

# Trinity TODAY

CONNECTING THE TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY COMMUNITY

WINTER 2017 VOLUME 12, NO. 1

LOWER SCHOOL:  
RAISING THE BAR / 16

ATHLETICS:  
THE DEVELOPMENT ZONE / 26

ALUMNI: HOMECOMING  
& ALUMNI ART SHOW / 35

## STUDENT LEADERS

HOW TCA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL  
STUDENTS DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

/ 20



## 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!

*Joy S. Konstans*

**JOY KONSTANS**  
**EDITOR OF TRINITY TODAY**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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#### 3 **#GRATEFUL**

**Mark Dyer**, TCA parent, alumni parent and trustee, reflects on the many reasons he's thankful for TCA.



#### 5 **A GRAND TIME**

Lower School students welcomed over 1,000 grandparents to campus this fall for this treasured tradition.



#### 35 **WELCOME HOME!**

Alumni and their families enjoyed catching up with old friends and teachers at TCA's annual Alumni Homecoming Dinner.

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#### ABOUT US

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## FEATURES

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## 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.



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## RAISING THE BAR

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



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## 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.



BY DAVE DELPH, HEADMASTER



- **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!



**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," "geezer," eye rolls or sometimes a polite, "Dad, please don't ever do that again."

If you are 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). We are called to have the kind of gratitude that creates so much interest and excitement that other people not only notice, but are also attracted to it. It is the trending # that cannot be retired.

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*.



BY MARK DYER, TCA PARENT,  
ALUMNI PARENT AND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER







**“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**

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*





# Grandparent Days

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.



## 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.

## 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!





## 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** (ranked first of all altos), **Madeline Prescott and Jianna Redden**

Tenor: **Jack Castello** (ranked first of all tenors), **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** (II 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**

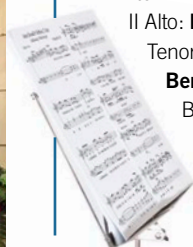
Tenor: **Matthew Harvey, Barrett Jessen and Ben Murphy**

Bass: **Elijah Westover**, First Alternate:

**Colin Wiegand,**

Second Alternate:

**Grant Winslow**





# 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

Presley Baker  
Ben Berggren  
Lindsay Bibby  
Catherine Bigham  
Parker Blackburn  
Alea Brady  
Addison Branning  
Jake Bryans  
Cade Burgoon  
Caroline Bush  
Lance Chu  
Nico Deadman  
Karly Douglass  
Emily Dyer  
Cassidy Ellison  
Josh Esclamado  
Nicolas Fandrich  
Courtney Fish  
Ryan Fitzpatrick  
Libby Floyd  
Sean Fox  
Jordyn Goodman  
Bryce Harwell  
Isabelle Heldenfels  
Molly Henegar  
Cody Henson  
Kayley Howard  
Daniel Hsu  
Colby James  
Evan Janson  
Sarah Konstans  
Preston Krantz  
Sara Kukuk  
AJ LaGassa  
Allison Lau  
Allison Layman  
Sarah Lipe  
Griffin Maurice  
Evan McAuliffe  
Allie McWhorter  
Emily Miller  
Natalie Miller  
Hudson Neuhoﬀ  
Alyson O'Shea  
Hailey Kate Patterson  
Jared Payne  
Caroline Pierce  
Caroline Pino  
Jessica Pitts  
Ramie Rice  
Kyndall Richardson  
Sydney Kathryn Riordan  
Claire Roever  
Chad Rutledge  
John-Michael Sadler  
Nathan Sanders  
Autumn Sonju  
Tori Troop  
Riley Walton  
Dodd Weyandt  
Colin Wiegand  
Caroline Winslow  
Jackson Withrow  
Leslie Wolff  
Michael Young

### Juniors

Georgia Ballaw  
Daniela Barrientos-  
Figueroa  
Lindsay Bartol  
Molly Grace Beddingfield  
Kate Blocker  
Robert Caldwell  
Bobby Carstens  
Elisa Cavazos  
Summer Chaffin  
Erin Clay  
Bella Correa  
Madelynn Cotter  
Shaw Cotter  
Brijit Crosby

Jillian Delp  
Emily Floyd  
Avery Gann  
Haston Habern  
Lauren Head  
Jackson Hinckley  
Daniel Jones  
Catherine Josephs  
Brett Kauffman  
Grace Lee  
Jessica Lee  
Michelle Lee  
Jordan McFarlane  
Ashley McWhorter  
Noah Morrison  
Abby Muschalek  
Georgia Nine  
Sam Norris  
Annika Olson  
Regan O'Shea  
Laura Pomberg  
JD Powers  
Michelle Raybourn  
Scott Raybourn  
Cole Rea  
Cailin Redden  
Robert Rowland  
Avery Schuster  
Macrae Smith  
Riley Stringfellow  
Caroline Tate  
Max Thomas  
London Thornton  
Whit Traweck  
Tanner Wayte  
Elijah Westover  
Kennedy Wiegand  
Kaleigh Wilkinson  
Connor Williams  
John Wright

