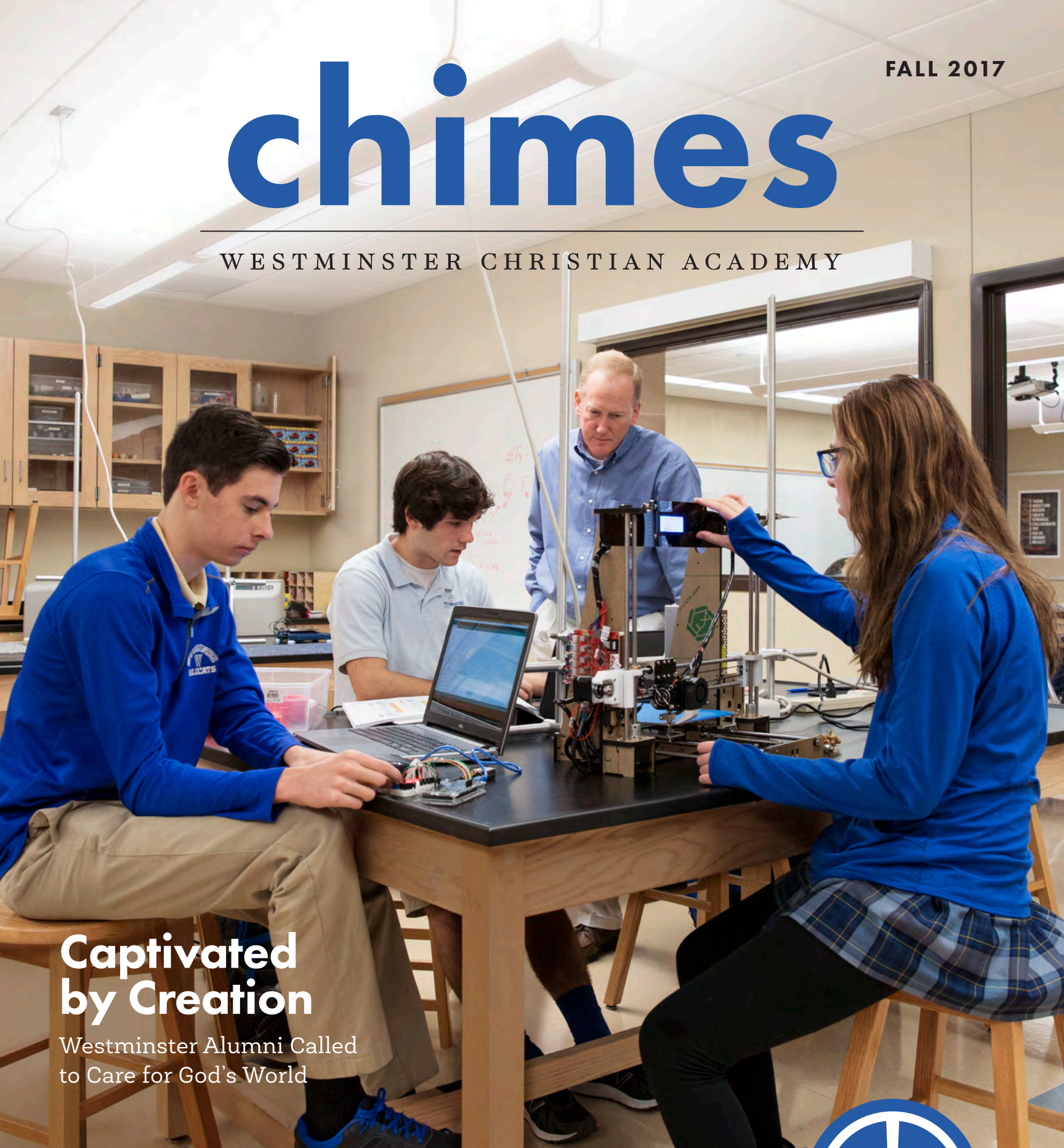


chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Captivated by Creation

Westminster Alumni Called
to Care for God's World

Scoring in
the Spirit
PAGE 14

Dazzled by
God's Design
PAGE 15

Geared Up
to Give Back
PAGE 28





chimes

Editor
Emily Hill

Graphic Designers
Amy Roff
Rachel Hainline

Contributors
Volunteer photographers

Head of School
Dr. Barrett Mosbacher

Assistant Head of School—Student Life
Tim Hall

Assistant Head of School—Academics
Scott Holley

Assistant Head of School—Finance and Operations
Todd Fuller

Director of Enrollment Management and Admissions
Peggy Johnson

Assistant Head of School—Advancement
Shelley Milligan

Director of Academic Operations
Deana Vandegriff

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.

© 2017 Westminster Christian Academy

CONTENTS

FALL 2017

FROM DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER

4
Living an Abundant Life

NEWS

6
Academics

9
Arts



11
Athletics



18
Advancement

20
Admissions

FEATURES

15
Teacher Spotlight
Genevieve Ralston



21
Captivated by Creation
Four alumni share their stories of preparation for professional work and study in various science fields. Inspired by their education and experiences at Westminster, they share a collective calling to the inspired work of restoring God's creation.



EVENTS

26
Wildcat Weekend



ALUMNI NEWS

28
Alumni Spotlight
Jonathan Bopp '12



31
Class Notes



Living an Abundant Life

DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER

THIS SEASON IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR. The cooler, brisk refreshing weather and the focus on thanking God for our cornucopia of blessings are two aspects that make it my favorite time of year. As I contemplate our abundance of blessings, I am reminded of Jesus's promise that He came to give us life and life abundant:

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture....I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:9-10

When Jesus said He came to give us an abundant life, He was not referring to material blessings; He was referring to the state of our souls—an abundance of peace and joy despite life's inevitable trials and hardships. We can experience the abundant life Jesus came to give by walking in the Spirit. As we do, we will enjoy the fruit of the Spirit in our lives:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, [and] self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Is not a life full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and the other fruit an abundant life?

In this issue of *Chimes*, you will read about current students like junior Andrew Kempen who are demonstrating kindness to those in need; you will see the goodness in alumnus Jonathan Bopp's mission to make robotics accessible to high school students; and you will notice the love Mrs. Genevieve Ralston has for her students, as she seeks to grow their knowledge and appreciation of God's world.

May you, your family, our students, and our alumni increasingly experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give!

WALKING IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL; AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW.” GALATIANS 5:22-23

These words from the Apostle Paul’s New Testament letter to the church of Galatia are helping shape the 2017-18 school year at Westminster. From this year’s Chapel theme—Walking in the Spirit—to the brightly colored banners hanging in the Grand Entry, to the Spirit-inspired acts of kindness and love enacted by our students and staff, the fruit of the Spirit serves as a centralizing commitment for our community to focus on and live out together this year.

In Chapel, weekly messages seek to unpack what walking in the Spirit means and looks like for believers. A focus on key biblical characters and themes helps to remind students and staff alike that there is freedom to live fruitful lives following the Spirit of Christ our Savior. “Our hope with this year’s Chapel theme, for students and faculty alike, is that it would encourage and challenge us as believers to live a different kind of life,” says Mike Berttucci, Chapel director. “The gospel not only offers us the freedom of forgiveness, but also the freedom to live a life that reflects our Creator. It is our hope in Chapel this year to explore what [walking in the Spirit] looks like in our everyday lives.”

Head of School Barrett Mosbacker says he settled on the verse as this year’s theme out of a desire to focus on the importance of Christian character. “I believe it is important to focus on ‘first things.’ As a Christian school, our mission is to partner with parents through the power of the Holy Spirit to prepare and equip our students to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. That always starts with our Christian character—beginning with each administrator, teacher, and coach,” he says. “We must model the fruit of the Spirit and then seek to foster this fruit in the lives of each student. Our prayer and goal is that the entire Westminster community will increasingly be characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” •

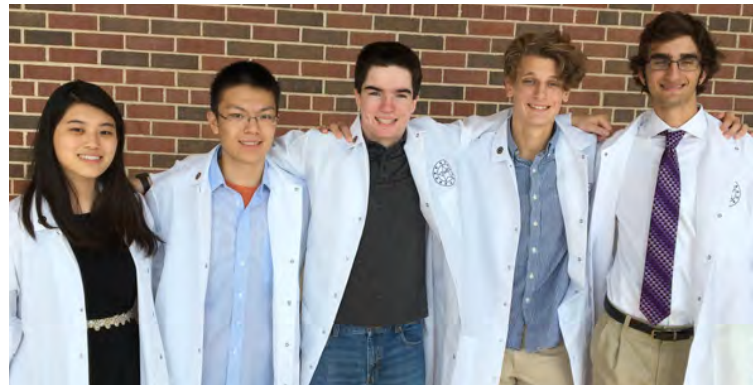


Academics

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENTS SHINE AT UMSL STARS PROGRAM

EACH SUMMER, science students at Westminster participate in a prestigious mentorship and research program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. STARS (Students and Teachers as Research Scientists) pairs top research mentors from the St. Louis area with student apprentices to complete in-depth research projects. In the last five years, 15 Westminster students have completed the program. This summer, five Westminster students graduated the program, including seniors Amie Lee, Daniel Wang, Preston Willis, Blake Andrews, and Markus Cicka. Blake and Amie were this year's recipients of the Excellence in Research Award.



FACT AND FICTION: STUDENT STORIES PUBLISHED

LAST SPRING, five middle school students had their historical family stories selected for publication in *Grannie Annie, Volume 12*. Their stories were chosen from 522 submissions from other young authors across the U.S. All five young authors and 8th grade students—Isabella Trost, Caleb Legters, Cori Boerner, Kharis Perona, and Connor McMillin (not pictured)—were honored at a special event at the Missouri History Museum in June. Their work may be found on The Grannie Annie's website throughout the year.



SCIENCE STUDENT STAND-OUT

LAST SPRING, senior Michael Thoenen was recognized by the University of Missouri-St. Louis and presented with the Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Science by UMSL's College of Arts and Sciences. Michael was among some of the region's best junior-level high school science students to be honored.

