



chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Summer 2011

Steps of Faith

*God's blessings abound
as we continue our journey
in Town & Country.*



features

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Westminster Christian Academy honors Jesus Christ by providing an excellent education, rooted in biblical truth as interpreted by the Westminster Confession of Faith, for the children of Christian parents. Faculty and staff enable students to discover and embrace a biblical view of the world and integrate that view into every area of life.

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Please send your updated information (address, phone number and preferred email) to info@wcastl.org. We also invite you to join an email list to receive one of the following e-publications:

- **Westminster News:** Our weekly email that alerts recipients of current and upcoming school events and news
- **Wildcat Tracks:** Our monthly alumni newsletter

Just send us an email letting us know which one you would like to receive.

A Blessed Journey

The conclusion of the 2010-11 school year, our last on the Ladue Road campus, prompted a great deal of reflection and gratitude for the many blessings received during the past 35 years. Like the people of Israel in I Samuel 7:12, we have been raising an Ebenezer to proclaim, “Thus far has the Lord helped us,” as we end a long and prosperous chapter in Westminster Christian Academy’s history in Creve Coeur and open a new one in Town & Country.

I cannot help but think about our mission to “prepare more young people to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ” when I reminisce about my 26-year tenure on Ladue Road. Class graduation photos reveal the faces of so many Westminster graduates who embody our vision: men and women who are making a difference for Him in our region, nation and world. Westminster alumni who walked the halls of the Ladue Road campus are influential leaders today in schools, churches, the business world, service agencies and the mission field. Sixteen Westminster graduates will be teaching and serving at Westminster when we open our new campus in August.



The blessings of the past give us great hope and excitement for the future as the Westminster journey continues in Town & Country. We look forward to the many new and important opportunities and possibilities that will be available to our students and community next year and in the future. However, the vision will remain the same; we will still be about the preparation of more young people to engage the world and change it for Him.

God has richly blessed Westminster Christian Academy during the Ladue Road era. Please pray that He will continue to guide and bless our school community as we step into an exciting new future in Town & Country.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Marsh". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning.

Jim Marsh
Head of School

Third in a Series About Our Core Values

Learn and Live in Christian Community

“...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

- I Cor. 12:25-26

In 35 years, Westminster Christian Academy has experienced a great deal of growth – from a graduating class of one student in 1977 to 146 students in 2011; from a selection of lower-level classrooms at a small local college to a 70-acre, state-of-the-art facility in Town & Country;

from a small group of caring moms to a large, active body of humble parent volunteers.

Throughout our history, students, parents and friends of Westminster have professed the blessing of learning and living in Christian community. Principles rather than policies and relationships rather than rules continue to take precedence in the life of the school community – as is evidenced by a teacher gathering a few students for a round of golf on a Saturday, a group of parents’ outpouring of support in the form of cards and frozen meals for another parent in need, or an alumnus’ lifelong friendship with his fellow alumni,

deep-rooted in the Christian community cultivated during his time at Westminster.

As we settle into our new building, designed architecturally to ensure a community feel, we look forward to the many new opportunities available to cultivate community – both within our school and with our neighbors. We pray that God will bless and guide us as we continue to learn and live in Christian community.

A complete list of Westminster Christian Academy’s core values is available at www.wcastl.org/about/mission.



Jayne Hall, Dean of Students Tim Hall, and alumni parents Sue and Don Kruse.



To see more of Jonathan's work, visit his website, www.jonathanhaasdesign.com.

Designed for Impact

Jonathan Haas' ('06) creative influence sheds new light on the purpose of interior design.



A 2010 graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., Jonathan Haas is using his B.A. in Interior Design to make a difference. Having served as head graphic designer for Samford's

Step Sing – a longstanding campus tradition and music competition – for three years, Jonathan showcased his talent and enthusiasm for design in his final project of his undergraduate education.

In the fall of 2010, Jonathan embarked on a semester-long thesis project in which he detailed a proposed plan to repurpose the

historic Birmingham Branch of the Federal Bank of Atlanta to meet new academic and community needs. He designed the project around the idea that design schools must engage the surrounding community in order to be truly effective in design education. The design school proposed in his thesis integrates an architecture school, public café and gallery, and a field trip space for elementary and middle school students, all housed in a central downtown Birmingham location. Jonathan presented the project in December 2010 and recently won the IIDA (International Interior Design Association) Alabama IDIE award for Best Student Project. His project was selected from a field of participants from the University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of North Alabama, Virginia College and Samford. He was recognized in March at the organization's

biannual awards gala in Birmingham. "It was an honor to receive the award and be recognized among my peers and the local design community," says Jonathan.

He plans to stay in the Birmingham area, where he is applying for jobs at local design firms. He is also considering applying to Archeworks in Chicago and working internationally with Architecture for Humanity. In the meantime, he is working with a team of individuals to bring a TEDx event to Birmingham this fall. In whatever sector he ultimately lands, Jonathan desires to be an educator in some capacity.

"One of the greatest joys in design is helping another person use his or her strengths and abilities to create something beautiful," he says.

Celebrating Student and Faculty Excellence

ACADEMIC

Gordon Younkin ('12) was one of 36 future scientists, engineers and doctors who was honored recently by the University of Missouri–St. Louis' College of Arts and Sciences. He received the Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Science.

Joseph Collins ('12) received an honorable mention on this year's American Chemical Society Test. He placed near the top of the best 117 advanced chemistry students in the St. Louis area, and he was one of five students who qualified to take the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam for a spot on the United States chemistry team for worldwide competition.

Jihoon Lee (former student 2010-11) won third place as a junior in the 2010 Excellence in Mathematics Contest sponsored by the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park.

Bill Serber ('11) was named a National Merit Scholar, and the following eight students met requirements to enter the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Steven Bosch, Joseph Collins, Hannah Hoekzema, Jessica Holt, Peter Johnson, Jonathan Roth, Brandon Terlouw** and **Gordon Younkin**.

These seniors had a selection index score of 202 or above on the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), meaning they are among the top 50,000 highest-scoring participants of some 1.5 million program entrants.

Meg Rasche ('12) is a participant in the 2011 STARS program, "Experiencing the Scientific Enterprise." In addition to conducting research and presenting papers, Meg and other participants will take part in



Congratulations to our varsity baseball team state champions, who concluded the season with a 27-4 record. Coaches: Rich Van Gilst, Andy Benes, Micah Gall; Team: Connor Larson, Collin Henry, Ben Stratton, Glen Calvin, Jacob Buffa, Connor Einertson, Shane Benes, Luke Turner, Ben Lovell, Tate Matheny, Ryan Allee, Bennett Bell, Alec Mitchell, Jake Kinsinger, Davis Vanderslice, Dylan Andres, Andrew Beck, Mark McFarland.

career workshops, attend lectures by leading scientists from the St. Louis community, and participate in social activities. Meg's laboratory is interested in understanding the differences between the neonatal and adult immune response to respiratory viral infections. Participants in the STARS program include 79 students from 36 high schools in the St. Louis metro area.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Lacey Call ('11), Jessica Holt ('12), Bree Jennrich ('13), and Christine Bosch ('13) entered their artwork in the St. Louis Artist Guild's Young Artist Showcase; their artwork was chosen to be on display in the main gallery at the Artist Guild until May 7. Only one-fourth of the students who enter are accepted into the show.

The 2010-11 edition of the **Foundation Yearbook** recently received the rating of honorable mention from the Sponsors

of School Publications of Greater St. Louis. This rating placed the book as one of the top 10 books in the St. Louis area. Also named a Golden Dozen winner by the Southern Illinois Scholastic Press Association, the book is one of the top 12 books in the region.

The 2010-2011 *Wildcat Roar* received the rating of Excellent from the Sponsors of School Publications of Greater St. Louis, placing the paper as one of the top five in the St. Louis area.

Individual Best of Show recipients at the Sponsors of School Publications of Greater St. Louis annual conference were **Danielle Cicka ('11)**, editor-in-chief of the *Wildcat Roar*, for editorial writing and **Corbin Shelton ('11)**, *Wildcat Roar* photographer, for feature photography.

The following Westminster musicians earned "First Superior" ratings at the MSHSAA District Solo and Ensemble Festival: **Christina Grayson** ('11), flute solo; **Bill Serber** ('11), French horn solo; **Matthew Sugg** ('11), snare drum solo; and **Nathan Theus** ('13), trumpet solo.

