Lifelong learners

“THE MAN WHO GRADUATES TODAY AND STOPS LEARNING TOMORROW IS UNEDUCATED THE DAY AFTER.”  —NEWTON D. BAKER

While the mission of Trinity Christian Academy is to “educate and develop the whole person for the glory of God,” I’m quite confident that the majority of faculty and staff at TCA would agree that a significant secondary goal of TCA, although not officially stated, is to foster a lifelong love of learning in our students.

As you can imagine, there’s a lot of learning happening at TCA. Every day, our classrooms are filled with developing brains, absorbing knowledge and learning to critically analyze, explore and process the world around us. Intentional programs and opportunities for spiritual development, community service and leadership training are also a large part of a TCA education, and our athletics and fine arts programs provide a complete, well-rounded learning environment. These classes, activities and opportunities all work together to inspire our students to continue learning beyond high school and college.

In this issue of Trinity Today, you will hear about the intentional leadership development opportunities, specifically in Middle School and Upper School, that allow our students to develop their leadership skills and prepare them for future occasions to lead and learn. And, it’s not just our students who are learning every day. In Laura Ouimette’s article, “Raising the Bar,” she explains how the members of our faculty are committed not only to teach, but to learn. They work hard every year honing their craft and expanding their educational expertise. They aren’t just teachers, but lifelong learners, as well.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior this holiday season and welcome another new year, let us all look for what intrigues us, what inspires us and what excites us. I challenge you to think about what you can learn this year!
RAISING THE BAR

Lower School Literacy Specialist Laura Ouimette outlines how continuing education of our teachers results in an exceptional education for our students.

DEVELOPING LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Berens, assistant head of Middle School, and Matt Lambro, TCA spiritual life director, discuss the process of developing leaders in Middle School and Upper School.

ALUMNI ART SHOW

The Trinity Art Gallery (TAG) hosted an alumni faculty and student art exhibit this fall, featuring works from 15 current and former faculty and over 40 alumni.
Profound thanks for deep roots

**COLOSSIANS 2:6–7 REMINDS US**, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons (while often filled with family, friends and over-scheduling) provide those of us willing to “be still” for a moment a chance to enter into a time of reflection about the many blessings God has provided. As I reflect on the things for which I am grateful for TCA, I am mostly reminded of how He has protected and provided for TCA these past 47+ years.

- **A MISSION THAT HAS BEEN CONSISTENT SINCE 1970** . . . educating and developing the whole person for the glory of God. Our Board of Trustees continues to lead with that mission as our compass. One only has to look at the Ivy League schools to see how far off even the most respected institutions in our country can veer when God is not revered, godly leadership is not a priority and cultural influences redefine “truth.”

- **PAST TRUSTEES, SCHOOL LEADERS AND FAMILIES** who provided the leadership and resources necessary during their season at TCA . . . leaving the school much improved and biblically and financially sound.

- **A COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO HONORING CHRIST** in preparing the next generation to be leaders engaged in the culture. We can all think of individuals who had significant influence to change a culture (William Wilberforce, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Billy Graham, Mother Teresa). It only takes one person committed to biblical truth to make a difference in the lives of many. We are blessed by how many of our parents (current and former), teachers, students and alumni are doing just that.

- **TEACHERS, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS** whose commitment to care for, educate and disciple students are the heart of our school. Their passion to instill a love for Jesus, to serve Him, to reflect His love in everything they do encourages our students to do the same. What an impact they had in my family . . . and I’m sure, yours.

- **FAMILIES WHO PARTNER WITH US** (many who make significant sacrifices to have their children at TCA) whose desire it is to provide the best education and environment to prepare their children to be difference-makers now and in whatever roles God has for them later in life. What a blessing it is to see how our families come alongside one another to encourage, support and pray for one another.

- **ALUMNI WHO ARE INFLUENCING THEIR WORLD** as pastors, professionals, care-givers, business leaders, missionaries and leaders in their homes (wives, husbands, moms, dads). Hearing stories of the amazing things they are doing provides all of us inspiration to press on!

- **WALL OF PRAYER.** Every student and faculty member is prayed for everyday by someone in the TCA community.

- **NO DEBT.** Every building is paid for. Families who have provided the funds for our facilities have given a great gift to those following behind.

- **STUDENT TUITION AID.** Families who cannot afford to be here are cared for by others in our community, providing a more socio-economically diverse community. We are so blessed that so many provide funding to help others in need.

- **A HEART TO SERVE OTHERS.** Through clothing, school supply and food drives, an orphanage and Christian school in Mexico, orphanages in Kenya and Tanzania, villages along the Amazon, a local public school, assisted-living homes and more, TCA students and families are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support to continue our mission. We are blessed by your love for and commitment to Trinity Christian Academy!
By Mark Dyer, TCA Parent, Alumni Parent and Board of Trustees Member

At the time of this note, there are 292 days, 22 hours and 53 minutes until my wife and I become empty nesters. Facing a new chapter in our lives has caused me to be a bit nostalgic and reflective. As I think about these last days of my youngest daughter’s senior year at TCA, I am deeply appreciative and thankful for benefits received; I am grateful.

Nothing irritates my kids more than when their dad uses the word “hashtag” in a sentence. The typical response . . . “goober,” “geez,” eye rolls or sometimes a polite, “Dad, please don’t ever do that again.”

If you are a Twitter or Instagram user, you no doubt have seen a #. Before researching its beginnings, I assumed the # originated on Twitter, but, interestingly enough, it is not a Twitter function. The # is a “metadata tag” that has been around for quite some time, first being used in the late 1980s as a way to group messages, images, content and video into categories. It has been reported that the practice of using the # took off in tweets relating to the 2007 San Diego forest fires in southern California. Others have claimed the # came in vogue when Captain Sully’s US Air flight landed in the Hudson River in early 2009. For events like these where tweets would have been flying fast and furiously, it would not have taken long for the # to go viral, and suddenly thousands of people posting about the event would have added it to their tweets, as well.

Whatever the source, the # is regularly used in discussion forums, and, if promoted by enough individuals, the # can “trend,” attracting more individual users to the topic. When a # becomes extremely popular, it appears in the “trends for you” section on your Twitter account. A # cannot be “retired” from public usage, meaning that any given # can theoretically be used in perpetuity.

The Psalmist exhorts us, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Psalm 100:4). We are called to “sing to the Lord with grateful praise . . .” (Psalm 147:7). The Apostle Paul commands us, “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” (Colossians 3:16).

As the clock ticks toward graduation, I wanted take the opportunity to share how grateful my family is for our TCA experience. I am grateful for TCA’s faculty who invested so much into the lives of my daughters, who developed in them a love of art, who made algebra, geometry and calculus come alive, who taught them how to write effectively and to grow deeply in their faith. I am grateful for the teacher who stood on her head to celebrate the reading of a book and passed that passion to read on to my youngest. I am grateful for coaches who helped develop mental and physical toughness and am grateful for teachers and administrators who work tirelessly to develop and refine TCA’s curriculum. I am grateful for parents who selfishly volunteer hours to enrich our kids. I am grateful for the friendships that my daughters made. Thank you, TCA, I am truly grateful.
TCA alumnus Brock Bacon ’14 gave us permission to reprint a letter he sent last spring to Headmaster Dave Delph regarding his TCA experience:

Dear Mr. Delph,

It is crazy to think that it has already been three years since I graduated from TCA. I’ve been meaning to reach out, but with going to college in the northeast and my family’s recent move to Atlanta, my trips to Dallas have unfortunately been very rare. As I have gone through college far from home, I realize more and more each day how special of a place TCA is and how thankful I am to have a strong Christian foundation built by the TCA community.

