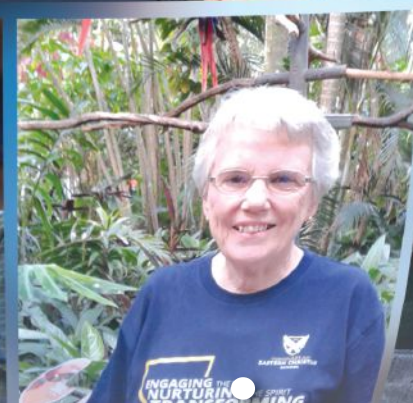
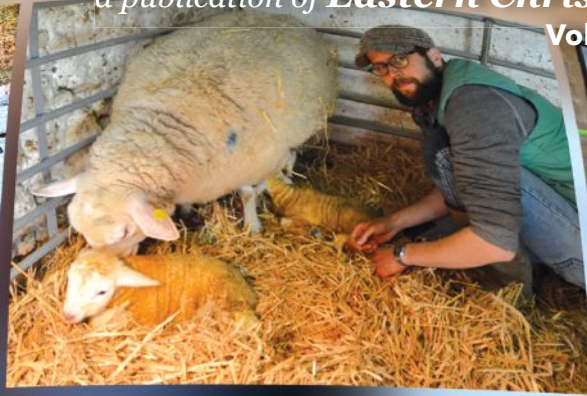


THE HERALD

a publication of *Eastern Christian School*
Volume 59, Issue 1



Transforming THE WORLD

PLUS
EC IS TOP WORKPLACE
& *Exploding Enrollment*

SPRING 2018

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD!



Eastern Christian School is deeply rooted in the Reformed Christian faith and in the belief that all people with whom we interact, and especially the students we serve, are made in the image of God, their creator. For this reason, we are dedicated to the incredibly high calling of engaging our students' minds and nurturing their spirits so that they are prepared to live lives of service that will transform the world around them in the service of God's kingdom.

This issue of ***The Herald*** chronicles the story of the impact that our students and alumni are having around the world while living out their mission of transformation. From our youngest students' first exposure to this calling in our expanding Preschool program, to the love shown for others through our elementary school students' response to the victims of natural disasters, our students begin to learn the immense significance of being an agent of transformation. Through the service learning opportunities emphasized throughout their educational experience, our students have the occasion to reflect God's love to others made in his image.

The lessons learned in preschool and during our students' time at Eastern Christian School continue throughout the lives of our alumni in the deeply ingrained and faithful practice of service to others. We are excited and deeply gratified to share the stories of how so many of our alumni are living out our core values through lives of service around the world.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of ***The Herald*** as we tell the story of how Eastern Christian School is contributing to God's mission of renewing all of creation!

FROM THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATE PROFILE

"Having studied the message of Jesus Christ and having experienced models of Christian servanthood in community, the Eastern Christian graduate develops a healthy self image. Recognizing and responding to the will of God, and seeing in humanity the image of God, the graduate embraces diversity, exhibits compassion, offers respect, and is forgiving and open to others.

"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 of creation."

About the cover

*EC graduates working and serving around the globe
(from top left): Christina (Lier) Ball, David Aupperlee,
Gary Vanderkooi, Ruth and Larry Spalink, Nate Rudd,
Randy Palmer, Stuart Kingma, Susan Grosser*



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

THE HERALD

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42

EC SPORTS

42 Fall Highlights

IN THIS ISSUE

2

CAMPUS NEWS

- 2 Top Workplace
- 4 Expanded Preschool
- 5 10-year Plan
- 6 Service Learning
- 7 Make A Difference
- 8 Serving Houston
- 9 Vocational/Technical Program
- 10 Eagles Perch Contest
- 11 Sound of Music
- 12 Learning Differently
- 13 EC Reaccredited
- 14 Celebrating the Life of Paul Beverly



16

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

- 16 Three Students Transforming
- 17 Every Tongue, Tribe and Nation
- 18 Where Are They Now? International Alumni Making a Global Impact



PAGE 17 Gabriela Burgos and Allison Steiginga at Calvin's Worship Symposium

20

FOUNDATION, EVENTS & ALUMNI NEWS

- 20 Campaign Update
- 21 #ALLECday
- 22 Homecoming and Events
- 24 Alumni News
- 30 Alumni Profiles



PAGE 7 Above left: Austin Foster working with another child during the Middle School's service day, called Hands Dirty Day; Above: Luke Anema and Charlie Veenema at New Hope Community Ministries

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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EC RECOGNIZED AS TOP WORKPLACE IN NJ

By Jax Revfi '19



Tom Dykhouse, David Visbeen, Steve Gorter and Ruth Kuder accept the Top Workplace award from North Jersey Media Group.

Not only is Eastern Christian School a great place to learn, it's also a great place to work. At an award banquet held Nov. 8, 2017, North Jersey Media Group designated the school as a Top Workplace in NJ.

Honorees were chosen after a nominations process and vetted by an independent consultant using employee survey results. The school was one of only 21 recipients recognized at the inaugural event, and the only organization that's also an educational institution.

The survey looked at many different factors, evaluating dynamics such as communication, leadership and direction, as well as whether or not an employee felt valued. Perhaps most notable were the questions on the employee survey aimed at discovering an employee's sense of purpose.

As far as EC is concerned, the school revolves around one mission statement and six core values. This well communicated, intentional way of operating brings purpose and value to all that employees do. Teachers

and staff recognize that all students are made in the image of God and have different talents and abilities that make them unique. Whether it is teaching a class, coaching a team, or supporting educational activities, these employees feel called to educate with a purpose and strive to nurture their students to become honorable stewards of Christ.

Several teachers and staff members chimed in on why EC is a different place to work. First and foremost, it has to do with an attitude that working here is more than just a job.

Mandy Post, a current resource room and science teacher at the high school, says she was always drawn to education as a career. "Biology was a passion of mine. I loved finding out the patterns of things, and it increases the awe I feel when I look at His creation. I cannot possibly imagine teaching biology from a non-Christian perspective because it takes the beauty out of it."

One reason she enjoys teaching at EC specifically, however, is because she recognizes a strong level of rapport and depth of thought. "My hope is that I can connect with my students and help them discover God's path for them," Post says. "All of the students are thoughtful, have a thirst for knowledge, and are able to connect with God through their academic experiences here."

Similarly, Bible teacher **Adam Culp** sees his job from a higher perspective. "C.S. Lewis talks about your job being a calling. I very much enjoy my job, and I am excited about student learning."

Culp values the philosophy that faith is integrated into all areas of study. Specifically, he has come to appreciate the Reformed perspective and all of the thought that has gone into formulating EC's belief statements.

Current ECHS English and foreign language teacher, **Lindsay Pedersen**, adds, "Honestly, there are so many things that I love about EC...I really appreciate all of the opportunities to explore and develop the subjects that we teach. There is so much encouragement to push



students to a higher academic level and help them strive for excellence.”

In addition to a sense of purpose and calling, staff members also take note that EC is a different kind of community. “I love the people here,” Culp says. “I know many of the teachers. I realize that this is a place that encourages both academic growth and personal growth.”

Post agrees, adding, “Although I enjoy what I teach, it is the people that I love most at EC.”

A good workplace atmosphere is likely why so many employees come to work and stay for the long haul. **Lynda Pasqueretta**, executive assistant, sums up her time this way: “For the past 17 years, I have worked in the Front Office of Eastern Christian High School, learning something new every single day, and loving the work that I am doing. I try to follow the charge: “May your world always be a celebration of God’s Holy presence in your life.” I am blessed to work directly with administrators, teachers, staff members, parents and students over the course of any given day, all of whom make God’s Holy presence easy to find in the midst of all of the chaos in the office. We are all here to support and help one another through this journey called life.”

She adds, “We have the finest teachers anywhere, and their care for our students is unparalleled. Working

MISSION STATEMENT

By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ’s transforming agents in a global society.

Core Values

In pursuing the character of Christ, we will...

**Seek Truth
Serve Others
Embrace Community
Exhibit Compassion
Develop Responsibility
Strive for Excellence**

at EC is a wonderful way to spend one’s day—both in my head and in my heart. I was so thankful for the recognition received by the North Jersey Media Group—it is truly deserved.”

EXPLODING ENROLLMENT

Necessitates Second Pre-K Location



One student manipulates clay into a capital letter A. Another masters the skill of balancing on one foot. Yet another paints a picture, joyfully tucks it into her backpack, and brings it home to mom.

All of these activities are part of a teaching approach called Developmentally Appropriate Practice. The goal remains the same from pre-K to grade 12: to engage the mind, nurture the spirit and transform the world.

“In preschool, we are engaging young minds as students interact with teachers and peers during activities, games, and play centers intentionally designed to help each

child meet his or her own next developmental milestone...we nurture the spirit through daily devotions, Bible stories and prayer. Our goal is not to teach children to be good for goodness' sake, rather to love and follow Jesus. We lay the foundation for children to be transforming agents in the world by teaching them to love God and love others,” explains **Karyn Baitzel**, Preschool Director.

Over the past few years, it became evident that the school's preschool program was growing. In order to accommodate the increasing number of interested families this year, Eastern Christian School has expanded into a second location.

The new, multi-age class currently houses 12 students and meets three mornings a week at a satellite location inside Faith Community Church. Its proximity to the middle school campus has enabled new opportunities, including a weekly PE class with **Aaron Goldstein**, middle school teacher. The class will also participate in events such as the Trike-a-Thon, a multi-grade



1. New satellite classroom; 2. Andrew Calaski;
3. Annaleisa Faulkner and Abigail Galardi.

fundraiser to support St. Jude's Children Research Hospital and a reading buddies with fifth graders.

Former second grade teacher and preschool teacher at the Eastern Christian Elementary School, **Jenna Beverly**, has assumed the new role of teaching at the satellite location. She is joined by aide **Lynn Roukema**.

Beverly adds, “I love planning fun and creative ways for my students to learn fundamental knowledge and skills that are the foundation for their future education...I am so blessed to come alongside Christian parents in teaching our children about God's amazing love for us and how He wants us to live in response.”