The **Middle School Band** participated in the Mid-Missouri Music Festival, and the judges awarded them a Superior (I) rating for their performance. The following students also received a Superior rating for their solos and small ensembles: **Avery Drury** ('16) (I+), trumpet solo; **Haley Weinberg** ('16) (I+), piccolo solo; **Claire Nichols** ('16), alto saxophone solo; **Joey Albertson** ('16), snare drum solo; **Thomas Meyer** ('15), tuba solo; **Ricky Breneman, Thomas Meyer and Michael Weston** ('15), brass trio; **Avery Drury, Aaron Gion, Tommy Regan and Timmy Sell** ('16), brass quartet; **Brennan Murphy, Claire Nichols, Lauren Ramos and Haley Weinberg** ('16), woodwind quartet.

At the state competition, the **Concert Choir** received a Superior rating from all three judges in their prepared music and also in their sight singing.

CLUBS

Due to the fact that the Center For Civic Education recently lost its congressional funding, the 2010-11 school year may have marked the last year for the National We the People competition. The Missouri Bar Association has committed to keeping the State Competition going for the foreseeable future. So, while Westminster suffered a heartbreaking defeat to Joplin at last year's state competition, ending its 11-year stronghold on the state crown, We the People as a class will live on at Westminster! The school community commends all the classes who have competed so admirably over the years and hopes that a new streak of state titles will begin anew this January.

ATHLETICS

The **boys' tennis team** celebrated a brilliant season and a second-place win at state.

We congratulate coaches **Rich Van Gilst, Andy Benes** and the **varsity boys' baseball team** that defeated Savannah High School, 6 -3 for the Class 3 State Championship! [Please join us to celebrate the baseball team's victory during Wildcat Pride Night on Friday, October 14, 2011.](#)

Tate Matheny ('12) was one of six finalists for the Rising Star Award, which is given to the area's top high school baseball players.

Our **boys' varsity golf team** celebrated a second-place win at the state tournament this spring.

Ryan Haxel ('12) celebrated a second-place win in the Publinx Open this spring, which includes top local pros and amateurs; he shot a two under par and scored a 68.

The **boys' track team** finished third place in state with only four runners participating.



Brothers David and Daniel Everett participated in a local all-star mile with the third- and fifth-fastest times of all high school runners in the nation.

Daniel Everett ('11) won the 1600-meter at the state meet with a time that qualified him for the Adidas High School Dream Mile in New York in June; his brother **David Everett** ('11) finished in second place at the state meet in the 1600, knocking nine seconds off his personal best time. The brothers went 1-2 in a local all-star mile with times of 4:07 and 4:10, the third- and fifth-fastest high school mile times for all high schoolers in the nation this year! Daniel later went on to place third at New Balance Nationals in the mile with a time of 4:06. David and Daniel have accepted scholarships to run cross-country and track this fall in college. David will attend Belmont University, and Daniel will attend Columbia University.

The following boys' varsity soccer players were named to the All-St. Louis Region and All-State teams during this past fall:



Girls' Varsity Basketball Team Coach Steve Stipanovich; Asst. Coaches: Annie Westhoff and Mallory Scholten; Team: Shelby Kehr, Madeleine Smith, Brittany Hawkins, Jacqueline Rea, Kayla Armstrong, Brooke Cusumano, Jabri Boyd, Alexis Grasse, Courtney Powell, Jordan Klein, Sadie Stipanovich, Lauren Sulewski, Marci Penning.

Jake Appelbaum, John Hunsicker, Timmy Miller ('11) (First Team All-St. Louis Region); **Jake Appelbaum** (Honorable Mention All-State); **John Hunsicker** (Second Team All-State); and **Timmy Miller** (First Team All-State). We also congratulate Timmy, who has accepted a scholarship to attend Taylor University and play soccer this fall.

In the fall 2010, for the first time in the **varsity dance team's** history, the girls received first place at the Lindbergh Dance Team competition, an extremely competitive invitational in the pom category. Out of 30 competing teams, our dancers were one of three teams to receive the highly sought after "outstanding showmanship" trophy as well. In February, the team won the state championship in both the hip-hop and pom routines; out of 96 teams, they placed second overall in state.

The **varsity hockey team** had their best year ever at Westminster, as they posted a record of 20-5 and made the challenge cup playoffs as Central Conference Champions for the first time in school history. Westminster also had four of the top six scorers in the entire state: **Nathan Smallwood ('11)**, **Brendan Terbrock ('13)**, **Sam Canfield ('13)** and **Tate Matheny ('12)**, who, with 119 points, broke the State record for most points in a season.

Our State qualifiers in girls' swimming this year were: **Ellie Straub ('13)**, **Haley Bergman ('11)**, **Leah Votava ('14)** and **Rebecca Krause ('12)** (200 Medley Relay), and **Haley Bergman** (200 Breaststroke).

The Lady Wildcats of the **girls' varsity basketball team** are once again this year's district champions! Individual award winners were: **Courtney Powell ('12)**

and **Sadie Stipanovich ('13)** (All-District and First Team All-Conference); **Brooke Cusumano ('13)** and **Kayla Armstrong ('14)** (Second Team All-Conference) and **Jordan Klein ('11)** (Third Team All-Conference).

The wrestling team state qualifiers: **Dominic Barresi ('13)**, **B.J. Yeager ('12)** and **Bennett Lewis ('13)**.

LEADERSHIP

Each year, the Crisis Nursery staff nominates volunteers in various categories to be recognized at their annual Kids' Awards ceremony. **Ian Farmer ('11)** was nominated by multiple staff members for his fun-loving spirit with the children, his willingness to go above and beyond anything that was asked of him, and his always positive attitude. As a result, Ian was presented with the Kids' Award for Student Volunteer of the Year.

Laura Kaup ('11) was named a Gateway West Leader of Tomorrow in 2010. Recipients of the award are chosen for being strong leaders, positive role models, and successful students. Through the award, Laura received a \$10,000 scholarship to Missouri Baptist University. She hopes to study special education when she enters the school this fall.

Travis Brandt ('13), member of Troop 387, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on March 2, 2011. His Eagle Scout Service Project was a multi-use stage backdrop built for the Kid Connection at First Evangelical Free Church.

Congratulations to **Erin Guthrie ('11)** and **Danielle Cicka ('11)** for completing the final requirements to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award. Their final project was to educate the Kirk Day School and church community about the importance of recycling, and they instituted a paper-recycling program at those



Danielle and Erin have been together in Girl Scouts since they were in first grade at Kirk Day School, and they have been serving others through that organization for 12 years.

locations. Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award was a huge investment of the girls' time and energy, and they have made a sustainable difference in the Kirk community. The Lord has used them in great and small ways to be a blessing to others.

FACULTY

Ninth grade expository writing teacher **Ann Heyse** authored an article for the spring issue of National Parks magazine. "Lessons in the Tallgrass" explores lessons learned while guiding her students during a summer seminar trip in the wilderness. Read her article at bit.ly/hM0ENj.

Middle school guidance counselor **Craig Walseth** authored an article in Christian Home & School. "In the Middle" discusses the transition to and activities in Middle School. Read his article at bit.ly/f4QaXw

Awards Assembly 2011

High Scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT

Steven Bosch, Joseph Collins, Hannah Hoekzema, Jessica Holt, Peter Johnson, Jon Roth, Brandon Terlouw and Gordon Younkin ('12)

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership

Lauren Mansfield (former student 2010-11)

Princeton Book Award

Jocelyn Sheffield ('12)

Yale Book Award

Gordon Younkin ('12)

Continental Math

Joe Burzinski, SinAe Kim, Nathan Wheeler, Nathan Terschak and Drew Menzel ('11)

American Math

Jihoon Lee (former student 2010-11), SinAe Kim ('11) and Jae Lee ('13)

American Association of Physics Teachers Award

Shane Moylan ('11) and Zach Shikles ('14)

National Spanish Exam Award

Spanish I Silver: Jennie Albertson ('14)
Spanish II Silver: Evan James ('12) and Holly Sumner ('13)
Spanish II Bronze: Bill Serber ('11)

St. Louis County Outstanding Student Leader 2011

Dani Evans ('12)

Audrey Walton Youth Leadership

Eichel Davis ('14)

I Dare You Awards

Avery Anderson and Steven Bosch ('12)

Teen Institute

Megan Tilley and Ellie Bettlach ('13)

Young Achievers

Abigail Andres and Grace Linton ('13)

Leaders of Tomorrow

Jeff Meyers and Davis Vermillion ('12)

Missouri Boys State

Landon Burke ('12)

National Youth Leadership Forum

Jessi Wydrzynski ('13)

STARS/National Science Foundation/Solutia Program

Megan Rasche ('12)

Senior Departmental Awards

English: Matt Baldwin; History: Cooper Dunlap; Math: Sarah Eis; Science: Danny Keith; Spanish: Danny Keith and Sarah Eis; French: Sheridan Hentrich; Practical Arts: Matthew Sugg; Physical Education: Laura Kaup

