

COLUMBIA ACADEMY

COMMUNICATOR

Forty-Fifth Year | Volume 27 | 2024



CHAMPIONS!
TRACK & FIELD, CROSS
COUNTRY AND BASEBALL
WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

BENNETT NAMED TSSAA '23
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

FROM THE PRESIDENT



“REJOICE IN THE LORD
ALWAYS, AND AGAIN I
WILL SAY IT, REJOICE!”
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

What is it that makes a school? Is it buildings, classrooms, and hallways, or is it something else? I often tell prospective families that although we are blessed with one of the most beautiful campuses anywhere, it is the people that really make up a school.

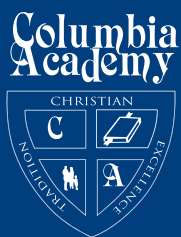
Columbia Academy is a special place because of the people that are part of it. People like my 5th grade teacher, Julie Thomason, who this year celebrated her 40th year teaching 5th grade at CA. I remember her as someone who made learning fun and who cared about us. Miss Thomason’s lifelong dedication to students and to serving young people is rare. She is worthy of recognition and honor (photo, page 27).

A school made up of dedicated faculty and staff makes a wonderful environment. CA is not a perfect place, but it is a place where learning and growth happen every day. Like a farmer preparing the soil, we work hard daily to create the ideal environment for student growth. A big part of that is providing love for our students. That love is shown in many different ways, including correction, encouragement, coaching, discipline, support, a listening ear, and extra help when needed.

In this issue of the “Communicator,” you will learn about some of the exciting things that happened this school year, including an incredible musical production (“Newsies”), a four-time state champion (Griffin Cooper on the cover), and another baseball state championship. Students served across the city and across the world, and alumni continued to excel in their fields.

The theme verse for 2023-24 (above) was about rejoicing in the Lord. We tried to communicate to all our students, big and small, that God’s work in this world and in our lives gives all of us something for which to rejoice. Will you join me in giving thanks for God’s blessings on Columbia Academy, our students, and staff? Please continue to pray for the work here as we strive to make an eternal difference in the lives of our students. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Communicator.

James A. Thomas, Ed.D.
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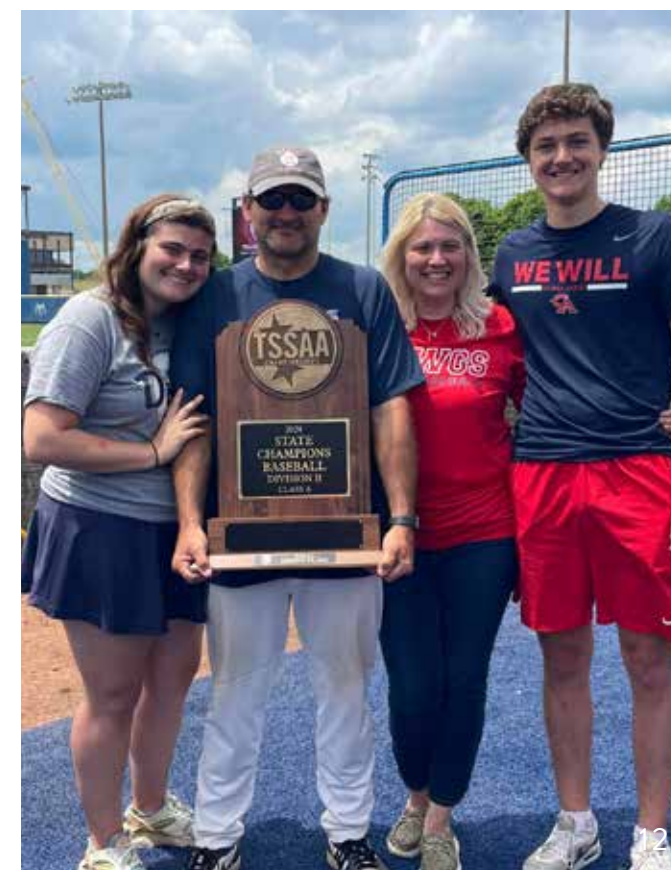
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CA STUDENTS & STAFF SHINE BRIGHT

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY INDUCTION



Front Row: Finley Skelton, Anne Claire Hubbell, Macy Overall, Kelsey Cordero, Rebecca Goodwin, Hannah Coil, Macy Alsup, Sarah Elizabeth Hight, Mikayla Worley, Emma Walker, Emma Liggett; Second Row: Ally Ballard, Emily Diles, Elizabeth Gaines, Amelia Briceno, Knox Love; Third Row: Anna Brewer, Andrew Thomas, Rudy Cothran, Annyston Barker, Abigail Schwartz, Sofie Millikan, Carolina Johnson, Jordan Harrison, Presley Miller, Addison Morgan, Hayes Lewis, Nathan Hutto; Fourth Row: Addison Thomas, Sofi SanMiguel, Charlotte Henry, Braelyn Henry, Anna Kate Cofer, Katie Beth Brown, Will Sowell; Fifth Row: Cade Jackson, Jacob Hill, Rhett Dupree, Seth Hulen, Jack Gordon, Chandler Butt; Back Row: Micah Carroll, Gregory Jones, Noah Love, Will Rhodes, Gavin Poche, Mac Jackson, Blake Barker

On Wednesday, May 1, 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

TSSAA 2023 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our upper school principal, Jon Bennett, on being named the TSSAA 2023 Principal of the Year!

Jon is serving his 16th year at Columbia Academy as the upper school principal. While at CA he has served as the bowling coach, assistant junior high baseball coach, interim athletic director, and bus driver for multiple sports teams. Jon was also recognized as the Columbia Academy Staff Member of the Year in 2018.

During his 22 years as a high school principal, his sports program has won 20 team and individual State Championships. He is often seen on the sidelines at sporting events cheering on the Dawgs.

Thank you for your service to our school, Mr. Bennett!



ACADEMIC AWARDS



Summa Cum Laude: Front Row: Celia Capaldi, Emma Walker, Macy Alsup, Sarah Elizabeth Hight, Mikayla Worley, Finley Skelton, Micah Carroll; Second Row: Anna-Kate Davis, Emily Diles, Macy Overall, Kelsey Cordero, Addison Morgan, Ally Ballard, Emma Liggett; Third Row: Addyson Codling, Anne Claire Hubbell, Elizabeth Gaines, Amelia Briceno, Maleah Marable, Will Sowell, Ruhan Patel, Hayes Lewis; Fourth Row: Ian Million, Cade Jackson, Knox Love, Connor Rosson, Max Duncan, Parker Shirley, Nathan Hutto; Back Row: Rhett Dupree, Griffin Cooper, Jacob Hill, Ryan Bernath



Magna Cum Laude: Front Row: Bryden Davenport, Bella Davenport, Margaret Adams, Kaitlyn Cathey, Brylee Cole; Back Row: Preston Bolton, Jordan Brake, Caleb Oakley, Andy Reed, C.J. Durrrough



Cum Laude: Brady McDonald and M.J. Harakas

CA CLASS OF '24

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN



Representing the Columbia Academy Senior Class of 2024, the Valedictorian is **Hayes Lewis**, son of Chris and Laynee Lewis of Columbia. The Salutatorian is **Emily Diles**, daughter of Ben and Heather Diles of Hampshire.

Hayes Lewis has been a student at CA for 8 years. He is the President of the Science Club, the Vice President of the National Honor Society,

and the Treasurer of the Beta Club. He is a member of the ACT 30+ Club, the REACH Academically Advanced program, and Best Buddies. He is a recipient of the Carl Pierson Scholar Athlete Award. He is a member of the CA tennis team and qualified for the state tournament this spring. Hayes has also served many of the students at Brown Elementary School each week for the past 6 years by providing bags of food for them. He will attend Lipscomb University in the fall where he plans to major in Business and Biology.

