

THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*
Volume 58, Issue 1



SPECIAL FEATURE

BECAUSE OF YOU

*Contributions and initiatives
from the EC community*



PLUS
EC QUASQUICENTENNIAL
& Alumni Profiles

SPRING 2017

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...



1892. The flag of the United States contains 44 stars. Benjamin Harrison of Indiana is President and Levi Morton of New York serves as Vice President.

Ellis Island in New York Harbor opens and processes the first 450,000 of the more than 12 million immigrants who will pass through its gates, leading some to question the immigration policies of the federal government. The very first basketball game is played in Springfield, MA, and the General Electric Company is founded in Schenectady, NY. Human flight is still 11 years in the future and space flight is seen as nothing more than fanciful science fiction.

On August 17 of that year, 65 members of the Christian community of Northern New Jersey gather in the basement of the Second Christian Reformed Church of Paterson to form the Christian School Society, which will later become Eastern Christian School. One month later, the school has enrolled 102 students and hired two teachers who initially teach their classes in the basements of two supporting churches. One year later, in November, 1893, the school's first classroom building opens on Amity Street in Paterson.

That school was founded with the goal of providing the children of Christian families with a distinctively Christian education that would prepare them to be people of Christian vision and influence, prepared to proclaim God's sovereignty over all of creation, prepared to transform the world in the service of the Kingdom.

2017. One hundred twenty-five years have passed. The flag of the United States contains 50 stars and other political leaders from New York and Indiana now occupy the West Wing of the White House. Ellis Island has been closed to immigrants pursuing the American dream for more than 60 years, but debates still persist about the federal government's immigration policies. Sports have assumed an outsized influence on American culture and global conglomerates have an ever increasing influence on the world economy. Passenger flight has transformed travel around the world and plans for commercial manned space flight are seen as not at all far-fetched.

And that small Christian school continues to provide the children of Christian families from around the world with a distinctively Christian education that will prepare them to be people of Christian vision and influence, prepared to proclaim God's sovereignty over all of creation, prepared to transform the world in the service of the Kingdom.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. "For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Ps.100:5 (NIV).

Thomas G. Dykhouse '76
Executive Director & Head of School





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SCHOOL

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About the cover (full photo on left):
According to a 2007 issue of *The Herald*, this photo, titled "The cornerstone is laid for Passaic Christian School, 1915" was donated by Phyllis (De Ruiter) Schuurman '53, and includes people with the last names of Vander Plaat, Bangma and De Ruiter. Passaic Christian School was a predecessor of Eastern Christian School.

For more on the history of the school, see:
<http://www.easternchristian.org/about-ec/history-beliefs/>



PAGE 7 Mathew Matthias and Scott Steenstra in the school play, "A Seussified Christmas"

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EC SPORTS



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The Herald is a bi-annual publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Eastern Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education. ***The Herald* is mailed free of charge to over 6,500 alumni, families, and friends of the school.**

Our address database is always being updated. If you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Herald*, please contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association office and we will be very happy to update our database accordingly.

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NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE

By Rachel Schultz '17

Ruth Kuder will move from her current position as high school principal to the position of Chief Educational Officer of Eastern Christian School, effective July 1, 2017.

In this role, Kuder will oversee and manage all educational personnel and services across three campuses. This change comes on the heels of two years of significant enrollment increases at Eastern Christian, with additional projected growth for the future.

Kuder, an alumna of Eastern Christian, has held a series of increasingly responsible positions within the school, including roles as a teacher, dean, International Student Program Director, and Vice Principal. Her new role is a “critically important leadership position for our educational programs,” shares **Tom Dykhouse**, head of school.

He adds, “she is a creative, skillful, and capable administrator who has a love for Eastern Christian School and education. Her combination of creativity, skill, and commitment to excellence is why she is exactly right for this, especially with all the positive changes in the EC community.”

Announced to the community in October, Kuder’s promotion



“

SHE IS A CREATIVE, SKILLFUL, AND CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS A LOVE FOR EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND EDUCATION. HER COMBINATION OF CREATIVITY, SKILL, AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IS WHY SHE IS EXACTLY RIGHT FOR THIS [POSITION]”

triggered a search for a new high school principal. The school has retained Stevenson & Company, a search firm specializing in leadership for Christian educational institutions.

Kuder is “excited about the opportunity to be involved in the educational program from pre-k through 12th grade” in a school “growing in size, programs, reach and influence.” She hopes to “build on the strong foundation that already exists, and implement ideas for new programs and cultivate more opportunities on all campuses.”

In her new role, Kuder hopes to build on the strong foundation that already exists, and implement ideas for new programs and cultivate more opportunities on all campuses.

VOCATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

By Zoe Schafer '18

Under the direction of art and design teacher **Jesse Wright**, Eastern Christian High School is piloting a vocational/technical program called **WINGS**.

Senior **Jesse Boonstra** is the first student within the program, teaming with Dykhouse Construction to learn construction and management for a portion of the day.

“During school hours, he’s at a construction site learning about the many aspects involved in running a construction company. He’s doing what he loves to do and wants to do. He’s getting direct experience and guidance from a leader in the field and already brainstorming about the business he would like to start,” explains Wright.

Although Boonstra is the first student participant, the goal is to expand. Students enrolled in the program will partner with professionals in the community, serving as interns in exchange for school credit. Students will also have to complete a presentation after the internship is complete.

The students will gain experience in the trades as well as real-world leadership skill. Although the initial pilot is focused on construction, other vocations will be considered in the future. “It would have to align with EC’s core values and potentially involve a field that the student could enter into following high school, or one that the student would be interested in pursuing further in college,” says Wright.

The school is currently seeking more professional mentors who would be willing to work alongside students. Students may also suggest a professional mentor to work with.

“Having a mentor helps you avoid missteps and can prepare you for the realities of a particular job. Real-world experience looks great on applications and can also help jump start your own business,” says Wright. He adds, “School is hard work, so why not work at what captivates you.”

Jesse Boonstra on site with Dykhouse Construction.



STEAM PROGRAM

STEAM Students Begin Culminating Projects

From storm shelters to sunscreen, second-year STEAM students at Eastern Christian are fully engaged in developing their culminating projects.

In its second year under the direction of **Phil Verrengia**, the STEAM program's goal is "to guide each student either in designing an innovative solution to a current problem, or in conducting independent scientific research that leads to a new discovery," according to the course catalog.

STEAM pathways represent the four major areas of science and technology: physical science, biological science, computer



science and earth and environmental science. Incoming ninth graders are enrolled in an every-other-day class where they learn about conducting experiments and developing projects. By the end of their first year, they have developed a proposal for their culminating project. Second-year students begin work on their STEAM culminating project, which must be complete before graduation. In the final year of the program, students will work with a mentor to produce a 20- to 30-page thesis summarizing the work of the previous two to three years.

1. Junior Steve Blanco is in his second year as a STEAM student. 2. STEAM and chemistry students, with teacher Petra van't Slot, at this year's fall open house.

A look at two culminating projects in the works ►

BELOW IS A LOOK AT TWO PROJECTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT:

Alzheimer's Research Project

By Alondra Brancato '17

About 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. As the Baby Boomer generation ages, the number is expected to rise rapidly.

Junior **Samantha Frank** explains that a smell test has been clinically used to confirm a diagnosis of Alzheimer's. Her question: What if the use of smell also helps with treatment? Frank's project involves researching whether or not scents remind Alzheimer's patients of pleasant memories, giving them pleasure and joy.

She is performing her research at Sun Rise adult home in Morris Plains. Initially, her research involves interviewing patients and their relatives. "I have been

trying to identify a certain smell linked with the patient's past memories or experiences. For example, as a child, maybe the patient went to the beach," says Frank. Finding familiar scents is an important component. "It is a fact you cannot remember anything from a scent you have never smelled," she adds.

Frank has been paired with **Dr. Todd Elder** as a mentor. She believes her research is a service to God. "I am letting patients know someone cares about you and I am here to help you. However, God cares about you more than I do. I am showing his love through caring for you...even if my research only brings patients joy, I will be happy."

Safe Sunscreen

By Lauren Choi '18

Vitamin D, which can be derived by the human body from exposure to sun, has been linked to a number of health benefits, including bone growth and increased immunity.

However, due to the risk of skin cancer, the Skin Cancer Foundation advises people to get Vitamin D elsewhere, for example, oily fish.

Concerned about healthy lifestyles, junior **Steve Blanco** has set out to develop a new sunscreen that

allows absorption of vitamin D through the skin, while also still protecting skin. Teamed up with mentor **Petra van't Slot**, he is currently conducting research on the topics of skin cancer, vitamin D and suncare product development. "This project will give me some insight of how actual health products are made and how much research goes into that," Blanco says. "I want to educate people how to live natural lives and invent the products that will help people live healthy lives."

THE GOAL OF THE STEAM PROGRAM IS TO GUIDE STUDENTS AS THEY DESIGN AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO A CURRENT PROBLEM, OR CONDUCT INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT LEADS TO A NEW DISCOVERY.

VETERANS INVITED TO ES CHAPEL

Veterans Serve Others with Personal Sacrifice



Principal Sandy Bottge opened with a question: “How many of you would like to volunteer to serve others?”

Dozens and dozens of hands shot up all around the elementary school gym.

She paused briefly, and then asked, “How many of you would you like to volunteer to serve others if it meant leaving your family for a long time?”

Hands went down.

“How many of you would you like to volunteer to serve others if it meant you had to leave your family for a long time, the work you have to do is dangerous, and you might get hurt?”

There were a few more hands up after this question than most adults would have expected, but the point was made. Joining

the military can come at great personal sacrifice.

The elementary school commemorated the sacrifice of veterans at its Veteran’s Day Chapel, held November 8 at the elementary school. Parents, grandparents and even a great-grandparent, many of whom served in various branches of the military, were in attendance.

