



SPRING 2019

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

anchorage

THE LEGAL EAGLES ARE BACK!



**16th Annual
Spring Spectacular
Auction**



**Senior Serves
as a Maryland
Senate Page**



**Severn Lower
School's X Factor**

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.

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Send photos and updates to akastendike@aacsonline.org or contact the Alumni Office at 410.519.5300 x2116.

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ON THE COVER: AACS's Mock Trial team strikes a *Law & Order* pose with Coach Rob Burton '98 outside the Anne Arundel Circuit Court in Annapolis shortly before beating the Severn School. Read more about Burton's role and the Legal Eagles' impressive return to the courtroom on p. 12. Cover photo: Michael Lentz '12.



ACSI, MSA-CESS, SP, and CSIP

These letters are not likely to make the cut for a *Jeopardy!* category titled "Everyday Initialisms," but to AACS they represent a collective masterpiece that informs the school's Kingdom work going forward. In just under fourteen months, our community, fueled by faculty and staff's after-hours contributions, submitted a comprehensive K-12 self-study report for reaccreditation, outlined school improvement goals complete with action items and timelines, and began to create the next six-year strategic plan for AACS. Attempting just one of these three projects in a year is ambitious. But even more amazing than completing all three is that they will align as one overall plan and focus on what matters most at AACS: Christ and kids.

You may recall that we are members of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). This worldwide educational and K-12 accrediting organization has more than 3,000 member schools in the U.S. and more than 20,000 worldwide. ACSI membership extends to 120 Christian colleges and universities as well. The ACSI reaccreditation process began in 2018 and involved all faculty, staff, and board members. Students, alumni, and parents also participated throughout the process. This past February, our self-study report was assessed by a team of ACSI Christian school leaders who visited our campuses in March to evaluate firsthand our K-12 program. In June, we received ACSI's longest and most difficult to achieve **seven-year accreditation term**, earning commendations in several areas by meeting or exceeding requirements for all eight standards. This is recognized by MSA-CESS (Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools), so we remain dually accredited.

In addition to the ACSI reaccreditation process, three SP (Strategic Plan), committees formed in the spring of 2018 to further build on our current plan. The SP's four major goals remain constant: *Christ-Centered Culture and Community, Unified Mission Focused Educational Program, Top Notch Faculty and Staff*, and *Strategic Stewardship of Resources*. Committees proposed action items, some new and others ongoing, for each of the four goals. With the four goals in mind, the CSIP (Continuous School Improvement Plan) was written during the reaccreditation process. This fall, we will launch the next Strategic Plan, providing the framework for our future.

In the pages that follow, it's clear that our students and faculty have a great headstart. You will read in ways big and small, how we are shaping future

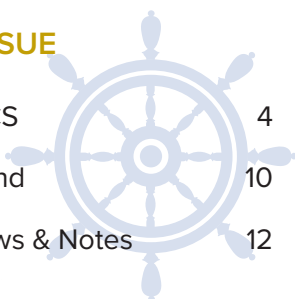
leaders who know and love Jesus. And now that you know what the letters mean and the hard work behind them, it should come as no surprise that the bottom line is still Christ and kids. 📌




In His Service and Yours,
Rick Kempton, Superintendent/Head

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Rock AROUND THE Clock

Word from the Bird: AACS's 1950s Auction Gig Rocked

Whether you were an ankle-biter in the 1950s or just love the decade, the Rock Around the Clock bash was a blast. THANK YOU to all of the item donors, dinner attendees, sponsors, auction bidders, volunteers, student performers, and prayer warriors who supported the 16th Annual Spring Spectacular Dinner and Auction. As always, it was a very special evening where the greater AACS family came together as one community to give thanks, worship, and feast.

We are pleased to announce that the event raised more than \$80,000 for the AACS Anchor Fund!

Your investment to the Anchor Fund directly blesses our students and faculty and helps to maintain and improve our facilities.

May all praise and honor be to our Father in heaven for His good gifts to us!



What is Biblical Worldview?

An introduction by Susan Leonard

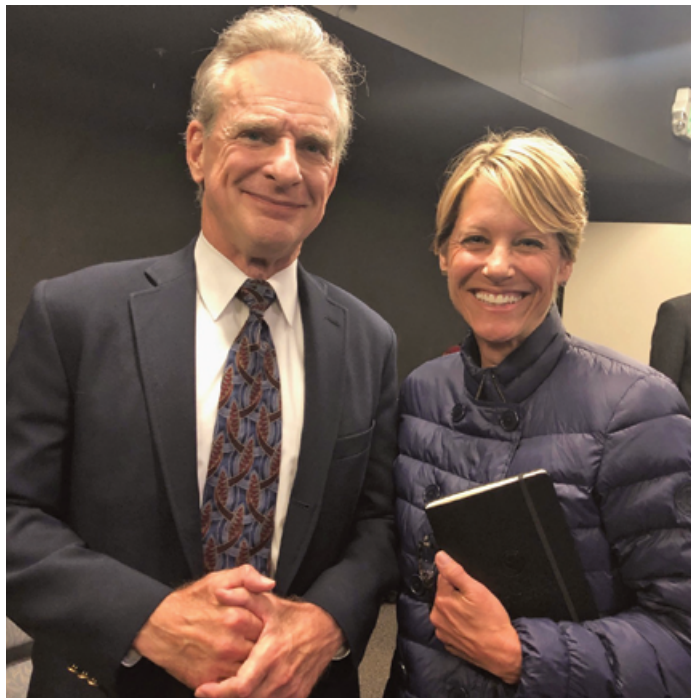
Fellow, The Colson Center for Christian Worldview; current student, Biola University, Christian Apologetics Program, Talbot School of Theology; and former AACCS 8th-grade Bible teacher

