

# Trinity TODAY

CONNECTING THE TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY COMMUNITY

WINTER 2018 VOLUME 13, NO. 1

LOWER SCHOOL  
STEM LAB & MAKERSPACE / 24

EQUIPPING GRADUATES  
FOR LIFE BEYOND TCA / 32

HOMECOMING & THE LATEST  
ALUMNI UPDATES / 42



**CAMPUS CLUBS:**  
**OPPORTUNITIES AROUND / 18**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Embrace new possibilities



### AS ONE CALENDAR YEAR ENDS AND ANOTHER BEGINS,

many of us will set "new year's resolutions." Losing weight, eating healthy, spending more time with family, reading the Bible more, sticking to a

budget—these are common goals set each January first.

As we draw up our resolutions for 2019, I'd like to suggest a new one for you to consider: learn something new!

As adults, it's easy for us to get comfortable and complacent in our everyday lives. We stick to the same jobs, hobbies and activities that are familiar to us. Yet, think back to when you were in school and how much easier it was to branch out and try something new. Perhaps you joined a new club, took a new class or tried a new sport? Why not do so now?

Maybe try a cooking class or learn a new language? Perhaps you've always wanted to sky dive? Daring to try something new is the mark of a life-long learner.

As you will read in this issue of *Trinity Today*, the number of clubs and activities offered continues to grow, and students are encouraged to explore new opportunities and expand their interests. Academic Dean **Diane Taylor** discusses the reading and ongoing education of our faculty as they continue to hone their craft.

Students and faculty alike are pursuing their interests and passions and continuing to learn and grow outside the classroom walls.

I encourage you to do the same in 2019!

JOY KONSTANS

EDITOR OF TRINITY TODAY  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 **GOOD WORKS**
- 12 **CLASS ACTS**
- 36 **ATHLETICS**
- 41 **ALUMNI LEGACY**



### 8 A LOVE OF READING

**Diane Taylor**, TCA academic dean, shares her life-long love of reading and how TCA faculty and administrators are purposeful about using insightful, inspiring and educational texts to grow individually and as a body of educators.



### 30 RELENTLESS FORWARD PROGRESS

**Scott Berthel**, head of Middle School, examines how the elements needed to prepare for a physical competition echo those needed for a successful Middle School.



### 32 EQUIPPING GRADUATES FOR LIFE BEYOND TCA

Success beyond graduation requires more than strong academic preparation. TCA's Director of Spiritual Life, **Matt Lambro**, outlines TCA's new programs for life-readiness, spiritual growth and leadership development.



**FEATURES**

18

**CAMPUS CLUBS  
CROSS-SECTION**

Get a glimpse of the amazing opportunities that TCA students from Lower School to Upper School have to expand their learning, pursue their passions and grow outside the classroom.



24

**SPACE TO THRIVE**

The Lower School now provides two new areas for students to experience hands-on inquiry, exploration and discovery, designed to develop critical skills for success in the classroom and beyond.

36

**MASTER COACHES**

**Don English**, assistant athletic director and varsity baseball head coach, explores the characteristics of a master coach and how TCA works to develop these skills to benefit our athletes at every level.







**I'M OFTEN  
ASKED  
ABOUT THE  
VALUE AND  
PURPOSE**

of a Christian education. Why is what we offer worth sacrificing a “free,” non-

religious, public or secular private-school education? “I went to public school, and I turned out all right,” is often a statement I hear. My first response is typically, public schools are not value-free. Worldviews are not neutral. Private and public schools all promote a worldview. The questions I ask are, “What values do you want your children’s teachers, administrators, coaches and school district to model and share with your children? What does God intend for our children in Deuteronomy 6:4–9?”

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” (New International Version)*

Faith integration in the classroom, on the playing field, on the stage and in leadership is integral to all we do. In the preK–12th-grade years, laying a firm foundation for what we believe and why we believe it is paramount. Teachers, administrators and coaches often spend as much

or more time teaching and training children than their parents. We significantly influence how they view God, live in a fallen world, relate to humanity and seek significance. In many ways, Christian schooling trains our students for the common good of their communities.

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) states, “Ultimately, a Christian education is for others—the common good of the communities in which we and our students live and serve.” Dr. Leah Zuidema, associate provost and dean for curriculum and instruction at Dordt College, writes, “Christ-centered schools depend on a community of believers working deliberately together to educate young people to learn and grow in the Lord. But they are also for you and for me—they are meant to serve the common good. . . . Christ-centered schools equip students to be the kind of people who run toward trouble—to see the hurts of the world and try to heal, to see chaos and try to bring order, to see violence and try to bring peace. This kind of learning is vital.”

Our desire to partner with parents to make faithful disciples comes from a biblical mandate to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The daily care, love, education and training they receive, we trust, will build upon the biblical foundation their parents have made a priority. We continue to faithfully work hard to fulfill our mission—that the whole TCA community (students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and coaches) is salt and light to a world that so desperately needs Him!

DAVE DELPH, HEADMASTER



**What worldview do you  
want your children’s  
teachers, administrators,  
coaches and school district  
to model and share with  
your children?**



# The Honor Roll

Congratulations to all these students who made the **First Trimester** Honor Rolls:

## Summa Cum Laude

GPA of 4.2 or higher

### Seniors

Austin Aiken  
David Asche  
Georgia Ballew  
Daniela Barrientos-Figueroa  
Lindsay Bartol  
Molly Grace Beddingfield  
Kate Blocker  
Robert Caldwell  
Elisa Cavazos  
Summer Chaffin  
Erin Clay  
Bella Correa  
Madelynn Cotter  
Brijit Crosby  
Grant De Paoli  
Jillian Delp  
Simon Dennis Gordon  
Andrea Ehringer  
Emily Floyd  
Avery Gann  
Harrison Gossett  
Gracie Harris  
Lauren Head  
Brooke Henegar  
Jackson Hinckley  
Austin Ho  
Brooke Hutzler  
Madeline Jackson  
Daniel Jones  
Catherine Josephs  
Brett Kauffman  
Grace Lee  
Jessica Lee  
Michelle Lee  
Blake Marsh  
Jordan McFarlane  
Ashley McWhorter  
Caroline Millet  
Noah Morrison  
Abby Muschalek  
Shelby Niederhofer  
Georgia Nine  
Sam Norris  
Broc O'Brien  
Annika Olson  
Regan O'Shea  
Laura Pomberg  
JD Powers  
Michelle Raybourn  
Scott Raybourn  
Cole Rea  
Coleman Rector  
Cailin Redden  
Avery Schuster  
Macrae Smith  
Reid Stacy  
Riley Stringfellow  
Lauren Sulzen  
Caroline Tate  
Max Thomas  
London Thornton  
Tanner Wayne  
Elijah Westover  
Kennedy Wiegand  
Kaleigh Wilkinson  
Payton Willey  
Connor Williams  
John Wright

### Juniors

Amara Asrawi  
Olivia Baldwin  
Isabella Berthel  
Haleigh Brown  
Jo Anna Bryans  
Jonathan Chock  
Elle Clark  
Olivia Clark  
Riley Conine  
Abigail Coronado  
Avery Cotter

Kyle Cotter  
Lindsey Crow  
Alan Fandrich  
Harrison Fields  
Carter Getz  
Colton Hackney  
Matthew Harvey  
Landry Hays  
Michael Heidelbaugh  
Mason Hinckley  
Kyndal Hinton  
Barrett Jessen  
Caleb Key  
Allie Knudsen  
Natalie Konstans  
Jenna Larson  
Alexis Locke  
Anna Beth Lowrey  
Cameron May  
Dutch McStay  
Blake Mercer  
Ethan Merrifield  
Mason Morland  
Ben Murphy  
Danielle Parker  
Clarke Pino  
Henry Ridley  
Logan Rock  
Michael Ruch  
Savannah Sims  
Caroline Spears  
Nathan Stara  
Ruthie Turner  
Ella Ward  
Gracy Watts  
Lily Westover  
Brendan Williams  
Audrey Wines  
Sage Yassa  
Jessica Young

### Sophomores

Hannah Alpert  
Claire Andrews  
Lexy Babler  
Luke Babler  
Molly Berryman  
Elizabeth Branstetter  
Ava Brown  
Taya Burgett  
Hannah Burke  
Kathryn Callahan  
Dawson Chaffin  
Emily Clay  
Bryn Correa  
Charlie Crawford  
Anthony Cundari  
Kelly Dance  
Connor Dewey  
Lauren Elms  
Claire Floyd  
Connor Graham  
Collin Groezinger  
Reilly Hanna  
Jaxx Hutton  
Reagan Havel  
Evan Hennes  
Emma Hodge  
Leah Kegerreis  
Lauren Lee  
Georgia Leeds  
Morgan Locke  
Austin Marquardt  
Jack Maust  
Luke Mays  
Sophie McNeill  
Delaney Meiser  
Anna Muccio  
Ryan O'Shea  
Avery Overberg  
Peyton Prideaux  
Brianna Queen  
Reagan Rodgers  
Wilson Roe  
Patricia Sharon  
Claire Shodeen  
Joel Smitherman  
William Sullivan  
Ashton Karoline Waldrop  
Adelaide Walker  
Landry Walton  
Emily Wattors  
Grace Weir

Jackson Wells  
Conner Williams  
Caroline Woodward  
Lauren Wright  
Annie Xia  
Jason Yang  
Kate Yanof

### Freshmen

James Badger  
Daniel Baker  
Isabela Barrientos-Figueroa  
Ellie Blocker  
Shannon Burchett  
Caroline Cinatl  
Alyssa Clemovitz  
Collin Dewey  
Lauren Elvebak  
Ainsley Ferrell  
Lynnson Fort  
Ben Francis  
Ryan Freese  
Halle Hermes  
Emily Keramidas  
Jack Layman  
Katelyn Long  
Allie Mays  
Mason Merchant  
Justin Miller  
Jayden Moore  
Emily Morris  
Katherine Novakovich  
Olivia Priest  
Landrie Smith  
Juliana Voth  
Sydney Wayte  
Mary Lauren Westover  
Max Wheless  
Avery Williams  
Camden Williams  
Emelie Wong

### 8th Grade

Anastacia Chu  
Bethany Grimm  
Kazia Handoko  
Morgan Hausz  
Richelle Kim  
Grace Kwon  
Joshua Lim  
Landon Littleton  
Lexi Meador  
Parker Prideaux  
Jocelyn Youn

### 7th Grade

Morgan Amison  
Nathan Chou  
Lucy Dennis  
Ivy Jordan  
Ally Lee  
Annabelle Lee  
Eliotte Lin  
David Meiser

## Magna Cum Laude

GPA of 3.8–4.19

### Seniors

Riley Bagnall  
Hunter Balk  
Will Barnes  
Jackson Bowman  
Hayden Brown  
Bryson Byrd  
Michael Callahan  
Charles Cash  
Trevor Cobern  
Shaw Cotter  
Lyric Denson  
Katherine DeWeese  
Mia Gradick  
Haston Habern  
Weston Haggard  
Gentry Jarrell

Taylor Kalahar  
William Kennedy  
Anna Kathryn Lipe  
Clara Liu  
Sophia Lopez  
Kennedy Mason  
McKenzie Moore  
Kylie Nelson  
Bryce O'Brien  
Savannah Pate  
Jake Payne  
Hannah Plemons  
Riley Rice  
Slade Savage  
Laney Segert  
John Shaw  
Zach Speck  
Greg Tiner  
Tyler Townley  
Whit Traweek  
Ryan Trostel  
Emily Uselton  
Alayna Weyandt  
Bethany White  
Clarissa Wong

### Juniors

Jackson Barringer  
Olivia Berggren  
Carter Burgoon  
Andrew Buser  
Zachary Coronado  
Ella Kate Cotter  
Lindsey Fish  
Jayce Frady  
Cameron Gilmore  
Audrey Gradick  
Jackson Hall  
Maggie Harrison  
Harrison Heflin  
Belle Holden  
Mark Johnson  
Allison Jones  
Mali Krone  
Luke Langford  
Katherine McLain  
Jasmine Miller  
Garrett Orten  
Anna Kate Parrent  
Zoe Schiefer  
Erin Smith  
Lauren Smith  
Samantha Starnes  
Elihu Ventura  
Kakkie Waldrop  
Jack Wenzel  
Major Wheless  
Michael Wilmotte  
Grant Winslow  
Chandler Woods  
Clara Woodward  
Elizabeth Yearly  
Dylan Young

