



A BAKERSFIELD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE | FALL 2010

# Impact

**Are iPads good  
for education?  
They may be at BCHS**





“We’re going to give students access to worldwide resources, and they’ll be able to utilize those resources in ways that will advance their learning.”

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Daniel H. Cole

## Letter from the President

### Happy New Year ...

It may not seem like a new year to you, but for those of you who are in school, have school-aged children or for those of us whose daily work is investing in an educational institution, our year is just beginning. As we near the end of summer we reflect on the successes of the last year and look expectantly to what God has in store for the one ahead.

Through our first issue of *Impact* we invite you to join us as we share the achievements our students have demonstrated over the past year in the areas of academics, arts and athletics and witness how Christ has made Himself evident in all of these things. Also, as you read through the following pages we hope you will identify with the stories of triumph, such as a young women’s victory over cancer, the successes of our alumni who are making a difference in the world, and the legacy of a man who had a vision for this campus and instead of withholding his time, talent and treasure, thinking the task was too big, he gave exponentially with tremendous results.

This spirit of generosity is also displayed through the actions of so many in our school family, and it extends to the community at large who invest in the lives of BCHS students through events that include our annual dinner auction, The Key Event, which raised more than \$240,000 for need-based financial aid. This event unlocked opportunities for our students to come to this school where they receive a biblically-based education.

There are so many unique and exciting things going on at BCHS, and each new school year renews our commitment to continue down the road of excellence through enhancements such as the implementation of technology that advances student learning.

When you look at the state of our nation and the world, uncertainty and fear can quickly invade your perspective. But when you focus on God and see how He is working, that perspective changes to one of vision and hope. That is the perspective we who enter the gates of this campus every day experience. We are grateful to be a light in our community, and we know that God is working in our midst through the lives of our students, alumni and teachers.

Whether you sit down and read this magazine cover-to-cover or skim through the photos, it is our prayer that you will be blessed as you get a glimpse of the ways God is working at BCHS. And if that glimpse leaves you wanting more, we invite you to call, write, e-mail or come by and visit, and together we’ll explore the ways in which you can become involved as a parent, alumni or friend of this school and partner with us as we challenge our students today to make a difference tomorrow.

Daniel H. Cole  
 President/Chief Administrator

#### BCHS ADMINISTRATION

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# 'E' doesn't just mean Eagles at high-tech BCHS



Christian Jordan programs a robotic model during tech lab.



Paige Spalinger does research for advanced placement biology on one of 30 iMacs in the classroom.



**S**ome of the most familiar parts of high school life have been updated for the digital age, and BCHS is on the cutting edge of that transition.

No. 2 pencils, dusty chalkboards and biology classrooms filled with the aroma of formaldehyde have been replaced by laptop computers, interactive whiteboards and virtual frog dissections.

Students lugging around backpacks filled with heavy textbooks may even go the way of the spiral-bound notebook if an iPad experiment goes well.

"Students pay attention and retain information more if they're interacting with digital devices," said Information and Technology Director David Ogden.

A potential iPad pilot program is in the planning stages, but only a few textbooks that BCHS uses are available for download. Old-fashioned textbooks aren't going away immediately, but they could be phased out within a decade as more publishers jump on the electronic publishing bandwagon.

Michael Strobe, who teaches geography and history classes, said computers help the school move away from textbook-driven curriculum and toward student-led curriculum.

"Students are able to learn for themselves, to find information for themselves, and in doing so, it engages higher learning," Strobe said.

BCHS is already wired to the nines, and it's only getting more high tech.

The school has 248 computers, 133 of which are dedicated for student use. Every classroom is equipped with projectors, and many teachers use wireless tablets to for displaying complex graphics to illustrate their points and elicit student interaction.

"I think it's really cool how you can use media, like technology, and it just presents things in a different way," said senior Prnay Chopra. "Stuff you can say might not get people's attention, but making things like a video or presenting it in a visual manner, I like how it converts."

Principal Gregory Root said the Internet allows teachers to bring the world into their classrooms. Teachers look up stock information in economics courses, for example.

"It affords us those sorts of opportunities, to bring real-time information to the students in a way they can understand," Root said.

There is a danger in relying too much on technology, Root said. Students still need to study and work hard to get good grades.

"In this culture and in this day and age, you have to incorporate technology appropriately," Root said. "So, there's this balance we're trying to find."

Technology has also increased communication among students, teachers and parents. ClassJump and PowerSchool are two prime examples.

ClassJump allows teachers to post assignments and related Internet links on their own websites, and PowerSchool allows parents and students to track grades, attendance and assignments.

Officials said the school can and will likely use teleconferencing and social media more in the future to reach out to alumni, teachers at other schools and even experts in foreign countries.

No one knows what the technological landscape will be in five or 10 years. One thing that's certain, however, is that BCHS will stay at the forefront of technology's implementation.

"With the use of technology, education is the bottom line," Root said. "We're going to give students access to worldwide resources, and they'll be able to utilize those resources in ways that will advance their learning."

BCHS is exploring the educational benefits of the iPad, which could lead to a pilot program.



Kayla Yarian, who received financial aid, signs a classmate's yearbook at last year's senior breakfast.



# Numbers count for financial aid students

**A**t the 2008 Beijing Olympics, contestant No. 2,163 set a new 100 meter record of 9.69 seconds. Forbes reported this year that the richest man in the world has \$53.5 billion. Of the 6.8 billion people on the planet, more than 400 million are on Facebook.

Numbers are everywhere, so it's easy to be desensitized when hearing that 33 percent of BCHS' students received need-based financial aid last year. But, each of the 174 students who received financial aid have a name, face and story.

Kayla Yarian is one of those students.

The Yarian family wanted their daughter to have an education that included God. They wanted God to be present throughout the school and not just in a few Bible classes. They knew BCHS was the right place for their daughter, but they

couldn't afford its tuition.

Thanks to financial assistance, Yarian was given an academically challenging, Christ-centered high school experience.

Yarian, who graduated last year, didn't just go through the motions. She took advantage of every opportunity BCHS offered.

As an underclassman, she had teachers who encouraged her to get involved. One such moment, Yarian recalled, was when teacher Jeff Ward told her she should join the Associated Student Body.

