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Thankful for You!

The holiday season is a perfect time to pause and reflect on our blessings. As I consider the past year, I gratefully acknowledge that the Academy has been the recipient of abundant blessings. This issue of the WA Connection is our recognition of those of you – alumni, former and current parents, grandparents, and friends – who have blessed us with your support and commitment to our mission of nurturing growth through relationships, excellence, and service to the glory of God.

Each name on the pages within this issue represents a unique story. Over one thousand of you contributed to the Let There Be Light capital campaign. We are keenly aware that there are many fine Christian organizations worthy of your support, and we are grateful that you have chosen to support WA.

Your generosity and prayers have opened the doors to exciting opportunities to equip the next generation of young people to pursue vocations related to science and to defend their faith within the world of science through the completion of the Science & Technology Center (STC) and the implementation of our MASTER Program. On pages 6-8, we outline our plans to wrap up our Let There Be Light campaign. We covet your prayers for these plans.

We recently unveiled the Richard Holt Science Award given to WA alumni for exemplary accomplishments in the field of science. This award recognizes and honors WA's scientists of the past in order to encourage and inspire the scientists of the future. I encourage you to read the Alumni News for more details about this award and its namesake, Dick Holt '52.

Here is why Dick and his wife Cheryl are supporters of WA's science and technology initiative: “All of this [Dick's career as a physicist] started for me at Wheaton Academy. I took every science and math class offered and would have taken more if more had been offered, but there wasn’t [more offered]...This is why I am so excited about what’s happening at Wheaton Academy.”

As we wrap up 2017 and prepare for 2018, our desire is to finish the work that God has called us to at Wheaton Academy. Thank you for partnering with us in these endeavors. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you as together we train the next generation of Dick Holts for Kingdom work.

In His Service,

Gene Frost
Soli Deo Gloria
This October, over 30 Wheaton Academy students came together to put on the musical *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* for the annual fall show.

Over 450 people attended the production, and both Friday and Saturday night shows were sold out! Pictured above (left to right): Abby Jones ’19, Jasmine Vanderbilt ’19, Jon Bertsche ’18, Caleb Benware ’18, Elizabeth Eckert ’19, Jessie Wright ’19, Caleb Mikolajczyk ’18, Calla Mikolajczyk ’20, Kelsie Benware ’20.

**New Director of Development Joins the Leadership Team**

We are thrilled to welcome Joy Crowe as our new director of development. She is a familiar face to many at Wheaton Academy, as she is mother to Peter ’19 and Hannah ’21, and has been actively involved in the Moms Prayer group. Joy has a diverse background in sales and fundraising, which makes her uniquely qualified for this role. Joy began her career at LaSalle Street Securities, where she held the positions of senior vice president of investments and director of recruitment. Most recently, she was an account manager for Reader’s Digest/QSP, overseeing one of the largest accounts in the nation. Joy belongs to Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Downers Grove, where she is actively involved in high school ministry and serves as a member of the Church Council. Joy is passionate about Wheaton Academy and is grateful to the Lord for His blessing of leading and directing her family here. She looks forward to inspiring others to partner with the Lord’s work at the Academy.
**Tennis Pair Finishes in Top 8 in State**

Bethany Hoogerheide ‘18 and Ellie Howland ‘20 entered the 64-team IHSA 1A state tennis tournament unseeded but determined. The pair’s hard work paid off as they finished in the top eight in the state! Their accomplishment capped off a remarkable season for the WA varsity girls tennis team that had an overall regular season record of 13-2. Coaches Heather Green and Dawn Hamm were enormously pleased with the team’s efforts.

**Karyn is the Best**

Karyn Best ’18 is the reigning IHSA 2A state champion in the 300m hurdles, realizing her PR of 43.49. Her achievement is all the more remarkable given that Karyn was not even a hurdler a year prior. When her summer team coach told her that she would have to hurdle if she wanted to qualify for the Junior National Olympic Team, Karyn became a hurdler. Her coach’s advice has changed her life. When asked what winning the state championship meant to her, Karyn replied, “It meant everything! I worked so hard with no time off, just looking toward this one race. I had a lot of races, but they all led to this one.”
Alumni News | HOMECOMING 2017

2017 Alumni of the Year
This past Homecoming we honored two alumni couples – set apart by three decades – who embody the mission of Wheaton Academy. They have invested themselves in others, developing rich relationships; they have demonstrated excellence in their life pursuits; and, while serving others, they have served God and brought glory to His name. These two couples are inspiring examples of what the WA mission looks like in real life. They follow Christ’s model “not to be served, but to serve.” Their lives are an encouragement to all of us who serve at Wheaton Academy, and we hope to you as well.

