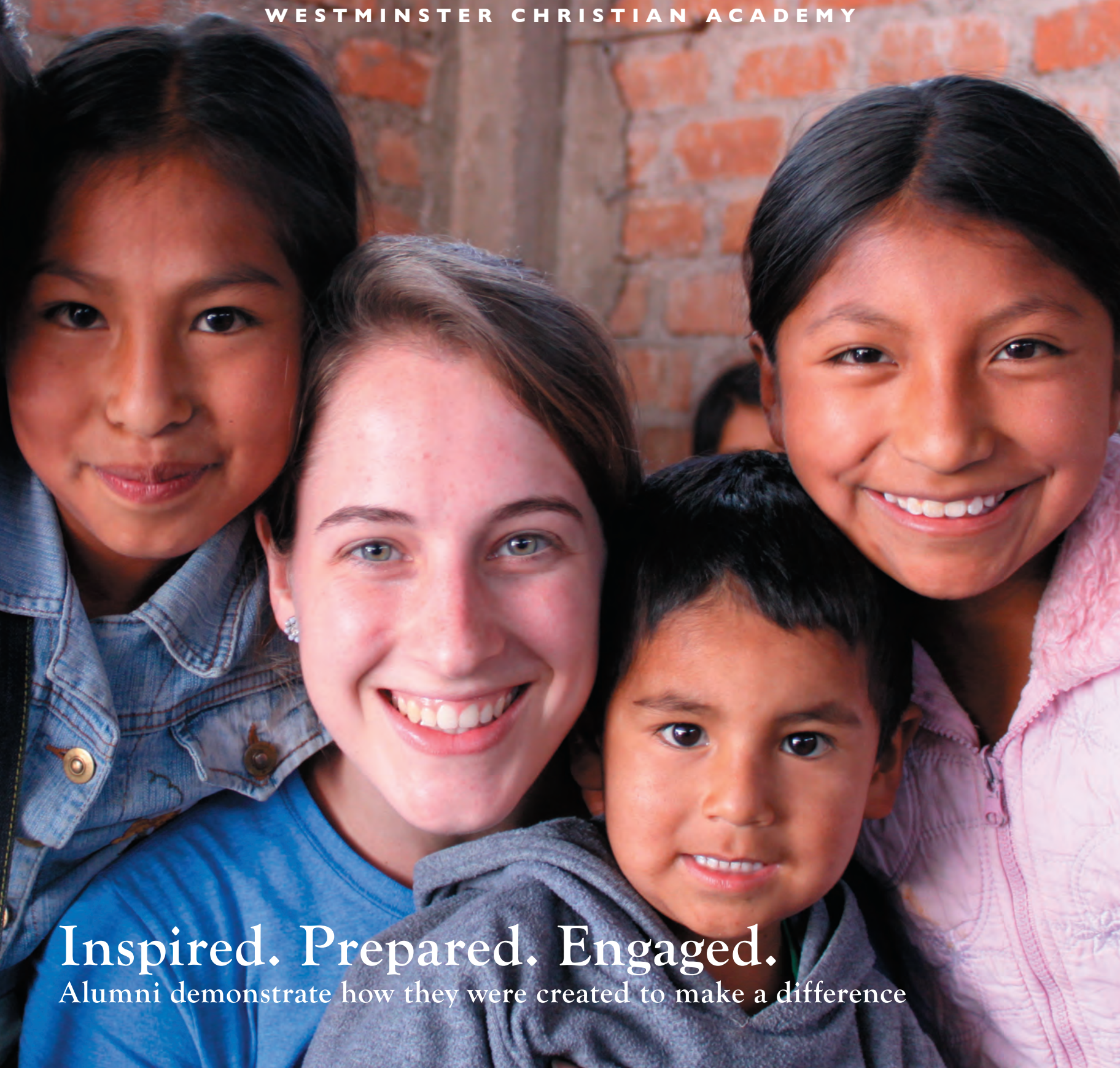


SPRING 2014



chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Inspired. Prepared. Engaged.

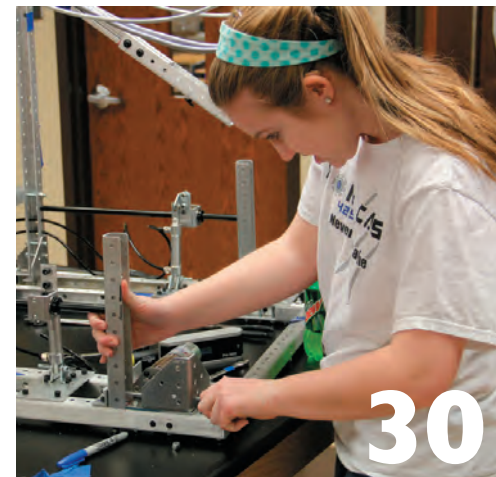
Alumni demonstrate how they were created to make a difference



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On the Cover

Inspired by her freshman English teacher **Ann Heyse, Sarah Hughes '10** makes it a goal to serve others no matter what she is doing, whether working as an R.A. in her college dorm or playing with kids on a mission trip.

After forming meaningful relationships with a group of orphans on a trip to Peru last year, Sarah hopes to remain a part of their lives for years to come. As her passion for others has grown, Sarah has always looked up to Mrs. Heyse as an example of a true servant.

“She has an enormous heart that encouraged me to open mine even bigger,” says Sarah. “She has such a love for the people in her life - a love that makes me want to love no matter the cost.”

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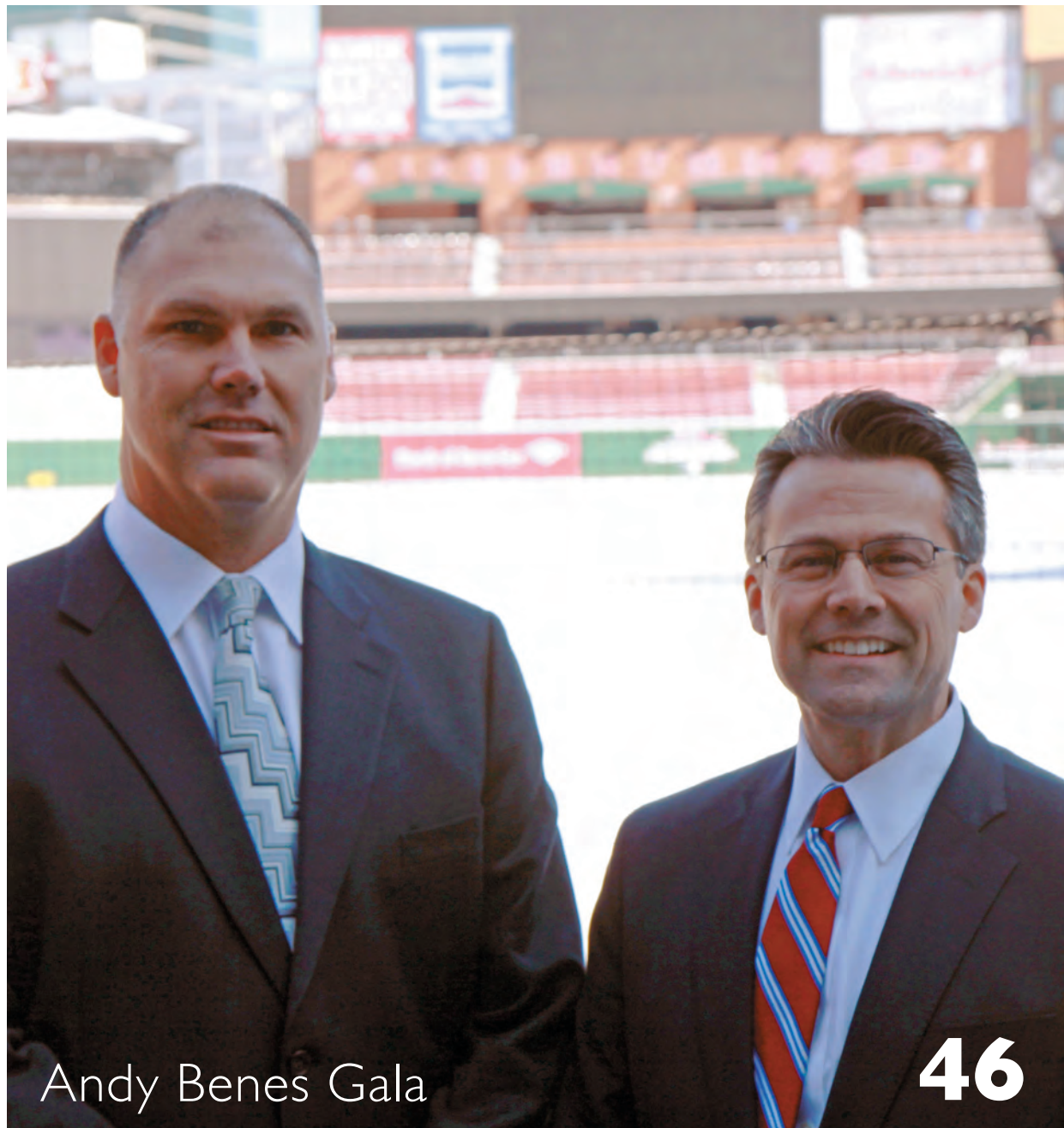
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Andy Benes Gala

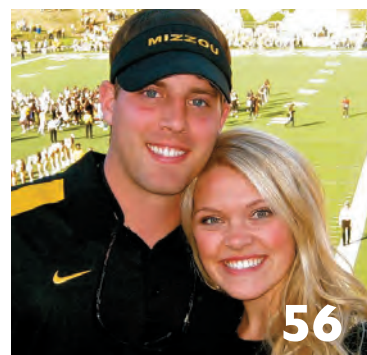
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Tom Stoner, head of school

In February, at the end of my first-ever Spirit Week, all I could say was, *wow*. I'd never seen anything like it! I loved it from start to finish.

I loved the fun, the frivolity, the class pride, and the school spirit. I loved the pep rallies, the games, the dress-up, the Art Boards, the Blue Man Stomp, the Boys' Poms, the tug of war, the Lip Sync – all of it. Once again, I was overwhelmed by our students' extraordinary display of talent. I already can't wait for next year!

My proudest moment by far, however, came at an unexpected time. In the second half of the Friday evening basketball game, a player from John Burroughs sustained a terrible injury. A near-capacity arena grew instantly silent as a crowd of medical personnel surrounded the boy awaiting the arrival of an ambulance.

In the silence, people sobbed and prayed to the God of all comfort. **Doug Coleman '99**, Westminster's varsity coach, led the crowd in prayer. After the boy was taken away, with a room full of heavy hearts, the finale performances of Spirit Week were canceled.

What followed in the hours after the game was an outpouring of love from our community that displayed the very best of the Westminster spirit. Players, coaches, and parents visited the boy in the hospital, and the Westminster community expressed its deep concern in a stream of emails, phone calls, and social media communication. This deep concern turned to relief and joy when we received word that the boy was released and had walked out of the emergency room hours after arriving there.

We received hundreds of comments from people who shared observations about our school community. None of the messages were more poignant, however, than those expressed by MSHSAA on behalf of the game's officials:

[The Westminster community] behaved exactly the way we want our schools, students, and parents to behave...Westminster transcended sportsmanship tonight, and demonstrated the Christian love that is their mission.

Every morning when I pull into the campus, I am struck by how beautiful it is. However, at the end of my first Spirit Week, I was convinced that the most attractive thing about Westminster is the community of people that comprises it – the students, parents, faculty, alumni, and friends who, by faith, reflect the character of the Savior they love and serve.

Jesus said, "This is how they will know that you are my disciples: if you love one another." It was a great week at Westminster Christian Academy, one in which it truly lived up to its name.

This issue of *Chimes* showcases so many other elements of Westminster that make me proud to be a part of this community, from our successful wrestling program that started as a new teacher's dream, to initiatives like robotics and "We the People," which continue to capture students' passions – interests that may have otherwise gone undiscovered – and stir within them a realization that they were created to make a difference. One thing is certain: I feel beyond blessed to be in this community with you and to call Westminster home.



So proud of the way the WCA community reflected faith, hope, and love through a challenging night. Praise God for a great outcome!

@WeAreWCA



As a veteran MSHSAA official, including almost 20 years working basketball, and as a WCA alum, I am proud of both WCA's reaction to the situation and the officials for turning in this positive report. Kudos to all involved!

David Workman '88



God uses each of us in the midst of joy and tragedy. As a parent from JBS I want to thank everyone from Westminster. The prayer over Ronald with the extended hands of parents and kids alike was overwhelming to me. What proved to be nothing short of a miracle when Ronald walked out of the emergency room Friday night was also a testimony to everyone present. God is good, he is our ultimate protector. My prayer is that believers rejoice and nonbelievers seek to find Him. What a light you are in St. Louis!

Beth Koertner Maglasang



Boys I am so proud of your sincere care for Ron, JB and your community. They will know we are Christians by our love

@WCACoachColeman



That one time when everyone turned to their neighbor and prayed for someone they didn't know with people they didn't know #BodyofChrist

@wcacheer



True sportsmanship: WCA's basketball team praying over and visiting Ronald Smith in hospital. Praise God he's doing better!

@mobielkenobi



MSHSAA REPORT

On behalf of the game's three officials

"At the end of the game tonight, a Burroughs player suffered an incredibly scary injury. Westminster should be commended for their class and compassion in dealing with the situation. They behaved exactly the way we want our schools, students, and parents to behave. The head coach led a silent gymnasium in prayer. Tearful players from both teams, arms locked, knelt down together. Cheerleaders cried. And the entire student section sat with their heads in their hands. Westminster transcended sportsmanship tonight, and demonstrated the Christian love that is their mission."



Fine Arts Honors



The following students were chosen for All-District Band: freshman **Christian McGhee** (drums), sophomore **Haley Weinberg** (first-chair piccolo), and senior **Danny Dwyer** (trumpet).

Danny was also selected for the fifth chair trumpet in the Missouri All-State Jazz Band. **Danny** was selected from among a competitive group of several hundred young instrumentalists who auditioned for a chair in the ensemble. Selection for the All-State Jazz Band distinguishes a student as one of the top players in the state and affords him or her the opportunity to prepare for the challenges, auditions, and other experiences he or she might face in music after high school.

Danny joined other members of the All-State Jazz Band to perform at the annual Missouri Music Educators Association Music Festival in Osage Beach, Missouri, at the end of January. There, he learned a variety of musical skills including musical expressiveness, instrumental technique, and leadership skills in

a musical ensemble. “The fact that **Danny** made the All-State Jazz Band means that he is one of the top five players in the state,” says Westminster Band Director **Eric Taylor**. “It is one of the highest achievements a high school musician can obtain.”

The **Jazz Band** received second place in the Truman State University Jazz Fest in February. Several high school jazz bands from across the state competed, and there was only a .33-point difference between the first- and second-place winners. Freshman **Christian McGhee** and junior **Dongbin Lee** received outstanding soloist awards.

Sophomores **Bri Bingham** and **Bekah Westrich** were selected to perform in the Metro 8 Honors Orchestra. The orchestra performed the first movement of *Overture to War*, an unpublished piece by Kirk Mosier. Members of the honors orchestra will be credited in the finished work when it’s published, as they were the first to ever play the professional-level piece.

Four Westminster students were inducted into the St. Louis District Honors Choir this semester: juniors **Hannah Geisz** and **Kathryn Hinrichs** and seniors **Christina Goetz** and **Nathan Richardson**. Membership in this exclusive choir allows students the opportunity to advance even farther in their musical education. Acceptance is limited to the top high school choral performers in the St. Louis region who successfully complete a difficult audition process, requiring the contestant to read and sing music without any preparation. “It is a spectacular chance to work with people who are passionate and hardworking enough to make wonderful music,” says **Hannah**. All four Westminster students were rewarded for their exceptional talent and effort and are now recognized as some of the top singers in the St. Louis area.

Leading in Medicine

Senior **Jeff Camp** was recently selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference of Health and Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago. There, he and other students observed simulated surgeries in labs and listened to as many as seven lectures a day. They participated in a group integration project, learned about

concussion prevention and awareness, and had the chance to meet trailblazers in the medical world. At first, **Jeff** was predominantly focused on the training he would receive in the medical field, but the program proved to provide much more by showing him the implications of being a leader in the medical world.