### Sophomores

Amara Asrawi  
Olivia Baldwin  
Isabella Berthel  
Haleigh Brown  
Jo Anna Bryans  
Elle Clark  
Olivia Clark  
Avery Cotter  
Kyle Cotter  
Alan Fandrich  
Carter Getz  
Colton Hackney  
Matthew Harvey  
Lindsey Hays  
Mason Hinckley  
Belle Holden  
Caleb Key  
Allie Knudsen  
Natalie Konstans  
Jenna Larson  
Anna Beth Lowrey  
Joshua Matthews  
Blake Mercer  
Ethan Merrifield  
Mason Morland  
Ben Murphy  
Danielle Parker  
Alex Ramsland  
Henry Ridley  
Logan Rock  
Pierce Sandlin  
Savannah Sims  
Ruthie Turner  
Elihu Ventura  
Ella Ward  
Gracy Watts  
Lily Westover  
Brendan Williams  
Michael Wilmotte  
Audrey Wines  
Jessica Young

### Freshmen

Lexy Babler  
Luke Babler  
Ava Brown  
Taya Burgett  
Hannah Burke  
Kathryn Callahan  
Dawson Chaffin  
Luke Chan

Emily Clay  
Charlie Crawford  
Anthony Cundari  
Connor Dewey  
Connor Graham  
Collin Groezinger  
Evan Hennes  
Leah Kegerreis  
Lauren Lee  
Georgia Leeds  
Morgan Locke  
Jack Maust  
Luke Mays  
Sophie McNeill  
Will Mercer  
Ryan O'Shea  
Peyton Prideaux  
Daniel Querrey  
Reagan Rodgers  
Wilson Roe  
Patricia Sharon  
Claire Shodeen  
Landry Walton  
Emily Watters  
Grace Weir  
Jackson Wells  
Conner Williams  
Caroline Woodward  
Lauren Wright  
Annie Xia  
Jason Yang

### 8th Grade

Lynnson Fort  
Justin Miller  
Emily Morris  
Katherine Novakovich  
Juliana Voth  
Mary Lauren Westover  
Max Wheless

### 7th Grade

Joshua Lim  
Landon Littleton  
Gabrielle Parker  
Parker Prideaux  
Jocelyn Youn

## Magna Cum Laude

GPA of 3.8–4.19

### Seniors

Bryn Barringer  
Brandon Bass  
Meghan Betts  
Laura Bowling  
Mack Bush  
Alisa Coley  
Riley Crow  
Daniel DeWeese  
Drew Douglas  
Marissa Douglass  
Sacha Francois  
Jarod Frantz  
Brady Freeman  
Deven Gann  
Luke Glover  
Preston Gossett  
Kennedy Hatton  
Mallory Heard  
Jake Johnson  
Lauren Lott  
Lauren Mawhee  
Abbey McCutchen  
Ryan McWhorter  
Annabelle Merrill  
Gil Nelson  
Emma Scalfano  
Kara Stiegler  
Lauren Warner  
Natalie Warrick  
Tara Williamson  
Cathy Jean Wood  
Jason Woodward  
Ethan Woodward

### Juniors

Isaac Agumadu  
David Asche  
Riley Bagnall  
Jackson Bowman  
Hayden Brown  
Michael Callahan  
Charles Cash  
Nicholas Clift  
Trevor Cobern  
Grant De Paoli  
Simon Dennis Gordon  
Andrea Ehringer  
Harrison Gossett  
Parker Hadley  
Brooke Henegar  
Austin Ho  
Brooke Hutzler  
Madeline Jackson  
Gentry Jarrell  
William Kennedy  
Clara Liu  
Blake Marsh  
Kennedy Mason  
Cole McCabe  
McKenzie Moore  
Broc O'Brien  
Rachel O'Brien  
Savannah Pate  
Hannah Plemmons  
Coleman Rector  
Slade Savage  
Jordan Rutledge  
Laney Segert  
John Shaw  
Zach Speck  
Reid Stacy  
Brielle Stein  
Lauren Sulzen  
Tyler Townley  
Alayna Weyandt  
Bethany White  
Payton Willey  
Clarissa Wong  
Thomas Wyman

