

COLUMBIA ACADEMY

COMMUNICATOR

Forty-Fourth Year | Volume 26 | 2023



CA CHAPEL: A LEGACY OF WORSHIP

CAMPUS SECURITY INITIATIVES

**TENTH STRAIGHT YEAR OF
RECORD ENROLLMENT**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



“AS WE CELEBRATE
SUCCESES, IT IS
IMPORTANT TO GIVE
CREDIT WHERE CREDIT
IS DUE, AND THAT’S WHY
WE GIVE GOD CREDIT
FOR HIS RICH AND
BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS.”

When I look back on the 2022-23 school year, I am amazed at how **God provides**. Whether it is sending outstanding faculty and staff to work closely with our students, or sending generous donors to fund new initiatives and upgrades, or sending outstanding students and families to serve, God continues to bless Columbia Academy.

As we celebrate successes, it is important to give credit where credit is due, and that’s why we give God credit for His rich and bountiful blessings.

This was the tenth consecutive year with **record enrollment**. We were blessed with 1,154 students who were challenged to grow in every way. I was so encouraged by the quality of our students – their character and ability are second to none. In this issue, you will read about National Merit Scholars, our first state championships (yes, plural!) in bowling, a repeat high jump state champion, and the biggest Spring musical in school history. As exciting as these accomplishments are, the more important events of this year are when students choose to give their lives to Christ or to follow Him more closely.

My personal appreciation for our dedicated teachers continues to grow each year. These hard-working Christian women and men change the world! They have to balance personal lives with a job that requires a great deal of energy and effort, often extending late in the evenings and on weekends. They are experts in their fields (over fifty percent now have a masters degree), and, just as importantly, they love our students and want what is eternally best for them.

The Building in Faith Campaign has raised over \$3.2 million and has made a tremendous impact on the Columbia and Spring Hill campuses with new classroom additions at both lower schools. These new classrooms have blessed our teachers and students with enhanced spaces to teach and learn. THANKYOU to all who have given, and your continued support is needed and requested! The next project on the list is a much needed new multipurpose space for the preschool.

Only God knows the full impact of what Columbia Academy does for our students, the community, the church, and the world. We continue to pray for His guidance and blessings, while thanking Him for making it all possible. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Communicator.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James A. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James A. Thomas, Ed.D.
President



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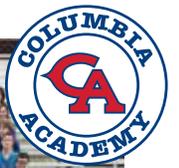
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CA STUDENTS & STAFF SHINE BRIGHT

■ NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY INDUCTION



On Tuesday, May 2, the annual National Honor Society induction ceremony was held to introduce new juniors and seniors entering the program and presented the existing seniors with gold cords. These students pledged to take on the four pillars of the program:

1. Scholarship
2. Service
3. Leadership
4. Character

1st Row (front): Finley Skelton, Emma Walker, Mikayla Worley, Emily Diles, Kelsey Cordero, Macy Overall, Anne Claire Hubbell, Emma Liggett
2nd Row: Kate Smith, Macy Alsup, Amelia Briceno, Daniel Douglas
3rd Row: Addison Morgan, Ally Ballard, Sarah Elizabeth Hight, Hayes Lewis, Grant Wooldridge
4th Row (back): Micah Carroll, Nathan Hutto, Rhett Dupree, Jacob Hill, Cade Jackson, Hayden Harrison, Gavin Morgan

■ ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The success of our annual canned food drive has been nothing short of remarkable. With the help of local volunteers and generous donors, the drive was able to collect an astounding 85,000 cans of food by raising \$62,000 in donations. This incredible feat has allowed the drive to provide much-needed assistance to a number of local organizations, including several local churches, The Well Outreach Organization, Harvest Share Food Bank, the Tennessee Children's Home, the Carmack Boulevard homeless program, the Family Center, and Highland Park Elementary School.

The impact of this food drive cannot be overstated. The donations and support go a long way towards helping those in need throughout Maury County. From providing meals for the hungry and homeless to supporting children and families in need, the donations make a real difference in the lives of many. The success of the food drive serves as a reminder of the power of coming together to support those in need. Thank you to all of those who donated!



The senior class won this year's sculpture contest with their "Top Can" structure.

Photos depict students organizing and loading cans into the trailers of the nonprofits after their annual "sculpture contest" where individual upper school grade levels work together to complete a sculpture based off of a theme. The sculpture contest is a creative way to allow students to celebrate their hard fundraising work with an air of friendly competition.



REACHING EXCELLENCE THROUGH ADVANCED CHALLENGES (REACH) PROGRAM VISITED MEMPHIS AND NASHVILLE

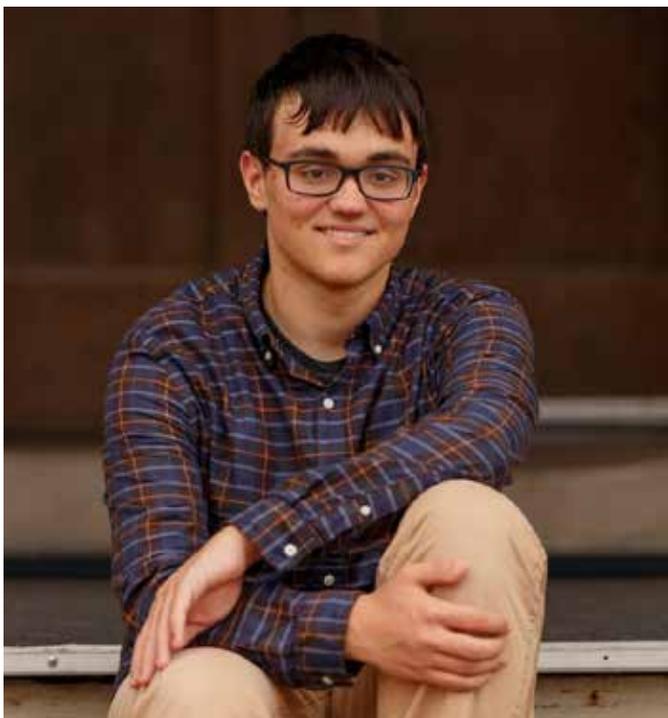
In Memphis, the students were able to tour the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. This tour allowed the students to gain insight into the large variety of degrees this campus has to offer as well as get a peek into student life on the campus. Following the tour of the campus, the students were given the opportunity to tour the Center for Healthcare Improvement and Patient Simulation (CHIPS). In this state-of-the-art center, the students were able to learn how medical students utilized high-fidelity patient simulators (manikins) to practice medical procedures. This experience exposed the students to the many medical opportunities UTHC has. After visiting UTHC and CHIPS, the students enjoyed visiting the Arcade Restaurant, which is Memphis' oldest restaurant.

For their second trip, the students went to Nashville. First, they started by visiting the Tennessee Judiciary Museum. The students were able



to meet Judge Andy Bennett, a judge for the Court of Appeals. He showed the students the Supreme Courtroom and explained the law procedures that cause a case to enter the Supreme Court. He also showed them original documents for the state of Tennessee. They also learned about many cases that helped shape our great state. After the Judiciary Museum, the students walked to the Tennessee State Museum where they learned about the impact that the Civil Rights Movement and World War II had on our state.

DEREK YOUNG NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST



Derek Young was named a Finalist in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Finalists were selected from a pool of 16,000 Semifinalists named in September of 2022. All Finalists will be considered for the National Merit Scholarships to be offered this year.

The National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist certificate is a high honor bestowed upon graduating seniors due to their distinguished performance and high potential for future academic accomplishments. Finalist candidates are proven to have a strong combination of academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous university studies.

Young is the seventh student from Columbia Academy to achieve this honor and the third in the last four years. He is the son of Phillip and Brandy Young, and brother of National Merit Finalist Phillip Young III ('20). He possessed a 4.60 weighted GPA and received multiple university offer letters including: The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Tennessee Tech University, Harding University, and Vanderbilt University where he plans to enroll.

CLASS OF 2023

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Representing the Columbia Academy Senior Class of 2023, the Valedictorian was **Derek Young**, son of Phillip and Brandy Young of Columbia. The Salutatorian was **Sara Martin**, daughter of Matt and Kayse Martin of Columbia.

