



# THE *Herald*

A PUBLICATION OF EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2012  
VOL. 52 - ISSUE 2



*A Look at the Global Reach  
and Impact of Eastern Christian  
School and its Alumni*

# Transforming *the World*





Eastern Christian School Association  
50 Oakwood Avenue  
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449

## TRANSFORMING THE WORLD!



Eastern Christian's mission is summarized in nine words, "Engaging the Mind...Nurturing the Spirit...Transforming the World!" Our Mission Statement more formally states that "...the overall purpose of an Eastern Christian education ... is to encourage students to use their heads, hearts and hands for God...to share...[their] gifts with others and to provide leadership for the community and the world."

This issue of *The Herald* reports on the ways that the Lord is using Eastern Christian School as a truly transformative agent around the world today. It profiles the ways in which Eastern Christian's students and alumni all over the world are concretely living out the Biblical mandates to be peace makers, to serve the needs of the sick and the powerless, to lead institutions of great influence for good, and to faithfully administer justice. It reports on the many ways in which Eastern Christian students, teachers, and alumni are enthusiastically responding to Christ's great commission to make disciples of all nations, and His teaching that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves - even doing so by completing math problems and competing athletically to support cancer research.

Eastern Christian's Mission Statement is an incredible challenge to our school community. It reminds us of the amazing opportunity and awesome responsibility that we have been given to shape and influence the minds, spirits and lives of the young people who have been entrusted to us. It also presents us with an audacious vision of the impact that the provision of excellent, Christ-centered education can have, not only on the lives of our students, but throughout the global society in which we have been called to serve.

I hope that you are inspired by this issue of *The Herald* as we consider the many ways that the Lord is using the work of Eastern Christian School around the world to make a difference for good in the lives of others, to truly Transform the World!

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



# THE Herald

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Junior Brooke Leentjes and the Honors Choir.



Mr. Xian Lianping and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Joe DiBartolomeo.

## ABOUT THE COVER

EC Middle School students and American Experience students at the Statue of Liberty on January 26, 2012.

The Herald is the magazine for alumni, parents, and friends of Eastern Christian School published twice a year. It is a publication of the Eastern Christian School Association's Foundation Board. Letters, articles, artwork and photography are welcome for possible inclusion in The Herald. Art and photos will be returned when a SASE is included. Send all correspondence regarding feedback and publication to the address above. E-mail is welcomed and encouraged.

Eastern Christian School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools and is a member of Christian Schools International.

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# CAMPUS NEWS



*ditto* Community Awards Presentation at *ditto* in North Haledon Oct. 5, 2011 LtoR: Asst. Chief N. Haledon Fire Co. #2 Brian Hartley, Exec. Dir. Foundation for Eastern Christian School Garret Nieuwenhuis, Asst. Chief N. Haledon Ambulance Corps. Kevin Reiter, N. Haledon Police Sgt. Anthony Padula, N. Haledon Mayor Randy George, *ditto* Director Eric Hawn, *ditto* Board President David Visbeen, Head of Eastern Christian School Tom Dykhouse, N. Haledon Police Ptrl John Caslanden.

## **ditto** Celebrates 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary By Giving Back to the Community

In connection with the celebration of its first anniversary, the directors of **ditto**, the local upscale-resale store located at 965 Belmont Ave. in North Haledon, presented their initial community awards to the North Haledon Police Dept., North Haledon Fire Dept., and the North Haledon Ambulance Corps.

During a presentation ceremony held at **ditto** on October 5<sup>th</sup>, **David Visbeen**, President of the **ditto** Board of Directors, presented checks of \$500 each to the local Police Dept., Fire Dept., and the Ambulance Corps. While presenting the checks, Mr. Visbeen noted that **ditto** has enjoyed significant community support during the first year of operation, and in keeping with the by laws of the organization, **ditto** is charged to “give back” to the community from the profits of the operation.

During his acceptance of the gifts to the municipal organizations, North Haledon Mayor Randy George congratulated the organizers of **ditto** for establishing such a well run store in an area of North Haledon that the Borough would like to improve and establish as a commercial area for small businesses, providing vital and necessary services to the

residents of the town. The Mayor went on to say that **ditto** is leading the way in this revitalization, and he looks forward to other businesses joining in this movement to improve the Belmont Avenue corridor.

In another presentation on November 2, **ditto** awarded four additional local nonprofit organizations with monetary gifts. They were New Hope Community Ministries, Paterson Habitat for Humanity, Jericho Road Ministries, and the EC Angel Fund.

**ditto** is a ministry of Eastern Christian School Association. The hours of operation are 10 am to 6 pm weekdays and from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday. **ditto** is closed on Sundays. **ditto** welcomes donations for resale of new and slightly used items including clothing, furniture, appliances, books, toys, games, household accessories and jewelry.

There are opportunities to volunteer in various areas of the store for both adults and students. If you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting ministry, please call **ditto** at 973-423-4886 and ask for **Barbara Gorter**, Volunteer Coordinator.

# Eastern Christian Receives State Award

**E**astern Christian School was awarded the 2011 Small Business Growth Success Award by the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers in a ceremony held on December 2 at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township, NJ.

Eastern Christian was recognized for its social entrepreneurial efforts in establishing its three supporting businesses, **ditto** Upscale Resale, Eagles Camps, and Eagle Solar, LLC. Eastern Christian's supporting businesses are expected to contribute approximately \$300,000 to fund the school's core educational mission during the current academic year.

Eastern Christian was one of thirteen small businesses from across the state to be recognized at the event, out of a total of approximately 4,000 small businesses that worked with the NJSBDC during the last year. Eastern Christian was nominated by the NJSBDC Center at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ. The William Paterson SBDC Center provided business planning and marketing advice to Eastern Christian in the formation of **ditto**, Eagles Camps, and Eagle Solar.

We gratefully acknowledge the fantastic support that Eastern Christian has received from both within and outside of our school community in establishing its supporting businesses. This support includes:



*Brenda Hopper of the NJ Small Business Development Center, Tom Dykhouse, Kate Muldoon of the Small Business Resource Center at William Paterson University, Garry Nieuwenhuis, James Anderson, John Belanus*

- The scores of community volunteers and Eastern Christian staff members who have given selflessly of their time and talents to make these businesses succeed. This award is testimony to their hard work, dedication and unflinching determination to sustain Christian education in Northern New Jersey for generations to come.
- The William Paterson University Center of NJSBDC which helped us to think through our business plans and provided expertise in areas such as marketing strategy and public relations.
- Business partners such as Atlantic Stewardship Bank, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, Sax Macy Fromm, Sun Farm Network, Visbeen Construction Company, and many others who helped us turn our plans into a reality.
- And, especially, a faithful God who continues to provide for Eastern Christian School with every passing day and in amazing new ways.

# Math-a-thon Raises Money for St. Jude

**R**aising money *and* learning math? The EC Elementary School students embraced their Biblical theme this year of "Striving for Excellence" by raising over \$8,000 for cancer research in their fall Math-a-thon.

This year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> year since 2001 that ECES has participated in raising money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital located in Memphis, Tennessee. Throughout these years, ECES has been able to raise over \$75,000 for St. Jude. The money is used for treatment, research, and educational programs aimed to support children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. St. Jude treats more than 260 children every day. To help defray costs for parents (St. Jude never turns away patients even if their parents cannot pay for treatment), it raises money in various ways. One way is the Math-A-Thon, which is a program for students in schools anywhere. St. Jude partners with Scholastic to create math workbooks for each grade level. When a school decides to participate in the Math-A-Thon, the hospital sends the workbooks, and students find sponsors. There are prizes for certain levels of fundraising. This year, many EC students chose to decline their prizes in order to give St. Jude additional money.

This November, students were challenged during a kickoff chapel to do a grade-level appropriate Math-A-Thon workbook, and then find



*Back row (l to r) John Skead, Kyle Nash, Zechariah Kaehr, Naomi Engelhard, Tobi Cummins, Bridgett Boonstra, Mark Whittingham, Maddie Rupp. Front row (l to r): Hollis Krause, Mason Rupp, Edythe Cummins, Diego Romero, Charlie Veenema, Jack Veenema, Zoe Purcaro (Victoria Baitzel not pictured).*

sponsors who would either support them per problem or give a flat donation for St. Jude. Over 100 students in the Elementary School participated, which is about 60% of the students. There were 12 students whose combined totals were over \$3,000, and they were the top money-raisers or the top in their classrooms. They were: **Naomi Engelhard, Kyle Nash, Mark Whittingham, Hollis Krause, Mason Rupp, Maddie Rupp, Zechariah Kaehr, Tobi Cummins, Edythe Cummins, John Skead, Victoria Baitzel, Bridgett Boonstra, Charlie Veenema, Diego Romero, Zoe Purcaro, and Jack Veenema.**

## New High School Debate Team

*With Reporting by Krista Everson, Sophomore*

A new debate team has been created at the Eastern Christian High School this year. The team is made up of 10 sophomores and juniors. The debate team's first competition was in Fort Lee, NJ. The team is grouped into pairs, and each pair is given a resolution to debate for or against and argues against a competing school. Judges determine the winner of each debate. In their first competition, EC students were simply learning the format, but the sophomore team of **Bobby Peretti** and **Jesse Ojeda** were able to win their section.

Sophomore **Josh Ashkanazi** explained that the debate team is more than just going to competitions. "It teaches us skills on how to create an argument, and how to defend a position or make it compelling. It also gives us social skills and a chance to get together with friends."

As the debate team gains more experience, they are starting to organize their own debate competition to be held at Eastern Christian.

## Spelling Success

Eastern Christian Elementary School students proved to be tough competitors on October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Northern New Jersey Christian School Association Spelling Bee at Abundant Life Academy in Nutley, NJ. Eastern Christian placed second overall in the competition.

EC had a spelling bee competition in each classroom in early October. The winner of each classroom (two for each grade) was selected to participate in the competition. The second grade representatives were **Anya Veinberg** and **Marissa Foley**, the third graders were **Cassidy Abma** and **Aidan Schulster**, and the fourth grade representatives were **David De Vries** and **Tobi Cummins**. Tobi, Anya, and Aidan all came in second place in their grade levels.

## Athletes Support Cancer Research



High School athletes on their fund raising walk

WITH REPORTING BY ETHAN RUITENBERG, JUNIOR

For the past few years, Eastern Christians girls' soccer teams have participated in soccer games and team fundraisers to support Breast Cancer Awareness month. This October, the entire athletic department took up the cause, and every fall athlete participated in special events geared to raise awareness, as well as money to help organizations find cures for cancer. Overall, EC athletes raised over \$1,000 for Research for a Cure.

Special pink Eastern Christian t-shirts were distributed to teams, and each team found a way to support the cause. The boys' varsity team wore their shirts during warm-ups when they played Pompton Lakes, and each team member donated \$10 to the game. The girls' cross country team not only wore the t-shirts during their warm-ups, but they also wore pink pre-wrap and pink ribbons in their hair. Junior **Jenna Shotmeyer** said, "The tennis team's goal is to raise \$20 per person and \$280 as a team."

On October 17, the teams came together for a special "Walk for the Cure" event, where they wore their cancer awareness shirts and walked around the outside of the school together. This event was a culmination of the efforts of many athletes, coaches, and athletic directors to raise awareness for this important cause.



EC Athletic Boosters hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beefsteak Dinner on January 25<sup>th</sup> raising \$13,000 for the athletic programs at Eastern Christian School. The 1980 Boys Soccer State Champions were honored at the event. A great time of fellowship and good food were enjoyed by 280 guests.