Distinguished Young Alumni Award
JEFF ’02 & RACHEL (KEATING ’03) BROOKE

Alumni of the Year Distinguished Service Award
DR. DAVID ’67 & DOROTHY (GUYER ’67) TERHUNE

Class of 1967 • 50-Year Reunion
One of the highlights of Homecoming 2017 was the Class of 1967’s 50-year reunion. The weekend was filled with nostalgia and reconnections among the class members who returned to campus for this milestone.

Dedication of the Mel Johnson Science Classroom
Homecoming weekend kicked off with a very special ceremony. One of the biology classrooms in the Science & Technology Center was dedicated in honor of WA teacher and administrator Mel Johnson. Mel graduated from Wheaton College in 1948 with his B.S. in biology and began teaching at the Academy later that year. In 1951, he married fellow Academy teacher Joyce Giles. Both Mel and Joyce were two of the most beloved teachers at the Academy. Mel not only taught biology and Bible but also served as the boys’ counselor after completing a master’s degree in counseling from Northwestern University. Mel served as Director of Wheaton Academy from 1955-1960.

The ceremony included remarks from Bill Pollard ’56 and Gene LeMaire ’49 along with reminiscences and a dedication prayer from Mel and Joyce’s son Steve. Their granddaughter Katelyn ’11, a current WA science teacher, shared Scripture.
Wheaton Academy is pleased to announce the inception of the Richard Holt Science Award given to WA alumni for their exemplary accomplishments in the field of science. The 2017 recipients are Dick Holt ’52, the award’s namesake, and the late Zolin Burson ’52. An obituary tribute to Zolin is included in the AlumNotes section of this issue.

Who is Dick Holt? First, and foremost, he is a physicist whose science background and training created opportunities for him as an Army Ranger, a Navy SEAL as well as in the Navy Dolphin Program, with NASA, on Special Operations missions, and at the National Cancer Institute.

One of Dick’s teachers told him “physicists can do anything.” Dick’s fairy-tale life seems to validate this statement. From the jungles of South America to ski slopes in the Alps and from the depths of the ocean to the heights of the atmosphere, Dick’s life has been anything but ordinary. He worked on the fledging NASA’s first three space programs – Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo – in the days when the public had scant idea what NASA even was. He experienced the heartache of losing friends like Ed White, one of three astronauts who perished in the Apollo 1 fire. He was in the Control Center when an explosion occurred on Apollo 13 in flight – an episode in space history captured in the movie Apollo 13 which Dick says was very realistic.

Dick’s work eventually led him to the National Cancer Institute where he was hired to write a cancer plan. He knew “diddly squat” about cancer at the time, but he believed that “a physicist can do anything,” and so he set about the task. The plan detailed all the research to be done, the facilities that were going to be needed, and the people and the budget required. At the end of four years, the plan was finished, and a new chapter in the battle against cancer was opened.

As we celebrate and thank God for His provision for the new Science & Technology Center, we also remember WA alumni such as Dick and Zolin, and the remarkable ways God used their interest and abilities in science to impact the world.
Finish the Work

Wheaton Academy’s Science & Technology Initiative
AS A LEADER IN THE WORLD OF CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION,

Wheaton Academy has frequently achieved local and national recognition for many of our current programs such as Project LEAD, the International Student Program, and our Living Curriculum Teacher Development Model. In an effort to remain a school that sets the standard, rather than the school that follows it, the vision for our new Science & Technology Initiative began to emerge.

Seeking to create godly scientists of the future was in the forefront of our minds three years ago as we established the Wheaton Academy *Let There Be Light* initiative. As a part of that vision, we resolved to provide the resources needed to ignite passion for the sciences in our students and to empower our young people with the tools necessary to excel in these critical fields.

Now, in the final fiscal year of that effort, we thank the Lord for all that has been accomplished thus far and are grateful for the generosity of so many. Today, Wheaton Academy possesses a 24,000 square foot state-of-the-art science facility, which includes six new cutting-edge classrooms and four new fully-equipped laboratories. Our classes are full and our laboratories are in active use. Teachers have been given the necessary space and equipment to teach more effectively and efficiently.

Student-directed research is expanding and brand new elective courses are providing learners with access to robotics, engineering, creative programming, and technical skills. Students are learning to design solutions to real problems using 3D printing and Python coding and in WYSE competitions Wheaton Academy participants continue to place in the top three schools in the state at our division, along with the University of Chicago Lab Schools and University High School.