A quick update on me to provide some context—I have now finished my junior year at Dartmouth, playing football and majoring in economics. I am in New York City right now finishing up a three-month internship during my off term of school and will be coming back for the summer, as well. Through my experiences post-graduation, I have realized that the real world is nothing like TCA, but that I left TCA prepared to live for Christ and defend my faith in any environment.

Out of the approximately 100 guys on the football team, I’m one of a handful of Christians. I go to church on Sunday nights in the basement of a school building where the regular attendance is in the low teens, and I lead worship for the group by playing songs on YouTube videos. I have a couple of friends in college that are Christians, but the large majority of them are the polar opposite and ask me about (mock quite a bit, too) my faith all the time.

For the first time, I am living in situations where it isn’t “normal” or “cool” to be a Christian, and it is very weird. This note is by no means supposed to be a statement of how great of a Christian I am for keeping my faith in college, but instead is a thank-you to you and the faculty at TCA who prepared me to live out my faith in any and every environment.

As you know, not every kid “fits the mold” and leaves TCA with the same positive mindset. Many kids grow numb to the Christian influence after 12 years of chapels and teaching every week, and Bible class just becomes part of their school routine. Some spend their entire time trying to work the system and get around the rules with everything from not wearing the right uniforms to doing whatever else is cooler than the rules to them at the time. Some are on the opposite end of the spectrum and put on the mask of having everything together and being the model TCA Christian student until leaving senior year and not knowing what to do.

But no matter the student, I strongly believe that there’s no better place I could have grown up going to school, and I wanted to reach out to say thank you.

Best,
Brock Bacon ’14

“Out of the approximately 100 guys on the football team, I’m one of a handful of Christians. . . . For the first time, I am living in situations where it isn’t ‘normal’ or ‘cool’ to be a Christian, and it is very weird. . . . I want to say thank you to you and the faculty at TCA who prepared me to live out my faith in any and every environment.”

—Brock Bacon ’14
Lower School students hosted their grandparents on campus on Thursday and Friday, November 16 and 17. Over 1,000 grandparents and grand friends came to share in this special TCA tradition of songs, Bible verses and classroom fun with their Lower School grandchildren.
National Merit

Senior Allison Lau was recently named a 2017 National Merit Semi-Finalist. As a semi-finalist, she was among the highest scorers on the PSAT in Texas and represents less than one percent of our state’s top high school seniors. In addition, five seniors were named as National Merit Commended Students: Natalie Miller, Davis Rogers, Sydney Riordan, Nathan Sanders and Alyson O’Shea, which places them in the top 5% of the 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition.

North Texas Giving Day

On September 14, 2017, almost 1,000 donors raised more than $500,000 for TCA, and TCA placed first in the school category. Funds were donated through the Communities Foundation of Texas and will be used to enhance our campus and athletic programs.

2017 Homecoming Queen & Court

Senior Bryn Barringer was crowned the 2017 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 2017 Homecoming Court included freshman Reagan Rodgers (gentle spirit), sophomore Landry Hays (compassion), junior Abby Muschalek (integrity) and seniors Alea Brady, Deven Gann, Alyson O’Shea and Autumn Sonju (all three qualities).

College Signing

Sarah Konstans signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Davidson College. Davidson is an NCAA Division 1 school in the A-10 conference. Congratulations, Sarah!

Nasher Sculpture Center Student Advisory Board

TCA freshman visual art students Leah Kegerreis and Hannah Alpert were among 24 area art and art history students selected for the Nasher Sculpture Center Student Advisory Board. The students will meet throughout the year and will be given private tours of exhibitions, participate in guest artist talks, produce a publication and meet professionals in creative fields.
Middle School Honor Choirs
This fall, 16 sixth-graders and 22 seventh- and eighth-graders qualified for the TPSMEA Children’s Honor Choir and Middle School Honor Choir. These students auditioned and placed among the top singers in North Texas in their respective voice parts and then participated in a two-day clinic and performance. TCA had the most singers of any private school in North Texas. Congratulations to the following students:

### Sixth-Grade Children’s Honor Choir
- **Soprano:** Allie Arthur, Catherine Copple, Bailee Dortch, Haley Janacek, Olivia Ledebur, Sydney Ridnour, Braden Shults, and Sarah Smith
- **Alto:** Tripp Black, Walker Davis, Aidan Dortch, Ivy Jordan, Donya Kinley, Dillard Leeds, William Lehman, and Grace Leverton

### Middle School Honor Choir
- **Soprano:** Aubrie Amado, Gable Delp, Ainsley Wilburn, and Elizabeth Williams
- **Alto:** Anastacia Chu, Kate Goodman, Rachel Mills, Madeline Prescott, and Jianna Redden
- **Tenor:** Jack Castello, Daniel Crawford, Camden Findley, and Ben Sorgen
- **Bass:** Shannon Burchett, Seth Henegar, Brooks Krantz, Will Martin, Jayden Moore, Markus Schumacher, Henry Smith, Luke Tredennick, and Nick Wenzel

Southwest American Choral Directors’ Association Honor Choir
Sophomore **Allison Jones** was recently named to the Southwest American Choral Directors’ Association Honor Choir. Congratulations, Allison!

All-State Choir
Congratulations to the following students who were selected for the TPSMEA All-State Choir:
- **Allison Jones** (II Soprano), **Caroline Pino** (II Alto), **Emily Clay** (I Alto, first alternate), and **Erin Clay** (I Soprano, third alternate).

Upper School All-Region Choir
Congratulations to the following students on their selection to a TPSMEA All-Region Choir:

**Treble Choir**
- **I Soprano:** Audrey Wines
- **II Soprano:** Hannah Plemons, Second Alternate: Caroline Spears
- **I Alto:** Rachel O’Brien
- **II Alto:** Meghan Betts and Lindsey Fish

**Mixed Choir**
- **I Soprano:** Michelle Raybourn and Kaleigh Wilkinson
- **II Soprano:** Erin Clay and Allison Jones
- **I Alto:** Emily Clay and Sophia Marie Lopez
- **II Alto:** Natalie Konstans, Caroline Pino, and Caroline Tate
- **Tenor:** Matthew Harvey, Barrett Jessen, and Ben Murphy
- **Bass:** Elijah Westover, First Alternate: Colin Wiegand, Second Alternate: Grant Winslow
Congratulations to all these students who made the First Honor Roll grades:

Juniors
- Isaac Aguirado
- David Arce
- Riley Bagnall
- Jackson Bowman
- Hayden Brown
- Michael Callahan
- Charles Caih
- Nicholas Clift
- Trevor Coburn
- Grant dePaoli
- Simon Dennis Gordon
- Andrew Escher
- Harrison Gosett
- Parker Hadley
- Brooke Henegar
- Austin Ho
- Brooke Hulder
- Madeline Jackson
- Gentry Jarrell
- William Kennedy
- Clara Lu
- Blake Marsh
- Kendra Mason
- Cole McCabe
- McKenzie Moore
- Shelby Neuberger
- Brec OBrien
- Rachael OBrien
- Savannah Pate
- Hannah Pelemos
- Coleman Reectar
- Slate Savage
- Laney Segert
- John Shaw
- Zach Speck
- Red Stacy
- Brele Stein
- Lauren Suzen
- Tyler Swanson
- Alayna Weynard
- Bethany White
- Patton Wyler
- Clarissa Wong
- Thomas Wyman

Sophomores
- Jackson Barring
- Catherine Barkley
- Carter Burgan
- Jonathan Chock
- Riley Corine
- Abigail Coronado
- Zachary Corrado
- Elle Kate Colter
- Lindsey Crow
- Harrison Fields
- Bethany Forte
- Jace Traay
- Claire Frank
- Cameron Gilmore
- Audrey Heidelberg
- Michael Heidebaugh
- Kyndal Hinton
- Faith Johnson
- Mark Johnson
- Allison Jones
- Mait Kren
- Luke Longford
- Alison Locke
- Cameron May
- Katherine McClain
- Dutch McClay
- Jasmine Miller
- Garrett Ortin
- Anna Kate Parent
- Clarke Pino
- Michael Richard
- Zoe Schieber
- Caroline Spears
- Nathaniel Shrake
- Marie Kathryn Waldrup
- Jack Wendel
- Major Wheelis
- Grant Winslow
- Casey Woodward
- Elizabeth Young

