

# THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*  
Volume 59, Issue 2



*EC Seniors are*

## SOARING HIGHER

*WITH HIGHER EDUCATION*

**PLUS**  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
COMING TO NJ

FALL 2018

# STILL NEW AFTER 125 YEARS: A LEGACY OF INNOVATION



Eastern Christian School is a wonderful place to learn, to experiment, and to experience new things each and every day. It is this legacy of learning and innovation that keeps our school new and exciting as we enter our 126th year of service this month.

This issue of *The Herald* chronicles learning and innovation at Eastern Christian School as we celebrate the significant accomplishments of our Class of 2018, report on notable learning experiences encountered by our students throughout the past school year, and look ahead to innovative new programming introduced in this issue.

Of particular note is a ground-breaking new program to offer an associates degree on the campus of Eastern Christian High School beginning in 2019. Partnering with Geneva College, this program will be unique in New Jersey and continues Eastern Christian School's history of distinctive, cutting edge programs that serve the needs of Christian students and families in innovative new ways.

Following in the footsteps of *ditto of North Jersey*, Eagle Solar LLC, and our Extended Learning and International Student programs, the Early College Program resulted from the Eagles Perch innovation incubator held in November, 2017 which resulted in numerous proposals to build innovative programs that support the core educational mission of our school. Eastern Christian School has a well-established reputation of such entrepreneurial efforts, having been named the Small Business Success Award Winner for Social Entrepreneurship by the New Jersey Small Business Development Corporation for its prior efforts.

We are excited to share these stories of learning, discovery, and innovation that keep Eastern Christian School new and dynamic, even after 125 years of history!

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Herald*.

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



**On the cover:** Seniors pose with their college gear in front of the Eastern Christian High School sign. From left to right: James Dolio, Curry College; Kaitlyn Hefty, Sacred Heart University; Steve Blanco, Yale; Sam Frank, Towson University Honors College; Stephanie Zhang, New York University; Leslie Bond, Elon University; Addie Peretti, Wheaton College; Ben Caramico, US Marines





EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

# THE HERALD

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

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

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# GENEVA

## Christian College Comes to Students at Eastern Christian

**Eastern Christian School and Geneva College of Beaver Falls, PA, announced that they signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a New Jersey satellite campus at Eastern Christian High School.**

The announcement includes plans for a highly-innovative program to provide associates degrees in the liberal arts, business, and engineering, and a one-year pre-nursing track under the auspices of Geneva College, a 170-year-old institution affiliated with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

The program's intent is to offer quality, Christian higher education at costs that rival local community colleges, enabling more students in New Jersey to access Christian education beyond their senior year of high school without incurring significant debt. Data continues to show a national trend toward students pursuing locally-based higher education, driven by cost concerns and other cultural factors.

The new location is highly significant, as it will be the first New Jersey location of a member school of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, which is a national organization of comprehensive institutions of higher learning with Christian missions to advance faith and intellect for the public good. The Geneva College satellite campus must first gain the approval of the State of New Jersey and

the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the agency accrediting both institutions. Provided these approvals are obtained in a timely manner, the intention is to open for students in the fall of 2019.

Liberal arts, business, engineering, and pre-nursing programs were selected so students can transfer credits to a broad array of four-year Christian and secular colleges. In addition, EC aims to work toward pairing students with internships within their desired major while they are enrolled in classes in the evenings and on Saturdays.

The idea of bringing a Christian college to NJ was first presented at Eagle's Perch, where Eastern Christian's leadership solicits proposals from employees that would signify "The Next Big Thing" for the school. High school teacher and publications director, **Leah Genuario**, pitched the proposal that ultimately led to this agreement between the two schools. The schools share a similar history. In the mid-1800s, a Reformed Presbyterian minister established Geneva College in Northwood, Ohio. About 50 years later and 500 miles away, another Reformed congregation—this time, of Dutch immigrants—armed with the same goal of providing Christian education for young people, formed the Christian School Society in Paterson, NJ.

Over time, the first would move to a new location in Beaver Falls, PA, and grow to hold 1700 undergraduate and graduate students in over 80 different majors and programs. The second would change its name several times, branch out to several locations, and finally become

Eastern Christian School, currently hosting about 850 students from 150 Christian churches.

"This unique partnership between Eastern Christian School and Geneva College presents fantastic new opportunities for both institutions and, most importantly, the students and families that we serve," said Eastern Christian's Executive Director & Head of School, Tom Dykhous. "We look forward with great anticipation to providing high quality, cost effective, Christian higher education opportunities to students in Northern New Jersey."

Through all of the decades that both schools have been in existence, God has remained faithful: "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:5; NIV).

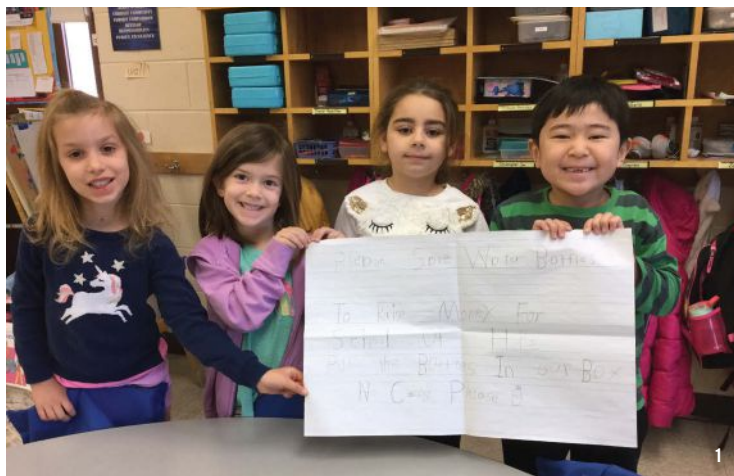
## ABOUT GENEVA COLLEGE

Geneva College is a Christ-centered academic community that provides a comprehensive education to equip students for faithful and fruitful service to God and neighbor. Geneva offers over 80 traditional undergraduate majors and programs, an array of fully online bachelor's programs designed to be attainable for busy adults, and an array of high-demand graduate degrees in both classroom and online formats. Geneva's programs are recognized for their high quality, with U.S. News & World Report ranking Geneva as a Top Three Best Value Regional University, and as having one of the Top 100 engineering programs in the nation. Adhering to the truth of Scripture, a Geneva education is grounded in God's Word as well as in a core curriculum designed to prepare students vocationally to think, write and communicate well in today's world.



# HOPE FOR HAITI

ECES students support Hope Haitian Ministries



1. Kindergarteners show off their advertisements. The grade decided to collect water bottles, which were exchanged for 5-cent donations; 2. First graders Karina Lazor and Peter Ten Kate make bracelets.

**The ministry started with just 15 kids and a choir in 2012. Two years later, it became an official non-profit organization—Hope Haitian Ministries—and two years after that, it launched a school in Lamarre, Haiti.**

In its second year, the School of Hope enrolled more than 200 students, with new students sponsored through Compassion International.

Through EC teacher **Jill Battle**, ECES and School of Hope joined together this year, enabling students to embrace community and exhibit compassion, two core values at EC.

“In celebration of the 125th anniversary of Eastern Christian, we decided to partner with Hope Haitian Ministries to support a young, Christian school in Haiti and enable the students at School of Hope to receive a Christ-centered education like we receive at EC. We thought about ways we can be ‘living stones’ and help build up the school. We learned about the culture, economy and geography of Haiti,” says Elementary School Principal **Sandra Bottge**.

Although every student participated, the approach each EC grade used

to solve the question, “How do we support the School of Hope?” was different. For example, preschool students collected school supplies, while first graders designed and sold bracelets, and third graders wrote devotionals.

Although this particular ministry was new to EC this year, the idea behind the project is not. Bottge explains, “Each year, preschool and elementary school students participate in a school-wide PBL project. Problem Based Learning is an authentic learning experience where students are presented with a real-world problem. They must collaborate with their classmates to come up with solutions to the problem. Our PBL is integrated with our spiritual theme, core values and curriculum.”



Fourth graders made salvation bracelets and bracelet kits.

# HEALING THROUGH ART

By Allan Mwirigi



Still shots taken from the Open Up Video project. Originating at Eastern Christian High School, the canvas has traveled to 12 schools and is scheduled to travel to 11 more.

Since Columbine in 1999, school shootings have directly impacted 187,000 students, according to a March 2018 article published in *The Washington Post*. The nationwide threat has led to a need for routine lockdown drills in schools. After a lockdown drill two years ago in one of his art classes, **Jesse Wright** asked students what the opposite of lockdown was. The answer came immediately: **Open Up**.

Open Up is now a multi-school painting project promoting a creative dialogue where students address issues they are facing. It is intended to promote discussions before crisis scenarios occur. The canvas started at EC, but has since moved to 11 schools in New Jersey and a school in Texas. It will continue to 11 more schools before the project is over.