### Sophomores

Libby Barnes  
Seth Bator  
Sam Brown  
Brianna Byrd  
Luke Chan  
Ian Collier  
Paige Cotter  
Luke Crain  
Victoria Dahncke  
Daniel Delp  
Brady Doyle  
Trey Dyess  
Sarah Gerard  
Jake Gore  
Ella Grace Hattendorf  
Press Hebert  
Andrew Ho  
Cade Holliday  
Sydney Johnston  
Hannah Little  
Rik Massengale  
Evan Mawhee  
Jackson McFarlane  
Will McIntosh  
Will Mercer  
Caroline Murzin  
Natalie Pate  
Reagan Pierce  
Addison Willey

Jackson Wood  
Catherine Yates

### Freshmen

Aly Bayliss  
Mary Margaret Bell  
Amelia Corliss  
Abigail Crane  
Camden Findley  
Cooper Getz  
Kate Goodman  
Riley Hamilton  
Payton Harper  
Anna Heidelbaugh  
Lila Johnson  
Emily Jones  
Brooks Krantz  
Emma Layman  
Annabel Lee  
Johnny Lipscomb  
Jenna Lowrey  
Kayla Meyer  
Mary Neuhoff  
Mark Nilson  
Schuyler Noordhoff  
Luke Peron  
Cody Polk  
Madeline Prescott  
Josie Raffetis  
Jianna Redden  
Katie Reding  
Jackson Rogers  
Markus Schumacher  
Caroline Sharp  
Frensey Smith  
Henry Smith  
Preston Spears  
Sheridan Thexton  
Luke Tredennick  
Parke Turner  
Lucas Walsh  
Connor Wines

### 8th Grade

Courtney Anderson  
Zach Asche  
Zoey Ballard  
Kate Barclay  
Elleanna Berthel  
Jake Callahan  
Jackson Castello  
Tanner Conine  
Gable Delp  
Jack Drake  
Rose Duncan  
Jana Elawar  
Ayla Francis  
Hannah Garcia  
Ally Gerard  
Aly Heidelbaugh  
Shea Hinckley  
Sydney Hinckley  
Faith Huffman  
James Jeter  
Dylan Kinley  
Caroline Laible  
Charley Kate Ledebur  
Trinity Martin  
Aidan McCauley  
Emma McIntyre  
Maddie McMullen  
Blake Muschalek  
Reed Neatherlin  
Olivia Ouimette  
Gabrielle Parker  
Hailey Parmenter  
Jordan Rutledge  
Sebastian Silva  
Cara Smith  
Noah Smith  
Chance Snyder  
Joshua Staz  
Justin Sunwoo  
Samantha Treadway  
Collin Truitt  
Ruby Watts  
Nick Wenzel  
Sam White  
Lily Yassa  
Andrew Yates  
Samantha Zuniga

### 7th Grade

Allie Arthur  
John Badger  
Cody Baker  
Finn Barton  
Harrison Brown  
Heather Brownlee  
Audrey Bryant  
Teegan Burgett  
Georgia Clay  
Jared Courtney  
James Crawford  
Walker Davis  
Luke Dore  
Karalyn Ehmke  
Ellie Eisenberg  
Owen Ellis  
Bailey Ellsworth  
Joseph Fitzgerald  
Kate Hurley  
Haley Janacek  
Lauren Janson  
Kylie Jones  
Alex Kim  
Donya Kinley  
William Lehman  
Grace Leverton  
Lexi Mikula  
Ava Mills  
Aidan Mills  
Emsley Mitchell  
Annika Powers  
Ava Rodriguez  
Markus Roquemore  
Jackson Runyan  
Anna Sharp  
Campbell Smith  
Avery Sulzen  
Maddox Vines  
Molly Youn

## Cum Laude

GPA of 3.5–3.79

### Seniors

Isaac Agumadu  
Benjamin Binkley  
Bobby Carstens  
Nicholas Clift  
Dylan Deaton  
Trevor Douglass  
Parker Hadley  
Arden Kadane  
Michael Manos  
Noah Miller  
Phoebe Mutlu  
Beckett Myers  
Rachel O'Brien  
Jacob Powell  
Porter Roe  
Brielle Stein  
Sarah Katherine Williams

### Juniors

Catherine Binkley  
Jackson Buser  
Will Compton  
Adrianna Cortez  
Chloe Floyd  
Madeleine Floyd  
Bethany Forde  
Claire Franke  
Thomas Hand  
Case Hodges  
Cooper James  
Faith Johnson  
Gracie Massinger  
Austin Mattox  
Philip Petersen  
Kristin Reding  
Caleb Robbins  
Kendall Stewart  
Hayden Stone  
Mikaela Weiss

### Sophomores

Rex Ah Chu  
Blake Beal  
Blake Birmingham

Jack Courtney  
Olivia Dewey  
Will Greenstein  
Riley Herzog  
Anna Kutz  
Eva Kutz  
Jack McNeill  
Brian Morris  
Kjirsta Olson  
Jake Schneider  
Lukas Schumacher  
Lindsay Shipley  
Mackenna Shults  
Kate Walliser  
Christopher Woodhouse

### Freshmen

Madysen Benschneider  
Heath Booker  
Olivia Brennan  
Annie Burke  
Kaylee Connell  
Avery Copple  
Nancy Gunter  
Hollis Jarrell  
Jonah Key  
Will Martin  
Derek Martinez  
Emma Neuman  
Rhett Rice  
Samuel Rodriguez  
Lili Rolfe  
Jad Sewaiseh  
Luke Townley  
Blair Weiss  
Sterling Wyman

### 8th Grade

Tripp Arthur  
Cece Bogda  
David Boylan  
Jenna Branstetter  
Hannah Buford  
Matthew Campbell  
Peyton Hatfield  
Seth Henegar  
Camie Jobe  
Luke Johnston  
JJ Leverton  
Joshua Liu  
Emily Mercer  
Max Merrifield  
Wyatt Merrill  
Bo Miltenberger  
Blake Mitchell  
Maxwell Morland  
Evan Olson  
Kendall Reding  
Emma Kate Sullivan  
Logan Walters  
Sydney Weatherford

### 7th Grade

Alex Alpert  
Gabriel Bibawi  
Tripp Black  
Avery Booker  
Bretton Brantley  
Jacob Brennan  
Blake Broekemeier  
Kassadi Brown  
Taylor Chon  
Catherine Copple  
Olivia Cundari  
Zach Dodgen  
Lindsey Dorman  
Deacon Dortch  
Charlie Gressle  
Dawson Harper  
Audrey Hestwood  
David Kramp  
Dillard Leeds  
Myciah McKelvey  
Erick Mills  
Jake Overmann  
Luca Palazzo  
Rachel Rader  
Sydney Ridnour  
Dylan Rock  
Hank Valenta  
Tex Walliser  
Luke West  
Cate Woodward  
Christian Yang

## National Merit



Seniors **Avery Schuster**, **Lindsay Bartol** and **Ashley McWhorter** were recently named 2018 National Merit Semi-Finalists. As semifinalists, they were among the highest scorers on the PSAT in Texas and represent less than one percent of our state's top high school seniors. In addition, four seniors were named as National Merit Commended Students: **Jessica Lee**, **Georgia Nina**, **Jillian Delp** and **Georgia Ballew**, which places them in the top 5% of the 1.6 million students who entered the 2018 competition.



## National Hispanic Recognition Program



Seniors **Elisa Cavazos**, **Bella Correa** and **Emily Floyd** were honored by the National Hispanic Recognition Program for scoring among the top two-and-a-half percent of all Hispanic and Latino seniors in this region who took the PSAT year. Congratulations!

## North Texas Giving Day

On September 20, 2018, over \$500,000 was raised for TCA's Student Tuition Aid program and the Athletic Booster Club through North Texas Giving Day and the Communities Foundation of Texas.



## College Signing

Senior **Blake Marsh** signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Wichita State University.



## College Commitments

Senior **Summer Chaffin** will continue her soccer career at Oklahoma State University, and senior **Nick Clift** will continue his baseball career at the University of Rochester.



## 2018 Homecoming Queen and Court



Senior **Madelynn Cotter** was crowned the 2018 Homecoming Queen. Her peers elected her based on the character qualities of gentle spirit, compassion and integrity. The classes also vote for their representatives

based on these qualities. The 2018 Homecoming Court included freshman **Katie Reding** (gentle spirit), sophomore **Kathryn Callahan** (compassion), juniors **Amara Asrawi**, **Catherine Binkley** and **Anna Beth Lowrey** (integrity) and seniors (pictured above) **Michelle Raybourn**, **Shelby Niederhofer**, **Taylor Kalahar**, **Abby Muschalek** and **Grace Lee** (all three qualities).



## Eagle Scouts

Four TCA students earned the rank of Eagle Scout this fall. Congratulations to sophomore **Jackson Thornton**, freshman **Johnny Lipscomb**, freshman **Daniel Baker** and senior **Charles Cash**!



## American Choral Directors Association Honor Choir

Junior **Allison Jones** has been selected to a nationwide honors choir for the American Choral Directors Association and will be performing in Kansas City in February. Congratulations, Allison!



## Upper School All-State and All-Region Choirs

Congratulations to the following students on their selection to a TPSMEA All-State and All-Region Choirs:

### All-State Choir

**Allison Jones, Bella Correa, Kaleigh Wilkinson, Michelle Raybourn, Erin Clay and Bryn Correa.** Additionally, Allison Jones placed first for the second year in a row.



## All-Region Choirs

### Treble Choir

I Soprano: **Audrey Wines**  
II Soprano: **Grace Lee** and **Hannah Plemons**  
I Altos: **Sophia Lopez**, First Alternate: **Rachel O'Brien**  
II Alto: **Olivia Baldwin**

### Mixed Choir

I Sopranos: **Michelle Raybourn** and **Kaleigh Wilkinson**  
II Sopranos: **Erin Clay, Allison Jones, Anna Kutz** and **Emily Watters**  
I Alto: **Emily Clay** and **Lindsey Fish**  
II Altos: **Bella Correa** and **Bryn Correa**  
II Tenor: **Alan Fandrich, Matthew Harvey** and **Barrett Jessen**  
Baritone, Second Alternate: **Wilson Roe**  
Basses: **Jack Maust, Clarke Pino** and **Grant Winslow**; First Alternate: **Collin Groezinger**, Second Alternate: **Elihu Ventura**, Third Alternate: **Harrison Fields**

## Middle School Honor Choirs

Congratulations to the 2018 TPSMEA Honor Choir participants!

### Sixth-grade Choir

**Lyla Brown, Ella Eubanks, Jack Harwell, Annabella Hays, Alexa Herrington, Katherine Lowrey, Ellie Neeman, Lexie Ronde, Shealy Seitz** and **Laine Sykes**

### Seventh- and Eighth-grade Choir

**Allie Arthur, Luke Asche, John Badger, Kate Barclay, Kyle Causey, Gable Delp, Aidan Dortch, Bailee Dortch, Kazia Handoko, Morgan Hausz, Seth Henegar, Shea Hinckley, Luke Johnston, Donya Kinley, David Kramp, Dillard Leeds, William Lehman, Landon Littleton, Lexi Meador, Emsley Mitchell, John Montgomery, Maxwell Morland, Ian O'Brien, Kendall Reding, Chance Snyder, Emma Kate Sullivan, Peyton Townley, Collin Truitt** and **Nick Wenzel**







BY DAVID HARPER,  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**THE BOARD IS WORKING CLOSELY** with our headmaster, **Dave Delph**, to continually make TCA an even better school and to serve our families well. Each year, the board sets priorities and goals to this end.

As you would expect, one of our goals is to partner with Dave and the administration to continue to make a TCA education truly transformational for each child by improving our current programs and adding new ones where appropriate. For example, the school has been working diligently on adding even more quality after-school educational offerings and summer offerings to provide enriching opportunities all-day and all-year-long. To that end, we are in the process of a search for a director of auxiliary programs to design and implement new programs next year. The school

is also implementing a second track in History/English in tenth grade next year and eleventh grade the year after, which would provide an honors-level history option to pair with our outstanding great works program in English. And, we continue to survey students in both the Middle and Upper Schools about their homework load to ensure that students are mastering content but are not over-burdened.

Another goal is to communicate better with our TCA family. Although we have greatly enhanced our use of social media, we also want to help families understand the full benefits of a TCA education, how we continue to improve and how to plan your children's experience. The school has implemented conversations by Upper School administrators with Middle School parents to help them make the transition and has done the same with Middle School conversations with Lower School parents. Student mentors are also helping do this directly with younger students.