**Pictured: 1980 Boys Soccer Team, Row 1 (L to R) Bob Sietsma, Don Westra, George Martin, Doug Struyk, Kenn Visbeen. Row 2: Bernie Vandenberg, Dave Bushman, Bruce Borduin, John Baum, Gary Veenstra, Steve Noordeloos, Coach Roger King.**

# The Sounds of Winter Music

WITH REPORTING BY REBECCA GIRIMONTE AND JEFF VAN GROUW, JUNIORS

Eastern Christian's Middle and High School music programs had plenty of opportunities to display their talents this winter, and wherever they went, they drew crowds and great reviews. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Middle and High School bands, choirs, and orchestras performed at the Paramus Barnes and Noble store. Over 180 students were involved, and a portion of the sales from the night went to supporting Eastern Christian. Orchestra Director **Cathy Clark** said, "The students had a good time, and there were many positive comments about all of the ensembles. Shoppers not associated with EC stopped by to hear what was going on, and it was a great advertisement for the school."

Later that month, the Middle School music program put on its annual Christmas Concert for a packed auditorium at the high school. Band Director **Robert Flim** said, "This was the largest audience for which the Middle School has performed. It shows how the music department has grown both in quantity and quality over the years." A performance of particular note was the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir, which was formed just this year.



*Juniors Carly Veenstra, Nina Schur, and Elijah Jefferson*

The high school music students performed their Winter Concert for another large crowd in the high school auditorium on January 12. Notable performances included an ensemble of flutists playing "Skip to My Flute," and the orchestra finishing their set with a rocking "Kashmir" by Led Zepplin. The Concert Choir and Honors Choir highlights were the crowd-pleasing showtunes and beautiful worship songs.

## Eastern Christian's Solar Project Becomes a Case Study

Eastern Christian's fully operational solar energy project is the subject of a recently completed Case Study for the Van Lunen Center for Executive Management in Christian Schools. The Case Study, labeled "Eagle Solar, LLC—A strategic initiative of Eastern Christian School Association," was written by John C. Cissel II of SIOR Cornerstone Advisory Services, LLC in Lynnfield, Massachusetts.

In his work, John outlines in detail the challenges facing Eastern Christian which gave rise to the decision to go forward with the project. He further explained in the case study the opportunity offered Eastern Christian through Federal and State energy and tax initiatives. These initiatives opened the doors to energy savings for Eastern Christian and generated solid investment returns for the ECSA Endowment Fund.

The study further elaborates on the assembling of the outside profes-

sionals, the internal executive team, and a number of alumni and parents who contributed immensely with their time and talents in bringing this project to fruition. Also included in the study is a description of the installation and operation of the system and a review of the investments, returns, and economic factors and benefits.

The author concludes his study with a focus on the vision becoming a reality, a discussion of the inspections, a tracking of performance and finally a reflection on the challenges and triumphs of the project.

We are extremely grateful to John Cissel for this comprehensive study of the Eastern Christian Eagle Solar project. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this Case Study please contact [cissel@cornerstone-advisor.com](mailto:cissel@cornerstone-advisor.com) or [info@vanlunencenter.org](mailto:info@vanlunencenter.org).

# Disney Night Celebrates Community

The high school choral program is building a lot of energy and enthusiasm this year. Due to a schedule change, more students are able to find time to participate in the choir, and now an Honors Choir has been added to the music program. The singers are planning a May tour to Boston, where they will perform at many different venues, including churches and schools.

In order to prepare for the trip, students are organizing fund raisers. One was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, when the Honors Choir hosted Disney Dinner Night. The event was a hit for the entire EC community. Families old and young lined up for the homecooked pasta dishes served by choir members dressed as Disney characters.

After the dinner, the choir performed two medleys of fun Disney favorites. The audience got to laugh and sing along with choir members who were dressed as Captain Hook, Snow White, Jessie the Cowgirl, and Mary Poppins. In addition to the costumes, the night was filled with students showcasing their vocal, acting, and dancing abilities. The night was a great start to the fundraising for the May trip.



*Juniors Rebecca Girimonte, Gabrielle Silverstein and Andrew Fiedler.*

# Fall Weather Disrupts Plans

WITH REPORTING BY JESSIE SCHULTZ, JUNIOR

Unusual and severe weather in northern New Jersey disrupted the fall semester of Eastern Christian. At the end of August, the arrival of Hurricane Irene severely impacted many Eastern Christian families. The first three days of school were cancelled due to dangerous road conditions and flooding. Transportation Coordinator **Judy Bruinooge** said, “Our major bus problems came about because of flooding and traffic. We needed to be sensitive to the communities we serve and not add vehicles to the roads when people were travelling to get supplies for their immediate needs or still evacuating their homes.”

Thankfully, there was no major damage to the EC school buildings. Director of Operations **John Belanus** said, “The only damage we suffered during the storm was a crushed bleacher when a tree fell at the Middle School. There was a minor amount of water that seeped into the lower level of the High School, but no permanent damage.”

A truly bizarre October snowstorm caused disruption again when snow-laden tree branches caused more traffic and power problems throughout the northeast. Two more days were cancelled due to this storm. Though some EC families remained without power at their homes for up to a week, the schools were able to open and operate safely with power and heat.

Missing five days of instructional time well before the winter season started, Eastern Christian administration decided to alter the school year calendar. Four days (taken from in-service days and single-day holidays) were added back to the schedule so that student learning would not be adversely affected this year.



*Senior Nick Onove during the October blizzard.*



# BUSINESS DRIVE

## 2011-2012 Eastern Christian Business Fund Drive a Success

**T**he recently completed Annual Business Fund Drive was deemed a success by the ECSA Foundation Executive Director, **Garret Nieuwenhuis**. "After experiencing several years of reduced giving by the business community, the results of the past two years gives us great encouragement," stated Garry. "We received donations in various amounts from 49 donors this year, helping us to achieve our goal of raising \$50,000 from this source."

The 2011-2012 Business Drive was headed up by **Nicholas Kuiken**, Vice President of Kuiken Bros. Company Inc. and the current President of the EC Board of Directors. In his appeal letter to the local business community, Nick indicated that he was aware of the challenges that the

business owners were facing in yet another year of economic uncertainty, requiring many businesses to do more with less. He also indicated that he was aware that Eastern Christian may not be the only organization seeking their financial support. "As Eastern Christian strives to keep Christian Education affordable, the need, now more than ever, is to rely on our collective support," stated Nick, "I am convinced that your investment in Eastern Christian will make a difference today!"

We are most grateful to Nick for his leadership and to all those businesses who gave so generously to Eastern Christian this past year.

The following Businesses participated in the 2011-2012 Business Drive, as of January 1, 2012.

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## 2011 Business Drive Donors

### Gold Sponsors

Abbey Carpet & Floor of Hawthorne  
Atlantic Stewardship Bank  
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Tanis Hardware Corp.  
Wilson Coal & Supply LLC

# TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

## Expanding EC's Mission

**B**elieving that increasing diversity in the student population adds to EC students' global awareness and ability to transform the world, Eastern Christian has been aggressively enhancing its International Student Program.

While the enrollment of International Students is capped at reasonable levels, EC believes that incorporating a more diverse base of students, while maintaining its Reformed worldview and mission statements, can benefit EC's current students, the incoming international students, and the sustainability of the school association.

Wherever EC has looked to expand its International Program, there has been energy, enthusiasm and open doors. Last year, EC had only one Chinese student at the High School. This year, there are 10. The American Experience camps in the summer and winter are receiving more applications than EC can accommodate.

As Eastern Christian sees the potential to grow our International Program, we want to do so intentionally and in keeping with our existing Mission Statements and commitment to excellence. An International Student Program Committee, made up of high school teachers, the Admissions Director, Director of Curriculum, and Camps Director, has formulated a report with rationale for the International Program, and with specific recommendations for how to best implement the plan over the coming years. (see sidebar for highlights)



Juniors *Kyle Coan* and *Chan Hee Jeong*

International Student Director **Kathy Kim** has created a number of exciting plans to integrate our visiting students with American students. Every year, a trip to Palisades Park's "Korea Town" allows Korean students to show off their culture and food to their American friends. This year, for the first time, International students have two exciting travel opportunities during school breaks. The first was on a retreat and ski trip to Spruce Lake and Camelback Mountain, PA over Christmas Break. The next was a spring break trip to Disney World. In both trips, international students got a chance to experience new American activities while getting to know their friends in a non-school setting.

## The American Experience

This year's American Experience winter camp was a huge success! Korean middle school students stayed with EC Middle School students and their families from January 8<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>. They had the chance to attend special classes at the Middle School and get a taste of American culture. Field trips included trips into New York City to see Times Square, a Broadway musical, and the Statue of Liberty, and trips to colleges such as Princeton and Yale. One highlight was when the Korean students spoke during the Middle School chapel – quite a feat for middle school kids who are speaking their second language. Enjoy the following photos and quotes to learn more about the American Experience.



Praying in class



Presenting work

# Global Missions Right in Your Own Home

**E**astern Christian School is currently seeking host families for our Summer American Experience program. Many of the students that come to our program have never heard the gospel. This would be a great opportunity for global missions right in your own home. You will be able to learn more about another culture and be able to share the gospel. The dates are July 22nd to August 13th, 2012.

What potential host families should know: We have the International students in class and activities all class days (every weekday) and so families just need to provide room and board and a safe, loving environment in the evenings and weekends. A stipend is provided to cover hosting expenses..

For more information, please email James Anderson at [jamesanderson@easternchristian.org](mailto:jamesanderson@easternchristian.org) or call 973.427.6244.

## International Student Program Rationale

*The team that studied the International Student Program wrote these paragraphs to explain how this intentional program can benefit Eastern Christian and enhance its mission statement.*

As we consider our vision for a school community, the vision of the future Kingdom of God, as described in Revelation 7: 8-10, provides a clear picture of what that community looks like:

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

This vision is shaping our current reality and our commitment to a biblical vision of the coming Kingdom of God here on earth.

In addition, we find ourselves with a remarkable opportunity, particularly as interest in the program from China continues to grow. Students are coming with a limited understanding of the Christian faith, few resources for growing in their spiritual walk, and a deep desire to learn more about God. The call of the Great Commission is on us as we have no need to go to the “ends of the earth” to be obedient. The peoples of the earth are coming to us.

### *Educational*

Our International Program is consistent with our commitment to “transforming the world” in a number of ways. First, when international students come to us, the world is walking through our doors to be transformed by the Christian education we offer. Those students then go out to be Christ’s transforming agents in the world.

Second, the gifts that the international students bring to our school community are significant. Not only do they bring individual gifts, but they bring a diverse cultural perspective to our school. A multicultural educational environment is the best context for all of our students. The experience of our domestic students is significantly enhanced by the presence of our international students.



Singing in chapel

### Susan Kim, ESL Teacher

Hosting Korean students at the Eastern Christian Middle School has been such a wonderful experience for me. The friendships the students have formed with their fellow American classmates are wonderful to see, and they get along great both during and outside of classes. As their ESL teacher, it has been such a delight to see the progress they’ve gained during the three weeks here, as short as it is. Their speaking ability has increased exponentially, and their English writing skills have also improved since they arrived here to the United States. I hope that the experience they’ve had here has made a lasting impact on the Korean students.