WORLD LANGUAGE ACCOLADES

IN MAY, 62 world language students attained national recognition for their performance on the 2017 National Spanish Examinations, the largest tests of their kind in the U.S. Four students earned silver medals, 13 received bronze medals, and 46 students were recognized as honorable mentions for their exam work. Additionally, 25 world language students were also honored for outstanding work on the 2017 National French Contest. Two students earned silver medals, four received bronze medals, and 19 students were recognized as honorable mentions. Several students ranked in the top 10 of the local chapter.

CLASSROOM CONNECTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLASS: PAWPRINT COFFEE

Order's up! Seniors Parker Gelber and Luke Heintz work as managers for Pawprint Coffee, a hands-on learning experience run through the school's entrepreneurship class. Students were trained as baristas during the summer and partnered with Kaldi's Coffee to purchase a high-end machine for servicing orders during the school year. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to have real-life experience running a company," says Parker. "I'd come back to train other students—and there's not a single other class I think I'd say that about!" Similarly, Luke says his experience in the class has motivated him to pursue a business degree in college. "It's definitely one of my favorite classes," he says.

PARTNER WITH OUR MARKETING STUDENTS!

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, Westminster students enrolled in Marketing I and Marketing II classes have collaborated with St. Louis businesses to assist with branding and marketing needs. Senior Parker Gelber says the opportunity is a win-win, “I’ve seen firsthand how our marketing efforts have helped our previous ‘clients’ grow in their businesses, and it’s a great learning experience for students!” The class is looking to partner with Westminster alumni business owners to help increase the effectiveness of client marketing efforts. If you’re interested in working with our marketing students, contact teacher Jonathan Horn at jhorn@wcastl.org.

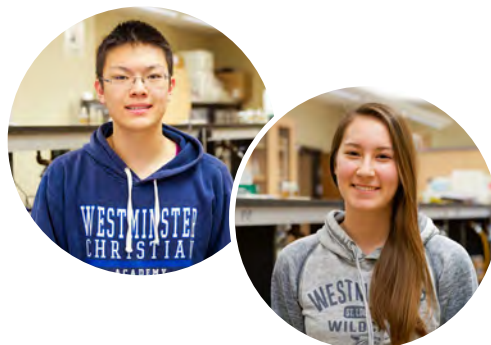


2018 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

THIS YEAR MARKED the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program with six Westminster seniors named as Semifinalists. Seniors Richard Johnson, Frances Akins, Daniel Wang, Amie Lee, Hayden Shively, and Matthew Moore are now eligible to advance to Finalist standing in the competition. In the past six years, 21 Westminster students have received National Merit Scholar standing.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

WESTMINSTER’S student newspaper, *The Wildcat Roar*, now offers subscriptions! Each issue’s content is curated with student, teacher, and parent readers in mind. For more information and to subscribe, please visit <http://bit.ly/TheWildcatRoar>.



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

TWO WESTMINSTER CHEMISTRY STUDENTS performed well on the American Chemical Society Exam last spring. Junior Emily Penner was honored as a high scorer on the First Year Exam and senior Daniel Wang received honorable mention for his high score on the Advanced Chemistry Exam, qualifying him and four other students in St. Louis to advance to the Local Chemistry Olympiad Competition.

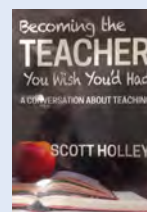
WORD UP! FACULTY AUTHORS



Director of Diversity **Aaron Layton** authored *Dear White Christian* last spring with a heart to bring greater understanding and unity among believers. He hopes the book will act as a practical tool for white Christians navigating conversations with black brothers and sisters in Christ.



Westminster teachers and father-son team, **Jeff Gall** and son **Micah Gall**, were selected last spring as honorees in the Children’s Nonfiction category of the Society of Midland Authors Annual Literacy Award competition for their co-authored book *Buck O’Neil: Baseball’s Ambassador*.



Inspired to assist teachers in their development as career educators, **Dr. Scott Holley** has published a book on the art and science of teaching—*Becoming the Teacher You Wish You’d Had*. A combination of interviews, research, and his own experience, the book serves as a helpful tool for teachers.



Westminster Bible teacher **Luke Davis** recently published his third crime fiction novel, *A Shattered Peace*, in an expanding series of stories. Davis’ novels take place in the greater St. Louis area and involve Detective Cameron Ballack, who is wheelchair-bound, much like Davis’ son, Joshua. His daughter, sophomore Lindsay Davis, inspired the cover design of the novel. Mr. Davis also recently published his first book—a novel titled, *Joël*—in a new fiction series, *The Merivalkan Chronicles*.



Westminster University

In an effort to provide teachers with more opportunities to flourish and meet Westminster standards for excellence in the classroom, Westminster University was launched as an outgrowth of the Center for Teaching and Learning to practically equip more faculty members with the tools and knowledge to enhance their professional practice.

The idea originated when several administrators and faculty members read *Everybody Matters* by local businessman and author Bob Chapman. In his book, Chapman explores what it looks like for an organization or company to treat its employees well and one way Chapman's own business accomplishes this goal is through a company "university" that helps guide employees to a better understanding of how the company works, what it looks like to live out the mission statement, and other training relevant to the organization. Inspired by this example, Westminster faculty began shaping their own "university" with classes specific to Westminster and the immediate needs of teachers.

Westminster University serves a dual-purpose in that it provides a platform for teachers to conduct a course in their area of expertise and interest, while also benefiting other faculty members who would like to grow in specific areas. Courses run for eight weeks with up to four classes offered per quarter. A few from this fall's catalog included, "Delivering Effective, Soundly Structured Lessons," "Becoming a Certified Google Instructor,"

"The Pedagogy of Redemption," and "Teaching Students with Challenging Learning Profiles."

One of the initial challenges facing Westminster University creators when first developing the program was brainstorming ways to make the training accessible and appealing to teachers who already lead extremely busy lives. The vision for Westminster University was to structure it as one more piece to a cohesive teacher training program.

"We've always had Wednesday workshops associated with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), which are largely voluntary, or Tuesday afternoon training for new teachers," says Director of Westminster University Scott Vonder Bruegge. "But we realized that it's just hard to have people get involved in one more thing, especially when it's totally voluntary." Faced with this reality, Westminster University was designed to offer a different, incentivized approach for professional development.

Faculty who complete four quarter-long courses and finish an independent study project will receive a \$1,000 stipend each year for four years as a way to grow professionally and be rewarded financially for doing so. Classes in the works span a range of topics, including utilizing technology effectively in the classroom, integrating Reformed theology in the classroom, and evaluating curriculum for cultural literacy. "Part of my job involves seeing if I can get good ideas for courses to fit," says Mr. Vonder Bruegge. It's an exciting possibility with so much potential and expertise to tap into in the faculty body at Westminster. "There are way too many incredibly smart people here who can be great resources for faculty," he says. "It's about our teachers leading as learners at our school, and the hope is that Westminster University will give them the opportunity to do just that." •

Arts

CREATIVE EXCELLENCE

Studio Spotlight

WESTMINSTER FINE ARTS TEACHER AND VISUAL ARTS CHAIR

John Sarra featured a collection of his recent paintings and works on paper at an open studio with Cayce Zavaglia, wife to alumnus Greg Zavaglia '91 and mother to junior Raphaella and freshman Matteo. The open studio was part of a larger city-wide event facilitated by the Contemporary Art Museum to make artists and their work accessible to the public. Mrs. Zavaglia featured her meticulously beautiful needlepoint portrait work. Mr. Sarra's pieces offered visitors an inside look into his studio process, featuring landscapes and studies that eventually led to more developed works. "I'm inspired by the natural world," he says. "I paint objects and spaces in order to remember and to discover."



State Music Contest Success

IN THE SPRING, several upper school students traveled to Columbia, Missouri, to participate in the State Music Solo and Ensemble Contest. Congratulations to Victoria MacKoul '17 and the AutoTune quartet members—Jake McKie '17, Sarah Nolting '17, Joshua Theus '17, and Andrew Van Horn '17 for earning a 2 (Outstanding Rating) and to seniors Natalie Brown and Hanna Eisenbath and junior Alex Cross for earning a 1 (Exemplary Rating). We are proud of these participants and for their great work at the state level.

Classroom Connection: Photography

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PHOTOGRAPHY this semester have had the opportunity to improve their skills with a number of fun (and furry!) class assignments. Class periods included learning to capture motion with a guest dancer from the St. Louis Ballet; experimenting with blacklight photography in the Theatre; and chasing after a pair of puppies from the Animal Protective Association.



Painting in the Spirit

STUDENTS IN AP STUDIO ART AND ADVANCED STUDIO ART

brought this year's school theme verse to life with broad strokes and vivid colors. Their artwork, which will be displayed in the Grand Entry for community members and visitors alike to admire, is an abstract representation and interpretation of walking in the Spirit, based on Galatians 5:22-23.



Join us for Music Man, Jr.

JANUARY 12-13, 2018, 7 P.M.

Our middle school actors will take the stage after the New Year to perform *The Music Man, Jr.* The musical follows fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill, as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize—this, despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall. You won't want to miss this engaging and classic musical!



Shining on the St. Louis Stage

Westminster theatre students and faculty made school history last spring, walking away from the inaugural St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards Ceremony hosted by The Fabulous Fox Theatre in partnership with The Muny and The Performing Arts Charitable Foundation as first place winners in the Best Musical category.

The ceremony included performances by students representing 27 other area high schools, with all schools vying for a top pick in a total of 15 categories. Senior Natalie Brown was also named first place winner for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Golde. Westminster produced *Fiddler on the Roof* as the final production for the school's 2016-17 theatre season. The production was submitted for consideration in the Musical Theatre Awards competition in April.

In early May, Westminster received six nominations by a team of reviewers. The nominations included Best Actor (Tom Southwell as Tevye), Best Supporting Actress (Natalie Brown as Golde), Best Musical Direction (Allen Schwamb), Best Musical, Best Ensemble, and Best Technical Execution. On

May 8, student and faculty nominees, in addition to student representatives from the cast and tech crew, attended a special recognition ceremony at The Fabulous Fox in honor of their multiple nominations.