A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW of education means we teach students a comprehensive, unified view of the world that addresses all of life and reality. Our life purpose is to know God and when we pursue education to this end, all of our endeavors hold meaning and eternal significance, even the mundane. This belief is distinctive to Christian education. Because we believe we are saved *from* our sins and *for* the restoration of the world, we teach students both a biblical view of the world and how to add value to it. Each and every student is made in the image of God and designed by God for a vocation to partner with God to restore the world. Central to our school mission is an essential worldview question for all Christian schools: *How is each student uniquely a part of God's vision to restore creation?* and then, *How do we, as adult educators, parents, and the church partner to help our students vision a plan to restore it?*

In the pages that follow, I invite you to explore evidence that we are teaching and thinking in new ways about how best to prepare and equip our nation's future leaders to solve problems

in the world through a biblical worldview lens. This lens is crucial, especially now as we confront new and complex ethical, moral, religious, and social challenges in areas such as bioethics, social sciences, technology, and healthcare. Through the scope and sequence of our K-12 program, the goal is for students to learn that Christianity is more than a set of beliefs. It is also a view of the world that allows students to connect disciplines

to an objective truth that satisfies and answers our deepest questions as human beings. Armed with a whole Truth and the full assurance of the Holy Spirit, our students are then best equipped to seek and uplift the lost, add value and beauty to the world, and effect true change as growing believers in Jesus Christ. We engage students in an education of excellence that enables them to impact the world for Jesus Christ. Sound familiar? This is our mission and what distinguishes us from other schools.



Leonard stands with Biola University Professor William Lane Craig, Ph.D., following a two-day taping of lectures about Christian apologetics at Biola's Talbot School of Theology. Widely known for his public debates with atheists, agnostics, and skeptics, Craig is one of the foremost contemporary philosophers on Christianity and author of more than 30 books, including his 1994 classic Reasonable Faith, a comprehensive text of the primary apologetic arguments for God, Christ, and Scripture.

To learn more about worldview basics, follow the series on Breakpoint: A Fresh Look at Worldview. (www.breakpoint.org, search: A Fresh Look at Worldview) [📌](#)

World Impact

Future Leaders Solve Problems with Biblical Truth

By Harriet Petrocelli

HER SEVENTH GRADER had always sailed through school with straight A's and yet AACs parent Townsend McNitt knew that her daughter lacked the skill set needed to clearly state and defend her beliefs. McNitt observed middle-school kids in both public- and private-school settings honing their skills as master memorizers and multiple choice test-takers, but they were rarely, if ever, tapped to do more. Conversely, when given a choice, these capable middle schoolers shied away from opportunities to speak in front of their classmates or dig deeper into text in search of answers. "I longed for my daughter to think more concretely about a biblical worldview," says McNitt, "then be able to express her understanding and use it to solve problems. In other words a TED Talk within the biblical worldview framework."

McNitt partnered with former 8th-grade Bible Teacher Susan Leonard to launch The TED Talk style Lunch Club in 2014 as a voluntary class of eight students who agreed to earn no credit or grades for their involvement. At the end of the year, six presented their five-minute speeches to peers and teachers. The club transitioned to an elective history class in the second year and the number of students participating doubled. Diane Smith, whose experience as the former Upper School Fine Arts Chair, English teacher, and Senior Practicum mentor, joined Leonard in year three. "I relish the process of intentionally finding points-of-contact between English and Scripture so that abstract concepts in the Bible have a concrete place to land," explained Smith. Her expertise in how to develop and defend an argument and speak to audiences complimented Leonard's similar gifts in teaching Christian apologetics and worldview,

and the Bible as four chapters: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. These powerhouse educators catapulted the program from voluntary to requisite and cross-disciplinary.

Now in its fourth year, the program features student World Impact Speeches in April at an evening symposium open to the public. A few days later, these future leaders set up information displays in the MS gymnasium and engage peers, teachers, and guests in conversation about their world problem and biblical restorative solution. Students complete all research, writing, editing, and speech preparation in their English and Bible classes. They learn how to develop an argument through claims, reasons, and evidence and how to identify and use valid sources. In Bible class, Christianity comes into focus as more than just a set of beliefs, but a comprehensive, unified worldview that addresses all of life and reality. "Students learn the Bible is not just religious truth or even a subjective claim but total Truth with a capital T," said Leonard. The program is a shining example of AACs's mission *to engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

Thanks to a mother's passion to prepare students for leadership and partner with educators, God is on



Pablo Duran '23 kicks off the World Impact Speech Night with "How Video Games Hurt Us."

the move at AACs where Christian apologetics and the development of an argument are beginning to take hold outside the classroom. At the lockers, Smith hears two boys arguing about police brutality. Just as she considers stepping in to mediate, she hears, "Do you have the evidence to back up what you say? Help me to understand." Smith smiles and moves on knowing this generation is going to move the culture closer to God's original intent one respectful argument at a time.