ASB became an area where Yarian was able to grow and use

her talents to encourage others, especially during her senior year when she was appointed as the commissioner of spiritual life.

Yarian also played tennis, helped plan chapel and led worship as part of the leadership class. She was the school's Smart and Sober representative and was her Bible class' liaison for its themed basket project in The Key Event auction.

"I don't know how much the other kids realized it, because not all of them receive financial aid, but I know for me I was always thinking, 'I want to make this basket really good, so it will bring back a lot of money and help a lot of kids,' because I know I've benefitted so much from it," Yarian said. "There is no way I could have been here without financial aid. Absolutely no way."



## THE KEY EVENT 2010

More than 200 supporters attended the second annual The Key Event, which raised nearly a quarter million dollars for need-based financial aid. Highlights of the evening held March 20 at Seven Oaks Country Club included dinner, silent and live auctions, and a student production.



SAVE THE DATE  
3rd Annual  
The Key  
Event  
Apr. 9, 2011



Yarian had the opportunity to volunteer at the event and was surprised at the generosity of the supporters as they spent large sums of money on auction items. She said she was overwhelmed with gratitude because she realized they did it to help students like her get a good education in a loving, spiritual environment.

Annual events including the dinner auction and golf tournament along with donations from supporters throughout the year raise the monetary support for the financial aid program.

John and Beverly Allen have been faithful supporters of BCHS over the last three years, because

they said they believe in the school's mission. They don't have a student at BCHS, but they said their investment pays eternal dividends.

"(Giving) financial aid to students who cannot afford an education at BCHS gives hope to the parents and a solid foundation to young people who enter an increasingly base and perverted world, enabling them to pass this gift of faith and excellence to the future generations," John Allen said.

Yarian, who is beginning her pre-nursing studies at Azusa Pacific University, has been paying it forward, meaning she has given to others through missions, worship, mentoring and praying.

It is a common misconception

for people to view financial aid as a one sided affair, but this could not be further from the truth, teacher Jeff Ward explained.

Through financial aid, BCHS is able to bring in the kind of students that not only enrich the campus but also help to perpetuate a tradition of excellence.

"A student like Kayla would have been a great asset to any school community she found herself a part of," Ward said, "but because she was a part of our school, our students were impacted by her life and our school will reap the blessings for generations to come."



ABOVE LEFT: "Seussical's" first audience of elementary students raise their hands to show their excitement for the show.



ABOVE RIGHT: Horton the elephant, played by Brad Reeves, vows to protect the citizens of Whoville.



# 'Seussical' makes for young, fun spring musical

*Teacher 1 to Teacher 2:  
Dear sir, I have a question for you.  
Your plays are great, your plays are fun,  
but what about my very young?  
Your very young, for them you ask?  
A show for them shall be our task!  
Thus was born a musical called "Seussical"  
at Bakersfield Christian High School.*

An elementary school teacher came up to BCHS theater teacher Scott Neese during a performance of the BCHS fall play, "Great Expectations." She was curious if BCHS was going to have any productions to which she could bring her students.

Neese thought about that teacher's question, looked at some of the most recent BCHS musicals and determined that the school needed a more contemporary, younger effort this time around. Thus was born the idea to make "Seussical" the school's 2010 spring musical.



"When I looked at the overall vision of what we wanted to accomplish, 'Seussical' became the natural match for that," Neese said.

"Seussical" is a combination of 23 stories and characters from Dr. Seuss books with Seuss' famous rhymes set to music.

The 26 cast members spent 10-15 hours each week for more than three months learning the songs, choreography and blocking.

In addition to the cast, 10 students were involved behind the scenes. Neese took some of the crew to Hollywood for a one-day seminar to learn how to do lighting in untraditional spaces.

With this show, Neese had a vision of creating a true theater experience within the gym, which was a first for BCHS, according to Dean of Academics and Arts Marcia Manning.

He used elements that included an 18-member pit orchestra behind

the stage and a truss that utilized moveable panels with various backdrop images rather than a traditional stage and set.

"I really liked how simple it was, but it really did force you to use your imagination, which is what 'Seussical' is all about," said student Mariah Bathe, who starred in two community theater productions this year in addition to playing the Cat in the Hat.

Being true to its genesis, BCHS brought in about 500 elementary and middle school students to see a pair of matinee performances April 29.

Neese even used five elementary students in the cast — four from St. Johns Lutheran School played Whos and a fifth child from Old River Elementary played JoJo.

BCHS cast members said performing for the young audiences was a treat.

"Afterwards, I remember this little girl ran up to me and said 'You were my favorite.' And I was like, 'Wow,' I had never seen someone smile like that, with so much joy, and knowing that I was able to put that smile on her face. That really brought joy to me," said Brianne Sanchez who played Gertrude McFuzz, her debut lead role.

Altogether, "Seussical" was seen by approximately 1,300 people over five shows and showcased the talent and creativity of the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

"God is a creative God, and we're created to be creative beings," Neese said. "Whether people recognize that God is the One that gives the gifts of creativity or not, it all points toward God, because God is the ultimate creative genius."

## Students showcase talent



Pops Concert featured vocal performances by the BCHS choir, group ensembles and soloists.

continued ►

## Students showcase talent, continued

Big Nite O'Jazz featured the Eagle jazz bands in a New Orleans-inspired night of family fun.



Wet Paint was a gallery show that culminated the year's photography and art endeavors.



Christmas Fine Arts Festival included band, choir, guitar and drama performances surrounded by student-created visual arts.



'Great Expectations' was the Charles Dickens' classic brought to the stage for last fall's play.

# Success abounds in athletics

The Eagles had another successful season of athletics with girls' soccer winning its first South Sequoia League championship.

Both the boys and girls tennis teams also won their SSL championship, as well as the California Interscholastic Federation, Central Section, Div. V, Valley championship.

Many individual athletes were selected for the SSL First Team in their sports, including: Casey Bloomquist, Sam Burgess, Chase Grisham, Jacob Hansen and Darion Nunn in baseball; Tyler Harris, Bryce Howes and Jordan Kinglee in boys' basketball; Collin Norville in boys' soccer; Tyler Hough, Brad McNaughton, Tyler Miller and Cody Verhoef in football; Melissa Merrill in girls' basketball; Megan Cho in girls' golf; Ashley Cattani, Chelby Cooke, Lyndsay Cooke, Tabatha

Dickson and Cici Pandol in girls' soccer; Chelby Cooke, Lyndsay Cooke, Lily Schuler and Carolyn Stevens in girls' tennis; Rachel Christian and Megan McCormick in softball; and Rachel Christian, Callie Gonzales and Brittany Smith in volleyball.