On May 28, the official ceremony for the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards was held at The Fox Theatre. During the evening, the entire Westminster cast performed the song "Tradition" for a full house. Tom Southwell '17 also performed in a Best Actor Medley group with other nominees from his category. Before the event's conclusion, Westminster was named Best Musical for a Level 2 Budget, and Natalie was recognized as Best Supporting Actress.

"I was so humbled and thrilled to have won best supporting actress for my role as Golde," says Natalie. "Our show was so amazing and it really did get the recognition that it deserved on a bigger scale in our city. The award is such an honor, and I wouldn't have received it without the help and guidance of the amazing theatre department at Westminster."

"Westminster is proud to have been honored as the Best Musical in Level 2 for the inaugural season of the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards," says Director of Fine Arts Kathy Eichelberger. "Under the insightful direction of Allen Schwamb, the entire cast played their roles with conviction and commitment, which I believe helped contribute to the success of our production. Tom Southwell and Natalie Brown were the anchors needed to propel our musical to a high level of excellence, and the technical production, choreography, costumes, and sets were creatively executed to help create a very memorable musical theatre experience." •

Athletics

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS AND GENERAL NEWS



WENDY'S HEISMAN SCHOOL WINNER

SENIOR SAMANTHA HUBER

was recognized by Wendy's and the Heisman Trophy Trust this fall for her distinction among the nation's most esteemed students. Commended for her commitment to excellence academically and athletically, Samantha was named a Wendy's High School Heisman school winner.



NEW SENIOR TEN PILLARS AWARD

LAST YEAR, Westminster instituted a new award for one senior female athlete and one senior male athlete to honor the importance of the athletic program's guiding principles, the Ten Pillars. Connor Dolan '17 and MaryKate Kopsky '17 were each selected to receive the award this past spring. Both students received multiple nominations from the school's head coaching staff, in addition to competing as multi-sport athletes, demonstrating a fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ and spiritual leadership among their peers and teammates, and displaying hard work in the classroom with high GPAs and academically rigorous course loads.

POST-DISPATCH SCHOLAR ATHLETE

ALUMNA BROOKE LEMP '17 was named a 2017 Post-Dispatch Scholar Athlete last spring. Each year, the Post-Dispatch honors student-athletes from area high schools who have demonstrated exceptional performance both in the classroom and on the athletic field.

HOBAY BAKER CHARACTER AWARD

ALUMNUS CONNOR DOLAN '17 was also selected as a recipient for the Hobey Baker High School Character Award, an award that honors hockey player Hobey Baker's expression of character and sportsmanship during his career. "I think it is a great honor for Connor," says Westminster hockey coach Tim Nagel. "This award reflects the kind of student athlete that Connor is on and off the ice. It's a nice honor for the hockey program and for Connor."

DJ STEWART

Alumnus DJ Stewart '17 was the first high school athlete from the state of Missouri and the only area high school player to be picked in the 2017 Major League Baseball free-agent draft. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies' as a third baseman. His senior year as a Wildcat, DJ held a .409 batting average, had 35 RBI, scored 37 times, and posted 70 strikeouts.

KIRSTEN DAVIS

Alumna Kirsten Davis '17 collected a number of well-deserved honors during the spring soccer season. She was recognized as Player of the Year for Class 3 and 1st team All-State, in addition to being named All-American for the second consecutive season. Kirsten was also honored as a state winner for Gatorade State Player of the Year. Her senior season, she scored 53 goals (an area best) and added 11 assists for the Wildcats.

BOYS TENNIS

THE VARSITY BOYS tennis team concluded their season in early May, graduating five seniors from the team: Griffen Andersen, Teddy Bacon, Brandon Beat, Tomas Mitchem, and Luke Peters. Senior David Montgomery placed fourth in tennis district play.



TRACK AND FIELD

THE WILDCATS competed well last spring with six student-athletes placing in the top four in their events and qualifying for state. Sammie Davidson '17 placed first in pole vault. Senior AJ Lloyd placed second in the 1600 meter run. In third place were sophomore Ava Hollmann, 3200 meter run; senior Jeremiah Thompson, long jump; and Elisabeth Sems '17, discus. Sophomore Daphne Washington achieved fourth in the 100 meter dash.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

THE VARSITY BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM finished strong at the end of their season last spring. The Wildcats brought their best effort to regular season matches, including a second place finish at the Lutheran St. Charles Tournament. The team seeded #4 for the district tournament and advanced past the first round of district play against Fort Zumwalt. They closed out the season with a strong showing at the district semi-finals. Juniors Nathan Laughlin and Colin Davitt, Matthew Hoekzema '17, and Ethan Davitt '17 were each named Academic All-State.

GIRLS SOCCER

THE LADY WILDCATS advanced to the district finals last spring, following a shutout against Parkway Central, 3-0. Despite a loss in the Class 3 District 4 final to Visitation, the girls brought their best effort to the championship game to close out the season. In postseason accolades, alumna Sydney Walker '17 was voted 1st team All-State.



GIRLS LACROSSE

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN PROGRAM HISTORY, the team advanced to the Elite Eight of the State Tournament, after knocking off St. Joseph's Academy 9-6. In the final week of the regular season, the team also had a huge upset defeating third in the state Eureka in overtime. For the fifth consecutive season, the girls lacrosse program was awarded the Spirit of the Game Award, an award voted on by lacrosse referees and recognizing sportsmanship, 110% attitude, and love for the game and one another.



BOYS LACROSSE

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the boys lacrosse team on their inaugural varsity season. The team is looking forward to an exciting second season on the field with new head coach John Pettis in spring 2018.



BOYS BASEBALL

HEAD COACH RICH VAN GILST led the Wildcats to a third-place finish in the Class 4 state championship last spring before retiring after 48 years of coaching high school baseball. During the season, Coach Van Gilst was inducted into the St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame and was also presented the 2016 Hal Whiteaker Memorial Award for High School Baseball Coach of the Year. These distinctions recognized Coach Van Gilst's outstanding leadership, sportsmanship, and superior coaching skills. The team looks forward to a successful season this spring under the leadership of new head coach Dan Petke.

BOYS GOLF

FRESH OFF A GREAT SHOWING AT SECTIONALS, the team tied with Priory for the Metro League Conference Championship. Seniors Logan Montgomery, Chad Briden, Sam Jun, sophomore Lane Davis, and Jordan Merkel '17 all contributed with outstanding individual performances to help lead the Wildcats to the conference tie.

CROSS COUNTRY

THE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM sped through the fall season achieving multiple personal records and fast times. Before advancing to districts, the team finished first out of 14 teams at the Border Wars meet. The team won districts for the second consecutive year this fall and advanced to state for the fourth year in a row. At state, the team finished seventh out of 94 teams, and senior AJ Lloyd placed 12th individually, earning an All-State medal.

THE LADY WILDCATS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM outpaced a number of top area teams this year. Starting off the season with two consecutive team wins. Sophomore Ava Hollmann claimed first at the Capital City Challenge in Jefferson City, and the Lady Wildcats clocked in at second place overall. In late October, the girls celebrated with a district win—the first time in Westminster history that both the boys and girls cross country teams have won their respective district championships. At state, the team placed eighth out of 72 teams.

BOYS SWIM AND DIVE

THE TEAM logged multiple victories this season, including an exciting win versus the Burroughs Bombers for the second time in team history—the Wildcats closed out the meet 102-82. The team graduated five seniors this season, Connor Evans, Stephen Gross, Chris Kirby, Jesse Parham, and Jak Patterson. Breaking multiple school records, Chris collected multiple first place finishes in diving. The team lapped in at first place at the Wildcat Invitational in late October. For the first time in team history, eight team members advanced to state—out of only 32 top statewide swimmers and divers in Missouri.



GIRLS GOLF

THE GIRLS GOLF TEAM gained momentum early in the season, placing third in the Metro Conference Tournament. Senior Macie Daniels shot an 86, finishing 16th at the Angel Classic. At the Class 2 District 2 Golf Championship in late September, senior Abby Nall received all-district honors with a ninth place finish. Macie and Abby advanced to the Class 2 Sectional Championship, competing well on the green. Abby carded an 87, earning her a spot at the state tournament.

GIRLS TENNIS

EARLY IN THE FALL, the Lady Wildcats started the season off strong with a great showing at the Metro League singles tournament. Sophomore Alicia Hu and senior Caroline Hinrichs each advanced to the finals in their flights. Freshman Izzy Cancilla astounded with her victory over MICDS' #1 player who advanced to state last year. At the Metro League finals, she claimed first in flight 1 singles and upset John Burroughs' top-seeded player to capture the tournament title.

SOFTBALL

THE LADY WILDCATS honored veterans at a special Veterans Day Game where navy First Lieutenant and grandfather to senior Deanne Pfyl, Robert Praechter, threw out the first pitch. The girls claimed victory in the opening round of the Class 3 District 4 tournament, finishing their season at the semifinals with a total team effort. The Lady Wildcats graduated seven seniors this season: Izzi Clawson, Sam Huber, Erin King, Deanne Pfyl, Alyssa Preusser, Whitney Radloff, and Maddie Volding.

BOYS SOCCER

THE WILDCATS' NET didn't see much action this season due to hardworking defense and goalies senior Ricky Johnson and junior Joey Keane earning multiple shutouts. The team advanced to third place in Metro League standings. A total team effort brought the boys to postseason play, including multiple goals and assists from freshman Liam Lloyd, sophomore Danny Sacco, juniors Patrick Claus, Nathan Laughlin, and Luke Linam, and seniors Luke Heintz and Frankie Sacco.



FIELD HOCKEY

WINNING THEIR SEASON OPENER was the first victory of an unprecedented season for the Lady Wildcats. The team finished the regular season 13-6-1, closing out their first winning season in program history. In post-season play, the girls won their first round game, advancing for the first time to the Sweet 16 Midwest Tournament. The team's success can be attributed to unprecedented senior leadership, as well as overall team determination and selflessness.

