

THE **CHRONICLE**

A PUBLICATION OF THE KING'S ACADEMY

FALL / WINTER 2026
VOLUME 69



**The Smith Family Conservatory
Performs at the White House**

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD
TKA HONORED FOR THIRD TIME

TKA ETHIOPIA
A GROWING VISION

TKA BUILDS 100TH HOME
IN CENTRAL AMERICA



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FALL / WINTER 2026 | VOL 69

IN THIS ISSUE

1 A Word from the President

ACADEMICS

High School

- 2 TKA Shines Bright:
Honored with Blue Ribbon Distinction
- 4 HS: A Flourishing Environment
- 5 Impact Leadership:
Developing Young Christian Leaders
- 6 Institute for Christ and Culture:
Apologia & Evening Forum
- 8 Developing Student Leaders
- 9 Women in Prayer:
Faithfully Standing in the Gap
- 10 Professor Denise Harle Engages
O'Keeffe Pre-Law First Amendment
Liberties
- 11 Engineering in Action

Middle School

- 12 Beyond Biblical Integration:
Christ at Work in Middle School

Elementary

- 14 All In With Childlike Faith
- 15 Mighty Lion Program

Non-Traditional Studies

- 16 A Global Home at The King's Academy
- 19 International Student Highlight:
The Cha Twins

Early Childhood Program

- 20 God's Faithfulness Through
Generations

SPIRITUAL LIFE

- 22 Nicaragua Missions Trip:
A Story of Hope & Home
- 24 MS/HS Spiritual Life
- 27 Grounded in God's Truth

STEWARDSHIP

- 28 TKA Ethiopia: A Growing Vision
- 31 Celebrating Generosity & Momentum:
Annual Giving Update

THE SMITH FAMILY CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS

- 32 TKA Jazz Shines at the White House
- 34 *The Prince of Egypt*
- 35 A Bold, Modern Adaptation of *Henry V*
- 36 *The Nutcracker*: Creativity Center Stage
- 38 *Christmas at Kings*
- 39 From Script to Screen

ATHLETICS

- 40 Fall/Winter Athletic Update

CAMPUS LIFE

- 46 A Growing Passion: The Rise of TKA
Pickleball Club

ALUMNI

- 48 Homecoming 2025:
A Celebration of School Spirit
- 50 Alumni Highlight:
Lieutenant Jacob Brodnick '17
- 51 The Grapevine
- 56 Honorary & Memoriam Gifts

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22



34

MISSION STATEMENT

The King's Academy exists to assist the home and church in their endeavor to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). Its mission is to share salvation through Jesus Christ and to graduate Christian leaders who seek to impact their world for the King of kings through academic excellence and spiritual vitality.

The King's Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its policies, admission policies, scholarship, and loan programs.



RANDAL L. MARTIN

PRESIDENT

THE KING'S ACADEMY
WHERE CHRIST IS KING

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

TKA Thrives Together

Dear TKA Family,

As I write, I am flying with outstanding TKA students, faculty, and staff en route to Nicaragua where TKA is partnering with Hope Project International to **build King's 100th home in Central America**. Over the next few days, our students will serve deserving families sharing not only physical shelter but the eternal hope found only in Jesus.

That same mission reaches beyond Central America to East Africa where King's and generous donors are establishing a **sister Christian school in Duguna Fango, Ethiopia**. Thanks to the TKA community, we are partnering with Streets of Hope to raise up the next generation of Christian leaders who will transform Ethiopia with the love of Christ. One hundred and fifty children now have the opportunity to receive an exceptional education in a once-forgotten community. Glory to God!

A contrast God so beautifully provided shows the power of moments such as these. Just weeks ago, our **TKA Jazz Ensemble performed in the East Room of the White House**, offering musical excellence and Christmas favorites in one of

the most recognizable seats of power in the world. This week, they and their classmates are serving those in greatest need.

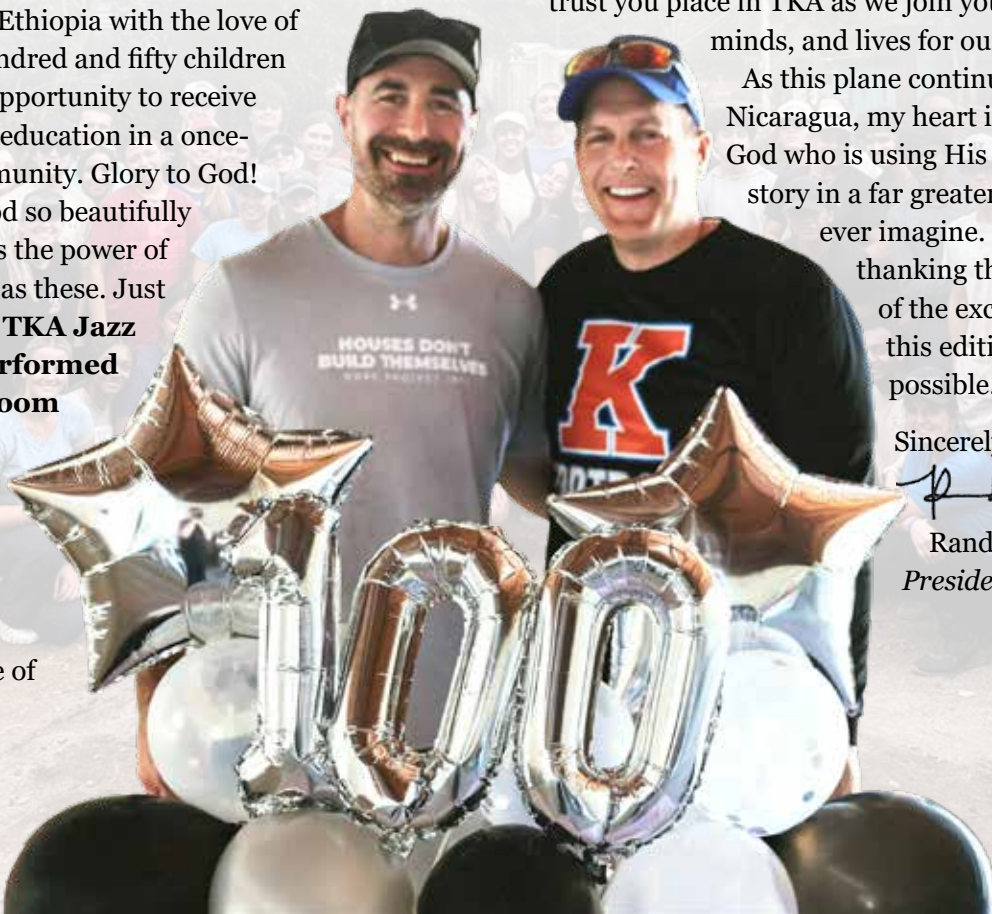
Whether standing before national leaders or beside a family awaiting a home, our calling is the same: to glorify God and proclaim the Good News of Christ's love. God's Word reminds us of our unchanging purpose: *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). TKA is doing exactly that!

Thank you to our parents, grandparents, and friends for your faithful prayers, support, and partnership with us to **"raise up a child in the way he [and she] should go"** (Proverbs 22:6). I am deeply grateful for the trust you place in TKA as we join you in shaping hearts, minds, and lives for our Savior.

As this plane continues toward Nicaragua, my heart is full of praise for a God who is using His school to write His story in a far greater way than we could ever imagine. Please join me in thanking the One who makes all of the excellence contained in this edition of *The Chronicle* possible.

Sincerely,

Randal L. Martin
President





DR. DOUGLAS RAINES

VICE PRESIDENT & HEADMASTER

TKA Shines Bright: Honored with Blue Ribbon Distinction

The King's Academy has once again achieved one of the nation's highest educational honors: the National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence from the Council for American Private Education (CAPE). This remarkable achievement which TKA also earned in 1986, 2014, and 2025 is not merely a plaque for the wall; it is a profound testament to 56 years of consistent, world-class education. This prestigious award places TKA among an elite group of the most successful public and private schools nationwide underscoring its commitment to academic rigor and comprehensive student development.

Our elementary school is comprised of a robust team of educators and support staff who work under the shared vision

of teaching the Gospel in Christ-centered classrooms. These exemplary educators demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning

as evidenced by their continuous efforts to hone their craft and adapt instruction to an ever-changing generation. Teachers spend countless hours breathing new life into foundational skills to make learning a relevant, hands-on engaging experience for their students. The care each member of the elementary team pours into nurturing students' hearts is a clear testament to the school's recent honor. With the dedicated intention of delivering standards-based lessons and providing enriching learning experiences for our students, it comes as no surprise that they would continue to excel on national assessments.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, established in 1982, has served as a



“We are so proud of the elementary program and our amazing teachers that make it all happen. With the changing landscape in education at the local and national levels, TKA continues to stand out as a school that teaches timeless truths and recognizes the incredible job done by teachers and students every day. We are excited to uphold the legacy of excellence in Christian education.”

— ADAM MILLER, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



national benchmark for excellence in education. The process is highly selective and competitive. Schools must be nominated by their state's top education official or, for private schools, by CAPE. The nomination is followed by a rigorous application

process where schools must demonstrate high student scores and effective teaching practices, strong administrative leadership, and significant community and family engagement. TKA was one of three private schools to receive

this honor in Florida and one of 55 in the nation. The honor validates the collective and sustained efforts of students, educators, staff, and families, affirming that TKA's comprehensive educational model is a national leader.



“Receiving National Blue Ribbon recognition is a true testament to the mission and vision of TKA. The gospel was a common theme woven throughout the entire application as we sought to give God all the glory for the excellence evident in our programming. TKA is truly a city on a hill that cannot be hidden!”

– ALEX ADAMS, ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



DR. DEBORAH RANTIN

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

HS: A Flourishing Environment

The 2025–2026 school year began with great excitement and has already exceeded expectations. From outstanding first-semester successes to exceptional academic achievements announced over the summer, including an impressive 92 percent AP exam pass rate which is well above the national average of 72 percent, we have much to celebrate.

Academically, TKA proudly recognized the accomplishments of our National Merit seniors including two National Merit Semifinalists and four National Merit Commended Scholars. In addition, eighteen students earned AP Scholar with Distinction honors, fifteen were named AP Scholars with Honor, and nineteen received AP Scholar recognition. The College Board also recognized twelve National Hispanic Scholars, four African-American Scholars, three National Indigenous Scholars, and four First-Generation Scholars. This year, students have further distinguished themselves by earning perfect scores on the PSAT/NMSQT as well as perfect sub scores on both the ACT and SAT.

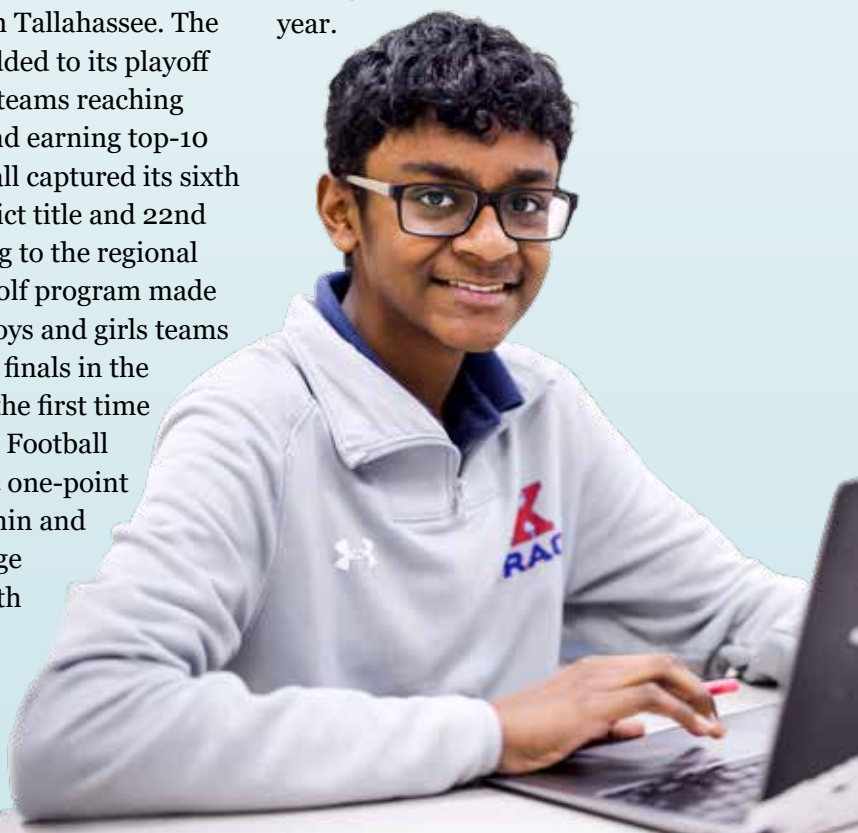
The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts program launched the school year with excellence and purpose. The season opened with *The Prince of Egypt*, a production deeply rooted in faith that offered audiences a powerful biblical story

through performance. The Jazz Ensemble received a prestigious invitation to perform at the White House, delivering one of its strongest productions to date. The Christmas program was equally impactful as students united to create moments that were both inspiring and memorable. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate concluding the year with the spring premiere of *Knights of the Old Republic*.

The Lions athletic department continued its tradition of excellence this fall with a record number of teams advancing to regional and state playoffs. Both cross-country teams advanced from district and regional competition to the state championships in Tallahassee. The swim program added to its playoff legacy with both teams reaching the state finals and earning top-10 finishes. Volleyball captured its sixth consecutive district title and 22nd overall, advancing to the regional semifinals. The golf program made history as both boys and girls teams reached the state finals in the same season for the first time in school history. Football secured dramatic one-point wins over Benjamin and American Heritage on its way to a fifth straight regional appearance. It was another

outstanding fall season for the Lions.

As we reflect on the many accomplishments of this first semester, we are grateful for the Lord's continued faithfulness in every area of our school community. From academic excellence to artistic expression and spiritual growth, each success points back to God's guiding hand and the commitment of our students, faculty, staff, and families. Galatians 6:9 reminds us, "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" We move forward with confidence and expectation, trusting that He will continue to lead and sustain us throughout the remainder of the year.