Other outstanding individual athletic achievements include Ross Downs, Chad Harmon, Brock Jennings and Greyson Stewart, who were selected SSL All-League in boys' golf; and Brittany Smith, who was selected SSL All-League Co-Most Valuable Player in girls' basketball.

BCHS also had three individuals selected for the All-Area First Team including: Chelby Cooke in girls' tennis, Tabatha Dickson in girls' soccer and Sullivan Roche in boys' tennis.

In addition to these athletes, Lyndsay Cooke won the singles Valley championship in girls'

tennis and was named the All-Area Singles Player of the Year for the third consecutive year and The Bakersfield Californian Player of the Year for the second consecutive year.



Ashley Cattani, who was selected for the All-Area Second Team, controls the ball in a soccer game.



ABOVE: Jimmi Futrell prepares for the next swim meet. She was selected for the All-Area Second Team.

LEFT: Chase Grisham slides into home to score for the Eagles. The baseball team finished second in both league and Valley play last season.



Carolyn Stevens, left, and Lily Schuler hit the court for doubles action.

# Competition no match for championship tennis teams

To say the BCHS tennis teams have been successful is a gross understatement. The boys and girls have won 12 combined league titles, and that's just scratching the surface.

The boys have won the California Interscholastic Federation, Central Section, Div. V title six times, and the girls have won the CIF Valley title five times.

The boys won the Lynch Cup in 2007, and the girls won the Lewis Cup in 2008 and 2009. Those were earned against the best in the area, regardless of school size.

What about individual achievements? Add a trio of Valley singles titles to the list.

It may be hard to imagine a time when BCHS wasn't dominating tennis courts across the state,

but that was the case just seven years ago.

Not because the teams were bad. They just didn't exist.

"Since the start of the program at Bakersfield Christian High School we've been very fortunate to have great student athletes in tennis," Coach Frank Thiessen recalled. "There has never been a year in which there hasn't been a wealth of talent, both as athletes and as academicians."

Even in its first year, both the girls' and boys' teams completed the season

with 14 wins and five losses, and, in the years following, neither team has come near a losing season.

Last year proved to be more of the same for BCHS tennis, but that's never a foregone conclusion for the athletes as they begin their seasons.

"We started out not really sure how the year was going to be. We had four freshman and only one senior," first year player Sullivan Roche explained. "We went to Clovis. It's a big tournament right at the beginning of the year, and you kind of get to measure where you are at, and we did really well there. So, that was a good start to our season."



Sullivan Roche



LEFT: The boys' tennis team wins it's sixth-consecutive division championship.

BELOW: Kim Butler holds the Lewis Cup.

**COACH HIGHLIGHT**  
**RIGHT:** Assistant Athletic Director Dan Swagerty, left, and Coach Frank Thiessen share the excitement after the tennis coach receives the Jim Brownfield Mentor Award at a California Coaches Association's banquet.



Roche as a freshman was the top singles player for the boys' team with a second-place finish in league and a 16 seed in the Valley.

While some players, such as Roche, are relatively new to the sport, others, such as the Cooke sisters, began playing several years before high school.

Lyndsay Cooke was the face of girls' tennis in the media for the past three years with near singles championships at the Valley level, and, in her senior year, Cooke lived up to the hype as she earned the school's first girls' individual Valley title in November against her toughest opponent, younger sister Chelby.

"She played amazing. She's an incredible tennis player," said Lyndsay Cooke about her sister. "She could probably beat me if we played again. But, just

that day, I think I wanted it more."

As the spotlight for the girls' singles player shifts to junior Chelby Cooke, this fall the girls also have frontrunners for a doubles title in seniors Carolyn Stevens and Lily Schuler.

The training the players receive at the high school level has prepared them for success in college tennis as well. Two alums, Matt Booth (2008) for Bakersfield College and Alex Nichols (2009) for San Diego Mesa College qualified at the state level in their divisions last year. Nichols won the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference singles title and was voted PCAC Player of the Year.

With 50 years of experience as a tennis coach, Thiessen has seen many players reach individual as well as team success.

"You find that when you have

a student that is a good student and is able to come out and play with character, with integrity, with tenacity and compete against an opponent in a way that he's able to accomplish what he needs to accomplish, you're going to have great results," Thiessen said. "That is what has happened in this school."

Lyndsay Cooke, left, shakes hands after advancing to the Valley finals.



# Student beats cancer: 'I felt more connected to God'

**B**CHS senior Kristin Self found out she had cancer at the end of her sophomore year. She sat down with Impact last spring to answer a few questions about her fight with, and ultimate victory over, cancer.

**Q: How did you discover you had cancer?**

**A:** I had heart pain. My mom thought it was stress because it was the week before APs, prom and everything last year that was going on, so she took me to the doctor, and they were just running basic tests, including an X-ray, and they saw something on the X-ray. ... Like, in one afternoon, my first appointment was at noon and I left around 6 p.m., completely diagnosed. Not with the full form, but she basically said it was Hodgkin's or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and that it was probably in the early

stage, and that was it. In one day I got diagnosed.

**Q: How did you feel when you found out you had cancer?**

**A:** It didn't really set in right away, but I was pretty much at peace with the whole thing. I really didn't have that much of an emotional first night. I know I told some of my friends, because I had to go to a drama practice right after and they took it very hard and didn't sleep that night.

**Q: What kind of treatments did you undergo?**

**A:** I had three rounds of chemo, and each one was 28 days long. But, in those 28 days I only had two full days where I ran chemo and fluids and stuff from like 7 a.m. to 4, and then I had six days off, and then on the eighth day had a push. Then I rested for 20 days, and then it would restart if my blood counts were high enough. ... After that, in around September, I had 15 days of radiation in LA.

**Q: Did your body start responding immediately to chemotherapy?**

**A:** It should have responded. I had a form that should have basically been gone after the first round, but mine wasn't. It wasn't even fully gone after all three rounds, and with most people it is gone after

the first. So they almost had me do a fourth round, but they decided to do radiation instead. And that ended up finishing it. So it took all the way through everything, including radiation, before it was gone.

