

A BAKERSFIELD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE | FALL 2013

impact

Advanced Placement
key to college
jump-start





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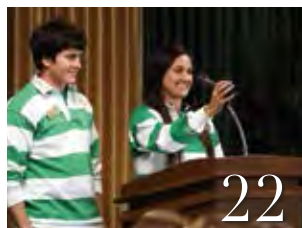
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BOARD SPOTLIGHT: Jeff Huckaby



Jeff Huckaby, Board Chair

Jeff Huckaby and his wife Michelle have been involved at BCHS since their oldest son, Matt, began his freshman year in 2008. Jeff, who is the executive vice president of Grimmway Enterprises, joined the BCHS board in 2010 and began his term as chair last January. He and Michelle will see their youngest son, Austin, graduate from BCHS this May.

Jeff sat down with *Impact* to answer a few questions as board chair and a parent at BCHS.

What has the board done or what is the board doing that you are pleased to report?

There are a few things that come to mind. For the second year in a row we have balanced our budget. We have restructured our board of directors and added some new board members who care deeply about the school and understand the importance of sound business principles. They are business leaders in our community and are directing and supporting our school's president and his administration. Finally, we have empowered the administration to make much needed policy and personnel decisions that are appropriate to a school of our size and that make us more sustainable and effective for the future.

From your vantage point, where do you hope to see the school in the next five years?

In five years, I hope to see a financially strong institution of more than 600 students with many involved in quality athletic and fine arts programs and many of our graduates going

on to some of the finest colleges and universities in our country. All of this with facilities and grounds that are the best equipped and maintained in the county of Kern.

What are the primary functions of the board?

The primary function of the board is to assure that the mission of the school is maintained. Additionally, it is the role of the board to assist and guide the president in assuring sound fiscal decisions. Our goal is to see that the school's business aims and objectives are financially sound so that the mission is secure and sustainable. The board is made up of strong business people who make similar decisions every day to keep their businesses healthy and strong. Future planning and yearly budget decisions are not taken lightly by those on the board. Finally, it is the board's responsibility to evaluate the president's performance annually to assure that goals are set and achieved. We have just completed that process and are excited about the future.

What do you feel the community's perception is of BCHS and what does this suggest to you as the board chair?

I feel the community looks at BCHS as a small, private high school that offers a quality education that is beyond the financial reach of many families. As the board chair, this concerns me. Our goal must be to provide the best education in Bakersfield, utilizing the very best educators, facilities and programs, but one that is accessible to more families than it currently is. We must be good stewards with the money our families and donors entrust to us. We need to begin focusing on "legacy gifts" that will provide financial aid to students who truly are in need and have a strong commitment to what BCHS is all about.

If there were one thing you would want every parent to know, what would that be?

One thing I would like every parent to know is there is a strong board made up of strong businessmen and women with proven track records in their own fields. They are committed to their own businesses as well as the business of the board of BCHS. The board is planning for the future and making sound financial decisions that will make the school stronger in the years to come. Being financially strong and healthy allows the school to have the best teachers and the best facilities, which, in turn, allows the school to educate and prepare our students for the future unlike any other high school in the Valley.

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Early advantage:

AP classes offer credit, skills for college



AP European History teacher Nate Thiessen exposes sophomores to their first college-level class. From learning to read a college-level textbook to diving into the meaning behind the events like World War I, the class is a great indicator for success in future AP courses.



AP Chemistry teacher Dawn Reed engages students in hands-on laboratory investigation to learn chemical concepts through direct experience and observations in partnership with traditional lectures throughout the year.

Nearly 170 BCHS students were also “college students” last year. They weren’t actually enrolled in college, but these achievers completed advanced-placement classes, which often count for college credit.

“It is a college-level course taught in the high school setting,” Vice President of Academic Growth Greg Root says. “The mindset that our students must have in taking an AP course is ‘this is not a high school course anymore, I will be learning from college-level materials.’”

More than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the country offer credit, high placement in courses, or both for students who pass high school AP classes with high marks.

Students who complete AP courses in high school not only experience college-level instruction, but they are afforded more scheduling flexibility once they get to college, having credit already under their belt. Take a lighter course load, add a second major or take a semester to study abroad – all are easier to do when a student enters college already partway to a degree.

continued ►



AP Calculus is at the top of the pack of BCHS' advanced-placement test scores. Read more on page 6.

AP English Literature and Composition Test

Pass Rate
76.09%

Nearly 20 percentage points above the California and global pass rates of 57.83% and 57.86%

environment if they show success in high school AP classes.

"So, college admission counselors would rather see a 'B' in an AP class than an 'A' in a CP (college-preparatory) class, because of the rigor, and that's what's important," Chandler says.

AP classes also give high school

students a head start on critical thinking skills needed in college.

"The standards in college are easy to achieve because it's essentially what we already expected of them in high school," says BCHS English teacher Jennifer Helmcamp.

Art of AP expansion

BCHS' job is to continue to offer a wide variety of AP courses – 14 last year – that adapt to the demands and interests of current students.

As the school continues to grow, more AP classes will be offered, including expanding into arts.

"We are planning to put a capstone class on the back end of the years they put into developing fine arts skills so they can get college credit," Root says. "One that is the climax for the track in art or music. The goal is for them to create a portfolio or profile of songs and music they can take to Eastman or Julliard or one of the art institutes to help in their application to those various schools."

BCHS is also building its summer school program so students can take enrichment courses in U.S. history, biology, chemistry, etc., during the summer and open up their schedules in the fall to take AP classes.

"If they can knock out some of those classes that they have to take in the summer program, they can take more electives with the AP options, and they can fit it into their schedule. So with the development of (summer school), comes more opportunity for students to take those electives," says Nate Thiessen, history department head and director of summer school.

Additional AP course expansion is slated in the next five years in the area of history and social sciences.

Laying groundwork

Prepared teachers are core to having prepared students, and all BCHS AP instructors are certified by the College Board. Some have experience teaching at the college level, and all are available in and out of the classroom with knowledge beyond the textbook.

College counselors also play a key role in prepping students for AP courses. Freshmen are not eligible to take AP classes, but BCHS counselors begin evaluating abilities as soon as students enroll.

"We look long-term," Chandler says. "We don't want to start them in the program and then have them get overwhelmed as it progresses, because the program increases in rigor and intensity. Expectations rise each year."

Counselors continue to evaluate and forecast student success into junior and senior years, when the PSAT is given. That test not only gives practice for college entrance exams, but it also provides data to counselors to help them recommend AP classes at BCHS.

A student can dip their toes in the AP water as early as their sophomore year with AP European History. Though the basic skeleton of AP European History isn't different from the standard version, the AP class goes into much more detail. Students analyze cause and effect, reasons for war, results of war and deeper meaning behind events.

Taking honors classes can also be a step-up approach to taking AP courses. BCHS will begin implementing the College Board's SpringBoard curriculum in its English classes this fall.

"This is actually considered a pre-AP program," Helmcamp says.

AP Quiz

Do you have what it takes to be in an AP class or pass the AP test? Take this quiz created from just a few of the AP courses BCHS offers to see which subjects you ace and which ones stump you. Answers are located on page 9.

AP CALCULUS BC

1. Solve the following equation. $2x^2 - 8x + 5 = 0$
2. Solve the following equation. $\ln(x + 2) - \ln x = 3$
3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{\int_5^x \ln(6-t) dt}{(x-5)^2} =$

AP CHEMISTRY

1. Would the process of rusting of a nail be considered a physical or chemical change?
2. How many liters of hydrogen gas would be required to react completely with 14g of nitrogen gas in the Haber process below at STP?
$$\text{N}_2 + 3\text{H}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NH}_3$$
3. Calculate the final pH of when 75 mL of 3M HCl is combined with 150mL of 2M NaOH.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

1. Who were the "Big 3" during World War II?
2. Where was the War of the Roses?
3. What is a glasnost?

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Thin, delicate, paper skin
Stooped, frail shoulders,
Voice weak and barely audible
Stood my mother before me,
Fragile. –Walker

1. What type of sentence is this?
2. What rhetorical mode is represented by this sentence?
3. What tone is created?

continued ►

AP Quiz, continued

AP PHYSICS

A beaker weighing 2.0 N is filled with $5.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$ of water. A rubber ball weighing 3.0 N is held entirely underwater by a massless string attached to the bottom of the beaker. The tension in the string is 4.0 N. The water fills the beaker to a depth of 0.20 m. Water has a density of 1000 kg/m³.

