

BEN LIPPEN SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

HOMECOMING 2024

IT'S TIME TO PLAN YOUR CLASS REUNION!



Calling all alumni from classes ending in 4 or 9 –this is your reunion year! Some classes have already started planning their celebrations, and we encourage you to join in the fun. The alumni office is here to help you create a memorable and successful reunion. Reach out to us at alumniblse@benlippen.com for assistance. We can't wait to see you all on September 29!



CAPPING OFF THE YEAR

LET'S WELCOME BEN LIPPEN'S NEWEST ALUMNI TO THE FAMILY!

The Class of 2024 has officially leveled up to alumni status! As you step into this new chapter, know that you are now part of a vibrant network of Ben Lippen graduates who continue to make a difference in the world. Your hard work, dedication, and spirit have brought you to this milestone, and we couldn't be prouder. As alumni, you'll find countless opportunities to stay connected, support each other, and celebrate the shared legacy of our school. Congratulations, Class of 2024, and welcome to the Ben Lippen Alumni Family!

ENJOY THE GRADUATION RECAP BELOW!



Alumni Spotlight

LUANN WASHER WHITAKER '64 & MADDIE WHITAKER '24

The 2024 Ben Lippen commencement holds a unique significance for the Whitaker family. Maddie Whitaker is set to graduate almost 60 years to the day after her grandmother, Luann Washer Whitaker, walked across the stage in Huston Hall for her own Ben Lippen graduation ceremony.

“GOD USING BEN LIPPEN TO CREATE HEARTS TO SERVE THE LORD IS BEN LIPPEN'S MOST VITAL TRADITION.”

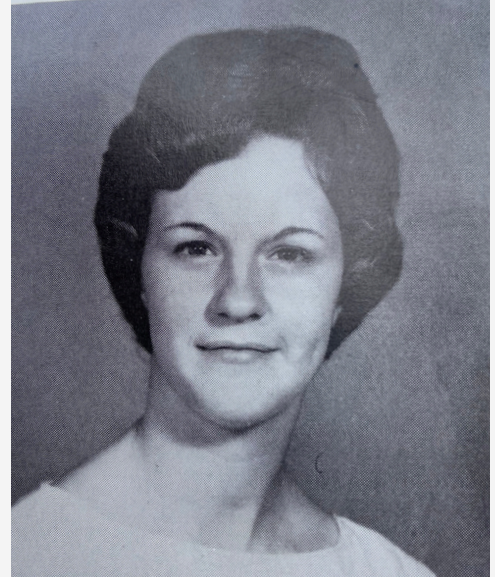
Luann, a '64 grad, grew up on the mission field and left her home in West Africa to attend Ben Lippen School in Asheville, NC, starting her sophomore year.

Having grown up in the desert, she recalls the transition to the school's mountainous setting as feeling like "going to camp on a mountaintop."

Among Luann's most cherished memories are the lifelong friendships she forged and her active involvement with Child Evangelism in Asheville every weekend. These experiences ignited her passion for education, leading to a fulfilling teaching career. As a student, Luann played basketball, participated in choir, and was particularly influenced by her math teacher, Mr. Hathaway, among many others.

Like her grandmother, Maddie is very engaged in the Ben Lippen community through her active participation in athletics, FCA, Younglife, and various student government positions. She concluded her senior year as the Student Life Prefect, demonstrating her leadership and commitment.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE WHOLE STORY](#)





Construction and Campaign Update: Blackwell Center for Life Impact

The demand for quality Christ-centered education has resulted in record enrollment at Ben Lippen, and we are busily preparing for the 1,200 students who will soon join us in PreK-3 through grade 12. While upgrades and enhancements are happening at each of our three campuses and our international boarding houses, our largest and most pivotal construction project is the Blackwell Center for Life Impact.

The Blackwell Center, situated at the turn from CIU's International Drive, will provide much needed space for academics, including eight classrooms, dual credit and study areas, and a seminar style hall. It's proximity to Hathaway-Weeber Stadium will elevate our parent and alumni events after hours. Lord willing, the Blackwell Center will be ready when school starts this August, and we can't wait for you to see it in person.