That's the Spirit!

During ITSOG (In The Spirit Of Giving) in November, the school's spirit was not only one of giving but also community. This year, for a change, there was no competition among grades. Coordinator of the annual event **Susie Brown** says, "We eliminated the competition because giving should come from the heart - not because you're wanting to beat another class. It also opened up the opportunity for the classes to come together and work as one community." Students collected more than 7,000 items during the week; they donated more than 700 pairs of shoes for the Shoeman Water Project and filled an entire box truck with clothing and household goods for St. Louis resale store Ditto. Donations from the week were also given to organizations that included Weekend on Wheels, Camp Penuel, One Heart Ministries, Step Up Transitional Living Program, Whole Kids Outreach, Operation Christmas Child, and St. Louis Children's Hospital. Students were excited to have the opportunity to give back to their community and others in such an intentional way, particularly around the holiday season.

After-School Fuel

In the fall, Campus Cuisine by Hollyberry transformed Westminster's snack bar with the addition of "After-School Fuel." The menu includes healthy yet tasty snacks and mini-meals for students who are on campus after school. Students worked with Campus Cuisine to decide on the name, logo, and menu. Snack options include baked potato soup, turkey sandwiches, buffalo chicken dip, and cheesy pretzel poppers.

Polo Therapy

Junior **Alex Ebel**, who struggles with the challenges of autism, has discovered a new kind of therapy. Because Alex is sensitive to touch, he is very aware of the feel of the clothes he wears. Always comfortable in polo shirts and desiring regularity in his routine, Alex wears them almost exclusively. This has led him to a hobby that has helped him in more ways than he or his family ever thought possible. After observing the logo on his shirts, Alex figured, "I wear polo shirts, so I should play polo." The sport has drastically impacted Alex's confidence and his life.



WCA Online – See the full FOX2 story at wcastl.org/ChimesSpring2014

Fun with Freese

As winner of the Proctor & Gamble contest "Bring David Freese to School" run at Schnucks stores, freshman **Alex Kempen** enjoyed a visit by hometown hero David Freese. The former St. Louis third baseman started his visit by meeting Alex and his family for autographs followed by a time of Q&A with Alex and his classmates in **Brian Burkey's** Bible class. When the questions wrapped up, the class enjoyed Imo's Pizza together.



WCA Online – Watch Freese's Q&A with the students at wcastl.org/ChimesSpring2014



HONK!

The first-ever middle school musical takes the stage



The middle school students' January performance of the musical *Honk!* marked a momentous event in Westminster theatre history. The school's first-ever middle school musical swept the stage with nearly 50 talented student performers in brightly colored costumes who sang and acted in a theatrical adaptation of *The Ugly Duckling*.

The show brought middle and upper school students together, along with faculty members, to help with rehearsal and production. Students assisted behind the scenes with set creation, lights, sound, costumes, and acting mentorship. "We all worked together as a team," says **Kathy Eichelberger**, director and producer of the musical. "I think everyone had a role that really fit them well."

Many late nights and long hours of rehearsal resulted in a smash-hit performance, as described by many audience members. "After so many hours of hard work and practice, the students performed with boundless joy and skill," says **Steve Hall**, head of middle school. "It was a great night of entertainment and a delight to see our middle school students perform at such an exceptional level."

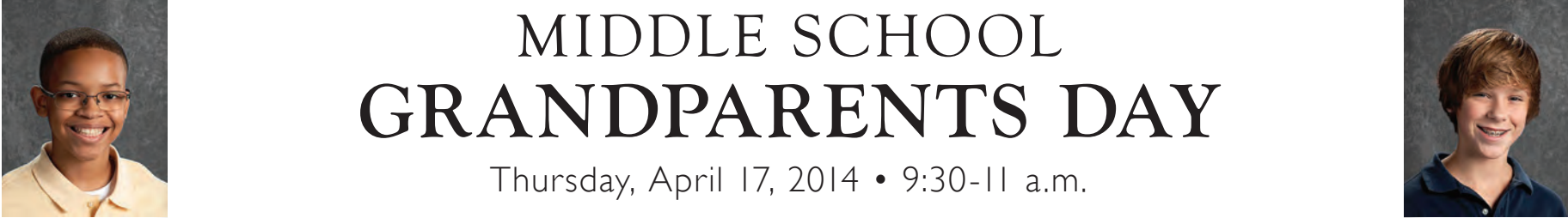
For all of those involved, the closing of the curtain meant the completion of a job well done and the formation of many new friendships built upon shared memories and hard work. "I was extremely impressed with how the show came together and the effort the kids put into the show," says Mrs. Eichelberger. "I think the musical was a wonderful way for students to learn how to work together and to achieve something they were incredibly proud of."





MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS DAY

Thursday, April 17, 2014 • 9:30-11 a.m.

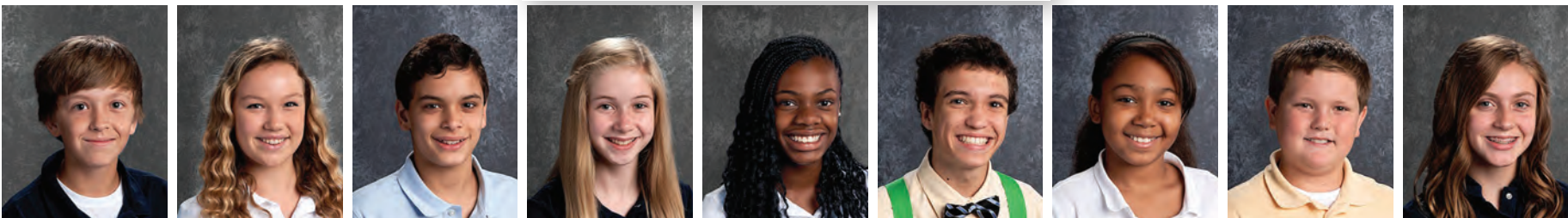
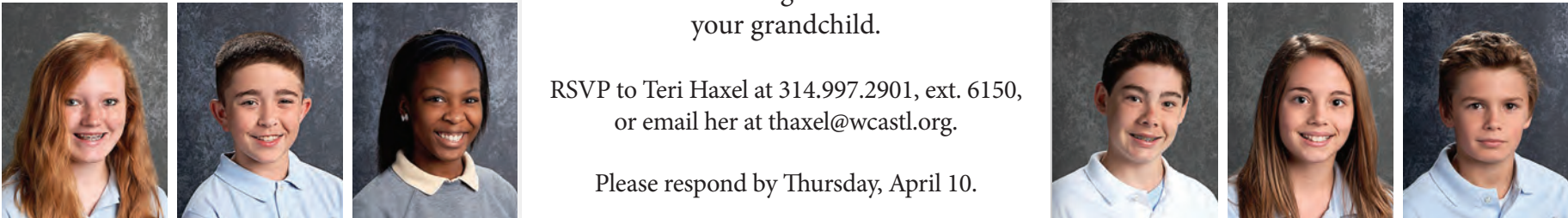
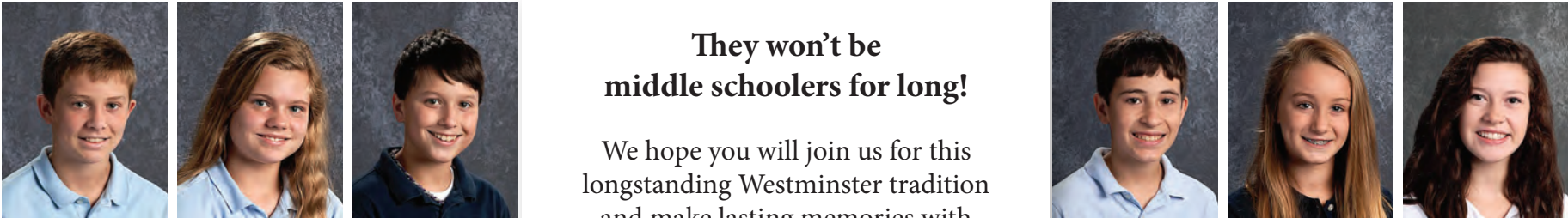


**They won't be
middle schoolers for long!**

We hope you will join us for this
longstanding Westminster tradition
and make lasting memories with
your grandchild.

RSVP to Teri Hazel at 314.997.2901, ext. 6150,
or email her at thazel@wcastl.org.

Please respond by Thursday, April 10.



Jim Butz to star in Forest Park's Shakespeare Festival



This summer, **Jim Butz**, drama and Bible teacher, will return to the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis in Forest Park to play Prince Hal in “Henry IV” and Henry V in “Henry V.” Mr. Butz, who starred in “Freud’s Last Session” as C.S. Lewis at the St. Louis Repertory Theatre in October and November 2013, has won Kevin Kline awards for his prior performances in the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis productions of “Julius Caesar” and “Hamlet.”

The festival has never before staged more than one show in its summer season. This time, with a single major character’s life story

carrying through both plays, the festival will tell the entire breadth of his story. Rick Dildine, artistic and executive director of the festival, says, “Event theatre like this is a unique opportunity to experience history the way Shakespeare saw it.”

“Henry IV” opens Thursday, May 15, and “Henry V” opens Thursday, May 22, in Forest Park. After the first week, they will play on alternate nights through the end of the festival, June 15. There are also several days with double features when you can see both shows in a row, starting at 4:30 p.m. All performances are free.

They Got JOYED!

In February, Head of School **Tom Stoner** and Business & Communications Department Chair **Scott VonderBruegge** were JOYED by Joy FM! The station brought Joy FM tumblers for every member of the faculty and staff and aired bits and pieces of the surprise on the air the next morning.

The Masters

The English department has been hitting the books! **Claire Beerbower** finished her M.A. in Secondary Education at Missouri Baptist in December 2013.

Dan Burke finished his M.A. in American Culture Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. **Jill Keith** will complete her M.A. in Communication Arts with an emphasis in Language Arts Secondary Education from Webster University in May 2014.

Staying Strong

Middle school science teachers **Katie Long** and **Nicole Scholten** completed the Clayton Half Marathon in November 2013.

Special Services teacher **Hannah Jayne** and Physical Education Department Chair **Annie Westhoff** completed the San Antonio Rock and Roll Marathon this fall. Hannah also completed the Run for the Ranch Marathon in Springfield, Missouri.



Jim Marsh: What's he up to these days?

After 28 years as Westminster's head of school, **Jim Marsh** left his long-held position in summer 2013. But he hasn't gone far!

Now head of school emeritus, Mr. Marsh has assumed a new role as a member of Westminster's Advancement Team, in which he is playing a part in shaping and implementing the next campaign for Westminster.

"One of the things I'm enjoying most about Westminster is my ongoing relationship with Jim," says Head of School Tom Stoner. "I'm certain that I'm the one who benefits the most from his ongoing role at the school. It is a blessing to have two weekly appointments with him to discuss all matters of moving Westminster forward, and I very much value our friendship."

Mr. Marsh, 66, also spends much of his time serving as part-time director of the Van Lunen Center, a program that teaches executive management skills to heads of faith-based schools, headquartered at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

How are you enjoying "retirement"?

I don't consider myself retired. I view this as a "next chapter." I still see myself as being called to advance the cause of Christian schooling in different ways. Because that's been my calling, I've always enjoyed it. I feel like I'm helping, and I enjoy what I'm doing.

What is it like to be at Westminster in a new role?

At first, I must admit, it was a little weird. There are certainly parts of being a head of school that I miss. When I was head of school, I had ongoing relationships with the students, teachers, staff, parents, donors, alumni, board members, and other friends of the school. Now, my purpose has simply changed.

But, to be here to support Tom and the advancement effort is important to me. My heart has always been at Westminster, and it will remain here. If I can continue to be helpful in moving Westminster forward - and be used to advance the cause of Christian schooling here in St. Louis, nationally, and internationally - I enjoy the opportunity to be a part of that.

Describe your working relationship with Tom Stoner.

Tom's interest and initiative in establishing a collegial relationship with me is uncommon. It very much speaks to his desire to be mentored. I've wanted to be a help and not a distraction, and we've developed a good chemistry in terms of how much support I give. We get along well and laugh a lot.

What do you love most about staying at Westminster?

The community. Hands down. Being around the kids, being around teachers. In the fall, **Cory [Snyder]** invited me to stand on the sidelines with the team at a football game. It made my week. I love being a part of the life of the school.

What does your work outside of Westminster look like?

I travel to Van Lunen in Grand Rapids about once every six weeks but do much of my work with the program remotely. In my role there, I oversee a faculty of four and help teach, mentor, and coach school heads who are a part of the program. Stemming from my work there, I am involved in board training and strategic planning for a number of Christian schools across the nation. I travel frequently, speak to different Christian school groups, and am now also serving with a new Christian school organization, CESA (Council on Educational Standards and Accountability), assisting with their standards evaluations.

I hope I can continue to serve the cause of Christian education for a long time, only now in a different way - in my new chapter. That rocking chair in my office isn't getting a lot of use just yet.



Nurturing Servant Hearts

For Westminster teacher **Ann Heyse**, teaching freshman Expository Writing is about more than literature and writing well. Mrs. Heyse teaches her students what it means to have a heart for others.

Through daily lessons and stories of her own life experiences, Mrs. Heyse encourages her students to take a look at themselves, understand who they are, and ponder what they want their lives to be about. “We read about people who suffer, and we see the effects of pain in the world as we read,” she says. “My students know that my own heroes are selfless people rather than selfish ones. I ask my students to think about what kind of people they want to be.”

Mrs. Heyse says her favorite part about teaching is the opportunity to help her kids figure this out. “I get to show them possibilities of how God can use them in the future,” she says. “English class is the perfect, natural vehicle for this. Literature teaches us lessons about how to live well (or how not to). Writing helps us figure out what we believe and the causes we believe in.”

Now in her 12th year of teaching at Westminster, Mrs. Heyse will retire at the end of the 2013-14 school year having impacted countless students who call her a genuine role model. “I want kids to know that the world outside their neighborhoods and this school needs them,” says Mrs. Heyse. “Our call is to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ, and the first step to changing the world is to know that it needs fixing. My hope for our graduates is to avoid the siren calls of our culture telling us that serving oneself is the end goal. In whatever field, interest, major, or vocation they pursue, I want our graduates to be making the ugly things of the world beautiful. I want them to value selflessness over selfishness.”

Danielle Evans, Class of 2012

Throughout my time at Westminster, Mrs. Heyse inspired me through her compassion for every kind of person. When I think back to my freshman year, I remember Mrs. Heyse as a teacher who wanted us to succeed not only in the classroom but also in every area of our lives. Her heart for others really inspired me. I remember hearing about her work with Invisible Children, for example, an organization that brings awareness to the tragedies of the LRA (Lord’s





Resistance Army) in Africa. Mrs. Heyse helped each one of us believe that we could truly make a difference, and I was inspired to do so.

As the service chair for my class, I worked closely with Mrs. Heyse to brainstorm ways that we, as high school students, could make a difference. She and I, along with several other students, met during lunch one day to think about ways we could raise money for Invisible Children. After deciding on a school mixer, one of my classmates volunteered his church's gym for the event. So we made a playlist, hooked up a sound system, and had a big party for Invisible Children. We raised more than \$600. It was awesome!

Since that time, I have helped raise money for a battered women's shelter called Lydia's House and volunteered at a school for kids with autism called Giant Steps. I have also had the opportunity to volunteer at Vacation Bible School and, last summer, was able to go on my first mission trip to Haiti with the Haiti Orphan Project. I have plans to return again this coming summer. Until then, I am working as a volunteer at the Humane Society of Southwest Missouri.

Service is not simply something I do; it is part of who I am, and Mrs. Heyse instilled that in me. Every single time I serve, I find that the people I come into contact with end up blessing me far greater than what seems like the tiniest service act I did for them.