**Q: When did you find out that the treatment was working and killing the cancer?**

**A:** They knew all along that it was reducing. It was basically shrinking in size in significant increments, but it was still there. I didn't find out that I was done until the day we left for Christmas break.

**Q: Do you have follow-up appointments?**

**A:** Yes. I have follow-up appointments every three months and major scans every six.

**Q: What was it like for you as a teenager going through these treatments?**

**A:** It was really different. I really haven't had a lot of experience with cancer. I hadn't really been friends with or dealt with anyone who has undergone the chemo aspect of it. And, it was very surreal. But, it's kind of a thing where we realize that you just adapt to it.

**Q: How did this affect your school work?**

**A:** As a high school student, I don't think it particularly affected me, because I got diagnosed the last two weeks of school, and I was back by the end of September pretty regularly, so it didn't affect me too much, like scholastically, but it affected me, like how I viewed things and my perspective changed a lot.

**Q: What has this experience taught you about God?**

**A:** It's taught me a lot about God. Basically, I learned that when you

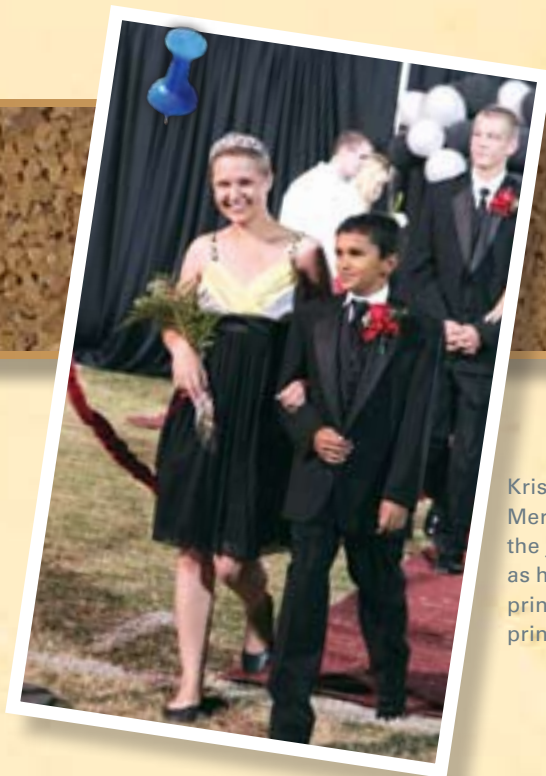
have nothing else that you learn so much to rely on God. And, that He's faithful through everything. The little things I had to learn to appreciate, and I learned to appreciate that you may not be able to do as much as you wanted to but you can't really focus on the negative aspect, you really have to focus on the little positive things.

**Q: What has this experience taught you about yourself?**

**A:** I'm a lot stronger than I thought I was. ... I felt more connected to God, and I never felt like I didn't have a reason to worship and that taught me to see that faith isn't fleeting. It really showed me that I could have a grounded faith.



Kristin, left, and Kaylene DeVries pose for the yearbook on the first day of school.



Kristin and Greg Merrill represent the junior class as homecoming princess and prince in October.



Kristin shares her testimony with guests at The Key Event annual dinner auction in March.



Kristin shows off her survivor shirt at Relay for Life in May.



# Class of '10 ready to spread wings



Los Angeles, Richmond, Va., or Newburg, Ore. – No matter the next destination, the 111 graduates from the class of 2010 have spent the last four years in preparation for making an impact on the world.

During their time at BCHS, they had many accomplishments, whether it be as forensics champions or recognition in math competition.

These students played an instrumental role in building the choir as well as continuing the excellence of the band program.

On the athletic field, these students represented BCHS with 36 league, valley and state titles combined.

Most importantly, they represented Christ well.

Eight students from this class were selected as members of the National Honor Society, 27 received Scholars Diplomas and 52 graduated with honors, having earned a 3.5 grade-point average or higher.

They have received more than 400 acceptance letters from 131 colleges and universities. Collectively they were awarded more than \$2.3 million in scholarships.

Each of these graduates have a special place in the heart and history of BCHS. Among them are the class Valedictorian Melissa Merrill, Salutatorian Jessica Force, National Forensics League Top 30 debater Brice Ezell, and Eagle of the Year Cici Pandol, who all sat down with *Impact* to share some of their experiences from BCHS.

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*"In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps."*

— Proverbs 16:9



## College Acceptances of our 2010 Graduates

\* = multiple acceptances

- Abilene Christian University\*
- Arizona State University\*
- Azusa Pacific University\*
- Bakersfield College\*
- Baylor University
- Becker College
- Biola University\*
- Boston College
- Brown University
- California Baptist University\*
- California Lutheran University\*
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona\*
- California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo\*
- California State University, Bakersfield\*
- California State University, Channel Islands\*
- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- California State University, Fresno\*
- California State University, Fullerton\*
- California State University, Long Beach\*
- California State University, Los Angeles
- California State University, Monterey Bay\*
- California State University, Northridge\*
- California State University, Sacramento\*
- California State University, San Marcos\*
- California State University, Stanislaus
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Carthage University
- Charminade University
- Claremont University
- College of the Sequoias\*
- Colorado Christian University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University\*
- Concordia University
- Concordia University, Texas
- Corban University
- Creighton University
- Cuesta College
- De Anza College
- Dickinson College
- Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising\*
- Florida State University
- Foothill College
- Fresno Pacific University\*
- Furman University
- George Fox University\*
- Gonzaga University
- Gordon College
- Hardin-Simmons University
- Hills International College, Australia
- Hillsdale College
- Humboldt State University
- Iowa State University
- John Hopkins University
- Kansas State University\*
- Lindenwood University
- Mesa State College of Colorado
- Missouri Valley College
- Moody Bible Institute
- Muhlenberg College
- New York University
- Northern Arizona University\*
- Northwest Nazarene University
- Occidental College\*
- Oklahoma Christian University
- Orange Coast College
- Pepperdine University
- Philadelphia University
- Point Loma Nazarene University\*
- Rhodes College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Saddleback Valley College
- Saint Louis University
- Saint Mary's College\*
- San Diego State University\*
- San Francisco State University\*
- San Jose City College
- Santa Barbara City College
- Santa Clara University
- Santa Monica College\*
- Scripps College
- Seattle Pacific University
- Simpson University
- Sonoma State University
- Southwest Baptist University
- Sweet Briar College
- Tabor College\*
- Taft College\*
- Texas A&M University\*
- Texas Christian University\*
- The Art Institute of California - Hollywood
- The College of Idaho
- The King's College, New York City
- The Master's College
- The University of Chicago
- United States Coast Guard Academy
- Universal Technical Institute
- University of Alabama
- University of California, Davis\*
- University of California, Irvine\*
- University of California, Los Angeles\*
- University of California, Merced\*
- University of California, Riverside\*
- University of California, Santa Barbara\*
- University of California, Santa Cruz\*
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Central Florida
- University of Colorado, Denver
- University of Hawaii
- University of Missouri
- University of North Dakota
- University of Oregon\*
- University of Portland
- University of Redlands
- University of Richmond
- University of San Diego
- University of the Pacific
- University of Washington
- Vanguard University\*
- Ventura College
- Wake Forest University
- Washington and Jefferson College
- West Hills College
- Westminster College
- Westmont College\*
- Wheaton College\*
- Whitman College
- York College of Pennsylvania





