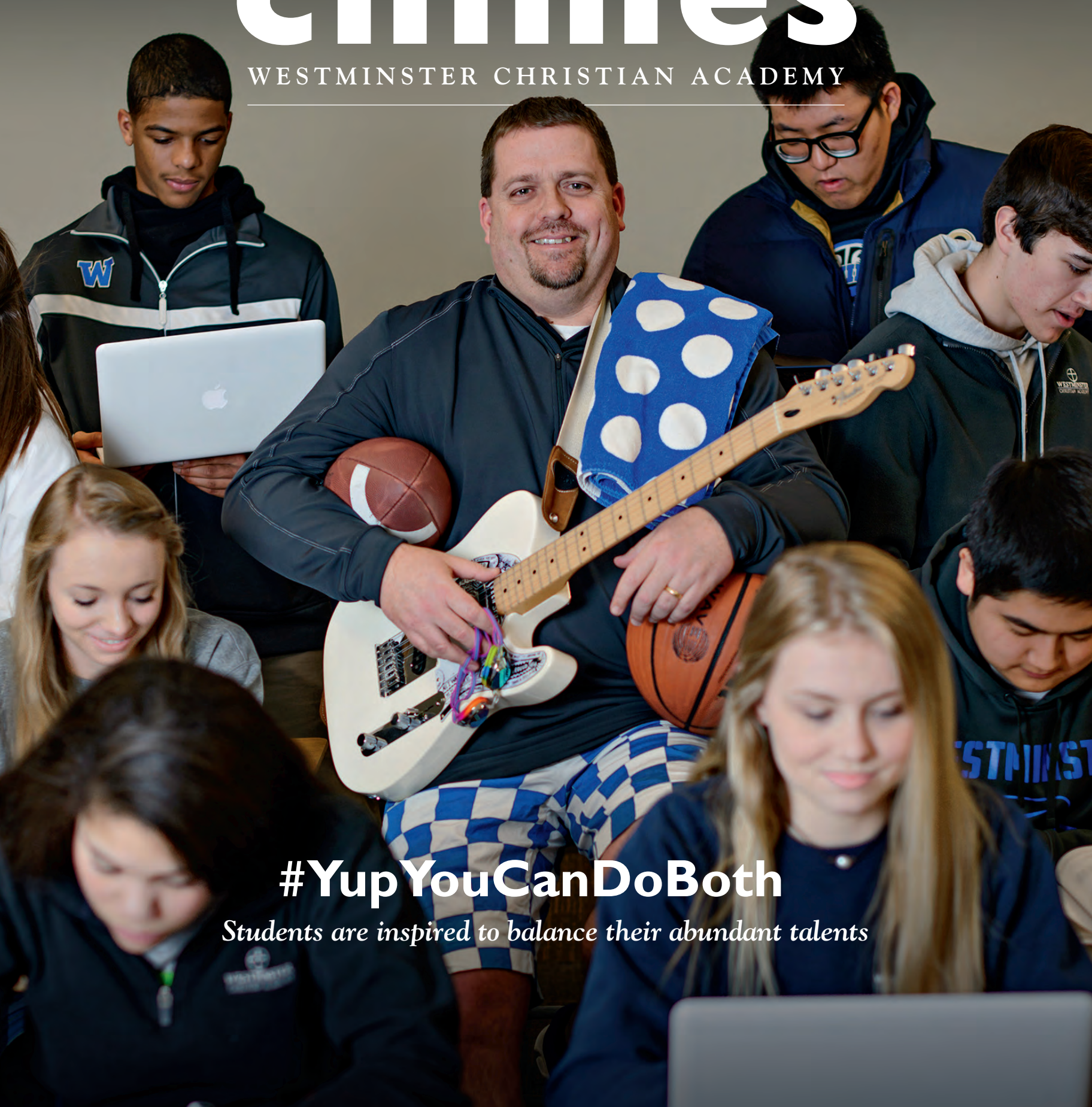




SPRING 2015

# chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**#YupYouCanDoBoth**

*Students are inspired to balance their abundant talents*



**On the Cover** Athletic Director Todd Zell encourages students to expand their horizons beyond one activity while maintaining good grades. Read the full story on page 20.

9



17



30



34

6



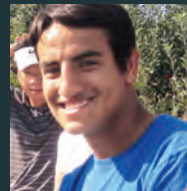
26



37



5



32



13

# chimes

## Executive Editor

Emily Reed '04  
ereed@wcastl.org

## Managing Editor

Michelle Burke  
mburke@wcastl.org

## Assistant Editor

Emily Hill  
ehill@wcastl.org

## Contributors

Patrick Design / Laurie Bergman /  
Sarah Holley / Debby Massot /  
Kelly Beckemeier Johnston '97 /  
Han Kim / PAW volunteers

## Head of School

Tom Stoner  
tstoner@wcastl.org

## Assistant Head of School

Jim Sefrit  
jsefrit@wcastl.org

## Executive Director of

### Institutional Advancement & Strategy

Shelley Milligan  
smilligan@wcastl.org

## Director of Finance and Operations

Todd Fuller  
tfuller@wcastl.org

## Director of Admissions

Peggy Johnson  
pjohnson@wcastl.org

## Westminster Christian Academy

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

*Chimes* is published by Westminster Christian Academy and mailed to alumni, families of current students, and friends of the school. Westminster honors Jesus Christ by providing an excellent education, rooted in biblical truth as interpreted by the Westminster Confession of Faith, for the children of Christian parents. Faculty and staff enable students to discover and embrace a biblical view of the world and integrate that view into every area of life. To request a free subscription, email [info@wcastl.org](mailto:info@wcastl.org).

© 2015 Westminster Christian Academy

## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

- 2** The Power of Our Mission

## NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

- 3** Academics  
**9** Arts  
**13** Athletics  
**17** Advancement

## DIFFERENCE-MAKERS

- 26** Faculty Spotlight: Mallory Rohlffing  
**29** Partnering with Parents  
**30** Stories of Service

## EVENTS

- 34** Spirit Week 2015  
**36** Winter Camp

## ALUMNI REPORT

- 37** Alumni Spotlight: Changsoo Chung '03  
**39** Class Notes

## FEATURE

### 20 #YupYouCanDoBoth

Students are inspired to balance their abundant talents

What started with a social media hashtag has become a catalyst encouraging students to use not one but all of their God-given gifts, whether in the classroom, on the field, or on stage.

*Learn how students juggle academics, arts, and athletics on page 20.*



## The Power of Our Mission



“The power of Christian schooling is magnified by a clear vision of what is required for students to become all that God created them to be.”

One of the many joys I find in my role at Westminster is hearing from our alumni about their years spent at Westminster. The stories I hear are striking by their volume and variety; there are so many different ways that Westminster has impacted young people’s lives, and the pages of this issue of *Chimes* are filled with them!

The most recent story came only a couple of weeks ago. An alumnus said his decision to transfer to Westminster near the start of high school changed his life in two ways. One of these ways was in academics, as the faculty and other students inspired him to apply himself and rise above a level of routine mediocrity. Their encouragement and example fueled him to excel in college and into his professional career.

He then spoke of another transformative change at Westminster: his understanding of Christian faith and the character that flows from that faith. While he was a “good kid” and generally inclined to do the right thing, at Westminster, his Christian faith became real and personal and took root in his heart.

Education is one of the most life-shaping influences in the world, and the power of Christian schooling is magnified by a clear vision of what is required for students to become all that God created them to be.

From the day of Westminster’s inception until the day Christ returns in glory, our mission is focused on preparing students to engage the world as instruments of change.

We are so glad you are part of the Westminster Christian Academy community and therefore part of our life-shaping mission. ☩

Love to you all in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Stoner".

**Tom Stoner, EdD**  
Head of School

---

*If you have a story of Westminster's impact in your life or the life of a student or graduate, I'd love to hear from you!  
Please contact me at [tstoner@wcastl.org](mailto:tstoner@wcastl.org) or 314.997.2900.*

[▶ Learn more at wcastl.org/ChimesSpring2015](http://wcastl.org/ChimesSpring2015)



From left: senior Tierra Reese, junior John Pottebaum, senior Carl Simakoff, and juniors Andrew Montgomery and Lauren Ramos gather equipment to film a story for their broadcast journalism class.

## Becoming Better: Journalism at Westminster

### Breaking News

Over the past two decades, the way we consume our news has dramatically changed. In a world of mass media, Westminster students are keeping pace with professional journalism under the guidance of journalism teacher Scott VonderBruegge and A/V Coordinator Han Kim. Beginning in 2015–16, the journalism program's newspaper class will expand to include a broadcast journalism facet, which will allow students more opportunities to explore video production of the news story.

"I know of few areas that have been more disrupted by innovation and technology than journalism," says Mr. VonderBruegge. "The lines have blurred between writing, photojournalism, broadcasting, and other forms, yet one thing has not changed: the influence that the media has



on our society. Journalism is still about telling the stories of the world around us, and I believe the sooner kids learn how to tell those stories using all the tools of today's media, the better. The journalism classes at Westminster are, at their core, about kids learning to find their voice and say something significant with it. The ways to say it never stop changing." ▶

### One for the Books

The 2014 *Foundation* yearbook was recently included in the "Caught Our Eye" column of *Idea File*. The magazine provides inspiration to staffs looking to add stories or profiles to their mug pages. The book was also included in Walsworth's sixth volume of *Possibilities*. This premier collection of ideas contains the best examples from about 200 middle and high school and university yearbooks, placing Westminster's among the best printed by Walsworth.