- The string is cut, and the ball rises to the surface and floats. Indicate whether the water level is higher, lower, or the same after equilibrium is reached.

_____Higher _____Lower _____The same

Justify your answer.

- On the dot below that represents the ball, draw and label the forces (not components) that act on the ball.

•

- Calculate the weight of the entire apparatus.

AP STATISTICS

- What is the median of the following data set?
(2, 4, 6, 3, 8, 9, 2, 6, 1, 1, 0)
- How many different outfits could you take with you on vacation if you can choose from 4 tops, 5 pants, and 3 different pairs of shoes?
- If you are conducting a chi-squares test of independence and the p-value for the test is $p = .002467$. What conclusion would you make?

AP U.S. HISTORY

- What was the main reason that the abolitionist message was not accepted by the North before the 1850s?
- Manifest Destiny was interpreted by Americans to mean that God had given the nation the right to expand its territorial possessions where?
- What was the intended purpose of the Gadsden Purchase?

Answers are located on page 9.



Calculus a prime example of AP excellence

Leading the pack of BCHS' advanced-placement test scores are those for calculus.

Both the AP Calculus AB (equivalent of Calculus I in college) and AP Calculus BC (equivalent of Calculus I and II in college) boasted pass rates in the 70th percentile last year, plus average test scores for the past three years were well above the state and global averages.

Motivated and intelligent students, led by an equally motivated and intelligent instructor, Paul Sadowsky, make the difference. Graduating senior Brandon Parks, for example, gravitated towards a challenging calculus course because of his interest in science and engineering.

"I've got a very solid foundation (in math) no matter where I go. I know calculus very well. I think no matter what class I go into, I'll be well prepared to just jump right in and to learn," says Parks, who will be studying biomedical engineering when he heads to the University of Miami this fall.

Chad Spalinger, class of 2011, credits Sadowsky in prepping him to study engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

"Mr. Sadowsky's math courses really challenged me and really helped me prepare for the intense math courses at Georgia Tech," Spalinger says.

A growing number of international students, including around 30 from China, are also finding benefit in AP calculus.

"The course is very challenging, because Mr. Sadowsky pushes us to study and learn," said Yifu Yin, who uses the American name Evie at BCHS.

Parks, Spalinger and Yin each realized that challenging themselves in high school would pay dividends in college.

"If you want to study math, science or engineering at a prestigious university, it is very difficult to get accepted without taking AP calculus in high school," says Sadowsky, who holds a master's in biomedical engineering from the University of Southern California.

Sadowsky says he wants to prepare his students for success in their next math class and not to just pass the AP test. With that goal in mind, he teaches advanced concepts such as trigonometric substitution integrals that are normally a part of a Calculus II course but are not tested on the AP exam so that his students will be ready for what they'll face at colleges like Georgia Tech, Texas A&M or the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I'm trying to get to where the kids, if they take the class here, can go into whatever

calculus class they're going to be in, and be comfortable no matter how their teacher teaches," Sadowsky says.

2013 AP Test Pass Rate

Calculus AB

72.73%

Calculus BC

78.26%



AP Calculus three-year-average test scores*

Calculus AB	BCHS	3.40
	California	2.98
	Global	2.92
Calculus BC	BCHS	4.14
	California	3.89
	Global	3.79

*The final score is on a five-point scale with 5 being extremely qualified (college course grade equivalent of A+ or A), 4 being very qualified (A-, B+ or B), 3 being qualified (B-, C+ or C), 2 being possibly qualified and 1 being no recommendation.

National Merit Finalist Julia Clausen



Out of the 1.5 million students who take the PSAT each year, about 3 percent are recognized as high scorers by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of these 50,000 high scorers, about 15,000, or just 1 percent, are acknowledged as National Merit Finalists. BCHS' Julia Clausen earned that honor last year.

Though originally based on the PSAT score taken during the student's junior year, each student who makes the minimum index score – 221 for California last year – is considered a semifinalist and must then complete an application, get a teacher's recommendation and back up their performance through scoring well on the SAT.

Last February, Clausen was announced a finalist, which she says was a huge honor.

"It was exciting for me, because it opened up college opportunities. When you're a finalist, a lot of colleges are willing to give you lots of money," says Clausen. "It also makes you more desirable (as a college applicant)."

Both the universities of Arizona and Oklahoma offered Clausen full-tuition scholarships based on her finalist standing, however, she chose to stay in her home state and head to the University of California, Irvine to be admitted to its Campuswide Honors Program. She will pursue an English major with an emphasis in creative writing.

This honors program is highly selective and came with enough benefits to reel in the sought-after academician. Clausen says separate dorms and special classes with other students whose top interest is their education were draws, along with priority registration, help with getting internships and scholarship options to study abroad.

According to Clausen, she has no doubts that she is ready for the academic rigors of college and also grounded in her Christian faith.

"In all our classes, (teachers) are constantly preparing us," Clausen said.

Forensics

At the state forensics tournament last April, the team of Jacob Lanuza and Jake Riggs made the first cut of teams in Parliamentary Debate and advanced to the fourth round of the tournament. Separately, Riggs advanced to the quarter-final round of Impromptu Speaking.

At the national forensics tournament in Birmingham, Ala. last June, Elsa Braun and Riggs represented BCHS and the Sierra District in Public Forum Debate. The topic for the tournament was about the benefits and disadvantages of the United States' use of drones in the war on terror. The event began with nearly 200 two-person teams. Each team debated six times before a new bracket was made.

Braun and Riggs were only two ballots shy of making the cut. They were the top Public Forum Debate team from the Sierra District. Riggs also competed in Extemporaneous Debate and won four of his six rounds. Riggs out-performed all other Sierra District performers in his individual event.



Jake Riggs, left, and Elsa Braun, right, display their trophies from the national forensics qualifying tournament. Also pictured is forensics coach and teacher Dustin Adams.

National Merit

Victoria Bruick, Tanner Howard and Halie Sisco received certification of commendations from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Julia Clausen was named a National Merit Finalist.

Academic Decathlon

Nine BCHS students competed on the Academic Decathlon team Feb. 2 against 20 other teams from high schools throughout Kern County. The BCHS team coached by Jennifer Helmcamp and Dustin Adams earned first place in the Interview Test Category and individuals received two gold medals including Jake Riggs in essay and Gathenji Njoroge in interview. The topic for the decathlon was Russia.

Youth Leadership Bakersfield

Junior Clifton Guillory was selected for Youth Leadership Bakersfield's class of 2013, a program of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce. The program is a collaborative outgrowth which identifies potential leaders, develops their leadership skills, increases awareness of diverse career paths, enhances perspectives of local opportunities, creates a spirit of cooperation and encourages civic involvement. Guillory completed the program by participating in a series of seminars from January through April, which included lectures, panel discussions and hands-on activities.

Dream Builders/Ford Dimension Leadership Programs

Connor Kingsbury was selected for the Jim Burke Education Foundation Ford Dimension program. He and his team focused on a community service project to help children with autism or special needs. This "heart therapy" was done through art projects where the children were able to express themselves, since those with autism or other learning disabilities often have a hard time expressing themselves with words. The team even received a proclamation from the mayor who

declared a week last February "Art through Autism Awareness Week."

Robert Keathley was selected for the Jim Burke Education Foundation Dream Builders program. He and his team designed and developed a job fair program for elementary students to create awareness and instill the importance of staying in school, going to college and considering career choices. The team also implemented the program at two selected, at-risk elementary schools where the student

participants wrote down their career choice on a cloud and posted them in the cafeteria as part of their assembly. Keathley's team project received a Dream Builders Award for its creativity and success.

Austin Huckaby and Claryce Lazerson were selected to participate in the Dream Builders community leadership program for this school year.

Robert Keathley, left, poses with his Dream Builders team that developed and implemented a job fair program for local at-risk elementary school students.