The IMPACT Leadership Program at The King’s Academy is a distinctive initiative designed to cultivate strong, character-driven leaders in grades 7-11. This program reflects the school’s mission “to graduate Christian leaders who seek to impact their world for the King of kings.” Students are selected for participation through nominations from faculty, administrators, and peers. Through IMPACT, emerging leaders are encouraged to recognize their identity in Christ, refine their leadership abilities, and begin influencing their school and communities in meaningful ways at a young age.

The program’s structure offers both depth and variety in leadership

IMPACT: Developing Young Christian Leaders

development. Each grade level participates in a combination of small-group sessions, large-group gatherings, mentorship experiences, and leadership interviews. These sessions include team-building activities, interactive lessons, and guided discussions led by TKA faculty members and guest speakers. Students have the opportunity to be

mentored by TKA faculty and staff members. In addition, each IMPACT participant is paired with a third-grade student, providing an opportunity to practice mentorship themselves in an authentic and meaningful context.

By providing a structured yet inspiring environment, the IMPACT Leadership Program shapes students who lead with integrity, humility, and confidence. Through curriculum-based learning, mentorship opportunities, and real-world leadership experiences, IMPACT develops a generation of young people prepared to step forward as influencers for Christ both today and in the years to come.

“As the IMPACT advisor, I have witnessed remarkable personal growth in so many of our students. Through honest reflection, they begin to recognize both their strengths and areas for growth and it’s clear that real, lasting change is taking place. It’s a true blessing to watch these students pursue transformation with such sincerity, impacting not only their own lives but also contributing meaningfully to the TKA community.” - HEIDI MARTIN '88



Apologia Mission Trip

In November, students from the Christian Leadership Program traveled to the University of Miami for the Apologia Trip, a missions experience designed to turn biblical teaching into hands-on training. The trip tapped into our students' curiosity and gave them the opportunity to explore their own faith while engaging directly with the competing worldviews they will encounter in college and in the

world.

During the trip, students learned clear reasons for why Christianity is true, wrestled with difficult faith questions, and practiced sharing the Gospel with confidence and grace within the real-world setting of a major university campus.

Students interacted with well-known Christian apologists such as Dr. Tim Stratton and Matthew Mittelberg. They also met with

skeptics including Bertha Vazquez, a leader in secular education and director within the Center for Inquiry, and Richard Suttles, an outspoken yet respectful atheist. These conversations gave students the rare opportunity to hear firsthand how skeptics think, what objections they raise, and how to navigate meaningful conversations with wisdom and respect.

“Why do we do this? Many young people struggle with or walk away from their faith during college. By giving our high-schoolers guided exposure to real-world challenges now, we are helping inoculate them against future doubts and preparing them to stand firm when they move off to college.” –

Dan Stuart, Director of ICC & CLPOD

“Probably the best experience in challenges and affirming my faith. I was surprised by how atheists think and where their beliefs are rooted. It was an amazing trip.”

– Shepherd Popadic '26

“Apologia was a great experience and an eye-opener. Having to defend your faith against atheists and college students really sets the tone for what we will face when we leave TKA. It pushed me to examine my beliefs from a different perspective. I did struggle, but now I see what I need to do to defend what I believe.” – Justin Crowley '26

“Our goal is to help our students find a ‘third way’ of engagement. The first way for many Christians today is to say nothing and not engage culture especially with those who think differently than us. The second way is to confront our culture in an ‘us versus them’ manner that can create hostility and animosity. Paul speaks of a third way in Colossians 4:5 when he writes, ‘Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.’ Over the past three years, I have heard testimony after testimony of students that have found this third way as they take themselves out of the TKA subculture and immerse themselves in an environment that might seem uncomfortable.” – Jerry Barrantes, ICC Team Member



Evening Forum

In an age defined by fragmentation, polarization, and the erosion of meaningful dialogue, the Evening Forum stands out as a rare and powerful counterexample as a space where people with profound disagreements can engage with reason, respect, and genuine goodwill.

That spirit was on full display as Dr. Tim Stratton and Richard

Suttles stepped into a spirited yet friendly debate on one of life's biggest questions: does the Christian God exist? What followed was not just an exchange of ideas but a compelling model of intellectual curiosity and civil discourse.

When the formal debate ended, the conversation didn't. Instead, it opened into an intimate Q&A that stretched long into the night.

Attendees lingered, wrestled with big questions, and leaned in eagerly. It was a clear sign that people are still hungry for truth, civility, and meaningful engagement. The Evening Forum is a tangible example of how TKA prepares students to lead with conviction and grace.



Scan to watch the Evening Forum

Debate: Does the Christian God exist?



“Events like this remind us that truth is not afraid of questions—and that respectful dialogue is the way forward in a culture saturated by division.”

– Dr. Tim Stratton,
Freethinking Ministries &
Trinity Theological Seminary



“I highly recommend King’s to any speaker who wishes to have serious academic discussions with Christian audiences. The evening changed the game for how people should engage with each other on controversial but important topics.”

– Richard Suttles, “The Fallen Ape-Theist,”
Counter Terrorism Analyst, USMC



Developing Student Leaders

SLU 201

This summer, twenty TKA students joined more than 1,000 students from across the country at Student Leadership 201 in Washington D.C. They learned how to be patriots who glorify the Lord through the way they think, dream, and lead while grounded at the feet of Jesus! They were challenged and inspired by speakers such as Senator James Lankford, Senate Chaplain Barry Black, Army Ranger Jeff Struecker (Black Hawk Down), and apologist & worldview expert Dr. Sean McDowell. They also visited the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, the Museum of the Bible, the Holocaust Museum, and the White House, bringing history, faith, and leadership together in a powerful way.



“I learned that I need to be more courageous and sacrificial. I don’t want to shrink back when God calls me to make important decisions. Like the soldiers of Normandy, I want to follow God even when I’m afraid or don’t understand, and I want to be able to sacrifice anything to bring Him glory.” –

Rachel Fader '26

SLU 301

Ten TKA high school students continued their leadership journey last summer by attending Student Leadership University 301 in Europe. Through visits to London, Paris, Oxford, and Normandy, they explored key historical sites and engaged deeply with the ideas and sacrifices that have shaped our world. From the philosophies of great thinkers to the legacy of courageous leaders, students were challenged to think beyond themselves and consider how they too are called to shape history and leave a legacy for Jesus.



“Together we explored iconic sites and uncovered powerful leadership lessons. We reflected on ideas like, ‘He who is not willing to be an heir does not deserve to be a pioneer,’ and ‘Great leaders must first be able to make great sacrifices.’ These students learned they are not just tourists—they are torchbearers.”

– Michelle Kolar, Director of Student Ministries

Women in Prayer: Faithfully Standing in the Gap

For the third consecutive year, a faithful group of women from The King's Academy faculty and staff has gathered each Monday after school with a shared purpose: prayer! Women in Prayer serves as a reminder that before stepping into their roles as teachers, staff members, and leaders, they are first called to be women who seek the Lord. These women count it a joy to lift our school before the Lord in prayer. Each meeting begins with a Scripture-based prayer theme allowing God's Word to center hearts and guide prayers. The group then enters a time of praise, reflecting on God's goodness and faithfulness, followed by a moment of silent confession before moving into intercessory prayer. Consistent prayers are offered for students,

teachers, staff members, parents and families, as well as for personal prayer requests.

Recognizing the spiritual battle present in today's world, these women faithfully pray for protection, discernment, and for the students entrusted to their care being mindful of the truth found in Ephesians 6:12 *"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."* God's presence has been evident as prayers are answered and hearts are encouraged week after week. This commitment to Scripture-led, united prayer was further strengthened when faculty members Kelly Raines and Jennifer

Marseille attended the Moms in Prayer 40th Anniversary Conference in May, returning renewed and inspired to encourage intentional prayer within our school community.

This weekly gathering provides a meaningful pause amid busy schedules reminding participants to center all they do on Christ and to realign their hearts with their calling as Christian educators. Guided by Scripture, the group is encouraged by Hebrews 4:16 *"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* Women in Prayer has become a place of spiritual support, unity, and growth, bringing joy, encouragement, and renewal to those who gather each week.



"As Philippians 4:6 reminds us 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.' Prayer remains our greatest source of strength and peace, and we are grateful for the privilege of seeking the Lord together on behalf of The King's Academy."

Professor Denise Harle Engages O’Keeffe Pre-Law on First Amendment Liberties

In December, The King’s Academy’s O’Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program of Distinction welcomed Professor Denise M. Harle to campus to engage pre-law students on timely and relevant constitutional topics. Professor Harle serves as the founding Director of the newly launched First Amendment Clinic at Florida State University College of Law. She also holds a position as Head of Conscience Liberty at the Institute for Governance and Civics (IGC), where she teaches courses in the FSU undergraduate program.

The visit provided students with a comprehensive understanding of First Amendment liberties and encouraged them to exercise those rights with conviction and courage. Professor Harle offered a biblical perspective consistent with the values of the O’Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program. Complex questions were presented by students about how to view and apply constitutional liberties such as free speech in a culture marked by “hate speech” and heated public discourse. She navigated these questions with clarity and

grace, imparting keen legal expertise tempered by Christian charity and wisdom.

One of the most notable moments of her lecture on “Free Speech for Future Lawyers” came when she challenged students to recognize that “the remedy for bad speech is more speech.”

Students were also inspired to explore new academic opportunities at FSU in the areas of constitutional liberties, civic discourse, and religious liberty.

Q&A WITH PROFESSOR HARLE

Valerie Londono, Director of the Pre-Law Studies Program, sat down with Professor Harle to dive a little deeper. Here’s a peek into their Q&A session:

Q: What is your vision for the First Amendment Clinic at FSU College of Law, and how is it progressing?

A: I see the First Amendment Clinic as a chance to combine two passions: defending constitutional freedoms and training the next generation of lawyers. I envision a program where students can gain meaningful, hands-on litigation experience while protecting the core rights of free expression. So far, we have seen tremendous interest from law students and undergraduates who are excited about advocating for fundamental liberties. We’ve also seen great interest from potential clients who we’ll be representing pro bono.

Q: How does your engagement at the undergraduate level work, and what excites you about it?

A: At the undergraduate level the IGC is deeply focused on civic education and preparing students to become thoughtful, capable citizens who can strengthen our constitutional republic. We pair education (like book clubs, course offerings, and our degree program) with research and programming which includes speakers and conferences.

What excites me most is watching students realize that civic education is practical, empowering, and it transforms society. They learn how to engage in conversations with diverse perspectives and not be afraid of dialogue which is crucial for effective citizens and responsible leaders.

Q: What advice do you have for TKA students interested in attending FSU?

A: My biggest advice for TKA students is to start adopting the intellectual habits that will serve them well in college and law school. Students who thrive are curious readers, careful writers, and analytical thinkers. They approach civic life with principled conviction and openness to learning.

For students interested in attending FSU my advice is to apply! Beyond that, they should have an open mind, ask questions, engage with diverse perspectives, and take advantage of opportunities that challenge them intellectually. They will get that kind of education here working with the IGC. They do not get that same dynamic at many other universities.

Q: How can TKA students support and pray for your work at FSU?

A: This clinic was truly the product of God giving me a vision and opening doors. I would be grateful for prayer that we have favor in court as we defend our clients’ precious freedoms, that some of our students would choose to go into public-interest First Amendment law full-time after graduation, and that we would be able to obtain the funding to sustain and grow the clinic. Since the university does not fund the clinic, we rely fully on outside donors’ generous support.



Engineering in Action



Junior Preston Kakuk turned an idea into a tangible solution. He designed and created a 3D-model of a protective cover for TKA's emergency call buttons located throughout campus. His design originated as part of his application for the DiMino Engineering & Technology Scholarship where students were asked to propose a design solution to a real-world problem.

Emergency buttons are essential for campus safety, but they can be triggered accidentally causing false

alarms. Preston's solution addressed this problem directly as he designed the cover and built a working prototype. The cover attaches to the front of the panel, recessing the buttons, which significantly reduces accidental activations.

Recognizing the potential of Preston's idea, Mr. Davis, Director of the DiMino Engineering & Technology Program, submitted the project to the King's Corner Grant Program for funding. The grant was approved and the protective covers

have since been installed across campus due to Preston's innovative work.

The King's Corner Grant Program is a collaborative initiative between the Business Program of Distinction's King's Corner Coffee Shop and The King's Investment Club. Revenue from King's Corner is invested in the stock market, and the returns fund grants for projects like Preston's, directly supporting student innovation at TKA.



JOHN RAINES

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Beyond Biblical Integration: Christ at Work in Middle School



This year, TKA's middle school experienced remarkable growth and transformation. Each month our team met to read and discuss *Beyond Biblical Integration* by Roger C.S. Erdvig, a book that challenges Christian educators to move beyond surface-level integration and embrace a Christ-centered worldview across every subject. Its vision is clear; God's character, creation, truth, and redemptive plan woven into every area of learning.

Our teachers embraced the challenge wholeheartedly. They anchored themes of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration across literature, science, history, and classroom discussions. Students saw God's story was not confined to Bible class but was present in every subject. Learning became worship when viewed through the lens of scripture.

The impact was obvious. Teachers posed deeper questions, guiding students to think biblically instead of memorizing answers. They embodied what the book calls a "living curriculum," modeling Christ-centered thinking every day. Spiritual vitality flourished as twenty students professed faith for the first time during our grade-level retreats. In chapel we saw an overflow of worship, prayer, and engagement. Students lingered afterwards to connect with speakers and dig deeper into God's word.

There is also a growing hunger for Scripture extended beyond chapel.

While *Group 3:16* remains a favorite, new teacher-led Bible studies have also formed during lunch and after school drawing students who are eager to open God's Word, ask questions, and grow in their faith. Classrooms echoed this movement as students asked faith-based questions, made biblical connections, and demonstrated Christ-like leadership. This transformation reflects the vision of *Beyond Biblical Integration*: spiritual formation that affirms Christ is at work in every aspect of our lives.

Students are responding to the Gospel, demonstrating spiritual curiosity, and taking ownership of their faith. They are encouraging one another, sharing what they are learning, and participating in worship. We are humbled to play a small part in what God is doing.