## aCADemy of engineers

As Westminster's engineering curriculum continues to expand, students are challenging themselves at a remarkably high level. This spring, 15 students are enrolled in computer aided design (CAD), a class that instructs students in Siemens NX, industry standard software used for sophisticated computer design work at leading companies such as Boeing and NASA. Taught by Siemens software engineer Jeff Shultz, the class introduces students to 3D solid modeling, a skill invaluable to students pursuing engineering in college and in the field.

“For students who are considering engineering as a career, exposure to NX in high school is an incredibly marketable skill,” says James Zandstra ’13, sophomore at Missouri University of Science and Technology. “NX is not typically available to high schools even for educational purposes, so the fact that Westminster has a 3D modeling course specifically using this software gave me a competitive edge when I was a student.”

James also used the skills gleaned in the class in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. “Participation on the team really puts you ahead,” says James. “I was able to easily secure several paid internship offers based solely on my participation on Westminster’s robotics team and my experience with Siemens NX.”

Jonathan Bopp ’12, junior at S&T, says learning NX software at Westminster gave him a leg up in one of his mechanical engineering classes that required application of the software, but it was particularly valuable during his participation on S&T’s Mars Rover Design Team. “My freshman year, I designed many components including the suspension, soil extractor, quick-release mechanisms, and a science bay,” says Jonathan. “My sophomore year, I designed a robotic arm and gripper. NX gives me the freedom to design anything I can think of!”

James and Brianna De Groot ’13, sophomore at S&T, joined Jonathan as members of the design team, which placed second in the 2014 University Rover Challenge, a national competition that challenges college students to design and build the next generation of Mars rovers for future fieldwork.

Brianna says she wishes she would have taken the CAD course at Westminster. “I quickly realized how important the software is for engineering,” says Brianna. “Learning NX in high school allows college freshmen greater opportunities. It is an incredibly valuable asset throughout college and beyond.”

## Cats, Cars, and Kids

The Cyborg Cats recently partnered with Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Rehabilitation Hospital in Maryland Heights, Mo., to assist in the development of modified cars that provide a means of independent mobility that may help the young patients progress in their developmental motor, socialization, and cognitive skills. “As we complete our fourth year of the Westminster robotics program, the Lord continues to bless our involvement in FIRST Robotics,” says Lisa Harding, program director. “The outreach component of the

*Students of Westminster’s FIRST Robotics team modify a small car for a patient at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Rehabilitation Hospital.*



program is giving our students amazing opportunities to change the world for Jesus Christ.”

The partnership was born when Ranken Jordan contacted the Cyborg Cats about developing a program of their own, similar to the one created by the University of Delaware, “Go Baby Go.” As a part of this process, the team began work on their first modification project. With this first vehicle, the team made a number of adjustments. They modified the controls to ensure that a child with limited fine motor skills can easily operate the car simply by leaning an arm against a large red button placed in the middle of the steering wheel. The team also relocated the vehicle’s power switch for operation only by a supervising adult, which allows a supervising adult to easily power the car off with his or her foot in case of an emergency. The final adjustment to the car included the addition of a padded frame to provide enclosure for the child inside.

A few members of the team presented the motorized vehicle to Ranken Jordan in February and hope to modify and complete three additional cars by the end of the school year. As part of this first presentation, Westminster will also provide engineering documentation to Ranken Jordan’s safety and legal committees to establish a comprehensive program that fully meets the requirements of the hospital and its patients.

“In this partnership, the business development, financial, mechanical, and electronics skills that our team has learned in the course of the FIRST Robotics competition are enabling our high school students to be a part of changing the lives of these young children,” says Mrs. Harding. “We are honored that Ranken Jordan has asked Westminster’s robotics team to establish this program and provide powered mobility to children who would otherwise miss out on the important developmental benefits that come from independent movement.” ▶

## Monsanto Mentor

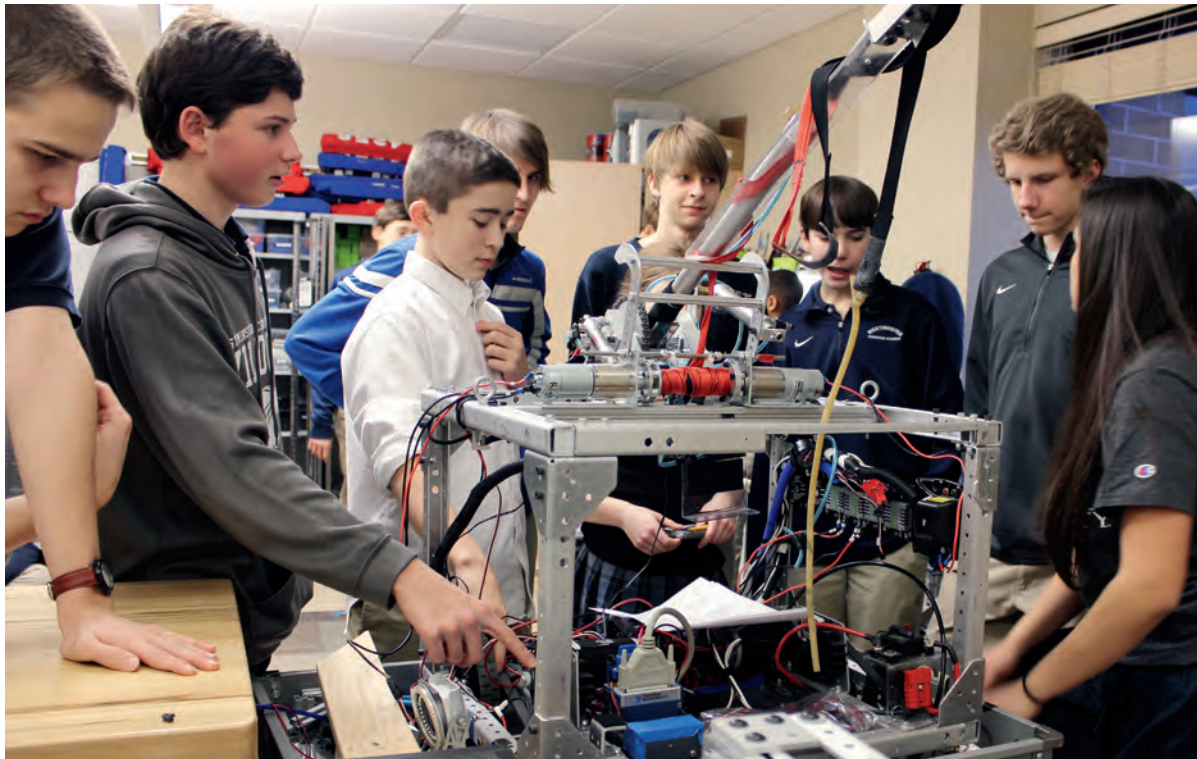
A love for mechanics and a desire to work alongside his son inspired alumni parent and Monsanto employee Craig Nitcher to volunteer with Westminster's robotics program. Mr. Nitcher joined the program as a team mentor, equipped with formal training and education in drafting and design as well as a cache of experiences growing up in his father's repair shop. While his son and robotics team member Lucas graduated from Westminster in 2013, Mr. Nitcher continued his mentoring efforts.

Mr. Nitcher says his involvement with the team has become a passion, and he values his time spent motivating, challenging, and inspiring the students. "I basically try to stay out of the way!" says Mr. Nitcher. "I teach them a lot about safety and how to use the tools properly, but then I stand back. If I think an idea or a process is flawed, I don't tell them they're doing something wrong or how to do it; I simply ask them questions." This approach, Mr. Nitcher believes, teaches the students to critically think through their projects and determine the best solutions. "I'm proud of the students I've been able to mentor over the years," he says. "It's been an honor to work with them."



*Left: Sophomore Matthew Hoekzema, chief technical officer of the team, makes adjustments to a prototype of the robot's stacking mechanism.*

*Below: Veteran team members use last year's robot to help 2015 rookie members become familiar with basic robotics systems.*



## Two Heads Are Better: Tony Thompson '10

After a successful college career at Samford University with a degree in biology and plans to pursue dental school, Tony Thompson followed God's call to make a difference in the lives of children. The Academy of E.P.P., an acronym of its mission to “empower students to succeed, partner with parents, and partner with community,” was founded by Tony's mother Gay Thompson in 2005. It began as a summer camp and transformed into an official private school. When he graduated in spring of 2014, Tony became the owner and head of school. “While I had developed great relationships with well-established dentists and was very interested in becoming one, I knew God was calling me to something else,” says Tony. “Dentistry is something I could have done, but it would not have been my purpose. My purpose and passion is inspiring youth. I'm happy to have a job that I love and one through which I can glorify God.”

As head of school, Tony oversees the teachers and administration and believes his role is to motivate his students to value education and build character, as they need both to change the world, he says. “I recognize that every kid learns differently, so I encourage the teachers to create lesson plans that will cater to each student—not just the majority. We also over-emphasize the importance of strong character and teach them self-affirmation on a daily basis.”