Students are invited to paint over the canvas and write inspirational quotes, while recording the process. The footage is then time lapsed and put together into one collaborative video.



“

**BY TALKING AND LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER WHILE CREATING TOGETHER, HOPEFULLY WE’LL SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.”**

“We have a mission at EC to try to transform the world in a Christ-like manner. We hope this is one way of doing it. We’re grateful to have the support of the community and it’s powerful to see ways that faith, art, creativity and community can make a difference,” says Wright. “We hope through opening up about the issues that people might be dealing with, it can be addressed before it reaches a crisis point. By talking and listening to one another while creating together, hopefully we’ll support one another.”

To view a video of the project, go to <http://openupproject.org>



# TEAMING WITH LIGHTHOUSE

All-boy group serves at Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center

Every year, middle school students learn and serve with a non-profit organization in the school's Make A Difference (MAD) program. In the past, students were grouped according to grade level; however, this year, students worked in smaller groups and had options on where to serve. One of those options was the Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center MAD group, facilitated by physical education teacher, **Aaron Goldstein**.



Left to right: Chris DeRooy, Aaron Goldstein, Hank Hagedoorn, Noah Rooney, Luke Parker and Julien Arcay take a break from banquet set-up to pause for a photo.

Considering its mission to serve in crisis pregnancy situations, Goldstein was surprised to find that an all-boy group signed up and committed to the cause for a year.

"You would normally think of this issue as something females would be more drawn to. [But] Each of these guys has a real desire to serve in this area. Their hearts are burdened for babies and life," shares Goldstein, who has been an active volunteer with the organization, together with his wife, for several years.

Eighth grader **Luke Parker** remembers several reasons why he first signed up for Lighthouse MAD group. It was an organization his church had partnered with before. The cause felt important to him. And then there were his personal reflections

about the value of life: "I also chose it because I was just thinking of my own life, and how we are all so lucky to be alive."

Throughout the year, the boys organized a "Baby Olympic" fundraiser at the middle school, assisted with Lighthouse mailings, and helped set-up for the organization's major banquet. MAD also involves a learning component, and students studied *Roe v. Wade*, as well as examined scripture and prevailing cultural attitudes surrounding the value of life. They also took a tour of the Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center facility in Wayne.

Goldstein adds, "It has been a great journey. These young men are equipped with the knowledge and experience to greatly impact our community for the cause of life. It has been a great experience, even if they do not continue serving in this area. The MAD experience is supposed to expose students to many different areas where God may be able to use them."

The entire experience has profoundly affected students like Luke, who shared, "We are children of the Most High, and we have a purpose in this world. This year, MAD has been such an amazing and impactful time for me, and I won't forget about any of it."



Jonathan Dykman and Mackenzie Wynbeek participate in the 'Baby Olympics' fundraiser, organized by the Lighthouse MAD group.



# BRONX ZOO

Campuses Team Together to Explore the Zoo

In a darkened room near the entrance of the Bronx Zoo, a Coquerel's Sifaka clings to netting as it curiously stares back at the boisterous group watching him.

Later, a King Cobra—known ominously as the longest venomous snake in the world—uncoils himself and slinks slowly up a glass pane. Meanwhile, outside, a Snow Leopard licks her paws and then settles down for a catnap, oblivious to the strangers snapping photos.

On a brisk spring day in early April, a ninth and tenth grade writing workshop class and a select group of fourth graders traveled together to the Bronx Zoo to view these creatures and many more. The unlikely pairing across campuses was a result of an unusual collaboration leading to two non-fiction writing projects, as well as a fictional poem designed around exhibits at the zoo.

The project represented a first for both classes. “Having advised the school newspaper for several years now, I have seen how important it is to give students a chance to practice writing within the context of authentic projects. When I approached **Alisa Engelhard** about having some of my students write a narrative to read to her fourth grade students, she counter-offered with a multi-day collaborative project attached to a culminating field trip. It was an excellent idea, so I was all in,” says **Leah Genuario**.



Groups of students work together to complete their writing projects.



In preparation for the visit, students in high school chose an animal exhibited at the Bronx Zoo, researched that particular animal, and wrote research essays to present to fourth graders. The fourth graders and high school buddies then worked together during class time to take that information and craft a portfolio on the same animal. After the field trip, the group got together one last time to write a fictional poem about the same animal in celebration of National Poetry Month. All pieces were culled together to create a book.

Engelhard adds, “The EC 4th grade students were so thrilled to spend time with ECHS kids. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with upperclass students.”



Left: High school students traveled to ECES to pair up with fourth graders; Above: A sampling of fourth-grade research.

# PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Valuing Student Voices



“

WE ENJOY  
HEARING  
[STUDENTS']  
OPINIONS  
AND IDEAS.

OUR STUDENTS LOVE  
SCHOOL AND THEY  
HAVE FUN, CREATIVE  
IDEAS ON HOW WE  
CAN IMPROVE.”

- Sandra Bottge

*Principal Sandra Bottge, flanked by several of this year's fourth graders.*

**The suggestions have run the gamut, ranging from easily executable—like another fundraiser for St. Jude’s—to a bit more challenging to accomplish—like overhauling the playground and turning it into a waterpark. And although not all suggestions make it past the drawing table, so to speak, they are each welcomed and valued.**

For the past nine years, ECES principal **Sandra Bottge** has implemented Pizza with the Principal, a once-a-week, invitation-only event that ultimately enables every student in the school to speak with the principal in a small group setting. The all-school rotation takes approximately one year to complete.

“Students are excited to be invited to Pizza with the Principal. I often hear from parents that their children posted their invitation

on the refrigerator. I’m glad to see that students see the principal as someone who loves them and cares for them,” shares Bottge.

Every meeting consists of several questions. Students are asked what the best part of school is (besides recess), how to make the school better, what they want to be when they grow up, and where they might like to travel. Students are invited to ask Bottge questions, and, if time allows, some choose to tell their favorite jokes.

The meetings reveal several findings. “Our students love Eastern Christian. They have long lists of the best parts of school, including reading, math, P.E., art, computers, music, science, social studies, Bible and chapel. They also love their teachers—and recess,” she shares.

Although the waterpark suggestion has not been considered to date, the school has made changes

based on ideas from students. For example, a group of fourth graders once asked for more swings on the upper playground. “We worked with the PTO to use their fundraising money to add more swings and a larger wood chip area on the upper playground,” says Bottge. Also based on student feedback, the school is currently working with the PTO to secure Chrome books for keyboarding practice, rather than continue to use AlphaSmarts.

In addition to Pizza with the Principal, students may share suggestions at any time by placing their ideas in the suggestion box in the front hallway. Bottge adds, “It’s important for students to take ownership of their education and feel like a valued member of our Eastern Christian family. We enjoy hearing their opinions and ideas. Our students love school and they have fun, creative ideas on how we can improve.”





1. Participating EC students from left to right Amelia Ortiz, Kirsten Braunius, Rachael DeRooy, guest, Olivia Adams, Rebekah Jung ; 2. A visiting student with EC student Brynn Bohuny

# WINTER EXPERIENCE

## EC Cultivates Global Competence with Winter Experience

**Excited for an adventure, exhausted from 27 hours of travel, and a bit nervous of the unknown, 15 students, ages 9-14, arrived at Eastern Christian Middle School on New Year's Day to meet their Winter American Experience host families.**

The visiting Korean students were immersed in the EC community to experience American culture, cuisine and classes for 3 weeks. In turn, EC students learned about another culture, developed new global friends and grew in their role as servant leaders.

Aligned with the broader EC mission statement, short term international programs are designed for students to discover and authentically engage a culturally diverse community as they strive to be Christ's transforming agents in a global society. Beyond the macrocosmic vision of the program, detailed preparation came in the form of student ambassador training, as well as host family and teacher information sessions.

During the 18-day program, visiting students audited classes at all three campuses and attended ESL enrichment. The group also teamed with EC students to attend field trips, which included the 9-11 Memorial and Museum, Rockefeller Center and Hard Rock Café for lunch, as well as sightseeing in NYC at the Statue of Liberty and Times Square. With their partner's support, the visiting students worked through a portfolio throughout their week to document the experience

and their learnings using pictures, captions, interviews, and a narrative.

Extended Learning Director, **Suzanne Kraai**, further notes her focus on helping to form a truly fun and educational opportunity. She says she hopes "EC students grow to be responsible, informed, experienced, and educated agents in a global society as students develop their understanding of global citizenship and their responsibility and privilege to serve others, embrace community, and exhibit compassion."

*Charlie Denenkamp with three visitors.*





# HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVOCACY

## Fighting Against Modern-Day Slavery

By Katie Hefty



Alumni and friends take a break from their Thanksgiving football tournament to pose for a photo.

