

SPRING 2017

chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



International Impact

ENGAGING THE WORLD TO
CHANGE IT FOR JESUS CHRIST

More than
a Game

PAGE 14

Language, Life,
and Learning

PAGE 15

Work as
Worship

PAGE 28





chimes

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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.

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CONTENTS

SPRING 2017

FROM TIM HALL

4
Intentional Influence

NEWS

6
Academics

8
Arts



11
Athletics



18
Advancement

20
Admissions

FEATURES

15
Faculty Spotlight
Sarah DeVries



21
International Impact
What began as a host family opportunity grew into a life changing love for culture and language that has led the Taylor family to engage the world for Christ both at home and abroad.



EVENTS

26
Spirit Week



ALUMNI NEWS

28
Alumni Spotlight
Anna Sugg '08



31
Class Notes



Intentional Influence

A vision statement serves an incredibly important purpose in the life of any institution. It not only guides the actions of the present, but it also inspires people of a common purpose to look to the future and strive toward an inspirational, clearly defined goal. Westminster's vision statement outlines our school's intention simply, yet profoundly – we seek to prepare and equip more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

In this sense, engaging the world encompasses both geographic location and vocational calling. We know that our alumni are serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in areas as far away as South Korea and Ghana and as near as our own city of St. Louis. We also have many alumni who are following the Lord into diverse areas of work, engaging the culture and thereby the world through their efforts in the calling best suited to their gifts and skills and passions.

Westminster graduates are faithfully serving Christ and making a difference every day. They are not only engaging, but also changing and shaping the lives of family, friends, customers, readers, children, co-workers, church members, and more. May all Westminster alumni continue faithfully in their work, impacting the world for Christ, and may Westminster continue to prepare and equip generations of students to come for this very purpose.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hall '80
Interim Head of School-Student Life

Established Steps

DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER'S JOURNEY TO WESTMINSTER



In June, our community will welcome Dr. Barrett Mosbacker to Westminster Christian Academy as our next head of school. His journey to Westminster began rather unexpectedly. “It started with a phone call from Jim Marsh asking if I would consider applying,” says Dr. Mosbacker. “I was honored to be asked, especially by Jim, but I initially turned down the kind offer.” Because it was Mr. Marsh asking, Dr. Mosbacker committed to praying about the possibility. Over the Christmas holiday season, the Lord began prompting Dr. Mosbacker and his wife Beverly to seriously consider a call to Westminster—in the months that followed, the Lord’s affirmation of this calling became crystal clear. “The Lord confirmed our sense of calling after several opportunities

to meet the staff, faculty, and school board. Our hearts were stirred by the deep passion for Christian education that we shared with everyone we met,” he says.

Dr. Mosbacker brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience—28 years of leadership service in Christian education, advanced degrees in educational leadership, 20 years of experience as an educational consultant, and numerous published articles that have established him as a prolific writer in the industry. Professional credentials aside, he enjoys a number of activities outside of his role as head of school. Writing and photography are a few of his favorite personal hobbies. “I also enjoy breakfast dates with my daughters, playing with my dog Charlie, and enjoying the outdoors. I love good music—especially smooth jazz—a good cup of coffee, and a crackling fire in the fireplace, preferably at the same time!” he says. Watching sports games is another beloved pastime. He enjoys tuning into baseball and college football (with chips and cheese!), and he’s added attending his first hockey game to the list of things he’d like to do once settled in St. Louis.

Apart from the anticipation of catching the Blues in action at Scottrade Center, however, Dr. Mosbacker says he is especially looking forward to getting to know and serve the community at Westminster. “I look forward to forging warm personal and collegial relationships with the staff, students, parents, Board members, and with school and church leaders in the community,” he says. “My prayer and goal is to be a blessing to Westminster. I am excited to be joining the Westminster community as, together, we serve the Lord to see young men and women prepared to serve Christ in college and career for God’s glory and the advancement of His kingdom.” •

Academics

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



GENEROUS HEARTS

EACH YEAR during the holiday season, Westminster students demonstrate a spirit of generosity in a powerful way. The first week of November, the school community hosts a special donation week called, "In the Spirit of Giving" (ITSOG), to benefit children in the St. Louis area, rural Missouri, and around the world. Each day of the week, students bring in specific items for donation to particular organizations. Items collected include food, toys, board games, clothing, baby items, and school supplies. This year, Westminster students set a goal to collect 24,000 items for distribution to 11 different local agencies. By the end of the week, students had collectively donated 26,553 items.



RAISING THE BAR

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY you see a group of 16 high school seniors who not only know their Constitution, but who can skillfully debate it, too. This fall, Westminster's team of seniors traveled to Columbia, Mo., to compete in the Missouri Bar's annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution state competition. The students came away state champions and as title holder, Westminster's team will advance to represent Missouri at the national competition in Washington, D.C., in April. Over the years, Westminster teams have proven to be a force to contend with, having won 17 of 21 state competitions.

FACULTY RECOGNITION: SCOTT VONDER BRUEGGE

THE SUCCESS of every generation of students depends on the teachers who help shape them. One such outstanding Westminster faculty member is business and communications teacher Scott Vonder Bruegge, who was awarded the 2016 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award at the Ritz-Carlton on Sunday, November 13. Every year, Emerson sponsors the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards program, which recognizes more than 100 educators in the St. Louis metropolitan area (encompassing nine counties) who are examples of excellence in their field. Mr. Vonder Bruegge, now in his 17th year at Westminster, was among those honored for exemplifying the qualities that make an excellent teacher.



Delving Deeper

THE GIFTED PROGRAM AT WESTMINSTER

Years ago, it was merely an idea. One rooted in the heart of Westminster's mission to serve the children of Christian parents—including the gifted children of believing families. For some time, honors-level classes and Advanced Placement courses had helped to address the educational needs of gifted students. But a specialized program dedicated to comprehensively meeting the academic, social, emotional, and developmental needs of truly gifted adolescents at Westminster was still missing. The Gifted Program launched at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year in the 8th grade. Seven pioneering middle school students were enrolled in an accelerated history course, combined with gifted exploration the first year. These students—as do all gifted students at Westminster—met specific criteria outlined by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), an organization that has helped shape Westminster's gifted services. This year, the program has expanded to include 7th and 9th grade students. In 2017-18, sophomores will be integrated into the Gifted Program as well.

Middle School Gifted Educator Jonathan Powers leads a gifted 7th and 8th grade global studies course. "It's the same sort of topic, concerning what the world is like and how we study geography and culture, but it's approached in a way that allows students to make more complex connections and work at the pace and level that is best suited for where they are in their age and intellectual development," says Mr. Powers. In the upper school, Gifted Advisor Sara Schwamb guides freshman students through their current academics and course selection. Her work with these students will help prepare and point them toward a capstone project they'll complete later in their academic careers. Dr. Schwamb will also lead a 10th grade gifted honors literature course of Western civilization next year. "We will look at core literary works from Western civilization curriculum, but we will also be able to go deeper as well," says Dr. Schwamb. Next year, the upper school will also offer a 9th grade gifted geometry course.