Derek Young was a student at CA for 13 years. He was an active member of the Chess Club, Science Club, ACT 30+ Club, National Honor Society, Future Health Professionals (HOSA) club, and Reaching Excellence Through Advanced Challenges (REACH) program. He was also a percussionist in the marching band and concert band where he received the John Philip Sousa Band Award this year. His additional accolades include: National Merit Scholar, Top Scholar in the 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, Columbia State competition awards in creative writing and American history, as well as HOSA state finalist in the pharmacology division. This fall he will attend Vanderbilt University where he will enter the School of Engineering with an undeclared major.

Sara Martin was a student at CA for 13 years. She has been actively involved in several organizations on campus, such as the ACT 30+ Club, Best Buddies, Interact Club, Mock Trial, Science Club, and theater. This past year, she was an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Volunteer Girls' State delegate and a member of Youth Leadership Maury. Sara was served as president of both the Future Health



Professionals (HOSA) and National Honor Society Columbia Academy chapters, as well as Interact Club secretary. She was a recipient of the Carl Pierson Scholar Athlete Award and Danny Lasater Service Scholarship. Additional accolades include: Top Scholar in the 9th grade, recipient of the Joe and Judy Roberson STEM endowment award, Columbia State competition award in American history placing first two years in a row, as well as placing first in extemporaneous writing at the HOSA state competition. She will attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the fall where she will major in biology with a global health concentration and minor in public health.



COLUMBIA MILITARY ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that **Mr. Connor Worden** has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 CMA Scholarship. Connor is the son of Jeremy and Lauren Worden and attended Columbia Academy for 5.5 years, graduating as a Summa Cum Laude Honor Graduate. During his tenure at the academy, he has distinguished himself through his academic achievements and extensive involvement in a wide range of extracurricular activities.

Connor's impressive list of school activities includes membership in the ACT 30 Plus Club, the Best Buddies Club, the Drama Club, the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Club, the International Thespian Society, the Interact Club, the Marching Band, the Mock Trial Team, the National Honor Society, the Pep Band, the REACH Program, the Robotics Club, the Science Club, the Spanish Club, and the Tech Dawgs. He also served as a small group Bible leader, a student ambassador, and a member of the Swim Team and the Track and Field Team.

In recognition of his outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements, Connor has been awarded the Navy Influencer Award and enlisted to serve in the United States Navy, with a concentration in the Navy Nuclear Program, pursuing a career as an Electronics Technician Nuclear in the Submarine Fleet.

We extend our congratulations to Connor on this well-deserved honor and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. It is our pleasure to support exceptional students like Connor as they pursue their academic and career goals.

MR. AND MISS COLUMBIA ACADEMY



At the conclusion of each school year, Columbia Academy Upper School faculty select Mr. and Miss Columbia Academy. This is a high honor bestowed upon two students who best exemplify character and attributes consistent with the Columbia Academy mission.

Mr. CA is **Dane Bennett**, son of Jon and Lisa Bennett. He attended CA for fifteen years. Bennett has been active in organizations such as Best Buddies, Interact Club, Pep Club, Mock Trial, the football team, and the theater department. He served as the student body president, football captain, and pep club co-president. His achievements include the National Honor Society, first team all-region defensive lineman, and football Most Valuable Player. Bennett is a member of the ACT 30+ club. He plans to attend Harding University in the fall and will double major in accounting and theological studies.

The daughter of Richie and Collette Estep, Miss CA is **Bella Estep**. She attended the academy for nine years. She participated as a member of Best Buddies, Science Club, Interact Club, and the theater department. She served as captain of the cheerleading team, baseball manager, student ambassador and small group leader. Estep was a part of the varsity game day competition cheer and varsity sideline cheer teams. Her achievements include the Bulldog Cheer Mary Helen McMeen Award, Girls State delegate, and the National Honor Society. She will be attending Freed-Hardeman University in the fall and majoring in elementary education.



CLASS OF 2023 STATISTICS

 **62 SENIOR GRADUATES**
54 HONORS GRADUATES

97% OFFERED A
SCHOLARSHIP

74% ENROLLED IN
DUAL ENROLLMENT

35 HIGHEST ACT SCORE
WITH 23 BEING THE
AVERAGE

 **TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP MONEY OFFERED TO
THE CLASS OF 2023:**
\$6,376,571

AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$102,848

THE CLASS OF 2023 WILL ATTEND
24 DIFFERENT COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

95% ARE ELIGIBLE
FOR THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

4 ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

 **6,640.25 HOURS**
OF COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPLETED
DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CA'S NEW MUSIC ROOMS

Through our "Building in Faith" Campaign, both of our campuses received brand new, much-needed music rooms to help our students further their knowledge and skill sets in the fine arts.

Previously, the Spring Hill campus music room was inside of a portable, multi-purpose space. The Columbia campus had a small room with very little light and room for students to move around for practice and learning. Now, both campuses include their individual rooms just for music that include cabinets for storage, as well as additional space for newly added instruments and activities. The Spring Hill campus now allows fifth grade students to learn the ukulele and sixth graders to play the keyboard, while the Columbia campus added risers for the chorus and choir practices and mini-recitals.

Mrs. Fonville, of the Columbia campus, is taking full advantage of her space through small group activities to help the students grow in their creativity while they practice new instruments, teach their peers a new chord, or master a section of a song in their own space. She also works alongside the theater department to host choreography rehearsals and teach the music for upcoming musicals. Both Mrs. Fonville and Ms. Newkirk, of the Spring Hill campus, believe the new rooms are instrumental in fostering creativity and creating music in a purposeful environment.

Thank you to all who donated and helped to make this dream a reality. We look forward to many years of students learning new skills and creative outlets that they will carry with them throughout their lives.



MARTY DEJARNETTE INSPIRES GRADUATES AT 2023 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Marty DeJarnette spoke at Columbia Academy's 44th annual commencement exercises. The Class of 2023 graduation ceremony was May 20 at 10 a.m. on the Columbia Academy campus.

According to Columbia Academy President Dr. James A. Thomas, "Mr. DeJarnette is a longtime teacher, coach, and administrator at Columbia Academy, and he is highly respected by all who know him well. His genuine care and concern for students and his fun personality have made him beloved by young and old alike."

DeJarnette and his wife, Andrea (A.J.), are the parents of three children: Audrey, Anna Marie ('17), and Jackson ('18).

DeJarnette has been employed with Columbia Academy for the last 27 years where he has served as a teacher of pre-algebra, health, speech and Bible before taking the role of athletic director, interim headmaster, and upper school assistant principal. Last year, he was promoted to his current position of lower school principal. During his time at Columbia Academy, he has coached basketball, golf, soccer, volleyball, and softball. He is a renowned athletic coach and has received the following awards: National Christian School Association Coach of the Year (2020), Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee (BCAT) Don Meyer Coach of the Year (2019), Southern Tennessee Prep Sports Coach of the Year (2017, 2019), District Coach of the Year Awards for Basketball, Softball, and Golf. His record includes over 500 career wins in basketball, and he led the boys basketball team to a TSSAA State Championship win in 2019.

DeJarnette received his bachelor's degree in physical education and masters degree in education administration from Harding University. He currently resides in Columbia, Tennessee with his family where he is an elder at the West 7th Street church of Christ.



TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

CA technology is going strong in a world that has become saturated with tech! We have made great strides in our use of technology as well as the technology we use in the classroom. Every student in grades 1-12 has a device assigned to them. First graders use iPads, 2nd through 8th graders have a Chromebook, and starting this fall all high school students will be using a MacBook. These devices were given to students in an attempt to ensure they are ready for the transition from grade school to college, and then into adulthood where technology affects nearly every single job in today's world.

As you may have heard this past fall, our use of technology for safety and security was able to mobilize an immediate response to a life-threatening emergency on the elementary playground when a child suddenly stopped breathing. We continue to add cameras in many locations to improve security in those areas. We work closely with our Safety & Security department to continuously improve our communications and school security and keep our students and employees as safe as possible.

This past year we upgraded all the classrooms from their use of a projector to a TV and sound bar in each classroom as well as an Apple TV to aid in better instruction for our students. Our internet circuit is a full 1 gigabit synchronous fiber, and we installed a second circuit for guest traffic. The school has also added wifi access in most public spaces. Big plans for this fall include a new LED scoreboard for the football field and another LED scoreboard for the basketball court! We especially want to thank TriStar Bank and McDonald's of Maury County for sponsoring the new scoreboard. We are continuously improving our school in all aspects, but even more so this past year in the technology field. Our hope is that students, faculty, and those visiting campus will have a better experience thanks to these upgrades.