Bowling



*Mr. Xian Lianping, his translator (left) with 5<sup>th</sup> graders James Robinson and Aidan Miller.*

# Cross-cultural Visits Build Relationships

WITH REPORTING BY REBECCA GIRIMONTE, JUNIOR

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Xian Lianping, Deputy Director of the Beijing Municipal Education Commission, led a five person delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Education to Eastern Christian Schools. On this visit, Mr. Lianping and his fellow delegates explored Eastern Christian's innovative international programs at the

Middle and High Schools. In the schools, they entered classrooms and engaged our students in conversation regarding our programs and classes.

This visit, in addition to other visits by delegates and agents from China throughout the fall, are a direct result of the relationships formed over the past two years during trips to China by International Short

*continued on page 11*



*Working in class*



*The Botbyls*

## Jeff & Leida Botbyl, Host Family

When our family saw the opportunity to be a host family for a Korean student for the American Experience program, we were very excited. We enjoy answering her questions about our life in America while she teaches us about her experiences in Korea. Our time together is going by fast, and before we know it, she will be leaving us and going home. The time we spent together learning and laughing will be a memory that will be with us forever. We hope to stay in touch with Henny as she continues her studies in Korea.

*continued from page 10*

Term Program Director **James Anderson** and Director of Admissions **Gerry Cantalupo**. Mr. Anderson was there from October 14-23 this past fall. He said, "I visited with many top local high schools in Beijing. I met with the Municipal Education Commission. I also visited with different agencies and attended an International Student recruiting fair."

According to Mr. Anderson, EC expects these visits to result in a large number of new full academic year students, as well as more exchange students attending our American Experience summer and winter programs.

Mr. Anderson said, "Eastern Christian believes there is a real demand and need for short term international programs. I hope that our program will provide students with quality cross-cultural experience, enhancing the skills needed for today's global citizen."



*The Chinese delegation meets Eastern Christian administration at the EC Middle School.*

## International Teachers Summer Institute

**August 5 - 19, 2012**

This summer we are expecting 15 to 20 international teachers to participate in our first International Teachers Institute. Using the model of The American Experience International Students program which continues to grow in popularity, Eastern Christian will welcome 15 to 20 international teachers for a two week program beginning August 5, 2012.

Tuition for this program will include hotel, food, and workshops on lesson planning, learning styles, and problem-based learning led by Eastern Christian faculty. Guest speakers from area universities will be invited to share their expertise in mini-workshops. Additionally, our guest educators will have opportunities to visit cultural sites in New York City.

We hope that our summer institute will establish a mutually beneficial professional global partnership that we can continue to foster in the future.



*Playing games*

### Becky Parker, ECMS Student

I think that the American Experience program is very good and fun for everyone involved in it. It is a great opportunity for the international students to see what America is like and for them to learn about our culture. They are also very polite and kind to everyone in the school. As an ambassador, I have been able to get close to the international students. It is such a great experience to be able to have these students at our school and get to know them better. I love talking to them and learning about their culture. I have learned new Korean games from them, and they have learned new American games. I'm going to miss them when they leave America and go back to Korea.



*Enjoying an American Experience party*

Eastern Christian's motto is "Engaging the Mind, Nurturing the Spirit, and Transforming the World." Even though this is a modern mission statement, the idea of being Christ's transforming agents across the globe has been a part of Eastern Christian's reformed perspective since its foundation. We've contacted a number of alumni and friends of EC from around the world and asked them to reflect on their experiences as they seek to follow God's plan for their lives wherever it has taken them.

## Washington DC

A TESTIMONY BY STEVEN E. MEYER

It is a distinct honor to be asked to share some of what I have done since graduating from Eastern Christian in 1959. It has been an exciting journey blessed by God.

My experience at EC provided me with more than a first class education. It gave me a solid base for the rest of my life by shaping my values and honing my priorities. Armed with a new high school diploma, I was eager to get out into the world to see what God had in store for me. I took off for the "wilds" of Wisconsin, to attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Although I went there for an education, perhaps the most important encounter of my four years in Madison was meeting my future wife, Ellen. After graduating from Wisconsin, I returned to northern New Jersey to a teaching job right back at Eastern Christian High School. Under the watchful eye and firm hand of the legendary **Milo Okkema**, I taught history, government, and a smattering of German. After three years of teaching I got restless and went to Fordham University in New York City to pursue a Master's Degree. Near the end of that experience I was offered a job working for an educational lobby in Washington, D.C. and have been based there ever since. Once "Potomac Fever" takes over, it's difficult to resist the allure of Washington and the world of politics. I came to realize that government service and the rough and tumble of politics was, indeed, a Christian calling.

Newly married in 1968, we settled into a small apartment. I went to Georgetown University to pursue a PhD, and my bride put her new journalism degree to work supporting us. My time at Georgetown turned out to be life changing experience—I met the people who were very instrumental in the course of my professional career. I was fortunate enough to receive a Ford Foundation grant to conduct my dissertation research in The Netherlands. Having by then become quite experienced at multi-tasking, we arranged to have our first child born at the Free University of Amsterdam Hospital, right under a picture of Abraham Kuyper! It was also an opportunity to find family I never knew existed!

After getting the PhD in comparative politics and political theory, I taught at Georgetown University for a while and later at George Mason University and then joined the "think tank" Mathematica where I worked on government contracts (mostly with the intelligence community) in econometric modeling and game theory. My three years at Mathematica paved the way for me to join the Central Intelligence Agency in 1977, where I worked for the next 25 years. I worked my way up through the ranks of the CIA, taking on more responsibility and inevitably adding hours to my work day. Although I did spend some time in the clandestine services, most of my career was spent in intelligence analysis and the supervision of analysis. One of the most remarkable aspects of the job was access to the top levels

of the White House, Congress, the State Department and most Federal agencies on almost a daily basis. After in depth language training, that actually picked up on languages I had studied in college, I spent most of my career in Russian and European affairs and in strategic weapons analysis.

Perhaps the most challenging and exciting chapter in my CIA career came towards the end. During the 1990s I was a small part of a large problem. War had broken out in the Balkans in 1992, and upon returning from West Point, I was appointed as the Deputy Director of the government's Balkan Task Force, which was responsible for all U.S. government intelligence on those wars. This job required most of us to work 14 hour days, brought interaction with a host of foreign governments and many days negotiating the Balkan terrain between warring parties. It was here that I began to understand what it means to work for peace as a Christian. Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians on both sides of the Atlantic formed a bond of faith, prayer and action in trying to bring peace to a region that witnessed hundreds of thousands dead, injured, homeless and destitute. The bonds that were formed during those years have remained a vital part of my life to this day.

During my career with the CIA, I received two rotational assignments to the New York City area. During the first assignment in the mid-1980s I worked in one of the CIA offices in Manhattan, then, during the early 1990s I received an appointment to teach at West Point for two years. During both of those assignments my family and I lived in northern New Jersey, partly to be close to EC. My two children went to Eastern Christian during those years, and both times I was privileged to serve on the Eastern Christian Board of Directors, one of those times as Chairman of the Finance Committee. They were wonderful, formative years for my children and a great opportunity for my wife and me to connect with the EC community.

In 1998 I received an invitation to teach at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. NDU is a Department of Defense-run graduate school that caters primarily to senior U.S. military officers, senior Federal government civilians and senior foreign military officers. I spent 13 years there teaching American foreign policy, international relations, East European and Russian politics, and courses in environmental management. I retired from that post and federal service in July 2011 and am now working as a consultant, writer and lecturer.

I have had a rewarding, joy-filled career, and it all began with a great foundation in the EC system. God has been good to me, and I look forward to continuing to serve Him in whatever way he directs me.

## Switzerland

After **Dr. Stuart Kingma '52** finished medical school and received his board certification in General Surgery in 1961, he went to work. Only Dr. Kingma didn't go to a hospital or a private practice, he went to Nigeria under the Christian Reformed Church Board of Missions as a medical missionary. There he completed three 3-year tours. After that, he went to work for the World Council of Churches, eventually being their Director of the Christian Medical Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, and then worked for the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the Civil-Military Alliance to Combat HIV and AIDS. He retired in 2004 but still lives in Switzerland, consulting in international health and giving occasional lectures in universities in and around Geneva.

In other words, Dr. Kingma had a vision to "transform the world" long before it became a tag line for Eastern Christian. It was at Eastern Academy,

however, where this idea of service all began. Dr. Kingma said, "My years at Eastern Academy were very formative for me. Academically it was excellent, and those high school years were happy and satisfying years under really great teachers. I was particularly inspired by the Principal, **Rev. Nicolas Henry Beversluis**, to consider devoting my life in some special way in service to God."

After living and working internationally for most of his life, Dr. Kingma definitely agrees that it is imperative that Eastern Christian continue to inspire its students with a global vision of God's plan. He concluded, "In an era of increasing globalization and inter-dependence, it is truly important that EC provides a context for students to become aware of global issues and to develop a sense of God's work all over the world."

## Ireland

**Joan Hoogerhyde '06** started her relationship with Ireland through Touch the World mission trips when she was still a student at EC. After visiting there for four mission trips, she now lives there as a full time missionary, committed to staying for at least 3 years. "I am running a drop in center and youth group in Carrickma Cross, Ireland," she explained. "The teenagers there know religion, but they do not have faith at all. They pray from a book and not their hearts."

She credits her Eastern Christian experience for preparing her for her calling. "Being involved in fundraisers for Uganda and other outreach opportunities, and especially running the Christmas Festival, developed my heart for people outside my community and trained me in thinking outside the box," she said. She also said the organizational skills she developed in the Humanities program and Bible and Worship class are used every day in managing the teen center and all the activities in running a youth group and planning new centers.

Joan said, "I know students that have never experienced God. When they experience worship and understand that there is something bigger than themselves, the expression on their faces at that moment is so awe inspiring." These moments are the highlights of her job.

When Joan arrived in Ireland, she was invited over to a local pastor's house. The pastor ended up being an EC grad as well – **Rev. Jim Grosser '65**. This definitely convinced Joan that Eastern Christian is out there transforming the world for generations, and that God is in control!



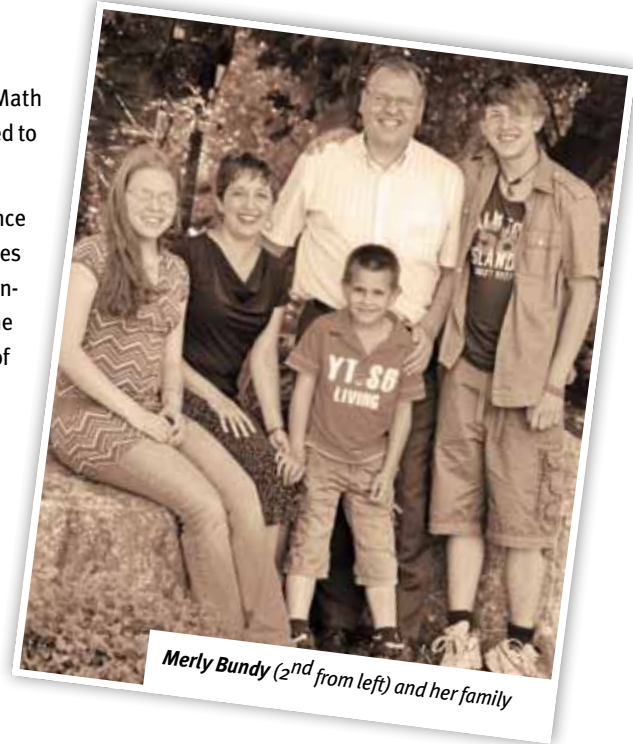
*Joan Hoogerhyde (center) with members of her Irish youth group*

## Spain

**Merly Abreu Bundy '83** went from EC to Messiah College, where she studied Math Education, largely due to the influence of her EC math teacher. From there, she moved to Madrid, Spain, and has been there since.