**There are an estimated 40 million people currently trapped in slavery, according to non-profit organization, the International Justice Mission. Startling facts like this have prompted students and alumni in the Eastern Christian School community to take a stance against the injustice, known more commonly as human trafficking. Here are a few initiatives:**

### Micah Challenge

This year, the Micah Challenge club, a high school group based on the verse Micah 6:8, held a fundraiser to support the International Justice Mission and the Justice Network. The group, advised by **Petra Van't Slot** and **Anne Bazanowski**, sold key rings to represent those who are enslaved in the United States and around the world.

**Cara Shotmeyer '20**, a member of Micah challenge says, "We chose to raise awareness for human trafficking...we [also] want people to remember to pray for those being trafficked, because we are told in the Bible that prayer changes things."

### Middle School MAD

ECMS's principal, **Dan Lazor**, led a human trafficking awareness group

during the middle school's Make a Difference (MAD) program for seventh and eighth graders.

Lazor says, "By the time students get to middle school, they are developing a strong sense of justice, and learning to discern issues of morality and right and wrong...Of course, we talk about this issue in a way that is age-appropriate, but given the reality of how many children (under 18) are trafficked every year in the US alone, it is a real issue for these students."

### Alumni Efforts

The current school initiatives follow the legacy of **Jennifer (Tartini) Olsen '14**, someone who heightened awareness for human trafficking at EC during her tenure. Tartini commented, "I became interested in human trafficking for many reasons, but the primary reason being that my junior year of high school, when I became a Christian, I had heard the testimony of a survivor on I Am Second."

After graduating, Jennifer started Jars of Hope, an LLC that supports global organizations

through the sales of its necklaces. She adds, "It is our prayer that the redemptive love of Jesus Christ would be made known through all of our efforts to raise awareness and funds in the fight against

human trafficking." Her latest event, called Bondslave Summit and hosted at Liberty University, has a goal of raising \$70,000. The money will help fund rescue missions, build safe homes, send care kits and more.

She is not the only alumna to continue to champion for human rights.

Several years ago, a group of young alumni attended a human trafficking conference together. Since then, the group hosts a Thanksgiving football tournament on an Eastern Christian campus each year that supports local human trafficking abolition.

**Ben Kuiken**, one participant, explains: "Athletes and spectators pay an admissions fee, which is the primary fundraiser, and there is also food, drinks, and desserts on sale throughout the day, with 100% of proceeds going to LoveTrue."



Micah Challenge Club students from left to right: Stephen Frank, Michael Steiginga, Steve Blanco, Stephanie Zhang and Elianna Gregory

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!



The high school gymnasium came alive as 85 seniors, awash in navy graduation gowns, made their way down the center aisle to assume seats at the front.

In their final moments as the class of 2018, commencement speaker **Ryan Dykstra** exhorted them to remember the past as they head toward



1. Steve Blanco; 2. Class sings "Oceans"

“

REMEMBER, WE ARE THE FUTURE, ITS VERY FOUNDATION. AND, WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER. ...A

BEEHIVE IS NOTHING WHEN ITS MEMBERS DO NOT COOPERATE FOR A COMMON GOAL.” - Steve Blanco

the future, borrowing the words of Psalm 143 for his commencement address, titled: “Make me know the way I should go,” while also tying in the school’s annual theme of living stones.



“We’ve spent the last year talking about what it means to be Living Stones. How will you be a living stone in your new community? What will you take from



*“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. **Show me the way I should go**, for to you I entrust my life. Rescue me from my enemies, Lord, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” - Psalm 143:8-10*

here and carry on next year? What do you want to discover over these next few years?” he asked.

Dykstra boldly challenged the world’s standards and perceptions of college life, encouraging them to use their time to continue to serve the Lord. “We sometimes think that college is a time to discover yourself,” he said. “Too often, the world interprets this as a time for experimentation, for wastefulness, for laziness, and ultimately for self gratification. But this is not what Paul reminds us: “do not use [your] freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Do not use college and “finding yourself” as an excuse for self indulgence,

but sharpen yourself through perseverance, diligence, faithfulness. Most importantly continue being a living stone,” he urged.

This year’s valedictorian, **Steve Blanco**, also urged his fellow classmates toward boldness and action in the next phase of life, tying in the need to work together. “Remember, we are the future, its very foundation. And, we’re all in it together. Nature even shows us that a beehive is nothing when its members do not cooperate for a common goal.”

He ended with a challenge to his peers: “Do not act out of fear for what the world will say, but act because you have something to say to the world.”



3. Hanna Faber and Clay Seitsma; 4. Anthony Avila, Amy Snyder and Nico Cortes; 5. Speaker Ryan Dykstra addresses the class of 2018; 6. Kate Smith





# THE CLASS OF 2018

*Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.*  
- Psalm 143:8b



Gabriella Abaunza



Kaitlyn Alden



Anthony Avila



Steve Blanco



Mary Bond



Cole Boonstra



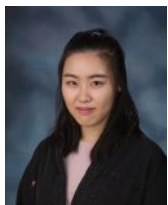
Sona Borekjian



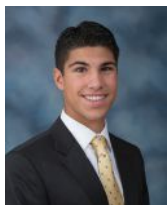
Greta Botbyl



Gabriela Burgos



Shangyu Cai



Joseph Cammarota



Benjamin Caramico



Evan Caviasco



Seoung ho Choi



Yeun Soo Choi



Mathew Cipriano



Elizabeth Comly



Nicolas Cortes



Jason De Vries



Peter DeGaetano



Chloe DiPalma



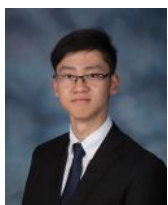
James Dolio



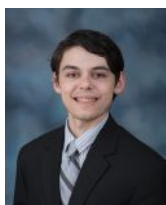
Gideon Engelhard



Hanna Faber



Qingyao Fan



Michael Ferro



Samantha Frank



Elianna Gregory



Elias Gregory



Noah Hagedoorn



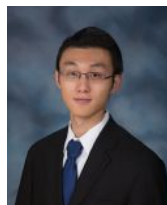
Kaitlin Hefty



Daniel Hennessy



Victoria Holmes



Haoyang Huang



Siobhan Hunziker



Diana Ibrahim



Wenbing Ji



Hoi Jiang



Richard Klas



Paige Kuipers



Sojeong Kweon



Hunter Leegwater

## GRADUATIONS



Megan Leegwater



Shannon Leentjes



Jiayi Li



Peidong Li



Jiahao Lin



Yilin Liu



Olivia Madonna



Juliet Marcucci



Cassidy Martin



Tiffany Martin



Vladimir Medina



Trevor Miller



John Nayda



Randal New III



Sung Hyun Park



Rebekah Parker



Adelina Peretti



Sabrina Pierre



Christina Piluso



Ou Ying Qin



Courtney Remy



Gabriel Roberto



Jessica Rozema



Hannah Salvato



Alex Saunders



Emily Saunders



Zoe Schafer



Matthew Shore



Clayton Sietsma



Katelyn Smith



Amy Snyder



Allison Steinginga



Hanna Sytsma



William Torrez



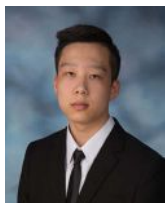
Brianne Veenstra



Jenna Veenstra



Clara Visser



Yunfan Wei



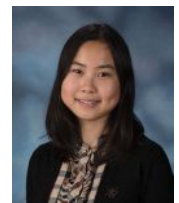
Yutao Wei



KaiWen Wu



Haopu Zhang



Yujing Zhang



Mo Zhou

**THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN GRADUATE IS PREPARED TO BE A PERSON OF CHRISTIAN VISION AND INFLUENCE AND SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE COOPERATIVELY AND RESPONSIBLY TO GOD'S MISSION OF RENEWING ALL CREATION.**

*- excerpt from EC's graduate profile*



# CLASS OF 2018 AWARDS



*Braen Scholarship: Janet Braen, Cassidy Martin, Lori Martin, Principal David Intlekofer*

## Department Awards

### Art Department Award

Steve Blanco  
Elianna Gregory

### Bible and Life Award

Siobhan Hunziker

### English Department Excellence in Creative Writing Award

Emily Saunders

### English Department Excellence in Scholastic Writing Award

Stephanie Zhang

### Journalism Award

Zoe Schafer

### Technology Department Award

Gabriel Roberto

### Foreign Language Award

Steve Blanco

### Mathematics Award

Mo Zhou

### John Philip Sousa Award

Jiahao (Leo) Lin

### Orchestra Award

Yeun Soo (Lauren) Choi  
Clara Visser

### Choral Award

William Torrez

### Overall Musical Achievement Arion Award

Adelina Peretti

### Faculty Award

Rebekah Parker

### Valedictorian

Steve Blanco

## Athletic Department Awards

### ECHS Athletic Department Varsity Club Award

Nicolas Cortes  
Greta Botbyl  
Hanna Faber

### NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Victoria Holmes

### Athletic Department Golden Eagle Award

Nicolas Cortes  
Greta Botbyl  
Hanna Faber

### Passaic County Coaches Association Senior Scholar Athlete

Nicolas Cortes  
Kaitlin Hefty

### New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Hanna Faber

### North Jersey Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award

Clayton Sietsma  
Greta Botbyl

## School and Community Awards

### Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Clara Visser

### Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship

Cassidy Martin

### Christine H White Memorial Scholarship

Sona Borekjian

### Brett Zuidema Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Allison Steinginga

### Henriette & Kathryne Houseward Vocational Scholarship

Hanna Faber

### Hoitsma-Jeffer Scholarship

Cassidy Martin

### Richard J Vander Plaats Service Award

Stephanie Zhang

### Smith-Shute Nursing Scholarship

Ryan Visbeen (alumnus)  
Victoria Holmes  
Allison Steinginga  
Hanna Faber  
Megan Leegwater