Grace Kuperus (front) and Willow Unrath (back)

STRATEGIC PLAN

Aims for Growth, Improvement

Eastern Christian School's Board of Directors approved an updated ten-year strategic plan at its November 21 meeting held in the Media Center of Eastern Christian High School. The plan is the culmination of more than a year's work by the Board and Administration and one of three major components developed as part of Eastern Christian's recently completed re-accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The three main areas of focus covered by the strategic plan are enrollment growth, facilities improvement and financial management of the school's operations. The new plan was begun by the Board during a full-day meeting held on October 1, 2016 and replaces the prior plan developed in 2009. Head of School **Tom Dykhous** said, "Eastern Christian has a strong culture of planning and continuous improvement as evidenced by our recently completed re-accreditation by Middle States, the Balanced Scorecard planning document used to guide the school during each school year, and the very significant changes in our Board governance structure completed as part of the last strategic plan."

- **The enrollment section** of the plan outlines a strategy for continued growth of the student body in order to provide for program vitality and financial sustainability. Particular areas of emphasis are growth in the early childhood program and increased student retention from year to year. Eastern Christian has grown by more than 125 students during the past three years and is projecting continued growth in the years ahead.
- **The facilities strategy** outlines a plan to ensure that Eastern Christian's classroom buildings and athletic facilities are excellent and sufficient in size and capacity to support a growing student body. The Board reviewed the classroom and athletic facility improvements already underway as part of the recently announced Campaign 125 and discussed plans for a facility inventory and usage study to be completed in early 2018.



THE THREE MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS COVERED BY THE STRATEGIC PLAN ARE ENROLLMENT GROWTH, FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL'S OPERATIONS."



An elementary school classroom, featuring updated technology and new furniture. The 10-year strategic plan includes a focus on facilities improvement.

- **In the financial area**, the plan outlines a strategy for continued financial sustainability of Eastern Christian's mission through the achievement of greater operational efficiency to control future tuition increases, careful management of debt, and growth of the school's endowment.

SERVICE AND LEARNING

By Victoria Ghinelli '19

Volunteering and service projects are a way to help others. When those activities are also tied to academics and reflection, it's called service learning.

As part of an initiative to prioritize service learning throughout all grades, Eastern Christian School has hired **Suzanne Kraai** as Director of Extended Learning, which includes coordinating service learning.

Although Kraai started out as a high school teacher and choir director, she shares, "Administration really grew to be a passion. I'm enjoying partnering with teachers and staff to explore meaningful opportunities for students to use their gifts and talents in service to the King." In preparation, she earned a Masters in Educational Administration.

Kraai is now involved in many of the school-wide activities occurring this year. "One privilege is supporting activities that extend beyond normal

curriculum—that means service learning opportunities across the three campuses." Among various projects, she is working to revamp the school's service hour programs, as well as build toward projects that start in fourth grade and culminate in eighth and twelfth grades. These projects would reflect on service learning and challenge students to examine their faith in light of the school's core values.

Along with initiating many new and improving opportunities, Kraai has been instrumental in launching a new digital platform, called Mobileserve. It is a place where EC students can record their service hours and maintain a portfolio throughout their time on all three campuses.

Mrs. Kraai adds, "I'm very excited about Mobileserve. I think it's going to be a great way for kids to be able to search opportunities, share their stories, and to add in that digital reflection component that is so valuable for making service take root. It helps us to tell a story about why service hours are



so important, why it exists, not just to make you do something that's required. It's really about the heart and core reflecting Christ."



“

I'M ENJOYING PARTNERING WITH TEACHERS AND STAFF TO EXPLORE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO USE THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS IN SERVICE TO THE KING."

- Suzanne Kraai

1. Laine Shepley serving on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic; 2. Andy Genuario selling baked goods at Powerhouse Christian Church to raise money for Operation Christmas Child; 3. Olivia Matthews helping at Community Food Bank NJ; 4. Diego Romero volunteering at ditto, EC's upscale resale store.



MAD MORPHS AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Emily Steen '20

More than 45 million people are currently enslaved, according to the human rights organization Walk Free Foundation. Slavery, more commonly called human trafficking, is an issue close to Principal Dan Lazor's heart.

His concern is one reason human trafficking is now one of the many world problems EC middle school students will tackle this year in their revamped Make a Difference (MAD) program.

The MAD program at the middle school has undergone changes in an attempt to raise Christ-like students by igniting their passion for service in smaller, more personal projects.

"We want [our students] to have a broader vision so they can realize they are part of God's plan to transform the world," Lazor says.

In previous years, the middle school participated in MAD by grade level. Students would study an issue and serve through a related organization as an entire class. Although this system of service became a tradition at ECMS, Lazor saw the potential in adapting a new structure.

He explains the basics of the personalized curriculum saying, "The kids are finding out who the issue impacts, the root causes of the issue, how to help, and how this issue connects with our core values."

Students this year selected from many different options. Opportunities include learning about veterans, the elderly, poverty and missions. The oldest middle school students had additional possibilities, such as studying issues concerning unborn children, as well as fair labor practices and human trafficking. All topics enable students to both learn and serve.

Lazor adds, "The idea of the MAD program is that we live lives of obedience and service to Christ, answering Jesus' call to be servants to all."



1. Emmy Sanchez at Holland Christian Home; 2. Charlotte Steen, Tehillah Mwenya, Natalie Vincenti, Rachel Post, and Mrs. Flim at Madison Avenue Crossroads Church; 3. Ben Visbeen, Hank Hagedoorn, Jimmy Wiegers at The NJ State Veteran's Home in Paramus.

HURRICANE HARVEY

EC Students Respond

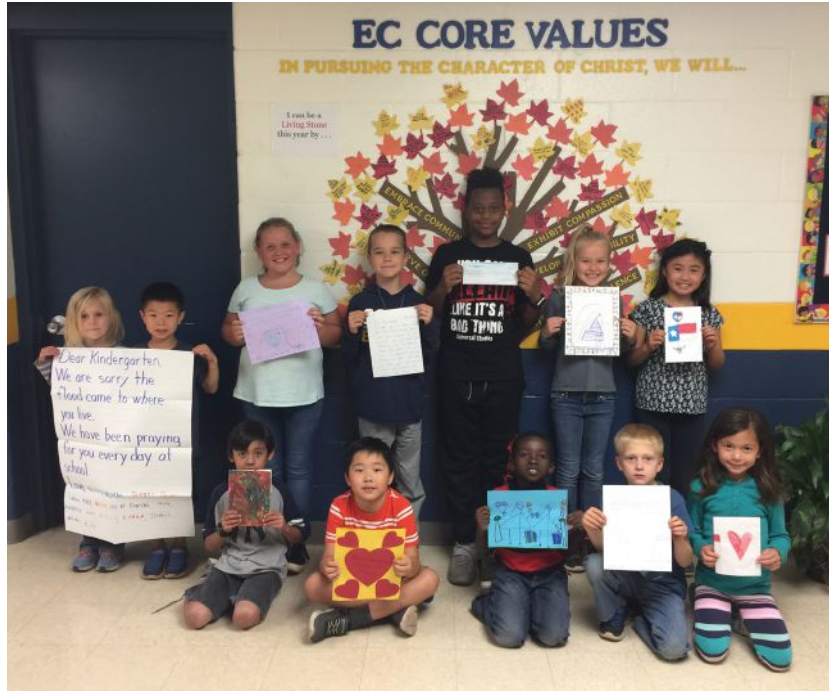
On August 25, Hurricane Harvey roared into South Texas, battering the area for five days. Many suffered, including families from Providence Classical School (PCS) in Spring, TX.

Aside from obvious flood damage, suffering took many forms: a real estate agent suddenly without a real estate market, for example, and missionaries, relying on local donors who could no longer offer financial support. But as their head of school, Richard Halloran, shared in a letter to Eastern Christian, despite severe trials, God is faithful.

“The fallout of the hurricane continues to financially impact our families,” he says. “Yet, in the midst of it all, our Lord is showing that he meets the needs of His people. You have played a significant role in His meeting our needs.”

Eastern Christian preschool and elementary school students, along with National Honor Society Students at the high school, raised more than \$1,000 post-Harvey. Later in the fall, junior and senior class councils at the high school orchestrated a second fundraising initiative, called Change for Saints. That effort resulted in another \$1,300 in donations, all donated to PCS.

The money will be used to establish a scholarship to a hurting family, in the name of Eastern Christian School.



Elementary school students with some of the 150 homemade cards and letters sent to Texas.

In addition to financial aid, preschool and elementary school students also sent about 150 notes of encouragement.

“EC students wrote notes to PCS students to let them know that we were praying for them. They shared Bible verses to remind them that God loves them and will help them through this difficult time,” shares **Sandy Bottge**, ECES principal.

She adds, “It is important for young children to understand what it means to be part of a community and exhibit compassion. As Christians, we know we are “One Body in Christ” and that God calls us to bear one another’s burdens. Learning to live out our EC core values of embracing community and exhibiting compassion at a young age will help children develop Christ-like habits that will stay with them forever, and impact others and themselves for eternity.

“

LEARNING TO LIVE OUT OUR EC CORE VALUES OF EMBRACING COMMUNITY AND EXHIBITING COMPASSION AT A YOUNG AGE WILL HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP CHRIST-LIKE HABITS THAT WILL STAY WITH THEM FOREVER...” – Sandy Bottge

WINGS TAKES OFF AT EC

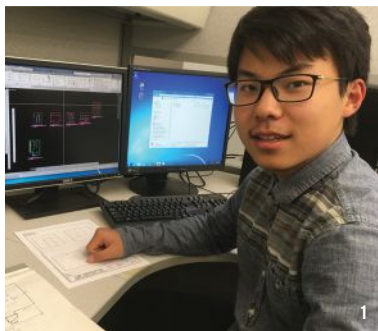
Real-World Experience in a Variety of Fields



Sabrina Pierre ready to sign initial paperwork at Jeffer, Hopkinson & Vogel Attorneys at Law

The Work Internship Network for Gaining Skills (WINGS) has leapt into its second year with 15 enrolled students and a network of community partnerships throughout the area, offering students real-world experience in a variety of fields.

