



chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WINTER · 2013



Taking Care of Business

Preparing students to engage the world in any vocation



WESTMINSTER

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Executive Editor

Emily Reed '04 • ereed@wcastl.org

Creative Director

Sarah Stanfield • sstanfield@wcastl.org

Managing Editor

Michelle Burke • mburke@wcastl.org

Contributors

Emily Hill • Sarah Holley • Carolyn Holt
Debby Massot • Katie Weber '08
Elly Johnson West '00

Westminster Christian Academy

Head of School

Tom Stoner • tstoner@wcastl.org

Head of Upper School

Jim Sefrit • jsefrit@wcastl.org

Head of Middle School

Steve Hall '85 • shall@wcastl.org

Director of Admissions

Peggy Johnson • pjohanson@wcastl.org



Business and Communications students collaborate on the logo design for Company800.

2 Loving Through Language

Westminster Spanish instructor Emily Roig '04 teaches her students to learn and love through communication.



6 Westminster Today

Celebrating student and faculty excellence



16 The Business of Learning

Westminster teachers challenge the way students think about academics.



22 The Difference of Christian Schooling

Head of School Tom Stoner explores the three-fold mission of a Christian education.

26 Class Notes

Westminster Christian Academy
800 Maryville Centre Drive
Town & Country, MO 63017
314.997.2900 • wcastl.org

Chimes is published by Westminster and mailed free of charge to alumni, families of current students, and friends of the school. 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. To request a free subscription, email info@wcastl.org.

©2013 Westminster Christian Academy



That's a Good Question!

After spending 21 years in Boston, this past summer, my wife Carrie and I moved to St. Louis with our four children. Since doing so, I have been frequently asked some of the same questions, the answers to which I thought you might be interested in knowing.

Q: Red Birds or Red Sox?

A: This is hands-down the most frequently asked question. My answer? I hope this photo of me with some of our students, taken the day of Game One, speaks for itself!

Q: What have been your highlights of St. Louis so far?

- A:**
10. Multiple samples of gooey butter cake. I could live on that stuff.
 9. The Arch. It's impressive.
 8. Our first trip to Busch Stadium. Unforgettable!
 7. The collegiality among private school leaders in St. Louis. Extraordinary.
 6. The deep gratitude and love that our alumni have for Westminster.
 5. The Botanical Gardens. Amazing.
 4. The joy and hope of new friendships. These enrich our lives.
 3. The quality of the faculty and staff at Westminster. So great.
 2. The many strong churches in St. Louis. Hallelujah.
 1. Every time I interact with Westminster students or see them compete or perform. They're the best.

Q: What do you miss most about New England?

A: Familiar routines, well-travelled routes, and the people with whom we shared life for two decades. However, we are comforted by the warm welcome we have received from the Westminster community, the striking kindness of the people of St. Louis, and our deep assurance that we are right where we are supposed to be.

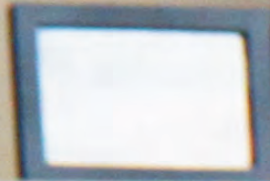
Q: What factors convinced you to come to Westminster?

A: There were many, but none more compelling than the impact that Westminster is having for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom through our alumni, in the lives of our current 988 students, and in the generations of students who will walk our halls in the future. What is more, Westminster is poised to influence and improve the entire field of Christian schooling throughout the world. I'm thrilled to be a part of it.

Enjoy this issue of the *Chimes*. Be sure to check out my article on page 22 that explores the three-fold mission of Christian schooling. Email me any time at tstoner@wcastl.org. I'd love to hear from you in the near future!

Love to you all in Christ,

Tom Stoner, EdD
Head of School



Loving Through Language

Using her passions for the Spanish language and music, **Emily Roig '04** teaches her students to learn and love through communication.

By Emily Hill

Psalm 34:7 promises to those who delight themselves in the Lord, He will grant the desires of their hearts. The beauty of this promise lies in the revealing of desires initially unrealized. For Emily Roig, now in her fifth year as a Spanish teacher at Westminster, the desire to teach foreign language to high school students did not emerge until she stepped out of the classroom and into the world of Hispanic culture.

“I took two years of foreign language in high school,” says Emily. “I studied Spanish my freshman and sophomore years and enjoyed it, but I was interested in a number of other things, as well. I was involved in sports, played trumpet in band, sang in choir, and was a member of chapel band, so there were lots of things vying for my time.” At 16, she traveled to Brazil on a summer mission trip with her church.

Although she didn't realize it, Emily says that looking back, she can see how God was beginning to carve out a path for her to pursue language and teaching. “The trip really opened my eyes to a new world. I began to see how a foreign language enabled me to meet and communicate with more people,” she says.

Her trip to Brazil sparked a love for travel and interacting with different cultures. In the first semester of her senior year of college, Emily studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain, for four months. She now identifies this season as a major turning point in her life. “All of a sudden, I was living and breathing Spanish,” says Emily. “I fell in love with the culture there. The language came to life, and that's where it hit me that I loved Spanish.” At the same time, Emily's passion for music collided with her now-realized love for the Spanish language. While studying in Spain, Emily found time to serve at a mission organization ministering to students and leading worship in Spanish.



After graduating, Emily began planning a six-month trip to the Dominican Republic to work with Orphanage Outreach. Weeks before leaving the country, she stopped by Westminster with a friend who was visiting from Spain. It was then that she learned about an open Spanish teacher position for the upcoming

is that they always be curious,” says Emily. “I don’t want them to settle for, ‘tell me what I need to do,’ and be done. I want them to be lifelong learners.” Emily also hopes that her students will view learning a foreign language as a way to love a person from another culture. “I want them to be open and excited

“A lot of people know English, but that's no excuse for us not to know their language. Speaking another language is a new way to communicate love for and interest in others and their cultures.”

school year. “I remember thinking, ‘I’m outward bound!’” says Emily. “I didn’t see myself staying in St. Louis.” Despite conflicting feelings, Emily applied and was interviewed one week before traveling to the Dominican Republic.

While serving overseas at the orphanage, Emily was offered the position at Westminster. “I asked God, ‘Is this what you have for me?’” says Emily. “I really felt like this was where He was leading me. The position came out of nowhere and was a result of someone speaking truth in my life.” Now in her fifth year as a Westminster Spanish instructor, Emily sees how perfect God’s plan and timing was in her life. She views teaching as an incredible opportunity to build relationships and make an impact. “My greatest hope for my students

about engaging the world as Spanish speakers – not judgmental or scared,” she says. “A lot of people know English, but that’s no excuse for us not to know their language. Speaking another language is a new way to communicate love for and interest in others and their cultures.”

While Emily views the classroom as her first priority, she still pursues her fervor for music. She helps lead chapel band at Westminster – just as she did more than a decade ago as a student – and also recently recorded and released her second album *Zeal and Passion*. “I feel that God has bridged the gap between my gift in Spanish and my passion for music,” says Emily. “Both have coincided and been my ministry for years. I feel so blessed to be able to pursue both of my passions here. At Westminster, both of the things I love come together.”



Westminster Today

academics

The Westminster robotics team the **Cyborg Cats** finished 10th out of 43 teams at the St. Louis Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in March and was awarded the Creativity Award, Best Pit Award, and Safety Award.

Anna Lindstrom '14 received the Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Science at a banquet hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis in February. She was one of 36 juniors from the St. Louis Metropolitan area to be recognized for both academic excellence in the classroom and scientific pursuits outside of the classroom.

