

chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



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Student Reflections**

**More Than
Just a Classroom**

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Michael Miller '90**





Reflecting Christ

A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Reflection is the theme of this issue of *Chimes*. The word reflect is an interesting one with several meanings. It can mean to throw back without absorbing something; e.g., when the sun's rays hit the earth, a lot of the heat is reflected back into space. It can mean to reflect an image like a mirror. And, it can mean to reflect on someone by bringing credit to them by our actions, e.g., "his behavior reflects well upon him and his parents."

We desire the last two definitions to be true of our students. We want them to reflect back to a watching world the image of Christ in their lives and to reflect well upon Christ by how they conduct themselves.

Luke records in Acts that believers in Christ were first called Christians in Antioch because their lives reflected the teaching of Christ.¹ Our goal is to prepare and equip our students to reflect, or imitate, the

mind and character of Christ in every area of their lives. Reflecting the mind and character of Christ is what it means to bear the title "Christian." As Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:1, "therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."

You will find many examples of our students reflecting Christ in this issue of *Chimes*. Be encouraged and enjoy the outstanding work of our students as they model what it means to be a Christian.

Dr. Barrett Mosbacher
Head of School

¹ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:25-26).

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“Daily, I have the privilege of sharing amazing stories of our Christ-honoring education and community while welcoming new families and students. But, before this year, I had never been in the role of Westminster parent. I was excited and anxious to have my oldest son become a 7th grader. I knew he was ready for this next chapter but was I? What I have experienced and learned this past semester is hard to describe. Our son is being led and taught by such Godly men and women that his maturity has exponentially grown along with his love of Christ. Academically, he is developing the much-needed grit that it takes to be successful in life. I recall one teacher telling me, “We’ve got [your son]. He has all the tools, but he needs confidence. Let us help him figure out how to succeed in the classroom. He can do this!” They truly have him, and he is more autonomous and confident than ever—academically and on the athletic field. Thank you, Westminster, for loving my child and truly seeing him.”

JEN SENGPIEL, HEAD OF ENROLLMENT

A Partnership Between Parents and School

There is something special happening at Westminster. For almost 50 years, God has remained faithful, and as we reflect on what He is doing, particularly through the partnership between parents and the school, we see how God has blessed us. Parents Advancing Westminster (PAW) is evidence of this as it continues to serve the school. PAW connects parents with the broader Westminster community by hosting multiple events throughout the year as well as weekly prayer groups.

Each week, nearly 50 moms and dads attend different prayer groups on Westminster’s campus. It is a time to reflect on what God has done and is currently doing in the school as well as pray for His work to continue in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. The College Moms in Prayer group also prays for our alumni.

Granotta Farquharson says that being part of Moms in Prayer, another weekly prayer group, has been one of the most enjoyable experiences she has had as a Westminster parent. She says, “What a blessing and sacrifice for these women taking the time to pray each week for our school, teachers, staff, community, and most of all our students.”

Westminster is more than a building. It is a place of growth for students and parents alike. When parents search for the right school to send their children to, the environment—the community—matters. Middle school and high school are vital times during the development of young minds. It is a time when students shape and develop, growing and maturing into what God has designed for them, and our parents continuously pray for God’s work in the lives of their children.

As you step into the Grand Entry, you see a single word high above the steps: H.O.U.S.E. In everything, we seek to **H**onor Christ, **O**wn the Outcome, **U**nite in Gratitude, **S**et the Example, and **E**mpower Each Other. Our desire is for our students to live out each of these tenets. From academics to athletics to the arts, we seek to see God’s work in the lives of our students to reflect his love and mercy.

“During our evaluation of college preparatory schools, [our daughter] said, ‘this feels like home,’” says Jill Skaer. “It was the simplest reason and the only answer we needed to hear. We considered many options, and it was clear once we came to the campus this was where our family could allow her to grow and become a young adult ready to be a light in the world.” •

ON CAMPUS

NEWS & EVENTS



ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

In early November, the girls volleyball team won their second MSHSAA Class 4 State Championship in a row! The team, made up of both experienced players and eager rookies, raced to the final following an impressive performance in the semi-final round against Platte County.