“As a District of Character, we believe that our extended community is a vital stakeholder in the education system,” says **Jesse Wright**, director of the program. “We call on community partners to give students real-world experience in helping young adults get a better sense of their future, while simultaneously contributing to the community. WINGS ultimately facilitates two pathways. In the first scenario, you have students who want a taste of what they are considering pursuing in college and beyond. In the second scenario, we serve students who are considering an alternative education route, wherein they may want to pick up a trade or skill set.”



1. Leo Zheng at LAN associates; 2. Former student Jesse Boonstra, the first graduate of the WINGS program.

Enrolled students have committed to spending a total of 150 hours working on-site, as well as participating in reflective journaling, in exchange for five school credits. Last year, the program graduated one student in construction management. Currently, students are working in marketing, law, curriculum development, engineering and architecture. By the end of 2018, students will also be able to choose medical, IT, auto mechanics and fashion design.

“In each internship, we make sure that students have conversations with top-level management so that they understand what drives the company/vocation. Ultimately, we’re creating leaders and difference makers,” says Wright.

Current student **Gabe Roberto**, who is currently interning for LAN Associates, comments, “I believe the WINGS program is beneficial as it helps you gain insight into whether or not you want to have a career in the field you’re interning in or whether you would be happy working in a certain environment. After taking WINGS, I have a much better idea of how an office workspace functions and how to work in it effectively.”

As the program continues to evolve and grow, Wright is seeking ideas and involvement from the EC community. He can be reached at jessewright@easternchristian.org.



EAGLES PERCH DEBUTS

By Victoria Ghinelli '19

Education in today's world must keep pace with the ever-changing demands and trends in business, society and culture.

Recognizing the need to stay relevant and innovative in a fast-paced world, while remaining firmly committed to raising up a generation for Christ, Eastern Christian administrators engage in an annual process coined The Next Big Thing.

The goal of the initiative has always been to solicit creative ideas that will ultimately further the school. "Some of The Next Big Thing ideas that we have implemented include the creation of ditto, our upscale resale store that financially supports the school, the installation of solar panels to provide electricity on all three campuses, the development of our Extended Learning Program to serve students outside of the normal school day, and the creation of our STEAM and WINGS programs at ECHS," explains **Tom Dykhous**, executive director and head of school.

This year, The Next Big Thing received a facelift, morphing into Eagles Perch, a Shark Tank-inspired platform opened up to all faculty and staff members at Eastern Christian in an effort to solicit more great ideas. Four finalists, **Leah Genuario**, **Max Harvell**, **Jamie Van Buiten** and **Petra Van't Slot**



Eagles Perch participants.

—all high school teachers—were chosen to present their proposals to four judges and an audience of peers on the afternoon of Nov. 14. They were selected out of a pool of about 10 proposals.

Ruth Kuder, chief educational officer, explains the inspiration behind the idea: "The educational council, which is comprised of administrators from each school, has been holding a Next Big Thing meeting for the past several years. It made sense to cast a wider net, so we brainstormed some ways in which to invite broader involvement from faculty and staff. This concept seemed like a fun way to include lots of good ideas from a group of very creative people."

Although Genuario's project was selected as the priority project winner at the end of the event, Dykhous announced that all

finalist projects would receive funding. Details of each proposal are still under wraps to the general public, but all are currently in the works and will debut as early as September 2018. More details will be released as programs launch.

In thinking about future innovation, as well as reflecting on school tradition that has lasted 125 years, Dykhous responds: "My hope for Eastern Christian in 125 years is that we continue to focus on the core mission that has driven us for the last 125 years—preparing young men and women of Christian character and competence who will transform the world around them in the service of God's kingdom. The way we "do education" has changed a lot in the last 125 years and will certainly change dramatically in the next 125 years, but I hope and pray that our focus on that core mission will continue unchanged."

THE HALLS ARE ALIVE

By Emily Steen '20



Addie Peretti

The lights dim as the curtain glides open. A bright spotlight falls on senior Addie Peretti as her voice echoes throughout the auditorium. Her fears melt away into joy; the stage has become her home.

Over the past three years, Addie Peretti has grown to love the stage, playing main roles in several Eastern Christian musicals. This year, she used her talent in *The Sound of Music* as the leading character, Maria. The musical debuted at ECHS from Nov. 8 through 11.

In her underclassmen years, Addie was torn between her two passions: basketball and the musical. However, in her sophomore year, when the musical fell in the fall, Addie secured the lead of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. From then on, Addie has continued to pursue her singing and acting career, even if it meant giving up basketball for a season.

"I look back on my earlier acting roles and I think I have grown from sophomore year. I have really been focusing on my voice through voice lessons and I'm now much calmer on stage, which allows me to concentrate on really taking on my character in new ways. I become someone else for a night; it's an amazing feeling," she says.

In the future, Addie aspires to continue her love for the musical arts by pursuing a career in vocal performance. She also hopes to advance her drama skills by doing theatre in college, mainly focusing on challenging and maturing her voice.

After *The Sound of Music* had been requested for many years, Mrs. Okma decided the timing was right to put on the show with Addie playing Maria. The story takes place in Austria, where Maria serves the Von Trapp children as their governess. The bonds formed between the family

and the music in the show is what makes it so loved, Mrs. Okma explains.

In addition to Addie, a number of other talented artists from the school filled out the cast. As for lead roles, Liesl was played by Emily Saunders, while Mother Abbess was played by newcomer Nicola Venturini. Marco De La Cruz stepped up to play Captain George von Trapp. The roles of Max Detweiler and Elsa Schraeder were played by Yereimiya Wright and Cassie DeJulia, respectively. Nate Werle took command as Rolf.

Behind the scenes, there is another story of family going on. Through the shared love of the show and the shared passion for Christ, friendships that are made in the musical carry on throughout everyday life.

"At Eastern Christian we relate the body of Christ into our shows. This idea of every role, no matter how small, helping to better the overall show is correlating to the different parts of a body working as a whole," Mrs. Okma, the director of the show expresses.



1. The cast of nuns; 2. The full cast of *Sound of Music*.

TESS RAMPS UP TO SERVE

By Alisa Engelhard, Departmental Chair of Atypical Learners

Thirty years ago, when my brothers with learning disabilities were graduating from a Christian school in Colorado, I felt bitter that my parents had to choose either educationally appropriate or Christian schooling.

They had chosen the latter, and I had witnessed the struggles in academics and on self-esteem. At that time, many CSI schools offered a Band-Aid for those with the greatest struggles. I am happy to say that today things are different, especially at Eastern Christian.

What does it mean to have a learning disability and how do we meet their needs? To have a learning disability means having average or above average intelligence, but with a need for different accommodations or modifications to ensure equality.

“

YET, DESPITE [THEIR] STRUGGLES, I WHOLEHEARTEDLY BELIEVE THAT THE STUDENT IS BEING PREPARED FOR A KINGDOM CALLING.”

At EC, The Educational Support Services (TESS) offers a place for students who need this type of differentiated learning. Our whole team strives to create a positive place, driving stigma down. The youngest TESS students have another name—The Owl’s Nest. Forty years ago, as ECES began services, the “Owl’s Nest” from Winnie the Pooh was chosen to represent a place to go to get questions answered. We know that earlier help heals the fastest and best, so it made sense to start with our youngest students.

Today, more classifications are represented in our TESS population than ever before. The changes to our program are most notable in that we have more staff, more offerings, and more students. We are able to enroll more children as our general population grows. We also continue to research educational trends and effective methods to provide excellence for students. Twenty years ago, we utilized pull-out reading disabilities groupings. Today, we offer services in so many more classes. Ten years ago in the HS, all services were delivered in the resource room. Now, we have differentiated classes in most departments, like math, English, and even history. Additionally, we are working to articulate and explore options post-high school.

EC’s mission in serving students who learn differently is to provide for Christian families desiring Christ-centered education for their children. We come from a variety of Christian churches, yet most congregations ceremoniously celebrate parents

committing to helping raise up Godly children. It is exciting to be part of that process and we considered it an honor to be entrusted with covenantal children. I love my job because when I talk and pray with students, I communicate that God has not made a mistake in the way that he or she is created in His image. I understand the emotional struggle of being the last one done with a paper or fear of reading out loud in case something is mispronounced. Yet, despite these struggles, I wholeheartedly believe that the student is being prepared for a Kingdom calling. This is powerful. This makes all the difference since public, secular schools can only speak about a student from the world’s perspective. If we can’t help students understand their full potential in ALL the ways that God has made them, who can?

My brothers today are successful adults with spouses, families, careers and community contributions that accentuate their abilities, not their learning disabilities. I continue to pray this for the students in our care.



Teacher Naomi Braunius is one of the educational support staff members at Eastern Christian.



QUALITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

EC Approved For Re-Accreditation

“Accreditation is an external, objective validation of school quality and student achievement that fosters continuous school improvement,” according to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools’ website.

Every seven years, Eastern Christian School submits to the arduous, multi-tier review process of re-accreditation with Middle States to ensure that every effort is taken to provide students with quality education. The process culminates in a visiting team that spends three and a half days on campus to review the school’s self study and compare findings in the study with actual observations and field interviews.

On November 21, EC was officially notified of its approval for re-accreditation. The efforts of the school community were also reaffirmed in a positive final report. Here are several excerpts:



1. Middle school teacher Lauren Merkley; 2. The elementary school community in an aerial photo; 3. Middle School Teacher Terry Allen speaks to Daniel Sie

“It would be very difficult to visit Eastern Christian School for three and a half days and not develop a fondness for the community, the students and the professional staff.”

“The team is most impressed with the warm, loving atmosphere that is evident throughout the entire school community. The rapport among students, faculty and administration demonstrates a clear and positive attitude of pride, concern, and satisfaction for your school. That sense of community can be characterized by the comment made by a student, stating, “My favorite thing about EC is the culture.”

“Your philosophy is a living experience that permeates all areas of your commitment to quality education and Christian principles.”