## State and National Award Winners

### President's Education Award - Gold Certificate

Steve Blanco  
Sona Borekjian  
Evan Caviasco  
Yeun Soo (Lauren) Choi  
Jason De Vries  
Hanna Faber  
Qingyao (Bill) Fan  
Samantha Frank  
Noah Hagedoorn  
Victoria Holmes  
Haoyang Huang  
Siobhan Hunziker  
Diana Ibrahim  
Hoi Jiang  
Richard Klas  
Paige Kuipers  
Megan Leegwater  
Jiayi (Alison) Li  
Yilin Liu  
Olivia Madonna  
Juliet Marcucci  
Cassidy Martin  
Sung Hyun (Andrew) Park  
Rebekah Parker  
Adelina Peretti  
Sabrina Pierre  
Ou Ying (Federica) Qin  
Gabriel Roberto  
Zo Schafer  
Matthew Shore  
Amy Snyder  
Allison Steinginga  
Hanna Sytsma  
Brienne Veenstra  
Clara Visser  
Haopu (Simon) Zhang  
Yujing (Stephanie) Zhang  
Mo Zhou

### New Jersey Stars Eligibility Recipient

Steve Blanco  
Diana Ibrahim  
Clara Visser  
Siobhan Hunziker  
Rebekah Parker  
Richard Klas  
Hanna Sytsma  
Adelina Peretti  
Victoria Holmes



# CLASS OF 2018 COLLEGES

**The Class of 2018 reported their college acceptances and post-graduate plans to the College and Career Office. Following is a list of colleges reported.**

**Total Reported Amount  
of Scholarships Awarded**  
*to This Year's High School Graduates*



**\$7,957,484**

Albright College  
American University  
Arizona State University  
Ave Maria University  
Becker College  
Bentley University  
Bergen Community College  
Berkeley College  
Berry College  
Bloomsburg University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Binghamton University  
Caldwell University  
California College of Art  
California State University  
Calvin College  
Case Western University  
Cedarville University  
Centenary University  
Champlain University  
Christopher Newport University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Curry College  
DeSales University  
Dordt College  
Drew University  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
East Stroudsburg University  
Eastern University  
Elon University  
Emerson University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Felician University  
Fordham University  
Furman University  
George Mason Korea  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgian Court University  
Gordon College  
Grove City College  
Harrisburg University

Hartford University  
High Point University  
Hiram College  
Hofstra University  
Howard University  
Iona College  
James Madison University  
Jefferson University  
Johnson & Wales University  
Juniata College  
Kean University  
Kutztown University  
La Sierra University  
Liberty University  
Lincoln Technical Institute  
Loyola University  
Malone University  
Manhattan College  
Marist College  
Maryland Institute College of Art  
Marywood University  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Messiah College  
Michigan State University  
Monmouth University  
Montclair State University  
Mount St. Mary's University  
Muhlenberg College  
New Jersey City University  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northeastern University  
Northern Michigan University  
NY Film Academy  
Nyack College  
Oberlin College  
Oberlin Conservatory  
Ohio State University  
Pace University  
Pacific Rim University

Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Passaic County Community College  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pepperdine University  
Purdue University  
Quinnipiac University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Rensselaer Polytechnic University  
Rider University  
Roanoke College  
Rutgers University - New Brunswick  
Rutgers University - Newark  
Sacred Heart University  
San Diego State University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Savannah College of Art & Design  
School of Visual Art  
Scranton University  
Seton Hall University  
Sewanee: University of the South  
Siena College  
Southeastern University  
Springfield  
St Louis College of Pharmacy  
St Peter's University  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
SUNY Alfred State  
SUNY Buffalo State  
SUNY Cobleskill  
SUNY Delhi  
SUNY Geneseo  
SUNY Plattsburgh  
SUNY Stony Brook  
Susquehanna University  
Syracuse University  
Taylor University  
Temple University  
The College of New Jersey  
Towson University  
University of Illinois Urbana  
Champaign  
University at Iona  
University of Bridgeport  
University of Buffalo  
University of California Davis  
University of California Irvine  
University of California San Diego  
University of California Santa Barbara  
University of California Santa Cruz  
University of Delaware  
University of Florida  
University of Hartford  
University of Illinois Chicago  
University of Illinois Urbana Champagne  
University of Las Vegas Nevada  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas Austin  
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia  
University of the South Sewanee  
University of Utah Asian Campus  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
Villanova University  
Virginia Technical Institute  
West Virginia University  
Westmont College  
Wheaton College  
William Paterson University  
Xavier University  
Yale University



*Students pose with college-themed cupcakes and attire for "Pledge your Collegiance" Day*



# MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION

## A Time of Much Growth

**Middle school is a challenging, life-changing time in a person's life, where much growth happens and much growth is to come. As such, eighth grade graduation could be likened to a cliffhanger, said middle school principal Dan Lazor in his commencement address to the class of 2018.**

Lazor began his address relaying the true story of missionaries from 1985 who were captured by guerillas in Columbia. He read a piece of a book detailing plans for a harrowing escape, but then ended his reading before telling his audience what happened next.

He then explained, "Cliffhangers work because they play on our desire to know the story and to see what

comes next. The element of suspense allows our minds to wander a bit, and even though we don't know exactly what will happen, our minds will naturally try to fill in the gaps and anticipate the most likely next event."

Encouraging and challenging the students, he reminded them that in God's story, "we already know the ending," but nevertheless, "the drama of our lives and the way God will work in and through us is part of the unknown."

"At this point in your story, you may not be able to see clearly what it is that God is doing in your life, how He is calling you into this mission. And that unknown adds to the suspense." After reading from a poem by

Minnie Louise Haskins, he modified the prose, adding, "Graduates, as you walk out into the unknown - I encourage and implore you to put your hand into the hand of God, and it shall be to you better than the light, and safer than the known."

The evening included 49 graduates, and was enhanced by student participants, including an Eighth Grade Ensemble group singing Chris Tomlin's





hit, Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone, and Salutorian **Olivia Fishburn**'s prayer for graduates.

As Valedictorian, **Anya Veinberg** addressed her class in a speech overflowing with thankfulness for her teachers, who she says acted as living stones. She concluded with the following reflection: "While middle school can be difficult, I am thankful for the years I've spent at Eastern Christian Middle School. I am thankful for each and every person that has had an impact on my life. Most of all, I am thankful for the value of, and opportunity to have a Christian education. I am honored to stand here and represent the class of 2018."

*"We already know the ending...the drama of our lives and the way God will work in and through us is part of the unknown." - Dan Lazor*



3

1. The eighth grade class of 2018; 2. Olivia Fishburn, Alexa Jimenez, Keira Sorensen, Emmy Sanchez, Alicia Ulaikere; 3. Christopher Cruz, Tehilla Mwenya; 4. Anya Veinberg; 5. Olivia Fishburn; 6. Joshua Yoon



4



5

“...PUT YOUR HAND INTO THE HAND OF GOD, AND IT SHALL BE TO YOU BETTER THAN THE LIGHT, AND SAFER THAN THE KNOWN.” - Dan Lazor, paraphrasing a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins



6

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Fourth Grade Promotion Chapel



On June 12, 46 fourth graders marched into the ECES gymnasium for their last time as elementary school students.

“We are going to miss you here, but are thrilled we can celebrate with you,” greeted Head of School **Tom Dykhouse**. Turning to the parents, he added, “We are so thankful you’ve entrusted them to us and we have had this opportunity to be a part of their lives.”

In addition to several speakers, the time was also filled with music. The fourth graders kicked off the event with a recorder- rendition of Ode to Joy, and later, with a song titled, “Lord, we are your people.”

Much of the promotion chapel was centered around the year’s verse, 1 Peter 2:5: “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”



1. Fourth Grade Class of 2018; 2. Tyler Adin with Mrs. Byma; 3. The Olumurewa family

“

**WE ARE INDIVIDUAL STONES, AND WE ALL FIT TOGETHER TO BUILD GOD’S KINGDOM.”**

- Sandy Bottge



Fourth grade teacher **Donna Hoogerhyde** exhorted the students with a reminder that “our lives should be like a stone monument that points others to Christ.”

