number one goal is a Christ-Centered Culture and Community.

A Christ-centered culture is not a destination...it is an ongoing journey that requires our constant attention. Because the enemy and the world's culture are permeating everything in and around us, we must conscientiously preserve this culture that makes AACs so distinct.

While a Christ-centered culture is not a destination, it is something that can be observed, sensed, and of course evaluated. We have a reputation for being a relational school. I had the joy of being reminded about this at the Candlelight Ceremony. Relationships are at the absolute heart of any organization's culture and they are present, observable, and in the DNA of AACs. My pledge to you is that as long as I serve as your Superintendent, relationships and the pursuit of a maturing Christ-centered culture and community will be our mission driven focus. †

*In His Service and Yours,
Rick Kempton, *Superintendent**

ANCHORAGE is the magazine of the 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 on the website 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*
- Nancy Pavlischek, *Principal, Lower School, Annapolis*
- Karl Graustein, *Principal, Lower School, Severn*
- Glen Cole, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Graham Thorpe, *Chief Advancement Officer*
- Jennifer Good, *Chief Communications Officer*

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

AACS 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.

- Michael Edmonds, *President*
- Karen Cole
- Warwick Fairfax
- James Mackrell
- David Mitchell
- Mary Robertson
- Cedric Sims
- Dan Smith – dansmith@aacsonline.org
- Mark Solsman
- Donna Tull

ABOUT THE COVER

Kyle Carey '17 and Annaliese Wilford '16, as the Baker and the Baker's Wife in Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Into the Woods*, performed by the Upper School Musical Theater Program in March 2015. The photo is from the performance of "It Takes Two," where they sing about how it is better to work together, and how being in relationship and community is better than seeking selfish desires.

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Breanna Wheeler, '01
Color Wheel Creatives, LLC
www.ColorWheelCreatives.com

PRINTING SERVICES

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

CONTENTS

- 3 "Boots & Bowties"
Spring Spectacular
- 4 Principal's Perspective
- 8 Alumni Legacy
- 9 Staying Connected: Alumni News
- 10 Alumni Update: Eleanor Grammas

"Boots & Bowties"

SPRING SPECTACULAR AUCTION

It was a
Wild
Success!



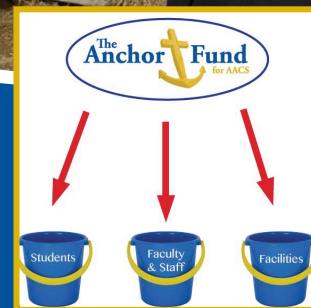
The Spring Spectacular Auction is an event that draws us together. One of the staples of AACs's history has been its tight community. The Spring Spectacular is part of that. It is our biggest school-wide fundraiser of the year and usually gathers together one of the largest groups of families, teachers, and staff. On April 18th it was held in the Upper School Kilby Athletic Center and this year's event was a record-breaking success – thanks to the generosity of those in attendance \$126,000 was raised for our school's Anchor Fund! The atmosphere of the night was one of camaraderie and on top of that a clear vision for the future of AACs was shared. We would like to thank our dedicated volunteer committee for working to plan and execute such a fantastic event and also to thank everyone who attended and bid so generously to support AACs and the Anchor Fund. We look forward to next year and hope to have even more of our community join us! ⚓



The Anchor Fund for AACs

GIFTS TO THE ANCHOR FUND

provide the flexible, immediate support that helps to captivate and sustain a talented and distinct student body; attract, retain, and train the best faculty and staff; and maintain the campuses with which this school community has been blessed. To make a gift to the Anchor Fund, visit aacsonline.org and click on the Anchor Fund button on the home page, or use the envelope provided in the center of this magazine.



PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



LOWER SCHOOL CAREER DAY

by Nancy Pavlischek,
Lower School Principal, Annapolis

What to do? What to do? Lower School students are years away from selecting a career, but it's never too early to start demonstrating the variety of choices that exist, and the many and varied ways God leads those who seek him.

When my son went to college, his major was "undeclared," and we were OK with that. With a limited frame of reference, college students don't really have a clue as to the wide variety of choices they can make. So many think if they don't know what they want to do from the beginning, something's wrong. In truth, even if you think you know, an estimated 75% of students change their major at least once before graduation. There are so many options!