Senior Fine Arts/Performing Arts

Drama: Nate Cox; Vocal: Ian Farmer; Improvisation: Daniel Moore; Instrumental Music: Matthew Sugg; Visual Arts: Aubrey Dosmann

Senior Activities/Service Award

Audiovisual: Micah Theus; Ambassadors: Sarah Hall

Four-Year Lettermen (Seniors)

Swimming: Brett Baumgartner, Haley Bergman and Maggie Wenberg; Soccer: Jacob Appelbaum, Haley Bettlach and Timmy Miller; Golf: Peter Sippel; Hockey: Nathan Smallwood; Tennis: Lauren DeRousse, Timmy Miller and Christine Schlafly; Track: Daniel Everett, David Everett, Maggee Kane and Danny Keith; Cross Country: Daniel Everett, David Everett and Danny Keith; Softball: Jordan Klein; Cheerleading: Lauren Baum, Anna Becker, Rachel Raines and Brooke Siebenman

Letterman's Club

John Hunsicker and Timmy Miller ('11)

MSHSAA Awards

Sarah Hall and Ryan Allee ('11)

Outstanding Senior Athletes

Lauren DeRousse, Christine Schlafly and Timmy Miller

U.S. Army Reserve Scholar /Athletes

Medals from U.S. Reserve

Haley Bergman and John Hunsicker ('11)

U.S. Marines Distinguished Athlete

Jordan Klein and Cooper Dunlap ('11)



Tim Hall steps down after 25 years as Westminster volleyball coach

Tim Hall will step down this year after two and a half decades of coaching the volleyball team, arguably one of the most successful athletic programs in Westminster's history. "His teams were the first to consistently compete for district championships and earn the respect of the St. Louis high school athletic community," says Head of School Jim Marsh. "Tim set the standard for excellent coaching and program development at Westminster," says Marsh. "Above all, Tim consistently demonstrated a commitment to love God and his players and provided encouragement and guidance that molded their character and maximized their athletic experience."

Westminster alum and former player Heather Kea ('00) succeeds Tim as head volleyball coach; Tim has coached alongside her since 2007. Heather echoes the Westminster community in its gratefulness to Tim for his many years of leadership in the program; she says she is humbled to follow in his footsteps. "I would not be coaching today if it weren't for the role he played as my high school coach," says Heather. "There aren't enough words to describe the impact he has had on my life - he was like a second dad to me."

She says Tim embodied the characteristics of a truly great coach. "Tim not only coached the sport of volleyball, but he also coached one's character, heart and mind. He led by example, always a picture of Christ's love, always pushing his players to become better," says Heather. "Part of the reason the program has been so successful is that his players wanted to work hard so they could be the example he was to them."

Tim shares the following with the Westminster community:

I have been tremendously blessed to have worked with so many wonderful young ladies - and their families - over the past 25 years. Those meaningful relationships have made my coaching experience incredibly rich.

I couldn't be more grateful and confident to be handing the program off to Heather. I have known her since she was in middle school at Westminster and have been privileged to coach her and watch her grow over the past 16 years. She has already taken the Westminster volleyball program to the next level, and I'm confident she will continue to shepherd it well.

Tim will continue to serve as dean of students and chemistry teacher.

Departing Faculty and Staff



Sherry Blough (35 years)

Sherry Blough concluded 35 years of faithful service at Westminster at the close of the 2010-11 school year. In her tenure, Sherry has served as an art teacher, started and served as director of the Guidance and Counseling program, founded the peer counselor program and has mentored Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT), a group that was instrumental in advocating a smoke-free environment in St. Louis.

In reflecting on Sherry's time at Westminster, Jim Marsh says, "Sherry is one of God's most important gifts to Westminster Christian Academy. From the very first year of Westminster's existence, she served as a pillar of vision, dedication and compassion that guided the growth and maturation of our school. Most importantly, she touched the lives of countless students and parents, helping them to maximize their potential and overcome obstacles."



Ila Klemm (21 years)

At the end of the 2010-11 school year, Ila Klemm concluded her 21-year tenure at Westminster. Ila started at Westminster as an English and drama teacher and soon after started teaching drama, speech and improv. She remains involved with the Westminster alumni improv theater group, which will begin to produce plays this year, in addition to other projects. Any alum interested in joining the group should email her at molieremom@aol.com. Next year, Ila will also begin a theater program at North County Christian School, where she will be teaching middle and upper school drama and a speech course. Ila will be cherished by so many in the Westminster community as one whose enthusiasm for the Lord, for drama and for her students was reflected daily.

In reflecting upon Ila's time at Westminster, Jim Marsh says, "Ila made drama come alive at Westminster Christian Academy. Her passion for providing students with an opportunity to identify and apply their talents and potential for the dramatic arts impacted the lives of many Westminster students. In addition to directing countless plays, Ila established the improv program that has grown into a signature cocurricular experience for Westminster students."

Don Tiemeier (12 years) ● Harry Hyndman (11 years) ● Mike Ford (10 years) ● Alan Miller (6 years) ● Andrea Wilcox (5 years)
Carrie Beard (4 years) ● Craig Dunham (4 years) ● Josh West (3 years) ● Laura Kate McKee (2 years) ● Sarah Ammen (1 year)

Welcome Todd Zell, New Upper School Athletic Director



As you may know, Mr. Alan Miller decided to step down as Westminster Christian Academy's athletic director at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year. Westminster was named the small school athletic program of the year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch two times during Alan's six-year tenure as athletic director. In addition to his leadership of the athletic program, Alan was instrumental in guiding the design of Westminster's new state-of-the-art athletic facilities in Town & Country. It goes

without saying that our community has been truly blessed by his work here at Westminster.

Looking forward, we are pleased to announce that Mr. Todd Zell has been named Westminster's new athletic director for the 2011-12 school year. Todd comes to Westminster with four years of athletic administration experience, having served for the past four years as activities director at Rockwood Summit High School, in addition to 11 years as a mathematics teacher and basketball, softball, baseball and golf coach. Todd earned a B.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and an M.A. in Secondary School Administration at Southwest Baptist University. While in the classroom, Todd was twice nominated by students to the Who's Who List of America's Teachers. During his years as a multi-sport coach, he was associate head coach of the school's softball team when they won a state title in 2006; as head boys' basketball coach for four years, he led the team to a tournament championship and doubled the school's win total from the previous 13 years. While serving as activities director, Todd formed a captain's council of student athletes exhibiting outstanding leadership characteristics and served as president of the Suburban South/West Conference. Todd and his wife Jennifer are members of The Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church and have four children, Emily (11), Adam (8), Jonah (6) and Molly (4).

Cory Snyder to Serve as Head Football Coach



For the past 10 seasons, Cory Snyder has been a part of the Westminster football staff – for the last nine as defensive coordinator. Following the resignation of J.D. Perona, head coach of the Wildcat football program for the past eight years, Cory will prepare for the 2011 season in a new role.

Snyder is looking forward to taking on the position. "I'm excited about the opportunity to lead the program as we head into a new time for

Westminster," says Snyder. "Moving to our new campus in August offers us a big opportunity to move the program forward."

Snyder has a solid background, playing at Washington University from 1997-2000, a two-time all-conference performer. Adding to his knowledge base, Snyder benefited by serving as an assistant in the Westminster football program. "I appreciate the work that Coach Perona has put in for the past eight seasons and feel like he did a great deal to advance the program," he adds.

Prior to their difficult 2010 season, the Wildcats finished 8-3 advancing to the sectional round of the MSHSAA playoffs in 2009. Snyder feels he has the plan to move the program back in a positive direction.

"We will stress discipline, brotherhood, and team from the very beginning," says Snyder. "These are things that we've had with past groups but lacked last season. We need to restore these values to our program in order to be successful."

"I feel extremely fortunate and honored to be the head coach," says Snyder. The program is in good hands moving forward.

Meet Westminster's New Faculty



Daniel Barklund, Middle School Math/Science

Dan graduated with distinction from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Biochemistry

and M.Ed. in Science Education; he earned a Minnesota teaching certification in chemistry and middle school science. He has taught for three years, including one year as a chemistry teacher at John F. Kennedy High School in Denver, Colo. and two years as an 8th grade science teacher at Westridge School for Girls in Pasadena, Calif. While at Westridge, Dan served as the middle school volleyball and basketball coach, Science Olympiad coach, and head 8th grade class advisor. Dan and his wife moved from Pasadena to St. Louis this summer, where his wife is enrolled at Washington University School of Medicine in the fall.

founded MICDS Cycling, a competitive cycling program and varsity sport, organized 2-week language immersion trips to France, founded the Philosophy Club, served as Student Advisor, and was head coach of the JV soccer team for eight years.



