

FALL 2018

# chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Living  
in Unity

IN THIS ISSUE:

Creating Beauty  
Alongside the Creator

Partnering with Parents  
and the Church

Creative Talent  
on the Rise





# Shalom: The Beauty of Peace through Unity

DR. BARRETT MOSBACKER

**THE HEBREW WORD** “shalom” is beautiful. It means peace, harmony, wholeness, and tranquility. In English, peace is described as freedom from disturbance.

We long for peace of mind, peace with God, and peace with one another. Unfortunately, peace is often in short supply. One of the greatest enemies of peace is conflict or a lack of unity. It seems that everywhere we turn we see conflict—in the family, at work, and in our politics.

As Christians, we can experience unity and peace in this world. Speaking to believers, Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you ...* (John 14:27)

Jesus promises a supernatural peace made possible by the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we strive by His grace to live in unity, the Holy Spirit fosters peace. Promoting the peace of Jesus in our school community is one reason I chose this

year’s theme verse: ... *All of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.* (1 Peter 3:8-9)

The primary ingredient for peace through unity is the posture of our hearts and minds, which Peter describes as unity, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. It is difficult to sow or fan the flames of discord when we practice these virtues!

May God grant us the beauty and blessing of shalom through unity as we reflect these godly virtues for His glory, our good, and before a watching world!

# chimes

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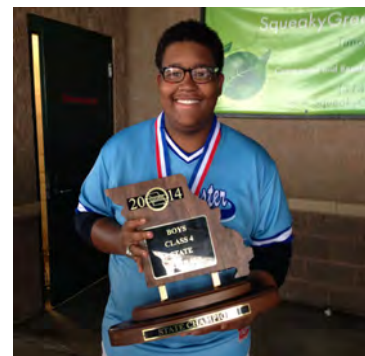
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# Academics

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



### CLASSROOM CONNECTION

**3...2...1 Blast off!** As part of their unit on the laws of motion, middle school STEM students tried their hands at rocket science. The students began their study by “launching” miniature paper rockets with their breath, eventually working their way up to building their own rockets and launching them from the athletic fields.

### SENIOR JESSIE KUNKEL EARNS CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

**Jessie Kunkel earned** the silver certificate of the Congressional Award for her commitment to self-improvement. The award requires that participants set goals in four program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration. Over the course of one year, Jessie completed 200 voluntary service hours, 100 hours focused on personal development, 100 hours dedicated to physical fitness, and a 3-day camping expedition.

### CUPLIFTING COFFEE

**Westminster’s coffee shop is back** with a new name and a new purpose: to impact Westminster’s culture and build community through coffee. Run by our budding entrepreneurs, Cuplifting Coffee is partnering with Kaldi’s to bring Westminster students, faculty, and staff the very best java St. Louis has to offer—and at an affordable price. “I’m excited for the students running the shop to have a hands-on experience with running a business and to learn skills that they will need in a professional setting in the future like work ethic, customer service, and learning how to deal with problems that could potentially arise,” says senior entrepreneurship student Kiley McKee.

### WILDCATS SHINE IN STARS RESEARCH PROGRAM

**Senior science-lovers** Lauren Bell and Jerry Liu participated in the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ prestigious mentorship and research program, STARS (Students and Teachers as Research Scientists). The program pairs top research scientists from the St. Louis area with students to perform in-depth research projects. Lauren’s research report was entitled, “Macrophage and Cardiomyocyte Co-Culture: Modeling Cell-to-Cell Interactions in Heart Failure”. Jerry received an award for his report, “Identifying the genotype of auxin importer gene mutants of *Setaria viridi*.”



### 2019 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS & COMMENDED SCHOLARS

**Three seniors were named semifinalists** in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Alec Bequette, Aaron Kampmeier, and William Vestal are now eligible to advance in the competition and receive Finalist standing. In the past five years, 17 Westminster students have received National Merit Scholar standing.

Four Westminster seniors were also recognized as Commended Scholars: Amanda Berry, Hannah Brown, Colin Davitt, and Thomas Schultz.

## MARKETING STUDENTS GIVE VOICE TO LOCAL DESIGN BRAND

**Each semester,** Westminster's marketing class helps a local business owner refine their brand. This fall, the class worked with Ashley Jane Interiors. New to the interior design scene, Ashley Jane Interiors was without a solidified brand or marketing plan. Students developed a logo that captures the essence of the brand and created a website and marketing strategy to help owner Ashley Straobach achieve her business goals. Interested in working with our marketing students in the future? Let us know!