The King's
Academy



ADAM MILLER

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

All In With Childlike Faith

Jim Elliot was a missionary whose devotion to taking the Gospel to unreached peoples in Ecuador ultimately cost him his life in 1956. He once said, *“Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt in every situation you believe to be the will of God.”* Elliot’s life reflected a faith that was fully committed to, not just convinced of, God’s calling.

The challenge to be all there and live fully is one we all face. Life’s distractions can easily derail even the best intentions. Elementary students, however, approach each day with childlike faith, awe, and wonder, the very qualities Jesus described as essential to entering the Kingdom of Heaven. At The King’s Academy, faculty and staff nurture these qualities through fun, engaging activities. What adults might see as playful, or even trivial, is exactly what leaves a lasting impact on the students’ hearts.

This mindset of wholehearted engagement has sparked new traditions. A spontaneous moment at last year’s yearbook assembly, with students singing and dancing along to Forrest Frank and Brandon Lake,

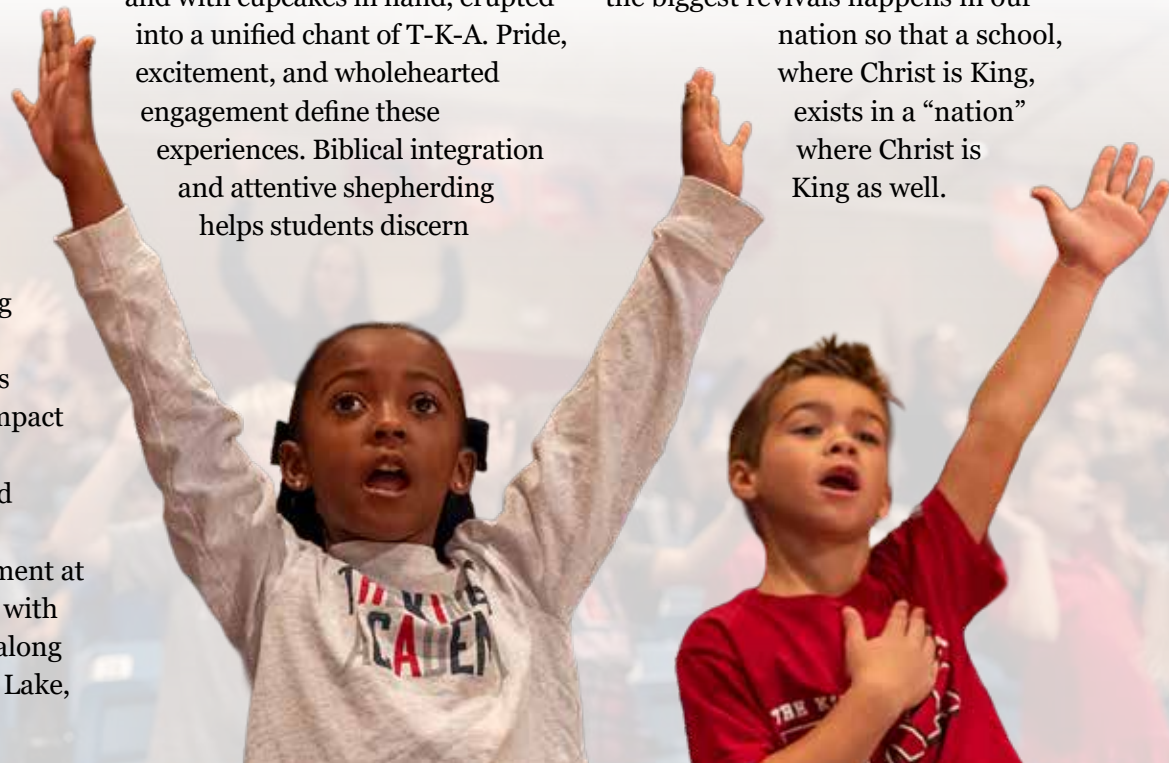
led TKA Headmaster Dr. Douglas Raines to schedule additional times of praise and worship alongside weekly chapels. The result was more than 700 elementary students, faculty, staff, and administrators filled the Loveland Athletic Center to lift their voices in joyful and energetic worship.

Other spontaneous celebrations have become memorable moments as well. Students gathered in The Smith Family Café to mark TKA’s third National Blue Ribbon Award and with cupcakes in hand, erupted into a unified chant of T-K-A. Pride, excitement, and wholehearted engagement define these experiences. Biblical integration and attentive shepherding helps students discern

God’s will for their lives, and when they are confident in that calling they are encouraged to go all in.

Sam Walton, co-founder of Walmart, carried a keychain that read “Go for It.” Walton’s faith influenced his approach to life and business and that mentality helped him build one of the world’s largest retailers in the world. At TKA, we challenge students to be fully present, pursue their passions wholeheartedly, and embrace God’s calling. Our prayer is that one of the biggest revivals happens in our

nation so that a school, where Christ is King, exists in a “nation” where Christ is King as well.



“I am always so moved when I see children openly worshipping God. We are blessed to be in a place where this is common but never ordinary. There is just nothing comparable to being surrounded by children enthusiastically praising the Lord. It is everything.”

Mighty Lion Program

Do you remember running a timed mile in elementary school? Do your hamstrings tighten as you recall how far you could stretch during the classic sit-and-reach test? And, of course, the ultimate measure of strength and respect—the number of pull-ups you could perform under the watchful eyes of your PE coach and your classmates. Whether you look back fondly or apprehensively on the Presidential Fitness Test, most of us carry lasting memories from that rigorous rite of passage. These challenges shaped resilience, and while many may be surprised to learn that the Presidential Fitness Test was quietly discontinued in 2012, its legacy remains strong.

Long before an executive order was issued to reestablish the program, TKA's coaches, teachers, and administrators were already working to develop a modernized version tailored specifically to our school community. Grounded in current physiological research, the traditional exercises and standards were thoughtfully updated to reflect age-appropriate and relevant metrics. The result was a school-wide initiative enriched with Biblical principles, character development, and consistent language and movement standards across grade levels.

Kindergarten students now run a quarter-mile for time, while middle and high school students focus on improving their mile performance. New pull-up bars—installed at

varying heights near the track—ensure that students from kindergarten through 12th grade have equitable access. Our youngest Lions build foundational strength by simply hanging from the bar for as long as they can, preparing them to eventually perform pull-ups as they grow.

At the heart of the Mighty Lion Program is a truth that extends beyond athletics: the Bible places all things in their proper perspective. First Timothy 4:8 reminds us, *“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”* Physical fitness matters, but it is temporary; character and spiritual formation endure.

PE classes at The King's Academy begin with prayer and intentional instruction. Values such as humility, integrity, friendship, teamwork, and honesty are taught and then practiced in every exercise, activity, and competition. The real-world application of these virtues becomes evident in daily interactions both inside and outside the gym.

The lessons many of us learned through PE and sports have stayed with us long after school ends. Through the Mighty Lion Program, our goal is to ensure that today's students grow not only in physical strength but also in spiritual maturity. Together, these form the foundation of the resilience, discipline, and God-honoring character we hope to instill in every Lion.





CHRISTINE SOWERS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

A Global Home at The King’s Academy

At The King’s Academy, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom. For our international students that journey begins with a welcoming home environment designed to provide both comfort and community. Through our dynamic Residential Life Program, which includes both homestay and off-campus dormitory options, students from around the world experience TKA’s academic excellence, Christ-centered values, and the warmth of a caring family community.

THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE: FAMILY, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION

TKA’s homestay program offers international students the meaningful opportunity to live with carefully selected local families who share the school’s values and commitment to student growth. Each host family provides a nurturing and supportive environment where students can improve their English, experience American culture firsthand, and build lasting relationships that often extend well beyond graduation.

Homestay students don’t simply live in a house they become part of a family. They share meals, holidays, and daily routines

with their host parents and host siblings whether they are the natural children of the family or other international students living in the home. These relationships often grow into lasting friendships and bonds creating a second family that cheers them on through milestones, accomplishments, and seasons of life.

Alongside the comforts of a family setting, home-cooked meals, shared traditions, and daily encouragement, students also gain independence and responsibility. Host parents provide

guidance, accountability, and care that help them thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

Families who open their homes play an integral role in shaping TKA’s global community. The connections formed through the homestay experience bridge cultures, broaden perspectives, and create a lifelong network of support. For many students, their host family becomes a treasured part of their story—a home away from home that they carry with them wherever they go.



“Our family was blessed to host a student from Japan who arrived during her sophomore year. As she graduates, we reflect on the meaningful memories and relationships we built. The bond our children formed with her exceeded our expectations, and we are grateful that God used this experience to strengthen our faith, overcome fears, and deepen our love.” – TOMOMI AND MARK SIMMONS



THE DORMITORY EXPERIENCE: INDEPENDENCE IN A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

The King’s Academy’s boarding program provides a warm, family-style living experience that sets it apart from the large, institutional dorms common at many boarding schools. Each TKA dorm is thoughtfully designed to create a close-knit community, offering personalized care and the natural routines of home life. In spacious off-campus houses, six students share a comfortable home that serves as an extension of the TKA campus.

At the heart of each home are the caring and experienced dorm parents who provide consistent guidance, structure, and encouragement. They celebrate birthdays, host dinners, pray with students, and navigate everyday moments that become

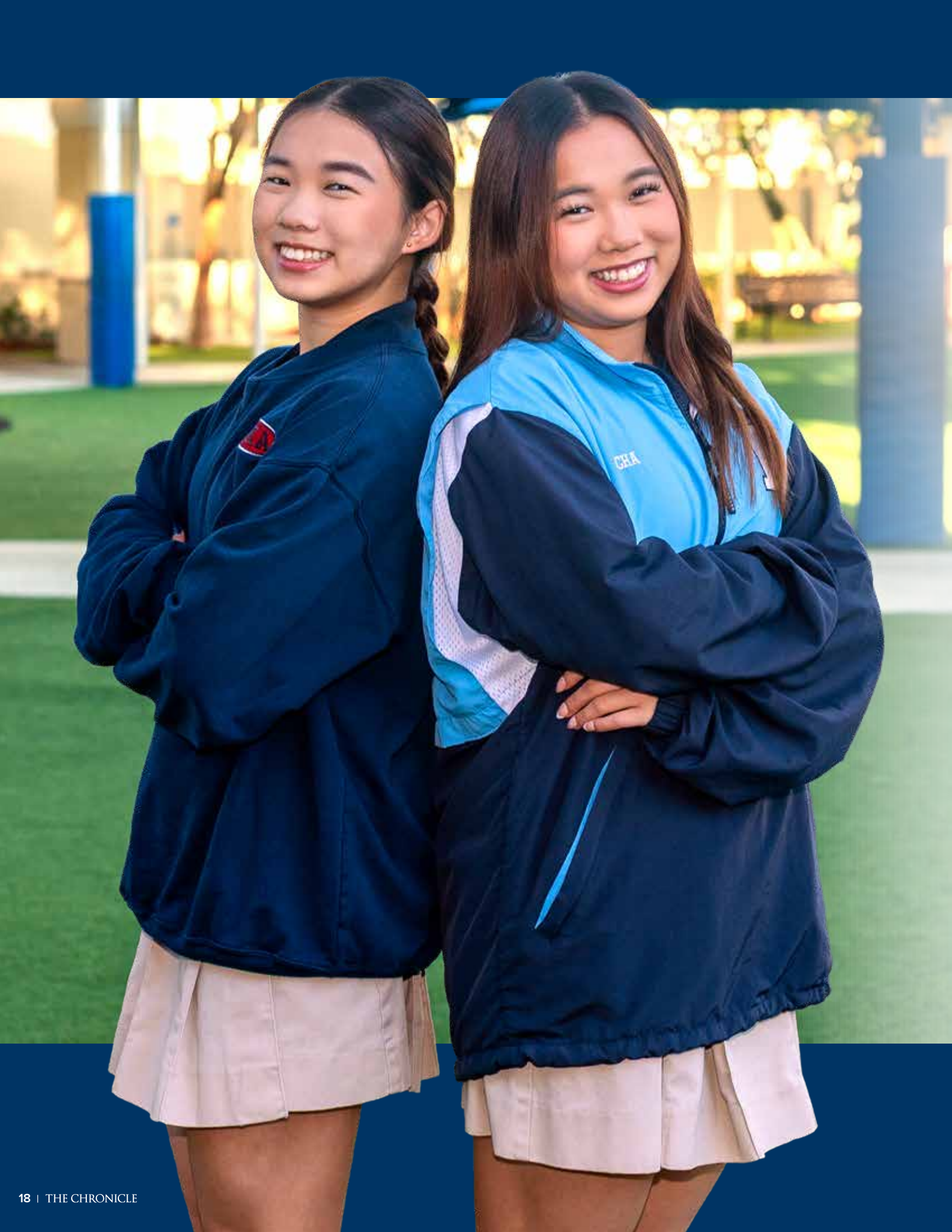
cherished memories. Their presence creates a steady foundation, and the relationships formed often continue far beyond graduation. Many students return during school breaks simply to visit their dorm parents, while dorm parents proudly attend graduations and future milestones as part of the students’ extended family.

Students also form deep and lasting bonds with each other. Living, studying, and growing together through the ups and downs of high school fosters friendships that feel more like sibling relationships. These connections stretch across cultures and continents, creating a shared experience that unites students long after they leave TKA. Boarding homes are often described as “family-style”

for good reason: students laugh, learn, and live together in ways that shape who they are and who they become. This intimate, home-centered model allows students to grow in independence, build lifelong friendships, and thrive, academically and personally, while feeling genuinely cared for as part of the King’s family.

TKA’s commitment to global education ensures that students from diverse backgrounds not only receive a world-class education but also gain a second home—one that nurtures their faith, fuels their ambition, and prepares them to lead and serve in an increasingly connected world.

“My roommates and I spend a lot of time together, hanging out, talking, or just relaxing after a long day. We support one another and share both our happy moments and our struggles. Living together, we have become more like a family than just roommates. The food in our dorm is excellent—everything is home-cooked and always delicious which makes everyday life feel warm and comforting.” – ERIC JIN, CHINA



Charlotte & Chanelle Cha

Lok Tung “Charlotte” Cha and Lok Yee “Chanelle” Cha, twin sisters from Hong Kong, joined The King’s Academy in eighth grade. As they prepare to graduate, they reflected on what they have learned, how they have grown, and what they will carry forward from their years at TKA.