## Jessica Force

**College:** University of California, Los Angeles

**Intended major:** Biology

**Career goals:** Doctor or physician's assistant

**High school achievement highlight:** Salutatorian

**Q: How has BCHS helped you grow academically?**

**A:** The teachers are all very professional, but, at the same time, they are all very helpful. If I ever had questions, it was never a big deal. A lot of my teachers were willing to take their personal time to help me so I could really understand everything.

**Q: How has BCHS helped you grow spiritually?**

**A:** The chapels. I enjoyed the chapels. Having chapel once a week helped a lot. We always had good speakers, and I loved the worship. ... The teachers and students are friends, and all the students are friends. It's not very cliquey here, so you are able to talk about God and no one really judges you.

## Cici Pandol

**College:** University of Richmond

**Intended major:** International studies

**Career goals:** Humanitarian or mission work

**High school achievement highlight:** Eagle of the Year

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

**A:** I think that our class is really diverse. We are all good at different things. Also, we were really a tight class. We did a lot of things together ... things where we would really band together to get fun stuff done. We were a quiet but cool class.

**Q: How has your class influenced you?**

**A:** This year my friend group changed a little bit, and I got to be really close with seven or eight different students. The other night we were watching a movie at Andrew Levins' house and we stayed up until like 2:30 a.m. talking about stuff that we'd been talking about in Bible class. Our friends here are really good encouragers and they're open to discussing things, we all got to work together figuring out what we believe before we go to college. And so the things we

learned in Bible class extend beyond that to outside of school when you have friends like that. This senior year has really helped me feel like I'm grounded and I'm ready to go off and try something new, but I know who I am and what I want to do with my life now.



## Brice Ezell

**College:** George Fox University

**Intended major:** English

**Career goals:** University professor, author of novels and philosophical and theological books, and high school debate coach

**High school achievement highlight:** National Forensics League Top 30 in Lincoln-Douglas debate

**Q: How has BCHS impacted you?**

**A:** Mr. Sutherland's class, for example, he talks to you about the concept of a university and how that's become decreasing in society. And, how a university should be with Christ at the center and all the other fields — math, English, whatever, stemming from Him. And so, for example, I'm terrible at math, it's something I don't have a propensity to ... but when I took his class, even though I don't like math, I was able to appreciate it and it enriched my experience. And, I think the best thing about this

school is its helped me to see education in a broad sense.

**Q: How have you impacted BCHS?**

**A:** Everybody calls me the debater... and I hope I leave back a legacy where people become more interested in forensics, because I think that it's such a crucial activity, and its helped me a lot. Debate made me a better student. I hope I left a legacy of people who aren't afraid to challenge certain assumptions that the world makes or even Christian doctrine that we might disagree on.

## Melissa Merrill

**College:** University of California, Los Angeles

**Intended major:** Engineering, communications or international relations

**Career goals:** Humanitarian work, international travel

**High school achievement highlight:** Valedictorian

**Q: What will you miss the most about BCHS?**

**A:** The small closeness — Because UCLA is a big school. I'm not going to lie, it's going to be pretty intimidating because there's so many more people. It's going to be hard to make lasting relationships as well as I have here.

The classes — Because of the size. It will be more challenging to stand out as much as you can here. A lot of people can really distinguish themselves at BCHS because you have personalized education.

The athletic and school activities — I won't be doing sports at UCLA because I think I'll be too busy with academics. I'll also miss the school events like prom and formal. I don't think college dances will be as clean. There's going to be a lot of partying going on.

And lastly, my Bible classes and chapel — Because I'm going to have to keep that up on my own next year, and that's something that I have to discipline myself to do.



# History-making grads making headlines on college campuses

## Ryan Clanton

**In 2007** – Clanton played offensive tackle on BCHS' first California Interscholastic Federation Div. V championship football team.

**Today** – This 2008 alumnus wears green and gold for the University of Oregon Ducks.

After completing his associate's degree and being named a junior college All-American in a year-and-a-half at San Francisco City College, Clanton received offers to play football for such powerhouse programs as Southern California, Arizona State and Florida State. But, UO was the one that signed Clanton.

Now on a full scholarship, Clanton, a junior sociology major with a business minor, has had to step up not only his academic studies but also his game as he prepares for playing big-time football.

"Everybody's better, everyone's faster," Clanton said in June. "Especially in the Pac 10, there's a lot of competition out here."

The spring training schedule reflects that intensity with practice, workouts and film. Clanton compares Duck football to a full-time job, but with the help of tutors in his studies he continues to do well academically.

Maintaining balance in classes and football isn't the only challenge of university life. Clanton knows the importance of continu-

ing his spiritual growth and participates in weekly Bible studies, going through Paul's epistles, with the team chaplain. In the future, he hopes to get a Bible study going with the team.

After college, there is discussion of Clanton being drafted into the NFL, and things are off to a great start. In his first semester at Oregon, Clanton started in the spring game and has already felt the support from the fans.