“Thanks to six new state-of-the-art research tables, each contained within my classroom, students are now able to transition between lecture and lab, lab and lecture, flawlessly. This is just one example of the way in which the creation of the new Science & Technology Center has transformed the quality of my work and the efficiency of my teaching.”

KEN ELLIS, SCIENCE TEACHER AND 35-YEAR WA VETERAN

OUR VISION BECOMES REALITY

| Science classrooms built in 1983 and 30 years behind scientific standards |
| 6 new fully equipped science classrooms |
| One dedicated lab space for 650 students |
| 4 additional research spaces |
| Outdated and overcrowded facilities |
| Additional 24,000+ square feet of space |
Wheaton Academy’s cutting-edge MASTER curriculum, based on the five pillars of Math, Applied Science, Technology, Engineering, and Research, places the emphasis on experiential hands-on learning and exploration. As we move from the “textbook and memorization” way of teaching to placing the priority on “experiencing and interacting,” our students find themselves more excited about what they are learning and passionate about pursuing careers in science, engineering, and technology.

Perhaps, most importantly, our students are entering into conversations regarding the philosophy of science and the truth of Scripture. Courses are designed to prepare them to face ideas that may appear to conflict with biblical principles and equip them to better define their faith within the scientific world.

“In many situations, when we allow our bodies to become part of the learning process, we understand better. Reading about a concept in a textbook or even seeing a demonstration in class is not the same as physically experiencing what you are learning about. We need to rethink how we are teaching math and science because our actions matter for how and what we learn.”

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, PROFESSOR SIAN BEILOCK, AUTHOR OF HOW THE BODY KNOWS ITS MIND

In this, the final fiscal year of our Let There Be Light campaign, we are working hard to raise the final $2 million. God’s Word in 2 Corinthians 8:11 speaks of finishing a work which you have started. Paul writes “having started the ball rolling so enthusiastically, you should carry this project through to completion just as gladly (TLB).”

As we seek to bring a godly perspective into the world of science and open up new doors of learning for current students, as well as future generations of young people, we invite you to join us in accomplishing our goal to finish the work gladly; work that we pray will change lives and, ultimately, change the world.

“What I have learned has served to reinforce my biblical beliefs and has equipped me to feel well-prepared to defend my faith when it comes to scientific topics in today’s culture.”

BETHANY HOOGERHEIDE ’18

“In each of my science classes at Wheaton Academy my teachers have consistently pulled God into their lessons: connecting what has been created to its Creator and describing how this is relevant to what we have learned.”

ANN HANCOCK ’19
Greetings from my new office in the Armour Building. After a few short weeks in my new role as director of development, I am beginning to settle in and feel at home. Not a day goes by that I don’t feel blessed to be a part of the Lord’s work here at Wheaton Academy. The faculty, staff, and students exude God’s presence, and to be surrounded by that presence day in and day out is truly a blessing to me.

Following twelve years of being at home, I began this new season of my life on Monday of Homecoming week. As many of you know, Homecoming is a busy time at WA, and this year was no exception. My days were filled observing assemblies and pep rallies and the evenings with team competitions and alumni dinners. But, the highlight for me came at the end of the week during the Sunday morning alumni worship service. Many of you may not know this, but Wess Stafford, president emeritus of Compassion International, is an alumnus of our very own Wheaton Academy. Wess returned for Homecoming this October to celebrate his 50-year reunion with the class of 1967 as well as to give the message on Sunday morning. As Wess shared his unbelievable story of growing up in West Africa, to his return to the states, and finally his enrollment at WA, those of us attending hung on every word. Wess told of how, during the winter blizzard of 1967, he was enrolled at WA by his father for the last semester of his senior year. He spoke of the abuse and numerous life-altering events of his childhood that preceded his arrival at WA and how he arrived on campus “broken-hearted, lonely, and scared.” But, much to his surprise, what Wess found was teachers who affirmed him, who cared and prayed for him, and fellow students who inspired him. He explained how his faith grew through the music that they sang as a choir and that it was at Wheaton Academy that his “soul began to heal.” And Wess shared that in those five short months, he was “changed from the inside out.”

It was a beautiful message, and I was brought to tears as I reflected on how I am seeing my own children’s lives shaped and transformed through the Wheaton Academy community. Can you relate to this? Whether a student, former student, parent or friend, my guess is, you can. That might explain the outpouring of support we receive each and every day on campus. The following pages are filled with the names of those of you who have helped support WA through your financial gifts. We are blessed in so many additional ways as well: your prayer support, volunteer hours, or the recent gifting of over 500 plants to our students with no other objective than to “share God’s love.” All these outpourings are being used to further God’s kingdom here at Wheaton Academy. And, for that, we are most grateful.