Their family’s decision for them to attend high school in the United States came naturally. Both parents had studied in the U.S. and when their father watched the valedictorian address delivered by Kyle Martin ’19, he knew they had to visit. When they toured TKA’s campus, the girls were drawn to Florida’s sunshine; their parents were drawn to TKA’s vision and academic excellence. The first year, however, was not what they expected. They described feeling overwhelmed by a new culture, language, and school environment, and underwhelmed by the reality that life in America wasn’t the “High School Musical” they once imagined. Building friendships, understanding coursework, and adjusting to a new country took more time and courage than they anticipated. By ninth grade, they knew they had to take ownership of their experience. They joined various electives such as technical theatre, dance, and band where they could meet students with shared interests. They also served on the International Leadership Council eager to help new international students navigate the same challenges they had overcome. They found community in these spaces, developed lasting friendships, and discovered that belonging is built through effort, service, and participation.

CHARLOTTE’S CONTRIBUTIONS

Charlotte has served on the technical theatre team for four years and helped bring our stage to life during large-scale musical productions and danced as a key ensemble member in every show, sharing her passion for the arts and mentoring younger students who now look up to her. As a result of her dedication to the Conservatory, she will graduate with The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts distinctions in both Theater Arts and Dance Arts. Her dedication extends beyond the stage. Charlotte has completed 390 hours of community service and has been an integral member of the King’s Corner team, King’s Service Organization, a Titus II mentor, and a member of various honor societies. Her creativity, attention to detail, and leadership is evident in every area she

serves and reflects the excellence TKA strives for. Her favorite experiences during her five years at TKA include *Prince of Egypt*, the mission trip to Nicaragua, prom, and Sage dining. Charlotte plans to pursue elementary education where her joy and compassion will continue to bless young learners.

CHANELLE’S CONTRIBUTIONS

Chanelle has also been a member of the technical theater class for the last four years. From building sets to perfecting costumes, she has been a faithful steward of the Conservatory’s work behind the scenes contributing more than 500 hours to the success of the program. In addition to her theater work, Chanelle pursued her love of music as a clarinetist in the TKA band, showcasing both discipline and artistry in performance. As a result of her hardwork and dedication, Chanelle will graduate with The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts distinctions in both Theater Arts and Instrumental Arts. Beyond the arts, Chanelle has also faithfully served with the King’s Service Organization, as a manager of the King’s Corner coffee shop, and is a member of various honor societies. Her favorite memories at TKA include the Philadelphia trip, the theater production of *Big Fish*, and Sage dining. Her leadership is grounded in kindness, humility, and the ability to see and care for others. She plans to pursue architectural engineering allowing her creativity, precision, and heart for service to continue to shine. Chanelle approaches every task with integrity and care and those qualities, paired with her artistic gifts, will undoubtedly shape her future work and the lives she touches.

Charlotte and Chanelle have poured far more into the TKA community than they ever could have anticipated when they first arrived through hours of service, hundreds of rehearsals, countless behind-the-scenes responsibilities, and the immeasurable joy they bring to others. They have grown remarkably from the quiet, uncertain 8th graders who first stepped onto campus to the strong, confident seniors they are today. Their years at TKA have shaped them into young women who lead with compassion, serve with purpose, and strive for excellence in all they do. As graduation approaches, they leave a legacy of faithfulness, artistry, and love for this school community, a legacy that will continue to bless those who follow.

“Charlotte and Chanelle Cha set the standard for what it means to be a TKA Theatre artist. Their leadership is exceptional, their work ethic unmatched, and their artistry truly superior. They didn’t just participate in the program, they shaped it. TKA Theatre would not be what it is today without their enduring legacy.”

– KYLE SCHNACK, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



DR. NATASHA SMITH
EARLY CHILDHOOD PRINCIPAL

God's Faithfulness Through Generations

The 2025–2026 school year is well underway, and God is once again displaying His faithfulness at The King's Academy Early Childhood Program. From the very first day, His goodness has been evident in the joyful laughter of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the continued trust of our families, both new and returning. We launched the school year with a visit from ventriloquist Tony Lee, who delivered a joyful, interactive puppet show centered on the love of God with a message that set a beautiful tone for the months ahead. We celebrated Community

Helpers Month in October, inviting parents into our classrooms to share their careers and the ways they serve the world around us. Their stories provided students with real-life examples of kindness, responsibility, and community impact. Our Christmas program closed the semester as our youngest Lions glorified God and celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus through song. What a joy it was to hear our students' little voices and big hearts proclaim the true meaning of Christmas. Witnessing parents beam with pride as their children took the stage was a heartfelt and

unforgettable moment for our ECP family.

God's faithfulness has also been evident in the incredible influx of new families joining our early childhood community. We have welcomed many first-time TKA parents who are beginning their educational journeys with us, and we have had the joy of reconnecting with families who have entrusted older siblings to our program in years past. This blend of fresh beginnings and familiar faces has created a beautifully vibrant, deeply connected, and thriving ECP family.





ALUMNI FAMILIES AT ECP

We also witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of children of TKA alumni now enrolled in the ECP. These children carry more than lunch bags and nap mats; they carry legacy. They are the sons and daughters of alumni who once filled TKA's halls with laughter, curiosity, and dreams and now walk our halls as moms and dads in the place that helped shape their own childhood. Now, a new generation of preschoolers paints, prays, and plays under the same Christ-centered values that anchored their parents

years ago.

For many alumni families, enrolling their children at The King's Academy ECP is not simply a sentimental choice; it is a strategic investment. Having experienced a TKA education firsthand, they deeply understand the lasting return it provides. Alumni often speak of the unique blend of spiritual grounding, academic excellence, and character development that shaped their own lives and prepared them for success long after graduation. Now, as parents, they are eager for their children to be formed by those same

values and opportunities.

As we look ahead, our hearts are full. God is doing something extraordinary at the ECP. With every new family we welcome, every alumni legacy we celebrate, and every child we nurture, we are reminded that this is sacred work that is near to God's heart. We remain committed to partnering with families, honoring the legacy of those who came before, and sowing seeds of faith, character, and excellence into the lives of the next generation of Lions.

The ECP has 25 alumni parents making up 19 alumni families (some with both parents being alumni). Not all pictured.



"I Can't Believe It": A Story of Hope & Home

For the past nine years, The King's Academy has partnered with Hope Project International to build homes for families in need in Central America. Through this partnership, TKA students have helped construct safe, lasting shelters while also sharing the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ. This year marked a significant milestone as TKA built its 100th home.

In January, two teams of 10th through 12th grade students, accompanied by faculty and staff chaperones, traveled to Nicaragua with 50 students on the first team and 48 on the second. Throughout the trips, students spent their days building homes while also forming meaningful relationships and offering prayer, encouragement, and hope to the families they served.



Susan Jarquín



"What stood out most was how quickly the family thanked God for providing. Though we helped build the house, we were simply ambassadors of the Lord witnessing His faithfulness. God is our true provider and He answers prayers." ~ Joel Person '27



For the families receiving these homes, the impact is life changing. Susan Jarquín, a 40-year-old single mother, still struggles to find the words to describe what this gift means to her family.

Over and over again, she repeated the same phrase: “I can’t believe it.”

Susan has lived in the Cristo Rey community with her children Tatiana (20), Kimberly Paola (13), Sara (9), Nahum (3), and Mateo (2), as well as her young grandson for seven years. The family shared a tiny home with only one bed and

as the children grew, space became increasingly limited. Eventually, Tatiana and her son were forced to move out. With no financial support from the children’s father, Susan carried the full responsibility of providing for her family on her own.

When Susan learned that both she and her daughter Tatiana would each receive a home located next to each other, her reaction was one of disbelief and overwhelming gratitude. *“When the pastor gave me the news, I couldn’t believe it,”* Susan said. *“My family is very big. In that moment, my heart was filled with joy because I saw how God answered such a great need that, for*

me, was impossible.”

These new homes represent security, dignity, and opportunity for families like Susan’s. For her, this home means her children now have a safe place to live and a better quality of life.

As TKA students returned home, they carried with them more than memories of construction work. They witnessed firsthand how faith expressed through service meets real needs and changes lives. For Susan and her family, this gift was nothing short of answered prayer and a powerful reminder that God sees, provides, and cares deeply for His people in all places.

“Helping build a home for a single mom and her baby filled me with overwhelming joy. This trip showed me what God can do through me and made me excited to see how He will use me in the future.” ~ TeeTee Rasmussen '28

MS/HS Spiritual Life

From Athlete to Advocate

Standing Ovation for Chris Norton

Chris was living his dream, playing college football his freshman year at Luther College when his life changed in a split second. After kickoff, Chris ran down the field and collided head-on with another player. When he tried to get up, he realized he couldn't move a single muscle. No matter how hard he tried, his body remained still. Trainers rushed to his side and eventually placed him on a stretcher. In that moment, Chris knew something was terribly wrong. *"I had seen countless athletes carried off the field throughout my years of playing and watching football, and they always gave a wave or a thumbs up to the cheering crowd. But when I tried to do the same, I couldn't even lift a finger. That is when I knew I was seriously injured."*

The next day, Chris received devastating news from the doctor when he was told he had a three percent chance of ever moving anything below his neck again. Refusing to accept this as his future, Chris became determined to beat the odds. Through relentless hard work and persistent prayer, he began to regain movement and strength in his arms and legs.

Since his injury, Chris has not only surpassed every physical expectation set before him, but he has also impacted more than 400 million lives with the Gospel. His story is featured in the documentary *7 Yards* on Amazon Prime and Apple TV which highlights his goal of walking his bride seven yards down the aisle at their wedding. Chris is also the author of two bestselling books, and he and his wife Emily have fostered more than 23 children, five of whom they have adopted. He founded a free wheelchair camp and continues to change lives around the world for Jesus.

TKA students, deeply moved by Chris' powerful testimony, rose to their feet in a roaring ovation.

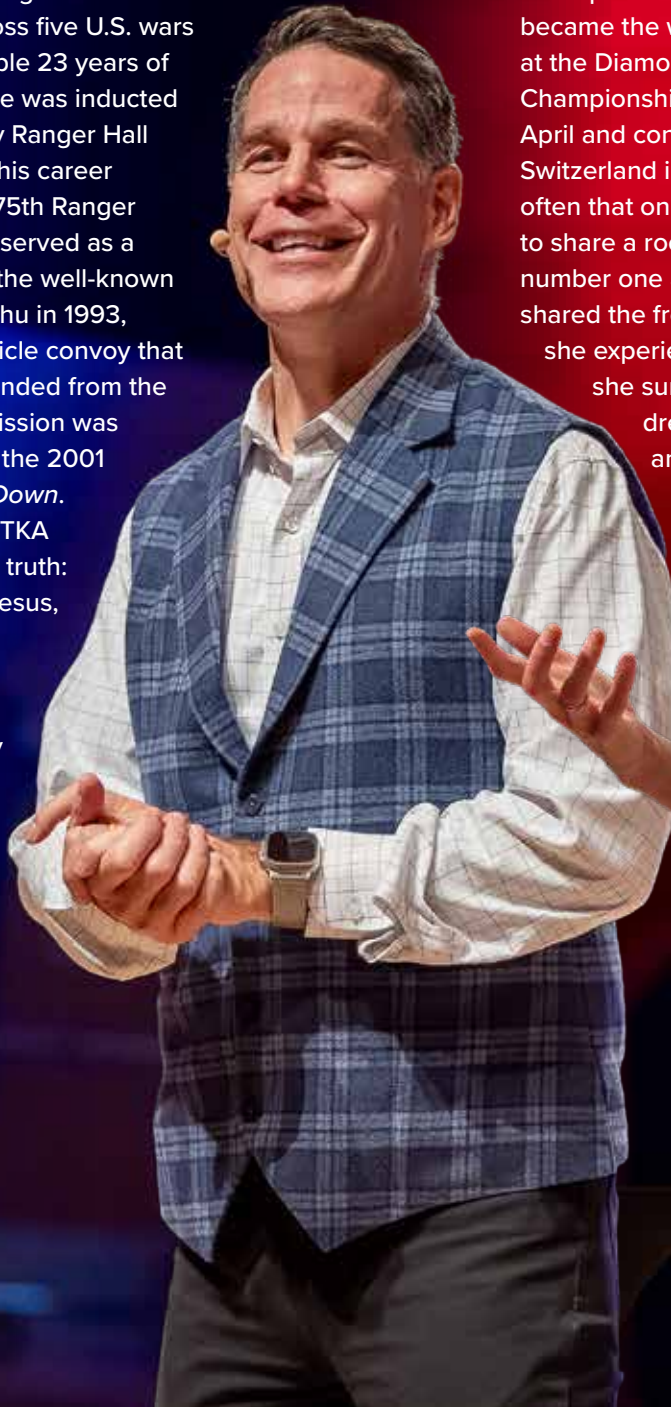


Black Hawk Down Sergeant Wasn't Afraid to Die

As a young boy, Jeff Struecker was crippled by a fear of dying. He didn't grow up in a Christian home or attend church, and his parents were often unable to answer his questions about death, the afterlife, and the meaning of life itself. In high school, a friend convinced him to join the army, and Jeff soon realized that his decision was largely driven by a desire to finally overcome his fear of death.