"People are crazy about football," Clanton said, "they get the stadium packed with like 65,000 people every single game, no matter what."

## Aaron Cooke

**In 2007** – Cooke became a National Merit Scholar and BCHS' first individual Valley champion in tennis.

**Today** – Cooke is an international poverty and economic development major at Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

Last spring, Cooke made headlines on the Westmont campus by winning first place for his essay on economic liberty and the rebuilding of the Haitian economy. Introducing practical ways to resolve economic crisis

Aaron Cooke holds South African boys during his summer teaching in the country.



Mckenzie Camp performs a Concerto for Three Marimbas in Post Isabel, Texas, during summer tour with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra.

PHOTO CREDIT: VALERIE D. BATES / WWW.VALERIEGALERIE.COM

is of particular interest to Cooke because his goal is to be a developmental economist.

"A big problem for developing countries is that the top economists in the field obviously charge a lot for consulting fees, and they simply just can't afford them. So, what I really want to be able to do is offer a first-world education at a third-world price," Cooke explained.

In addition to academic achievement, Cooke, who has continued playing tennis at the college level, was honored as scholar athlete of the year in 2009.

Beyond the intellectual learning and athletic competitions, he is preparing for his career through ministry. Cooke is involved in mentoring children in inner-city Santa Barbara. He also spent two months of the summer volunteering at Bridges of Hope Academy outside Capetown, South Africa, teaching English and math.

Cooke's tentative plans include going into the Peace Corp for two years and then attending graduate school.

"I hesitate to plan so much," he said. "I try to keep my mind

open so that God can work out His will through my life."

## Mckenzie Camp

**In 2007** – Camp, along with classmate Isaac Nacita, were the first students from BCHS to be accepted to Eastman School of Music, part of the University of Rochester in New York. Nacita opted for UCLA.

**Today** – Camp is in her last year at Eastman before receiving her bachelor's in applied music performance.

After a nationwide audition, Camp was selected as a percussionist for the American Wind Symphony Orchestra. She spent three weeks of the summer touring the waterways of the Gulf Coast performing for audiences on a floating arts center.

Her pursuit of music began when she was about five years old, but it was in high school during a Christian music camp

continued ▶

Ryan Clanton suits up for the Oregon Ducks in their spring game. Clanton is reported to be a starter this fall.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC EVANS/GODUCKS.COM

## History-making grads, continued

that Camp realized it was more than just an interest.

"It was like the two most important things in my life, my relationship with Christ and then music, viewed together," she said. "And it was just showing me that that's what I want to do. I want to do music in some way for God. Because He gave me this gift, and I want to give it back."

Though Camp said music school allows little free time, she still finds time to be a part of the school's Intersarsity Christian Fellowship. In the coming year, she plans to lead a Bible study through the group.

After graduating next May, Camp knows she wants to be a performer, possibly in Los Angeles, playing music for movies or teaching like many music majors. She also has a deep desire to travel and do mission work.

Even though she is doing something she loves, the transition from high school to college had its difficulties.

"I think one of the hardest things for me was realizing I can't find my identity in my performance. Since everyone at this school is all about you and your performance ... I think it was really getting to me in my walk with Christ. And I realized it's not about how I perform because (God) loves me anyway," Camp explained. "It took me a couple of years to realize, it's not about me, it's not about my performance, in music or anything in life."



## Grad in Africa Part II: Growing responsibility

**B**raving the summer heat and uncomfortable conditions of a third world country to help with physical needs or share the gospel for a two-week mission trip is a spiritually enriching experience. However, it is much different than living there – a distinction that 2009 alumnus Clayton Chancey realizes every day as he is only a couple months away from his one-year anniversary of moving to Kenya.

"Before I came to Kenya, I never saw myself as the kind of person who would enjoy a simple, unplugged lifestyle, surrounded by poverty in a less-than-comfortable living situation," Chancey explained. "But, God has really been changing my perspective on this. Now, I am thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to do some really practical work and get my hands dirty."

Chancey's missionary role has changed immensely since Grad in Africa Part I was published six months ago in *BCHS Today*, moving from an emphasis in school ministry as a musician and videographer to practical work in the remote regions of northern Kenya.

In February, he helped build a medical dispensary in the desert for surrounding villages, and over the summer he traveled on washed-out roads to a village in Sudan with food, equipment and materials.

Upon returning to Kenya in September after a three-week visit to see family and friends in the United States, Chancey will be co-leading a group of German missionaries into the northern desert. Even months before the team's arrival, Chancey has been laying the groundwork by visiting churches, schools and village chiefs to schedule opportunities for evangelism.

"I'm really looking forward to being in more of a leadership role and am praying that God would prepare me for both the stresses and advantages of that role," Chancey said.

Though Chancey is uncertain of what he will be doing for the final six months of his commitment as a missionary in Africa or where he will go after that, he is confident that God will reveal his next adventure.

"My future is entirely up to God," Chancey stated. "As I pray and stay close to Him, He'll take me where He wants (me) to go."

*Did you miss Grad in Africa Part I?  
Go to [BakersfieldChristian.com](http://BakersfieldChristian.com) and find the article under Alumni Spotlights.*

## Alumni Spotlight

# Entrepreneurial spirit carries alumnus forward

**J**oel Davies is now a business owner and family man, but he said he wouldn't be any of that without his time as a student at BCHS in the mid-1990s.

"It built my confidence in a pivotal time in my life. School and sports shaped my work ethic and helped me develop vital interpersonal skills," said Davies about his days at what was then Community Christian High School. "My Bible classes were some of my favorite and most challenging courses. My professors helped deepen my understanding of God and built a strong foundation for my personal walk."

After graduating in 1997, Davies moved to San Diego, where he spent the next 10 years. First, he earned his bachelor's degree from Point Loma Nazarene University with a double major in business finance and accounting. Then, Davies worked seven years for a business specializing in fundraising for high school sports.



While in San Diego, Davies married his wife of five years, Rece. Two years into their marriage, the couple decided they were ready to start a family, which ignited a priority shift for Davies and a desire to be near his family.

After moving back to Bakersfield, Davies began what he anticipated to be a three- or four-month project working for the family business.