Freshmen
- Rex Ah Chu
- Hannah Alpert
- Claire Andrews
- Libby Barnes
- Riley Bear
- Blake Beal
- Molly Berryman
- Elizabeth Branstetter
- Sam Brown
- Brianna Byrd
- Ian Collier
- Kyle Correa
- Paige Cotter
- Victoria Dahrncke
- Kate Dance
- Daniel Delp
- Tyress Dyess
- Lauren Elms
- Claire Floyd
- Sarah Gerard
- Reilly Hanna
- Jaxx Hatton
- Reagan Havel
- Riley Herzog
- Emma Hodge
- Cade Holliday
- Sydney Johnston
- Hannah Little
- Austin Manhardt
- Jackson McFarlane
- Delaney Murray
- Anna Muccio
- Krisha Olson
- Avery Overberg
- Reagen Pierce
- Brianna Queen
- Joel Neuberger
- William Sullivan
- Ashton Karol
- Adaline Walker
- Jordan Rudluff
- Hannah Schneider
- Sebastian Silva
- Cara Smith
- Joshua Stah
- Emma Kate Sullivan
- Jordan Sunwoo
- Colin Sykes
- Ruby Watts
- Nick Wenzel
- Anissa Yost
- Samantha Zuniga

Sophomores
- Morgan Barmes
- Martin Bassett
- Patterson Blakely
- Grace Blanks
- Kaitlyn Blanks
- Maddie Bowers
- Lula Brown
- Max Buchanan
- Grant Buchanan
- Ben Cabral
- Madeleine C flavorful
- Emily Clark
- Bridget Cleary
- Michael Collard
- Belle Correa
- Madelyn Cotter
- Shaw Corley
- Britt Crosby
- Emily Clay
- Charlie Crawford
- Anthony Cundari
- Conor Dewey
- Connor Graham
- Collin Groggin
- Evan Hennes
- Leah Keogem
- Lauren Lee
- Grace Lees
- Morgan Locke
- Jack Maust
- Luke Mays
- Sophia McNeill
- Will Mercer
- Ryan OShea
- Peyton Prideaux
- Daniel Querry
- Wilson Reeder
- Rodgers Rob
- Patrick Shorro
- Claire Shooden
- Landry Walton
- Emily Walters
- Grace Weaver
- Jackson Wells
- Connor Williams
- Caroline Woodward
- Lauren Wright
- Annie Xia
- Jason Yang

8th Grade
- Lynnae Fort
- Justin Miller
- Emily Morris
- Katherine Novakovich
- Julia Viano
- Mary Lauren Westover
- John Whelan

7th Grade
- Joshua Lin
- Landon Littleton
- Gabriele Parker
- Parker Prideaux
- Joseph Yung

Sophomores
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This year, TCA welcomed STACEY DORÉ to the TCA Board of Trustees. Stacey is senior vice president and general counsel of Hunt Utility Services and InfraREIT, Inc. Stacey and her husband, Kenny, have two children at TCA, Nicholas (eighth grade) and Luke (sixth grade), and they came to TCA in 2013. The family attends Watermark Community Church in Dallas.

TCA has been a tremendous blessing to the Doré family, and Stacey is humbled and honored to serve on the Board of Trustees. “The TCA community pours into our family in so many important ways. I am thrilled that God brought us to TCA and is giving me an opportunity to serve the school on the Board of Trustees. I look forward to working alongside the TCA administration and my fellow trustees as we prayerfully try to follow God’s plan for this special school.”

TRADITION OF GIVING

The annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held on Tuesday, November 7, and is one of the favorite events of the year for the faculty and staff at TCA. This luncheon, hosted by PTF, would not be possible without the help of so many volunteers with servant hearts. Many thanks to everyone in the TCA community who cooked, served or volunteered to make this such a special day. Special thanks to Assistant Coordinator Keni Brookshire, Coordinator Brianna Long, PTF Secretary Jena Hattendorf and Volunteer Coordinator Becky Jones for their leadership and coordination to make this event a success!

THAT’S THE SPIRIT!

A huge thank-you to our freshman class moms. Under the amazing leadership of Casey Babler, Allison Beal and Elizabeth Dahncke, over 400 Homecoming mums and garters were created for our Upper School students. The Mum Room requires a lot a planning and organization, and these ladies did a fantastic job, sacrificing so much of their personal time to this project. We appreciate the great contribution all our volunteers make to our TCA community. All monies collected from the sale of mums and garters go to the freshman class account to be used for that class’s senior trip.
THIRD-GRADE COMMUNITIES

Third-graders learned all about public services and private businesses this fall and then constructed their own towns and communities.

LOWER SCHOOL STEM CLUB

TCA Lower School students had had a blast learning about circuits in STEM Club. Led by Upper School STEM students, they made parallel circuits using batteries, copper tape and LEDs.

SECOND-GRADE PUPPETS

Second-graders presented puppet shows for their classmates as their fall book reports. Students constructed their own puppets and wrote their own puppet show scripts to make their favorite stories come to life.
PARENT VOLUNTEERS
TCA loves all of our Lower School parent volunteers who participate in their children’s learning and experiences. From classroom activities to field trips and class parties, we are grateful for our parent volunteers!

KINDERGARTEN ALPHABET BOOT CAMP
Kindergarten students completed six weeks of ABC boot camp this fall, learning all the letters and sounds of the alphabet, and celebrated with a showcase of letter vests they created.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
Lower School students are enjoying their new playground equipment this year. The new pieces encourage group play and are developmentally appropriate for even our youngest students!
LATIN FEAST
Seventh-graders wrapped up their study of Roman daily life with a fabulous feast. Students researched and prepared food items that would have been found at a Roman gathering. Carpe festum!

ESCAPE ROOM MATHEMATICS
As a trimester reward for earning a certain number of classroom points, seventh- and eighth-grade students worked to solve the “Save Chick-fil-A” Escape Room. Teams of students had 40 minutes to solve algebra problems and puzzles, which unlocked various clue boxes to reach the ultimate goal, saving the “stolen Chick-fil-A recipe.”

ROLLER COASTER SHOWCASE
The Middle School STEAM club has been building roller coasters this year using foam pipe and marbles. Approximately 20 teams of students worked on roller coaster designs, taking into consideration friction, velocity, design aesthetics and more. Final projects were displayed in the Middle School Library.
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Playing to huge crowds in two shows, the company of 48 Middle School students dazzled its audiences with a brilliant performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s masterpiece, the cast members sang and danced their way into every heart and brought the biblical story of Joseph and his brothers to life.

SHIP THE CHIP

Eighth-Grade High Tech Robotics students were challenged to design and build a structure to hold and support a single Pringles potato chip that would be shipped through the U.S. Postal Service for the “Ship the Chip” challenge. Using a variety of supplies, such as dowel rods, straws, popsicles sticks, glue guns, foil and cling wrap, teams went through the engineering design process of brainstorming, documenting, designing, building, testing, making changes and then retesting their structures. With the exception of one, all the chips survived!
HILARIOUS HEARTACHE
This fall, audiences were treated to an enjoyable evening of laughter, as Upper School Advanced Drama presented *Bittersweet Nothings*, a collection of comedic, one-act plays.