When looking to the future of the Gifted Program at Westminster, Director of Special Services Lucy Erdman says the years ahead will be marked by intentional growth and development. The continued development of curriculum to expand the reach of gifted services is, perhaps, one of the highest priorities of the program. "Our mission is that we want kids to change the world for Jesus Christ," says Mrs. Erdman. "These students are uniquely gifted by God to do amazing things; what's exciting is to see them getting what they need here, with their talents and their gifts, and also receiving the Christian perspective so they have the platform for what they're going to do." •



Arts

CREATIVE EXCELLENCE



On Display

AP STUDIO ART was a new course offering that debuted this fall for students with a serious interest in the study of art. Eleven students spent the semester creating 2-dimensional visual art pieces that were submitted for exhibition at the Missouri Baptist University Art Gallery. Before students put pencil to paper or paintbrush to canvas, they entitled their upcoming show, “The Island of Misfit Toys.” Students brainstormed ideas and, using a variety of media, created works reflective of this theme. “Each student came up with an interpretation of what it means to feel in a certain way—to feel like an outlier, outsider, or outcast but also wanting ultimately to be loved for who you are and wanting to love other people for who they are,” says Studio Art teacher and Visual Arts Department Chair John Sarra. Students were proud to have their work on display (senior Sidney Keane with her artwork pictured above) December through February, in addition to a few of Mr. Sarra’s own pieces.

College-Bound Artists

THIS YEAR, nine Westminster seniors have either committed to or are seriously considering pursuing the study of visual art in college. We are eager to see how these students will use their talents for God’s glory!

Performing Arts Accolades

FINE ARTS DIRECTOR Kathy Eichelberger was nominated by the Arts for Life Theatre Recognition Guild for Best Performance by a Duo or Group for her portrayal of Mrs. Mayor in *Seussical*. Mrs. Eichelberger performed in the musical at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in September. On June 11, 2017, she will be recognized at a special awards ceremony hosted by Arts for Life to honor outstanding performances in community theatre.



Ministering with Music

FAITH IN ACTION is Westminster’s yearlong senior service program that allows students the opportunity to serve every Thursday morning at a designated local agency. This year, our 2016 seniors are serving others by ministering through their gifts, talents, and interests. Senior Garrett Stoecker serves at Mason Pointe-Lutheran Senior Services. While his responsibilities may vary from day to day, once in awhile, Garrett will have a few moments to sit down at the piano stationed in one of the wards and play music for the residents. One resident in particular always hums along and claps to Garrett’s tunes, but in all his months serving at Mason Pointe, Garrett says he had never heard her speak. “But one day when I finished playing, I could tell she was so happy. She looked at me and said quietly, ‘Thank you.’ That’s all she said. But that’s the neatest thing I’ve seen while there. In day-to-day life, it can be hard to see my faith in action, but when I do something like this—when I engage with people and see how my service blesses them—that’s when I can clearly see my faith lived out,” he says.

Right down the road, senior Hannah Haguewood visits Chesterfield Day School on Thursday mornings to support teachers in the classrooms. During one of the music classes there, Hannah has the opportunity to help facilitate music quizzes for 5th grade students and guide them in practicing their various instruments. She’ll also help them distinguish between different notes and tempos and encourage them as they practice their sight reading. Hannah sees her time at Chesterfield Day School as not only impacting the students there, but also influencing her own growth as well. “It’s challenging for them but it also challenges me to become a better musician,” says Hannah. “These kids are looking up to me, and it inspires me to be better. It’s really cool to use what I’ve learned so far at Westminster to help them.”

AutoTune

TWO YEARS AGO, senior Jake McKie arrived for the first day of his sophomore year at Westminster with an idea—he wanted to launch a barbershop quartet at school. Inspired by his experience at an a cappella music camp that summer, he determined he would round up a few friends at Westminster to start a barbershop quartet of his own. At lunch, the first day of school his 10th grade year, Jake brought Andrew Van Horn, now a senior at Westminster, on board. Having already convinced their mutual friend and current senior Josh Theus to sing bass in the group, it was simply a matter of recruiting a fourth singer to join. Now, two years later, the quartet is finally complete with senior Sarah Nolting as the fourth and final member. “It’s really more of just a fun thing to do,” says Andrew. “We hang out with our friends. I’ve known these guys for two years. They’re some of my best friends at the school, and it’s just fun to sing and hang out with them.” Dubbed AutoTune, all group members sing in Chamber Choir at Westminster and collectively have several years of choral music training and experience under their belt. With a talent for harmonizing and a heart for creating music together, the AutoTune quartet has performed at Ladies Advent and Christmas Banquet this year. They’re looking forward to competing as an ensemble at the Missouri Choir Festival in early spring, says Jake, but competition results and ratings aside, the shared value that led to the initial formation of the group remains unchanged—four friends with a common love for singing.



Honors Middle School Band

THIS FALL, 8th grader Matthew Burgess represented Westminster in the St. Louis Metro 8 District Honors Middle School Band on trombone. Since his 7th grade year, Matthew has enjoyed pushing himself musically, joining the Westminster pep band his first year at school and performing with the jazz band since last spring.



Join us for Fiddler on the Roof

OUR CAST would love to see you Thursday, April 20-Saturday, April 22, at 7 p.m. in the Westminster Theatre! Visit our website for more information.



Femme Forte

THE SUMMER of 2016, junior Jessica Wilson had a musical dream of her own but with a slightly different twist. Jessica and sophomore Chloe Kellom attended Acappellooza Summer, a music summer camp at the University of Missouri-St. Louis for high school students. At the final concert performed at the end of camp, Jessica watched as various singing groups took the stage and dreamed of starting a quartet at Westminster that year with her friends. After sharing her idea with Chloe who immediately agreed to join the group, the two approached their mutual friends junior Natalie Brown and junior Caroline Hinrichs. Without hesitation, Natalie and Caroline agreed to join, and Femme Forte was born. The group’s musical style is contemporary with a modern, pop, Glee!-sounding vibe. This school year, Femme Forte has performed at several Westminster events, in addition to singing at numerous churches in the area. The formation of the quartet has created space for the group to grow, both in their friendships and as artists. “It’s definitely brought us closer,” says Chloe. The opportunity to simply make music and dictate artistic choices is incredibly inspiring, says Caroline. “I just really love the challenge of it all!” It’s a fulfilling and empowering experience, which led the girls to title their group Femme Forte, which means “strong woman” in French. With a booked performance schedule for the rest of the school year, in addition to a first cover song hit on YouTube that exceeded 4,000 views, Natalie says the support and encouragement from their community has been incredible. “This is more than us,” says Natalie. “This is more than our ability to sing. God put us in this position for a reason, and it’s really cool that we get to use our talents to glorify Him.”



Jazzed for the Grammys

WHEN SENIOR CHRISTIAN MCGHEE plays the drums, he plays with undeniable heart. One can tell by the way he bobs his head to the beat, sways on his seat to the rhythm, smiles with his whole face at the making of music. It is, undoubtedly, this same passion for music that landed him a prestigious spot in one of the most distinguished bands in the country: the 2017 Grammy Camp—Jazz Session. After three years of hard work and auditioning, Christian was selected as one of only 32 other high school students from across the United States for the 2017 band. He traveled with the group to Los Angeles in early February for a 10-day music experience led by some of the most respected music directors in the nation. The student musicians recorded an album in Hollywood, performed at a number of Grammy Week events, and attended the 59th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony on February 12.

Drums have always been a part of his life, Christian says. In 7th grade, he joined the JazzU Program with Jazz at the Bistro—one of the top 10 jazz clubs in the world, based here in St. Louis. Currently in his sixth year as a part of the program, Christian says that's where his love for jazz began. "The thing I love about jazz is that there's a communication aspect to the music," says Christian. "You're improvising. You're communicating with the band. It's instrumental, so you're able to express yourself in ways that you're not usually able to in regular communication."