Connor Kingsbury works with a student to create an art project as part of his Ford Dimension "heart therapy" project to help children with autism or special needs express themselves through art.

Optimist Awards

Four BCHS students were awarded at the Teen City Government Day last November, as part of Optimist International's Annual Youth Appreciation Week. The Optimist award recipients were Emily Meurer for scholarship, Jake Anderson for leadership, Gabby Tkac for school and community service and Victoria Bruick for the Glendon Rogers Award, which includes excellence in each of the other three award categories.

Science Fair

BCHS placed third overall in the Kern County Science Fair on March 19 at Rabobank Arena. Eight of the 20 projects from BCHS received awards, plus six projects received special monetary awards.

Gathenji Njoroge received first place for his project in the Earth and Environment category. The team of Nelson Chandler and Clifton Guillory also received first place for their project in the Mammalian Biology, Physiology and Zoology category. The team of Andrea Bauer and Connor Kingsbury were awarded second place for their chemistry project. The team of Nicolo Daug and Michael DeCicco placed third for their project in the Pharmacology and Toxicology category. Each of these students advanced with their project to the California State Science Fair last April.

The BCHS Science Department received a \$250 award for the number of wins it earned.

AP Quiz Answers

See how you did on your AP quiz. Determine how many questions you answered correctly in each subject area and use the key below to rate your performance.

AP CALCULUS BC

- $x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{6}}{2}$
- $x = \frac{2}{e^3 - 1}$
- $-\frac{1}{2}$

AP CHEMISTRY

- chemical
- 33.6 Liters
- pH = 13.5

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

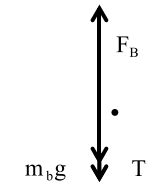
- Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin
- England
- A period of openness in the Soviet Union under Gorbachev

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

- periodic
- definition
- pensive, introspective

AP PHYSICS

- Lower. Less fluid is displaced by the rubber ball because less of the ball's volume is submerged in the water.
-



$$3. W_{total} = W_{beaker} + W_{ball} + W_{water}$$

$$\begin{aligned} W_{water} &= \rho = m/V, \text{ so } m = \rho V \\ W_{water} &= \\ m_{water}g &= \rho Vg = (1000 \text{ kg/m}^3) (5.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3) (9.8 \text{ m/s}^2) \\ W_{water} &= 49 \text{ N} \\ W_{total} &= 2.0 \text{ N} + 3.0 \text{ N} + 49 \text{ N} = 54 \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

AP STATISTICS

- 3
- 60 different outfits
- the two variables are not independent

AP U.S. HISTORY

- realization that the economy of the North was closely tied to cotton production in the South
- Western Hemisphere
- route for a transcontinental railroad from the South to California

How did you do?

- Answered 0 correctly: You probably need to get some tutoring
- Answered 1 correctly: Good job, but you better stick to the college prep course
- Answered 2 correctly: Great, you're ready to take the advanced placement course
- Answered 3 correctly: Awesome job, you've just aced the AP test

Students showcase talent

october

OCTOBER 12-13

Lead actors Lindsay Book, Caleb Hall and Austin Garcia, along with a dozen supporting cast members directed by Scott Neese, presented "Our Town" to more than 350 people. The production featured seating "in the round" in BCHS' atrium.



august

AUGUST-NOVEMBER

Pep Band promoted BCHS spirit at home football games.

september

SEPTEMBER 8

Victoria Bruick (clarinet), Paige Kobdich (oboe), Amy Winter (French horn), Andie-Vawn Winter (French horn) and Robert Wood (bassoon) auditioned for and were later selected for the Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra, making up five of the 16 woodwind and brass selections. BYSO performed Nov. 18, April 7 and June 15.

SEPTEMBER 18

Art 2, Studio Art, Advanced Design Concepts and Animation took a field trip to the Getty Museum.



november

NOVEMBER 17

Elsa Braun, soprano, and Holland Dears, alto, performed with more than 500 students chosen for the California Central Region Honor Choir. The concert was held at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

december

DECEMBER 6

Twenty visual and performing arts classes collaborated for the annual Colors of Christmas. The production showcased music from the Women's Chamber Choir, Mixed Choir, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble and guitar as well as performances from the theatre classes and video from animation classes. The art show reception that followed displayed works from the art and photography classes.



january

JANUARY 29

After being selected from auditions and participating in a series of rehearsals, Victoria Bruick (clarinet), Ezekiel Eicher (tuba), Paige Kobdich (oboe), Claryce Lazerson (violin), Luke Spencer (saxophone) and Robert Wood (bassoon) participated in "It's a Grand Night for Music," which showcased the talent of students throughout Kern County at Rabobank Theater.

february

FEBRUARY 8

The Jazz Band, Mixed Choir, Women's Chamber Choir and special guest soloists Lindsay Book, Tom Price, Kirsten Watkins and teacher Scott Neese, performed big band and soft jazz hits at the annual Big Nite O'Jazz dinner and concert.



FEBRUARY 24

Aaron Levins, trombone, participated in the All-State Honor Band held at the Fresno Convention Center.

march

MARCH 23

The Jazz Band participated in the Fullerton Jazz Festival.

MARCH 23

Elsa Braun, soprano, participated in the All-State Honor Choir in San Jose as one of 500 students chosen from the state.

april

APRIL 12-14

Jake Wattenbarger, who portrayed Joseph, and narrators Andrea Bauer, Lindsay Book and Elsa Braun, along with a cast of 33 other actors comprised of students from high school through third grade, presented the annual spring musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," at St. John's Lutheran Church's Worship Center under the



direction of Scott Neese. An orchestra of 15 directed by Rachel German and a crew of 10 were also essential to the production.

APRIL 18

Forty of BCHS' art, drama and animation students took a field trip to Disneyland and Disney California Adventure for a three-hour tour focusing on the "Disney magic" behind telling stories through art, animation and dialogue.

APRIL 18

An installation ceremony introduced a mural painted by advanced art students Julia Clausen, Kimberly Marshburn, Emily Meurer, Bethany Spiva and Brooke Staley under the director of art teacher Nancy Cavaiani, to enhance the children's section of the Kern County Library - Bryce C. Rathbun Branch.



may

MAY 2

The spring concert and art show featured the Jazz Band, Mixed Choir, Women's Chamber Choir, Wind Ensemble and the works of art students.

MAY 11

Music in the Parks at Universal Studios, Hollywood invited BCHS' vocal and instrumental ensembles to perform. Ratings were given to each participating group as follows: Women's Chamber Choir, superior; Wind Ensemble, superior; Mixed Choir, excellent; Jazz Band, good.

See the 2012-13 Artist of the Month Gallery at BakersfieldChristian.com/VisualArts

Jake Thompson – Scholar Athlete of the Year

Along with finishing his third season as varsity football quarterback and team captain for the Eagles, and seeing his team finish second in both the South Sequoia League and in the California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Div. IV, Jake Thompson received special recognition as KBAK-TV's Hometown Sports Scholar Athlete of the Year for 2012 – an honor Thompson says he saw as a big accomplishment, because only one varsity football player is chosen from the county based on both their hard work and success on the field as well as in the classroom.

"Almost all our coaches are teachers, so that helps a lot," Thompson says. "(Coach Jerald) Pierucci has his policies that the school mandates and he enforces them, there's really no leeway at all."

Thompson finished his high school career with a 4.24 cumulative GPA and completed three advanced-placement courses but says he never had a hard time balancing his studies with sports.

In addition to four years of football, Thompson also played four years of baseball, the last three of which

were as catcher on the varsity team. He also played goalie on the soccer team his senior year.

Thompson's talent and leadership has been demonstrated on the field, but his spiritual leadership also made an impact, using scriptures such as Romans 15:13 to motivate himself and the team going into the Valley championship game.

"I get recognition all the time from our team and in the SSL, but I feel like a lot of achievements at our school go unrecognized. It felt good to finally get something that was for all of Kern County," he says.

In addition to being named Scholar Athlete of the Year, Thompson received a \$500 scholarship from Young Woodridge, which he will use when he goes to California Polytechnic State University in the fall to study mechanical engineering. Thompson has a head start in the engineering field, working as a technical assistant intern for Chevron for 12 weeks prior to heading to Cal Poly.