On Friday, November 4, the team faced off against Incarnate Word. The Wildcats won a close first set before falling in the second. However, spurred on by dozens of students, faculty, and family, the Wildcats roared back to win the third and final sets. Several people from the other final four schools mentioned how impressed they were by Westminster's school spirit.



Art by Brooke Carter



Art by Florence Sarra

CHANGING THE WAY WE SEE THE WORLD

Each year the Saint Louis Art Museum hosts an open-call young artists competition, encouraging students and other artists ages 13–18 to submit artwork for display in the museum. The museum received many submissions this year, and two Westminster students, senior Brooke Carter and junior Florence Sarra, were selected.

In John 10:10, Jesus tells us he came to earth so that we could have a more abundant life. Art is part of that abundance — it changes how we see and engage the world. For Brooke, this was an opportunity to engage with anxiety and what it feels like to encounter stress. “I created a piece about a man that wears a helmet that is not closed,” she says. “There are bees swarming around him and crawling in the helmet. The bees represent stress. He can’t escape stress and anxiety. He has to fight it head-on.”

Visual arts can often help us process the experiences we go through and the emotions we feel. Brooke and Florence’s work on display gives others outside of our school the opportunity to see the wonder of God’s creation through their art.



FORMING CHRISTIAN LEADERS

What does it mean to be a leader?

How do we go out into the world and reflect the goodness of God? David Ottolini, Director of Spiritual Life, has started Spiritual Disciplines & Leadership, a new class at Westminster this year, to answer those two questions by working through the book of Ephesians. As the bell rings, Mr. Ottolini begins with a liturgy, thereby helping to form habits in the lives of his students to bring them closer to the Lord. Students then stand before their classmates and provide Scripture passages, explaining why it matters and how it matters to them specifically.

This past semester, these students began studying the concept of evangelism. Why is it important? Is it an option? No, says Mr. Ottolini. Jesus calls us all into it. The students readied themselves for evangelistic, missional work by practicing giving their testimonies. Splitting up into pairs, classmates told each other their stories—how God came to them at a specific moment. The hope is that by practicing giving their testimonies over and over again, students will one day be able to present the gospel clearly and concisely to someone who might not have a relationship with Jesus or even understand why the Bible is important. These students are growing in their faith and developing Christ-exalting qualities to go into the world and share the good news of Jesus with a world in desperate need of God’s grace.



WELCOMING FUTURE STUDENTS

In October, we held our annual **Open House** for prospective families to catch a glimpse of what makes Westminster such a unique school. Over 500 people came through our doors and toured the building, listening to Jazz Band, watching *The Mousetrap* play practice, trying samples at Pawprint Coffee, and enjoying the Robotics team show off their work. Seeing so many visit our school, eager to see how God is using Westminster to further His kingdom, was a blessing.



WESTMINSTER SCHOLARS NOMINATED FOR HONORS

Each year, over 1.5 million students submit their PSAT scores to the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Of that number, approximately 16,000 are selected as semi-finalists. This year four of our students were selected for this honor!

Seniors Kate Harper, Jon Lee, Sam Herrera, and Anagi Pieris worked diligently, and their selection is a testament to their desire and commitment to learning.



The Mousetrap



The Jungle Book

THE STAGE IS SET

This past semester, the theatre department put on an incredible performance of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. A classic murder mystery, *The Mousetrap* tells the suspenseful story of strangers who find themselves trapped in a manor home outside of London during a blizzard. When one of them is found murdered, the clock begins to tick for the detective in their midst to solve the crime before the killer strikes again.

The junior fall play in November was another exciting theatrical performance. An impressive group of students, made up of middle schoolers and freshmen (as well as one third-grader), brought to life *The Jungle Book* by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by Rudyard Kipling, the play tells the story of Mowgli—the boy raised by caring wolves. Filled with excitement and humor, the play highlights the struggle of good versus evil, the worth of friendship, and the importance of loyalty and other values for surviving the “law of the jungle.”