James Butz, Part-time Drama

Jim graduated from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University with a B.F.A. in Acting. He is

currently pursuing an M.Div. at Covenant Theological Seminary. Jim has spent ten years working in theaters around the country, practicing the skills and techniques that he learned from his professors in an intensive Conservatory environment that he will bring to bear in his teaching.



Lara Goeke, Middle and Upper School Art

Lara, a 2004 graduate of Kirkwood High School, graduated in December 2009

from Maryville University with a B.A. in Art Education K-12. Lara has taught art, reading, math, science, and Bible at Promise Christian Academy for the past 1½ years, and during the 2010-11 school year she also taught one section of middle school art at Westminster. She served as a counselor at Kanakuk Kamps and a youth leader at Greentree Community Church for three years while in college. Lara's sister Sarah Bopp graduated with Westminster's Class of 2009, and her brother Jonathan Bopp will graduate from Westminster in 2012.



Peter Barrs, Upper School French/Spanish

Peter graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University with a B.A. in English

and its European Backgrounds. In addition, he earned a C.A.P.E.S. degree (Master's of Teaching) in English at Education Nationale (France), an M.A. in French at Washington University in St. Louis, and did coursework in Spanish with the Webster University Graduate Program and the University of Oregon Overseas Study Program in Querétaro, Mexico. Peter taught French at Chesterfield Day School for two years and English as a foreign language for three years while living in France. For the past eleven years, he served as a French and Spanish teacher at MICDS. While at MICDS, Peter



Micah Gall, Upper School English

Micah earned a B.A. in English from Truman State University and graduated in

August 2011 with an M.A. in English from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He holds a Missouri teaching certification for secondary English and Language Arts. Micah served for two years as a substitute teacher and baseball coach at Kirksville High School, where he was named Missouri High School Baseball Assistant Coach of the Year in 2007. For the past two years, he has been a teacher aid at Litzinger School and a paraprofessional in the Special School District. In addition, Micah served as an assistant JV baseball coach at Westminster during the 2010-11 school year.



Rene Howse, Upper School Special Services

Rene graduated from Missouri State University with a B.S. in Communication

Sciences and Disorders and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She earned her Special Education Certification from Lindenwood University. Rene has eight years of experience teaching Special Education at the elementary level in the Wentzville School District.



Hannah Jayne, Upper School Special Services

Hannah graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a

B.A. in Psychology and is pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education at Webster University. She has obtained temporary certification from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which will become permanent upon completion of her coursework at Webster University. She has two years of experience teaching high school and 5th grade special needs at the Franklin County Special Education Cooperative in the St. Clair R13 School District.



**Katherine Long,
Middle School
Science/Special
Services**

Katie earned a B.A. in Middle Grades Education (Science and Language Arts

concentrations) at Covenant College and certification in Middle Grades (4th-8th) Education in Special Education, Science and Language Arts. She has two years of experience teaching 8th grade Special Education and Physical Science at Rossville Middle School in Chattanooga, Tenn. Katie and her husband moved from Chattanooga to St. Louis this summer, where he will attend Covenant Theological Seminary.

Carla Meyer, Upper School Guidance



Counselor

Carla graduated from Westminster Christian Academy with the class of 1999. She earned a B.A. in Psychology and

Human Development from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an M.Ed. in School Counseling from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Carla has served as a Guidance

Department intern at Westminster during the 2010-11 school year.



**Evan Munger,
Upper School
Physics**

Evan received a B.S. in Science Education from Auburn University and an M.Ed. in

Science Education from Lee University. He obtained Alabama Class A and Class B Teaching Certification in General Science (grades 7-12). Evan has nine years of teaching experience; he taught English for two years in Changsha, China, and physical science, physics, and AP physics for six years at Homewood High School and Hoover High School in Birmingham, Alabama. During the past year he served as a physics instructor at Barat Academy in St. Louis. While at Hoover High School in Birmingham, Evan started the Physics Team and Physics Club.



**Benjamin Myers,
Upper School Art**

Ben graduated from Grace College and Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Ind, with a B.S.

in Painting and Drawing, and from the American College of Education in Chicago, Ill. with an M.Ed. in Leadership. He earned his Teacher Certification in K-12 Art at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He has five years of teaching experience; for three years he taught high school art at Edwardsville High School in Edwardsville, Ill. For the past two years, Ben served as a high school art teacher at the American School of Kuwait in Hawalli, Kuwait, teaching

and developing curriculum in sculpture, printmaking, drawing and painting, advanced fine art, and advanced placement studio art. He has also been the Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair at the American School of Kuwait for the past year. In addition, Ben has served as an assistant tennis coach for successful high school teams.



**Kelley Schwartz,
Upper School
History**

Kelley graduated from Westminster Christian Academy with the class of 2006. She earned

a B.S. in Secondary Education, Social Studies, an M.S. in Learning and Instruction, and Missouri State Teacher Certification from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has one year of experience teaching 11th grade U.S. History at Hickman High School in Columbia, Mo. in participation with the University of Missouri Fellows Program.



**Cassie Zwart,
Upper School
English**

Cassie graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI with a B.A. in Secondary

Education, English and Psychology. She has served for the past year as a middle school language arts teacher at San Jose Christian School in San Jose, Calif. During her time at San Jose Christian School, Cassie also co-directed the middle school play and served as a counselor to the middle school students.

AdDRESSING the Issue

This past spring, the Westminster Board approved the implementation of a standardized dress program through Lands' End that will take effect at Westminster beginning with the 2011-12 school year.

The constituent survey completed last November gave clear evidence that our community and faculty are dissatisfied with our current dress code. In fact, we received low grades regarding dress code in the last four constituent surveys. The written responses included numerous references to lack of enforcement of the current dress code as the main reason for the dissatisfaction. Unfortunately, improved enforcement would require more time and attention on the part of the faculty and staff – time that could be used for teaching and learning.

Because enhancing the teaching and learning environment surfaced as the main priority in driving the dress code decision-making process, we were determined to adopt a school dress policy and practice that would reduce faculty focus on dress and minimize dress as a distraction to the learning environment. Westminster's goals for school culture have always supported the fulfillment of our mission and



Junior Travis Brandt and sophomore Jensen Holt

vision in the lives of the students – to enhance the teaching and learning environment and to build community, nurturing personal relationships. Therefore, we determined that a Lands' End uniform program would be the best solution.

A committee that included faculty, administrators, parents and students worked with the Lands' End representatives to establish a program for Westminster that is simple,

affordable, distinctive, sustainable and cross-culturally appealing. Much prayer has gone into this decision, and it was analyzed through the lens of how to provide a better education for Westminster students. We are determined to seize the opportunity afforded by our move to the new campus to improve – to get better in all areas of the Westminster experience – and we trust that the standardized dress program will help us to achieve this objective.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

All-School Spirit Rally

Community Dinner Hosted by PAW

Concert by Sandra McCracken Webb ('95)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Campus Tours

Alumni Booth

Fun Run

Pancake Breakfast

Student-led STUCO Carnival
(booths open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Varsity Soccer Game:
Westminster vs. Priory, 12 p.m.

Varsity Football Game:
Westminster vs. Jennings, 2 p.m.

800 Maryville Centre Drive

Town & Country, Missouri 63017

www.wcastl.org • 314.997.2900

Introducing

Campus Cuisine by HOLLYBERRY

Beginning in August 2011, Hollyberry Catering, voted "Favorite St. Louis Caterer" for three consecutive years by the readers of Sauce Magazine, will bring its commitment to healthy eating to the students of Westminster by offering nutritious, reasonably priced meals.

Holly Cunningham, a 1991 graduate of Westminster Christian Academy, owns Hollyberry Catering and has a life-long passion for healthy food choices. She is thrilled to be expanding her existing catering business through this partnership, which will create a school lunch program like no other in St. Louis.

A few of the benefits Campus Cuisine by Hollyberry will bring to Westminster's students include:

- Healthy meals that are part of a complete, holistic wellness program for Westminster students, faculty and staff
- Option to purchase meal plans to ensure healthy eating and to help control your students' meal costs
- Locally sourced food items, some grown on campus



Education Solution: Christian and World-Class

Head of School Jim Marsh sheds light on Christian education in America.



American education is under attack.

The President's recent State of the Union address has added fuel to the fiery dialogue about the state of education in America and our global competitiveness. What has been a burning issue for decades is now a conversation from the White House, to the schoolhouse, to your house.