“We witnessed the entire faculty serving as role models, by their cooperation and respect for each other, by their sensitivity to student needs and their appreciation of students’ individuality, creativity and potential. The team noted and commends the administration and faculty for the quality experiences that are afforded the students at ECS.”

“EC is permeated with a fundamental belief in God’s sovereignty...Spiritual growth drives much of your decision making, which makes your system authentic in its mission and your objectives are logical extensions of the long-range plans.”

The process was a team effort at EC, headed by **Tina Bucci**, who also serves as the ninth and tenth grade dean at the high school. She adds, “I am very pleased with the outcome of the report. The process was thorough and allowed many stakeholders to participate in the self-assessment in a cohesive and collaborate way.”

REMEMBERING “MR. BEV”

By Emily Steen '20



The letters kept coming. Stacks of letters piled up around Paul Beverly's bed in the final days of his life. The letters held stories, memories, and shared jokes. The letters held regrets, gratitude and sorrow. The letters demonstrated the legacy of a great friend, faithful Christian and mentor. Most importantly, the letters acted as the living proof of the countless lives changed by “Mr. Bev” and his faithful walk with Christ. After his battle with cancer, he went home to be with his savior on August 1, 2017 at age 64, having served at EC for 33 years.

As attested by those who knew him, Paul led a life faithful and pleasing to the Lord as he strove to live out his life verse, Micah 6:8: “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” EC students and teachers agree the meaning of this verse was evident in his everyday life and passion for the Lord. Mr. Beverly brought new meaning to this well-known verse as he carried it into his service, classroom, and his pursuit of

Shalom on earth.

His students and colleagues saw his evident fire for service throughout his daily life as he enabled others to do God's work as well as modeling servant leadership.

Anne Abadeer '13 was only one of countless students impacted by his life and work. In a letter she read at his memorial service, she shared, “You were the sole reason I had a restless need to understand

human suffering on a global scale. It was you who instilled in me the necessity of asking questions, of seeking truth, and never turning away from injustice.”

Another alumnus, **Jesse Blanco** '15 shared, “Mr. Beverly was a Christian challenger. He was very adamant about emphasizing the use of voice and action when we looked at tough topics in history, never shying away from providing a Biblical viewpoint and calculating answers.”

His influence touched not only individual students' lives, but the EC community as a whole. The Micah

“

IT WAS [MR. BEV] WHO INSTILLED IN ME THE NECESSITY OF ASKING QUESTIONS, OF SEEKING TRUTH, AND NEVER TURNING AWAY FROM INJUSTICE.” - Anne Abadeer

Challenge, a club that strives to live out Micah 6:8 was formed under Beverly's guidance. In addition, the Christmas Festival and the 9-11 Soar were some results of his work at Eastern Christian. The programs have creatively engaged students, strengthened community and become longstanding traditions at ECHS.

Beverly was known for requiring excellence. The high standards he set for his students derived out of his love for them and his love for teaching. This truth was apparent throughout his career in Eastern Christian, not only proven by his close relationships with his students, but also that of his fellow teachers. Paul served as an example to many teachers at EC and not only educated his students, but also his colleagues. "Although I never told him, Mr. Bev was like my mentor. Over many many lunchtime conversations throughout the years, he helped shape my worldview and appreciation for different cultures," colleague, **Barry Veenstra**, says.

"Paul taught me that whoever you are, whatever you teach, deeply loving and appreciating your students

His influence touched not only individual students' lives, but the EC community as a whole. The Micah Challenge, a club that strives to live out Micah 6:8 was formed under Beverly's guidance.

and your subject is always the first priority," colleague **Jane Okma** shares.

Students clearly experienced this care and compassion shown by Beverly in their every day classes with him. **Abi Johnson** '17 witnessed this love. "Every day of his life, Mr. Beverly was a model of godly courage, strength and compassion, and without him, I would not be where I am today," she responds. "No matter where I am, I will always carry his example of love and his teaching in my heart."

"EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE, MR. BEVERLY WAS A MODEL OF GODLY COURAGE, STRENGTH AND COMPASSION..." - Abi Johnson



Transforming The World

ONE BODY, DIFFERENT PARTS

We believe that all individuals are made in the image of God, though all have been set apart to fulfill distinct purposes. Many students have already begun to passionately pursue a calling. Here are three recent stories from the high school of Eastern Christian students transforming the world in different ways, according to their individual gifts and passions:



BEN TAKES ON THE MILITARY

By Amy Snyder '18

Senior **Ben Caramico** first realized he wanted to go into the military in fourth grade. It has been

in the back of his mind since then and has always been something he wanted to do. Ben's uncle and great uncle were in the US Army and although they didn't push him to go into the military, they were an inspiration to Ben as he grew up.

"They were so noble and I saw how much of an honor it is to be in that position; I think that is what influenced me to want to do it," says Ben.

Already in the enlistment stage, Ben explains he is planning to serve in the Marines. Knowing all the inevitable challenges ahead, Ben hasn't wavered in his goal. "The fact that I [might be] going to war is pretty scary, but I feel like boot camp will make me ready for that moment. I will have people by my side to protect me, and I will protect others."



JACLYN'S HEART FOR MISSIONS

By Eileen Lee '19

Through her eye-opening trip to Hyderabad, India, which consisted of her sharing the gospel in

"the most little ways" and simply spending time with the children, **Jaclyn Vincenti** began envisioning how she would carry her missions experience back home.

This past summer, she developed an interest in media and shortly

into the school year, she received a response from an Indian-based school about creating a media project emphasizing the diverse ways people worship. Now, Jaclyn, who is in the STEAM program at ECHS, is working to complete her film by the end of the school year.

Besides Jaclyn's short-term goal of carrying out this project, she foresees the long-term goal of continuing missions work in the years ahead.

When asked about the impact she wishes to make through her work, Jaclyn says, "I think the kind of missions I want to do is reaffirm faith and remind others what the meaning of worship is. I'm a very unconventional worshipper and I want other people to be exposed to the ways we can praise God and serve." Jaclyn explains that proactively sharing the gospel and interacting with others has been the most beneficial way in her own life to grow closer to the Lord. She hopes to spread this message to young people who wish to use their individual gifts and passions as acts of worship.

To that end, Jaclyn adds, "I'm not into building and construction as much, but I love to play with children and sing. This is who I am."

GRACE VENEMA

By Anna Binkle '19

Imagine witnessing someone transition from not being able to speak or walk to seeing her laugh and gain an improved range of motion. This is an experience EC sophomore **Grace Venema** has experienced firsthand.

Grace volunteers at Pony Power Therapies, which is an organization that works with kids who have disabilities using equine therapy.



Equine therapy is a form of experiential therapy that involves interactions between patients and horses in effort to improve physical, social and emotional health. According to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Foundation, it is especially beneficial for those with autism.

Grace first came across this organization while looking for volunteer hours. She found herself gravitating towards equestrian endeavors due to her love of animals. When she was young, her aunt owned a horse so she was always around horses in the barn. Her parents, seeing her lack of interest in other sports, asked if she wanted to ride horses, which ignited a flame inside her.

Even with her experience riding horses, Grace says, "you don't have to know anything about horses to be able to go and volunteer."

Pony Power Therapies is not a Christian organization, yet Grace has been able to see God move through these kids. Grace says, "He makes me feel grateful for what I have because some of these kids can't move and basically are totally limited in what they can do... sometimes I just take all of that for granted."

Although Grace is not sure if this field will be her forever calling, she comments, "it's for a great cause and we do a lot of great things."

Transforming The World

EVERY TONGUE, TRIBE AND NATION



The high school prays for the school, community, nation and world during SEE YOU AT THE POLE, an event held in September. According to the official web site, "SEE YOU AT THE POLE is a day committed to global unity in Christ and prayer for your generation."

Last year, a small group of students involved in chapel planning traveled to Michigan for Calvin's Worship Symposium. A highlight of the event was a celebration of church diversity via a study of Revelation.

Eastern Christian currently serves students from around the globe, and students represent more than 150 different church congregations. In addition, every year, the student body grows increasingly racially diverse. In 2017, the self-reported all-school demographics were 58 percent white, 11 percent black, 8 percent Hispanic, 19 percent Asian and 2 percent multi-racial. Diversity was even more pronounced at the high school, so the message of the symposium really resonated.

"On the long ride home, the kids in the van spent a long time talking about how to make all of our students feel a part of the services we prepare. We opted to start in song, mirroring an experiences we had at the symposium, learning the Doxology in Spanish, Korean, French and English, with the end goal of singing all the versions at once, in whatever tongue the singer chose, and letting God sort out the song as it reached His ears. The kids were really moved by this and reminded of God's love for every nation, tribe and tongue," shares **Rebekah Sankey**, curriculum specialist and high school supervisor of instruction.

In John 17, Jesus' prayer for believers is that they would be brought to complete unity. Eastern Christian seeks to embrace and celebrate diversity, while putting increased focus on global competency through specific, measurable goals.

"It is important for Christians, more than anyone else, to be globally competent as scripture gives us abundant

reasons for this concentration. From Genesis 1, where scripture tells us that God made people in His image, through the New Testament account of Christ's sacrifice on behalf of the people of the world that God loved so much, and onto the Great Commission, we are commanded to go and learn to know others. If God cared so much as to sacrifice his son for people made in His image the world over, what right

do we have to not respect, care about, and learn from these same people," says **Tom Dykhouse**, executive director and head of school.

Bible and Worship Students have worked hard to represent diverse backgrounds and denominational experiences in chapel at the high school; however, the work has expanded into other areas. "A few years ago, senior teachers were reflecting on our graduating students and recognized we had an opportunity to make more of an impact on our students in developing empathy, as it is outlined in our graduate profile. This led to a deep conversation regarding our worldview project, the content of our social studies and English courses, and our goals for our accreditation cycle through Middle States. Since that time, we have piloted changes in our grade 9 social studies curriculum, are working on a revamp of the worldview project at our grade 9 through 12 years, and have adopted a school-wide goal for increasing students' global competence," shares Sankey.