### THIS YEAR IN CHAPEL

**Faculty, staff, student, and guest speakers** are sharing the transformative power of the Gospel in chapel this year. Messages focus on creation, redemption, and sanctification, and encourage students to look to God's power rather than the wisdom of men. "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations." Luke 24:46-47

## DELMAR GARDENS RESIDENTS JOIN WCA STUDENTS IN POETRY DISCUSSION

**Last month,** Molly Arvesen's honors literature class spent an afternoon discussing poetry with a few of our Delmar Gardens neighbors. Poems up for discussion included, "Postscript" by Seamus Heaney, "Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley, and "Sonnet 14" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, among others. Ms. Arvesen plans to make these literary discussions a much more regular occurrence and has invited several Delmar Gardens residents to her class to discuss Mary Shelley's haunting classic, *Frankenstein*, later this winter.



### PRIZED TEACHERS

**Westminster teachers** Heather Marsee and Nancy Provin received the Arlen R. Dykstra Teaching Prize last spring. Ms. Marsee is the middle school principal and Ms. Provin teaches in the middle school special services department. The award, named in honor of Westminster former head of school Arlen R. Dykstra, is a \$1,000 prize presented annually at commencement. It recognizes the recipient's outstanding expression of the Christian worldview in his or her teaching and lifestyle. It also honors the recipient for his or her mastery of teaching matter, involvement in the life of the school, and the creative and innovative presentation of curricula.

# STUDENT CLUBS

If a student enjoys books, board games, the great outdoors, coding, or virtually anything else, Westminster most likely offers a club he or she would love. In this issue, we're highlighting three of the more popular student clubs this fall:



## STUDENT ARTISTS UNITE TO CREATE NEW PIECE

**The Art Club** brought this school year's theme to life with a new collaborative piece. Their artistic interpretation of this year's school theme—unity—will be on display in the Grand Entry for all to admire. Their artwork is based on our theme verse, 1 Peter 3:8-9.

## FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

**FCA** gives student-athletes and coaches the opportunity to connect and grow in their sport and faith in Jesus Christ. Each Tuesday, 50-75 Westminster students gather at a different member's home to discuss relevant issues like time management, leadership, and how to honor Christ through athletics. This year, the club is looking to spend more time serving their school and community and connecting with FCA groups from schools in the area.

## LET'S PLAY!

**The Gaming Club** was born out of a conversation between several students and club advisor Allen Schwamb about how much they all enjoyed board games and how they wished they had the opportunity to play more often. The club meets once a month and, due to its immense popularity, generally has at least three different games going at each meeting. Middle school and upper school students love to drop by and select a game to play from the club's well-stocked inventory.

# Arts

CREATIVE EXCELLENCE



## The Wiz Wins Big At St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards

**You may remember** that Westminster's production of *The Wiz* was nominated last spring for several awards at the 2nd Annual St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards. We are proud to announce that Helen Scott and Allen Schwamb were recognized for their work in the production, winning awards for Outstanding Costume and Execution as well as Outstanding Direction. The SLHSMTA celebrates outstanding achievement in high school musical theatre. The Mundy, The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation, and The Fabulous Fox sponsor the awards program.

## Classroom Connection: 3D Design

**As part of the 3D Design course** taught by Olivia Pierson '09, students are tasked with more than just exploring concepts like movement, proportion, and perspective through kinetic and optical art projects. Students must think like an artist and an engineer by ensuring their pieces are structurally sound. When planning out their sculpture, students must consider how it will support itself, how it will function, and what it will look like from multiple perspectives. "We serve a beautiful God who makes beautiful and functional things," says Pierson. "In this class, we're trying to do the same."



## Singing for Sondheim

**Junior Michael Lee and sophomore Elizabeth Nolting** were selected to perform in *Finishing the Hat: Students Sing Sondheim* on September 28 as part of the celebration to award Mr. Stephen Sondheim, one of the preeminent lyricists and composers of the modern era, with the 2018 St. Louis Literary Award. Students from nine high schools and eight college/university programs were invited to participate.



## You Can't Take It With You

**Upper school performers** dazzled audiences in the first production of the 2018–19 school year, *You Can't Take It With You*. The story of an eccentric family and their practical daughter's engagement to a very practical man came to life under the direction of upper school theatre teacher Jim Butz. Don't miss the next show, *Twelfth Night*, running February 21–23.

## Acoustics Upgrade Breathes New Life Into Westminster Musical Performances

**If you thought** Westminster musical performances sounded wonderful before, you're in for a surprise. Thanks in large part to a successful year of fundraising, the school recently acquired an acoustic sound shell, which eliminates the need for a microphone during instrumental and choral performances and allows the audience to enjoy a cleaner, crisper sound. The acoustic shell made its debut at the fall choir and orchestra concerts this past October.



### Honors Choir

**Seniors Kennedy Kittner and Raphaella Zavaglia, junior Michael Lee, and freshman Ava Berutti** auditioned for and were selected to participate in the St. Louis Metro District 8 Honors Choir. Zavaglia and Lee were also chosen to audition for the 2019 Missouri All-State Choir. Westminster also had a great showing in the District 8 Middle School Choir with six eighth graders selected: Elizabeth Bauer, Leah Berutti, Sarah DeClue, Zachary Leeker, Anna Niekamp, and Jonah Zell.