Jake Thompson, middle, poses with head football coach Jerald Pierucci, left, and President Stephen Dinger, right. Thompson worked 12 weeks this summer as Chevron's youngest technical assistant intern.



BCHS among 1st schools in the area to compete in water polo

BCHS will be adding water polo to the lineup of sports offered to its students.

After students and parents expressed strong interest in adding the team, BCBS administrators investigated what would be involved and decided it was a great opportunity to be one of the leaders in the community to offer the sport.

"Water polo is a growing sport in the community and in the area," said Athletic Director Blake Van Der Schaaf. "And it's a sport we were able to find a great coach in."

Former California State University, Bakersfield assistant coach Amanda Stepp has been hired to coach both boys'

and girls' teams, which begin competing this fall. Stepp has experience as both a player and a coach, having coached at the Bakersfield Water Polo Club in addition to her time coaching the Roadrunners.

Though BCBS does not have a pool on campus, one is still in the plan for the coming years. In the meantime, the water polo athletes will practice at CSUB, just as the swimming team does in the spring.

"Water polo gives more options for students who aren't into football or volleyball but want to try some sort of swim sport in the fall," Van Der Schaaf says. "I think it's going to bring a lot of excitement to our athletic program."



New water polo coach Amanda Stepp

THE SCOREBOARD

California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division Titles

Boys' Tennis (Div. III)
Girls' Tennis (Div. III)

Individual League Titles

Girls' Tennis
Tara Miller (singles)

Track and Field

Matt Smith (discus)

South Sequoia League Titles

Baseball
Boys' Golf
Boys' Tennis
Girls' Golf
Girls' Soccer
Girls' Swimming
Volleyball

SSL First Team Selections

* = All-Area First Team # = League MVP + League selections were not made for this sport

Baseball

Andrew Heideman#
Austin Huckaby
Matt Ladd
Cody Mashburn
Ricky Sottile
Jake Thompson
Ryan Unruh

Boys' Basketball

Ryan Howes
Bryson Wind

Boys' Golf (All League)

Evan Bell
Ryan Roodzant#*
Owen Schoneveld
Bryson Wind

Boys' Soccer

Jake Anderson
Clifton Guillory

Boys' Tennis

Sullivan Roche (singles)#*
Tanner Harris (doubles)
Nolan Schuler (doubles)

Football

Grant Bouma (defense)
Hayden Kuchta (offense and defense)
Matt Smith (offense)
Jake Thompson (offense)

Girls' Basketball

Olivia Espinoza

Girls' Golf

Genna Edwards
Jenna Shepherd
Julia Stewart

Girls' Soccer

Carlyn Gonzales
Hannah Rehkopf#*
Kyllie Rivera
Janel Self
Raegan Staib

Girls' Tennis

Priti Devaprakash*
Tara Miller*

Swimming

Symantha Lazerson**

Track & Field

Matt Smith**

Volleyball

Brooke Bell
Jayann DeHoog#
Marissa Perry

FUN is serious business at BCHS: 'We're a family'

When a group of people spend more than 35 hours each week together, it is obvious that they will form a culture. BCHS' Vice President of Student Life Jeff Ward says the question is how administrators and teachers can be a part of making the school culture a fun one.

"If we want our students to be academically prepared, then that goes into how we construct our courses and what we're teaching. But if we also want them to enjoy campus and enjoy student life here, we intentionally look at our events and our philosophy of discipline and see if it's going to create the type of environment we are striving for," Ward said. "You have to be intentional about how you plan events and activities within a program. The idea is that the climate will organically go in the direction you want it to go."

In addition to the activities like homecoming, powder-puff, spirit weeks, prom, winter formal and other quintessential high school milestones, BCHS is known for unique activities,

such as the three-day annual Hume Lake retreat and a day filled with a series of crazy contests toward the end of school known as Boondog Olympics.

"The culture at BCHS, from my perspective, is that it's real, it's transparent, it's energetic, it's fun, it's exciting," said Jake Anderson, who graduated from BCHS last May.

Last year, Ward and his student life team added additional events and activities to put an extra punch behind the old standbys. They added quarterly breakaway trips to places such as Magic Mountain and Universal Studios.

Eagle Props Forums were added to award teachers, staff and students on their accomplishments. Other miscellaneous activities included music videos starring BCHS teachers.

"I come to school happy every day, because it's fun," said Anderson's classmate, Emily Guerard. "There are a lot of activities, there is always something going on. We're a family."

Although the administration leads the way, there is room for students to take ownership of campus culture.

"It was the best year from a cultural perspective, because it was a good balance between the spiritual, mental and the social aspects," said teacher Derik Watson, who is also a part of the student life team. "We upped the ante of using technology to reach our students."

Watson, as well as other teachers at BCHS, say they realize part of their job as teachers at a Christian school is not only to teach their subject matter, but also to teach and model Christ-like character in their classroom, on the sports fields and courts, and in all of the time they spend doing activities with students outside class.

"What we're trying to teach here is a non-compartmentalized life, that the Christian life, the Christian identity, is the whole human experience from enjoying each other and laughing to working hard and sometimes struggling in certain ways and going through discipline," Ward said. "We realized more opportunities to have fun with the students and created that type of climate on campus."



Homecoming Spirit Week



Boondog Olympics



Hume Lake Retreat Dye Wars



Hume Lake Retreat Free Time

Global Impact

Throughout the years BCHS students, teachers and alumni have traveled to or from countries across the world studying language and culture, working and serving on the mission fields. This map shows some of the places where BCHS has impacted the world in the past year.

2013



NEW JERSEY

Kevin McClain (2012) spent 11 weeks in Ocean City, N.J., serving with Campus Crusade for Christ.

MEXICO

Cassie Reeves (2008) moved to Mexico last October where she serves as a missionary with Mexican Medical Ministries at La Esperanza in San Quintín (Baja, Mexico).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Natalie Ogden (2008) has been teaching English at El Dominico-Americano in the capitol city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic since July 2012.

CHILE

BCHS students William Crockett, Sarah Gardner, Erin Koehler, Emily Meurer, Kimberly Ruiz, Jenna Shepherd, Kirsten Watkins, Vanessa Curless (2012), Susie Meurer (parent) and Gladys Andrews (teacher) were ministering in Puente Alto, Chile June 1-12 in coordination with Word of Life. The mission team shared the gospel in orphanages, traveled to remote villages presenting a drama about the effects of alcohol and drugs, restored a cabin, visited schools and were part of a women's Bible club.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS

The Travel Club sent 38 students, seven parents and three teachers by plane, boat, subway and train to tour London, Normandy, Mont Saint-Michel, Paris, and Amsterdam during spring break last March.

ENGLAND

Hannah Brown (2009) studied film through a study abroad program at Roehampton University in London, England last September through January.

FRANCE

John Buksa (2012) studied international relations through a study abroad program in Paris, France last June and July.

GERMANY

Helena Degtjarev from Frankfurt, Germany spent the spring semester studying at BCHS last year.

ITALY

Tamara Cecala (2011) studied Italian language and Siense art and architecture last June and July in Siena, Italy through CET Academic Programs in connection with the University of Virginia.

ROMANIA

Claryce Lazerson (2014) and Elizabeth Bruick (administrative assistant) traveled to Bucharest, Romania with four others from St. John's Lutheran Church in coordination with the nonprofit group Children to Love in July to work at a summer camp for abused and abandoned children.

RUSSIA

Garret Kingsbury (2016) played on a U.S. ambassador hockey team in Moscow, Russia last October. Kingsbury was one of only five boys chosen from the state based on his athleticism and conduct as a student.

CHINA

Thirty-four international students and one exchange student from China studied at BCHS last year.

SOUTH KOREA

Jae Keun Park and Hee Ju Park were international students from South Korea studying at BCHS last year.

CHINA

Rebekah Powell (2008) moved to Southeast Asia last January where she has been studying language in Hong Kong prior to returning to her home city in China where she will teach English at a private language learning center and intern with the Wilson Medical Exchange program. Powell will be in Asia through June 2014.

VIETNAM

Bryan Pelz (1983) has worked in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in various online businesses since 2001. He lives there with wife Ta Thi Le Hoan.