Another critical goal is for us to focus on raising the funds to build a new Middle School. Many of you attended our event with Bob Goff and Mike Singletary this fall, where we presented a long-range plan for revitalized facilities. The first phase of fundraising

is underway as we strive to begin construction soon. We urge the entire TCA family to participate sacrificially not only for the benefit of your own children and grandchildren, but also to enable the transformative work God will do in countless lives of students and their families. As you see in the pages of this *Trinity Today*, our students are world changers, both while they are at TCA and beyond.

We have many other goals this year. A few of them include continually providing great teachers and coaches, improving athletics and expanding the diversity of our teachers and our student body. But, our number one goal is to pray even more deeply and intentionally for the Lord's direction, blessing and power as we recognize that our own wisdom, resources and strength are insufficient without Him. Please join us as we pray for the Lord to work in power and to His glory in our school, through our teachers and coaches and in the lives of all of students and families.

# Always Improving







## BUFFET OF BLESSINGS

The PTF annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held on Tuesday, November 6. PTF hosts this luncheon with the help of many volunteers, and they feed the entire TCA faculty and staff. This event would not be possible without everyone coming together with such teamwork. Many thanks to everyone in the TCA community that cooked, served or volunteered to make this such a special day. This day is one of the favorite events of the year for the faculty and staff at TCA. The buffet is under the direction of PTF Secretary **Susan Mattox** and was headed by Coordinator **Keri Brookshire** and Assistant Coordinator **Jennifer Tristan**. An enormous thank-you for the sacrifice of your time to this event!



## MUM MOMS

A huge thank-you goes to our freshman class moms. Under the outstanding leadership of **Wendy Sorgen** and **Stacy Noordhoff**, over 400 Homecoming mums and garters were created for our Upper School students. Homecoming was "aglow," because this year's mums lit up! The Mum Room requires a lot of planning and organization, and these ladies did a fantastic job. They sacrificed much of their personal time to this project, and we are so grateful. We appreciate the great contribution all our volunteers make to our TCA community. All monies collected from the sales of mums and garters go to the freshman class account to be used for its senior trip.



# FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

## What and why our teachers read



BY DIANE TAYLOR, ACADEMIC DEAN

### AN INTERNET SEARCH ON "READING"

will provide hundreds of good quotes that express the love many individuals have for reading. One of the articles I found said that Fortune 500 CEOs read about a book a week. Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, said, "I cannot live without books." I love the quote from Ray Bradbury, "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them." Charles William Eliot describes books as "the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors and the most patient of teachers."

If I had to describe the things I love in life, I would include, along with the obvious—Christ, family, friends, home—books and reading. I remember when that love was awakened within me as a young girl. I was in seventh grade, and my teacher required us to read a book every two weeks. The school used a book club from which you could order, and my mom and dad gave me money each month to order. I ordered the book *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnet. I was mesmerized and felt that I had discovered a new world, and indeed, I had. How wonderful then to find that this same author had written another book, *The Secret Garden*. I was lost in another world of great characters, ideas, scenery and a different time period. I remember being sad at the end of the book,

when I had to say "goodbye" to my new friends. The love of reading was born and has entertained me, informed me, challenged me and shaped my thinking.

At TCA, we want all children to learn to read well so that they can find their own love of reading. We make it a priority in the Lower School to start children reading in the best possible way to be not only competent readers, but also readers who find their own form of reading. My husband is an Old Testament professor, and his reading is quite different from mine. My daughter is an elementary teacher who loves to read about contemporary Christian experience—how the church reaches out to different people and how the church is changing. My son is a military historian, and that passion fuels his reading. We want to teach children how to read very well as a foundation to their future learning and thinking.

TCA continues the emphasis on close and thoughtful reading in our Middle and Upper Schools. The combination of history and the literature of the time forms a foundation for both schools. Now the emphasis becomes not just understanding the reading, but thinking deeply about it, responding to it in writing and in challenging discussions. We want our students to be not only good readers, but also deep thinkers and problem solvers. Our teachers are masters in leading the

students in developing those abilities. Our library media specialists partner with the administrators and teachers to develop a life-long love of reading.

Reading is a passion of our administrators and teachers. We use it to inform ourselves about new research in education, ways of thinking about teaching and learning and ways to have a culture that promotes sharing of ideas and collaboration. As the academic dean, I have the privilege of working with the administrators of the three schools. We read books together as a way of challenging our thinking and leadership. The discussion of these books is a part of our bi-weekly meetings. In the last few years, we have read these books together:

*Classroom Instruction That Works*, Marzano  
*Art and Science of Teaching*, Marzano  
*School Culture Rewired*, Gruenert and Whitaker  
*Hard Conversations Unpacked*, Abrams

Administrators of the three schools have used the reading of books together as a form of professional development. You may enjoy seeing the types of books that the administrators and faculty are reading. These books become the basis of rich discussion among faculty and administrators. You will see, as you look at the titles, the variety of books—professional, inspirational and educational.





## LOWER SCHOOL FACULTY BOOKS

**Seated with Christ** (Holleman) – Escaping a culture of comparison and living freely in Christ

**The Gift of Rest** (Keith) – God's perspective on rest and embracing that gift

**Guided Reading** (Fountas & Pinnell) – How readers build understanding and the critical role of texts and expert teaching

**Literacy Beginnings** (Fountas & Pinnell) – A pre-kindergarten handbook for building early literacy

**Literacy Continuum** (Fountas & Pinnell) – Identifying student behaviors that show thinking and understanding of texts

**The New Art and Science of Teaching** (Marzano) – Student learning outcomes and research-based instructional strategies

**Total Participation Techniques** (Himmele & Himmele) – Active learning techniques that allow students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding

**Units of Study in Writing** (Calkins) – Addressing individual learning and teaching strategies to implement in writing

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY BOOKS

**You Are What You Love** (Smith) – Who and what we worship shapes our hearts

**The Formative Five** (Hoerr) – Developing characteristics such as grit and empathy for young people to succeed

**GRIT** (Duckworth) – Developing passion and persistence in students

**Making Thinking Visible** (Ritchhart, Church, Morrison) – Teaching thinking and developing understanding

**Mindset** (Dweck) – Moving from the idea that abilities are fixed to the idea of a growth mindset

**Students at the Center** (Kallick, Zmuda) – Developing students' say in their learning to promote intellectual and social strength

**Total Participation Techniques** (Himmele & Himmele) – Promoting active learning for all students

**Vocab Rehab** (Sprenger) – Teaching vocabulary well with limited time

**Shadows of the Neanderthal** (Hutchens) – Beliefs that limit our organization

**The Tip of the Iceberg** (Hutchens) – Managing hidden forces that can limit organizations

**Listening to the Volcano** (Hutchens) – Opening minds to new possibilities

**Outlearning the Wolves** (Hutchens) – Surviving and thriving in a learning organization

## UPPER SCHOOL FACULTY BOOKS

**The Cure** (McNicol) – A biblical philosophy for building a community of grace

**Love Kindness** (Corey) – The essence of what God requires of us is to "love kindness"

**Unoffendable** (Hansen) – The blessing of giving up our "right" to be offended

**The Art and Science of Teaching** (Marzano) – The use of research studies as a foundation to promote quality teaching

**Blessed Are the Misfits** (Hansen) – Help to be oneself as you accept God's greatness

**Blindspot** (Banaji, Greenwald) – An exploration of hidden biases we all have and culture's promotion of them

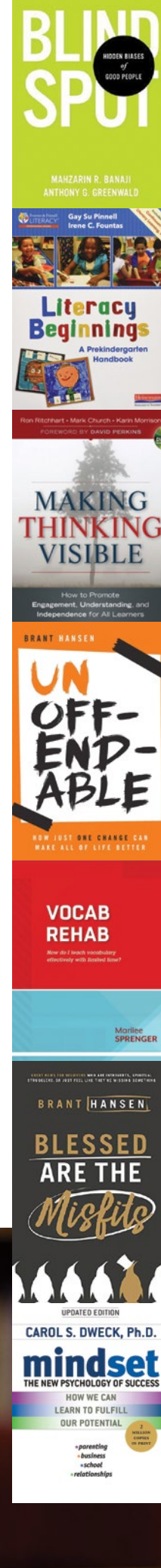
**Classroom Instruction that Works** (Marzano, Pickering, Pollock) – Nine broad teaching strategies that impact student learning

**Feeding the Mouth that Bites You** (Wilgus) – Sage advice on raising adolescents

**The New Art and Science of Teaching** (Marzano) – Focus on student learning with research-based instructional strategies

Our TCA administrators and staff highly value the gift of growth—both personally and professionally—that reading provides.

Reading is fundamental to growth. It is a gift to our souls. Certainly the reading of God's Word helps us to thrive in God's love and grace. Reading is a challenge to our minds and lives. Develop that passion as a family. Model a love of reading. Perhaps your child has not found that love yet. Keep encouraging. As J. K. Rowling has said, "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." And as the philosopher Groucho Marx said, "I find television [or electronics, tablets, phones...] very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." Happy reading!



Reading is a passion of our administrators and teachers. We use it to inform ourselves about new research in education, ways of thinking about teaching and learning and ways to have a culture that promotes sharing of ideas and collaboration.

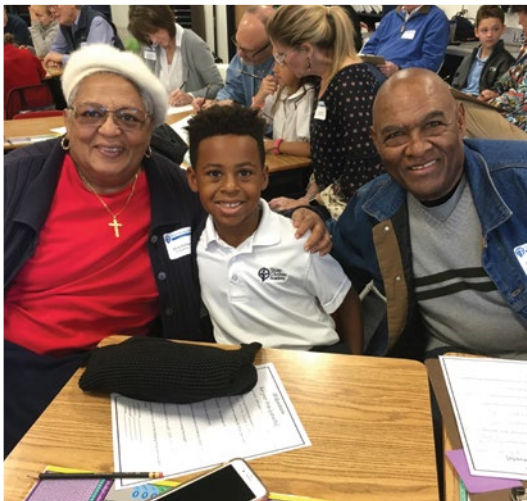
# HAVE YOU SPOTTED THESE NEW ADMINISTRATORS ON CAMPUS?

**SAM PETERS** is the new director of admission. Sam has a background in education and counseling. Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Sam has a BS in early childhood education/special education and an MS in professional counseling, both from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Sam is also a licensed professional counselor. Most recently, Sam has been the graduate admissions manager for Abilene Christian University. In addition to his experience as an admission counselor and educator, Sam has significant marketing, multimedia and social media experience. Sam and his wife, Brooklynnne, have two daughters, Felicity (preK) and Phoebe (1 yr.), and they attend The Branch Church in Farmers Branch.



**TENLEY GUMMELT** is the new social/emotional counselor in the Upper School and is also teaching French. Tenley was born and raised in the Dallas area. She has a BA in psychology from Baylor University and an MA in Christian counseling from Dallas Baptist University. She is currently a licensed professional counselor intern. Before coming to TCA, Tenley worked at HopeWorks Counseling, a private Christian counseling practice in the area. Tenley is very active in her church, Parkway Hills, where her husband, Corey, is the youth pastor. They are both passionate Baylor football fans and love spending time with their dogs, Riley and Leon.





# Grandparent Days

Lower School hosted their grandparents on campus on Thursday and Friday, November 15 and 16. Over 1,000 grandparents and grand friends came to share in this special TCA tradition of classroom fun, songs and bible verses with their Lower School grandchildren.



### ▼ LITTLE TROJAN LAB SCIENCE

Third-graders became real-life engineers in class as they figured out how to use water to pull a load for one full meter.



### CULINARY CALCULATIONS ►

Second-graders used more than paper and pencil during math class. Using pumpkins and the seeds inside, students worked on measuring circumference, estimating, counting by twos, fives and tens and adding big numbers. They followed up their hard work with tasty, toasted pumpkin seeds.



### BROAD STRIPES AND BRIGHT STAR STUDENTS

Kindergarteners learned about teamwork this fall as they created American flags. Students talked about how to work together as a team, divided into groups, made a plan and got to work! The outcomes were inspiring!





### ▶ TURKEY HIDEOUTS

PreK students took part in an engineering project in the STEM lab by using Keva Planks to construct hideouts for their turkeys so they wouldn't get eaten on Thanksgiving! Can you spot the turkey?



### ▼ WRITING WORKSHOP

First-graders worked on writing and story-telling by sharing stories with their classmates. Writing is such a wonderful way to make connections with friends!