At the Lower School, Career Day is

one way we try and expose children to a wide array of possibilities. Among many great speakers, we had a fireman, a baker, a chemist, an orthodontist, an engineer, a scientist, two FBI agents, a farmer, an author, and even an Air Force One pilot this year. Children had an opportunity to hear many of these speakers. One quote I heard was, "I learned an ER doctor had no idea what was going to come through the door on any night." Another was, "Wow, the schedule of a coach and teacher is long – from 5:15 devotions in the morning all the way through evening practices and devotions at night."

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Psalm 32:8

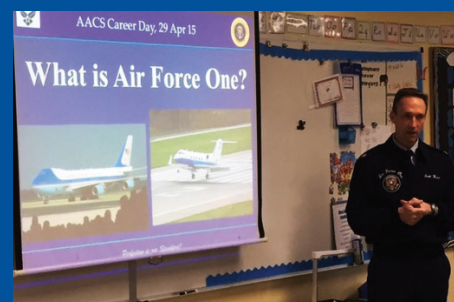
Speakers shared their careers, the training it required, and most importantly, how they represent Christ in their profession. Our calling is to live for Christ wherever he places us, and hearing how these dedicated professionals do that was inspiring.

We can't see way down the road, but our path unfolds as God leads us. Lower School students just took a step in pursuing God's call for their lives.



Thanks to Ms. Howe and Ms. Broege for organizing such a great day!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Nancy Pavlischek is the Principal of the AACCS Annapolis Lower School. The Pavlischeks have three children who graduated from AACCS, two grandchildren, and two on the way. She says she has the "best staff in the world," and appreciates the importance of Christian education more every year. Favorite verse this year? "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)



COMING SOON LOWER SCHOOL CAMPUS IN SEVERN

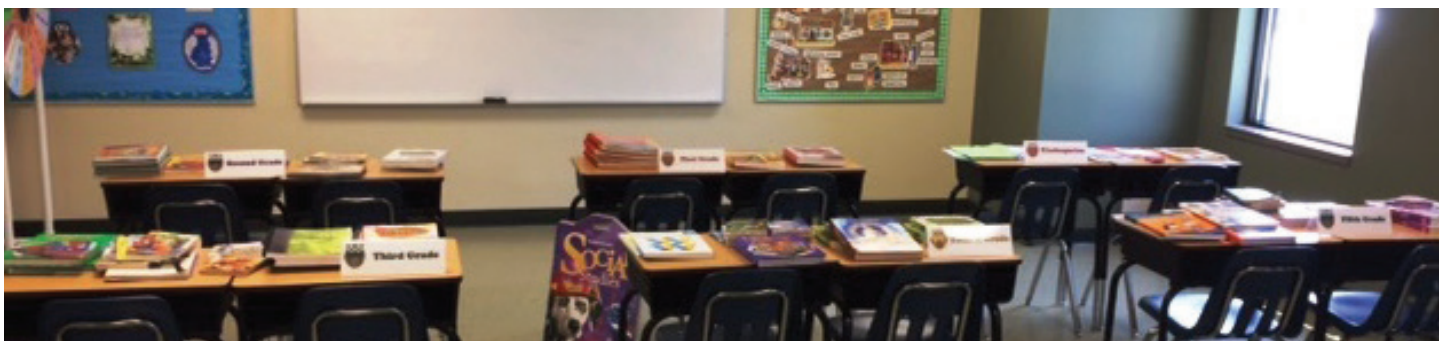
by Karl Graustein,
Lower School Principal, Severn

Olivia woke up at 5:30am excited to be going to her school for the first event. Our AACCS Let's Play School for

Kindergarteners started at 9:30am, and she could not wait. As the play time wrapped up, she announced, "I wish I could stay all day!"

April was an exciting month at the new AACCS lower school campus in Severn. We hosted new and prospective Kindergarten students, received occupancy approval from the county, held an open house event, and finalized our





faculty and staff for our opening this Fall!

Katie Hansen, one of our Kindergarten teachers from the Annapolis Lower School, led Let's Play School for prospective students. They had a reading lesson, center time, craft time, snack, recess, and more. It was a fun introduction to AACCS!