Davies, who was fourth generation in the fuel business, spent the last three years working at Fleet Card Fuels, which was founded in 1987 with the introduction of new technology that allowed secure card swiping. Davies' focus for the last year was in the area of marketing and business development as the company expanded into new markets, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento.

"We didn't really have marketing as a department, so it's something that I had to start from the beginning and really create the infrastructure and set up a marketing program," said Davies.

After completing the two major projects he set out to accomplish in the marketing and business development role, Davies decided it was a good time to go in a different career direction.

"It was an amazing experience, but I have always had an entrepreneurial yearning and knew that I was headed in that direction," Davies said.



Joel Davies

In May, Davies started a company called Davies Services, which provides consulting services to an online training business and a real estate development company.

Since returning to Bakersfield, Davies has become involved in the community through helping plan the Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast, being a vision-carrier for Kern Leadership Alliance and being a member of the Chamber of Commerce energy committee.

Davies also has strong roots at Riverlakes Community Church where he is a community group leader.

It was through his community involvement that he recently ran into his old high school secretary, Julia Pelz, who has moved out of the school front office and onto its board of trustees, said she was impressed with how much Davies has grown since she last saw him.

"He seems to me like he is a maturing man of God," Pelz said. "He has good role models who are dedicated to the school, the church and God, and I can see that coming out in Joel."

Joel and Rece Davies

■ **Josh Bligh (2009)** is attending Azusa Pacific University and majoring in English and philosophy. He made the dean's list both semesters and was also involved in the ultimate Frisbee club. After college, Bligh would like to write and teach at a college level and live a content life knowing God is in control of everything. Bligh says the advanced placement and philosophy classes he took at BCHS were key in preparing him for college.

■ **Shannon (Boone) Brown (1990)** attended both Bakersfield College and the University of Phoenix and studied human services. She is currently working for the family business called CoreTex Products Inc. Her job's flexible schedule allows her to spend time with her children – Jacob, 6, and Zachary, 3. She was married in 2002 and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family. They attend Valley Baptist Church.



Jennifer (Adamson) Grogan

■ **Jennifer (Adamson) Grogan (1999)** lives in Bakersfield and works as a certified massage therapist and medical assistant. She married Rob Grogan, a New York

native, six years ago. The two have a 5-year-old son Ayden and are expecting a daughter in August. Kinslee Arlene will be named after Jennifer's mother, who died of colon cancer three years ago.



Paul Neis

■ **Paul Neis (2006)** is studying psychology at Point Loma Nazarene University. He has received the 2010 Department of Psychology Scholarship and made the dean's list for the past three semesters. Neis plans to graduate next spring and then attend Rosemead School of Psychology to attain his PhD in clinical psychology.

■ **Briana (Case) Powers (1996)** attended Bakersfield College after high school and is now working as a legal secretary for KMTG. She has been married for nine years to her husband Michael and they have two children. Their daughter Payton is 6 and son Brayden is 4. The Powers enjoy camping at Pismo and doing projects at home.

■ **Robert Austin Smith (2000)** graduated from San Francisco

State University with his undergraduate degree in international relations, then from San Jose State University with his graduate degree in urban planning. He is currently working for the General Services Administration, a federal agency, as a leasing specialist. He will be transferring to the GSA office in Los Angeles. Next October, Smith will marry fellow BCHS alum, **Anna Corinne Camp**.

■ **Bryan Wheeler (2001)** has been a personal trainer for the past seven years. Wheeler helps manage the family business, Wheeler's Fitness Equipment Co. Inc., and runs a successful training business targeted toward athletes, fat-loss boot camps and supplemental and nutrition counseling. He also owns an AMWAY franchise. He and his wife Dre'Anna have been married for more than three years and their daughter Rylee will be turning 2 in September.

■ **Shannon Wheeler (2004)** graduated from Oklahoma Christian University in May 2009 with a sports wellness and recreation management degree. She is currently working for Church of the Harvest's Next Generation, a year-long internship for ministry and leadership development.



Robert Austin Smith and Anna Corinne Camp

## 2010 college graduates

### Graduate Degrees

■ **Anna Corinne Camp (2001):** University of California, Hastings College of the Law; Juris Doctorate; will work as an associate for Clifford & Brown in Bakersfield beginning in the fall.

cum laude; senior highest honors in applied mathematics; completing master's degree at California Polytechnic State University.

■ **Sherie George (2006):** California State University, Bakersfield; communications major and art minor; magna cum laude; elected Who's Who Students in American Universities & Colleges by CSUB communications department; elected member of Alpha Chi, the National College

Honor Scholarship Society; elected member of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association Honor Society; plans to continue education in a graduate program and pursue a career involved with mass communications.

■ **Eunice Lee (2005):** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; bachelor of arts in political science; hopes to attend law school in the fall of 2011.

■ **Christine Merrill (2005):** Sixth College of University of California, San Diego; bachelor of science in mechanical engineering; California Collegiate Athletic Association's Female Athlete of the Year 2010 for all sports;

Most Valuable Athlete Conference Championship 2010; Sixth College Senior Leadership Award 2010; Eight time All-American 2006-10.

■ **Cory McKinsey (2006):** CSUB; psychology major; plans to get doctorate and become marriage and family therapist.

■ **Kim (Sudenga) Piron (2004):** CSUB; bachelor of science in nursing; Cum Laude; will work as a registered nurse for Mercy Southwest Hospital.

■ **Dustin Powell (2005):** Southeast Missouri State University; bachelor of arts in general studies; magna cum laude.

■ **Diana Shaw (2006):** Concordia University, Irvine; liberal studies; magna cum laude; plans to teach elementary school.

■ **Nathan Witmyer (2006):** United States Air Force Academy; bachelor of science in management; going to pilot school in Columbus, Miss.

### Undergraduate Degrees

■ **Isaac Comelli (2006):** Fresno Pacific University; bachelor of science in applied mathematics;



Anna Camp



Isaac Comelli



Sherie George



Eunice Lee



Christine Merrill



Cory McKinsey



Kim (Sudenga) Piron



Dustin Powell



Diana Shaw



Nathan Witmyer

*Attention Alumni:* Please visit [BakersfieldChristian.com](http://BakersfieldChristian.com) to read more updates and submit your own story to be shared with the alumni community through this magazine. You can also e-mail your updates to [alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com](mailto:alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com).