Nathan Cherian '13 and **Daniel Pollmann '13** placed second in the Battle of the Burets, sponsored by the American Chemical Society at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They came within one half percent of the correct concentration of an unknown solution, outperforming 20 other teams from high schools in St. Louis.

The Westminster **world languages department** hosted the 2013 World Languages Speaker Series, an event that spotlighted four guests from the Congo, Iran, China, and Columbia, who spoke to language students and answered questions regarding personal, political, and religious matters in their countries.

Several world language students have been nationally recognized for their excellent performance on the 2013 National Spanish Examinations, administered each year in grades 6-12. Westminster students earned a total of 4 gold, 8 silver, and 15 bronze medals, along with 43 honorable mentions. Gold award recipients included **Haley Weinberg '16** (Spanish I), **Jennie Albertson '14**, **Juhyae Kim '15**, and **Kevin Stump '15** (all Spanish III). Albertson impressively scored in the 99th percentile. "Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," says National Director of the Exams Kevin Cessna-Buscemi. The exams are the largest of their kind in the U.S. with more than 156,000 student participants in 2013.

Tim Burgess '13, accepted an appointment at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Burgess was awarded a four-year Marine Corps ROTC scholarship, as well as a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship.

Megan Smith '13 and **Daniel Pollmann '13** received college-sponsored awards through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. They were among approximately 2,500 winners announced in June 2013 by the National Merit program.

Jennifer Albertson '14 and **Rachel Rogers '14** were recently recognized as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They were among less than one percent of 1.5 million juniors in the U.S. to receive this honor.

Ciarra Peters '15 excelled in this year's session of Students and Teachers as Research Scientists (STARS) program, held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). She received the Lockheed Martin Inc. Aerospace Award for Excellence in Research for her paper, completed under the supervision of Dr. Ruth Okamoto of Washington University in St. Louis, entitled "Construction and testing of anisotropic white matter tissue mimics: a tool for the study of traumatic brain injury." The six-week intensive summer science program pairs high-achieving junior and



senior high school students with top research scientists and mentors from a host of leading institutions, including the Donald Danforth Planet Science Center, Saint Louis University, Washington University in St. Louis, and UMSL. UMSL Chancellor Tom George says, “Degrees in science, technology, math, and engineering are needed more today than ever by American businesses wanting to stay competitive. The STARS program is vital in preparing a future STEM workforce.”

In spring 2013, **Julia Peistrup '14**, **Elisabeth Harding '16**, and **Kaitlyn Mehlhouse '16** were among 16 students selected from a pool of applicants from all St. Louis-area high schools through a competitive application process to participate in the Perry Outreach Program held at

the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. During the program, these students challenged themselves in exercises in orthopedic surgery and engineering, such as repairing a broken femur using an “ex-fix” and learning to suture. They also practiced casting and designed an orthopedic implant and are now eligible for an ongoing mentorship by a professional medical doctor or engineer working at SLU or WashU.

Annie Schlafly '14 was chosen to receive the Yale Book Award for her exceptional ability, outstanding personal character, and intellectual promise. The award is presented to a student who might realistically consider Yale University for his or her undergraduate education.



“We the People” places in national competition and wins Central State Regional Award

This past spring, Westminster’s **We the People** team placed 11th out of 56 teams at the national competition in Washington, D.C., and was awarded the Central State Regional Award.

The program allows students the opportunity to study and debate aspects of American government and the U.S. Constitution. Westminster’s We the People students have competed at state and national levels; they have won state awards and often participated in the national competition for 13 consecutive years.

The last four years that Westminster has attended the national competition, the team has placed 11th three times and achieved ninth place once.

This year’s team was comprised of 17 senior students who all performed well, says leading teacher **Ken Boesch**. Many of the students commented that the competition was the highlight of their high school career. “It was a very competitive field this year,” says Mr. Boesch. “The students put in a lot of work, and it certainly paid off.”

Azaria Foster '16, Makaylah Meredith '16, and Bria Paxton '15 successfully completed the 2013 University of Missouri-St. Louis Bridge Program Summer Academy. The UMSL Bridge program equips high school students in grades 9-12 with stimulating educational experiences, college planning, and social and professional competencies critical for successful matriculation to college.

Westminster history teacher **Howard Warren** was named a 2013 James Madison Fellow by the James Madison Memorial Institute. Mr. Warren says he feels privileged to receive the recognition, as the foundation only awards one to two fellowships per state each year. The competitive application included a combination of graduate academic records, professional recommendations, professional experiences related to U.S. history and the Constitution, and submission of several short essays addressing topics of pedagogy and Constitutional studies.

Westminster welcomed its first-ever Chinese instructor **Ming Li** at the start of the 2013-14 academic year. Dr. Li

also works with the international program at Westminster to help Chinese students excel academically.

This fall, International Program Director **Dani Butler** completed her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Maryville University. Her dissertation assessed college preparatory programs through the evaluation of postsecondary academic performance.

Westminster teachers are engaging the literary world, showing strong professional engagement beyond Westminster and helping to communicate a biblically rich worldview to others through the written word. Whether using the epic scope of fantasy (**L.B. Graham's** *The Darker Road*), redeeming the genre of crime fiction (**Luke Davis' Litany of Secrets**), or providing insight into critical parenting skills (**Andy Kerckhoff's Growing Up Well in the 21st Century: Raising Today's Middle School Children**), our faculty authors have a passion for creatively communicating Scriptural truth and hope.

Welcome Tom Stoner

Tom Stoner began his role as head of school at Westminster in fall 2013 after serving a 16-year tenure as head of school at Covenant Christian Academy in Boston, Massachusetts. Born and raised in Wheaton, Illinois, Dr. Stoner received an undergraduate degree from Wheaton College and a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. While serving as head of school at Covenant, he earned a Doctor of Education degree from Boston University. He and his wife Carrie have four children.

Westminster's academic mission, Dr. Stoner says, is fundamental to the Christian school's identity. "In order for students to be equipped to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ, wherever they might be called after graduation, they must be extremely well prepared intellectually, as well as spiritually," says Dr. Stoner.

He says Westminster's teachers are an integral part of students' academic formation and cultivation of a Christian worldview, as well as the nurturing of their faith. In partnering with the



home and local church, Dr. Stoner sees the Westminster experience as one that provides students with the life-shaping education they will value for the rest of their lives.

Leadership

Heather Burt '14 traveled to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston in summer 2013 to participate in a one-week summer internship. Heather was selected as one of 90 high school juniors from across the U.S. to be a part of Women in STEM High School Aerospace Scholars. While there, Heather stepped into a leadership role, heading a team that designed a radiation shield and rover to traverse on the surface of Mars. The students and teammates concluded their experience by presenting their proposal to their parents, members of the Rotary NASA, and Johnson Space Center senior management.

David Pruitt '15 and **Brink Thompson '13** were both recognized for their achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. David's leadership service project was completed for Bonhomme Presbyterian Church. He was a member of Troop 848 (Chesterfield, Missouri). Brink's leadership service project was to build carnival games for the summer

camp for Sunshine Ministries. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 17 (Ladue, Missouri).

Dominic Franceschelli '14 was selected for the American Legion Boys State of Missouri, based on his excellent leadership, citizenship, character, and academic skills.

Brianna DeGroot '13, **David Hartmann '13**, and **James Zandstra '13**, former student leaders of Westminster's robotics team, participated in the ADA Camp EDI, the Gloria Hirsch Camp for Children with Diabetes this past summer. They led a presentation and shared their experiences from the 2012 and 2013 robotics competitions and demonstrated the abilities of the robot built for the 2013 game "Ultimate Ascent" to include throwing Frisbees and climbing a steel tower. Fellow campers were able to see the robot up close and ask these Westminster students questions about its design and programming.