After an eight month process, we finally received approval from the county to occupy the space we are leasing at Grace Pointe Community Church

(61 Gambrills Road). If you have not had a chance to tour the facility, please contact me to schedule a time. We plan to use seven classrooms, a chapel room, gymnasium, sanctuary, and field space. Plus, we are just three miles from our Upper School campus.

We hosted many families at our April Open House, and have had many more additional tours requested! We also had dozens of applications for our classroom teaching positions. In the coming weeks, we look forward to

introducing our teaching team to the AACCS community.

Thank you to everyone who is spreading the word about our expansion! †

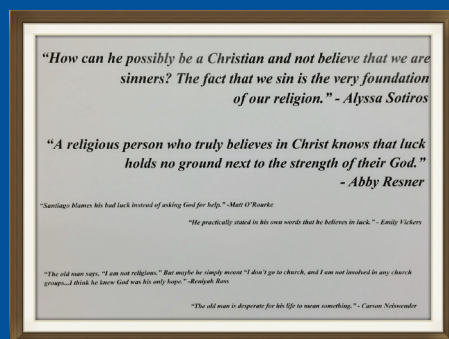
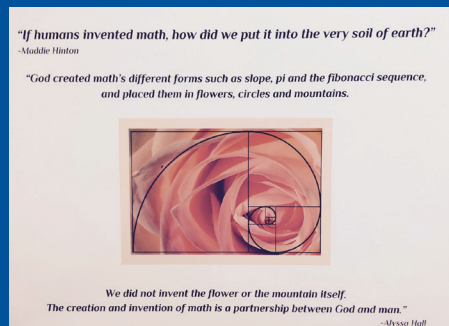
ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Karl Graustein is the Principal of the AACCS Severn Lower School. Karl and his wife, Jen, have been married for 15 years. They have three children who all attend AACCS (Anna – 8th, Sarah – 5th, and Timmy – 3rd). Karl & Jen met and married in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and all three of their children were born in Maryland. Karl joined AACCS in July 2014. The prior six years the Graustein's lived in southeastern Georgia where Karl served as the Headmaster of Saint Simons Christian School (grades Pre-K-8). Feel free to contact Karl at kgraustein@aacconline.org.

8TH GRADE SPRING SHOWCASE

by Susan Leonard, Middle School Faculty
& Rick Slenk, Middle School Principal

There are few moments in life that are greater than getting the chance to see with new eyes, and a different perspective. It was C.S. Lewis who once said, "I never exactly made a book. It's rather like taking dictation. I was given things to say." Every day at the Middle School we feel the same way, not about us, but about our students. We read essays, and are temporarily arrested by words and ideas that seem beyond their years, as if God Himself is giving them things to say.

Because of this, we wanted the community to see what we see and created an event at the Middle School we now simply call Showcase. This year the 8th grade students hosted a Winter and Spring Showcase. On view were snippets of sentences from essays that read more like excerpts from Calvin's Magnum Opus than answers to school essay questions, assignments or speeches.



These tiny morsels of perspicacious prose were etched on boards, easels and music stands for all to see, plucked from all core academic courses including American History, English Language Arts, Bible, Math and Science and incorporated local, national, and international issues and our AACCS Core Principle: *Biblical Worldview*.

At AACCS, our mission is to engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. When we ask our students to think critically, ask questions and impact the world for Him, often we find it's us adults who are the ones who are "schooled," not the other way around.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Susan Leonard teaches 8th Grade History and Bible at the AACCS Middle School. Susan and her husband Dan have been married for 20 years. They have two children who attend AACCS (Torrey, 11th and Lucy, 9th). Susan and Dan met and married while working on Capitol Hill. Susan joined AACCS in August 2013 as the MS Cross Country Coach. Prior to this, Susan completed her Masters in Divinity and Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary. Susan's been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Advertising Age and Glamour Magazine for her work on Presidential and Congressional Campaigns, and as a Political Appointee in The White House. Feel free to contact Susan at sleonard@aacconline.org.