HONORING DR. MING LI

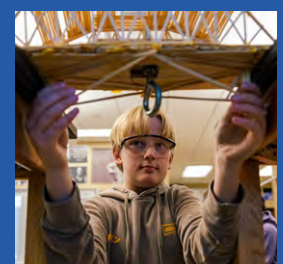
As we reflect on the goodness of God and the transformative work He has done at Westminster, we honor the memory of Dr. Ming Li. Dr. Li was posthumously awarded the Arlen R. Dykstra Teaching Prize at the end of last school year. Dr. Li was selected by a committee including executive leadership, administration members, and faculty at the school for her outstanding expression of the Christian worldview. Dr. Li was an invaluable and loved member of our school community. She started at Westminster in 2013 as a part-time Chinese teacher and International Program Assistant before teaching Chinese full-time.





ARE YOU FOLLOWING WESTMINSTER ON INSTAGRAM?

If not, you should be! Follow your Wildcats @wcastl for snapshots of daily life at Westminster, a look inside the classroom, announcements about upcoming community events, and more.



LOOKING FOR MORE?

For access to even more photos, view full albums at wcastl.org/photos.

MUSICAL IMAGINATION

Music is more than just a quarter note on a page. That is the philosophy Dr. Eric Gargrave brings into the classroom as he teaches students to play instruments. “We’re making real things happen,” says Dr. Gargrave. The upper school band students performed “Picture At An Exhibition” this past semester. To help his students understand the piece’s context, he showed the class the Golden Gate of Kyiv, Ukraine. The music doesn’t explicitly mention the Golden Gate, but as the students read through the musical notations, the image on the screen guided their imagination. Images spark in the mind as history beckons with every quarter note played, proving Dr. Gargrave’s point. Music is more than ink. It is a universal language that brings together all people, and it is a blessing to see our students be part of that.



HOMECOMING WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD

In late September, thousands of people from our community attended the annual Homecoming weekend and Carnival. Our Student Council officers did an excellent job planning and running the successful carnival for Westminster.

Despite inclement weather on Friday, everyone had smiles on their faces. The community came out in full force all weekend long to enjoy the varsity football game, Carnival booths, rides, food, and the annual dog show. Several alumni also gathered together for class reunions and the annual alumni soccer game. What a joy it was to see so many gather together on our campus.



Forming Teachable Hearts

In early November, the girls volleyball team traveled to Cape Girardeau to compete in the state championship tournament. The semi-final was held on a Thursday afternoon just as school let out for the day. When the final bell rang, many students hurried to the Grand Entry and the Hub to watch the game on TV, and several teachers stayed hours after school to cheer on the team. When the girls won their final set to send them to the finals, the school erupted in cheers as students began clapping and teachers high-fived each other. This relationship between teachers and students is something we take pride in.

In moments like the girls volleyball final, when teachers and students traveled to Cape Girardeau to watch the team compete, that relationship is more than just a marketing phrase. Westminster is a thriving community that relies on the connection between students and teachers.

There is a genuine connection amongst our community. It is what sets our school apart from others and continuously brings excellent teachers back year after year. At Westminster, this connected community thrives because of God's faithfulness. "The opportunity to be immersed in a gospel-centered educational mission is both life-giving and life-changing," says Matt Seilback, Bible teacher.

In the past year, Mr. Seilback has found joy in seeing God's work flourishing at Westminster and its community. "As I've observed the seniors, members of Student Council, and participants in school clubs this year, I've seen students delighting and investing in this community. In various personal conversations and classroom discussions, I've also seen them seeking to better align themselves with God's mission for their lives."

Whatever the class, the club, or the sport, everything points back to God and the gospel. Emily Dierking, who has been teaching art at Westminster for 14 years, believes that "God's beauty is everywhere. He loves us so much and shows that to us every day in the sunset, the leaves changing, the colors of the flowers, and so many other ways. I want [my students] to have the confidence and capacity to add to that beauty." As our students study chemistry, philosophy, literature, and mathematics, they learn to look for the grace of God and how they can be part of God's restoration work. The same is true for the language department.