The morning included a collection of songs, led by music teacher **Rob Flim**. Selections included God Bless America, My Country tis of Thee and They’ll Know We are Christians by our Love. This was followed by a video, where elementary school students pondered the meaning of freedom.

In addition, students prepared and recited a special Veteran’s Day acrostic poem, as well as sang a song of thanks directed at the special people in the back of the room.

Bottge served as keynote speaker. As she addressed her students regarding the benefits of freedom, especially for Christians, she reminded, “It takes someone very special and very brave [to serve in the military]. We want to celebrate with them and thank them for their service.”



Above: After chapel, students posed with veteran parents, grandparents and even a great-grandparent, John Soriano, who served in the army during WWII.

Below: Brielle Tanis with father, Mike Tanis. Mike served in the Army for 8 years, completing one tour in Iraq in 2003.

“IT TAKES SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL AND VERY BRAVE [TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY]. WE WANT TO CELEBRATE WITH THEM AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE.”



DR. SEUSS-INSPIRED PLAY

By Lauren Choi '18

Though Christmas was more than a few weeks away, Students believed it was time for a play With parts like Scrooge and Timmy Loo Hoo This version of Christmas Carol delighted us too.

Although many are familiar with Charles Dicken’s tale, *A Christmas Carol*, they are likely less aware of its rhyming counterpart, *A Seussified Christmas Carol*. Students at the high school hit the stage from November 10 through 12 to perform the play, a rhyming, comedic adaption written by Peter Bloedel.

Director **Jane Okma** decided on a no-cut audition to incorporate as many students as possible, even those who have never acted before. In the end, 25 students performed. Senior **Mathew Mathias** played the lead, Scrooge.

Newcomer to the stage, **Stephanie Zhang** says, “I really like watching plays, but I was never a part of it. Now standing on stage as a performer,

not an audience-member, it is very interesting to see how the show gets ready [for performances].”

Rehearsals began in September, culminating in the final production months later. Okma comments, “Everybody sounded wonderful in their parts and everyone was having a good time listening to each other.”

1. The cast of “A Seussified Christmas Carol”; 2. Yereimiya Wright; 3. Christina Poliandro; 4. Mathew Mathias



SERVICE IN ARIZONA

MS Students Traveling to Arizona to Serve

Established in 1872, the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona is currently considered the poorest reservation in the nation.

A 2000 US census listed the median household income at \$19,208, with 45.2 percent of families living below the poverty line, a variable figure that accounts for family make-up and is defined by the Census Bureau.

Amidst the struggles, Arizona Reservation Ministries (ARM) was founded on the principal in Exodus 17. According to the web site, the ministry has “chosen the servant position of Aaron, holding up the needs of our Apache brothers and sisters as the Lord leads.”

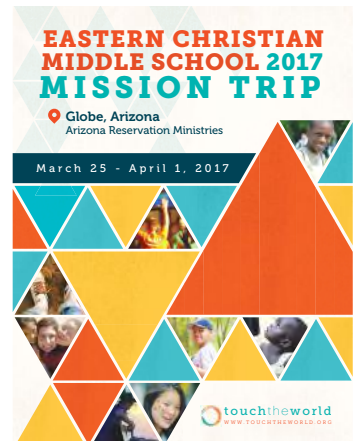
During spring break, a small group of seventh and eighth grade students at Eastern Christian, in partnership with Allendale-based Touch the World ministry, will serve alongside ARM in Globe, Arizona. Their work will consist of aiding in the construction of a home for a family in need, as well as children’s ministry work.

“The students will be exposed to a culture that is vastly different than their own, right here in the USA. Many

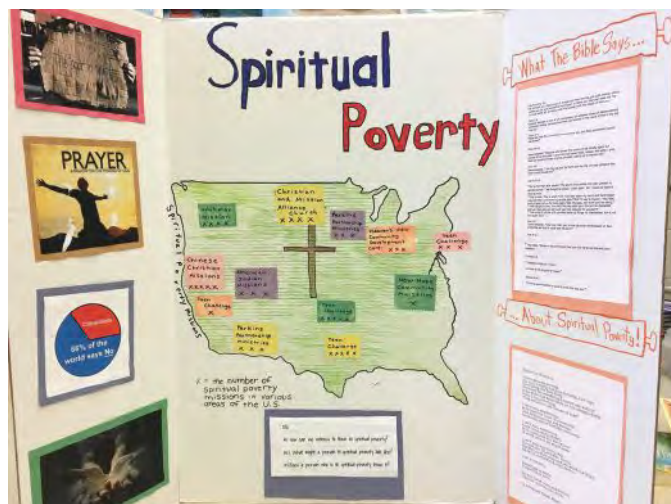


of the families living on the reservation are struggling to provide for their family’s basic needs,” shares **Debbie Herbst**, Touch the World liaison.

Although Touch the World has coordinated short-term missions work at the high school for eight years, this is the first time they have coordinated a trip for middle school-aged students. The missions program will tie into the Make a Difference (MAD), a service-oriented program already launched at the middle school, and is also coordinated with the social studies curriculum.



Two eighth grade projects related to the school’s Make a Difference (MAD) program, as well as a flier announcing the mission trip.



Social Studies teacher **Terry Allen** shares that the eighth grade MAD project involves poverty, and includes spiritual poverty as referenced in Amos 8:11 and Revelation 3:17. Allen adds, “In this way, I can connect the history I teach to the spreading of the Gospel. God has always used, humanly speaking, imperfect people and methods to bring the message of Christ to others.”

MUSTARD SEED SCHOOL

The Mustard Seed Connection



Mustard Seed students get off the bus to attend "A Seussified Christmas Carol."

46 minutes.

That's the amount of time it takes to travel from Mustard Seed School, an independent Christian school serving K-8 in Hoboken, NJ, to the EC high school campus 20 miles away. Yet despite the distance, the two schools share many common bonds.

In November, Mustard Seed students in fourth through eighth grade came to the high school's performance of *A Seussified Christmas Carol*. Later that month, ten Mustard Seed students hopped aboard an EC bus for the high school's preview day, a day set aside for eighth graders at EC and elsewhere to experience the high school campus, clubs and classes.

Although the distance is sizeable, the schools have also shared more long-term bonds. Two current EC freshmen—**Danny Bautista** and **Saskia Schuemann**—graduated eighth grade from Mustard Seed. "Only two...but they were in a class of nine," quips **Michele Postema**, director of admissions and community relations at Mustard Seed.

Postema is a former ECHS teacher, having taught from 1979-1983. She is not the only staff member with an EC connection. Four ECHS alumnus are currently Mustard Seed teachers: **Rachel Kuder-Thompson '09**, **Nathan Johnson '99**, **Sam Martino '10** and **Gabe Cuervo '95**. Postema noted that some of these teachers originally hailed from Hoboken, and in their days at EC, they took the train to the Hawthorne NJ Transit station, where an EC bus picked them up.

In the future, the two schools hope the bond will only grow stronger. Plans are in the works for direct transportation to the area so more can attend.

"Eastern Christian School and Mustard Seed share common goals and the same mission: to provide an excellent, Christ-centered education. We are thrilled that families from both communities share these values and that ECHS can help continue this commitment for students of Christian families who graduate from Mustard Seed's 8th grade," shared **Rudi Gesch**, EC's director of marketing and enrollment.

EXCITING ELECTION AT ECES

Results in an Upset Win



1. The candidates present their platforms during an elementary school assembly; 2. Adam Peters casts his vote; 3. Will Sloomaker exits the voting booth.

On November 8, 2016, students at Eastern Christian elementary school experienced an historic election with an upset win.

At the end of the day, Elephant won, despite rumors around the hallways that alluded otherwise. The margin was razor-thin, with just 15 votes separating candidates.

Elephant’s platform came with a mandatory teacher crazy hair day, an all-school no homework night, and a recess without the playground cart, so students could know what it’s like for children who never have equipment to play with. Piggie, on the other hand, had promised the principal in a costume, five extra minutes of recess, but also extra homework writing letters to people in Haiti.

The characters came from the Elephant and Piggie book series, written by Mo Willems and read in first grade. “There had been lots of talk about the upcoming election among the students and this gives them a little taste of what it is like for them to vote for a candidate and not necessarily a candidate their friends would want to vote for,” explains **Kelly Breur**, third grade teacher and member of the Special Projects Team.

The goal was to give elementary school students a chance to make informed decisions, as well as weigh the issues that are most important to them. “You might not like everything a candidate stands for, so what’s important to you?” adds Breur.

Candidates were unveiled at an assembly in October, where a puppet show explained the significance of voting and the concept of election issues. Some of the kids were so engaged they made campaign posters for their

chosen candidate. On Election Day, the students received a ballot and voted in a voting booth.

When the winner was unveiled at the end of the day, the classrooms erupted with energy. However, despite a contentious race, Elephant and Piggie puppets told the kids that they will be “friends forever.” When all was done, one student had an additional suggestion: “maybe we should put Elephant in the White House.”



NEW 7-YEAR ACCREDITATION CYCLE

By Rachel Shultz '16

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is a non-profit organization working with public and private schools wishing to voluntarily submit to an evaluation process.

For schools passing pre-set educational quality standards based upon research-backed methodologies, the organization issues regional accreditation. In addition, the school begins a 7-year cycle where goals are identified and pursued.

Eastern Christian is already accredited by the association and is seeking to maintain its current good status, while using the process to bring further improvements to the school. MSA standards are all encompassing, ranging from an evaluation of missions statements, to safety, to student life, to finances. The school accreditation committee has tacked on three additional goals to focus on in the next 7-year cycle: [physical] school improvements, further emphasis on character, and increased focus on global competence



in order to better prepare students for leadership in a global economy.