Over the years, Tony gained a breadth of knowledge by watching his mom. As he grew older, he became more and more involved, from doing janitorial work and camp counseling to facilitating transportation, tutoring, and administration. When he became head of school, Tony asked his own former head of school, Westminster Head of School Emeritus Jim Marsh, to mentor him and offer some advice on successful leadership. “I'm young and he's wiser and more seasoned, so I asked him for insight on being an effective leader, ways to

use resources, and how God works through those processes,” says Tony. “He didn't hesitate to bless me with ideas, wisdom, and encouragement.”

Mr. Marsh visited Tony at The Academy of E.P.P. this past winter. “Tony embodies the Westminster vision to prepare more young people to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ,” says Mr. Marsh. “It was a personal joy to visit him at his school and see him working so hard to provide underserved children from St. Louis with a quality education founded on biblical truth and principles. Tony has taken on a tremendous challenge at a very young age with strong faith and character, energy, and excitement. He is truly changing the world of the children he serves.”

### How did Westminster prepare you for your role as head of school?

At Westminster, I interacted with so many teachers, janitors, and administrators who showed me what it means to serve. Mr. Marsh in particular led by his humble service to students, parents, and teachers. If such a well-respected head of school can show great humility, who am I to be prideful about my title? It means nothing if I am not impacting lives. Additionally, Westminster convinced me of the need for the Gospel in education. Since becoming head of school at The Academy of E.P.P., I've placed a great emphasis on following Jesus. We pray, praise, and create a lot of dialogue about what it means to serve Christ here.

### What have you learned from your former head of school Jim Marsh about being an effective leader?

There are so many things I've learned from Mr. Marsh. I think the biggest is when he mentioned he was always open to suggestions from his staff. He wanted to include everyone in the Westminster vision. That's humility. There are some leaders who have a “my way or the highway” approach. That's not Mr. Marsh.



Tony Thompson '10, head of school at The Academy E.P.P. and Jim Marsh, Westminster head of school emeritus.

## The Business of Impacting Lives

This spring, Westminster's marketing class will partner with Tony to provide marketing services for The Academy of E.P.P. From producing recruiting material in partnership with Han Kim's video storytelling class and redesigning the school's website to branding and advertising, teacher Jonathan Horn's class is excited to use their knowledge in a real-world, professional capacity while helping a Westminster alumnus continue to make a life-shaping impact in St. Louis.

“I want to ensure students see the connection between learning the basic concepts of marketing and professional application of that knowledge,” says Mr. Horn, who majored in Business at the University of Missouri. “Allowing students to gain actual consulting experience in an environment outside of the classroom is invaluable. It's a safe place where I can help guide them as they work together to achieve a successful end product in a way that's honoring to Christ.”



### How do you motivate your students to value education?

I do my best to show them where education can take them. For example, I was blessed to attend college, and just the other day, I told my elementary students that the things they are learning now are the things that helped me in high school, college, and in my current job. The majority of my students' parents did not attend college, so I try often to share my own stories or experiences with them and pray that they would become the first in their families to go beyond high school. I try to make it "cool" to be smart.

### How do you hope to make an impact in the lives of kids?

Through my role as head of school, I hope to push my students closer to Jesus. A lot of my students have very unfortunate backgrounds. They see and experience things that no child should. I recognize that there are no math problems, spelling words, or science books that are going to help them deal with the storms they have in their lives. My role is simply to show them someone (Christ) who can give them peace, love, and hope in the midst of tough times. At The Academy of E.P.P., we worship, pray, and talk about God everyday. I will never shy away from promoting Jesus in education. It's the biggest impact that I hope I can make in any student's life. ☩

Follow Tony on Twitter @tony\_epp. ▶

Later this semester, Mr. Horn's entrepreneurship class will have the opportunity to partner with Smile Squared, a one-for-one company that sells and donates toothbrushes. The students will develop the future product line for the company as well as work on social media marketing and determine a promotion plan that will best help the company further its mission. "It's all about getting the students out there, serving our community by using the gifts they've developed at Westminster," says Mr. Horn. "It's completely up to them to interview the client, determine the need, develop ideas, and deliver an excellent product. It's one thing to do a poor job for a teacher; it's another thing when they're working with a professional client. It's amazing to see when my students realize the impact they can have and how they rise to the occasion. They are motivated to succeed."

Knowing that many of his students are one day headed into the business world, which tends to be driven solely by making a profit, Mr. Horn teaches his students that there are many people who have embraced the concept of pursuing more

than money. He references Patagonia, whose mission is to change the way we consume apparel and embrace a more environmentally conscious mindset, and TOMS, which has flipped the unsustainable practice of donations to nonprofits and created a compelling one-for-one model that is being duplicated by startups like Smile Squared. "Even [Westminster's] own Liz Forkin Bohannon '04 has created an economically conscious manufacturing process to employ women in need," says Mr. Horn. "All of these concepts come from merging money and mission. This is the call of the Christian business person: to create highly profitable businesses with highly impactful missions. If we can get students to think this way, we will dramatically increase the odds of truly transforming the world for Jesus Christ."



Tony Thompson '10 plays with two of his school's youngest students.

## ***We the People* “Political Animals” dominate State and prepare for D.C.**

In January, the Westminster *We the People* team joined three other Missouri high schools in the *We the People* statewide simulated congressional hearings sponsored by The Missouri Bar at the State Capitol. Westminster celebrated a decisive victory there and will once again represent Missouri at the national competition April 25–28 in Washington, D.C.

*We the People* is a nationally acclaimed civic education program helping students understand the history, philosophies, and evolution of our government. Following rigorous preparation in and outside of class, students compete in simulated congressional hearings in which they testify about and discuss issues such as the importance of an informed and engaged citizenry, constitutional rights, and the amendment process. A panel of judges comprised of lawyers, judges, educators, and political scientists evaluate the students’ knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Seniors Bo Thomas and Ben Linxwiller said they would encourage others to learn more about the U.S. Constitution. “My understanding of government was very limited,” says Bo. “But now, I’ve gained so much valuable knowledge and my interest is piqued as to how government functions play out in theory and in reality. I am now much more interested in politics and what actually influences public citizens and how they vote.”

Ben agrees. He says, “Through *We the People*, I’ve gained a sense of duty and a deep understanding of what principles our government was founded upon, how they relate to the modern day, and what responsibilities have been placed on us.”

Teacher and team advisor Ken Boesch says the students have worked diligently all year and he is proud of all they have accomplished. “We are excited to go to D.C. and enjoy both the competition and the touring we have planned,” says Mr. Boesch. “D.C. is an awesome place to be with 21 Westminster seniors in the spring!” ▶



*We the People Team:*  
Carson Burke, Joanna Disch,  
Anna Evans, Megan Galvin,  
Steven Howell, Julia Johnson,  
Juhya Kim, Ben Linxwiller,  
Austin Mathai, Christian  
Meeks, Thomas Meyer,  
Madison Stoecker, Stephanie  
Strothka, Kevin Stump, Josh  
Sumner, Blake Sutphen,  
Chrissy Talent, Bo Thomas,  
Rachel Urban, Jacob Waller,  
and Tripp Worley.



## In the Spotlight

With a lineup of outstanding plays and musicals this year, the Westminster theatre department deserves a standing ovation. “The 2014–15 season has been spectacular so far,” says Kathy Eichelberger, director of fine arts. “Our productions have showcased the talent of many different actors and actresses in a variety of genres.” The season kicked off with a series of sketches and short scenes in *All in the Timing*. The fall semester’s main stage production *Seussical*, one of Westminster’s largest productions to date, was a sold-out success for all three performances. With 46 students on stage and 35 staffing other areas of the production (audio/visual, backstage, orchestra, and set club), the musical required a tremendous amount of involvement and effort.



Above: Junior Ryan Davis and senior Madison Massot perform “The Philadelphia,” a scene from the fall production of *All in the Timing*.

Below: The cast of *Seussical* praise the backstage and A/V crews for their hard work during the curtain call of the final show.



Left: Senior Harrison Farmer as Cat in the Hat in *Seussical* leads his castmates in a colorful dance number.

Right: Junior Klarissa Sheffield sings "I Know It's Today" from *Shrek the Musical* in Westminster's musical review of *Life in the Meantime*.

Beginning in the new year, a small cast of students performed in *Life in the Meantime*, a musical revue created by the students themselves. "Working on *Life in the Meantime* was a new thing for the Westminster community, but it was really well received," says Allen Schwamb, director of the production. "I thought the students did so well. It was great for me as a director to get to boil the performance down to what makes musical theatre so captivating: characters going through something difficult and expressing that through music. And with the audience so close for this production and with none of the 'spectacle' of most large musicals to hide behind (like costumes, sets, and orchestra), we really got to see these young actors honing their craft."



In February, *A Raisin in the Sun* appeared on the Westminster main stage for the second time in a decade. The play, which follows a south-side Chicago family's struggle in the era preceding the civil rights movement, explored issues of relationship, race, and family. "I thought this play was especially important for St. Louis audiences post-Ferguson," says Helen Scott, director. "It is full of themes about surviving, healing, and understanding where we come from."

The season also included a new element of involvement for 12th grade theatre students. Senior Harrison Farmer ran the sound and light board for *Life in the Meantime* performances; Hannah Geisz managed make-up and lights, and Drew Straub ran sound for *A Raisin in the Sun*. "These students are applying the knowledge they learned in first semester's Drama III class, and we as audience members are reaping the benefits," says Mrs. Eichelberger. The theatre department is anticipating an exciting Shakespearean production of *Much Ado About Nothing* later this semester under the artistic direction of Jim Butz. "Mr. Butz has secured some amazing costumes from the [Forest Park] Shakespeare Festival and his other professional connections, which is really exciting!" says Mrs. Eichelberger. The season will conclude in May with a middle school production of *Hauncho the Hamster*.