"Our nation's success or failure will be

determined by how this generation solves problems, and from within what worldview these future leaders frame problems and propose outcomes," says Leonard. "Now more than ever, our nation needs this generation to rise and speak to one another in practiced, renewed, and civil ways that honor each person as made in the image of God." This program does just that. 🌐



World Impact Speech Topic Sampling

Weapons of Mass Destruction: Plastics

Abortion Is Affecting Our Lives

The Impact of Opioid Overdoses on Families

The Pressure to Be Thin Is Fatal

Differentiation in a Distinctly Christian Classroom

Q & A

“At AACS, our distinctive is biblical worldview. So our teachers’ approach to students begins with God’s wisdom that we are all uniquely and purposefully created for unity as one Body in Christ. Teachers strive to respect and celebrate each child as a member of the Body by instructing intentionally so each student is a valued learner. This happens in a classroom where differentiation is a priority.”

—Elizabeth Williams, principal

ANCHORAGE EDITOR Harriet Petrocelli sat down with Annapolis Lower School’s Amy Stein, a first-grade teacher, and Carolyn Beall, the educational support program director, to discuss differentiated instruction and why one size does not fit all in the classroom.

What is differentiated instruction?

CAROLYN BEALL: Planning lessons for specific learning targets while incorporating students’ learning styles and needs is step one.

AMY STEIN: Exactly. This goes on simultaneously in my classroom. For example, I use color-coded station rotations so that all groups have independent, peer-to-peer, and instructional time with me to master concepts.

How do you differentiate?

AS: As a teacher, I am continually evaluating how to best meet the needs of my students. One student requires a visual reminder of the materials used in class. I revisit a math concept with two students to strengthen comprehension of a new lesson. At my table, three students dive into a deeper understanding of a leveled text while a few of their friends use puzzle pieces on the floor to master sentence structure.

CB: As Amy just illustrated, teachers can differentiate the product, the process, the content, and the learning environment.

How do you address peer judgment?

CB: Students benefit from “purposeful differentiation,” which is teaching them

where they are and adjusting when they grow. When students experience steady progress in their own learning, they are less likely to question differences in peers’ learning styles.

AS: I set the tone on day one honoring them as children of God. Teaching them to accept that not everyone has the same gifts frees them to be collaborative, enthusiastic learners. Unwanted classroom behaviors arise when kids regularly find lessons too easy or, conversely, overwhelmingly difficult.

Are students stuck at one level all year?

CB: Just the opposite. Teachers assess students to identify their specific strengths and needs and then instruct students on their level in the way that they learn best.

AS: Even in the same subject, a student may find math facts difficult, but geometry easy, so groupings are fluid all year to accommodate student needs and gifts.

Are gifted students underserved in a classroom with diverse learners?

AS: Not at all. Differentiation for ALL

ability levels is so important. Our differences are what makes each classroom uniquely created by God! 🙏

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ...If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, 17-20



Far left: Boys observe a praying mantis before returning to the classroom. **Left:** Stein engages students during reading group.

Meet Ms. Trish, Severn Lower School's X Factor

By Karl Graustein, principal



A group of second- and third-grade students play their favorite game, Moss, where the leader throws a ball up above the group and each student tries to jump up and catch the ball just like former NFL wide-receiver Randy Moss. Ms. Trish is in the middle of the huddle, building relationships, keeping the game safe, and making sure everyone is having fun.

Fourth and fifth graders can barely contain their enthusiasm when Ms. Trish is in charge. All eyes are on her as they struggle to stay behind the starting line waiting for her signal. “Dodgeball!” Ms. Trish’s command fills the air as 28 students sprint past her grinning ear to ear.

MS. TRISH MADE AACCS better from the moment she started two years ago in June. Maybe it’s her genuine care for each student as if they were her own. Or perhaps it’s her impeccable timing that she appears just when a teacher needs her most.

Tricia Edgar is known as Ms. Trish at Annapolis Area Christian School. After serving at Riverdale Baptist Christian School for many years, she joined the AACCS staff in 2017. During the school year, she serves as a classroom and recess aid and an aftercare staff member at the Severn Lower School. She transitions to the Upper School during the summer months to work as a counselor, mentor, and director of operations for the AACCS Summer Programs. Although she is not a classroom teacher, she views her time with kids after school, during recess, and in the summer as opportunities to teach and model body awareness, social skills, and teamwork while exercising or participating

in a quieter activity. Her knack for creative, intentional, and organized play is a win-win for teachers who welcome students back to the classroom refreshed and ready to learn after time with Ms. Trish. “Trish’s faithfulness and consistency make the school day smoother and less stressful,” remarks Rachel Schaefer, third-grade teacher. “During recess and aftercare, she is masterful at adjusting the structure to meet the needs of the students in her care.”