Eastern Christian School's committee is comprised of 25 members throughout the school community. Despite participation being voluntary, "It is a lot of work, but necessary in making EC the best it can be for our students," explains committee member **Tina Buccì**. "It is necessary for us to go through this process with an outside organization to keep us accountable to what we say we are going to do for the betterment of the school. We want to be transparent and open to constructive criticism to make EC the best it can be."



“ IT IS A LOT OF WORK, BUT NECESSARY IN MAKING EC THE BEST IT CAN BE FOR OUR STUDENTS ”

Pictured: Accreditation team meetings in progress.



The girls Bible study meets during a Monday SOAR.



BECAUSE OF YOU

STUDENT-LED BIBLE STUDY: ANCHORED

By Claudia Antoci '19

The story of a high school Bible study in New Jersey this year began in Uganda last year.

It was during a mission trip last spring that the two current leaders of Anchored, seniors **Samantha Boonstra** and **Kelsey Veenstra**, recognized the faith and leadership potential of two sophomores,

Christina Piluso and **Becky Parker**. The sophomores were approached to lead Anchored, a girls-only Bible study at EC. And they accepted.

Piluso describes the goal of Anchored as: “to grow together as a group of girls, and to grow closer to God. Also, to create leaders in the school so that we could have such a strong faith...and set the school on fire for God.”

Parker adds, “we really just want to create a space where people feel comfortable and open to discussion and that they want to talk. Those questions that they have, that they feel can’t be answered, we can help them answer, and just grow together.”

Anchored meets on Mondays during the SOAR activity period, under the direction of teacher **Liz Van Ryn**, as well as for special events like a lock-in. It currently averages about 35 girls. The format usually includes a short video, a discussion about a biblical response to the topic addressed, and prayer.

Becky and Christina are very pleased with the turnout of Anchored so far. Piluso would only like to ask one thing of the community: “Keep us in your prayers and see this as an encouragement, that there are students stepping up to do leadership. The youth has power and just because you’re a teenager doesn’t mean that you can’t do amazing things.” She adds, “So I think that it’s an encouragement to everyone, to not put people down for their age and realize that they have sometimes, more spiritual maturity than people that are older.”



BECAUSE OF YOU

STUDENT-LED BIBLE STUDY: MAN UP

By Claudia Antoci '19

It's Friday night. In the hallways of Eastern Christian High School, Nerf bullets fly. They are soon followed by dodge balls, singing, and discussions.

Lock-ins are meant for fun, making new friends and growing strong bonds between the guys, while at the same time, worshipping. And although they are perhaps the most anticipated events, lock-ins are only one aspect of Man Up, a young men's Bible study group led by seniors Scott Steenstra and Ethan Vander Molen. College and Career Counselor Jesse Struck advises.

Man Up is "a group that's meant for guys in our school to just be able to come together and pursue Christ together. It's meant for us to put the other distractions aside and be able to be vulnerable with each other, be open, and be able to support each other," Steenstra describes.

Both Steenstra and Vander Molen are new leaders of the group, and both were happy to take on the role this September. "It's a bigger step toward a Christian life, which is to actually take charge of the faith and not just be a wanderer," adds Vander Molen. He adds, "getting on a deeper level with guys is tough, I would say, because we like to be able to be a little more hardy, so getting to have an environment of openness with them is key, and developing a relationship throughout the year. Just keeping track with each other, keeping contact, keeping each other in check with everything, I think is how we are going to be developing relationships."

"At Eastern Christian, we are trying as hard as we can, even though we are not perfect, we're trying to take our spiritual journey seriously. I think Man Up is a great example of how Eastern Christian as a whole is really trying to dive into our personal relationship with God, take it seriously, and do it together," says Steenstra.



Top: Scott Steenstra leads a small group of students involved in Man Up.
Bottom: Several Man Up participants sharing in a smaller group setting.



Anya Veinberg and Luke Parker



BECAUSE OF YOU

MS STUDENTS TAKE INITIATIVE

Bible study launch

During the middle school years, EC students engage in a program called MAD. It stands for Make a Difference. As individual grades, the students work with a different charity each year. Inspired by the program, two students decided to step out and go one step further.

“During the summer, I just had an idea because of MAD. I thought

about how I could make a difference,” explains seventh grader Luke Parker.

Parker and his friend, seventh grader Anya Veinberg, worked with Principal Dan Lazor and Bible teacher Betsy Tyvoll to turn the idea into a reality. The hope was to organize a See You at the Pole event, and then branch out into an early-morning Bible study.

On the morning of September 8, Parker and Veinberg walked to the school’s flagpole to join students around the nation in a time of prayer. Due to publicity efforts in chapel, approximately 25-30 students and teachers joined in. The group prayed for the country, for the school, and for the students.

“I was overwhelmed when I saw that a lot of people came. It showed me that kids can make a difference, that kids can worship God, that kids can pray,” explains

Parker. “I was amazed how many people were so into it.”

Both Parker and Veinberg credit their spiritual maturity to caring Christians in their own lives. They also believe this summer was a turning point in their faith. After some youth leaders left for college at Veinberg’s church, she says, “I was constantly learning how to surrender everything to God and let him have control.” Luke adds that after struggling with anxiety and some illnesses in his family, “this summer, my eyes just opened up and I knew God has a plan for me. I can’t let just one thing get me down.”

After the response from See You at the Pole, the duo launched the early-morning Bible study on November 17 at 7:45 a.m. Nine people joined them. The pair is encouraged. Parker shares, “I kind of visualize it as a seed that could grow into a mighty bush.”



BECAUSE OF YOU

THE LONG-TERM DEDICATION OF EC TEACHERS

On a national survey, only 39 percent of teachers said they were satisfied with their jobs, a major decline from a decade earlier.

More than half of respondents also said they experience “great stress” several days a week. Compare this data with comments made in a 2015 anonymous survey of employees at Eastern Christian school. Staff was asked to list things that influence education for EC students. Here is a snapshot of responses:

“A STRONG PHILOSOPHY OF WHAT WE ARE ABOUT AND WHY.”

“EMPLOYEES WITH A SINGLE-MINDEDNESS IN VISION.”

“CONSISTENT VALUES TAUGHT BY FACULTY.”

“ADMINISTRATORS AND FACULTY READY AND WILLING TO IMPROVE EDUCATION.”

“TEACHERS WHO ARE ENCOURAGED TO THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX.”

In Colossians 3:17, Paul reminds believers, whatever they do, to do “it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” It is perhaps this common mandate that pushes faculty, despite everyday challenges common to the profession, to pursue excellence in academics and point our students to Christ. Currently, 49 percent of the faculty has remained at Eastern Christian for more than 10 years in pursuit of this higher calling. Following is a look at the three employees who have been the longest-working faculty members at each campus, and along with it, perhaps a deeper insight into what makes the teachers at EC so special.



Elementary School

Ellen Ritsma, 42 years

Ellen Ritsma has seen many positive changes come to the elementary school over the past four decades. She remembers the beginning of the Owl’s Nest program. She has witnessed the start of the physical education and art curriculum. And she participated in the technological revolution from mimeographs to computers. Despite all the changes within the school, her role over 42 years has remained largely unchanged. She has always served some of the youngest pupils, working exclusively with first and second graders, with the exception of one year, where she taught third. She is presently a first-grade teacher.

continued on p16

(Ellen Ritsma continued)

As a new college graduate, Ritsma was hired unexpectedly in October 1974 due to a family relocation. She began teaching the following month. “I wasn’t sure how long I would be at EC. In the beginning, as a new teacher, I was told by administration that they were unsure of enrollment plans and a job position. I always left it in God’s hands and plans. He has provided a lifetime career for me. I believe it is His calling in my life,” she shares.

Ritsma has seen increased participation of EC students in the fabric of the school. She shares, “I’ve seen

greater student involvement in spiritual and educational matters. Our students are taught to serve others as Christ would.”

She says she works with wonderful colleagues at Eastern Christian—a couple of whom were former students—and appreciates the administration’s commitment to teacher professional development, school unity, and the needs of individual students. “EC strives to provide the best Christian education to those who attend,” she says. “It is a great place, training students for the plan God has for them.”



“I can’t imagine going or teaching anywhere else. This is home. This is my life,” she adds.

Eastern Christian has impressed her throughout her tenure. She shares she is most proud of the “commitment of the community, board and staff to follow God’s leading and have faith that His will, will be done. Even in very tough times, staff and community pull together in prayer, believing that God will lead and bless this school, and He always has. This community is one who lives on the promise of God’s faithfulness.”

True to the tone of the overall employee survey, she also emphasizes the shared vision of faculty members. “We work hard to meet the needs of every student, whatever their learning style. We have a school where all students feel cared for, loved and protected. We challenge them in their walk with Christ in every classroom. We experience service learning as much as we can. We want our students to let their love of Christ shine in every aspect of their relationships and in their work ethic.” She adds, “Staff has a great deal of love and respect for each other. That challenges and motivates students when they see a staff that stands together to help them strive for excellence in everything they do.”

Middle School

Deb Vandenberg, 33 years

In her 33 years as an EC employee, one particular day stands out as extraordinarily special: working with seventh graders on the last day of school to move classrooms, before the middle school addition was opened the following fall.

“We had a lot of fun that day, teachers and students together, moving. I can still see the kids on the moving dollies rolling around the hallways. They worked hard!” she says.

Deb Vandenberg actually began her EC journey as a kindergartener, but the career portion started when she was student teaching as a college senior. Her jobs have been varied, ranging from K-12 PE teacher, to transportation coordinator, to her current position, fifth grade math and science teacher. One thing has remained stable, however: her unwavering commitment to, and love of, Eastern Christian School.