Rick Slenk is the Principal of the Middle School. He and his wife Lori have been married for 35 years and have four children, Erin, David, Carlisle, and Ryan, all graduates of AACCS. Rick and Lori moved to Annapolis in 1981 from their hometown of Holland, Michigan so Rick could begin teaching 7th, 8th and 9th grade Social Studies at AACCS. Prior to coming to Annapolis, Rick taught English and Math in a medium security prison (as an employee, not an inmate!) After teaching for 17 years Rick took the job as Middle School Principal.

UPPER SCHOOL OUTDOOR WORSHIP NIGHT

by Robert McCollum, Upper School Principal

One of the themes of the Upper School this school year has been that of relationship. Fundamentally, Christianity is all about relationship. Specifically it is about the relationship that each one of us can have with the God of the Universe through a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and then the relationships we can have with one another as followers of Christ.

We have worked to help students understand and develop these relationships throughout this school year. What a joy it was to see some of the fruit of this work at an Outdoor Worship Night

held on the Upper School campus on Friday, April 17. What a sight to behold it was! Approximately 150 students, including some from the Middle and Lower School campuses, enjoyed a time of fellowship over hot dogs and hamburgers and then everyone joined together for two plus hours of musical worship led by the Spring Fling band. Among the crowd were most of the students visiting from the Netherlands who are part of our annual exchange program and an additional 25 parents, faculty, and staff who helped chaperone while enjoying a time of singing praises to our Lord and Savior. There are not many places in our area where you'll find that many high school kids coming together on a Friday to worship Jesus and to bathe in the grace of the relationship they have with Jesus

Christ. For that, I am deeply thankful, both as a principal but also as a father of two AACs students.

The other thing that we saw that night was equally significant. Two days prior, Rick Kempton, Superintendent, had given a challenge to our students in one of our weekly chapels. He exhorted the students to examine their hearts and ask if there were any relationships among them that were not right, if there was anyone with whom they needed to reconcile. At the Outdoor Worship Night, we saw a number of students convicted and reach out to other students seeking reconciliation. Some hugged, some wept, and prayed together celebrating unity in Christ. What a joy that was to see! Believers reconciling with one another in the midst of a crowd of teenagers worshipping the One True King! †



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Robert McCollum is the Principal of the AACs Upper School. Bob and his wife, Vicki, have been married for 20 years. They have two children who attend AACs (Kaitlyn – 11th and Melissa – 8th). Vicki teaches mathematics part-time at the Upper School. Robert and Vicki met and married while teaching in a public school in the suburbs of Chicago. Robert joined AACs in July 2013. The prior five years the McCollums lived as missionary educators in Bogotá, Colombia, where Robert served as an administrator at El Camino Academy, an international Christian school (grades Pre-K–12). Feel free to contact Robert at rmccollum@aacsonline.org.



12TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Proceeds to benefit the AACs Anchor Fund.
Now offering special alumni discount! Sponsorships
and Volunteer Opportunities also available.

Register to play online at www.aacsonline.org.

Contact 410.519.5300 x2116 or
akastendike@aacsonline.org for more information.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015
QUEENSTOWN
HARBOR GOLF CLUB
RIVER COURSE

COME PLAY GOLF.... Online Registration Now Open!



CELEBRATING
AACS 2014-2015



ALUMNI LEGACY

"There is no other school for my kids"

by Bob Topp, Lower School Faculty

On Tuesday, May 5, Katie Siddon Raspa, '98, sat in the sanctuary of Annapolis EP Church, the home of the Lower School, watching her son Griffin sing in the Lower School spring program. She thought back to her days as a student at AACS, performing in programs in that same sanctuary. "It's overwhelmingly emotional for me. It was and is a privilege to be able to sing songs of substance. Kids are learning motions and songs that really praise God."

She is not the only alumna to remember the days of Psalty as the cartoonish character that headlined school programs of the past. She is not the only one to relish the legacy of faith that AACS has helped perpetuate.

The school's growing group of second-generation AACS families has similar perspectives on how their children are in the same school that they attended. Mike Foundos, '94, sees a praying faculty and staff as a constant. "That is palpable at AACS." He said, "I credit the environment of AACS that helped those relationships with guys I had lunch with for years in school to grow. I want that, and see that for my children." Mike is not the only one to highlight the strength of relationships at AACS. Meg Romer McClure, '89, said, "My fondest memories come from the friendships." Mike Abramo, '91, spoke of those friendships among classmates and teachers. Bob Mori, '87, considers his friendship with Rick Slenk, "who became my mentor and the best man in my wedding" to be one of his best AACS memories.