Many hardworking educators are discouraged, and I can understand. There have been generations of attempts at educational reform. Parents are concerned, their expectations rising with the tide of discourse.

I find the conversation complex yet energizing. Much evidence suggests American education pales in comparison to other countries, especially Asian countries. The dropout rate in U.S. schools is appalling, and even some long-standing private and faith-based schools are now struggling. Too many students are not prepared for the world they will live in, a world they will be expected to lead. Our society is more global, diverse, technological, secular, and rapid changing. The future is now, and American students already find themselves competing with global citizens for jobs in companies and seats in universities.



Why is the American education system failing to produce students able to compete globally? Why are so many schools struggling? Can we meet the needs of today's students for a future that is impossible to predict?

I certainly do not have all the answers, but I believe Christian school educators and Christian parents are uniquely positioned to grapple with these questions and take decisive action.

Most schools are change resistant, in love with the status quo. Risk-taking and responding to cultural and global shifts are difficult. Few are willing to engage in such work.

It appears that many schools are caught in a situation in which they have done little to prepare for an uncertain tomorrow other than rely on what always worked yesterday. Now that the "old wineskins" are not working so well,

there is little clear direction and a lot of turmoil and angst among educators across America. Just as unfortunate, many Christian schools are struggling and desperate to survive because they have awoken to find that they have allowed their faith to be an excuse for a lack of quality, and parents are not beating down the doors to enroll their children anymore.

A colleague posed this question to me: "Will Christian education matter in this century?"

I believe God is calling Christian schools and parents to become local, national and international examples of effective educators. Our faith should shape our effectiveness and excellence. I believe Christian schools, in particular, should be high-impact and world-class *because* we are Christian, not in spite of that fact.

The concept of a great Christian school is a big idea: education is at its best when the power and truth of God’s word are at the heart of its teachers, families and students. The Christian school, as a Christian community, can be an example of excellence, an outpouring of a committed life of love and service to our Lord. We at Westminster can be an example of a people daring to grow a school that reflects the diversity of the kingdom of God, with persons “from every tribe and language and people and nation.” (Rev. 5:9) It is possible for a Christian school to be of such high quality that it can help the most gifted, most talented, most exceptional students achieve with the greatest of success. It is equally possible for a great Christian school to serve students with a particular disability or learning difference or behavioral struggle and see them achieve at their own highest level.

God has uniquely positioned Christian schools and parents – specifically the Westminster community – to respond to the challenges of education in this nation. To rise to this God-given challenge, I believe that we must together take some serious steps during these times of confusion, fear and attack.



The Isaac Family

We must come together around a bold and timeless vision. A Christian school is not about growing our children in the dark, hidden away from the world

like mushrooms. We must grow and equip students who are prepared to be Christian leaders. Schools and parents must be prayerfully trusting God to enable us to do our very best to have a transformational impact on the lives of students and families.

We must be Christ-centered and community-oriented. We should view the resources God provides, especially our people and our new facility in Town & Country, as gifts from God, creating opportunities for the community at large. We should be serving our communities, not only through “missions projects,” but also in how we interact and make ourselves

available to serve our neighbors, local businesses, government and even other educational institutions. To compete globally, our students must be prepared to work in collaboration with others and to bring together diverse people groups and talents to achieve results. Westminster Christian Academy and our parents must model this if we dare to hope our students will live it out.

We must be about the business of shaping minds and hearts, doing so with a global perspective informed by our biblical worldview.



As poor as many American schools can be at developing minds, many are doing an even poorer job of growing hearts. I love this quote from James K. A. Smith: “Being a disciple of Jesus is not primarily a matter of getting the right ideas and doctrines and beliefs into your head in order to guarantee proper behavior; rather, it’s a matter of being the kind of person who loves rightly – who loves God and neighbor and is oriented to the world by the primacy of that love.” Christian schools and parents should be leading the way in preparing students to impact the world by living out the lifelong calling of loving God and neighbor.

We must lead the way through innovation. Schools are one of the last segments of American society to realize productivity and value gains through new technologies, research, and organizational excellence. Better metrics, creative thinking skills, collaboration, brain research, experiential learning, transformative programs and practice, effective utilization of technology, and strategic partnerships must be on the table as conversation for change.

In the coming years, many will look at American education with a sigh and say, “This is the best we can do.” Let us come together, Christian leaders, educators, and parents, with a bold vision for education at its best, with God’s truth at the heart of its people and programs. God has positioned us for this. We owe it to our children and community to be truly world-class.

PLEASE JOIN US

We invite you to come experience the new Westminster as we celebrate God's great provision and guidance as a community. Please mark your calendar, and we hope to see you soon!

FIRST HOME FOOTBALL GAME

August 26

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

September 17

WILDCAT WEEKEND

October 14-15

ART À LA CARTE

December 13

IMPROV NIGHTS

October 28

November 4 & 11

December 9

ALUMNI SPORTS NIGHT

December 22

A Global Perspective on Christian Education

Jim Marsh Serves as Keynote Speaker at an ACSI Conference in Budapest.

In early April, Head of School Jim Marsh traveled to Budapest, Hungary to serve as the keynote speaker at the biannual International Administrators Conference, sponsored by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Fifty school leaders from around the globe – representing countries including Africa, Russia, Germany, Ethiopia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Austria, Nigeria, Spain, Portugal and South Korea – attended the conference and gleaned insight from Marsh on mission, vision, core values, leadership and 21st-century issues and trends in Christian schooling.

Marsh was appointed to speak at this year's conference after an ACSI director served on an assessment team that visited Westminster in 2009. Particularly impressed with Westminster's commitment to diversity and the school's passion for assessing the spiritual climate at the school and the impact of the mission on its students, he recommended Marsh. Marsh says, "He felt blessed by the school."

During five sessions throughout the four-day conference, Marsh shared practical applications, experiences and perspectives on Christian schooling that he hoped would stimulate his fellow school leaders' thinking and prompt them to share ideas; he says he wanted to provide them with a fresh lens through which to see their leadership and mission in the field of Christian education.

"The biggest blessing for me was getting to know these school leaders personally in the mission field," says Marsh. "Many of them left their families and their home countries to lead Christian schools; they truly have a deep faith and passion for their work, and I was honored to get to know them and gain insight into what they do."

From this experience, Marsh says he learned two valuable lessons. "The world of Christian schooling is truly global," says Marsh. "God is doing great work in Christian education throughout the world. And although many of these leaders face government oppression and other significant challenges that threaten their ability to grow their schools freely and safely, these leaders' commitment and willingness to serve is incredible."

Marsh also emphasized the true global partnership among Christian schools across the globe, like Westminster's current partnership with Saemmul School in Seoul, South Korea. "This trip affirmed my own vision that Westminster would continue to seek Christian school partners," he says. "It is my hope to one day see Westminster have a Christian school partner on every continent. What a great blessing for our community that would be."



Better Before Bigger

Through world-class education rooted in God's truth, we are preparing difference-makers for Christ.



From Left: Academic Dean Scott Holley, Head of Upper School Jim Sefrit, Head of School Jim Marsh, Head of Middle School Steve Hall, Dean of Students Tim Hall.

As we move into our new campus home, times are changing; we begin our 2011-12 school year at a time in which there is great pressure on education in America. The high school dropout rate is staggering, and in the Christian world, faith-based schools are struggling, and many are closing their doors. But even though the water in which we swim is challenging, God is blessing us because He is blessing our vision: to make young people difference-makers in the world for Jesus Christ.

As we seek to create difference-makers, our goal is to become better before bigger. When the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain was started, founder Truett Cathy experienced a great deal of pressure to borrow money in order to keep up with Boston Market's growth spurt. His response was simple: "We don't need to get bigger; we need to get better," he said. "When we get better, our customers will force us to get bigger." Similarly, Westminster hopes to grow because we believe in our mission, but our true goal is to become better.

"What does it take?" you might ask. Becoming better takes world-class education deeply rooted in God's truth — education with a biblical view of the world. As such, we have been taking steps toward a better faculty, better programs and a better school culture.

Better Before Bigger: Our Teachers

A recent constituent survey focused a great deal on the quality of our education program and respect for our teachers. We plan to invest in our teachers through leadership development, professional learning communities — which encourage collaborative learning — and new structures and programs. The Center for Teaching and Learning is a new structure under the leadership of Academic Dean Dr. Scott Holley that will help our teachers grow and succeed and will help better integrate technology into teaching at Westminster. Within this model, Director of Professional Growth



Cindy Zavaglia will direct the effort to help all teachers, especially new ones, grow and learn; Director of Technology Learning and Integration Scott Vonder Bruegge will guide the effort to use technology to enhance good teaching; and Director of Experiential Education Chris Knerr will continue to lead our summer and spring break opportunities for hands-on learning.