Emily Diles has been a student at CA for 15 years. She has been actively involved in several organizations on campus such as the ACT 30+ Club, Best Buddies, Interact Club, Pep Club, Science Club, and REACH. She has served as a member of the National Honor Society, Youth Leadership Maury, and Columbia Mayor's Youth Council. She was a part of the track team as a sprinter and long jumper. Emily has played on the soccer team where she served as team captain and accountability group leader. As a result of her time with the soccer team, she won awards such as Most Christian Character, Best Offensive Player, and the Bulldog Award. She was named Top Scholar in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. She will attend Harding University in the fall where she will double major in Interior Architecture and Design and Theological Studies. She has accepted the Carl Pierson Scholar Female Athlete award, the David Davidson Award, and the Rotary Danny Lasater Scholarship.

COLUMBIA MILITARY ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

Preston Bolton is the son of Nathan Bolton and Angela Crutcher. He has attended Columbia Academy for 9 years and graduated as a magna cum laude honor graduate. He is the grandson of Ray Holcomb, a 1973 Columbia Military Academy graduate, and the great nephew of Hal Holcomb, a 1970 Columbia Military Academy graduate.

Preston is an active member of the Berea Church of Christ and will be attending Freed-Hardeman University in the fall, majoring in Finance. He is a recipient of the E-Sports Scholarship from Freed-Hardeman.



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 **Rhett Dupree**, son of Rob and Leslie Curtis and Matt Dupree. He has been a student at CA for 10 years. Dupree has been active in organizations such as Best Buddies, National Honors Society, Science Club, the theater department, and the Mock Trial Team. He currently serves as the Senior Class President, a Student Ambassador, split chapel leader, small group leader, and Maury County Special Olympics Volunteer. Rhett is an active member of the golf team and the President of the Pep Club. He was awarded the Best Male Performance in a Lead Role for his performance in Columbia Academy's production of Wizard of Oz. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in the fall where he accepted the Distinguished Tennessean Scholarship. Rhett will study business management through the Haslam College of Business Administration Exploratory Program and will minor in broadcasting.

Miss CA is **Ally Ballard**, daughter of Scott and Malaika Ballard. She has been a student at CA for 5 years. She has participated as a member of the Beta Club, National Honors Society, Best Buddies, Interact Club, Pep Club, and the theater department. She has served as a small group leader, girls' chapel leader, Bulldogs United Committee Member, Co-President of the Secret Sister program, and captain of the girls' basketball team. Her achievements include All A's Honor Roll and Girl's State Nominee. She will be attending Freed-Hardeman University in the fall, majoring in secondary education.

COLUMBIA ACADEMY

CLASS OF 2024 STATISTICS

- 97%

OFFERED A SCHOLARSHIP
- 32

HIGHEST ACT COMPOSITE SCORE WITH 23 BEING THE AVERAGE
- 76%

ENROLLED IN A DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE
- HOURS COMPLETED
- 6,990 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPLETED
- 708 HOURS OF COLLEGE CREDITS COMPLETED
- SCHOLARSHIPS
- \$6,167,000 IN TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP MONEY OFFERED TO THE 63 SENIORS THAT MADE UP THE CLASS OF 2024
- 3 ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Learn more about Columbia Academy at cabulldogs.org

TWO STUDENTS HONORED AS UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE DISTINGUISHED TENNESSEAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We are honored to have had two graduating seniors receive the prestigious Distinguished Tennessean Scholarship from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Congratulations to Rhett Dupree (above right), the Giles County recipient, and Knox Love (below left), the Maury County recipient, on this achievement.

This scholarship is offered to only 95 of nearly 70,000 Tennessee high school seniors. One representative from each Tennessee county is chosen after a thorough review of community involvement and academic standing. Academic, professional, and personal recommendation letters were submitted on behalf of both students. Rhett and Knox are top scholars at Columbia Academy with GPAs over 3.2, the requirement to obtain the scholarship. Both students participate in many community and school clubs and activities. They are leaders within their class, school, and youth groups.

Knox shares this achievement with his sister, Libby Love, the 2022 Maury County recipient.



FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT

David Shannon spoke at Columbia Academy's 45th annual commencement exercises.

Columbia Academy President Dr. James Thomas stated, "We are honored to have President Shannon as the commencement speaker for this outstanding Class of 2024. President Shannon is a gifted communicator and will have great words to share with our graduates. He fully understands the mission of Columbia Academy and has dedicated his life to similar ideals."

Shannon has served as the President of Freed-Hardeman University for the last seven years. Prior to his employment with the university, he worked as a gospel preacher at the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Mt. Juliet, Tenn. and the East Gadsden Church of Christ in Gadsden, Ala. Shannon holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Bible from Freed-Hardeman University.

Shannon serves in many roles including: the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, member of the Board Development Committee for Heritage Christian University, member of the Board of Directors for Focus Press, Inc., co-editor for THINK magazine, and Chairman of the Board for the Georgia-Ann-King Charities.

Shannon and his wife, Tracie, are the parents of five children and seven grandchildren. They reside in Henderson, Tennessee.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPRING HILL CAMPUS



BY: NATHAN HIXSON, SPRING HILL CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

I'm So Blessed

*Trouble knockin' at my door today,
I ain't gonna let it in.
And worry wanna steal my joy away,
but I ain't gonna let it win.
'Cause on my best day, I'm a child of God.
On my worst day, I'm a child of God.
Oh, everyday is a good day, and
You're the reason why.*

Chorus

*I'm so blessed, I'm so blessed,
got this heartbeat in my chest.
No, it doesn't matter 'bout the rest.
If I've got You, Lord, I'm so blessed.*

*I'm so blessed. Hallelujah, I'm blessed.
I'm so blessed. Hallelujah, I'm blessed.
And when I count the problems that I see,
hope looks all but gone.
But when I count the ways You're good to me,
You got me countin' all day long.*

Chorus

Each school year brings its ups and downs, and the 2023-2024 school year was no different.

We had record enrollment with 176 students and an eager TEAM of faculty and staff returning to serve. Staples to our day were refined and new ideas were considered and implemented!

Some of the new things included Trunk or Treat at Halloween, a Talent Show and even new chapel songs. One such song was, "I'm So Blessed" (lyrics above). It shares a great message of how blessed we are day in and day out. The school year can be a roller



coaster at times with low points, but at the end of the day, we are rich with God providing for our needs and even wants.

As the end of the school year approached, it seemed to speed up! May was a complete whirlwind with field trips, ERB testing and end of year promotion ceremonies.

We are thankful for the past good year that we enjoyed and look forward to the bright future that we have moving forward. We are SO blessed!

FINE ARTS AT CA



CA SHINES WITH NEWSIES

New York City, 1899. Jack Kelly (Rhett Dupree) and his ragtag team of newsboys make a meager living selling newspapers on the city streets. But when the prices of “papes” are hiked and the newsies are hung out to dry, there is nothing left to do but “open the gates and seize the day!” Led by charismatic Jack, a smart and level-headed Davey (Will Sowell) and independent, young newspaper reporter Katherine Plummer (Anna Kate Cofer), the Newsies form a union and organize a strike against the greedy publisher of the New York World, Joseph Pulitzer (Frazier Isenberg).