She adds, "As those who love God, we have a Kingdom mandate to love deeply and partner with our God as He reconciles man to Himself through his Son. We are committed as a school to developing women and men who are transforming agents in an ever-changing world."

The lessons learned today will hopefully widely impact the future. Dykhouse says, "Our world has become a much smaller place. The businesses and professions that our students will eventually work in will likely be global in scope...Global competence is a very big part of preparing the next generation of Christian leaders—young men and women of Christian vision and influence who are prepared to transform the world around them in the service of God's kingdom."

Transforming The World

THROUGH THE YEARS AND ACROSS MANY MILES

Eastern Christian is currently aware of 45 alumni who are citizens of the United States, but have settled in different countries. Despite some similarities between them, there are many other differences: they span graduation years from 1943 through 2010, and live in countries as varied as Canada, Germany, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Korea, Malaysia and New Zealand. Following are a few of their stories:

Nate Rudd '99

Nate Rudd currently works as IT director at Christian Academy Japan, an international Christian School in Tokyo. Along with this role, he coaches cross-country, where he brought along an idea from Coach Apol at EC: ice cream times.

In addition, he explains the more profound impact EC made: "EC helped me become a more responsible individual, which has helped me in my leadership duties at CAJ. I engage the staff at CAJ by training them to use technology more effectively. I also work to transform the lives of my cross-country runners, not only to make them better runners, but to encourage them to be more like Christ."

David Aupperlee '99

This alumnus has traded in the Jersey turnpike for jersey cows—three dairy cows, five sheep, and a host of pigs, chickens and ducks, to be more precise. David, his wife, Helen, and two children, William and Eliza, live with the Pilsdon Community in Dorset, England.

He explains further: "The Pilsdon Community is located on a working farm and we commit to the three disciplines of hospitality, work and prayer. We welcome vulnerable adults to come and live alongside us for an extended period of time. We also open our doors to wayfarers and those who find themselves homeless."

"In many ways, EC was the place that gave me my first taste of a healthy community. I've worked alongside vulnerable adults for ten years now and have come to understand that it is the context of a caring community that a person

can experience restoration and increased self-worth. Often I remind myself that my general health and well-being has so much to do with the love and care I received not only from my family, but from teachers, mentors and friends at EC. Because of this simple fact, I feel that I'm able to approach my work with the confidence that community can have a powerful impact on a person's life."

Christina Lier Ball '87

Christina moved to Basel, Switzerland in the fall of 2014, along with her husband, Kevin, and two of three children (their oldest child, Anneke, remained at Messiah College). She currently works at the International School Basel in the Learning Support Intensive Needs program and attends church at Crossroads International Church.

Just as EC shaped her worldview, Christina seeks to do the same with her special needs students. "A Christian teacher has the honor of seeing the fingerprints of God in each student and the obligation in helping their students to be able to acknowledge this in themselves...I am always in awe of how God has made each of my students unique and brilliant in their own way."

She adds, "being part of the EC community, both as a student and then, as a parent, has been a priceless experience to me. It is the sense of a common faith and purpose, lifestyle and caring that I had experienced at EC that I wanted to take with me to Switzerland. It is one of the reasons we didn't hesitate to become involved in our church here in Basel. It is that feeling of home. The cool thing about my Christian community here is that we have 42 different

countries representing our church... talk about a taste of heaven!"

Randy Palmer '74

Although he's lived in Ottawa, Canada since 1995, Randy has spent most of his working life as a journalist elsewhere. Most notably, he served with Reuters News Agency, accepting posts in Beirut, Bahrain, Dubai, Geneva and finally, Ottawa. In 2016, he shifted to speechwriting for a Canadian government department, and then served as manager of a strategic policy communications team.

Although Reuters is the most well known news agency on his resume, it wasn't his first gig: Randy actually got his start writing for Eastern Christian's student newspaper, coined Envoy.

Randy credits EC with helping "provide the perspective and worldview that I need to make sense of the world and its wars and shifting sands," he says. Specifically, he is thankful for the French teaching he received, which was useful in Beirut, Geneva and Ottawa, as well as "a strong foundation in English. I'll get specific—my eleventh and twelfth grade English classes with **Lillian Eiten** and in particular, those term papers—gave me training I needed to write and edit."

Larry '70 and Ruth '73 Spalink

The couple describes themselves as career missionaries. Larry is currently the field business manager and corporate officer of the Christian Reformed Japan Mission, but also serves as a preacher and consultant within the greater Tokyo congregations of the Reformed Church in Japan. Having served for 21 years as the director of Christian Academy in Japan's health center, Ruth now works in the same school as the support

team coordinator and a middle school resource teacher for students with special needs.

"Eastern Christian teachers helped us develop and deepen our biblical (Reformed) world and life view and helped us discern our callings into ministry, health care, education and leadership...ECHS teachers modeled care for their students and respected them as God's image bearers." Larry and Ruth added they "appreciate the many, thoughtful classmates they could interact with in academics, arts and sports. Many of us developed in our faith as a community, asking questions and seeking answers together with good mentoring by a couple of key teachers whose faith was made evident to us through their deeds as well as their words. These teachers genuinely cared for us and helped to nurture what God was doing in our lives, supplementing in critically important ways what was happening in our homes and churches."

Stuart Kingma '52

After graduating from Eastern Academy (ECHS predecessor), Stuart went on to earn an MD at Cornell University Medical College in New York. In a career that spanned nearly six decades, Stuart has had experience in about 75 countries around the world, published 90 scholarly and scientific articles, and earned 45 years experience in clinical health care, international health planning, and health systems development, management and evaluation. "During this period of active international work (1961-2004), I had field experience and working missions in 74 different countries and territories."

In Nigeria, he spent ten years running a large rural health program and a 350-bed mission hospital. He next traveled to Geneva, Switzerland

to serve as Director of the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches. His calling also took him into other various roles, including managing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He's served with the World Health Organization, alongside UN peacekeeping forces, and has most recently worked at an adjunct professor at Webster University Geneva.

Susan Grosser '63

After graduating from Wheaton College and Columbia University in the 1960s, Susan has worked as a missionary nurse in Costa Rica since the 1970s.

She explains, "Under the auspices of Christ for the City International, I am working as part of a team in La Carpio—a poor community on the western edge of San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. A majority of the 35,000 people who live in the community are Nicaraguans. As a nurse, I work in the Carpio Christian Clinic—an outpatient clinic which cares for poor Costa Ricans and undocumented Nicaraguans who have no other options for health care. In addition, I lead children's Bible clubs, teach Sunday School to a group of teens, lead a women's Bible study, help to coordinate our team, and also do lots of one-to-one counseling. It is a privilege to serve God here."

She spent six years of her school life at Eastern Christian, and shares, "For one thing, the teachers taught me to think. They also instilled in me a desire to learn and to keep learning. Before moving to North Jersey and Eastern Christian, we attended a Baptist Church. The Bible classes at EC contrasted with my church background, stimulated me to think seriously about doctrine and reach my own personal convictions. In addition, Eastern Christian enriched my life with some wonderful friendships."

Garret (Gary) Vanderkooi '56

While serving as a chemistry professor at Northern Illinois University, Gary and his wife Maryalice felt a call to missions. After 20 years, Gary took early retirement in 1994 and teamed with Equip International Mission.

"The Lord led us to Ethiopia, and more specifically southern Ethiopia, to the Wolaita Kale Heywet (Word of Life) Church. The Wolaita church leaders told us they were praying for a medical person to work in the rural areas of Wolaita, and an educator to help them develop higher level theological education... the backgrounds of Mary and me fit their perceived needs, and we have lived in Wolaita ever since."

The Vanderkooi's have been heavily involved in the development of Soddo Christian Hospital, with Mary continuing to do medical work. In addition, Gary played an instrumental role in the founding of The Wolaita Evangelical Seminary, serving as advisor and in development. He shares, "My time at Eastern Christian gave me an outlook on finances that has proved to be useful in Ethiopia." He explains that as EC was largely built through the sacrifices of poor immigrants, he was inspired to take a similar approach in building a school at Wolaita. "They were poor, but my parents were also poor. So my motto was, "keep it cheap" – cheap enough so the students or their supporting churches could pay for their education themselves [rather than rely on scholarships from abroad]...by our plan, all running expenses must be for from tuition income; while capital development, which is essentially a one-time cost, may be paid for with money from overseas." He adds, "This policy has worked out very well."

*Listen
to their
stories:*



[easternchristian.org/
nathaniel](http://easternchristian.org/nathaniel)



[easternchristian.org/
randy](http://easternchristian.org/randy)

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Campaign 125



It was March of 2017 when we introduced Campaign 125 to the Eastern Christian community with a page in the Annual Stewardship Report.

At the time, we were in preliminary development with our engineering firm. We also began our quiet campaign around that time, reaching out to board members, administrators, and faculty. Thanks to very positive responses from those groups, the Board of Directors decided to complete some of the work planned for Campaign 125 during the summer of 2017.

Jeff Botbyl, EC's Director of Operations and Security quickly organized bidding and contracting for the work that would be completed. Under his direction, the following work was completed before school opened in September:

CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

- 44 Classrooms received new furniture
- 17 Classrooms received new whiteboards
- 13 Classrooms received technology upgrades
- 19 Classrooms received new ceilings and new LED lights
- 39 Classrooms were painted
- 6 Areas received new floor covering
- 50 Classrooms and the Cafeteria received new air conditioning

SECURITY UPGRADES

- All entrances on all three (3) campuses were reinforced to prevent unauthorized access
- Closed Circuit TV systems were installed on all three (3) campuses
- Card Access Systems were installed on all three (3) campuses

We are excited to have the classroom renovation and security phases of the work nearly complete just one year after introducing Campaign 125. As The Herald is going to the printer, we are awaiting notification from the Borough of Haledon regarding the hearing dates for our application to the Planning Board for the new athletic track and field.

We have also reached a milestone in our fundraising efforts, exceeding \$2 million dollars. There is a long way to go and we are just a month into our general fundraising. God continues to open doors and provide funds. While we are depending on the one who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, we continue to work aggressively to identify and secure funding for the project. The Board of Directors is committed to this project and committed to not allowing this project to impact tuition. We look forward to township approval of our plan, to reaching our fundraising goal, and to announcing a groundbreaking for the project.