Principal **Sandy Bottge** followed up showing a picture from 1898, which depicts students who had attended the school many years ago. “In their own unique way, they had an impact on Eastern Christian.” She later reminded the students that they are uniquely gifted as well. “We are individual stones, and we all fit together to build God’s kingdom.”



# PRESCHOOL CLOSING PROGRAM

First Time in New Location



1. 2018 students at Faith Community Christian Reformed Church; 2. Josiah Cruz; 3. Lauren Lee; 4. Ben Fabish



Head of School **Tom Dykhouse** opened the night's preschool closing program with a special greeting: "It is my privilege to welcome you to EC's newest preschool campus."

For the first time, the final ceremony for the youngest EC students took place at Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff, which housed one preschool class this year, taught by **Jenna Beverly**. The night reflected the growing enrollment that had necessitated the expansion—a packed church filled with doting family members and friends greeted 68 students as they made their way down the aisles.

Dressed in frilly bows, floral prints, plaid button-downs and the occasional bowtie, the group was only momentarily distracted by an outside peak of the patio and awaiting lemonade, before setting their focus back on parents and friends inside.

Once to the front, the preschoolers did not disappoint the large crowd. Almost in unison, camera phones lifted high as the preschoolers debuted their first song, belting it out with all of their might (most of them, anyway): "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,

with all your mind with all your strength..." Led by music teacher **Melissa Macy**, the students continued with a medley of songs that ended with Jesus Loves Me.

The celebration culminated in a presentation of certificates—including sharing what each student hoped to do as a job one day, with answers ranging from doctors to digger drivers--and a final prayer by preschool director, **Karyn Baitzel**.

"We pray that they would continue to grow in their understanding of who you are, that they would chose to place their trust in you, and that they would honor you all the days of their lives."

As a reward for their patience and hard work, the preschoolers got what they had been eyeing up from the start: a refreshing cup of lemonade and a few snacks to end a joyous evening.





## SPECIAL MOMENTS

From the 2018 Graduations



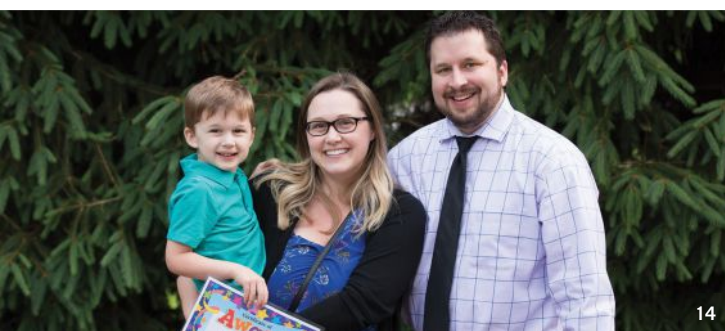
***Congratulations to all of our  
2018 EC graduates!***



## GRADUATIONS



LIKE LIVING STONES  
BEING BUILT INTO A  
SPIRITUAL HOUSE TO BE  
A HOLY PRIESTHOOD



1. William Torrez; 2. Griffin Stansel, Ben Visbeen (on back), Hank Hagedoorn, Luke Van Goor, Nate Schwartz; 3. Fourth grade class plays Ode to Joy; 4. Rachel Post; 5. Preschool students sing Jesus Loves Me; 6. Terry Wei; 7. Huang family; 8. Owuor family; 9. Katie Hefty and Addie Peretti; 10. Parker family; 11. Everett family; 12. Phil Verrengia; 13. Steen family; 14. Intlekofer family

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

**ditto's 8th Anniversary**

**We have all heard the expression: It takes a village to raise a child. And most of us would agree, that raising children is something that can't be done alone. But that phrase doesn't only apply to raising children. It takes a village to manage a school and it also takes a village to operate a thrift store.**

September 2018 will mark *ditto of North Jersey's* 8th anniversary. During the course of those 8 years, there has been a village of people who made the store not just a reality, but a smashing success.

There are the members of our management team. While some of the names and faces have changed over the 8 years, the level of energy and commitment to the mission of *ditto* has not wavered. Eric Hawn gave a tremendous amount of leadership using his retail experience and his deep commitment to Christ to establish most of the processes still in place today. When he left the area to be closer to family, Betsy Kelly stepped up and led the team of managers, keeping things running smoothly and efficiently until her retirement last year. Now Tim Maggiore leads our team bringing a wealth of retail background, a clear commitment to serving the *ditto* team and its customers, and always leading with optimism.

Next, are our volunteers. There have been hundreds. We began with a core of women who had given years

of service at The Corner Closet. Their experience and enthusiasm helped to launch *ditto* with a bang! And in the years since, we have seen an amazing number of volunteers who have come to sort, stack, clean, stock, and sell our goods. On May 16, 2018 we celebrated our volunteers with the annual volunteer dinner. This year, there were 151 individuals who volunteered over 14,000 hours to *ditto*. It is just great, to watch this group of individuals who came together to serve Eastern Christian interact as friends. The food was great, but the fellowship was amazing.

Our part-time student helpers do the jobs that volunteers just can't do. They cashier from 4 PM to 6 PM when our volunteers need to be home getting dinner ready or helping their own children with school work. The students work in the stockroom doing the heavy lifting. And finally, our students do the cleaning. From windows to carpets to bathrooms, they keep *ditto* clean and fresh.

What would a resale shop be without donors? We continue to marvel at the way that God continues to bring quality used and even new items to *ditto* for our customers. It's a bit like the widow's jar of oil: it just never runs dry. No one could imagine, the support we would receive from not just the EC community, but from the broader community with no ties to Eastern Christian. It is simply overwhelming to consider the generosity of the community.

And finally, our customers. Those faithful individuals who come back again and again to see what might have arrived since their last visit. Our 2,548 Facebook followers who watch for sales and specials. I know our customers come because we provide good value: quality products at great prices. And yet I am so grateful for their faithful shopping. Each one is supporting Christian education.

So it takes a village to run a resale shop. And we thank God for each and every villager and for the way they have contributed to *ditto of North Jersey's* amazing success. At the end of fiscal 2017-2018 *ditto of North Jersey* had contributed \$1,215,800.00 to Eastern Christian School since opening in 2010.

*Who inspires you? The EC Herald would like to highlight inspirational people from our community—students, alumni, parents, staff, or volunteers—who have inspired you to try harder, think differently, increase in faith, or pursue unlikely dreams. Please send your nomination and an approximately 150-word explanation to Herald@easternchristian.org.*



# LEAVE A LEGACY

For Generations to Come



**Proverbs 21:12 tell us that *The plans of the diligent lead to profit.* It was the planned giving of many diligent EC supporters over the years, that grew Eastern Christian School's endowment fund. The endowment has been helping to fund EC for many years and will continue into the future.**

"Eastern Christian School's mission is measured not in years, but in generations". Today EC students continue to benefit from those who had vision and included the Eastern Christian School in their wills. You may have supported EC for most of your life. A simple way to continue your support in the future, is to include Eastern Christian School in your will.

You will impact students for years to come when you name Eastern Christian School in your will. **There are income and estate advantages for charities and families depending on how assets are distributed. You may actually increase the share of your estate that goes to your heirs.**

The 1892 Society is a group of individuals who have named EC in

their wills. We can help you find a plan that fits your needs. Contact The Foundation at [foundation@](mailto:foundation@easternchristian.org)

[easternchristian.org](http://easternchristian.org) or call 973-423-9294 for more information on:

- Adding Eastern Christian School to your will
- Naming Eastern Christian School as beneficiary for your IRA, 401K, or Life Insurance Policy
- Donating appreciated stock to Eastern Christian School and saving capital gains
- Creating a Charitable Gift Annuity that will provide tax benefits today and provide regular payments to you for the rest of your life.



*This year's recipients: Rylan de Waal Malefyt, Sean Rosero, Gweneth Van Goor, and Madeleine Van Goor*

## A LEGACY OF SERVICE

In 2005, after he died unexpectedly, family, friends, and colleagues of Adrian "Bud" Visbeen established a scholarship in his memory. Bud was one of those men who would do just about anything for anyone. Whether you were family, a co-worker, a neighbor, someone from church, or someone living in a village in Honduras, if you needed help Bud would lend a hand. He was a strong man with a strong personality and a very big heart. The Adrian "Bud" Visbeen scholarship is awarded each year to members of the incoming Eastern Christian senior class who are recognized for their devotion to serving others. The scholarship gets applied to their senior year tuition at Eastern Christian School.

If you are interested in establishing a named scholarship in memory of a loved one, please email David Visbeen at [davidvisbeen@easternchristian.org](mailto:davidvisbeen@easternchristian.org) or call 973-427-9294.