COLOSSIANS 3:17 – “AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.” - a mandate for all believers to glorify the Lord through their work. This ministry mindset pushes EC faculty toward a continual pursuit of excellence.



BECAUSE OF YOU



As the years have gone on, he has also noticed positive changes within the high school. “In the past, kids weren’t a part of the fabric at school, for example, chapel wasn’t planned by the kids. Now, kids plan chapel, graduation and senior parent night. There’s a student senate and a student advisory. Students are a part of the life of Eastern Christian and feel a sense of ownership. It’s not an us versus

them mentality.” He adds, “There’s a great expression of the kid’s spiritually through chapel, through missions work and in service projects.”

On the administrative level, Verrengia has also been pleased with increased intentionality regarding long-term planning. In the Dean’s office, the deans work with students on a four-year plan tailored to their long-term goals.

High School Phil Verrengia, 36 years

For decades, Phil Verrengia has been a familiar face at the high school campus, although it almost didn’t happen. His first attempt at getting hired was unsuccessful. Later, at the encouragement of administration, he applied again and was appointed a science and math teacher, taking on a roster of kids for chemistry, biology, geometry and chemistry honors classes.

Verrengia’s responsibilities have changed throughout the years. He currently teaches one class—honors physics—and has assumed leadership roles as the Junior/Senior Dean of Students as well as the Director of the STEAM program.



WE HAVE A SCHOOL WHERE ALL STUDENTS FEEL CARE FOR, LOVED AND PROTECTED. WE CHALLENGE THEM IN THEIR WALK WITH CHRIST IN EVERY CLASSROOM.” - Deb Vandenberg



Approximately seven years ago, a group of people who loved EC approached the board of directors with a wild idea: start a thrift store with profits going back to the school.

“We received support but there was clearly apprehension. We committed to donate \$25,000 that first year and many thought we were foolish to make that commitment. Even as we opened



Current student Kyle Strelman



BECAUSE OF YOU

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

DITTO

the store, I remember standing at the top of the ramp to the stockroom and wondering: How will we ever be able to keep this store supplied with goods?” commented **David Visbeen**, executive director of The Foundation for ECSA. “But our God is amazing and he opened the floodgates.”

Seven years later, the store, named ditto, has donated \$784,000 to Eastern Christian to date, with a projection of an

additional \$190,000 in donations for the 2016-2017 school year. Furthermore, true to the biblical concept of tithing, while 90% of profits go to Eastern Christian, the store donates 10% of profits to other organizations. Among many beneficiaries, these have included the Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center, New Hope Community Ministries, Ridgewood CRC Baby Bank, Salvation Army, Paterson Habitat for Humanity, and the North Haledon Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Corps and Library.

As Visbeen reflects on the success, he recalls Malachi 3:10: “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Betsy Kelly, ditto store manager, sees several reasons for the continued success. “ditto is truly blessed by our Lord in



“Volunteers are teens and adults of all ages who love shopping, working and supporting EC and the other nonprofits,” adds Kelly. Volunteers set their own schedule and receive a store discount after committing to a set time and completing 8 hours. Kelly says the store currently needs more cashiers, donation room and “on-the-floor” volunteers, especially in the afternoons and on Saturdays.

“A number of our volunteers work at ditto because they went to EC and their children went there or go there presently. They feel it is

the overwhelming amount of donations that come in each day. I think people come into ditto to shop because of the size of ditto, the cleanliness of the store, the variety of merchandise, friendly staff and great prices. We have both new and donated merchandise.”

In addition to community donations, the store is made possible by a small handful of part-time managers and an army of volunteer staff. “We rely on volunteers for so much,” says Kelly. “Without them, ditto would not be the success it is. They cashier, price items, sort through donations, put clothes and merchandise on the floor, test electronics, organize books and much more. They are there because they love EC and enjoy the fellowship.”

Visbeen estimates that the volunteer hours donated to date exceed 30 years of full-time employment. Although originally, volunteers were mainly parents and grandparents with direct ties to EC, the group has grown to include community members outside of EC with a wide range of ages represented.



Top: Former EC parents Sheri Mulcock and Dee Anderson in the sorting room.
Bottom: Alumna Alexa Anderson

a way to give back for what our Lord has given them,” says Kelly.

Visbeen adds, “We give God all the glory for ditto of NJ’s success. It has just been awesome to be a part of this store’s development and operations.”

“ THE STORE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A SMALL HANDFUL OF PART-TIME MANAGERS AND AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEER STAFF.”



BECAUSE OF YOU

A LIFETIME OF EC MEMORIES

Former EC Teacher and Community member, Ruth Spikeboer

Ruth Spikeboer taught approximately 1200 students over the course of 44 years. But she doesn't focus on statistics. She remembers the stories.

At 95-years-old, she recounts some of the stories that have especially touched her heart. There was the rambunctious student who would eventually become a Computer Science professor, the struggling student who would go on to influence many as a minister, and the doctor she met years later, who

ran to meet her at a Luke Society meeting in Mississippi. These stories give her joy. And when you teach 1200 students, there is a lot of joy to think about.

"I have been amazed how some of them have turned out," she says. "It's such a thrill to see them develop in these careers, but also to see them become hard workers in the church."

Ruth first walked through the doors of Eastern Christian School as a teacher in 1942 after graduating from Calvin College the same year. Her first task was perhaps the most daunting: Teach a class of 44 second and third graders. Over the years, she would serve many different grades, working the longest with sixth graders at the Wyckoff campus. She retired in 1986.

As a student, Ruth graduated eighth grade at Riverside Christian, a predecessor to Eastern Christian School, but graduated high school from public school due to transportation problems. Even though EC was not technically her alma mater, during her time as a faculty member and for the thirty years since her retirement, Ruth's support of Christian education and Eastern Christian has been unwavering. She attributes it to her love of the school. "The whole thing is based on the word of God," she says. "[EC] is life transforming for the young people. I think especially at the high school age, when they are thinking about college and life partners, the value is that our kids have the background training to make decisions that are more conforming to the will of God."

Eastern Christian consistently scores high during evaluations in its teacher/student relationships. Perhaps it's the motive behind the teaching. Ruth carried the same mentality throughout her career: "I felt it was a chance to work with God's children and take part in that training and walk in God's way. It was more of a mission."

The love goes both ways, and then multiplies. Several years ago, a former student, **Larry Baker**, superintendent at Central Valley Christian Schools, shared at his induction ceremony how his teacher, Miss Spikeboer, was a major influencer in his life. A listener thought to call her and let her know. And then there are the "kids", who still come by for a visit from time-to-time, although they now knock at her Holland Home door.

She always appreciates a visit, and sometimes it makes her chuckle. "They will come to visit their parents, and then obviously know that I'm here. Sometimes I don't know that they're coming. I open the door and there's a man with a bald head and a beard saying, "Do you know who I am?" And all I have at the moment is an image of a 12-year-old kid."

She adds, "I think a teacher can have a great influence. You never know what little word you drop that just might be the right one at the right time."



125 Years



EC QUASQUICENTENNIAL

Something to Celebrate

A 125-year anniversary is called a quasiquicentennial. This word is pronounced ‘kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl’ and it may be used as a noun or an adjective, in case you were wondering. However you say it, a 125-year anniversary is something to celebrate and that’s exactly what we plan to do at Eastern Christian this year.

It is amazing to think that EC began with a small group of church leaders and parents in 1892. Now 125 years later, by the grace of God and because of you, our committed community of supporters, there are more than 800 students in three buildings located in Bergen and Passaic Counties. EC has not just survived, but has grown and thrived through world wars, depressions, civil unrest, and recessions. Only God could bring this about and we give Him all the glory!

The official anniversary date is in August, but we will be marking the 125th anniversary all year long in a number of ways. Our letterhead, envelopes, website and social media platforms will be sporting a new look in 2017. I would be very surprised if the EC SWAG Shop wasn’t hawking some anniversary apparel very soon as well. For now, no single anniversary gala event is planned. Instead, we hope to make the anniversary a part of every event we host in 2017.

Here at The Foundation, we are thinking about ways each of our events can celebrate 125 years of faithfully

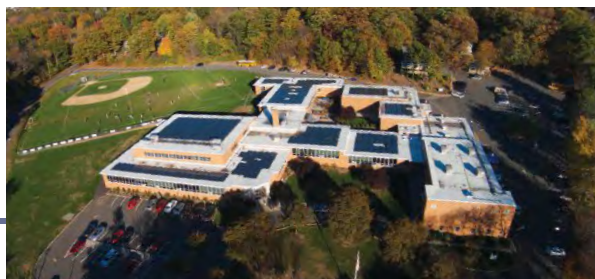
pursuing the mission to provide excellent Christ-centered education to the children of Christian families in our community.

Once again, we have a year filled with events:

- The **Athletic Boosters Beefsteak** took place at The Brownstone on February 1, 2017
- The **Scholars Dinner** featuring Michael Lindsay, President of Gordon College on March 10, 2017
- The **Spring Auction Gala** at Indian Trail Club on April 20, 2017
- The **Spring Golf Outing** at Black Bear Golf Club on May 22, 2017
- **Touch a Truck** at Eastern Christian Middle School on April 29, 2017
- **HomeComing Weekend** on October 20-22, 2017

We are hoping to culminate our quasiquicentennial celebrations with an area-wide service of praise and worship to conclude HomeComing Weekend on Sunday, October 22, 2017.

We hope you will plan to celebrate this milestone anniversary with us all year long.



EC SCHOLARSHIP

The Elise Kathleen Gorter Scholarship

On August 24, 2003 the Eastern Christian community was shocked by the news that Elise Kathleen Gorter, a student in the middle school, had been struck by a speeding car on High Mountain Avenue.