Ms. Trish is a pillar at AACCS. “It is such a joy to watch her with students,” shares Nikki Gilmore, SLS fifth-grade teacher. “Her love for them and theirs for her is undeniable.” At recess recently, a student chalks, *We love Ms. Thrish*, on the pavement. The extra “h” is barely noticed as students and teachers walk past nodding and smiling in approval. Ms. Trish captures the hearts of all who meet her. She is our X Factor, and we can’t imagine AACCS without her. 📍

Taking the Floor

By Harriet Petrocelli

RECENT GRADUATE Melissa McCollum spent two weeks this past winter as a page for the Maryland General Assembly's 439th Session, which ran for 90 days between January 9 and April 8. During the three-month session, lawmakers pored over more than 2,500 bills. McCollum is part of a select group of 105 high-school seniors from across the state who serve two, non-consecutive weeks.

Pages provided administrative support during the Session, which included managing bill-document binders, organized and updated daily, for each of the 47 senators and 141 house delegates. She quipped, "Did you know that House bill copies are printed on blue paper and Senate bill copies on cream paper?" When she wasn't busy updating binders, McCollum met with her representatives from District 33, which includes most of Anne Arundel County. Senator Ed Reilly and Delegates Sid Saab, Michael Malone, and Heather Bagnall all warmly welcomed her, but her time with Senator Reilly was especially meaningful as she

watched him in action on the Senate floor. "I've found my people," she beamed. Clearly, her page experience exceeded all expectations. McCollum plans to continue to focus on her interests in politics and law as a freshman this fall at Wheaton College in Illinois.

Legislators did allow for some lighthearted breaks between proceedings, and McCollum witnessed some of that fun in her first moments as a page during a Monday evening session. After the opening prayer, senators began humming the familiar *Jeopardy!* television show theme song. "By the end of the first few bars," shared McCollum, "everyone was singing, some quite loudly." Former Maryland government staffer Eric Backes made his first of five appearances on the show earlier that evening, winning \$48,001. Backes would go on to win \$107,602 in five games. "We sang the song in his honor every day that week," beamed McCollum. "Despite the frenetic pace and often heated debates between senators, the frequent flashes of friendship across party lines

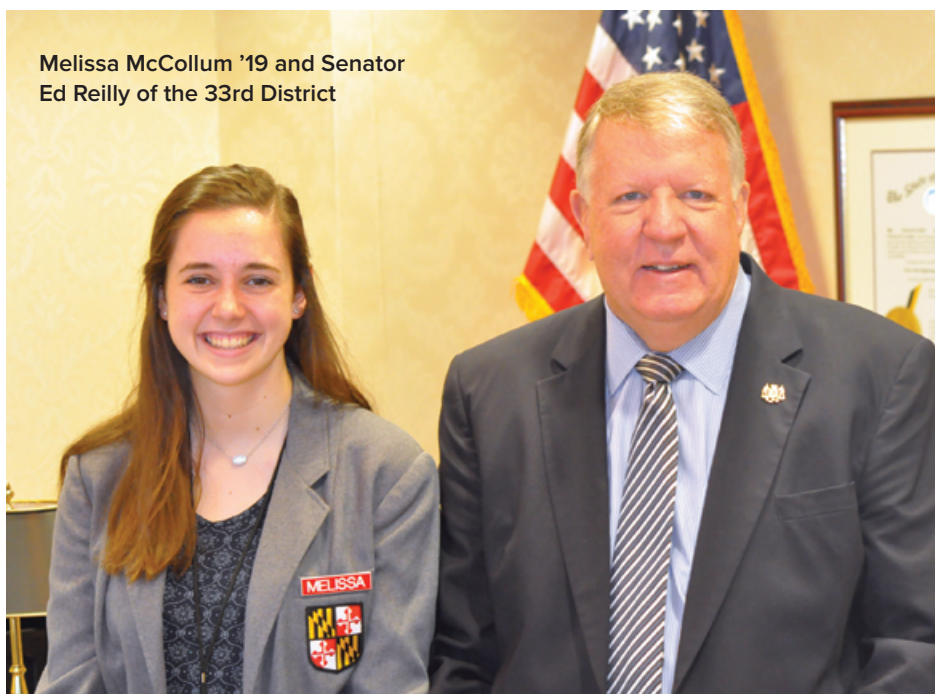
"Senators engaged us in conversation about issues and whenever possible, we were invited to join them in committee."

Melissa McCollum '19

were refreshing and often quite tender."