Gina Meeks, Spanish teacher, says that she prepares and equips her students by "acknowledging the reality of similarities and differences in the way He created us, regardless of race, language, culture; thinking how we are so different in some ways and yet, loved equally by the same God." Mrs. Meeks' desire for her students is for them to have "teachable hearts and learn from those that are not the same as us." Our faculty desires to see our students learn about God so they can be a light in the world wherever God leads them. That is certainly the vision of Westminster—to provide an academically rigorous education centered on God's word to form the next generation of Christian leaders. ●

Growth, Faith, and Wisdom

Coming to a new school can be daunting. Getting around can be challenging, especially when it is an unfamiliar building. Trying to figure out the lunch process, lockers, hallways, and everything else a new school entails is stressful. It can be stressful, too, not knowing what your teachers or classes will be like. Seventh-grader Adam Koenig expected it to be difficult adapting to life as a middle schooler at Westminster. Where would his classes be? Would he be late trying to get around the hallways? “I expected Westminster to be so big that it would be hard to find my way around, and that I would mostly be independent with school,” says Adam. “Now that I’m a student here, it feels easy to navigate with the help of my teachers, and everyone cares for everyone no matter what.”

Graduating seniors stand on the opposite side though the emotions can be quite similar as they navigate what it means to leave high school and move on to the next stage of their lives. Their academic and spiritual growth stems from the community and environment they experience in school. Finding people to walk with you through good times and bad is essential.



Calvin Van Heest, senior, says, “one piece of advice I would give to a new student is to try and reach out and make an effort to make friends. When I first came to Westminster my sophomore year, I was mostly reserved, and it took a year for me to finally branch out.” Since then, Calvin has made numerous friends. In his own words, his only regret is “not reaching out earlier.”

Just as students are impacted by the relationships they form, they’re also impacted by the teachers, staff, and coaches they interact with daily. For Adam, his teachers have been a tremendous blessing. He says, “The teachers help me, support me, and care for me in and out of school. In every lesson they teach, it always points to God.”

A rigorous academic environment is essential for fostering scholars with a life-long desire for learning, and what makes Westminster and its community unique is everything points back to God’s word and gospel. Each student comes with unique gifts and talents, whether figuring out how to program on the Robotics team or sinking a three-point shot on the basketball court. They learn to use those gifts to glorify God through their relationships with faculty, staff, and each other.

Senior Elizabeth Clawson says it best. Thinking back on her time as a high schooler, she says that Westminster is “a place of joy and curiosity—truth and hope. It offers a truly rigorous education but also an intensely loving environment. For those willing to give it their all, for those who dare challenge their minds and spill their hearts, Westminster is a place of growth, faith, and wisdom. This school means so much to me because of the relationships I’ve formed and discoveries I’ve made here.” •



Equipping Students to Change the World

Atlantic coral and St. Louis, Missouri. The two do not seem to go together in any perceivable way, but the ocean and the midwest are heavily linked at Westminster. Ocean Discovery is an enrichment course for middle school students, and the moment the bell rings, the excitement is palpable.

“God has us working to help restore all that’s been broken,” says Mike Decker, Director of STEM. “We have people here trying to restore prairies, replanting trees, or restoring the rainforest, but very few are trying to restore the reefs.”

Within the past few months, Westminster became the first and only school in the world to receive a federal license to grow Atlantic coral. With this license, plans are in place to grow unique genetic samples to send to 20 different aquariums across the country that catalog and maintain coral in the unfortunate event that the world loses its natural coral reefs. What an incredible and beautiful way to restore the world through scientific research!

Mr. Decker’s goal for STEM at Westminster is to be a platform for students to see how what they are learning can be used for God’s kingdom: “[At Westminster], we want to be part of cutting-edge technology and movements and plug our students into these industries and organizations so they see that whatever they aspire to do, they can do. It doesn’t matter where you live or what you’re passionate about. You can help in God’s restoration work wherever it is on the planet.” →

MORE THAN

JUST A

CLASSROOM





Students in Western Civilization visited the Cathedral Basilica to “experience beauty in such a way that they feel it in their hearts and souls.”