Fine Arts

Paige Arnold '14 and **Nicole Chung '15** sang at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival and received excellent ratings. **Brenden Solomon '13**, **Christina Goetz '14**, and a quartet made up of Christina, Brenden, **Emily Heyl '13**, and **Hunter Hughes '13** all received superior ratings.

Instrumental soloists **Amber Draper '13**, **Elise Burton '14**, and **Lance Richards '14** and the string trio of **Lina Jin '14**, **Chloe Lee '13**, and **John Lee '14** all received superior ratings at the MSHSAA District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Minjoo Kim '16, Korean international student, recently completed illustrations for a children's book *The Pig Who Didn't Want to Be Pink*. The book was written by Kirk Day School teacher and Westminster parent Eva MacKoul. Minjoo also won second place in the 2nd Congressional District Art Competition for her drawing *Corn*.

Rebecca Liu '16 was selected as a second violinist for membership in the 2013-14 season of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. *continued on page 10*



This is Rebecca's second season with the orchestra playing second violin. At a young age, Rebecca developed a love for music from her father, a Suzuki violin teacher. At age four, she began studying violin with her current instructor Susan McDonald and received extra tutelage from her father at home. Rebecca has performed in all four orchestras at the Community Music School of Webster University. The past two years, she has competed in the Artistic Merit Scholarship competition and been awarded several scholarships. "I'm very thankful and excited for the privilege and opportunity to be in the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra," says Rebecca. "I hope I can be a part of it for many years to come."

Bri Bingham '16 and Bekah Westrich '16 recently made the Metro 8 Honors Orchestra.

In 2013, the Jazz Band was chosen to perform in the Missouri History Museum's "History To Our Ears" recital. The six musicians included **Michael Becker '13, Danny Dwyer '14, Patrick Farmer '13, Justin Henry '13, Dongbin Lee '15, and Christian McGhee '17.**

In the Spotlight

This fall, drama teacher and Kevin-Kline-Award-winning actor Jim Butz played the starring role of C.S. Lewis in the performance of *Freud's Last Session* at the Repertory Theatre. In the play, just weeks before his death, legendary psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud invites young writer C.S. Lewis to his home for a meeting. Freud wants to understand how a man once known for his fervent atheism could have become one of Christianity's strongest believers. Mr. Butz received rave reviews in this debate between these two influential, charismatic thinkers.

Big Band Dreams

Eric Taylor '08, Westminster's new band director, recalls feeling an immediate connection to the school's friendly community when he began middle school at Westminster years ago. He joined band from the onset, and once he reached high school, his love for making music evolved into an interest in music education and teaching. "I started thinking about how I would love



to lead a band, though I never thought I'd end up back at Westminster!" he says. After graduating from Westminster, Mr. Taylor attended Belmont University to pursue a degree in music education.

August 2013 marked the start of Mr. Taylor's position as band director at Westminster. While only a few months into the job, he has big dreams and vision for the school's band program. "My primary goal is to encourage students to stay in band year after year," says Mr. Taylor. "I want to create a passion and drive for music in them." Ultimately, Mr. Taylor hopes his students will come to see music not merely as an expression of ability but as a form of worship, too. "It's a tool that we can use to worship, and I emphasize that especially in class. Like I tell my students, 'Do this for God's glory.'" For Mr. Taylor, focusing on this greater purpose fuels his passion to make his vision a reality and propel into an exciting future for Westminster's band students.

athletics

For the 2012-13 season, Westminster was named small school sports program of the year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the third year in a row and fourth time since the award was instituted in 2002. 2012-13 was a special season for our Wildcats, with team state championships in baseball (for the third year in a row), girls volleyball, and girls golf. Individually, **Brooke Cusumano '13** won the Class 1 golf title, **Bailey Merkel '14** and **Derek Bell '14** won a tennis doubles state title, and **Bennett Lewis '13** was crowned the Class 3 wrestling champion. Additional highlights included a football team that finished 8-3 and a girls basketball team that was 21-6. Furthermore, 13 Wildcats were named to Post-Dispatch All-Metro teams, and seven Westminster graduating student athletes signed Division I and II college scholarships.

The **Westminster baseball program** was recognized as the number-one team in the STLhighschoolsports.com small-schools rankings. Westminster finished the season by winning 18 consecutive games and becoming the first team since Helias (1987-89) and the fourth school overall to win three straight state championships.

The Wildcats established a new school record by qualifying 10 wrestlers for the state championship in February: **Joe Welker '13**, **Mike Nothum '13**, **Dominic Barresi '13**, **Keegan Brown '13**, **Michael Weston '15**,

Brink Thompson '13, **Chris Cacciarelli '13**, **Bennett Lewis '13**, **Wes Park '14**, and **Joe Isaacs '13**.

The **varsity boys golf team** was recognized as the 2013 Class 3 District 2 golf champions in spring 2013.

The **varsity boys volleyball team** celebrated the district championship win in spring 2013.

The average Westminster athlete has a 3.4 GPA, and 48 of our athletes have a 4.0 or better.

The **varsity dance team** finished second in state for the fourth consecutive year, taking first place in their hip-hop routine and second in their pom routine in 2013.

The **varsity girls tennis team** concluded the fall 2013 season with a top-eight finish in the team state tournament. The girls finished the season with an 18-5 record and advanced farther in the team competition than any girls' team in school history.

Wes Park '14 and **Nick Zintel '14** were named newest football members of the 750 Club. (The most an individual can lift for one rep in the squat, bench, and clean equals 750 pounds.)



Erin Bognar '13 was one of 60 nominated for the National High School Player of the Year by PrepVolleyball.

Jensen Holt '14, Jordan Weber '14, and Harper Larson '15 were among the 20 local athletes chosen for the Central Division Team for the U.S. Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament that took place at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania this past summer.

Mitch Penning '13 was named First Team, All American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Kyle Kinner '14 was selected by the St. Louis Rams for the NFL High School Player Development 7-on-7 National Tournament in July 2013 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jessica Dreesbeimdieke '14 celebrated a Missouri State Class 1 championship victory in October 2013. This marked the third consecutive year that a Westminster golfer has won the event.

Steve Bradley, varsity girls golf coach, was named Golf Coach of the Year by MOCA for 2012.

In fall 2013, alumnus **Doug Coleman '99** assumed the role as Westminster varsity boys head coach having served as an assistant varsity and junior varsity coach for the past seven years at Westminster. Previously, Coach Coleman was the head boys basketball coach at North County Christian School. "Some people know they want to be doctors and lawyers; all I ever wanted to do was teach and coach," says Coach Coleman. "This job is a dream come true. To be at Westminster, supporting the goals of the school and its community, is a privilege and blessing."

Joan Gallagher was hired at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year as the varsity girls basketball coach. Before coming to Westminster, Coach Gallagher served as varsity head coach at Christian High School in O'Fallon, Missouri, and also as an assistant coach and head coach in the Shock AAU Club in Michigan. "I am honored and humbled to be the new varsity girls basketball head coach," says Coach Gallagher. "God equips each of us with unique gifts to honor Him, and I have the blessing of being able to do that by helping equip and mentor this talented team."



Former Rams player Grant Williams joins Westminster coaching staff

A handful of St. Louis sports pros – including Austin Davis, Steve Stipanovich, Todd Worrell, Andy Benes, and Cardinals manager Mike Matheny – have coached and mentored Westminster athletes. Now, a Super Bowl champion is helping the football team. Former St. Louis Rams offensive lineman Grant Williams has signed on as an assistant coach.