Merly said, “I have been church planting here with the Brethren in Christ church since 1988. My husband and I worked inter-denominationally at first and helped start churches and youth programs. We are currently church planting for the BIC and co-lead two congregations in Madrid and a neighbouring mountain town. We work among much of the immigrant population as well as among Spaniards who have very little knowledge of the Bible despite its Catholic heritage.”

Even in her work as a church planter, her love of teaching and EC's impact on her has followed her across the Atlantic. She said, “Many teachers had a profound impact on me. Two especially come to mind. **Mrs. Michele Postema** developed my love for teaching English, and now I teach English to executives in Madrid. **Ray Vanderlaan** was essential in my Bible training. What I learned at EC went beyond academics. The teachers integrated their faith which also taught me how to integrate my faith in my every day life no matter where I am in the world.”



*Merly Bundy (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and her family*

## Japan

**Michele Boerman Postema** and **Tom Postema** have been around the world and back since teaching at Eastern Christian. Michele taught English and directed plays at ECHS from 1979-1986. Tom joined her in 1983 as a math teacher. That was only the beginning of their journey.

“When we left EC in 1986, we moved to Christian Academy in Japan in Tokyo. We went for one year and ended up staying 18. After a four year stint back in the US from 1989-1993, we went back to Japan and stayed until 2008. In 2008 we moved to Gyeonggi Suwon International School in

South Korea until 2011. Last summer we returned to Jersey, to the Mustard Seed School where I am Head of School and Michele is the Director of Admissions and Community Relations. We had served at this school from 1989-1991,” Tom said.

This chance to travel the world has given the Postema's a chance to learn from a variety of experiences. Tom said, “At every stop in our career path, we have learned much. We were first-year teachers at EC. In many ways we grew into better teachers because of the colleagues and leaders that we worked with at EC — **Bruce Hekman**, **Jan Lucas**, and many others. As we moved to international schools, we learned as much from the cultural settings of the schools as from our colleagues.”

Tom sees a big change in Eastern Christian since he has come back to the area, a change that helps EC in its mission to transform the world. He said, “I see much more a global sense in EC students and EC culture now than we did when we first came to New Jersey in 1979. It was pretty Dutch and Christian Reformed back then. There were many students in the early days who rarely ventured into New York City! Now there is a diversity of students and teachers, folks with cultural backgrounds that reflect the changing demographics of northern New Jersey. Having lived in Asia for the past couple of decades and having students from all over the world, we see the importance of having a global outlook and a sense that the world is bigger than northern New Jersey. As communications and travel opportunities expand, students need to be able to interact in meaningful ways with people of diverse cultures, languages, and religions. Christians ought to be at the forefront of this education.”



*Tom and Michele Postema*



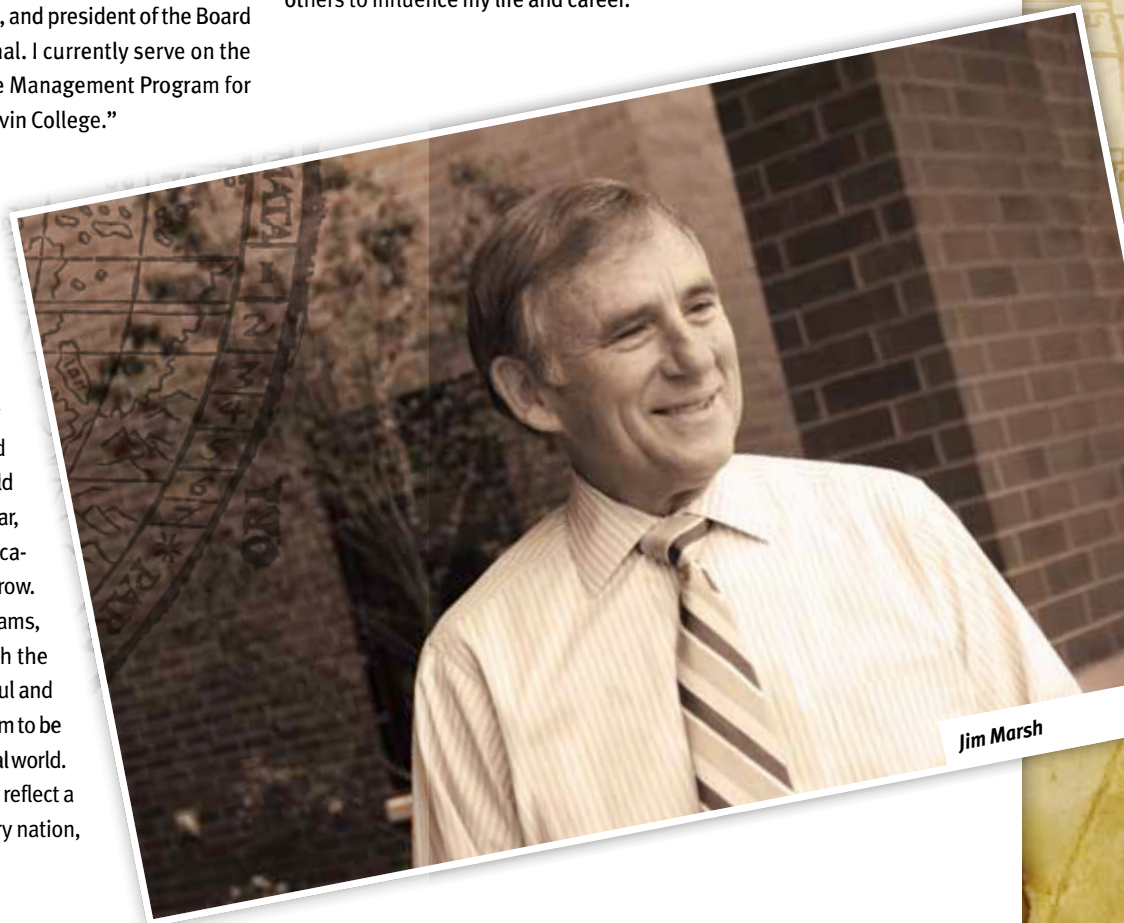
## Missouri

**Jim Marsh '65** is the headmaster of Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduating from Eastern Christian and then Calvin College, Jim started teaching at Kelloggsville Christian School in Grand Rapids in 1969, and taught and coached in Grand Rapids until 1976. He, his wife **Jackie Hieminga '66**, and their family then moved to Florida, where Jim continued to teach and begin his studies and a career in school administration. He moved to Missouri in 1985.

Jim said, "I have been serving as head of school of Westminster Christian Academy-St. Louis for the past 27 years (a 7-12 Christian secondary school with a mission and governance structure in the same tradition as Eastern Christian). I assumed headship of Westminster during its 10<sup>th</sup> year with an enrollment of 350 students. We expanded and renovated our campus in 1999/2000 and quickly grew to 800 students. We developed a new 70-acre, 70 million dollar campus in Town and Country, a suburb of St. Louis, that opened in August 2011 with 940 students in grades 7-12. During my tenure at Westminster, I have served on the Board of Directors of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States, president of the Board of the Independent Schools of St. Louis, and president of the Board of Directors of Christian Schools International. I currently serve on the faculty of the Van Lunen Center, an Executive Management Program for Christian school leaders that is housed at Calvin College."

Westminster Christian Academy has a strikingly similar vision to EC, one of world transformation. Jim explained, "Our vision at Westminster Christian Academy is to 'prepare more young people to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.' If our students are to engage and change the world, they must know the world. Students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian school must be prepared and equipped to encounter and engage a rapidly changing world that is more technologically driven, global, secular, and diverse. We must be committed to an education that prepares our students for their tomorrow. This demands a dynamic school culture, programs, and pedagogy that will provide students with the knowledge and skills that will lead to successful and productive lives and careers that will enable them to be effective leaders and difference makers in a global world. EC, and all Christian school communities, must reflect a student body that includes students from every nation, tribe, people, and language. "

Jim knows that education can transform lives. Not only has he seen it in his students, but he experienced it himself as a student at Eastern Christian. Jim said, "Eastern Christian had a profound impact on my life, especially due to the influence of my biology teacher and basketball coach, **Gordon Shultze**. Coach Shultze took a personal interest in me, spent time with me, encouraged me, challenged me, motivated me, and expanded my horizons. His influence prompted me to change from a mediocre, unmotivated high school student in my freshman and sophomore years to a more focused, successful student with goals for the future during my junior and senior years. By the time I left EC, I wanted to be Gordon Shultze...I wanted to teach and coach and have the impact on the lives of young people that Coach Shultze had on me. I never wavered from that goal when I went to Calvin and never wavered in my professional goals. I have been teaching and coaching and leading Christian schools for the past 43 years. God used the influence of a teacher and coach at Eastern Christian to have a transformational impact on my life. I will always treasure my time at EC and thank God for the way He used teachers like Coach Shultze and others to influence my life and career."



Jim Marsh

## New Jersey

**Teresa Realpe Bonilla '91** has proven with her work that EC alumni do not necessarily need to travel far to transform the world. She explained, “I am currently a project coordinator at the Infancy Studies Laboratory, Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, Rutgers University. Here at the laboratory I am actively involved in using behavioral measures, the eye gaze tracking system and electrophysiological measures to study infant information processing and to evaluate their early cognitive and language development.”

Teresa started attending Eastern Christian in high school, and she never left the state for her schooling, earning two bachelors degrees from Rutgers University and then her Masters Degree in Public Health with a specialty in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the School of Public Health of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Teresa says the foundation of her work has come from her time at EC. “When I reflect back on my time at EC, one word comes to mind: TEACHERS. I thank God for the opportunity to have attended ECHS where I had the honor of encountering some of the most influential people in my life, my teachers. I can still name them all, and if you asked me, I could give you one or more memorable moments that each of them had during my four

years of high school. The teachers at EC helped lay out the foundation for what I am today. It’s not one specific class or teacher or experience at ECHS. Instead, every single one of them left a long lasting impression in my life. Whether it was a lesson, a project, or a word of encouragement, each one of them taught me something that has prepared me for the academic challenges of my career, my establishment of my Christian values and my deeply rooted desire to give back of my community.”

“I believe that is very important for young people today to feel the need to care of a hurting world. Today’s society is growing colder towards the lost and the message of hope and love through Jesus Christ is being lost in the darkness. If we as a Christian community sit back and become passive members of the society, then our children will grow up in a lost and desperate world. Therefore, it is of crucial importance for EC to serve as a tool to help young people discover their God given gifts and talents so that they can put them to use for the glory of God. Whether it is around the world, in their local churches or in their own community, students should be given the opportunity to have hands on experience so that they can help those in need and to be part of something that could change the life of thousands of people.”



EC Uganda Mission team senior **Jessica Wisse**, senior **Abigail Troast**, **Tim Boonstra '11**, **Jennifer Winkle**

## Uganda

**Andrea** and **Jesse Kroeze** are not EC alumni, but they work with EC students in a unique role which has given them a lot of insight about how an EC education can and should transform the world. The Kroeze's are missionaries in Gulu, Uganda, working through Touch the World Ministries. Andrea explained how they began working with EC students. "Our very first mission team to work with us in Uganda came from EC in March 2009, and we have been privileged to receive a team of students each year since, with another team due to come again this March. Our involvement with EC has been mostly in this capacity of dealing with teams. After the first team of EC students, the idea for an "Experiencing Missions" class was birthed through the aid of **Debbie Herbst**, and collectively we brainstormed what such a class would look like. Mostly our interaction with the teams occur once they are in Uganda. We serve as their main trip facilitators. It is our job to give the team a genuine mission experience and to keep them safe in the process. Our main role is to guide the students and leaders/teachers through their daily activities and challenge them by daily discussions on their own observations or questions."