## FAITHFUL

Faithful is an appropriate word to describe **Atlantic Stewardship Bank**. The Bank uses the tagline *Faithful to our customers*, but ASB is also faithful to its mission of tithing on annual profits. Each year since the program began, Atlantic Stewardship Bank has been faithful to Eastern Christian School as well. This year, Paul Van Ostenbridge, President & CEO, along with Michael Westra, Chairman of the Board, presented two checks to EC. The first check represented a gift to Campaign 125, Eastern Christian School's current capital campaign. The second check was for general support of the school. To date, Atlantic Stewardship Bank has contributed \$728,500.00 dollars to support the mission of Eastern Christian School. Thank you ASB for your faithful and generous support.



## EC EVENTS

### Another Successful Spring for Eastern Christian Events

Our 2018 event season began in late January with the **Athletic Boosters Beefsteak**. The perennial favorite did not disappoint. Our guests included alumni from years past as well as current athletes and their families. This year, we enjoyed viewing slides of athletes from the 40's forward. Many of those pictured from the 60's through the 90's were present for the event.

As usual, dinner began with delicious antipasto platters, followed by pasta, fries, and of course there was copious amounts of tender beef as well as artful stacks of bread. The warm cider donuts were amazing and followed by ice cream cake.

On March 8, 2018 following a major snow storm in the area we hosted a dedicated group of EC supporters for the **Scholars Dinner**. Although most of Wyckoff and many surrounding areas were without power, the lights were on at The Brick House and we welcomed Michael K. Le Roy, president of Calvin College who spoke on the importance of Christian education in today's culture. Young alumni Ryan Visbeen told those gathered how EC had prepared him for college, graduate school, and his career.

While emergency crews were working in the neighborhoods around us to restore power, we were blessed with an evening of good food and fellowship.

Eastern Christian was blessed by the generous support of those who attended and significant dollars were raised for scholarship at EC.

April brought the **EC Auction Gala**. Thanks to a tremendous amount of planning and energy by our amazing auction committee, we had a wonderfully successful night. Online bidding once again drove the silent auction numbers high and with over 160 items to choose from, there was something for everyone to bid on. The new EC video, *How Far I'll Go*,





was premiered and got the crowd ready for the Live Auction. With items like The Country Music Awards in Nashville, a vacation on Sanibel Island, and producer seats for *Once on This Island* the bidding was strong and competitive. The auction concluded with a Fund a Need opportunity that raised over \$28,000.00 in a very short time for ongoing safety and security improvements that will be completed this summer.

***The 2018 EC Auction Gala exceeded expectations and raised over \$100,000.00 for Eastern Christian School.***

Eastern Christian's Spring event season culminated with our **Annual Spring Golf Outing** at Black Bear Golf Club on May 21, 2018. While weather has never kept our golfers away, this year's weather was the very best anyone could recall for an EC outing. It was a beautiful day as 128 golfers gathered just before noon for the BBQ lunch. The shotgun blasted at 12:45 and the play began. This year, in addition to our Beat the Golf Team and Yankee Ticket competition, we added a Harley Davidson motorcycle, a cruise, and plane tickets as hole in one prizes scattered around the course.



1. David '74, Cynthia, Paige '11 and Ryan '11 Visbeen; 2. Members of the Class of 1968 L to R: Dean Steyling, George Schaver, Bruce Algera, Dave Etterbeek, Craig Hoogstra, John Belanus, Jack Steiginga, John Borduin and Doug Steyling; 3. David Intlekofer, Ken Steenstra '86, and Barry Veenstra '75; 4. Auctioneer Chris Bidwell and auction guests; 5. James W. Putt, James R. Putt, Nick Kuiken '84, and Sheri Kuiken; 6. Auction guests

Special thanks goes to Atlantic Stewardship Bank, event Platinum Sponsor and to Visbeen Construction Company, prize sponsor. Our sponsors and loyal golfers made this another successful event, bringing in nearly \$40,000.00. For a complete listing of sponsors, contest winners and event photos, go to [easternchristian.org/golf2018](http://easternchristian.org/golf2018)

## ALUMNI

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

### Celebrations

**Paul '96 & Cheryl (Crean) Cusack '01** welcomed Leah Grace on 1/16/18.

**Keith & Karen (Ten Kate) Vander Leest '98** welcomed Benjamin Alavi on 9/19/17.

**Becky & Paul Groenewal '00** welcomed Lucy Elsbeth on 12/21/17.

**Tara & David Ten Kate '01** welcomed Cora Ireland & Declan Herbert on 12/28/17.

**Kyle '02 & Lauren (Bruins) Bushoven '06** welcomed Annelise Clair on 3/6/18.

**Yeung & Betsy (Ratcliffe-Lee) Cheung '03** welcomed Eliza Kathryn.

**Katrina Hutton '03 & Marcin Byra** were married on 5/19/18.

**Kara & David Kooistra '03** welcomed Elliette Anae on 5/7/18.

**Mark '03 & Kali (De Haan) Spoelstra '06** welcomed Ryder William on 2/17/18.

**Brian '03 & Melissa (Pruksma) Visbeen '05** welcomed Cassidy Mae on 4/12/18.

**Kevin '03 & Rebecca (Santhouse) Vriesema '03** welcomed Anna Grace on 12/7/17.

**Katie Den Hollander '04 & Christopher Hoehl** were married on 7/28/18.

**Jessica & Michael Steenstra '05** welcomed Abigail Marieke on 5/6/18.

**Joseph & Melissa (Woudenberg) Cecere '06** welcomed Kaden James on 4/22/18.

**Andrew & Melinda (Struyk) Hanko '06** welcomed Silas Jan on 2/14/18.

**Scott & Kirstin (Lane) Anderson '07** welcomed Hannah Elizabeth.

**Simon & Laura (Kuiken) Royle '07** welcomed Luke William on 3/17/18.

**Ray Torbet '07 & Kimberlee Abbott** were married on 7/28/18.

**Katherine & Justin Vierling '07** welcomed Payton Karin on 2/24/18.

**Brian & Meghan (Visbeen) Vis '07** welcomed Hadley Claire on 2/26/18.

**Andrew Davidson '08 & Cheryl Brasda** were married on 7/7/18.

**Timothy & Joanna (Switzer) Gallacher '08** welcomed Cameron Timothy on 4/23/18.

**Jonathan Mas '09 & Amber Kudelsky** were married on 3/18/18.

**Carolina Candamil '10 & Jordan Gayfield** were married on 3/17/18.

**Dan & Joy (Abma) Charnesky '10** welcomed Paisley Joy on 3/29/18.

**Jordan '11 & Brittany (Faber) Klingler '10** welcomed Kinsley Ellen on 3/4/18.

**Tyler Westra '10 & Kimberly Cleary** were married on 7/21/18.

**Kevin & Allison (Vriesema) Boss '11** welcomed Tyler James on 2/8/18.

**Diana Kleinmanns '12 & Nic Trout** were married on 7/28/18.

**Rachel Barrett '13 & Mark Travis** were married on 5/27/18.

### 2018 Service Awards

#### 5 years

Kelly Breur  
Kate Culp  
Leah Genuario  
Kristen Rudd  
Linda Spycaboer  
Lynda Vincenti

#### 10 Years

Anne Bazanowski

#### 15 Years

Laura Kuehlke  
Tim Steen  
Anna Tortos

#### 20 Years

Sue Boonstra  
Marilyn Bushman  
Alisa Engelhard  
Kathy Kooistra  
Paige Visser  
Mary Faber

#### 25 Years

Doug Wanamaker

#### 35 Years

Deb Vandenberg

#### Retiring

Cynthia Visbeen – 38 Years  
Lynda Pasqueretta – 17 Years



Ben Stout & **Kailey Kuipers '13** were married on 5/20/18.

**Nina Schur '13** & Josiah Stucki were married on 6/2/18.

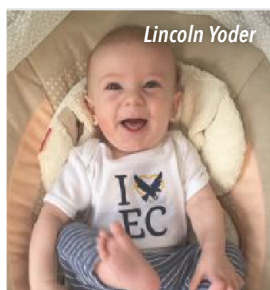
**Seth Stadlander '13** & Taylor Faber '15 were married on 6/29/18.

**Jennifer Tartini '14** & Austin Olsen were married on 6/2/18.

Jared & **Elizabeth Yoder (Staff)** welcomed Lincoln Bennett on 2/20/18.

Michelle & **Dan Lazor (Staff)** welcomed Andrew Josiah & Adelina Joy on 3/27/18.

## SEND US YOUR BABY ANNOUNCEMENT TO RECEIVE AN EC ONESIE!



# REMEMBERING

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

## Former Board Member

**Richard Schuurman '54** of Garfield, NJ on 6/16/2018. He served on ECSA School Board from 1968 to 1971 and also from 1977 to 1980.

**J. Robert Struyk**, age 91 of Grand Rapids, MI on 7/1/2018. Bob served on ECSA School Board from 1973 to 1976 and served as Recording Secretary.

**Donald Van Hook**, age 86 of Jenison, MI on 2/16/18. Don served on the ECSA School Board from 1971-1974 and worked with the Finance Committee.