AP BIOLOGY CELL DIFFUSION
TCA AP biology students learned about cell diffusion using agar cubes this fall. This lab experiment helped students explore the relationship between diffusion and cell size by experimenting with model “cells.”
SARAH LIPE
Senior Sarah Lipe exemplifies integrity, character and academic excellence. Sarah works hard in all endeavors, including academics, athletics, community service and many other co-curricular activities. When Sarah finds a passion, she vigorously pursues it and takes initiative in those pursuits. In extracurricular activities, Sarah has been a member of the TCA varsity basketball team since her freshman year and has been involved in club basketball since the third grade.

Additionally, Sarah has a heart to serve others. She participated in several community organizations, founding and serving in leadership in the Service League of Dallas.

In academic achievements, Sarah maintains an excellent GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. Her teachers say that she is delight to teach in the classroom. Looking to the future, Sarah is considering a career in the field of pharmacy.

Sarah stands out as a superb example of a young person who has a heart for God and is a dedicated advocate for causes in which she believes. Sarah will excel in whatever field she chooses to pursue and will represent TCA well in the years to come.

ALEA BRADY
Senior Alea Brady is a bright, engaging and intelligent young lady. She approaches life with a maturity that is not common for most 17-year-olds. She volunteers bi-monthly with Rays of Light, a ministry that works with children who have mental disabilities, and receives great joy from engaging with others.

Alea’s service at TCA is shown through her involvement with others. She has served in various leadership positions, including DIGs (Disciples in Growth) and as a counselor for the sixth-grade Sky Ranch trip. Elected by her classmates, Alea has served as a Student Council representative and an Honor Council representative. She is also one of the smiling faces seen in Big Blue for back-to-school shopping.

Along with her commitment to others, Alea is a strong student. Besides excelling in her core classes, Alea is an integral part of the yearbook staff and can be seen at pep rallies, special assemblies and sporting events, documenting moments for the yearbook.

Alea is a top-notch student with a great reputation among peers and faculty alike. She is a kind-hearted mentor and volunteer.

STEM SPAGHETTI NOODLE STRUCTURES
The STEM Club seniors Josh Esclamado and Dodd Weyandt challenged club members to design the tallest freestanding tower using spaghetti noodles, tape, string and a marshmallow that had to be on top of the structure. Teams learned about teamwork, strong structural foundations and understanding customer requirements.
IT’S FRIDAY AFTERNOON. The last car door of carpool has closed, signaling the end of another week of student learning. However, the weekend will need to wait as the teachers spend the next hour and a half in a productive time of collaboration and conversations around professional literacy resources. Elevating teacher expertise is an important and continuous goal at TCA. The professional development of our teachers has a direct impact on student learning.
A few years ago, our Lower School teachers began a deep study of effective literacy practices. We studied the reading process and built a common understanding of how children learn to read and think about reading. Our staff was trained on assessment practices that closely observe children engaging in reading and comprehension conversations. These observations help teachers identify strengths that can be built upon and bridge the students’ instructional needs. So instead of beginning with the curriculum and then thinking of the students, we flipped it. We start with our students and then determine which of our curricular resources will help meet students at their leading edge of learning. This responsive instruction has been embedded into a guided reading framework.

Within this framework, books are chosen, not for their content, rather for their instructional power as the vehicle to extend a child’s reading process. We have built a literacy library collection with sets of text that are used solely for guided reading instruction in all grades.

Teachers are able to select books according to instructional goals for each small group. Our kindergarten through second-grade readers are then taking these books home to reread and build fluency. Students are having deeper conversations around text, and even our youngest learners are inferencing text that is read aloud. This work has not only increased the reading expectations within the classroom, it has also led to an increased success on student reading assessments, especially among struggling readers.

We are committed to continue to grow and refine our guided reading craft by considering our instructional language carefully. How we prompt children, especially at their points of difficulty, is important because we want our words to help readers become more strategic and successful the next time they encounter those characteristics in a different text. To remind ourselves about our work in this area, we use the mantra, “Teach the reader, not the reading.”

This school year, we have taken on a similar mantra of, “Teach the writer, not the writing.” Today’s 21st century marketplace continues to seek and demand effective writers. Young writers love to tell their stories! When this love of writing is captured and built upon during these early years, students are empowered and believe in themselves as writers. To begin this important work, teachers have gathered around a writing continuum and student writing samples to study how the narrative genre is built as students progress from preschool to fourth grade. We will build on this narrative genre foundation to learn how to craft opinion and information writing across all grade levels, and our third- and fourth-graders will write literary essays.

Engaging in professional development by using our expertise on campus is effective because we can learn together, view demonstrations and modeling, and then teachers can try it out, followed by self-
reflection and feedback. This type of job-embedded professional development is successful at creating teaching and learning shifts. We have engaged in this work not only on Friday afternoons and during our staff development days, but also by sending numerous teachers to outside professional conferences, including the Teacher’s College Reading and Writing Project Institutes at Columbia University in New York City, several Texas Woman’s University conferences and summer institutes, the International Reading Association conference in New Orleans, The Write Guy (Jeff Anderson) trainings and Stephanie Harvey’s Teaching for Comprehension, to name a few.

TCA is an exciting place to be an educator, because our administrators and community understand that commitment to student excellence means investing well in our teachers.

Laura Ouimet, literacy specialist, and Sandee Townley, literacy coach, possess a love and deep commitment to literacy learning for all TCA Lower School students.

Laura leads TCA’s Reading Club (reading intervention program), and she recently completed her master’s degree in Reading Education from Texas Woman’s University. She is also a national trainer for Fountas and Pinnell, leading researchers in literacy education.

Sandee coaches TCA teachers in guided reading practices, teaches reading club and is a Literacy Academy trainer for the Texas Education Agency. Sandee previously led district-wide literacy initiatives for the Lewisville ISD as a staff developer and literacy coach. She also presents for Texas Woman’s University and served as an adjunct professor.

Both of these leaders pioneered TCA’s Lower School reading and writing initiatives. They have been instrumental in the development of the reading assessment system and reading intervention program. They developed and led countless staff development sessions with Lower School faculty. TCA is blessed to have such passionate literacy leaders on staff and thankful for their vision and expertise as the school continues to develop its students into life-long readers and writers.
MOVING IN

BY DR. RYAN BERENS,
ASSISTANT HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

AND

MATT LAM BRO,
SPIRITUAL LIFE DIRECTOR
Leadership is an experimental art. You can’t learn it from just reading a book or taking a class any more than you can learn to ride a bike by reading instructions. You’ve got to experiment and practice; you’ve got to learn it while you’re doing it. — Marty Linsky

How many of us can remember the process by which we learned to ride a bicycle in our younger years? We started with the training wheels and rode our bikes in places that were close to home or not far from the watchful eye of a parent. Once we got the courage, a family member would take off the training wheels and give us that running push, which on those first few occasions often ended with a wobbly front wheel and some sort of crash. Eventually, we got enough practice and confidence to take off and ride our bikes on our own. At TCA, we have taken a similar approach to teaching students about the art of leadership and leading well.

Marty Linsky, a Harvard professor explains, “Leadership is an experimental art. You can’t learn it from just reading a book or taking a class any more than you can learn to ride a bike by reading instructions. You’ve got to experiment and practice; you’ve got to learn it while you’re doing it.”

Our goal at TCA is to divide the experiment and practice involved in leadership into three parts that coincide with the steps of riding a bike. In Lower School, students participate in activities that are created to give them an experience with leadership in which it is nearly impossible to fail, just as it is hard to fall off a bike with training wheels. Students make in-class presentations, read to younger students, produce and anchor KTCA broadcasts and lead songs during Lower School chapel, just to name a few.
Learning to operate and lead in a small group is one of the best ways to build upon relational intelligence.
While the foundation is laid in Lower School, for this piece, we are specifically focusing on the leadership development of adolescents.