CAMPUS SECURITY



Columbia Academy remains committed to ensuring the safety of our staff and students to the best of our ability and knowledge. Since 2015, we are thankful to have a full time Director of Security on staff with an extensive background in law enforcement. Alumnus and CA parent, Ben Jones ('00), works tirelessly to oversee both the Spring Hill and Columbia campuses. He works closely with local law enforcement and remains up-to-date on current procedures and safety initiatives. In his eight years as Director of Security, Columbia Academy has made great strides in becoming a safer place for students and staff. We are thankful for him and his leadership of our safety efforts!

CA takes a multi-faceted approach to school security. It begins with creating and encouraging a Christ-centered culture where we strive to follow the "golden rule" to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Following this rule reduces problems and also guides us to handle problems in a kind and direct fashion. Another aspect of culture that we promote is the "see something, say something" mindset where students, parents, and staff are encouraged to report any suspicious or inappropriate behavior, and it will be investigated.

A second facet to school security is to have every employee properly trained to know what to do in different situations. Whether it is seeing an unknown person on campus, dealing with a bullying situation, or responding to an emergency, we spend a great deal of time and effort to help our staff be prepared to address issues that relate to safety concerns. Currently, all faculty are First Aid and CPR certified as well as getting trained on how to use the numerous AEDs and Epi-pens on campus.

A third facet to school security is to have focus on the physical security of the campuses and the buildings. These have been upgraded tremendously since 2015 with special help from multiple donors. Some of the improvements include:

Access control systems have been added in all instructional buildings and gymnasiums. While we have a very beautiful and sprawling campus, we also have activity at all hours of the day. This allows us

to better control when doors are opened as well as immediately lock all of these doors with the push of a button from multiple locations across campus and mobile devices. This is an ongoing and expanding process as new doors are added as funds become available.

Security laminate film was added to our facility windows and doors across both campuses. This allows our windows to take a substantial amount of damage without compromising the perimeter of the building, this can come from severe weather related events up to acts of violence.

An automated public announcement system was added. These speakers carry an automated message during emergencies alerting all staff and students as to what steps to take and what kind of emergency it is.

Our campuses possess video surveillance systems to cover the campus grounds as well as building interiors.

Room phones in all classrooms have the capability of contacting 911 while simultaneously alerting all administrators and support staff of the area of emergency. This allows more resources to react to an emergency even more quickly than in the past.

There are constant updates to door lock/door hardware, campus signage, campus lighting and many other areas related to security.

The final facet of our security plan is armed personnel. A second full-time armed officer was added for the 2022-23 school year to improve daily coverage for the Spring Hill campus. The board has approved a third full-time officer for the 2023-24 school year so that both campuses will have full coverage during the school day. These individuals are all long-time and former law enforcement officers who bring a positive influence to our campuses and provide another level of protection for our students and staff.

Mr. Jones states, "While this listing is not a complete and all-encompassing breakdown of everything we have done, I hope it shows the resources and effort the school has put into improving campus safety and security. Please rest assured that I am constantly evaluating our safety policies & procedures as well as all of the physical safety measures we have in place to ensure that we are meeting the current needs of the school."

As we move into a new school year, our administrative and security team will continue to discuss safety measures that are currently in place and those that need to be adjusted/added. We cannot effectively live out our mission without our students and faculty feeling safe and protected on our campus. Thank you to the parents and community members who have joined in the efforts by offering advice, concerns, and suggestions, and thanks for everyone playing a part in making CA a safe and wonderful environment for students.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPRING HILL CAMPUS

BY: NATHAN HIXSON, PRINCIPAL

Most school years have their certain levels of excitement, stressors and chaos... but, the 2022-23 school year in Spring Hill was one for the ages! TWO major enhancements took place that we were elated about - a 4,000+ square foot expansion / renovation AND the addition of 6th graders to our student body.

On April 25th, the dust began flying as four new classrooms would be added, our bathrooms would be renovated and we had a plan to get everyone under the same roof as our long-standing portable departed! After six months of diligent and thorough work by Brindley Construction, we moved in with a level of unmatched enthusiasm! Staff, faculty, Tuesday Crew members, parent volunteers and even students had a hand in getting things just right. A formal Ribbon Cutting with our community (Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce and Maury County Alliance) took place in the winter to celebrate and show off our brand new 2nd grade and 3rd grade classrooms along with our dedicated music room. Additionally, we now have an Art classroom that also serves as a STEM space too! This project was truly a blessing to our school and will serve our students beautifully for many years to come!

Another exciting change was the addition of sixth grade students to our campus. For years, families have inquired about the possibility of staying to complete their child's elementary years. For years, we've been intrigued by the prospect, but have been unable to grant such a wish... until THIS YEAR! With newly defined spaces, a cluster of adventurous teachers and dedicated families we were so happy to offer sixth grade to 12 students! Students that we were used to saying "good-bye" to for years were able to stay, and we thoroughly enjoyed sending them off as 'graduates' in the spring.

While it was a historic year for our Spring Hill campus with these grand events, it was also simply another great year for our school. Our teachers are some of the best around and while their teacher acumen is solid, their care for our students is unmatched. I couldn't be more thankful for the team and environment that's been created in Spring Hill.

May God continue to bless us as we strive to do His will.



BULLDOG ATHLETICS



SOFTBALL

The 2023 softball season was another successful one. The Lady Bulldogs won their 4th consecutive region championship and finished as the state runner-up, ending with a record of 31-9. This year's senior softball players: Chloe Carter, Kennedy Chatman and Tori Duval finished with a career record of 149-23, winning three state championships and one state runner-up.

BASKETBALL, GIRLS

The girls' basketball team won 18 games and advanced to the middle region quarterfinals for the second straight season. This year's team was led by five seniors, Anna Claire Butt, Kennedy Chatman, Jaelyn Hickerson, Madi Lewis and Molly McDonald. Kennedy and Madi were named all-district, and Madi broke the school record with 2106 career points.



SOCCER, GIRLS

The 2022 team made it to the second round of regional tournaments! The season's leading goals and assists were led by Anna Claire Butt with 16 goals and nine assists. They worked hard and have so much potential. "I hope that this coming season we can step up to the plate and out work our own expectations." - Coach Ellie Butterfield

CHEER

Our competition cheer teams finished their season at the National Cheerleading Championship in Disney World. Our elementary and junior high teams competed in the semifinal round. Our varsity team finished 13th in their last round of competition putting them 16th overall out of 91 teams in small varsity division 2. We are proud of each team and their success this season! Each team was a UCA regional winner this season!





VOLLEYBALL

The 2022 volleyball team finished with a record of 7 - 18 this season. Though we will miss our five tremendous seniors, Caroline Perry, Kennedy Chatman, Chloe Carter, Alise Moran, and Tori Duval, we are excited about the future of Columbia Academy volleyball. The 2022 team played seven games against teams across their district and middle Tennessee that either won the state or finished third in the state.



TENNIS, GIRLS

Our girls team was rebuilding this year after losing five seniors. We only had one returning player with a lot of experience. The girls worked hard all season and won some big matches! They finished the season with a record of 7-9.

BOWLING

The CA Bowling Bulldogs had a record setting season! They finished the regular season with an 8-2 record finishing runner-up in the regional tournament. CA had three bowlers finish in top 12 in season average for the region with Foster Isenberg finishing runner-up in region average and Mr. Bowler of the Year. The team enjoyed winning their very first state tournament team championship. CA also had 3 bowlers qualify for the individual state tournament (Foster Isenberg, Conner Butt, and Knox Ransom). Conner Butt was the first CA bowler to win an individual state tournament championship! The team later sent four bowlers (Knox Ransom, Beckett Ransom, Foster Isenberg and Frazier Isenberg) to compete in the Tennessee State Youth Bowling Tournament. The four finished second in the team event. Knox and Foster finished fifth in the doubles event. Beckett finished seventh and Frazier twentieth in the all events category in their division. Foster finished eighteenth in all events and Knox finished first place with an average of 227 in Division A all events! Great job, bowling!