Better Before Bigger: Our Programs

Academic Emphasis in the Middle School

In the Middle School, the importance of the academic program will be emphasized with shorter physical education and athletic periods and more time spent in core classes. The Middle School will focus on academic flexibility and creativity, an advisory period, which will give extra help

to students as needed, and an academic lab. Service opportunities will be offered to 8th grade, and reading initiatives will be improved.

Seminar

The Upper School will offer a Seminar Period, which will occur every Thursday in a six-week block of time, taught by a team of 3-5 teachers who will cover important topics not taught in our core subjects. Seminar will provide courses outside the regular curriculum, such as study skills, media literacy, personal finance, issues of faith and science and sex education. Many of the curricular offerings formerly taught in Life Skills will be covered during Seminar, allowing all of our students to benefit from the instruction.



Technology

The Technology Department will be overhauled; the new department, called the Business, Communication and Technology Department, will include changes in the way keyboarding is taught. Imbedded technology skill development will be implemented.

Other information technology changes and improvements will include: placement of security cameras around the campus; an online keyboarding course for middle school students that will allow them to prepare, become proficient in and implement typing skills in the classroom; a required 9th grade history/communications and technology class, in which technology will be used to teach and apply the curriculum; and project-based classes such as Video Storytelling and Digital Print Design that will develop skills our students will need in their 21st-century world.



Director of Guidance Kathy Karigan

Guidance and Counseling

The Upper School Guidance and Counseling staff will increase to include Kathy Karigan, director of guidance, Tim Holley, director of spiritual development, and Carla Meyer, upper school counselor. Our new campus has been designed around community to encourage student collaboration and growth and more effective teacher/student connections. Our counseling staff has been expanded to grow with the school. The objective of our Guidance and Counseling Department is to meet the needs of students and families through a more proactive program. Programs/initiatives will address issues such as body image, bullying, anxiety/stress management and spiritual life mentoring. We have also been approached by the Men's Fraternity ministry, a national organization, to pilot a program for high school students.

Advisory Period

Students will be assigned to an Advisory period that meets every Wednesday to replace our current Thursday Neighborhood time. The Advisory period will provide opportunities for students to receive academic help or to meet with Neighborhood officers or other organizations such as STUCO. This period will provide time for teachers to connect with students in a small group format.

Upper School Final Exams

Final exam week will be eliminated during the first semester of 2011-12. Comprehensive assessments will be administered when it is most appropriate and timely to do so. This will result in more efficient/productive use of time and will eliminate problems relating to unbalanced semesters.



Better Before Bigger: Our School Culture

Our goal is to develop ways in which we can improve the school culture so that we can make a difference at the new campus. We want to ensure that we do not grow too big in order to maintain community and a personal element. We want to ensure that when we grow bigger, we will not lose our grip on our heritage. And finally, we want to ensure affordability, that the next generation will be able to pay our tuition.

Our new school has been designed with a six-small-schools-within-one-large-school structure in order to maintain true community. Our campus will be an open one; our library, which will feel more like a Barnes & Noble than an institution, will be an inviting place for students to gather and study throughout the day. It will be a place where our older students might go down to the cafeteria for a refreshment during the day. Our cultural goal is for people to walk into our school, hear the music, observe the art hung on the walls and think, “There’s something different here.”

As we move forward into this next chapter in the life of the school, we also want to remain innovative and sustainable. We will become an irreplaceable asset to the community by establishing and maintaining partnerships with other schools, colleges, theater groups, churches, Christian musicians and other groups and establishments throughout the St. Louis region. Through these partnerships, we hope to be a blessing to many, and income streams will be created to help suppress tuition increases at Westminster.

We are becoming better before bigger. Our goal, as aligned with the relationship among home, church and school, is to be a light in our community. We want to support Westminster’s student life and to make sure our kids are getting the help they need. We are becoming better to support the fulfillment of our mission and vision in the lives of our students, enhance the teaching and learning environment and build community for generations to come.



We have moved into our new campus home. But our journey has just begun!

Only the Beginning

The story of the new Westminster Christian Academy campus began in 2002 with a question: “What if God is providing us the opportunity to purchase forty acres in the demographic center of St. Louis County?”

That first “what if” question led to many others. Now, after years of praying, watching, waiting, working and wondering, a new 70-acre campus is becoming a reality. In August we will open the doors of our new home to more than 900 students. Within a few years, thousands of families will experience an ever better Christian education in

a world-class facility that sets a new standard for Christian schools across America.

God has indeed been at work. He has worked through so many people, those with hearts open to His leading through their generous giving.

Consider what we have seen just in the past year.

We began the 2010 calendar year with a capital campaign on hold. We were unsure of how or when we would be able to begin construction. The preceding

fall and winter, we had our Ladue Road campus for sale, and we hoped that a good sale price would serve as the spark to get things going again. The line of potential buyers was not long. After all, who is looking to purchase a 30-acre Christian school campus during the “worst economic crisis since the Great Depression”?

By the end of January 2010, the Ladue School District gave us an offer and contract to purchase the Ladue Road campus for \$18 million. This was a solid price and significant enough to cause us to begin working to figure out how

and when we might be able to start construction.

For Ladue to be able to purchase our campus, residents of the District would have to pass a property tax increase during the April 2010 general election. Most of us believed that it would take a true miracle of God for this to occur. For the sale to be final, 56% of voters would have to vote “yes.” When all the votes were in, Proposition O (as it was called) passed by 60%. Today, we are still hearing from people who wonder how in the world this happened.

Things began to roll forward with great speed, but it didn’t seem easy or speedy at the time. Some time in March, we began to ask what became another key question: “What happens if we can start construction this summer?”

The answer redefined our view of the new campus project. We discovered huge savings in construction costs if we started immediately; we learned that the project could be completed faster; and the biggest news of all – we could be in the new campus, completely finished, for the next (2011-12) school year.

The accelerated construction project presented a new challenge and test of faith. While giving and pledges have always been the expected way to fund this project, the concept of having to reach specific goals by specific dates was something new for Westminster. We wondered how our community would respond.

We had many fearful questions. Why take the risk? What if we have to stop construction? People are busy and preoccupied with so many things. Can we really mobilize a campaign in this time frame? Will people really pray and encourage others to get involved?

But in the midst of all these questions came the peace and knowledge that God works through His people. This is His work, we said. Let’s keep moving forward and do our best to communicate and ask people to pray and consider what God is doing. Let’s see if God will move in the hearts of His people to give, lead and take steps of faith with us.

We established the critical pledge

milestones: \$12 million by the end of June, then \$15 million by the end of September, and \$20 million by the end of December 2010. These milestones, if reached, would keep construction going. Then, we took this giant step of faith.

Many people asked us, “What if we don’t reach these milestones?” The straightforward answer was hard to hear and difficult to say out loud: “Then we’ll have to slow down or stop construction until we do.”

Building a Christian school for our children’s children.

By God’s grace, we reached the pledge milestone on December 31, the last



The building contains more than 100 state-of-the-art, technologically advanced classrooms.

day possible. We started the day with approximately \$360,000 in pledges to go, and that morning, even after all we had seen, our final milestone felt immense and undoable. An email update had gone out the day before and the pledges were flooding in; around 5 p.m. that afternoon, we realized that God really had accomplished this. We received our last pledge of 2010 at 9:49 p.m. that New Year's Eve.

Reaching the \$20 million pledge milestone has enabled us to keep construction going, allowing us to be in the new campus a year early and realize significant construction cost savings along the way. Our lending partners came through with the \$35 million construction loan — no small miracle in today's economic environment.

People have been giving toward their pledges, and we have \$15 million in pledges still outstanding. We need to see \$6 million in cash from pledges and new gifts given this year by the end of December 2011. We currently stand at \$1 million in cash giving, ahead of last year's giving at this time. Our total giving last calendar year was \$4,563,000. As our construction and move-in process continues, this year's goal is critically important.

Remember that the goal isn't simply to complete the new campus construction. The goal isn't to just be able to manage a long-term debt. We must "keep the main thing, the main thing," which means we become better before bigger, say yes

to enrolling Christian families, and invest in great people, great programs, and great facilities — making decisions that keep us financially strong as a ministry for generations to come. The choices every donor is making today will determine both the ongoing quality and the affordability of Westminster for years to come.

"I'll never forget the \$100 checks written in "care of Jesus." And the single parent whose financial situation changed overnight and who then pledged \$100,000 to repay every dollar of financial aid Westminster had provided her family in the past years. I love that a 7th grader quietly pledged \$125 (\$25 for five years) and that an 8th grader made a multi-year pledge of \$100, without being asked. Many people pledged for the first time to Westminster, and some made their first five-year pledge ever in their lives to any organization. And then, there are those faithful families that have been involved in supporting Westminster for so many years, pledging to walk the "second mile" with us."