GIVING TUESDAY

Pizza, Squishies and #allECday



1. Elementary school students enjoying pizza; 2. SooJin Kim



In 2014, Eastern Christian participated in #GivingTuesday.

The idea, as you probably know, was to follow a weekend of mostly self indulgence (Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday and Cyber Monday) with a day of giving (time, talents, treasures) to others. On the #GivingTuesdays in 2014-2016 you were liable to see senior administrators standing in the cold, snow, and even rain holding signs encouraging the EC community to participate. This year, we changed things up a bit.

For 2017, we stretched #GivingTuesday out for a week and called it #allECday. This week of giving culminated on 12/5 (remember it's EC's 125th anniversary). Our goal was not to raise more money than we had in the past, but to raise participation. We wanted all of the EC community to participate in #allECday. Although we did not attain 100% participation, we were delighted with the number of faculty and students who participated.

Increasing participation in giving was not just a wild idea. Each year, we submit grant applications and one question is often asked: How many of your current faculty and families support the organization? We constantly strive to increase participation with a goal of 100% for faculty and current families.

We're so excited, that on #allECday we broke all past records for participation. Ninety four faculty/staff, 90 current families and 350 students participated

this year. And when we get excited we like to celebrate, so on Friday, January 5, 2018 we threw a party for the Elementary School. Pre-K through grade 4 had the highest levels of participation of all three campuses, and third grade had 100% participation with first and four following close behind. We came

with pizza and a squishy for each of the children in the Elementary School and had a wonderful time celebrating with the teachers and students.

Thanks to all of you who made #allECday such a big success this year.

Netherlands Waterway Cruise

APRIL 12 – 20, 2019

with
**EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**




Aboard the *MPS Salvinia*.

Prices start at \$3,295 pp, double occupancy, and includes round trip airfare from Newark to Amsterdam.

Email foundation@easternchristian.org or call 973-427-9294 for additional information



HOME COMING WEEKEND

Homecoming, Heritage Dinner and Hot Dogs

October 2017 marked our third Eastern Christian HomeComing weekend. This year we added some things and moved some others around; it was by far the best HomeComing yet. HomeComing was conceived as a community building and FUNraising event. This year, HomeComing was also a successful FUNdraising event.

On Friday night, as our Boys' Varsity Soccer team was battling towards victory (3-2) against Veritas Christian Academy, more than 70 of our Heritage Alumni gathered in the cafeteria for dinner. Heritage Alumni are those who graduated 50 years ago or more. This year, we specifically recognized members of the class of 1947 (see Alumni News for a picture) who gathered to celebrate 70 years since graduation as well as individuals from the classes of 1945 and 1944 who were in attendance. The evening began with punch and butlered hors d'oeuvres, included a delectable hot buffet dinner, and ended with coffee and an assortment of enticing pastries. During dinner, a slide show was presented including yearbook photos of each person in attendance along with a number of other Eastern Academy and Eastern Christian photos. We had a great night together with guests coming from as far away as Michigan.

The excitement of Friday night continued on Saturday as volunteers began to gather at the high school around 6:30 AM preparing for the EC5K. God blessed us with an beautiful Fall day. With over 100 participants (more than double last year's

count) our registration volunteers had to hustle to have everyone in place for the start. Thanks to a large group of student and parent volunteers, we had course marshalls and refreshment stations in place on the course to assure a safe event.

While the EC5K was preparing to start, our second event of the day was also being organized. This year we added the *Isaac Hennessy Fun Run*, a half mile run around the high school, to the Saturday morning lineup. Isaac is an EC 3rd grader who was diagnosed with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. Isaac's





“

...[WE THANK] OUR AMAZING GOD FOR THE WAY HE HAS BLESSED AND SUSTAINED EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR 125 YEARS.”



Scenes from HomeComing 2017



classmates, teachers, friends and family came out in force to support him in his battle against MD. At 9:00 AM, Isaac sounded the starter's horn for the EC5K and then hurried over to the starting line for the fun run. As a result of the amazing support of this event, Eastern Christian was able to donate \$3,500.00 to The Muscular Dystrophy Association in Isaac's name.

As our volunteers finished cleaning up from the EC5K, the Varsity Girls' Soccer team was preparing for their match at the high school. The Eagles soared over Lodi defeating the Rams 5-0 in front of a large HomeComing crowd. Next up was Alumni Soccer played at the middle school. This is a game that never disappoints as the alumni team up in two age categories and battle it out. This year, youth persevered but left the field with great respect for their slightly older competitors.

Shortly after the Alumni Soccer game got underway, Family Fun Day opened the doors to the middle school

gym. New carnival games were added this year, like the Ring the Bell which was a big hit as kids of all ages tested their strength. Favorites like Laser Tag and The Cake Walk returned, as did the Chili and Apple Pie competitions. There was something for everyone.

We concluded HomeComing Weekend with a service of worship and praise, thanking God for faithfully blessing Eastern Christian School for 125 years. This was a very special service, featuring an alumni choir of 30 voices combined with the EC Honors Choir. The choir was accompanied by **Sharon Van Der Heide '75** and directed by former EC Choral Directors John Palatucci and Rob Davis as well as our current director, **Dr. Elizabeth Yoder**. In addition, there were several alumni speakers and our special guest speaker was former Superintendent, Gil Kitchen who traveled from Massachusetts to join us for HomeComing Weekend.

The service was a wonderful way to finish our weekend, thanking our amazing God for the way he has blessed and sustained Eastern Christian School for 125 years. We delighted in the alumni who returned for the event and are already planning HomeComing 2018. Mark your calendars for October 19-21.

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.*

Dr. Donald Greydanus '62 has been selected as a 2017 Mayo Clinic Distinguished Alumnus by the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees in Rochester, Minn. Dr. Greydanus graduated from Calvin College and received his M.D. degree from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He completed a residency in pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN) and received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Athens Medical School (Athens, Greece) in 2010. Dr. Greydanus is Professor and Founding Chair, Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine in Kalamazoo, Mi.

Jim Marsh '65 recently retired from his position as Director at The Van Lunen Institute, Calvin College, and was honored at their 10th Anniversary celebration in September 2017.

Elaine (Greydanus) Bush '66 has recently published a book on the tears and laughter 3 generations shared throughout her husband's battle with cancer. Three Generations Fight Cancer Together is available on Amazon or at elainebush.com.

Celebrations

Tiffany & **Brian Bangma '95** welcomed Sydney Joy on 9/7/17.

Dunja & **Bram Van Eyk '99** welcomed Casper IJsbrand on 6/24/17.

Luccia and **Sean Faulkner '01** welcomed Lilianna Therese on 1/23/17.

Sarah & **Matthew Kampschmidt '02** welcomed Joanna Alexandra on 8/23/17.

Jessica & **Steve Ruit '02** welcomed Lucas Gregory on 8/1/17.

Christi & **Daniel Scarpa '02** welcomed Lila Joy on 8/24/17.

Jonathan & **Lauren (Jacobs) Harvey '03** welcomed Reagan Faith on 8/24/17.

Jake '03 & Jill (Berry) Tuit '05 welcomed Sadie Grace on 9/15/17.

Carli & **Scott Bushoven '04** welcomed Wells Charles on 7/2/17.

Kaylen & **Sean Malnati '04** welcomed Wyatt James on 7/13/17.

AJ and **Larissa (Troast) Santino '04** welcomed Ezekiel John on 10/10/17.

Lindsay & **David Van Schepen '04** welcomed Owen Joseph on 8/31/17.

Anna & **Jimmy Abma '05** welcomed Trace Alan on 8/12/17.

Liana & **Bernie Crisenzo '05** welcomed Zachary James on 8/20/17.

David & **Jillian (Gallagher) Kertesz '05** welcomed Hayley on 12/9/17.

Michael & **Janelle (Torbet) Westerveld '06** welcomed Olivia Marie on 6/10/17.

David '06 and Alexandra (Van Buiten) Kuperus '09 welcomed Ellie Rose on 10/13/17.

Dominic & **Rachael (Santhouse) Chiodo '06** welcomed Dominic Anthony Jr on 8/4/17.

Daniel Verrengia '06 & Karyn Pereny were married on July 16, 2017.

Mark Winters '06 & Kayleigh Quinn were married on 10/14/17.

Jeff & **Alyssa (Steiging) De Korne '07** welcomed Hudson James on 8/22/17.

Erin (Groenewal) '07 & Jonathan Gorter '08 welcomed Evelyn Elise on 11/6/17.

David & **Alyssa (Vanden Berg) Johnston '07** welcomed Janet Elaine on 10/27/17.

Tim '07 & Kristen Rudd (EC Faculty) welcomed Carson James on 10/14/17.

Taylor Vooys '07 and William Knuth were married on 9/23/17.

Christopher Beggs '08 & Dana Turkalj were married on 10/15/17.

Chip & **Emily (Vriesema) Cathey '08** welcomed Luke William on 2/23/17.

Ira Therese Domingo '09 & Giancarlo Sunga were married on 8/3/17.

Gabriella & **Brian Sietsma '09** welcomed Rowan Avery on 10/25/17.

Joshua Tanis '09 & Kate Trahey were married on 9/2/17.

David & **Rachel (Kuder) Thompson '09** welcomed Alexander David on 7/8/17.

Keith Van Dyke '09 and Danielle Sloomaker were married on 10/20/17.

Samantha & **Ryan Dykstra '10** welcomed Samuel Robert on 10/2/17.

Jesse & **Victoria (Leonardo) Hewitt '10** welcomed Holden Leonardo on 11/19/17.

David Rainville '10 & Gina Fawzy were married on 7/28/17.

Rachel Soodsma '10 & Dan Hansen were married on 1/26/18.

Alaia Baldwin '11 and Andrew Aronow were married on 9/2/2017.

Marina Youssef '11 and Michael Ibrahim married on 7/16/17.

Sarah Gabriele '12 & Joe Wilmot were married on 8/6/17.