With this unique perspective, Andrea and Jesse get to see first-hand how Eastern Christian students wrestle with a newfound global awareness and

a sense of how broad the idea to "transform the world" really is. Andrea said, "In some cases, we have seen students arrive in Uganda with a set career path in their sight to be blown away by the things they see and experience in Uganda, to return home with a completely new vision for how God can use them to 'transform the world.'"

"When we hear such stories of students who are looking to gain the best education in order to achieve personal success make an abrupt u-turn in their thinking to now desire the best education possible in order to advance the Kingdom of God...that's when we know that the Lord is at

work and our ministry to the teams is equally as important as our ministry to the people of Uganda. Short-term mission trips can create life-long missional-minded adults, and our greatest desire is to see all of our trip participants expand their world view in order to use their God-given gifts and talents to fulfill the mission to 'transform the world.'"

Andrea is excited that the relationship between EC students and Touch the World Uganda has been a blessing for both ministries. She said, "The EC students have first and foremost, helped us learn how to manage a team of teenagers on the global field. Through the observations and reactions from the EC teams each year, we are able to improve our program of hosting mission teams, and we have been personally challenged to find new ways to increase the level of depth to the team members' experience."

"One highlight we have had in working with the EC teams has been to engage some of **Jesse Wright's** art and design classes. We had numerous Skype phone calls to help guide the students in some creative opportunities. That opportunity grew into hosting our very own "Eastern Christian" Hope Gala for Uganda held in 2009. While as an organization we hosted a Hope Gala to raise funds for the projects occurring in Uganda through TTW, one year we held a special event specifically for EC students, faculty and family. This was a great way to raise more awareness of how EC students have been a part of the work happening within our ministry. It was at this event that Mr. Wright's art classes unveiled their first mega-project entitled "The Boiler-Room Bombers: Art for Hope." Their project helped inspire other students to use their art for a greater cause, and we were honored to be a part of that process."

Finally, Andrea reflected on the importance of the global vision that the Experiencing Missions trips are giving to EC students. "If Eastern Christian desires to build 'Christ's transforming agents in a global society,' then each student needs opportunities to be an ambassador for Christ, carrying his message of reconciliation. Since an ambassador is typically being a representative of his people in a foreign nation, what better opportunity for a young student to engage with the global world in a truly cross-cultural setting? Today's ease of transportation allows limitless possibilities to the current generation that must not be taken for granted, but rather maximized for potential growth."

"Without a global awareness, students are left to be concerned about their own needs, their own wants, and their own desires, rather than being exposed to the needs, wants and desires of the majority of the world. Continuing and expanding upon programs like the "Experiencing Missions" class will put Eastern Christian students at an overwhelming advantage in terms of personal growth and maturity as well as equipping them to achieve the vision to "transform the world."



Jesse Kroeze, Ryan Visbeen '11, Adam Struyk '11

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## LET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TOGETHER!

Christian Schools International is once again encouraging their member schools to participate in the CSI Annual Christian Education Week initiative which this year will be observed from April 23 through April 27, 2012. This annual event is a great opportunity for Eastern Christian to reflect on the many benefits of being a member of CSI and to use this opportunity to reinforce the value of our school to our parents and to the local supporting communities.

Christian Schools International, founded in 1920, is an outgrowth of the former National Union of Christian Schools. CSI's mission is to advance Christian Education and to support schools in their task of teaching students to know God, to know His world, and to glorify Him through obedient service.

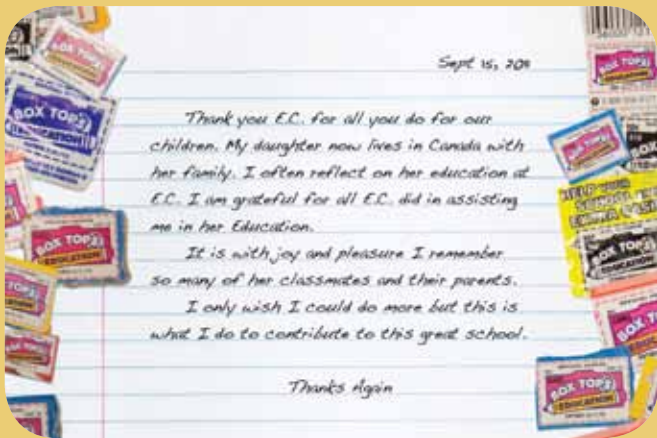
Today Eastern Christian is one of over 500 CSI member schools in the US and Canada with 10,000 teachers and over 100,000 students.

The benefits of membership are many and it would be difficult to imagine operating a Christian School in today's environment without the support and expertise of Christian Schools International. Eastern Christian is a very active member of CSI and has benefited greatly from our partnership over the years.

It is for this reason and several others that we are once again celebrating Christian Education Week. As in the past, we will ask our local churches to help us observe this week with a special Christian School emphasis message on Sunday, April 29, 2012, immediately following Christian Education Week. Eastern Christian will also conduct a financial appeal during this time both in our churches as well as throughout the supporting community to raise funds for the continued support of our school and its many programs.

CSI has chosen to use the theme "Be strong!"; focusing on the words of Joshua as found in Joshua 1:9 which reads, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Like Joshua, Christian School leaders are called to encourage His people with God's words. Like Israel, our communities are called to BE STRONG. During Christian Education Week 2012, be both challenged and encouraged to BE STRONG as well as generous in your financial support of Christian Education by enclosing your gift in the envelope located in the centerfold of this issue of *The Herald*.



## A Gift From The Heart

Among the many contributions that we receive, occasionally there is one that really touches us such as a very large gift or a gift with a special message attached to it.

Recently we received such a gift with a note attached to an envelope, not filled with a check, but with dozens of Box Tops for Education.

The donor wrote that she often reflects on the education that her daughter received at Eastern Christian nearly 20 years ago and how grateful she is for all that Eastern Christian did in assisting her in her daughter's education. She called Eastern Christian "a great school."

In gratitude, this mother, wishing she could do more, gave what she could to Eastern Christian – Box Tops for Education!

This note made me think of the story of the widows offering in Luke 21:1-4, where Jesus tells us that the rich gave gifts out of their wealth, but the widow gave out of her poverty – she put in all she had to live on!

We are so grateful that Eastern Christian was a strong influence in the lives of this family and that even under her present circumstances, she wanted to do something to give back. We are so blessed by this mother's commitment and the lesson that it demonstrates for giving from the heart!

Garret G. Nieuwenhuis  
Executive Director

Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association

# Eastern Christian Receives Van Houten and Hirsch Grants for Scholarships

**O**n December 19, 2011 Eastern Christian School Assoc. (ECSA) received a \$10,000 grant from the Gertrude L. Hirsch Charitable Trust to continue its Emergency Scholarship Aid Program.

This program was launched in 2008 to provide additional assistance to those families directly affected by the adverse economic situation of the past few years through the loss of a job, reduced income, loss of benefits and those families suffering from tragedies of various kinds. The Edward W. and Stella C. Van Houten Memorial Fund has also generously supported this initiative with grants of \$25,000 in 2009, \$30,000 in 2010 and, most recently, \$50,000 in September 2011.

ECSA Foundation Executive Director Garret G. Nieuwenhuis reports that the full amounts of these grants were immediately utilized upon receipt or shortly thereafter. In fact, the total amount of Emergency Scholarship Aid Scholarships that have been awarded to date is \$628,310. The totals for 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-11 were \$92,615, \$418,946, and \$79,370, respectively.

“These meaningful funds from the Hirsch Charitable Trust and the Van Houten Memorial Fund have gone a long way to assist qualifying families who desire to continue a Christian education for their children at Eastern Christian.”

This is the first time that the Hirsch Charitable Trust and the 4<sup>th</sup> time that the Van Houten Memorial Fund have supported ECSA with a grant. The nickname for the Eastern Christian Emergency Scholarship Aid Program is the “Angel” Program. The Van Houten Memorial Fund, the Hirsch Charitable Trust, and all of the other donors to this program are truly angels!

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

### *Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala*

*Thursday, April 19, 2012  
The Tides, North Haledon, NJ*

Dress in your favorite jeans and bling and enjoy a dazzling evening of fine cuisine, fellowship and fundraising! Preparations are underway to make this year a new experience -- many new items, along with some past favorites, will be auctioned. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, 100% of the funds raised from the silent and live auction go directly to Eastern Christian School. Bid on a variety of items such as front row graduation tickets, NY Giants tickets, golf opportunities and more! Tickets are \$60.

Visit [ecdenimanddiamonds.com](http://ecdenimanddiamonds.com) for details and to purchase tickets.

### *Christian Education Week 2012*

*April 23-27, 2012*

Theme: Be Strong!

Bible Verse: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

### *Golf Outing*

*Monday, May 21, 2012  
Black Bear Golf Club, Franklin, NJ*

Participate in an afternoon of golf, followed by a delicious dinner. Match your skills against one of ECHS’s golf-team members! Several sponsorship opportunities are available – a great way to advertise your business! Visit [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org) for more details and to sign up!

### *All School Jog-athon*

*May 25, 2012*

For more information on these events, please call EC’s Foundation Office at 973-427-9294 or visit: [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org)

# ALUMNI NEWS

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.

## 1980s

**Brenda (Bangma) Gorski '86** has been living in Arizona for 16 years now. "I've been working part time for the last five years.

The rest of the time I take care of my family, which includes 6 children and 2 grandkids!"

**Dr. John Cook '86** was promoted to Associate Professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY. John and Kathy met in Chicago, have been married 22 years and have lived in Chicago, the Philippines, Wisconsin, Indiana, and, since 2007, Kentucky. "Being raised in the NJ suburbs and attending EC, perhaps the last place I thought I'd end up is in horse country teaching at a Wesleyan institution, but the Lord works in mysterious and unpredictable ways." John ran into classmate **Rawn Leegwater** at a trailer show in Louisville!

Sean and **Lauran Bell (Hudson) Harrison '86** live in DeKalb, IL. Lauran Bell became a sign language interpreter and works part-time as a sales rep for Essential Bodywear. Since 2003 the Harrisons have been part of Network of Nations, an international student outreach at Northern Illinois University. Sean and Lauran are currently home schooling three of their children, (the fourth passed away several years ago), and are hosting a family from the country of Nepal. Lauran served as 2009-2010 Area Governor for Toastmasters, International, and is focusing now on blogging about her decision to slow down!

**Doug Higby '86** and his wife, Priscilla (P.J.), have served as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators since 1990. From 1994 until 2004 they and their three boys were stationed in Mali, West Africa, translating the New Testament into the Ffulde language. After the Ffulde New Testament was published in 2005, Doug and P.J. moved to Burkino Faso, where Doug is the Africa Area Language Technology

Software Coordinator and P.J. serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of French Language Services. Their goal is to utilize computer technology to expedite the translation of God's Word in Africa. Doug mentors approximately 20 national computer trainers who, in turn, teach language workers the latest computer technology that enables them to translate the Bible faster and more effectively. Doug and his family are currently on home assignment. Learn more about the Higbys from their website [www.higbyfamily.com](http://www.higbyfamily.com).