Tori Urban, Class of 2011

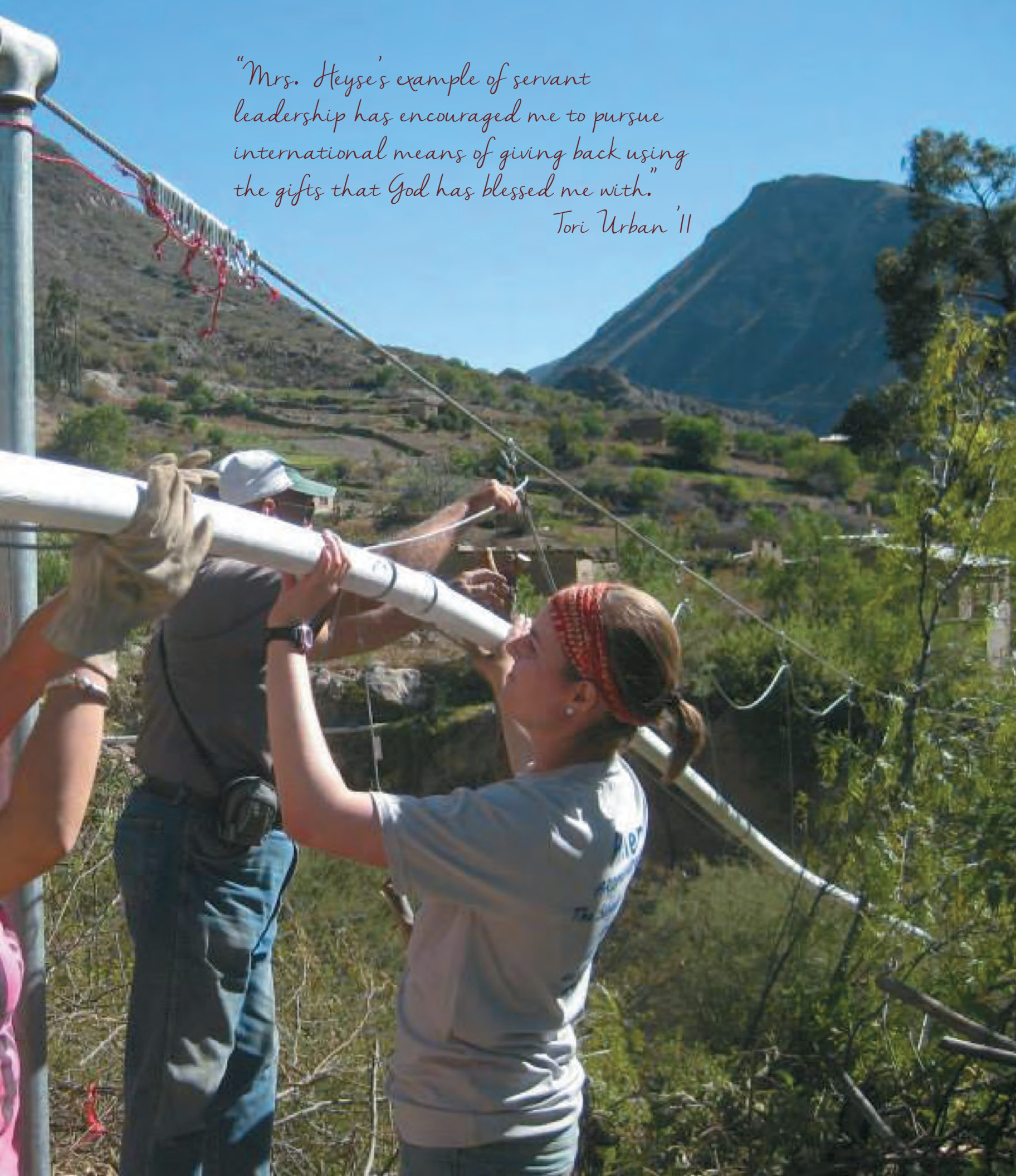
One of the most impactful ways Mrs. Heyse inspired me was through her passion for people. When I took her English class, she encouraged us to examine people who we may have otherwise ignored. She assigned papers that helped us look into leaders and countries that were far from the spotlight. I chose Benazir Bhutto as a subject for one of my papers and chose the country of Yemen for another. Researching these topics and discussing them with Mrs. Heyse helped me become aware of global politics and opened my eyes to the suffering around the world. It was about that time when Mrs. Heyse became involved with Invisible Children. We talked about what kids like us were facing on the other side of the world. Something that struck me was her very real concern for these people she had never met and her Christ-like passion for an issue that wasn't at all close to home. We were all excited when we heard that she had an opportunity to travel abroad and work to help the cause and the people who she cares so much about. There is little more inspiring than watching a vision of empowered compassion come to fruition as it did for her.

Her example of servant leadership has encouraged me to pursue international means of giving back using the gifts



"Mrs. Heyse's example of servant leadership has encouraged me to pursue international means of giving back using the gifts that God has blessed me with."

Tori Urban '11



that God has blessed me with. I am studying mechanical engineering at Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla and am a part of the university's Engineers Without Borders chapter, members of which I traveled with to a town in rural Bolivia during the summers of 2012 and 2013. There, I helped design a water distribution system for portable water and, as a program leader, helped oversee other projects including erosion control and preliminary designs for latrines. Closer to home, I am a member of S&T's Residential Life Staff and have been able to lead and participate in a number of service projects with students from the Quadrangle Hall to benefit the Rolla area.

I'm so thankful that the Lord has blessed me to be able to give back in these ways and provided me with mentors who push me to be the best that I can be. Mrs. Heyse's example has stayed with me as I attempt to continue her legacy of service and compassion both here in Missouri and internationally. I hope that one day I can inspire someone else in the same way that she has inspired me.

Sarah Hughes, Class of 2010

When I think of Mrs. Heyse, the word "passionate" comes to mind. Whether she was teaching high school students how to write, or sharing about the lovely people she has met around the world, I could always see how much those things mean to her. She has an enormous heart that encourages me to open mine even bigger, and she has such love for the people in her life – a love that makes me want to love no matter the cost.

Whatever I am doing in my life, I make it a goal to serve others. From mentoring middle school students, working as an R.A. in college, or serving orphans in Peru on a mission trip, I have felt called to love the people around me.

I recently graduated from Taylor University with a degree in biology and a minor in Spanish. After forming meaningful relationships with the people I met in Peru last year, I hope to keep a lifelong relationship and partnership with them. I plan to start a position as a physician assistant this summer and hope to serve as a PA abroad or locally in a Spanish-speaking community.

I have always had a desire to give to others and to learn from all that people have to offer. Mrs. Heyse provided an incredible living example of what someone who serves like this looks like. She models service for her students and has been someone I have looked to as I've tried to form myself into a servant and lover of people.

Madison Nye, Class of 2010

Although I never had the privilege of having Mrs. Heyse as a teacher, I had several opportunities to forge a relationship with her during my time at Westminster, and she is the





one who inspired me to look deeper into the world. One of my favorite experiences was Summer Seminar the summer before my senior year. I will never forget riding in the passenger seat next to Mrs. Heyse on our long drive to South Dakota. All of the other girls in the van had fallen asleep so I had a long time to talk with Mrs. Heyse. It was then that she shared with me her experiences in mission work. I have always had a passion for Africa – even in high school. When we stumbled upon this similarity during our conversation, there was no turning back. Anyone who has been to Uganda knows that you can talk about it for hours and hours without even realizing it. What an amazing blessing it was that Mrs. Heyse had traveled to Uganda a year before. Hearing her share her own experiences and stories only spurred my passion further. It is very hard to describe what Uganda is like to someone who has not experienced it. However, it was many conversations like this one with Mrs. Heyse that encouraged me to travel to Uganda and pursue my passion as well. And while she definitely inspired me to follow my calling, she did much more than that. She may never know how much our relationship meant to me in high school, but like many of my teachers at Westminster, how she lived her life and taught with an obvious passion was what inspired me the most.

I currently serve on the board of IChooseYou Ministries, a non-profit, 501c3 organization based in Namatala, Uganda. It is a child sponsorship program in which we find children living in dumpsters, children without families, or children struggling to survive, and provide them with food, medical attention, and Christian mentorship and schooling. Because this organization is very small, we know each of the children not only by name but also their stories, dreams, and passions. I have taken two short-term mission trips to Uganda to help this ministry and spent most of my time there helping in wound clinics and facilitating hygiene and young women's talks with the older girls, in addition to playing with the kids, helping with worship in church services, and developing a business for the mothers of these kids. I had the best time of my life.

In August 2014, I will visit Uganda for a three-month mission trip. My primary duties will be continuing my business, Amina, which employs 27 mothers who make jewelry to be sold in the U.S., 100 percent of the profits for which return to the women as a salary. I will also continue a Bible study for the older girls, who are learning what it means to be a cherished princess of God.

I truly feel this is what the Lord has called me to do. My heart belongs in Uganda. Never have I seen the Lord's presence so clearly than in Africa. My heart feels full when I am there. The Lord has placed me on this earth for His purpose, so I intend on following his call wherever it may lead. 🐾





THE STRENGTH OF A DREAM

*Coach Tim Muehleisen uses wrestling
to empower young men*



Wrestling mats are soft surfaces, but **Tim Muehleisen**, head coach of the Westminster wrestling team, uses them as launch pads for young men who, grinding their way through a tough sport day in and day out, leave the school with strong bodies and minds and the confidence to handle both success and adversity.

Now a state wrestling presence, Westminster's program began as a long-held dream and ambition of Coach Muehleisen, who came to the school in 1998 as a middle school social studies teacher. Encouraged by **Jim Marsh**, now head of school emeritus, Coach Muehleisen has overseen the growth of a program that has produced two state champions and blossomed from 12 hesitant high school boys who knew nothing about the sport to a current roster of 29 wrestlers, many of them with several years of wrestling experience and successes to their names.

The program's success is the result of a steady and loving effort by Coach Muehleisen, who, in his 15th year as head coach and with the support of his own family, is poised to take his current squad even farther.

Coach Muehleisen realized his love of wrestling as a child. "Dad wrestled at Parkway West under Coach Rick Kirtz," he says. "Coach Kirtz did something really unique: he painted the names of West's wrestlers on the mat. In third grade, I saw the big kids wrestling and I saw my dad's name painted on that mat. Coach Kirtz died young in a car accident, but what he did by painting the kids' names on the mat was create a heritage. It wasn't just about him. It was a huge moment for me."

At that point, Coach Muehleisen knew he was going to wrestle. Even then, the sport was a Muehleisen family affair; from his 8th grade year when his family attended the NCAA wrestling championship to his own wrestling career at Lafayette High School, Coach

Muehleisen grew up immersed in the sport and knew that someday he wanted to coach.

After high school, Coach Muehleisen attended Taylor University in Indiana. While he focused on his academics, his family was building relationships at Westminster, as his brother was a student at the time.

Although he hadn't met Mr. Marsh, then Westminster's head of school, Coach Muehleisen had heard of his interest in building a wrestling program at Westminster. Fueled by the desire to build a successful program from the ground up and to have a lasting impact on young men, Coach Muehleisen decided that Westminster was the only

"We teach boys how to respond under stress, how to deal with a really hard thing, and how to hear and understand the truth in the midst of duress."

—Coach Muehleisen

St. Louis-area school to which he would apply upon his 1998 college graduation.

Coach Muehleisen says he will never forget his arrival in St. Louis for his interview with Mr. Marsh. His was the first flight to arrive just as the East Terminal (now Terminal 2) at Lambert Field was being dedicated as the new home of Southwest Airlines. "It was a morning flight from Indianapolis," says Coach Muehleisen. "I was sitting at the front of the airplane. Herb Kelleher, the president of Southwest, was having a press conference at our gate. There were blue and white balloons, cameras going off, and lots of reporters – all in honor of Southwest. Jim gestured to all that was going on as I walked off the plane and said with a smile, 'This is all for you, Tim!'"

Mr. Marsh says, "I always picked up prospective teachers at the airport when they came for interviews. But when Tim came, the Southwest dedication

was a huge event! All the TV stations and reporters were there, and Mr. Kelleher, who was very outgoing, was revving everybody up. Tim was one of the first ones off of the plane. People were cheering and there was a lot of commotion. When I looked at him and told him it was all for him, he gave me this wide-eyed look. It was one of my most memorable teacher pick-ups ever!"

Before they even arrived at Westminster for the interview, Mr. Marsh saw Coach Muehleisen's passion for wrestling right away, as it was a quick topic on the car ride to the school. Mr. Marsh knew that his determination could make the sport a vibrant addition to Westminster's athletic portfolio, which was just beginning to grow at the school on Ladue Road. "Our athletic program at the time consisted of basketball, baseball, cross country, soccer, swimming – the basics. Not even football. When we did the renovation and expansion on Ladue Road, it allowed us a greater vision of what our athletic program could be," says Mr. Marsh.

"When God opened that door, Tim was so passionate. It wasn't long before he appeared in my doorway and said, 'Jim do you have a few minutes?' He then laid out his dream about what the program could be. Westminster has grown because it has been blessed by teachers with passions and gifts who have ideas and say, 'Could we give it a try?' My inclination was always to give passionate people with good ideas for our kids the opportunity to go for it. So I said, 'Tim, let's do it!'"

Coach Muehleisen began his first year at Westminster in the fall of 1998. All that the budding wrestling program needed was a plan, a place, and some wrestlers.

"Looking back on it, I had no idea what I was doing," says Coach Muehleisen. "I didn't spend energy on scheduling or trying to teach technique. I was trying to create buzz and energy. The building wasn't actually



In 15 years, Coach Tim Muehleisen's dad Mark has missed only one wrestling event for a family wedding. Coach has missed just one JV event – for the birth of his son – and was back coaching the varsity team that same weekend. “I enjoy that [my dad and I] have an avenue to have purpose together,” says Coach Muehleisen. “We get to talk about boys’ growth and development. And because we share mutual love for the sport, we have a lot of quality time together and get to know each other better and better.”

ready when we started, so we practiced on a borrowed mat in the cafeteria.”

Once the multipurpose room was ready, Westminster bought a wrestling mat and launched the program. “Tim brought his dad and other parents with a wrestling background into the program,” says Mr. Marsh. “He’s a great motivator and has an impact on his kids, but he has a real gift for building programs.”

That first year, Coach Muehleisen ended up with a roster of 12 that he fondly named the “Dirty Dozen.” “They were mostly younger students – three juniors, and the rest sophomores and freshmen,” he says. “I had no idea how to prepare them, so I started by teaching the rules. None of them had ever seen a match.”

By the end of the season, the Dirty Dozen had amassed one win and 22 losses. At the district tournament, MICDS won with 218 points out of nine teams. Westminster’s team left the tournament with nine points. “We lost 218 to nine,” says Coach Muehleisen. “It was pure abuse. It was horrible. But with a beating like that, it either makes you quit or makes you decide, ‘We’re in this together.’ And those boys decided we were going to work.”

Every member of the Dirty Dozen went to summer wrestling camp the following summer at Iowa State University. “On the way home, our bus

ran out of gas,” says Coach Muehleisen. “So here I am, 24 years old, the responsible party, and I’m on a state road in the middle of Iowa. I told **Zack Petry** [’02] to put on his running shoes and instructed the rest of the boys to stay on the bus. Zack and I went for a jog and bought a can of diesel, and someone at an ice cream shop gave us a ride back to the bus. When we got back, the bus looked funny. The guys had all climbed

“A high school sport is an opportunity to create men who care about others, who are going to be responsible, and who have a purpose.”

onto the top of the bus, where they were sunning themselves. They had instructions to stay on the bus, and they did.”

“They worked; they really worked,” Coach Muehleisen says proudly of the group. As seniors, that freshman group from the Dirty Dozen was nine and one at duals. Two went on to wrestle in college.

From that point on, the team started to win and the program began to grow. “Rather than look at seasons, I look at blocks of kids,” says Coach Muehleisen. “The second group of kids included our first state placers. When **Rob Jacobson** [’04] got his first medal, that was a high point. It’s so hard to do. And about 20

minutes after he did it, **Peter Whitley** [’04] did it!” he says. “With our first group of kids, we got pounded at districts; with our second group, we had two state medalists. In our third group, we had an undefeated state champ – **Orion Ross** [’08]. He was impressive; he ended up wrestling at West Point. In the fourth group, we had **Bennett Lewis** [’13] go undefeated at 53-0. He’s wrestling now at Washington & Lee University [in Lexington, Virginia]. We’ve had four graduates finish at military service academies and three of them finish as varsity athletes at West Point. I’m proud of that.”