### ▶ ART IN ARCHITECTURE

Fourth-graders learned about vanishing points and the lightness and darkness of colors in art this fall, and they created awesome skyscrapers to decorate the LS hallways.



### RUBE GOLDBERG CHALLENGE ▶

Seventh graders were tasked with building compound machines inspired by Rube Goldberg's wacky designs in science this year. Machines had to include all six simple machines, have at least five steps and pop a balloon at the end.



### ▲ HANDS-ON SCIENCE

Fifth-grade science students learned about plant reproduction by taking a campus field trip to explore different plants and used their iPads to record, identify and track them.



### ▲ ODDS IN THEIR FAVOR

Middle School math students recently played Dice Duel, where players competed one-on-one to be the first to have their selected products rolled. Students observed trends in the numbers being rolled and learned how to use probability to strategize and win.







### ◀ WE'VE GOT SPIRIT!

Middle School celebrated fall sports, band and cheer at the Middle School Pep Rally this fall. These Trojans really showed their school spirit!

### SUPER(CALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS) STARS

Audiences were delighted this fall by the Middle School musical production of *Mary Poppins Jr!* Middle School students treated attendees to a memorable experience of song and dance.



### ▲ AMAZING RACE

Middle School students competed in a TCA Amazing Race with their House families this fall. With challenges that included singing the TCA Alma Mater, hula-hooping while reciting the alphabet, playing charades and leap frog and answering history questions, students competed for House points.



## ENGINEERING CHALLENGE ▶

Upper School STEM Club students learned about problem-solving and collaboration by trying to build the tallest free-standing spaghetti tower that could hold a marshmallow on top.



## HONORS SCULPTURE CLASS

Upper School Honors Sculpture students creatively constructed architectural forms with clay, plaster and wood. The students then analyzed and refined their sculptures through various drawing and printmaking methods.



## ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER



### ABBY MUSCHALEK

Abby sets the bar high in modeling character, compassion, integrity and a gentle spirit at TCA. She is self-motivated and driven to perform in all areas of school life. In academic achievements, Abby is a member of the National Honor Society and has maintained Summa Cum Laude Honor Roll status. Her academic excellence has earned her the end-of-year class awards in Spanish, trigonometry, physics and history/English.

In co-curricular activities, Abby has been a member of the varsity tennis team, is a TAPPS State Finalist, was selected as the varsity tennis MVP and

earned Academic All-State honors. Additionally, Abby has participated on stage in the annual TCA musical and drama productions, served as student council vice president for four years and has been both a DIGs leader and wilderness counselor.

In other service, Abby has been awarded the community service award each year and has volunteered to participate in several mission trips to Guatemala, where her heart for God and others has been exemplified.

Abby plans to attend Texas A & M University and will major in business. It is without doubt that Abby will leave an indelible mark on TCA and will find future success wherever God leads her.





## ▼ MYSTERY ON THE MAINSTAGE

This fall, Advanced Drama students entertained their audience with *Clue*, a madcap comedy based on the cult classic film and the popular board game.



## ▼ PAR FOR THE COURSE

Honors Geometry students took to the Upper School halls this fall to calculate the best way to hit a hole-in-one.



## ◀ HOCO DRESS-UP DAYS

Upper School students celebrated Homecoming week with special dress-up days to show their school spirit. This year's dress-up themes were Character Day Monday, Pay Day Tuesday, Wild West Wednesday, Thrifty Is Nifty Thursday and Frat Friday.

NOVEMBER



## MICHELLE RAYBOURN

Michell is a senior who exemplifies integrity, character and academic excellence. Michelle works hard in all her endeavors. She is intentional in everything she does and is passionate about many things, but music and singing are at the top of her list.

Michelle has been a key cast member in many of the annual TCA musicals and productions. Additionally, she is a member of the TCA Worship Team and not only sings lead

vocals, but also plays the piano and guitar. Michelle is also working on producing an album that will contain her own original work.

Michelle has maintained Summa Cum Laude Honor Roll status and is a member of the National Honor Society. She is considering a career in the field of commercial music with an emphasis in songwriting and/or psychology.

In addition, Michelle was selected to represent TCA at Girls State her junior year, was a member of student council, serving as class secretary, and was a writer for *The Rock*. Furthermore, Michelle is an outstanding example of a young person who has a heart for God and is dedicated to living her life for Him.

# CAMPUS CLUBS: OPPORTUNITIES AROUND

## LIFE AT TCA EXTENDS BEYOND

the academic lessons that take place each day in our classrooms. Students in every grade level have opportunities to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, serve their community, learn outside the classroom, encourage others and develop deeper relationships with faculty and staff through clubs and extracurricular activities offered at TCA.

Over the years, the opportunities and activities have expanded, with new ones being added every year. Many of the new clubs and organizations added in Upper School have been initiated and developed by the students themselves.

Here is a glimpse of a few of the outstanding opportunities students have to grow, learn and contribute outside their classroom walls.





## LOWER SCHOOL



**WORSHIP TEAM**

**Led by Bev Birmingham**, assistant head of Lower School, the Lower School Worship Team aims to mentor, develop and equip our students in their understanding of how to glorify God through various aspects of worship and to lead others in connecting with Him.

“My desire is to have the students grow in their spiritual understanding of worship, in their walk with the Lord and in their leadership abilities as they prepare to move on to Middle School,” said Bev. “It has been an incredible privilege to build relationships with these students outside of the normal classroom, to see them grow socially, emotionally and spiritually. It is a highlight for me during the week for sure.”

Fourth-grade students not only lead the music, but also participate with Scripture reading, prayer and other facets of chapel. This year, there are over 40 students who participate on five rotating teams. Students meet one day a week to practice the songs and talk through aspects of biblical leadership.

**Students in grades 2-4 have the opportunity** to participate in Chess Club, led by **John Garcia**, Lower School Spanish teacher, and chess instructor **David Spence**. The group meets every Thursday after school in three ten-week sessions throughout the year. Students are divided into groups based on their knowledge and skill level, from beginners to more experienced players. Each week, a new lesson is taught and previous concepts are reviewed. Students are given instruction and also presented with chess puzzles to solve.

After the instruction, students begin playing each other. Students begin with a ranking of 900 and move up or down based on their number of wins and whom they beat. More points are given for beating a higher-ranked player. They play until someone wins twice or until time runs out.



**CHESS CLUB**

“I enjoy seeing their personalities come through as they play the game. I also like teaching them things like looking at the broader picture of the game and not just focusing on one aspect. For example, some players focus too much on their own pieces that they forget to think about their opponent and what he or she may be doing. There are lots of life skills like these that come into play,” explained John.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL

**The Middle School Creative Writing Club** meets every Friday during lunch and is open to all seventh- and eighth-grade students. Student facilitators lead the meetings, which cover topics such as student-generated writing lessons, the sharing of individual writing (with respectful student suggestions), writing games and book reviews.

The purpose of the Creative Writing Club is to give students an outlet to use figurative language in compelling ways, to tell stories and to share their work with others.

“We believe God has given us the gift of writing, and we want to explore that through various genres, such as poetry and narrative selections,” explained club sponsor **Joel Partin**, seventh-grade history/English teacher. “Students enjoy the camaraderie of the workshop atmosphere and the vulnerability of sharing their creations in a safe environment. My greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the leadership skills develop in our facilitators, the courage of the writers who present and the incredible creativity of the students.”



CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

**The Middle School STEAM club** started three years ago in order to provide an opportunity for fifth- through eighth-grade students to experience a STEAM curriculum. Incorporating science, technology, engineering, arts and math in an extracurricular club offers students a chance to design, plan and build innovative projects in a collaborative setting.

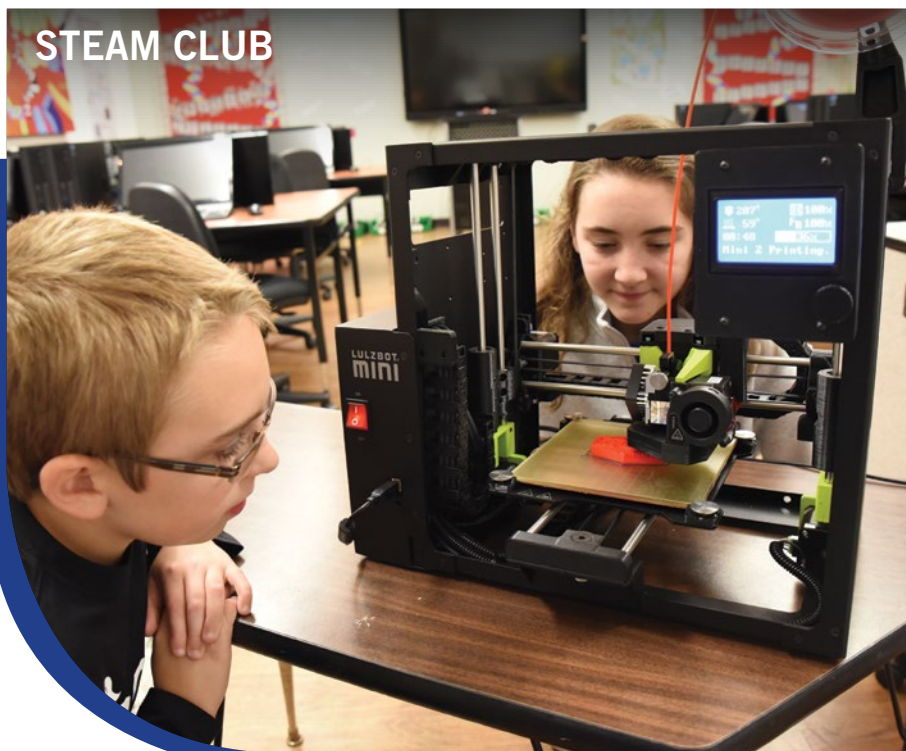
Through this club, students have programmed autonomous drawing robots, created a laser-light security system to protect their valuables and constructed miniature roller coasters with loops, twists and turns.

This semester, students designed magnets that were printed on the new Middle School 3D printer.

Sponsors **Holly Hatton**, Middle School library media specialist, **Michelle Smith**, Middle School educational technology specialist, and **Felicia Townley**, Middle School technology teacher, enjoy helping students learn about STEAM, create content and experience “light-bulb moments” as they tackle each new project challenge.

“While in STEAM Club, students enjoy a relaxed environment to develop their creativity, increase their imagination and work with their hands, all while having the freedom of choice to express their personalities,” said Holly.

## STEAM CLUB







**Middle School Student Council** is a student-led club for any interested students in grades 7-8. The group meets once a week to listen to speakers and to talk about leadership. Seventh-grade history/English teacher **Dennis Saffold** sponsors the group and works with them to accomplish their goals.

Students are responsible for inviting speakers (usually youth pastors or youth group leaders from area churches), introducing the speakers, planning the meetings, supplying refreshments, making school-wide announcements and following up with written thank-you notes to the speakers.

Dennis said, "For me personally, Student Council is very fulfilling; the students who participate do so voluntarily and joyfully. Because the eighth-graders do all the planning for and leading of each meeting, I like to refer to our club as the 'leadership lab.' The one frequent problem we have is that meetings are so well attended that we simply run out of room!"



## UPPER SCHOOL



**"As I started driving sophomore year,** I began to notice how many people were begging on the street corners. Everyday, I would pass by people and feel so helpless because I had nothing to give them," said junior **Danielle Parker**. "I remembered how

my family used to make bags to reach the needs of those we saw on the streets of Dallas. This was the beginning of Reach Every Corner. The heart behind this club is to bring together the TCA community in order to reach those in need and be a light for Christ."

With the help of Upper School math teacher **Greg Merrifield**, Danielle started her ministry. Reach Every Corner meets every other Thursday to pack bags, which are filled with a water bottle, food, hygiene products, a gospel tract, a homeless shelter resource guide and handwritten notes from the students. All items put in the bags, including the bags themselves, are provided purely off of donations. Students and teachers can pick up the packed bags to keep in their cars and pass out. Even those who are unable to help pack bags or donate can still take bags to distribute.



## UPPER SCHOOL, *cont.*



GLOBAL CULINARY CLUB

**The Global Culinary Club** is less than a year old, but it has quickly risen to become one of the largest clubs at TCA. The goal of the club is to promote cultural awareness through the accessible lens of foreign cuisine.

Junior **Bobby Carstens** founded the club and has used his energetic persona and a catchy theme song to increase awareness and drive participation. The Global Culinary Club brings in authentic foods from area restaurants so students can sample various world cuisines. Members of the club have enjoyed Jamaican, Korean and French cuisine, including tasty items like Jamaican jerk chicken and oxtail, Korean bulgogi and French éclairs, and they are constantly researching new cuisine experiences to try.