Zach Clark, director of advancement

The emails and letters could fill a book. The advice and input was priceless. The encouraging phone calls became countless. It never failed to amaze me when we would walk into a Community Meeting and see a smiling host family and a living room full of guests, taking

time out of their busy lives to learn more about the campaign. Best of all are those gifts and pledges from people who somehow, somewhere, got tuned into what God was doing and took a step of faith of their own, leaving us wondering where in the world they came from.

What is next?

This is a potentially dangerous time for Westminster, and we need your prayers. The temptation is for our community to stop pushing forward together, to maintain the status quo, and for generous givers to move on to other projects. As exciting as this new campus is, we know that God is a God of relationships. The school is only as strong as families who will enroll and the teachers, staff and volunteers who will serve. We need new people, representing new generations, to be investing their time, talents and treasures over the long haul.

The future is now, and this is not the end of the story, but a beginning of the next chapter. It is our prayer and hope that God will continue to provide the people and resources needed to move us toward becoming a world-class Christian school, and that people will continue to take huge steps of faith, with the hope and commitment to see a Westminster Christian Academy education provided for new generations of students, for our children and for our children's children.

Do you believe in
what **God is doing**
at Westminster Christian Academy?



JOIN US IN THE JOURNEY!

- **PRAY** for the work that God will continue to do.
- **SHARE** the story of Westminster with others.
- **GIVE** what you can. www.wcastl.org/give

Class of 1982



▲ In October of 2008, **Karen Lindemann** completed the adoption of her daughter from Guatemala. At the time she came home she was 13 months old. Karen was able to visit her in Guatemala at 3 weeks, 5 months, her 1st birthday and then pick her up four weeks later. The photo was taken in June 2011. Being a single parent is challenging but her daughter brightens Karen's world every day. God sure is good!

Class of 1985

Rick Hendricks currently resides in St Louis with his wife of three years, Jennifer, and his daughter Lily Venita (2). Rick owns a personal training company, Action Fitness, Inc. and works with people of all ages, including student athletes, to develop healthy lifestyle habits. He is excited to have just completed his first triathlon, in which he placed third in his age group. He says that more importantly, he is grateful for his time at Westminster and is excited to see what God has in store for his family's future.

Class of 1987



▲ **Julie Black Jones** has lived in Houston, Texas for the past 13 years. She and her husband of 21 years Eifion have five children, ages 17, 15, 14, 11, and 1.



▲ **Douglas Neville** and wife **Katharine Lehmann Neville** ('93) welcomed their first child, Jonathan Douglas, in April 2011. Doug and Katharine are enjoying their time with Jonathan, who is doing well and looking forward to becoming a future Wildcat. Doug is a partner at the Greensfelder law firm in St. Louis. Katharine is taking an indefinite break from her practice as an outpatient physical therapist.

Class of 1990



▲ **Stephanie Slater** Tucker and her husband Brian welcomed their first child, Bethany Nicole, on June 19, 2010. Stephanie loves being a stay-at-home mother, and Bethany is an absolute delight.

Class of 1991

On February 26, 2011 **Jeremy Marsh** and his wife **Bekah Stortz Marsh** ('02), welcomed their second son Benjamin Rodney. Jeremy and Bekah moved, along with their older son Jimmy and little Benjamin, from Charlottesville, Va., where they have spent the last four years, to Colorado Springs, Co. in June. Jeremy, soon to be a Lieutenant Colonel, is returning to the U.S. Air Force Academy where he will be a faculty member in the Department of Law.

Holly Bergeson Cunningham of Hollyberry Catering was recently presented two Louie Awards by the St. Louis chapter of the International Special Events Society (ISES). The Louies are the special event industry's highest honor. Hollyberry Catering received awards for Best Food Presentation and Best Off-premise Catered Event (budget under \$200 per person). She was also named one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 40 under 40. This prestigious list honors young business leaders in the St. Louis area. Holly looks forward to partnering with Westminster to create a healthy school lunch program like no other in St. Louis.

Class of 1993

On January 25, 2005 **Catherine Taeger** Arnsperger and her husband Dan sadly welcomed and said goodbye to their daughter Abigail Grace Arnsperger. Though the Arnspergers experienced extreme heartache, they recount that this was a turning point in their lives. Catherine soon became the Executive Director of Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of NWA and was ready to make a difference in the lives of girls, women and their unborn babies. Once at Loving Choices, Catherine outlined and quickly achieved three goals: improving brand name and community awareness, improving internal business processes, and adding an additional location in Fayetteville, Ark. Now in her fifth year as executive director, Catherine is raising funds to expand the Loving Choices' brand new STD testing program to include more tests and treatments, and she is also looking to continue to grow partnerships in the community with schools, hospitals, churches and other nonprofit organizations. Catherine says, "It took a tragedy in my life to find my life's work ... I have never been more fulfilled and more joyful than now when I have seen the beauty that has come from personal loss and tragedy, the beauty that only God can create."

Katharine Lehmann Neville (See update under **Douglas Neville**, Class of 1987)

Class of 1999

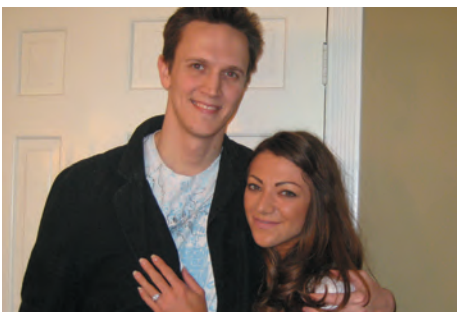


▲ In October 2010, **Erin Stortz Fray** and her husband **Matt** welcomed their third child, **Samuel David**, in Savannah, Ga. Two days later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and soon began chemotherapy treatments. Erin says while the past months have been very challenging for her and her family, God has graciously provided for their every need in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). Read updates about her cancer on her blog at erinfray.blogspot.com.

Class of 2000



▲ **Teresa Fisher** and husband **Kyle Ingram** ('01) welcomed their third child, **Avery Ann**, on October 3, 2010. **Addison** (3) and **Landon** (4) are excited about their new sister! The **Ingrams** currently live in South City, St. Louis. **Kyle** works as a sales manager for the *Riverfront Times*, and **Teresa** is a stay-at-home mom.



▲ **Sara Kensinger** was recently engaged

to **Ryan Michael Tomlinson** ('01). **Ryan** is a financial advisor for *Wells Fargo*, and **Sara** is a nursing student at *Barnes-Jewish Hospital*. They will be married on August 28, 2011. The couple plans to reside in *St. Louis*.

Class of 2001

Colin Chapell successfully defended his dissertation, "Recasting the Image of God: How Faith Shaped Identity in the Deep South," on April 25, 2011. **Colin** has attended the *University of Alabama* since the 2006-07 school year pursuing his Ph.D. in *American History*. He currently lives in *Charlottesville, Va.* with his wife **Heather**.

Kyle Ingram (See update under **Teresa Fisher**, Class of 2000)

Ryan Michael Tomlinson (See update under **Sara Kensinger**, Class of 2000)

Class of 2002



▲ **Natalie Dixon** and **Mitchell Bland** were married April 30, 2011 in *Houston, Texas*. **Natalie's** sister **Amy** ('05) was her maid of honor. **Natalie** and **Mitch** met at *Boeing* where they work on *NASA's International Space Station* program. **Natalie** and **Mitch** are active members of *Clear Creek Community Church* in *League City, Texas* and are eagerly awaiting the completion of their new home. You can follow **Natalie's** blog at super-nat.blogspot.com.

Class of 2004

Ryan Fitzpatrick graduated magna cum laude from *Saint Louis University's John Cook School of Business* in 2008. He is currently a travel director for *Maritz, Inc.* in *Fenton*. Although his career is demanding – requiring the majority of his time to be

away from home – he was able to take time to attend the *World Cup Soccer Championship* in *Spain* this past year. **Ryan** was also nominated for *Outstanding New Travel Director* for 2010.

Class of 2005



▲ **Laura Mark** and **Adam Bush** were married on November 6, 2010 at *Central Presbyterian Church*. The wedding party included **Betsie Boggs** and **Beth Heyse Heflin** ('05). The couple are graduates of *Grove City College* in *Grove City, Pa.* **Adam** currently works at *A&E Group, LLC* in *St. Charles*. **Laura** has her *CPA* license and works in insurance at *Clifton Gunderson, LLP* in *Clayton, Mo.* The couple resides in *Clayton*.