### Sophomores

Jackson Barringer  
Catherine Binkley  
Carter Burgoon  
Jonathan Chock  
Riley Conine  
Abigail Coronado  
Zachary Coronado  
Ella Kate Cotter  
Lindsey Crow  
Harrison Fields  
Bethany Forde  
Jayce Frady  
Claire Franke  
Cameron Gilmore  
Audrey Gradick  
Michael Heidelbaugh  
Kyndal Hinton  
Faith Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Allison Jones  
Mali Krone  
Luke Langford  
Alexis Locke  
Cameron May  
Katherine McLain  
Dutch McStay  
Jasmine Miller  
Garrett Orten  
Anna Kate Parrent  
Clarke Pino  
Michael Ruch  
Zoe Schiefer  
Caroline Spears  
Nathan Stara  
Marie Kathryn Waldrop  
Jack Wenzel  
Major Wheless  
Grant Winslow  
Clara Woodward  
Elizabeth Yearly  
Dylan Young

### Freshmen

Rex Ah Chu  
Hannah Alpert  
Claire Andrews

Libby Barnes  
Seth Bator  
Blake Beal  
Molly Berryman  
Elizabeth Branstetter  
Sam Brown  
Brianna Byrd  
Ian Collier  
Bryn Correa  
Paige Cotter  
Victoria Dahnccke  
Kelly Dance  
Daniel Delp  
Trey Dyess  
Lauren Elms  
Claire Floyd  
Sarah Gerard  
Reilly Hanna  
Jaxx Hatton  
Reagan Havel  
Riley Herzog  
Emma Hodge  
Cade Holliday  
Sydney Johnston  
Hannah Little  
Austin Marquardt  
Jackson McFarlane  
Delaney Meiser  
Anna Muccio  
Kjirsta Olson  
Avery Overberg  
Reagan Pierce  
Brianna Queen  
Joel Smitherman  
William Sullivan  
Ashton Karoline Waldrop  
Adelaide Walker  
Jackson Wood  
Kate Yanof  
Catherine Yates

### 8th Grade

James Badger  
Isabela Barrientos-  
Figueroa  
Ellie Blocker  
Shannon Burchett  
Alyssa Clemovitz  
Amelia Corliss  
Zac Crosby  
Collin Dewey  
Lauren Elvebak  
Ainsley Ferrell  
Ben Francis  
Kate Goodman  
Riley Hamilton  
MacLean Hays  
Anna Heidelbaugh  
Halle Hermes  
Isabella Jackson  
Emily Jones  
Emily Keramidias  
Daniel Kwon  
Jack Layman  
Annabel Lee  
Katelyn Long  
Will Martin  
Allie Mays  
Mason Merchant  
Jayden Moore  
Katie Parker  
Madeline Prescott  
Olivia Priest  
Armen Rea  
Serop Rea  
Gracie Reding  
Rhett Rice  
Markus Schumacher  
Caroline Sharp  
Landrie Smith  
Preston Spears  
Lucas Walsh  
Sydney Wayte  
Avery Williams  
Camden Williams  
Connor Wines

### 7th Grade

Courtney Anderson  
Zoey Ballard  
Kate Barclay  
Eleanna Berthel  
Cece Bogda  
Jake Callahan

Jackson Castello  
Kyle Causey  
Anastacia Chu  
Lauren Deaton  
Gable Delp  
Jack Drake  
Rose Duncan  
Jana Elawar  
Ayla Francis  
Ally Gerard  
Bethany Grimm  
Kazia Handoko  
Peyton Hatfield  
Morgan Hausz  
Aly Heidelbaugh  
Seth Henegar  
Shea Hinchley  
Sydney Hinchley  
Faith Huffman  
James Jeter  
Richelle Kim  
Dylan Kinley  
Grace Kwon  
Caroline Laible  
Charley Kate Ledebur  
Trinity Martin  
Emma McIntyre  
Maddie McMullen  
Max Merrifield  
Bo Miltenberger  
Blake Mitchell  
Maxwell Morland  
Blake Muschalek  
Reed Neatherlin  
Evan Olson  
Olivia Ouimette  
Hailey Parmenter  
Jordan Rutledge  
Hannah Schneider  
Sebastian Silva  
Cara Smith  
Joshua Staz  
Emma Kate Sullivan  
Justin Sunwoo  
Collin Truitt  
Ruby Watts  
Nick Wenzel  
Andrew Yates  
Samantha Zuniga

## Cum Laude

GPA of 3.5–3.79

### Seniors

Michael Casella  
Sam Clare  
Caleb Getz  
Brooks Glanton  
Parker Nelson  
Foti Pakes  
Josh Robinson  
Davis Rogers  
Gage Smalling  
Kiley Wilson  
RC Yearly