Above: Michael Lee, Jr., who plays the role of BoBo, delivers a powerful line in *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Below: Cast and crew members of *A Raisin in the Sun* pose for a group shot at the final performance.





*Eighth grade honors English students bring Shakespeare to life for classmates and teachers in their own 30-minute production of Romeo and Juliet.*

### **O Romeo, Romeo!**

For the second year, the 8th grade honors English class created its own mini-production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The class project is planned, designed, performed, and produced entirely by the students. Teacher Kristin Janssen allows students to work in groups of peers who share their gifts and interests, which also provides opportunities for leadership.

Each group has its own leader who oversees individual work, and Miss Janssen assigns one lead director of the entire production to manage the work of the other groups. "Last year was the first year of the honors R&J project," says Miss Janssen. "I saw that my class was filled with talented readers, writers, and artists and wanted to create a way for them to use their gifts. Students really enjoy rewriting the script, planning for costumes and props, preparing advertisements, and critiquing the production as we begin rehearsals."

The project serves a dual purpose: enabling students to excel in one or more skill areas and allowing them to demonstrate a deeper understanding and application of the text. "Before, during, and after the production, we spend time discussing how our work reflects the body of Christ," says Miss Janssen. "The production would never work without each member using his or her individual gifts in the context of community and helping one another."

The last week of February, when all 8th grade English classes completed their reading of the play, the students performed their production of *Romeo and Juliet* for their class and a small audience of other students and faculty. "The classroom is a place where we prepare students for the future," says Miss Janssen. "One way we can do this is by providing them with the appropriate tools to identify and develop their God-given gifts so that they can use them to make a difference in the world for Christ when they leave Westminster."




The **varsity boys basketball** team celebrated a district championship victory with a final record of 24-6 and made it to the Elite 8. For 10 weeks in a row, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* ranked Westminster boys basketball seventh in the city. “It’s been exciting,” says Coach Doug Coleman ’99. “Before the school year started, the team set a goal to place themselves among the top teams in the area, and the players have worked hard to achieve that success this season.” While there are quite a few young players on the team, Coach Coleman says intense conditioning and meeting physical challenges as a team have brought the boys together. “Everyone holds one another accountable to give their best and push themselves. The team has weathered adversity, celebrated success, and is looking forward to the next set of challenges.” ▶



The **varsity girls basketball** team ended their season with a 20-8 record. Senior Charisse Williams is one of the top point guards in St. Louis and won first team honors in all three of the team’s tournaments. Senior Adrienne Horn secured a 1,000-point career at Westminster and also received first team honors at two tournaments. “What holds us together is the ongoing goal to honor God, Westminster, our families, and our team with our actions, attitudes, words, and effort,” says Coach Joan Gallagher. “The team is made up of girls who exemplify the 10 Pillars of the Athletic Department.”

*Left: Senior Matt Weber rises above the defense to score a basket for the Wildcats.*

*Right: Senior Charisse Williams dribbles past the competition.*

Freshman cross country athlete Brendan Grbcich sprints toward the finish line.



Members of the dance team bring the energy during halftime at a varsity boys basketball game. The team recently placed second in hip hop and pom at the state competition.

The **boys cross country** team placed third in the Class 3 state meet at the Oak Hills Golf Center in Jefferson City in November. The finish was one of the best in school history. Political science teacher Ken Boesch had promised the team he would run his own race if they advanced to state. "I personally challenged the team and told them if they qualified as a team, I would train for and finish a 5K race by the end of the school year," says Mr. Boesch. "I have recently started a running program and will run a race by the end of May. I have not run competitively in 40 years. Me and my big mouth!"

The **varsity dance** team recently competed in a regional dance competition and placed first in hip hop, second in jazz, and second in pom. In February, the team competed with their pom and hip hop routines at the Missouri Dance Team Association State Competition where they placed second in both. "The girls have such an incredible love for one another, for Jesus, and for hard work," says Brittany Hartloge '05, head coach. "The amount of athleticism they exhibit is phenomenal, and I'm so proud of all they have accomplished this year."



The **girls swim** team has had one of its best seasons in its 30-year history, according to Head Coach Kent Kehr '78. The team lost only one dual meet by 11 points the entire season and won the Ladue Invitational meet for the second time in three years. The girls placed third in the Metro League Conference, and junior Avery Iven achieved second place in diving. The team qualified for seven events at the state competition and placed 31st overall. "God has certainly blessed us with a great season," says Coach Kehr. "The team's display of godly character has made a huge impact on us as coaches and all those who have watched them grow in Christ during the course of the season."

In January, the team volunteered their time at Sunshine Mission in downtown St. Louis to assist in setting up the ministry's resale shop for Valentine's Day. The girls enjoyed a time of service and community with the staff as they restocked shelves, cleaned, and organized the store. "I know it seems like we should have been the blessing for them, but God has a way of showing us how He can impact our own lives through a ministry like Sunshine," says Coach Kehr. "That was truly amazing to experience."



The **varsity hockey** team finished its season ranked eighth out of 37 mid-states high school teams and qualified for post-season play in the mid-states top bracket, the Challenge Cup. The team achieved their fifth consecutive division title, and despite a roster of only 19 eligible players (compared to other top programs that have 50-70 players) has gained the respect of top opponents and the mid-states board.

The team also participated in several service projects throughout the winter season. They collected baby items and toddler clothes for a local church's new care center and, leading up to Christmas, adopted a family in need through St. Patrick's Center and purchased gifts for their little girls. Over Christmas Break, the team also spent a Saturday morning teaching young children how to play hockey.

*Below left: Out of 130 teams, the girls swim team placed 31st overall at the state swim meet in late February.*

*Below right: Seniors Thomas Meyer, Fisher Wells, John Moeller, and Parker Mitchem. The varsity hockey team finished a successful season this winter, ranking eighth out of 37 mid-states high school teams and receiving their fifth consecutive division title.*



Junior Aaron Gion takes down an opponent in an intense wrestling match. The team placed second out of 15 teams at the district tournament, and several wrestlers qualified for state.



The **varsity wrestling** team celebrated a Metro Conference win in February and placed second out of 15 teams at the district tournament. Seven of the team's 12 district wrestlers qualified for the state tournament. During Spirit Week, the team's first-ever dual meet was held in Westminster's theatre and attended by a number of Westminster alumni wrestlers.



As of February 2015, 10 Westminster senior athletes have committed to play in college. From left: Luke Matheny (baseball, Oklahoma State), Emily Broyles (cheer, Lindenwood University), Charisse Williams (basketball, Lindenwood University), Adrienne Horn (basketball, Drury University), Sean Appelbaum (soccer, Truman State University), Carl Simakoff (soccer, Covenant College), David Williams (football, Taylor University), Brendan Bognar (football, Lindenwood University), and Michael Failoni (baseball, Parkland College).





## Game, Set, Match (with Love)

By Shelley Milligan  
Executive Director of Institutional  
Advancement & Strategy

At Westminster, we are blessed to have an exceptional building filled with innovative classrooms, labs, theatres, and athletic spaces. What makes Westminster world-class extends far beyond the physical structure, but we must not overlook how fortunate we are to enjoy the facilities we occupy.

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of spending time with many of you, Westminster's most valuable resources. Some of you who were part of the school's founding nearly 40 years ago even remember workdays spent painting the building and changing light bulbs in classrooms. Today, we are blessed with more than 100 volunteers who sacrifice their time serving in the Bookstore and at the front desk, manning scoreboards, and running concessions.

Among Westminster treasures is one donor whose singular vision for excellence, as it applies to the sport of tennis, is worth highlighting. This donor and his immediate family are avid tennis players who have solely funded the construction of our tennis courts and helped manage every detail down to the windscreens and court coloring.

Above: During the 2014 spring season, JV girls tennis coach Elizabeth Barker talks game strategy with 8th graders Mallory Horn and Haley Myles before a match.



Below: The state-of-the-art tennis courts will include a new multi-use pavillion in time for the fall 2015 season.



One piece of the family's vision for this complex remains: a pavillion that will sit at the northeast corner of the complex. This pavillion will allow for easy team communication during matches as well as serve as an emergency shelter from fast-moving weather systems. We are beyond grateful for their generosity toward this project, which will be completed, Lord-willing, this summer in time for the girls' season this fall.

I'm particularly excited about how this structure will benefit the broader community. Westminster does not limit use of its tennis courts to members of the school community, and many St. Louis residents have been blessed with the ability to play recreational matches on our campus. When I think about our mission to engage the world,

21ST ANNUAL  
**ANDY  
 BENES  
 GOLF  
 TOURNAMENT**

Persimmon Woods  
 Golf Club  
 Weldon Spring, MO

Monday, June 15  
 Registration 12-1 p.m.  
 Shotgun Start 1:15 p.m.

Register at [wcastl.org/golf](http://wcastl.org/golf)

*New location!*



*Play, be a sponsor, or promote your business to the school community while enabling more students to attend Westminster!*

Contact Angie Lauer at [alauer@wcastl.org](mailto:alauer@wcastl.org) or 314.997.2900.