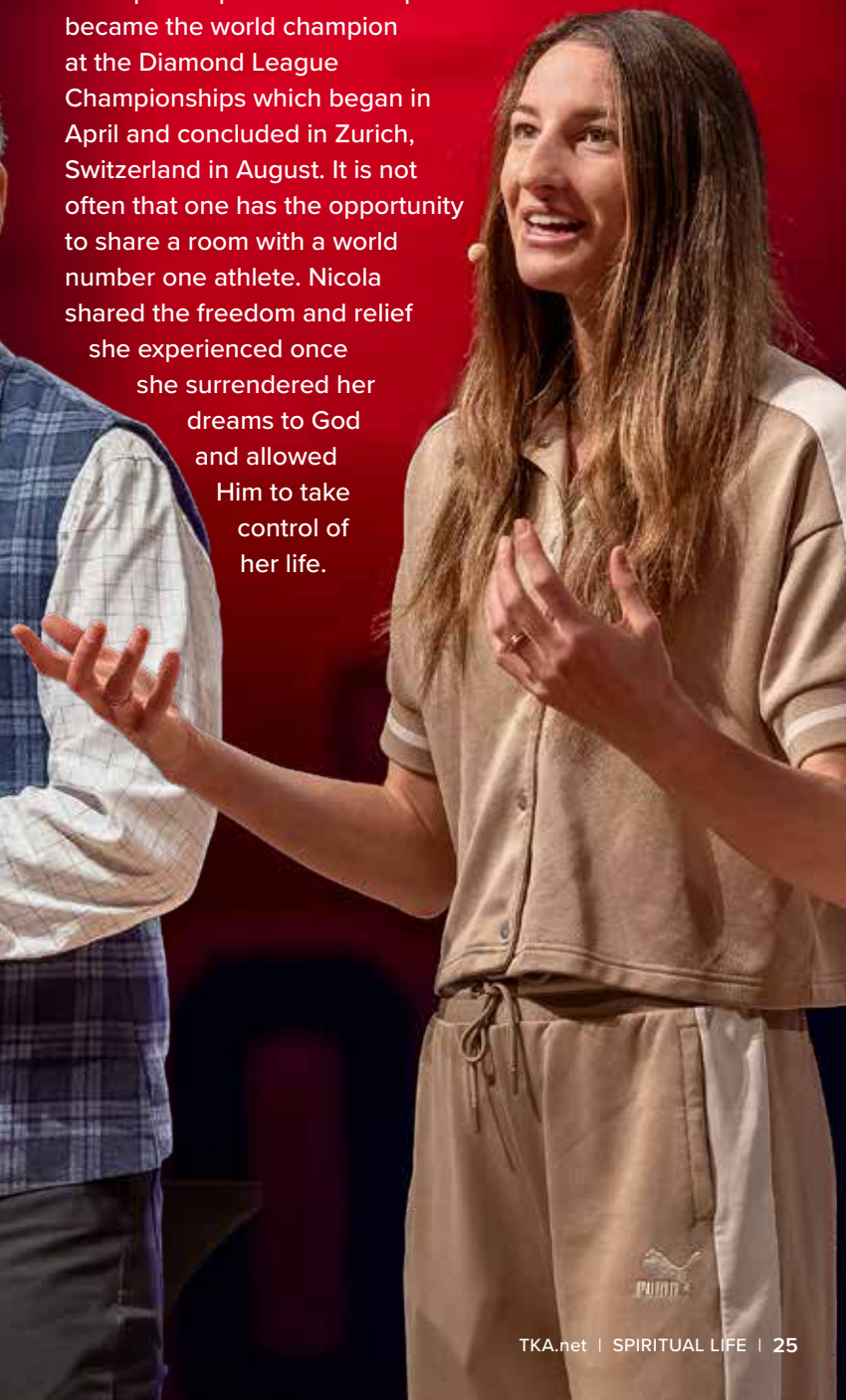
Jeff went on to become a decorated U.S. Army soldier serving in 17 combat deployments across five U.S. wars during a remarkable 23 years of service. In 2017, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Most of his career was spent in the 75th Ranger Regiment and he served as a Staff Sergeant in the well-known Battle of Mogadishu in 1993, leading the 3-vehicle convoy that retrieved the wounded from the battlefield. The mission was later portrayed in the 2001 film *Black Hawk Down*.

Jeff challenged TKA students with this truth: if you believe in Jesus, you have nothing to fear, not even death, because Jesus has already overcome it.



Champion Track Star Says God's Dreams Are Better

Nicola Olyslagers is an Australian Olympic high jumper with an extensive and impressive athletic career. She earned a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics—the first for Australia in the event since 1964—and qualified for her second Olympic Games in 2024 where she earned another silver in Paris. The year 2025, however, has been truly record-breaking for Nicola. In September, she captured gold at the World Championships in Tokyo and followed it with another gold at the Indoor World Championships in China this past March. She also became the world champion at the Diamond League Championships which began in April and concluded in Zurich, Switzerland in August. It is not often that one has the opportunity to share a room with a world number one athlete. Nicola shared the freedom and relief she experienced once she surrendered her dreams to God and allowed Him to take control of her life.





Grounded in God's Truth

Alyson Crews, Director of Elementary Student Ministries

Over the past year I have been on a steady journey through Scripture with a close friend. Each week, we read a chapter of the Bible together and return to the same three questions: What does this passage teach us about God? What does it reveal about His people? And how should it shape our lives?

That journey began in Job and continued straight through Genesis, chapter by chapter. Now deep into Judges, I am reflecting on how unexpectedly rich the experience has been. Even the sections people tend to skim, the laws, the details, the boundaries, reveal so much about God's character. He is loving and patient, intentional and orderly. He is high and lifted up, yet deeply aware of every detail of our lives.

That growing understanding is more than personal reflection. It shapes the heartbeat of Elementary Student Ministries. My prayer is that our students experience God through the truths we teach and the opportunities they are given to grow. I want their love and their knowledge of Him to deepen and widen, just as mine has.

That vision has been evident throughout the year. Chapel services have introduced students to the many

names and attributes of God, from Creator and Living Water to Good Shepherd and King of all Kingdoms. Engagement has been high and their excitement has carried beyond our campus. Hearing parents talk about how eager their children are to go to Chapel has been a deep joy, and it stands as a reminder of God's goodness at work in their lives.

One especially meaningful milestone came in October, when elementary students and staff gathered for an additional, intentionally set aside time of praise and worship beyond their regular weekly chapels. High school students, faculty, and a local worship leader helped lead the morning, and the sound of students singing and celebrating the Lord together made it a truly special and memorable time.

In a world marked by constant change, it is important that we ground students in God's unchanging truth. He never changes, and planting seeds of truth about who He is has never been more important. As the year continues, my prayer remains clear: that students come to know the God who made heaven and earth, the One who is all they need, and that all glory be given to Him.

THE IMPACT OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Service has also played a central role in shaping our students' faith. This fall, the King's community rallied

around Operation Christmas Child, packing shoeboxes filled with gifts and the message of the Gospel. The response exceeded every expectation, with **857 shoeboxes prepared to reach children around the world.**

One of the most powerful moments came when a TKA parent shared her own story during Chapel. As a child in Nicaragua, she had received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox and spoke about the lasting impact it had on her life. Students listened closely and understood that their obedience and generosity truly matters, and many were inspired by the story of how God used her experience to touch lives.





A Growing Vision: TKA Ethiopia

The King's Academy celebrated an exciting milestone in September with the opening of its sister school in Duguna Fango, Ethiopia. Through a partnership with Streets of Hope TKA is extending excellent Christian education, teacher training, and essential community support to a region where such opportunities are rare. This fall, the school welcomed its first 150 Pre-K and Kindergarten students who are experiencing a full-day, Christ-centered education for the very first time.

This joyful beginning reflects years of prayer, relationship-building, and the generosity of partners who share a vision for students in the developing world to thrive academically,

spiritually, and personally. What began as an idea is now a growing school community filled with learning, structure, and hope. And this is only the beginning.

TKA Ethiopia is built on a thoughtful, long-term plan designed for sustainable growth and lasting impact. The school will add one grade level each year, enrolling approximately 75 new students annually. As the student body grows, new classroom buildings will be constructed each year to ensure that learning environments remain strong, well-equipped, and appropriately sized. Once fully developed, the campus will serve up to 1,500 students from Pre-K through Grade 12.

Students at TKA Ethiopia (TKA-ET)

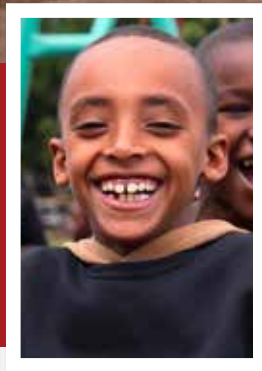
“Being in the front row of this school, watching the students grow, learn, and thrive, is truly humbling. What began as a vision is now shaping real lives, and we are grateful to see how God is at work through it.”

— MEYA AUBERSON, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR STREETS OF HOPE



Now completing its first semester after opening just four months ago, TKA-ET is already experiencing meaningful growth and impact within its community. Students are thriving in a Christ-centered environment that intentionally supports development in three key areas:

- **Spiritual Growth:** Jesus is at the center of daily life at TKA-ET. Each school day begins with prayer, every week concludes with chapel, and students learn and memorize one Bible verse weekly—laying a strong spiritual foundation from an early age.
- **Academic Growth:** In a short period of time, students have demonstrated remarkable academic progress. Many who entered the school speaking only one language are now learning to read, write, and communicate in three languages, reflecting both strong instruction and growing confidence in their abilities.
- **Physical Growth:** In a region where food insecurity remains an ongoing challenge, TKA-ET provides breakfast and lunch each day. This commitment has led to noticeable improvements in students' health, energy levels, and overall physical development, enabling them to engage more fully in their learning.



will receive full-day instruction in three languages, learn in classrooms with a 25:1 student teacher ratio, and be shaped by a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes agricultural education, STEM, leadership development, and Christian character formation. The goal is not only academic excellence but the preparation of young leaders who will positively influence their families, communities, and country.

Practical needs are being met along the way. Through *Giving Tuesday* and the generosity of recent donors, funding has been secured for a reliable vehicle to support daily school operations. This resource will provide safe transportation for teachers, enable the delivery of food

and clean water, reduce operational costs, and support the school's continued growth—an important step forward in building a strong foundation.

Looking ahead, the partnership between The King's Academy and TKA Ethiopia continues to deepen. In the summer of 2026, TKA juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia on a mission trip, serving alongside local teachers and students and strengthening the relationships at the heart of this work.

With a clear plan, steady growth, and faithful support, TKA Ethiopia is becoming a place where opportunity expands year by year, and where lives are being shaped for generations to come.

Learn more about TKA-ET and ways to give by contacting TKA's Development Office or scanning the QR code. Scan to visit the TKA-ET Facebook page.



“What God is doing through our sister school in Ethiopia is nothing short of miraculous. These children’s lives are being transformed through Christ-centered education made possible by the incredible generosity of members of The King’s Academy family. To Him be all the glory!” — RANDY MARTIN, TKA PRESIDENT

TKAthrives



CELEBRATING GENEROSITY & MOMENTUM: ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

The King's Academy continues to be blessed by a school family whose generosity reflects a shared commitment to faith, excellence, and the mission of graduating the next generation of Christian leaders. This year, parents, grandparents, alumni, alumni parents, and foundation partners have come together in meaningful ways to support King's through annual giving and early investments in future initiatives. In total, general giving to The King's Academy has surpassed \$3.7 million. This remarkable generosity reflects a school family that believes in the mission of TKA and is invested in its future.

This year's giving momentum is especially significant as TKA launches its new strategic plan, *Growing Together: 30 for 30*. This bold vision guides The King's Academy over the next five years, focusing on growing faith, instruction, opportunity, innovation, facilities, and financial sustainability. Strong financial support plays a vital role in moving these priorities from vision to reality, laying the groundwork for initiatives that will benefit students for years to come.

Thanks to the faithful giving of so many, the Annual Fund has now surpassed \$1.125 million. These gifts are strengthening academic programs, supporting faculty, providing tuition assistance, and enhancing the overall student experience. The impact of this generosity is already visible across campus. Classroom enhancements, technology upgrades, expanded student programs, and new opportunities for spiritual growth are taking shape because families and partners believe in the mission and ministry of The King's Academy. Alumni families and foundations have also stepped forward in meaningful ways, demonstrating that King's legacy extends well beyond current students. These gifts provide essential resources beyond what tuition covers, allowing TKA to pursue excellence in academics, arts, athletics, and spiritual formation while continually elevating the quality of a King's education.

As part of the *Growing 30 for 30* vision, several families have already made early commitments toward future capital priorities outlined in the strategic plan. These gifts, as

early acts of generosity, shine as a powerful expression of confidence in the vision and belief in the long-term impact of these investments. Their generosity is creating momentum, inspiring others to join in, and demonstrating that meaningful progress is built through the faithful participation of many hearts, not only the largest gifts.

As we celebrate this year's progress, we look ahead with gratitude and purpose. The goals of *Growing Together: 30 for 30* are ambitious, but we trust in God's faithfulness. Through generous giving the TKA community is helping to advance His plan for the school, ensuring that students are challenged academically, nurtured spiritually, and equipped to lead with character, faith, and conviction.

We are thankful for every member of the TKA family who has prayed faithfully and given generously. With humility and trust in God's provision, we move forward together, encouraged by what has already been accomplished and faithful in pursuing what He continues to place before us.

Growing Together 30 FOR 30

HOW TO JOIN WITH TKA TO BUILD FUTURE LEADERS

To learn more about *Growing Together: 30 for 30*, current priorities, or ways to support The King's Academy, please contact TKA's Development Office or consider making a gift today. Scan here to view TKA's *Strategic Plan: Growing Together 30 for 30*.



Help us grow together
by supporting The
King's Academy's
vision online at
TKA.net or by contacting
the Development Office.





TKA Jazz Shines at the White House

This past December, The King's Academy Jazz Ensemble embarked on an unforgettable educational performance trip to Washington, D.C., a journey that blended music, history, faith, and culture at the highest level. The centerpiece of the trip was a once-in-a-lifetime honor for the Jazz Ensemble to perform inside the White House East Room as part of the annual Christmas Celebration. To be invited into this historic space is a distinction reserved for only a few select groups each year and

reflects the exceptional musicianship, character, and professionalism of the students who represented The King's Academy on this national stage.

The students performed beneath the iconic portraits of George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt, leaders whose legacies have shaped the nation. Surrounded by elegant chandeliers, towering Christmas trees, glowing garlands, and meticulously decorated wreaths, the East Room was transformed into a breathtaking celebration of the season. The warmth of the holiday

décor paired with the timeless sound of jazz, created a moment that was both reverent and joyful.