FOOTBALL

DURING THEIR PRE-SEASON, the Wildcats had a busy summer attending 7-on-7 tournaments and camps. The team entered the season well prepared and excited to bring their best to the field. Throughout the fall, the boys grew as a team, closing out the season in October with a 4-6 record. In August, the Wildcats also volunteered their time to serve at Enright Gardens downtown.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

THE LADY WILDCATS advanced to districts following an exciting winning streak of five consecutive matches. The girls represented well, serving up a total team effort at district play. Five seniors graduated the team this fall: Taylor Andrasko, Avery Engelmeyer, Jordan Haeusser, Riley Koester, and Madeline Williams.



SCORING IN THE SPIRIT

Andrew Kempen makes a difference where it counts.

Junior Andrew Kempen may kick with grit and determination when serving up field goals for the Wildcats varsity football team, but he's "kicking" with kindness off field by raising awareness and funds to assist children with cancer and disabilities.

At a football kicking camp two summers ago, Andrew's life was shaped by a tragic circumstance involving camp mentors Sam Foltz, a Nebraska punter, and Mike Sadler, a Michigan State punter. Both young men lost their lives in a car accident. Foltz and Sadler were active in their respective communities, and their work inspired Andrew to partner with Kick-It, a national volunteer-driven effort focused on raising funds for childhood cancer research. Andrew ran his first fundraiser last fall, raising close to \$5,000 to aid medical research for children with cancer.

Brainstorming other ways to make an impact, this year, Andrew began looking for avenues to serve his local community. He met with area foundations and centralized his campaign around raising money with wristbands for cancer research

and therapeutic bicycles for children with disabilities. During the 2017 football season, Andrew partnered with Variety Kids to bring children associated with the organization to Wildcat football games. During halftime, Andrew would accompany a Variety kid, operating a therapeutic, customized bike, around the Westminster track.

"These kids were super happy to come to games, and it was awesome to have them there," says Andrew. Through his efforts, he has connected with a number of college kickers across the U.S. Just as his own work was inspired by the impact of Foltz and Sadler, Andrew says he hopes his partnerships with local foundations will encourage other youth to find ways to make a difference in their communities. Money raised from Andrew's campaign directly benefits Variety Kids by helping provide funds for more specialized, therapeutic bikes, and it aids Mercy Hospital's research on children's cancer through the Kick-It Foundation.

In the end, Andrew says his hope is to make a positive impact on his community, and his faith motivates him to do just that. "As Christians, we are called to help our communities as best we can—especially those in need—because we are His disciples," says Andrew. "The [Variety] kids impacted me, people at Westminster, and even visitors who would come to compete with us on the field. They would see these kids and want to help make more bikes accessible to children with disabilities. It was a great representation of Christ and helping others."

"Our actions as believers really matter, because we can impact others through Christ," says Andrew. "I don't want to be selfish or put myself first. I want to be a steward of the opportunities God has given me and use those to put others first." •

For more information about Andrew's campaign, visit bit.ly/andrewkickit.



Dazzled by God's Design

Teacher Spotlight: Genevieve Ralston

Genevieve Ralston is in her second year of teaching in the upper school science department at Westminster. She instructs students in the intricacies of chemistry and biology concepts. If you happen to walk the halls of the science wing during the school day, you may catch Mrs. Ralston guiding her students through a lab experiment. Her enthusiasm for the subject matter is contagious and the focused eyes and interested expressions of her students are proof.

Science has always fascinated Mrs. Ralston, ever since she was a little girl. “I have always loved science—as far back as I can remember. The earliest career I thought about was a veterinarian, and that was probably in second grade!” she says. A St. Louis native, Mrs. Ralston attended Mehlville High School and graduated with a scholarship through the Missouri A+ Program that enabled her to begin her studies at a local community college. “Gradually, I knew I wanted to target a specific area [in science], and marine biology was something that came to mind.” ▶

► She transferred to the University of Maine-Machias. “Maine was always a place I wanted to visit,” says Mrs. Ralston. “My grandmother grew up on the East Coast and always told me stories. I was young, and it was a time for me to explore my options.” While at university, she determined to pursue a degree in general biology with a minor in secondary education. After graduation in 2003, she immediately moved south to teach middle school science at a public school in Florida. She taught at the school for six years—an opportunity that allowed her to pay off her student loans and solidify her love for teaching science. “The longer I stayed, the more I liked it,” she says. She moved once again in 2009, this time headed north to the state of Georgia. She taught high school biology at a public school outside of Atlanta. Spiritually speaking, Mrs. Ralston says her opportunities to be a witness to students who were not believers were an aspect she loved about working in a public school setting. She felt led to speak biblical truth into the curriculum she was leading students through. “A great thing was that a lot of students would ask me questions,” she says. “So I had the opportunity to further open up and show glimpses of what I believed.”

Her faith was stretched in a different way when she and her husband Nathan, her son Jalen (13), and her daughter Eden (11) moved to St. Louis in 2016 to be closer to her family. Her brother, who coached an athletic team at Westminster, encouraged her to apply for one of the openings available at the school. “It was a really attractive option to me because I had been in the public school setting for so long,” says Mrs. Ralston. In the end, God just put the pieces together she says. “The process moved quickly and everything fell into place.”

When the 2016-17 school year began, she taught upper school physics and chemistry courses. “I was nervous,” she says, “but I found that integrating my knowledge of life science and the physical science world allowed me to take science to a whole new level.” It was a challenging transition professionally, but the experience helped her see even more clearly God’s power and design in the sciences. “Now I can’t get away from seeing physics in everything! My perspective has really grown. I see so clearly how all these things—biology, chemistry, physics—go together so perfectly,” she says.





“I hope they see the big picture – in the workings of science and God’s intricate design in it.”

”



At Westminster, many of the students she taught in physics last year are enrolled in her chemistry classes this year, and she’s grateful for the established relationships in her classes. “I love that I know what they learned in physics from last year and what knowledge they can apply in chemistry this year—and, I know where they’re headed in biology. That connection is amazing to me, and I didn’t have that before coming to Westminster,” she says.

Based on her own experience, Mrs. Ralston’s hope for her students is that they will see the beauty of science in the opportunity to constantly ask questions and learn something new. “I tell my students all the time that I’m still learning about science,” she says. “I hope that they can walk away from class appreciating at any level—from microscopic atoms to plants or animals—how amazing life can be. I want them to be able to put together all the pieces to see how science works and how there’s a design in place.”

“I hope they see the big picture—in the workings of science and God’s intricate design in it.” •



The Fruit of Friendship

BY SHELLEY MILLIGAN

If you've walked into Westminster's Grand Entry this fall, you've noticed some new additions—lovely fall-colored banners proclaim Galatians 5:22-23 (our theme verse for the year): "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control." It's true that our students, staff, families, and community are called to cultivate fruit of the Spirit in their own lives. It occurs to me, though, that an *organization*, too, can exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.

What "fruit" comes from Westminster as a school? Do our neighbors see fruit of Westminster? What is our fruit?

As I've been pondering these thoughts, an obvious "proof" I see that the Spirit is bearing *institutional* fruit is in the product of our *alumni*. Each fall, some of you return to campus for reunions centering around Wildcat Weekend and the school's Carnival. This year, the classes of 1982, 1997, and 2007 gathered in St. Louis at various spots around the city to reconnect and remember their Westminster days.

In particular, the Class of 1982 held not one but TWO consecutive nights of celebrations. A record 68% of that class (19 out of 28 who graduated) attended one or more events, including alumni who

traveled from Washington state, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana, Texas, and other spots. This class is the first one that attended Westminster from its inception (as 7th graders) through six years of middle and high school. They certainly have blazed trails personally and professionally, but also as a class through Westminster. One class member even came up with the name of this publication (*Chimes*)!

Besides fruit easily seen through their personal lives, professional careers, and their families, we are grateful that they model the value of continuing to gather as a community, even 35 years after their graduation. Paul exhorts us in Hebrews to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, *not neglecting to meet together*, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." (10:24-25a, emphasis mine).

Maintaining a community takes effort: time, talent, and treasure. The rewards, however, are priceless both individually and collectively. I'm sure the Class of 1982 is truly grateful for their reunion earlier this fall, and in turn, Westminster is blessed by their reunion, too. We are stronger for our shared experiences—making time to commemorate our history and celebrate our present is good and right. Here's to good fruit all around! •

"What makes being a Westminster alum so unique is that we don't just love each other (and we really do love each other!), we also proclaim the same Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [At our reunion], we really just wanted to listen, to appreciate, to celebrate the good things that have happened, to mourn together about the sadnesses and tragedies, and to encourage each other to be faithful to the Lord."

—Brookie Moore '82

TOTALITY IN AWE: The Solar Eclipse



On Monday, August 21, students and staff at Westminster participated in viewing the Great American Solar Eclipse, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity experiencing a total solar eclipse! Safe viewing glasses were provided for all students and staff. Before proceeding outside on the day of the event, our school community met together in the Arena for a time of worship. “The heavens declare the glory of God!” says Psalm 19:1, and we wanted this truth to frame our experience of the afternoon’s phenomenon.



FUN FACT: With over 180 moons orbiting the main planets and the dwarf planets in our solar system, only our moon can totally eclipse the sun. This requires a very precise relationship between the relative sizes of the sun, moon, and earth, as well as the distances between them. In addition, the only place where a total eclipse could be observed just “happens” to be the only place where there is life and intelligent, curious life at that! God wants us to study and learn, and He designed the universe in such a way so as to make that possible.



The solar eclipse provided an incredible opportunity for us to witness the creativity, design, and sovereignty of our God. Chair of the science department and upper school science teacher Dr. Andrew Shaw says the day was an unforgettable experience. “The day of the eclipse was a glimpse of heaven!” he says. “How often does a community of brothers and sisters in Christ get to revel in God’s stunning beauty and incredible design, as reflected in his creation? This was the best start to a school year EVER!” •

Rigor Redefined

BY PEGGY JOHNSON

For some, the term “rigor” in education evokes a negative response because the perceived meaning of the word is synonymous with rigidity, inflexibility, or unyielding teaching. In today’s academic realm, however, the term has been redefined to describe learning environments that are stimulating, engaging, and supportive. When appropriately applied, a rigorous lesson encourages and challenges students to think critically, creatively, and more flexibly. “Rigor” encourages students to question their assumptions and think deeply, not merely memorize and recall information.