In March, McCollum spent several hours sitting in on committee discussions about healthcare, education, and transportation. One such discussion is about digital drivers' licences under House Bill (HB) 180, which passed unanimously on March 5 and was forwarded to the Senate a few days later where McCollum and her page comrades picked it up in committee. Digital drivers' licences were recently pilot tested in Maryland. McCollum and her peers shared their enthusiasm for the idea of having a digital driver's license. They also asked probing questions about potential downsides, such as hacker access and user fraud. "This was not a one-time occurrence," said McCollum. "Senators engaged us in conversation about issues and whenever possible, we were invited to join them in committee." Wondering about the fate of HB 180? It passed unanimously in the Senate on March 31 and was signed into law by Governor Hogan.

On her last morning, a blustery March day, McCollum is especially thankful for the underground tunnel connecting the the Miller Senate Office Building to the State House. As she emerges from the tunnel elevator, the larger-than-life painting of a distraught George Washington resigning his commission as commander in chief of the Continental Army before Congress catches her eye. Her thoughts turn to the colonial leaders



Melissa McCollum '19 and Senator Ed Reilly of the 33rd District



in the painting, some of whom openly cried at the news—just a few feet away from where she stands—in the Old Senate Chamber. The building is the oldest American state capitol in continuous legislative use and the only state house to have ever served as the nation's Capitol.

A fellow page taps her on the shoulder and she is back in the present. The senators' binders need to be updated before session begins. She opens the first binder, marvels at the tradition of the blue and cream paper, and smiles. God has her just where He wants her. 📌



AACS is a proud participant in the Delmarva Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The five-digit code to designate AACS is 22852. For more information, visit www.cfctoday.org.



16th Annual Golf Classic

Friday, October 4, 2019
Queenstown Harbor Golf Club

Proceeds benefit AACS athletic programs.
Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available.

Register online at www.aacsonline.org

Contact Ashlee Kastendike '01 at
410.519.5300 x2116 or
akastendike@aacsonline.org.





Sowing Seeds with an Eye Toward Eternity

Every May there is a palpable excitement on all four campuses of AACS. Students welcome the warmer weather, teachers and staff dream of summer vacation, and parents of 12th graders count down the days until their child graduates and shifts to the next phase of growth as a young adult. And yet there is still much work to be done. Exams, practicums, college choices, summer job applications, and more make the spring months full and exhausting. But thankfully, those in the AACS community, through the lens of the Bible, have the privilege to view life as a long, slow walk in the same direction. It is not a dreary walk, but one full of challenges and joy and conflict and grace. There are many stages and seasons and all of them, thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, work together for our good. Seeds that were planted a long time ago in your children's hearts and minds get watered, nurtured, pruned, encouraged, fertilized, and put on display as they mature and grow. It is the same with the institution of Annapolis Area Christian School. Your choice to plant a student here or give a gift here is not something that remains static. Eternity is impacted through each seed of investment planted. Growth is spurred on. Lives are shaped and molded. All to the glory of God. As the summer season welcomes us with its sunshine and heat, may you take the time to sow good seeds of grace and love even as we set about the work of cultivating hearts to be rich toward God. We know that God "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). 🙏