GOLF

Both the boys and girls finished with winning records this year. Our seniors (Grant Wooldridge, Colby Kitchen, Conner Butt, Hardison Greene, Beau Truitt, & Bennett Thomason) all showed great leadership this year. Freshman Jay Coleman led our team with the lowest scoring average (41.4), followed by senior Bennett Thomason (43.11) and eighth grader Landry Simmons (43.86). Bennett also turned in the low round of the year with a 37. Our '23 boys' team will return four starters, and our girls' team will return all three.



CROSS COUNTRY

The 2022 Bulldogs high school team had another great season. The girls team were Maury County Champions for the third time in four years and the boys team won their fourth straight Maury County Championship. Josh Lofton was Maury County Champion and CJ Barr was Maury County runner-up. The girls placed third at regionals and earned their third straight trip to the state championship. Mackenzie Reames, Lillie Pearce, and Jaelyn Hickerson led the team and earned all-region honors while the boys team fell short placing fourth. Josh Lofton and CJ Barr earned all-region honors. At the state championship the girls finished fifth and Mackenzie Reames made the all-state team, and Josh Lofton made the all-state team for the boys.



BULLDOG ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

The Bulldogs made it to the DII-A playoffs for the 13th consecutive season, and finished the year with a 4-6 record. The senior class of Dane Bennett, Blake Gershkovich, Hayden Harrison, Ben Nicholson and Nathan Thomas laid a foundation that the Bulldogs will look to build on next year. With so many players coming back with experience, the 2023 campaign looks very promising.



BASEBALL

The 2023 baseball team finished with a 24-4 record. The team finished with a 12-2 record in our DII District 3-A and were co-district champions. CJ Durrrough, Andy Reed, Austin Grooms, and Gunner Skelton were named to the all-district team.



SOCCER, BOYS

The boys soccer team struggled during the first half of the season but built some momentum as the season progressed toward the playoffs. The team won an exciting district game at MTCS 1-0 with a goal in the final minute. The team also had a memorable 3-2 win over Lawrence County on senior night. They began the region tournament with a resounding 5-0 win over Mt. Juliet Christian before falling to USN in the second round.

TENNIS, BOYS

The boys team finished with a record of 14-6. They finished fourth in the district and fourth in the region. They made it to the state tournament where they finished in the top 12. Aaron Sullivan was district runner-up in singles and made it to the semi finals of the region tournament.



BASS FISHING

During their first full season, Andy Cofer and Knox Ransom fished four tournaments. The team qualified for the West Regional Championship! They also spent some time helping with a kids fishing day in Williamsport, Tennessee where they helped the children learn about the great sport of fishing! Another team is eager to join next year and both teams look forward to throwing out their lines and ripping more lips!





BASKETBALL, BOYS

In his inaugural season after longtime coach Marty Dejarnette stepped down to be the principal at CA's lowerschool, Jarrett Jones led the Bulldogs to 21-8 record. Led by senior leaders Gavin Morgan and Bennett Thomason the Bulldogs finished third in the district regular season standings and runner-up in the district tournament. The season ended with a loss to Clarksville Academy in first round of the regional tournament. Jeremy Jackson, Gabe Davenport, and Griffin Cooper made the all-district team while Jeremy Jackson and Andre McClellan made the district all-tournament team. The Bulldogs had a great season and are excited about next season.



TRACK AND FIELD, BOYS AND GIRLS

The boys team had their best season ever in 2023 with a back-to-back state championship by Griffin Cooper and second in the team points at the 2023 regionals. Griffin Cooper broke the CA high jump record with 6'8" jump. The boys' team of Montae Baldwin, Jeremy Jackson, Harrison Brownlee, and Jack Gordon broke the CA 4 x 200 record with a 1:32.17 mark and they also broke the 4 x 100 CA record with a 44.83. Montae Baldwin shattered the 200m CA record in 22.00 flat. The boys team finished second in the Middle Regional Championship with help from regional champions Griffin Cooper in the high jump and 110m hurdles, 4 x 200 champions of Montae Baldwin, Jeremy Jackson, Harrison Brownlee, and Jack Gordon, and regional runner-ups were CJ Barr in the 800m and 3200m and Griffin Cooper in the triple jump. All-region honors went to Jeremy Jackson, Jack Gordon, Harrison Brownlee, Montae Baldwin, Jake Ballard, Griffin Cooper, Connor Rosson, Ty Withrow, CJ Barr, Josh Lofton, Hutson Cofer, Thomas Gaines, Jayden Brooks, Luke Phillips, and Danny Douglas. **Along with winning his second state championship Griffin Cooper earned all-state honors in high jump, triple jump, 110m, and 300m events.** All-state honors were also earned by Connor Rosson in the triple jump, CJ Barr in 800m and 3200m, and Josh Lofton in the 3200m.

The 2023 season for the girls track and field teams saw another incredible year. The girls team saw Addison Morgan break the high jump record with a 4'8" jump, and Hannah Coil broke two records this year - first the triple jump mark with a 30'11-5" jump and long jump with a mark of 15'3". All-region team honors were earned by Addison Morgan, Hannah Coil, Presley Miller, Mackenzie Reames, Braelyn Henry, Lillie Pearce, Annyston Barker, Sara Ann Crichton, and Madi Lewis. The girls team finished 8th out of 15 in the region.



GUN DAWGS

The Gundawgs traveled to Sparta, Ill. to participate in the AIM Grand Nationals. Last year, they won the National Singles Champion title at this same event! This year, the team shot in five different events: sporting clays, skeet, double trap, extended yard line & singles trap. In the skeet category, Drew Wooldridge, Taylor Sims, Boone Pollard, and Bryan Downing worked together to place 2nd with a score of 375. Drew Wooldridge also placed 8th in individual placement with a score of 96. In singles trap, our junior group consisting of Katie Beth Brown, Will Card, Gregory Jones, Dillon Sieloff, and Grant Wooldridge brought home 1st place with a score of 946! Landon Hicks also brought home 1st place in individual placement! In HAA (High All Around in Trap Events), Landon Hicks was the Sub Junior Class C Runner-Up and Grant Wooldridge was the Junior Class D Runner-Up. Great job, Gundawgs!



BULLDOG ATHLETICS



SWIM

We had a record number of swimmers this year and are excited about the future of this program! Two of our swimmers, BlakeLea Jackson (7th) & Athena Loveall (6th) qualified and competed at the middle school championship meet.



MS SOCCER, GIRLS

The Lady Dawgs middle school soccer team finished their season with a 4-7 record. These young ladies grew in skill, confidence, toughness, and teamwork throughout their competitive season. The future is looking bright for Columbia Academy's girls soccer program.

MS BASKETBALL, GIRLS

We are proud of our middle school Lady Bulldogs basketball team. They fought hard this season against some great competition. They continue to grow and look forward to seeing what they will bring next year!



MS SOFTBALL

The 2023 middle school softball season was anchored by four very good veteran eighth grade players. We mixed that with a team full of sixth and seventh graders with less softball experience. It was a season of growth and hard work. The coaching staff cannot emphasize enough how proud we are of the team and the improvements we witnessed. We finished with a 4-5 regular season record.



MS VOLLEYBALL

The middle school volleyball team had a GREAT season! Our final record was 8-3, and we got second place in our tournament!! We are super proud of these girls!!



MS TENNIS

The middle school tennis team had an excellent season! Our team was made up of six boys and eight girls, many of whom were new to tennis. We won most of our matches and had such fun together! It's great to be a CA Dawg!



MS FOOTBALL

This season was one of the best experiences to be a part of not just due to the incredible achievements and record, but due to the amazing attitudes, efforts, and camaraderie among the players! They were so positive and supportive towards each other all season that it created an environment that promoted fun and personal growth! The team went 7-1 winning the regular season Maury County football league with a 5-0 league record. The team advanced to the championship game in the playoffs, but lost a hard fought championship game in overtime 14-12. Coach Nieves says that he is extremely proud of the team!



5TH-6TH FOOTBALL

The 5th-6th football team, although playing competition well above their level, was able to end the season on a two game winning streak. More importantly the kids were a team, and we had no on-field or off-field issues.

MS SOCCER, BOYS

The team was young this year, with only two eighth graders on the team. Although they struggled early in the season, each game got better and better. They ended the season on a high note with an exciting 1-0 win over EA Cox.