In the academic sense, “rigor” refers to the fine line between challenging and frustrating a student. Finding a balance is what skilled teachers do. It means lessons that push students to think, perform, and grow to a level that they previously were not able to attain—not just lessons that are “hard” that can lead to disengagement, frustration, and discouragement.

A core value at Westminster is to “become better than we once were.” When applied to teaching, this means a commitment to

building a student’s skills, understanding, and thinking power so that they can achieve at higher levels. Students exposed to academically rigorous learning experiences are stretched to understand complex concepts and acquire skills that can be used in a variety of contexts throughout their lives.

Successful rigor at Westminster is apparent in a recent ACT test score report. The average ACT score for a Westminster senior is 26. The top 25% of the senior class received an ACT score of 33.9. A perfect score is 36! Additionally, these ACT results predict that 93% of the Westminster senior class is prepared to do B+ or above level work in a college freshman English composition and writing course.

Recognizing that every learner is different, our course standards are adjusted so that all students are encouraged to grow but are not frustrated and overwhelmed in the process. Our goal is to rigorously prepare all students to achieve their highest academic potential in preparation for college and to seek God’s plan for their lives following His leading in all things. •



AVERAGE ACT SCORE FOR A
WESTMINSTER SENIOR

26

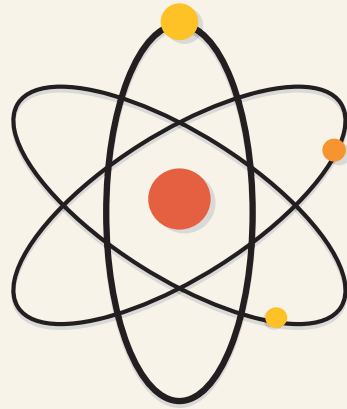
TOP 25% OF SENIOR CLASS SCORED

33.9

RESULTS PREDICT

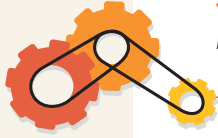
93%

OF SENIOR CLASS IS PREPARED
TO DO B+ OR ABOVE LEVEL WORK IN A
COLLEGE FRESHMAN ENGLISH COURSE



captivated BY creation

Post-graduation, four alumni are living out one of the key values of Westminster's science and engineering department: to act upon the awesome responsibility that God has entrusted him or her in exploring, caring for, experimenting upon, and restoring creation. In diverse fields and different cities, these graduates are illustrating Westminster's mission as they embrace both a biblical (and scientific) perspective of the world and integrate that view into every area of their lives. ▶



James Zandstra '13

Mechanical Design Engineer

EXPLORING

James graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology last spring with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Today, he works as a mechanical design engineer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies in Kansas City, Missouri, along with his wife Brianna, who serves as a quality engineer at the company. It's a career he feels he was shaped and prepared for starting in high school during his time on Westminster's FIRST Robotics team. "I discovered how much I loved designing!" he says. Involvement required commitment and dedication. In addition to class homework, James remembers keeping a full schedule and carrying, at times, an overwhelming workload. The intensity didn't drive him away, however. "The coaches always pushed us to grow and learn," he says. "Mrs. Lisa Harding and Mr. Paul DeGroot, in particular, were so influential in helping me channel my passion for creating into a career as an engineer." To this day, James sees his involvement on the team as one of the most significant experiences of his life.

EXPERIMENTING

In college, James seamlessly segwayed into membership on the Mars Rover Design Team (MRDT), thanks to his experiences with the Cyborg Cats and encouragement from his friend and fellow Westminster alumnus Jonathan Bopp '12. At Westminster, he had discovered a passion for exploring science and technology—enough to engage his attention and interest outside the classroom. MRDT was a fledgling team at the time that James was introduced to it, and he felt he could make an impact even as a first-year student. While he served primarily in a technical role his first two years on the team, at the start of his junior year, he had the opportunity to lead the Mechanical Team and execute a complete overhaul of MRDT's design process. This experience helped James realize his potential and interest in leadership. "I was amazed at all that my team and I were able to accomplish and truly humbled by their faith in me as a leader," he says. "I realized that I did, in fact, enjoy leading people and found even more fulfillment in serving them than I did in a purely technical role." The spring of his junior year, James ran for Chief Technology Officer of the team and was voted into the position. Senior year, he led MRDT through the team's most successful season to date, culminating in the group's victory as champions of the 2017 University Rover Challenge, an international design competition.

RESTORING

For James, working as an engineer invites him on a daily basis into the ultimate creative experience. There is order and structure, in that engineering brings together a variety of different disciplines to accomplish a common goal. There is also the perfect blend of the artistic and the analytical. "Engineering is a constant balance between functionality, aesthetics, and frugality," he says. "You have to be scientific and analytical but also artistic and expressive—all while staying under budget and ahead of schedule. No other field I know of requires you to be a scientist, artist, economist, and salesman, all at the same time!" To do his job well, James must also anticipate and understand the needs of others, specifically clients, in order to provide them with the best possible solution he can.

Thinking back to classroom devotions with Dr. Andrew Shaw, James says he learned early on the importance of using one's gifts and talents to glorify God and help restore His creation. So whether that involves leading with integrity or designing with diligence in any capacity he finds himself in, James sees restorative value in the work that he does for others and for God.



Brianna DeGroot Zandstra '13

Quality Engineer



EXPLORING

Brianna, who graduated from Missouri S&T last spring with her bachelor's in engineering management, never really considered engineering as an interesting field for herself until high school Algebra II class with Mr. Larry Birchler. It was then she realized that she enjoyed learning about math and solving problems. Her interest continued to grow in calculus and statistics. "I remember being encouraged by Mr. Rich Van Gilst to attend a local Society of Women Engineers Outreach event," says Brianna. Up to that point, engineering seemed limited to circuit boards and physics according to her understanding of it. That all changed when she joined Westminster's FIRST robotics team. Due in large part to mentorship from teachers like Mrs. Harding and Mr. Evan Munger, Brianna says her conception of engineering grew. "I learned that there was a type of engineering for people who like to see the big picture—who focus on engineering information and processes, not just products." Today, she works as a quality engineer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies doing just that.

EXPERIMENTING

In college, her fascination with and understanding of engineering continued to expand. She joined MRDT and was a member for three and a half years. Her role supported the administrative branch of the team, which handled the planning, organization, and development of MRDT. During her last two years of involvement, Brianna served as Chief Administrative Officer. Her responsibilities included facilitating technical documentation, leading team building, planning team trips to the University Rover Challenge, and working with the executive board to guide the team to accomplish its best. Brianna found her work on the team invigorating, as she is constantly inspired to continually make things better, she says. "Whether it's something big or small, I enjoy taking a project or process and finding ways in which it can be improved through quality, ergonomics, or time." Before retiring from her work on the team, Brianna made a visit to Westminster to share with current students about MRDT in January 2016. That same month, she and James were married—high school sweethearts since their freshman year at Westminster.

RESTORING

STEM and engineering classes at Westminster had the opportunity to see an old competition Mars Rover robot up close and hear about past competitions and involvement on the team from Brianna and her fellow team member and alumna Amber Terlouw '15. Part of creation restoration involves inspiring young minds to engage the world with their unique passions, and Brianna has a special interest in educating younger students about the myriad of ways they can connect their interest in science and technology with further education and careers that align with their skill sets. "There are so many more types of engineering than just mechanical and electrical," she says. "There's industrial, computer, metallurgical, mining, nuclear, and so many more types of engineering that I wish students—especially seniors in high school—could be exposed to." Too many students discount engineering as a viable career option, because they haven't found the right fit, Brianna believes. "When you break it down, engineering is about teamwork and everyone utilizing their strengths to the best of their abilities," she says. When it works well, it's a beautiful achievement—a picture of harmony and connection. Ultimately, it's a reflection of God as Designer, mirroring the patterns and consistency He's created through the laws that guide our world, Brianna says. "It's truly amazing," she says. "To see how God created all of this for us to explore and seek to understand."



Steven (Seung-Been) Lee '10

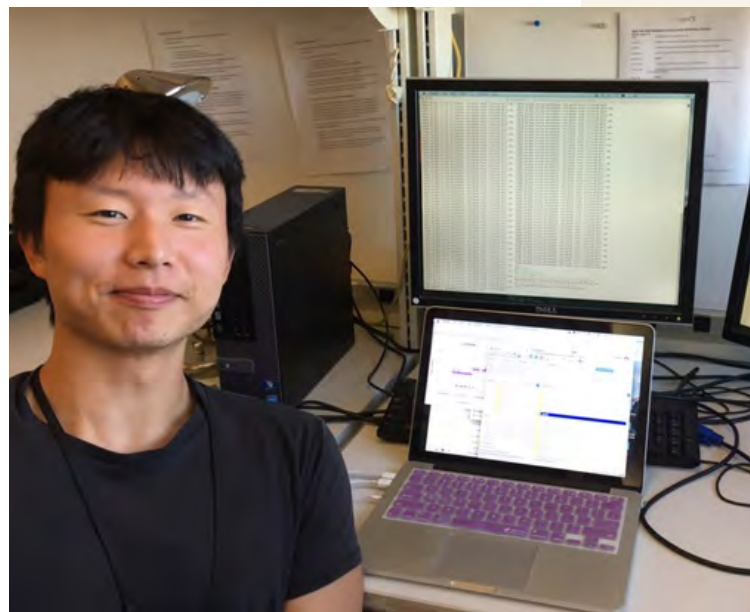
PhD Student in Genome Sciences

EXPLORING

Steven grew up determined to be a doctor. Both of his parents are doctors in South Korea and following in their footsteps seemed the natural thing to do. He entered college, declaring a major in biochemistry that would prepare him for medical school. All of that changed his second year as an undergraduate student, however, when he enrolled in an introductory biology class. “I fell in love with DNA because of its novel power to define an organism,” he says. Time and experience only confirmed his interest in research and DNA. “[Eventually], I shared with my parents that I wanted to become a different kind of doctor. A philosophical doctor,” says Steven. He attributes his love for learning to three teachers who impacted his education at Westminster, where he enrolled as a sophomore in 2007. “I’m grateful to Dr. Dani Butler—she was my mentor, and she taught me English and how to write,” says Steven. He also attributes Dr. Tim Gibson, former English teacher at Westminster, with inspiring him to make a difference in the world. “And Mr. Jacob Mohler was the most influential in my high school years in terms of encouraging me to pursue science and knowledge,” he says. Transitioning to college at the University of Washington was seamless due to the high quality of education he received at Westminster, says Steven. His second year sparked his interest in researching DNA, which prompted him to seek out independent research opportunities.