Graham Thorpe '97
Chief Advancement Officer

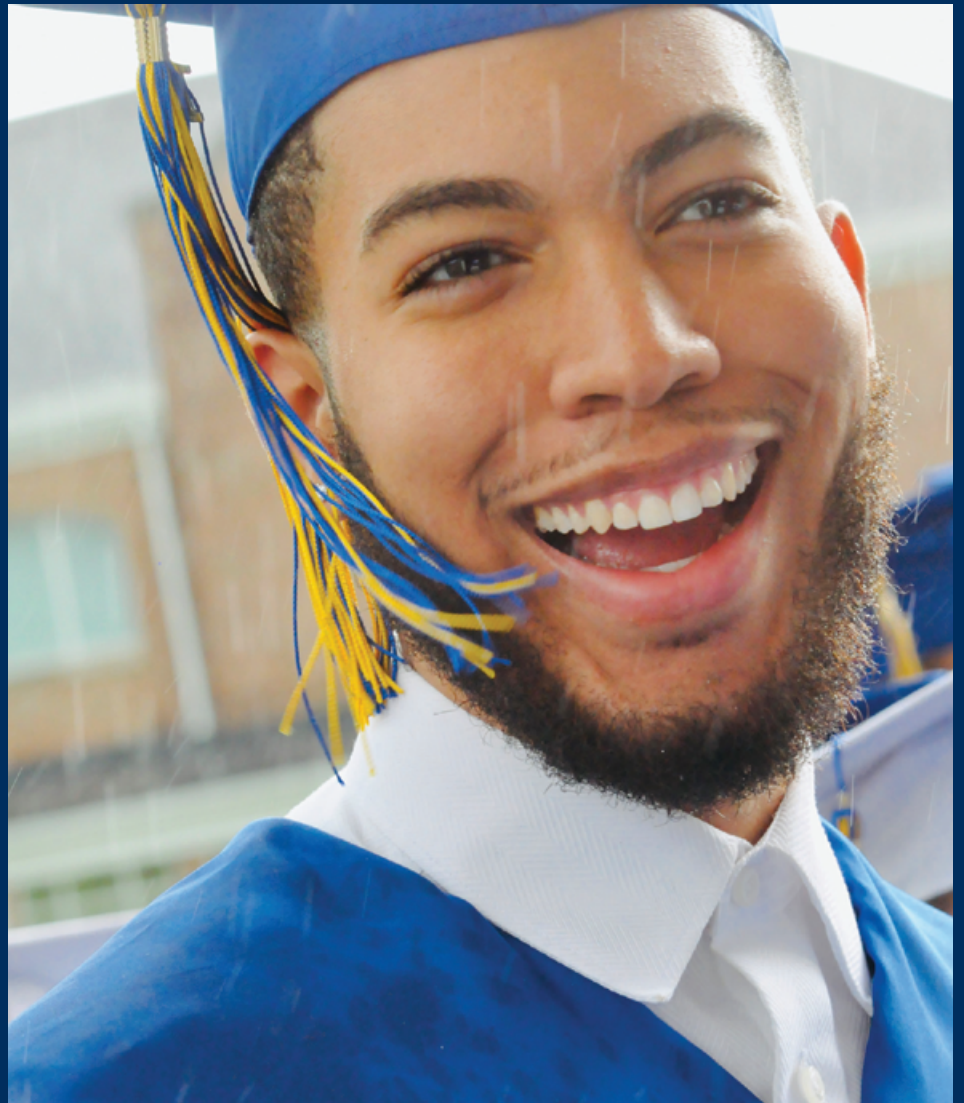


I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:5



These ten young women arrived in kindergarten and spent 13 years learning and growing at AACS. The Class of 2019 "lifers," a term of endearment, stand proudly with Superintendent Kempton on graduation day. Back row: (l to r) Jolie Memmel, Anna Martini, Superintendent Rick Kempton, Maddie Hinton, Abby Reuschling. Front row: (l to r) Maggie Stallings, Abby Bauserman, Lizzy Cottrill, Alyssa Sotiros, Alyssa Hall, and Abby Resner.



Inside

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A Legal Eagle Returns to the Nest

By Harriet Petrocelli

Photos by Michael Lentz '12

SPOTLIGHT Rob Burton '98 is a "lifer" save for one year of homeschooling when he lived in Pennsylvania. It's a term of endearment used to describe a graduate whose 13 years of primary and secondary education is spent at the same institution. As a student, Burton performed with the Madrigal Singers, the Upper School Chorale, and the Golden Eagles Marching Band, leading as drum major in his senior year. "I lived and breathed AACS," recalled Burton. Not surprisingly, nearly 36 years after his first day of kindergarten, Burton's commitment to Annapolis Area Christian School is stronger than ever.

Continuing to work at Chick-Fil-A during college for Board Member Mike Edmonds and marrying Carolyn Fischer

'95 reflect his connection to AACS. However, it is his passion for the law, which he discovered as a freshman member of the Mock Trial team, that planted a seed. Mock Trial was more than just a resume-builder for Burton, who was hooked the moment he started preparing for his first case as a Legal Eagle in 1994.

Since 1983, more than 50,000 students statewide have participated in the Mock Trial program spearheaded by Maryland Youth and the Law in partnership with the state's bar association. Teams study the same case and then apply knowledge and strategy by acting out the case in a series of courtroom competitions as lawyers and witnesses. Regrettably, the AACS team disbanded after Burton's sophomore year, but his desire to practice law remained. Nearly 11 years passed before

he finished law school and returned to the courtroom, this time as a trial lawyer. From there, his career took several interesting turns that eventually led him back to AACS.

Fresh out of law school in 2005, Burton started his career as staff counsel for the Maryland State Ethics Commission. "It looked great on paper," he admitted, "and it turned out to be one of the most boring things I've done in my life. I knew if I didn't make a change, I was never going to see the inside of a courtroom." He managed to find work as a trial lawyer at a small firm and never looked back. In 2010, he was hired on the spot as assistant county attorney in Baltimore County's Office of Law where he stayed for four and a half years representing them in workers' compensation claims.

While there, the subject line of an email he would ordinarily delete caught his eye. Prince George's County needed a Mock Trial judge and Burton



Burton '98 with three of the five seniors on the 2019 Mock Trial Team: (l to r) Melissa McCollum, Will Mathews, and Alyssa Hall.

Burton prepares Luke Caton '21 for trial.



These kids are among the most intelligent...students I have ever met. ...What they lack in experience, they more than compensate for in intellect.

Rob Burton '98

was more than happy to oblige. After judging a few times, he knew he had to revive the program at AACS. Then Upper School Principal Jane Brown gave him the green light in 2012, and Burton prepared his rookie squad of Legal Eagles. They won Circuit 5 in the 2013 season and qualified for the playoffs. "Sharp and quick-witted with a healthy dose of sarcasm," AACS Dean of Students Eric Hansen smiled, fondly remembering Burton as a student in his English class. "He is a gifted lawyer and a gentleman whose integrity is beyond reproach. I love his heart for our students." Despite the success of

Burton's first team, the program folded.