God’s Word in 1 Samuel 12:24 is a challenge to His followers to serve Him faithfully with all your heart and consider what great things He has done for you. As we approach the holiday season, one in which we oftentimes reflect on that for which we are most thankful, I assure you that this year, Wheaton Academy will be at the top of my list.

In His Service,

Joy Crowe
Director of Development
The Academy Club

**CLASS OF 1942**
- Ellen (Hanson) Lindop

**CLASS OF 1943**
- Geraldine (Nelson) Hiddinga
- Marian (Jones) Ream
- Don Weber

**CLASS OF 1944**
- Lee Nelson
- Gerhard Poppinga

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- Joanne (Churchill) Page
- Phyllis (Whitaker) Seaford

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- Lois (Henning) Vonhof

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- Byron Salstrom
- Karl Selander

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- Eugene LeMaire
- Ruth (Afman) Maier

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- Nel Duffield
- Betty (Carlson) Peterson
- Ilene (Groen) Peterson
- Bill Roost*
- Florence (Maple) Selander
- Donna (Peck) Wanvig

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- Bill Henning
- Carolyn (Stevenson) LeMaire

**CLASS OF 1952**
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- E. Austin Hale
- Valerie (Gunderson) Heidauf
- Dick Holt
- Rex McMurray
- John McNally
- Jane (Watson) Moore
- Carol (Barnett) Perry*
- Dean Rucker
- Dave Sanford
- Harry Teiwes

**CLASS OF 1953**
- Ruth (Hockman) Bell
- Kinsman Kosin
- Paul Mitchell
- Wilma (Gardziella) Riddell
- Carolyn Rust
- Eugene Wright

**CLASS OF 1954**
- Gloria (Huson) Ford
- Bill Harper
- Charles Hogren
- David Johnson
- Wendell Karsen
- Ilene (Cossey) Koenig
- Paul McNally
- Virginia (Wells) Ruggles

**CLASS OF 1955**
- David Babikow
- Dan DeVelde
- Ramona (Regier) Gehring
- Richard Gieser
- Nancy (Wiegand) Matson
- Carol (Glittenberg) Primuth
- Lois (Pershke) Veach

**CLASS OF 1956**
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- Gary Card
- Dorothy (Boosgraf) Dvorak
- Lolita (Larson) Holt
- Dick Kay
- Steven McNicol
- Alice (Oury) Mortenson
- Betty Short
- David Skrudland
- Dan Voie
- Anne (Hogren) Woodson

**CLASS OF 1957**
- Gibson McCartney
- David Swenson

**CLASS OF 1958**
- Tom Fletcher
- John Huffman, Jr.
- June Kearney
- Nancy (Allen) Kelly
- Ralph Olson
- Chet Stewart
- Marcia (Scott) Swenson
- William Wood

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- Phyllis (Hartley) Baseler
- Jo-Nell (Rakase) Hargrave
- Maureen (Griffin) Hicks
- Chuck Jervis
- Carlton Seeland
- Ron Sipp
- Dave Spangler
- Peter Swenson

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- Launa (Pahlke) Schmidt
- Edward Staiger
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**CLASS OF 1961**
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- Mark Blyker
- Dean Brubaker
- Fred Burtelson
- Carl Evans
- Joyce (Glastad) Everswick
- Beverly (Sheriff) Kewish
- Mildred (St. Clair) Oberlin
- Bob Stewart

**CLASS OF 1962**
- David Birch
- Peter Faulkner
- Rhoda (Billston) Sneller
- Joan (Belcher) Teachout

**CLASS OF 1963**
- Duncan Cameron
- Ruth (Lageschulte) Johnson
- Marcia (Newfang) Koponen
- Joan (Arthur) Prall

**CLASS OF 1964**
- Bob Aram
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- Jim Gunlock
- Margot (Cameron) Hammon
- Walter Hansen
- Bob Holberg
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- Marcy (Hall) Burdach
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- Darlene (Kirk) Hansen
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- John Greenman
- Bill Hall
- Robert B. Hanna

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- Robert Hall
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- Susan (Helsing) Whittaker

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- Valerie Siml
- Kip Streit
- Larry Watson
- Jonathan Williams

**CLASS OF 1969**
- Mark Bennett
- Kathi (Oury) Bennett
- Donna (Oldenburger) Doff
- Jay Huitsing
- William Wetter
- Jane (Fenton) Williamson

*deceased

The Academy Club is a special group of donors – our valued alumni.