### Juniors

Bryson Byrd  
Dylan Deaton  
Weston Haggard  
Gracie Harris  
Taylor Kalahar  
Sophia Lopez  
Caroline Millet  
Justin Moore  
Phoebe Mutlu  
Beckett Myers  
Maddie Parrent  
Jake Payne  
Riley Rice  
Greg Tiner  
Emily Useiton

### Sophomores

Andrew Buser  
Madeleine Floyd  
Maggie Harrison  
Harrison Hefflin  
Barrett Jessen  
Jordan Karrh

Gracie Massinger  
James Mayo  
Philip Petersen  
Kristin Reding  
Hayley Scott  
Erin Smith  
Lauren Smith  
Hayden Stone

### Freshmen

Blake Birmingham  
Kent Causey  
Nathan Clark  
Zach Clift  
Colin Cundari  
Landry Davis  
Brady Doyle  
Jake Gore  
Will Greenstein  
Blaine Grimes  
Press Hebert  
Andrew Ho  
Eva Kutz  
Evan Mawhee  
Will McIntosh  
Brian Morris  
Lindsay Shipley  
Mackenna Shults  
Addison Willey  
Christopher Woodhouse

### 8th Grade

Ryan Ainsworth  
Aly Bayliss  
Mary Margaret Bell  
Madyson Benschneider  
Kaylee Connell  
Avery Copple  
Brody Davis  
Nick Dore  
Amelia Griegie  
Claire Grimes  
Nancy Gunter  
Payton Harper  
Hannah Helt  
Emma High  
Luke Huffman  
Sophie Hunt  
Lila Johnson  
Brooks Krantz  
Emma Layman  
Jenna Lowrey  
Rachel Mills  
Alan Morrison  
Emma Neeman  
Schuyler Noordhoff  
Cody Polk  
Jianna Redden  
Jackson Rogers  
Jad Sewaiseh  
Henry Smith  
Ben Sorgen  
Luke Tredennick  
Parke Turner  
Lilly Weir  
Justin Wiegand

### 7th Grade

Jenna Branstetter  
Hannah Buford  
Matthew Campbell  
Tanner Conine  
Allie Davis  
Rex Day  
Caitlyn Hackney  
Nolan Hamilton  
Eva Harris  
Owen Hattendorf  
Camie Jobe  
Ashley Kim  
JJ Leverton  
Aidan McCauley  
Bryce McElroy  
Emily Mercer  
Wyatt Merrill  
Sophia Miller  
Tyler Osterloh  
Kendall Reding  
Carson Roach  
Noah Smith  
Chance Snyder  
Hunter Stegman  
Logan Walters  
Sam White  
Josie Wilder



**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."



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 of 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.



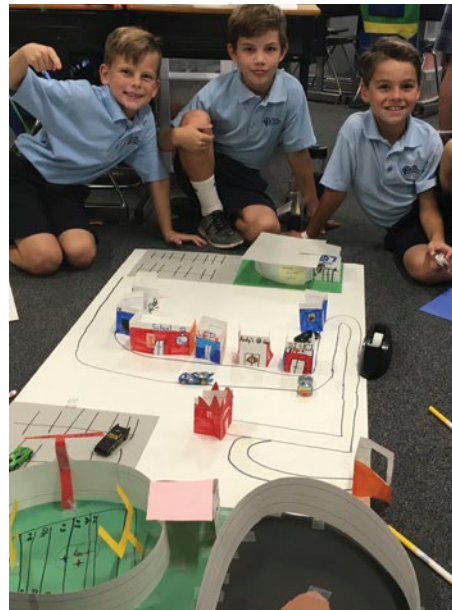
## TRADITION OF GIVING

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 **Keri Brookshire**, Coordinator **Brianna Long**, PTF Secretary **Jena Hattendorf** and Volunteer Coordinator **Becky Jones** for their leadership and coordination to make this event a success!



### 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.



## 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.



## 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!



## 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

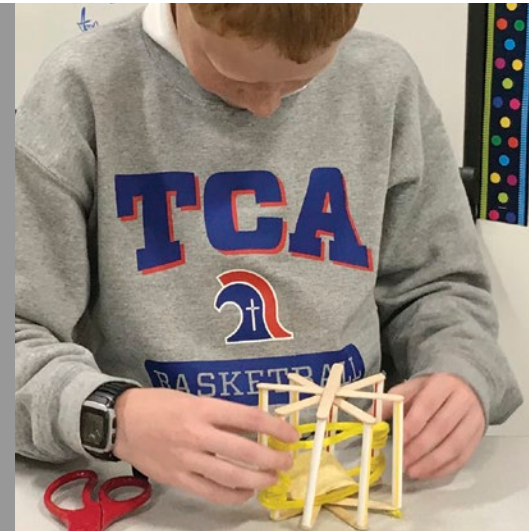
The Middle School STEAM club has been building roller coasters this year using foam pipe and marbles. Approximately 20 teams of students worked on roller coaster designs, taking into consideration friction, velocity, design aesthetics and more. Final projects were displayed in the Middle School Library.