In Middle School and Upper School, we continue to build and hone those leadership skills and opportunities. Middle School provides experience and practice in leadership that is akin to those first few times the bike is ridden without training wheels. Failure is accepted, expected and learned from as students are exposed to the different types of leadership and leadership roles. In the Upper School, students hone their leadership craft and begin to go on those “solo bike rides” that signify a capability and comfort with their own understanding of how they will operate as leaders.

The student activities and experiences in Middle School and Upper School are devised to continually develop students’ awareness and practice of character traits that are synonymous with great leadership. The hope is to build in students the ability to function well in a variety of leadership roles by honing skills such as communicating well with others, speaking in front of groups and delegating. We also promote certain leadership qualities like flexibility, resilience, inquisitiveness and grit.

Jim Collins, author of *Good to Great*, states that the highest-level leaders possess a combination of extreme personal humility blended with intense will and ferocious resolve. Our aim is to encourage students to grow into the highest-level leaders by creating a culture of experiential leadership opportunities. Throughout leadership roles, students at TCA learn how to use their natural talents, skills and passions to solve complex problems and propose unique solutions to business, social and global issues.

Our goal is to create, identify and develop as many high-quality leadership opportunities as possible for students to improve their techniques around the experimental art form of leadership. Teaching 1,500 students how to ride a bike is a difficult chore, but thankfully we have an entire community of adults on campus who have stacked hands to create as many bike-riding moments as possible.

One of the first types of leadership that students engage in involves learning to lead in a small, group setting. This type of leadership does not require a student to be the sage on the stage, but rather a leader within the confines of a committee of peers. Students are consistently engaged in group activities in the classroom, where they learn to operate in a variety of roles. They are provided further opportunities to expand their group leadership skills within the House System and clubs in the Middle School. Encompassing a goal of having students engage in brainstorming, creating new ideas and putting those ideas into action, Middle School students comprise committees that are in charge of competition-creation and house spirit-wear design. Students are also given a chance to practice this type of leadership by participating in the backstage tech team, drama, creative writing and STEAM clubs.

Leading small teams and serving behind the scenes is where many, if not most, of our students will operate someday as part of their future careers. In the Upper School, we seek to build on the opportunities and experiences that students have had in Middle School. Upper School students can develop these skills further through serving on Student Council, where they work on smaller committees planning a variety of events. Technology, as both a tool and medium for communication, also provides numerous opportunities for students to grow in their leadership development. Students serve their peers and teachers through our Tech Stop, as well as leading behind-the-scenes activities in our Performing Arts Center. Some students demonstrate an enjoyment for design and might find themselves serving in a leadership role planning and producing our award-winning *The Rock* magazine or our TCA yearbook. Learning to operate and lead in a small group is one of the best ways to build upon relational intelligence.
Relational intelligence is one of the highest indicators of a leader's future success. Considering this reality, the Middle School has a plan through the House System for every eighth-grader to have the opportunity to grow in this area. The House System in the Middle School was devised to build community and to further expand leadership through that community. As part of the House System, each student belongs to a family unit consisting of approximately two students per grade level and led by the eighth-grade students in that family. The family unit is often tasked with discussing and expanding upon messages shared in chapel. Family units are also used to organize community service projects and act as teams in house competitions. Each time a family activity is on the horizon, eighth-grade students are given leadership training specific to that event in their Bible classes.

Leadership of these family units is a preparation tool for students who may serve as counselors that lead the Sky Ranch and Wilderness trips. Each year, a select group of junior and seniors lead sixth-graders and eighth-graders respectively in a week of adventure that includes facilitating Bible studies and demonstrating their ability to invest relationally.

In addition, over half of our junior and senior students choose to participate and develop their relational and spiritual leadership abilities by investing in the lives of students in grades 5–9 as leaders for Middle School Bible studies or as DIGs (Disciples in Growth) leaders. In these roles, they receive regular training as to how they might grow in their ability to lead these younger students.

As students realize what successful leadership looks like and they grow more comfortable leading within a group, it becomes less uncomfortable for them to take on roles that require leadership from the front of the stage. Prior to the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, eighth-grade students were invited to a dodge ball tournament with their teachers that also allowed us to address leadership. The discussion started by explaining because they are eighth-graders, they are now leaders of the Middle School whether they aspired to be or not. Once that idea set in, conversation turned to the type of leadership they wanted to display and how they wanted to display it.

In addition to throwing dodge balls at each other and their teachers, these eighth-graders were also encouraged to think about ways in which they could contribute to the leadership of the Middle School and came up with great ideas that have already been implemented. The most visible leadership group

▶ Want to see some of our student leaders in action?
Check out our Upper School Spiritual Life page which includes videos of students leading devotionals and leading worship during chapel services.
https://www.trinitychristian.org/spiritual-life
came together as the House Hype Squad, a group of eighth-grade young men that wanted to create excitement about the House System. At any house event, you can see them dressed wildly in their house colors and in front of the crowd eliciting excitement for that activity. The desire for ownership spread, and students came forward asking to lead during worship. During these House worship times, these student-leaders determine what songs to sing, how to best communicate the devotional message and then carry out their plans. As students have been given ownership of these activities, a greater number of leaders from the stage have emerged.

These foundational opportunities in the Middle School serve as a springboard for students to continue to grow in their confidence of leading out through a variety of opportunities in the Upper School. A few of these up-front opportunities include serving as a weekly devotional presenters, where a student shares a devotional with the entire student body. More opportunities include facilitating leader training for DIGs leaders, leading their peers in worship and helping to plan and lead our Bridge event for rising ninth-grade students. Overall, Upper School students have 29 different clubs and organizations in which they can take part, and each one provides unique opportunities for students to lead up front, as well as behind the scenes.

One of the most difficult types of leadership to embolden young men and women to take on is leading up or leading those who may be older or more experienced. The Middle School has implemented a new program this year that engages eighth-grade students as Student Ambassadors. These students volunteered to help with admission events and to be available to answer questions for parents and students on tours. During the admission events, these eighth-grade students meet prospective parents at the door and walk them to the meeting area, while engaging them about their interest in TCA and the interests of their children. These students are participating in leadership that requires them to be flexible, knowledgeable and able to communicate clearly with adults. The Student Ambassador program is available to students again during their junior and senior years. The Office of Admission works closely to train and develop these students to serve as the face of our school to many interested families.

The moment that mom or dad removes his or her hands from the handlebar of the bicycle can create all sorts of anxiety and fear in a child, but it can also provide a rush of excitement, stemming from a newfound confidence. Our chief desire is that each student will grow in his or her confidence to lead and learn from the experiences we provide that shape each student’s style in the art of leadership.
Just like a classroom is a place of academic development, athletics is also a place of development. In fact, one well-known organization, Positive Coaching Alliance, refers to athletics as the “development zone.” Development zone is a great, all-encompassing term for the role of athletics in the lives of young athletes and accurately describes the ultimate goal of TCA athletics. Our athletic directors and coaches are unified in our commitment to make athletics a place of development, for winning in competition and in life.
TCA is staffed with “double-goal,” character-focused coaches. The first goal is to compete to win, and the second is to develop the skill and character of our athletes to prepare them for competition and for life after TCA. Coaches are to do this within the context of any athletic event, while also accounting for the developmental stage of the athletes.

There is a subtle difference between Middle School and Upper School athletes due to life stages. While Upper School coaches should place a greater emphasis on winning, coaches of Middle School athletes need to have a more equitable balance. Since athletes in Middle School are still physically growing and developing, coaches cannot ignore the development necessary to prepare athletes in this age group for varsity competition. So the Middle School coach must go into a game with two goals: first, play everyone as much as possible as part of each athlete’s individual development and second, win. Where permissible, the Middle School coach is asked to use most of a competition to get everyone involved, and then for the last portion of a contest, play the best personnel to win.