I'm pleased that our tennis courts already do such a wonderful job of welcoming others onto our campus. I can only imagine how much more it will mean to the community (not to mention our own teams) to have a moment of shade on hot days.

We are so grateful to this donor for his family's vision of excellence for Westminster, and we dream about expanding this vision to other areas of our community. Thanks to so many of you for being a part of our mission, and thanks to the Lord for blessing us with people who are so generous with their time, talent, and treasure.

Engaging the world. Providing a world-class experience. Deepening our impact. Game, set, match: Westminster! ⊕



*Derek Bell '14 and Bailey Merkel '14 pose with coach Adam Barbee following their doubles team state win in spring 2014.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR 120 CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE WESTMINSTER INVESTORS CIRCLE!

Join us by giving a leadership gift of \$1,000 or more to TheWestminster**Annual**Fund.

To give today, visit [wcastl.org/give](http://wcastl.org/give).



Every gift, small or large, makes a difference.  
Learn more by contacting Carolyn Holt at [cholt@wcastl.org](mailto:cholt@wcastl.org).



Wilson



Wilson

WAVE

NIV  
GOD'S WORD

---

# #YupYouCanDoBoth

By Laurie Bergman

“We celebrate the fact that we are developing well-rounded students.”

—Todd Zell, Athletic Director

**Students who are outstanding** athletes are often honored with trophies. Those who shine on stage might receive a standing ovation. And those who excel in the classroom could be recognized with award certificates or mentioned on the honor roll. But at Westminster, Athletic Director Todd Zell makes it a point to call out those driven, talented students whose hard work is paying off. What started with the social media hashtag *#yupyoucandoboth* has become a catalyst encouraging students to excel beyond one singular arena.

“Athletes are often stereotyped as dumb jocks,” says Mr. Zell. “But Westminster students are in fact extremely successful in the classroom as well as on the field. “I came up with the hashtag about three years ago in tandem with the announcements of team GPAs,” he says. “I wanted to communicate, ‘Yes, you *can* do both! You *can* be an awesome athlete *and* have a high GPA!’” From there, Mr. Zell says, the concept of *#yupyoucandoboth* continued to be embraced as more and more athletes started choosing to play multiple sports in a school year or participate in concerts or stage performances.

“We celebrate the fact that we are developing well-rounded students,” says Mr. Zell, who believes so strongly in a balance of activities that he has



---

*Wearing many hats is second nature to junior Zach Hughes, who juggles acting, playing sports, and maintaining good grades with enthusiasm.*



Whether on the field or on the stage, sophomore David Kerckhoff enjoys playing as a member of the varsity soccer team, a percussionist in band, and a guitarist in jazz band.

showcased his own talent through cameo appearances in several Westminster musicals. “In order for us to continue to be world-class in academics, the arts, and athletics, we want to recognize and encourage kids who work hard to develop their God-given gifts in all of these areas.”

Still, Mr. Zell works with the faculty to prevent the possibility of burn-out. “Teachers know that I want students to succeed in ‘their’ area as much as ‘my’ area,” he says.

Allen Schwamb, choir director, embraces this collaboration. “I love it when students are involved in music and sports!” says Mr. Schwamb. “They’re the ones who really get the idea that you’re in it for the success of your team, cast, or fellow musicians — not for your own personal gain. They understand that while it’s hard work, it’s also important to be involved in things bigger than yourself. They understand that everyone has to pull their weight in order for the [group] to be as excellent as possible.”

**A shining example** of doing both — or doing everything — is junior Zach Hughes. A tri-sport athlete in football, basketball, and track; an actor in improv and musicals, and a President’s List honoree, Zach is known among many coaches and teachers as the personification of #yupyoucandoBOTH.

“I love a lot of different things,” says Zach. “I’m goal-oriented and feel that if God’s given me a talent in something, I should

strive to be as good at it as I can. I have a hard-work mentality and try to get the best out of myself.”

With so many commitments, Zach says, setting time aside to spend with God is a necessity. “Reading the Word in the morning is something I love to do,” says Zach. “You give up things you love for things you love more. So I ask myself, ‘Which do I love more? Twenty minutes of sleep or pursuing God?’ That usually clarifies things.”

At home, Zach sees examples of hard work and a love of learning on a daily basis. “In high school, my dad played football, competed in judo at a high level, and received awards in physics and Shakespeare,” says Zach. “He has shown me that you can be an athlete, be interested in the arts, and be an excellent student; you don’t have to sacrifice one for another. My mom, too, has a variety of interests and has changed careers a number of times, most recently working her way through an accelerated nursing program while maintaining her full-time job as a realtor,” he says. “For a while, we both had homework to do every night and were able to encourage each other.”

Sophomore David Kerckhoff sees using his gifts as a form of worship. “I’ve loved soccer since I was little and have played it year-round since 4<sup>th</sup> grade,” says David. “It’s my passion, and I want to get better. I play to honor God through the gifts He has given me. Anything I love doing, anything I have



---

“Whether I am running or swimming or playing any sport, I know that God will give me the strength I need to power through. I want to use the gifts He has given me to the best of my ability.”

—Kaitlin Kittelson, senior

talent in, I want to do to the best of my ability and enjoy it.” A passionate musician, David feels equally at home on stage as he does on the soccer field. He plays percussion in Westminster’s band and electric guitar in jazz band.

Students who seem to do it all are often asked how they manage. Many of them, like senior Kaitlin Kittelson, say their strength is not their own. “One verse that really motivates me is Isaiah 40:31, ‘but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint,’” says Kaitlin, who participates in volleyball, lacrosse, and swimming while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. “God always reminds me that my strength comes from Him. Whether I am running or swimming or playing any sport, I know that He will give me the strength I need to power through even when I think I physically can’t make it. He has blessed me so much, and I want to use the gifts He has given me to the best of my ability.”

Kaitlin says that playing three sports a year has also helped her learn time management and how to deal with stress in a healthy way. “With practices every night and tournaments on the weekends, I really have to work hard to stay ahead of my schoolwork,” says Kaitlin. “I know that when I get home from practice, I have to buckle down and study. The funny thing is, my grades are better

when I’m in season because I know I can’t procrastinate and wait until later to do my homework. There is no ‘later.’”

In the Westminster Arena, you can’t miss the 10 Pillars of Athletics painted on the farthest wall. Student athletes continue to set a godly example for their peers as they live out number three: *Good grades and conduct lead the way.* ⊕

Follow Todd Zell on Twitter @wcaspports.

---

Senior Kaitlin Kittelson maintains high academic standards while keeping up with volleyball, lacrosse, and swim team.

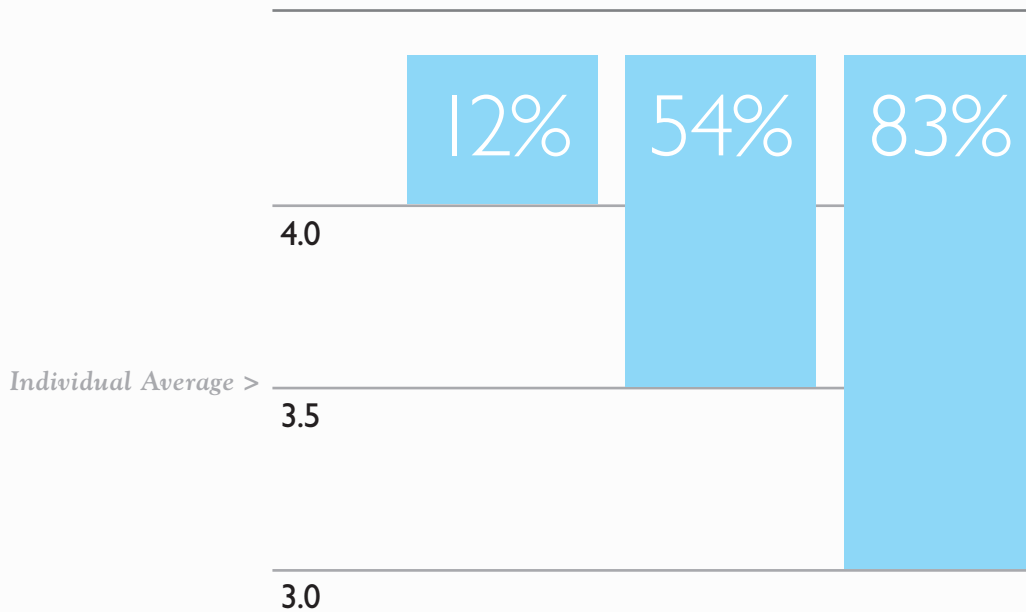


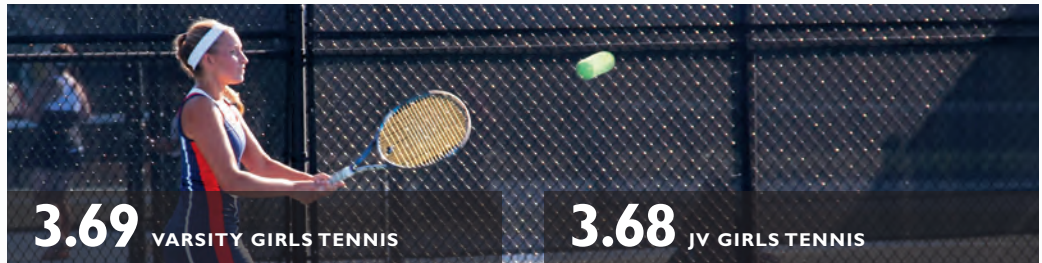
# SMART SPORTS

*At the conclusion of the fall 2014 season, each team averaged a 3.21 or higher based on the athletes' first-semester GPAs. They are proving that they are indeed student athletes and using their gifts for God's glory.*



Individual Athlete GPAs





## Mallory Rohlfiing: *Yup, She Can Do Both!*



*In the fall, Mallory Rohlfiing stays busy teaching chemistry in the classroom, directing the school's orchestra, and heading up the varsity girls softball team.*

Teachers, of all people, know the meaning of “busy.” Mallory Rohlfiing, now in her sixth year at Westminster, navigates each day as chemistry teacher, orchestra director, and varsity softball coach. Coaching, in fact, is the reason Mrs. Rohlfiing became a teacher in the first place. “I was an athlete myself, and I had the best coaches,” she says. “They made me want to coach, and the easiest way to do that was to become a teacher!”