**How much do I need to give to join?**
All alumni donors are members of the Academy Club whether you give $1 or $1 million.

**Why should I join?**
The generosity of WA alumni makes it possible for the Academy to continue to impact future generations. The active support of the Academy by our alumni community is an encouragement and a blessing to the current WA family. Our partnership with WA alumni is precious to us.

**How can I join?**
Visit wheatonacademy.org/support or use the enclosed envelope to make your gift. All current Academy Club members will receive the 2017 Wheaton Academy ornament as our thank you. See page 21 for more details.
CLASS OF 1970
Allen Brasher
Greg Hanna
David VanderVeen

CLASS OF 1971
Gene Frost
Betsy Hiller
Greg Krumes
Alan Mojonner

CLASS OF 1972
Richard Aram
Beth (VanDerMolen) Bolt
Gary Knosp
Mary (Edema) Sytsma
Ken VanderVeen
Kay (Frost) York

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Janet (VanDerMolen) Dixon

CLASS OF 1974
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Peggy (Stob) Erb
Mark Frost
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CLASS OF 1976
Mary Beth (Knudsen) Sauter

CLASS OF 1977
Glenn Smith
David Thompson
Jeff Van Der Molen

CLASS OF 1978
Allen Brasher
Greg Hanna
David VanderVeen

CLASS OF 1979
Gene Frost
Betsy Hiller
Greg Krumes
Alan Mojonnier

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Beth (VanDerMolen) Bolt
Gary Knosp
Mary (Edema) Sytsma
Ken VanderVeen
Kay (Frost) York

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Lisa (VanDerAa) Lov

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Chip Krueger
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CLASS OF 1984
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Randy Hultgren
Carole (Newing) Johnson
John Kamstra
Tim Sezonov
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JNY Hawkins

CLASS OF 1985
Mary (Dominguex) Fouik
Matt Hockett
Linda (Deneau) Manganello
Brad Pihl

CLASS OF 1986
Jena (Thomas) Urbaytis

CLASS OF 1987
Michelle (Nyo) Keyes

CLASS OF 1988
Michelle (LaGroue) Conradt

CLASS OF 1989
Mark Frost
Jennifer (Clum) Grandy

CLASS OF 1990
Daniel Dominguez
Renee (Miall) Pollino
Melanie (Passon) Young

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Leigh Mikolajczyk
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Audriana (Dan) Anderson
Alison (Roos) Crowley
Betsey (Pihl) Doebler
James Tabb
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Ruth (Dan) Walstra

CLASS OF 1993
Mary (Dominguex) Fouik
Matt Hockett
Linda (Deneau) Manganello
Brad Pihl

CLASS OF 1994
Jena (Thomas) Urbaytis

CLASS OF 1995
Michelle (Nyo) Keyes

CLASS OF 1996
Michelle (LaGroue) Conradt

CLASS OF 1997
Mark Frost
Jennifer (Clum) Grandy

CLASS OF 1998
Angie (Jones) Franklin
Kristin (Williams) Frost
Matt Liddick

CLASS OF 1999
Elisa (Hoekstra) Moore
JNY Hawkins

CLASS OF 2000
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Kristin (Williams) Frost
Matt Liddick

CLASS OF 2001
Peter Frost

CLASS OF 2002
Jeff Brooke
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Scott Broman
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Rebecca (Dury) Gutwein
Alison Koch
Carl Larsen

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Brighitta Engebretsen
Nate Jones
Anthony LaMantia
Kerrin (Clancy) Larsen
Joey McKenna
Devin Moore
Ilya Petrov
Amanda Steimle

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Rachel (Nasralla) Thorsen
Danielle (Abinion) West
Will West

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Luke Lanham

CLASS OF 2013
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Tangela (Xiaojun) Liang
Liz Rubenic

CLASS OF 2014
Nathan Andrus
Steven Benson
Widi Moestopo

CLASS OF 2015
Heidi Engebretsen
Luke Lanham

CLASS OF 2016
Jessie Fernandes
Given Tanri

CLASS OF 2017
Kevin (Zhengkai) Bi
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Diane Van Dyke
Luz Vergara
Helen Westerfield
Steve Willemssen

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.

PROVERBS 18:16
WESS STAFFORD ’67, PRESIDENT EMERITUS, COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

“I came alive at Wheaton Academy and upon that foundation God blessed my life and He allowed me to bless others.”