FIJI

BCHS students Kevin Campbell, Raegan Staib, Taylor Thompson, Savannah August, Shelby Martin, Tyler Ferris, Annie Campbell (2009 alum), Suzanne Staib (parent) and Derik Watson (teacher) were in Nadi and Lautoka, Fiji July 14-28 in coordination with Students International. The mission team focused on community development and partnered with local churches, schools, prisons and senior care homes.

INDIA

Anna Askew (2015), Cory Marshburn (2010), Kimberly Marshburn (2013) and Kevin Yarian (2012) worked at an orphanage in Machilipatnam, India last summer as part of a mission team from Laurelglan Bible Church through Children to Love. Cory used his agriculture studies from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo to teach and install irrigation for a garden at the orphanage.

SOUTH SUDAN, KENYA, UGANDA

Clayton Chancey (2009) completed four years in South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and other restricted regions of Africa doing logistics and transport. He helped establish a base for operations for a language-learning, gospel-preaching team that will be installed at the end of the year. "It was a joy to bring the Gospel to places it had never reached."

College Acceptances of our Graduates

This list is a representation of colleges that BCHS students have been accepted to over the past 35 years in honor of the 35-year anniversary BCHS will be celebrating this year. * = Class of 2013 acceptances



Arizona State University*
Asbury University*
Azusa Pacific University*
Bakersfield College*
Baylor University*
Belhaven University*
Biola University*
Boise State University*
Boston College
Boston University*
California Baptist University*
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University*
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona*
California State University, Bakersfield*
California State University, Channel Islands*
California State University, East Bay*
California State University, Fresno*
California State University, Fullerton*
California State University, Long Beach*

California State University, Monterey Bay*
California State University, Northridge*
California State University, San Bernardino*
California State University, San Marcos*
Carnegie Mellon University
Cedarville University*
Chapman University*
Clark University*
Clemson University
Colorado Christian University*
Colorado School of Mines*
Concordia University, Irvine

Concordia University, Portland*
Corban College*
Cornell University
Cuesta College*
Dordt College*
Duke University
Eastern University
Eastman School of Music – University of Rochester
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Evangel University*
Florida Institute of Technology*
Fordham University*
Fresno Pacific University*

George Fox University*
George Mason University*
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology*
Grand Canyon University*
Grove City College*
Hamilton College
Harvey Mudd College
Hillsdale College*
Hope College*
Houston Baptist University*
Indiana University
Johnson & Wales University*
LeTourneau University*

Liberty University*
Lynchburg College*
Michigan State University*
Montana State University*
New England Conservatory
New York University
Northern Arizona State University*
Notre Dame de Namur University*
Oachita Baptist University*
Oral Roberts University*
Oregon State University*
Pace University, New York City*
Pacific Union College
Pepperdine University*
Point Loma Nazarene University*
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University*
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick*
Saint Mary's College of California*
San Diego State University*
San Francisco State University*
San Jose State University*

Santa Clara University*
Seattle Pacific University*
Seattle University*
Seton Hall University*
Simpson University*
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Methodist University
St. John's University
Suffolk University*
Taft College*
Texas A & M University
Texas Christian University
The Citadel – The Military College of South Carolina
The Julliard School
The Master's College*
The University of Arizona*
The University of Oklahoma*
Trinity Christian College*
Trinity University*
Tulane University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy West Point
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis*

University of California, Irvine*
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced*
University of California, Riverside*
University of California, San Diego*
University of California, Santa Barbara*
University of California, Santa Cruz*
University of Cincinnati
University of Cincinnati, College – Conservatory of Music
University of Colorado*
University of Kentucky*
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Miami*
University of Nevada, Reno*
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Portland*
University of San Francisco*
University of South Carolina*
University of Southern California*

University of Southern Florida
University of the Pacific*
University of Utah*
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison*
Valparaiso University*
Vanderbilt University
Vanguard University of Southern California*
Warner Pacific College*
Washington and Lee University
Westmont College*
Wheaton College
Whitworth University
Word of Life Bible Institute*



The Class of 2013 graduated 128 students. Valedictorian Victoria Bruick, Salutatorian Ezekiel Eicher, Eagle of the Year Alexandra Gomez, and Ford Dimension Leadership Program participant Connor Kingsbury sat down with *Impact* to share some of their experiences at BCHS.

Victoria Bruick

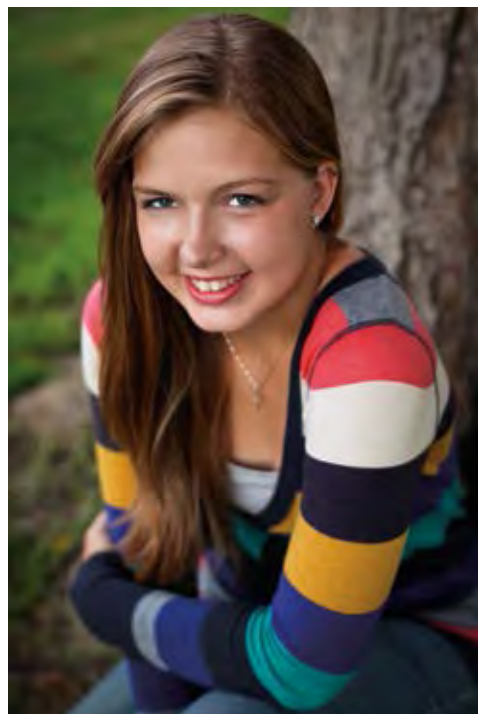


College: Valparaiso University
Intended major: English and music double major
Career goals: Work in the publishing field at a publishing house or magazine company and give private music lessons part-time
High school achievement highlight: Valedictorian

Q: How has BCHS challenged you?

A: I was really challenged to do my best and not necessarily get by with the grade that was acceptable. Writing had come easy to me previously and I didn't really even think about it. High school was the first time I really had to focus on my writing and it really prepared me for Mrs. Walker's (AP Language and Composition) class. I feel totally prepared to go into college, even in an English major because I've had the experience writing papers every week and being crunched for time for stuff like that.

There were helpful life applications through Bible classes. They challenged me to understand why I believe and what exactly I believe. We learned not just what the Bible says but also about worldview questions and controversial topics in ethics class, which I don't feel I could have gotten at any other high school.



Ezekiel Joseph Eicher

College: California State University, Bakersfield for two-year pre-engineering program
Intended major: Chemical Engineering
Career goals: Actively using my engineering degree in the field
High school achievement highlight: Salutatorian

Q: Why did you decide to come to BCHS?

A: Initially it was because of the music program. I played three low brass instruments since 4th grade. It's been a definite plus having been in the Christian atmosphere and learning in-depth about my faith because if I hadn't come here, I'm not sure how prepared I'd be to actually go out in the real world.

Q: How has BCHS helped you grow?

A: It has been very challenging. I immersed myself in a lot of AP courses. By graduation, I've now taken eight AP tests. It certainly wasn't easy but now that I've made it all the way through, I am kind of proud of what I've done. Having chapel every week reminds me again, after Sunday, what I'm doing and how I'm supposed to be acting. I hadn't really gotten the depth that I get in these Bible classes anywhere else. I guess you could say in church, it's more what I believe, but here I learned why I believe it and how to defend it.



Alexandra Gomez



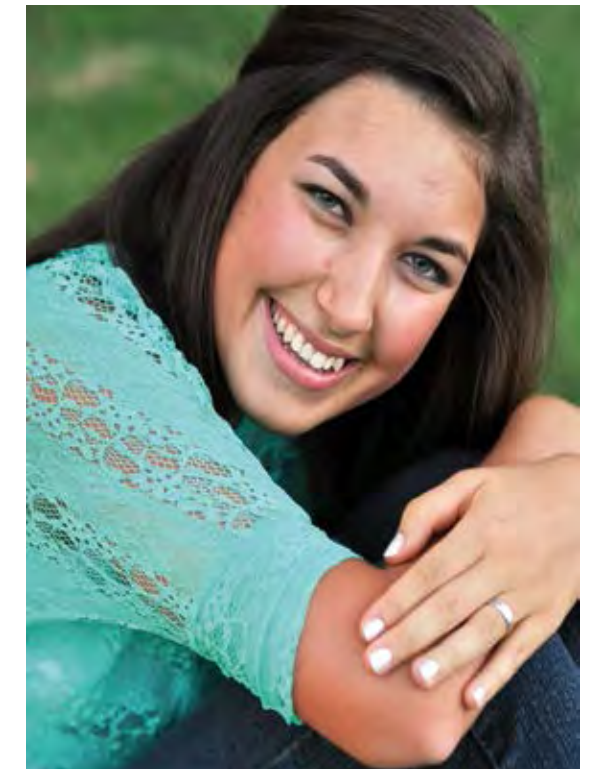
College: University of California, Davis
Intended major: Clinical Nutrition
Career goals: Complete the degree program and then become a registered dietician
High school achievement highlight: Eagle of the Year

Q: How has BCHS made a difference in your life?