**Garry Schafer '86** and his wife recently welcomed their first child. He and his wife, who is from the country of Wales live in CT in order to be near Garry's daughter from his first marriage. Garry still plays music (you can look him up on YouTube) and creates websites for Polygram Records, Verizon, Sting, and others. ([www.grimmwerks.com](http://www.grimmwerks.com))

**Tom and Linda (De Vries) Jeron '86** bought a beautiful old fixer-upper in Pompton Lakes, NJ in 2005, which they have been gradually restoring and remodeling. After graduating from Bergen Community College in 1990, Linda has worked in various preschools and day care centers.

## 1990s

Jim and **Jennifer (Steensma) Ritzema '92** welcome a daughter, Wilhelmina (Willa) Grace on 10/13/11.

Marisa and **Gregg Boonstra '95** welcome a daughter, Rory Lynn on 10/1/11. She joins brother Colton.

Marc and **Janette (Keen) Larionoff '97** announce a son, Jason Ryan on 4/1/11. He joins sister Cameron (age 3).

Ben and **Becky (Ten Kate) Miller '97** welcome a son, Daniel Garrett on 9/23/11.

Aaron and **Debbie (Vander Plaats) Berger '97** welcome a son, Gideon Laverne on 11/7/11.

Amanda and **Jeff Peters '98** welcome a son,

Jamison Cole on 6/14/11.

Chris and **Sandy (King) Chiera '98** welcome a son, Cason Steven. He joins sister Mattison and brother Dylan.

**Eric '98 and Michele (Sietsma) Nelson '98** welcome a daughter, Brenna Grace on 9/21/11.

Sara and **Ben Smid '98** welcome a son, Noah Robert.

**Steven Choka '99** was married to Keara Albert on 9/11/10 in Long Branch, NJ. The couple resides in West Islip, NY.

**Cynthia Vogel '99** and Robert Jones were married on 10/15/11. The couple resides in Clifton, NJ.

**Gary Byma '99** and Lauren Briner were married on 7/16/11. The couple resides in Philadelphia, PA.

Andy and **Jennifer (Van Der Heide) Rysdam '99** welcome twin girls, Maya Grace and Makenna Grace on 9/29/11.

Jonathan and **Emily (Geenen) Helder '99** welcome a daughter, Lily Ann on 4/24/11.

**Melissa (Bruins) Macy '99** was recently awarded "The Best of the Knot" for 2011 by [theknot.com](http://theknot.com) with her group, The Devonshire Players, for best wedding ceremony music. *The Knot* stated, "Congratulations on being voted #1 in your market." The award was announced in January 2012.

## 2000s

Kristen and **Craig Borduin '00** welcome a son, Charles Albert on 6/29/11.

Rebekah and **Steve McHugh '00** welcome a son, Jack Patrick on 7/1/11.

**David Ten Kate '01** and Tara Kovach were married on 8/5/11. The couple resides in Midland Park, NJ.

**David Steenstra '02** and Andrea Ommundsen were married on 10/8/11. They reside in Pompton Lakes, NJ.

Mike Maraldo and **Nicole Van Buiten '02** were married on 11/5/11. The couple resides in Howell, NJ.

continued on page 21

*continued from page 20*

Chad Pilker and **Jessica Oppelaar '02** were married on 11/25/11. They live in Columbus, GA.

**Brad Jacobs '02** and Emily Gartner were married on 7/30/11 and reside in North Haledon, NJ.

Juan Ospina and **Andrea Vander Plaat '02** were married on 8/14/11. They live in Ridgewood, NJ.

**Michael '03 and Kelly (Fischer) Rainville '03** welcome a daughter, Stella Hope on 8/9/11.

**Benjamin Bruins '04** was admitted to the Maryland State Bar on December 13, 2011. He is a 2011 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law where he was a member of the National Trial Team. He and the trial team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Civil Trial Competition in 2010 and first

in the Regionals of the National Trial Competition in 2011. Benjamin is living in Baltimore and is an attorney with the firm, Goldman and Goldman.

Josh and **Julie (Nienhouse) Preiskines '04** welcome a son, Wyatt Matthew. Wyatt joins big brothers Joshua and Blake.

AJ and **Larissa (Troast) Santino '04** welcome a daughter Jayelle Nicolynn on 10/28/11.

**Michael Steenstra '05** and Jessica Wybenga were married on 8/21/11. They reside in Rockville, MD.

**Joshua Stadlander '05** graduated from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA in 2009 with an Aviation degree. He has taught as an aviation instructor at the university for 2 years and has just been hired by Express Jet. He flies out of Newark Airport and is First

Officer of the Embraer 145. He will be flying Continental Express flights.

**Sarah Stadlander '05** graduated from Liberty University in 2009. She has a Family and Childhood Development degree and has worked at Touch the World Ministry for 10 years. Through this mission organization she is moving to La Ceiba, Honduras to teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at the Casa Cielo Children's Home/ Orphanage. She left in November 2011 - check out her website for more information [www.smstadlander.com](http://www.smstadlander.com).

**Ben Spoelstra '07** and **Sara Troast '08** were married on 6/25/11. They are residing in Hawthorne, NJ.

David Johnston and **Alyssa Vandenberg '07** were married on 6/25/11 and are living in Essex Junction, VT.

## In Memoriam: U.S. District Judge John Feikens

One of Eastern Christian's most notable alumni and one of the longest-serving federal judges died May 15, 2011 at the age of 93.

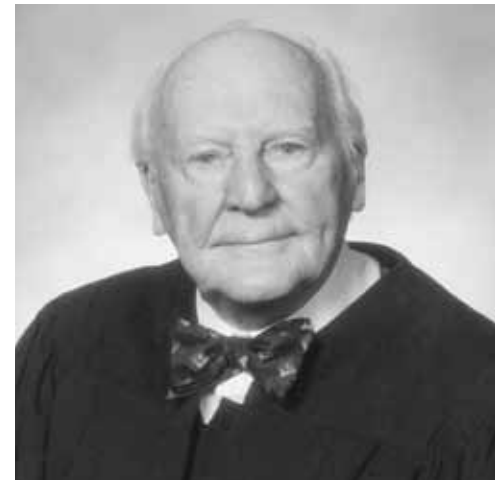
Judge **John Feikens** was born in Clifton, NJ on December 3, 1917 and attended local Christian Schools. He graduated from Eastern Academy in June 1935. He continued his edu-

cation at Calvin College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1938. From Calvin he went on to receive his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan in 1941. He also received Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from the University of Detroit in 1979 and the Detroit College of Law in 1981.

Judge Feikens was first nominated to the bench by President Eisenhower in 1960. He had the unusual honor of being nominated to the same district court by three presidents. He is best known as the judge overseeing the Detroit Water & Sewer Department case, recognized as one of the key stabilizing forces in the case over the past 33 years. Judge Feikens also served as the co-chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission from its inception in 1963 to 1966.

U.S. Senator Carl Levin stated, "the federal courts have lost a stalwart judge whose tenacity and integrity shone brightly from the bench."

Judge Feikens was predeceased by his wife, Henriette in 2007. He is survived by his five



children, Jon Feikens (Beth), Susan Sevensma (Norm), Barbara Reinsma (Luke), Julie Vander Haagen (Ric), and Robert Feikens (Beverly) and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Judge Feikens was a long time consistent supporter of Eastern Christian School for which we are most grateful. He never forgot his roots in New Jersey. When called on the telephone inquiring about the possibility of a gift to the school, he never hesitated to indicate that he was happy to be able to help.

May God comfort the mourning family in the loss of a father, grandfather and great grandfather.

### Attention Alumni – Free Memorabilia

The Foundation Office has a limited supply of the following items which are available free on a first come, first served basis. Please contact us via telephone at 973-427-9294 or via email at [foundation@easternchristian.org](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org)

ECHS Graduation DVDs for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

ECHS Class Picture at Graduation for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

ECHS DVDs of the 2010 play Cinderella and the 2008 Talent Show

REMEMBERING ...

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

FORMER STAFF

**Henrietta (Zigterman) Baukema '31**, of Grand Rapids, MI on 6/9/11. Henrietta previously lived in Boynton Beach, FL and Wyckoff, NJ. She was the school secretary at Midland Park (Maltbie Ave) and Wyckoff in the 1960's and early 70's.

**Abner Vasquez** on 4/29/11, employed by EC from 1998 to 2004 as a custodian at all three campuses and also as a bus driver.

**Jacoba Dahm** on 5/8/11, taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Jr. High Math, Library and English.

**Nicholas H. Kuiken** on 5/13/11, served as a Board member and Building Committee member from 1960 to 1963.

**David Hemkes** on 6/9/11, former bus driver for EC in the late 80's and early 90's.

**Joan Vogel** on 12/8/11, taught girls Physical Education, Latin and Health at Eastern Christian for 20 years.

Reformed Church in Franklin Lakes, NJ.

**Richard Roukema '45** of Pompton Plains, NJ and formerly Ridgewood on 8/28/11. Dr. Roukema practiced psychiatry in Ridgewood and was a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark. He was a Clinical Director of Mental Health and Medical Staff President at the Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff, NJ.

**Marilyn (Van Hook) Meyers '48** of Mahwah, NJ on 9/4/11. Marilyn was a graduate of Calvin College with degrees in Math and Latin. She was a member of Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church where she served as both Elder and Deacon.

**Marie (Zuidema) Meyer '48** of Hawthorne, NJ on 10/18/11. Marie was the owner and operator of the Lafayette Delicatessen for 13 years and a member of Hawthorne Gospel Church.

City, MD on 7/4/11. She graduated from Paterson General Hospital School of Nursing and worked as a clinical research nurse at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. Later she worked as an office nurse, and for more than 20 years, helped lead the Cardiac Fitness Program and Senior Fitness at Harford Community College. She was an active member of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, MD.

ALUMNI

**John Feikens '35** of Grosse Pointe, MI on 5/15/11. The Honorable John Feikens has been a U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan since permanently appointed in December, 1970. He had the unusual honor of being nominated to the same district court by three presidents. He became a Senior Judge in March 1986, and continued to serve in that position until his death.

**Robert John Van Vlaanderen '36** of Kinnelon, NJ on 7/7/11. He served in the US Army during World War II, and was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery in action. He had served as a deacon and elder of Bridgeway Community Church of Haledon (formerly First Christian Reformed Church), and was a member of the Gideon's Society.

**Tunis Sweetman '41** of Warwick, NY on 7/26/11. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the Army. Tunis was a retired lumber yard foreman and a member of Netherlands

**Jean C. Gerritsen '48** of Garfield, NJ on 1/3/12. Jean excelled in sports while at Eastern Academy and received the award for "Most Athletic Student" upon graduation. She attended Calvin College and completed her undergraduate and graduate work at Columbia University. Jean spent most of her nursing career at Passaic General Hospital, where she completed her career as supervisor of the operating rooms.

**John R. Oosting '51** of Grand Rapids, MI, formerly of Wyckoff, NJ on 1/5/12. He was a member of Princeton CRC.

**Paul De Blaey '52** of Midland Park, formerly of Wyckoff, on 12/2/11. Paul served his country in the Army during the Korean War. He was a member of Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church where he served as an elder and was instrumental in the Cary Mississippi Mission Project.

**Leonard R. Hey '58** of Bradenton, FL on 5/20/11.

**Joan Borduin '64** of Pompton Plains, NJ formerly of Brick Township on 10/14/11. Joan was employed by Prospect Park National Bank and for a short term with Ocean County National Bank and Atlantic Stewardship Bank. She was a member of the American Banking Association.