### Honors Orchestra

**In early October**, 7th grader Anna Enger, 8th grader Taniya Jessie, freshman Miriam Smith, junior Patrick Chambers, and senior Alec Bequette auditioned and were selected to participate in the St. Louis Metro District 8 Honors Orchestra. These Westminster musicians played alongside some of the best student performers in the area as part of this select ensemble earlier this month.



### Save the Date!

**Join us** for the middle and upper school Christmas concerts! Our choir, orchestra, band, and jazz ensemble are coming together for one night to perform our favorite songs of the season. You don't want to miss this festive Westminster event. It's sure to get you in the Christmas spirit!

**Tuesday, December 11**  
6:45 p.m. – Middle School  
7:45 p.m. – Upper School

## Stop the Presses!

**Westminster recently purchased** our very own printing press. Actually, we now have two in our possession. These etching presses allow us to use a wide range of printing processes, including etching, monotype, Chine-collé, collagraph, wood block, and linoleum cuts. Currently, printmaking is a small component of our AP studio art and oil painting classes, but, with these new tools, Westminster will soon add Printmaking to our menu of media-specific course options.



# Athletics

## FALL HIGHLIGHTS AND GENERAL NEWS

### BOYS SOCCER

The boys soccer team finished the regular season with a 14-9-1 record. The team won first place in the Lafayette Round Robin Tournament and second place in the River Rumble Tournament held in Paducah, Ky. Senior Luke Linam leads the team with 12 goals and five assists. Districts were played at the end of October and were hosted by Westminster this year.



### SOFTBALL

The softball season started with just five girls returning from last year in the entire program. The girls recruited their friends and classmates to join the team, resulting in a 23-player roster and the installment of a JV softball team—many of these girls never having played softball before. The girls pulled together throughout the season, defeating some difficult opponents, which culminated in a District Championship win against a final-four team from last year. Though the outlook was not bright at the beginning of the season, the girls won the most games in a season since 2011 and had a blast along the way.



### GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team fell short of qualifying the team or individuals for the sectional and state tournaments. The team lost in the district semifinals to Visitation Academy. Senior Kiley McKee finished third in the singles district tournament and the doubles team of Izzy Cancila (sophomore) and Hattie Means (senior) finished third after losing a highly competitive marathon semifinal match. The team had a great season on and off the court and we are proud of how they competed!

### CROSS COUNTRY

**Boys:** Upper School boys cross country returned this fall with one varsity senior runner, two new coaches (Head Coach Nile Heefner and Assistant Coach Jacob Pinkley), and a large sophomore class. So far this season, the boys have earned several first and second place team finishes, including a second place finish in the district meet. The team has worked hard in the heat and humidity, continues to find joy and laughter together each day, and are living out their mission to honor Jesus Christ in all things. Westminster boys cross country has a promising future with this young team.

**Girls:** Though they are small in number, the girls cross country team has no shortage of talented runners. The team started the season on a high note, winning their first meet and all runners placing in the top 20. At one of the toughest courses in the nation, the girls battled through the hills and hot weather to place eighth out of 16 large teams. With a successful regular season behind them, the girls won the district meet and had five runners place in the top 12.



## CHEER

**The cheer squad had the honor** of bringing home Camp Champ Cheer for the large varsity division when the JV and varsity squads competed together this summer. It was a wonderful bonding experience for the team and they acquired many of the skills they're using at games and in competitions. The squad participated in their first cheer competition of the year on November 17 in Nashville.

## GIRLS GOLF

**The Lady Wildcats finished** their regular season with a 7–3 record. The team finished third in the Lutheran South Invitational as well as the Metro Conference Championship where freshman Ellie Johnson won the event as an individual. The highlight of the season was winning the inaugural “Cat Scratch Scramble” with a 10-team field. Senior Chandler Estes and Johnson advanced to the Sectional Championship where Johnson qualified for the State Golf Championship. She placed 21st out of 90 competitors at State—not bad for a freshman!

## BOYS SWIM & DIVE

**With one of the largest teams** in WCA men's history, this season has been one of wins and record-breaking performances all underscored by the main pillar of honoring Christ in all things. The team's dual meet record stands at 6-2 with a highlight win over large school De Smet (95-90). At the 13-team Ladue Invitational, the Wildcats garnered the third place plaque—their highest finish ever in that meet. Three records have already fallen by the wayside; the 200 Medley made up of Caleb Terschak (senior), Jack Villa (freshman), Reid St. John (senior), and Maddoc McGowan (freshman) and two individual records; the 500m freestyle by McGowan and the 100m backstroke by Terschak.



## FOOTBALL

**The Wildcats finished** the regular season 5–4 after battling through multiple injuries. The team earned the No.3 seed in the postseason and defeated Parkway Central in the first round of districts. They competed against Hannibal in the district semifinals. It was a tough season, but the players worked hard every day and steadily improved over the course of the fall.