A native of Grand Rapids, Mich., where she attended Calvin College, Mrs. Rohlfiing majored in chemistry having attended a high

school that, she says, closely resembled Westminster. “I admired my chemistry teacher because he set high goals for me,” says Mrs. Rohlfiing. “He was confident; he was good at what he did; and he’d make time to come to my games. Plus coming from a family of scientists, I just really liked the subject.” Immediately following graduation, Mrs. Rohlfiing started teaching at Westminster where, little did she know, she’d meet her husband with whom she’d already spent several years of her life.

Mike Rohlfiing ’05 graduated from Calvin the same year as Mrs. Rohlfiing,

who happened to have been teaching Mike's brother's friends in her class. One of them, Kevin O'Leary '12, introduced the two at a Westminster basketball game. Mike asked her to the symphony shortly after, and the rest is history. The couple will celebrate their one-year anniversary in June.

"We even had common friends at Calvin yet never knew each other," says Mrs. Rohlfling, noting how they hit it off immediately with their shared love of music and sports. "I'm always in awe that God gave me a man who shares both of my passions!" she says. "Our stories are so interconnected—he knows this [Westminster] world; he knows my hometown; and he knows and understands my greatest joys. It's a blessing to be married to him."

At home in Grand Rapids is also where Mrs. Rohlfling cultivated her love of music, specifically orchestra. In a family of musicians who lived in a city where practicing music was a given, Mrs. Rohlfling attended a grade school where 4th grade students were required to choose an instrument to play for the next two



*Chemistry teacher Mallory Rohlfling assists students in setting up their experiments for class.*

years. "They knew we would never know if we were gifted in music, or if we even liked it, until we tried it," says Mrs. Rohlfling, who took over the orchestra program at Westminster in 2012. When the options were spread before her, she chose the viola, fell in love, and has played ever since. "Music was just part of the culture—one which I hope to help continue to cultivate at Westminster."

Every day, Mrs. Rohlfling went to school, went to practice, and went to rehearsal. How did she do it all? "My teachers and coaches," she says. "They truly understood kids,

**"I'm just using the gifts God gave me, and I had people in my life willing to invest in me and bring those things out. That's all I want to do as a teacher and a coach."**

**—Mallory Rohlfling**



*Above: Juniors Dylan Baile and Sterling Burton rehearse their parts for an upcoming performance.*

*Right: Mallory and her husband Mike Rohlfling '05 were married in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June 2014, with many members of the Westminster community in attendance.*

understood that our lives were often as busy and stressful as some adults', and knew how to encourage us. My viola teacher in particular knew when to push me to do more, and she knew when I was overwhelmed and just needed to have fun and enjoy music. I needed to love it, and she knew that," says Mrs. Rohlfling, who realizes the same about many of her students and athletes.

"We all started doing something because we love it," she says. "And if we think about getting rid of it, it's because we've somehow lost the joy. It was always important to be reminded, 'I'm good at this—God gifted me with this—and it brings

me joy.' At softball practice, if there are days we just need to play ultimate Frisbee to give the girls a break, it's okay. Sometimes it's okay to rest and not go, go, go. We must take a breath and remember why we're doing what we're doing—to share our very best with others and glorify God in the process."

Mrs. Rohlfling says her favorite thing about coaching is the opportunity to set an example and talk with high-school-aged girls about what it looks like to be godly women.

"Every day I have the opportunity to interact with young women who are trying to figure out what really matters in life," she says. "We're always asking, 'How do we sincerely encourage our teammates when we're so used to comparing ourselves to other girls?' 'How do we show God to our opponents?' 'How can we be confident yet humble?' 'What does it look like to work hard at something, even if we end up failing? How do we lose well?' That's a big one," says Mrs. Rohlfling. "How do we strive for success but refrain from losing our identity in that?' It's important for the girls to remember every day where their true identity lies. Sports

is a wonderful way to teach these lessons." The game of softball, she says, is merely a bonus.

"The beauty of being in the academic, athletic, and music worlds is that I feel like a complete person," she says. "Every part of who I am is being touched, challenged, and refined. I'm not perfect in any of those areas; I'm just using the gifts God gave me, and I had people in my life willing to invest in me and bring those things out. That's all I want to do as a teacher and coach." ⊕



## ⊕ partnering with parents



## Thank You PAW!

**D**esigned to bring Westminster parents together to serve the school, build Christian community, and further the Westminster vision, Parents Advancing Westminster (PAW), Westminster's parent organization, is what makes the Westminster community so distinctive. Each week, hundreds of parents with willing hearts come to campus to serve, whether they're staffing concessions or the Bookstore, leading prayer groups, taking photos, or planning events for students. Thank you, PAW!

*Westminster parents have countless opportunities to volunteer for and participate in various school activities. Contact Lisa Rupprecht 314.997.2900 to learn how you can plug in! ⊕*



Above: PAW volunteers help serve dinner to students and families on Wildcat Pride Night.

Far Left: Parents volunteer in Concessions during a football game.

Left: In December, PAW sponsored a high-energy dodgeball tournament for upper school students to celebrate the end of final exams and beginning of Christmas Break.



## Loving Our Neighbors

For a new service project, a group of Westminster students recently decided to reach out to neighboring senior living facility Delmar Gardens to see how they could make a difference in the daily lives of its residents. Every Thursday after school, about 10 students visit the retirees for an hour of bingo and refreshments. The students serve as callers and play alongside them before serving food and beverages and simply sitting, talking, and laughing with them.

The idea to engage the community at Delmar Gardens originally came from sophomore Michelle Morley, who had previously been involved in a ministry there. Upon hearing her suggestion, other students expressed interest in joining. “Both the students and the folks there get to share their lives and their stories with one another and, in turn, see evidence that every single human being is made in the image of God,” says Larry Hughes, biblical ethics teacher and faculty sponsor of the group. “The residents have all talked about how much they enjoy the students. There are clearly relationships developing, and it is beautiful.” ⊕

*Students visit Westminster's neighbor Delmar Gardens each week to play bingo and serve refreshments to the residents.*





## Serving in Spanish

Spanish Club students took a break from their regular after-school schedule to visit a group of underprivileged children in Chesterfield in early February. Working with local ministry Faith that Works, the students were able to use their knowledge of the Spanish language to speak and play with the children at a Valentine's Day fiesta complete with games, crafts, and treats. "They loved spending time with God's precious little ones," says Señora Joan Dudley, faculty sponsor of the club. "Faith that Works generously allowed us the opportunity to minister along with them, practice language skills, and enjoy a different culture firsthand. The smiles, hugs, and calls of 'gracias!' from the children spoke volumes, but the blessings were all ours as we were able to share our personal faith and God's love across cultures and languages." ☪



*Westminster Spanish Club students use their Spanish language skills to play games and make crafts with local children.*



## Inspired by Service

For nearly three decades, Westminster seniors have been spending one morning a week donating their time to serve organizations around St. Louis. Schools, hospitals, organizations that serve young children and those with special needs, and groups that help the elderly are among nearly 80 agencies touched by the service of Westminster seniors through the service program Faith In Action (FIA). Members of the Class of 2015 say they are grateful for the opportunity to serve others in their community and the Lord in a way that also helps them discover and develop their gifts, interests, and career aspirations.

GOALS OF  
FAITH IN ACTION

- ◆
- Show the love of Christ to the people of St. Louis
- ◆
- Be continually aware of the needs of others
- ◆
- Commit to lives of faithful service
- ◆



**Carl Simakoff**, who aspires to be a secondary school teacher, says his experience in senior service has taught him a great deal of patience. “I have learned how to wait on students as I try to teach them,” says Carl. “Even though I want to go into secondary education, my time at Green Trails Elementary [in Chesterfield] has better equipped me to work with students with many different personalities and learning styles.”



**Ellie Bacon**, who serves at Clark Animal Hospital in Kirkwood, says the experience has provided her real-world practice in a field that she's passionate about and plans to pursue as a career. In her time there, she has helped with standard animal care and has observed several surgeries, including a leg amputation, ACL repair, dental procedures, and a tumor removal. "I keep a notepad with me and write down everything I learned that day," says Ellie. "My time there has also forced me to recognize that some things, such as untreatable tumors or illnesses, are out of my control, and God comforts me in His plan time and time again."