Brandon Chrinian '12 & Olivia Tourek were married on 9/3/17.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Did you know...if you send us your baby announcement you will receive an EC onesie? We love our EC babies!



Alexander Thompson



Carson Rudd



Ellie Kuperus



Evelyn Gorter



Hudson DeKorne



Janet Johnston



Liliana Faulkner



Hayley Kertesz

► ALUMNI BABY PHOTOS
continued on following page

DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE EC COMMUNITY?

Let us know in order to be published in an upcoming issue of The Herald. You can email alumni@easternchristian.org or call Beth Milkamp, Alumni Relations at 973-427-9294.

► ALUMNI BABIES continued



Lila Scarpa



Lucas Ruit



Luke Cathey



Reagan Harvey



Rowan Sietsma



Olivia Westerveld



Samuel Dystra



Owen Van Schepen



Zachary Criscenzo



Wells Bushoven



Sydney Bangma

“FOR YOU CREATED MY INMOST BEING; YOU KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER’S WOMB. I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE...” - Psalm 139:13-14a

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 Faculty

Peter Andreas, age 77 of Pella, Iowa passed away on 11/21/17. Pete taught PE/Health at EC from 1968 to 1977 and was EC's Athletic Director 1975-76. He also coached Basketball, Golf, Tennis and Soccer, winning 3 state titles while coaching soccer.

Note: Dr. Charles Adams: In the Fall 2017 issue we failed to include the fact that Charlie had received his PhD from The University of Iowa.

Alumni

Herbert Soodsma '40 of Midland Park, NJ on 8/31/17.

Alida (DeJong) Breen Gray '41 of New Port Richey, FL on 9/27/17.

Cornelia (Bruining) Von Suskil '44 of Allentown, Pa on 10/22/16.

Bert Boer '46 of Hasbrouck Heights, NJ on 7/12/17.

Frances (Vander May) Halsema '46 of Grand Rapids, MI on 7/16/17.

Peter De Boer '47 of Grand Rapids, MI on 1/10/17.

Jean (Braunius) Borduin '47 of Jenison, MI on 11/15/17.

Jean (Stelpstra) Jellema '48 of Pompton Plains, NJ on 10/28/17.

Richard Kmetz '48 of New Jersey in December 2017.

Albert Bysterbusch '49 of Franklin Lakes on 8/14/17.

Wilma (Steyling) Dykhous '50 of Salida, CA on 12/11/17.

Ada (Houseward) Kuiken '50 of Wyckoff on 11/6/17.

Catherine (Wattez) Santhouse '50 of Seminole, FL on 4/22/16.

Annetta (Atema) De Jong '51 of Newton, NC on 10/4/17.

Alberta (Ruit) Vandenberg '53 of Midland Park, NJ on 11/17/17.

Howard Vroon '54 of Charleston, SC on 8/5/17.

Gerda (De Haan) White '60 of Prospect Park, NJ on 8/29/17.

Joan (Warnet) Nydam '61 of Oneonta, NY on 10/5/17.

George Anema '66 of Prospect Park, NJ on 9/2017.

Jacqueline (Hieminga) Marsh '66 of Ballwin, MO on 9/8/17.

Deborah (Sankey) Maglione '71 of San Mateo, CA on 6/22/17.

Paul Beverly '71 of Wayne, NJ on 8/1/17.

Steven Sonnema '73 of Grandville, MI on 7/8/17.

Rogelio "Roger" Leon '78 of North Haledon, NJ on 9/2/17.

REUNIONS

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

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 2007 – 10 Year Reunion April 27, 2018 at 8pm

Where: Park West Loft, 38 Oak St, Ridgewood, NJ
Contact Joan Hoogerhyde at JHoogerhyde@alphalab.com or Alyssa (Vanden Berg) Johnston at alyssj@gmail.com

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 'EC Class of 2008 10 Year Reunion' on Facebook for details or contact Shaun at shaun.patterson@nyack.edu. If you have not received the initial mailing, please update your email and mailing address at alumni@easternchristian.org – thank you!

Class of 1947

70-Year Reunion || Class of 1947 celebrated 70 years since their graduation from Eastern Academy at the Homecoming Heritage Dinner on October 20, 2017. The Foundation Office was thrilled to have seven alumnae attend, including one who traveled all the way from Michigan.

Seated (L to R): Lois (Dapp) Veenstra, Emma (Wispelwey) Stanivukovich, Wilma (Heerema) Tuit, Betty (Lanting) Bowers 49, Albert De Roo '49, Trina (Van Althuis) De Roo, Margaret (Kuiken) Pennings, Betty (Botbyl) Tolsma.



Class of 1967

“Celebrating 50 Years!”

by Georgia Meeter, Reunion Chair

The Class of 1967 celebrated a wonderful reunion “feeling young again” on September 30, 2017, with a well-attended morning social at Faith Community CRC’s ‘Barn’, followed by a great high school tour, and a lovely dinner at Portobello Restaurant with 47 alumni attending. It was a joy-filled time, sharing memories, gratitude for our EC foundation and God’s faithfulness in our lives. We closed hand-in-hand singing, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”. A mini-reunion was also celebrated in MI for those who couldn’t come to NJ. Our class gift of \$1,000 was given to EC’s *Project Hope*. A biography booklet with updates about 80 classmates’ lives was also distributed. Reunions are well worth the team effort and we will plan another one for our 55 years!!” (Need planning tips? Email Georgia gmeeter@gmail.com.)



Front Row: Alice (Rietveld) Bryant, Carol (Ten Kate) Byma, Carol (Templeton) Brix, Nola (Opperwall) Galluch, Ruth (Meyer) Huisman, Louise (Beverly) Smith, Sharon (Lont) Kelly, Georgia (Faber) Meeter. **2nd Row:** Janet (Higby) DeHoog, Marion Mudge, Linda (Belanus) Hoffman, Howard Husselman, Marcia (Petzinger) Vander Eems, Bob Schoone-Jongen, Ruth Halma, **3rd row (standing):** Kareen Richard, Lois (Schaaf) Busscher, Rhonda (Wispelwey) Klein, Susan (Aupperlee) Dyer, Charles Roukema, Rick Pennings, Diane (Vander Meulen) Woolsey, Claire (Andre) White, Eileen (Hollander) Friedeborn, Elaine (DeJong) Booth, Cathy Lindsay, Esther Snoop, Ray Van Grouw, Bob Storms, Tim Baar. **Last Row:** Bill Vander Eems, Dave Dykhouse, Paul Veenema, Henry Vander Weit, Pete Veenema, Roger Vogel, Ed Hommes, Bill Woolsey, Bill Tanis, Nick Kuiken, Jim Woudenberg, Jim Lodema, Brant Tolsma, John Smith, Dave Drenth, Jake Faber, Frank Fyffe.

Class of 1967 Michigan Gathering



Seated (L to R): Nola (Opperwall) Galluch, Georgia (Faber) Meeter, Lucie (Commeret) Marsden, Ruth (Meyer) Huisman. **Standing:** Len Troast, Del and Judy (Veenema) Willink and Rick Pennings (not pictured Elaine (Geelhood) Olson).

PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

Homecoming weekend
is a great time to get
everyone together!
HomEComing 2018 is
on October 19-21.

Class of 1977

40-Year Reunion || On October 7, 2017 the class of 1977 met at Portobello's Restaurant in Oakland for their 40th class reunion. Attending were 45 classmates from 11 different states, who along with their guests, spent the evening sharing memories and stories of God's faithfulness. A memorial table helped us to remember our classmates who have been called to their eternal home: Ruth (Sluis) Manning, Doris (Higby) Van Der Have, Robert Baker, George Fenners and Dave Pruiksma. To honor the 125th year of Eastern Christian Schools, a class donation was given to Campaign 125. We give glory to God for His blessings of Christian education at EC.



Row 1 (L to R): Roy Drukker, Kevin Hoogerhyde, Patricia (DeGraaf) Keifman, Patricia (Martin) Torbet, Lynn (Ten Kate) Roukema, Jane (Kulina) Kelly, Sharon (Kuipers) Vogel, Dave Troast, Karen (Kuiken) Troast, George Hoogenhuis. **Row 2 (L to R):** Druanne (Boydston) Fridsma, Phyllis Montanari, Grace (Armijos) Wisse, Debbie (Kooreman) Van Buiten, Deborah Steenland, Beth (Zuidema) Hagedoorn, Grace ((Kuperus) Datema, Cindy (Van Althuis) Prol, John Killian, Brenda (Vogel) DeJong, Roger DeJong, Randal Bouwense, Karen (Dykstra) Kuperus, Robin (Memmelaar) Stadlander, Janet (Arkema) Sichterman, Patti (Steenwyk) Palmer. **Row 3 (L to R):** Dan Fridsma, Art Vooys, Mark Wisse, Geri (Smit) Vooys, Susan (Baker) Alesandrelli, Jayne (Hagedoorn) Sittema, Pete Hagedoorn, Ed Pruim, Greg Holwerda, Jeff Vroom, Bruce Tanis, Ron Sietsma, Henry Vogel, Don Aupperlee. **Row 4 (L to R):** Duane Klein, Phillip Keegstra, John Borst, Rich Vriesema, Brian Hanse.

'88 and '89ers

An impromptu gathering was held over the Christmas holidays at The Front Porch in Hawthorne. A great time was held by all.

Front row seated (L to R): Steve Abma '89, Pat (Tanis) Hagedoorn '89, Cheryl (Smit) Moses '89, Trish (Steinginga) Hoffman '89, Eric White '89. **2nd row seated:** Jim Kuiken '88, Darlene Faber '88, Bill Sytsma '88, Leah (Voorman) Christensen '88. **Standing:** Tom Luinenburg '89, Janet Sweetman '88, Jill Connell '88, Cindy Berkhout '88, Mary (Almroth) Postma '88, Kevin Steen '88, Jeff Botbyl '88, Marty Happle '88.



UPCOMING REUNIONS

continued from page 27

Class of 1998 – 20 Year Reunion

A reunion is in the planning stages for November 2018. More details on Facebook or email Joel Spoelstra at jspoelstra82@hotmail.com.