## FIELD HOCKEY

**The Wildcat field hockey program** continues to gain momentum at all levels. More than 70 girls, grades 7–12, participated in this year's five field hockey teams. Six of the varsity team's 15 seniors have stuck with the program since its inaugural season five years ago when they were only 8th graders. The future looks bright for Westminster's field hockey program.

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

**The varsity girls volleyball team** finished the regular season with a 7-20-3 record. After competing through a very tough schedule, the Wildcats were well prepared for post-season play but fell to Villa in the district semifinals. The team has enjoyed praying with opponents after matches, spending time with youth volleyball players from Kirk Day School, supporting other Westminster teams, celebrating our seniors, and recognizing some of the amazing teachers at Westminster Christian Academy.



*Editor's Note: When this issue was sent to press, some fall teams were entering post-season play.*



# INSPIRING A LEGACY OF UNITY

**How the revamped  
Peer Counselor  
program is  
bridging the gap  
between middle  
and upper school**

**I**t's 7:15 a.m. on the Westminster campus. The majority of students won't begin to arrive for another 15 minutes or so, but the Caf  is buzzing with activity. Middle school students sit around tables, munching on the doughnuts and muffins brought by the juniors and seniors chatting with them about schoolwork, sports, life, and everything in between.

This is where you'll find a select group of Westminster students on Tuesdays and Fridays each week during the first semester of the school year. The young men and women leading these tables made the commitment to spend time with Westminster's youngest Wildcats and bridge the gap between middle school and upper school by building relationships.

Upper school and middle school students don't often interact. Even though they share the same school building, middle school and high school are two

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distinctly different experiences. “Our goal is to establish a legacy of unity among the Westminster student body,” says Tim Muehleisen, dean of students and director of the boys Peer Counselor program. “If Westminster is about relationship, the way that we say we are, then the Peer Counselor program is the most practical application of that commitment across grade levels.”

“The commitment peer counselors make is no small undertaking” says Annie Sullivan, director of the girls Peer Counselor program. “These leaders carve out time in their busy schedules to help our underclassmen navigate middle school.” Beyond the weekly morning meeting, leaders spend their advisory period each week working with Sullivan and Muehleisen to plan the week ahead and many leaders schedule a weekly phone call with their co-leader to discuss what they hope to accomplish with their group that week.

Connecting outside of the weekly meeting is a must. Peer counselors are often seen walking the middle school hallways to say a quick “hello,” attending a middle school athletic contest, or planning a special out-of-school activity for their group. “Sometimes, I’ll see my girls in tennis practices, or I will get to implement something I’ve learned in youth group or in church at my group meetings,” says peer counselor Lexi Jo Alm (junior). “I’ve found that as the meetings and months progress, the commitment has become more fulfilling, and I am seeing intentional relationships being built. The experience is incredibly life-giving and exciting.”

Relationship building is exactly what directors Muehleisen and Sullivan encourage their counselors to focus on as they plan programming and outings for their middle school mentees. “I decided to become a peer counselor because I felt the need to be an influence in young men’s lives,” says Reid St. John (senior). “My goal is to help my kids learn how to be men. Our culture has a very corrupted view of what it means to be a man. I hope that through my peer counselor group, my kids will know how to be men in the Christian sense rather than the way our culture tells them.”

Often showing wisdom beyond their years, peer counselors are the embodiment of Westminster’s core value to “lead with our serve” as they model servant leadership to their mentees. “My one true goal as a peer counselor is that I would genuinely get to not only create relationships with these sweet girls but



also touch their souls and impact them for Jesus Christ,” says Alm. “The program is a perfect platform for mentorship and discipleship, and I cannot wait to see how they grow.”

The once thriving program has lost momentum in recent years, but Sullivan and Muehleisen are confident that dedicated peer counselors like St. John and Alm will help restore the program to its previous position of influence in the lives of Westminster students. “As a peer counselor, you’re doing exactly what God is calling you to do. You’re reaching out, creating community, and establishing relationships,” says Sullivan. “We’re teaching these student leaders how to be compassionate, empathetic, and how to think outside of themselves in a relational context.” ►



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- ▶ “A substantial part of my wanting to become a peer counselor was so that I might be able to give girls the same brilliant experience that I was given when I participated in the program,” says Alm. “If I can play a role in recreating those relationships and connections, it would mean the world to me.” It’s this legacy of peer counselors past that inspires the program’s revival. “I tell my counselors that my hope for them is that they leave an 11-year footprint on Westminster—a mark that spans their time here and their mentee’s time here,” says Muehleisen.