Indeed, the program is about more than a pile of wins. “We realized in 2006 or 2007 that one of the basic problems in young men’s lives is that they don’t know how to hear truth. They build excuses into things that they do,” says Coach Muehleisen. “So we train them to know things that are true: that they are loved, that who they are is good enough, that they are a child of the King. If you go about your business as though you are loved, your business goes much better. You’re loved. Now get to work. You have no excuse not to give your best. So carry yourself this way.”

Coach Muehleisen says a high school sport is the most stressful controlled environment anyone can offer boys. “We teach them how to deal with stress,” he



Follow Westminster wrestling on Twitter [@WCA_Wrestling](#) • Follow Coach Tim Muehleisen on Twitter [@t_muehleisen](#) • Email Coach Muehleisen at tmuehleisen@wcastl.org.

says. “We practice how to respond under stress, how to deal with a really hard thing, and how to hear and understand the truth in the midst of duress. It’s an opportunity to create men who care about others, who are going to be responsible, and who have a purpose.”

Wrestling continues to provide a purpose and structure in Coach Muehleisen’s own family. “I met my wife [Adriane] on a blind date on Christmas night of that first season,” he says. “We got engaged five months later and then married three months after that. She didn’t know that much about wrestling, but she understood that wrestling is what we do,” he says. “She went with me to the Olympic Trials in Iowa City. She supports me when the days start early and nights go late during the season. She sees the value in the growth of my wrestlers and likes that my job has purpose.”

Tim and Adriane have four children: Ahren (9), Lydia (7), Annie (6), and Maria (4). Ahren has begun wrestling and will continue next year.

From day one, the Westminster wrestling program has been a family affair. Coach Muehleisen and his father Mark have always worked in tandem as a coaching team. “It’s a real blessing and a great example to our young men to have a father and son work together,” says Mr. Marsh. “That kind of role modeling

is really, really special. It has a far greater impact than Tim or anyone really realizes.”

After moving to the Town & Country campus in 2011, Westminster began hosting a large invitational tournament in December followed by a winter tournament that brings more than 300 high school and college wrestling athletes – not to mention a lot of buzz and energy – to Westminster. “Tim has built this wrestling culture,” says Mr. Marsh. “The Westminster wrestling program is not only a family affair but also a community affair. Because he’s made wrestling a part of his family, it’s not like he goes off to do something by himself over the weekend. It’s always, ‘We have a wrestling meet this weekend, and we’re all going.’”

Even alumni wrestlers are there for meets, just to offer helping hands. “It’s fun for me to watch our kids wrestle but also to see the community spirit,” says Mr. Marsh. “They all cheer for one another and celebrate together.”

Now in its 15th year, the wrestling program offers students structure. Coach Muehleisen says, “We’ve made simple changes, such as adding a practice uniform and a standard warm-up, but the next level of growth would be to offer them greater discipline to coincide with their instruction. Wrestling is, by nature, a disciplined sport; you’ve got to control your weight and your movements,” he

says. “The guys who are trying to take care of their bodies do three physical activities every day – morning, noon, and night. They really acquire life skill sets.”

Mr. Marsh says that looking back over the years, he is very proud of Coach Muehleisen. “It’s fun to see what God has done with Tim,” he says. “This program started out as a dream, as a prayer, as a vision. You can have all those things, but to actually execute it, to endure the ‘bare bones’ and go through the ups and downs, to win kids to a sport that is very challenging, and to help those kids grow – all of that takes a high level of commitment. We’ve produced state champions and men who wrestle at the collegiate level – men who have gone on to do amazing things. They’ve left a legacy of building character, working as a team, and rising to a challenge. Tim has invested in young men and prepared them to be leaders for Christ in our country and around the world.”

Coach Muehleisen reflects on the names on the mat that he remembers from childhood. “As soon as I had state placers, I started painting their names on the wall. I think it’s big to have a heritage. It’s about building something for others.” 🐾

In the fall, Westminster athletes collectively achieved an average GPA of 3.43. A total of 286 athletes participated on fall sports teams; 157 of them achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Of those 157 students, 38 achieved a 4.0.



The **varsity football team** clinched the district championship for the third time in school history and played in quarterfinals for the first time ever.

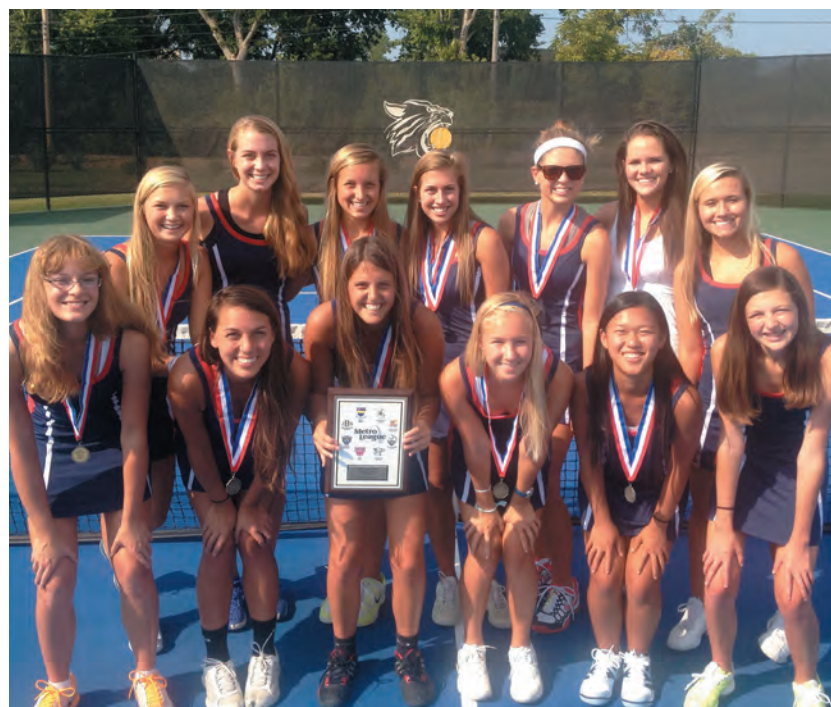
At the Class 1 state championship, senior **Jessica Dreesbeimdieke** shot a 147 to win. She had rounds of 72 and 75 to become the Wildcats' third consecutive individual medalist. Jessica was chosen as the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* All-Metro Girls Golfer of the Year at the conclusion of the team's fall season.



Following his receipt of the Missouri Girls Golf Coach of the Year award, varsity girls golf Coach **Steve Bradley** was named the 2013 Midwest Sectional Coach of the Year. The Midwest section includes Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The award is presented by the NFHS (National Federation of State High School) coaches association.

The **varsity girls tennis team** celebrated a district championship win for the first time in Westminster history. Coach **Adam Barbee** says, "Coach Reilly and I were excited to see all of the girls' hard work pay off. Their compassion for one another and humility after the match was a blessing to witness."

As of February 2014, 11 Westminster senior athletes have committed to play in college: **Derek Bell** (tennis, Florida Southern College), **Shane Benes** (baseball, University of Missouri), **Brett Bond** (baseball, University of Missouri), **Tyler Catlett** (baseball, Maryville University), **Jessica Dreesbeimdieke**





(golf, University of Denver), **Collin Einertson** (baseball, DePauw University), **Brennan Hehner** (baseball, Lindenwood University), **Kyle Kinner** (football, Bucknell University), **Travis Ralls** (baseball, Greenville College), **Sydney Seabaugh** (softball, Lindenwood University), and **Lauren Vanek** (rowing, Southern Methodist University).

The **varsity girls basketball team** (pictured below) achieved second place in the MICDS and Parkway tournaments. “The girls have continued to get better,” says Coach **Joan Gallagher**, noting that the team is presently preparing for district play in March. Senior **Kayla Armstrong**



was named to the All-Tournament team at the Nerinx tournament and the MICDS tournament. Juniors **Charisse Williams** and **Adrienne Horn** received All-Tournament honors at the Parkway tournament. Charisse also received honors at the MICDS tournament.

The **varsity boys basketball team** is leading their conference in points scored per game, and the team is on their way to playing at a conference championship. Sophomore **Aaron Cook, Jr.**, has received recognition and visits from NCAA Division 1 schools. Seniors **Shane Benes** and **Collin Einertson** were listed as top-scoring leaders in the St. Louis region. “The basketball has been fast-paced and exciting, but the real blessing has been how close we have become as a team, the leadership qualities that the boys have developed, and the opportunities to show Christian love for others,” says **Doug Coleman '99**, head coach of the team.

The **JV boys basketball team** is undefeated. The team has not lost a game in two consecutive years.



The **varsity hockey team** clinched its fourth consecutive league title and was ranked eighth out of 37 mid-states hockey teams at the close of the regular season. The team moved on to the state playoff quarterfinals for the second time in program history as one of the Elite 8 in February to compete against seven other high-ranking teams in the St. Louis region.

Goalie **Joseph Woll**, sophomore, was the Hockey News Player of the Week in mid-December after stopping 61 of 62 shots in a victorious 5-1 win. Joseph has verbally committed to Harvard for hockey and academics.

Junior **John Moeller** was named Fox Sports Midwest Player of the Week in late November after scoring seven goals and adding three assists in two nights.

On Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, members of the Westminster **girls swim team** volunteered their time at Sunshine Ministries in downtown St. Louis to assist in relocating the shop to a newly constructed building two blocks away. The team enjoyed a time of service and community with the ministry staff as they boxed up, unpacked, cleaned, and organized for the opening of the new store. “I believe God’s blessing flowed both ways,” says Head Coach **Kent Kehr**. “We saw God’s work through Sunshine Ministries, and they were encouraged by the volunteer efforts of these teenagers.”

At the end of their season, the team finished an amazing 18th against all the big schools in Missouri at the state meet. The 200 Medley Relay team of senior **Leah Votava**, junior **Kaitlin Kittelson**,



sophomore **Lauren Massot**, and freshman **Mackenzie Wieberg** broke the school record and finished 12th, earning All-State Honorable Mention honors. The 200 Free Relay team of Leah, Mackenzie, and seniors **Kristine Maxey** and **Lauren Vanek** finished



32nd. Earning All-State honors for her performance in the 100 Backstroke, as well as breaking her own school record, Lauren Massot finished fifth and received a medal. She also earned honorable mention for her 13th-place finish in the 200 IM.

Westminster’s girls swim team this year was one of the largest in the area, with 54 swimmers and one diver, sophomore **Izzy Hauptfear**.

The **varsity wrestling team** celebrated a Metro Conference win in February, competing in 14 weight classes and winning seven individual weights with five individual second places. Seven wrestlers placed in the event: senior **Wes Park**; juniors **David Becker** and **Eli Parham**; sophomores **Aaron Gion**, **Alex Hopkins**, and **Patrick Jung**; and freshman **J.T. Fuller**. The team then placed fourth in the district tournament, in which Wes and **Sam Terrana** placed first individually, and six men qualified for State: seniors Wes and **Clayton Hubler**; junior **Michael Weston**; and sophomores Aaron, Alex, and Sam.

In June 2013, the **varsity cheer team** hosted a Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) camp, and seniors **Hannah Hickman**, **Andrea Reed**, and **Abby Smith** were named All-Americans.

Cheerleaders who received this award were offered the opportunity to cheer in the New Year’s Day parade in London. In January 2014, Abby spent a week in London with UCA and cheered in the rain on New Year’s Day.

The squad competed at regionals at St. Francis Borgia High School in July. They received third place, which qualified them for state. They competed at The Hearnes Center in Columbia, Missouri, in early September and placed sixth out of 12 teams.

As a result of how well they have competed in various competitions, the **varsity dance team** advanced to a higher division at this year’s state competition in mid-February. The team placed third in hip-hop and fourth in jazz. This season, the team has expanded its repertoire to include a new style in their routines. They now feature jazz, pom, and hip-hop at Westminster basketball games and competitions.

 Visit wcastl.org/athletics to view our spring athletic schedule.

Editor’s Note: All athletics news is accurate at the time of publication, February 2014.

Journey to the Olympics

Evan Parres, eighth grade, dedicates countless hours to training for triathlon competitions.

By **Jill Coyne**, senior, *The Wildcat Roar* editor

Athletes who participate in the Olympics are nothing less than extraordinary. The ease by which they perform their talent obviously comes through hours of unwavering devotion to their sports. In terms of devotion, there may be a future Olympian currently walking the halls of Westminster. Eighth grader **Evan Parres** displays the characteristics of a zealous athlete by committing most of his time to intense training for triathlons. Evan has been competing for three years, and it all started through the suggestion of a neighbor. “My next door neighbor introduced me to triathlons, and I did my first one through the YMCA,” says Evan.

Evan has competed in the IronKids Series and the USA Triathlon Youth and Junior Elite Cup Series, the biggest and most important series for triathletes. In nationals, he placed 11th in the 13-to-15-year-old age group and first in the 14-year-old age group. His team is comprised of young triathletes from all over the country.

“My triathlon team [Z3 Junior Triathlon Team] recently finished second overall in the team category for the Youth and Junior Elite Series,” says Evan. “[We are] based out of Des Moines with satellite coaches in Missouri and other states such as Illinois, South Dakota, Kansas, and Wisconsin.”

Although Evan’s next competition is not until summer, his training continues year-round. During the school year, Evan runs cross country and track and participates in a swim club outside of Westminster. However, his summer schedule is more arduous.

“Usually, my coach has an app that directs what I need to do



each day. I wake up at 4:30 every morning and swim from 5:30-8,” he says. “I am typically tired afterward, so I don’t do much during the day. Then, I bike or run in the afternoon.”

A typical triathlon consists of swimming, biking, and running. All 75 boys start open-water swimming in a lake at the same time, known as a “mass start.” Once completed, they get out of the water and enter the transition area, where they remove swimming caps and gear and change for biking. After a bike course, there is a transition area for running.

“Currently, I swim for half a mile, bike a 20K (12.8 miles), and run a 5K (3.2 miles). When I turn 15, all those distances will double,” says Evan.

Evan’s participation in triathlons has had a positive effect upon his family. His dedication encouraged them to undertake healthier lifestyles.

“[Being a triathlete] has affected my life a lot,” he says. “It’s constantly changing. In fact, my family has become more physically active as a result. My dad has started running and my mom has started walking.”

Evan has high yet attainable hopes. His goal is more than just to stay active; he is working toward a big future.

“If I finish in the top three at nationals, I will get to go to places like Brazil and London,” says Evan. “I hope to travel all over the world and one day participate in the Olympics.”

A Young Entrepreneur

Drew Port, junior, takes initiative and has become an entrepreneur in the world of realty.

By **Elisabeth Harding**, sophomore, *The Wildcat Roar* staff writer

Roar: What exactly is your business, and how did you come up with the idea?

Drew: I do what are called “as-built” drawings, which are basically architectural drawings of buildings in their final form. My dad, a commercial real estate agent, originally pitched this idea to me when he saw a need that was not being filled. Agents had to hire certified architects and spend lots of money to obtain a simple drawing. So I took this idea and, with his help, was able to run with it.



Read the rest of this story and all other stories published in the Westminster student publication *The Wildcat Roar* at thewildcatroar.com.





“I didn’t want to be just another person who passes through; I want to make the most of it. Now that I have relationships with the residents, I am considering how I might continue to serve even after graduation.”