Current Parents
Anonymous (4)
Dr. Douglas and Dr. Cynthia Ambler
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Andrew
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Arndt
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Asllani
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Austriaco
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley H. Bailey
Mr. David J. Bailey and Mrs. Linnea Winquist
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Mr. and Mrs. John Gomoll
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“Guatemala became dear to my heart. I prayed that God would help me find a way to return to Guatemala and He answered that prayer through the McNallys.”

LYDIA RUBENIC ’15, 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN ’52 AND VERA MCNALLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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LYDIA RUBENIC ’15, 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN ’52 AND VERA MCNALLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?
Everything comes from You, and we have given
You only what comes from Your hand.

1 CHRONICLES 29:14
"I have grown immensely and have learned how to actively live for Christ each and every day. It has been a real blessing to be at Wheaton Academy, and without these scholarships I would not be here."

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A Chance to Bless Our Teachers

When Wheaton Academy graduates reflect on meaningful influences on their high school experience, our Living Curriculum Teachers are mentioned almost without fail.

Wheaton Academy invites you, as a friend and supporter of our school, to take part in a program designed to provide our teachers with the blessing of a family vacation they might otherwise be unable to afford.

Our Timeshare for Teachers program offers our entire school family the chance to give back directly to WA’s faithful teachers by donating gifts of the following types:

- Timeshares
- Time at privately owned vacation homes
- Vacation packages
- Airline miles

For questions about this program, or to provide a vacation opportunity, please contact: Diane Van Dyke at 630.562.7514 or dvandyke@wheatonacademy.org.

“The family has enjoyed the Timeshare for Teachers vacations for the last 10 years. This has truly been a blessing for us each summer getting to take a family vacation and explore different states and cities. We’ve enjoyed mountains, lakes, oceans, beaches, unique restaurants, and shopping... and we have relaxed on docks and porches of fellow Wheaton Academy families.”

THE BOWLING FAMILY

Calling all Wheaton Academy Grandparents

Be sure and mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, as all WA grandparents are invited to join the school community for our annual Wheaton Academy Grandparents Day. This time honored tradition is not to be missed as we join generations together for a day of connection and memories.

Todd Beamer Benefit Golf Outing

Wheaton Academy’s 2017 Todd Beamer Benefit Golf Outing returned once again this fall to the beautiful and challenging Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, Illinois. This event, held every August, serves to remember the life of former WA student, Todd Beamer ’87, and his heroic actions on 9/11 as well as raise funds which are used to provide need-based scholarships. We are delighted to announce that this year’s event raised over $185,000 for students who would otherwise be financially unable to attend Wheaton Academy.
Memorial Brick Dedication

When the extended Academy community loses a member, the grief is shared by many. Having a place on campus where these precious people can be remembered is an important way to capture the heritage of the Academy for generations to come. Established in 2015, the Emmy Gaffey '10 Memorial Garden, gifted by the Gaffey family and originally created as a prayer garden, also serves as a setting for memorial bricks honoring the lives of other Academy alumni and friends who have passed.

The following beloved members of the WA community were remembered during this year’s Memorial Brick Dedication Ceremony:

Donna (Allen ’56) Bond  Carol (Barnett ’52) Martin Perry
Diane (Adam ’64) Brandon  Carol (MacKinney ’67) Romig
Zolin Burson ’52  Dwight Schultz ’39

If you and/or your family or class would like to have a memorial brick dedicated for a member of the WA community who has passed, please contact Dawn Earl, Director of Alumni Relations, or visit wheatonacademy.org/support-wa/memorial-garden for more information.

Wheaton Academy Mourns Tremendous Loss
Jadyn Philipps
1999-2017

On October 30, 2017, Wheaton Academy lost a beautiful member of its community. Senior Jadyn Philipps succumbed to her battle with pulmonary hypertension. Our community mourns the loss of such a strong, engaging, and vibrant personality.

In the classroom, teachers spoke of her ability to ask tough questions, to question why, and to challenge the class. As an artist, Jadyn was vulnerable and honest. The art was never superficial, but rather each creation meant something to her.

As a leader, Jadyn did not back away from seeking and accepting responsibility. She committed to Project IX – mentoring freshmen as part of Project LEAD. She was devoted to serving and helping whenever possible. Sadly, her body limited her participation in WA activities but, because of these physical restrictions, each moment she had was meaningful and impactful.