Christian credits his involvement in Westminster's music program as being hugely significant in the development of his musical skills. Since his first year in band in 7th grade, Christian says time spent in the classroom has given him space to ask questions and learn as much as he can. "During my first year, I was learning classical music and playing the timpani, snare drum, bass drum, and...everything! When thinking back to that time, I think about how hugely influential it was, because I was having to learn so much at one time. And all of my teachers—Mr. Jones, Mr. Taylor, and Dr. Gargrave—have always been open to answering any questions I have and teaching me as much as they can."

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the constant support of his parents, Christian says. Since the age of five, he grew up playing drums at The Village Church of St. Louis (UMC), where his parents serve as pastors. "My dad has always been a mentor to me," says Christian. "He has a good ear for music—he used to play trombone and was a student conductor growing up—so he has a lot of musical experience. He's always giving me tips and helping me improve." An equal support in encouraging him in music career, Christian's mom, he says, always ensures that his relationship with God is the root of everything.

"My faith has kept me grounded on days where everything feels like it's crashing down. I know God's there, and He can help me push through," says Christian. Keeping everything together can be a challenge, especially with a tightly booked schedule. In 2016-17 alone, Christian auditioned for the YoungArts National Music Program and was named honorable mention for 2017 on jazz drums and piano (his second year to receive this distinction); he made the 2016 Jazz Band of America, attended the Skidmore Jazz Institute in 2016, and made district jazz band on vibes, drums, and piano for the second time. But with his faith, family, and community to rely on, Christian says he looks forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. "It's all in balance," says Christian. "I want to work hard, have fun, and perform well. But I want to keep it all in perspective. That's the life I'm striving to have." •

Athletics

PASSIONATE PERFORMANCE



SKIPPY KEEFER AWARDS

DURING THE WINTER SEASON, seniors Alivia Johnston, MaryKate Kopsky, and Brooke Lemp were all nominated for the Skippy Keefer Sportsmanship Award. The award honors Skippy Keefer, who served as athletic director at John Burroughs for 25 years and helped found the Metro Women's Athletic Association. Each year, a senior female athlete within the MWAA league is recognized for exemplary athletic participation and sportsmanship. Alivia, MaryKate, and Brooke were each honored by this prestigious nomination.



HALL OF FAME

WESTMINSTER'S ANNIE SULLIVAN, who serves as a physical education and health teacher and chairs the school's Physical Education and Health Department, was inducted into the Webster Groves High School Statesman Sports Hall of Fame this winter. She was recognized for notable achievements during her high school basketball career and was one of eight elected alumni—the only female inductee and representative from the class of 2000. Mrs. Sullivan was honored at a ceremony at the school's varsity boys basketball game on Friday, January 20, in addition to a formal dinner and induction ceremony held at Westborough Country Club on Saturday, January 21.

COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

TO DATE, eight Westminster student-athletes have signed sports commitments to play for college teams. The senior athletes include:

Dyllan Conway, Football
Southern Illinois University

Kirsten Davis, Soccer
Texas Tech University

Taylor French, Golf
Taylor University

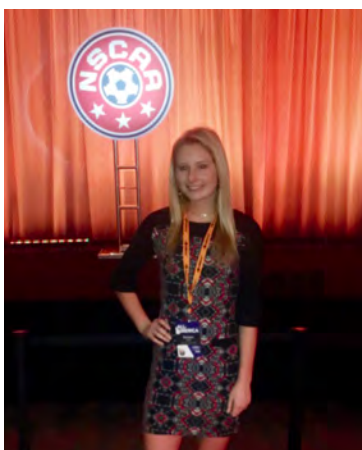
Matt Ottsen, Baseball
Bucknell University

Josh Pottebaum, Football
Oberlin College

Weston Schad, Baseball
Murray State University

Devan Stewart, Baseball
Eastern Illinois University

Sydney Walker, Soccer
St. Louis University



SOCCER SENSATION

SENIOR KIRSTEN DAVIS was named High School All-American by the National Coaches Association of America in January. An outstanding career, including 119 goals and 23 assists to date, qualified Kirsten for this nomination based on field performance and the recommendation of high school coaches affiliated with the association. Kirsten was awarded the All-American medal at a special luncheon in Los Angeles on January 14. Westminster varsity girls soccer head coach Kerry Dryden says she's incredibly proud of the amount of hours Kristen has invested into training to be at her current level of playing. "This is a great award for Kirsten and our school. She is putting Westminster in the history books." Additionally, Kristen was also named Future Star by the St. Louis Soccer Hall of Fame this fall.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

WESTMINSTER JUNIORS

Avery Engelmeyer and Hilary Hightower were selected to both All-District and Metro-League Volleyball All-League Teams. Both athletes made All-District 2nd Team. Hilary was named to All-League 2nd Team, and Avery was named to All-League 1st Team.



BOYS SOCCER

THIS FALL, seniors Teddy Bacon and Connor Dolan, and junior Frankie Sacco were selected to Metro League Boys Soccer All-League teams. Teddy made All-League 2nd Team, and Connor and Frankie were named to All-League 1st Team.



FIELD HOCKEY

JUNIOR FORWARD Haley Schmer was named to the All-Metro Third Team for field hockey this fall. She is the first field hockey player in Westminster history to receive this honor. During the season, she made six goals and 11 assists on a team high of 55 shots. Additionally, 10 varsity field hockey players were recently named to the 2017 Keith Waldman-Optimal Performance Associates/The National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School Academic Squad. To qualify, student-athletes must achieve a 3.5 GPA for the first quarter of the academic year.

SOFTBALL

POSTSEASON RESULTS arrived in late fall for the Lady Wildcats. Freshman Lauren Gates, catcher, made All-Conference 1st Team, All-District 1st Team, and All-Region 2nd Team. Juniors Maddie Volding, first base, and Deanne Pfyl, shortstop, were named to All-Conference 2nd Team.



FOOTBALL

SENIOR DYLLAN CONWAY was selected for 1st Team All-State in Missouri, based on his performance on the field during the 2016 football season. Dyllan made 1st Team All-State in Class 4. This is his second consecutive year to be named as 1st Team All-State. This season, Dyllan had 41 receptions, 923 yards, and 8 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he made 39 tackles, four interceptions, and one pick six. Throughout the course of his career, Conway accumulated over 3,128 rushing and receiving yards and 32 touchdowns.

WRESTLING

JUNIOR CHARLIE MCCRACKEN finished third in the 195-pound weight class at the Westminster Tournament early in the season. He competed against two state medalists in the bracket, wrestling close matches with both opponents. Senior Lucas Chimento, sophomore Patrick Andrews, and Charlie all qualified for state. At the state championship match, Charlie finished fifth in the 195-pound weight class.

DANCE

THE TEAM danced its way to success in numerous competitions this season. At the Lindbergh Dance Invitational, the varsity dance team placed fourth in the pom-pom category. At the St. Charles Classic Dance Competition, Westminster dancers claimed fourth place in hip hop and fifth in precision dance. In February, the team achieved first place for the second year in a row in hip hop at the state championship competition. They also placed second in pom-pom and fourth place overall.



BOYS BASKETBALL

THE WILDCATS enjoyed a winning season this winter. In January, the team won the Washington Tournament, 71-63. Senior Steve Webb was named Tournament MVP, and senior Cliff DeGroot was recognized as All-Tournament Team Honoree. The Wildcats competed well in district semifinals and ended their season with a 18-9 record.