Carolyn te Velde, in black, her four children and daughter-in-law accept the Founder's Award on behalf of their husband and father Ralph. The award was presented by President Dan Cole, center, and Board Chairman Alan Larsen.

## Dairyman named eighth Founder's Award honoree

*The founder's award is presented to individuals who, because of their love for the Lord and young people, have been instrumental in the founding of or development of Bakersfield Christian High School.*

This year's recipient of the Founder's Award is the late Ralph te Velde. His wife Carolyn and children accepted the award on his behalf at an assembly in May.

The dairyman began his relationship with BCHS 20 years ago. Having graduated from a Christian school themselves, te Velde and his wife sent their two oldest children to their alma mater, Ontario Christian Schools, and, upon moving to Bakersfield, enrolled their remaining children at BCHS.

"We both felt that it was very important for children to learn about God, not only in home situations but in their studies too, so that God was brought into every aspect of life," Carolyn te Velde said.

Ralph te Velde's love for his family and Christian education were evident,

but he was also a church deacon, businessman and leader in the dairy community.

In addition to his role as a parent at BCHS, te Velde took on a new role in the school when he joined the board of trustees in 1994.

"He just felt that at that time he had something he could give to the board to help promote the school and move it on further than what it was," his wife explained.

te Velde became the voice of reason at the board meetings through his display of quiet wisdom, according to fellow board member Alan Larsen.

One of te Velde's greatest desires was to see a new facility built even after his youngest daughter graduated high school in 1997.

"We got Suzanne through (BCHS) and he kept saying, 'I have to get that school built for my grandkids. By the time Matthew's in high school, I want a new school.' And so he worked really hard for that," Carolyn te Velde said.

With the building of the current campus in 2003, te Velde saw his goal of a new facility for the Christian school achieved. Two years later, after a decade of investing in the school as a member of the board, te Velde, having reached his intended goals, told his wife that it was time to hand it off to somebody else.

"He did truly give of his time, talent and resources," said Larsen, current chairman of the board. In May 2007, te Velde died of liver disease at age 60. The following fall, Matthew te Velde began his high school career at BCHS, joined by his cousin, Bradley Smith, in 2009.

Though te Velde would have loved to see the next generation of his family excel at BCHS, he also



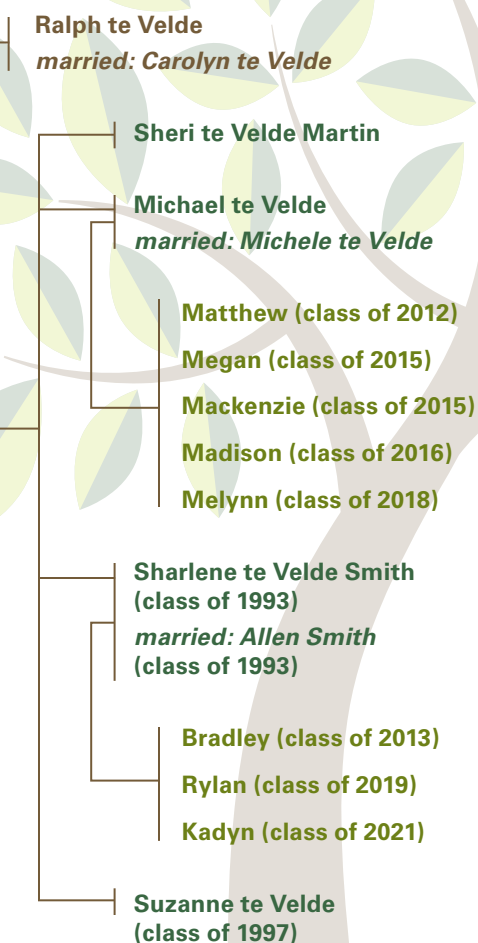
Ralph te Velde

had a love for students beyond his own family.

Upon hearing that her husband was going to be the eighth recipient of the Founder's Award, Carolyn te Velde was very humbled.

"It just affirms that his goals were noticed by other people, because he worked very hard on the board," she said, "and there were other people who recognized his commitment to the Christian school and the goals that he had set."

### te Velde Family Tree



Left to right: Allen Smith (class of '93), Sharlene te Velde-Smith ('93) Suzanne te Velde ('97) sit in the end zone reserved for alumni during last year's homecoming football game.

**Parents of alumni:** If you are receiving multiple copies of *Impact* for children whose permanent address has changed, please contact the advancement office at (661) 410-7000 or at [alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com](mailto:alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com). We'll be happy to update their addresses.

## Calendar: What's coming up in 2010-11

August 16	First Day of School - Instruction Begins
August 30	7th Annual Eagle Golf Classic
September 14 – 16	All-School Hume Lake Retreat
September 23	College Fair
September 29	Grandparents Day
October 7	Admissions Visitation Day (Stockdale Christian School)
October 14 – 16	Fall Play
October 22	Homecoming, Alumni Gathering #1
November 2	Eagle Excellence Annual Fund Pledge Day
November 4	Admissions Visitation Day
November 10	Veteran's Day Chapel
December 2	Christmas Fine Arts Festival
December 6	Eagle Excellence Annual Fund Phone-a-thon
January 8	The Milk Bowl (winter), Alumni Gathering #2
January 31	Admissions Open House
February 10	Science Fair
March 17 – 19	Spring Musical
March 25	Powder-puff Game, Alumni Gathering #3
March 31 – April 2	All-State Honor Choir
April 9	3rd Annual The Key Event
April 14	Pops Concert
April 30	Big Nite O'Jazz & Honors Art Show
May 24	Eagle Awards of Excellence
May 26	Graduation
May 27	Last Day of School
June 30	End of 2010-11 Fiscal Year, Last Day to Make 2010-11 Annual Fund Gifts

## Two events brought thousands from community to campus



Michael W. Smith performed in the BCHS Sports Center on Oct. 14, 2009. The concert was a night of worship for approximately 2,000 members of the Bakersfield community and included some BCHS students who sang in the background choir.



"Does God Exist?" was a question that intrigued nearly 1,500 people in the community who filled the BCHS Sports Center on Feb. 11, 2010, for a debate between two UCLA alumni — the head of BCHS' Biblical Studies Department, Randy Martin, and an atheist, politician and social activist, Eddie Tabash.