Yet Annapolis Area Christian School is not just about friendships or programs. The spiritual foundation undergirds the school and has for many years, as many of the parents of second-generation AACS students pointed out. "A Biblically-sound educational focus is still here," said Graham Thorpe, '97, the school's Chief Advancement Officer. Bob Mori added, "Christ is and has al-

ways been its foundation." Niki Nichols O'Herlihy, who attended AACS in her junior high years, before the high school existed, has a sixth-grade daughter. She stated, "I was surrounded by teachers who loved Jesus and therefore loved me. I love that our daughter's teachers love Jesus and point to Him as part of everything they teach." Mike Abramo added, "One of the things that has not changed is the love for students and [the teachers'] desire for their success, both spiritually and academically." Jen Anderson Palumbo, '99, gave her view of the strengths of the school that carry through from her days as a student to her days now as an AACS mom. "The teachers have helped our children identify and use their gifts for God's glory, and to identify opportunities to grow in their areas of weakness. They care about academic growth, but they make it clear that their biggest priority is encouraging the children toward faith in the Lord that reflects a growing love and understanding of who God is and who they are to Him."

Meg McClure summed up the spirit of having second-generation AACS kids. "I consider it a luxury to be able to send my children to AACS, a place where the gospel is celebrated, the grace of Jesus abounds, where my children are free to learn about Christ in every aspect of their lives, and where the teachers love God and love the children." Even more succinctly, Graham Thorpe said, "There is no other school for my kids." †

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bob Topp has been teaching and coaching at AACS since 1990. His two grown children, David, '05 and Amy, '09, are "lifers" of AACS.



Jake '99 and Jen (Anderson) Palumbo '99, with their children, Liam (3rd grade), Emma (2nd grade), Joshua (23 months), Abigail (age 4), and Jake's parents, Pamela and Joe.



Michael Abramo '91, with his children, Alex (6th grade) and Logan (2nd grade).



Meg (Romer) McClure '89 and daughters Brooke (Kindergarten) and Brynn (1st grade).



Bob Mori '87 with his wife Doreen, and their three kids, Cole (9th grade), Brie (7th grade), and Emma (5th grade).



Scott Raspa '97 and Katie (Siddon) Raspa '98, with their children, Griffin (Kindergarten), Gavin (3rd grade), and Grace (5th grade).



Graham Thorpe '97 and Deanna Thorpe, with their children, Georgianna (4th grade), Lleyton (K), Libbie (age 4), and Shepherd (2nd grade).

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Austin Landavere '09 and his girlfriend Taira Gainer, recently got engaged! The couple plan to get married this November. Austin is currently working for Chick-Fil-A in Charleston, West Virginia and plans to own and operate his own Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the next five years.



Jacqueline (Ross) Kim '06

married Samuel Kim on January 23, 2015 at the Peabody Library. Sam is a Fire Protection Engineer Associate Consultant at Aon Fire Protection Corporation in Greenbelt and Jacqueline is working for the government while earning her PhD at University of Maryland. The couple resides in College Park, Maryland.



Patrick Kennedy '01 married Sharon Marie Eanes on March 21, 2015 in Valdosta, GA. The

couple met at Morningside Baptist Church and plan to continue living in Valdosta, near their church home, family, and friends. Patrick is currently finishing up his last class to earn his Masters in Aeronautical Sciences from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Sharon works as a Certified Nurse Midwife.

BIRTHS



Katie (Leek) Gateau '02

and her husband, Tommy, welcomed their daughter, Libby Mae, into the world on February 19, 2015. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Libby is joined at home by her big brother Grant, age 1 1/2. Katie works for DatocWitten Group, a strategic event production, fundraising, media, and public relations firm and is also training for another Triathlon and the Marine Corps Marathon!



Todd Temple '97

and his wife, Heather, welcomed their second child, Hadlynn Grace, into the family on November 11, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. She is joined at home by her older sister, Ava, age 4.

Austin Jamison '96 and his wife, Jackie, recently welcomed their third child, Emily Marie Jamison, into the world on February 23, 2015.