## 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.



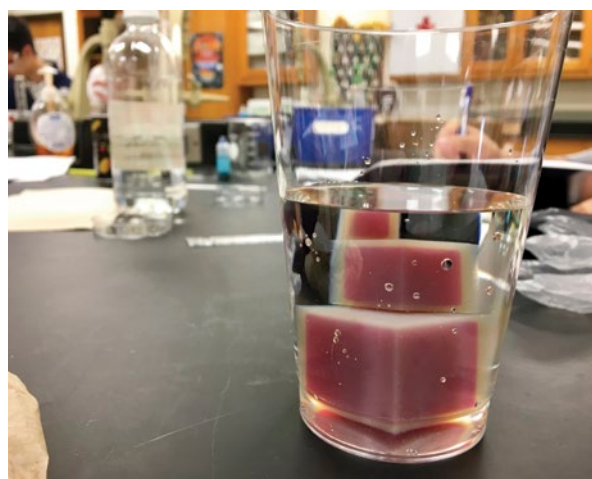
## SHIP THE CHIP

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, popsicle 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."



## SPRUCED-UP SPIRIT

Upper School students celebrated Homecoming week with special dress-up days to show their school spirit. This year's dress-up themes were Marvel Monday, Pool Tuesday, Country vs. Country Club Wednesday, Tie-Dye with a Tie Thursday and Fashion Disaster Friday.



## 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.

## ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER



### 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 a 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.

DECEMBER



### 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.







**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.



Lower School Literacy Specialist Laura Ouimette leads a discussion about writing instruction with kindergarten and first-grade teachers.

# RAISING THE BAR

## ELEVATING TEACHER EXPERTISE IN LITERACY STRATEGIES FOR LOWER-SCHOOLERS

BY LAURA OUIMETTE,  
LOWER SCHOOL LITERACY SPECIALIST



**“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.”**

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-



Teachers often work with small groups of students, facilitating open-ended discussions around texts to develop deep comprehension skills.



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 OUIMETTE**, 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.

Students in Dawn Pownell's fourth-grade class share writing and have a discussion on the strategic actions they are working on within their writing pieces.







BY DR. RYAN BERENS,  
ASSISTANT HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL  
AND  
MATT LAMBRO,  
SPIRITUAL LIFE DIRECTOR

# MOVING IN

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*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 up 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.

TO THE

LEAD





SERVICE TEAMS • CLUBS



Learning to  
operate and  
**LEAD IN  
A SMALL  
GROUP**  
is one of the  
best ways to  
build upon  
relational  
intelligence.







• STUDENT COUNCIL • BIBLE STUDIES • HOUSE ACTIVITIES • DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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-grader 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>



CHAPEL SERVICES • SKY RANCH



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. ☎

## AND WILDERNESS COUNSELORS • HYPE SQUAD • STUDENT AMBASSADORS







# THE DEVELOPMENT ZONE



BY KIRK MCJUNKIN,  
EXECUTIVE ATHLETIC  
DIRECTOR

**J**ust 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.







**We ask and coach our athletes to give us exhaustive effort with everything they do, to “end on empty.”**

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.”



**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.

The team finished fifth at the TAPPS 6A District Championship and ninth at the TAPPS 6A State Championship.

**ABBY CORONADO** and **AVERY OVERBERG** were named Honorable 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."



## VARSITY GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

## VARSITY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



**AGAINST TOUGH COMPETITION**, the boys competed well in every meet. The team finished in the top five in three meets, finishing in second place in two of those meets. The boys worked hard each practice, and it showed. There were at least three runners setting new personal bests at each meet. The highlight of the season was the Southlake Carroll Invitational, where ten runners set new personal bests.

The team finished fifth at the TAPPS 6A District Championship and 12th at the TAPPS 6A State Championship. **GREG TINER** finished tenth in the District Championship, earning him First Team All-District honors.

The following were the recipients of this year's team awards: Greg Tiner, Most Valuable Runner; **LOGAN ROCK**, Most Improved Runner and **HENRY RIDLEY**, 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."