Coaches know we cannot guarantee wins, and to communicate to athletes that we can is a disservice. However, we can position athletes to increase the likelihood of winning by focusing on skills and effort. Again, borrowing from Positive Coaching Alliance, we speak in terms of what mastery entails, known as the “ELM Tree of Mastery.” ELM is an acronym for Effort, Learning and Mistakes and identifies our method for mastering athletic skills for competition. Emphasizing the ELM tree rather than the scoreboard leads to redefining “winning.” Statistically, coaches who coach for mastery get better results than those who coach to win on the scoreboard. Winning is a by-product of mastery.

The “E” is for effort. Classically considered the one, and many athletes believe the only, variable within the control of an athlete in competition. Thus, we ask and coach our athletes to give us exhaustive effort with everything they do. As our cross-country coach, Marcus Moore, says, “end on empty.”

Arguably this is the most difficult aspect to cultivate on a consistent basis. Athletes at the highest level will acknowledge it is the difference-maker for earning elite status and also the greatest struggle to generate and repeat each day, each repetition. Early in an athlete’s career, maximal effort yields large increments of improvement. However, as an athlete improves, the trade-off of effort begins to change where maximal effort is essential to make smaller incremental improvements necessary to separate great from good, elite from great.

This phenomenon carries with it a fatigue that challenges all athletes to ask, “Is the effort worth the reward?” Anyone can practice and play; much fewer practice and compete with maximal effort at all times. Working through fatigue explains why coaches want athletes to grow familiar with physical discomfort and, thus, persevere while continuing quality repetitions. TCA coaches look for and ask our athletes to give maximal effort on a consistent basis, knowing the result is more victories and a quality that will serve them the rest of their lives.

The “L” is for learning. Learning new information entails transferring the content of the sport, both the knowledge of what to do and how to do it. Skill mastery is a progression from conscious incompetence to conscious competence to unconscious competence. If you have seen a major-league shortstop go through the year with less than ten errors in 1,500 attempts, you have a reference for unconscious competence. Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors sinks almost 94 percent of his free throws. Almost any weekend provides multiple opportunities to watch professional golfers demonstrate unconscious competence. It’s all about doing something correctly over and over until it’s instinct.

The “M” is for mistakes. Great athletes have a fundamental belief about mistakes and their essential role in improvement. Mistakes can be a source of disappointment and shame, or they can be an opportunity to learn. Learning entails how to emotionally and mentally detach from a mistake and focus on the “next play,” not allowing the mistake to distract from the overall mission of performance or the team. Additionally, mistakes also expose the areas of skill that need improvement. Many times, athletes do not know exactly what they are doing to yield an undesirable result. Feedback from a coach or video increases the awareness and willingness to make the necessary corrections. The resulting corrections are part of an athlete’s refinement towards excellence.

The ELM tree fits nicely into TCA’s belief about how to build not just a winning program but also winners. We know we cannot predict a victory; however, we can commit to master our skills and, in the words of Marcus Moore, “end on empty.”
AGAINST TOUGH COMPETITION, the boys competed well in every meet. The team finished in the top five in five of its ten meets. The coaching staff was very proud of the hard work and dedication the girls showed. Team highlights included the Southlake Invitational, where all the girls ran personal bests, and the Lions Invitational in Ennis, where three girls ran below 13:00. TCA had not had a girl run below 13:00 since 2010.

The team finished fifth at the TAPPS 6A District Championship and ninth at the TAPPS 6A State Championship. ABBY CORONADO and AVERY OVERBERG were namedHonorable Mention All-District.

The following were the recipients of this year’s team awards: McKENZIE MOORE, Most Valuable Runner, Avery Overberg, Most Improved Runner and ISABELLA BERTHEL, Most Christ-like Award.

The team’s chosen theme was “End on Empty,” and the team’s verse was Acts 20:24: “My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.”

THE 2017 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM bonded as a team early. The team cohesion, on and off the course, was a contributing factor to the girls’ success. They worked hard, held each other accountable, challenged each other in practice and races and competed well against tough competition. The team finished in the top five in five of its ten meets. The coaching staff was very proud of the hard work and dedication the girls showed. Team highlights included the Southlake Invitational, where all the girls ran personal bests, and the Lions Invitational in Ennis, where three girls ran below 13:00. TCA had not had a girl run below 13:00 since 2010.

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THEY WERE HIGH HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS for this year’s varsity football team. From one season to another, you never know what will happen, and that makes Friday night football what it is in the state of Texas. These Trojan football players battled through a challenging season and then traveled to Concordia Lutheran for the first round of the playoffs. Both defense and offense played extremely well, as the team outscored one-loss Concordia, 39-22, for the victory!

In the time-honored tradition of Trojan football, the win secured a “board” in the locker room for this year’s group of seniors. It was only fitting after such a challenging and frustrating year. The players showed up every day with great attitudes ready to work. They learned a lot of things during the course of the season, and perseverance was definitely one of them. In life, things don’t always turn out like you want, and our challenge is to keep pushing forward no matter the circumstances. Chuck Swindoll said, “Life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it.” The team’s attitude to the challenges that were encountered during the season is what gave them the opportunity to play an awesome game when they needed it the most.

The coaching staff would like to congratulate this year’s seniors, as well as the other members of the team, on a strong finish to the season. May the Lord bless you and guide your steps on the new journey you will begin in the fall.

Congratulations to the following boys for earning district and state awards:

MICHAEL CALLAHAN – First Team All-District, Second Team All-State
CODY HENSON – First Team All-District, Second Team All-State
ISAAC AGUMADU – Second Team All-District
JUSTIN MOORE – Second Team All-District
SAM CLARE – Honorable Mention All-District
MASON HINCKLEY – Honorable Mention All-District
THE LADY TROJAN VOLLEYBALL TEAM
jumped right into its season on August 1 and hit the ground running. Through a very competitive preseason, including a match against Allen and a trip down to the John Turner Classic in Pearland, the girls competed at a high level from the beginning. Playing in their last tournament at Prince of Peace, the Lady Trojans finished third, their highest finish of the preseason. The first round of district play didn’t go as planned, but the girls turned it around at the start of the second half. They beat second-place Ursuline in four and big district rival Prestonwood in three at home, giving them the playoff berth they wanted.

Traveling down to Concordia Lutheran, the Lady Trojans lost a hard-fought battle to Concordia in four, ending the Lady Trojans season. The team had some great All-District honors this year, with LESLIE WOLFF being named TAPPS 6A Division 1 Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-District. Leslie was the digs leader for all divisions of TAPPS around DFW and was also named Second Team All-State. KARA STIEGLER was named Second Team All-District, and KARLY DOUGLASS was named Honorable Mention All-District.

The Lady Trojans would like to thank their parents and fans for all the great support this year!
LED BY CAPTAIN RAMIE RICE, Co-captains CASSIDY ELLISON and KENNEDY HATTON and Chaplain RILEY WALTON, the 2017-18 varsity cheerleaders had a great season. The team did an amazing job raising school spirit and enthusiasm by decorating the Upper School, putting on and performing in the Upper School pep rallies and cheering at the varsity football games this season.

The team placed third at the TAPPS State Championship in Waco, Texas, this year. Junior LAUREN SULZEN was named First Team All-State, and junior RILEY RICE and senior RILEY WALTON were named Third Team All-State.

In addition to their many exciting performances, the girls worked extremely hard and did an awesome job leading the other cheer teams (JV and eighth-grade), as well as representing the school at various events (A Night at the Star and North Texas Giving Day). Coaches Stephanie Wallace, Wendi Kesler and Alyssa Titlow are very proud of this year’s team.
Thank you for your generous gifts!

Funds from your donations on North Texas Giving Day are equipping our student-athletes and programs with the following:

- ATC equipment
- GPS watch and heart monitors
- Team banners
- Training and resources from Positive Coaching Alliance
- Training room equipment
- Cheerleading mats
- Cheer & drill team pom poms
- Soccer bench shelters
- Swim equipment
- Wrestling bags
- GoPro camera . . . and more!