**Frank Nienhouse '68** of Hewitt, NJ. He was an Army veteran, having served in Vietnam.

**David W. Hagedorn '70** of Oak Ridge, NJ on 9/6/11. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1974-1978. He was an electronic technician for Transistor Devices, Hackettstown.

**Gail S. Sisco '74** of Andover Township, NJ on 11/12/11. Gail was raised in Franklin Lakes and moved to Sussex County in 1985 where she was a residential assistant for a SCARC group home for 26 years and also worked as a teacher's assistant for Northern Hills Academy in Sparta for 10 years. She was a member of the Newton Covenant Reformed Church, Newton, NJ.

**Douglas R. Wondergem '75** of Wayne, NJ on 10/9/11. He was a mechanic for Borough Jeep in Wayne and a member of Midland Park Christian Reformed Church. He was a devoted father to Nicole, Luke and Sara Wondergem.

**Terence G. Laauwe '90** of Park City, UT on 12/8/11. Terry worked in sales around the world and settled in Utah. He leaves his wife Justine, and two children, Sage and Terence Jr.



## REUNION YEAR CLASSES

Please be sure the Alumni Office has your up-to-date contact information. Send your address and/or email information to [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org) and you will be sure to get all your reunion news.

### *Class of 2002: 10-YEAR REUNION*

Our reunion is in the planning stage. Please contact **Emily (Van Hine) Small** at [emily.a.small@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.small@gmail.com) or **Deborah (Ramirez) Campise** at [deborah\\_e\\_campise@hotmail.com](mailto:deborah_e_campise@hotmail.com) with suggestions, ideas and updated contact info.

### *Class of 1992: 20-YEAR REUNION*

The class of 1992 is in the beginning stages of reunion planning. We could use help, ranging from collecting/verifying email contact information to planning and organizing. Any type of help would be appreciated. Please contact **Pam (Steinginga) Struble** at [pgstruble@yahoo.com](mailto:pgstruble@yahoo.com) if you are able to chip in!

### *Class of 1987: 25-YEAR REUNION*

We are thinking about Fall 2012 for our 25<sup>th</sup> reunion – and would welcome your ideas and interest. Please email **Laura (Struyk) Faber** at [mrsma01@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsma01@yahoo.com).

### *Class of 1962: 50-YEAR REUNION*

**Nancy (Hartog) Ruiter** is interested in planning this reunion – but needs your help. Please contact her at 732-462-3770 (home) or at [nruiter@aol.com](mailto:nruiter@aol.com) or EC's Alumni Office at 973-427-9294. Please be sure we have your most recent address/email to ensure you get reunion information.

### *Class of 1955*

We will have a gathering on Friday, June 15, 2012. If you did not receive information in the mail, please contact **John Steen** at [steensales@optonline.net](mailto:steensales@optonline.net).

### *Class of 1952: 60-YEAR REUNION*

**Clarence Van Der Wiele** is coordinating a gathering for classmates for late summer/early fall. If you are interested, please email him at [jvdwiele@utk.edu](mailto:jvdwiele@utk.edu) or call him at 865-300-4164.

### *Attention Class of 2003*

Your Ten-Year Reunion will be here soon! Now is the time to put together a planning committee. Please contact EC's Foundation Office at [alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:alumni@easternchristian.org) if you are willing to help.

## REUNION UPDATE

## The Class of 2001



**Front row (L to R):** Courtney (Angione) Dyksen; Liz Avanzato, Vanessa Moon, Yvonne (Wisse) Gogolen, Ganelle Romero, Heather (Bushoven) Troupos, Kristin (Serafin) Rashid, Tabitha Riley.

**Row 2:** Christine Lopez, Tim Olson, Terence Greenberg, Erica (Cruz) Bjerke, Julie (Dykhouse) Tokarski, Julia Smith, Meghan Faber, Sara Mickens, Gina (Marocco) Patterson, Rebecca (Englishmen) Brock, Daniel Poalillo, Adam Veenstra, Dave Ten Kate.

**Row 3:** Bill Tokarski, Rob Wenzel, Keegan Sybesma, Jon Kuperus, Ryan Patterson, Cortnee (Johnson) Callahan, Kristin Williams, Matt Hoogmoed.

10-Year Reunion took place on Friday, November 25 at the Paris Inn, Wayne, NJ. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed with 29 former classmates and 18 significant others! Attendees came from five different states, and one classmate even traveled from Brazil! It was a fabulous evening and fun to see everyone again.

## REUNION UPDATE

## The Class of 1991



*(Left to right): Kevin Post, Peter Elzinga, Chuck Walker, Mark Reitsma, Keith Tamboer, Jim Van Heemst, Mark Foster, Michelle (Braunius) Van Heemst, Eric White, Karen (Bley) LaCorte, David Luyendyk, Teresa (Realpe) Bonilla, Ralph Faasse, Stephanie (Van Haste) Steen, Hannah (Dekker) Cerynik, Meredith (Gelarden) Pray, Timothy Dyer, Faith (Popjes) Douma, Dorothy (Doss) Salomon, Rick Botbyl, Sandy (Mulcock) Luyendyk, Matthew Braunius, Lora (Vanderberg) Albertson, Sharon (De Bruyn) Kanzinger, Rose (Van Althius) Verblaauw, Ishia (Dukes) Davis, Sandra Waite, Yocunda Clayton, Taushia (Murchison) Walker, Sheri Leegwater.*

The Class of 1991 met for a 20-year reunion on November 4, 2011 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, NJ. It was a fantastic evening of reconnecting with old friends, enjoying an excellent dinner, and for some, an attempt to rekindle some old dance moves. Our biggest challenge of the night was actually "leaving" since nobody seemed to want to go home by the end of the evening. Fortunately, the Indian Trail Club was willing to extend our time past midnight so that we could continue our fellowship. A great time was had by all as we were able to reflect on our experiences as Eastern Christian students and catch up with friends.

## REUNION UPDATE

## The Class of 1986



**Front row (L to R):** Robert Hagedorn, Sandra (Bosma) Bottge, Lauran Bell (Hudson) Harrison, Linda (Vriesema) Boonstra, David Krug, Charles Woudenberg, Dwayne Leegwater, Pete Botbyl.

**Row 2:** Michael Noordeloos, Lisa Faber, Pamela Vermaas, Lydia (Troper) Rubino, Linda (De Vries) Jeron, Deborah Pierce, Amy (Breure) Klas, Laura (Steinginga) Dykstra, Kimberly (Abma) Sytsema, John Folkerts, Sarah (Bandstra) Miciek, David Almroth.

**Row 3:** Jacob Valkema, Former Principal Jan Lucas, Thomas De Block, Rawn Leegwater, David Christiansen, Douglas Higby, David Van Grouw, Anthony Van Grouw, Karen (Junta) Van Grouw, Ellen (Spalt) Faber, John Faber.

Thirty classmates, four former faculty & staff, and Hurricane Irene gathered in North Haledon on August 26 & 27 for the Class of 1986's 25-Year Class Reunion weekend. Classmates came from as far away as Burkino Faso, Africa, Florida and California and as close as half a block away; while others were stuck at home and could not attend due to the extensive flooding in the area. The class enjoyed an informal evening on Friday, including a tour of the high school led by former Principal **Jan Lucas**, and a chapel service on Saturday morning. Saturday evening everyone gathered at Pellegrino's for dinner, and all enjoyed outstanding desserts provided by classmates **Kim (Abma) Sytsema** and **Chuck Woudenberg**. During the evening, classmates created a bouquet of roses, placing white roses for those classmates deceased; pink roses for those fighting cancer and red for those unable to attend, after which **Doug Higby** led the class in prayer. The evening ended with exchanges of contact information, hugs and good-byes...and then everyone hurried home to assess the storm damages.

## REUNION UPDATE

## The Class of 1981



**Front row (L to R):** Linda Mabie, Susan (Vriesma) Gregson, Pam (Westra) Abma, Sharon (Zuidema) Spoelstra, Ellen (Lyman) Forstrom, Lori (Miller) Lansey.

**2<sup>nd</sup> row:** Sally (Last) Ruitenbergh, Susan (Huizenga) Cleveland, Robin Faber, Karen (Davis) Hagedoorn, Marianne (Dyk) Bushoven, Wendy (Leegwater) Malone, Jeanne (DeKorte) Veenstra, Ginamarie (Cassidy) Quinn, JuleAnn (Troast) Martin, Debi (Wisse) Veenstra.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Row:** Ben Spoelstra, Bob Borst, Don Westra, Jim Niewenhuis, Gary Veenstra, Wayne Schipper, Caren (Kranik) Hric, Jim DeJong, Bette (Veenstra) Brinkerhoff, Jim Abma.

"The 30<sup>th</sup> on the 30<sup>th</sup>" was the name of the Class of 1981's reunion! We met at Pellegrino's in North Haledon on Dec. 30 and had a great night. **Marty Lier** even "visited" from Michigan via a live internet feed. There was a great turnout with 42 guests, including 26 classmates. Good food and plenty of laughs made for a relaxing and fun night. We're grateful to be a part of the EC family and also thankful for the sacrifices of those who made it possible for us to attend, learn, and grow there.

## REUNION UPDATE

## The Class of 1961



**Front row (L to R):** Marie (Kapteyn) Ludwig, Carolyn (Smith) Vander Wall, Lois (Pulis) De Roos, Betty (Jaarsma) Schaaf, Nancy (Meyer) Wilkens, Agnes (Lindemulder) Fisher, Nancy (Van Breda) Stahl, Marilyn (Vander Wall) Bartholme, Kay (Steensma) Doornbos, Judy (Rooze) Stonehouse.

**Second row:** Betty Jane (Hartog) Baker, Shirley (Lodema) Stokes, Lois (Kline) Van Der Stad, Shirley (Orbeck) Buwalda, Elaine (De Korte) Cavill, Ruth (Vander Zee) Latona, Linda (Stradling) Milanese, Lois Glass, Faye (Hengeveld) Fredricks, Adriana (Kramer) De Long, Ruth (Wattez) Boomker, Joyce Kruithof, Nancy (Sytsma) Faber, Norma (Hook) Noordijk.

**Third row:** Sam Vandergoot, Bill Ritsma, Dave Van Til, Phil Higby, Marv Van Wyck, John De Vries, Jim Brandes, John Padmos, John Vander Ploeg, Sipp Hutton, John Borst, Eric Beversluis, Warren Frieling, Ted Jansma, Ted Boelens, Dave Wondergem, John Wynbeek, Bill Fischer, Ron Popjes, Marty Meyne, Bill Tanis.

Hurricane Irene almost washed out the 50-year reunion plans for the Class of 1961 putting their hotel under water. New Jersey committee members **Nancy (Meyer) Wilkens, Nancy (Sytsma) Faber & Ron Popjes** quickly rose to the challenge and found an alternate location, the Sheraton Crossroads in Mahwah, where the Class of 1961 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion on Friday, September 23.

An impressive total of 45 alumni plus 30 guests enjoyed the evening with Ted Jansma acting as emcee. The program featured a computer presentation by **Joyce Kruithof** that also included memorial tributes to deceased classmates. A '60s deejay and plenty of laughter, reminiscing, and catching up on 50 years filled the remainder of the evening.

Shortly after the Reunion, Joyce compiled and mailed out DVD's that included video of the event, "then and now" photos, biographies organized by **Linda (Stradling) Milanese**, and contact information so classmates don't have to wait for the next Reunion to keep in touch.