**Sarah Jane Fiala** helps care for young children in the medical room at Strictly Pediatrics Center in Maryland Heights. Strictly Pediatrics provides help and support to families with children who have medical and behavioral issues. "The joy I find in the kids lets me know that a career in medicine would definitely

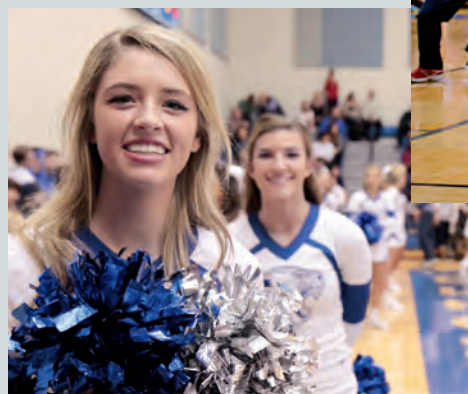
be worth it," says Sarah Jane. "I think it would be amazing to be able to help make a difference in kids' or adults' lives. In my time serving, I've realized that God can definitely bring goodness and joy from a disease or disability that some may consider hopeless."



**Josh Sumner** found a creative way to use his Eagle Scout project to serve others at his place of senior service, Agape Academy. He constructed three display bookcases together with other scouts and coordinated a book drive through which he collected nearly 100 books to fully stock the shelves. He then visited Agape Academy in full scout uniform and read to the preschool children in Ready Readers, a local nonprofit dedicated to inspiring kids to love reading. "Working with the kids at Agape has been great; they're adorable and are almost always enthusiastic about reading together, which made donating books and bookshelves from my project especially rewarding," says Josh. "I never would have thought I'd wind up reading to kids for senior service and doing my project for their school, but I'm so glad it was possible!" ⊕

# Spirit Week 2015

In nearly 40 years, it's expected that Westminster pastimes might come and go. One tradition, however, is here to stay. Rich with spectacle and talent, classwide bonding, and fierce competition, there's no other week like Spirit Week.





## Winter Camp

In January, a group of 24 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 allows them to learn alongside American students and experience American culture firsthand.

The visiting students lived with Westminster host families and experienced a selection of challenging classes and intensive ESL classes. Weekday field trips included the St. Louis Arch, Art Museum, and the Cathedral Basilica, as well as a day trip to Chicago. The majority of the students also participated in Spirit Week activities, enjoyed a large potluck dinner with their host families, and created photo and video slideshows highlighting their time at Westminster. They presented their slideshows at a middle school assembly at the end of their stay.

Winter Camp presents unique opportunities for both the Korean and Westminster students, who always form friendships with one another during this time. Director of Global Partnerships Dr. Dani Butler says the experience of Winter Camp helps prepare students to make a global impact. "It is not only



a wonderful opportunity for the visiting Korean students, but it is also extremely beneficial for our own students," says Dr. Butler. "Our host families have taken on the huge commitment of hosting Korean children 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." ⊕



Above: Saemmul Christian Academy students pose with their host family, the Yeagers.

Below: From left, 7th graders Jade Timmons, Leah Im, and Charis Thompson enjoy classes together during Winter Camp.

 alumni spotlight

## Changsoo Chun '03

Changsoo Chun is one of countless alumni who is embodying Westminster's mission to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. Changsoo grew up in Seoul, South Korea, before moving to the U.S. to complete his schooling. He enrolled as a sophomore at Westminster in 2000 as one of the school's first international students. After graduation in 2003, he continued his education at the University of Missouri where he earned a degree in political science. From there, he enlisted for three years in the Korean navy before returning to Seoul to open his own Japanese restaurant chain, Hukuoka. With a successful restaurant underway, Changsoo's business interests expanded and he joined a partnership to open a factory in Cambodia, a place where he sensed he could make an impact for Christ.

In 2013, Changsoo and his business partner launched Cambodian Harvest, which specializes in exporting produce and dried fruit products. He works as the executive trading partner, exporting and selling the company's goods while his colleague remains on site to oversee the daily operation of the factory. As the company began to flourish, Changsoo desired more than financial success for his business; he longed to make the company distinctive and different from other businesses in the country. With a heart for people, he decided to open up employment to applicants with physically limited mobility.

This decision, which seems commonplace in the U.S., is unthinkable in Cambodian culture. "In Cambodia, disabled people are considered 'cursed,'" says Changsoo. "Culturally, they believe that a person born with a disability is this way because of some sin committed by an ancestor. It's similar to Karma. Whole communities shun people with disabilities because of this belief." Despite this cultural mentality, Changsoo wanted to offer these individuals a new life while communicating to an international audience the Christian belief that all

people matter to God. "It's the best way to provide them dignified jobs," says Changsoo. "Traditionally, they are not given any opportunity to work. I wanted to make a statement to show that business owners can make a difference."

Changsoo instituted a new hiring policy and now employs 30 individuals with physical limitations. "He is the perfect example of an alumnus living out Westminster's mission statement," says Dr. Dani Butler, director of global partnerships. "After 15 years of relationship with him as a student, graduate, and friend, I can see the strength of Westminster in him. It goes beyond the school building and is true of nearly every student. When [graduates] go out the door, they don't disconnect. It is very rewarding and humbling to see the fruit of what we do here—to know as teachers that what we're doing in the classroom makes a difference in someone's life," she says. "You don't always see it at first because you are just planting the seed. But eventually, the fruit appears—even in places as far away as Cambodia! That's why we keep doing what we're doing." ⊕



*Cambodian Harvest employees sort dried fruit for exportation.*

**“I can see the strength of Westminster in him.”**

**—Dani Butler, Director of Global Partnerships**



## ⊕ class notes

▶ [Learn more at wcastl.org/ChimesSpring2015](http://wcastl.org/ChimesSpring2015)

### '86

**Sharon Wulf** Werner lives on her cattle ranch in Steelville, Mo., with her family of nine, raising grass-fed beef and growing organic crops. She and her husband were recently trained in biontology, an advanced form of homeopathic therapy. Sharon home-schools all of their children, the oldest of whom will be a senior and the youngest of whom will be in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

### '88

**David Workman** published his second book, *Come On, Blue!: A Fan's Guide to Umpiring*, in January. The book is available on Amazon.com.

### '90

**Michael Pfleeger** and his wife Erin welcomed their son Micaiah Horatius on August 21, 2014. His five siblings, Parker (9), Jonah (8), Gwyneth (6), Lyla (4), and Anjali (2) are thrilled to have a new little brother:



### '91

**Holly Bergeson** Cunningham, owner of Hollyberry Catering, will open a new café/catering to-go market, Nourish by Hollyberry, in Warson Woods, Mo. Offering a host of products and meals available to go in addition to daily lunch service, the café is scheduled to open this spring. ▶

### '94

**Kathy Beumer** Ernst and her husband Matt welcomed twin girls Corrie and Lucy in June 2014. They wish they could have attended the 20-year reunion but had their hands full!



### '95

View a live performance of the new song "Send Out Your Light" written by **Sandra McCracken** with Jay and Alex Foote and based on Psalm 43. ▶

### '99

**Jason Wilkins** and his wife **Ashley Wilkins** '98 have two children, Eli (2) and Eleanor (4 mos) — the future classes of 2031 and 2032!



### '00

**Francis Joseph Michael Goldkamp** and his wife Kate Michelson Goldkamp celebrated their fifth anniversary on August 1, 2014. They returned to St. Louis from New York in June 2011 and recently moved into their first house in Ladue, Mo. Joe completed his



graduate studies in religious history from Yale and in liberal arts from the Graduate Institute of St. John's College, Annapolis. He is the director of Bring Me A Book St. Louis, an early childhood literacy nonprofit serving parents and children throughout Greater St. Louis. He is president of the Yale Club of St. Louis and serves on the board of directors of the Fathers' Support Center. The couple attend the Church of St. Michael and St. George, where Joe is the clerk of the vestry and Kate serves on the altar guild and volunteers in the youth ministry.

## '01

**Ryan Tomlinson** and his wife **Sara Kensinger** Tomlinson '00 welcomed Eli Stone on April 22, 2014. Ryan has passed his level 3 CFA and works as an analyst at Wells Fargo.

## '02

**Natalie Dixon** Bland and her husband Mitchell welcomed their first child Elissa Claire Bland on November 30, 2014. They live in Houston and both work for Boeing supporting NASA's International Space Station program.



**Colleen Potter** Thorburn will graduate from the Yale School of Music this May with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in harp performance, following the successful completion of her final doctoral recital and oral examinations in October 2014. Colleen continues to live in Virginia, where she maintains an active concertizing schedule as an artist with the Virginia Commission for the Arts. She was recently appointed as a substitute harpist for the Philadelphia Orchestra and performs regularly as principal harp with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra.

**Rebecca Davis** Castañeda graduated with a degree in Foreign Languages and Literature from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and has since started her own company, Foreign Language Online, which works with companies



and individuals to provide language instruction through live video courses. She resides in St. Louis with her husband of 10 years, Carlos, who is earning his doctorate in Biochemistry, specializing in HPV research at UMSL. They have two children, Isabela and Ricky.



## '03

**Natalie Uetrecht** Ganz and her husband Tom welcomed their son Benjamin Hudson on September 17, 2014. The Ganzes live in St. Louis where Natalie works as a reading specialist for the Rockwood School District and Tom is an OBGYN resident through St. Louis University.

After living in Washington, D.C.; Menlo Park, Calif.; and Las Vegas, Nev., **Lauren Morris** Thorp and her husband Justin returned to St. Louis last year with the birth of their first child Miles. For the past four years, Lauren has owned her own company, Umba, a site that helps global artists who create handmade products earn a living.