"At the moment, there is not too much cooking involved in the club, but that may change in the future," said Bobby. "The future of the Global Culinary Club is bright and promising. We look forward to exploring many more new foods."

**Senior Georgia Nine** started the TCA chapter of Best Buddies last year as a way to connect TCA students with high school students in the area who have special needs. The first Best Buddies event was last spring when the chapter attended the Dallas Best Buddies Walk. Seventy TCA students came out to the walk to spend time with and support their special needs buddies. Now, Best Buddies members attend weekend events planned by the Best Buddies Officer Core, such as Halloween parties, afternoons of bowling and even dances.

"The most important and most fun part of Best Buddies is spending time and building relationships with our buddies," said Georgia. "TCA students love the unique relationships they foster with those who have special needs and enjoy the fun events they can attend with old and new friends!"



BEST BUDDIES



**“Barnabas was an encouraging missionary** who traveled with Paul. I wanted to start the Barnabas Club because I felt the need for an encouragement club in the Class of 2022,” said freshman **Rhett Rice**. “All the people in our club strive to achieve this.”

Students meet up every other week to write encouraging notes to others who are not in the club. They also write to acknowledge encouraging actions they see in others, like sitting with someone at lunch or encouraging someone during sports. At the end of their time together, they pass the notes out to the recipients. The goal for the Barnabas Club is to reach out and encourage the entirety of the freshman class, as well as the teachers, and perhaps eventually the whole Upper School.



**Senior Jackson Hinckley and his brother, junior Mason Hinckley**, started building computers and 3D printers at home and were looking for an opportunity to use their knowledge in a real-world framework.

“We looked at starting a few businesses and realized we had a lot to learn about running a business. We began looking around at summer educational opportunities and came across the LaunchX Entrepreneur Club by MIT,” said Jackson. “It offers a proven coursework to teach high school students how to build a viable start-up company. It was the perfect fit.”

With the support of Upper School technology teacher **Susan Jackson**, the Hinckley brothers started the TCA chapter of LaunchX. Club meetings include a framework of activities, videos and discussions provided by LaunchX to help students create real companies. The club currently has teams of three to six members who have all worked to identify a need and are working on bringing a real solution to the world. Students are able to take a real startup from idea to execution to impact by giving them the knowledge and space to create, innovate and problem-solve.

Each year, the number of clubs and extracurricular activities at TCA grows, and students are encouraged to discover new interests and explore their passions. The possibilities are limitless! 📌



# SPACE TO

## Lower School STEM Lab and Library Makerspace





# THRIVE

provide environments for creative problem solving



The Lower School STEM Lab and Makerspace were intentionally designed to provide opportunities for hands-on inquiry, exploration and discovery, with the goal of helping children develop and grow into life-long learners. Using the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, students are presented challenges and real-world problems and scenarios that they work to solve while collaborating and interacting with their fellow classmates. Learning and growth take place in these fun and stimulating environments, as students stretch themselves, expand their knowledge and experience the joy of learning.



# EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

## Lower School STEM Lab

BY KELLI DUHANEY,  
LOWER SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

**IF YOU WERE TO VISIT CAMPUS TODAY** and walk into the Lower School Library Complex, you probably wouldn't recognize the room that used to be the computer lab. Now called the STEM Lab, this room has been completely redesigned. The physical layout is learner-centered, incorporating elements that were intentionally selected to provide an inviting space for student inquiry. The lab houses new resources to enhance student learning and represents a shift in how students in the Lower School are learning about technology.



When students visit the STEM Lab each week, they have the opportunity to use a wide range of technological tools. The lab is equipped with laptops and iPads for students, as well as a variety of resources that enable students to learn in a developmentally appropriate way. Students use Duplo Blocks, Legos, BeeBots, Sphero Robots, Little Bits Circuits, Strawbees, Keva Planks and green-screen technology to enhance their learning. All students in the Lower School participate in coding activities and begin to learn programming languages on their level.

Over the past several years, there has been a push nationwide for growth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education across the United States (Freeman,

Adams Becker, Cummins, Davis and Hall Giesinger, 2017). Curriculum in the STEM Lab helps students apply science and math concepts learned in their classrooms to solve real-world problems. As the STEM Lab teacher, one of my responsibilities is to guide students as they participate in engineering challenges. Students go through a cyclical process of asking questions about the issue at hand, imagining the possibilities for a solution, planning, creating, testing models and improving or redesigning their innovations as necessary. Curriculum in the Lower School STEM program introduces concepts that build on each other from year to year, culminating with technology and engineering classes offered in the Upper School.





*The physical layout  
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Along with changes in the STEM Lab, students are experiencing exciting new learning opportunities in the library. Lower School Library Media Specialist **Sally Berthel** and I collaborate to support classroom objectives whenever possible. Also, the Lower School Library now has a dedicated makerspace for student use. (See article on the next page.) Makerspaces are physical spaces where students construct meaning when they make or design artifacts on their own to demonstrate their learning. Within these flexible-learning spaces and in the STEM Lab, students have opportunities to exercise creativity and learn how to utilize new tools to invent or design something new.

Changes made in the STEM Lab and the addition of a makerspace have outcomes that will benefit students far beyond their time at TCA. The new STEM program is designed to help students become innovative critical thinkers, develop good collaboration skills, increase their creativity and learn to communicate effectively. Often called the “four C’s” of STEM, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication are skills that students must learn and practice repeatedly. Students will apply these concepts long after they leave TCA. However, our new STEM program is yet another example of TCA’s commitment to educating and developing the whole person for the glory of God. Lord willing, our students will use their growing skills to impact the Lord’s kingdom positively in the future.



# WHAT'S BETTER THAN RECESS?

## Lower School Makerspace

BY SALLY BERTHEL,  
LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

**MANY OF OUR LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS BEGIN** their day on our campus around 7:30 a.m. At 7:50 a.m., the students have the option to have a 20-minute morning recess or come to the Lower School Library. Are all our students choosing to have that extra recess? No, many are choosing to spend their time in the library! Some of the students come to the library to read or check out their next book. But, as I stand at the door to greet each student, there are many who rush by me with a quick, "Good morning!" and immediately make their way to the makerspace in the back of the library to work on whatever challenge awaits them. I'm always amazed that students will choose to skip an extra recess to work on these challenges!

The word "makerspace" can take on many meanings, simply because makerspaces can be found in a variety of places, such as classrooms, STEM labs, wood shops, public libraries and school libraries. The environment dictates the materials, direction and purpose of a makerspace.

"A makerspace can be anything from a repurposed book cart filled with arts and crafts supplies to a table in a corner set out with LEGOs to a full blown fab lab with 3D printers, laser cutters and hand tools. No two school makerspaces are exactly alike, nor should they be. Makerspaces are as unique as the school cultures they represent." (Diana Redina, "Renovated Learning: What the Research Says," RenovatedLearner.com)

In our Lower School Library, the makerspace is open to students in grades one through four before school begins in the morning. It is a place where students gather to create, collaborate, communicate and think critically as they work on each challenge. Students learn about these "four C's" in our STEM lab, under the direction of Lower School Technology Teacher **Kelli Duhaney**.

Our makerspace is a place where the students are repurposing all kinds of materials. For instance, one challenge this fall asked students to create a stronger house for the first little pig from the story, "The Three Little Pigs," using materials including popsicle sticks, toothpicks, sugar cubes, straws and cardboard. Once completed, students tested the design and structural integrity of these houses by subjecting them to a variety of air speeds with electric fans. While not every project lends itself to such a direct biblical connection, we also talked about the parable of the wise and foolish builders and how we should "design and build" a Christ-centered life.

*The makerspace is a place where students gather to create, collaborate, communicate and think critically as they work on each challenge.*





As I have noticed students returning to work on new challenges in the makerspace, I have asked them what they enjoy about the makerspace. Their varied answers illustrate a positive, fun-loving and forward-thinking attitude:

“It’s fun!”

“You can be creative.”

“We learn that some things fail and some things work.”

“We have to learn how to fix things when they fail.”

“We are using our brains to problem-solve.”

“If I want to be an engineer, it’s a good thing to do.”

For each new challenge, I meet with the students, give a little direction and let them go to it. As I watch our first- through fourth-grade students at work, I listen to their conversations, which range from encouraging and critiquing each other’s work to just talking life. Our makerspace provides a stepping-stone to enhancing community and offers an important opportunity for our students to continue to have hands-on activities that stimulate collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking. While a morning recess might do that from time to time, the varied challenges of our makerspace have an undeniable attraction for our students. ☺







BY SCOTT BERTHEL,  
HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

# PROGRESS

I DID NOT PLAN TO DO THIS when I hit middle age, but I have enjoyed learning a new sport over the course of the past eight years. Even though I played different sports as a child and finally settled on soccer, running was never something I particularly enjoyed. As such, it surprised me to discover that I liked running when I went out for a short run one day about eight years ago. It also surprised me how much I did not know about such a simple, seemingly natural activity.

Since that discovery I've been running, reading and experimenting with races of many different distances on both road and trail. Recently, I finished my most challenging race yet (100 miles); it began on a Saturday morning and required us to run into Saturday night and on through to Sunday morning. Just three miles into the race, I met another runner, and we began to chat and continued to run together. Over the course of many miles together, we formed a bond that saw us finish hand-in-hand nearly 26 hours after we started. As we were surrounded by a cold fog in the middle of the night in the middle of nowhere, my new running buddy said at one point, "We've just got to keep on making relentless forward progress!"

That phrase, "relentless forward progress," is actually the title of a 2011 book about ultra-running by a gentleman named Bryon Powell. I read it years ago and had already incorporated that phrase into my thinking for a lot of aspects of life, including my walk with God and the stewardship care of our Middle School at TCA. So, when he said it, I laughed and agreed, and we kept on moving forward.

In many respects, the same elements which contribute to "relentless forward progress" in a running race echo the

elements which contribute to the "relentless forward progress" of our Middle School. Here are some of the common factors:

**TRAINING:** To compete effectively in a given race, one must put in the appropriate kind of training. I liken this to the work teachers do to get ready for any given school year. Before they step up to the starting line of each school year, they have put in hours of work during the rush of our August in-service. Of even more significance, though, is the sheer volume of work they have put in through all of their previous years of teaching and their own education. Our teachers in the Middle School have, on average, two decades of experience in education and a full decade at TCA (statistics which mirror the average for all of TCA's faculty). This is an incredibly experienced, well-trained group of teachers!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK MAYO / MILE 90 PHOTOGRAPHY



# LESS

# FORWARD



**GOALS:** The runners I know are all goal-oriented, with a consistent focus on setting attainable goals that will stretch them. In every race I run, I am constantly evaluating how I am doing and assessing the clock relative to my goals for that race, then adjusting on the fly (or on the crawl). One of the most enjoyable times of the year for Dr. Ryan Berens, assistant head of Middle School, and me is when we meet individually with our teachers to hear their annual professional and technology goals. The energy, depth of thought and commitment to their own growth and learning is inspiring to us. Throughout the year, we see their consistent reflectiveness

about their goals, the adjustments they make and the ways in which their pursuit of a particular goal is paying dividends in the classroom experience of our students.

**FUEL:** Whether running a 5K or something far longer, a runner needs to understand how to care for his body's needs. I sometimes run on water alone, and in my most recent race, I ate everything from French toast and bacon to whole pickles. The fuel for our teachers comes in a lot of different forms throughout each school year. As people who love Jesus, the fuel of our calling to serve Christ is far and away the most important for us. In addition to that, our teachers read, attend various professional training events and seminars, engage in other professional development activities and “talk shop” in many different contexts each week, all of which keeps them energized with best-teaching practices.

**COMMUNITY:** As I receive congratulations upon the completion of a race, I am mindful that while I put in the steps to get across the finish line and there's a time by my name, I did not actually do this alone. Behind each successful race, there is a host of people who supported and helped me: my family, friends

and colleagues, in addition to the volunteers at each race. I see the intricate fabric of community at work in the same way in moving us forward each year. The depth of support my teachers lend to one another and to their students, the myriad ways I see our students contribute to the good in our classrooms and hallways and the moments when the support and prayers of parents lift our spirits at points along the way all serve to remind me that while there is one teacher at the front of a classroom, there is a beautifully complex web of relationships that enables them to bring their best on any given day.

**IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT:** I have had plenty of times I did not want to get up early to go on a training run, but I have discovered that when I get home, it was worth it. I have experienced many dark moments in races when I simply wanted to quit. I sincerely regret the one time I did drop out of a mountain biking race years ago, but I've never regretted pushing through the low moments to finish. I have had both training runs and races that didn't go as I hoped or expected, but I discover, again and again, that I can learn and grow from those moments. Each school year holds lessons, challenges, successes, disappointments, highs and lows that we cannot see at the starting line. One of the qualities that marks our Middle School faculty and staff is a commitment to doing our work with a growth mindset, one that says our lives are not defined by either our successes or our failures, but by our willingness to continue to grow and learn.

The concept of relentless forward progress has helped to carry me through some of the most difficult challenges I have faced in my latest sporting adventures. It is an idea that fits seamlessly with who God is, what He calls us to in the “cultural mandate” of Genesis 1 and what He repeatedly reveals about His redemptive nature throughout Scripture. He is constantly calling us forward to a better place and equipping us to make the journey through the gifts He gives. I remain humbled to serve in a school that lives out this concept and provides a clear and consistent example of relentless forward progress.





# Equipping our Graduates for Life Beyond TCA

BY MATT LAMBRO,  
DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

Witnessing our students' camaraderie with one another, walking past as faculty and students engage in meaningful conversations and listening as students cast vision and lead their peers as members of various clubs are a few of my favorite scenes on campus. In keeping with TCA's mission to "develop the whole person for the glory of God," I have spent the last two years observing, listening and brainstorming with students, parents and faculty on how we might improve and structure our programmatic offerings to best serve the spiritual and holistic development of our students in the Upper School. Based on these meetings, we have prioritized equipping our future graduates in the areas of social and emotional learning, leadership development and life readiness. While our outstanding alumni demonstrate that we are already doing so many things well, knowledge of the culture that awaits our graduates has created a greater sense of urgency than ever before to ensure our graduates are fully prepared.

Social and emotional learning is the capacity to recognize and manage emotions, solve problems effectively and establish positive relationships with others. Research tells us that if students have unmet social or emotional needs or difficulty with social and emotional skills, they are more likely to experience numerous adverse outcomes such as lower academic competence, poor financial management, engagement in risky sexual behavior, poor health and increased likelihood of criminal activity and substance abuse.

Considering the importance and benefits of social-emotional learning, we now use Friday morning advisory meetings to aid in our students' development of their social and emotional wellbeing. **Caryn Thexton**, Upper School college counselor, **Tenley Gummelt**, Upper School social and emotional counselor, and I have crafted a curriculum to help our students develop a strong sense of self and high relational intelligence and to possess a resilient mindset. By tailoring carefully crafted



lessons that intertwine Scripture, matched with leading research in adolescent development, we are creating intentional lessons to enhance our students' development in these crucial areas.

Senior **Sam Norris** expressed, "It's been helpful to talk and learn about how we are uniquely gifted so that we can learn to serve others out of our strengths. Our discussions make me consider how I can be more purposeful."

This year, students in the Upper School will be taking part in lessons on the topics of strengths, social responsibility, initiative, self-awareness, conflict, risk, self-recognition, advocating for others and reflection.

In addition, student leadership opportunities abound in the Upper School. Currently, there are 381 roles filled by student leaders in grades 9 to 12. These roles range from club officers, Disciples in Growth (DIGs) leaders, Middle School Bible study leaders, sports team captains, Honor Council, Student Council, as well as counselors at Sky Ranch and Wilderness.

Recognizing the critical function student leaders have in shaping our school culture, we have launched Lyceum, a new leadership development program which focuses on training and equipping both our current and aspiring student leaders. In 335 BC, the famous Greek philosopher Aristotle founded Lyceum, a school overlooking the city of Athens with the purpose of equipping the next generation of philosophers, rhetoricians and future leaders of the known world. We chose the name Lyceum for our leadership development program, because, similar to Aristotle, we feel that we, too, are equipping the next generation of global leaders.

On Wednesday mornings throughout the school year, our current and future student leaders receive blended training of theoretical and practical leadership lessons. We believe through Lyceum, students will become authentic, adaptive and transformational leaders who, in turn, will lead our community at TCA more effectively and will be ready for whatever future roles God has in store for them.

"Lyceum has helped me think about leadership differently and to recognize that my small actions can make a substantial difference and that leadership isn't just grand gestures," said senior **Avery Gann**.

While we believe our students are being prepared academically for the challenges of college, we are also invested in their future beyond books, tablets, paper and pens. To create a space to target these critical issues by grade level in an age-appropriate fashion, we are launching a new Life Readiness program. **Bob Dyer**, Upper School dean of students, will lead this exciting new endeavor to ensure our students hear about practical topics that will help them prepare for life.

"As our students grow and move toward adulthood, I think it's imperative that we do our part in equipping them to that end. While they are prepared academically, there are many other things that are imperative to their success in life," explained Bob. "The Life Readiness initiative will bring topics to their attention for which many may not be prepared. For instance, I recently gave a presentation on 'adulting,' discussing what things make up being an adult, personally, professionally and spiritually."

In the future, we hope to address topics like conflict resolution, career preparedness, fiscal responsibility, serving others, relational intelligence and social issues (racism, bullying, etc.), each appropriate to their development in adolescence and beyond.

Most importantly, while we recognize that these new programs are valuable, they will not replace the time students spend in discipleship, worship or chapels.

Navigating life requires preparation. Through these new programs, we are doing all we can to ensure our students are well equipped to do so.

## Outstanding Student Leaders

- 60 Upper School Club Officers
- 50 Athletic Captains/Co-Captains
- 20 Student Council Leaders
- 10 Honor Council Students
- 85 Middle School Bible Study Leaders
- 78 DIGs Leaders
- 40 Sky Ranch Counselors
- + 38 Wilderness Counselors
- 381 Leadership Opportunities

*Friday morning advisory meetings aid in our students' development of their social and emotional wellbeing with lessons on the topics of strengths, social responsibility, initiative, self-awareness, conflict, risk, self-recognition, advocating for others and reflection.*





# Father of Student Tuition Aid

BY BECKY D. LEWIS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
TRINITY CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY FOUNDATION

**WILLIAM E. "BILL" MILLET** served on the TCA Board of Trustees from 1974 to 1985 and the TCA Foundation Board from 1984 to present. Bill is fondly referred to as the "Father of Student Tuition Aid." He began the first scholarship fund in 1974 and has been devoted to raising funds for STA for over 40 years.

In 1985, the Joyce E. Millet Endowed Student Tuition Aid Fund was established by Bill and the TCA community in honor of Bill's late wife, Joyce. Since inception, 42 designated scholarship funds have been established within the endowment. A portion of the earnings from the endowment is distributed annually to STA, providing support to current students so they can continue at TCA when their families encounter unexpected difficulties, such as the loss of a loved one, loss of a job or other

financial challenges. STA also helps families who otherwise would not be able to provide a Christian education for their children.

STA exists because of the generosity of the TCA community. During the 2018-19 school year, \$1.5 million will be granted through STA, impacting 147 students or ten percent of the student body.

I had an opportunity to visit with Bill recently about Student Tuition Aid.

## What was your vision for STA when you began the program?

*I got together with the business manager to see how we could fill empty seats in the classrooms. We started the tuition fund and asked TCA families to give as much as possible. The first year, we started with \$1,875.*

## TCA has granted tuition aid to more than 3,100 students. What are your thoughts about the growth of the STA program?

*Astounding! STA is a tradition. I am proud that the program remains confidential and anonymous. We have a generous community that wants to help other families.*

## How did your children and grandchildren benefit from TCA?

*The teachers and their involvement with my kids was so impactful. TCA instilled the love of serving in my kids, including international mission work.*

## What are you most proud of related to TCA?

*I helped be a starter. The Lord put this school here, and I was not going to quit. It has been such an honor to be involved with TCA.*

## What are you passionate about?

*I am passionate about Christian education and being able to offer TCA to everyone, to all walks of life.*

Bill's family includes six sons (four who attended TCA), two step-daughters, 20 grandchildren, one great-grand daughter and wife of 31 years, LoEtta. His family's business, Millet the Printer, has printed TCA materials for 48 years. The company was established by his grandfather in 1933, and today, the company includes fifth-generation employees.

## Bill Millet . . .

- Established the Student Tuition Aid program
- Designed the TCA school logo and athletic logo
- Helped develop TAPPS
- Served as the longest-tenured TCA board member



## The Christian Sanchez Endowed Scholarship

**CHRISTIAN SANCHEZ**, son of Rhonda and Jimmy, attended Middle School at TCA and was a beloved member of the Class of 2021. In the summer before his eighth-grade year, Christian passed from this life into his eternal life with Jesus Christ after a tragic, weather-related accident on a Boy Scout camping trip. Christian was an excellent student, a promising athlete, an artist and a caring friend to all. He was a joyful young man who was quick with a smile and always ready for an adventure. He loved his family, his friends and his Lord.

In 2017, a host of friends and family came together to establish a scholarship in memory of Christian and to celebrate the positive impact he had on many lives at TCA. The Class of 2021 champions fundraising efforts for the scholarship in Christian's name and annually hosts a party to raise money to grow the endowment. Today, the endowment totals over \$50,000, and the first Student Tuition Aid (STA) scholarship was awarded from the fund for the 2018-19 academic year.

Rhonda and Jimmy Sanchez were honored with a standing ovation during halftime of the last home football game of the 2018 season, as Scott Berthel, head of Middle School, presented a plaque commemorating the Christian Sanchez Endowed Scholarship.



For more information about the scholarship, contact Belinda Branstetter at the TCA Foundation: 972.447.4742 or [bbranstetter@trinitychristian.org](mailto:bbranstetter@trinitychristian.org)

## Looking Forward

**CELEBRATE THE FUTURE OF TCA** was an inspiring evening of fun and fellowship with the TCA community. Guest speakers included **Bob Goff**, best-selling author of *Love Does* and *Everyone Always*, and **Mike Singletary**, NFL Hall of Famer and TCA head football coach.



### TRINITY CLASSIC GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENT

April 8, 2019

Bent Tree Country Club

Golf Chairman – Darren Dortch

Tennis Chairwomen – Tonja Crosby & Suzanne Pate

For more information contact Sarah Jones:

972.447.4744 or [sjones@trinitychristian.org](mailto:sjones@trinitychristian.org)





# MASTER COACH



BY DON ENGLISH,  
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC  
DIRECTOR AND VARSITY  
BOYS BASEBALL COACH

Charles Spurgeon said it best when referring to influence, “Write your name on hearts, not headstones. Write your epitaph on the lives of those you influence, and it will be eternal.” Many believe that no other person influences others as much as a coach. In my thirty-nine years of coaching, I have seen this to be true.

**Coaches teach, and master coaches teach *well*!** Many of us vividly remember those coaches who taught us lessons we still utilize in positive ways today. Athletes often ask themselves, consciously or subconsciously, “Do I have what it takes? Can I do it? Can I make it?” A master coach can help his or her athletes answer these with an emphatic “Yes, I can!”

Here at TCA, we believe our coaches are ministers, recognizing that sports must be an instrument used to teach and develop young men and women.

Learning to be a master coach takes tremendous work. One of the greatest examples was John Wooden. As the men’s basketball coach of the UCLA Bruins, his teams won 88 consecutive games, had 12 Final Four appearances and won ten National Championships. Coach Wooden always stated that there is a distinct difference between winning and success. His view of success did not involve the scoreboard, but how his players performed individually and corporately.

On the other hand, he believed his team could lose, not playing to its potential, yet scoring more points than

its opponent. Coach Wooden consistently stressed that winning and succeeding are by-products of perfect practice, with each individual attempting to do his very best, every day. His pyramid of success frames ultimate success as “a peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.” The apex of his pyramid points to faith on one side and patience on the other. Coaches must embrace this philosophy, as most athletes are young and impressionable. Demonstrating faith in a sovereign God while diligently exhibiting patience with our athletes are traits that every coach—every leader of men and women—should embrace.



**“A coach is someone who tells you what you don’t want to hear, who has you see what you don’t want to see, so you can be who you have always known you could be.”**  
**—Tom Landry**



From my own personal experience and study of great coaches, I believe a master coach consistently exhibits these characteristics:

**1. Prioritizes athletes over all else.**

I can recall many times, driving home, believing I had orchestrated an excellent workout, yet realizing I had failed to connect with my players.