These men's devotion to Westminster students always impresses Athletic Director Todd Zell. "It says a lot about them," says Mr. Zell. "They've probably all had coaches who have positively influenced them, and they want to give back; for them to give so selflessly of their time and knowledge is a huge blessing."

Coach Williams says, "While football means a lot to me, I help coach because of the opportunity to build responsible men who respond to life from a Christian worldview."



Rich Van Gilst Inducted into Missouri Coaches Hall of Fame

Westminster baseball coach **Rich Van Gilst** has been elected to the Missouri Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. He was honored during an induction ceremony in Columbia, Missouri, this year.

Coach Van Gilst's baseball coaching career began in 1970 when one of his men's fast pitch softball teammates – a teaching colleague and head baseball coach at Timothy Christian High School in Elmhurst, Illinois – recruited him to be his assistant.

Five years later, Coach Van Gilst took a teaching position at Ft. Lauderdale Christian School, a small school in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. There he was asked to start a varsity baseball program and took on the challenge. After seven years there and a Class 1 district championship, he “retired” from high school coaching to help coach his son in youth leagues. In 1984, Coach Van Gilst moved to St. Louis to teach math at Westminster. At the time, Westminster was a new Class 1 MSHSAA school and needed a baseball coach, so he took the job.

In 29 seasons at Westminster, his teams have compiled a record of 425–260 with six conference championships, eight district titles, seven quarter final appearances, five final four appearances and three Class 3 State Championships (2011, 2012, and 2013). Furthermore, six of his players have been drafted in that time.

Coach Van Gilst has received the following awards: Calvin College Alumni High School Coaches Hall of Fame Award in 1996, the Greater St. Louis Association of Umpires Coach of the Year award in 2006, the MHSBCA Class 3 Coach of the Year award in 2011, the NHSBCA Region #5 Coach of the Year award in 2012, MHSBCA Class 3 Coach of the Year in 2012, NFHS Baseball Coach of the Year for Missouri in 2012, and the MOCA Baseball Coach of the Year 2012.

Over the years, God has provided Coach Van Gilst with a supportive family, a resourceful administration, and many outstanding parents, coaches, and players. He feels extremely blessed by the people God has brought into his life and by the opportunities that God has given him.



Honoring Mr. Marsh

In May, the Westminster community honored **Jim Marsh**, head of school emeritus, for his 28 years of service as head of school.

Dave Koetje, president and CEO of Christian Schools International, and Patrick Bassett, president of National Association of Independent Schools, spoke at the event, thanking Mr. Marsh for his vision and commitment to Christian education. Parents, alumni, and faculty made remarks, as well, recognizing Mr. Marsh for his active involvement in students' success and his leadership in advancing the school.

In addition to these speakers, Mr. Marsh was honored by a memorable musical piece performed by the alumni choir, a commemorative video, and a special presentation of the Jim Marsh Endowment for Financial Aid, a monetary gift to Westminster from contributing Westminster community members to make the school accessible for future students and families.

"The retirement celebration was a wonderful blessing for me and my family and a tribute to the entire Westminster Christian Academy community," says Mr. Marsh. "The presentations were yet another testimony to the privilege it has been to serve at Westminster for the past 28 years."

PAW Korea presidents Dr. and Mrs. Lee and vice presidents Mr. and Mrs. Choi met with Westminster PAW past presidents Nancy and Jeff Alldredge for the first time at Jim Marsh's commemorative celebration in May. Members of PAW Korea have been active in sharing prayers, meeting monthly, and participating in annual giving. The 2013-14 academic year marked the first during which PAW Westminster sent meeting notes and prayer lists to PAW Korea, initiating a monthly exchange between the two groups.




Camp Westminster

In June, nearly 500 campers from around St. Louis gathered on our campus to have a blast at Camp Westminster! Those fun, sunny days will be back before we know it, so kids should get excited for another great summer with tons of new camps to choose from! Registration for Camp Westminster 2014 opens this spring. Watch for more information to come soon!

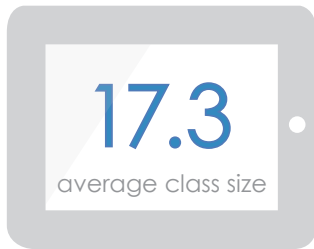


It begins in middle school. Discover the difference at Westminster Christian Academy.


Explore our campus, meet the people who make Westminster unique, and see how Westminster can be a good fit for you. Call 314.997.2900 or visit wcastl.org to learn more about Westminster and how you were created to make a difference.


 **988**
students
[grades 7-12]

[1 to 12.8]
faculty-to-student ratio

 **17.3**
average class size

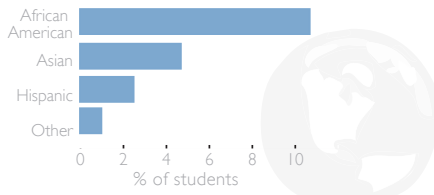
 **210**
churches represented
by current students

 **14** AP courses offered
14 honors courses offered

 **1.9** million
amount of financial aid awarded to 25% of the student body


Ethnic Diversity

18.9% of the student body

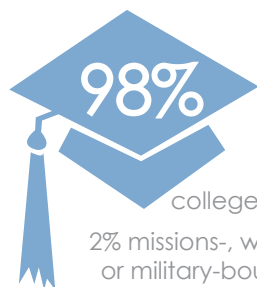


 **60+**
cocurricular opportunities

31.7 **26**
average ACT score of top 25% average ACT score

 **16** National Merit Scholars
33 Commended Scholars
in five years

50
FAITH IN ACTION service hours
Seniors are required to complete community service to graduate.

 **98%**
college-bound
2% missions-, work-, or military-bound

 wcastl.org
314.997.2900
admissions@wcastl.org
800 Maryville Centre Drive
Town & Country, MO 63017

The Business of Learning

By challenging the way students approach academics, Westminster teachers dynamically prepare them to engage and change the world.

By Elly Johnson West '00

“Our academic mission is fundamental to our identity as a school and is the most salient way that our mission is different from a church,” says Head of School Tom Stoner. “We want to prepare our students to engage the world in any and every vocation for which they are gifted and called. This requires broad and deep academic preparation.”