Andrew Colgrove, senior

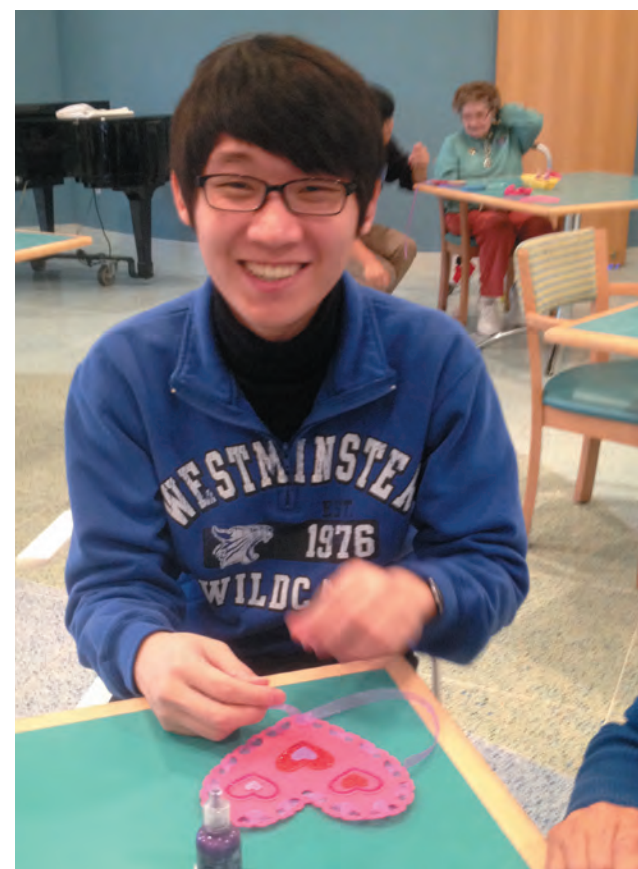
Learning to Serve

One of the distinct privileges Westminster seniors have is the participation in a service program called Faith In Action. During their senior year, in place of Thursday morning classes, seniors report to not-for-profit organizations around St. Louis to serve in a variety of ways. Students are placed at one of more than 60 organizations including schools, daycare centers, hospitals, and nursing homes, to name a few.

The Faith In Action program began in 1987 through the work of teachers who sought a way to integrate service into the school’s curriculum

in a meaningful way. The goal of the program is to provide a service opportunity for students that helps them live out Westminster’s mission to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

Senior **Andrew Colgrove** says volunteering at Surrey Place, a skilled nursing facility, has had a lasting impact on him. “When I first arrived at Surrey, they considered me to be just another volunteer,” he says. “But after getting to know the residents, I didn’t want to be just another person who passes through; I want to make the most of it. Now that I have





Project Give Well

Last year, during a unit on Matthew 25, middle school Bible teachers asked students in their classes who they believed should receive gifts at Christmas, and, more importantly, how to give to “the least of these” every day.

Inspired by this project, a group of 8th grade students began to talk in depth about what they could do to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. After researching various options, the students decided to get involved in Samaritan’s Purse, a not-for-profit organization focused on providing spiritual and physical aid to those in need around the world. More specifically, the students began a campaign among Westminster students to raise \$10,000 to fund the building of a well in Kenya. It was then that a new student organization, Project Give Well, was born.

This year, the organization has expanded to a formal school club open to all students in grades 7 through 12. The mission of Project Give Well is to promote service among the Westminster community on a local, national, and global scale. This year, the PGW students have asked their peers to partner with them as they raise money to help fund a school in Kinshasa, Congo. For the cost of one Westminster tuition, 200 children in Kinshasa can receive schooling. The group is asking each Westminster student to consider giving \$13.90 (based on Westminster’s \$13,900 tuition cost) to meet its goal. The campaign was launched in February and will continue through the end of the school year.

relationships with the residents, I am considering how I might continue to serve even after graduation.”

One Westminster alumnus, **Barth Holohan ’91**, also discovered his passion and gift for working with the elderly while doing his senior service at Westminster. As a senior, Barth volunteered at Delmar Gardens Nursing Home in Chesterfield and went on to become the founder and

president of Continuum, a company that works to help families who are struggling to care for their aging parents.

Student Services Coordinator **Susie Brown** says the goal of the program is for students to develop, early on, a lifelong habit of service. She says, “I hope students will learn the significance of service in their lives and the value of putting others first.” 🐾

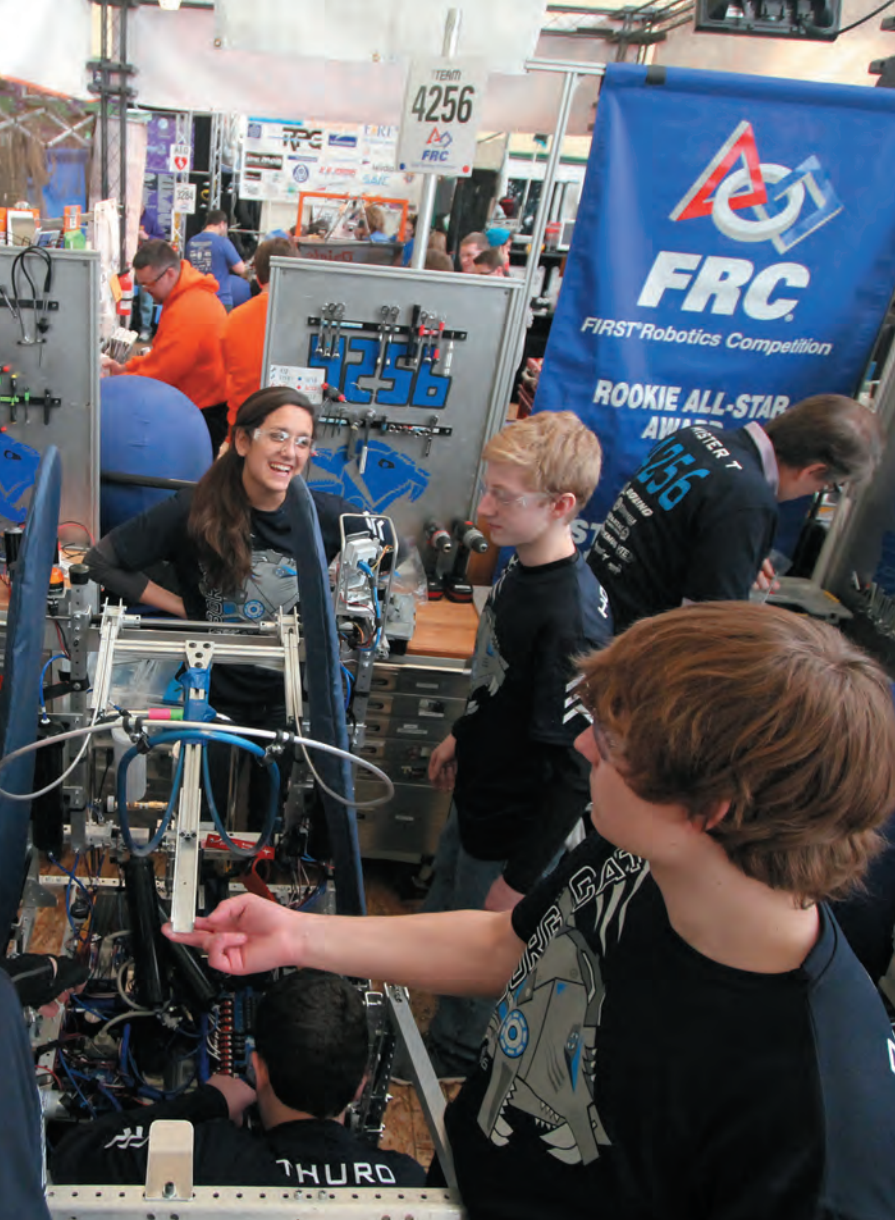
TIME, TALENT, + TEAMWORK

Time in the people. Talent in the robot. These words are typed across a small piece of paper and pinned to a large bulletin board in the upper school robotics laboratory. They serve as an ever-present reminder to the students who occupy the room each afternoon as they busily piece together parts, configure wires, design brochures, sketch ideas, and discuss potential sponsors. On a typical day after school, a passerby can hear excited chatter coming from the room. Junior **Alex Kessel**, student leader of the team, bends over a large, laminated paper, examining an organizational chart of the team groups and responsibilities. Junior **Steven Howell** plans a trip to a nearby plant to pick up scraps of aluminum to use for this year's competition robot. Not far down the hall, another group of students sits at computers, programming the robot's motion and sight capabilities. Downstairs, one student, supervised by two adult mentors, utilizes machinery to etch a pattern into a small metal piece for the bot, while two other boys glue together foam buffers to cushion any potential collision when the robot is in motion. Everyone has a task perfectly fitted to his or her skill set.

Varied talents, diverse interests, and a myriad of personalities converge to form this year's robotics team. The inclusive nature and makeup of the group is intentional, and it looks very different from when the team was born in 2011. "The first year, our major goal was to get established," says Alex. "It was a lot of work. We had about 35 team members, and the focus was primarily on the robot," he says. The second year, the team nearly doubled in size and centralized their efforts on creating a robot sophisticated enough to be recognized and noticed at the competition. "We needed confidence that we could build a robot to fulfill the main goal," says Alex. Now in its third year with more than 70 student participants on the team, the focus has shifted once more. The robot is still important, but as Alex explains, their new goal is to use the robot (and the program) as a means of investing in people and forming constructive relationships. "We are looking to develop the team - not necessarily with the robot but through the program itself," says Alex.

This goal directly coincides with the mission of the FIRST Robotics program, of which Westminster's Team 4256 - otherwise known as "The Cyborg Cats" - is a member. The FIRST program's purpose hinges on exposing young people to the opportunities and possibilities of science and technology with the intent of inspiring them to be confident and communicative leaders in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. "We have embraced the totality of what FIRST is trying to accomplish," says **Lisa Harding**, director of the program. "We want to open the eyes of every student. Technology doesn't happen without every other skill there is. It is not brought to the market without leadership, financing, and marketing. In order to participate in technological





“THERE ARE TEAMS THAT BUILD ROBOTS TO WIN THE GAME. BUT [FOR US], THE BOT IS THE MEANS TO THE REAL GOAL – THE TEAM ITSELF. WE WANT THIS TO BE A PLACE WHERE KIDS CAN COME AND BELONG, WHERE SENIORS AND FRESHMEN WORK SIDE BY SIDE.” – LISA HARDING



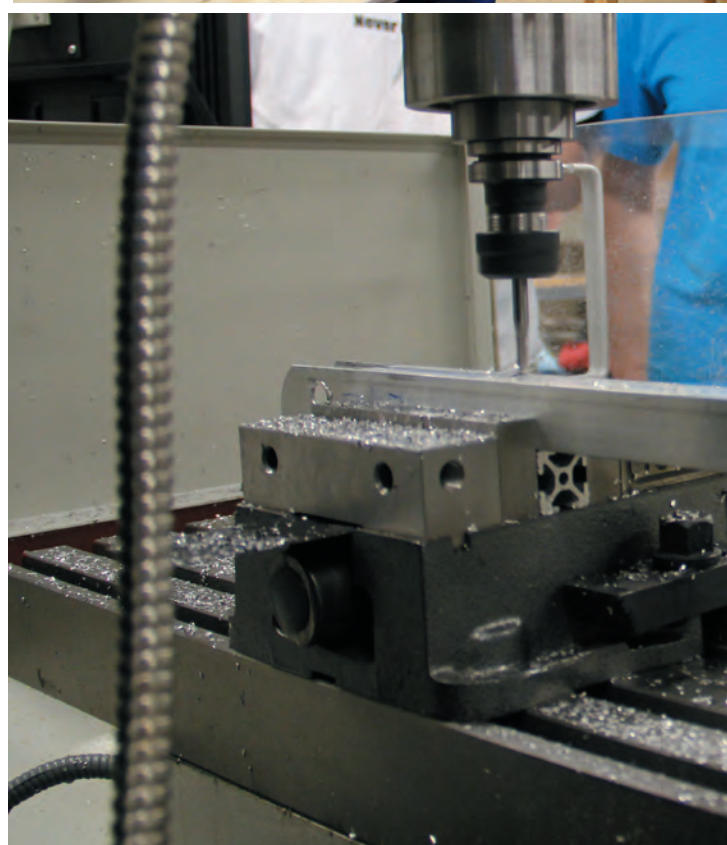
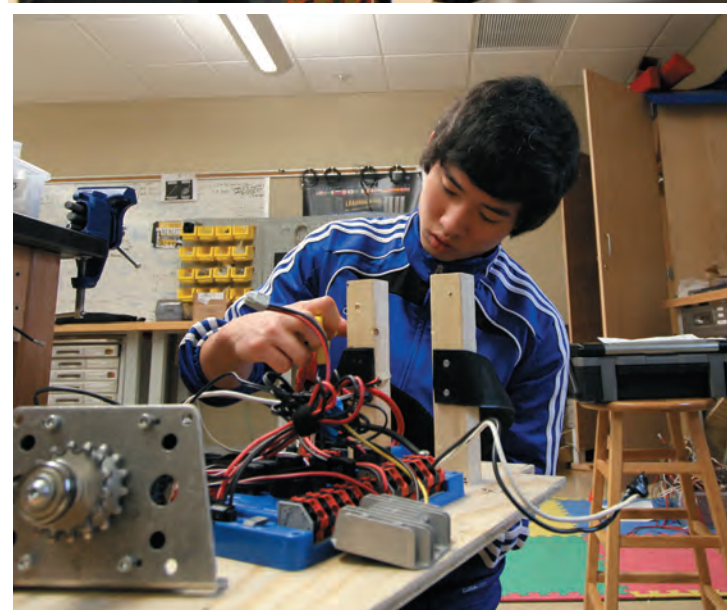
advancements, you don't have to be an engineer. Every student has skills that are needed and that can be applied."

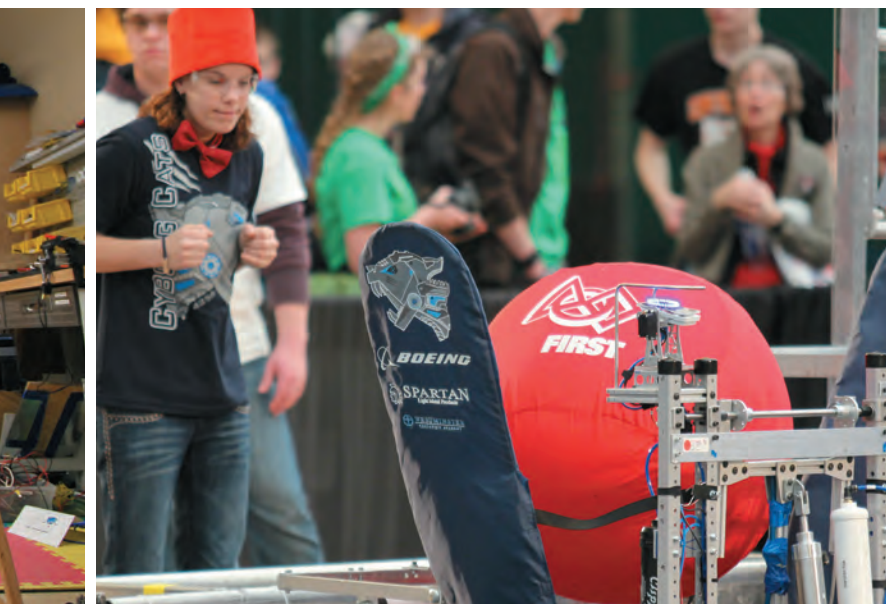
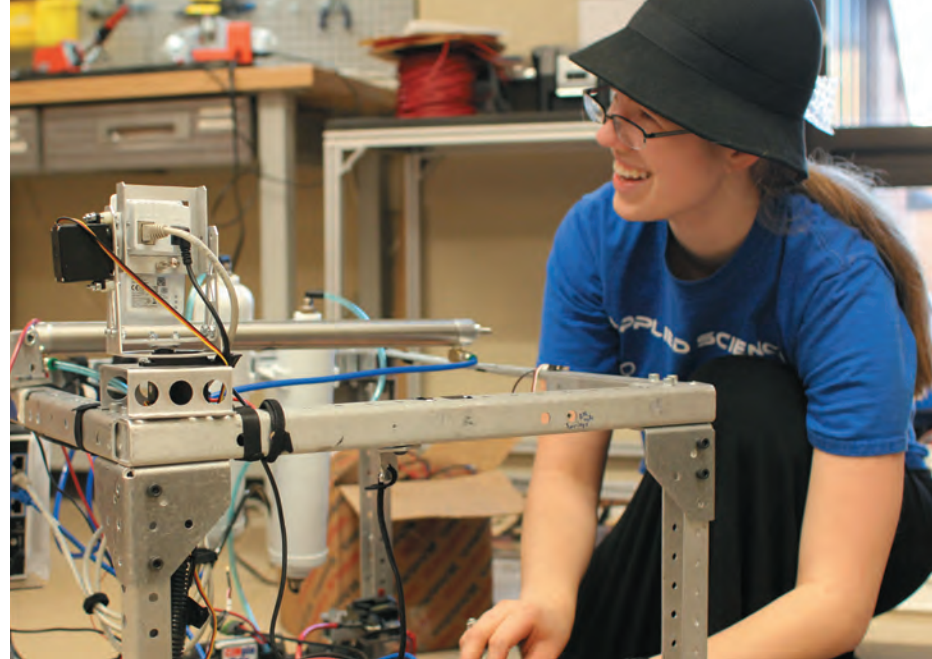
The diversity of the team and its members has not gone unnoticed at each year's competition. "When we go to competition, we stick out," says Mrs. Harding. "The diversity of our team brings richness to our organization and is evident to the other teams." Competing at the varsity level against other high school teams in the region, The Cyborg Cats work within a six-week timeframe to create a robot using specified parts and adhering to a set of rules in order to solve a common problem, as determined by FIRST. This year's unique challenge is to design a robot that can throw an exercise ball into a goal. Additional points can be awarded to teams that can successfully work together in alliances to have their robots pass the ball from one robot to another, or throw the ball over a bar to another bot. For some teams, scoring the most points is the primary goal. For Westminster's team, the ultimate goal is different. "It's more than just building a bot that wins the competition," says Mrs. Harding. "There are teams that do that. They build a robot to win the game. But that's not the team we want to have. We want to have a *team*. We build this robot, but the bot is the means to the real goal – the team itself. We want this to be a place where kids can come and belong, where seniors and freshmen work side by side."