One beautiful truth we can hold on to is the promise of a life eternal for those who trust in the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. No one ever questioned where Jadyn stood on this. She was vocal about her faith and her desire to know Christ more. We mourn in these moments when a loved one leaves our presence, but we celebrate in the hope of the Gospel. Jadyn is a new creation. And we are joyful that the new body and spirit are in the community of believers with Christ.
1969

**Linda (Youngstrom '69) Duer** recently visited WA and gifted over 500 plants to WA students and employees. When asked where she got all these plants, her response was one word: God! Linda started with about 20 plants and cuttings and ended with hundreds of plants. She attributes the providence of God for the abundance. Each plant had a handwritten note from Linda with the words “God loves you.” Her goal was to remind students how much God loves them so that they would desire to love God and others in return. To Linda, life is indeed “all about God.”

1996

**Angie (Nichols '96) Vinez** resides in the north Georgia mountains with her husband, Gene, and their eight children: Ashley (20), Zander (14), Jace (13), Lucy (11), Parker (9), Gage (6), Carly (4), and Sawyer (3). In addition to being mom to this amazing family, Angie is very active in her church and community, runs an online design business, dabbles in photography, and blogs. She recently started a moms’ group called SHINE, Sharing Him IN Everything. (No, she does not sleep!) You can follow Angie at blessedbeyondwords.com.

1998

**Elizabeth (Whitley ’98) Garard** and her husband, Matt, joyfully announce the birth of Nora Beatrice on January 21, 2017. The family resides in Urbana, IL. Nora was welcomed by two sets of adoring grandparents.

2000

On May 21, 2016, **Jennifer Schulenburg ’00** married her best friend, Matt Caterer, at Chapelstreet Church in Geneva, IL. Jenny earned a B.A. in secondary English education in 2004 from Judson University and an M.A. in Christian Formation and Ministry from Wheaton College in 2008. Matt is the bassist for the Smoking Popes, a Capitol Records signed band which has toured both nationally and internationally. He also serves as the volunteer Pastoral Resident at Chapelstreet Church where Jenny is the director of the Office of the Lead Pastor.
2004

Rachel Delicath ’04 became Mrs. Ian Milligan on March 18, 2017. Rachel graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2007 and Ball State University in 2012. She has worked as an elementary teacher and school counselor in Muncie, IN, for the past ten years. Ian works in Noblesville, IN, as an engineer. The newlyweds enjoy traveling, spending time with family, and being involved with the youth in their church. Rachel’s two sisters, Kelly (Delicath ’06) Houghtaling and Rebekah Delicath ’09, were matron and maid of honor in Ian and Rachel’s wedding.

2010

Chloe Rose ’10 is serving in the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa, as a health volunteer. She lives in a remote village in the bush promoting topics such as nutrition, maternal and child health, hygiene, and water sanitation. She also works in malaria education and prevention programs, and trains youth as peer educators. Chloe graduated from Hope College in 2014 with a degree in International Studies and French. She joined the Peace Corps because she answered God’s calling in her life to aid in humanitarian efforts.

2005

Lacey Rae Masselink was born to Andy and Autumn (Haag ’05) Masselink on Good Friday, April 14, 2017. She was a precious Easter gift! The Masselinks reside in Gilbert, AZ, where Autumn works as a nurse at a crisis pregnancy center, and Andy works as a clinical pharmacist.

2011

Will ’11 and Danielle (Abinion ’11) West are rejoicing in the birth of Lincoln Brady who arrived punctually on his July 4 due date. Dani and Will have been introducing Lincoln to the world of sports this fall as he went to his first Blackhawks and Cubs games at the tender age of 3 1/2 months. This little guy has captured his parents’ hearts and blessed their lives.
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1957
Edward Conyers ’57, MSGT, US Air Force (Ret.) met his heavenly Father on June 30, 2017, after a bout with bladder cancer. Ed was the son of Allen and Helen Conyers. In 1950, the Conyers family moved to Illinois so that the oldest sibling Rhonda could enroll at Wheaton College Academy. Allen Conyers was hired to work in the maintenance department of the Academy. In 1953, Al was promoted to superintendent of buildings & grounds, and the family moved to the campus of the Academy. In that same year, Ed became an Academy freshman. He was an avid athlete, participating in football, basketball, and track. After graduation, he attended John Brown University in Siloam Springs, AR. In 1962 Ed enlisted in the US Air Force and served 26 years, retiring in 1988. His last 8 years of service were spent as a US Air Force liaison at General Dynamics in the building of the F-16 jet. Ed is survived by his 2nd wife, Sherry Lynne; a son and two daughters; grandchildren; sisters Rhonda Messersmith ’54 and Sandra Gordon ’61.