Inspired by the true story of the 1899 Newsboys Strike, Newsies is an ebullient, joyful, and entertaining musical capturing the strength that young people have when they join together and stand up against injustice. Fifty-four students and five faculty members returned to the Cherry Theatre in March to tackle this monumental musical. They leveled up their game by creating a dance spectacle not seen before on the CA stage. The show was student directed by Emma Walker and choreographed by student Lilly Baum and Christina Baum.

CA MUSICIANS HONE THEIR TALENTS

The band and guitar classes took a field trip to the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in October. In February, six CA musicians participated in the All-County Band. In March, at a Concert Performance Assessment, the band received a rating of excellent for prepared performance and superior for sight-reading. It also participated in a Music in the Parks Festival at Dollywood and put on a couple of great concerts throughout the school year. Our band has grown over the last few years, and we are excited to continue witnessing our musicians as they grow in their talents.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR THEATRE DIRECTOR!

In the eight years Sarah Tatom has been a part of Columbia Academy, she has directed 11 shows and been a part of 17! She teaches photography and speech during the day but can be found after school working with theatre students to prepare for the next production.

With her husband Jordan, Sarah has two theatrically talented children, Jonathan and Jordyn. Her background includes a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre Design and Production from Freed-Hardeman University. She was a technical intern at the Ozark Actors Theatre in Rolla, Missouri, a part of the Production Crew at the Know Theatre in Cincinnati, Ohio, and she designed and performed for the Watershed Public Theatre in Columbia. She has been a part of 50 shows in total and has acquired 13 directing credits!

We feel fortunate to have Sarah as a part of the CA family, and especially as a leader of our theatre program. Due to her work, many of our students have grown leaps and bounds in their confidence and creative abilities. Thank you, Mrs. Tatom!



“Mrs. Tatum has done great things for this department at CA over the years. She has been such a blessing in helping every one of us become better in so many ways. In my sophomore year, I never saw myself being in the theater, but Mrs. Tatom came to me and encouraged me to be a part of it, and it has been a blessing. I am so grateful for all she contributes and will contribute to this school and His Kingdom!”

- Rhett Dupree, Senior

“I love everything she has done for me. She inspires me to be the best actress I can be! I have worked with her for over 10 years, and I am very grateful to have her in my life.”

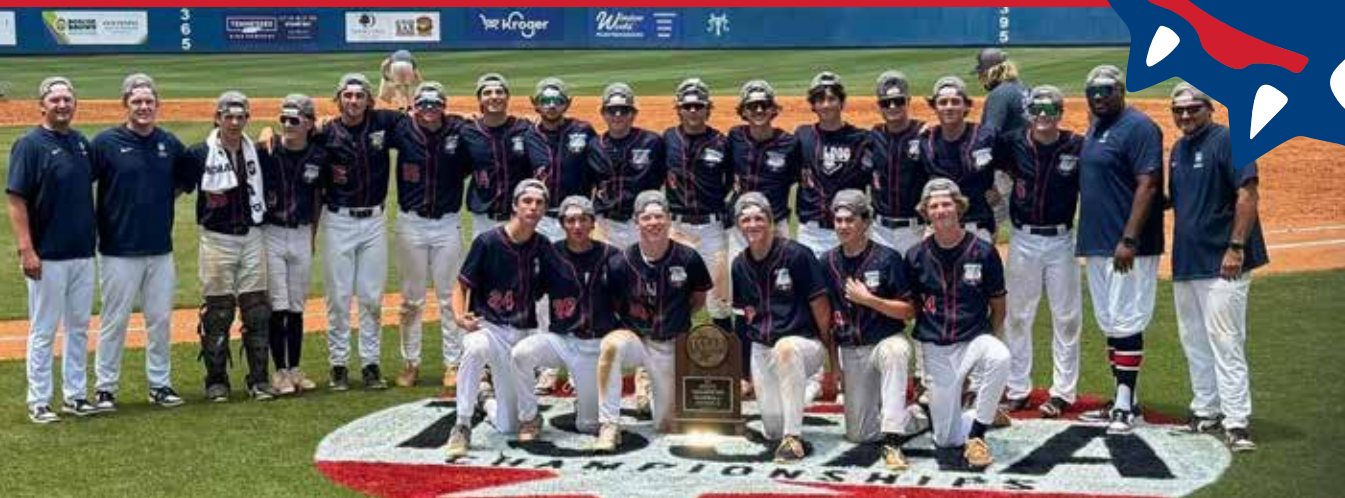
- Junior, Chloe McNeese

“I had never done theater before until some friends of mine convinced me to do it my sophomore year. I ended up receiving the role of Dorothy, and I was so happy but nervous because I had no experience with plays. Mrs. Tatom constantly checked up on me and taught me how to act and express emotion on stage, took all of my (very excessive) questions, and helped me figure out costumes and my schedule. I did the next musical, “Newsies” as Medda Larkin and loved it even more. Mrs. Tatom has been my best inspiration and help in my theater career, and I love her so much!”

- Junior, Sofi SanMiguel



BULLDOG ATHLETICS



BASEBALL - STATE CHAMPIONS

The 2024 baseball team won the DII-A state championship defeating Providence Academy 9-4. The team finished with a 37-6 record, which is the most wins in school history. This is the first baseball title in Division II and third overall. The team was District 3 Co-Champions, Region Champions, and State Champions. The team won ten games in a row, outscoring their opponents 45-20. Gunner Skelton was a Mr. Baseball Finalist. C.J. Durrough, Andy Reed, and Jacob Woodward were on the All-District Team, and Gunner Skelton was the District Player of the Year.

"This was truly a team. They played for each other and refused to lose. Grit and Guts is how to describe them. I am so proud of the boys for all of their hard work and for winning the last game of the season!" - Coach Estep



TRACK AND FIELD, BOYS - INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONS

The boys team had its best season ever in program history! Seven school records were broken on the boys' side. The 100m was broken by junior Jeremy Jackson, 400m by junior C.J. Barr, 110m hurdles by senior Griffin Cooper as well as the triple jump. Zane Nash broke the pole vault record and records were broken in the 4 x 100m relay (Jeremy Jackson, Montae Baldwin, Harrison Brownlee, and Andre McClellan) and the 4 x 200m relay (Jeremy Jackson, Montae Baldwin, Harrison Brownlee, and C.J. Barr). The boys were regional runner-ups for the second year in a row and were led by regional champion C.J. Barr in the 3200m, 4 x 200m relay, 800m, and 1600m. Griffin Cooper won the high jump and the boys 4 x 200m relay were regional champions as well. At the TSSAA DII-A State Championship, Griffin Cooper won his third in a row high jump state championship and followed it up by winning the triple jump state championship as well!! C.J. Barr earned a state runner-up in the 1600m and sophomore Ty Withrow earned state runner-up honors in the 3200m! Both the 4 x 100m relay team (Jeremy Jackson, Montae Baldwin, Harrison Brownlee, and Andre McClellan) and the 4 x 200m relay team (Jeremy Jackson, Montae Baldwin, Harrison Brownlee, and C.J. Barr) placed 3rd at the state championship. Ty Withrow placed 5th in the 1600m, Jeremy Jackson 4th in 200m, and C.J. Barr 5th in the 800m. All athletes earned All-State honors. The boys placed 3rd out of 27 teams!



CROSS COUNTRY, BOYS - STATE CHAMPIONS

The boys cross country team had an amazing year. After winning the Randolph Invitational in Alabama, the team raced in the regional championship on October 24, 2023 and WON their first ever middle-regional championship! Ty Withrow was regional champion, followed by runner-up Gabriel Karkau, and 3rd place went to CJ Barr. Josh Lofton finished 5th and Luke Tatum finished 10th. All five Bulldog scorers were named all-region!