MS BASKETBALL, BOYS

The middle school boys basketball team had a very successful year, making it all the way to the semifinals of their end of the year tournament. The team, led by a group of eleven eighth graders, ended up with a record of 14-5 overall on the year. As for end of the year awards, Alex Heffington was voted the team MVP following being named to the James C. Haile all-tournament team after a very successful campaign, Wyatt Ayers was voted the Team Leader of the Year, and Landry Simmons was voted Best Teammate of the Year.





BULLDOG ATHLETICS

CA ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW HEAD COACHES



JARRETT JONES
Boys Basketball



KANDACE WITHROW
Girls Basketball



DANNY FORD
Softball



ELLIE BUTTERFIELD
Girls Soccer

PLAYING AT THE NEXT LEVEL



CHLOE CARTER
Softball
FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY



KENNEDY CHATMAN
Softball
CHATTANOOGA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



TORI DUVALL
Softball
TOWSON UNIVERSITY



MADI LEWIS
Basketball
WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE



FINE ARTS AT CA

This year the Columbia Academy Theatre Department took on three new productions. In the fall, a group of 16 students put on the hit comedy: *The Play That Goes Wrong*. This crazy take on a murder mystery included an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! This was the first time since the pandemic we have had the opportunity to bring back a fall play.

We raised the bar again in the spring taking on *Wizard of Oz*. This classic tale of Dorothy caught up in a tornado and whisked away to Oz was a technical and artistic challenge. The majority of the cast had never performed in a musical before. Our show had a cast of 134 2nd-12th graders split between two different casts including about 25 students from our Spring Hill Campus. It has been a goal of the department to bring Spring Hill into our theatre community, and we look forward to continuing that in the coming years. We had a record-breaking five sold out performances, 2,300 tickets sold, and nearly 100 volunteers that all came together in the Cherry Theatre at Columbia State Community College in March to put on the epic production.

Merely days after closing *Wizard of Oz*, students took to the stage again to begin working on a Middle School Production, *Alice in Wonderland*. It has been several years since we have had the opportunity to work with our middle schoolers, and they truly raised the bar. Twenty-four students in 6th-9th grade worked hard for seven short weeks to put on this magical production. This show gave our upper high school students a chance to take on leadership roles such as designers, managers, scenic and makeup artists. The future of CA theatre is bright with these students poised to take the reins in the coming years.



Chapel at Columbia Academy



The inspired psalmist has written:

*I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.*

*Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.*

*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.*

Psalm 145:1-3

These words carry more weight than mere ink on paper. These words are inspired by the living God and a reminder that we have a God-created desire to gather together to worship the God of our creation.

A kindergarten student can expect to attend somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,500 collective worship experiences at Columbia Academy prior to graduation. Chapel services grow with our students' needs both spiritually and developmentally.

In the lower school, students gather twice a week to worship together. Once for "Circle of Friends" and once for chapel. During chapel, parents are often seen seated amongst students or in chairs around the perimeter of the room, fostering the Christian environment that makes CA so special. During "Circle of Friends," songs of praise to God are led by teachers, coaches, the principal, or other students. Chapel includes the pledge of allegiance followed by singing and a Bible lesson. Male students are encouraged to step up and lead certain

aspects of worship including prayers and songs. Occasionally, chapel for the lower school students entails school-wide service alongside upperclassmen, or small groups based on age and/or gender.

In the upper school, daily chapel is one of the most important times of the day to students. They truly enjoy the break from academic subjects, tests, and homework to gather together to focus on what is most important. Over a two week period, chapel takes on multiple different forms in an effort to engage students with other peers and staff members, as well as foster leadership skills.

Every other Monday is a "normal" chapel service based in the auditorium for a church-like experience which includes: singing, Bible reading, prayer, and a speaker consisting of faculty members, local ministers, or other students. Each other Monday is a "Choice Chapel" day where students pick from a menu of ten or more topics and speakers that most interest him or her. Some of this year's topics included: The Fruit of the Spirit, Faithful Prayer, the Psalms, The 10 Commandments, and the Building Blocks of Faith. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with adults that are not their assigned teachers. Coaches and administrators have also been known to join in and offer a "choice chapel."

Tuesdays are spent in short chapel devotionals allowing for organizations and teams to meet with students during school hours as opposed to prolonging their day after classes.

Wednesdays are often "Split Chapel" led by senior students in separate male and female assemblies. These chapels provide unique times to focus on topics more relevant to each gender.

On Thursdays, students meet in small groups that are divided by middle and high school grade levels. The older groups are student-led and consist of 14-16 students alongside an overseeing staff member. Small groups are designed to provide leadership opportunities for older students, who are encouraged to lead the predetermined study and critical thinking questions provided by the Director of Spiritual



Development prior to meeting. These groups also travel together on service projects throughout the year to foster mentor/mentee relationships among different grade-levels that are rooted in serving God and others.

Finally, on Friday, upper school students love to close out the week by turning off the lights in the auditorium and singing songs of praises to God. After years of doing this once a week, this service remains the favorite of the students. It is overwhelmingly beautiful to hear

hundreds of teen voices united together to sing simple songs of praise to our God.

After attending 1,500 of these services, chapel remains something our graduates miss and our younger students anticipate. If you are ever on campus during chapel time, drop in and experience the incredible gift that God has given us in worshipping Him together.



Top left: A girls small group volunteering at the Nashville Rescue mission where they spent the day sorting clothes and serving food.
 Top right: School-wide chapel in the old gym;
 Above left: Lower school Circle of Friends
 Above middle: A boys small group visiting with an elderly couple
 Above right: Chapel at the Spring Hill campus

SNAPSHOTS



Cheerleaders visit Graymora Tues-Thurs School



8th grade trip to Washington, DC



Elf on the...CA sign



100th day of school



Spring Hill campus Tuesday Crew



C.A.R.E. Banquet



Tuesday Crew



2nd grade playing with butterflies



Field day fun



Preschool pajama day



1st grade Adventure Science Center trip



Growing herbs in environmental science



4th grade poetry cafe



Pig dissection



Columbia Fire Department visits the preschool



4th grade chain reaction machines



Thanksgiving fun



2nd graders visit CMA Museum



Ms. Wisdom's pancake art



50th day of school



Last day of school fun



Trike day



Halloween at Spring Hill campus



TENTH STRAIGHT YEAR OF RECORD ENROLLMENT

The 2022-23 school year marks our TENTH consecutive year of record enrollment!! There were 1,154 Bulldogs between the Spring Hill and Columbia campus this year. Both campuses are also individually celebrating record enrollment for multiple consecutive years!

We are so grateful for our teachers and staff who make Columbia Academy the school that it is. We want to highlight our wonderful Admissions team who made this happen:

Lauren McDonald (left) served as the Preschool Director and handled all of the admissions for our smallest Bulldogs.

Cindy Zientak (middle) is our Director of Admissions. She works tirelessly to give tours and help new families through the onboarding process.

Amberly Kaylor (right) is our former Spring Hill admissions coordinator, but now she holds the title of Assistant Director of Admissions.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

RICHIE ESTEP ('93)

As a student, Richie was an outstanding member of the Bulldog baseball, basketball, and football teams; as a CA student-athlete, his accolades were many including graduating near the top of his class academically and being named the 1992 Mid-State Baseball Player of the Year.

One faculty member stated about him: "He was a student of mine and an excellent athlete. He was always a hard worker and has proven himself to be a fine man. He pushes his students to excel. I'm proud to have him as a colleague and a friend." - Dr. Barry Farris

Richie received an athletic scholarship for baseball to Lipscomb University where he participated in four years of collegiate baseball—playing right field, first base, and pitcher. He was named Honorable Mention All-American in 1997. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a major in math and a minor in computer science.

Richie's coaching and math teaching career began at Goodpasture Christian School where his teams won 4 state championship titles in 14 years, and he was named TN coach of the year four times.

In 2013, he was a part of the inaugural class inducted into the Dr. Bill Thrasher Columbia Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2014, he returned to his alma mater as the CA Head Baseball Coach, teaching Algebra II and Algebra II Advanced. Additionally, he joined the 2022 Bulldog football staff as an assistant coach.

The CA Bulldog Baseball Team captured the 2018 Class A State Championship in an instant classic, 1-0 twelve inning game with Coach Estep once again receiving the TSSAA and the TBCA Class A Coach of the Year Award. He has 655 total wins in his overall record and has been involved in 7 state championship titles as a coach.