GIRLS SWIM AND DIVE

VARSITY GIRLS swimmers and divers were Metro Conference champions for the second year in a row in the team's 30-year history. At the state championship meet, senior Mackenzie Wieberg participated in one of the fastest state meets in history, breaking the oldest Westminster school record for the 50 freestyle twice—once at the preliminary meet and again at the finals meet. She received seventh place at state and earned All-State honors. Additionally, Mackenzie placed 13th in the 100 fly to earn All-State honorable mention. The Lady Wildcats finished 31st out of 75 teams at state.

HOCKEY

PLAYOFFS FOR THE WILDCATS were filled with exciting winning elimination games the first weeks of February. At the end of the month, the varsity hockey team saved one of their best performances for last and swept past their opponent in both semifinal games, 6-2 and 8-2, to qualify them for the championship game. The team played at the Wickenheiser Cup Championship game on March 8 at Scottrade Center and won against Ladue 3-2. The Wildcats were named the 2017 Wickenheiser Cup Champions, and senior Jason Kelly was recognized as MVP at the championship game. The team also graduated eight seniors this season.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

THE LADY WILDCATS fought hard this season, bringing their best effort to the court each game. They wrapped up their 2017-18 season with back-to-back wins against Notre Dame and Borgia.



More than a Game

A SPOTLIGHT ON COACH DALE RIBBLE

“I DON’T REMEMBER A TIME when basketball wasn’t a part of my life,” says Dale Ribble, Westminster’s varsity boys basketball head coach. Coach Ribble joined the Westminster coaching staff and physical education and health department in June 2016. One month before that, he received a text from a friend, informing him of the open position at Westminster and encouraging him to apply. From the moment he stepped on campus, Coach Ribble knew Westminster was the place he wanted to be. “I don’t know that I can fully describe this, but there was a feeling I had when I came to interview here. It’s this powerful feeling of the Spirit’s presence,” says Coach Ribble. It was God’s evident work and presence at Westminster that ultimately drew Coach Ribble to the school, second to his love for basketball.

His love for the sport started early. Growing up, Coach Ribble’s father was a high school teacher and basketball coach, and his mother was a middle school teacher. Throughout high school, Coach Ribble played on two state championship teams at Millard South High School in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduation, he headed to Missouri State University, where he played for Charlie Spoonhour and others, including John Hammond and Mark Bensen. Shortly after graduating from Missouri State, he enrolled at Hastings College and completed his master’s degree in teaching. While at Hastings, Ribble also served as the graduate assistant basketball coach. Through connections at Hastings College, Coach Ribble transitioned to Lindenwood University in 1997 to become the school’s head basketball coach, after completion of his graduate program.

In the years that followed, Ribble continued his coaching career at Missouri State University, Drury University, State Fair Community

College, and University of Missouri-St. Louis. In September 2015, Coach Ribble made the first steps to pursue a project that had been on his heart for months. He approached Bob Sundvold, head coach of the UMSL Tritons, and shared with him a vision he had for launching a faith-based youth basketball academy. With Sundvold’s blessing, Coach Ribble continued to serve as assistant coach, while at the same time establishing and growing Crosscourt Basketball Academy. After one month, Coach Ribble decided his heart lay in devotion to Crosscourt and its success. For seven months, Ribble and a few friends dedicated themselves to Crosscourt Academy, providing clinics and camps for players grades 1-7 on basketball skill development. In May of that same year, Coach Ribble received his friend’s text about Westminster, and the rest is history.

Coach Ribble says he’s passionate about developing Westminster’s varsity basketball team. “It’s been said many times, but it’s true—players don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. It’s a daily process and one of the most rewarding things to be a part of a team and part of something bigger than yourself,” says Coach Ribble. When looking to the future, he says that he hopes what first drew him to Westminster last summer—that sense of the Spirit’s presence—will be the key element that attracts players to the school’s basketball program. “My dream and vision for this program is that we will attract players that are attracted to that,” says Coach Ribble. “I want them to see God’s presence in our program—by the way we compete, the way we act, and the way we treat each other and our opponents. I want our team to be attractive—the same way Westminster is.” •

A FACULTY
SPOTLIGHT
ON SARAH
DEVRIES



Language, Life, and Learning

Her 7th grade year of middle school, Sarah DeVries had a choice to make—Spanish, French, or German for her world language credit? She chose French and hasn't looked back since. Miss DeVries is now in her 10th year teaching French language courses at Westminster. It's an opportunity to instill in her students a desire to engage people of different cultures and a space for them to develop an attitude of hospitality toward people from other places around the world. Second to her desire to shape and encourage students to be welcoming hosts to cross-cultural guests or respectful visitors when her students find themselves in other cultural situations, Miss DeVries, of course, also works with all her heart to instill in her students a love for language. "Language is a great gift," says Miss DeVries. "God used language to create the world, then one of the first things Adam did was to name things. Language is a part of who we are as humans, and I want my students to see the beauty in language and learn to use it wisely."

Beauty was one of the first things that attracted Miss DeVries to the French language, in fact. "Right from the start, I enjoyed learning the language. It came easily to me, and I was pretty fascinated with France. It is such a beautiful country with a culture that appreciates life, beauty, and learning—all things I value and appreciate as well," she says. In high school, ▶



► Miss DeVries' love for language continued to grow, ultimately leading her to pursue a degree in French with a minor in Spanish that soon metamorphosed into a dual major in both French and Spanish within the secondary education program at Calvin College. "I had actually never taken Spanish before, but because of my foundation in French, I was able to advance in Spanish pretty quickly." With three college semesters under her belt, Miss DeVries elected to study abroad in the spring of her sophomore year at the Centre Universitaire d'Études Françaises in Grenoble, France. It was her first opportunity at dipping her toes in the waters of cross-country travel, and it prepared her for a much bigger leap and longer stay in France following graduation.

The September after her graduation from Calvin College, Miss DeVries flew to Marseille for a seven-

month stay teaching English through a program offered by the French Ministry of Education. "I was placed in a pretty large public school in the northern part of Marseille," she says. "I worked 10 to 12 hours a week pulling out groups of students from their English classes to work on conversation and culture." It was as much an experience in diversity of culture, ethnicity, and religion as it was a first job experience outside of college and across the Atlantic. "I tutored a lot of North African students and Muslim students, and coming from a Christian college, it was neat for me to have a very different cultural immersion experience," says Miss DeVries. Due in large part to the support from expatriates and American missionaries in the area, Miss DeVries says she looks back on the time as a very formative and faith-building year.

"My time in Marseille absolutely affected my faith," she says. "It required a lot of trust. The circumstances were very different from when I visited France as a college student. This time, I was going over on my own, and I didn't really know anyone in Marseille."

The experience strengthened her faith in God's constant presence and taught her more than she had anticipated, says Miss DeVries. "When you're in another culture, you're very vulnerable in a lot of ways—even when you can speak the language, it still doesn't come as easily as your native language. You feel sort of like a fish out of water. It taught me to trust and appreciate God's constant presence. No matter where I go, He's there. Also engaging with the French Church was an interesting experience. It's very hard to be a Christian in France, so the Church there is pretty small. It made me realize what a blessing it is to have a strong faith community." The hospitality and care several American missionary families showed Miss DeVries while she was in Marseille significantly impacted her own attitude toward international visitors who are far from their homes. "There was a point during my first week in Marseille—I had just moved into my apartment on the school grounds. It was very bare bones and nothing worked. A few of the American missionaries took me to a local mall and helped me shop for things for my apartment. I remember on the car ride back, I teared up because they had been so kind to me when I was in need. It made me appreciate how acts of service like that can make such an impact on someone who feels culturally out of place," says Miss DeVries. It's a valuable perspective she aims to instill in her students at Westminster, too.