One day later, Elise succumbed to her injuries and died. Along with Elise's family, we as a community mourned the loss of this beautiful young girl. As we pondered this incredible loss and asked difficult questions, many clung to Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Less than a year later, Steve and Laura Gorter established the **Elise Gorter Scholarship** at Eastern Christian School. The scholarship was established to provide tuition assistance to current Eastern Christian School families facing financial challenges. Those scholarships provide access to an EC education that would otherwise be unavailable to those families.

Now, 13 years later, I asked the Gorters what made them establish a scholarship in Elise's memory. Laura, Elise's mother responded: "Steve and I set up the Memorial fund because we wanted a way that we and all those who loved and knew Elise could remember and honor her life publicly. We also wanted others to benefit from the scholarship in a way that would nurture and grow them in the EC community. "Elise was so blessed by Eastern Christian School, so loved, so able to grow in her knowledge of Christ and

also challenged academically. It was the perfect choice for a way to give back to EC and remember our sweet, happy, smart daughter who loved Jesus, her school, her family and her friends.

As the Gorters suffered this loss, they clung to their faith. "The death of a child is a vivid reminder of our mortality and our need for Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and savior. We are so grateful that because of His sacrifice, we will see Elise again.

Throughout the years, The Foundation has continued to receive gifts that are given in memory of Elise and are added to the scholarship fund. The fund continues to grow as only the interest and gains are distributed in scholarships. Because the Elise Gorter Scholarships are awarded to needy families, those awards are not publicized. Each year, several students benefit from the **Elise Gorter Scholarship**.

The **Elise Gorter Scholarship** and the **Adrian "Bud" Visbeen Scholarship** are two named scholarships that benefit current EC families. If you would like information on establishing a named scholarship to honor a loved one, contact The Foundation for EC at 973-427-9294.

"The death of a child is a vivid reminder of our mortality and our need for Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior"

FUNDING HOPE

The Project Hope Program

In the Fall of 2014, EC announced the Urban Christian Education Program. In 2015, the program was renamed Project Hope. Project Hope is transforming lives, families, and the communities of Haledon, Prospect Park, and Paterson, New Jersey by empowering one underprivileged student at a time through access to an excellent Christ-centered academic education.

We provide an otherwise unavailable educational opportunity for these students, equipping them for success as the next generation of leaders in their communities.

Students from Christian families are chosen via a nomination and rigorous application process. These are families for whom a Christ-centered education would not be accessible, even with the help of variable tuition. The Project Hope Advisory Board has been working to attain necessary funding for this program outside of the usual sources of EC fundraising. Now in its third year,

VANDER WEIT FAMILY

101 Years of Sacrifice and Commitment

Desiring a better life for themselves and their family, Abe and Elsie Vander Weit, along with five children ages six and under, boarded the SS Veendam II in the winter of 1950 bound for America.

Elsie was pregnant at the time. Many battled whooping cough on the crossing and Elsie suffered a concussion. The Atlantic crossing came to a safe conclusion and the Vander Weits found that “relatives welcome us with open arms,” Elsie wrote in June 1951. For the next 12 weeks, the family lived with relatives.

Finding a rental apartment with six children proved difficult and Abe’s uncles, Will Vander Weit and Teddy Schwier, provided financing and helped them find a two-family house that would be their home for all their days. Next, with the support of Third CRC, the children were enrolled in North 4th Street Christian School.

While Elsie worked in the home, Abe took what jobs he could. Eventually, Abe was hired by his brother Henry

as a carpenter. This was his dream job. Free enterprise flourished in America and in 1964 Abe became a partner in the business. After many years of accepting “scholarship” from the Third Church community, Abe and Elsie were now able to fully pay for Christian education.

The children wore hand me downs and meals often included leftovers from the Holland Home. These were some of the sacrifices the family made to provide each of the children with a Christian education. Their dad took the time to explain just how important it was to raise funds for Christian education through volunteer work. This, is what community does to care for each other.

Randy remembers the start of his freshman year at EC where six siblings had preceded him. What’s more amazing, is that over the years Abe and Elsie provided their children with **101 years of Christian education**. This required sacrifices and the help of the church and community.

While the siblings live in six different states and “run the spectrum of political views and how to live in faith” they treasure their reunions. The September 2015 reunion had special significance as it occurred 100 years after their parents’ births.

As the Vander Weits marked the anniversary of their parents’ births and remembered the sacrifices for 101 years of Christian education, Eastern Christian celebrates 125 years of providing Christ-centered education. This has only been possible through the grace of God and the sacrifice and support of the community. The Christian community continues to be a critical factor in making quality Christ-centered education accessible to families who otherwise could not afford it.

In the words of Randy Vander Weit: “Let’s celebrate our humble, yet bold beginnings, where our Lord has led, and catch His vision for tomorrow.” Amen Randy.

there are 13 students enrolled at EC with the support of Project Hope.

When **Faith (Hamstra) Bennett ’74** was contacted she thought there was a good match between Project Hope and the focus of The Bernard and Dorothy Hamstra Charitable Foundation which she administers. For two (2) years now, The Hamstra Charitable Foundation has generously supported Project Hope. Faith writes: “Your mission to empower underprivileged students by providing access to a Christ-centered academic education falls squarely

within the purpose of The Hamstra Charitable Foundation.

Eastern Christian School and The Project Hope Advisory Board gratefully acknowledge the grants received from The Hamstra Charitable Foundation, as well as support from other individuals, helping to make Christian education accessible to more families. For information on ways you can support Project Hope, contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian at 973-427-9294 or at Foundation@EasternChristian.org.

THEN & NOW

History Snapshots and Fall Homecoming



Homecoming weekend is geared toward building relationships with those who have walked the grounds as a student, teacher, parent or staff member, at some point in their lives. We look forward to deeper partnerships with new families and celebrate those who have been well invested in the fabric of this school. For more information on Homecoming 2016, visit: <http://www.easternchristian.org/2016/10/24/homecoming-2016-recap/>

HISTORICAL PHOTOS: 1. Eastern Academy, circa 1923; 2. Baseball from 1960; 3. Class of 1923; 4. Tug of War from 1958; 5. Board of Directors from 1950; 6. Class of 1951; 7. Band members from 1960



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MANY THANKS TO THE BUSINESS SUPPORTERS WHO MADE HOMECOMING 2016 A SUCCESS!

HOMECOMING 2016 EVENT SPONSORS
Atlantic Stewardship Bank
Searchpath New York Metro

EC5K RACE SPONSORS
Nicholas Markets
Regency Wealth Management

RUNNER SPONSORS
Abbey Carpet & Floor of Hawthorne, Borduin Paving, ditto of North Jersey, JP Morgan Private Bank, Kuiken Brothers Company, Martin Orthodontics, Reiner Group, Terri O'Connor Realtors/Jeff Vander Molen, Visbeen Construction Company, Wayne Tile Company

HERITAGE DINNER SPONSORS
Christian Health Care Center



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HOMECOMING PHOTOS: 8. Ryan and David Visbeen; 9. Cassie DeJulia and Isabelle Lazor; 10. Honors choir; 11. Sean, Kristen, Scott and Jase Sietsma; 12. Boys L to R: Peter Klein, Michael Tarta, Gabe Tarta, Briggs Elvgren; 13. Tom Dykhouse and Jon Veenstra, winner of the 5K; 14. Arnie and Bob Rubestello; 15. Heritage brunch; 16. Kaitlin Hefty, Emily Byrnes, Brittany Van Harken

FASHION SHOW & HOLIDAY SHOPPE

This year's Fashion Show & Holiday Shoppe was a huge success! With the debut of mobile bidding for the Fashion Show's Silent Auction, more than 200 bidders were involved in the auction. Through these fun, new features, we were able to raise the most Silent Auction contributions in nearly a decade! Over 130 items were claimed, making this year's Fashion Show fundraiser surpass previous goals. We are so grateful to Patti Peretti and the committee who make this show a reality. Also to La Force Fashion PR House, LT Apparel and Susan Moses, Celebrity Stylist, for their generous donations to both the show and the auction. A big "Thank you" to our awesome runway models, as well as other EC parents, staff, students and supporters who volunteered time, merchandise and talents. For more information on this year's event, go to: <http://www.easternchristian.org/2016/12/12/fashion-show-2016-recap/>.

THE 1892 SOCIETY

Committed to the EC Mission

In just a couple of weeks, Eastern Christian School will begin to celebrate its 125th year. Granted, the official anniversary date is in August, but we want to celebrate this amazing milestone for as long as we can. Imagine 125 years ago the first classes met in the basement of a church. 125 years ago Christian parents came together and agreed that despite the challenges and sacrifices that would be required, they would be sending their children to a Christian school.

And here we are today, 800+ students attending pre-k through 12th grade on three (3) different campuses. More than 100 faculty and staff serving together to equip young men and young women to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. In 125 years our community has transformed from a small group of Dutch parents to 1,000's who come from more than 180 churches and literally live all around the world. But the mission remains the same, equipping young men and young women to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. What a blessing it is to be a part of this mission!

125 years ago, in 1892 it all began. We felt that was so remarkable, that we named our legacy society after the year of our "birth". The 1892 Society is a group of individuals who are committed to the mission of Eastern Christian School. In fact, these individuals are so committed that they were not satisfied with simply supporting EC with annual gifts. They have chosen to support EC in their estate planning. These individuals have decided to leave a legacy that takes their "cradle to grave" commitment of support one step further. In fact, in many cases these estate gifts are the single largest gift an individual will give to Eastern Christian School.

We are deeply indebted to The 1892 Society members and to those who came before them. Unless otherwise designated, legacy gifts are applied to the Eastern Christian Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund has grown to provide a significant amount of support to the annual operating budget of Eastern Christian School. This year, that support amounted to \$450,000.00.