In an interview with Maurice Patton for the Daily Herald in 2020, Coach Estep said, "When the CA baseball job came open, I thought, I'd like to try to do something special here. I had good memories all



the way through as a student and player to win a state championship where you went to school, it's something special. I'm very grateful."

Dr. Thomas stated, "Coach Estep is known for challenging his math students and his baseball players to be their best. His expectations are high of himself and others, and he strives for excellence in everything. He works to build relationships with his students and players and shows them how to be successful in life. He is a dedicated Christian, husband, father, teacher and coach, in that order, and he is a deserving recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award."

Richie Estep is a member of the class of 1993. He is the son of Steve and Donna Estep. He has two brothers, Chad and Seth. Richie is married to Collette, and they have two children: Isabella a 2023 graduate, and Cooper a 10th grader at CA. He is a member of the West 7th Street church of Christ.

HOMECOMING 2022



1



2



3



4

1. Homecoming Court: (L-R) 9th grader Lucy Pink Carnahan, 11th grader MJ Harakas, 12th grader Ella Daniels, 12th grader Jaelyn Hickerson (Queen), 12th grader Anna Claire Butt, 10th grader Anna Brewer, 8th grader Kennedy Jones, 7th Grader Charley Rae Hutchinson

**Homecoming Queen -
Jaelyn Hickerson**

Jaelyn was a basketball player and cross country team captain. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Best Buddies Club, Spanish Club, Interact Club, and a student ambassador. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Jessica of Culleoka, Tenn.

- 2. Our Dawgs brought home an impressive win against Mount Juliet Christian with a final score of 51-8.
- 3. The band took the field at halftime!
- 4. Football players take the field.
- 5. Cheerleaders keep the crowd excited as they cheer on the Dawgs!
- 6. Kindergarten boys lead the football team through the student tunnel and onto the field as the game begins!
- 7. Presentation of the Kindergarten girls.



5



6



7

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

2022 FACULTY AND STAFF APPRECIATION



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Shelly Hedgepath

Shelly Hedgepath is a valued member of Columbia Academy, especially at the Spring Hill campus, where she serves as a Head Room Mom and involved parent. As a head room mom, Shelly meets with and recruits other parents to be involved in school events and activities. She provides guidance and suggestions for class parties and keeps everyone organized and on budget, ensuring that the events run smoothly. She also provides meals for teachers on conference days and spoils them during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Shelly is also involved in coordinating other school events such as Field Day, Spring Fling, DAWGFEST and the annual C.A.R.E. dinner. In addition, she is a coach for the Spring Hill campus's Cross Country team. Her love for the school is evident to all who know her!



VOLUNTEER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Matt and Laura Sowell

Matt and Laura have a long-standing connection to Columbia Academy as both alumni and parents of four children, including one graduate and three current students.

Laura Sowell has been a dedicated room mom and supporter of our theatre program for several years, working behind the scenes to ensure the success of our productions. She transformed her home into a costume factory to help create the stunning wardrobe for the *Wizard of Oz* and supervised backstage operations for nearly every performance.

Matt shares Laura's commitment to our school. He has played an active role in promoting Columbia Academy and has volunteered backstage for our theatre program. He has also served on the President's Advisory Committee, providing valuable insights and guidance.



STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Terry Stafford

Terry is a skilled and dedicated servant, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation and appearance of our school. His commitment was evident when he responded to a water leak on campus at 11:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, working through the night and into the early morning hours to address the issue.

Terry's talent and skills have been used on projects across our campus, including framing new classrooms and building cabinets. He was an integral part of converting our older classrooms in Vest Hall and to our efforts to improve and modernize our facilities.

We are deeply grateful for Terry's steadfast commitment to our school, making sure we have a safe, comfortable, and productive learning environment. His tireless efforts are a testament to his exceptional work ethic and his commitment to our mission and values.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



UPPER SCHOOL
Richie Estep



LOWER SCHOOL
Kathryn Phillips



PRESCHOOL
Cindy Pearce



SPRING HILL
Carol Stout

SERVICE AWARDS

40 YEARS



Shirley Pogue

35 YEARS



Ben Diles

20 YEARS



Larry Pogue

15 YEARS



(L-R) Tammy Nicholson, Heather Diles, Jon Bennett, Kyla Harris, Dr. James Thomas

10 YEARS



(L-R) Sena McGinn, Jamie Hubbell, Andrea Love

5 YEARS



(L-R) Back Row: Mark-Aaron Hilliard, Robert Lawrence, Bryce Davidson, Dr. Clint Pulse, Russell Smith
Front Row: Lori Krueger, Nora Graham, Katie Davidson, Cindy Pearce

DUNCAN FELLOW



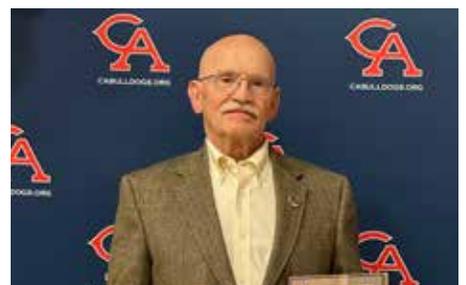
Bryce Davidson

GLENN HULEN AWARD



Jacob Love, Beth Foster, Vickie Cofer

TUESDAY CREW MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Joe Roberson

NEW LEADERSHIP



UPPER SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL- BRYCE DAVIDSON

Bryce Davidson will take over the new upper school assistant principal position over the 7-9th graders. Jarrett Jones will continue as the upper school assistant principal over the 10-12th graders. This split will help both men to focus more on giving each grade level the attention it needs. Bryce is a former upper school Bible Teacher. He will continue his work with our football team as a varsity football assistant coach. He is married to our elementary art teacher, Katie Davidson, and they have three children: Rhodes (Jr. K), Sarah Dell (Pre-K), and baby Blair. He is set to finish his doctorate degree at the end of this year, and we are thrilled that he is continuing in his education career at Columbia Academy!

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR- APRIL DAVIS

April has been with Columbia Academy for nine consecutive years. While a college student, she helped with the extended and summer care programs. We are so glad that she returned nine years ago to our Spring Hill campus where she worked as an elementary teacher before being transferred to the Columbia campus preschool, which she claims to be her “passion and love.” Two years ago she was promoted to Preschool Assistant Director and this year will be taking over as the Preschool Director. With her husband Scott, she has three daughters: Anna-Kate, Hannah-Jane, and Emmy FaeFawn, all of whom attend CA. In 2021, she was named the Preschool Teacher of the Year, proving her passion and love for her students. We are so glad to have April stepping up as Preschool Director this year!



LOWER SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL- LINDSEY BAILEY

Lindsey Bailey is a former interim fourth grade math teacher and second grade teacher in our lower school. Beginning in August, she will take over as the lower school assistant principal, a position that our Director of Academics has temporarily been filling. Lindsey is a great fit for this position, not only because of her experience at CA, but also due to her experience in other educational departments including: special education, 4th grade, Reading RTI, Assistant Principal, and the Tennessee Department of Education (Testing Development and Data Department). She has two children with her husband Scott, both of whom attend CA: Knox (7th grade) and Sloan (5th grade). Lindsey also helps with our Gun Dawgs team. We are excited to have her on board as she takes on this new role. We know she will do a great job!





CA CONTINUES WITH STRONG GROWTH TREND

It's a great time to be at Columbia Academy! We've been experiencing a period of tremendous growth lately, with more and more families seeking out Christian education for their children. It's been amazing to witness the blessings pouring in, and we're so grateful for each and every one.

Our growth has brought some challenges, though. We've outgrown many of our buildings and need more space to continue providing the best possible education for our students. That's why we launched the Building in Faith Campaign! With your help, we've already accomplished so much, including adding four classrooms at our Spring Hill campus and expanding five classrooms and adding four new classrooms and a music room at Vest Hall. We even had some fun ribbon-cutting ceremonies to celebrate!

We're incredibly grateful to the generous donors who have contributed to the Building in Faith Campaign, which has raised an impressive \$3.3 million in pledges and gifts so far. And thanks to the Columbia

Academy Reaching Everyone (C.A.R.E.) fundraising banquet, we've been able to add even more funds to support our ongoing expansion efforts.