'04

**Jessie Degnan** Figueroa married Victor Manuel Figueroa Diaz on October 10, 2014 in St. Charles, Mo. The bridal party included **Kristen Degnan** Mueller '01, **Bobby Degnan** '08, **Kali Stewart** Degnan '08, **Rebecca Keffer** Kruse '04, and **David Stair** '04. The couple reside in Augusta, Ga., where Jessie continues to pursue her orthopaedic surgery residency at Georgia Regents University and Victor works in intelligence.

**Liz Forkin** Bohannon and her husband Ben were recently featured on ABC's Shark Tank. ▶

'05

**Allison Ellsworth** Pinckley and her husband welcomed their son Tripp in fall 2014.



**Brittany Wesley** Hartloge has been coaching the Westminster varsity dance team for six years. Brittany also coaches the Totally Awesome Girls Group dance team, a team for girls with Down Syndrome. They have performed at a St. Louis Cardinal's pep rally and at the Albert Pujols Celebrity Basketball Game for the last three years. Brittany also works as a special education teacher at Promise Christian Academy.

'08



**Anna Duell** Unnerstall and **Brennen Unnerstall** '07 were married in June 2011 in St. Louis and now live in Ft. Myers, Fla. They celebrated the birth of their son Ezekiel James on June 3, 2014.

**Michael Christianson** and **Katie Mech** were married on August 4, 2012. The bridal party included **Kendall James**, **Julia Berger**, **Danielle**



**Zee-Cheng Ben Bubenik**, **Thomas Jarrett**, and **Jeff Christianson** '05. Michael and Katie live in Olathe, Kans., where Michael works as an engineer at an automation engineering firm and Katie works as an athletic trainer at several area high schools.

**David Testrake** graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in May 2014 and is now in his surgery residency at Miami Valley Hospital and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He lives there with his wife Traci, their dog Blue, and their cat KitKat.

'09

**Camilla Grone** Buckley and her husband Brennen were married on September 21, 2014 in Beaver Creek, Colo. **Shelly Russell** Ballard was matron of honor. The couple attended



the University of Mississippi and live in Westminster, Colo. Brennen works in management at Enterprise Holdings in Boulder; and Camilla attends Bel-Rea Veterinary Institute in Denver; she aspires to become an equine veterinary technician.

**Joy Collins** won a trip to meet Juanes, multi-grammy award winner and one of the highest-selling Spanish recording artists ever, at his home this past winter.



## '10

**Aaron Krumsieg** graduated from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music in May 2014 and received a full ride scholarship to Yale University. As a masters student, Aaron performs with the Yale Philharmonia and the Brick Haus Brass and is also an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago for the 2014–15 season. ▶

## '11

**Jennifer Testrake** and her parents moved to a mini farm in Gray Summit, Mo. She attends classes at St. Louis Community College, helps in her mom's business, and cares for several foster dogs.

## '12

Missouri State junior center fielder **Tate Matheny** was one of 54 Division I baseball players named as a preseason All-American by the publication *Perfect Game* in 2015. ▶

## '13

Two goals from **Katie Matheny** helped bring the Ohio State Buckeyes women's ice hockey team to 6-0 win and sweep over Minnesota State. ▶

**Bennett Lewis**, sophomore at Washington and Lee University, is a Division III Scholar All-American for the second straight season. Bennett completed the 2015 season with a 15-6 overall record while competing at 197 pounds. He won the 197-pound weight class at the W&L Invitational and placed third in the same weight class in the Washington & Jefferson Invitational. He has compiled a 36-19 overall record. ▶

**Erin Bognar**, sophomore at Samford University, recently helped lead her team to the first round of the NCAA Division I Volleyball Tournament at Florida State University. Throughout the past year, Erin has been awarded many awards including First Team All Conference and Academic All Conference for the Southern Conference.

St. Louis University sophomore center **Sadie Stipanovich** was named the Atlantic 10 Conference women's basketball Player of the Week in February 2015. ▶

**Brooke Cusumano** helped lead the Southern Illinois University women's golf team to a ninth-place finish at the FGCU Eagle Invitational in February. Brooke had the school's lowest round of the weekend. She dropped a stroke off her score each day of the tournament and led the Salukis with an overall 234 (79-78-77) to finish, tied for 18th. ▶

**Anna Gaffney** earned USCAA All-American honors as a member of the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College equestrian team. ▶

Current improv sophomore Jake McKie entertains the audience with alumni improver Ian Farmer '11. Check [wcastl.org/calendar](http://wcastl.org/calendar) for upcoming performances!





### Spirit Week Boys Poms Judges

From left: Head of School Tom Stoner; Joanna Reiso Browning '94, Stephanie Hines Taylor '94, Tina Hughes Stricker '93, Kelly Beckmeier Johnston '97, Laura Mark Bush '05, Tim Reed '10, Jeff Ehrhardt '06



### Spirit Week Lip Sync Judges

From left: Head of School Tom Stoner; Michael Denckhoff '93, Kelly Visser Spitzenberg '93, Erin Johnson Essenburg '99, Todd Jones '94, Sian Oliver Tietz '92, Mike Rohlfling '05, Hollie Anderson Schlueter '92, Shauna Collison '97, Brittany Wesley Hartloge '05



### Alumni Wrestling

Following the Westminister wrestling team's first-ever dual meet, several alumni wrestlers in attendance reminisced during a small reunion. From left: Coach Tim Muehleisen, Michael Rojewski '11, Phil Jones '01, Nathan Koller '03, Mark Muehleisen, Zack Petry '02, Sam Stufflebam '08, Dick Ross '10, and Jessiah Chard '08



### Alumni Football

Alumni football players and friends reunited this past winter for a friendly (and snowy) game. Back row from left: Karlton Smith '10, John Burgess '09, JD Hartwig '10, Daniel Kim '08, Juan Mundo '08, John Bergman '10, Lee Davis '08, Brandon DeRousse '08, Ryan Blackwell '07. Middle row, from left: Mondo Davis '04, Max Piazza '10, Micah Mills '10, Ben Haberberger '08, Matt Rohlfling '08, Travis Ralls '14, Steven Davis '13, Alex Rideout '13. Bottom row, from left: Sam Stufflebam '08, Greg Schoenberg '08

## Alumni Sports Night 2015

**Alumni Hockey** Back row: Coach Dave Ganz '01-'05, Andrew Bateman '04, Jon Wilkinson '04, Joseph Nelson '05, Kyle Bateman '07, Sam Canfield '13, Seth Mundorf '12, Eric Malawy '02, Tim Appelbaum '09, Nick Pieber '06, Coach Mike Malawy '95-'01. Middle row: Nick Cascella '04, Vince Cascella '08, Jimmy Munson '08, Daniel Kim '08, Nathan Smallwood '11, Brendan Terbrock '13, David Cascella '05, Jake Huelskoetter '14, Michael Hughes '09. Front row: Sam Haupfear (current 8th grader), Ben Evans '13



**Alumni Basketball** From left: Alex Cusumano '10, Tony Thompson '10, Cole Norman '12, Carl Thoenen '88, Rick Edema '98, Andrew Miller '05, Josh Hendricks '97, Jack Dohr '13, Ted Siebenman '09, Tim Miller '11, Richard Copeland '10, Alex Tilley '09, Danny Miller '08, Ryan Blackwell '07



**Alumni Volleyball** Front row: Sarah Hall '11, Courtney Pfeifer '10, Daniel Moore '11, Megan Tilley '13. Back row: Drew Menzel '11, Mitch Penning '13, Jean Evans '83, Daniel Pollman '13, Lauren Thoenen '13, Gordon Younkin '12



# Save the Date

**Wildcat Weekend & Alumni Homecoming**  
**October 16–17, 2015**

## *Celebrating the Classes of 1995 and 2005*

Bring your family to join us for this annual fall celebration with the Westminster community!

- Enjoy an all-school dinner and spirit rally
- Cheer on your Wildcats during varsity football and soccer games
- Play games with the kids at the STUCO Carnival
- Applaud show-stopping talent at the variety show
- Tour the campus!



## Sefrit's Got Spirit!



Photo by Kelly Beckemeier Johnston '97

Like so many Westminster alumni, Kelly Beckemeier Johnston '97 says some of her fondest memories of Westminster are related to Spirit Week. Kelly has graciously volunteered her time to take photos and serve as a Boys Poms/Lip Sync judge for the past two years. "Almost 20 years after graduation, I still have vivid memories of the late-night practices, fierce (though fun) competition, and, most importantly, the class camaraderie of Spirit Week," says Kelly. "Coming back as a judge and capturing some of the events as a photographer further solidifies my love for Westminster and the value placed on school spirit and tight-knit community."

Kelly considers photographs to be treasures that tell the stories of people's lives, passions, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Although her degree is in physical therapy, Kelly launched Relic Photography in 2010 after several years as a hobby photographer. The opportunity to capture milestones and memories for so many people is one that Kelly considers a great privilege and ongoing passion.

In addition, Kelly fills her days as a full-time mom, part-time physical therapist, volunteer extraordinaire at Kirk Day School, and coffee connoisseur. She and her husband Shane have four children: Emery (7), Adley (6), Mac (3), and Reid (7 months) and attend church at The Crossing in Chesterfield.