As students think through complicated moral and philosophical questions about preservation, Mr. Decker connects God’s creation and His original design. Why do we need to protect the world God created? “The affirmation is seeing the fire in the kids,” says Mr. Decker. “It’s an [optional] enrichment class in conjunction with Westminster *YOU*, but they show up and want to know everything going on.”

Education is more than sitting in a classroom learning facts and practicing recitation. It is discovering real, practical ways to utilize what is learned in school. This is true of the STEM curriculum, but it is also a fundamental philosophy of other disciplines and studies at Westminster.

Early in the semester, the sophomores had the chance to leave the school on a field trip for their Western Civilization class to see the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis. More than simply being an opportunity to get out of the building for a bit, the trip reflects what Rev. Jacob Skogen, history teacher, desires for his students: to experience beauty in such a way that they feel it in their hearts and souls.

As Rev. Skogen says, “I think a lot of education is too between the ears. There’s not enough of putting our bodies in positions where we are literally responding to an inaudible message. To watch these kids walk into the Basilica, there is an immediate hush. Through art and architectural design, there are so many signals that say you are in another world. The building is speaking to them.”

Weeks later, sitting in class, as students began to think about Martin Luther in particular, Rev. Skogen asked them to draw connections to the past by referencing the trip to the Cathedral Basilica. He had them

put themselves in the historical space to better understand the motivations and reasons for historical events such as the Reformation, which would be much more difficult without the trip as a point of reference.

Having the opportunity to make these real-world connections between what students are learning in the classroom and what they can experience in the world outside of school is an invaluable aspect of Westminster’s educational philosophy of preparing and equipping students to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. Mindy LeVar’s Mock Trial class had an opportunity to go to the local courthouse in St. Louis to sit in on an actual trial this past semester.

The Mock Trial class allows students to work through what a legal trial looks like by assigning students to various roles, such as witnesses, plaintiffs, and defendants. Mrs. LeVar says, “When we’re here in the classroom, even though it’s Mock Trial, it’s still a classroom.” Having the opportunity to leave the school for a day and experience an actual trial allowed the Mock Trial students to “enter that sacred space of a courtroom where there are courtroom decorum expectations, judges, lawyers, and people facing the possibility of losing their liberty.”

The students worked throughout the semester to learn parts of the judicial system and courtroom proceedings, such as understanding witness examinations, when and how to make objections, and why the truth matters. But while their classroom trial is hypothetical, real people are going through legal situations. Mrs. LeVar wants her students to understand that truth matters because it matters to God. God calls us to righteousness, to love mercy, and to seek justice. It’s not a call for the future but for the

present, and it can be difficult at times for students to comprehend that what they are learning in their classes serves to equip them with the tools and knowledge to answer God’s call. The trip to the courthouse showed the students that there is a real-world application to their education.

We want our students to take their education seriously and find ways to utilize what they’ve learned to change the world; however, real-world application does not have to occur only when they graduate. There are opportunities for students while attending Westminster to apply their education. Pawprint Coffee, our coffee shop operating out of the Hub, is a great example.

Recently, the senior entrepreneurship class running Pawprint Coffee visited Kaldi’s Coffee headquarters in downtown St. Louis. Kaldi’s has been supplying Pawprint with ingredients and supplies since the coffee shop first opened in the school in 2017 and has been a crucial partner ever since. The trip to Kaldi’s HQ was fun and educational for our students. They learned more about where their coffee supplies come from and about pursuing sustainability, building relationships, and restoring the world through business.

Senior Megan Fuller said that what stood out the most to her was that “[Kaldi’s] stood by their core values in how they treat their customers and employees, and in the thought they put into the vibe of each restaurant location.” The seniors at Pawprint work hard to implement a similar workplace environment. Megan said that one of the most exciting things she noticed in Kaldi’s business model was that their “employees meet up once a week to brainstorm how to improve the flow of their business.” This is what the entrepreneurship class strives to implement in the classroom. →



The senior entrepreneurship class visited Kaldi's Coffee headquarters to learn where their coffee supplies come from and about pursuing sustainability, building relationships, and restoring the world through business.