## VARSITY FOOTBALL



### THERE 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!



## VARSITY VOLLEYBALL





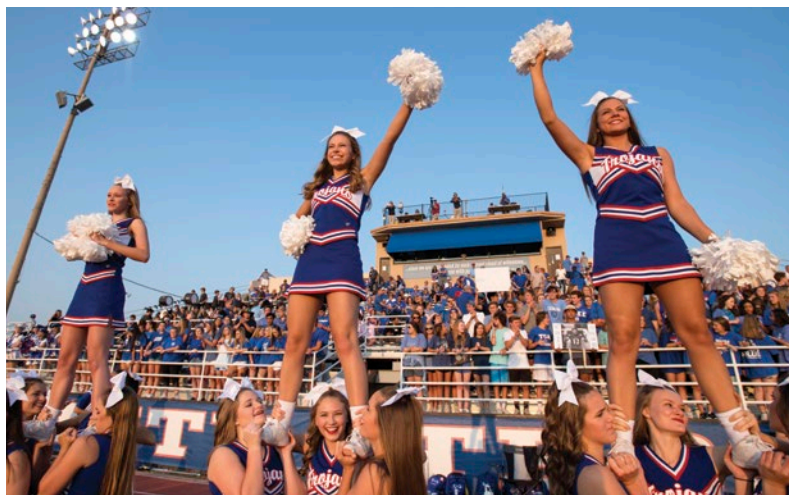
# TROJANETTES

**THE TROJANETTES KICKED OFF** their busy year in June when they helped run Little Trojanette camp. Immediately following Little Trojanette camp, the Trojanette officers and squad leaders went to officer camp, where they took master classes from top choreographers from LA and New York, took part in many leadership and technique classes and learned several dance routines. Captain **ALYSON O'SHEA** and Lieutenant **CAROLINE TATE** received a Blue Superior ribbon on their jazz routine evaluation, and they also earned a Red Excellent ribbon on their contemporary routine evaluation.

The Trojanettes team then went to line camp in August, where they took home many awards, including the Ruby Sweepstakes award and the Gussie Nell Davis award. Alyson O'Shea was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Performer award, and Lieutenant Caroline Tate was awarded the prestigious All-American Dance Company award. Alyson O'Shea, Caroline Tate and **VICTORIA DAHNCKE** were also named All-American Dancers. **GRACIE MASSINGER** and **GEORGIA LEEDS** were named All-American Honorable Mention.

The Trojanettes performed exciting field routines every Friday night at both home and away football games, and the week after Thanksgiving, the Trojanettes competed in the TAPPS State Dance Competition in Waco, where the team took home second place out of 14 teams.

Captain Alyson O'Shea and Lieutenant Caroline Tate both were named First Team All-State, and Georgia Leeds was named Honorable Mention All-State. Following the state competition, the girls traveled to Orlando, Florida, where they performed in front of 65,000 people at the Camping World Bowl Game half-time production on December 28.



**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.

## VARSITY CHEERLEADING





# TCA ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB



**FIRST PLATINUM SPONSOR OF TCA ATHLETICS\***

## **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





# First Annual SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND *April 27–29, 2018*

**THIS SPRING WE ARE LAUNCHING OUR NEW SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND** on April 27–29, 2018. All of our reunions will now be held in the spring. We will have 16 reunions this year, and then each year after we will only have eight reunions. **This year's reunion years are 1972, 1973, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2013.**

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 is 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!



**BY BETH HARWELL,  
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI**





## 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*

## 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 Parrent '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.facebook.com/Trinity-Christian-Academy-Alumni-Addison](http://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Christian-Academy-Alumni-Addison)

 [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](mailto:bharwell@trinitychristian.org).





# HOMECOMING 2017



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.



[1]