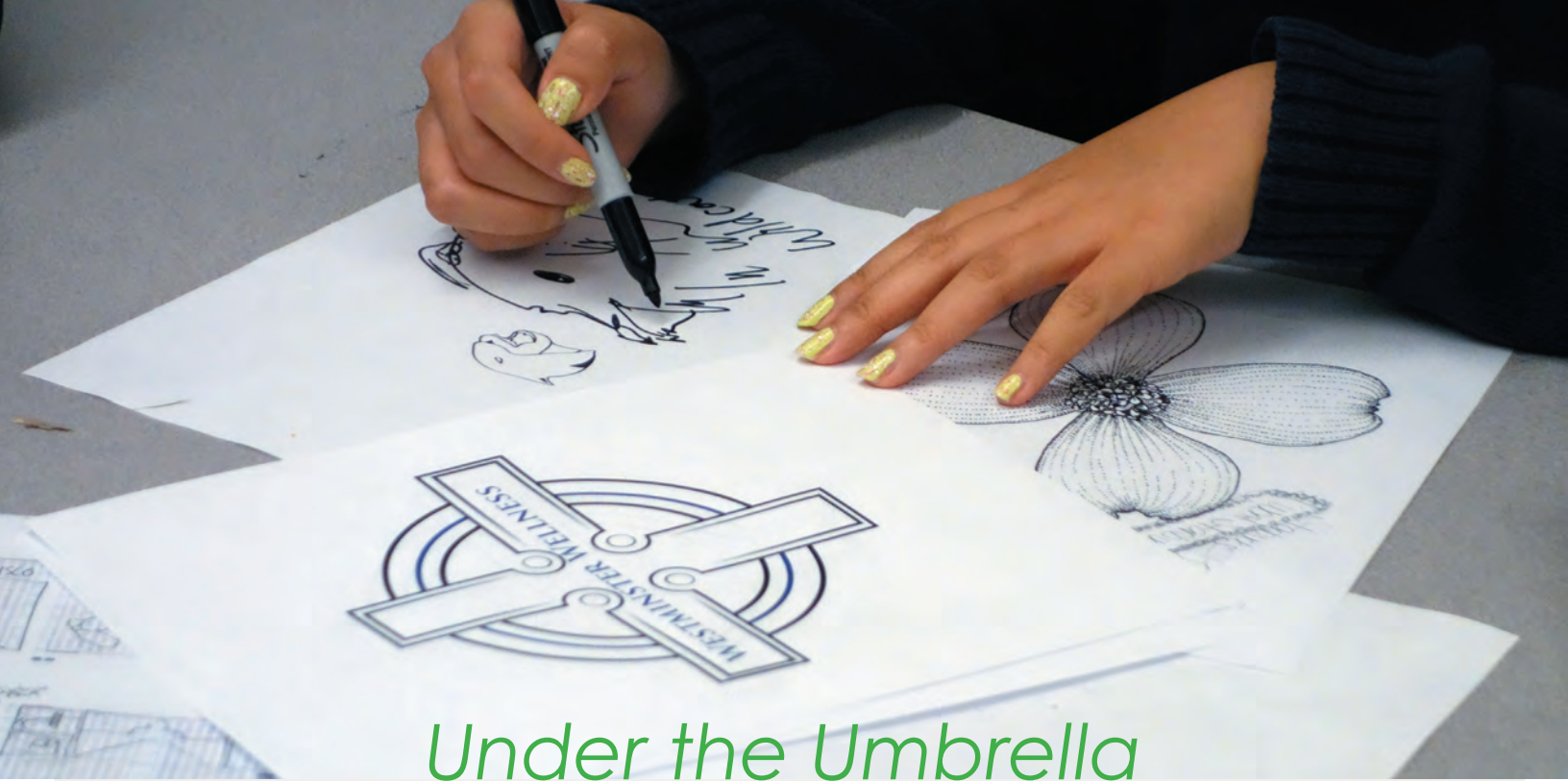
It is with this preparation in mind that recent developments have been made within Westminster’s academic program. One of those advancements is within the Department of Business and Communications, now under the umbrella organization Company800, cofounded by Department Chair Scott Vonder Bruegge and business education teacher Jonathan Horn. “In my classes, I am trying to get students to look at the world around them, tell the story of that world in a significant way, and begin to change everything that is a problem today,” says Mr. Vonder Bruegge. “Every problem that’s out there, somebody has an idea for.”

Mr. Horn says, “What encourages [Mr. Vonder Bruegge] and I the most is that the skills that students are learning in Company800 courses can be transferred to any discipline in life. This is what drives our passion to ensure the success of the program.”

Mr. Horn is new to Westminster this 2013-14 school year and has been an invaluable part of the modifications to the department’s philosophy and function. Director of Experiential Education Chris Knerr says of Mr. Horn, “He understands that great education begins with a good problem. He also creates an environment conducive to exploration; students are taught to respect one another’s opinions. In addition, his energy and enthusiasm for his material is infectious. Students *want* to work for him.”

Senior Kyle Cline says he wants to major in business because it will provide him with many different career
continued on page 18





Under the Umbrella

The following article by senior **Morgan Koetting '14**, published in the September 2013 issue of *The Wildcat Roar*, summarizes the goal of Company800.

Ten subjects. Five teachers. One business. Westminster's School of Business and Communications has been compiled collectively under one name: Company800. Started by business and communications teachers Scott Vonder Bruegge and Jonathan Horn, Company800, named [for] Westminster's address at 800 Maryville Centre Drive, is designed to act like an umbrella under which all of the business and communications classes fall.

"[Company800] is less about a subject area and more about a way of thinking through education and how students learn," says Mr. Horn. Rather than each class working strictly independently, they connect [with] other classes and work [together]. For example, when the entrepreneurship classes are creating a business, they hire the graphics design class to [design] the logo. This way, students can focus more on what they know best and can thus collaborate to make a better product. Not only does this teach students about communications, but it also prepares them for the business world.

"In business basics, one of our projects was to develop a mock company that sold a product that Westminster kids

could use," says Rachel Rogers '14. The theory is that people learn best by doing, so the lessons and framework of the classes are designed around that idea.

"We need to get kids learning and doing, but not under a fake scenario," says Mr. Horn. "[They] need to be starting businesses that will be seen by people. When your work is on display, you take the approach very differently."

Company800 incorporates business, design, and communication, giving students a better picture of what a business looks like. The courses that fall under Company800's umbrella are all connected... They include newspaper, yearbook, graphic design, and economics, among others, totaling ten subjects. Although this is Company800's first year, the [concept was formerly practiced in] the newspaper and yearbook classes. Westminster graduates have commented on how helpful it was to gain real-world experience in those environments. Sierra Mathews '13 says, "Yearbook class was so valuable because it provided me an outlet to develop and apply my love of art in a practical way."

Learn more at company800.com. Be sure to check out all the great content published in the monthly student newspaper at TheWildcatRoar.com.

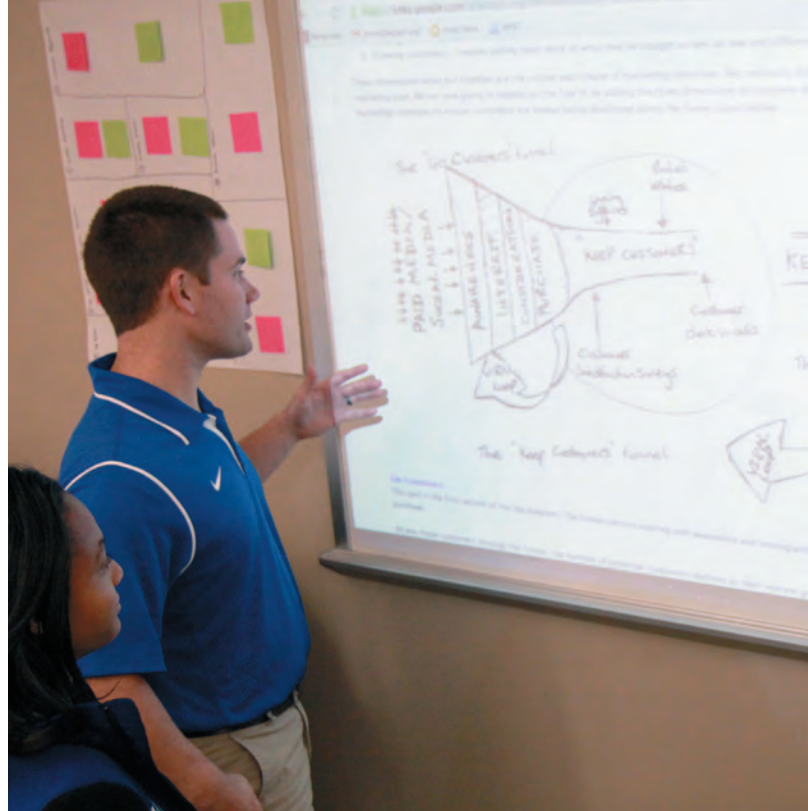


opportunities after college. “Mr. Horn makes accounting interesting for all of us and makes it applicable to our lives now,” he says of Mr. Horn’s accounting class. Kyle plans to take a marketing class with Mr. Horn in the spring, as well.