A: It truly is an atmosphere that helps students grow, especially in our class. We had unity together but it was also cool because BCHS helped foster our diversity and it helped me grow as a person. I've found teachers that I can go to at any time during school and they give good, godly advice that I need. I don't think I would be the same person if I hadn't gone to BCHS.

Q: What are some of the things that make your graduating class unique?

A: We had both the unity and diversity that we learned about in philosophy. It was like a family. Yes, we would have our fighting and stuff but when we came together, we knew there was love and it was a strong bond. I believe it won't be broken even though we are leaving. God did use us in a unified manner.



Connor Kingsbury



College: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Intended major: Mechanical Engineering
Career goals: Short-term missions with Engineers Without Borders then decide how best to use my degree
High school achievement highlight: Ford Dimension Leadership Program

Q: How has BCHS impacted you?

A: I never really wanted to step out in leadership, I wanted to stay back and lead quietly. Over the years, BCHS has allowed me to come out in leadership – being a captain on the football team, Ford Dimension and church youth group leader my senior year. I had pushes in the right direction for the first three years to be a more Christ-like leader and it's also helped me become a more intellectual Christian instead of solely feelings-based.

Q: How have you impacted BCHS?

A: I think my entire class had a huge impact on the way underclassmen see what BCHS is all about. It's about community, friendship and really growing together. It's not an individual effort. The whole BCHS experience permeates every aspect of life – sports, academics, home life, friends and how we want to bring a tighter community within all the classes, not just cliques throughout each year. I think personally, I've helped that become a part of BCHS.



God's work always present, always amazing for '07 grad



Mary Kate Alderete is surprised to be announced as Baylor's homecoming queen.

"Now all glory to God who is able to do far more than all we can ask or even imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20



Mary Kate Alderete, right, speaks at an event for Baylor's Student Foundation, a group of 100 students who raise money for student scholarships for the university.

by Mary Kate Alderete, BCHS Class of 2007

As the only child of a single mother I have constantly been amazed at God's goodness and faithfulness in my life. My dad's struggle with drugs and alcohol brought many struggles; however, God's faithfulness and provision in our lives has proven victorious over this past.

I truly believe that God provided my time at BCHS to bridge a gap in my life and prepare me for a future far greater than what I could have imagined.

During my time as a student, I was surrounded and encouraged by godly staff and teachers that I knew were personally invested in me. I was equipped with an incredible education with a strong Christian foundation that I have carried confidently with me since.

After graduation, I attended Bakersfield College. I had always dreamed of attending a large university out of state, but thought that this dream might be unattainable.

However, one day I stumbled across Baylor University and started researching. Strangely enough I soon found myself on a plane to Texas to visit the school. This was a huge step of faith for both my mom and I. I didn't know anyone in Texas, but prayed that if this was where God wanted me that He would provide me with finances, Christian roommates and a place to live.

I walked alone on that campus in faith that God would provide, and He did! Within two days my prayers were answered and I transferred to Baylor a month later.

Standing as a new graduate, two and a half years later, I am amazed at the many blessings that God had for me there.

Throughout my time at Baylor I was a peer mentor for transfer students, I co-led a girls' Bible study, and my senior year I was blessed to serve as the co-president of Student

Foundation, a group of 100 students that raises money for student scholarships and works with our university's president, Judge Ken Starr. This year, we raised about \$215,000 and were able to give away about 113 scholarships to students in the amount of \$2,000 each. I would sit in meetings with Judge Starr and other Baylor associates, thinking, "Oh my gosh! Is this even real?!"

To cap it all off, I also had the honor of being crowned Baylor University's Homecoming Queen 2012. I was so surprised!

Throughout my time at Baylor, I was constantly reminded of Ephesians 3:20 which says, "Now all glory to God who is able to do far more than all we can ask or even imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."

I have been so humbled and or amazed by the ways that God works in our lives. I just graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in communication sciences and disorders and will be leaving in the fall to pursue a Master of Science in speech-language pathology at Loma Linda University.

Alumni Updates

■ **Marty Findley (1998)** went to Florida College, a liberal arts Christian school outside of Tampa, for two years before transferring to University of South Florida. Over the next decade as a student at USF, Findley earned his bachelor's in physics, master's in applied mathematics and a doctorate in mathematics with an emphasis on orthogonal polynomials. Findley says he chose the subject because it provided substantial technical challenges and was an opportunity to obtain significant results. He currently lives in Maryland and works in Virginia for the Department of Defense as an applied research mathematician.



■ **Jacqueline (Jelletich) Caviness (2003)** graduated from Pacific Union College with a bachelor's in liberal studies as well as California and Seventh-day Adventist multiple-subject teaching credentials in June 2010. Caviness is a substitute teacher for an elementary school in Hidden Valley Lake and a mother of three – Bryton, 6, Dylan, 5, and Julia, 6 months.

She is married to Kent Caviness and says she has remained close to several of her BCHS classmates.

■ **Kaitlin Bianchi (2005)** graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a bachelor's in psychology. During college she worked at a veterinary hospital to gain experience working with animals and also received certification in SCUBA. After several internships, she was hired at the Theater of the Sea in the Florida Keys where she is a dolphin trainer. Bianchi is the primary trainer of the largest male Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, Stormy.



■ **Rachel German (2005)** graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a bachelor's in music education followed by a master's in music performance. She joined the BCHS faculty last year to teach English and direct band. German has a three-year-old son named Joshua.

■ **David Partida (2005)** graduated from University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's in liberal studies and political science in 2009 then headed to Columbia Law School where he completed his Juris Doctor in 2012. Partida was a member of the Columbia Law Review and worked as a mediator in small claims courts and for nonprofits in New York City. He is currently working as a first year litigator in the New York office of Ropes & Gray, LLP. Partida also maintains an active pro bono practice helping asylum seekers obtain residence in the United States.



■ **Jordan Burt (2007)** married Mackenzie Maxwell last June. Burt spent two years working for the Kern County Wildland fire crew before working at Grimmway Farms where he is currently a ranch manager. Burt is slated to complete his bachelor's in business from Fresno Pacific University in December.



■ **Lainey Freels (2008)** graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a global studies degree in June 2012. Freels is currently working in the UCLA International Education Office as a student services/first contact advisor for the study abroad programs, which includes the faculty-led and UC system-wide immersion programs abroad. While completing her degree, Freels traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina to study U.S./Latin American relations and Spanish, as well as to Shanghai, China where she wrote her senior thesis on the shifts in relationships and marriage women in China are experiencing due to globalization. Her continued interest in the Southeast Asian region has also inspired her to learn Mandarin. Freels plans to continue traveling and hopes to work in international community development.

■ **Arielle (Hawley) Finster (2009)** married Brett Finster last April.



■ **Mark Heisler (2009)** graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with honors in December 2011 with a B.A. in applied mathematics and a B.S. in business. Heisler is currently a business development analyst at GlassPoint Solar, the leader in solar enhanced oil recovery.

■ **Dwight Mashburn (2009)** married Taylor Bowyer last June. Mashburn also became a home-owner last January thanks to working full-time as general manager at Mashburn Transportation while completing his degree at California State University, Bakersfield.

■ **Kaylea Wigley (2010)** became a licensed esthetician last year and owns Beauty Beyond Belief day spa where she has maintained more than 100 clients in the past six months. She is slated to finish her associate's degree in human services for adolescent drug abuse in January. Wigley is also engaged to Garrett Hayslett and plans to get married in April 2014.