**2. Develops an array of effective teaching styles,** cognizant that children all learn differently.

**3. Possesses an outstanding knowledge of the sport.**

**4. Orchestrates meaningful practices,** teaching vital fundamentals and techniques, while providing quality repetitive opportunities for improvement.

**5. Devises and implements game-winning strategies.**

**6. Produces what Coach Wooden calls, “competitive greatness,”** teaching players to win and win the right way.

**7. Tirelessly markets his program,** utilizing a variety of social media platforms to communicate pertinent information and provide appropriate individual and team recognition.

**8. Surrounds himself with outstanding assistants** who say what he or she needs to hear.

**9. Possesses and models humility.**

**10. Provides opportunities for pure fun** in every aspect of his or her program.

Every coach I’ve known desperately wanted to win. However, success must take place in order for winning on

the scoreboard to be relevant for life. What football fan doesn’t remember former Oakland Raider owner Al Davis’s mantra, “Just win, baby,” or recall the saying, “Winning isn’t everything, it’s just the only thing,” attributed to Red Sanders, UCLA head football coach. Winning is important, but winning should never be the be-all-end-all.

Capturing players’ hearts, a master coach pours into athletes to make winners for life. The age-old saying, “Players don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care,” is absolutely true. Players will overlook many of our mistakes and inadequacies if they know they are loved. In fact, the more they feel loved, the harder they will work and the more consistently they will perform.

Every athlete at TCA should know that we care more about our athletes than winning, and we care about winning a great deal! Often, it takes a master coach to help an athlete believe he or she does have what it takes to become a champion. A master coach understands that with inherent power comes great responsibility! Luke 17:2 specifically warns those given authority over children, “It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause a little one to stumble.” It’s quite clear in Scripture that God holds coaches to a high standard.

TCA has only one named facility, Tom Landry Stadium. One of Coach Landry’s most famous quotes rings true: “A coach is someone who tells you what you don’t want to hear, who has you see what you don’t want to see, so you can be who you have always known you could be.”

Please pray that our coaches all become master coaches, seeking to influence our young men and women to become ALL that God has so thoughtfully designed them to be.





**THE VARSITY GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**

had a successful season this year, placing in the top five in the team standings five different times. The highlight of the season was winning the 6A TAPPS District 1 Championships for the first time since 1990. The girls team also finished sixth at the 6A TAPPS State Championships, the best finish in the past seven years.

The team's chosen theme was "Commit," and the team's verse was Ecclesiastes 7:8, "Better is the end of a matter than its beginning."

Congratulations to the following runners for earning district and team awards:

**McKENZIE MOORE** - First Team All-District,  
Most Valuable Runner

**AVERY OVERBERG** - First Team All-District

**ABBY CORONADO** - First Team All-District

**EMILY JONES** - First Team All-District

**RACHEL MILLS** - Second Team All-District

**OLIVIA BERGGREN** - Most Improved Runner

**ANNA MUCCIO** - Most Christ-like Award

**THE VARSITY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**

placed in the top five in the team standings three times this season. At the 6A TAPPS District 1 Championships, the boys posted the fastest cumulative time as a team and finished fourth. The team also finished 13th at the 6A TAPPS State Championships.

The team's chosen theme was "Commit," and the team's verse was Ecclesiastes 7:8, "Better is the end of a matter than its beginning."

Congratulations to the following runners for earning district and team awards:

**LOGAN ROCK** - Most Valuable Runner

**JUSTIN MILLER** - Second Team All-District

**WILL MCINTOSH** - Second Team All-District

**CONNOR DEWEY** - Most Improved Runner

**MASON MORLAND** - Most Christ-like Award



## IN 2018, THE TROJANS WERE LOOKING FORWARD

to an exciting football season as TCA welcomed NFL Hall of Famer **Mike Singletary** as the head football coach. It was indeed an exciting season, but 2018 was also a difficult season as the Trojans faced adversity on many fronts. A few close losses early in the season, along with several key injuries and a strong schedule, made it difficult for the team to pick up momentum.

Although the season did not go as everyone had hoped, there were many positive outcomes. The players fought hard every game, refusing to give up and came away with many life lessons. The coaching staff enjoyed working with every player on the team. It was a special group of young men, and the seniors will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to the following football players for district and state awards:

**DAVID ASCHE** — First Team All-District (kicker),  
Second Team All-District (punter), Honorable  
Mention All-State (kicker), Academic All-State

**MASON HINCKLEY** — First Team All-District,  
Second Team All-State, Academic All-State

**SLADE SAVAGE** — First Team All-District, Second  
Team All-State, Academic All-State



**XAVIER BROOKS** — Second Team All-District

**WILLIAM KENNEDY** — Second Team All-District,  
Academic All-State

**ISAAC AGUMADU** — Honorable Mention All-District

**MICHAEL CALLAHAN** — Honorable Mention All-District

**JACKSON HINCKLEY** — Honorable Mention All-District

**CLARK PINO** - Honorable Mention All-District

**JOEL SMITHERMAN** — Honorable Mention All-District



**THE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM** started its season in Pearland, Texas, playing in one of the largest volleyball tournaments in the nation. While there, the girls enjoyed a great deal of team bonding time on the Kemah Boardwalk and faced some great competition in the gym. After a slightly rocky start, the team made a strong district run, finishing second in district with a record of 5-3. A strong 3-0 win at Midland Christian to end district play earned the team a first-round home playoff game. Sadly, in a tough loss to Parish Episcopal, the 2018 season came to a close. It was a great season under the leadership of the team's five seniors.

Congratulations to the following volleyball players for district and state awards:

**KATHRYN CALLAHAN** — First Team All-District,  
Honorable Mention All-State

**SAVANNAH PATE** — First Team All-District,  
Honorable Mention All-State, Academic All-State

**MEREDITH HARWELL** — First Team All-District

**TAYLOR KALAHAR** — Second Team All-District, Academic All-State

**CLARA LIU** — Second Team All-District, Academic All-State

**CAROLINE SPEARS** — Second Team All-District, Academic All-State

**LAUREN ELMS** — Honorable Mention All-District

**SARAH GERARD** — Honorable Mention All-District

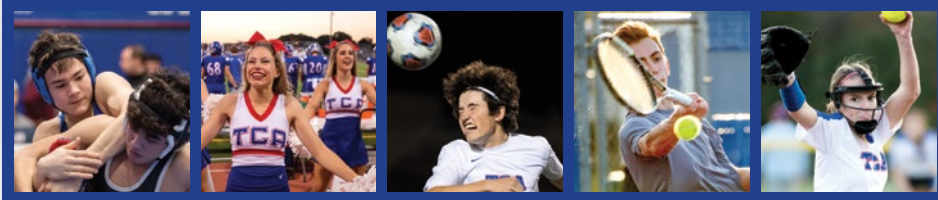
**GRACIE HARRIS** — Honorable Mention All-District





Trinity  
Christian  
Academy

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB



## ***THANKS FOR BEING PART OF THE TEAM!***

Thank you for your generous donations and participation in the Athletic Booster Club this year! We had a record year of giving!

*The TCA Athletic Booster Club greatly contributes to the overall quality of the athletic program experience by promoting school spirit, reinforcing the Champion Creed and providing financial support above and beyond the athletic budget.*

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Athletic Booster Club supports and funds sports and spirit, campus-wide, for

**almost 1,500**

Lower, Middle and  
Upper School students.

Each year, TCA's Athletic  
Booster Club purchases new  
equipment for ALL

**21 sports  
and  
60 teams.**

**80%**

of TCA's Middle and Upper  
School students participate in  
TCA Athletics.

For 2018-19, the Athletic  
Booster Club was able to grant

**100%**

of TCA's athletic wish lists,  
including the following:

**Varsity Team Banners**

**Stadium Fence Wrap**

**NFHS Network Cameras  
in Stadium and MCB Gym**

**Training Equipment**

**Backpacks and Warmups**

**Soccer Goals**



# Patti's Pals

**ONE OF THE MANY REASONS** I love TCA is the community. Over the years, I have made some wonderful friends and have relied on them during good times and bad. From vacations together to Friday-night lights to family get-togethers to making and receiving dinners when in need to picking up each other's children, community is the heartbeat of our school. TCA is known for its academics, athletics, arts and more, but I would put our community right up there as one of the best assets of TCA.

Recently **Bill Bradley**, US history/English teacher, lost his wife to a 25-year battle with multiple sclerosis. An alumni parent ordered a paver for our Alumni Garden in memory of **Patti Bradley** with the words "Patti's Pals" printed on it. This led to a discussion about what "Patti's Pals" was, and I am so grateful that I asked.

Years ago, Patti attended the mother's prayer group at TCA. As she became unable to attend regularly, several moms chose to go to Patti's home to enjoy lunch and fellowship together. Alumni parent



Left to right: Diane Saffold sitting next to Patti Bradley  
Standing: Charlotte Kivioja, past caregiver Tamara, Anne Lowe

Patti and Bill Bradley established an endowment at TCA in 1988. Each year, a portion of the earnings from the fund is distributed to provide tuition aid to TCA students. For more information contact Beth at 972-447-4747.

**Roslyn Gregory** was one of those moms. Their friendship grew, and Roslyn began to realize that Patti needed help during the week while Bill was teaching. Patti already had a couple of friends who were regularly going to visit with her on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so Roslyn started going on Mondays.

Soon it was clear Patti needed help all five days, so Patti and Roslyn collaborated and were able to establish a group of friend-helpers to fill the week for a few hours each day. As time went by, it was necessary to fill the whole day while Bill was at TCA (two shifts a day, five days a week). Alumni moms, each with a willingness to serve, would go to the Bradleys' home. The Lord's plan unfolded each week as Roslyn worked on filling the schedule. Back then, she relied on phone calls to fill each slot; if and when someone canceled, God provided every time!

One afternoon when Bill arrived back home, he, along with Patti, Roslyn and alumni parent **Kathy Brodhead**, decided the group needed a name; that's how "Patti's Pals" came to be!

While the Pals were helping Patti, many agreed that it was Patti who really helped them. "She was always so appreciative, such a good listener, caring and funny. Her great sense of humor was inspiring! Even though our goal was to help her, she gave so much back to us in her special way, praying regularly for the Pals and their families," commented Roslyn. "To witness God's special provision for the Bradleys was truly amazing!"

Roslyn coordinated the Pals for five years, and then other alumni parents stepped in—**Kim McTavish** for a year and **Anne Lowe** for 14 years. These women organized the schedule to make sure every week, two shifts a day, there was someone there to help Patti. She loved all of her Pals and prayed for them on a regular basis.

A few of the Pals would occasionally take Patti out shopping to Stein Mart or Dillard's. They had so much fun shopping and laughing; several of the staff at Stein Mart became familiar with them, knowing where they were in the store by their laughter.

Anne Lowe summarized it beautifully, "Each one of us felt that Patti blessed us far more than we helped her, and we learned so much from her. She never complained, and she was so patient with her many limitations and so appreciative of her Pals."

"These sweet, faithful ladies became sister-friends of Patti, enlarging her ever-shrinking world. They brought their families into our home for her to care for and pray about," expressed Bill. "Their consistent laughter, discussion and occasional shopping trips reminded Patti about who she still was: a funny, deeply believing and meaningful person. All priceless gifts!"

I love how a small gesture at the start turned into years of friendships, much-needed assistance, and prayer, blessing all who were involved. Thank you to ALL of Patti's Pals! So proud to have you as part of the TCA community!



BY BETH HARWELL,  
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI



# HOMEcoming 2018



**THE TCA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** held its annual Homecoming Alumni Dinner on October 5, 2018. We had over 400 in attendance at the dinner held in the tent next to the football field. A big thank-you to our sponsors, Texas de Brazil (owners and current parents **Salim and Shaundra Asrawi**) for the fabulous dinner and to Sky Ranch for providing the tent. We also had a face painter and photo booth by the tent for our alumni families to enjoy.

The Trinity Art Gallery (TAG) in the Upper School held its opening reception for the *Trends in Abstraction* exhibition, featuring two alumni artists, **Lael Sale Burns '97** and **Paul Winker '08**.

Congratulations to senior **Maddie Cotter**, this year's Homecoming queen. Maddie is the daughter of alumna **Amy Shaw Cotter '88**. We are so proud to have a legacy student receive the crown this year! (See Maddie's photo in Good Works on page 6.)







Thank you to all the alumni and alumni parents who came to the dinner and made our Homecoming so special. We always love having you back on our campus!