Some of the gift packages ready to be shipped to the members of The 1892 Society as a small token of our thanks for their deep commitment to the mission of Eastern Christian School.

Our strategic plan has set a goal of growing the Endowment Fund to \$10,000,000.00 in the next seven years. With your help, we can make that happen. And just imagine the impact that such an endowment will have on keeping tuition at an affordable level, making a quality, Christ-centered education accessible to more and more individuals.

You can become a member of The 1892 Society by naming Eastern Christian School in your estate plan, by purchasing a charitable gift annuity, or by naming EC as the benefactor of an existing life insurance policy just to name a few of the options. For more information on The 1892 Society and how you can leave a legacy for Eastern Christian School, contact David Visbeen, executive director of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School at 973-310-0402 or by email at davidvisbeen@easternchristian.org. If you have already included EC in your estate plan, would you please let us know? We want to be sure to recognize each and every legacy donor.

ALUMNI

Note: The Alumni News printed was received via a written note, e-mail, or from media sources. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions.

Betty (Lanting) Bowers '49 recently published her second book - a cookbook called "A Century of Family Feasts." It contains recipes that have been used for many years as our extended family continued to get together regularly. I grew up with every one converging at my grandparent's house for coffee and treats after church. The adults would get an earlier start and the children came a bit later, after they had attended Sunday School at the old Northside Christian Reformed Church in Clifton. Starting with Grandma Bangma's old recipes, the book continues with those from her children, including my Uncle Sid, former EC teacher Sid Bangma. The cook book is available from Amazon.com for \$4.00.

Dr. Garry Vermaas '90 and Dr. Jodi Douglas are happy to welcome Luxmi Rose into their family. Luxmi is 9 years old and she was adopted from St. Jude's Orphanage in Cochin, India on February 26, 2016. She joins James, Shiya and William who were all adopted from China and Garret and Jolyn.

Gabriel A. Kooreman '08 received his Ph.D. degree in nuclear engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology on 12/16/16. Gabriel attended the New Jersey Governor's School of Engineering and Technology. He holds a B.E. degree in chemical engineering from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and an M.S. degree in nuclear engineering from Georgia Tech. He was the recipient of the Admiral Hyman Rickover Fellowship and a fellowship from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. His research has been published in the Annals of Nuclear

Energy, as well as the Journals of the American Nuclear Society and the International Atomic Energy Agency. He is currently employed as a senior nuclear engineer with Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in Pittsburgh, PA.

Celebrations

Faith Steensma '96 & Jack Van Oss were married on 8/19/16.

Doug '00 & Julianne (Borduin) Everett '98 welcomed Rae Lynn on 9/12/16.

Orville & **Lisa (Verrengia) Ranguy '98** welcomed Ayla Joy on 10/26/16.

Jonathan '01 & Rachel (Vriesema) Kuperus '00 welcomed Jonah Miles on 10/6/16.

Jonny & **Kristen (Serafin) Rashid '01** welcomed Agatha Vashti on 2/26/16.

Joe & **Erin (De Jong) Siervo '01** welcomed Hannah Abigail on 11/19/16.

Chris & **Jennifer (Beverly) TenHarmsel '01** welcomed Reese Avery, on 10/29/16.

Yvonne Wisse '01 & Evan Grimme were married on 6/16/16.

Brett Algera '02 & Kate Erickson were married on 10/1/16.

Jeffrey Bruins '02 & Janet Chang were married on 10/29/16.

Carmen & **Debbie (Ramirez) Campise '02** welcomed Aria Michaela, on 9/9/16.

Michael & **Nicole (Van Buiten) Maraldo '02** welcomed Addison Alexandra on 8/11/16.

Steven Ruit '02 & Jessica Rein were married on 10/22/16.

Ross & Erin (Veenstra) Selby '02 welcomed Emerson Rose on 8/17/16.

Matt '03 & Sharon (Westra) Bale-Pena '03 welcomed Calla Joy on 8/23/16.

Allison Postma '03 & John Williamson were married on 7/30/16.

Brittany & **Bryan Troast '03** welcomed twins Calvin & Louella on 8/23/16.

Cristen & **Bob Verrengia '03** welcomed Alexander Robert on 8/9/16.

Benjamin Bruins '04 & Katherine Volza were married on 8/13/16.

Christopher & **Samantha (Sietsma) Kendra '04** welcomed Colton Dennis on 7/5/16.

Steven Link '04 & Katie Kelly were married on 7/22/16.

Bret Roukema '04 & Jessica Wrisley were married on 6/12/16.

Kyle Van Dolan '04 & Shannon Kelly were married on 6/26/16.

Justin Ydo '04 & Natalie Youngquist were married on 10/8/16.

Elise (De Jong) '05 & Brett Fritsch '06 welcomed Haven Joy on 7/5/16.

Matt Bouwense '06 & Maimai Dajay were married on 12/27/16.

Kelly Slagter '06 & Jeff Cortland were married on 9/17/16.

Melissa Woudenberg '06 & Joe Cecere were married on 6/11/16.

Joshua Wisse '06 & Victoria Benedict were married on 9/30/16.

Amy & **Andrew Hulsebos '07** welcomed Malachi Allan on 11/22/16.



Top row: Jonah Kuperus, Kole & Mason Klingler, Aria Michaela Campise

Bottom row: Agatha Rashid, Alex Verrengia & Ayla Ranguy, Calla Bale-Pena, Haven Joy Fritsch



SEND US YOUR BABY ANNOUNCEMENT AND RECEIVE AN EC ONESIE!

► ALUMNI NEWS continued

Christopher Nayda '07 & Shannon O'Hea were married on 7/1/16.

Esther Tuit '07 & Matthew Lucas were married on 7/23/16.

Katie & Kyle Klingler '08 welcomed twin sons, Kole Joseph and Mason Kyle on 4/30/16.

Kyle Vandenberg '08 & Meghan Gillis were married on 10/8/16.

Joshua Abma '09 & Valerie Klutkowski were married on 6/11/16.

Amber Fiedler '09 & David Dempsey were married on 5/28/16.

Rachel Kuder '09 & David Thompson were married on 7/17/16.

Michelle Van Lenten '09 & Derek Gilman were married on 9/9/2016.

Alyssa Kuiken '10 & Jake Morin were married on 8/13/16.

Ashley Braen '11 & John DeSclafani were married on 8/13/16.

Jonathan Snack '11 & Rachel Guthall were married on 8/13/16.

Jessie Schultz '13 and Paul Danielson were married on 7/17/16.

REMEMBERING

*The Foundation Office has learned of the following deaths of these alumni and former faculty members since our last issue of **The Herald**.*

Alumni

Theresa "Tret" Bushman '37 of Wyckoff, NJ on 11/16/16.

Marian (Barrowclough) Vandervelt '38 of Wyckoff, NJ on 9/27/16.

Garberdina (Van Der Meer) Nywening '39 of North Haledon, NJ on 10/27/16.

Huberta (Dyksen) Smith '41 of Wyckoff, NJ on 9/8/16.

Cornelia "Connie" (Dykstra) Van Vliet '41 of Bradenton, FL on 3/25/16.

Leonard Sytsma '42 of Elmhurst, IL on 5/8/16.

Garret Dykhouse ex'44 of Wyckoff, NJ on 11/2/16.

Marie Wispelwey '45 of North Haledon, NJ on 11/19/16.

Edith (Osinga) Visser '48 of Seattle, WA on 4/18/16.

Marilyn (Drukker) Heetderks '49 of Grand Rapids, MI on 9/14/16.

Eleanor (De Vries) Jeltens '49 of North Haledon, NJ on 2/28/16.

Andrew Bandstra '51 of Holland, MI on 10/3/16.

Harriet (Roukema) Abma '52 of Mahwah, NJ on 12/2/16.

Carolyn (Riemersma) Joustra '54 of St. Petersburg, FL on 7/19/16.

Helen (Jans) Joustra '54 of Hawthorne, NJ on 9/27/16.

Lawrence Hoogerhyde '54 of Kentwood, MI on 12/20/16.

Leonard Dykman '56 of Wyckoff, NJ on 9/30/16.

Steven Vermeulen '57 of Newfoundland, NJ on 11/8/16.

Lorraine Schlossman '61 of Ocean Township, NJ on 8/15/16.

John A. Hartog '65 of Ossipee, NH on 11/16/16.

Janice (Breur) Laauwe '66 of Midland Park, NJ on 10/20/16.

Kenneth W. Hagedorn '68 of Mahwah, NJ on 8/31/16.

Lenny Morrison '92 on 9/16/16.

Jay Tenewitz ex'03 of Westwood, NJ on 12/25/16.

Brian Genzink, '04 of Grand Rapids, MI on 7/12/16.

REMEMBERING BOARD MEMBERS AND EC STAFF

Because of you, the volunteers who work tirelessly in numerous roles advancing the mission of Christian education, Eastern Christian School has been able to grow and thrive for 125 years. In remembering the following individuals, we gratefully acknowledge the leadership they brought to the Eastern Christian School Board of Directors, Faculty and Staff:

Garret J. Dykhouse

Garry and Raeann attended Eastern Academy, their three sons and their 11 grandchildren graduated from Eastern Christian School. But that wasn't enough for Garry. Always one to offer his gifts in service to the community, Garry served on the Eastern Christian Board of Directors from 1965-1968. He served on various committees of the board beginning as Finance Chair from '66-'68. He served on the insurance committee and also co-chaired the Capital Campaign for Eastern Christian Middle School in 1984.

Leonard J. Dykman

Len graduated from Eastern Christian High School in 1956. He and Betty ('60) also sent their four children to EC. Len served on the Eastern Christian Board of Directors from 1975-1977 and again from 1986 to 1989. He served on the Public Relations Committee, the Building Committee (Chair '87-'89) and the Transportation Committee. Len also volunteered at ditto of NJ repairing and refinishing furniture until shortly before his death.