As her time in Marseille came to a close, Miss DeVries began applying for teaching positions in the States. She stumbled upon an opening at Westminster during an online search. "I felt drawn to Westminster's vision, and I loved the way the school wanted to engage with culture," says Miss DeVries. She applied and was contacted right away. "At the time, I was traveling with my parents during my last few weeks in France. I had a mini phone conversation with Jim Marsh from a French hotel room. Westminster offered to fly me to St. Louis for an interview once I got back to the States. I never intended to end up in St. Louis, but I'm really happy here," she says. Miss DeVries began teaching at Westminster in August 2007. Her second year at the school, she decided to acquire a master's degree in French from Middlebury College in Vermont. "The program took place over four summers for six weeks at a time," says Miss DeVries. "So it was nice because it didn't really overlap with the school year. I completed three summers on campus in Vermont and one summer in France in Poitiers." Students enrolled in Middlebury's language schools must sign a contract, stating that they will only speak the target language while on campus. "We were all so committed to learning," she says. "It was fun to be with others who were really motivated about engaging with the language."

These days, her companions on trips to France include students from her French language classes who have chosen to study abroad through Westminster's international program. "We're continuing to develop our partnership with College Joseph

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d'Arbaud in Salon-de-Provence, France," says Miss DeVries. "We make trips every other year—I would love if we could eventually travel there every year. This summer, we have 14 students going." The experience is as rich and rewarding for her as it is for the students, she says. "Taking students abroad is so rewarding—to see them make friendships with people in a different culture and use French in a really practical way is such a neat thing to see," says Miss DeVries. "It's eye-opening for them to see people who use this language that has, perhaps, seemed abstract to them in the classroom. It teaches them to have a bigger view of the world outside of themselves and cultivates in them a desire to engage with people of different cultures, which is so important—especially as Christians." Ultimately, Miss DeVries hopes that her students' main takeaway from their study abroad adventures and their language classes at Westminster is more people-focused than anything. "Whether they desire to engage with French-speaking cultures specifically doesn't matter to me," says Miss DeVries. "What's most important, and what I hope I am instilling in them, is an open attitude toward people who come from different cultural backgrounds and a desire to engage the world beyond what their immediate experiences look like. That, in the end, is what is most important to me." •

Giving Thanks at 40

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVINGKINDNESS TO WESTMINSTER

BY SHELLEY MILLIGAN

I'm not a big birthday person—they don't bother me, but neither do I get overly joyful for them. For some reason, I remember my dad turning 40 when I was in elementary school. He sprayed his beard gray and wore a wig to the office, and my mom pulled off a surprise birthday party for him. For a family of low-key birthday folk, 40 marked a distinct outlier in our lives. I didn't do much to commemorate my own 40th birthday a few years ago, opting for a quiet time with friends and family.

Several institutions with which I've been affiliated have marked major anniversaries, and I've enjoyed the attendant events. In those cases, the celebration focused on the institution and

its longstanding commitment to its mission. Westminster's own 40th "birthday" (anniversary) gives me pause for reflection. Forty years is impressive. I think wisdom might even encourage us as believers to celebrate.

Some 400 of you joined us for Westminster's 40th Anniversary Celebration on March 25. Even now, as we continue to reflect on 40 years, I hope our joy centers on the Lord and His covenant promises to His people. Psalm 100:5 tells us, "The Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations." How true in our case. God's blessing rested on an idea for a Christian school 40 years ago and has continued to be present every step along the way since—as





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ALL GENERATIONS.

PSALM 100:5

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that idea flourished into a school now encompassing our own campus and community.

He continues to establish us and show His mercy and faithfulness, now to more than just a founding generation. What a blessing to be part of an institution He built and continues to build for His glory. Forty years of Westminster shows God's faithfulness to generations of families not just in St. Louis but in South Korea, China, and all the many places in between.

When friends turn 40 (if not before!), we often consider that they have reached adulthood—we recognize that their life includes enough trial and

triumph to bring maturity and wisdom. Institutions that are 40, too, have reached significant milestones: Westminster counts blessings from the Lord in the form of our students who grow in wisdom and stature in the Lord, alumni who make a difference for Jesus Christ, and parents whose gifts to our community continue to sustain us. While we acknowledge and celebrate our 40 years, we look forward to many more decades of depending on His lovingkindness and faithfulness.

Here's to the next 40! •



It Begins with an Experience

BY PEGGY JOHNSON

My family was first introduced to the Westminster community when my eldest daughter was in 2nd grade. In need of a few actors for younger roles, the Westminster theatre director cast my two daughters in a musical. Over several weeks of rehearsals, my daughters met many upper school students who quickly became role models.

As a parent, these students' talents, kindnesses, and love for the Lord captivated me. The faculty who were committed to excellence and a parent community that was enthusiastic about the school impressed me. It was through this experience that my husband and I decided we wanted a Westminster experience for our children.

I encourage families to start thinking about Westminster several years before their student is

ready for the transition. Meet our families, observe our students, get to see our teachers and coaches do what they do best, and experience community. There are no shortages of opportunities to do all of those things at Westminster. Attending athletic games and fine arts events, Community Night, Carnival, and summer camps are just a few experiences where an immersion into our community will offer that first-hand look into who we are as a school and family.

How about trying Westminster on for size this summer? We encourage families to send their son or daughter to Camp Westminster. A variety of camps are offered during the month of June. Similar to my daughters' early experiences with the school, young children have the opportunity to engage with Westminster students, coaches, and teachers. Parents are able to get acquainted with the Westminster community through regular communications with the camp counselors and attending the closing ceremonies—a special event at the conclusion of a fun week for the campers.

Your introduction to Westminster may be different than mine was, but the vision for our students who graduate from here is always the same—to prepare and equip them to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. •

International Impact

WESTMINSTER'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM INSPIRES THE TAYLOR FAMILY TO ENGAGE GOD'S WORLD

IT ALL STARTED WITH A QUESTION: "Mom, can we please be a part of this program?" Jackie Taylor, mother to Eric '08, Kevin '09, and Maya '14, remembers when her daughter Maya first asked her if they could host international students through Westminster's Winter Camp opportunity. "I felt that it would be a mutually beneficial program for my family," says Ms. Taylor. "Maya had made friends with several international students. She had heard that other students were hosting Winter Camp visitors, and with her brothers being off at college, we had the extra space." Maya recalls missing having her brothers around during that time. ▶



ENGAGE THE WORLD
&
CHANGE IT
FOR
JESUS CHRIST

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Westminster's Study Abroad Program

provides students with the opportunity to travel to either China, France, South Korea, or Spain for a week to experience each country's culture, language, and history. Each trip challenges students to grow academically, socially, and spiritually through use of their second language skills and by exploring God's world.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

CHINA

FRANCE

SOUTH KOREA

SPAIN

► "I thought it would be fun having siblings again for a short while," she says. It was a significant commitment and responsibility to assume. "But we did it," says Ms. Taylor. "Our first year of hosting for Winter Camp, in January 2010, we welcomed three girls into our home. We absolutely loved it. The girls brought so much life to our house."