This idea of community has made a lasting impact on the team and its members. Junior **Drew Port** says, "Participation on this team has given me unique skills that I couldn't acquire anywhere else – communication, teamwork, and leadership skills," he says. "I've learned that you can't just do it all yourself. You have to find a balance of delegating the work and giving others the opportunity to succeed and grow. Teamwork is absolutely vital." Alumna **Lauren Moore '12**, a biochemical major at Missouri University of Science and Technology, expressed a similar sentiment as she reflected upon the impact the program had on her life. "The teamwork aspect of the robotics program had a huge influence on my experience at Westminster my senior year," says Lauren. "Being a new, introverted student, I hadn't made many friends, and joining the robotics team gave me a close group of friends that were like family to me," she says. "We spent many hours together and learned how to work with one another well, and I learned valuable skills in interacting with people that have helped me in college in my group engineering design classes."

Through teamwork, shared responsibility, and mentorship, Alex says he hopes to generate even more excitement for the program and would love to see increased involvement from future students. "When I graduate and leave the team, my hope is to look back and see more and more kids continuing to come," he says. "I'd love for this to be 'the thing' at Westminster – for Westminster to be the place where, if you're not involved in robotics, then you're missing something!"

This energy, passion, and intentionality is what drives The Cyborg Cats and inspires them to succeed in ways that cannot be measured by points, awards, or recognitions, but instead through relationship, teamwork, and community. 🐾





INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY

During the last week of February, companies and institutions across the country celebrate National Engineers Week as they host events and activities to increase awareness for this specialized profession and recognize the work and contributions of women engineers. This year, St. Louis University's Parks College of Engineering, Aviation, and Technology hosted "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" to expose young women to the opportunities available to them in this field. Sixteen Westminster freshman, sophomore, and junior students attended this event and visited the Saint Louis University campus to tour engineering labs, meet professors, and speak to current students pursuing degrees in aerospace, biomedical, civil, computer, electrical and mechanical engineering.

The day's activities included an engineering challenge in which the girls were organized into small groups and competed to best solve the challenge. Attendees also had the chance to hear from a prominent female engineering professional who spoke and answered questions.

According to **Maggie Moore**, upper school math teacher and engineering instructor, this event was an eye-opening experience for many of the high school students. "Since engineering is a male-dominated field, girls can have such an impact," she says. "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day was a great way for our girls to see firsthand what an impact they can make. Engineering is one of the most practical applications of our math and science classes, and I'm excited that Westminster's girls can see and explore how using what they've learned in the classroom, they can make a huge difference in their world."

“We the People” and the Pursuit of Politics



The seniors in **Ken Boesch**'s AP U.S. Government and Politics course, a class known informally around Westminster as “We the People,” have once again earned the honor of representing Westminster (and Missouri) nationally.

They closely competed for this achievement at the end of January in Jefferson City and will travel to Washington, D.C., in April. In 18 years competing in WTP, Westminster teams have won the state competition 14 times and placed in the national top 10 teams three times (sixth in 2000, second in 2002, and ninth in 2010).

The program, “We the People - The Citizen and the Constitution,” is constructed as a mock congressional hearing that requires comprehensive knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, familiarity with Supreme Court decisions, and a cool demeanor in the

face of difficult questioning. More than 50 high school teams prepare four-minute statements and undergo six minutes of follow-up questioning from a panel of judges. Team members then have six additional minutes to defend their answers.

WTP teams cover units on six different topics that span the breadth of constitutional provisions and federal

law. Each team member must build a deep knowledge of his or her topic and be prepared to articulate and defend that topic. Once a team wins at the state level, members study a new set of topics for the national competition.

Mr. Boesch's students start the year knowing they will work hard. “In this course, they learn how to write, how to



think on their feet, how to speak in public, and how to work in a group,” he says. “It really prepares them for college and beyond.”

Students agree. “‘We the People’ has given me confidence,” says senior **Hannah Caple**. “It also helps me as a citizen of this country. I feel more informed so that I feel confident about who I’m voting for and know about the issues.”

For senior **Dominic Franceschelli**, the class has inspired him to consider a career in politics. “I know what this country stands for and what it protects in my own life,” says Dominic. “I’ve learned how to study, work efficiently, and find meaningful information from reliable sources.”

Mr. Boesch, who mentors his students with enthusiasm, has an abiding love for his subject that breathes life into its process and history. “I show students my passion for government, whether it’s the philosophy of how [the United States] came to be or the nuts and bolts of our Constitution and how we relate these 227-year-old concepts today,” says Mr. Boesch. “Students need to see that this stuff is real, that it’s important, and that it applies to them.”

Mr. Boesch credits Westminster colleagues **Howard Warren** and **Kelley Schwartz**, as well as WTP alumni and other Westminster graduates who are now attorneys and professors of political science, for help in preparing his teams. He has set high expectations, and he knows it requires considerable sacrifice and effort on the part of his students (and their parents) to meet those expectations.

“These kids commit to a lot,” says Mr. Boesch. “They play varsity sports; they take numerous AP classes. But ‘We the People’ is an experience that really can define their senior year.” 🐾



Created to Make a Difference in Politics: Lane Anderson Koch '04

Lane Anderson Koch, Class of 2004, grew up in a family in which politics was a common topic of discussion and being involved in the public process was regularly encouraged. Her life path, influenced not only by her upbringing but also by her experience in Westminster history and ethics courses, reflects the difference of a Westminster Christian Academy education. “My education at Westminster served as a foundation for my career in politics and government service,” says Lane. “The support I received from the faculty was invaluable to me as a young person.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree from Taylor University, Lane worked her way up through several political campaigns and organizations. She served as executive director of Romney for President 2012 in Missouri and now serves as small business liaison for Senator Roy Blunt.

What motivated your interest in politics early on?

Neither of my parents was in politics, but I grew up in a household that was politically engaged. My parents did a lot of volunteering for campaigns, and I went along. One of my memories as a young kid was going to a watch party for Jim Talent.

How did your classwork at Westminster influence your decision to pursue politics as a career?

I got the political bug at Westminster in Mr. [Larry] Hughes’ and Mr. [Brian] Burkey’s classes. They both provided classroom environments in which students were encouraged to engage in spirited debates on ethics, political philosophies, and theology. Mrs. [Jill] Keith and Ms. [Cindy] Zavaglia helped sharpen my writing and communications skills; and Mr. [Jim] Drexler encouraged me to get involved in campaigns and politics outside the classroom. Beyond the career preparedness and self-confidence that my Westminster education provided, it instilled in me a deeper desire to serve the Lord and to help people like the constituents we serve every day.

You interned with then-Senator Kit Bond during college.

How important are internships for someone who is interested in a career in politics?

I always tell people that internships really open doors. My internship led to a great job for me. The McCain-Palin campaign was coming in, and they had asked for staffers. I was hired to be in charge of the grass roots campaign for the St. Louis region. I focused on recruiting volunteers and asking if



Lane and her husband Dan Koch '04 and daughter Langley (14 months)

they would make calls or go door-to-door. As we drew close to Election Day, we contacted voters and reminded them to vote for our candidate. There were even Westminster students who came to help!

What is politics like as a career?

What’s nice about a career in politics is that you can mold it to fit your life. Campaigns are very hard work. That first campaign when I was a field rep was tough because it was 70 hours a week. If you really want to get into politics, you have to make it through that first tough gig. If you do a good job in one campaign, you know you’ll move up in the next job. It’s exciting for those who are really ambitious. I know quite a few Westminster students who have become involved in campaigns and told Mr. [Ken] Boesch that I enjoy mentoring and developing interns because I want to try to help them by sharing my own experiences in the field.

I believe Westminster students who are considering a career in politics and public service have an edge because of the values and principles ingrained in them by their academic experience. We should encourage more people to enter public service, motivated not by self-interest but rather by a desire to serve and to make our state, country, and world a better place for the glory of God.

Excited for camp this summer?



JOIN US AT CAMP WESTMINSTER for an unforgettable summer adventure! Choose from more than 30 exciting half- and full-day camps for boys and girls in grades K-9 during the month of June. Experience the fun, learn something new, and share the memories with a friend!

Sign up today at wcastl.org/campwestminster.

Camp
Westminster

Experience Adventure. Sharpen Skills. Build Character.



Two Cultures, One Faith

In January, a group of 25 middle school students and three faculty from Westminster's sister school Saemmul Christian Academy in Seoul, South Korea, visited Westminster to attend Winter Camp, an annual, month-long experience that provides them the opportunity to learn in the classroom alongside Westminster students and teachers and experience American culture firsthand.

The students lived with Westminster host families and experienced a selection of challenging classes and high-quality ESL classes. Weekend field trips included the St. Louis Arch, City Museum, Art Museum, and Cathedral Basilica, as well as a day trip to Chicago. The majority of the students also participated in Spirit Week activities; two gifted musicians played guitar before school; and all performed in an assembly for the Middle School at the end of their stay.

Winter Camp presents unique opportunities for both the

Korean and Westminster students, who form friendships during their time here. Director of International Program **Dani Butler** says the experience of Winter Camp helps prepare Westminster students to make an impact in a global world. "It is not only a wonderful opportunity for the visiting Korean students, but it is also extremely beneficial for our Westminster students," says Mrs. Butler. "Our host families have taken on the huge commitment of welcoming Korean children in their homes for four weeks so that their own children can be exposed to foreign culture here at home. It really does bring all of our families together."

While Winter Camp provides the visiting Korean students the opportunity to work on their English and experience America, it also exposes Westminster students and families to a culture they may have not otherwise encountered.



“Having the Korean students here was such a surreal experience. This summer, I had the privilege to teach at Saemmul Christian Academy, and many of the students I had there came to Westminster for Winter Camp. I couldn’t have been more excited when I heard all the students who were coming. It amazes me how these students have performed in the classroom with all the cultural differences, host family adjustments, and weekend field trips – not to mention adding Spirit Week on top of everything! Both my experiences with our sister school this year have made the verses about the church in Acts II come alive for me. I’m thankful for our relationship with Saemmul and how much God continued to show how we are all united in Him through camp this January.”

– *Nicole Scholten, 8th grade science teacher*

“We have been enriched and truly blessed to have Jack and Vincent live with us for a month. Our family grew by two and our lives will be forever changed. This experience has given us forever friends/sons on the other side of the world who we eagerly hope to one day see again.”

– *Kelly and Mike Beat, host family*



“I am very impressed by how positive American students are. They have positive attitudes, positive thoughts, and positive lifestyles.”

– *Lucy, Korean student*





"I came away from it learning a lot about compassion. You would expect that because we were opening our home that we would be a benefit for them, but I ended up learning more from them in respect to their giving hearts. It was cool to see how two different communities from so far apart could come together through Christianity."

– *Christian Lindgren, senior*

"My host family really showed how we can be one in our God."

– *David, Korean student*



Westminster students to teach Bible in China

This July, seven Westminster students and two teachers will visit Hana International School in Gwangzhou, China, to host an English Bible camp. Our students will serve as teachers' assistants to help teach Bible in English. Westminster is in the process of developing a partnership with Hana, a Christian school.

World language students make a difference

The Westminster Spanish and French clubs are making a difference in the lives of local immigrants and refugees. For the past several years, the clubs have volunteered with Engage St. Louis, formerly Refuge of Nations, which cares for immigrants and refugees and shows them the love of Jesus Christ.

While Engage St. Louis has many different ministries that cater to various international populations, the Westminster group offers its time to one particular ministry that serves women and children involved in a Wednesday-night Spanish Bible study at South City Church. The mothers, most of whom are from Mexico, study Scripture while the Westminster students provide childcare to their kids. On an average evening, the students might sing a song and share a Bible story with the kids, followed by a time of coloring, working on homework, sculpting, playing tag, and having fun.



In December, Westminster students brought piñatas to celebrate Christmas with the children. They had worked on the papier-mâché creations after school and enjoyed watching the kids smash them to bits and snatch up the candy inside. Language teachers and club sponsors **Joan Dudley** and **Sarah DeVries**, as well as Westminster's Director of Diversity **Aaron Layton**, were present to watch the smiles on the kids' faces and are proud of the students for their eagerness to serve and bring joy to others.





WE'VE GOT SPIRIT... FOR 25 YEARS!

By Eichel Davis, sophomore, *The Wildcat Roar* print editor

Did you know that Spirit Week started in 1989? Or that ITSOG [In The Spirit Of Giving] points used to contribute to the winner of Spirit Week? Over the past 25 years, Spirit Week has grown and changed, but the founders' core intentions have remained the same. In 1989, former teacher **Florence Lewis** noticed a hole in Westminster's yearly schedule.

Scott Holley, academic dean, says, "It was the longest drag of the school year. It was after Christmas Break, and Spring Break was still far off."

When Spirit Week first started, it was called Wildcat Pride Week. Lip Sync has always been the biggest event, held at the end of the week. Boys' Poms, however, was not always the big deal it is now. Originally, it was a silly performance that was meant to bring laughs. But then came **Justin DeRosa '04**. DeRosa came up as a freshman and changed Boys' Poms



forever. He made it a large spectacle, and his class won the contest all four years of upper school. DeRosa's class also spawned many of the rules we have today, such as "no large objects" and "no smoke machines."

It wasn't until three years after Spirit Week was born that the great Hallway Decorations were introduced. In 1992, the senior class got into the "Spirit" by decorating their hallway. Mrs. Lewis then introduced the activity as a school-wide contest.

After five years, Spirit Week had grown into the biggest event at Westminster, and the Spirit Week we know today was actually a "Spirit Two

Months," as students would begin preparations over Christmas Break.

Over time, it was clear that it was time for a new "big event," and the Spirit Committee dreamt up Blue Man Stomp. While only in its ninth year, many current students see it as a Spirit Week staple.

Now, 25 years into the tradition of Spirit Week, while events like hallways and floats have been retired, we have new ones like Film Project and Art Boards. It's certain that Spirit Week will continue to change as the years go on, but at its heart, Spirit Week will always be a week of fun and community.



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE



When [my son] **Jeff** was little, he would make a spook house in our basement every Halloween and would charge the neighborhood kids a quarter to come through and see it. So one year he really wanted a smoke machine for Christmas. Jeff was friends with **Josh Camp**, who knew about the smoke machine and one year asked if they could use it for one of their legendary Class of 2004 Boys' Poms routines. Jeff agreed. One day in the middle of the school day, the guys were practicing their routine and the fire alarm went off. We had to evacuate the school. That is my favorite memory.

Scott Holley
Academic Dean



My favorite memories of Spirit Week, of course, have been the Taekwondo performances. I love seeing the students in our community embrace a culture of diversity. It was wonderful to see not only our Korean students but also American students participate.

Dani Butler
Director of International Program



What I love the most about Spirit Week are the moments that happen every year when the older students reach out to the younger ones. I believe it was Spirit Week '07 when the freshmen and seniors were the top two in Blue Man Stomp and played together as one group after the big game on Friday night. **Matt Sugg** [I] was one of the freshmen, and every year after that, he came down to the Middle School to help the 7th graders during their first Blue Man Stomp practice (even though he had his own routine to work on). So while there is a great spirit of competition surrounding Spirit Week, there is also a great camaraderie and a mentoring that goes on, which is priceless.