On November 2, 2023 the boys team competed at the TSSAA State Championship located at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville, Tenn. The seven runners for the boys varsity team were Ty Withrow, Gabriel Karkau, Josh Lofton, CJ Barr, Luke Tatum, Jayden Brooks and Hutson Cofer. At the state championship, the boys team was led by sophomore Ty Withrow who ran 16:47.87 and was the TSSAA State Runner-Up. Ty was followed by fellow teammate sophomore Gabriel Karkau who finished 4th in a time of 16:57.28 and junior Josh Lofton running in 5th place in 16:57.61. Junior CJ Barr finished 7th in 17:00.53. Finishing out the top five scorers was junior Luke Tatum who ran a personal record of 17:31.53. Freshman Jayden Brooks and freshman Hutson Cofer finished out the varsity team's seven runners. The Bulldogs finished with 31 points and won their FIRST EVER TSSAA DII-A State Championship by a margin of victory of 45 points over University School of Nashville! Their combined time of 17:02 was the second fastest combined time in DII-A state championship history. To add icing on the cake, Ty Withrow, Gabriel Karkau, Josh Lofton, and CJ Barr were also honored with being named to the TSSAA ALL-STATE Team! Congratulations boys on an amazing season. Coach Brady Henson was named Coach of the Year by The Tennessean.

SWIM

This year we had 23 swimmers - four high schoolers and 19 middle schoolers - and of those, 11 were new to the team! This was the largest team in the school's history. Eight swimmers qualified and competed in multiple events at the MTHSSA Middle School Championship. The future of this growing program is very bright!



TENNIS, BOYS

The boys team finished with a record of 10-4 just barely missing the region tournament. The boys only had one senior and will return seven players for next year! Hayes Lewis and Matthew Thomas finished as runner-up in the individual doubles tournament for both district and region!! They qualified for the state tournament and finished in the top eight in the state!



TENNIS, GIRLS

The girls tennis teams finished with a record of 5-9 playing against some very tough teams and some of the top players in the state! They only had one senior so they will return eight players for next year!



BOWLING

The CA Bowling Bulldogs had another amazing season! Bulldogs finished the season with a 14-3 record. CA finished in a 3-way tie for first in the region and finished runner-up in the state tournament. The team made it to back-to-back state tournament appearances. CA also had two bowlers qualify for the individual state tournament (Nathan Hutto and Knox Ransom). Nathan Hutto was the second CA bowler to bowl a perfect 300 game during the season. It was an amazing accomplishment to make back-to-back state tournament appearances and the future keeps looking bright!





BULLDOG ATHLETICS

SOFTBALL

The softball girls are incredibly talented and all contributed to the team in their own unique way. They won the district tournament this year and competed against lots of great competition outside of their district as well. We are looking forward to all that they will accomplish in the future!



BASKETBALL, BOYS

This season was a historic one for the boys varsity basketball team. Led by seniors Andre McClellan and Griffin Cooper, the Bulldogs finished 26-6 and made it to the state tournament for the first time since joining TSSAA DII. The Bulldogs accomplished several accolades as a team. They finished 2nd in the district regular season, were District Tournament Champions, finished 3rd in the regional tournament, lost in the Elite 8 to the eventual state champions First Assembly Christian School by 1 point, and finished the season ranked #3 in the Tenn. state polls. Along with many team accomplishments, several Bulldogs received individual honors. Senior Andre McClellan committed to play basketball at Bethel University and participated in the BCAT Senior Showcase game; senior Griffin Cooper committed to play basketball at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, scored his 1,000th point, made the all-district team, district tournament team, BCAT All-State, and was selected to BCAT Senior Showcase game; junior Gabe Davenport scored his 1,000th point and made the all-district team; junior Jeremy Jackson scored his 1,000th point, made the all-district team, all-region team, district tournament MVP, BCAT All-State, and Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State Team. The Bulldogs are excited about next season and having continued success.



CHEER

The CA cheer teams had a fun football, basketball and competition seasons! The varsity competition teams competed in the traditional and game day divisions this year with the traditional team taking home third place at the TSSAA cheer competition in November. The varsity traditional and game day teams ended their season at the UCA National Cheerleading Championship held at Disney World in February. The junior high competition team competed in the game day division and ended their season in December at the UCA Smoky Mountain Championship held in Sevierville.



BASKETBALL, GIRLS

The Lady Bulldogs finished the season with a 10-14 overall record. They were led in the season by all-district players, sophomores Reese Shirley (15.2 ppg) and Haley Collins (12.2 ppg). They also saw the emergence of 8th grader Charley Rae Hutchison (10 ppg). The team will miss the lone senior Ally Ballard, but is excited to see what the future holds for the Lady Bulldogs.



GUNDAWGS

The Gundawgs had a great season! The team brought home twelve team and squad trophies at the State Championship along with ten individual shooter awards. A group of our shooters traveled to the AIM Nationals in Sparta, Illinois July 24-30. There, the team brought home two national team trophies and some Individual awards as well. Congratulations on a great season, GunDawgs!



GOLF

The girls' and boys' golf teams continue to grow and improve. The competition level was higher overall this year, and they participated in several 18 hole invitational events, as opposed to a more traditional 9 hole match schedule. The teams are working to be better prepared for the district tournament in October. The boys saw great success about midway through the season and won their first 18 hole invitational, the Tennessee River Classic held on the River Course in Decaturville, Tenn., defeating 11 other schools. The girls continued to improve during the season. Jay Coleman advanced for the first time to the regional round of competition and turned in a respectable 81 at Graystone in Dickson. The 2024 boys team will return all five starters and the girls team is looking to rebuild with one of the three girls returning. Many thanks to the leadership of this year's seniors: Addyson Codling, Amelia Briceno, Isaac Smith, Ian Million, and Rhett Dupree.



CROSS COUNTRY, GIRLS

On October 24 the girls cross country team advanced to the TSSAA State Championship by placing 3rd at the DII-A Middle Region. Janie Reames was meet runner-up, and Emma Rees placed 10th, and Presley Miller 12th. All three girls were named to the TSSAA All-Region team. On November 2, 2023 the girls team competed at the TSSAA State Championship located at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville. The seven runners for the girls team were Janie Reames, Presley Miller, Emma Rees, Mackenzie Reames, Charley Hutchison, Braelyn Henry, and Emma Bookout. They were led by freshman Janie Reames who ran 19:46.85 and was the TSSAA State Runner-Up. Janie was followed by fellow teammate junior, Presley Miller who finished in a time of 19:49.53 and placed 3rd in the meet. Freshman Emma Rees ran 20:33.39 and placed 9th for the Bulldogs giving Columbia Academy three girls in the top 10. Other notable scorers for the team were junior Mackenzie Reames and 8th grader Charley Hutchison. The Lady Bulldogs tied for 2nd with 74 points and were then moved to 3rd place after the tiebreaker. This marks the highest finish by any Bulldog girls cross country championship. Janie Reames, Presley Miller, and Emma Rees were also recognized as TSSAA All-State Runners for Division II-A. Congratulations to these girls on their amazing achievement.

SOCCER, GIRLS

The soccer team encountered a setback in the second round of the regional tournament this year, echoing the previous season's outcome. Notably, the team achieved a distinctive overall record of 8-8-1, showcasing an impressive improvement.



The addition of new and youthful talent, including four freshmen, four 8th graders (promoted due to roster constraints), and three transfer girls, contributed significantly. Seasoned players Kelsey Cordero, Elizabeth Gaines, and Emily Diles served as wonderful leaders. Individual achievements included: Rebecca Goodwin as the leading goal scorer and assist maker with 12 goals and nine assists, Carolina Johnson scoring 11 goals, and 8th grader Marley Ayers contributing 10 goals. Hope Massey, our goal keeper, was astonishing. She was an 8th grader and played as though she were an upperclassman.