For Reformation Day, the students worked on developing themed coffee ideas related to the holiday. What drinks would they offer? What names should they give the coffee orders? One student brought up allergy concerns. How can we protect students with allergies while providing a fun drink like the 95 Reese's (a play on Martin Luther's 95 Theses)? The seniors worked together to answer these questions, and on Reformation Day, the fun, new drinks were an instant success, with many requesting the drinks be offered year-round.

The trip to Kaldi's HQ allowed the seniors to see what makes a business successful and to figure

out what aspects of these models can be integrated with Pawprint. The entrepreneurship class, in turn, gives our seniors a real hands-on experience to practice everything they've learned and put it into action as they look forward to graduation and beyond. The success or failure of Pawprint Coffee depends on the students, and by giving them a practical opportunity to implement their ideas, they see how what they are learning in the classroom can engage and change the world.

The mission and vision of Westminster are to see our students thrive in a rigorous academic setting so that they are ready and willing to share their God-given gifts with a

world in desperate need of His love and mercy. By sending our students on trips to the Cathedral Basilica or local courthouse or providing them with a space to practice what they are learning, whether it is serving coffee on an early Monday morning or growing Atlantic coral, we are better equipping our students to live faithful lives and change the world for Jesus Christ. Christian education is more than just recitation and factual knowledge. It is about learning how to draw connections across multiple disciplines and curricula to seek restoration for our broken world. These trips and practical applications lead our students to a simple question: how can you be part of God's restoration here and now? •

Finding Hope Through Broken Hearts

AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON MICHAEL MILLER '90

Michael Miller '90 is the founder and Executive Director of the Micah Project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He began the ministry in 2000 as a way for street-connected youth to find freedom, family, and a future in Christ.

What are some of your favorite Westminster memories?

I loved the camaraderie of the cross country team, especially later in the season when we ran over fall leaves on cool mornings. I also loved being part of the spring musicals, either through playing a background role or being on the stage crew, especially *The Music Man*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The Sound of Music*.

How did your experiences at Westminster impact your relationship with Christ?

Westminster helped to form a biblical worldview that allows me to strive to live my daily life through the lens of His love and, when I fail at that, to fall back on His mercy and faithfulness, which is new every morning.

In what ways do you see God at work in your life? How are you engaging the world to change it for Christ?

More and more, I have seen how God channels His love through broken hearts. Many of our kids have lived lives on the streets full of addiction, trauma, abuse, and neglect. Some can never break out of that cycle and end up dying on the streets. Yet so often, I see God's love show up when they are at their darkest moment and lowest point. It is incredible to see how the broken heart of our Father continuously pursues their wayward hearts, even to the darkest places. I have been learning that to love these kids with our Father's heart, I am not to love them out of a sense of strength or superiority; rather, I am to love them with the broken heart of God.

What are your prayers for current Westminster students?

I pray they will see how God wants to use them to reach a fallen world with His love. I pray that God would put them on a path where they would learn to see how His power is made perfect in their weakness. As they prepare for college or whatever path they will take after high school, they should find a strong, biblical community of worshipers that can encourage them to continue to live a life sold out to Him. •





REFLECTIONS

A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

Halfway through the school year, we've had a few alumni events, with more to come! It started with Homecoming Weekend, where the classes of '92, '02 and '12 each held their respective class reunions. There were great turnouts for each class with lots of fun and fellowship. A big thanks to the alumni class representatives for their help in planning. Be sure to keep reading for pictures.

Westminster men's soccer alumni showed up for their annual game that same weekend. Despite the heat, an awesome group of guys enjoyed a fun pick up game. And many of you stopped by the carnival alumni booth to grab a free t-shirt and lunch. If you couldn't make it and would like a shirt, let me know!