**William Vander Plaat '47**, age 89 of Paramus, NJ passed away on 3/2/18. Bill served on the ECSA School Board from 1979 – 1982 and on the Executive Committee as corresponding secretary.

**Henry Zeeuw '51** of Fort Mill, SC on 3/12/18. Henry served on EC's Board of Directors from 1971 to 1978.

## Former Staff

**Phyllis (Barsema) Klapmust** taught 2nd grade at North Fourth Street Christian School in the early 1960's. She was living in Grand Haven, MI and passed away on Dec. 25, 2017.

**Andy Tjeerdsma** passed away in Denver, Co on Nov.15, 2017. He taught social studies at Eastern Christian High School.

## Alumni

**Eleanor (Hoogstra) Dykstra '40** of North Haledon, NJ on /18/2018.

**Gertrude (Faber) Kelly '41** of Panama City, Fl on 12/29/17.

**Dorothy (Jellema) Westra '41** of Pompton Plains, NJ on 2/3/18.

**Alice Borduin '43** of Grand Rapids, MI on 6/1/18.

**Diena (Minnema) Unrath '44** of North Haledon, NJ on 3/31/18.

**Raeann (Dyksen) Dykhouse '44** of Wyckoff, NJ on 5/4/18.

**Mildred (Schuurman) Sonnema '45** of Boynton Beach, Fl on 1/5/2018.

**Elaine (Hey) Hoogstra '45** of North Haledon, NJ on 2/25/18.

**Christina (Oosthoek) Ekdorf '48** of Grand Rapids, MI on 3/15/18.

**Catherine (Schuurman) Hoekstra '48** of Boynton Beach, Fl on 5/20/17.

**Elizabeth (Hagedoorn) Vande Guchte '48** of Grand Rapids, MI on 1/15/2018.

**Henry Douma '49** of Whiting, NJ on 12/1/2017.

**Matilda (Baker) Roetman '50** of Wyckoff, NJ on 6/17/18.

**Helen (Van Halsema) Vande Polder '50** of Bradenton, Fl on 2/13/2018.

**Claire (Hamersma) Chaparian '55** of Waldwick, NJ on 3/17/2018.

**Donald Knapp '55** of Maryland on 3/24/2018.

**Theodore Peters '62** of Grand Rapids, MI on 1/8/2018.

**Carol (Bush) Prawetz '66** of Clifton, NJ on 3/21/18.

**Frank Fyffe '67** of Franklin Lakes, NJ on 2/19/2018.

**Larry Hoekstra '74** of Boynton Beach, Fl on 5/23/2018.

**Ronald J De Jong '85** of Pine Island, NY on 3/1/2018.

**Julie (Nienhouse) Preiskines '04** of Hawthorne, NJ on 3/9/2018.

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Class of 2008 – 10 Year Reunion

An "EPIC" 10-year reunion is being planned by committee members: Shaun Patterson, Francesca Gravinese, Julie Ring, Linley Thobourne and Becca (Ydo) Steyling. Please join the group 'EC Class of 2008 10 Year Reunion' on Facebook for details or contact Shaun at [shaun.patterson@nyack.edu](mailto:shaun.patterson@nyack.edu).

### Class of 1968 – 50 Year Reunion

Reunion Dinner: Friday, October 19, 2018 at 6pm at Portobello Restaurant in Oakland.

Buffet Breakfast: Saturday, October 20 at 9am at Faith Community CRC, Wyckoff.

For more information, call Pat (Borduin) Steingina at 973-337-0928 or email John Belanus at [johnbelanus@gmail.com](mailto:johnbelanus@gmail.com).

### Heritage Years

All those who have graduated 50+ years are welcome to attend, highlighting 1942, 1948, 1953, 1958 and 1963

When: Friday, October 19, 2018

Where: 5:30pm at Eastern Christian High School



## Class of 2007

**10-Year Reunion** || Class of 2007's 10-year reunion was held on April 27, 2018 at Park West Loft in Ridgewood, NJ. Classmates were happy to have such a great turnout – it was a fun evening of catching up with each other and renewing friendships.



**Front Row:** Cara Poalillo, Jessica Callis, Lisa Mujica, Lauren Panzica, Jonathan Muzikowski, Brooke (Veenstra) Hagedoorn, Alyssa (Steinginga) DeKorne, Sawyer (Maneri) Martin, Taylor (Vooy) Knuth. **Standing:** Shannon Martin, Robert Anfang, Kaitlyn Tilli, Justin Vierling, Rebecca Flim, Peter Braunius, Candice (Peterson) Day, Shawn Tanis, Ken Malnati, Alyssa (Vanden Berg) Johnston, Ken Visbeen, Meghan (Visbeen) Vis, Bryan Bushoven, Ben Spoelstra, Dan Rainville, Dave Den Hollander, Bridget (Soodsma) Rainville, Doug Wessel, Justin Van Dyke, Erin (Groenewal) Gorter, Andrew Hulsebos, Ricky Granholm, Joan Hoogerhyde, Ken Westra, Michael Vega.

## Class of 1958

**60-Year Reunion** || Class of 1958 celebrated their 60-Year Reunion with a buffet luncheon on June 16, 2018 at Justin's Ristorante in Hawthorne. There were 25 classmates and a total of 37 who attended, some who traveled from Canada, California, Pennsylvania and Florida. This was the 7th reunion for this class since graduation! Many wonderful memories were shared by the classmates of their experiences at Eastern Christian. Class President Garret Nieuwenhuis was the MC and brought the class up-to-date on members of the class that could not attend as well as brief "State of School" comments. Without exception, all who attended expressed a sincere thankfulness for the opportunity to have been



**Front Row:** Barbara (Van Grouw) Tanis, Barbara (Distelberg) Stakely, Connie (Jansma) De Vries, Ruth (Van Wyck) Heeringa, Kathryn (Joustra) Posthumus, Suanne (Hagedoorn) Sweetman, Elaine (Smith) Hoekstra, Anna (Sonderfan) Muller, Lois (Ten Hoeve) Warner, Florence (Okkema) Nieuwenhuis. **Back Row:** Peter Streelman, Ron Stonehouse, J. Warren Hamersma, Walter Van Dyke, Janyce (Hoogerheide) Hoogmoed, Peter Berkhout, Beth (Drukker) Schuil, George Bosma, Judith (Martin) Van Grouw, Gary Vermaas, John Wondergem, Ralph Vander Werf, Steve Eichhorn, William Sytsma, Garret Nieuwenhuis.

educated at Eastern Christian. Classmates spent several more hours together after the luncheon at the home of Garry & Florence Nieuwenhuis to continue to renew old friendships and share life experiences. A great time was had by all!

## 2019 REUNIONS

## Class of 2009 – 10 Year Reunion

A reunion is in the planning stage! Please email Amber (Fiedler) Dempsey at [amberjoydempsey@gmail.com](mailto:amberjoydempsey@gmail.com) or visit Facebook group "ECHS Class of 2009" to join.

## Class of 1989 – 30 Year Reunion

A reunion is in the planning stage! Please join our Facebook group for updates & suggestions.

Please be sure EC has your email address to receive class-related updates and information about reunions. Update your email address at: [www.easternchristian.org/alumni/submit-news-update-contact-info/](http://www.easternchristian.org/alumni/submit-news-update-contact-info/)

# SERVING IN CYPRUS

Alistair Wynne, Class of '69



**Their families held funeral services in countries across the Middle East—Turkey, Syria and Egypt, to name a few. However, the sons and daughters being**

**mourned for were not actually dead. Quite the opposite, in fact: They had been born again, baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Now, kicked out of their homes and often unwelcome in their communities, they traveled to Cyprus.**

Cyprus is an island in the eastern Mediterranean, and “one of the few safe bases for Christian missionary work in the Middle East,” explains Alistair Wynne. Much of his ministerial career—22 years in fact—involved serving at an international church in Cyprus with members from 22 different countries. “During this time, we regularly welcomed Muslim converts who had been forced to flee their home countries when they became Christians...Our church provided housing for them and their first experience of being part of a church family,” he shared.

In addition to his work in Cyprus—which also encompassed marriage enrichment courses for Protestant Christians married to Orthodox Christians—Wynne has ministered in Tiberias (beside the Sea of Galilee), as well as several places in Scotland. After receiving a bachelor’s from The College of William and Mary in 1973, he completed his Bachelor of Divinity degree (the American equivalent of an M.Div) from New College Faculty of Theology of the University of Edinburgh in 1976, and was then ordained as a minister in the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian).

He met his wife, Judith, while taking post-graduate courses at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

His decades-long career has taken him very far from his humble beginnings at Eastern Christian School, though he remembers the foundation he received fondly. He shares, “I found the Church History courses to be especially helpful in laying the foundation of how the Reformed outlook fits in with other denominations and religions. The underlying truth of God’s sovereignty sustained me at Hebrew University, where I was the only Gentile among rabbis-in-training. And in Cyprus, where 98% of the population belongs to the Orthodox Church.”