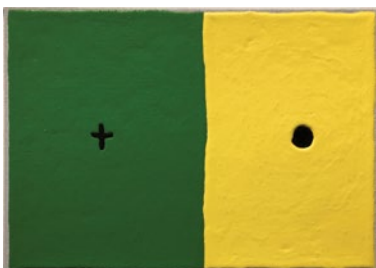


**ALUMNI LAEL SALE BURNS '97 AND PAUL WINKER '08** were featured in the 2018 Homecoming exhibition in the Trinity Art Gallery, *Trends in Abstraction*.

Burns exhibited a collection of wall-mounted Styrofoam blobs, all of which are extremely tactile and colorful. The pieces, *Alien and Space Invaders*, are creations of sequins, glitter, plastic beads, velum, tulle and pillow-like appendages. They are organic, embryotic, other worldly forms open to interpretation.

Winker's acrylic paintings, though scant on imagery, are rich in interpretation. One piece contains a tiny black cross surrounded by a field of green opposite a small black circle surrounded by a field of yellow. The title, *Find Your Blind Spot*, makes the viewer question the meaning. Another piece is an irregular shaped circle surrounded by a thick black edge. It has four black lines running through the center. Again, Winker has chosen simple shapes, a cross and circle, symbolizing wholeness, unity and eternity.

## ALUMNI ARTISTS



The Art Department at TCA appreciates our alumni art students who continue their art education through college and become professional artists. Thank you, Lael and Paul, for lending your work to the TAG!





## Letter from the Alumni Association President

**GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING**  
with the Alumni Association!

Last year was a great year for the TCA Alumni Association. We had some great events, chances to reconnect and opportunities to serve. Here are a few highlights.

This fall, we hosted our annual Homecoming event, where over 400 alumni and their families came back to the school, watched some football, went to a TCA-sponsored art show and spent time connecting with old classmates and friends.

We also had our annual Legacy Kids Breakfast, where current TCA students whose parents are alumni enjoyed breakfast and special t-shirts and posed for the annual Legacy Kids group picture.

Within the past year, we conducted the most expansive alumni survey ever in the history of the Alumni Association. Through this survey, we learned of the willingness of our alumni to continue to be involved with our school, and we received valuable information about how we can better serve and communicate with our alumni what has been working and what can be improved.

We continued to be involved with the Upper School Interact Club, where TCA students meet once a month and hear from different speakers (often alumni) talk about their careers and educate students about possible career options.

We had our first ever Spring Alumni Weekend last April, a whole weekend dedicated to our alumni. This included complimentary admission to a TCA varsity baseball game and dinner on the first night. Former long-time head of Lower School and alumni parent **Rod Morris** threw out the first pitch. On Saturday, we hosted an alumni parent brunch and enjoyed an amazing dinner and entertainment at the Westin Galleria on Saturday night. The weekend culminated with free admission for alumni and their families to the Upper School spring musical, *Little Women*.

As we move forward this year, we want to continue to serve the needs of our alumni in better and deeper ways. We plan to do a better job of communicating through multiple venues, including social media. We are going to have our second annual Spring Alumni Weekend April 26–28, 2019. We are already working to increase involvement with our alumni parents and also want to have better outreach to former teachers and administrators. We want to continue to improve our partnership with TCA as it continues to “educate the whole person for the glory of God.”

As our beloved school approaches its 50th year of existence, we need each of our alumni and alumni parents to be involved. We want to continue to serve you, to provide you a community of like-minded believers and to encourage you, no matter what stage of life you are in or where life currently finds you. We love you, and we are here for you.

Blessings,

*Stephen P. Konstans*

Stephen Konstans '83

TCA Alumni Association Board President





## UPCOMING EVENTS & ALUMNI NEWS

### ► SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND

**APRIL 26–28, 2019**

The TCA Alumni Association presents our Second Annual Spring Alumni Weekend, April 26–28, 2019. ALL ALUMNI are invited to attend. We will be celebrating the following reunions: 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014. For more details, go to [www.trinitychristian.org/alumni](http://www.trinitychristian.org/alumni).

► **MAY 16:** TCA Graduation

### ► ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

(AUGUST 2018–JULY 2019)

**Stephen Konstans '83**, President

**Lane Conner '99**, Vice President of Social Media

**Jackie Schimmer Harrison '86**, Vice President of Alumni Parents

**Bunny Heard Mitchell '94**, Vice President of Community

**Lane Wells Wiggins '04**, Vice President of Contributions

**Jacy Witt '12**, Vice President of Communications

**Ashli Burbridge Avery '98**

**Chad Baldwin '13**

**Gabby McGarity '10**

**Michael Novakovich '13**

**David Purcey '01**

**Hillary Price Taylor '07**

**Sarah-Graham Turtletaub '07**

**Brandon Waddell '97**

**Beth Harwell**, Director of Alumni

### ► STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to follow us on social media:



[www.facebook.com/TCAAlumniAddison](https://www.facebook.com/TCAAlumniAddison)



[www.instagram.com/tca\\_alumni\\_addison](https://www.instagram.com/tca_alumni_addison)

### ► PAVERS

Honor a current student, alumnus, faculty, staff or family member with a brick paver. For \$150, a paver may be purchased and placed in the Alumni Garden next to the TCA Performing Arts Center. All proceeds benefit the Alumni Association and Student Tuition Aid. For more information contact **Beth Harwell**, director of alumni, at [bharwell@trinitychristian.org](mailto:bharwell@trinitychristian.org) or go to [www.trinitychristian.org/alumni](http://www.trinitychristian.org/alumni) for an order form.

# SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND

April 26–28, 2019

All alumni are invited to the weekend events.

We will be celebrating the following reunions:  
1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014

More information to come.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Beth Harwell, director of alumni, at [bharwell@trinitychristian.org](mailto:bharwell@trinitychristian.org) or call at 972-447-4747.



# Where are they now?

THE LATEST ON WHAT YOUR CLASSMATES ARE DOING  
BY BETH HARWELL, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI

2007



**DR. BRITTNEY NOEL ANDERS** was named chief resident of obstetrics and gynecology at Baylor in Dallas this year. She is finishing up her last year there.

1997



**CORBETT REDDEN** is a math professor at Long Island University and recently received tenure, along with an NSF grant and an award for teaching.

first officer for American Airlines, and Amanda is a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines.



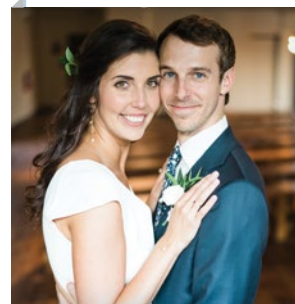
1999

**JOHN STEWART** and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their fifth baby, Thomas Jordan Stewart, at 8 pounds, 15 ounces. Thomas was born in Dallas. He will be surrounded by love from his siblings, Sophie (9), Sydney (7), Johnny (5) and Caroline (2).

**ANDERS '07.** Helen also has an older sister, Daphne. The Anderses live in Atlanta, Georgia, where Mason currently works for West Physics as a medical physics resident.



**TREY HAYS**, wife Jessica and big sisters Kinslee and Karoline welcomed Keagan



**CALLIE STOKELD** married Ryan Crombar on June 8, 2018, in Ft. Worth, Texas. Her brother, **CARTER STOKELD '09**, was a groomsman. Last year, Callie received a master's degree from Southern Methodist University in teaching, reading and writing and became a certified academic language practitioner. She is now in her seventh year as a kindergarten teacher and is the coordinator over the preK and kindergarten team at West Dallas Community School. Ryan graduated from Texas A&M and is a manager in the Advisory Group at Deloitte. They live in East Dallas and are actively involved at Eastside Community Church.

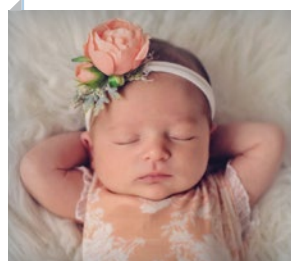
1998



**TAYLOR HINCKLEY** and his wife, Amanda, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Caroline Taylor, on March 20, 2018. Their two-year old son, Knox, is a proud big brother. Taylor and Amanda live in Dallas, where Taylor is a

2005

**MASON ANDERS** and his wife, Courtney, announce the birth of their second daughter, Helen Noel Anders, born June 21, 2018. The name Noel is in honor of Mason's sister, **DR. BRITTNEY NOEL**



Belle into their family. She weighed 7 pounds at birth and was born on September 19.

## Got news?

► Drop us a line and let your classmates know what you are doing. Email **Beth Harwell** in the Alumni Office at [bharwell@trinitychristian.org](mailto:bharwell@trinitychristian.org).

Please note that all submissions for the next issue of *Trinity Today* must be received by April 15, 2019, and that all submitted electronic photos must be in high-resolution jpeg format to be suitable for printing.



## 2008



**KELSEY JONES** married Brett Knowles on September 9, 2017, in Dallas, Texas. Maid of honor was **CHRISTINE HURSH KASCOW**, and bridesmaids included **BRITTANY BURNS GLOSSER** and **MEGAN JARVIE PAULK '09**. Groomsmen included **DILLON JONES '11**. Kelsey and Brett met at a Texas A&M former student event in Houston, where they now reside. They both work in finance in the oil and gas industry.

The couple met while in school at the University of Texas and now live in Dallas.



The best men were the groom's brothers, **CHAD BALDWIN '13** and **ALEXANDER BALDWIN '16**. The groom's sister, **OLIVIA BALDWIN (11th)**, was a bridesmaid. Other TCA alumni honored in the wedding party were **CARSON ASHBAUGH, RYAN JONES, JOHANN SARNA, DILLON JONES, MATT HYNEK, LEX MASON** and **MIMI RICHARDSON**.

## Sky's the limit

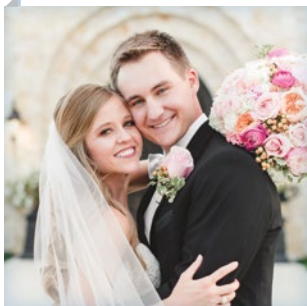
American Airlines is in good hands with these two TCA alumni, flight attendant **Kelly Krueger Lynch '95** and First Officer **Taylor Hinckley '98**. Both Kelly and Taylor are pursuing careers in the airline industry, as did both of their dads, Norm Krueger (below, left) and Frank Hinckley (below, right), who retired as captains for American Airlines.



## 2009



**CARTER STOKELD** married Caitlyn Baukal on July 7, 2018, at Dream Point Ranch in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The best men were **MARK BJORKMAN** and **COLEMAN ROSS**. Carter's sister, **CALLIE STOKELD CROMBAR '07**, served as a bridesmaid. Carter is a mechanical engineer and works for Williams in Tulsa. He is also working on his master of science in business analytics at Tulsa University. Caitlyn works as a physician's assistant in the emergency room at St. Francis Hospital. They are actively involved in Cornerstone Church.



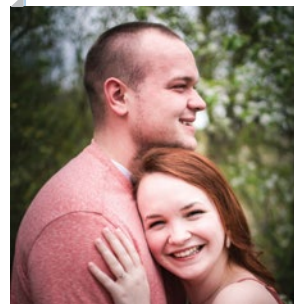
**DILLON JONES** married Sarah Smock on August 5, 2017, in Frisco, Texas. The couple met at Texas A&M their freshman year. Groomsmen included **ROSS HURT**. Ushers included **EVAN BALDWIN** and **CARSON ASHBAUGH**. Bridesmaids included **KELSEY JONES '08**. Dillon and Sarah reside in Houston, where Sarah is a management consultant for Accenture and Dillon works in finance in the oil and gas industry.



service position and also provides a scholarship. He will graduate in May with a degree in building science and technical writing.



will be getting married in January 2019. Mackenzie met Nicolas at the University of Arkansas. She has accepted a job with the cyber security unit at Walmart and will be starting in February 2019.



## 2011

**EVAN BALDWIN** married Leigh Robinson on April 1, 2017, in Fort Worth, Texas.

## 2014

**TRENTON WHITE** is in his final year at Auburn University, and this year he was selected as captain of the cheerleader squad. This is his third year as cheerleader, which is a

## 2015

**MACKENZIE GOSSETT** got engaged to Nicolas Williams in December 2017 and







## IN THE SPIRIT

Lower School got into the Christmas spirit just after Thanksgiving break with its annual Christmas Chapel! Our fourth-grade worship team led singing, and Mrs. Henderson shared the Christmas story with a little help from her students!







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### ► **Note to parents**

If this publication is addressed to a graduate who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify Joy Konstans at [jkonstans@trinitychristian.org](mailto:jkonstans@trinitychristian.org) of his or her new mailing address. Thank you!