"The team's collective effort, resilience in the face of challenges, and a welcoming team culture made coaching them an honor," says Coach Ellie Butterfield.

As we look forward to the next year, the phrase "Handle Hard Better" encapsulates their spirit and determination.



SOCCER, BOYS

The boys soccer team finished with a record of 8-8-2 this season, including several memorable wins. The team won two out of three games in the Smoky Mountain Cup to finish second in their group. In addition to defeating MTCS in district play, the Bulldogs handed BGA their only district loss of the season in a 1-0 win away from home. The team had a strong start to the region tournament by defeating Mt. Juliet Christian 6-1 before falling to Grace Christian in the second round.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team had a competitive season with lots of close matches. Rostering only two seniors and two juniors, younger players found lots of playing time. We will miss our seniors and thank them for their leadership. The volleyball program is looking forward to the future as this young team matures in its love, commitment, and knowledge of this sport.





BULLDOG ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

The team finished the season 8-4 and won the region title for the first time since 2017! This was the first DII region title for Columbia Academy. The team advanced to the semi-finals for the third time in school history and first time since 2017. Montae Baldwin broke the school's single season rushing and TD record with 1,955 rushing yards and 27 TD's. Seven teammates were named to the All-State Team: Connor Rosson, Cade Jackson, C.J. Durrrough, Montae Baldwin, Harrison Brownlee, Daniel Cepicky, and Gabriel Cepicky.



MS BASKETBALL, GIRLS

The middle school Lady Bulldogs had a great season this year, grabbing 3rd place to start the season in the East Hickman Classic. They battled through a tough schedule and were fun to watch! A highlight was an overtime win at Bridgeforth Middle School! The Lady Bulldogs were behind most of the game and made a push in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime. Tenacious defense, teamwork and grit propelled this team to victory! We have a strong group of young ladies working hard for our upcoming season in the fall and I'm positive it is going to be a great one!



TRACK AND FIELD, GIRLS

The 2024 season for the girls track and field teams was its best season in program history. Eight school records were broken this season for the girls. Senior Bella Davenport broke the 100m and 200m records while freshman Emma Rees broke the high jump, long jump, 300m hurdles and 110m hurdles school records. The girls team also broke the 4 x 100m (Emma Rees, Reese Shirley, Hayden Hood, Bella Davenport) and 4 x 200m (Emma Rees, Reese Shirley, Haley Collins, Bella Davenport) relay records. We had several state qualifiers this year in the regionals which included junior Presley Miller (regional runner-up in the 3200m, 1600m, and 800m), freshman Janie Reames (3200m), and Emma Rees (long jump and 300m hurdles). At the TSSAA DII-A State Championship, Presley Miller was state runner-up in the 800m and 1600m earning her All-State honors. Janie Reames secured 4th place in the 3200m, and Emma Rees placed 6th in long jump as well as 8th in 300 hurdles. Emma and Janie earned All-State honors. Emma also placed 4th in the pentathlon. The girls finished 11th out of 29 teams with their highest finish ever!



MS BASEBALL

The middle school baseball team had a spring that contributed to great memories and many lessons that will supply players with knowledge going forward in their baseball careers. The boys gained new skills as the season progressed and were a fun group to coach. We are looking forward to next season!

MS SOCCER, GIRLS

The girls middle school soccer team finished its season with a 6-4 record. This year's team was exciting to watch as they kept the back of the nets hot, scoring in every match they played. Keep your eye on these Lady Bulldogs. The best is yet to come for this soccer program!



MS SOCCER, BOYS

This season was full of growth for the Bulldogs. While there was good leadership from the 8th graders, the team really relied on the younger guys to step up and help be successful. The scoring was led by Rylan Lewis (6th) with 10 goals, Ebby Bell (8th) with 9 goals, and Dallas Rector (6th) with 8.



MS SOFTBALL

The 2024 middle school softball season was filled with youth and growth. The team played with a roster of mostly underclassmen and expect to see massive growth in the 2025 season!



MS BASKETBALL, BOYS

The middle school basketball season began with a promising start this past year, coming in 3rd place in the East Hickman Kick-Off Tournament, with Conor Harris and Ezra Nieves being named to the all-tournament team. The team was led by a group of ten 8th graders, all of which provided valuable minutes throughout the year, contributing to the team's development throughout. The season came to a close with an exciting overtime win against Mount Pleasant, with a final score of 50-48.



MS TENNIS

The middle school tennis team had a great season! They had lots of fun on the court while improving their skills. The boys and girls teams both went undefeated this year.



MS FOOTBALL

The 2023 middle school football season was another success for the Dawgs! The team advanced to the Maury County semi-finals, finishing the season with a 4-3 record. The Dawgs will look to build on recent success heading into next year!



PLAYING AT THE NEXT LEVEL

CONGRATS GRIFFIN COOPER!

ON SIGNING TO COMPETE IN TRACK & FIELD AND PLAY BASKETBALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE



CONGRATS KINSLEY TAYLOR!

ON SIGNING TO PLAY SOFTBALL AT COLUMBIA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



NASHVILLE PREDATORS GAME RECOGNITION OF CA STUDENTS!



Our cross-country team was recognized for winning the DII-A boys state championship at a Nashville Predators hockey game in March. A few months later, Columbia Academy received another shout-out when senior Connor Rosson was awarded the Jack Diller Education Award! CA loves the Nashville Predators!



REACH STUDENTS TOUR MTSU'S AEROSPACE PROGRAM

In November, the REACH students visited MTSU's Aerospace Program Facility and learned about the various degrees offered in aviation. The students toured the airplane mechanic hanger, along with the pilot training simulation building and got to sit in an aircraft on the tarmac. During the second half of the day, students traveled down the road to American GeoThermal in Murfreesboro. Students took a tour of the manufacturing facility and learned from one of the company's engineers the tedious process of designing equipment, which included a demonstration of the software used for coding. Also as part of the tour, Mr. Tom Anderson, family member to some of Columbia Academy's staff and students, taught the students how the company's niche products are promising for the future for businesses going green.



CLASS OF '58 MAKES LIBRARY DONATION

Columbia Academy welcomed back Mr. Jerry Sands, a graduate from the Columbia Military Academy class of 1958 who stopped by to help our lower school librarian label 180 books donated to the lower school on behalf of the CMA class of '58. The donation equals roughly \$2,700 and provides books for students from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Lower school librarian, Mrs. Brandy Love, specifically chose each book based off of suggestions from lower school students. She did a wonderful job ensuring that every reading level has an assortment of new stories to explore.

One special book titled Frog's Rainy Day Story, was authored by CMA alumnus Michael Dowling and illustrated by his wife, Sarah. It is one of the many new books to join the lower school collection to be enjoyed by young readers for many years.

Thank you for this thoughtful gift, CMA class of 1958!



CLUBS AND OTHER EXTRACURRICULARS

ROBOTICS

In the RoboDawgs robotics program, upper school students flex their creative muscles by designing, building, and programming robots for yearly challenges. With VEX Robotics, students are challenged to make their robots move stuff into goals, shoot disks into baskets, and hang on structures in the playing field.

Throughout the year, varsity and junior high teams kick things off by brainstorming strategies to rack up the most points in matches. Once they have got a plan, it is all hands on deck to build their robot. Then comes the fun part – programming it to be driven by a joystick and to run on its own for 15 seconds.

When it is tournament time, each team faces off in multiple matches to score points. After that, it is all about the tournament bracket. The afternoon sees teams lining up based on their match points, with the top competitors getting the best spots. Tournament champions are determined by winning matches through a bracket set up with higher match-point teams in alliances.