Beyond their historic performance, students immersed themselves in the rich landmarks of our nation's capital. They walked the National Mall reflecting on the monuments and memorials that tell the story of America's past and its enduring ideals. They climbed to the top of the Washington Monument for breathtaking views of the city below and toured the U.S. Capitol, gaining a deeper appreciation for the



“The East Room has hosted generations of presidents, world leaders, and artists, and it was an honor to represent King’s and our country through music in a space where history has been shaped, traditions have been celebrated, and where the arts have brought people together.”

– WES LOWE '12 DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL ARTS



democratic process and the history that unfolds daily within its walls. During their visit, a fresh snowfall blanketed the city transforming the capital into a winter scene straight from a postcard. Students wasted no time jumping into the moment, laughing and playing in the snow in front of the U.S. Capitol, turning a historic backdrop into an unforgettable memory.

The trip also provided opportunities for spiritual growth and thoughtful reflection. Students toured the Museum of the Bible where

interactive exhibits connected Scripture, history, and culture in compelling ways. These experiences prompted meaningful conversations and reinforced the values of faith, service, and purpose that are foundational to The King's Academy.

An evening at the legendary Blues Alley rounded out the journey. As one of the most iconic jazz venues in the world, Blues Alley offered students an up-close look at professional jazz performance in an intimate setting. Experiencing live music in a space that has hosted some of the greatest

names in jazz was both inspiring and affirming for young musicians pursuing excellence in the art form.

From performing inside the White House during the Christmas season to walking the halls of American history and witnessing jazz at its highest level, the Washington, D.C. trip was much more than a trip. It was an unmatched experience celebrating artistry, faith, and leadership, and left a lasting impact on each student who had the privilege of being part of it.



“Watching our students perform at the White House was a once-in-a-lifetime honor. Seeing their talent shine in such a historic setting filled me with joy and reaffirmed why The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts exists: to open doors and create unforgettable opportunities.”

– JAN SMITH, TKA GRANDPARENT AND NAMESAKE OF THE SMITH FAMILY CONSERVATORY

TKA Theatre Season



KYLE SCHNACK

PRODUCING ARTISTIC AND THEATRE ARTS DIRECTOR

The Prince of Egypt Inspires and Points to the True Story Found in God's Word

In the fall, TKA Theatre Company presented its sweeping and visually stunning production of *The Prince of Egypt*. The show, already celebrated for its artistic excellence and moving performances, also marked an important milestone in The Smith Family Conservatory's mission to "Take the Church to the Kravis," in hopes of representing Biblical stories on a regional platform of theater excellence at the Dream Awards.

The production brought to life the dramatic journey of Moses with a combination of theatrical innovation, musical power, and passionate student leadership. From the outset, the creative team clarified that while the story was inspired by the biblical narrative, the musical contained significant artistic interpretation and was not a biblically accurate retelling. As with many stage adaptations, dramatic liberties were taken for storytelling purposes, character development, and music.

Despite the artistic liberties, the production resonated deeply with audiences. Through sweeping choreography, dramatic lighting, and a full orchestra, students portrayed themes of calling, identity, deliverance, and obedience. These truths echo throughout Scripture even when adapted into a theatrical framework. Iconic moments such as the Burning Bush, the Plagues, and the Red Sea

were rendered with creativity and reverence demonstrating the students' commitment to honoring the heart of the biblical story while working within the parameters of the musical.

Audiences praised the production for its emotional impact, technical sophistication, and the maturity with which students handled such significant material. Many expressed gratitude that TKA used the production not only to celebrate theatrical achievement but also to point toward God's Word.

The Prince of Egypt stands as a reminder of the unique opportunity Christian artists have: to use storytelling as a bridge that invites the community closer to the Gospel. In this way, the show represented another meaningful step in TKA Theatre Company's long-term calling, to create excellent art and bring Christ-centered stories, conversations, and truth to ever-widening audiences.



Scan to watch
*The Prince of
Egypt*

"Even though this version of the story incorporates artistic choices that differ from Scripture, our prayer was that it would spark curiosity, driving people back to the true and authoritative account found in the Word of God. If the production inspires even one person to open Exodus and encounter God's story for themselves, then this work has served a deeper purpose." - KYLE SCHNACK, PRODUCING ARTISTIC AND THEATRE ARTS DIRECTOR



A Bold, Modern Adaptation of *Henry V*

The King's Academy's award-winning Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts once again raised the bar for student theatre with its ambitious modern adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Presented in the Page Family Center for Performing Arts, the production showcased TKA Theatre's signature combination of artistic excellence, innovation, and Christ-centered leadership development.

Directed by Producing Artistic Director Kyle Schnack (recipient of the Kravis Center Dream Award for Inspirational Theatre Teacher of the Year), this adaptation reimaged Shakespeare's classic story of courage, calling, and conviction through a contemporary lens. Featuring an original cinematic underscore by acclaimed composers Joshua and Michael Lubben, a dynamic modern-



dance ensemble, and sleek minimalist staging, the production invited long-time Shakespeare lovers and first-time theatergoers to experience the play's themes with fresh clarity.

The cast of emerging young artists delivered performances that were both emotionally rich and boldly physical as they navigated Shakespeare's language with confidence thus bringing the story's human core to life. Supported by a dedicated technical crew, the production incorporated atmospheric lighting, stylized battle sequences, and multimedia design elements to create a fully immersive world.

In addition to its artistic

achievements, the production reflected TKA's mission to train Christ-centered culture-changers. Students were deeply involved in every element of the creative process from dramaturgical research and character development to choreography, costume design, and backstage leadership—gaining professional-level experience along the way.

The King's Academy Theatre Company's *Henry V* demonstrated its reputation as a premier training ground for young performers and designers. And for audiences it offered an unforgettable reminder of why storytelling still matters: it has the power to challenge, inspire, and transform.



Scan to watch
Henry V

"*Henry V* is ultimately a story about stepping into your God-given purpose even when the path is uncertain. Our students embraced that challenge with tremendous heart. They approached this material with discipline, humility, and passion and the result was something truly special."



Creativity Center Stage: A Student's Vision Transforms *The Nutcracker*

This year's production of *The Nutcracker* was nothing short of magical. In three dazzling performances, more than 80 talented Conservatory dance students filled the stage with energy, artistry, and holiday wonder as they brought the timeless classic to life. Behind the scenes students played equally extraordinary roles including one who helped shape the story onstage through design.

Over the course of more than 50 dedicated hours, sophomore Olivia Searce transformed an idea

into a theatrical marvel. Starting with nothing more than a concept sketch and a passion for design, Olivia collaborated closely with the production and technical crews to build a fully functioning Mother Ginger structure, measuring 11 ½ feet high and 13 feet wide, from the ground up.

Designing a skirt large enough for dancers to emerge from is no small challenge. The dress needed to be lightweight yet sturdy, visually striking from every angle, and safe for performers to move

in. Balancing these requirements demanded creativity, craftsmanship, and problem-solving far beyond what many high school technicians attempt. From drafting blueprints and selecting materials to assembling and engineering the internal support frame, Olivia approached every stage with the professionalism and patience of a seasoned technician.



Scan to watch
The Nutcracker

“More than a costume, this project became a testament to what happens when young artists are trusted with big ideas. Olivia’s work elevated the production and set a powerful example of innovation, teamwork, and artistic ambition within our theatre program. We are proud of her and thankful for her incredible dedication.” – SUMMER HOSKINS '17, THE SMITH FAMILY CONSERVATORY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THEATRE ARTS





Christmas **AT KING'S**

TKA's annual Christmas programs once again filled the Page Family Center for Performing Arts with joy, reverence, and anticipation as our school community gathered to celebrate the miraculous arrival of Jesus. Together our students did more than perform, they proclaimed!

From His People Honors Choir and expressive dance performances to powerful solos and the joyful

participation of our youngest students, each presentation reflected a shared purpose: to proclaim the Gospel with joy and sincerity. Each program was a beautiful testimony of the role of faith in the life of our school and a meaningful reflection of Christ at the center of life at TKA.



Scan to watch
Christmas at King's

“This year, the music selections for *Christmas at King's* were intentionally chosen to tell the Gospel story. That purpose-driven focus had a powerful impact on the students' performances. While we all love a Christmas classic, sharing the true reason for the season through music refocused the students and deepened their motivation.” — LISA STEPHENS, DIRECTOR OF VOCAL ARTS





AUSTIN PARENTI

DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

From Script to Screen

Studio 70 offers students a one-of-a-kind, hands-on experience. The proof is in the product, however our product is not the films; it is the students. Each year, we graduate film students who go on to attend the top film schools in the nation: Ryan Cavanagh '22 at Loyola Marymount University, Ziyang Zheng '23 at New York University, Trinity Shahriyar '24 at the University of Southern California, and Xane Olson '25 at Biola University. During breaks, they are eager to return home to Studio 70 and tell me a shared sentiment: "I cannot believe how much more production experience I had than my peers. My professors were stunned to hear I worked on feature films." Yet their spirit at home and on campus is never boastful, only grateful for their time at The King's Academy.

You may have seen our summer feature films *Iron Dusk* or *Star Wars: Gray Trials*. What you may have missed are the short films produced throughout the year. These short films form the consistent backbone of the student experience. Each project maximizes student leadership and autonomy. Allow me to take you behind-the-scenes to see the rich, experiential learning that takes place in Studio 70.

On September 5, film staff and administrators filled the executive

boardroom for the semester's Pitch Fest. With only two weeks of preparation, the honors film students partnered up to create screenplays, storyboards, budgets, and shooting schedules. Each pairing had five minutes to present these to the committee, seeking approval and funding.

Seniors Eva Sprague and Rachel Pettway pitched their idea for Studio 70's first Christmas film, *The Last Toy Store*. Their nervous excitement was matched by their deep enthusiasm for their story. Their logline ran, "In a world addicted to technology, an old man must find a way to revive his toy shop during Christmas, or he will have to foreclose. He begins to lose all hope... that is until a young boy comes along."

Ultimately their film uses an unlikely intergenerational friendship to demonstrate the transforming power of gift-giving.

The committee eagerly greenlit their film. Eva and Rachel turned their attention toward pre-production, hosting auditions in Mr. Schnack's middle school acting class. They selected Ella Blanchard and Jackson Wallace to star in the project which also features Alle

Landrum, Whitney Thomas, and Gia Ruiz-Patty. A transformed TKA bookstore with extensive Christmas décor and toys became the film's location.

I am extremely proud of Eva and Rachel's creativity, drive, and teachability, but event more proud of their focus on the gospel. Two thousand Christmases ago, God gave us a gift that transformed the world. In Jesus, we have a Savior who promises us purity and glory. Jesus Christ is truly "the gift that keeps on giving."



Scan to watch
The Last Toy Store





ADAM WINTERS

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

TKA RAISING THE STANDARD

CHAMPIONS RAISE THE STANDARD

At TKA, we believe this same mindset defines a Champion for Christ. Faith, perseverance, integrity, humility, and servant leadership shape how our athletes compete and how they live. When our hearts are

aligned with God’s calling, standards are raised, God is glorified, and He promises to do great and mighty things (Jeremiah 33:3).

Our focus on “Raising the Standard” challenges our athletes to pursue

excellence both physically and spiritually with Christ at the center. This approach has already produced strong results this fall and positions us for an exciting winter and spring season ahead.

“Champions behave like champions before they are champions: they have a winning standard of performance before they are winners.”

– Bill Walsh, Hall of Fame football coach





TKA SWIM SUCCESS AT STATE FINALS



Just Keep Swimming

The Lions swim team continued its tradition of success at the FHSAA State Finals in January with the boys finishing sixth overall and the girls seventh. Eleven Lions earned podium finishes.

The meet opened with strong relay performances. The girls 200 IM medley relay team of **Tessa Broedell, Selah Austin, Leala Reese, and Isabella Petrie** placed third with their fastest time of the season. The boys relay team of **Othniel Foster, Drew McQueeney, Asher Smith, and Yasser Franceschi Raad** followed with a fourth-place finish.

Individual success continued as **Selah Austin** earned fourth place in the 50-freestyle with a personal best. **Drew McQueeney** placed eighth in the

100 breaststroke, **Asher Smith** finished sixth in the 100 backstroke, and **Tessa Broedell** added a second medal with a fifth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke.

The boys relay teams added two more podium finishes, with **Othniel Foster, Aaron McQueeney, Yasser Franceschi Raad, and Chase Faw** placing sixth in the 200-freestyle relay. The Lions closed the meet with an eighth-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay by **Drew McQueeney, Aaron McQueeney, Chase Faw, and Sam Strohecker**.

Seniors **Drew McQueeney, Isabella Petrie, and Chase Faw** closed out their careers with strong performances while the returning medalists look ahead to continuing the championship tradition of TKA swimming.





Girls Volleyball Keeps Streak Alive

The Lions volleyball program continued its dominance in 2025 capturing its sixth consecutive district championship and 22nd in program history.

As the top seed, the Lions swept both Lincoln Park and Cardinal Newman 3–0 in the district semifinals and finals, allowing fewer than 18 points per set. The team advanced to the regional semifinals before a close loss to nationally ranked Berkeley Prep, finishing the season 19–8 with wins over top-10 opponents Westminster Christian, Jupiter High, Boca Christian, and Pine Crest.

The Lions graduate four seniors, **Hunter Saltalamacchia**, **Izabella Pons**, **Alanis Molina**, and **Gabriella Fernandez**, who helped the program earn 72 wins over their four-year careers.

Lions Football in Every Battle

The King’s Academy football program enjoyed a season highlighted by key wins over traditional rivals. Despite losing 15 seniors, the young Lions earned five victories including thrilling one-point road wins over Benjamin and American Heritage along with victories against Somerset Prep, Fort Pierce Westwood, and Inlet Grove.

Junior linebacker **Levi Champion** led the state in tackles and was named Palm Beach County Player of the Year as well as *Sun Sentinel* Palm Beach County Defensive Player of the Year.

With only six seniors graduating, the future looks bright for TKA football.



PBC PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Boys and Girls Cross Country Is Running Strong

The King's Academy cross country teams continued their winning tradition in 2025 with both the varsity boys and girls qualifying for the state championships in Tallahassee.