One month later, Westminster's four-week long Winter Camp experience concluded for the year, and the visiting students from Saemmul Christian Academy—Westminster's partner school in Seoul, South Korea—returned home. Ms. Taylor cherished what a wonderful experience it had been for her and Maya. "I loved seeing the smile on her face at the opportunity to host students from another country and to be a student ambassador in a way." However, she viewed it as a memorable, one-time experience. Maya had other plans. "She came to me afterward and said, 'Mom, that was fun! Why don't we host a student for a full year this time?' I didn't know if I could handle that! So I prayed about it and asked God to lead me in what He wanted me to do for our family. In the end, we decided to host an international student for the 2011-12 year." Dani Butler, Director of the International program at Westminster, explained more about the opportunity to the Taylors and told them about Siwei, a Chinese student who needed a host family for the upcoming term. "We agreed to host Siwei, and it was just fabulous," says Ms. Taylor. "It was good for me and for my daughter—Maya just blossomed that year. Having Siwei with us added a fullness to my daughter's life."

Siwei ended up living with the Taylors for three years of her high school experience at Westminster. "Siwei was not just a host student," says Maya. "She was a sister to me. Because she lived with us for so long, she was able to become a valued part of our family. I probably didn't realize or appreciate it at the time, but being able to have someone to go through high school with and relate to every day contributed greatly to my positive experience at Westminster." In January 2012, Maya and Siwei asked to participate as a host family in Winter Camp again. Of course, Ms. Taylor agreed, and the family hosted two boys that month. Serving as a host family made an incredible impact on her own life, says Maya. "It was through hosting that I not only made lifelong friends, but cultivated an interest in learning about other cultures and languages—something that has stayed with me to this day," she says. This love for international cultures and languages inspired Maya to study abroad the summer of her senior year at Westminster, traveling to Saemmul for a week to help teach English to students at a summer camp. "She loved it," says Ms. Taylor. "I remember her saying to me, 'I'm going to go back



"I LOVED SEEING THE SMILE ON HER FACE AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY AND TO BE A STUDENT AMBASSADOR IN A WAY"

when I'm in college." Maya's dedication to the study of language also won her the World Language award and recognition at Westminster her senior year.

Maya's final year at Westminster, 2013-14, was also the first year her older brother, Eric '08, returned to Westminster, this time as a faculty member. Eric had graduated from Belmont University with a degree in music education and returned to St. Louis, where he was soon hired as Westminster's band director, beginning in August 2013. When Winter Camp arrived in January 2014, Ms. Taylor agreed to partake in one last camp hosting experience. It was a full house with Maya, Eric, Siwei, and the two Saemmul students that lived with the Taylors for the month of January all under the same roof. In May of that year, Maya graduated from Westminster and moved to Richmond, Indiana, to attend Earlham College, where she is currently pursuing a degree in Japanese language with a minor in marketing. That same spring, Eric began considering the possibility of an international job. Hosting international students, observing Maya study abroad, watching other Westminster teachers pursue international careers, and Facebook updates of his friends' adventures all inspired Eric to begin looking for work overseas. "Getting to hear the stories from the students we hosted about what life is like in China and Korea was fascinating and made me want to experience a new culture. I wanted to get out of my comfort zone much like what the international students at Westminster have to do," says Eric. "I also didn't realize that I

could teach music overseas until Ben Myers, a former art teacher at Westminster, moved to Egypt to teach art. After doing some research, I realized that art teachers are actually in high demand at international schools all over the world."

The start of the 2014-15 academic year marked Eric's second year on staff at Westminster and Siwei's senior year. Before the semester began, Dr. Butler approached Ms. Taylor about another international student hosting opportunity. Maya was away at college. Ms. Taylor's middle son, Kevin, was also pursuing college and career—he traveled to Jordan for a semester to study abroad his junior year of college at the University of Arizona, majoring in government with an Arabic minor, before pursuing work in airfare intelligence with the United States Air Force—and Eric was teaching at Westminster. Ms. Taylor decided to participate in one more year of student hosting for 2014-15. She welcomed Sam Jun into their home in August. "Maya had traveled to South Korea with Westminster to study abroad, and I remember thinking of how people had helped her and hosted her during her stay," says ▶



“HAVING A
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EXAMINE THE WAY
YOU LIVE”



► Ms. Taylor. “I wanted to offer that same help to a student in need here. Sam lived with us for about a year. We hosted both Sam and Siwei at the same time.” As the year progressed, Eric continued to research international job opportunities that fit his giftings and abilities. He attended an international job fair in the spring of 2015 and had the opportunity to meet with teachers who had experience teaching all over the world. After several interviews, Eric was offered teaching positions in the Philippines, China, Madagascar, the Middle East, and Ghana. “I accepted the Ghana position, because it already had an established band program, and I would be teaching instrumental music full-time. The school has a reputation as being one of the strongest schools in West Africa with a widely respected head of school.”

Simultaneously, as she was wrapping up her freshman year at college, Maya independently found and applied to a summer school program in Seoul, South Korea, at Ewha Womans University. She was accepted and spent six weeks there intensively studying Korean language, media, and culture during the summer of 2015. “After completing the program, I was actually able to meet up with and stay with one of the Winter Camp Saemmul students my family had hosted while I was at Westminster!” says Maya. Harrison—one of the boys the Taylors hosted during their second Winter Camp experience—welcomed Maya to his family’s home for the remainder of her stay in Seoul, before she returned to the States. “I remember Maya telling me that while in Seoul, she attended a church there and actually saw Dani Butler with a group of Westminster study abroad students!” says Ms. Taylor. “It was wonderful to see that Maya had all those connections.” Maya says her second trip to Seoul, this time on her own, was an incredible growing and learning experience for her. “That was my first time going abroad independently,” she says. “I was really nervous but it was an amazing experience which furthered my desire to study culture and language!”

Eric moved to Ghana for the start of the 2015-16 school year to begin his work as band director for Lincoln Community School, an International Baccalaureate school in West Africa. He currently teaches 6th-10th grade students. The school enrolls 750 students, kindergarten through 12th grade, and 100 of those students take band. Eric also serves as the music director for the high school musicals. “I stay pretty busy with the different classes,” he says. “I teach all of the music, as well as direct the pit orchestra.” Now in his second year teaching at Lincoln Community School, Eric says three favorite aspects of his job include the students, his colleagues, and the opportunity to travel. “I love the fact that the students are diverse in regards to nationality, religions, and languages,” he says.

“They all have different experiences and viewpoints and it makes classroom discussions really interesting. The students also truly value the importance of the arts and the experience that they have in the band room.”

After completing her sophomore year of college in 2016, Maya traveled to Japan for the first time on an Earlham-sponsored internship. She worked at the Shiraoui Ainu Museum and studied about the Ainu people, an indigenous people of Japan. “I was an intermediate speaker of Japanese at the time, so I worked on translation projects and research for the museum,” says Maya. Following her internship, she traveled to Korea for a brief visit and on to China for the first time. She spent the first semester of her junior year this fall in Japan for a four-month study abroad experience. “I took classes at Iwate University and worked as an assistant English teacher in a Japanese middle school,” says Maya. “Because of my previous study abroad trip to Saemmul with Westminster, I was much more prepared for my job at the Japanese middle school, so I was thankful.”