■ **Hailey Archer (2012)** is entering her junior year at California State University, Bakersfield after only one year because of the credits she received from AP courses at BCHS. While studying public relations with a minor in marketing, Archer is a disc jockey at KUZZ and does voice over radio commercials. She is also a local celebrity guest reader at elementary schools for Reading Across America. Archer is an active member of her college group at St. John's Lutheran Church.



■ **Nicole Foy (2012)** completed her first year of college at Biola University where she is studying journalism with an emphasis in writing and publishing and minoring in Spanish and biblical studies. Last year, Foy worked as the features staff writer for the Chimes, Biola's award-winning student newspaper. She was recently hired as the new general manager of The Torch, Biola's radio station, for the upcoming year. Over the summer, Foy worked at Hume Lake as a cook at the Wildwood discipleship camp.

■ **Sarah Hill (2012)** placed second in the high jump for Fresno Pacific University in the National Christian College Athletic Association indoor and outdoor nationals. Hill was awarded FPU's Freshman of the Year by the athletic department and holds the FPU high jump record at 5'8". She also teaches first grade Sunday School at Northwest Church in Fresno and is an active part of the college and career group there. After completing her degree in liberal studies with a concentration in biblical studies in a few years, Hill plans to be a first grade teacher.



What have you been up to?
Alumni, we want to know about your adventures, marriages and other accomplishments!

Share your news and updates. Email them to alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com.

Find us on Facebook:
Bakersfield Christian High School Alumni



2013 college graduates

Graduate Degrees

- **Laura Camp (2004):** Georgetown University; Master of Arts in Professional Studies, Real Estate. Camp will continue to work as the manager of PAC fundraising for the National Association of Realtors in Washington D.C.
- **James Witmyer (2004):** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity. Witmyer works as an associate minister to high school students and does graphic design and Web management for Little Flock Church in Louisville.

Undergraduate Degrees

- **Elizabeth Adee (2008):** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Bachelor of Science in environmental horticultural science. Adee is participating in the World Race which journeys through 11 countries in 11 months to serve “the least of these” while amongst real and raw community.
- **Mary Kate Alderete (2007):** Baylor University; Bachelor of Arts in communication sciences and disorders. Alderete will begin pursuing her master’s degree in speech-language pathology at Loma Linda University this fall.
- **Josh Bligh (2009):** Azusa Pacific University; Bachelor of Arts in English. Bligh plans to work for a year before applying to graduate schools where he plans to continue studying creative writing and journalism.

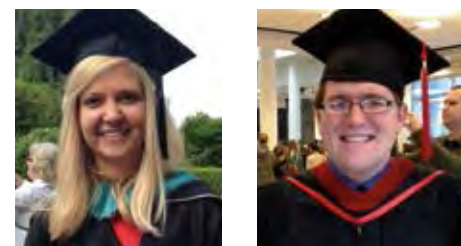
- **Hannah Brown (2009):** Biola University; Bachelor of Arts in cinema and media arts; cum laude. Brown was hired with Film Independent as the theater manager for the LA Film Festival, she is also the producer’s assistant for the Film Independent Spirit Awards.
- **Clay Camp (2009):** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Bachelor of Science in business administration/finance.
- **Jessica Carter (2009):** Biola University; Bachelor of Arts in anthropology; student leadership award by the department of anthropology. Carter plans to be involved in community development work.
- **Jessica Chen (2009):** University of Southern California; Bachelor of Science in computer science; cum laude. Chen is working as a rotational development software engineer in Cloud computing at Intuit in the Silicon Valley.
- **Ryan Clanton (2008):** University of Oregon; Bachelor of Arts in business, economics and society. Clanton plans to play football in the NFL.

- **Alicia Dill (2009):** Azusa Pacific University; Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies; magna cum laude. Dill will be pursuing her moderate/severe special education teaching credential at APU.
- **Candice Gonzales (2008):** California State University, Bakersfield; Bachelor of Science in mathematics with a single-subject math teaching credential. Gonzales will begin teaching at Richland Junior High School in Shafter this fall.
- **Arielle (Hawley) Finster (2009):** California State University, Bakersfield; Bachelor of Science in business management. Finster is on the Target management team as the new consumables team leader.
- **Morgan Howes (2009):** San Diego State University; Bachelor of Science in finance. Howes is working for Alliance Wealth Strategies in Santa Barbara.

- **Angela Littlefield (2009):** Eastern University; Bachelor of Arts in dance; cum laude. Littlefield is working as a character performer at Disney World.
- **Dwight Mashburn (2009):** California State University, Bakersfield; Bachelor of Science in business management. Mashburn manages close to 100 employees as the general manager at Mashburn Transportation Services, Inc.
- **Micah Nacita (2009):** University of California, Los Angeles; Bachelor of Arts in ethnomusicology with a concentration in jazz studies; Latin honors and dean’s honor list. Nacita, who also studied pre-health at UCLA, plans to go to nursing school to become a registered nurse then work overseas as a medical missionary.
- **Rebecca Newton (2008):** California Baptist University; Bachelor of Arts

- in behavioral science. Newton plans to begin work on her master’s degree after a year off school and is still researching the specifics but among them is a master’s program in Alaska for education with a concentration in American Sign Language.
- **Vinny Oddo (2009):** Westmont College; Bachelor of Arts in economics and business; cum laude. Oddo will attend law school at Pepperdine University in the fall.
- **Rebekah Powell (2008):** Southeast Missouri State University; Bachelor of General Studies with a minor in psychology.
- **Justine Schoneveld (2009):** Biola University; Bachelor of Science in business marketing with a minor in biblical studies; magna cum laude. Schoneveld played volleyball all four years.
- **Charan Kamal Singh (2009):** Arizona State University; Bachelor of Science in biological science; magna cum laude. Singh will be applying for medical school.

- **Trevor Slegers (2009):** California State University, Fresno; Bachelor of Science in agricultural business. Slegers will move to Chicago in September to work on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for a futures and options brokerage firm.
- **David Stevens (2009):** California State University, Fullerton; Bachelor of Music in saxophone performance; CSUF president’s scholar and summa cum laude. Stevens will begin pursuing his master’s degree in music at New England Conservatory this fall.
- **Elyssa Kay Sullivan (2009):** Concordia University, Irvine; Bachelor of Art in history with a minor in theology; awarded honors associate and earned Christ College certificate to be a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod high school teacher. Sullivan plans to return to Concordia in the fall to finish her teaching credential and student teaching.
- **Chris Underhill (2009):** University of California, Los Angeles; Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. Underhill will work in the aerospace industry in southern California.
- **Breanna Wind (2009):** Azusa Pacific University; Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies with multiple-subject teaching credential and single-subject English credential; magna cum laude. Wind will be getting married in October and plans to be a teacher in the Bakersfield area.



Laura Camp James Witmyer



Dwight Mashburn Micah Nacita



Mary Kate Alderete Josh Bligh



Hannah Brown Clay Camp



Rebecca Newton Vinny Oddo



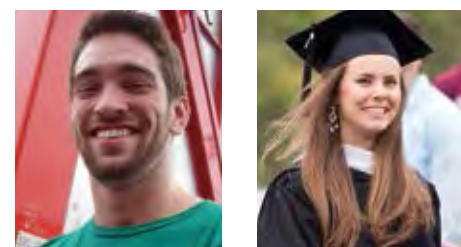
Rebekah Powell Justine Schoneveld



Jessica Carter Jessica Chen



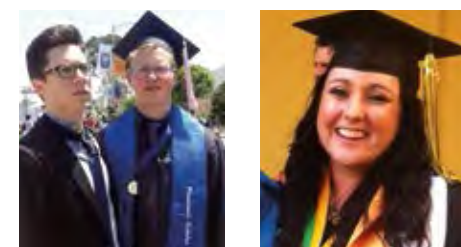
Candice Gonzales Arielle Finster



Morgan Howes Angela Littlefield



Charan Kamal Singh Trevor Slegers



David Stevens Elyssa Kay Sullivan



Chris Underhill Breanna Wind



Cal and Martie Cheek pose for a family photo with their nine grandchildren. (Left to right) Back row: Kate Cheek, Liam O'Reilly, Caswell Espinoza and Mary O'Reilly. Middle row: Wylie Espinoza and Olivia Espinoza. Front row: Cal Cheek IV, Luke O'Reilly and Conrad Espinoza.