Photo: Trey McCluggage adjusts the Jr. high robot during a tournament in Springfield, Tenn. Ryan Morrissey and Ollie Vaughn observe.



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL

Howell Building Group, A Nice Guy Marketing, RX Compound, Beasley's Yard, Nav Tech, Farm Bureau



BETA

Columbia Academy held its National Beta Club induction ceremony this year, inducting 165 students into the newly formed Beta Club. Students pictured above are the charter members! Each student inducted was selected for membership based on academic standing and character. They joined more than 500,000 members across the United States and beyond. National Beta Club is the largest independent, non-profit, educational youth groups in the United States. Its mission is to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. Monica Hayes, a CA parent and employee, serves as the sponsor of the Beta Club.

In the Spring, eleven students traveled to the Leadership Summit in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. National Beta CEO, Bobby Hart, offered his congratulations to the students saying, "The skills and opportunities that come from National Beta membership impact students not only during their time in school, but as they move forward in life. We are proud of these new inductees and are excited to see how they grow as leaders and positively impact the world."

MULTIMEDIA

The upper school featured a new fine arts class titled Multimedia this year. Taught by Eric Bryant and focusing on graphic design using the Adobe Suite, students learned about creating advertisements and motion graphics. Students designed graphics for the new football and basketball screen displays. Throughout the year, they learned how to professionally edit photos and create video using design principles. The class ended the year by creating personal brands which challenged them to use logos on a product of choice. See below for an example.



SNAPSHOTS



Christmas in the Lower School



Senior Walk Through



5th Graders Festive for the Holidays!



A Veterinarian Visited Lower School Students



Jr. K Shows Off Their Bulldog Pride!



Spring Hill 2nd Graders Celebrate Valentine's Day!



Mr. England Turned 90!



Preschoolers Dress Up in Pajamas!



2nd Grade Thanksgiving Presentation



1,000 Days of School for 5th Graders!



Columbia Christmas Parade



Students Ready for the Christmas Parade!



4th Grad Poetry Cafe

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

JASON DELK ('94)

The 2023 Columbia Academy Alumnus of the Year is Jason Delk. Jason attended Columbia Academy for 13 years and is a member of the Class of 1994. He and his wife, Krista, have two lower-school students, 4th grader, Tyson and 1st grader, Kinze. Jason was a member of the 1994 State Championship baseball team that was inducted into the Dr. Bill Thrasher Athletic Hall of Fame.

An active member of the Greenfield Bend Church of Christ in Williamsport, Tenn., Jason has been on mission trips to Panama and Honduras where he helped with many projects including children's ministry and construction. One of his proudest moments was teaching the locals how to rope a chicken. Throughout the years he has led singing in numerous Gospel meetings and youth rallies across the county.

Jason has been a First Responder with the City of Columbia Fire & Rescue Department as a firefighter since 2003 and is currently an Engineer with the Fire Department. During the homecoming game, he was on duty and surprised by this award. He has stepped in to respond to emergency situations in the community when off-duty, as well. While with the department, he has been the lead for the Public Education Program for students across the county. Here at Columbia Academy, many of our students throughout the years have been a part of his fun and surprising activities focused on fire safety.

A member of the farming community, Jason was selected by his peers to serve on the Farm Service Agency Board. In his spare time, he volunteers as a coach for the Columbia Academy Youth Football League, the CA Youth Basketball League, and the Columbia American Little League where he also serves as a Board member. He emphasizes sportsmanship, respect of the game, and values with each team he leads. Jason is a humble and godly man who quietly serves his community, his family, and the church. Columbia Academy is proud for Jason to represent the alumni of our school.



CA PARENTS CLUB

The Columbia Academy Parents Club was established this year under the leadership of Emily Howell, Carol Carnahan, Dolly McNabb, Emily King, Jacquelyn Thomley, and Shelly Hedgepath. This initiative aims to provide support to our faculty by assisting with various events and projects, fostering an environment of encouragement and collaboration. The new group was active in organizing events such as Grandparents' Day, DawgFest, Book Fairs, and more, enhancing the vibrancy of our campus both indoors and outdoors. Their thoughtful gestures during Teacher Appreciation Week contributed to a heightened sense of appreciation among our faculty.

Additionally, the Parents Club played a pivotal role in facilitating the integration of new families into the CA community by establishing a dedicated Facebook group, offering valuable resources ranging from second-hand uniform sources to campus navigation aids and event schedules.

For those interested in joining, we encourage you to connect with us via the CA Parents Club Facebook page. Thank you so much to the Parents Club and all volunteers for their commitment and contributions to Columbia Academy!



HOMECOMING 2023



1



4

1. Homecoming Court: (L-R) Emma Newton (9th), Presley Miller (11th), Emily Diles (12th), Addison Morgan (12th), Finley Skelton (12th), Anzly Greene (10th), Murphy Call (8th), Anna Claire Brown (7th)

2. Homecoming Queen: Addison Morgan
The 2023 Homecoming Queen is Miss Addison Morgan. She is a member of the Best Buddies program, the Pep club, Science club and Interact club. She is on the volleyball, tennis and track teams. She is a small group leader, volleyball team captain, Best Buddies Vice President, nominee for Girls State and a member of Youth Leadership Maury. She is in the National Honor Society and the spring musical. She holds the CA record for girls high jump in track and field.

3. Senior Homecoming attendant, Finley Skelton, in the convertible parade chauffeured by her boyfriend, Dane Bennett ('23).



5

4. The boys won over Ezell-Harding (55-28) creating a fun and exciting night until the very end!

5. Cheerleaders escorting the kindergarten girls onto the field for a special presentation!

6. Kindergarten boys led the football team onto the field at kick-off!

7. 2022 Homecoming Queen Jaelynn Hickerson escorted by her brother, Jax.



2



3



6



7

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

2023 FACULTY AND STAFF APPRECIATION



UPPER SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Eric Bryant



STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Cindy Zientak



LOWER SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Carrie Beasley



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Emily Howell



PRESCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mary Elizabeth Gibson



VOLUNTEER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Clint and Amanda McCain



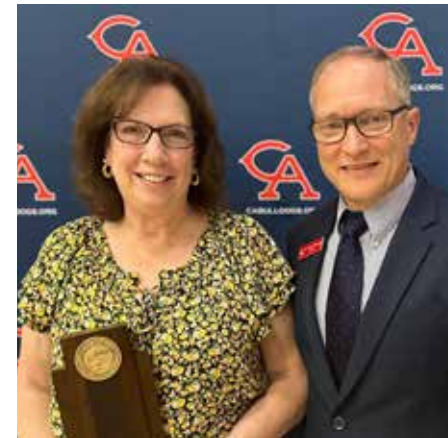
SPRING HILL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Casie Cox



SERVICE AWARDS

40 YEARS



Julie Thomason

30 YEARS



Jade Young

25 YEARS



Becky Spears & Eric Bryant

15 YEARS



Andrew Williams

10 YEARS



(L-R) April Davis, Michele Mainord, Richie Estep, Collette Estep, Cindy Zientak

5 YEARS



(L-R) Mary Elizabeth Gibson, Amberly Kaylor, Heather Milikan, Alice Dahlstrom, Chris Carroll, Ashley Gilles, Rennie Smith, Jennifer Park

DUNCAN FELLOW



Mandy Harrison

GLENN HULEN AWARD



Tim Garrison

TUESDAY CREW MEMBER OF THE YEAR



James England

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 1986



The FBI Memphis Field Office honored the Nashville Inner City Ministry, led by **Todd Flowers**, as the recipient of the 2023 Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA).