Class of 1988 – 30 Year Reunion

A reunion is in the planning stages! Please contact alumni@easternchristian.org if you are interested in helping. Tentative plans are for sometime in the fall.

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) Steinginga at 973-337-0928 or email John Belanus at johnbelanus@gmail.com.

Class of 1958 – 60 Year Reunion

Classmates will celebrate with a buffet luncheon on June 16, 2018 at Justin's Ristorante in Hawthorne, NJ between the hours of 12:00 noon and 4:00PM. Those interested in attending or seeking additional information should contact Garret Nieuwenhuis at garnflo@verizon.net or by calling 973-632-4835.

Heritage Years

Mark your new 2018 calendar for the annual Homecoming Heritage Dinner. This year we will be honoring those from the **Class of: 1948, 1953, 1958 and 1963. All those who have graduated 50+ years are welcome to attend.**

When: Friday, October 19, 2018

Where: 5:30pm at Eastern Christian High School

JOHN ALGERA, CLASS OF '70

By Gideon Engelhard '18



In his more than 40 years of ministry to Paterson and the surrounding areas, Pastor John Algera has been able to exhibit the Eastern Christian core values of “embracing community” and “serving others.”

Algera grew up in Wyckoff in a Christian home, and it was always understood that he would attend EC from K-12. Academically, school was difficult and he recalls having to work very hard to earn satisfactory grades. However, he took great joy in becoming a part of a group at Eastern Christian known as the “Nature Outing Club,” and it was here that he was able to grow closer with Christ. This club went on various birdwatching trips and reinforced the beauty of God’s creation in the minds of students.

“Everybody connects with God differently. For me creation is one way I can really connect,” says Algera. Another one of Algera’s most influential memories

“

**EVERYBODY
CONNECTS WITH
GOD DIFFERENTLY.
FOR ME CREATION
IS ONE WAY I CAN
REALLY CONNECT.”**

God used these times at EC to really help me in terms of articulating my faith, sharing my faith, and leading somebody else toward Christ.

from EC was a Bible class, which culminated in students going on a weekend evangelism trip. “God used these times at EC to really help me in terms of articulating my faith, sharing my faith, and leading somebody else toward Christ.” Both of Algeras’ memories stretch much further than the classroom and display Eastern Christian’s mission.

Algera attended Calvin College, but did not go directly into ministry. He had always taken interest in being a forest ranger, but ran into a roadblock when he didn’t receive good grades in the required courses of advanced biology and chemistry. God would use this downfall, however, to be a great blessing. This is when Pastor Algera felt the nudge from God to go into ministry.

Algera began working at Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church in July of 1978. During his tenure, Algera saw Paterson and MACRC become much more diverse. Algera recalls when he first started working at MACRC, that the church was mostly caucasian with some African Americans and no Latinos. Nowadays, MACRC and its neighborhood are blended with Latinos, African Americans, and Caucasians. Pastor Algera will be retiring in Fall of 2018 and will have served for more than 40 years.

Being a caucasian pastor in a primarily African-American church, and in a city with many different minorities, has fostered Pastor John’s passion for reconciled race relations. Today, there are still many issues with racial divide in the United States and as Christians, it is our duty to come together as one body of believers. He says that some of this harmony comes through listening. “In many ways, the gap is as big as it’s ever been in race relations. The challenge for Christians is to bridge that gap by really listening to each others’ stories and experience,” says Algera.

MATTHEW BOUWENSE

Class of 2006

It wasn't *that* long ago that Matthew Bouwense walked the halls of Eastern Christian.

Memories of his alma mater are still strong. He recalls the run with his cross-country team to Barnegat Lighthouse during the Harvey Cedars convention. He is thankful for the long-lasting friendships. Matt believes the academic foundation he received at EC prepared him well for his next steps.

Though the road from high school to the present hasn't spanned decades—it has only been about 12 years—it certainly has included many milestones along the way.

Matt graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Naval Architecture from the United States Naval Academy in 2010. His training brought him to Charleston, SC, where he completed Nuclear Power School and Propulsion Prototype.

“**THOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SUBSCRIBE TO AN ADDITIONAL SET OF STANDARDS BEYOND THOSE PROVIDED BY CIVILIAN OR MILITARY LAW.”**

In 2011, Matt was assigned to USS Nebraska, a ballistic missile submarine, serving as electrical assistant, main propulsion assistant, and damage control assistant. The crew was involved in multiple nuclear deterrence patrols.

Soon, his journey would take him in another direction. Matt was deployed to the Philippines as part of an “advise and assist” operation. Subsequently, he attended Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. During



this time, he married Mai Dajay, and graduated with a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Matt's most recent assignment has brought him closer to home. He is currently at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT, preparing for another tour at sea. His days are anything but typical, as he learns about subjects such as navigation, communication, and weapons deployment.

Looking back, Matt's most gratifying experience to date was his time with Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, “due to the command's positive and clear impact on the Global War on Terrorism.”

As in high school, Matt continues to pursue excellence with integrity and humility. He says, “Those of the Christian faith subscribe to an additional set of standards beyond those provided by civilian or military law. At times, I fall short of what is expected of a Christian. However, I find that making a genuine effort to meet these expectations, with God's help, has had a positive effect on who I am today.”

ATTENTION ALUMNI

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

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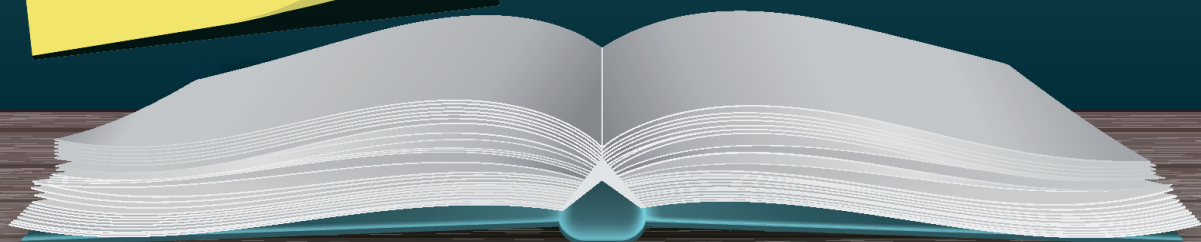


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FALL ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS '17

Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball



Clockwise: Allie Steinginga;
Emily Byrnes; Ben Postma

Cross Country

Junior **Emily Byrnes** was the pride of the Eagles cross-country team as she placed 8th in the Passaic County Championships earning All County honors. Senior **Allie Steinginga** also turned in a strong season and joined Emily on the All League 1st team. The future looks bright for our cross country program as a young middle school team that included just three 8th graders proved to be very competitive this fall. Sixth grader **Lucas Genuario** won two races and turned in some great times at Goffle Brook Park, also medaling (6th place among all boys) at the 16-team, 200-runner Garfield Invitational!



Amanda Faber

Girls Soccer

Congratulations are in order for girls varsity soccer coach **Laura (Kuiken) Royle** and husband Simon as they expect their first child this spring! The team bid farewell to their coach with another solid season including 9 wins and a well played 1-1 tie in their rematch with Rutherford. Sophomore **Amanda Faber** took big steps forward, leading the team with 24 goals and tying senior midfielder **Tori Holmes** with 10 assists on the season.



Buddy New

Boys Soccer

Boys soccer thrilled some large crowds with a 2-1 homecoming win over Veritas and a tough OT loss vs HCA. Finishing with 3 more wins than last year

including a convincing 4-1 season finale over Elmwood Park, most of their young lineup returns next season though contributions by seniors **Anthony Avila** on defense and **Buddy New** in goal will be missed.

THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN ATHLETIC PROGRAM EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD BY DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE IN ITS STUDENT ATHLETES - *excerpt from Eagles Athletics Pillars*

Middle School Boys Soccer

The MS boys soccer team turned back to its winning ways this fall, finishing with a 6-5 record. The Eagles attack was led and controlled by 8th-graders **Evan Hopeck**, **Ben Visbeen**, and **Jack Veenema**. The defensive line was anchored by 8th-graders **Luke Parker**, **Danny Lazor**, and goalkeeper **Josh Steen**, who finished with 5 shutouts.



Anthony Avila

**STRIVE FOR
EXCELLENCE**



Cara Shotmeyer; group prayer

Girls Tennis

Girls tennis, led by the singles trio of sophomore **Cara Shotmeyer** and seniors **Rachel Liu** and **Brianne Veenstra**, finished with another winning record including a rare victory over league rival Rutherford.



Members of Volleyball at Fall Pep Rally

Girls Volleyball

A young Eagles volleyball team became more competitive as the season progressed, receiving strong performances from senior **Tiffany Martin** and sophomore **Molly Boonstra**.

Post-Season Honors

GIRLS TENNIS COUNTY

Second Team: Cara Shotmeyer
Honorable Mention: Rachel Liu,
Brianne Veenstra

LEAGUE

Second Team: Cara Shotmeyer,
Becky Parker, Tara Casey
Honorable Mention: Rachel Liu

CROSS COUNTRY COUNTY

First Team: Emily Byrnes
Honorable Mention: Allison
Steiginga, Kristen Ghinelli, Ben
Postma, Sean Wan

LEAGUE

First Team: Allison Steiginga,
Emily Byrnes
Second Team: Kristen Ghinelli
Honorable Mention: Ben Postma
and Clara Visser

VOLLEYBALL COUNTY

Honorable Mention: Tiffany
Martin, Molly Boonstra

LEAGUE

Second Team: Tiffany Martin
Honorable Mention:
Molly Boonstra

BOYS SOCCER LEAGUE

Second Team: Ben Parker,
Randal New
Honorable Mention: Mark Foster

GIRLS SOCCER COUNTY

Second Team: Madison Wynbeek
Honorable Mention: Amanda
Faber, Tori Holmes

LEAGUE

First Team: Madison Wynbeek
Second Team: Amanda Faber,
Tori Holmes
Honorable Mention:
Christina Tartini

*We praise the Lord for a safe and
productive season and look forward
to competing for His glory in 2018.*

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