In addition to Company800, a new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) class, Principles of Engineering (POE), is being offered for the first time this year. Designed for sophomores and juniors interested in learning major concepts such as mechanisms, energy, statics, materials, and kinematics, POE teaches students to exercise problem solving skills and apply research techniques. One of the benefits to POE is that it demonstrates for students the connections between math and real-world application.

Taught by math teacher Maggie Moore, POE has generated plenty of positive feedback. “I used to get the age-old question, ‘When am I ever going to use this?’” says Ms. Moore. “I haven’t heard that once in engineering because I think they can really see how what we are learning is actually used in everyday life.”

Furthermore, in the Middle School, the new one-to-one iPad initiative, established in fall 2013 to enhance the teaching and learning environment, is well underway. Bible teacher Deana Vandegriff, who plays a large role in directing the initiative, says, “We believe 7th grade is



the perfect time to introduce iPads at Westminster,” she says. “Middle school students are adventurous learners who are excited to take on new challenges. They are also active learners, and the mobility of the iPad supports them well.”

An important element of the initiative is the teachers’ ability to orient students to the device. With daily meetings that support teacher collaboration, the middle school teaming structure provides the ideal environment for centralized instruction. Beginning with a three-day orientation to teach students the basic skills, 7th grade teachers are able to ensure that the iPad is implemented effectively across different academic disciplines.

“We know, without a doubt, that teachers are the heart of Westminster,” says Ms. Vandegriff. “The iPad is only enhancing education at Westminster because it has been put in the hands of amazing teachers – teachers who understand when to use the iPad to add value and also when to put the tool aside.”

Every element of the academic program at Westminster serves to maximize students’ learning experience and pave the way for their future callings. Mr. Horn says, “We are preparing students to enter a world that is waiting for bright minds to solve pressing problems. Our hope is that many of these problems are addressed by Westminster graduates.”



What's New: Fine Arts

In fine arts, a higher level of excellence is being observed in the Chamber Choir and Jazz Band, which are now being offered for course credit. As a result, says upper school choir teacher Allen Schwamb, the classes are able to do much more outside of the classroom. "Offering Chamber Choir for credit gives students the opportunity to strive for greater excellence and allows me to better hold students accountable, as well as to beautify the school by providing music in random places at random times," says Mr. Schwamb.

As a result, Chamber Choir was able to give a concert in only the second week of school. They also prepared a rendition of the national anthem to perform at various games and learned several hymns for the upcoming year.



What's New: Athletics

In athletics, the focus has shifted from sports to everyday fitness. "To fully educate someone to be healthy for the rest of his or her life, he or she needs to learn how to do it without a team or a coach," says Physical Education Department Chair Annie Westhoff.

This is accomplished through the department's two physical education tracks: the fitness track and the strength and conditioning track. Since introducing these programs, Ms. Westhoff has observed positive results. "Students are working out independently at a gym, with a friend, or with a parent," she says. "They are thinking more about their nutrition and how it affects them on a daily basis."



The Multi Facets of Multimedia

Although a media center is not new to academia, a partnership between teachers and audio-visual professionals brings a cutting-edge element to Westminster's academics.

With the help of a \$15,000 grant from the Innovative Technology Education Fund (ITEF), a St. Louis-based charitable foundation that promotes innovative education through technology integration, Westminster's Digital Media and Broadcasting Center was established in January 2013.



The Center, a dynamic three-room suite comprised of a waiting room and small and large production studios, is furnished with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment including video cameras, lights, iPad-based teleprompters, monitors and editing equipment – a professional audio-visual working environment – all available to students and staff on a daily basis.

Media Coordinator Han Kim says, “Functioning much like a production studio environment, the space allows students and teachers to utilize the available tools and resources – along with our

guidance, knowledge, and collaboration – to create and produce a variety of media genres.” Coursework, in turn, is enhanced, and teachers are supported by utilization of the space. “The studio is designed to support and extend our curriculum, thus giving students an opportunity for authentic learning experiences,” says Mr. Kim.

Art classes regularly use the backdrops and lights for photography projects; drama classes create old-time radio shows; and Bible teachers plan to have their students practice their presentation skills using a teleprompter while in front of a microphone and camera. Students’ learning experiences are propelled as projects are recorded, reviewed, and analyzed. Although the equipment is still in its testing phase, it is the intent to eventually offer a Broadcast Journalism class, along with which will come a regular student-led production that will give students valuable broadcasting experience and an opportunity to keep classmates updated on current events. To better prepare students for life after graduation, this innovative media center exposes students to technology that will be available to them in college and the professional world.

The media and broadcasting center is already helping to foster the school’s goal to continually build community. In addition to enhancing coursework, the center is used by the Audio-Visual Club, which serves as a supporting agency for many campus activities, including weekly chapel services and theatre productions. The center also provides the ability to live-stream campus activities, such as Spirit Week, to the St. Louis community and world. Westminster desires to impact the community and other Christian ministries by sharing this center with others and plans to make its technology available in the future to groups outside of the school.



20th
andybenesgolftournament

Partner with us to raise tuition assistance
for Westminster families!

Gala • Thursday, June 5, 2014
*The St. Louis Cardinals
Redbird Club at Busch Stadium*

Tournament • Monday, June 9, 2014
The Country Club of St. Albans

The 20th Annual Andy Benes Golf Tournament Gala is an opportunity for the Westminster community to celebrate the vision of our school and commemorate more than \$1 million in tuition assistance raised over the past 20 years – enabling more young men and women to be prepared to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

If you would like to volunteer for the gala committee, please email gala@wcastl.org or call Angie Lauer at 314.997.2900.



The Difference of Christian Schooling

Head of School Tom Stoner explores the three-fold mission of a Christian education and its impact on students long after they graduate.

In a recent email to Westminster alumni, I asked them to tell me what they valued most about their years at Westminster. I loved reading the responses I received, and they were very helpful to me as I work to preserve the Westminster experience for our current students and the students who will walk our hallways in the years to come. Their reflections clearly illustrate the power and distinctive mission of Christian schooling.

changing landscape of technological innovation, our alumni remind us that the power source of Christian schooling has been and will always be the relationship between the student and the teacher. God has blessed Westminster with the very best.

I was also moved by the way that our alumni's musings illustrated our three-fold mission of Christian schooling: academic formation, the

"I loved that the teachers did not just tell us about the worldview but rather showed it to us in a way that made it clear it was the best way to live."