Throughout 2023, the Nashville Inner City Ministry served hundreds of students each week during the school year providing them with a safe place to gather for recreation, Bible-based life-skills lessons, connection, mentoring, and a healthy meal. During the summer, the Nashville Inner City Ministry organized a two-week summer camp, a five-week academic day camp led by Metro Nashville Public School teachers, weekly field trips, and provided developmental mentoring.

CLASS OF 1988



Robin Smith accepted the role of Principal at Baker Elementary school in Columbia, Tenn.

CLASS OF 1989



Traci (Hill) Williams won Teacher of the Year in Dickson County.

CLASS OF 1993



April Hardison was promoted to Principal of Marvin Wright Elementary School in Spring Hill, Tenn.

CLASS OF 1997



Andy Stephen was named Chief Administrative Officer for Farm Bureau Insurance in January 2024. He and his wife **Julie (Thurman '95)** have two children.

CLASS OF 2003



Holland Claire McBroom was born September 28, 2023. She was welcomed with love by **Leslie (Nowlin) McBroom** and husband **Nathan McBoom ('04)**, and siblings: Sutton, Crosby, and Crockett.

CLASS OF 2004



Christy (Marshall) Brown, and husband Stephen, welcomed their third baby boy, Fields Joseph Brown on March 2, 2023. The proud big brothers are Forrest (2nd grade) and Fletcher (preschool).

CLASS OF 2008



Jon Forsthoff and Kathy welcomed Addison Jane. Margaret Ann is excited about being a big sister. Jon is Director of Accounting for Innovative Renal in Cool Springs. They live in Bellevue, Tenn.

CLASS OF 2009



Bryce Davidson earned his doctorate degree in Education in Learning Organizations and Strategic Change from Lipscomb University. He is currently working for Columbia Academy as an Upper School Assistant Principal.



Haley (England) Mantlo and husband, Will, welcomed baby girl Chandler Gene Mantlo on February 22. The proud big sister is Charlie Katie. Former CA President Barry England and CA teacher Tina England are the ecstatic grandparents. Beloved Tuesday Crew volunteer Mr. England is the adoring great-grandfather.



Doug Taylor and wife, Danica, welcomed sweet baby Luke on January 23, 2024. Anniston and Collins are the proud big sisters.

CLASS OF 2012



Taylor Chaney and wife, Sarah, are expecting their first baby, a girl, in June.



Christian Shrader and wife, Leah, welcomed Harper James in January of 2023. Beau is the proud big brother. Christian took a new role as the General Manager of Best Cleaners/New Brand Cleaners of Columbia, Franklin and Brentwood. He was previously employed with the Columbia Fire Department.

CLASS OF 2013

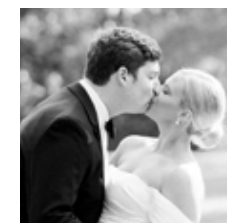


Matt Forsthoff is Key Account Manager for Thinks in Downtown Franklin. He is lives in Green Hills, Tenn.

CLASS OF 2014



Kelsey (Davidson) Hilliard and husband, Carter, welcomed twins, Riley and Charlie, on June 28, 2023.



Sutherland Shrader married Tommy Archibald on September 9, 2023. The two have relocated to Palo Alto, California for two years while Tommy finishes law school at Stanford University. Sutherland works as a personal assistant.

Michael Thomas and wife, Emma, and welcomed a baby boy, Warren Lee Thomas, on January 23, 2024.



Caitlyn (Carter) Vega was inducted into the Freed-Hardeman University Athletics Hall of Fame. During her time at FHU, her .503 batting average was the best in the nation. Caitlyn's .475 career batting average is the best in program history, as is her .500 on-base percentage. Her 274 base hits remains the program record by 48 hits while also holding the program record for most runs scored with 150. She by far has the program's best triples number, with her 18 three-baggers giving her the program record, 10 above the next highest.

CLASS OF 2015



Jalen Anderson and wife Taylor will celebrate their first anniversary in May. Jalen will begin his third season as DJ for the Tennessee Titans. Taylor is a NICU nurse at Vanderbilt. The two reside in Nashville.

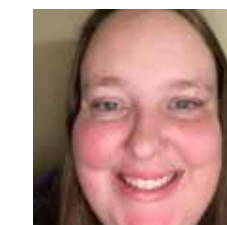
CLASS OF 2016



Leland & **Breanna (Johnson) Biggs** welcomed their second daughter, Rosemary, on April 20, 2023.



Thomas Garrison and wife, Sydney, welcomed a baby boy, Liam Seth Garrison, on April 4, 2024.



Kayla Neese graduated with her Master's of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga. After the completion of her degree, she became a minister in the United Methodist Church and is currently serving as pastor of Cornersville United Methodist Church and Lewisburg Chapel.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Katie (Harris) Stallworth married Will Stallworth on November 4, 2023. The two reside in Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

CLASS OF 2018



Ragan Chaney married Mallory Pedigo of Austin, Ky. on July 8, 2023. They currently reside in Knoxville, Tenn. where Ragan is in his third year of medical school.



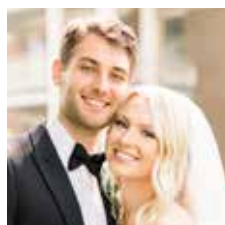
Mary Grace Golden graduated from Purdue University with a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication in May and works for Lumen Technologies as a Technical Writer. She married Josh Shockley in June.



Chloe Harris graduated with the Master of Science in Athletic Training from Lee University.

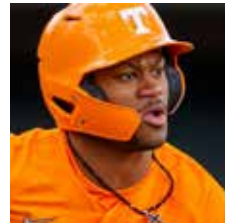
Blake Kincaid graduated from Midway University in Midway, Ky.

CLASS OF 2019



Catherine Cox and **Davis Cofer** were married June 10, 2023. Catherine graduated from Harding University in May 2023 with a BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is currently in graduate school at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the speech-language pathology program.

Davis graduated from Harding University in May 2023 with a B.A. in Marketing. He is currently employed with State Farm in Farragut, Tenn. The two reside in Knoxville.



Kavares Tears was a starter for the 2024 national championship baseball team with the Tennessee Vols! He was selected No. 134 overall in the MLB draft by the San Diego Padres.

CLASS OF 2020



Congratulations to three of our alumni! **Colton Hixson**, **Anna Claire Butt ('23)** and **Ella Daniels ('23)** were chosen by their Freed-Hardeman University peers to represent their school by serving on the 2023 homecoming court.



Victoria (Karkau) Hutcherson graduated from Harding University with a BA in education and leadership and ministry. She is currently working on a Master's of Science at Harding University in Clinical Mental Health. She will soon begin a new job at Pinnacle Pointe Behavioral Health as a Qualified Behavioral Health Provider.



Hannah White graduated from the University of Michigan with Highest Honors Distinction and was awarded the Elizabeth Hume O'Donnell Honors Graduation Prize for writing the most outstanding neuroscience honors thesis. In the fall, she will be starting her PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh where she will be studying the neuroimmune microenvironment of glioblastoma in hopes of engineering an immunotherapy for it.

CLASS OF 2022

Braden Hale was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant (2LT) in the United States Army.



Griffin Hathcock began training with the Columbia Fire Department in May 2023. He earned his EMT from Northwest Shoals Community College and passed the National Registry EMT exam. He completed Fire Academy in December and serves the community as a full-time firefighter with Columbia Fire Department.



Laney (Turner) & Hunter Bennett were married October 28, 2023.