EXPERIMENTING

Steven began looking for connections, emailing any university professor whose research somehow related to DNA and inquiring about any open positions for undergraduate laboratory work. He secured a spot with Professor Bonnie Brewer to study DNA replication. “It was the best decision I ever made,” he says. He worked on the research team for three and a half years growing yeast cells used to brew beer. The cells function as a good model system to study genome replication. Prior to graduation, Steven began applying to graduate schools. During the interview process, however, he realized an extra year of independent research experience would better prepare him for success in a PhD program. “While I was doing that extra year rotation, I felt more confident and applied again to various graduate programs,” Steven says. He applied to 15 schools and was accepted to 11, ultimately deciding to pursue his PhD at the University of Washington. He is currently in his third year of the program and passed the candidacy exam this past summer.



RESTORING

These days, Steven’s research has shifted to computational lab work, where he is focused on developing a program that can translate a patient’s DNA sequence into a prediction of an individual’s response to any given drug. “If you are a patient and you are receiving a drug from a doctor, you definitely want to know if you are going to develop an allergy to the drug you are about to be given,” says Steven. “Most drugs work 70-80% of the time. The problem is the remaining 20% of the time, people can actually die from receiving a very common drug.” By looking at DNA, one can study genes that are involved in drug metabolism. For many doctors, this is difficult to do because they don’t have the right tools available to them, explains Steven. “I’m developing a tool so doctors can take a patient’s blood, and this tool will sequence blood DNA and interpret the DNA sequence to provide easy nomenclature for the doctor to adjust the amount of dose of a drug to give to a patient, or inform the doctor if the patient is susceptible to developing an allergy to the drug.” Steven has a passion for this kind of precision or personalized medicine. “We want to tailor medical treatment and drug therapy to each patient as much as possible to achieve the maximum amount of effectiveness,” he says. He’s excited about the potential of his work and the opportunity to collaborate with people in pharmacology, a field he says is open to DNA sequencing and utilizing DNA to guide healthcare. “My hope is to bring more genomics and DNA sequencing into the field of medicine.”



Katelyn Westrich Walker '09

Pharmacist



EXPLORING

"I think I always knew, even in middle school, that I wanted to study something in the health sciences," says Katelyn. Science classes had always been her favorite in school. Enrolled her freshman year at Westminster, she remembers enjoying physics class with Mr. Cory Snyder, who recommended she consider taking honors chemistry with Dr. Andrew Shaw. She felt apprehensive about enrolling in an honors-level science class, as she had never really studied chemistry before and was concerned she wouldn't be able to keep up with the pace of the class. The fears resurfaced her first week of classes. "Dr. Shaw made it very clear that he expected a lot from his students. I remember going home after class and struggling to really wrap my mind around some of the concepts he was teaching us," says Katelyn. Most of that year, she found herself either in the lab, working with her partner, or at the whiteboard in Dr. Shaw's class, as he helped her walk through problems step-by-step until she understood them. Due to focused effort and dedication, she passed the class and emerged with a love for chemistry. "I loved it so much that I decided to take AP chemistry as well!" she says. Later, excited to take her first college chemistry course, Katelyn says she was disappointed when she didn't feel challenged by the curriculum at all. "Dr. Shaw's chemistry classes had prepared me so well that my college chemistry course honestly seemed easier than my honors chemistry class three years earlier!"

EXPERIMENTING

Her decision to pursue a career in pharmacy she attributes both to her grandma, who encouraged her to research the profession, and to Dr. Shaw, who helped spark her interest in chemistry. "When [my grandma] first mentioned it, all I could think of was counting pills for the rest of my life, but I found that pharmacists do so much more!" she says. In 2009, she enrolled at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and took pre-pharmacy courses for two years before being accepted into the university's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, where she completed the four-year doctor of pharmacy program. Following graduation, she began work as a clinical pharmacist at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, serving on a variety of patient-care floors verifying medication orders and monitoring patient clinical status and appropriateness of medication regimens. In August 2017, Katelyn and her husband Ben moved to St. Louis, where she currently works at St. Mary's Hospital in the central pharmacy and the emergency department.

RESTORING

"I wanted to become a pharmacist so I could help others and also continue studying chemistry," says Katelyn. The constant advancements and developments in the healthcare field appealed to her love for learning. While volunteering during her clinical rotations, however, Katelyn found her motivation behind pursuing her career deepening. She remembers countless times while volunteering meeting people who were confused about their health and medications. "These are the patients that keep me passionate about my job—the ones that I can help by collaborating with their physicians to clean up their medication lists and counseling them so they can better understand and manage their medications." Helping people live happier, healthier lives inspires Katelyn to use the giftings, resources, and opportunities God has given her to make a lasting impact. It's something she says she was prepared to do years earlier as a high school student. "[Westminster teachers] help students succeed in a more eternal way by encouraging them to develop their relationship with God, focus on using their talents to care for others, and show the world God's love by giving back to their community," says Katelyn. "This is something I still try to focus on in my daily work. While my job may not always be glamorous, it is my privilege to use the unique abilities God has given me to care for and help others as best I can so they can see Christ's love through me." •

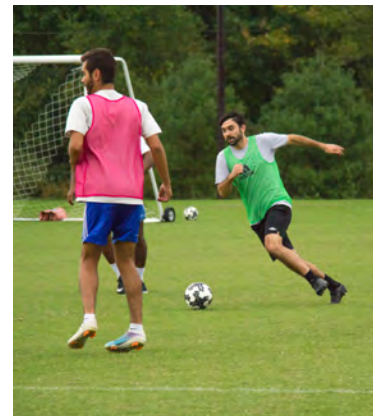
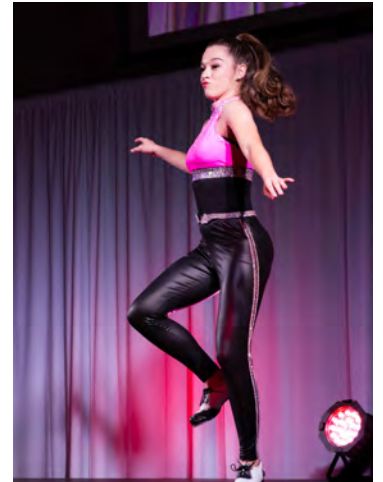





Wildcat Weekend

THIS YEAR'S WILDCAT WEEKEND featured all of our community's fall favorites, including alumni reunions, Carnival booths, games, sweet treats, a football game, and alumni soccer and baseball. New to our annual event was Westminster's Got Talent—a showcase of student singers, musicians, magicians, dancers, and more—part of Friday night's Wildcat Weekend Kickoff, along with our community-wide dinner. It was a weekend to remember!





Geared Up to Give Back

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
ON JONATHAN BOPP '12

“THERE WAS A LOT OF LOVE GIVEN to me at Westminster, and I see the work I’m currently doing as giving back—benefiting teachers like the ones who helped me to grow in my knowledge and passion for robotics.”

Westminster alumnus Jonathan Bopp '12 has a knack for problem-solving. And it's this skill, coupled with his love for robotics, that has inspired him to establish a company with a heart for utilizing robotics to improve people's lives. YRobotics was officially formed in January 2017 but had essentially been taking shape since Jonathan's freshman year of high school.

Each school day, lunch period was for catching up with friends—and stopping by Mrs. Lisa Harding's classroom to discuss science. Jonathan's first year of high school was also Mrs. Harding's first year at Westminster teaching upper school physics, a role she's held for nearly 10 years now. “She was super nice and always made me feel welcome. We'd talk about all things science-related,” he says. During his sophomore year, lunchtime discussions with Mrs. Harding evolved into brainstorming ideas for a co-curricular club to welcome other Westminster students interested in engineering.

Not long afterward, JETS (Junior Engineering Technology Society) was born. Jonathan says the initiation of this club was one of the great things that happened while he was at Westminster.



Jonathan (pictured right) and his business partner of YRobotics.

The club offered a landing place for other like-minded students to meet and pursue a collective interest in science, and for that, Jonathan says he's grateful to Mrs. Harding for her effort in establishing the group. “She likes to say I helped, but I really just showed up!” he says.

It was in the midst of his junior year that Jonathan stopped by Mrs. Harding's classroom one day to share a video he'd found about FIRST Robotics Competition. Could a program like this be implemented at Westminster? Exploring the possibility, initiating conversations, and researching funding options occupied the year ahead. Around Thanksgiving of his senior year, Mrs. Harding approached Jonathan with good news—funding was available to start Westminster's own FIRST robotics team. Jonathan and his friends pioneered that first season of The Cyborg Cats—Team 4256, laying the foundation for a program that now boasts over 300 student participants and a successful competition record.

Following Westminster graduation, Jonathan attended Missouri University of Science and Technology to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. The choice was essentially a no-brainer. “I've always liked engineering,” he says. “from the time I was 9 years old and interested in Legos! All through middle school, I was the kid who was constantly trying to build things and glue things together. It was in high school that my curiosity was real-

ly fostered and supported, and I was encouraged to investigate and understand the world.”

At Missouri S&T, opportunities abounded for Jonathan to join a robotics competition team at the collegiate level. Many well-established teams had appealing track records to offer, but with a history of helping build things from the ground up, Jonathan was interested in something different. “There was this one team that hadn’t competed yet. They had this mutilated RC car, and I just remember thinking, *I want to join that team,*” he says. The team was the Mars Rover Design Team.