Lawrence Hoogerhyde, Sr.

Larry graduated from Eastern Academy in 1954 and returned to serve on the faculty in various roles from 1971 to 1980. He taught music, directed the band, orchestra and choir ('71-'80). He also served as Promotions Director ('77-'78) and as Guidance Counselor ('78-'80) all at Eastern Christian High School touching the lives of hundreds of students during that time. He continued to serve the EC community using his knowledge of education and his gifts of leadership, serving on the Board of Directors from 1982-1985, serving as President from 1984-1985.

Marie Wispelwey

Marie graduated from Eastern Academy in 1945. She began her EC career as secretary to the principal in 1949. She served several principals in this capacity as well as clerical supervisor. In 1977 Marie became secretary to the first Superintendent at Eastern Christian, Norm DeJong. Marie retired in 1990 after 41 years of service to Eastern Christian School.

LIFE ON “THE HILL”

Lisa (Beverly) Branum '96

When Hurricane Sandy slammed New Jersey, affected residents and local government agencies turned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for help after New Jersey was declared a state of emergency.



Although NJ residents are likely more familiar with FEMA, another federal agency was also actively involved: The US Department of the Interior’s Office of Emergency Management.

Also engaged in disaster response, its job is to implement “policies, regulations, and procedures to address all types of hazards and incidents that affect DOI lands, facilities, infrastructure and resources,” explains Lisa Branum, current director and 1996 EC graduate. Following Hurricane Sandy, for example, more than 1,500 DOI employees were mobilized across the Mid-Atlantic and New England, working for the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and several other Interior bureaus to speed storm recovery on Federal and tribal lands such as Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the Shinnecock Indian Nation on Long Island.

Branum moved into the role of Director of The Office of Emergency Management about a year and a half ago. The office advises the Secretary of the Interior, a presidential cabinet position, “on all matters related to emergency management and collaborates with leadership throughout the Department to ensure we are prepared to respond to any incident,” says Branum.

Despite her high-ranking position, Branum did not set out with a goal of working in government. In 2000, she graduated from UNC-Wilmington with degrees in Marine Biology and Political Science. Having been inspired by her Advanced Biology teacher Mrs. Griswold at Eastern Christian, her initial goal was to “free Willy,” she says. Instead, after moving to Washington D.C., she landed a job as a staff assistant for a senator. From there, Branum jumped to a non-profit agency called Business Executives for National Security, where she simultaneously pursued a master’s in Security Policy Studies from George Washington University.

She eventually landed a role as a contractor with Northrop Grumman, working with both FEMA and DOI, before joining DOI exclusively in 2006.

“My career has been a series of moves which, in many cases, were the result of relationships that I

had built and the network that those relationships created for me. Ultimately, a few key mentors took an interest and were very helpful in opening doors for me. This is something that I try to emulate and carry forward as I meet people just starting their careers,” Branum says.

As the daughter of two Eastern Christian School employees, one of whom—Paul Beverly—still works here, Branum says EC “pretty much had an all-encompassing role in shaping me.” She fondly remembers Coach Barry Veenstra for instilling a love of soccer and the importance of sportsmanship, former orchestra teacher Mr. Mark Lucas and her parents for sharing their love of music, and the school in general for its rigorous academics that provided a foundation for higher education down the road.

“At the end of the day...EC challenged me through academics, sports and music, each of which provided me different skills that I use on a daily basis to be creative in the approach I take with my job.”

In addition to her career pursuits, Branum enjoys raising her 5-year-old daughter, as well as staying active. She’s currently run in nine marathons, plays in an adult soccer league, and travels extensively. Her favorite international destinations include Bali, Indonesia; Machu Picchu, Peru; and Cappadocia, Turkey.

TAILOR-MADE FOR FASHION

Ulrich “Ubi” Simpson ’89

The year was 1989. Around the world, a lot was happening. The Berlin Wall came down, ending nearly 30 years of East German isolation. An Exxon Valdez oil tanker spilled millions of gallons into Alaska’s Prince William Sound. And more locally, the culotte—a half short/half skirt concoction—was taking over EC high school halls.

A young Ulrich “Ubi” Simpson, already fascinated with fashion, saw an opportunity. The culotte was a ladies’ fashion phenomenon, he knew, but it seemed to be a loophole to circumvent the “no shorts” policy of that time. And so he made a male version.

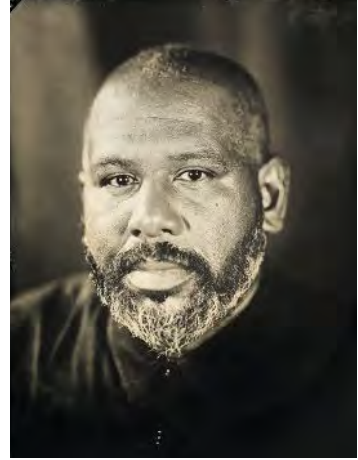
“It got so hot, wearing pants all the time,” he said. “So one day, I came in dressed all in white, with these really baggy shorts.” The creative stroke of genius didn’t lead to hoped-for dress code policy changes (it actually resulted in the opposite—a total ban on culottes), but it may have helped further guide Ubi into his chosen career.

Today, Ubi is the founder of UBI-IND Denim, a San Francisco-based company with an impressive list of celebrity clientele. They offer two main collections: Jeans, with an emphasis on strong, athletic builds; and Mi Cocina, a line of durable denims for the kitchen. The company continues to grow and the Mi Cocina collection was featured last year in Forbes’ Holiday Gift Guide for Men.

Ubi began working for Ralph Lauren as a sophomore at Eastern Christian. He eventually found his way to the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he studied men’s tailoring. Parting ways with fashion brand Tommy Hilfiger, he founded his current company in 1999, just ten years after graduating EC. In addition, he still works as a consultant for many multi-national brands.

Ubi attributes much of his success to servicing an under-served niche: men with thick, muscular thighs. He believes in the value of offering a needed item with excellent quality. “We have to provide a service,” Ubi shares. “I can only do what I do and do it really well.”

He credits his Christian background with giving him a desire to serve. “You learn you have to give back. There’s many different ways to make a change. Part of that, for me, is getting behind the product [I make].”



Created with locally sourced denim and manufactured in San Francisco, the brand proudly touts its “Made in the USA” label on advertising. Inspired by other brands, Ubi is also making efforts to reuse waste and focus on sustainability efforts.

Although he’s come a long way from his culotte-wearing days as a high school student, Ubi is thankful for the education he received at EC. “Whether I listened or not, what EC did was give me a great education,” he shares. He adds, “I was very determined. I started young. I found something I liked, and I stuck with it. There’s good times and there’s bad, but when you love what you do, it doesn’t matter.”



HE CREDITS HIS CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND WITH GIVING HIM A DESIRE TO SERVE. ‘YOU LEARN YOU HAVE TO GIVE BACK. THERE’S MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO MAKE A CHANGE.’

CARING FOR HIV/AIDS PATIENTS

Brian Wispelwey '72



In 1984, a 13-year-old named Ryan White received a devastating diagnosis: AIDS.

Transmitted through a tainted blood transfusion, the teen and his mother, rather than receiving sympathy from his school community,

experienced fear and rejection, according to literature published by the Health Resources & Services Administration. The teen became a poster child for the AIDS movement, and a reminder of the dignity of all human life.

Recognizing that people with an AIDS diagnosis are often confronted with disease-related stigma in addition to health trauma, EC alumni Dr. Brian Wispelwey founded the Ryan White HIV Clinic at the University of Virginia (UVA). The clinic's mission, according to its website, is to "provide treatment, counseling and education for patients with HIV and AIDS."

"Our clinic provides complete care as this group of patients were, in the early years, often not welcome in other settings," comments Wispelwey.

Upon graduating from Eastern Christian, Wispelwey received a bachelor's at Calvin College, a master's at Purdue University and his doctorate at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Jersey

Medical School. He completed his residency at Harvard University's New England Deaconess Hospital.

"I started the HIV program at UVA after training at Harvard," he adds. "I have been caring for HIV [patients] since 1982, partly because the need was great and few were lining up, and even fewer people of faith."

Currently, Wispelwey is the Clinical Chief of Infectious Diseases and Associate Chairman of Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine/University Hospital. He has advised the South African government on HIV issues. In addition to seeing HIV patients, he also treats patients with general infectious diseases, as well as transplant patients with infections.

Although he says a cure for HIV/AIDS is a "distant hope, as is a successful vaccination," he comments, "we have seen dramatic gains from a time where the patient could only expect to live a year to where we can now attain near-normal life spans."



I STARTED THE HIV PROGRAM AT UVA AFTER TRAINING AT HARVARD. I HAVE BEEN CARING FOR HIV [PATIENTS] SINCE 1982, PARTLY BECAUSE THE NEED WAS GREAT AND FEW WERE LINING UP, AND EVEN FEWER PEOPLE OF FAITH."

ATTENTION ALUMNI

*Where are you now? We would love to hear your career stories and how EC helped shape you into the adult you are today. Please send testimonies and photos to herald@easternchristian.org for a possible feature in an upcoming issue of *The Herald*.*

REUNIONS

The following reunions recently took place. For additional information and pictures, please visit easternchristian.org/alumni/reunion-updates.

Class of 1976

40-Year Reunion || On October 22, the bicentennial class of 1976 met at The Brownstone to unite for their 40th class reunion. Classmates came as far as Washington, Michigan, Texas, Ohio and Florida to join the celebration. A running slide show of previous reunions sparked many conversations for the attendees. A memorial table was displayed for our classmates who have been called to their eternal home: Maribeth (Schutt) Hamblen, Gary Kollar and Chuck Kuperus. A class donation was given in their honor to Campaign 125, EC's next capital project including student safety improvements, classroom renovations and athletic facilities upgrades. We left our reunion feeling blessed.