From its name to its special features, the Blackwell Center will recognize and point back to our rich heritage; eighty-five years of men and women answering God's call to pray, serve, and give so that young people could be educated from a biblical worldview. I am honored to play a small role in this tremendous legacy.

So many alumni, alumni parents, and former faculty and staff have given to this project, and I couldn't be more grateful. But we aren't done yet. I am looking for additional people who want to invest in the mission of Ben Lippen. Please reach out (Kelly.davis@benlippen.com or 803-260-1421) if that describes you. You can also set up a one-time or monthly recurring gift online by clicking [HERE](#).

Your prayers, gifts, and service to Ben Lippen School have an eternal impact on the lives of our students and teachers. Thank you.

Kelly Davis
Development Director

Alumni Spotlight

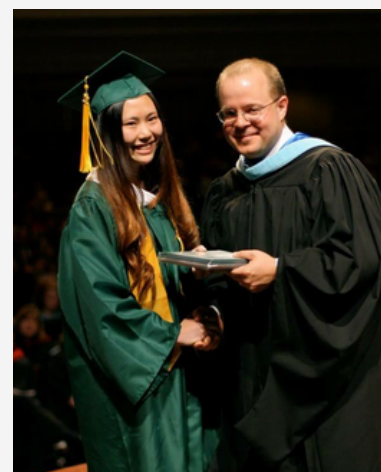
A JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

WENDY HE'S PATH FROM BEN LIPPEN TO HARVARD AND BEYOND

Wendy He's academic journey at Ben Lippen began in 2011, and she remembers it as a place that fostered her intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills. Her experiences set the stage for her subsequent achievements at prestigious universities such as the University of California Irvine (UCI), the University of Southern California (USC), and Harvard.

Wendy's decision to attend Ben Lippen was driven by her affinity for boarding schools. Reflecting on her time as a Falcon, she fondly recalls the weekly Chinese Bible studies, Winterim trips, and Spirit Week. These experiences were more than just extracurricular activities; they were integral to her personal and spiritual growth, helping her develop a well-rounded perspective.

The academic environment at Ben Lippen played a crucial role in preparing the **2015** alumna for her undergraduate studies at UCI. The school's excellent teachers and rigorous classes encouraged her to think critically about course content. This foundational skill proved invaluable as she navigated the challenging coursework in her undergraduate years.



Wendy's academic journey is marked by numerous accolades and hands-on research experiences. She received multiple Dean's Awards at both UCI and USC, and the prestigious Provost Award from USC, which is granted to graduating seniors with the highest scholarship average among all undergraduate transfer students.

In addition to her academic achievements, Wendy was actively involved in research labs. Her hands-on experiences ranged from conducting experimental studies using randomized control trials to examining the impact of facial muscle manipulation on pain tolerance. She also facilitated a study on the impact of professional training for teachers on elementary students' academic outcomes in rural China.



[CLICK HERE TO READ THE WHOLE STORY](#)



Homecoming 2024

PLAN TO JOIN US SEPTEMBER 29 FOR ALL THE FESTIVITIES!
 MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!



Senior Send Off



Building a Legacy



As we approach the end of the fiscal year on **June 30**, we call on the proud alumni of Ben Lippen High School to help us reach our near-term goal. We still need \$300,000 to ensure that the **Blackwell Center for Life Impact** is ready to welcome students in August and continue providing exceptional educational experiences for current and future students. Your support and gifts continue to enable Ben Lippen School to glorify God by educating students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. **We aim for this: young people equipped spiritually, academically, socially, and physically for a life beyond Ben Lippen School.**

**CLICK HERE
TO MAKE YOUR GIFT!**

Gifts of all sizes are needed and appreciated, and each one helps us better serve our students, teachers, families, and alumni.

There are several ways to pledge and give:

- Give yourself time and help us manage upcoming expenses by arranging a multi-year pledge. Pledges made before June 30 count toward our \$3M milestone and can be paid in installments over 2-4 years. Please email Kelly.Davis@BenLippen.com.
- Give an immediate gift or set up a recurring gift securely online by 11:59 p.m., June 30.
- Send a check to the Ben Lippen School Development Office, 7401 Monticello Road, Columbia, SC 29203, postmarked by June 30.