GRADUATIONS & AWARDS

Betsy Nolen '09 graduated from University of Maryland with a Master of Architecture in May 2015 after defending her architectural thesis, "Architecture without Vision." She currently works for Beyer Blinder Belle, an architecture firm, located in Georgetown.



Emily Young '11 recently graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Management. This fall she

will be returning to Penn State to begin an internship with Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru), where she will be working with college students introducing them to Jesus and helping equip them to grow in their faith.



Caleb Robertson '14

MIDN4/C, achieved a 4.0 GPA in his first semester at the United States Naval Academy, earning him a #1 ranking among the Class of 2018. He is also a varsity athlete, rowing Men's Heavyweight Crew. This summer Caleb will head to Ft. Benning, GA to attend Airborne school and get his "jump" wings. He will then spend the next few weeks out of the country on either a ship or at an international base, gaining some fleet experience before returning to school in late August.

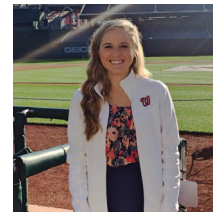
OTHER NEWS



Adam Cogliano '12 ran in to his former AACS choral directors, Leia Bennett Joseph and Stephen Holmes, while performing with his

college choir at the American Choral Directors Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in February. Adam had this to say about the unexpected meeting:

"I am so thankful I had the opportunity to see my high school choir director, Leia Bennett Joseph, at the American Choral Directors Association Conference in Salt Lake City. Six years ago, she convinced me to join choir for the first time. Today, I am pursuing music as a career at Baylor University, and I'm at ACDA to perform with the Baylor A Cappella Choir. My life would be drastically less musical without her exceptional guidance. What a fun AACS reunion in Utah, and we thoroughly enjoyed Stephen Holmes and the Maryland State Boychoir this afternoon!"



Kiersten McGreer '09

recently started a new job in January 2015 as an Inside Sales Representative for the Washington Nationals Baseball Club after receiving her Master's in Sport Management from Liberty University. She has had the opportunity to meet the Nationals General Manager and President of Baseball Operations, Mike Rizzo, and experience the excitement of Opening Day! She credits her success to God's work in her daily life and is thankful to Him for guiding her through the different experiences that brought her to this job while allowing her to stay close to family and her hometown.

ing her Master's in Sport Management from Liberty University. She has had the opportunity to meet the Nationals General Manager and President of Baseball Operations, Mike Rizzo, and experience the excitement of Opening Day! She credits her success to God's work in her daily life and is thankful to Him for guiding her through the different experiences that brought her to this job while allowing her to stay close to family and her hometown.

Jeff Onken '01 and his wife, Lauren, will be celebrating their sixth wedding anniversary this June and their son, Everett, will be turning two soon! Jeff recently got a promotion and new assignment at work which will move the family to Fairfax, Virginia, which they are eagerly anticipating. †

ALUMNI UPDATE

LOOKING BACK: FROM AACCS TO WHEATON COLLEGE

by Eleanor Grammas, *Class of 2011*

I just graduated from Wheaton College, and I can't believe how blessed I have been. I graduated with an Applied Health Science Major and Biology Minor and I am hoping to continue on to a combined Masters of Public Health and Physician Assistant graduate program. Currently, I am working on accumulating patient contact hours in order to gain more medical experience and be eligible for the graduate program application process.

During my senior year, I was vice president of Wheaton's Global and Public Health club, I worked at the campus sports and recreation center and

AACS was formative in the development with my relationship with God.

I lived with eight of my best friends in a house right in the middle of campus. I loved my time at Wheaton. The campus has a Christ-like community and a feeling of fellowship and acceptance that is rare even among



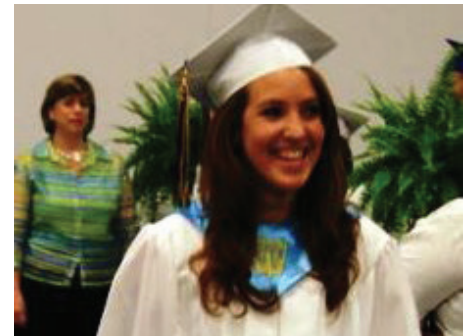
Eleanor, (bottom left), with her teammates from the AACCS Girls Varsity Soccer team after winning the IAAM league championship.