-Westminster graduate

I was struck by the way that graduate after graduate described the life-shaping impact of their years at Westminster. While the language chosen varied, many notes were woven with a similar thread, summarized by one in particular: *Westminster Christian Academy formed much of who I am, and I will be eternally grateful.*

The most common explanation, by far, for this transformational impact was the role played by our teachers, coaches, and staff. Over and over, I read: *What I valued most about my time at Westminster was my relationship with the teachers.* One graduate boldly proclaimed: *Mr. Burke changed my life forever.* As we enjoy the extraordinary blessing of a new facility, and as we prepare our students to navigate the fast-

cultivation of a Christian worldview, and the nurturing of Christian faith. Schools are schools, and our primary mission, therefore, takes place in our classrooms as we prepare students to understand and engage the world God created through instruction in every subject area. As we teach math, science, literature, music, and so forth, our goal is to teach them extremely well. One graduate said: *I can't stress enough the importance of a challenging science background [beginning early on] for those considering medicine. The study habits I learned [at Westminster] helped me to be greatly ahead of my classmates in both undergrad and med school science classes.*

In view of our academic mission to prepare students for their future, it is not surprising that our alumni affirmed that the teachers who had the biggest impact

on their lives were those who had the highest expectations for their students. One graduate said: *The best teachers were usually really tough; [they] expected a lot from us. That made me feel respected, like a young adult; I wanted to rise to their expectation.*

The academic mission of Christian schooling – the goal of cultivating our students’ intellect – is one that is identical to that of any outstanding school, public or private. But at Westminster, the second of our three-fold goal of Christian schooling is the cultivation of students’ Christian worldview. A major distinctive of a Christian school is the perspective, or worldview, from which our teachers teach the academic subjects and even coach or direct a cocurricular activity. Contrary to the common notion that a Christian worldview is simply the way a Christian thinks about the world, the concept of a worldview is much more specific.

A worldview answers important questions about life: *What is the meaning of human history? How do we know right from wrong? What happens to a person at death?* The Christian answers these questions differently than the person who believes in no God or in one other than the God of the Bible.

The best image to illustrate the concept of a worldview is a lens, or pair of glasses, through which we see all things. The lens of the Christian worldview follows the broad storyline of the Bible, which begins with God’s intention at Creation, records the impact of the Fall, unfolds God’s plan of redemption, and ends with the total restoration of the universe in a new heaven and earth.

Our mission at Westminster is to instruct students through this distinctive lens so that they, too,

begin to think, live, and work from a Christian worldview. The key to this type of instruction is, yet again, our teachers. One of our graduates said: *I loved that the teachers did not just tell us about the worldview but rather showed it to us in a way that made it clear it was the best way to live.*

The last element of the three-fold mission is our partnership with the home and local church to nurture students to understand the Christian faith and grow in the character that flows from faith. While faith can be nurtured in Bible class, chapel, and daily devotions, and while faith is integrated within the academic subjects, our teachers are central to this element, as well. A parent of several Westminster graduates recently wrote me to express what she valued most about her family’s years at Westminster. She said: *Knowing that the teachers prayed for my kids and even met them during their off hours to listen and mentor them was (and continues to be) a blessing beyond measure. In fact, it was the combination of loving discipline that an errant child received and the godly influence of a Westminster instructor that helped lead my son to the Lord in recent days. He went to college this year as a new creation in Christ, and I count the influence of Westminster and its faculty a significant influence toward that outcome. God be praised.*

This great insight from Westminster alumni and parents perfectly illustrates the elements of our three-fold mission of Christian schooling, which harmoniously combine to provide our students with the life-shaping education that they will value for the rest of their lives.

If you haven’t yet shared with me how Westminster has impacted you or your family, I’d love to hear from you. Please email me at tstoner@wcastl.org.



STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE
ENHANCED COMPREHENSIVE BAND METHOD
By Bruce Pearson



CLASS NOTES

Send us your stories!

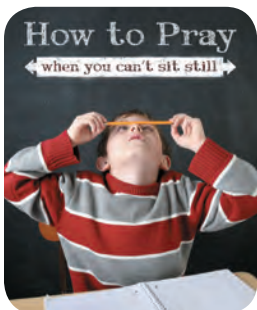
We want to stay connected with you. Students and alumni, Westminster wants to share your stories. Send your photos, stories, and adventures to alumni@wcastl.org and you may see them posted on Facebook, Twitter, or on our website.

CLASS OF 1982



▲ **Karen Lindemann** married Jim Davault on September 28, 2013 at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis. From left: **Heidi Kerls Merrit**, **Karen Lindemann Davault**, **Jim Davault**, **Kristie Page Kimzey**, **Julie Phillips Belue** (matron of honor), and **Nancy O'Neal Miller**.

CLASS OF 1983



▲ **Shannon Ruyle Hale** recently published ebook *How to Pray When You Can't Sit Still*. She also authors

blog.distractedbyprayer.blogspot.com

CLASS OF 1985



▲ **Peter Baity** lives with his wife Gail and daughters Abby (10) and Lilly (7) in Timonium, Maryland. For the last 10 years, Peter has worked as a financial advisor for Waddell & Reed, Inc. Peter and Gail recently celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary in Annapolis, Maryland. Peter is a deacon at Timonium Presbyterian Church. Recently, Timonium Presbyterian invited Dr. Andrew Shaw and his wife Pam to visit, and Dr. Shaw gave a special presentation, "Faith & Science, Harmony from the Beginning."

CLASS OF 1987

Rick Mayes is a professor of public policy at the University of Richmond. In the spring, his students nominated him to present his would-be "Last Lecture." See it at <http://bit.ly/1bPfwTU>.

CLASS OF 1988



▲ **Mark Buckey** was remarried in spring 2013. Mark has two boys Sam (14) and Tim (12), and Carolee

has two girls Izzy (12) and Makena (9). Mark, Carolee, and the kids live in Birmingham, Michigan.

CLASS OF 1997



▲ **Libby Erkmann Harris** and her husband Gabe live in Misawa, Japan, with their three children Kate (3), Genevieve (2), and Caleb (9 months). Gabe works as a family physician for the United States Air Force while Libby stays home with their children. She is active on the base, coordinating the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program and is involved in other chapel ministries. They have enjoyed traveling throughout northern Japan and finding hidden camping jewels. They love the snowy winters, look forward to the upcoming ski season, and anticipate visiting their Compassion International student in the Philippines next year.



▲ **Nina Langenberg Hancharik** and her husband David recently celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary. They live near Atlanta, Georgia, where David works for

ViaSat as director of business development systems engineering. Nina worked for eight years as a merchandising executive for Macy's and now stays home with their three children Seth (5), Emma (3), and Stephen (1).

CLASS OF 1999

David Koch lives in the St. Louis area with his wife Mandy and two boys Timothy (6) and Christopher (3). He has worked as a mental health and substance abuse counselor for nearly seven years. He recently joined Christian counseling practice CrossRoads Counseling Centers, where he specializes in the treatment of young adults, addiction, and the impact of addiction and mental illness on marriages and families.

CLASS OF 2002



▲ **Randy Graham** and his wife Lauren welcomed their first child Henry Wallace (Hank) on April 25, 2013.



▲ **Tim Holley** and his wife Sarah welcomed daughter Audrey Grace on April 25, 2013.

CLASS OF 2003



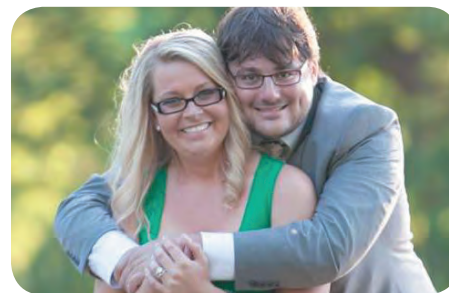
▲ **Joe Bubenik** and his wife Ali welcomed son Tiberius Hoge to their family on July 2, 2013. He joins older siblings Evelynne and Remington.