Thank you to those who sent in updates for "Class Notes" on the following pages. I enjoy seeing how God has been working in your lives since you left Westminster. Even though you are no longer walking these halls, we continue to pray for you, our alumni community. It is a privilege to walk beside you through college graduations, new jobs, marriages, even starting a family. You may each be at different stages of life, but once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat!

Blessings,
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI NEWS



'86

Beth (Miller) Erman recently published an essay in a special issue of *The Common Reader*, a journal of essays published by Washington University in St. Louis. "The Material World of Modern Segregation" collects 17 essays investigating the racial histories of sites throughout the St. Louis region. Beth's essay, which stems from her 2017 master's thesis, focuses on Howard-Evans Place—the historic black neighborhood that was replaced by the Promenade at Brentwood.



'87

Steve Johnson was recently awarded a Heartland Regional Emmy Award for his drone photography work on the documentary *Pause the Game*. The documentary tells the story of the night the NBA shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Steve flew the drone inside and outside the Oklahoma City Thunder's stadium. This is Steve's first Emmy outside of television news and his first award as a drone pilot/photographer. He has previously won four Heartland Regional Emmys and one National Emmy. Steve and his wife, Cathy, live in Edmond, Oklahoma, with their two daughters.

'03

Brett Arndt was recently listed as one of St. Louis' "40 Under 40" by the St. Louis Business Journal. Brett's company, Experience Fresh, has seen tremendous growth each year since 2019. Experience Fresh is a full-service marketing agency focusing on advertising, brand strategy, and much more.



Rachel (Borage) Pratt, who has been battling Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma since December 2020, is doing well, and we ask that you join us in prayer for healing. She and her husband, Jonathan, live in St. Louis with their five children. They are blessed by the love and support of their community.



'05

Mike Rohlfing led Anonymous Productions in their 15th 48 Hour Film Project this August. Their short film, CHEATED!, won several awards, including Best Music, Best Cinematography, and 2nd place overall in St. Louis. A lighthearted musical about a boy grappling with cheating on a test, CHEATED! was produced entirely on Westminster's →

campus, and the cast and crew features many WCA alumni, current students, and staff. Alumni who participated included Daniel Hoover '05, Luke McGowan '06, Garrett Henry '07, Lisa Grove '08, Christian Meeks '15, Mark Geisz '19, Matthew Culligan '20, Hannah Stevenson '20, Sam Parker Stillman '21, Zibby Nolting '21, Logan Mann '21, Stewart Geisz '22, Xavier May '22, and Triston Scales '22. You can view the film online at cheatedmovie.com.



'07

Joanna (Haas) Hancock currently works at Westminster in the nurse's office. She lives in St. Louis with her husband, Adam, and their three children, Ezra, Micah, and Jonah.



'09

Jessica (Stamps) Cella graduated from Missouri Baptist University in 2014 with a degree in Health Science. She married William "Cole" Cella on Saturday, March 27, 2021. Rachel Wisdom '07 served as the maid of honor. The couple lives in St. Claire, and Jessica works for Mercy Hospital in Washington, Missouri.



'10

Olivia (Atkinson) Tran and her husband, Josh, recently welcomed their third child, Jonah. Ella and Micah love holding their baby brother! The Tran family lives in Yorktown, Virginia.



'11

Katherine Hickman recently started her own massage therapy practice, Sports & Family Chiropractic & Acupuncture. She loves working with athletes and individuals with chronic pain.

'12

Justine Doiron is a rising social media influencer (@justine_snacks) with nearly 450k followers on Instagram and over 2.1 million followers on TikTok. She is a creative and natural performer sharing fun and easy-to-do recipes. In September, she was highlighted on Good Morning America for her butter boards—a popular trend on social media boards—for creating an alternative to charcuterie boards. You can learn more about Justine at justinesnacks.com.



'14

Jenni (Jurgenson) Darby married her husband on June 18 this past summer. Morgan Koetting '14 was one of her bridesmaids.