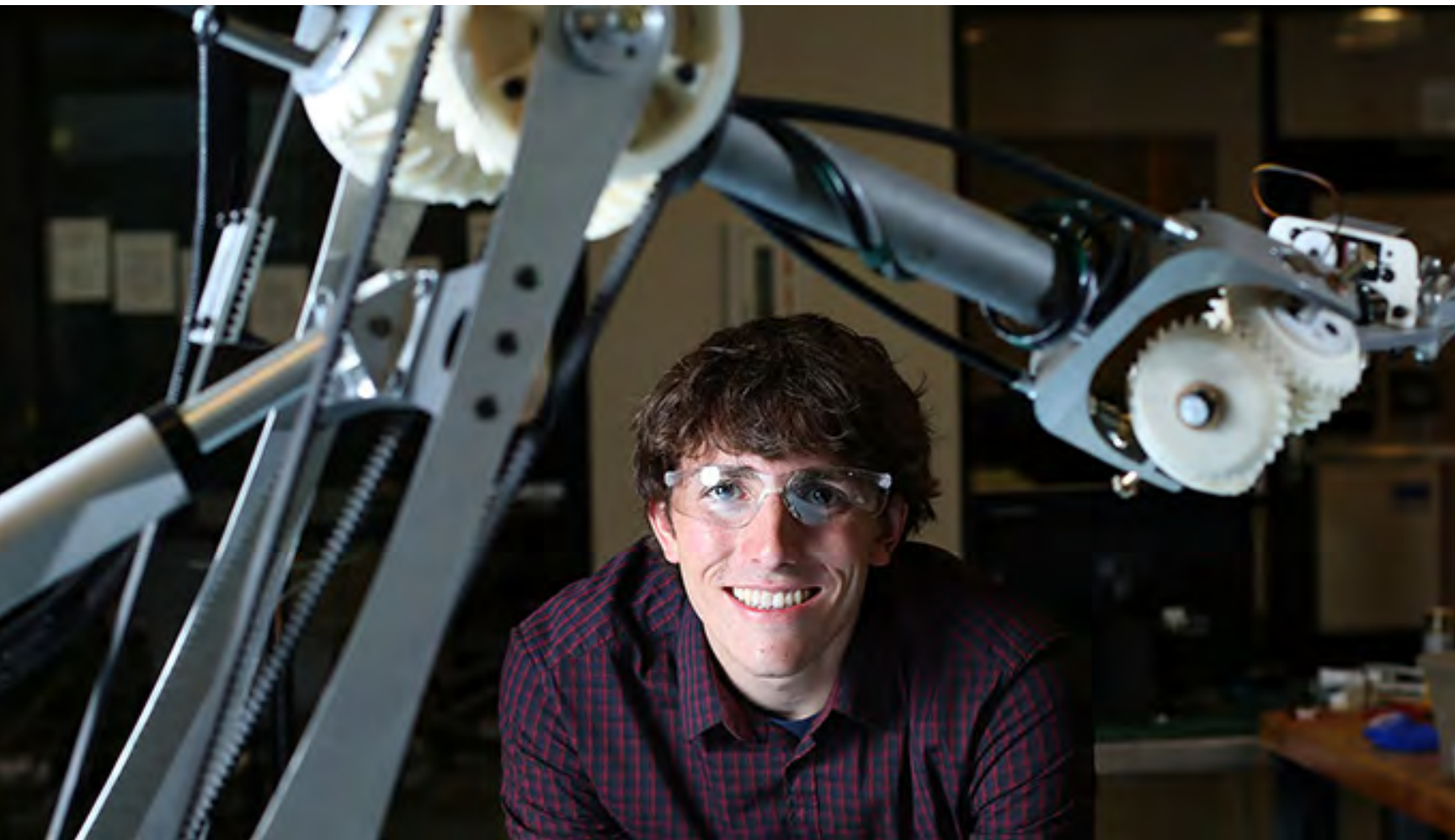
The purpose of the team was to participate in an extracurricular competition where a group of students would design and build a rover that could complete a series of tasks, Jonathan explains. “When I joined the team, I had all this great experience from being a part of Westminster’s FIRST robotics team. I was able to help MRDT nail down team requirements and get things figured out. It took about a year to get enough people on board and to get everyone on the same page.”

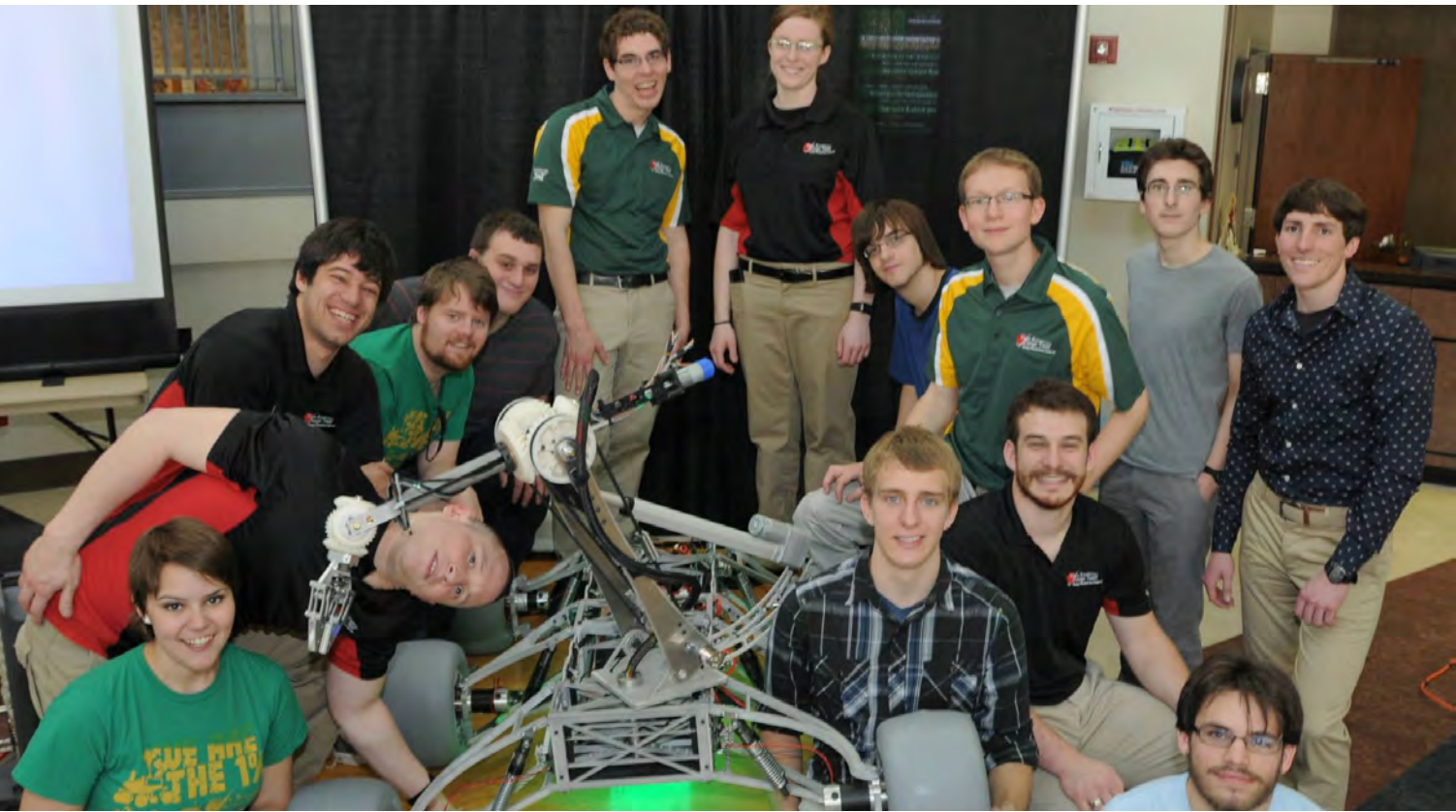
While beginnings may have been rough in launching the team and entering the first competition season—its first year, MRDT placed last out of all the teams that competed—hard work and effort paid off quickly. In its second year at competition, MRDT climbed the rankings to second place. The following year, the

team advanced to the international competition, outpacing high caliber teams from prestigious schools like Yale University. It was an incredible experience. Jonathan bowed out of MRDT participation his senior year of college to begin focusing on his post-graduation plans.

Several summer internships helped confirm for him what he wanted to do. “I wanted to start a company that creates robots that help people,” he says. With this clear focus, he began exploring funding options around campus. “I discovered there were opportunities available to students to pitch ideas and receive grants, or micro-funding, to help get their ideas off the ground.” Jonathan presented his idea to create a robotic arm—inspired by work he had completed on MRDT, when he created a differential servo joint using computer assisted design software and his own 3D printer. Such a joint, when two or more are fashioned together in the same robotic arm, enables the arm to make very complex motions. Jonathan pitched his idea of creating this distinctive piece and making it accessible to educators. He was named an Innovation Fellow and received funding to pursue his project.

YRobotics doesn’t follow a traditional business model in that it has a product to sell, Jonathan says. Instead, the company is looking at trying to lend technologies that make robotics more easily accessible to students. The company’s mission statement ▶





“
...any time
I can make
something
easier for
someone
else, it's a
no-brainer.
I hope my
work will be
useful and
helpful to
others.
”

► reflects this altruistic sentiment with its purpose being “to give young learners access to next generation robotics without paying futuristic prices.”

Right now, Jonathan and his company partner are looking to take the robotic arm project to two separate schools. The coding for creating the arm will be fully open-sourced, he says, so that any educator with access to a 3D printer could build an arm for their students. “The important thing about this robotic arm is that it’s modular, meaning you can change critical aspects to it. It’s not like assembling Legos,” Jonathan smiles. He references the differential servo joint he developed, fashioned with the help of CAD software. “It has seven pieces, but you can take one piece and assemble it in a different way and have a completely different arm that can execute different motions. Playing around with it, you can see it has high educational value.”

Of course, his current project is merely the first in a long list of ideas Jonathan has for utilizing robotics for people’s safety and well-being. Another idea he’s researching involves creating a robot that could cruise across a college campus and accompany students from one destination to the next. Safety can be a concern on college campuses, especially at night, says Jonathan. “This robot could be a companion that would get anyone across campus quickly and safely.”