Katie Myers currently works for *Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO)*, a demonstration farm that equips people with agricultural resources and skills to reduce hunger and improve the lives of small farmers around the world. Her time in *Ft. Myers, Fla.* has already been full of learning and new experiences including cooking and eating a 5-foot rattler found on campus, learning how to properly milk a goat and eating lychees until she felt sick. **Katie** is thankful to be in a *Christian* community that so highly values learning from one another. She is managing the *Tropical Lowlands* area of *ECHO's Global Farm* and appreciates your prayers.

In February, **Emily Ottsen** accepted a head varsity tennis coach position at *Saint Charles West High School* and is working as a tennis teaching professional for *Sports Monster* out of *Bridgeton* and *Sublette Parks* in *St. Louis*. She was recently certified as a *Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) Teaching Professional*.

Class of 2006

Jonathan Haas, who graduated in December with a B.A. in interior design at Samford University, won a top state award for his senior thesis design project. He won first place in the mixed-use/residential category in a student competition sponsored by the Alabama chapter of the International Interior Design Association. He was recognized in March at the state organization's biannual awards gala in Birmingham and received a \$1,000 cash prize for his design. Jonathan's winning project detailed a proposed plan to re-purpose an existing downtown Birmingham structure, the historic Birmingham Branch of the Federal Bank of Atlanta, to meet new academic and community needs. Student participation in the design competition included junior and senior interior design students from the University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of North Alabama, Virginia College and Samford.

Sarah McReynolds and **Kevin Frick** were married on June 19, 2010 at the Larimore House Plantation in St. Louis. The wedding party included Sarah's sisters Amy and **Julie** ('97), her brother, **Brian** ('03) and his wife Rosemarie, as well as friends **Amanda Renaud** ('06) and **Kat Bear** ('06) and Kevin's brothers **Matthew** ('02) and **Paul** ('99). The couple currently resides in San Diego, Calif. Kevin is serving in the Navy Special Forces, while Sarah is working with a florist while deciding which direction to go with her degree in nutrition and dietetics.

Jason Moore graduated from Truman State University in May with a double major, a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.S. in Psychology. Jason will be attending the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in the fall as a Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry.

Class of 2008

Tess Fitzpatrick, a rising senior at the University of Notre Dame, has been named to the dean's list in the College of Science for outstanding scholarship during her fall 2010 semester. Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Class of 2009

Ryan Dykhouse was recently accepted into the Oxford University study abroad program.

Jordan Duke, a sophomore majoring in accounting, received the G. Ellsworth Huggins Scholarship and the Omicron Delta Kappa Top 14 Freshman Award at the University of Missouri. The scholarship recognizes students with promising academic abilities. The Top 14 award goes to 14 Mizzou freshmen who display excellence in the areas of scholarship, athletics, community service, journalism and performing arts. Omicron Delta Kappa is a national leadership honor society.

During the fall semester of 2010, **Matt Reilly** earned a 4.0 and was ranked #3 out of 1,217 in the first year class at the Air Force Academy. The ranking is based on academic, athletic, and military factors.

Class of 2010



▲ **David Alexander** competed in the Young and Free St. Louis competition, in which he made a creative presentation illustrating being young and free in St. Louis. He chose to create a video showcasing his love for tap dance, website design company FreeDemoFirst.com and his work with non-profit organizations. David won the second place prize of \$1,000 based upon votes. He used the money to go on a leadership/missions trip this summer during which he was trained by Christian leaders across the country and worked with local nonprofits in the Tucson, Arizona area to make an impact in the community. He encourages students who want to grow as leaders to contact him for more information: david@freedemofirst.com.

Daniel Nixon recently bought a sector of commercial real estate in downtown Kirksville, Mo. near Truman State University and started a hookah bar called Jinn Lounge.

Sam Heyl fondly remembers filling the Westminster fine arts hallway with melodies on the piano to entertain friends and to glorify God. He continues to play the piano in church, bible study and at a nursing home on a regular basis. Attending junior college at Meramec, he hopes to perfect his voice and may work toward a bachelor's degree in music. He is also a representative for a knife company called Cutco and is happy to play the piano for any of his customers!



▲ **Sarah Hughes** is a freshman at Taylor University in Upland, Ind. studying Biology in the Pre-Health Professions track. She is pursuing a career as a physician assistant or in occupational therapy. The highlight of her first year in college was a trip with the Honors Guild of Taylor University to Jordan and Israel in January. There, they studied the New Testament as they traveled around the area and saw biblical landmarks such as the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, the Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane and many more. "The trip has made the Bible come to life for me," says Sarah. "I'm thoroughly enjoying how the Taylor community challenges and grows me spiritually and academically, building on the great foundation laid by Westminster."

Send Us Your Stories!

We want to stay connected with you. **Students and alumni,** Westminster wants to share your stories. Send your photos, stories and adventures to eschnitzler@wcastl.org and you may see them posted on Facebook or wherever.

Winter 2010 Flashback Answer

▼ Flashback: The four Westminster teachers pictured in the winter 2010 issue were (clockwise from top left) Susan Hauser Maynor, David Haas, Sherry Blough and Scott Holley.



The Wagon

▲ If you are the first Westminster alumnus/a to correctly identify the seven faculty members pictured above, you will win a \$15 iTunes gift card. Email your answer or guess to Emily Schnitzler, *Chimes* editor, at eschnitzler@wcastl.org.

MAKING AN IMPACT: SANDRA MCCRACKEN WEBB ('95)



Founding member of Westminster's Chapel Band and singer-songwriter Sandra McCracken Webb will return to Westminster Christian Academy during Wildcat Weekend to perform a concert on Friday, October 14.

During her high school years, Sandra, along with classmates Tommy Halloran and Jesse Heirendt, wanted to add music to Westminster's Chapel program, so with the support of several faculty members, they took it upon themselves to do just that. Sandra recalls that choir director Kathy Eichelberger was especially supportive. The addition of worship and praise songs "really transformed the whole experience of Chapel," Sandra said. She graduated from Belmont University in 1999 and released her first album, *The Crucible*, a year later.

Eleven years ago, Derek Webb, then of Caedmon's Call, was on a coffee run for his bandmates and heard Sandra playing from the stage of the small Nashville coffee shop. Webb picked up her record and played it for the band, who then invited McCracken to join them on the road. She and Webb quickly discovered they were kindred spirits and were soon

planning a future together—a future that now includes two small children, a recording studio in their backyard, and the non-stop adventure of touring as a family.

The couple has released 18 projects individually (10 for Webb; 8 for McCracken) and one EP as a duo, Ampersand in 2008. Reflecting on their 10 years of marriage, McCracken and Webb are now taking an even more intimate look at the honest work of co-parenting, co-writing, co-recording, and co-performing, documenting their partnership on their latest collaborative album, *TN EP*.

Continuing their evolution as a duo from Ampersand, Webb and McCracken (who played all the instruments on the album) have seamlessly blended their artistic instincts to create an unflinchingly honest record that is markedly different from their solo work and unique to this collaboration.

"Homespun recording has come a long way," McCracken says. "The fact that Derek and I have been able to make records in our backyard has created a space of total creative freedom. Derek is uninhibited as a producer and engineer. There are no filters between the spark of our initial ideas and the final recordings."

TN EP includes five new, original McCracken/Webb compositions as well as two surprising cover songs, Simon & Garfunkel's *The Sound Of Silence* and Cyndi Lauper's *Time After Time*.

Derek and Sandra are currently booking fall 2011 shows in support of *TN EP* with an emphasis on 'living room' style shows and small listening rooms. If you have a suitable space or home (a large living room, campus house, photography studio, or other common space) and could host at least 50-75 people for one of these concerts, visit sandrasmccracken.com.



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Remembering Our Past, Celebrating Our Future at the Walk of Faith

On May 21, 300 Westminster parents, teachers, students and alumni gathered together at this service of remembrance and praise held at the school's Ladue Road campus. Attendees shared stories of major milestones and funny moments as everyone reflected upon God's faithfulness throughout the school's 35-year history and 22-year experience on our Ladue Road campus.

The service, which was followed by a school community reception, was comprised of a time of worship led by the school's chapel band, performances by the band and choir, and positive words from several speakers, each of whom have had a significant impact on the school's history and in furthering its vision.

Director of Community Relations Kim Doyle says, "This event was the perfect way to honor and remember the people who have dreamed for, prayed for and supported Westminster to this point. We look forward to seeing how God uses members of our community for His purposes as we continue our journey in Town & Country."

To view a short video capturing the spirit of the event, visit bit.ly/kcMwPD.