Row 1 (L to R): Linda (Pruiksma) Oppelaar, Beverly (Baker) Smith, Nancy (Bogertman) Van Harken, Kathy (Schuurman) Sikkema, Janice (Veenstra) Englishmen, Lori (Atema) Groenwal, Sharon (De Blaey) Vander Weit, Phyllis (Breen) Englishman, Judy (Veenstra) Bruinooge. Row 2: Nancy (Knyfd) Hemrick, Margaret (Buis) Kuiken, Leslie (Douma) De Jong, Marjorie (Veenstra) Kuperus, Jeanne (Steenstra) Bushoven, Wendy (Oostdyk) Montanye, Carol Burnham, Mark Joustra, Doug Woudenberg, Rudy Dobutovich, Kevin Englishman, Russ Van Buiten. Row 3: Bob Naumann, Bob Veenema, Bob Hoogstra, Carol (Van Wieren) Jacobs, Susan (Schuurman) Martin, John Bruinooge, Wanda (De Roo) Vogel, Neil Tanis, Richard Quadrel, John Quackenbush, Ron Sikkema. Row 4: Dave Lyman, Tom Dykhouse, Randy Hagedoorn.

Class of 1996

20-Year Reunion || Classmates from 1996 met at Artisan Kitchen & Bar in Hawthorne, NJ. It was a great night, everyone enjoyed talking and catching up. Several classmates now have kids attending Eastern Christian! We are looking forward to next time.



Front row sitting (L to R): Stephanie (Micchelli) Rossow, Jessica (Colotta) Miano, Craig Villalobos. Row 2: Kevin Breur, Marcella (Simon) Vander Eems, Tim Vander Eems, Mike Tanis, Ken Ritsma, Debbie (Lodema) Rappold, Ken Belanus, Naomi (Everett) Braunius, Susan (Oosting) Vander Pyl, Peter Ten Kate, Jeff Byma. Back row: Rich Troast, Mark Dyer, Miranda (Vandenberg) Miller.



REUNIONS ARE A GREAT WAY TO RECONNECT WITH FORMER CLASSMATES

Class Reunions are a wonderful event where classmates can enjoy time together and catch up on the years gone by, reminisce and renew old acquaintances.

The Foundation Office at Eastern Christian School encourages classes to celebrate their milestone reunions. If you are thinking about planning a reunion, we are happy to help you out with the process.

Email Beth Milkamp, EC Alumni Relations at: alumni@easternchristian.org or call EC Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 for more information!

Class of 2006

10-Year Reunion || Classmates gathered on Saturday, November 26 at The Brownstone. It was a great time and a great turnout! As a class, a donation was made to the CLOVES Syndrome Foundation to support our classmate - Melinda (Struyk) Hanko's son, who was born with this rare disease. Thanks to all who attended!



Front row (L to R): Tempestt Jones-Lee, Sharyn Smith, Katie Donnelly, Jackie Carelis, Kali (DeHaan) Spoelstra, Codi (Van Vlaanderen) Basile, Kelly (Slagter) Cortland, Brielle Ocot, Justin Rypkema, Mary (McGovern) Capalbo, Laura (Anfang) Geer. Middle Row: Dan Verrengia, Jay Everett, Eric Wilson, Brad Tanis, Michael De Waal Malefyt, Mark Winters, Megan Van Schepen, Ryan Van Schepen, Brett Fritzsich, Dave Kuperus, Dan Hoch, Ben Kuiken. Back row: Krystal Ajaegbu, Mary (Tolsma) Van de Meer, Josh Wisse, Justin Dedio, Caitlin Hagedoorn, Melissa (Woudenberg) Cecere, Alyssa (Smith) Van Buiten, Rachael (Santhouse) Chiodo, Erin (Balkema) Leegwater, Deanna (Cirino) Knudsen, CJ Barrett, Justin Brennan, Steve Sietsma, Ali Vervoordt, Kat Vander Wende, Andrea Faulkner, Ashley Oettinger.

2017 UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 1967 – 50 Year Reunion

Responses to the initial survey sent out favor a late September or early October date. Some additional events are also being considered include lunch gathering, a tour of Eastern Christian High School, and a side trip to Cooperstown, NY which offers the Baseball Hall of Fame, other fine museums all on a scenic lake setting. Alums are encouraged to prompt classmates to reply to Georgia (Faber) Meeter at gmeeter@gmail.com to confirm their current email and postal addresses. The reunion date will be announced soon in the next mailing.

Class of 1977 – 40 Year Reunion

October 7, 2017

The Class of 1977 will be holding its 40 year reunion at Portobello Restaurant on October 7, 2017. Visit our Facebook page at "Eastern Christian High School 1977" to start sharing memories and reconnect with classmates. Invitations will be mailed later this year.

Please update your contact information with the Alumni office. For more information or to share ideas, contact Don Aupperlee at daupperlee@comcast.net.

Heritage Years

Alumni who have graduated 50 years or more are invited to a catered Sunday dinner at Eastern Christian High School on Sunday, October 22. Following the dinner, there will be a service of praise and worship to celebrate our 125-year anniversary. Plan to attend and enjoy a time of fellowship and good food!

PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

Homecoming weekend is a great time to get everyone together: Oct 20-22

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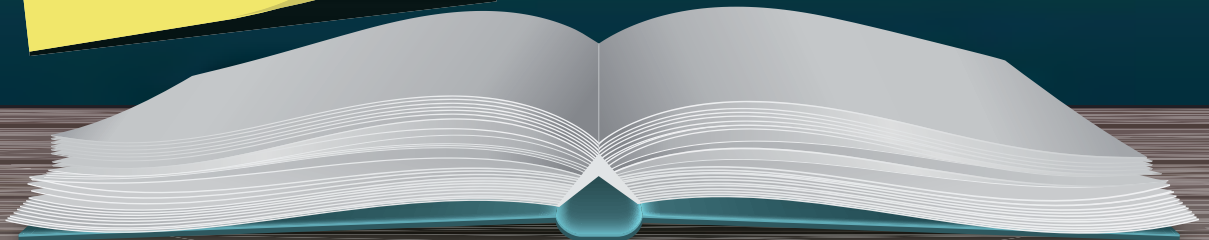


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FALL SPORTS

Season Highlights

EC experienced just about all of the highs and lows high school athletic competition can offer this fall. While every experience serves to educate beyond the classroom, we take a moment here to celebrate two of the highlights.

The Lady Eagles tennis team enjoyed one of their best seasons in memory, more than doubling last year's win total with 9 league victories. Seniors **Rachel Schultz** (1st singles) and **Kristen Casey** (2nd singles) led the way with 9 and 10 wins, respectively. There were impressive wins in league

play over Hawthorne and tight matches with powerful Pompton Lakes, but the season highlight came in the county tournament when all three singles players (including **Cara Shotmeyer** at 3rd singles) advanced to the quarter-finals! Rachel Schultz won her next two matches to become the first Lady Eagle to ever appear in a county final, falling to the reigning champion from Wayne Hills in a well played match. Congratulations to coach **Amy Hulsebos**, doubles teams **Brianne Veenstra/Rachel Liu** and **Tara Casey/Addie Peretti/Melanie Careri** on an outstanding and memorable season!

The six pillars for Athletic Success at EC are:

GLORIFY GOD. STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE. EXEMPLIFY CHRISTIAN CHARACTER. RUN THE RACE TO WIN. COMPETE AS ONE. BE COMMITTED.

All EC athletes are expected to uphold these six pillars for athletic success with the support of the Athletic Director, coaches and parents.



FALL SPORTS

Season Highlights



Girls Soccer

Our second highlight for the fall belongs to the girls soccer team, who finished with a 12-8 record including 11 league wins! Hard fought battles over Rutherford (twice) and Pompton Lakes (under the lights at Willow) were the most memorable efforts of the season. Six seniors led the way for the Eagles, including leading scorers **Erin Vander Plaats** (25

goals), **Brooke Van Lenten** (14 goals) and **Alyssa Botbyl** (14 assists). Classmates **Brianna Altamuro** (midfielder) and **Brenna Duffy** (defender) had strong seasons and along with reserve **Alexis Struck** finished their careers having played on teams with winning records every year! Congratulations to 2nd year coach **Laura Royle** and the Eagles for continuing a tradition of excellence and sportsmanship.

“**CONGRATULATIONS...
EAGLES FOR CONTINUING A
TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
AND SPORTSMANSHIP”**

SOAR EC!

Post-Season Honors

VOLLEYBALL

Morgan Abma

*2nd team All League
Honorable Mention All County*

Carina Castagna

*Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County*

Post-Season Honors

SOCCER

Erin Vander Plaat
1st team All League
1st team All County

Brooke Van Lenten
1st team All League
2nd team All County

Alyssa Botbyl
2nd team All League

Brianna Altamuro
2nd team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Madison Wynbeek
2nd team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Brenna Duffy
Honorable Mention
All League

Andrew Brooks
2nd team All League

Ben Parker
Honorable Mention
All League
Honorable Mention
All County

Anthony Avila
Honorable Mention
All County

Post-Season Honors

TENNIS

Rachel Schultz
1st team All League
1st team All County

Kristen Casey
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

Cara Shotmeyer
Honorable Mention All County

CROSS COUNTRY

Emily Byrnes
1st team All League
2nd team All County

Stephanie Cabral
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

Kelly Bosloper
Honorable Mention All County

Ali Steiginga
Honorable Mention All League

Will Fan
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

Dan Kuder
Honorable Mention All League

Nico Cortez
Honorable Mention All League



1



2



3

1. Emily Byrnes; 2. Rachel Schultz; 3. Morgan Abma



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