This goal to create a legacy of unity even ties into the peer counselor discussion theme for the semester: unity. Leaders are exploring different character traits present in this school year’s theme verse, 1 Peter 3:8–9—sympathy, love, compassion, and humility—with their groups. The conversations manifest in different ways. Sometimes groups engage in a devotional over doughnuts in the Café or as they participate in a basketball shootout in the Arena. Other times, it’s emphasized as part of a craft or as a counselor shares a bit of practical knowledge they gained since middle school. At the heart of every conversation and activity though, is a peer counselor’s desire to build relationships with these younger students and have a positive impact on their lives. “The Peer Counselor program gives me the opportunity to pour into girls and hopefully give them the best Westminster experience possible,” says Alm. “Each meeting ebbs and flows to the needs of the girls. If our group is having an academically heavy school week, we might shift the conversation topic from empathy to finding peace in all situations. It makes our time together much more personal and enjoyable.”

This year’s peer counselors’ heart, commitment, and vision for the program and their desire to impact middle school students in a Christ-honoring way is encouraging. With strong faith in the program and the counselors’ commitment to creating unity between divisions, Muehleisen and Sullivan are confident the program will once again be a memorable and potentially life-changing experience for Westminster students. “I think community among young men and young women through the peer counselor program will ultimately lead to community in our school as a whole,” says St. John. “If we can help our kids to love each other well, then our community will be one that exemplifies 1 Peter 3: 8-9.” •



A  
DEPARTMENT  
SPOTLIGHT  
ON THE  
FINE ARTS

# CREATING *beauty*

## ALONGSIDE THE CREATOR



**IF YOU WERE TO ASK** each fine arts teacher at Westminster what they most hope to impart on their students, the answer would likely be something along the lines of “the ability to experience the beauty and wonder of God’s creation and to recognize their ability to create beauty alongside Him.”

“In today’s world, we see entropy at work—things are degrading, breaking down, and need fixing,” says Director of Fine Arts John Sarra. “Art is the exact opposite of this. It’s like the fingerprint of God at work—well, the human version. Creating art allows us to catch a glimpse of the bigger picture and what it means to create.”

Art is nothing if not an opportunity to create beauty. Whether it be through song, a play, the paint strokes of a watercolor, or an orchestra performance, art—in all its forms—brings us closer to our creator. “When we create music, we fulfill our likeness of the Creator,” says Performing Arts Director Allen Schwamb. “I love joining with God in that creative act and teaching students how to do the same.”



“I teach my students to be makers,” says orchestra instructor Eric Gargrave. “‘Create’ is in the first book of the Bible—it’s in the first chapter of Genesis. God stepped into a void, ►

► created, and said you are like me. We should be creating and recognize God in what we're doing."

When most students sit down in their first art course at Westminster, they could be classified as a generalist—a student on the verge of discovering his or her interest and ability in the arts. "Being an art teacher is a bit like being a gardener," says Sarra. "Everyday, we're planting seeds, throwing away stones, and nurturing those seeds in the hope that they will take root and bear fruit."

While teachers don't deny that they enjoy seeing their students' artistic talents blossom during their time at Westminster, they're also interested in helping them develop character traits and skills that will benefit them in all facets of life. "Through the arts, you learn to be a team player, how to give and take, and how to celebrate successes and experience rejection," says middle school choral and drama teacher Kathy Eichelberger. There's also the timeless lesson on what can be achieved with hard work and perseverance. "I want my students to learn that the good things in life aren't just the fun things," says Schwamb. "Sometimes the really good things are the ones you work hard at and are rewarded for because you achieved something great."

Being a part of a choir, an orchestra, a play, or collaborative piece of art isn't all that different from playing on a sports team—everyone is doing something different, but everyone is working to achieve a shared goal. "I want my students to learn how to think about getting better at something on their own and how to come together as a group," says Gargrave.

So while art is largely about creating beauty, it's also about community and working together to achieve something bigger than ourselves. In John 10:10, Jesus tells us He came so that we could have life more abundant. We are not meant to merely exist. We are called to thrive in this world and glorify Him as we do so. "This is where art comes into play," says Sarra. "Art changes how we perceive the world and often how we engage it. Art has everything to do with living more abundantly."

Westminster fine art instructors want their students to pursue this abundant life at full speed. "I want my students to become people who get music and creativity and want it in their life—in some form—forever," says Schwamb. "Whether it's in the pew at church, as part of a choir, or even just the music they listen to, I want them to understand the value of creation and the connection between art and beauty. I want to make lifelong art makers." •



*"ART changes* HOW WE  
PERCEIVE THE WORLD AND  
OFTEN HOW WE ENGAGE IT."





# Partnering with Parents and the Church to Raise Godly Children

BY PEGGY JOHNSON

**D**o you remember what your child was like during the terrible twos? Much of your day was spent in a battle of wills with your toddler. Multiply that by eight, add a driver's license, and you're faced with another unique parenting phase. Teens stretch their wings and occasionally tumble as they separate and develop independence—a necessary and normal process.

As the parent of a teenager, you probably feel like you're playing a constant game of tug-of-war. As you pull your teen toward curfew, homework, family, and church, they want fewer boundaries, their own friends, and to make their own decisions. This season of parenting requires more—more energy, more

letting go, more trust in God, and more trust in prayer. It's tough to maintain the proper balance of what is our part, our child's part, and God's part during these important years.