*Contact Mike Sulzen at 214-385-8702 for additional sponsorship opportunities*

This change came about after several years of discussion with the Alumni Association Board. The goal is to offer an alumni weekend for all alumni and their families to enjoy and also include the designated reunion years.

Instead of relying on each reunion class to plan its own event and have the costs vary considerably depending upon venues and activities, we decided to take care of all the planning and logistics and have the Alumni Association sponsor the event. We want our alumni to have a fun reunion and to enjoy a weekend catching up with old friends without the work of putting it all together. We will do all the planning, so all you need to do is attend!

We do not want money to be a factor for anyone. So, we are only charging $50 for the entire weekend, and we are offering a young alumni (for those who graduated between 2012 and 2017) price of $35 for the weekend. This price includes the baseball game, tailgate dinners, Saturday night at the Westin and the matinee of the Upper School musical production of Little Women on Sunday. The alumni parent brunch is not included and is a separate event for alumni parents only.

Our desire it to have a weekend where all alumni, alumni families and alumni parents can attend. We have something planned for everyone. Please put this weekend on your calendar and be sure to register to come celebrate TCA alumni on April 27–29, 2018!

HERE ARE THE DETAILS:

• Friday, April 27, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
  Varsity Baseball Game and Tailgate
  All alumni and their families are invited to attend the varsity baseball game versus Parish Episcopal. The tailgate will include grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, bounce house, games and activities for kids and tours of the campus.

• Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
  Alumni Parents Brunch at Bent Tree Country Club
  Alumni parents of the designated reunion years are invited to attend brunch. Reunite with all your alumni parent friends from years past. An invitation will be mailed to you directly.

• Saturday, April 28, 7–10 p.m.
  Reunion Party at the Westin Hotel
  Featuring The Top Band
  All alumni are invited to attend, and we will focus on the reunion years.

• Sunday, April 29, 2 p.m.
  TCA Upper School musical production of Little Women

Invitations for the Spring Alumni Weekend will be mailed in January, and registration will open January 15 on the TCA website. We hope to see you in April!
UPCOMING EVENTS & ALUMNI NEWS

**SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND**
**NEW** APRIL 27–29, 2018

We are excited to announce our first annual Spring Alumni Weekend! ALL ALUMNI are invited, so mark your calendar now to join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship. See details on page 33.

**MAY 17:** TCA Graduation

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD**
(AUGUST 2017–JULY 2018)

Stephen Konstans ’83, President
Bunny Heard Mitchell ’94, Past President and Vice President of Community
Jeni McCabe Parent ’87, Vice President of Communication
Robert Taylor ’07, Vice President of Continuing Connections
Jackie Schimmer Harrison ’86, Vice President of Alumni Parents
Lane Conner ’99, Vice President of Social Media
Aimee Sammons Bloom ’99
Kristen Crosby ’08
Katie Lynam ’09
Rebecca Grimm Novakovich ’85
David Purcey ’01
Sarah-Graham Turtletaub ’07
Lane Wells Wiggins ’04
Jacy Witt ’12
Beth Harwell, Director of Alumni

**STAY CONNECTED**
Be sure to follow us on social media:

- [www.instagram.com/ tca_alumni_addison/](http://www.instagram.com/tca_alumni_addison/)

**PAVERS**
A brick paver is the perfect way to honor a student, alumnus, faculty, staff or family member. 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 Director of Alumni Beth Harwell at bharwell@trinitychristian.org.

Stay the course
BY STEPHEN KONSTANS ’83
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT AND TCA PARENT/ALUMNI PARENT

WHEN I GRADUATED FROM TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN 1983 as a freshly minted, 17-year-old graduate along with my 48 classmates, the world was a completely different place. Ronald Reagan was the president, no one knew what the Internet and social media were and, as Americans, Russia was our biggest adversary. Fast forward to 2017...Donald Trump is president, the Internet and social media are being used in ways no one could have truly predicted and the Russians...well, at least there are some constants in this world.

I am truly thankful for Trinity Christian Academy, because our school reflects consistency, as well. In today’s world, where there is so much confusion, uncertainty and hate. TCA remains faithful to its calling...to educate the whole person for the glory of God. The teachers here still care about and love their students, the academics prepare our children to meet the world with the ability to think critically and articulate ideas logically, and we still openly proclaim our love for our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ, even in the face of ever-mounting pressure to accept and condone that which we must not. Now I am not naïve enough to believe that TCA is perfect, far from it, but we continue to strive to honor Jesus Christ and raise up the next generation to love and serve Him and to love and serve others.

So you might ask, what does all of this have to do with alumni? The answer is simple. The TCA Alumni Association wants to continue to provide a constant to its alumni in a world full of change, confusion and challenge—we are here to provide a community of fellow believers to walk with you, encourage you and, yes, even remember the good old days. As our school rapidly approaches our 50th anniversary, our alumni ranks continue to swell. As such, we are able to do more things. We have an amazing alumni board, which is interested in doing more things to support our alumni and the school. We recently sent out the first alumni survey since 2003—we want to know what you want and need.

What we need is for you to be involved. We want to see you, to celebrate your good times with you and to comfort and encourage you during your down times—as you will do the same for us. As we continue to stay the course on which we began at TCA, let us continue this journey together until we are called home to live with our Savior Jesus Christ forever.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1
ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, TCA celebrated Homecoming, welcoming our alumni, their families and alumni parents back to campus under the alumni tent sponsored by Sky Ranch. Our dinner sponsor, Texas de Brazil, provided a delicious meal courtesy of TCA parents Salim and Shaundra Asrawi. We are so thankful for their years of support of the TCA Alumni Association. Thank you to the volunteer alumni who worked the dinner, and thank you to the TCA Middle School students who provided face painting and games for our alumni children.

Congratulations to senior Bryn Barringer, this year’s Homecoming queen. Bryn is the daughter of alumnus Raegan Barringer ‘90, who escorted her on the field. We are so proud to have a legacy child receive the crown!

This year, in addition to the traditional dinner and football game, the Trinity Art Gallery in the Upper School featured an alumni art exhibit, displaying works from 15 former and current art faculty and 40 alumni art students. See the article on page 36 for details.

We are grateful to everyone who attended our Alumni Homecoming Dinner; we are always thrilled to have our alumni families on campus.
JUST IN TIME FOR HOMECOMING 2017, TCA hosted its first Alumni Art Show. There were 53 alumni, former students and faculty who contributed their artwork. The show ran from October 19 to November 9, with a special reception on October 27 that coincided with the Homecoming football game.

In June 2017, Jon Millet ’84, chair of the TCA Visual Arts Department, began reaching out to TCA art alumni on the TCA Art Alumni Facebook page. He invited members to submit up to three pieces of original work and guaranteed that at least one would be displayed in the show. Jon received multiple submissions across all mediums: watercolor, textiles, photography, oils, drawing, video and more. The assortment was truly impressive!