We're excited to move forward with the next phase of our campus expansion plans, which includes building a new preschool building, restoring the upper two floors of Academy Hall, renovating the Business Office into an academic resource center for upper school students, and overhauling our tennis court facility.

We could not do any of this without amazing supporters like you! Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of our students and help us to fulfill our mission of providing top-quality Christian education. We hope you will consider becoming fully invested in the Building in Faith Campaign and helping us to continue making a positive impact on the lives of countless children. Thanks for being ALL IN - we could not do it without you!



ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 1992



Rebecca (Williams) Hughes, a former 20-year educator in Maury County Public Schools, has been with 95 Percent Group, llc. for the past four years. Rebecca is the Regional Account Executive for Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Rebecca has received numerous awards including: Top Seller of Professional Learning, Exceeding Company Goals, as well as the lead cross-seller for a quarter in 2023. Rebecca and Eric (Principal of Mt. Pleasant High School) have 3 sons: Linton Alexander Hughes, age 22, and twins, Hardin Isaac Hughes and Bennett Locke Hughes, age 17.

CLASS OF 2001

Allan Trevor Kirk has been named one of Texas' Rising Stars and Super Lawyers of Energy and Natural Resources, Gas and Oil. He is currently a partner in Kirkland and Ellis Law Firm of Houston, Texas. He is the son of Jerry and Dianne Kirk of Columbia.

CLASS OF 2005



Austin Davidson and wife, Molly, had twin sons on April 4, 2023 named Alvin Roger and Ellis Randall. They also have daughters, Nola and Dollie. The two reside in Knoxville where Austin is an orthopedic surgeon with the Knoxville Orthopedic Clinic.

CLASS OF 2008



Shelby (Burchell) Tietgens and husband Eric Tietgens welcomed son TK Tietgens in August of 2022. Bonnie, born in September of 2020, is a proud big sister and current preschool Bulldog.

CLASS OF 2009



Bryce Davidson welcomed third child, Blair McClain Davidson, with wife, Katie, on July 15, 2022. Rhodes and Sarah Dell are the proud brother and sister.



Mary Burton (Bedwell) and David Fields announce the birth of their daughter, Hattie Anne, on April 23rd, 2023.



Allen Foster joined the cast of "Farmer Wants a Wife," a popular new reality series featuring eligible bachelors in the farming world on the journey to find love.

CLASS OF 2012



Braden Davidson and wife Kristen, welcomed a baby girl named Merritt Katherine on May 16. They also have a daughter Margaux. They live in Nashville where Braden is a partner with Healing Innovations, a tech upstart company specializing in exercise equipment for patients with spinal injuries.



Tyler Garrison and Meg (Rushing) were married in November of 2021. They are parents to a baby girl, Mirryn Eleanor, born November 10, 2022. They have recently moved back to Columbia to start their family. Tyler is employed with Preventia Security, and Meg is a lifestyle photographer.



Christian Shrader and wife, Leah, welcomed their second child, Harper James on January 21, 2023. Beau is the proud big brother.

CLASS OF 2013



Abby Kinnard married Noah Bledsoe on January 28, 2023. They reside in Chattanooga, TN where Noah is an attorney and Abby is an accountant.

CLASS OF 2015



JaiLe (Gillespie) Hunt and husband, Jalen, welcomed a healthy baby boy named Kylan on April 11, 2023.



Kelsey Rooker welcomed her daughter 6 weeks early on April 13, 2023 weighing 4lbs 12.5oz and 17.5 inches long.



Maria (Cofer) Williams welcomed her first child, Lucy, with husband Jacob on April 7th. Maria was a sixth grade teacher at Columbia Academy.

CLASS OF 2016



Thomas Garrison and Sydney (Boyd) were married on August 26, 2022. They currently live in Etowah, Tenn. where Thomas is a civil engineer and estimator with Haren Construction, and Sydney is a wedding and lifestyle photographer.



McKenna (Shrader) Taylor welcomed son Maverick Mason with husband Jordan on October 25, 2022.



Taylor Thompson graduated with a Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University in August 2022. He is currently employed as a Commodity Analytics Manager with Restaurant Supply Chain Solutions in Louisville KY. He married Lillian Boyd on May 20, 2023.

CLASS OF 2017



Logan Neal graduated from the University of Tennessee Martin with a masters degree in Agricultural Business Financial Risk Management in May of 2023. He accepted a position with Zoetis Inc. as their Territory Business Manager for beef in Kentucky and Tennessee. He married Lakelin Prentice on June 3, 2023.



Cassidy Shrader married Hunter Hodge on June 16, 2023.

CLASS OF 2018

Parker Harrelson is pursuing his Masters of Computer Science at University of Tennessee Knoxville.



Ragan Chaney ('18) and **Blake Mastalerz** ('16) received their white coats in August of 2022. They are set to graduate from the University of Tennessee Medical School in 2026.



Walker Galbraith and Mimzi Cooper ('18) tied the knot in November of 2022.



Grace Gerlach graduated from Samford University with a B.S. in nursing. She is now employed with the University of Alabama at Birmingham Research Hospital in the surgical intensive care unit.



Ben Thompson married Hallie Bull in July 2022. He is currently employed as a Project Manager and Business Analyst with Lincoln Financial Group. He has been at Lincoln since graduating with a Bachelor's degree from Harding University in May 2022. He and Hallie live in Little Rock, Arkansas.

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 2019



Dawson Carter graduated from Freed-Hardeman University, December 10, 2022. In 3.5 years, he earned his BA in Business Analytics and MBA - Master of Business Administration. He is employed by Wiremasters in Columbia.

For alumni with new babies, please include a mailing address to receive a complimentary “The Tiniest Bulldog Onesie”.



CLASS OF 2020



Victoria Karkau graduated from Harding University after three years with a double major in education and leadership and ministry. She is living in Searcy, Arkansas with her husband Jace. She will begin graduate school in the fall.