Parents need more than one leg to stand on when raising a teenager; they need three! At Westminster Christian Academy, we believe the platform for a student's success in life includes the home, the church, and the school. When the three legs of the stool are balanced, great things happen and lives are transformed. The consistent God-centered message and biblical worldview encourage students to meet the challenges of a pluralistic world with a clear vision for God's sovereign agenda. We are convinced this is God's plan to change the world—one inspired young person at a time!

Westminster supports parents by providing a consistent message of truth, which enables students to become stronger in their faith, learn truth in all subjects, and develop their God-given gifts. The partnership doesn't promise that your relationship with your teen will be free from conflict. It does mean, however, that as your teen explores his or her independence, the values you have planted in his or her heart will be reinforced at school. •

This year's carnival booths offered everything from tasty treats and board games to a cake walk and karaoke.



Fans cheered on the Wildcats as they took on MICDS in the varsity football game.



# WILDCAT WEEKEND

What a weekend! The annual fall celebration included all of our community's favorites: a community dinner, Westminster's Got Talent, Carnival, varsity athletic contests, and alumni soccer and baseball games.



Students delighted the audience with their talent and creativity at the second annual Westminster's Got Talent show.





Go Wildcats! The cheer squad rallied fans and encouraged the football team through a tight game against the Rams.



More than 130 alumni made their way back to campus over the weekend to enjoy the festivities, including our annual alumni baseball and soccer games.



Did you play a game or buy food from a booth at Carnival? Thanks for helping our classes and clubs raise money for their activities!

# Budgeting for the Gap

BY SHELLEY MILLIGAN



When I graduated from college (1992), I rejoiced over my first official job, which paid \$18,000 per year. I diligently mapped out my budget, including rent, utilities, student loan, etc. When I totaled the monthly expense column, it dwarfed my income column by \$150 per month. While math is not my gift, I knew I had a problem: my salary wouldn't cover my expenses, and the "gap" felt overwhelming. I took a second job after work hours tutoring local high school students in order to balance my budget, and the Lord was faithful to meet my needs through these two positions.

Similarly, each year the Westminster budget is created with a "gap." In our case, the gap is between the amount we set for tuition and the actual cost of educating each student. This school year, the difference between tuition costs and total educational costs is \$1,700 per student. Talk about an insurmountable gap!

In His provision, the Lord continues to bless Westminster with generosity beyond what we might envision. In fact, sometimes I wonder if the Lord blesses us with "gaps" in life that cause us to trust Him for what doesn't seem to add up. I have watched so many members of our community come forward to address our "gap" through gifts to the school. Whether you are able to give \$17; \$170; \$1,700; \$17,000; or more, know that the Lord uses your generosity mightily to cover our gap, ensuring that Christian education is available to our community.

Thank you for living out 1 Timothy 6:18-19, which calls us *"to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for [ourselves] as a good foundation for the future, so that [we] may take hold of that which is truly life."* •



## REUNION REFLECTIONS

### A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

It feels like we skipped fall here in St. Louis and jumped right from warm temps to sweater weather! With this changing of seasons comes a new school year and the return of several alumni events. First up, it was great to see my fellow alums over Wildcat Weekend, October 5–6. I had a chance to catch up with many of you when you stopped by the alumni booth at Carnival. It was also a 20-year reunion weekend for the Class of 1998, they had a great turnout!

Next up are two alumni athletic events, starting with the annual **Alumni Football Game** on November 21 at 1 p.m. Join fellow football alums for a fun game—lunch will be provided. In December, come on out for the **Alumni Basketball Game** on Wednesday, December 19. There will be a men’s alumni scrimmage game, food, and door prizes.

Finally, a big thank you to all the alumni who provided updates for the Class Notes. It’s so cool to see what has been happening in your lives since you left Westminster!

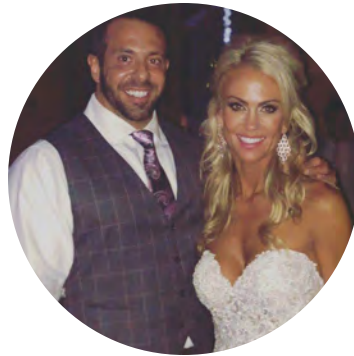
Blessings,  
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

# CLASS NOTES

## ALUMNI NEWS

### '89

**Brooks Wallace** ran the London Marathon in 4:20 on April 22, 2018 to help raise funds for KIDS, an organization that supports disabled children, young people, and their families throughout England. Brooks resides in London with his wife, Katie, and their children, Sophie and Henry.



### '93

**Tina (Hughes) Knox** married her husband, Jeremy, on August 12, 2018. The happy couple resides in O’Fallon where Tina is a real estate agent with Experience Realty Partners and Jeremy is a branch manager/senior loan officer with Gershman Mortgage.