Deana Vandegriff
Middle School Bible

When I came to Westminster as head of upper school, I was told that Spirit Week was something unbelievably special. I have my own memories from the very first Spirit Week when our own children were Westminster students. More than 20 years later, I remember the sight of my wife and our kids taking huge blow-up beach balls for some activity to the old campus in our car with the top down. Everyone crowded into the Old Gym, and there was a lot of hollering and jumping up and down with hardly room to move!

Jim Sefrit
Head of Upper School



MEMORY OF SPIRIT WEEK?



I love seeing students work together, often with kids who are not in their friend group. I've seen friendships form and class community grow. The community building and the students' excitement bring me so much joy. Oh, and wearing jeans!

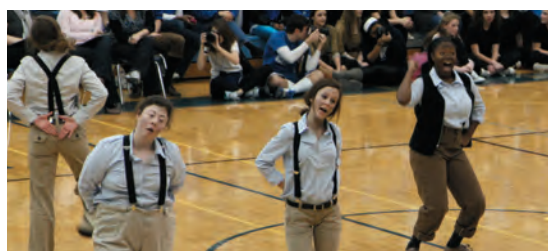
Anne DeRousse
Middle School Math and Science

I really liked putting blue paint all over my head and neck. Another fond memory is wearing fake wings. I've always wanted to fly.

Chris Knerr
History Department Chair

I remember dressing up like a varsity dance member and doing a routine that **Chris [Knerr]** and I worked out beforehand; that was great. I remember being Dr. Evil while Chris was "Mini Me." I shaved my head. I remember doing a spoof on the movie *Blades of Glory*, when Chris and I dressed up and rollerbladed on the gym floor – that was fun. Dressing up like a cop and Indian and getting the entire gym to sing YMCA was pretty cool as well. So many good memories.

Warren Smith
Upper School Science



My favorite memory of Spirit Week had to be the year that **Laura Kaup** [’11], a sweet girl with special needs, performed in Lip Sync with the rest of her class. She was as enthusiastic as ever and completely comfortable, with so much confidence that she could go out and perform in front of the entire student body. As she was surrounded by peers who loved and accepted her, it said so much about our school. It really touched my heart.

Jim Marsh
Head of School Emeritus



One of my favorite memories of Spirit Week is when Mrs. **[Susie] Brown** dressed up as me for one of the dress up days! She wore a suit, heels, earrings, and necklace that looked just like something I would wear. The funniest part that I recognized me instantly.

Betty Richardson
Administrative Assistant to Head of Upper School



One time the faculty had a "dress up like Spencer day." I had lost a bet and had to come to school in a shirt and tie. All the teachers, plus **Jim Marsh**, were dressed like me – from camouflage to ball caps. It was great.

Spencer Savory
Maintenance



Andy Benes Gala

Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.
The Redbird Club at Busch Stadium

semi-formal dinner and auction

The proceeds from the Andy Benes Gala will enable more young men and women to attend Westminster and be prepared to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

The story of Westminster students who have flourished as a result of tuition assistance is too great to tell. But the givers of every dollar designated for tuition assistance become a part of the story.

Parents often walk into Westminster filled with apprehension, uncertainty, and a great deal of hope that their child might be able to experience the gift of a Christian education. It is their hope and prayer that their child will grow into a man or woman of godly character.

Due to financial difficulties, many children are unable to attend Westminster without support from those within the community who designate gifts for tuition assistance. Many parents sacrifice everything so that their child can attend Westminster. Parents drive aging cars, forgo vacations, and downsize their homes in order to manage tuition payments.

While tuition assistance cannot provide all that our students may need, it does provide the opportunity for them to learn and thrive in a community where they are challenged academically and cared for by loving teachers and coaches who help them become the individuals God created them to be.

To RSVP, become a sponsor, or volunteer, visit wcastl.org/gala.



SARAH

“Sarah” immigrated to the United States with her parents. At Westminster, she studied hard, became salutatorian, and went on to attend an Ivy League school. Following graduation, she worked eight years at a prestigious management-consulting firm and is currently studying for her master’s degree. Tuition assistance changed Sarah’s life.

JOE

“Joe,” a minority student who quickly became involved at Westminster, has received numerous awards, honors, and internships during college and has secured a full-time position that he will assume upon graduation. Joe was able to attend Westminster because his family received tuition assistance.

GINA

Before “Gina” came to Westminster, she was in a difficult public school situation. While she was already receiving tuition assistance, it was not enough for her to attend her senior year. But because of a generous tuition assistance donation from an alumnus, she was able to return to Westminster one week after classes started in the fall. Because of tuition assistance, Gina will receive her Westminster diploma.

JILL

“Jill,” a special services student, made great progress academically at Westminster and was admitted to a selective program at a private college. Jill now has a bright future, secured during her years at Westminster – an experience made possible through the gift of tuition assistance.

REBECCA

“Rebecca” lives with her mom in government-subsidized housing. Most days, she takes public transportation to Westminster, as her mom does not own a car and was recently laid off from her part-time job. Tuition assistance has made it possible for her to attend Westminster, but it is unclear if she will be able to graduate. For Rebecca to stay at Westminster, she needs your support.

STEVEN

“Steven” lives in a low-income area of St. Louis with his mom. He has grown up in an area where young men are not expected to make a positive difference. When given the opportunity to attend Westminster as the result of tuition assistance, he not only succeeded academically but was also mentored by encouraging coaches and teachers who became his role models. He will be attending college in the fall. Tuition assistance gave Steven the opportunity to make a difference in the world for Christ.

Spotlight on the Donor Report

Investing in world-class academics, arts, and athletics

What We're Doing

Preparing more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ

Developing world-class programs in academics, athletics, and the arts, and preparing our students to realize their God-given potential

Attracting and cultivating excellent teachers who are committed to investing in our students

Promoting missional and financial sustainability in order to provide an affordable Westminster education for the next generation of students

Impacting Christian schooling regionally, nationally, and globally by sharing our story, successes, and knowledge



1 in 4 students received tuition assistance this year. Currently, there are 988 students and 764 families represented at Westminster.

\$1.7 million

amount of tuition assistance awarded in the 2013-14 school year

\$4.4 million

total gifts received in 2013 (1,096 individual gifts)
Twelve companies contributed a total of \$85,000 in matching gifts.**

\$5.3 million

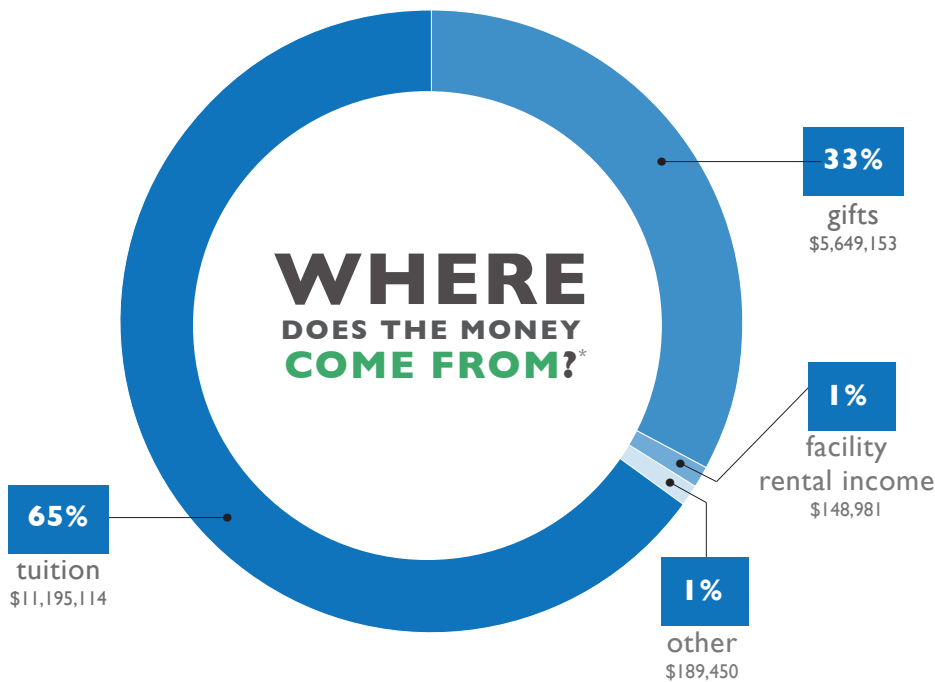
outstanding pledges as of December 2013

\$33.25 million

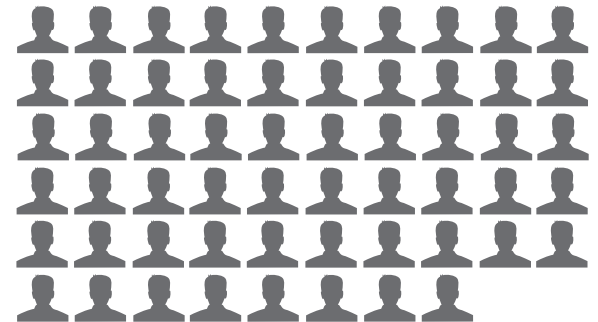
outstanding debt as of December 2013



For more view the 2013 Annual Donor Report wcastl.org/2013-annual-donor-report



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?*



TEACHERS & STAFF: 58%



MORTGAGE: 16%



RESERVES: 13%



ADMINISTRATIVE: 5%



MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAM EXPENSES: 4%



UTILITIES & MAINTENANCE: 4%

Our Core Values

Honor God in all that we do
(I Corinthians 10:31; Mark 12:30)

Enroll and serve families
(Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 78:4)

Become better than we once were
(Colossians 3:23-24)

Learn and live in Christian community
(Romans 12:15; I Corinthians 12:25-26)

Partner with the Christian home and church
(Proverbs 22:6; Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Lead with our serve
(Ephesians 6:7-8; Philippians 2:3)

You can make a difference.

Visit wcastl.org/give to learn how you can make a difference by investing in Westminster.

* 2012-13 fiscal year [audited]

** 2013 calendar year

Source: Westminster Christian Academy



A Look at Where We are Heading Together

By Tom Stoner, head of school

By the time you receive this issue of *Chimes*, I will be passing the eight-month mark and heading into the home stretch of my first year as head of school at Westminster. Wow! Time sure has flown by.

My wife Carrie and I are deeply grateful to the extended Westminster community for so warmly embracing our family. We are delighted to be here and look forward to the years ahead together.

As these months have passed and people assume that I have had time to survey the landscape at Westminster, I have more frequently been asked the question, “So, where do you see Westminster heading from here?”

This is certainly a fair question, and I wanted to answer it for all of you. From my very first day, I have said that my transition to leadership at Westminster was an unusual one. It is increasingly common for new leaders to encounter organizations that are in decline and need to be turned around. This was not the case for me. My goal, and my earnest prayer, is that God would continue to cause Westminster to thrive as we prepare students to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

To meet this goal of ensuring Westminster’s continued success, I have been and will remain eager to learn who we are so that I can work to intentionally preserve what we cherish about the school and promote our very best for the benefit of future students. In keeping with this goal, we also have in place a strong strategic plan that will help guide our collective work to lead Westminster in the months and years ahead.

The following are a few of the priorities I have adopted in recent months:

1. We will ensure the priority of our academic mission and seek to raise our academic profile.

Many have heard me say, “Schools must be schools,” or, “Restaurants had better have delicious food, and schools had better have strong academic programs.” All children go to school to learn, and my experience has taught me that one major reason parents choose private schooling is because of their desire for their children to receive an education marked by greater challenge and greater nurture.



Evangelical Christian schooling in America is a relatively young movement. And unfortunately, the academic mission of far too many Christian schools has been undermined by the distorted idea that academic quality and Christian nurture are at opposite ends of the same spectrum – and the closer one gets to one end, the farther one gets from the other.

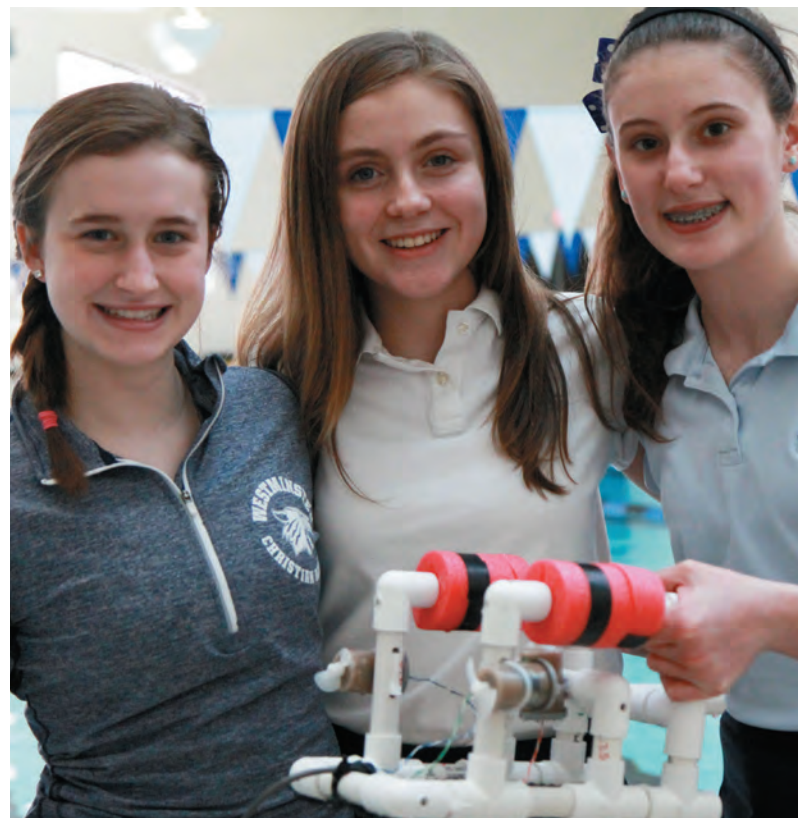
What attracted me most to Westminster was our rejection of the idea that high-caliber academics runs contrary to the cultivation of Christian faith and character. Rather than one spectrum with academics at one end and Christian nurture at the other, we identify two separate spectra. One targets high-quality academics at one end and low-quality academics at the

“What attracted me most to Westminster was our rejection of the idea that high-caliber academics runs contrary to the cultivation of Christian faith and character.”

other. The second spectrum targets the distinctive integration and nurture of Christian faith and character at one end and lack of integration of Christian faith at the other. Our mission to prepare students to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ requires us to be excellent in both of these critical areas.

Our strategic plan is to develop “world-class programs in

academics, athletics, and the arts.” I am now engaged with the faculty and administration to identify what it means to truly be “world-class” and then define what steps we must take to provide our students and families with the finest Christian education available today. You can count on our very best to that end.



2. We will promote the distinctive Christian character of our school program and community.

If a school must be a school, and we ensure that our academic program is the best offered, so, too, a Christian school must be a Christian school. What makes a Christian school distinctive from a public school or a private school with no religious affiliation?

Perhaps the most immediately visible and obvious distinctive is that we teach all students Bible, have weekly chapel services, and our teachers are free to express devotion to Christ in class through prayer and the reading of God's Word. These elements add value to a student's experience at Westminster and are reflections of our partnership with the home and church to nurture our students in Christian faith and character.

But in addition to these elements, I have found Westminster's faculty to be on the leading edge of another defining characteristic of a Christian school: instructing the content of the academic subjects in a way that integrates a Christian world and life view. The cumulative effect of this distinctive instruction is that it helps to shape our students'

“Our teachers' ability to integrate a Christian worldview into the academic subjects is key to the life-shaping power and value of Christian schooling, and we are deeply invested in helping our teachers do this well.”

understanding of the world in a way that fits together in a unified, cohesive view of truth and reality. Our teachers' ability to do this is key to the life-shaping power and value of Christian schooling, and we are deeply invested in helping our teachers do this well.

Finally, a priority of ours as a Christian school is a commitment to maintain the distinctive character of daily life in our school community. This requires high expectations in academics and student conduct and renewing our mutual commitments to reach these standards.