CLASS OF 2004



▲ **Liz Forkin Bohannon**, founder of Sseko Designs – a fashion brand that hires high-potential young women in Uganda to make sandals so they might earn money, through dignified employment, that will go directly toward their college educations – was recently nominated for the Cartier Women's Initiative Award. Liz and her husband Ben reside in Oregon.

CLASS OF 2005



▲ **Charles Minnick** and Megan Valli

are happy to announce their engagement and are planning a June wedding.



▲ After nine years of participating in the St. Louis 48-Hour Film Project, **Mike Rohlffing** and his team won Audience Choice, Best Directing, and Best Film for their movie *Rhymer's Block* in June 2013. In spring 2014, the team will compete against 120+ other 48-Hour Film Project city winners from around the globe. Everything was created, written, shot, and edited within a 48-hour period using mandatory elements revealed at the start of the competition. See the movie at mikerohlffing.com/rhymersblock. The film would not have been successful without the following members of the Westminster community: **Mike Rohlffing '05** - producer, director of photography, and editor; **Forrest Hughes '10** - assistant director; **Mallory Scholten** (Westminster teacher) - production coordinator; **Daniel Hoover '05** - camera and editor; **Bill Bubenik '07** - actor and production assistant; **L.B. Graham** (Westminster teacher) - writer; **Garrett Henry** (former student) - writer; **Alex Docekal '07** (Westminster staff) - writer; and **David Rohlffing '12** - writer and actor.

CLASS OF 2006



▲ **Casey Coffman** married Joseph Cover on April 7, 2012. The wedding party included alumni **Megan Menzel '06** and **Erika Suermann '06**. Casey and Joseph reside in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Casey is a senior recruiter for Advanced Medical and Joseph is a salesman for NPC Merchant Services.

CLASS OF 2007



▲ **Stephanie Boyd** married Phillip King on July 6, 2013. They live in Columbia, Missouri, where Stephanie works as an architect and Phillip is in medical school at Mizzou.

Calen Caple recently served as the leader of fundraising for the Habitat for Humanity house in honor of former President George H. Bush in College Station, Texas. She served while studying as a full-time student working toward her M.A. in Public Administration from The Bush School at Texas A&M.

Marc-André Simonpietri played lacrosse at Wheaton College.

CLASS OF 2008



▲ Lance Corporal **Patrick Murrell**, USMC, is currently serving in a Marine Corps Security Force Battalion in a Recapture Tactical Team as a Designated Marksman at Naval Base Kitsap/Bangor (a submarine site) near Seattle, Washington. He graduated from boot camp in 2011 in San Diego, California, and then attended the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, California. He has completed two Marine Corps Security Force training courses in the Virginia Beach area in preparation for his current assignment.



▲ **Ben Bubenik** and **Emma Dunlap** were married on September 22, 2012. The wedding party included alumni **Joe Bubenik '03**, **Spencer Bubenik '05**, **Bill Bubenik '07**, and **Elizabeth Sippel '08**, as well as current student **Sophie Dunlap '16**. They currently live in Olathe, Kansas, where Ben works as a computer engineer and Emma as a graphic designer.

CLASS OF 2009

Mackenzie Pfitzinger recently helped the Baylor University Club soccer

team to finish in the top 16 in the nation. Mackenzie, former captain who graduated in May 2013, and her team competed in the NCCAS National Soccer Championship, held in Memphis, Tennessee.

Claire Simonpietri currently plays ultimate Frisbee for Valparaiso University in Indiana – one of the top-three D-3 teams last year.



▲ **Alek Miller** graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology in May 2013 with a B.S. in geology and geophysics and a minor in music. During the summer of 2012, Alek had the opportunity to intern with FreeportMcMoRan Copper & Gold at the company's copper mine in Morenci, Arizona. He accepted a full-time position as a geologist at the same mine where he served as an intern. While a student at Missouri S&T, Alek was active in numerous geological societies and served as president of The Society of Exploration Geophysicists. He also participated in the campus Fencing Club, played flute for the symphony orchestra, and attended a local church near the university. Alek credits Westminster with preparing him well for college. He says, "Westminster was key in my academic development, and I am very grateful for my time spent there."

CLASS OF 2010



▲ This past year, **Micah Mills** was elected president of the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Farmhouse at Auburn University. In addition, he was selected to represent the university as a *Plainsman* – a university ambassador. Only 12 men and 12 women from the entire student body are selected for this honor.

Old Memories, New Melodies

In January 2013, five Westminster alumni competed in the International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in Orlando, Florida. Led by **Johnny Moroni '00**, The Recruits took first place, with the highest-ever score in their category, as well as the Audience Choice Award. Chorus members include **Blake Moroni '03**, **Dan Mayo '02**, **Eric Dalbey '02**, and **John Hartmann '01**.

Reuniting with Mr. Marsh

Jim Marsh, in his emeritus role, joined **Steve Lauer '89**, director of development, and alumni living in the greater Phoenix area in October to discuss the future of Westminster and the cause of advancing Christian education nationally and globally.



From left: **Josh Hendricks '97**, **Steve Lauer '89**, **Pete DeMaster '96**, **Jim Marsh**, **George Middendorf '90**, and **Brad Stewart '97**.

They're back!



Did you know that we have more than 20 Westminster alumni on staff at Westminster? Most are pictured above. Top row from left: **Ben Collison '96**, **Sarah Reinwald Guldalian '99**, **Doug Coleman '99**, **Holly Bergeson Cunningham '91**, **Dan Burke '01**, **Evan Sherman '07**, **Slade Johnson '04**, **Abby Doriani Karsten '00**, **Jason Wilkins '99**, **Tim Holley '02**, **Paul Lewis '07**, **Kelly Klemm Gilbert '96**, **Steve Hall '85**, **Eric Taylor '08**, **Kent Kehr '78**, **Alex Docekal '07**, **Tim Hall '80**, and **Emily Reed '04**. Front row from left: **Lizzie Lewis Vogel '90**, **Kelley Schwartz '06**, **Emily Roig '04**, and **Carla Meyer '99**. Not pictured: **Katie Weber '08** and **Steve Lauer '89**.



Time of Our Lives

▲ If you are the first Westminster alumnus/a to correctly identify all alumni pictured above, you will win a \$15 iTunes gift card. Email your guess to **Emily Reed**, *Chimes* editor, at ereed@wcastl.org.



Winter 2012 Flashback Answer:

▲ **Kim Smith '89** and
Kristen Sharp '89

with grateful hearts

Westminster students share why they are thankful for a Westminster Christian Academy education during this season of thanksgiving.

I'm grateful for the Christian environment and all of my friendships that I have made.

I am thankful for Westminster because I am given the opportunity to learn in a place that centers everything on God. The teachers love every student and desire personal relationships with each one. They also love God. I also thank you for your past and present involvement in WCA.

I'm grateful for Chapel. I'm so blessed to attend a school that has formal worship during the week.

I am grateful the opportunities here at Westminster. I am especially grateful the fine arts program.

I am grateful for Westminster because it gives me the opportunity to grow in both academic excellence and my relationship with God.

I am grateful for Dr. Stoner being such a loving replacement and caring so much for the students.

I am grateful for the Christian influence around me by my teachers, peers, and leaders. It gives me great joy to be in such a great school.

I am grateful for all the wonderful teachers at Westminster who are committed to teaching us well, who challenge me to work hard, and who desire to be personally involved in my life. In addition, I enjoy the great variety of extracurriculars that Westminster offers; the activities I have enjoyed at WCA have included softball, leadership, NHS, Spanish club, Scholar Bowl, and Art Club.

I am grateful for Westminster because the teachers truly care about both my academic advancement and my relationship with God.