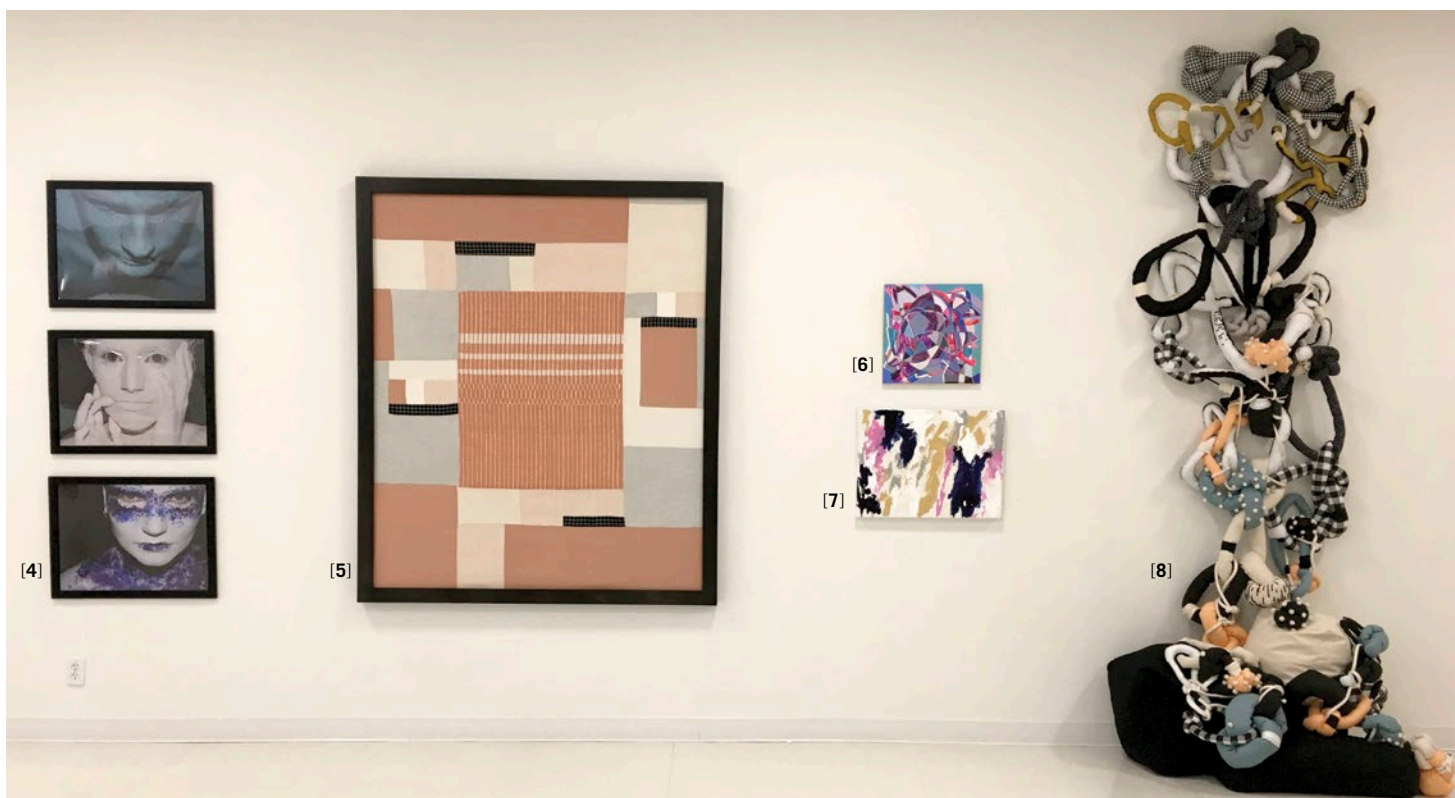
[2]



[3]



# ALUMNI ART SHOW



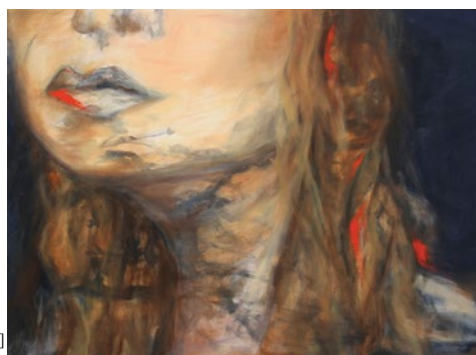
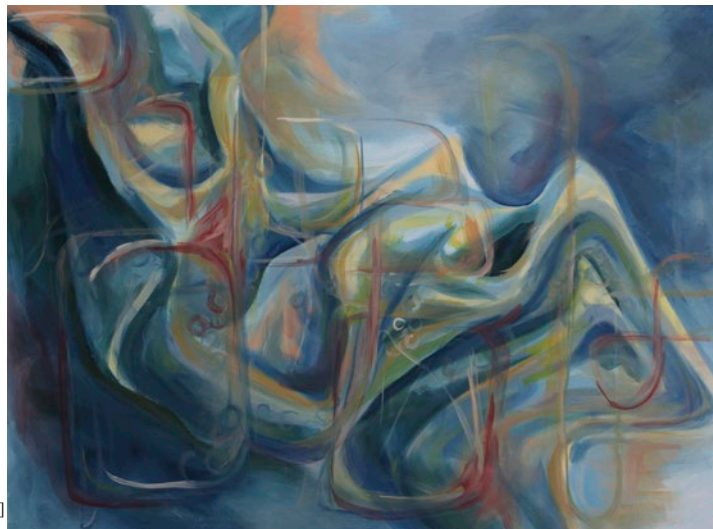
**JUST IN TIME FOR HOMECOMING 2017**, TCA hosted its first Alumni Art Show. There were 53 alumni, former students and faculty who contributed their artwork. The show ran from October 19 to November 9, with a special reception on October 27 that coincided with the Homecoming football game.