'15

Madaline (Ross) Holder and her husband, Bradley, were married this past summer on June 4 in St. Louis. Sarah Broyles '17 was in the bridal party. Kaitlin Kittelson '15, Cory & Sydney (Stillman) Weinberg '15, Jake Broyles '20, Josh Broyles '20, and Gracie Adams '16 were also in attendance.

Steven Howell currently serves as the Strategic Development Director for Metanoia Prison Ministries in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He originally joined the ministry as an intern in 2017. The Metanoia Prison Ministry works to engage, educate, and equip the body of Christ for the discipleship, mentoring, and reintegration of prisoners.

Alumni:

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



'17

Brooke (Lemp) Cogan and her husband, Danny, were married this past summer. Both graduated from SLU in May 2021 and were married at the church on SLU's campus. Sydney Baum '17 and Victoria MacKoul '17 were in the bridal party. Brooke currently teaches upper school math at Westminster.

'18

Elizabeth Meeks graduated from the University of Kansas this past summer with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture. Elizabeth was one of only 16 students selected for the inaugural class in August 2018.



IN MEMORIAM

Michael Gerson '82 passed away on November 16, 2022, due to complications with kidney cancer. After graduating, he attended Wheaton College to study theology before going on to work for Prison Fellowship Ministries. Not long after, he began serving in Washington D.C., ultimately becoming the chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush. Not only did Michael write President Bush's post 9/11 speech, he also wrote several books and was a columnist for the Washington Post. Michael loved God deeply and lived to engage and change the world for Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing him again in God's Eternal Kingdom.

ALUMNI REUNIONS



Class of 1992, 30 Year Reunion



Class of 2002, 20 Year Reunion



Class of 2012, 10 Year Reunion

REFLECTING ON GOD'S GOODNESS TO WESTMINSTER

JIM MARSH, HEAD OF SCHOOL EMERITUS

I'll never forget February of 1985. I was serving as principal of Fort Lauderdale Christian School when I got a call from Rich Van Gilst, one of our former teachers. He was working in St. Louis at Westminster Christian Academy, and they were looking for a new Head of School.

At the time, I didn't know anyone in St. Louis except Rich and his wife, Judy, but I was interested. The interview process was intense, but I told my wife, if God opened the door, Westminster was a school I wanted our family to be part of. First and foremost, they were committed to Christian education, but they were also committed to *excellent* Christian education. God did open that door, and I was honored to serve as Westminster's Head of School for 28 years. It was the blessing of a lifetime to work alongside talented, strong believers and wonderful students and families.

At Westminster, there has always been a vision for excellence and a willingness to support new programs that required big steps of faith!

Our Learning Center emerged from those faith-filled steps, a decision that continues to enrich our community. New academic programs launched through the passion and expertise of gifted teachers and leaders. I also have a treasured photo with Greg Schoenberg after a football win against MICDS. We both have big smiles on our faces, surely thinking, "We've finally arrived!"

I'll always remember experiencing school with my three kids, Jeremy, Meri, and Becky, seeing the impact of their teachers, and building traditions like Friday breakfasts before school. Even then I would think, "What decisions do we need to make now to ensure Christian education is available to my grandchildren?" Well, today, I'm a proud grandparent of two Westminster students with more on the way.

Through God's providence, Westminster is still here, strong as ever, at a time when Christian education is more important than ever. While much has changed in the last 46 years, our mission, vision, and core values have not. Westminster continues to advance the Gospel and help students see the world through the lens of Scripture.

There were many points in Westminster's history that required faith and sacrifice to grow. Sometimes, it would have been easier to stay put or not take a risk, but those hard decisions continue to bless Westminster to this day.

My prayer now is that we would not think we have arrived or that this is the end of the story. We must always be willing to take bold steps of faith that enable Westminster to become better than it once was.

There is a time for reflection, but we must always look forward, eager to step into the plans God has for Westminster's future. •



*Jim Marsh with grandson,
James Marsh, 8th grade*



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A Look Back, 1988

*L to R: Andrew Shaw, Jim Marsh, Mark Hearne,
Marty Peters, Rich Van Gilst, Florence Lewis, Jim Drexler*