"I bleed blue and gold. It never occurred to me to approach another school, so I stayed in touch with Eric and waited," said Burton. In the fall of 2015 his patience was rewarded. Burton began working with a small group of interested students and this time it stuck. This March, the Mock Trial Team finished 7 and 3, marking the team's fourth consecutive winning season. "These kids are



Perfect Sare '21, Amanda Vincent '22, and Cole Phillips '21 receive final instructions before trial.

among the most intelligent high school students I have ever met," he said.

Burton looks back with amazement at his journey. He is currently lead counsel for Prince George's County's Board of Education Workers' Compensation Defense Program. "Nobody goes to law school thinking they want to specialize in workers' compensation," he laughs. "I was blessed along the way with opportunities that have allowed me to develop expertise in this niche area of law that I have come to love."

In May, Burton bid farewell to five seniors on the Mock Trial team, four of whom started with him as freshmen. The underclassmen will have to figure out a way to compete, but he isn't worried. "What they lack in experience, they more than compensate for in intellect." Will next year's team make a playoff run? Burton is hopeful, but regardless he is looking forward to a fifth consecutive return to the AACS nest to coach and watch the Legal Eagles soar. 📌



Will Mathews '19 addresses the judge during competition.

The AACS Alumni Association



The AACS Alumni Association exists to keep our alumni connected to Annapolis Area Christian School and each other through publications and annual events, such as Homecoming Weekend, class reunions, the Christmas Reception, Young Alumni Chapel and Luncheon, Summer Crab Feast, and more. The Alumni Association provides opportunities for graduates to participate in school activities and share their college and professional experiences with current students.

Any person who attended AACS as a student is automatically a member of the Alumni Association and is welcome to participate in all activities and opportunities.

The AACS Alumni Council



ALUMNI COUNCIL

The AACS Alumni Council is a small group of alumni

who represent each graduating class and whose role it is to lead, support, and strengthen the Alumni Association efforts so that the community as a whole grows spiritually, socially, academically, and professionally. At any given time, the goal is for each graduating class to have at least two alumni representatives serving on the council. The council is led and overseen by the AACS Alumni Office and the director of donor and alumni relations.

Class Representatives...

- receive (and read!) four emails from the AACS Alumni Office each year.
- share alumni events with your class via social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter).
- stay in touch with the Alumni Office about current alumni contact information and alumni news stories. We want to share your good news!
- occasionally assist with alumni gatherings and, when possible, attend AACS community events.

Perks of Serving as a Rep

- exclusive AACS spirit gear
- free admission to the annual Alumni Crab Feast and Spring Spectacular Dinner and Auction
- free admission to AACS athletic games and fine arts events throughout the year

ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EVERYTHING SUMMER!
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CLASS NOTES



Kaitlyn McCollum, Class of 2016

Kaitlyn is a secondary math education major at Wheaton College. She just finished her junior year and is excited about her summer internship at Samaritan's Purse headquarters in Boone, NC. Kaitlyn was selected from a pool of more than 2,000 applicants! She will be doing data work for Operation Christmas Child before heading back to Wheaton College this fall to do her student teaching.

Josiah Peterson, Class of 2015

Josiah recently graduated from Taylor University in Upland, IN. In August 2019, he will begin his master's in higher education and student development at Taylor University. Over the two-year program, he will serve as the residence director of Swallow Robin Hall, a co-ed living space for 60 students. Josiah will graduate in May 2021 after he defends his thesis.



Jason Bowen, Class of 2008

After graduating from Grove City College, Jason moved back to the Annapolis area and recently bought a home. He works in audio/video multi-media for the Department of Defense at Fort Meade.



Kristie Barlow, Class of 2008

Kristie graduated from the University of Alabama and has been working in the dental industry ever since. She recently received her certification in dental assisting and radiology. She currently works at 3M as an Orthodontic Practice Specialist in the Annapolis area.

Ashley George, Class of 2006

After undergrad, Ashley started nursing school and graduated in 2013. Since then, she has been working at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore as an RN, the last 5 years in the Adult Emergency Department. Ashley completed her BSN from the University



of Maryland, Baltimore, in 2015 and now lives on Kent Island.

Meredith (Young) Grigg, Class of 2007

Meredith and her husband Charles welcomed their second son, Isaac Martin, on November 25, 2018. Everyone is in love, especially big brother Peyton.



Chris Carden, Class of 2005

Chris is currently community association manager at American Community Management working with HOAs and condos. He and his wife, Sarah, have three kids, ages 6, 3, and 2. Cameron is a rising second grader at the AACs Lower School in Severn.



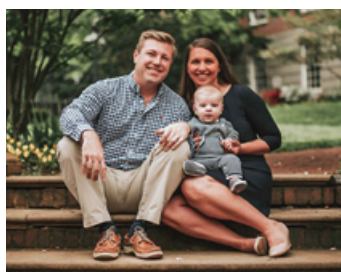
Carrie Smith, Class of 2007

Carrie graduated from West Chester University in 2017 with her master of science degree in advanced exercise physiology with a concentration in athletic training, all while working full-time as the assistant athletic trainer at The Haverford School. Carrie is currently in school completing pre-requisites for medical school, which she plans to start in August 2020. Carrie is pictured here presenting her research at the 2018 Eastern Athletic Training Association Convention in Boston.