When reflecting on how her international experiences to this point have grown and shaped her, Maya says it’s taught her deeper trust in God. “The more I’ve listened, the clearer His plans for my life have become,” she says. Traveling abroad has also enriched her understanding and appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the world He’s created, she says. “Having a multicultural lens on life is key to being able to critically examine the way you live, how you identify yourself, and what changes you can make to live the best life you can while positively influencing the lives of others,” says Maya. “Gaining this perspective on life is one of the most important results of traveling and living abroad.” Westminster’s international program first sparked her interest in international cultures, opportunities, and adventures, and for that Maya is grateful. “If I had not attended Westminster, my life would look very different than it looks now. Westminster’s international program was a vital influence on me in discovering my love for language and culture, and I’m thankful for the opportunities I had there.” While impacting the world for Jesus Christ began at home and Westminster for Maya and her family, it served as the catalyst for something much bigger—it set them on an international trajectory around the globe, motivated by a deep love for God’s world and the people in it. •

2016-17 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

33

AVERAGE GPA

3.73

AVERAGE SAT

1390

AVERAGE ACT

26

PRESIDENT’S LIST

16 international
students

HONOR ROLL

7 international
students

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS,

70% of international graduates have attended one of the top 50 ranked universities in the U.S., including Cornell University, New York University, and Georgia Tech.



Spirit Week

SPIRIT WEEK 2017 marked the 28th year of a tradition that is arguably the highlight of the year for the Westminster community! The special event rallies class members to work together to build class pride through vigorous but friendly competition. Enthusiasm and energy charge the hallways, classrooms, and the Arena each day. Students bring their Wildcat pride to the week's beloved activities—dress-up days, games, Art Boards, Film Project, Boys Poms, and Lip Sync!





Work as Worship

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
ON ANNA SUGG '08

Anna Sugg is one of the most hardworking, positive, and enthusiastic people you will meet. Since graduating from Westminster in 2008, she attended Furman University, where she double-majored in political science and communications; worked the Romney presidential campaign in 2012; landed a position at Fox News in the booking department; and became Director of Television at the Republican National Committee. Her extensive experience, combined with her drive and tenacity, also landed her a spot on the Huffington Post's list of Most-Influential Women in 2016 Election Media. She now works with CBS News as a producer for their digital streaming network CBSN. It's a full plate, to be sure. The motivation behind everything she does, however, is her faith, says Anna. "I'm a firm believer that work is worship. I also believe that it's not what job I have but how I do the job I'm given. Work matters. What we do with our work matters. Most of the jobs I've held have a relatively large sphere of influence—but for me, it's more than that. I stay faithful in how I do my work, focus on glorifying God through my work, and keep perspective on the impact of my work," she says. When reflecting on 2016, Anna clearly identifies it as one of the most challenging and growing years to date for her.

Back at the RNC, her work last year encompassed two arenas—the campaign side and the media side. "It was

incredibly interesting and humbling," she says. "When people talk about 'the media' or 'political operatives,' those are more than just abstract terms to me. I know these people. It gave me an extremely interesting, personal, and complicated perspective—one I believe is an incredible gift." The days were grueling. Anna had to institute a personal rule not to accept any producer calls before 7 a.m. She worked long hours—most nights getting no more than five hours of sleep—and her limited free time did not allow for as much connection and community as she would have liked. To top it off, she found herself in an extremely challenging and unique political situation. "It's no secret that this was an extremely divisive and difficult election," she says. Despite the hardships, Anna says she learned a number of valuable lessons during that time. "I learned that I am stronger than I think I am, and a lot of that isn't me. There were several situations where I felt very weak and ill-equipped, and I had to remind myself that God will never put me in a situation that I could not handle without His help." Reminding herself each day that God was at work—in the people and circumstances she found herself in helped, too. "Remembering that every single person is made in the image of God was essential for me and still is," she says. "I think this goes a long way in our political culture. Every person is extraordinary, and every child of God deserves grace. Reminding myself that elections aren't out of God's control and my career isn't out of God's control helped me have perspective. Everything works to His good."

While her Starbucks Coconut Milk Mocha Macchiatos helped her survive most mornings ("It's God's gift to mankind—especially really tired mankind!" she says), her church family supported her through the thick and thin of the 2016 presidential campaign. "My church family would send me emails and texts, take me out for coffee, go for walks...I even had one friend that volunteered during the Republican National Convention and made it her mission of the week to ensure my sanity. I was never without a hot cup



of coffee, a snack, or a cell phone charger—I don't think I could have made it through without her," says Anna. Spiritual support from her church community group helped ground her as she immersed herself in the political world. "Politics and media aren't exactly known for being rich soil for the Christian life," she says. "A life of faith is extremely counter cultural. It's one reason I was thankful former Westminster teacher Mr. Talley had us memorize Romans 12 back in 8th grade. The Christian life can be isolating at times in the world, but it's worth it to hold fast."

From 8th grade and on through her high school years, Anna sees Westminster as having played a significant role in shaping how she lives out her faith in everyday life. "Westminster gave me a great faith foundation," she says. "I was in Mr. Boesch's AP Government class, and I learned more about civics, government, and the

philosophical basis of our country than I thought possible. I wasn't told what to think, but I was taught to use my faith-based foundation to come to a well-thought out and researched opinion." At Westminster, she learned by example how to apply her faith to every aspect of her life, says Anna. "I learned how to look at everything with a Christian lens. Being a Christian is more than church on Sundays, and at Westminster, it was more than just Bible class. I had excellent role models, from Mr. Knerr who taught me to think critically as a Christian, to Miss Woodall, who taught me what it's like to be a faithful and strong woman of God."

The road from Westminster to college and career has, at times, put that faith foundation to the test. "Post-graduate life has been challenging for my faith, but I made a personal decision of faith my sophomore year of high school and have never looked back," says Anna. Throughout her career, work has demanded a significant portion of her time and effort. "I was constantly traveling, always exhausted, and honestly, my quiet time really struggled. I was also immersed in a culture and industry that ▶



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...it's a challenge that has given me such a rich and personal experience of my need for Christ as well as the beauties of grace.
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▶ doesn't prioritize faith in the same way I do. It took—and continues to take—a lot of learning experiences, disciplined time management, and some pretty frank accountability sessions with friends and family to continue to grow in my faith.” However, her faith in Christ is worth fighting for, says Anna, and she wouldn't trade that growing experience for anything. “Yes, I would have loved to learn lessons without having to go through valleys, but it's a challenge that has given me such a rich and personal experience of my need for Christ as well as the beauties of grace. It's a walk that's still continuing to grow, and I'm under no impression that I'm finished being stretched. Not even close.” In her new role at CSBN, Anna is already stretching herself professionally having just helped launch a show in January. It's been an exhausting but rewarding experience to watch the show grow, she says. “It's also an amazing time to be involved in covering presidential politics,”

says Anna. “Regardless of where you fall on the political spectrum, everyone can agree that it is constant. My skills as a journalist and producer have gone through a crash course, and I'm excited to see how they improve in the months to come.”

In all the work that lies ahead, Anna is passionate about being a positive contributing factor in changing the way people talk about politics. “I firmly believe that Christians need to be leading by example—to be able to have these conversations with people that do not agree with them and engage on a personal and compassionate level. It's tough. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. If anything, it's a call to engage the world around us, and through the work I'm doing now, I get to be a part of that national conversation. I am so honored to be working in this field.” •



NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

A Note from Your Alumni Coordinator

My favorite part of being the Alumni Relations Coordinator is hearing from so many of you throughout the year. I love learning about new jobs, new addresses, and even new babies! There is an important feeling of staying connected through a common experience we all share—being proud Westminster alumni. And your experience matters!