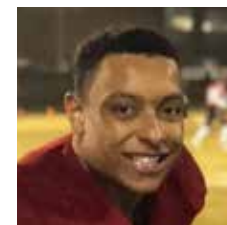
CLASS OF 2023

Colby Kitchen graduated from Marine Boot Camp in January 2024.



Connor Worden was promoted to Petty Officer 3rd Class (E4) in the United States Navy, as well as successfully graduating from Nuclear Field "A" school where he received the rating of Machinist Mate Nuclear.

IN MEMORIAM



Tre' Davon Davidson
December 16, 2000 - December 15, 2023
Class of 2019



Kerry Blaine Huckaby
October 8, 1966 - Apr 8, 2024
Class of 1985



Adrienne Law
April 1, 1966 - March 21, 2024
CA Upper School Teacher (2008 - 2016)
CA Board of Directors (2017 - 2022)

CPL DAVID A. BASS MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED



On August 24, 2023, their 66th wedding anniversary, John and Sue Bass of Murfreesboro, Tenn. established the CPL David A. Bass Memorial Endowment at Columbia Academy in honor and memory of their grandson who served as a U.S. Marine and lost his life in Iraq in service to our country. This endowment provides, in perpetuity, the funding for the American flag on the flagpole in front of Old Main. John Bass is a 1953 graduate of Columbia Military Academy, and his father was a football coach and athletic director at CMA. The flags provided are 10' by 19' and meet the standard for the United States Flag Code.

Above is a photo of John G. Bass, Jr. with his son John E. Bass, the father to CPL David A. Bass. They are pictured in the CMA museum with a plaque that was given by the Class of 1956 in memory of Coach Bass.

Please send all alumni updates to ashley.gilles@cabulldogs.org. For a free Tiniest Bulldog onesie, please include your shipping address.

COLUMBIA ACADEMY ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

Columbia Academy is truly blessed with generous supporters like you. During the 2023-24 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 46th 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, 2024.

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.

Tommy Baker Pigg Endowment Established December 1984	Meredith Hubbard Endowment Established February 1996	David Pilkinton Endowment Established April 2011
Ruth Murphy Endowment Establish June 1985	Anna D. and Paul Wilson Endowment Established January 1997	The Tuesday Crew Endowment Established May 2011
Leon and Martha Burns Endowment Established August 1985	Sherwin E. Witt Family Endowment Established May 1997	J. V. & Katherine Hobbs Endowment Established July 2012
Mike Kesler Endowment Established August 1985	Thomas R. and Judith B. Duncan Endowment Established June 1998	Graymere / Sue May Endowment Established December 2012
Earl and Edna Baker Endowment Established March 1986	Higginbotham-Hardison Scholarship Endowment Established January 2003	Josephine Mims Endowment Established December 2012
J. C. Warren Endowment Established May 1987	Mary Helen McMeen Endowment Established February 2006	Matthew Williams Endowment Established March 2013
N. J. and Nina Stanford Endowment Established July 1987	Kenneth and Ramona Cherry Endowment Established April 2006	Tillman W. Knox Endowment Established August 2013
Daniel Thomas Endowment Established September 1988	Frances Jackson Cranford Scholarship Endowment Established April 2006	CMA Alumni Endowment Established January 2014
Bluford Edwards Endowment Established January 1990	John and Frances Fitzgerald Endowment Established May 2006	Joe and Judy Roberson Endowment Established March 2014
Lois Yates Farris Endowment Established January 1990	The Glen H. Stevenson Family and Staff Educational Endowment Established July 2006	Joe and Irene Huckaby Endowment Established June 2014
Authur and Bonnie Crabtree Endowment Established January 1990	James D. and Willa Frances Williams Endowment Established November 2009	Roe and Eileen Evans Endowment Established August 2014
Richard and Jessie Sowell Endowment Established December 1990	Grace and Hyman Frank Endowment Established December 2010	David D. Davidson Endowment Established July 2018
Bill and Sara Brown Endowment Established January 1991		Ava Nell McMeen Endowment Established March 2020
Moore-Daniel Endowment Established January 1993		Paul and Elizabeth Craft Endowment Established July 2021
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Shelby Endowment Established February 1993		Amy Ham Endowment Established October 2021

Elliot and Rosemary Grissom Endowment Established October 2021	Ernest and Nannie Jo Grissom Endowment Established November 2021	Norman and Amelia Dean Endowment Established May 2022
Ernest and Wilma Abbott Endowment Established August 2022	Cpl. David A. Bass Memorial Endowment Established August 2023	
Daniel Thomas Endowment Mr. & Mrs. Duane Allen Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Andrews Ms. Carol Bailey Mr. & Mrs. Jim Baker Dr. & Mrs. Doug Balthaser Mr. & Mrs. Rick Barker Mr. & Mrs. Brett Basham Mrs. Doris Basham Mr. & Mrs. Scott Beard Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bedwell Mr. & Mrs. Billy Bishop Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bragg Mr. & Mrs. David Brown Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Brown Mrs. Anne Bryant Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Buie Mr. & Mrs. Doug Burleson Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Cook, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Randy Cornwell Mr. & Mrs. James Cox Dr. & Mrs. David Craig Mrs. Marynelle Criswell Mr. & Mrs. Adam Cross Mr. & Mrs. Neil Delk Mr. & Mrs. Brad Dooley Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dorris Mrs. Charlie Ann Dugger Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Duggin Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Duncan Mrs. Judy Duncan Mr. Kevin Duncan Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farris Mr. & Mrs. Mike Forsthoff Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Gordon Mr. & Mrs. Jim Grimes Mrs. Betty Hardison	Thomas R. and Judith B. Duncan Endowment Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Duncan Mr. Kevin Duncan	General Endowment Anonymous
Higginbotham/ Hardison Endowment Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Gordon	Joe and Irene Huckaby Endowment Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bedwell	Ava Nell McMeen Endowment Dr. Frank McMeen, Jr.
Mary Helen McMeen Endowment Dr. & Mrs. Dan Baccus Mr. & Mrs. Jim Baker Dr. & Mrs. Doug Balthaser Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bedwell Dr. & Mrs. Wade Denney Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farris Dr. & Mrs. Dwayne Fulks Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Gordon Mrs. Linda Hendley Dr. & Mrs. Vance Hendrickson Mr. & Mrs. David Mangum Dr. & Mrs. Jim Marshall Mr. & Mrs. Mark McMeen Mr. & Mrs. Doug Powers Mrs. Peggy Sampson Mr. & Mrs. Donald Swenson Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Winchester	Ruth Murphy Endowment Mr. Jeff Harris	David Pilkinton Endowment Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Pilkinton Ms. Mary Pilkinton
Joe and Judy Roberson (STEM) Endowment Col. & Mrs. Joe Roberson (Ret.) USA		

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

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2024/2025 CALENDAR

September

- 2 Labor Day - *No School*
- 3 Parent/Teacher Conferences -
No School
- 20 Homecoming

October

- 4 Grandparents' Day - *Early Dismissal*
- 7-11 *Fall Break*

November

- 4 Teacher Inservice - *No School*
- 25-29 *Thanksgiving Break*

December

- 20 *Half Day of School*
- 23-31 *Christmas Break*

January

- 1-3 *Christmas Break*
- 6 Teacher Inservice - *No School*
- 20 MLK Jr. Day - *No School*
- 31 CARE Dinner

February

- 17 Presidents' Day - *No School*
- 18 Parent/Teacher Conferences -
No School

March

- 20 Appreciation Dinner
- 24-31 *Spring Break*

April

- 1-4 *Spring Break*
- 17 Junior/Senior Banquet
- 22 Academic Banquet

May

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

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2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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 9/27	 10/4	 10/11	 10/25	 11/1

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