Noah and Sarah (Wood) Myer, both Class of 2005

Noah and Sarah were blessed to welcome their first child, Savannah Rose, into the world on November 22, 2018. Savannah made her debut at 12:56 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day weighing 6 lbs. 15.5 oz. and was 20-inches long. She is an absolute joy!



Scott Ashley and Brittany VanZanten, Class of 2003 and 2006

Scott Ashley married Brittany VanZanten in 2015. They currently reside in Annapolis, and welcomed their first child, Harry, in November 2018. Brittany is a pediatric occupational therapist and Scott is the director of finance for a franchisor. They are both loving life as new parents, the best adventure yet!

Christy (Shockley) Vivian, Class of 2002

In August 2015, Christy married Charles Vivian. In April of 2019, they excitedly welcomed their daughter, Samantha (Sammy) Lee Vivian, into the world. Chris-

ty currently teaches mathematics at Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, and Charlie works for the United States Patent and Trademark Office. They reside in Rockville.



Christina (Wise) Bachman, Class of 2001

After high school, Christina graduated from UMBC with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and worked for Northrop Grumman. She also married right after college. Today, Christina stays home with her four children under age 7 (3 boys and a girl). Adventures as a family include living in Odenton, MD; Calgary, Canada; Seattle, WA; and Boca Raton, FL. Wellington, FL, is home now where the family enjoys the amazing beaches, great schools, and perfect outdoor weather for young children. Christina's passions include running half marathons, crafting, and raising the next generation of Christian children to love in God's name.



Emiley (Boone) Vandenbil, Class of 2001

Emiley and her husband Bret live in Holland, MI, where she works at Gentex Corporation in the payroll department. Emiley's hobbies are running new races like the Ragnar Michigan race and spending time with her daughter, Heidi Jo 4, and two awesome yellow labs. Emiley is a lifelong athlete and was inducted into the AACS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013 for her achievements in soccer and basketball.



Amy (Migon) Eckert, Class of 2000

Amy and her husband, Andy, just celebrated 15 years of marriage. They have seven children, one of whom is adopted: Lucy 17, Samuel 12, Joseph 11, Annabelle 8, Rosemary 6, Willa 4, and Benjamin 2. The family stays busy homeschooling, reading, gardening and taking care of their animals at home near Charlottesville, VA.

Jay and Jackie (Bays) Parks, both Class of 2000

Jay and Jackie have been living in Scottsdale, AZ, since moving from Morocco in 2015. Jay is currently the market manager for REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach and Jackie is pursuing a master's degree in missional theology through Covenant Theological Seminary. They have three kids: Lydia 11, Cole 9, Hannah 7.



Becky (Evans) Hackett, Class of 2000

Becky married Matt Hackett in 2012. They have two daughters, Liberty 2 and Geneva 5. They are thrilled that Geneva will be heading to AACS for kindergarten in the fall! Becky graduated from Messiah College in 2004 with a bachelor of arts degree in sport & exercise science. She has been a massage therapist with the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown since 2006. She recently signed on to be an alumni representative for the Class of 2000 on the Alumni Council, so she's looking forward to catching up and reconnecting with many of her fellow alumni. 📍





AACS proudly
presents the...

CLASS OF 2019

*Congratulations
graduates and
welcome to the
Alumni Association!*



2019 EVENTS

HOMECOMING

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

Athletic Hall of Fame
Induction Banquet
6:45 p.m.
Kilby Athletic Center

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18

Blue & Gold Day
all campuses
JV/Varsity Athletic games
www.aacseagles.org
Powder Puff Tournament

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19

Fall Festival
Football Game
Marching Band Performance
JV/Varsity Games
www.aacseagles.org

Alumni Reunions
Classes of 2009, 1999, 1989
Meet at the Alumni Tent
on Saturday.

ALUMNI EVENTS

SUNDAY JULY 21

Blue & Gold Club's
Alumni Summer Crab Feast
3:00-6:00 p.m.
\$20 adult/\$50 family

MONDAY DECEMBER 16

Alumni Christmas Reception
Federal House Annapolis

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2020

Young Alumni Day
Chapel & Luncheon
Upper School

✉ RSVP to
akastendike@aacsonline.org



Send us your alumni news!
akastendike@aacsonline.org









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Alumni Crab Feast

Sunday, July 21, 2019 / 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
AACs Middle School / 716 Bestgate Road, Annapolis
\$20/adult, \$50/family (max 2 adults)

Steamed crabs and shrimp, hush puppies, hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks, and bottled water

Families welcome!
RSVP to akastendike@aacsonline.org
Sponsored by the Blue & Gold Club

SAVE THE DATE

*Homecoming
Weekend 2019
October 17-19*

Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
Fall Festival & Athletic Games
Alumni Reunions for Classes of
'89, '99, '09