This third priority is the one that makes the others possible:

3. We will work to recruit, retain, and invest in the professional growth of the best teachers to inspire our students.

I often say that 20 years from now, our current students will not be talking about how the Town & Country facility changed their lives. The experience of decades of Westminster alumni confirms that our students will, however, reflect on how their lives were shaped by the relationships they had with their



teachers, coaches, and directors in the Town & Country facility. We are committed to finding and holding onto the very best.

Introducing The Westminster Annual Fund

Our ability to support these priorities requires a faithful, annual investment of time, talent, and resources from the extended Westminster community. Each one of us has an opportunity to play a powerful role in advancing the lives of current Westminster students.

Your contribution to The Westminster Annual Fund will allow for critical investment in world-class programs, tuition assistance for students who could not otherwise attend, and additional resources for faculty and staff who make a profound difference.

Every gift to the annual fund, no matter the size, is both symbolic and special. Will you partner with those who care about Westminster by giving to The Westminster Annual Fund this year? Please visit wcastl.org/give to make your gift today. Your investment in today's students will benefit them and all those who they will someday lead and serve. 🐾

TheWestminster**Annual**Fund



Every gift matters.

Everyone can impact the lives of our students.



TheWestminster**Annual**Fund is a new way for students, parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to make a collective difference. While Westminster has received annual gifts in the past, we hope that our entire community will now join together.



Your gift provides life-changing opportunities in academics, the arts, and athletics.



Give to TheWestminster**Annual**Fund online at wcastl.org/give or contact us at 314.997.2900.



Together, we can make a difference.

Foundation of Faith

Susan Hauser Maynor '86

Service and leadership, collaboration and creativity, hard work and excellence. **Susan Maynor** believes these defining disciplines, ingrained in her as a student at Westminster, shaped her life personally, academically, and spiritually. In fact, it was in the midst of her high school career that Susan determined she wanted to return to Westminster one day to be a teacher, due in no small part to the impact and influence of her own teachers. “**Sara Drexler** taught me to be a servant leader well before senior service,” says Susan. “Her investment in me as a person, as a Christian, and as a female made a lasting impact on me.”

Mrs. Drexler’s encouragement and example inspired Susan to demonstrate a servant’s heart in practical ways. She vividly remembers helping prepare for Westminster’s first Christmas Banquet, when she devoted hours to decorating for the special event for her fellow students. Experiences like this taught Susan the importance of approaching her life and work with a divine focus. “Mrs. Drexler taught me to see beyond myself, into a broken world in need of knowing the gospel.”

Her desire to impact the world for Christ was fueled by a passion for creativity and collaboration, which was also nurtured at Westminster through the many opportunities she had to participate in school musicals. “I was in Westminster’s first-ever musical *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in 1986,” says Susan. “I had the opportunity to be the choreographer for the first three musicals at Westminster because of the director **Betsey Tyvoll**.” Under Mrs. Tyvoll’s guidance, Susan began to



explore the creative process and learned about the grace and perseverance involved in the preparation and production of any creative work. “I had never created anything so big nor so elaborate,” says Susan. “But Mrs. Tyvoll had faith in me, and she invested in me and helped me through the process.”

Through it all, Susan distinctly remembers **Scott Holley’s** influence in her life as a student, as he inspired her to always pursue excellence in everything.

“[Dr. Holley] invested in me and provided me feedback both academically and spiritually – always with great insight and wisdom,” says

Susan. Equipped with this drive to do her best, Susan went on to receive a B.A. in Elementary Education from Wheaton College and M.A. in Communications from Lindenwood University.

Early in her career, Susan spent several years teaching 6th grade at an independent school in Los Angeles, where she had the opportunity to start an after-school musical theatre program in which she wrote and directed several productions for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. In 1999, her high school dream to move back to St. Louis – and to Westminster – came to fruition. “God eventually opened doors for me to return to Westminster to teach,” says Susan. “I joined the 7th grade team and taught English and geography. I also taught upper school communications classes, including creative writing, graphic design, web design, and video storytelling.” Additionally, Susan helped direct and choreograph a number of school musicals, drawing from her own high school experiences in musical theatre.

“As both a Christian and a passionate educator, I want to serve in whatever capacity God calls me,” says Susan. In

“I believe that Christian education is an opportunity for young people to not only educate their minds but also to educate their hearts and spirits – and to begin to understand the redemption story that is in the fabric of our universe.” – Susan Maynor

2012, that meant relocating with her husband Todd and two sons Max (11) and Briggs (9) to Kansas City, where she currently works at an elementary charter school downtown. This year, Susan has worked to build a technology-rich, problem-based learning enrichment program for students in grades 3-6. “Our students produce videos for the downtown community, design their own creative works for local galleries, and participate

in competitions,” says Susan. She also recently connected with the administration of Liberty Public Schools to assist in developing a new pilot elementary school, opening in August 2014, and she is a partner

in Han’s Media, a small company for which she writes and designs digital communication pieces.

With nearly 20 years of teaching experience in both public and independent schools, Susan firmly believes in the value of Christian schooling to instill in students an understanding of who God is and to challenge them to think and act redemptively. “I believe that Christian education is an opportunity for young people to not only educate their minds but also to educate their hearts and spirits – and to begin to understand the redemption story that is in the fabric of our universe,” she says. Susan says that her time at Westminster helped grow her personal faith and equip her to make a difference in the world. “Westminster provided me a solid foundation of faith and learning, upon which I experienced the power of the cross and the beauty of the gospel,” she says. “I’ve often reflected that the cultivation of my faith during my high school years equipped me to better understand and traverse the challenges and brokenness of this world.” 🌸

“As a [Westminster] student, I acted in and choreographed *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *The Music Man*; and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Years later, I directed all three and choreographed them again, and was pregnant with my boys during two of them. Today, they both love music, acting, and dancing, and we jokingly attribute the fact to *Music Man* and *Fiddler!*”



Her senior year, Susan played Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Class Notes

1990

Stephanie Slater Tucker and her husband Brian live in Atlanta. They welcomed their second child Brandon Mark into the family on December 3, 2012. He joins older sister Bethany (3).



1992

Hollie Anderson Schlueter and her husband Brian welcomed daughter Brighton Joy on April 8, 2013. Brighton joins older brothers Noah (11) and Parker (7).



2002

Harpist **Colleen Potter** Thorburn was recently added to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' roster as a 2014-2015 Touring Artist and will present solo and chamber concerts throughout the state. She released a recording of chamber music for horn and harp in 2013 with New England horn player Emily Boyer as the duo

Apple Orange Pair. Their album "Seeds" features new music by five composers whom Colleen commissioned between 2011 and 2012. Colleen and her husband Ben reside in Bluefield, Virginia.

Lisa Bachman Jones celebrated her first solo exhibit at The Rymer Gallery in Nashville, Tennessee.



Her featured series of abstract paintings was entitled *Give and Take: the joys and compromises of human intimacy*. She worked with a series of carpenters to make interactive, double-sided rotating paintings to suspend from the gallery ceiling. Lisa received a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission to have an EPK or mini-documentary made on the creation of the series. Watch the documentary at <http://bit.ly/InwlmOq> or view her paintings individually at <http://bit.ly/1kFf0PF>.

2003

Jennifer Brockman and Nick McLaughlin were married on August 31, 2013, and welcomed daughter Liberty Noelle McLaughlin on January 5, 2014.



2004

Emily Roig recently released a new music video, produced by **Mike Rohlffing '05**. Check it out at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK9qlstfj3A>.

2005

Amanda Salkowski Eaton and her husband Ty were married on August 28, 2010. The wedding party included **Rachel Toney '97** as a bridesmaid; **Briana Spoto** Birkenmeier, **Emily Isbell**, and **Maggie Stout** all attended. The couple reside in Maryland Heights, Missouri. Ty is an Internet sales manager at St. Louis Acura, and Amanda is an account executive at Jet Envelope.



Jeff Christianson was the lead author in an article published in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry* ("Mechanism of N₂ Reduction to Ammonia by Aqueous Solvated Electrons"). Writing the article was a major component of completing his PhD in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Alumni in Arizona

Alumni **Josh Hendricks '97**, **Chad Moroni '97**, **Mark Steinbrueck '03**, **Blake Stewart '99**, and **Brad Stewart '97** reunited this year at the WM Phoenix Open Golf Tour.



*Never forget where it all started!
Westminster now has more than 3,000 alumni.*

When we last saw **Grady Powell**, he was leading teammate Eve Torres to victory on the NBC reality competition "Stars Earn Stripes." Grady returned to TV this fall to tackle the frozen wilderness for Season 2 of the National Geographic series "Ultimate Survival Alaska." In the series, four teams of three are dropped in remote locations and challenged to reach an evacuation point before the clock runs out. A former Army Special Forces Green Beret, Grady led the military team.



2006

Jeff Ehrhardt and his wife Erica have been married for almost four years. They returned to St. Louis from Kentucky three years ago. Erica is the assistant head coach of the University of Missouri Golden Girls, and Jeff recently opened The Ehrhardt Agency, a State Farm Agency, in January 2014. One of his employees is alumnus **Paul Duffy '07**. Jeff and Erica currently reside in Chesterfield with their yellow lab Ace.



2007

Christy Krumsieg and **David Vosburg** were married on September 7, 2013, in Wheaton, Illinois. The wedding party included **Ben Krumsieg '05**, **Aaron Krumsieg '10**, and **Caleb Krumsieg '14**; **Joanna Haas Hancock '07** and **Alex Arnold Nortonas '07** were guest book photographers. Christy is in her third year as an admissions counselor for Wheaton College, and David is the founder and CEO of Zag Media Arts. They currently reside in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and love spending time with their neighbors from Burundi, Sudan, Burma, Mexico, and other countries.



2008

Dominick Valli graduated from St. Louis University with a B.A. in history and a minor in philosophy. He is a full-time employee at SLU on staff in the English department. Dominick is married with a nine-month-old son.



2009

John Caldwell graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri in December 2013 with a Master's in accountancy and B.S. in accounting. John works at Monsanto as the inventory control analyst within the Global Vegetables division. He and his wife Valeria currently reside in St. Louis.



Jordan Duke will graduate summa cum laude in May 2014 from the University of Missouri with a Master's in accountancy. Jordan was recently selected for the Mizzou 39, an honor given to an elite group of 39 outstanding seniors based upon excellence in academic achievement, leadership, and service to the University of Missouri and the community. After his completion of the CPA exam in spring 2014, Jordan will begin his career with Ernst and Young. Additional accomplishments and honors during his five years at Mizzou include selection to the honor society Mortar Board and receipt of the St. Louis Chapter of Financial Executives International Academic Award. Jordan also served as vice president of professional activities for the Missouri Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi and as president of the Alumni

Coming Back Together

This fall, a group of Westminster international students reunited for a dinner together in Korea: **Jihoon Kim '06**, **Changsoo Chun '03**, **Sung Min Cho '11**, **Sunha (Sunny) Park '12**, **Jihoon Lee '13**, **Seung Chan Jang '14**, and **Sang-A Park '11**.



Chloe Lee '13, **Byul Kang '09**, and **Hongyoung Choi '13** reunited for dinner near New York University.

Mentor Program, member of the highly selective Cornell Leadership Program, and recipient of the Undergraduate Leadership Award in the Trulaske College of Business.

Philip Haas and his band members of Go Down Moses recently signed a recording contract with Sony Music Nashville. Formerly known as the Birchtree Band, the group has toured throughout the Southeast since 2010. Visit godownmoses.com for more.



2010

David Alexander has impacted more than 130,000 students through tap dancing and speaking across the country, and he is currently launching a documentary project to share the history of tap dance in America. He was an active member of the diversity committee while attending Westminster and wants to use his gifts to bring about racial reconciliation and to impact the Kingdom of God. View updates on his project at tapdanceamerica.com or watch a clip from his documentary at <http://bit.ly/Mgy4Wf>.



Madison Burke graduated with honors from Lindenwood University in May 2013, when she began work as a reporter for ABC 17 News in mid-Missouri. She was featured as back-stage reporter for the 2013 St. Louis Emmy Awards.



Danielle Pfyl recently received the "Champions of Character Student-Athletes" award from Missouri Baptist University, which is presented to one male and one female student who best exemplify the five NAIA core values: respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, servant-leadership, and integrity. Danielle is a senior exercise science major and captain of the varsity lacrosse team, for which she has received the National Women's Lacrosse League Academic All-American and First-Team All-Conference distinction. Additionally, Danielle is involved in the Exercise Science Club, interned at Logan Chiropractic College, and served as a junior marshal at the 2013 commencement. She is a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, Missouri, has served as a preschool teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, and has volunteered at the Special Olympics for Track and Field, coached at the Special Olympics for Missouri Basketball, assisted in the Special Needs Soccer Association, and taught lacrosse to economically disadvantaged middle school children. Finally, Danielle has participated in sending packages of food and supplies to third-world countries and care packages to our armed forces overseas.

2011

Ian Farmer was elected to the Fontbonne circle of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. Membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa Society is regarded as one of the highest collegiate honors that can an individual can receive. Some circles limit membership to less than the top one quarter of one percent of students on their respective campuses. There have only been 300,000 members in the 98-year history of the society.

2012

Matt Brugner founded the Baylor Club Golf team during his freshman year at Baylor University. The team finished second in the 2013 NCCGA National Championship. In 2014, Matt will serve as vice president of the NCCGA.



2013

Levi Marshall is on the Dean's List at Loyola University Chicago. He was recently inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, an honor society that invites and elevates high-achieving first- and second-year college students.

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 We encourage our alumni to visit our campus, participate in school events, update contact information, and keep us informed! Contact us at alumni@wccastl.org

Alumni Awarded for Academic and Service Achievements

Three Top Ten Freshmen at The University of Tulsa, **Rachael Gantner '12**, **Jocelyn Sheffield '12**, and **Noah Edwin Omie Roberts '12**, and one Outstanding Senior, **Thomas Porter '10** were recognized at the Homecoming and Parents' Weekend this fall and awarded for their academic and service endeavors. Each year, the university recognizes ten outstanding freshman students for their commitment to success on campus and in the community. Likewise, no more than ten seniors are selected each year for the Jess Chouteau Outstanding Senior Award, for exceptional academic and community achievement.





What will your legacy be?

“Investing in our own children and future generations is the most important and lasting investment we can make in this life. Dianne and I made Westminster a priority for our sons Steve and Mike, and now we want to be a part of securing Westminster for our children’s children and for the cause of advancing Christian education regionally, nationally, and globally.”

Bill French

CEO, French Gerleman

Former president and member, Westminster Board of Directors
Parent of Westminster alumni and grandparent of future students

Bill and Dianne French are supporting Westminster’s vision to prepare more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. Their decision to remember Westminster as a beneficiary of their estate is a tax-wise strategy that may reduce income and estate taxes and advances a cause that is paramount to them. Their gift will help sustain a Westminster Christian Academy education for generations to come.

An estate gift through your will, trust, or beneficiary designation on your life insurance or qualified retirement plan is a simple yet significant way to support future Christian leaders for our homes, churches, country, and world.

At Westminster Christian Academy, we believe that you were created to make a difference.

Learn more by contacting Steve Lauer, director of development, at 314.997.2900 or development@wcastl.org.



The Color of Unity



Watercolor by junior **Stephanie Strothkamp**

While studying the narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, students in **Cindy Zavaglia's** honors American Literature class were asked to complete a project to express the long-lasting effects of slavery and its impact on culture. This watercolor was created by junior **Stephanie Strothkamp**, who, along with her project partner junior **Grace Burzinski**, chose to study poetry from the Harlem Renaissance and paint interpretations of the poems.

“I chose to paint an interpretation of *The Negro Mother* by Langston Hughes,” says Stephanie. “I hoped to capture a feeling of maternity in the painting – the way a mother would nurture and care for her child by carrying him on her back.”

Ms. Zavaglia intentionally schedules the unit to coincide with Black History Month. In late February, for the second year in a row, Westminster hosted a special event called *Night of the Arts: A Celebration of Unity* to honor and celebrate the achievements of black Americans throughout history. The event, open to the entire community, was held to *celebrate* the diversity of our community reflective of the Kingdom of God, to *educate* members of our community, and to *unify* individuals of “every nation, tribe, people, and language” (Revelation 7:9).