### '98

After spending time in Arizona and Texas, **Christi (Bear) Provost** and her family now live in Bellevue, Wash. Christie works in the investment services division of First Tech FCU, and her husband Douglas is director of production at the Seattle Opera. Christie and Douglas have two children, Ashleigh (8) and Ryan (5). They love hiking and exploring the area, and Christie helps teach 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday School at Redeemer Eastside Church.



### '02

**Natalie (Dixon) Bland** was nominated for the 2018 Rotary National Award for Space Achievement “Stellar Award” for outstanding contributions to the International Space Station life extension through structural integrity analysis and cost-effective innovations to new development projects.



### '03

**Lenny DeShurley** and his wife, Andrea, recently welcomed their second child, Graham. Graham was born September 23, 2018, weighing in at a whopping 11lbs 8oz. He joins older sister Elise (4).



'03

**Tom and Natalie (Utrecht) Ganz** welcomed William David on September 6, 2018. William joins big brothers Benjamin and Joshua. Tom is an OBGYN in St. Charles County with SSM Medical Group.



**George Thampy** and his wife, Andrea, were married April 21, 2018 at the top of the St. Louis Arch. In attendance were Mallika Thampy '06, Luke Thampy '10, and Andrew Shaw.



**Alek and Juleah Miller** celebrated the birth of their first son, Charlemagne "Chuck" Anaximander Miller, on September 18, 2018.

'05

**Charles and Megan (Valli) Minnick** welcomed a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Mae, on September 12, 2018.



'07

After earning a bachelor's degree in nutritional science from Pepperdine University, **Katie Corder** earned her master's degree in nutrition and physical performance from Saint Louis University. She is now a registered dietitian at St. Luke's outpatient cardiac rehab, also has a private practice, and teaches exercise classes. Katie was married on September 29, 2018!



**Robert Thompson** married his wife, Danielle, on July 29, 2017. Robert and Danielle both graduated from Clemson University in 2013. They now reside in Greenville, S.C. where Rob is a branch manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.



**Mike Rohlfing** once again led a team for the St. Louis 48 Hour Film Project. Their movie "Mindscape" was filmed entirely in Westminster's Black Box Theatre and won "Best Editing", "Best Writing" and "Second Place Overall." WCA team members included Alex Docekal '07, Luke McGowan '06, Daniel Hoover '05, Bill Bubenik '07, and Alex Hoban '07.

'09

**Laura Barbica** works in IP development at Alloy Entertainment, a publishing arm of Warner Bros. Television. She's spearheading a Christian publishing program in collaboration with Howard Books, to bring fresh, compelling stories to the Christian market. The first book in the program, *Heart Land* by Kimberly Stuart, was published on July 17, 2018.



**Justin Weststeyn** and his wife Edith were married in Grand Lake, Colo. this past June. The ceremony included fellow WCA alumni Shaylynn (Weststeyn) Smith '10 and Karlton Smith '10 and was officiated by Trevor Weststeyn '16. The couple met in dental school and now work in dental practices east of Kansas City. They have a dog named Harvey and purchased a home this past August in Odessa, Mo.

**Brennen and Camilla (Buckley) Grone** welcomed their first child, Alden Callaway, on April 10, 2018.

# '10

**Katie Haxel** and **Timothy Reed** were married in July of 2017. Katie is a fourth grade teacher in Rockwood School District. Tim currently works for Gabbit, a phone company that works exclusively with small businesses and non-profit organizations to decrease their phone bill.



**Shaylynn (Weststeyn) Smith** graduated from the WashU School of Medicine program in audiology and communication sciences in May. Dr. Smith now practices pediatric audiology at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. Her husband, **Karlton Smith '10**, will graduate from the UMKC School of Dentistry in May 2019.



# '13

**Bryce Bell** married his wife, Brittany, in April 2018. Several alumni were in the wedding party including Best Man Bennett Bell '11, Blase Bell '16, Taylor Deves '13, and Ben Mitchell '13. Bryce and Brittany met at the University of Missouri and reside in Ballwin. They enjoyed a honeymoon in London.



**Rebecca (Zandstra) Krc** and her husband, Kristian, were married on April 21, 2018. The happy couple met at Ouachita Baptist University and now live in Kansas City, Mo. Rebecca is a resident physician in internal medicine at UMKC and Kristian works as a structural engineer.

# '11

**Ian Farmer** received his master's degree in speech pathology from Fontbonne University this past spring.



**Chris Cacciarelli** completed his redshirt senior year for the Missouri State football team in November 2017. He was recognized as the special teams Player of the Year and received the Senior Scholar-Athlete Award. He graduated with a degree in economics and a minor in finance and completed his MBA degree this past summer. Chris now resides in St. Louis where he works as a stockbroker and financial planner for Morgan Stanley.