Collaborating with educators brings him full circle, in a sense. No doubt, high school freshman-aged Jonathan would have benefited tremendously from the very resources and equipment he is now working to provide for young learners. The connection fits well, he says.

“I’ve always really loved robotics. It’s been a long journey getting here to a place where I’m building them and working with them, but any time I can make something easier for someone else, it’s a no-brainer. I hope my work will be useful and helpful to others.” ●



REUNION REFLECTIONS

A Note from Your Alumni Coordinator

I really enjoyed seeing my fellow alumni this fall during Wildcat Weekend, October 6-7. It's one of my favorite Westminster events as the Alumni Relations Coordinator. I love meeting former students, hearing about their accomplishments, and seeing what God is doing in their lives.

So many of you stopped by the Alumni Booth at Carnival for a t-shirt and lunch that we ran out of alumni shirts for the first time ever! Others of you gathered that evening at reunions held for the Class of '82, Class of '97, and Class of '07. Be sure to check out those fun pictures after the Class Notes section!

If you didn't have the opportunity to join us in October, please consider coming out for another one of our upcoming alumni events, like **Alumni Sports Night** on Friday, December 15. The men's basketball alumni will face off on the court during halftime of a varsity girls basketball game, which starts at 6 p.m.

I'd love to see you there!
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI NEWS

'84

David Silber and his wife Kate started the Nexus Institute of Creative Arts, Europe's premier Christian music and technology college, after years of touring as music evangelists. This year is the college's 20th anniversary. They celebrated the graduation of their 1,000th student and the launch of the new Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree in Popular Music and Worship.



'86

Denise Farrar Shelly was diagnosed in February 2017 with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. She fought a courageous battle for several months before passing away on November 2 with her family by her side. She is survived by her husband Andy, her parents and her son, Daniel Farrar, his fiancée Brittany Weil; granddaughter Mya Farrar; brother Doug Farrar, and his wife Vicky; and sister Christine Farrar. Due to the overwhelming amount of medical expenses accrued during Denise's treatment, classmates have launched a GoFundMe page to help raise \$50,000 to assist the family. Visit gofundme.com/HopeForDeniseShelly to donate.

'93

Catherine Taeger Arnsperger completed her Masters in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary in May 2017. She is currently pursuing more advanced studies in systematic theology as she works toward a ThM. She and her husband Dan live in Fayetteville, Ar., with their three sons, Ethan (11), Eric (10), and Andrew (6).



'96

Annie Dollarhide Kardas and her husband welcomed baby Oliver Aris Kardas on May 14, 2017. The family currently lives in Greece.



'02

Natalie Dixon Bland and her husband Mitchell welcomed their second daughter, Cora Evelyn, on February 4, 2017. Cora loves her big sister Elissa (3).



'05

Jeff and Megan Schmidt Christianson were thrilled to welcome their first child, Lily Grace, on August 14, 2017.



'08

Brian Keffer and his wife Michelle were married in Houston, Tx., on January 14, 2017. A number of Westminster alumni were in the wedding party or in attendance: Ben Baldwin '08, Laura Keffer Berlin '00, Peter Boggs '08, Megan Shapleigh Cooley '08, Joe Hunsicker '08, Sang-Jin Im '08, Rebecca Keffer Kruse '04, Stephen Kruse '04, Daniel Miller '08, Patrick Murrell '08, and Michael Shapleigh '08.



'03

Stephanie Renaud Hullinger, her husband Michael, and their four children moved to West Plains, Mo. They currently serve in full-time ministry and partner with On Time Ministry, a grass roots, faith-based organization that is dedicated to and passionate about rescuing and helping restore women survivors of human trafficking.



'07

Westminster alumni and friends CPT **Chris Rojewski** and 2LT **Eric Levenhagen** '10 graduated in May, 2016, from the United States Army Ranger School—an intensive, 61-day combat leadership course. Chris received the LTC Keith Antonia Officer Leadership Award.

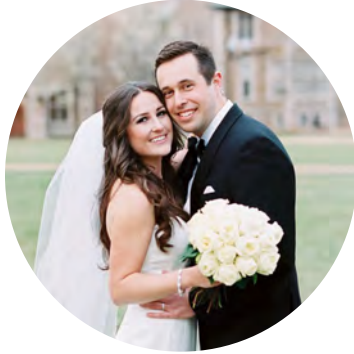


'09

Corinne Becker, Nevin Cherian, and **Michael Hughes** graduated from St. Louis University School of Medicine on May 20, 2017. Corinne is an obstetrics and gynecology resident at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, Ky. Nevin is an anesthesiology resident at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Oh., and Michael is a diagnostic radiology resident at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, Co.

'09

Alumnus Adam Miller is the founder and Executive Director of Planet Indonesia International, an organization that was named a winner of the 2017 United Nations Development Programme's Equator Initiative. The award was presented to staff at the United Nations General Assembly.



Abby Hicks Klosterhoff and her husband TJ welcomed twins Brooklyn and Luke on July 23, 2017. The family is doing well. The twins' arrival makes Jacob Hicks '13, Caleb Hicks '14, and Ben Hicks '20 uncles for the first time.



Joseph Greenlee was married on July 22, 2017, to Brianna Howard in Garwood, N.J. Both Joseph and Brianna are 2013 graduates of Howard University. Joseph graduated with honors, earning a bachelor's degree in political science. The couple currently resides in Washington, D.C., where they are educators.

'10

Hillary Franz Cripps married her husband Cody in March 2017. The couple resides in University City and attends The Journey Tower Grove. Hillary is a first grade teacher at Central Christian School and Cody is a project manager at Barry-Wehmiller Design Group. Hillary's maids of honor included Westminster alumnae Catie Horseman '10 and Blair Rallo '10. Jordan Montgomery '10 and Madison Nguyen Nye '10 were bridesmaids.



Julie Sharp Brown married her husband Jeremy last spring. Dr. Andrew Shaw performed the ceremony, and a number of Westminster alumni were in attendance at the wedding: Rebekah Sharp '14, Justine Schaper '10, Danny Keith '10, and Teresa Hastings '07.

'11

Michael Rojewski is currently serving on The World Race, an 11-month, 11-country, 3-continent mission trip. He is partnering with churches and ministries in local communities to preach the gospel, plant churches, work in orphanages, minister to women and children trapped in human trafficking, and bring the love of Christ to many tribes and nations.



Brett Cotner and his wife Roro Ma were married on September 8, 2017, in St. Lucia. They have made their home in Creve Coeur, Mo.



'11

Haley Bergman Derks married her husband Justin in Columbia, Mo., on July 2, 2017. Her bridesmaids included Westminster alumnae Abby Becker '11 and Kayla Gebhardt Hall '11. Haley's sister Anna '14 was her maid of honor, and her brother John '10 was in the wedding party.



'13

Ryan Conaghan graduated from Liberty University in May 2017 with a degree in sports management and a minor in business. After an internship with the NHL Nashville Predators and upon graduation, he accepted his current position with the NFL Carolina Panthers as a Sales and Suite Services Associate in Charlotte, N.C.



Levi Marshall recently graduated summa cum laude and with top honors in biology from Loyola University of Chicago. He was admitted to The University of Missouri School of Medicine where he is currently studying to be a brain surgeon.



'12

Meg Rasche received the Top 39 Award from The University of Missouri. The award is given to the top 39 students voted on by peers and faculty that have excelled academically and have given back to their school and community. In September, Meg accepted a job with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Denver, Co.



Sarah Levenhagen was the only undergraduate at Xavier University selected to join the Villages in Partnership Mission Trip in Malawi, Africa. She joined a team of 24 doctors and nurses to provide medical care to 5,211 patients in a span of 10 days.



Kaylie Duke Stone graduated from the University of Tulsa with her BSN this year. She was recently married in St. Louis and has returned to Tulsa to begin her career as a registered nurse serving cardiac patients at the Oklahoma Heart Institute.

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*



'14

Catherine Bakewell graduated from High Point University this year with a degree in Spanish and a minor in French. She is now serving as an English teaching assistant in Orléans, France, through the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF).

'16

Audrey O'Neill was recently selected for the Outstanding Freshman Award from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Loyola University of Chicago.

CLASS OF '82 REUNION



From Top: Brookie Kramer Moore, Karen Lindeman Davault, Julie Phillips Belue, Heidi Merritt Kerls, Mike Abbott, Linda Smith Trost, Dawn Miller Gerson, Laura Lamprecht, Melanie Miller Pai, David Jost, Michael Gerson, Pat Dare, Todd Johnson, Nancy O'Neal Miller, Tom Sauder



Front Row from Left: John Prentis, Brookie Kramer Moore, Heidi Kerls Merritt, Melanie Miller Pai, Todd Johnson, Tom Sauder **Middle Row:** Laura Lamprecht Walters, Nancy O'Neal Miller **Back Row:** David Jost, Pat Dare, Linda Smith Trost, Mike Abbott, Julie Phillips Belue, Karen Lindeman Davault, Andy Richmond, Curtis Francois

CLASS OF '97 REUNION



Back Row from Left: Dan Chan, David Bradsher, Ben Muehleisen, Kara Reagan, Josh Hendricks, Kelly Reed Skaff, Lauren Lieberg Karlson, Valerie Hopkins Dorch, Jimmy Armstrong, Tim Malcom Vetter, Josh Hamer, Katie Stortz Polski, Steve French **Middle Row:** Kelly Beckemeier Johnston, Rachel Higby Ziebold, Shauna Kruse Collison, Ginny Greenplate Kruta, Rob Peterson **Front Row:** Mark Barrington, Holly Maher, Cerre Francis-Cudney, Tony Culella, Karen Johnson Luther, Rachael Wiggers French, TJ Brennan

CLASS OF '07 REUNION



From Left: Rachel Wisdom, Teresa Hastings, Michael Mendis, Colin Thompson, Christine Yu Thompson, Tim Jarrard, Rachel Victor Jarrard, Julia Myers Slagle, Alex Henderson Olson, Joshua Olson, Sarah Moore, Brian Stair, Sarah Grimes Stair, Carrie Waldron Black, Molly Beckman



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

Non profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 1286



A Family Legacy: Westminister Students of Alumni Parents