Christian colleges. There are not many places where you can come to class and hear/share stories of spiritual or emotional struggle and immediately be prayed over. The community of students and faculty are vibrant and active. I liked that they challenged me academically and spiritually.

When I graduated from AACCS, I wasn't sure where I would be going to college and I was not excited for the change. I was actually quite nervous. I had been waitlisted at Wheaton College, the one school where I thought

I belonged, and hesitantly removed my name from the list midway through the summer, so that I could mentally

The teachers and students at AACCS had just as much positive impact on me as the courses did.



Entering the gym for her AACCS Class of 2011 graduation ceremony.

prepare to go to another school. This other school may not have been my first choice, but it was a Christian college and they had offered me a scholarship. At the time, I thought it would be a good fit. My freshman year was not

SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2015

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 – Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

7:00pm, Kilby Athletic Center at the AACCS Upper School
Tickets \$25/person, email alumni@aacsonline.org for information

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Girls Varsity Volleyball v. Concordia Prep, 5:30 PM
Girls JV Volleyball v. Concordia Prep, 4:15 PM
Girls Varsity Field Hockey v. Elizabeth Seton, 3:45 PM
Girls Varsity Soccer v. St. Timothy's, 3:45 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 – Alumni Games & Fall Festival

Boys Varsity Soccer v. St. Peter and Paul, 12:00 PM
Boys Varsity Football v. Friends, 1:00 PM

WINTER EVENTS 2015

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Alumni Christmas Reception
7:00–10:00pm
Federal House Annapolis

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Young Alumni Chapel & Luncheon
Chapel: 9:55–10:50am
Lunch: 11:00am, Kilby Athletic Center



Eleanor, (fourth from left) and friends at their Senior Banquet at Wheaton.

academically challenging, rather it was challenging socially and emotionally. I often refer to my initial college of choice as a “suit-case” school because more than half of the students would leave campus on the weekend. Of course, I did not understand this about the school when I applied and accepted. Most of the freshmen were relatively local and already had acquaintances throughout the student body, but I was an outsider. I also did not sense a Christ-like community on the campus. The campus community was more focused on attaining immediate satisfaction through fulfilling worldly desires. I found a way to get involved by joining the club soccer team and becoming involved in a campus interdenominational ministry group. However, even after taking advantage of some of the campus-wide opportunities, I realized that God was calling me to try applying to Wheaton a second time. I did and I cried when



Eleanor, (left), with her two roommates/friends in front of Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel, where they attended weekly chapels during college. This was taken at their last chapel, which was dedicated to the seniors.

I was accepted. I was going to be a transfer student, and I was so excited. Even though I was nervous to go through the phase of making friends and getting acquainted to a new environment, when I stepped on Wheaton's campus I felt a wave of relief. It was a place I was ready to call home. I wasn't sure why.

Looking back, I know that my freshman year was not a mistake. It was definitely trying, but I learned a lot about myself and about what I had taken for granted at AACCS. It was God's plan.

After spending three years at Wheaton College, I realized that Wheaton is very similar to AACCS. AACCS was formative in the development of my relationship with God. The teachers and students at AACCS had just as much positive impact on me as the courses. Their Christ-like attitudes encouraged me, while the Biblical courses strengthened my knowledge and belief



in Christ. My freshman year of college opened my eyes to a different type of environment. It was an environment that I quickly had to adapt to and grow in, but I think it was necessary to experience. I also think that I did not change my beliefs and moral values during that first year because of my formative experience at AACCS. Similarly, I feel excited and ready to head out into the working world because the healthy Christian environment that Wheaton offered continued forming and preparing me to adapt and thrive. †

AACCS proudly presents

THE CLASS OF 2015



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

LOWER SCHOOL
710 Ridgely Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

MIDDLE SCHOOL
716 Bestgate Road
Annapolis, MD 21401

UPPER SCHOOL
109 Burns Crossing Road
Severn, MD 21144

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANNAPOLIS, MD
PERMIT #559

410.519.5300 | 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.

The Capital
READERS 
CHOICE
2*0*1*5
WINNER

**BEST Private Lower School (K-8)
AND Upper School!**