A majority of the art alumni students and faculty are currently working in the art field, from teaching to graphic design to selling original artwork to photography. The show was a great opportunity to celebrate the contributions our TCA community is continuing to make all around the world!
PARTICIPANTS IN THE SHOW:

**FORMER TCA FACULTY**

Rebecca Best, 1983–85
Chong Chu, 1994–2002
Cindy Joldersma Cooper, 1981–84
Anita Horton, 2001–13
Wally Linebarger, 1979–92
Mary Morgan, 1989–2001
Linda Otstott, 1986–94
Judith Seay, 1987–88

**CURRENT TCA FACULTY**

David Connolly ’93, 2001–present
Hank Harmon, 1982–present
Jay Henderson ’00, 2013–present
Jimmie Hudson, 2002–present
Jonathan Millet ’84, 1992–present
Tiffanie Phillips Mutlu ’89, 2010–present
Adria Johnson Warner ’95, 2000–present

**FORMER TCA STUDENTS**

Lori Brennan (1981–83)
Arthur James (1979–85)
David Seay (1989–98)

**ALUMNI**

Logan Stollenwerck ’80
GeorgeAnn Shafer ’83
Brad Powell ’85
A’Dina Maisel Smith ’85
Tami Flynn-Weempe ’85
Andy Galloway ’88
Kimberlea Krueger Bass ’91
Rafe Gibson ’92
Hillary Otstott ’94
Lael Sale Burns ’97
Robert McGraw ’97
Mandy Lewis Blankenship ’99
Danielle Huey Kimzey ’99
Tori Kasper Pez ’99
Matthew Cowart ’00
Rob Gregory ’00
Jennifer Thornton Moreman ’00
Lisa Renz Cochran ’00
Nate Henderson ’02
Justin Boyce ’03
Sarah Cox Clapp ’03
Paul Winker ’08
Frances Russell Allen ’10
Haley Moore Pendleton ’12
Morgan De Pauli ’13
Jes Fort ’13
Rachel Kwong ’13
Alex Waters ’13
Hannah Langford ’14
Miranda Mabery ’14
Kendall Werra ’14
Daly Witt ’14
MJ Massinger ’16
Collin Schuster ’16
Nicholas Wong ’17

**ALUMNI LEGACY**

Where are they now?

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

1985

JD “DENNIS” HILL recently completed a 2,000-mile ocean voyage on his sailboat, Second Star, which sailed from Houston to Key West, Florida, to Cuba and back again as part of a grand tour to compete in two international sailing regattas.

2002

ANNIE HINCKLEY HOUSTON and her husband, Jonathan, joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Dorothy “Dottie” Lynn Houston on August 31, 2017. Proud big sister Lola (1st) and big brother James adore their new baby sister. The Houstons live in Plano, Texas, and love being a part of the TCA Community.

2006

PAIGE SMILEY ROBINSON and husband Travis welcomed their first child on February 8, 2017. Theodore Hood Robinson was born in Houston. Paige is CEO of her own sales recruiting firm, Will Reed Jobs.

2007

SARAH-MICHELLE STEARNS visited her sixth continent, camped at her 18th national park and climbed the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. She passed the Texas bar exam and is currently clerking for a judge downtown. She was also honored by the Texas Supreme Court for her commitment to providing legal assistance to low-income Texans on a pro-bono basis during law school. Aside from work and travels, she is now a moot court coach at the SMU Dedman School of Law, is on the Conservation Society board for the Dallas Safari Club and volunteers at the Genesis Women’s Shelter.

2008

ROBERT COX and wife Lauren were blessed with Olivia Rae Cox on October 5, 2016. Olivia celebrated her first birthday this year. The family of three lives in Fort Worth, where Robert works as a Senior Practice Manager, Content Strategy and Development for the Start Conspiracy, a marketing and advertising agency, and Lauren is a full-time mom to Olivia.

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.

Please note that all submissions for the next issue of Trinity Today must be received by April 15, 2018, and that all submitted electronic photos must be in high-resolution jpeg format to be suitable for printing.
TYLER BURNS and wife Lindsey welcomed their first son, William Archer Burns, on August 8, 2017, at All About Babies Birthing Center, where he was surrounded by close family. Read their full birth story at bit.ly/williamsbirth.

MATT BARNES married Laurann Hofweber on June 24, 2017, in Crested Butte, Colorado. The couple met while Matt was in school at Texas A&M and Laurann was in school at the University of Texas and started dating when they became next door neighbors in Houston. The best man was the groom’s brother, BLAKE BARNES ’12, and groomsmen included JD SMILEY and GRAHAM SHELBY.

GRADY and BRITNEY HAYWOOD COOK and big brother Rowan welcomed Campbell Joy Cook into their family on June 13, 2017. The Cook family resides in Mesa, Arizona.

JENNIFER YBARRA graduated from University of Notre Dame Law School with her juris doctor, magna cum laude, on May 20, 2017. After taking the bar exam, she traveled to Southeast Asia. Jennifer resides in Dallas and is currently an associate for Baker Botts.

KYLE COX married Adrianne Kangas on January 21, 2017, in Fort Worth. The officiant was Kyle's brother, ROBERT COX ’08, and attendants included sisters TIFFANY COX ’14 and JORDAN COX ’14, DRUE CRAWFORD, WILL BAKER, AUSTIN CHANDLER, JAKE HAYES, TRIP STARKEY ’10 and CHASE WOFFORD ’13. Adrienne works as a preschool teacher, and Kyle is the passing game coordinator and receivers coach at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

SARAH SMITH and JOEY GABRIANO were married on July 1, 2017, at First Baptist Church in Carrollton. The wedding party included maid of honor ALLISON SMITH ’17 and best man MATTHEW ANDERSON, bridesmaids EMMA GABRIANO ’15, JILL HENRY ’11 and CAROLINE ROMAN, and groomsmen ZANE PARKS and NATHAN MATHAI.

Alum army officer inspires TCA students

On November 8, US Army Captain BAKER FLAGG ’06 came to speak to TCA Upper School boys and their fathers as part of the Camp David series. Camp David is a Bible study led by BOB DYER, Upper School dean of students and Bible teacher, for Upper School boys with the intent of “training men after God’s heart.” Close to 100 boys and fathers came to hear Baker speak on his experiences in the army as a Christian leader. Baker graduated from West Point and then enlisted in the army. He will complete his service in May of 2018 and will attend Harvard University in the fall of 2018 in a master’s program in business.
MICHAEL NOVAKOVICH married Shelby Logan on August 19 in Canton, Ohio. Michael and Shelby met while serving together in ministry as students at Northwestern University. Their wedding party included best man JOHN NOVAKOVICH ’16, groomsmen BRANDON GALVAN and TAYLOR POSAVITZ and bridesmaid KATHERINE NOVAKOVICH (8th). BRIAN KEGERREIS read Scripture during the ceremony, and classmates EMILY FLOCH, JONATHAN HARPER and STATHI PAKES were also in attendance. Michael and Shelby live in Dallas.

BETH JACKSON married Colter Kaspar on July 8, 2017, in McKinney. The wedding was officiated by Dr. Rick Rigsby. The maids of honor were her sisters, ALLISON JACKSON ’16 and MADELINE JACKSON (11th). Bridesmaids included EMILY CALVERT, FULGHAM BELL and MADELINE AUTREY ’13. The couple lives in China Spring, Texas. Colter is a graduate of Texas A&M and a business owner in China Spring. Beth is completing her studies at Texas A&M and beginning an internship with PWC this summer.

KYLE HARDESTY, JASE MILLER, JORDAN COX, KARLY HEPPES and TIFFANY COX organized a team of 13 enthusiastic Baylor University students to join the Walk MS Waco event in October, which raised money for multiple sclerosis research. These students raised over $1,200. They won “Most Spirited Team” and “Rookie Team of the Year.” They walked in honor of TCA teacher, alumni parent and Tiffany and Jordan’s mom, Angie Cox.

TIFFANY COX and DRUE ALLEN were engaged on September 2, 2017, among a host of TCA and college friends. They will both graduate from the University of Arkansas in May. The wedding is planned for July 15, 2018. Drue is pursuing a career in physical therapy, and Tiffany will begin working as an RN.

JACE KAHLER MARTIN, a junior at The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina located in Charleston, South Carolina, was recently awarded a full, two-year Army ROTC scholarship to complete his bachelor’s degree in Homeland Security and Intelligence. He is also under contract with the U.S. Army and will receive his commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation in 2019.
SEASONED PLAYERS
Jeremy Knight leads the Upper School band during December’s Instrumental Music Concert, in which players in grades six through twelve delighted the audience with favorite Christmas tunes.
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 of his or her new mailing address. Thank you!