The boys finished as district runners-up led by senior **Timothy Gast** who placed second with a personal best of 16:06 and has signed to run at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Junior **Joseph Schiro** finished fifth, while **Matthew Wallace, Colton Osterberg, and Lucas Bertolami** rounded out the scoring. The team went on to place fourth at regionals and 16th at state.

The girls, despite losing several seniors, finished fifth at districts to earn a regional berth. Sophomore **Gabriel Glisson** led the way with 13th place joined by freshman **Tina Goettelmann** and senior **Rachel Fader** in the top 30. **Grace Spicer** and 6th grader **Addison Sorber** completed the scoring helping the Lions advance to regionals where they finished seventh despite missing two top runners.



Boys and Girls Golf Make History

The boys and girls golf teams made history this fall as both programs qualified for the state finals in the same year for the first time in school history. Sophomore **Sophia Christy** led the girls at the #1 spot with multiple first-place finishes and a 14th-place regional finish. Despite battling an injury, junior **Callie Nelson** was a consistent second scorer with **Reese Pender, Selah Nabhan, and Lilly Kaye Vance** rounding out the state-qualifying squad.

On the boys side senior **Cameron Cantine** led the Lions with strong support from freshman **Owen Hicks** and sophomore **Beau Allen**. Freshmen **Jacob Melhorn** and **Hudson Ingram** contributed key performances throughout the season.

With only two seniors graduating across both programs, the Lions are poised for another deep playoff run next fall.



TKA Wrestling—On the Rise

Now in its fourth year, The King’s Academy wrestling program is already making a mark. The Lions won the 2025 Individual Bout Tournament (IBT) district championship, advanced nearly a dozen wrestlers to regionals, and saw state qualifiers **Ryo Ushikubo**, **Ryan Winters**, and **Tyce Porcher** set a high standard for future athletes. The team also captured the FHSAA District Dual meet and placed in the top five in several 24+ team tournaments this season.

Founded in 2022 by **Coach Dale Porcher**, the program emphasizes both wrestling excellence and spiritual growth. Coach Porcher, supported by a top-tier staff including **Dr. George Gurdock**, **Tyler Ray**, and University of Minnesota All-Americans **Mitch McKee** and **Michael Blockhus**, has built one of Florida’s most competitive and dedicated wrestling programs. With a talented roster and strong leadership, the future is bright for TKA wrestling.

TKA Cheer—At It Again!

Lions Competitive Cheer remains one of Florida’s top high school programs, competing in head-to-head meets and

major competitions including UCA Regionals and Nationals, FCC Nationals, and FHSAA Regionals and State Finals.

Under the leadership of **Coach Christina Reickel** and her staff, the Lions had a banner season. They finished 3rd at UCA Regionals, advanced to the UCA National Championships, and secured their seventh FCC National title over Christmas break. At the FHSAA Regional in January the Lions captured their 9th Regional Championship, earning an automatic berth to the FHSAA State Finals where they earned State Runner Up. TKA Competitive Cheer continues to demonstrate excellence, resiliency, and championship-level performance.

Bowling Excelling

Lions bowling continues to quietly excel in both the FHSAA District and PBC Championships. The girls team finished among the top four in both the county and district championships. **Sophia Vazquez** delivered an exceptional performance at the district tournament, earning runner-up honors and securing automatic advancement to the FHSAA State Championships. The boys team concluded with a 7–2 record while the girls’ team finished 8-1, marking another outstanding season for the Lions.

TKA

RAISING THE STANDARD

All County Selections

TKA is proud of its teams and honored to see individual athletes recognized for their outstanding performance. This fall dozens of Lions earned All-County honors, highlighting the talent and dedication of our student-athletes across multiple sports:

GIRLS BOWLING

Palm Beach Post

- Honorable Mention: Natalie Hines, Sophia Vazquez

Sun Sentinel

- Second Team: Natalie Hines, Sophia Vazquez
- Honorable Mention: Abigail Carmilani

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Timothy Gast
- Honorable Mention: Joseph Schiro

Sun Sentinel

- First Team: Timothy Gast
- Second Team: Joseph Schiro
- Honorable Mention: Colton Osterberg, Matthew Wallace

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Sun Sentinel

- Honorable Mention: Rachel Fader, Gabriel Glisson, Valentina Goettelmann

FOOTBALL

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Levi Champion
- Honorable Mention: Roman Driggers, Ethan Horn, Tyce Porcher

Sun Sentinel

- First Team: Levi Champion – Defensive Player of the Year

- Honorable Mention: Hudson Champion, Fletcher Hodges, Ethan Horn, Ardin Jeanty, Tyce Porcher, Caleb Scroggins, Braden Simpson

BOYS GOLF

Palm Beach Post

- Honorable Mention: Owen Hicks, Beau Allen

Sun Sentinel

- Honorable Mention: Beau Allen, Cameron Cantine, Owen Hicks

GIRLS GOLF

Palm Beach Post

- Second Team: Sophia Christy

Sun Sentinel

- Second Team: Sophia Christy
- Honorable Mention: Callie Nelson, Lilly Kaye Vance

BOYS SWIM

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Asher Smith
- Second Team: Othniel Foster, Yasser Franceschi Raad, Drew McQueeney

Sun Sentinel

- Honorable Mention: Aiden Bloomfield, Aaron McQueeney, Samuel Strohecker, Chase Faw

Sun Sentinel

- Second Team: Yasser Franceschi Raad, Drew McQueeney, Asher Smith, 200 Medley Relay – Othniel Foster, Drew McQueeney, Yasser Franceschi Raad, Asher Smith

- Honorable Mention: Chase Faw, Aaron McQueeney, Samuel Strohecker

GIRLS SWIM

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Selah Austin, Tessa Broedell
- Honorable Mention: Alani Girado, Grace Gluski, Isabella Petrie, Leala Reese

Sun Sentinel

- First Team: Tessa Broedell
- Second Team: Selah Austin, 200 Medley Relay – Selah Austin, Tessa Broedell, Isabella Petrie, Leala Reese
- Honorable Mention: Isabella Petrie, Leala Reese

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Izabella Pons
- Second Team: Miranda Knoll, Mikayla Matuszko

- Honorable Mention: Alanis Molina, Hunter Saltalamacchia

Sun Sentinel

- First Team: Mikayla Matuszko
- Second Team: Miranda Knoll
- Honorable Mention: Alanis Molina, Izabella Pons, Hunter Saltalamacchia

Fall Early College Athletic Signees

- Cameron Cantine – Men's Golf – New College of Florida
- Timothy Gast – Men's Cross Country and Track – Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Sophia Cueto – Women's Lacrosse – Rollins College
- Lola Hathorne – Women's Soccer – Florida Atlantic University



MJ Greiner, 8th Grade, The King's Online Academy

A Growing Passion: The Rise of the TKA Pickleball Club

Three years ago, a few determined students approached Mr. Chi Ly, HS math teacher, to sponsor a pickleball club. At the time, the sport was relatively unfamiliar to most of the student body, but these students recognized its potential. Mr. Ly agreed and began laying the foundation for a program that would exceed expectations.

The club received official approval the following year and interest immediately soared. More than 80 students signed up in the inaugural year making it one of the largest new clubs on campus. What began as a small idea quickly became a school-wide movement.

The club's mission remained simple: to provide a welcoming environment where students could

learn, grow, and enjoy the fast-paced game of pickleball. Without dedicated courts on campus, members met twice weekly at a local park. These sessions became a highlight for many students, offering opportunities to stay active, build friendships, and enjoy healthy competition.

As pickleball surged in popularity nationwide, interest among young players grew as well. Many students began playing as early as age six or seven, developing strong fundamental skills long before reaching high school. This growing youth involvement reflected the sport's accessibility and universal appeal.

His rapid improvement and success in competitive play eventually led

him to utilize the flexible courses offered through The King's Online Academy to devote himself to full time high-level training at The Fort in Fort Lauderdale. MJ's ultimate goal was to play professionally and he inspired many younger players in the club, demonstrating the exciting possibilities that pickleball could offer

As the TKA Pickleball Club continues to grow, it stands not only as a place for students to learn a sport but also as a community built on enthusiasm, teamwork, and perseverance. What began as a small request from a handful of students evolved into a thriving program, shaping new athletes and fostering a lasting love for the game.



Mr. Ly & TKA Open Singles Winners



Homecoming 2025 – A Celebration of School Spirit

The King’s Academy celebrated a memorable Homecoming on October 3, 2025, as alumni, families, and students filled the stands to cheer on the Lions. Despite weather challenges, the energy was electric as the Lions dominated Somerset Prep with a decisive 50–7 victory. The evening showcased school spirit, talent, and great competition.

The excitement continued during halftime as the school family celebrated the 2025 Boys Volleyball State Champions. The athletes were honored and presented with their

championship rings to recognize a season of dedication and achievement. The crowd was entertained by the TKA Band and Dance Team who delivered a spirited performance of “Since U Been Gone,” followed by a high-energy routine from the Varsity Cheerleaders. The halftime show highlighted both artistic excellence and school pride drawing cheers and applause from Lions fans.

The Homecoming court added tradition to the evening. Hudson Champion and Nevaeh Mossop

were crowned Homecoming King and Queen for 2025. Their smiles and school spirit reflected the joy of the night and the pride of being part of the Lion community.

From kickoff to the final cheer, Homecoming combined athletic achievement, spirited performances, and community celebration. Homecoming 2025 created lasting memories for students, alumni, and families. It was a night that captured the spirit of TKA.





Lions Boys Volleyball Team Celebrates State Championship Victory

The Lions 2025 Boys Volleyball Team achieved a historic milestone this year, capturing their first state championship in just four years since the founding of the program. Over that span, the team compiled an impressive overall record of 93–19, advancing to the FHSAA State Final Four twice and the regional finals three times.

The team was honored during a pregame dinner and recognized at halftime during the Homecoming game, where they received their championship rings. The 2025 State Champion Lions finished the season with a 22–5 record, highlighted by two eight-match winning streaks. Over the course of the year, they won

62 sets while dropping only 19. Their five losses came against the No. 1, 2, 7, 11, and 13 ranked teams in the state across all classifications. The Lions dominated the state playoffs by winning all seven matches and capturing 21 of 23 sets, including six consecutive in the State Final Four.



“TKA is proud of the accomplishments of the Boys Volleyball Team and was thrilled to honor them at the dinner, and with the presentation of their State Championship rings. We had a delightful time exchanging memories of the season and celebrating this tight-knit team. To God be the glory!”

– ADAM WINTERS, TKA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Lieutenant Jacob Brodnick '17

Jacob first set foot on a Navy destroyer back in 2003 when his parents were visiting a friend who was stationed at Mayport Naval Base in Jacksonville. In that moment he knew he wanted to be in the United States Navy. Upon graduation from The King's Academy in 2017, Jacob received a full ride on a Navy ROTC scholarship. He attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and graduated as a Naval officer with a degree in mechanical engineering. He married Macy Hutchins in April 2021 before selecting the USS Lassen (DDG 82) as the first ship of service. As his first tour on the USS Lassen was ending, Macy and Jacob were blessed with their first child, Owen James. Jacob had six months of additional training in preparation for his next tour, so they packed up their three-week-old baby and relocated in Norfolk, Virginia; Dahlgren, Virginia; and finally Newport, Rhode Island. After training they returned to Jacksonville and Mayport Naval Base where Jacob was promoted to Lieutenant on June 2nd, 2025.

Lieutenant Jacob Brodnick serves as the Fire Control Officer and Combat Fire Control Division Officer aboard the U.S. Navy



Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64). As a key leader within the ship's Combat Systems Department, he is responsible for the maintenance, operation, and overall readiness of the Aegis Weapon System which includes the SPY-1/6 radar,

Mk 99 Fire Control System, Vertical Launch System (VLS), and a range of missile systems such as the SM-2, SM-6, and ESSM.

In his role, Lt. Brodnick oversees real-time system performance and ensures all components are aligned with evolving tactical situations. He coordinates the control and execution of the ship's weapons during combat operations ensuring accurate tracking, targeting, and engagement of air, surface, and ballistic missile threats. He also directs a team of highly trained Fire Controlmen and Combat Systems operators within the Combat Information Center (CIC), providing both technical oversight and tactical guidance during drills and live-fire events. Beyond combat execution, Lt. Brodnick ensures his

team remains fully certified and mission-ready through rigorous training and qualification programs, maintaining the ship's constant state of combat readiness.



Jacob receiving his stripes from his wife Macy, with his son Owen.



Jennifer Piranian



Brown family



Matthew Terrill



Hodges family



Stack family



Noel family



Titus family



Evelyne Titus

1982

Jennifer (Davidson) Piranian '82 lives in Wasilla, Alaska. She taught third grade at The King's Academy from 1987-1994. Her husband Edward is a pilot for Alaska Airlines, and together they homeschooled their four sons, raising them to love the Lord. Jennifer recently published a children's book, *Emma's Troubled Heart*, with Christian Faith Publishing. Her desire is to help children see truth from God's Word and strengthen their character in today's world. The book is available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

1998

Todd Brown '98 and his wife Marissa adopted a baby boy, Calhoun Brown, in October 2024. Calhoun loves his older sisters Adelise and Eloise and the family enjoyed a European vacation together over the Christmas break.

2003

Matthew Terrill '03 lives in Jacksonville with his dog, Kalani (Hawaiian for 'of the heavens'). Matt has written a book that the Lord placed on his heart a few years ago, called *Total Surrender*. It is available on Amazon. *"The Kings Academy has been instrumental in my walk with the Lord and is mentioned in the book as such a pivotal point in my life. I owe so much to all the teachers and faculty! God sure has His hands all over TKA and I am forever grateful to have gone there,"* shares Matt. He is currently working on his next book, *Walking on Water with Jesus - The Heart of a Broken Man*.

2008

Clara (Aliapoulos) Hodges '08 and her husband Curtis are excited to announce the newest addition to their family, Brooke Elizabeth, born on February 4, 2025. Clara works in the Human Resources Department at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Curtis is a reservist in the Florida Army National Guard after serving five years in the U.S. Marines.