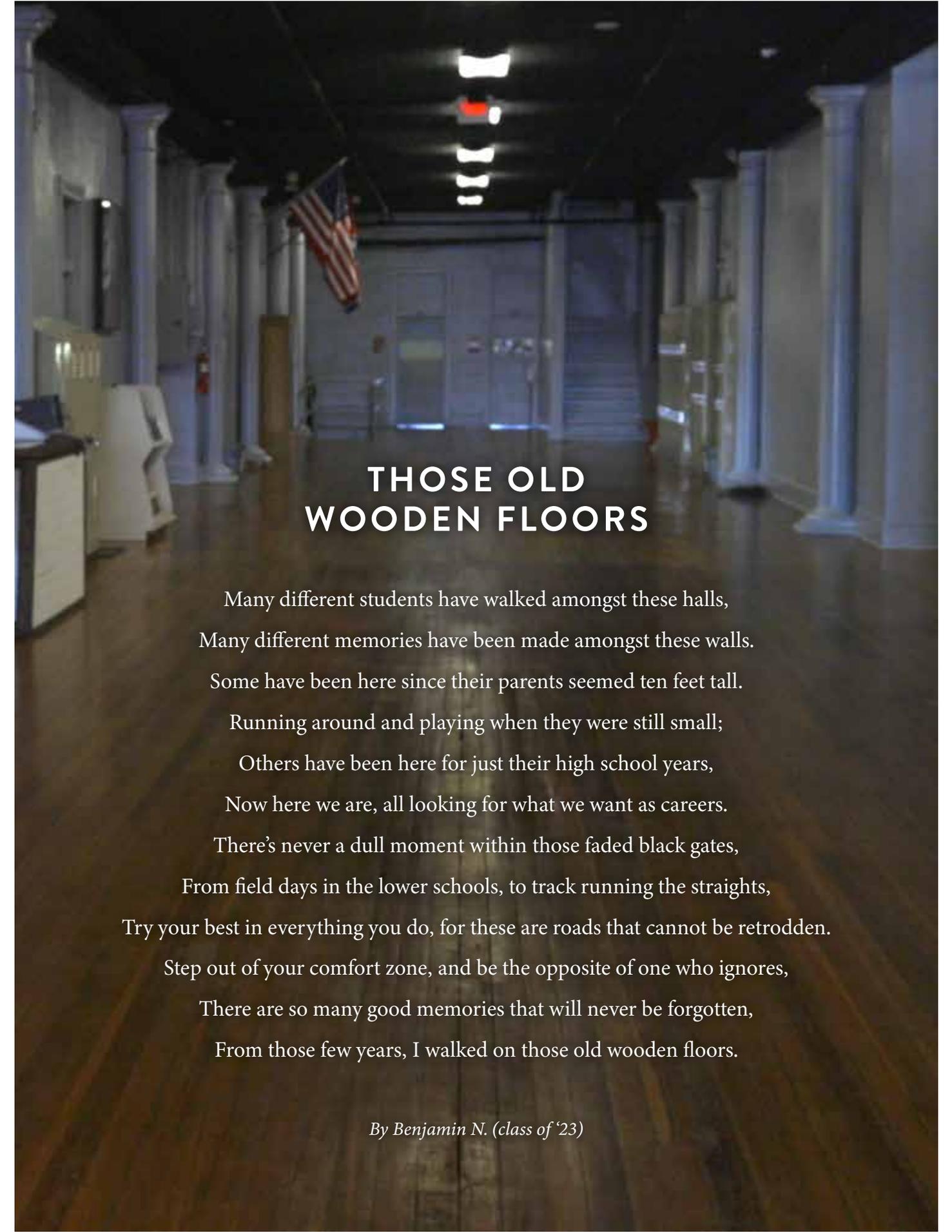
IN MEMORIAM



Grayson Carol Mabry ('86)
December 11, 1967 - March 11, 2023

Please send all alumni updates to alumni@cabulldogs.org.





THOSE OLD WOODEN FLOORS

Many different students have walked amongst these halls,
Many different memories have been made amongst these walls.
Some have been here since their parents seemed ten feet tall.
Running around and playing when they were still small;
Others have been here for just their high school years,
Now here we are, all looking for what we want as careers.
There's never a dull moment within those faded black gates,
From field days in the lower schools, to track running the straights,
Try your best in everything you do, for these are roads that cannot be retrodden.
Step out of your comfort zone, and be the opposite of one who ignores,
There are so many good memories that will never be forgotten,
From those few years, I walked on those old wooden floors.

By Benjamin N. (class of '23)

COLUMBIA ACADEMY ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

Columbia Academy is truly blessed with generous supporters like you. During the 2022-23 school year, you came through in a huge way. Thank you for sharing the blessings that God has given your family to make a lasting impact on our school and our students.

Because we do not receive government funding, we rely solely on our supporters to help us fulfill our mission. While we will never achieve perfection, we are grateful to our supporters who understand our mission and love our school. Generous donors enable us to focus on teaching our students about Jesus and how to be more like him every day. Thank you to our families and supporters who helped us this year. Thank you for believing in and showing your support for the important work we do at Columbia Academy.

Your support of Columbia Academy allows us to continue to fulfill our mission:

- Our students are led by dedicated Christians inside and outside the classroom.
- Our students attend a Bible class daily.
- Our students have multiple opportunities to worship the Lord each week.
- Our students are equipped academically and spiritually so they can be successful in all aspects of their lives.

As we begin our 44th school year, we trust that God will continue to bless us as we honor Him and serve our young people and their families. Thank you again for your investment in Columbia Academy. We ask for you to continually keep CA in your prayers. The following Annual Giving Report is for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2023.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Since December 1984, families have invested in the future of Columbia Academy by establishing endowments or supporting endowments by giving to them. The intent is for the principal to remain for perpetuity with only the growth and interest gained to be used for current needs.

Most of Columbia Academy's endowed funds were created to provide need-based financial assistance for students. Thank you to the many generous donors who have helped grow the CA endowment, knowing that these funds will continually serve to provide needy students with an opportunity to learn in a Christian environment.

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Established January 1990

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Established January 1993

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Established February 1996

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Established January 1997

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Established May 1997

Thomas R. and Judith B. Duncan Endowment
Established June 1998

Higginbotham-Hardison Scholarship Endowment
Established January 2003

Mary Helen McMeen Endowment
Established February 2006

Kenneth and Ramona Cherry Endowment
Established April 2006

Frances Jackson Cranford Scholarship Endowment
Established April 2006

John and Frances Fitzgerald Endowment
Established May 2006

The Glen H. Stevenson Family and Staff Educational Endowment
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James D. and Willa Frances Williams Endowment
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Grace and Hyman Frank Endowment
Established December 2010

David Pilkinton Endowment
Established April 2011

The Tuesday Crew Endowment
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Established July 2012

Graymere / Sue May Endowment
Established December 2012

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Established December 2012

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Established March 2013

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CMA Alumni Endowment
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2023/2024 CALENDAR

September

- 4 Labor Day - *No School*
- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences -
No School
- 22 Homecoming

October

- 6 Grandparents' Day - *Early Dismissal*
- 9-13 *Fall Break*

November

- 6 Teacher Inservice - *No School*
- 20-24 *Thanksgiving Break*

December

- 15 *Half Day of School*
- 18-29 *Christmas Break*

January

- 1 *Christmas Break*
- 2-3 Teacher Inservice - *No School*
- 15 MLK Jr. Day - *No School*

February

- 2 CARE Dinner
- 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences -
No School
- 29 Presidents' Day - *No School*

March

- 21 Appreciation Dinner
- 25-29 *Spring Break*

April

- 1-5 *Spring Break*
- 18 Academic Banquet
- 19 Junior/Senior Banquet

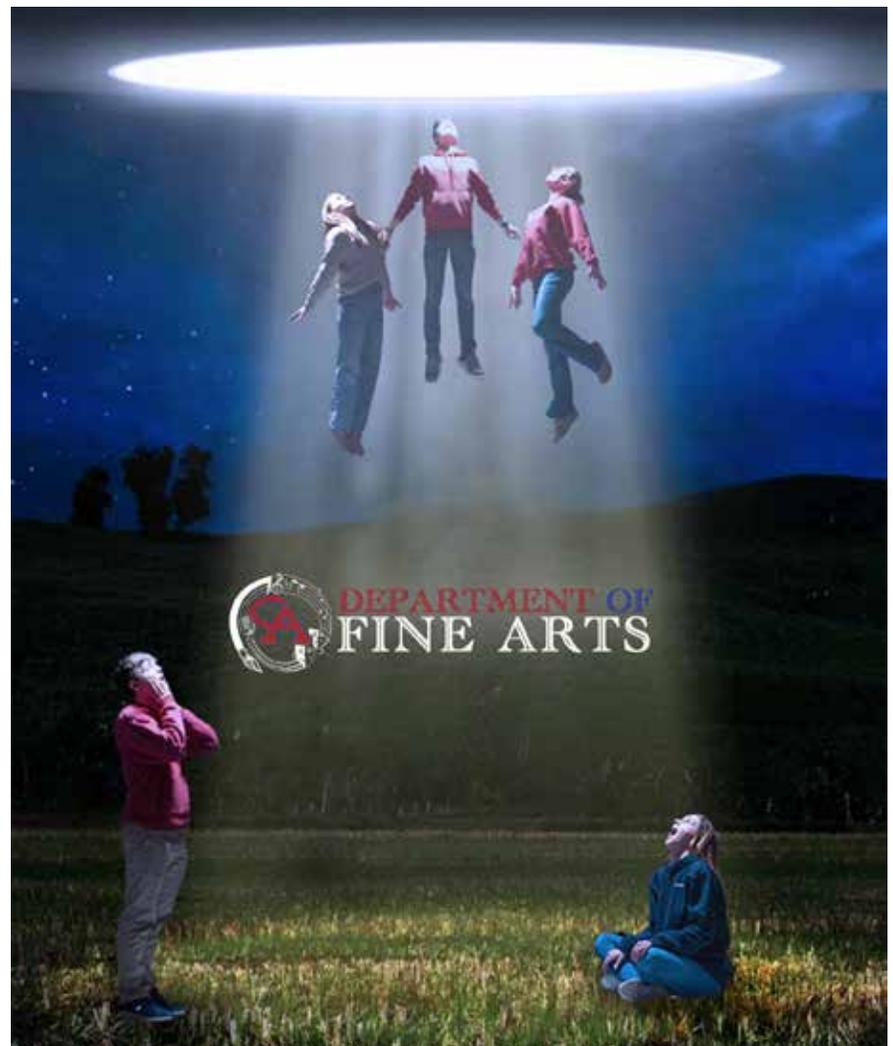
May

- 18 Graduation
- 23 Last Day of School - *Early Dismissal*

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