As we journey together into 2017, I look forward to sharing those updates with you on these pages. My hope is that you will continue to send us news about your life and where God has taken you since graduation. Additionally, I would love to have your involvement and participation in Westminster's various alumni events. Please feel free to reach out for more information about planning a class reunion, attending a function, or even taking a campus tour. My goal is to ensure you are connected not only to each other, but to Westminster as well.

God's blessings on your year!
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI NEWS

'88

David Workman is now the Content Marketing Manager for tactical gear provider Propper International, the country's biggest supplier of ACUs and BDUs to the United States military. David's role includes managing all social and traditional media for the consumer side of the business. He currently lives in St. Louis with his wife Stephanie and their three children.



'91

Greg Hickel died on November 6, 2016. He attended Wheaton College, where he studied economics, Bible and theology. He continued his studies at Washington University School of Law. He worked as an attorney to private clients as well as an in-house counsel at Interstate Cleaning Corporation. Greg felt called to serve others and generously gave his time and talents doing just that. He served as an ordained deacon and eventually a ruling elder in the PCA. Greg enjoyed volunteering his time at the Pregnancy Help Center as a board member and spending time with his children coaching their soccer teams or officiating swim meets. Westminster offers condolences to Greg's family, including his wife Janna and their three children, junior Hannah, 8th grader Carter, and Elizabeth. He was preceded in death by his father Bob Hickel, former Westminster Board of Directors member.



'90

Angie Wall Kimmel and her husband Todd live in Wildwood, Mo., with their two children Waylon (9) and Lyla (6). Angie works for Meeting Professionals International in business development sales, coordinating with large hotels and destinations on the West coast, Hawaii, and Mexico. Her husband Todd owns his own digital media agency, Digital Lift LLC.



'99

Lauren French Blanchard recently joined Gladys Manion Real Estate in Clayton, Mo., locally owned and operated since 1936. Lauren would love the opportunity to help her fellow Westminster alumni and families with any of their real estate needs.



'03

Daniel Pernoud received a dual degree in chemistry and biology and a minor in theology from Valparaiso University. Following graduation, he attended dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and continued his training at a residency program in Houston, Tx., at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Hospital and the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dan currently lives in St. Louis and owns a practice in Creve Coeur, Mo. He named the practice Lily Dental in honor of his wife, **Lily Strand Pernoud** '04.



Lauren Morris Thorp and her husband, Justin, welcomed their second child, Eloise, last May. Their family recently moved to a 120-year-old house in Shaw, Mo., and are working on rehabbing a former confectionery located on the rear of their property into a home and gift boutique. The boutique is due to open later this year.

Amy Rose Tomlinson recently became a published author of a book of essay and short stories titled, *Wonderlust: a Collection of Story Essays on Traveling, Doubting, and Learning to Endlessly Wonder*. Her book is available on Amazon.

'07

Adam Farquhar moved to Fort Worth, Tx., in June 2016 for his work with Lockheed Martin. He is enjoying his relocation and new job.



'08

Trevor Douglas McHardy graduated from Samford University in May 2012 with a bachelor's degree in sports medicine. He lived in Birmingham for three years working at the Alabama Pain Physicians Group. Trevor married his wife Sophie in Louisville, Ky., on September 4, 2016. Trevor's brother **Duncan** '03 was best man. The couple currently resides in St. Louis, where Trevor is in the physician assistant program at St. Louis University.

'09

Matthew Farquhar graduated from navy boot camp in February 2016 and is in Goose Creek, Sc., for training. He graduated from the first training school on August 5, 2016, and graduated from the second school in March 2017.



Alek Miller married his wife Juleah in December 2016.



'10

Madison Nye Nguyen married her husband Andrew at Cedar Creek in New Haven, Mo., on October 9, 2015. Several Westminster alumni from the class of 2010 were in the wedding party, including **Molly Anderson, Hillary Franz, Jordan Montgomery, and Catie Horseman**. Madison's sister **Gracie '16** was her maid of honor, and her brother **Coby '13** was a groomsman.



Bryan Willey, son of Westminster's very own Steve Bradley, married his wife Kelsey on October 28, 2016. The couple met while Kelsey was studying journalism at Kansas University. Bryan travels for work, and he and Kelsey are looking forward to experiencing traveling together for the first time this year.



'11

Erin Guthrie was recently accepted into the postgraduate fellowship PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience), where she will spend a year working with nonprofit companies in Pittsburgh using her graphic design degree. She will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design from Trinity International University this May.

'12

Aimee Farquhar graduated from Murray State University in December 2015 and afterward enrolled at the Metro Police Academy in Louisville, Ky. She graduated from the Academy on August 5, 2016, and is now in patrol. Aimee is engaged to Ronnie Mills with a wedding planned for June 16, 2017.



Lucy Wynn is living in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and working with The Micah Project, founded by Westminster graduate **Michael Miller '90**. She recently returned from a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with her sister **Mary '14** to serve with a ministry called "Happiness Now" started by Jackie Chavez, a Westminster mom. You can follow Lucy's adventures on her blog at lucyleeatmicah.wordpress.com.



'13

Erin Bognar led her volleyball team at Samford University to win the Southern Conference Championship in November 2016. She earned the tournament MVP award as well as many other honors. She broke Samford's all-time kill record and entered the NCAA Division 1 Volleyball Tournament ranked 10th in kills.

Alumni: If you would like to be included in the next issue of Chimes, please send your update and graduation year, as well as a recent photo, to communications@wcastl.org

ALUMNI BASKETBALL



Front row: Tony Thompson '10, Richard Copeland '10, Aaron Kinder '09, Andrew Beck '11, Drew Menzel '11 **Back Row:** Jeff Reymond '84, Kris Johnson '03, Assistant Athletic Director Terry Johnson, Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach Dale Ribble, Carl Thoenen '88

ALUMNI FOOTBALL



Front Row: Rory Hennings '09, Brendan Bogнар '15, Mason Davitt '16, Micah Mills '10, Zach Hughes '16, Greg Schoenberg '08, Steven Davis '13, Brennan Murphy '16, Juan Mundo-Sifuentes '08, Chris Heyl '16, Romondo Davis '04. **Back Row:** Andrew Eichelberger '16, Jeremiah Branscomb '16, Zack Dorton '10, Nathan Smallwood '11, Connor Hafenrichter '16, Myles Bakewell '16, Tom Graham '16, Sam Stufflebam '08, Brandon DeRousse '08, Karlton Smith '10, Nick Ebel '16, Brink Thompson '13.

ALUMNI HOCKEY



Front Row: Jeff Kaufman '06 **Middle Row:** Daniel Kaufman, Nick Pieber '06, Andrew Bateman '04, Michael Bianca '08, Chad Kim '03, Gannon McWard '16, Nick Glanvill '16 **Back Row:** Coach Dave Ganz 2001-05, Tim Appelbaum '09, Ryan Ganz '04, Coach Robert Bateman, Jacob Kaufman, Michael Hughes '09, Nick Cascella '04, Kyle Bateman '07, Jimmy Munson '08, Daniel Kim '08, Willie Canfield '16, Sam Canfield '13, Seth Mundorf '12, Manager Eve Cascella 2001-08, Coach Mike Malawy 1995-2001

ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL



Left to right: Carl Thoenen '88, Jean Evans '83, Drew Pfyl '13, Lauren Thoenen Lokey '13, Zack Lokey '13, Mitch Penning '13, Marci Penning '11, and Morgan West '11.



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