**Elizabeth (Miller) Morris** married Brett Morris on November 19, 2017. Olivia Girgis '11 and Rebecca Lambert '11 were in attendance. The couple currently reside in Lexington, Ky. where Elizabeth is pursuing her Ph.D. in animal nutrition at the University of Kentucky.



**Danielle Pfyl** married her husband, Beau Fishel, this past June. Danielle and Beau recently opened their own chiropractic practice, Fishel Chiropractic. The practice has two locations—Crestwood and Chesterfield. Danielle has a beautiful daughter named Riley (6).

**Michael Rojewski** is currently serving on The World Race—an 11-month mission trip that takes participants to 11 countries. He is serving in partnership with local churches and ministries 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.

**Ryan Kelly** was recently accepted into the Orange County Comedy Festival and continues to perform regularly in Los Angeles, where he lives.



'13

**Sadie (Stipanovich) Montgomery** married **Cole Montgomery** on April 7, 2018. The high school sweethearts started dating when they were juniors at Westminster!



**Drake Norman** married fellow alum **Anna Lindstrom '14** on June 1, 2018. Drake and Anna live in Tulsa, Okla. Drake is finishing up his master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Tulsa and Anna works at OSECO as a process engineer.



**Hannah (Mitchell) Murray** married her husband, Shane, on July 7, 2017. Emily Mitchell '11 served as matron of honor. The couple met at Texas Christian University and now reside in Hawaii.



**Eric Witherspoon Jr.** graduated from Moorehouse College with a degree in biology and is now pursuing his Ph.D. in pharmacology at Georgetown University. Eric attributes his success to God, his family, and Westminster for providing him with a phenomenal education that prepared him to pursue his dream of helping humanity.

'14

**Jennie Albertson** was named a Global Graduate at the University of Tulsa. Jennie graduated with degrees in nursing and Spanish and hopes to work with the Hispanic immigrant community through language and healthcare services.

**Caleb Krumsieg, Theodore Muschany,** and two of their friends from Wheaton College drove the Pan-American Highway last year from California to the "southernmost city in the world", Ushuaia, Argentina. They ran into fellow Wildcats Michael Miller '90, Lucy Wynn '12, and Tim Baldwin along the way. Learn more about the trip on their website: [projectgothere.weebly.com](http://projectgothere.weebly.com).

'15

**Lily Jane Duell** is currently a senior at the University of Arkansas. This past summer, Lily interned with a fashion designer in Milan who had a show in Milan Men's Fashion Week and at a showroom selling to international clients.



**Andrew Port** went on a University of Tulsa backpacking trip this past summer and discovered that Jocelyn Sheffield '12 and Kaylie (Duke) Stone '13 were on the same trip. Together, the trio conquered the Teton Crest Trail.

**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 [alumninews@wcastl.org](mailto:alumninews@wcastl.org)

# Creative Talent on the Rise

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
ON EICHEL DAVIS '14



**E**ichel Davis is just starting to make a name for himself. As an undergrad, he created amazing sports videos for Mizzou that went viral. Now, as the creative social specialist for Texas Christian University athletics, Davis develops content for the Horned Frogs' football and baseball teams, as well as all of the department's sponsored content for IMG properties.

**People at Westminster still remember your dream of becoming the next Al Roker. Why the switch to behind the camera?**

I was really into meteorology, and I still love weather and all that comes with it, but I decided that I had talents and loves that were way too broad for just one field. I love sports, politics, and music—focusing on creative video allows me the chance to really do whatever I want. Right now that's sports, and I see myself in sports for a long time, but if there comes a day where I want to do something else, I'll have that opportunity.

**On your blog, you mention that your high school newspaper teacher inspired you to find your voice and say something significant. How are you doing that today?**

You know, Von [Scott Vonder Bruegge] was such a huge part of me becoming me, and I make sure to tell him that whenever I see him. He challenged me to always ask "why?" and to really change the world. Every day, I try to keep my values at the core of my decisions. For me, my voice is about people. It's about equality; it's about community.

**What's your favorite memory from your time at Westminster?**

This is such a hard question. My time at Westminster was incredible. I have so many great memories: senior year Spirit Week, decorating the halls at the old campus, the success in football, the championships in baseball. Teachers like Von, Dan Burke, Beerbower, Mrs. Pike, Mrs. Brown, and Mr. Holley were so incredible. They helped me so much. But above all, the 2013 State Championship run by WCA baseball. Those guys were so awesome (many are still my best friends), and being a part of that was so special. It's something I still think about and get chills. Wow.

**How did Westminster prepare you for college?**

Westminster was everything. The education was incredible, but, more importantly, the people and the teachers cared—they helped me realize that I could have the biggest of dreams. That is so important for someone going into college. It's priceless.

**Any advice for current Westminster students?**

Find your voice, say something significant, and do something magical. Westminster is a great place, with great people, and we were blessed to be there. It's our job to create similar chances for other people all around the world. Again, it's about people. It's about family. •



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