Donor Spotlight

Generations of 'commitment to Christian education' for Cheek family

Since before the doors of the school opened in 1979, Cal and Martie Cheek have been supporting it, rounding up their own children, as well as nieces and nephews, to be a part of the inaugural classes.

Thirty-four years later, the two are reinvested in the school through their oldest granddaughter Olivia Espinoza, who has attended BCHS for the past two years and is the first of many in the family line headed to BCHS.

Why? Because they believe in Christian education.

"Where I see little or no change, which I enjoy, is that the Christian community and the leadership in the school, those in the past and those today, appear to me to have kept their focus on Christian education," says Cal Cheek, who also spent years on the school board and as a basketball coach for the school. "Whether it's football or mathematics, all of it comes from the Lord, and we need to be an extension of the Christian family and keep it straight up and biblical."

From attending games to checking on how things are going

in the classroom, the Cheeks are actively involved in all nine of their grandchildren's education whether it be at BCHS, Olive Knolls Christian School or St. Francis School.

"It's been really fun to come back to Bakersfield Christian and be involved," Martie Cheek says. "We've been so blessed with the way our kids turned out, and a lot of that has to do with their education being Christian education."

The grandparents' support goes beyond their attendance and encouragement. They have committed to pay for their grandchildren's education.

"We've moved to the point of planning how many and how often," Cal Cheek says.

After prayerful consideration, the couple made the decision to use part of their retirement money to

finance their grandchildren's Christian education, and they enjoy every minute of watching their investments pay off.

"I love it here. It's really helped me grow spiritually, for one thing," says Espinoza, who will be joined at BCHS by her younger brother Wylie next year. "I think I'm getting a lot of preparation for life in the real world with college prep classes."

In addition to paying tuition for their grandchildren, they have also supported need-based financial aid at BCHS through events such as the annual golf tournament and The Key Event dinner auction. The aim is to help other students afford a Christian education.

"Our commitment to Christian education goes a lot deeper than just our kids and grandkids," Cal Cheek says. "And for all of us who believe in it, there is no greater gift that anyone could give than to give to a family that needs help for their family to be able to attend here."

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Fundraising events support financial aid

BCHS' two annual fundraising events — The Key Event annual dinner auction in the spring and Eagle Golf Classic tournament in the fall — netted more than \$340,000 combined for need-based financial aid which gave many students the opportunity to attend BCHS who would not have been able to without that aid.

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Contributions fund campus additions

In addition to the many donors who gave to the annual fund, BCHS was blessed to add a new restroom and concessions facility by the baseball and softball fields and tennis courts due to the generous underwriting of many school families and businesses. BCHS also has a new custom trophy case in the Sports Center foyer thanks to the construction of Skyline Cabinets and Millworks with glass from the Eagles Club.



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Eagles Club keeps BCHS athletes in good shape

Through memberships, sponsorships, merchandise and concession sales as well as event fundraising efforts like the annual Barn Dance, the Eagles Club provided more than \$114,000 in enhancements to the BCHS athletics programs including the completion of a custom, state-of-the-art weight room for all BCHS students. Learn more about how you can be involved in the Eagles Club at bchseaglesclub.com.

Letter from the President

BCHS moving from 'Good to Great'

A few years ago (2001), Jim Collins authored a book, "Good to Great," that became a popular read for folks in leadership. It was a New York Times Best Seller and has sold over three million copies.



BCCHS President Stephen Dinger

For the second year, our leadership team went on a retreat to assess where we are and where we want to be. As part of that process, we used "Good to Great" as a resource. We did so because we are intent on being a great school ... in fact, the best in Bakersfield and the Central Valley.

We want to be great because we know who we serve. We believe that God not only wants the best from us, but He deserves the best as well.

In our pursuit of excellence we believe that there are some basic tenets that must be in place. We need to know what we're trying to achieve ... we need to have the very best people in place to get there ... and we need to continue striving to improve.

We know what we are striving to achieve – to provide a first class college preparatory education to the students of Bakersfield within the context of a vibrant Christian faith. We are changing our evaluation methods by soliciting regular feedback from parents and students to see how we are doing. We are making personnel decisions that will, hopefully, align us for greatness. And we are going to be relentless in assessing how we can get better.

Your feedback is critical to our achieving these goals. We will not be afraid to ask for your assessment. We hope you will honor us by providing us feedback whenever it is requested or whenever you feel it will make us better.

In the year ahead we will be unveiling some new and exciting ventures that we believe will continue moving us toward greatness. We don't do things without carefully thinking them through. We may not always be the first to do something, but you can be assured we will do it with thoughtfulness and care.

We are excited about the year ahead as we continue our journey together. We thank God for you being part of that adventure as we seek to honor Him as we help students soar!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Dinger".

Stephen Dinger
BCCHS President



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Spring Basketball Camp

EVENTS connecting community to campus

BCCHS is not solely a place for high school students. Grandparents, military veterans and elementary school kids can routinely be seen around campus.

BCCHS held its annual Grandparents Day last September followed by Veterans Day Chapel in November. Combined, the two events brought more than 270 grandparents and veterans to campus.

In October, more than 200 high school students from a combination of 12 churches and 10 high schools gathered on the BCCHS football field for Youth Unity Movement. Y.U.M. is an event spearheaded by the BCCHS spiritual life team that unites high-school aged students for a night of student-led worship and testimonies. A second event was held in June.

Summer brought more than 120 first- through eighth-graders to BCCHS for fine arts and sports camps. Students had the weeklong camp options in varied areas to be trained

by BCCHS teachers and coaches. In the arts the options consisted of band, choir, drama or improv, while in sports, children could choose from baseball, basketball, soccer, softball or volleyball. Many children participated in multiple camps.

In addition to the summer options, around 30 fifth- through eighth-grade boys participated in a weeklong basketball camp during spring break.

In addition to the sports camps, BCCHS also opened up its summer school courses to students from other high schools who either needed to



Kelsey Sottile heads to class with her grandma, Janet Thomasy, after chapel on Grandparents Day.

make up credits or who wanted to take enrichment courses.

This year, BCCHS plans to build these events and camps, plus add a new one with its Knowledge Bowl, an academic contest for fifth- through eighth-graders. Local schools will be sent more information about this new annual event in the fall. The first BCCHS Knowledge Bowl will be held March 1, 2014.



Michael D. Meek, a first lieutenant in the California Army National Guard, greets Brock Duffield after the school's Veterans Day Chapel. Meek shared his experience serving in Afghanistan as the guest speaker for the chapel.



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Calendar:

What's coming up in 2013-14

- | | |
|--|--|
| Aug. 14. First Day of School, Instruction Begins | Jan. 29. Science Fair |
| Aug. 22. Alumni Chapel | Feb. 8 Big Nite O'Jazz |
| Sept. 10-12 All-School Hume Lake Retreat | March 1 BCHS Knowledge Bowl |
| Sept. 16 10th Annual Eagle Golf Classic | March 14. Powder-puff Game |
| Sept. 25 Grandparents Day | March 27-30. . . Spring Musical |
| Oct. 11 Homecoming, Alumni Gathering | April 3. Ironman Volleyball Game |
| Oct. 19 Eagles Club Barn Dance | April 5. 6th Annual The Key Event |
| Oct. 24 Admissions Visitation Day | April 29 Spring Music Concert |
| Oct. 25-26 Fall Play | May 2 Boondog Olympics |
| Nov. 7 Veteran's Day Chapel | May 22. Last Day of School |
| Dec. 5. The Colors of Christmas (Fine Arts Festival) | May 22. Eagle Awards of Excellence |
| Jan. 27. Admissions Open House | May 24. Graduation |
| | June 30 End of Fiscal Year, Last Day for 2013-14 Annual Fund Gifts |

**At BCHS we set high goals.
Our students achieve them.**

Learn what these alumni have to say about BCHS at BakersfieldChristian.com/alumnibios or scan the QR code below using your smartphone's barcode app.



BakersfieldChristian.com/alumnibios

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