# DESIGNATED GIFTS

JUNE 18, 2011 – JANUARY 15, 2012

*During this time period, 304 gifts were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend.*

*The total amount of the gifts received in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$26,086.32.*

*Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian education at EC!*

## *In Memory of*

**John W. Aquadro**  
William & Charlene Cook

**Henrietta A. Baukema**  
Henry & Judi Baukema  
Rena Bruins  
Roger & Linda Vogel  
Jon & Patricia Burgess  
John & Linda Bruins

**Austin Bender**  
Henrietta Bender

**Joan M. Borduin**  
William & Jean Borduin  
Janet & Richard Ritsma

**Jacob "Jay" Bruinooge**  
Berta Bruinooge

**William Dykstra**  
Ian Marsh  
Bruce & Carri Bishop  
Herbert De Jonge  
Gordon Veurink  
Mr. & Mrs. Manny Abuan  
Jack & Shirley Faber  
Robert & Lori Fylstra  
Mary De Jonge  
The Mitchell De Jonge Family  
Machelle Knochenhauer  
& Family  
John & Merrill Crowell  
Family Fund

Katherine Veenstra  
Arthur & Joyce Bruining  
Brenda & Russell Hoeffs  
Ralph & Dorothy Faasse  
Thomas & Linda Dykhouse  
Joan & Fred Fabbri  
Edward Vander Sluys  
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Witkowski,

Jr.  
Phyllis Sweetman  
Helena & Gary Veurink  
New Covenant  
Presbyterian Church  
James Putt  
Ronald & Karen Steinginga  
Gene & Lillian Hoogerheyde  
Joan & Fred Fabbri  
William & Lori Bixler  
Lisa Shilling & Jim De Bruyne  
Harold Dykstra  
Peter & Donna Dykstra

**Julia Ann Elzinga**  
Ten Mile Greens Homeowners  
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Valerie Brackett  
Robert & Mary Ann Bakker  
Ben & Alice Spoelstra  
Albert & Janet Visbeen

**Joann Feasenmeyer**  
John & Anita De Korte  
**Gladys Fieldhouse**  
North Haledon Golden  
Age Club  
Richard & Priscilla Fieldhouse  
Maria Soares

**Lois E. Fisher**  
Lorraine Schiavi  
Thomas & Linda Dykhouse  
Shirley & Arthur Stokes  
Annamae Hulsebos  
Alice & Clarence Baker  
Nancy & William Wilkens  
Laurie Fisher  
Griselda & Ernest Nienhouse  
Eileen Mosier  
George & Joanne De Korte  
Mildred Fisher  
John & Anita De Korte  
William & Jean Borduin  
Carol Van Dyk  
Huberta Kruithof  
The Prudential Foundation  
Leonard & Betty Dykman

**Nicholas Flaming**  
Linda Johnson  
**Gerard Fridsma**  
Glenn and Ruth Petzinger

**Barney G. Fylstra**  
Henrietta Fylstra

**Edward Fylstra**  
Samuel & Lorraine Steen

**Elsie M. Golden**  
John & Barbara Padmos  
Steven & Laura Gorter  
John Golden  
Maribeth & Wayne Vriesema

**Elise Kathleen Gorter**  
Steven & Laura Gorter  
C S Stucco & Plaster, Inc.  
Gerald & Janyce Bandstra  
John Golden  
Miles and Lisa Kuperus  
Kathleen & Edwin Gorter  
Farmside Landscape & Design  
Maribeth & Wayne Vriesema

**Marinus Greendyk**  
Katherine Veenstra

**Albertus Hartog**  
Carolina Hartog

**Garry Distelberg & Martha Distelberg Hengeveld**  
Donald & Natalie Distelberg  
Barbara & James Stakely

**L. Ronald Hey**  
Edward & Grace Hey

**John R. "Jack" Hulsebos**  
Becton Dickinson & Company  
Thomas & Suzana De Block  
PSEG Matching Gift Program  
Annamae Hulsebos

**Katherine Jean Jaarsma**  
Pamela Jaarsma  
Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta  
Helena & Robert Foster  
Ryan & Darcy Jaarsma  
Tracy & Brian Gaehring  
Scott Van Boerum  
John & Janet Fellema  
Susan & Garry Meyer  
Joseph & Hazel Mancini

**Jacob "Jim" Jacobs**  
Curtis & Cathy De Roo  
Margaret LoGerfo  
Raymond & Julia Martin  
Bernard & Marion Memmelaar  
Jerry & Gretchen Weesies  
Griselda & Ernest Nienhouse  
Rena Bruins  
Albert & Catherine Algera  
John & Kay Drukker  
Karel & Catherine  
De Waal Malefyt  
Dorothy Udes  
John & Linda Bruins  
George & Rozanne Bruins  
Lincoln Park Plaza  
Associates, LLC

**Albert Johnson**  
Linda Johnson

**Michael Karanicola**  
Glenn & Ruth Petzinger

**Jane Klein**  
Frank & Mildred Miller  
Jane de Waal Malefyt  
Midland Park CRC  
Daniel Minkema  
Dave & Grace Zeldenrust  
Nicholas & Margaret Rashford  
James & Donna Dockray  
Marine Nutriceutical Corp.  
Ben & Alice Spoelstra

**Nicholas H. Kuiken**  
Theodore & Nancy Faber

**Doris Lucas**  
Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta  
Mrs. Enid Norton

**Marilyn Meyers**  
Clara & George Hoogenhuis

**Beatrice Minkema**  
Lois & Ronald Modelski

**Edmund R. Niedzwiecki**  
Brandon Florance  
Mary Spigarelli  
Leonard & Barbara Nedswick  
June Buser  
Marcia Roukema  
Kathleen Mallanda  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Kuschan  
The Orvis Company  
Bruce & Carole Jacobs  
Kenneth & Karen Ann  
Rambach  
Helena Smith  
Ligaya Panajon  
Latasha Coney & Nyjia Enzor  
Gerard & Joan Rambach  
Diane Hitchcock & family  
Richard & Janet Nied

**Radie & Ambrose J. Petzinger**  
Glenn & Ruth Petzinger

**Anthony G. Pontier, Jr**  
Ruth & John Husselman  
Raymond & Julia Martin  
Ronald & Karen Steinginga  
Leonard & Ruth Ann Wynbeek  
Mr. & Mrs. William J Martin  
Marie & Arnold King

**Edward J. Postma, Sr.**  
Elinor Postma

**Ralph J. Prall**  
Kenneth & Lorna Bogertman  
William & Willelme  
Bogertman

**Anna & John Pruikisma**  
Glenn & Ruth Petzinger

**Dr. Harry & Agnes Pruikisma**  
Alyce & Clix Meines

**Richard Rosendale**  
John & Doris Dyk  
John & Anita De Korte  
Kathy & Kenneth Tanis  
Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta  
William & Josephine Peters  
Bernard & Helen Joustra  
Beatrice & Peter Spalt  
Tannette & Peter Botbyl  
Wilma Kohere  
Josephine and John Winters

**Joyce Ruit**  
Melvin & Marilyn Veenema

**Craig A. Silverstein**  
Maria Silverstein

**Jewel Snyder**  
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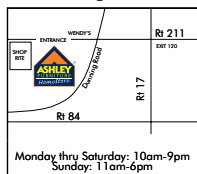
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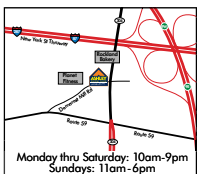
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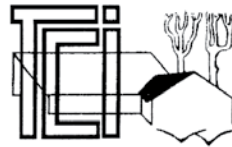
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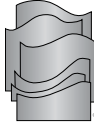
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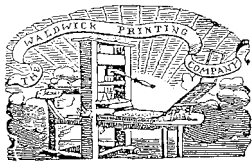
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## Girls Cross Country Win County

For the first time in school history, the girls' cross country team won the County Championship on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Senior **Kristen Traub**, named as the North Jersey Runner of the Year, won the race in 18:45, beating the 2<sup>nd</sup> place runner by 1:26. But the team championship was a full team effort, featuring a dramatic come from behind victory up a steep hill at Garrett Mountain. "With a half mile to go, we were five to six points behind," said Coach **Joel Apol**, "but we pulled through." At the end of the race, the top five runners from EC were tied with Wayne Hills with 52 points, but EC's 6<sup>th</sup> runner, junior **Bethany Van Eck**, had placed better than Wayne Hill's 6<sup>th</sup> runner, and EC was awarded the championship.

Kristen concluded her amazing EC cross country career by winning the State Title, leading the girls to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall in the NonPublic B State Meet, and by placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall at the elite Meet of Champions. Seniors **Kelly Sietsma** and **Jessica Wisse** also finished strong careers this season, while sisters **Kayla** (a sophomore) and **Erin** (a freshman) **Van Lenten** will return next year to lead the team.



### Boys Cross Country:

Led by junior captain **Tyler Van Lenten**, who tied the school record this year, the boys' cross country team had a strong season. Overall, their dual meet record was 7-3. Tyler said, "We have had some injuries, but everyone who is still running is improving their times. We did okay in the County Meet and State Meet." Tyler finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the State Meet, qualifying him for the Meet of Champions. The team, made up entirely of juniors and sophomores, finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the county and 16<sup>th</sup> in the state, setting themselves up for even more success next year.



### Girls Tennis:

The girls' tennis team ended a solid season with a record of 4-6-1. Coach **Adam Culp** said, "It has been an honor to spend so much time with this group this year. I wouldn't trade this group for the most talented team in the state. This team has shown an inspiring optimism, even as they have been playing catch-up with our competitors with regard to experience and instruction." The team was led by the work ethic and dedication of seniors **Emily Lotz** and **Diana Kleinmanns**, and by captain junior **Jenna Shotmeyer**. Jenna played the first singles position and ended with an individual 6-4 record, earning her 1<sup>st</sup> team honors in the league.



**Girls Volleyball:**

The girls' volleyball team pulled off a surprising upset in the first round of the County Tournament to highlight a solid year of effort. On October 17, the 10<sup>th</sup> seeded Eagles visited 7<sup>th</sup> seed Lakeland, and came away with a win in two sets, 25-20 and 25-23. Although the win was a surprise according to the statistics, the team didn't doubt in their own abilities. Senior **Natalya Suizzo** said, "I was pretty sure we could win because we had our heads in the game and we wanted it more."

**Girls Soccer:**

Coach **Barry Veenstra** and the girls' varsity soccer team put together yet another successful season, finishing with a record of 16-6-1 despite the feeling that this year was going to be a "rebuilding year." Senior captains **Heather Tanis** and **Sarah Gabriele** were very pleased with their team's performance, saying, "We have had a good year, even though we didn't do as well as we wanted in League play. We were really excited about making the County Semi-finals against Wayne Hills." Another highlight of the season was defeating rival Hasbrouck Heights 3-1, who only lost two other games this year. The girls made it to the second round of the State Tournament before losing to a tough Oak Knoll team in an overtime shootout.



**Boys Soccer:**

The varsity boys' soccer team struggled this season. Although they were able to keep many games close, the wins somehow seemed to elude the team. "We learned a lot this season about the value of team work and team unity," said Captain **Matthew D'Urso**. "We never gave up," said junior **Jon Boonstra**. "Our last game against Midland Park showed the theme of our entire season: We started off rough, but we always fought until the end," said junior **Seth Stadlander**. Throughout every game, the boys aimed to try their very best and continue to play to best of their abilities despite the obstacles.



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