He adds, “Knowing the Lord Jesus Christ is in sovereign control means that our approach to others who have different backgrounds and different understandings can be respectful, both of them and of the Truth that is Jesus Christ. His perfect love drives out all fear and anxiety about dialogue and witness. Again, those lessons for me began at EC...many of us thank God for EC and the equipping we received there for future ministry and witness.”



**KNOWING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL MEANS THAT OUR APPROACH TO OTHERS WHO HAVE DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDINGS CAN BE RESPECTFUL ... [BECAUSE] HIS PERFECT LOVE DRIVES OUT ALL FEAR...**

## ATTENTION ALUMNI

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



# PURSUING IDEAS

Matthew Hartensveld, Class of 2013



**Matthew Hartensveld's pathway to microelectronic engineering had an unlikely beginning: a friend's broken Xbox 360 game system.**

"He did not have the money to repair it. I wanted to help him out and I began 'Googling' how to fix it. I ended up being able to repair it for him and from that success, started my own business repairing gaming consoles," he shares. Hartensveld's fledgling business led to an increased interest in circuitry, an interest which was further fueled with encouragement from technology teacher, **Tim Steen**.

When Hartensveld was a senior at Eastern Christian School, Steen stepped up to sponsor an independent study, enabling Hartensveld to take an online circuits class from MIT. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree in microelectronic engineering and then a master's in material science, both earned at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

**EASTERN CHRISTIAN'S ACCEPTING ENVIRONMENT GAVE ME THE ENCOURAGEMENT I NEEDED."**

Microelectronic engineering, as Hartensveld describes, is "the fabrication of nanoscale devices." He explains that these devices are found in many modern-day items, ranging from satellites, to solar panels, to computers, to LED lights. "These devices are fabricated in an ultra-clean environment where special suits are worn and where we operate some of the most complex tools ever invented," he adds.

Although he just graduated with his master's in May, Hartensveld has already had the opportunity to intern with Texas Instruments to make chips for cars, as well as partner with Northrop Grumman to work on fighter jet technology. He also collaborates with a research group focused on the improvement and fabrication of LEDs.

Instead of moving directly into the full-time job market this summer, he plans to stay at RIT a while longer, setting his focus on obtaining a doctorate. "RIT provides me with the freedom to pursue ideas I develop, which is very unique and has already led to me currently pursuing a patent. RIT is paying for my PhD, along with a stipend to support me while I am continuing my education."

Although the future is bright, he also looks at his past fondly: "The biggest thing Eastern Christian did is gave me the space to be myself...Eastern Christian's accepting environment gave me the encouragement I needed. The teachers at EC were always friendly and passionate, and encouraged my learning. EC also had honest discussions about religion in Bible class, making me think critically about the topic."

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## WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

### Basketball, Track & Bowling



#### Girls Varsity Basketball

The girls varsity basketball team finished another outstanding season with a 21-4 record that included their first league championship since 2012.

Junior center **Madison Wynbeek** averaged 23 points, 10 rebounds, 3 blocks and 3 steals per game and was considered by many to be the best player in both the league and county. Other significant contributions came from senior captain **Hanna Faber** who averaged 8 points (including 47 three-pointers) and 3 assists per game and sophomore

1. *Tori Holmes, Nicole Foster, Madison Wynbeek and Addie Peretti; 2. Hanna Faber*

forward **Naomi Engelhard**, whose steady improvement and 10 rebounds per game provided a spark for the championship run.

#### Winter Track

The Eagles winter track team had another fine showing at the NJIC Championship Meet, led by junior **Emily Byrnes** who won the 800m and anchored the 4 x 400 relay that included seniors **Katie Hefty** and **Eliana Gregory** and sophomore **Grace Kellogg**.

Katie and Grace also took 4th in the long jump and pole vault, respectively. Senior **Nico Cortes** finished 2nd in the pole vault for our boys. At the County Championships Katie Hefty finished 2nd in the 55m sprint, Nico Cortes 2nd in pole vault, and Emily Byrnes 4th in the 800m run.



*Kaitlin Hefty, Nico Cortes and Grace Kellogg*



## Bowling

The winter season also saw another strong performance with junior bowler **Rylan De Waal Malefyt** who rolled a 266 in the county tournament, had a 629 series vs Hawthorne and finished the season with a 178 average.



Rylan De Waal Malefyt

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## Post-Season Honors

### WINTER TRACK

**Katie Hefty**  
*2nd team All County*

**Nico Cortes**  
*2nd team All County*

**Emily Byrnes**  
*Honorable Mention All County*

**Bri Veenstra**  
*Honorable Mention All County*

**Lex Lugo**  
*Honorable Mention All County*

**David De Vries**  
*Honorable Mention All County*

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Madison Wynbeek**  
*1st team All County*

**Hanna Faber**  
*Honorable Mention All County*

**Naomi Engelhard**  
*Honorable Mention All County*  
*2nd team All League*

**Madison Wynbeek**  
*1st team All League*

**Tori Holmes**  
*2nd team All League*

**Greta Botbyl**  
*Honorable Mention All League*

**Barry Veenstra**  
*Division Coach of the Year*

### BOYS BASKETBALL

**Jared Post**  
*Honorable Mention All County*  
*Honorable Mention All League*

**Benjamin Parker**  
*Honorable Mention All County*  
*1st team All League*

### BOWLING

**Rylan de Waal Malefyt**  
*Honorable Mention All County*  
*1st team All League*

**Alan Mao**  
*Honorable Mention All County*  
*Honorable Mention All League*

***Congrats to all the EC athletes awarded with honors!***

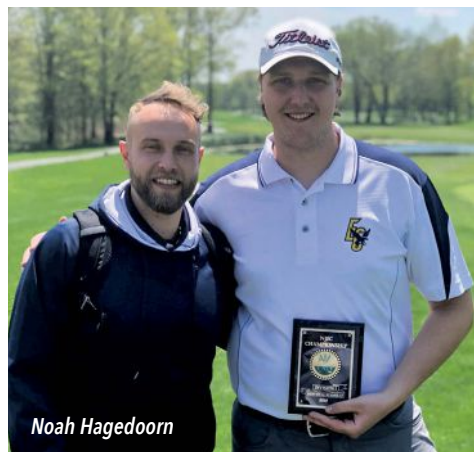
# SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Golf, Track, Tennis, Softball and Baseball

## Golf

The Eagles golf team put together one of the finest seasons in program history finishing second in league play only behind perennial power Glen Rock.

Seniors **Noah Hagedoorn** and **Clay Sietsma** led the way with season low scores (for 9 holes) of 39 and 45, respectively. **Chase DeJong**, **Sam Faber** and **Bobby Wu** also played well for coach **Ben Kuiken**, named Colonial Division Coach of the Year in his final season at EC.



Noah Hagedoorn



Lex Lugo

## Track

In boys track, senior **Michael Ji** (shot put and discus) and junior **Lex Lugo** (100m) were state sectional champions!

The girls track team was again a force to be reckoned with in league, county and state competitions behind gold medal performances from junior **Madison Wynbeek** in the shot put (setting a school record in the process), senior **Katie Hefty** in long jump and the 200m, and junior **Emily Byrnes** in the 800, all of whom were also part of our strong 4x100 relay team!

Having finished his final season at the helm, our school thanks and congratulates long time and beloved head coach **Joel Apol**, named Colonial Division Coach of the Year, for his decades of dedication in creating, building and maintaining a championship caliber program without a track. Assistant coach **Lindsay Pedersen** takes over next year and the future looks bright as coach **Aaron Goldstein**'s middle school girls track team placed third in the NJIC championships behind first place performances from **Katherine Marshall** in discus and **Skylah Zamor** in the 200m. Skylah also helped win the 4x200 relay along with **Rachel Post**, **Samantha Garcia** and **Gabby Grant**.

## Other noteworthy performances

Freshman **Daniel Buckles** finished with an 11-6 record at second singles that included a trip to the semi-finals in the county tennis tournament. In softball, senior shortstop **Tiffany Martin** collected her 100th hit as the team put together a solid season, and **Mark Foster** was named NJIC pitcher of the week en route to his 5-3 record for the baseball team.

## Senior Award Winners

We also want to congratulate our senior award winners for their significant contributions to our program including Varsity Club and Golden Eagle Award winners **Hanna Faber**, **Greta Botbyl** and **Nico Cortes** for most varsity letters and 12 seasons of participation, **Nico and Katie Hefty** - County Student Athlete Awards, **Greta and Clay Sietsma** - NJIC Sportsmanship Awards, **Hanna** - NJSIAA Women in Sport Award, **Greta** - Wendy's Heisman Award and **Tori Holmes** - NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award. Thanks to all for representing our program, our school and our community in the way our Lord would have it!





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