2009

Austin Stack '09 was promoted to U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander in October 2025. He serves as a helicopter aviator and flight instructor based in Virginia Beach. Austin plans to leave the Navy after 10 years of service at the end of January and move to Charleston, North Carolina to work for Bank of America. He is married to Kayla, and they have a one-year-old daughter, Bella.

2010

Lauren (Criser) Noel '10 has worked at The Breakers Hotel in the Legal and Risk Management Department since graduating from the University of Florida in 2014. Lauren and her husband Chad live in Wellington and have two daughters, Claire born in September 2021 and Collins born in April 2025. Chad owns a construction and property management company based in Wellington.

A.J. Titus '10 and his wife Laura welcomed their second daughter, Evelyne Ray, on January 5, 2025. Big sister Abigail Traver is currently a student in TKA's Early Childhood PK3 class. A.J. is President of Signarama and Managing Director at United Franchise Group. They live in West Palm Beach and attend Family Church Downtown.

2011

Christian Griffith '11 and Summer (Calenberg) Griffith '12 were high school sweethearts and married in 2018. They recently welcomed their first child Grace on Easter Sunday, April 20th, 2025. The couple resides in West Palm Beach. Summer is the Founder and Owner of Drip Drop Fitness which she started while pursuing her MBA at FSU and Christian owns his own development company- Vine Residential.

"The King's Academy bus drives by our home every morning where I sit on our couch feeding our baby girl and it's a reminder of God's grace as he introduced my husband and I in the hallways of TKA. We hope our daughter will one day have that amazing experience at Kings!"

Caleb Hitchcock '11 has stepped into a new role at The King's Academy as an instructor in the Aviation Program of Distinction. Caleb made the career shift to aviation in 2023 and is currently a contact pilot flying privately for various aircraft owners. Caleb met his wife Emily at Palm Beach Atlantic University and they have been married since 2015. Emily has been a teacher at The King's Academy since 2021, and their 3 children (Owen, Liam, and Elsie) attend TKA. They are expecting their fourth child in May.

Christina (Silva) Torres '11 and husband Tim welcomed their second son, Josiah Levi, in September. Josiah joins big brother Noah who is 2 years old. Christina does Probate, Trust and Estate Litigation at Gunster in downtown West Palm Beach. They live in Wellington.



Griffith family

Grace Griffith



Hitchcock family



Josiah & Noah Torres

2012

Jennifer (Chelsa Martin) Weniger '12 and husband Jordan welcomed Worth Jordan on January 4th, 2026. He joins big brothers Noah Lucas (6 years) who attends first grade at The King's Academy and Wolf James (3 years). Jordan and Chelsea both work in the family business, JC Martin Jewelers and Chelsea is the JV Cheer and Sideline Coach.



Worth Weniger



Weniger family



Benitez family

2013

Shelley (Locke) Benitez '13 and husband Erik welcomed their daughter, Lucy Beth, on October 21st, 2025. Shelley and Erik are the owners of Chick-fil-A Atlantic Ave located on the corner of Atlantic and Military Trail in Delray Beach.

PLANTING CHURCHES

Bobby Brooks '86 has planted a church in Riviera Beach where he serves as Lead Pastor. Kingdom Life Fellowship is a spirit-filled, biblically centered congregation that seeks to transform communities "one home at a time" by raising up disciple-makers for God's Kingdom. Fellow alumnus **Proverb Newsome '87**, Children's Pastor at Family Church Village, has joined the founding board as an Elder. Kingdom Life Fellowship held their public launch in January, and alumni are invited to support the ministry through prayer, service, or by joining the congregation.

For more information, visit KLifepb.com or email info@klifepb.com. In addition to his pastoral work, Bobby was recently appointed as Chaplain for the Riviera Beach Police Department. Bobby previously served as Principal of Westward Elementary School in West Palm Beach for 13 years giving him three decades of ministry and educational experience.



L to R: Keilana (oldest daughter), Pamela (wife) and Brielle (youngest daughter)



Reese Oken



Aliapoulios family

2013

Lexi (Rowe) Oken '13 and husband Aaron welcomed Reese Baker on December 31st, 2025. Big brother River is proudly embracing his new role. Lexi is co-owner of City Girl Consignment in West Palm Beach and Aaron is the Founder of The Oken Group at Signature International Premier Properties.

2014

Clark Aliapoulios '14 and **Brooke (Begnoche) Aliapoulios '13** are excited to announce the birth of their son, Hudson Clark, who was born on August 31st, 2025. Clark is a dentist and Brooke is the founder and owner of the digital marketing agency The Social Resort. They live in North Palm Beach.

2016

Olivia (Crocetti) McCoy '16 and her husband, Jagger, welcomed their first child, Elliott Stiles, on November 2, 2025. Elliott weighed 7 lb, 4 oz. Olivia works in real estate and is also a Pilates instructor. Jagger is a firefighter with the Palm Beach Gardens Fire Department and owns a handyman business, Glades Home Solutions. The couple lives in Lake Park.



McCoy family



Elliott McCoy



Michael Rodino

Michael Rodino '16 graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2020 before joining the United States Navy. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor for three years and South Carolina for two years where he graduated from Nuclear Power School. Michael is currently a Lieutenant and works on a new aircraft carrier, the "John F. Kennedy," in Newport News, Virginia. It is due to be completed in November 2026. He plans to move into the Engineering Department later this year.

Skye Matter '16 and **Logan Leone '16** were married on March 12, 2022 at Christ Fellowship and live in Port Saint Lucie. Skye is a first-grade teacher and Logan works as a software engineer.



Logan & Skye Leone



Emily Winkelman

Emily (Haine) Winkelman '16 earned her PhD in School Psychology from the University of Florida in 2025. She and her husband Jacob will relocate to North Carolina this fall where she will begin a faculty position at Western Carolina University. She will teach undergraduate and graduate students in the School Psychology program, supervise students in school-based and clinical-based practice, and conduct research. Emily and Jacob married in October 2020.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024-2025

TKA President Randal Martin's annual board report recaps an outstanding school year and includes a vision for TKA's future! Visit TKA.net/about-tka/from-the-president/presidents-report or scan the QR code to read a digital copy.



2017

Rhys Lowe '17 and his wife Kendra welcomed their first child, Aspen Marie, on November 6, 2025. Rhys is a CPA currently working as an Audit Manager with HHM CPAs and Kendra is a Lease Analyst for CBL Properties. They live in Chattanooga, TN.

Kristi Martin '17 and Chris Kish were recently engaged in snowy Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Kristi serves as The King's Academy's Director of Marketing and Operations and Chris is a minister at Family Church Downtown. An August 2026 wedding is planned and the couple will reside in West Palm Beach.

2019

Mark Witzten '19 and **Sofia Higgins '19** announced their engagement and plan to marry in August 2026. The couple started dating nine years ago in 10th grade and were voted "most likely to get married" in their senior yearbook. They both attended Florida State University. Mark works for The Breakers and Sofia will graduate from FSU's Law School this spring.

2020

Adriana Portela '20 is completing her final year at Ringling College of Art and Design and will graduate in May. This year, she and two classmates won a Gold ADDY Award for one of their projects. The Gold ADDY Award is the highest honor in the American Advertising Awards competition, recognizing the very best creative work in each advertising category as judged by industry professionals for creative excellence and superior quality.

Emilio Machado '20 married Madison Jatzlau at the Powel Crosley Estate in Sarasota on November 8th, 2025. The couple resides in Royal Palm Beach. Emilio works as a staff accountant for the CFO of Templeton Advisors and Madison is a claims specialist at a public adjusting firm.

Jesse Hernandez '20 recently graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Economics. Jesse is pursuing a career in finance and consulting and hopes to return to Harvard's Business School to pursue his MBA in the future.



Lowe family



Chris Kish & Kristi Martin



Mark Witzten & Sofia Higgins



Adriana Portela



Emilio & Madison Machado



Jesse Hernandez

HAVING A BABY? GET A LION CUB ONESIE

This little Lion Cub is Karrie Dubois Cook.

Email ttutwiler@tka.net when you have a baby and we will send you a TKA "Lion Cub" onesie (size 6 months). We would love to see pictures of your little future Lion wearing it! Please post a picture of your little cub to your social media accounts and tag us @TKAWPB and use #TKAfuturelion.



Karrie Dubois Cook

TKA CLASS REUNIONS



CLASS OF 1974

In September, a special group of ladies from the Class of 1974 reunited in Summerton, South Carolina to mark 51 years of cherished friendship and memories.

The Class of 1974 were the first class at TKA to:

- Have a Cheerleading Squad
- First Choir and sang at The Breakers at Christmas
- Performed in TKA's first musical play
- First class to go to Europe on their senior trip.

"I am thankful for the founding board members who had the vision to start a Christian school. I went to King's as a non-Christian and through my loving teachers and my friend Belinda, I accepted the Lord. I am so thankful, it changed my life!" - Patti (Worman) Erneston '74

"We had an incredible time reconnecting. It's truly amazing that relationships can span more than five decades, but our bond has always been deeply rooted in our relationship in the Lord. TKA played such a vital role in shaping that foundation, uniting us in a unique and beautiful way as a family grounded in Christ. We are all so grateful and feel incredibly blessed." - Holly (Garfield) Hader '74



From left: Julie (Wild) Malott, behind - Janice (Anderson) Welch, Debbie (Worrells) Deskins, Holly (Garfield) Hader, Belinda (Jarriel) Fox, and Patti (Worman) Erneston

UPCOMING REUNION

CLASS OF 1976

The Class of 1976 (bicentennial seniors) is planning a class reunion to align with Homecoming in October 2026 (date to be determined). To receive further information and sign up for emails please reach out to Gerry Litrento: Gerrylitrento@gmail.com or 954-415-3817.

TKA ALUMNI

Do you have a special event to celebrate in your family or career?

A wedding, new baby, graduation or job change?

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Complete the online form. If you have updates to submit for the next issue, kindly email ttutwiler@tka.net.



In Honor of ...

A gift was received in honor of
Michelle Abbatememmatteo
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Allen
Ms. Celeste Norris

A gift was received in honor of
Tim and Nancy Beckwith
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Schnack

A gift was received in honor of
Holly Boswell '95
Mr. Greg Langowski
Mr. Ben Starling III

A gift was received in honor of
Jordyn Butler
Mr. and Mrs. Alanza Butler

A gift was received in honor of
Madison Leigh Cressman
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Cressman
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Romano

A gift was received in honor of
Declan and Cillian Devine
Mr. and Mrs. John Devine

A gift was received in honor of
Brent Diaz
Ms. Linda Buquet

A gift was received in honor of
Caroline and Tinley Duncan
Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson

A gift was received in honor of
Trent Fronrath
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Manning

A gift was received in honor of
Liv Gardner
Mr. and Mrs. James Howard

A gift was received in honor of
Coral, Gunner, and MJ Greiner
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Greiner

A gift was received in honor of
Lilliana Henke
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Pegg

A gift was received in honor of
Bridget and Brooke Hugo
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hugo

A gift was received in honor of
Hadley Lewis
Mrs. Allison Renee Lewis

A gift was received in honor of
Hayden and Sloan Logsdon
Mrs. Nancy Craven

A gift was received in honor of
Amelia McFarlin
Mrs. Alisa Tharitimamont

A gift was received in honor of
Hampton, Laina, and Mason McPherson
Ms. Inger Anderson

A gift was received in honor of
Henry Nagel
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Geiser
Mr. Robert F. Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Maloney

A gift was received in honor of
Ansley, Caroline and Olivia Naugle
Mrs. Joan Naugle

A gift was received in honor of
Hailey and Reagan Rice
Mr. and Mrs. Troy Rice

A gift was received in honor of
Skylar Rich
Mr. and Mrs. Marco Carcich

A gift was received in honor of
Luis and Leandro Saillant
Mr. and Mrs. Luis Saillant

A gift was received in honor of
Brynn Stanley
Mrs. Beverly Stanley

A gift was received in honor of
Elizabeth Terga
Mr. Donald Goodwin

A gift was received in honor of
Zahringer Family
Ms. Jayne Albert

A gift was received in honor of
Jonathan Zuchowski
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Leininger

The King's Academy, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, encourages all donors to contact their tax and legal professionals regarding tuition prepayments and their individual estate and tax planning situation. All gifts to The King's Academy are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

In Memory of ...

A gift was received in memory of
Arthur and Joyce Armbruster
Rev. and Mrs. Keith Albert

A gift was received in memory of
Jeneane Buccilli
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Buccilli

A gift was received in memory of
Geri Cantrell
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Billman

A gift was received in memory of
Thomas Kiger and Elizabeth Lurie
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kiger

A gift was received in memory of
Diana A. Lennard
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A gift was received in memory of
M. Nelson and Jane Loveland
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A gift was received in memory of
Mary Purdie
Ms. Robin H. Sullivan

A gift was received in memory of
Robert W. Simpson III
Mrs. Denice Simpson

A gift was received in memory of
William Ellis Sowers
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sowers

A gift was received in memory of
Raworth Wall
Mrs. Monica Wall



Mary MacDonald Purdie passed away peacefully on July 25, 2025 at the age of 95, and entered the presence of her Lord and Savior. Mary began her career as a teacher and headmistress in Scotland. She moved to the US, where she continued in teaching and ministry, most notably as King's Elementary Principal from 1980 to 1990. Affectionately known as "Queen Mary," she had a deep love for the Lord and children. In 1986 she accepted King's first national recognition as a Top 60 private school for excellence in education from President Ronald Reagan and US Education Secretary William Bennett. Mrs. Purdie's dedication to academic excellence is still felt today with TKA elementary's recent achievement in receiving the 2025 National Blue Ribbon Award.

II Timothy 4:7-8 is a fitting tribute: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness ..."* Please remember the Purdie family in your prayers and have this hope, that one day we will see her again!



Joy Fletcher Payret '93 passed away on January 31, 2026, at the age of 50 after a battle with ovarian cancer. Joy lived in Chantilly, Virginia with her husband Manuel and their two sons. She is the daughter of Robert "Bob" and Bonnie Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher taught History, Economics, and Bible at TKA from 1979 to 2009.

2025-2026 SCHOOL VERSE

*“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.” – Romans 5:8*