1952
Zolin Burson ’52 grew up on the Burson family farm in Colorado and accepted Christ as his Savior at a young age. He moved to Illinois to complete high school at Wheaton Academy where he dedicated his life to serving the Lord. After graduating from Baylor University, Zolin was called to active duty in the Air Force and served for four years. In the ensuing years, Zolin established himself as a nationally and internationally recognized nuclear physicist. He had extensive involvement with the armed forces and the federal government by way of initiating, planning, and implementing emergency response, radiation shielding, and health physics. At his funeral, a colleague of his shared that Zolin was known as a peacemaker, an unselfish man who harbored no ill will against anyone and walked in the light of God’s love. Zolin entered Glory on May 20, 2017. He is survived by his wife of over 55 years, Shirley; daughters Zolina and Phyllis; son Roy; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

1961
Jan Wayne Barkdoll ’61 succumbed to stomach cancer on March 16, 2017, at the age of 74. He had many fond memories of his four years at the Academy. Jan was a proud Navy veteran of 32 years and worked as a journeyman tool and die maker, manufacturing engineer, and quality control manager. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, reading, and playing card/board games. He is survived by his best friend and wife of 52 years, Cheryl; a son and three daughters; and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nathan and Maurine (Burke ’35) Barkdoll.

Paul “Pep” Peterson passed away peacefully on June 23, 2017, at the age of 82. Pep was a former WA employee and Board trustee who served at the Academy off and on over the course of three decades. In 1982, upon his return from Morrison Academy in Taiwan, Pep was the head administrator at WA. Pep is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ilene (Groen ’50); their three children, Andrene Johnson, Paul Eric Peterson, and Greta (Peterson ’86) Clement; three grandsons; in-laws Maxine and Paul Groen ’55, Bonnie and Floyd Groen ’59, and Rick and Deann (Groen ’66) Bayless.

The Conyers family (Al and Helen, Rhonda ’54, Eddie ’57, and Sandra ’61) is pictured here at their home which was across the street from campus.
 Alumni Update Form is Online!
The alumni section of the WA website now includes an UPDATE WA page where you can easily update your contact info and/or submit an AlumNotes blurb and photo for the Connection. Click on ALUMNI in the horizontal menu bar under the photo banner on the wheatonacademy.org home page. Then scroll to the bottom of the dropdown menu and click on UPDATE WA to access the Alumni Update form.

Like us on Facebook
Have you LIKED the Facebook page for Wheaton Academy Alumni? All you need to do is search for Wheaton Academy Alumni. Please find us and LIKE our page. Not only would we love to reconnect/stay connected with you, we’d love to reconnect you with former classmates and keep you updated on WA happenings!

WA Memorabilia
Do you have some keepsakes from your days at the Academy? We’re always thrilled to accept WA memorabilia to help us preserve the history and legacy of our school. We are looking for an old 1974 yearbook for an alumnus. The Kullberg sisters (Joan and June) are also searching for the following yearbooks from the years they lived on campus: 1951-54, 1956, and 1958. If you would be willing to donate your old yearbooks or other WA treasures, please contact us.

Updates!
Keeping our records up-to-date and maintaining contact with you are priorities for us. If you are moving, getting married, or changing your contact information, please let us know. Young alumni, if your alumni newsletters and reunion information are still being mailed to your parents’ house, please update your current contact information with us so that you can receive these items at your own home.

Share your updates by sending us a photo of your new baby, wedding, family, etc.

THREE WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR ALUMNOTE:
1. Email your photo(s) to Dawn Earl at dearl@wheatonacademy.org
2. Mail them to Dawn at 900 Prince Crossing Road, West Chicago, IL 60185
3. Submit an online Alumni Update at wheatonacademy.org/alumni/update-us

Photos for the next issue of the WA Connection must be received by January 15, 2018. Please include a complete description of the photo.

ALUMNI PLATFORM:
Your Online Connection to WA
Visit WA’s alumni online community at wa.360alumni.com. The platform includes an online directory and map locator, jobs board, and much more. Plus, the platform will be Command Central for Homecoming 2018. Information about Homecoming 2018 events, including class reunions, will be updated regularly, and registration for all Homecoming events will be available online through the platform. Explore the online directory and find former classmates. Be sure to activate and update your profile while you are there so friends can find you, too!

Keep up-to-date at WA.360alumni.com

Save the Date

Has a new member joined your family recently?
Let us know, and we’ll send you a Maroon Platoon t-shirt for your little one or a onesie for your newborn.
Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you.  
1 Samuel 12:24