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 Otsott, 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



## 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 Otsott '94  
Lael Sale Burns '97  
Robert McGraw '97  
Mandy Lewis Blankenship '99  
Danielle Huey Kimzey '99  
Tori Kaspereit Pelz '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 Paoli '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

## FORMER TCA STUDENTS

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

[1] Chong Chu [2] GeorgeAnn Shafer '83 [3] Brad Powell '85 [4] Daly Witt '14 [5] Morgan De Paoli '13 [6] Danielle Huey Kimzey '99 [7] A'Dina Maisel Smith '85  
[8] Hannah Langford '14 [9] Jimmie Hudson [10] Logan Stollenwerck '80 [11] Kendall Werra '14 [12] Jes Fort '13 [13] Cindy Joldersma Cooper



# 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.

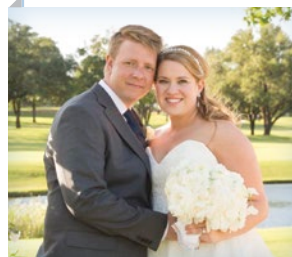
## 2006



**PAIGE SMILEY ROBINSON** and husband Travis welcomed their first child on February 8, 2017. Theodore Hood Robinson was born in Houston. Paige, Travis and Teddy now live in Hanover, New Hampshire, where Travis has started his first year at the Tuck Business School at Dartmouth. Paige is CEO of her own sales recruiting firm, Will Reed Jobs.

**SARAH MULLIS** married Chris Sundberg on April 30, 2017, at the Four Seasons Resort in Los Colinas. The maid of honor was **MEGAN MULLIS GUIRGUIS '09**. Other

members of the bridal party included **CLAIRE NEILL WILSON** and **BRAD DICKENS '07**. The wedding planner was **KATIE MCCANN CROW**.



The couple lives in Dallas, where Sarah is an underwriting manager for The Travelers and Chris is a senior tax accountant for Deloitte.

## 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](mailto: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.



## 2009



**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](http://bit.ly/williamsbirth).

## 2010

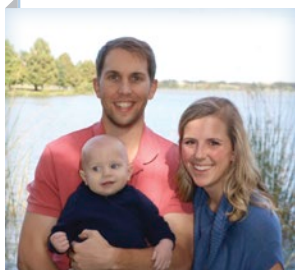


**MATT BARNES** married Laurann Hofweber on June 24, 2017, in Crested Butte, Colorado. The couple met while Matt was in school at Texas A&M and Laurann was in school at the University of Texas and started dating when they became

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.



**JD SMILEY** and his wife, Emily, welcomed their first child on December 12, 2016. Beau Taylor Smiley was born here in Dallas

where they live. JD works for Loopback Analytics in sales, and Emily works at EY in the Entrepreneur of the Year department.



**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.

## 2011



**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**. Adrianne works as a preschool teacher, and Kyle is the passing game coordinator and receivers coach at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

## 2013



**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.

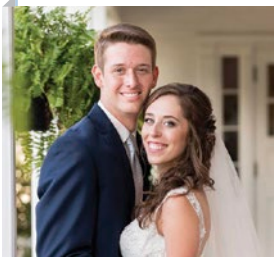




## Where are they now?

### 2013

- CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE -



**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 KEGERRIS** read Scripture during the ceremony, and classmates **EMILY FLOCH**, **JONATHAN HARPER** and **STATHI PAKES** were also in attendance. Michael and Shelby live in Dallas.

### 2014

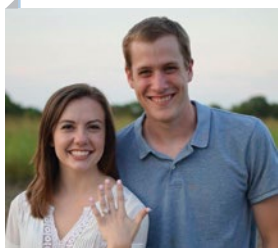


**BETH JACKSON** married Colter Kaspar on July 8, 2017, in McKinney. The wedding was officiated by Dr. Rick Rigsby. The maids of honor were her sisters, **ALLISON JACKSON '16** and **MADLINE JACKSON (11th)**. Bridesmaids included **EMILY CALVERT**, **FULGHAM BELL** and **MADLINE AUTREY '13**. The couple 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.

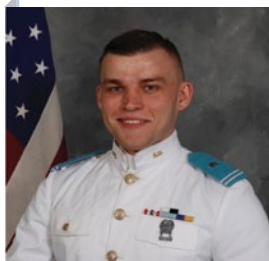


**KYLE HARDESTY, JASE MILLER, JORDAN COX, KARLY HEPPE**s and **TIFFANY COX** organized a team of 13 enthusiastic Baylor University students to join the Walk MS Waco event in October, which raised money for multiple sclerosis research. These students raised over \$1,200. They won "Most Spirited Team" 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.

### 2015



**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.





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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!