



Only at BCCHS

Unique electives set
careers in motion



A BAKERSFIELD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE | FALL 2011

Impact

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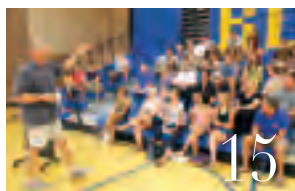
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Daniel H. Cole

Letter from the President

Dual impact of BCHS

For the past 32 years Bakersfield Christian High School has been making an impact in the lives of high school students and the community. Our second issue of *Impact* magazine is 32 pages of articles and photographs sharing how some of our students have made their mark on not only our campus, but also the community over the last year.

The following pages provide a glimpse into who our students are and how they are using their God-given athletic, artistic and intellectual talents to lead, minister and serve.

The headlines that hit the newsstands last year included those of floods and tornados hitting the heart of the country and the death of Osama bin Laden. These are stories that will stick with us for years to come, but along with these, we at BCHS will remember 2010-11 as the year our baseball team won its first Valley championship or the year when the visual and performing arts program shared not only the music of Christmas but also the message of Christ during its annual Christmas fine arts festival. There are many more momentous occasions from the past school year that I could name, but all of them have two common threads — each significant memory involves our students and each shows how God is moving on this campus.

It is our hope that as you read through the articles you see not only the impact BCHS has made in the lives of our students, parents and alumni but the impact the Lord has made in their lives and how they are using what they've learned to impact the world.

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

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President/Chief Administrator

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Unique electives give students jump-start on future careers

BCHS is unique for offering college-preparatory classes taught with a Christian worldview.

Bible, math, history, English — all the classics are covered with expertise.

But some of the most valuable, and interesting, classes aren't even required. They're electives.

Each BCHS student must have 1.5 hours of elective credits to graduate. That's not much, but those few semesters could have a huge impact on their future careers.

Two of the most unique electives offered are Broadcasting and Introduction to Athletic Training.

"I was always interested in journalism, and I knew that's what I wanted to major in in college, so I took broadcasting to get a sense of a more specialized field and ended up loving it," said 2011 graduate Tyler Harrison, who has taken one of BCHS' newest electives, Broadcasting.

Taught by a man everyone knows, veteran sportscaster Greg Kerr, Broadcasting gives students a head start on their media career path. Harrison, for example, plans to attend the University of La Verne as a broadcasting major, and her training has already started.

"To get that kind of experience with Greg Kerr, who has many years of experience in that field, is an opportunity that I think everyone should take," said Broadcasting classmate Hailey Archer, who transferred last year from Liberty High School. "It's probably been one of my favorite classes I've been able to take here that I wasn't able to at my other school."

Broadcasting students get real-world experience, which is vital in the world of media. They put together daily news bulletins for the school, learning the craft and the tools it involves.

The class has also helped Harrison and Archer land real gigs in real newsrooms. Harrison was an intern at KBAK/KBFX TV, and Archer was hired as a weekend newscaster at KUZZ radio.

"If a student shows an interest, I'm going to try to help them, whatever that means, because I remember what it was like to be in that position where they say, 'We'd hire you if you had experience.' Well, you don't have experience unless you get hired, right?" Kerr said. "So, internships are valuable. You beat 99 percent of the competition if you can get an internship and be in the hallways, and then they get to know you."



Tyler Harrison poses with Eyewitness News anchorwoman Lisa Krch at last May's Relay for Life. Harrison interned with Krch at KBAK/KBFX last spring.

While Kerr, and perhaps someday his students, keep the community informed about their favorite athletes, others are interested in keeping those athletes healthy.

Students taking Introduction to Athletic Training get both classroom and hands-on experience. They put in time at school sporting events, under supervision, providing medical aid to injured athletes.

"On the nonthreatening injuries, (a certified athletic trainer) will go out and start doing his thing, but he'll ask the student trainers, 'What do we do next?' So he puts them right in the line of fire, and he's there to step in if they make a wrong decision," said teacher Dan Swagerty, who is also assistant athletic director and dean of men.

With a prerequisite of Human Anatomy and Physiology, Introduction to Athletic Training is a specialized course for students



Hailey Archer delivers the news for KUZZ as part of her weekend job at the radio station.

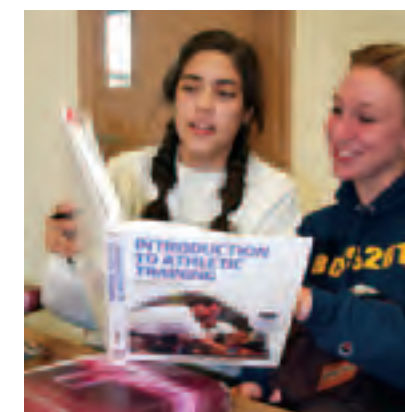
seriously interested in such a career.

Ashley Wilson is entering college this fall for kinesiology, the study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement.

"That class really provides that type of academic prep for physical therapy majors and sports medicine majors," Wilson said. "It's such a good elective to take."

The class also taught Wilson about what to expect in her chosen career field, even down to practical points of emphasis like certifications and salary.

"I feel like I've taken a step forward. I know that it was a privilege to be able to take this class here, and when I go to college and take my kinesiology classes, I'll already have had experience," Wilson said. "I feel equipped. I'm not nervous about taking the classes in college, because I've been prepared so well."



LEFT: Cadiz Prince, left, and Katelin Staley read their Introduction to Athletic Training textbook in preparation for learning CPR.

FAR LEFT: Amy Pickinpaugh assists athletic trainer Fernando Gutierrez in taping Hunter Witcher's ankle before a football scrimmage.

Academic Decathlon

The Academic Decathlon team finished seventh out of 21 teams in Kern County. Chad Spalinger and Aaron Campos both earned gold medals for interview, and Brianna Sivesind earned a silver medal for mathematics.

Essay

Senior Kirsten Albers received an honorable mention from The California Museum for her essay on creating a better world. Albers was one of 11 honorable mentions from Southern California out of 203 entries.

Forensics

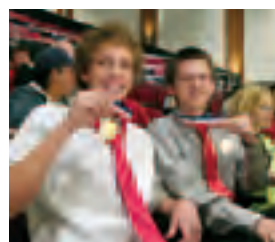
The forensics team had a national tournament qualifier for the third consecutive year. Sarah Lanuza competed in the original oratory event in Dallas last June where she broke into the finals and finished in the top 60, which is the top 25 percent in the nation.

The policy debate team of Sam Taylor and Cody Storm won the invitational tournament at Pepperdine University.

Science

Six projects received recognition at the Kern County Science Fair in March. Both Jaston Epp and Sam Taylor (sorting algorithms) and Nicole Foy and Mary Woodall (plant biology) received first places, Greg Merrill (earbud usage and hearing in teenagers) and Gathenji Njorge (magnetic levitation) received second places, and Jacob Braun and Dylan Fisher (chemistry) and Shannon Foy and Anna Haupt received honorable mention.

Three teams continued to compete in the state science fair, including Epp and Taylor, Foy and Woodall, and Foy and Haupt.



Jaston Epp, left, and Sam Taylor show off their first-place metals from the Kern County Science Fair.

Community Leadership

Two 2011 graduates participated in the Dream Builders leadership program. Kirsten Albers worked with Garden Pathways on a two-part project that involved recruiting volunteer mentors through a public service announcement and holding workshops for at-risk children. Chad Spalinger was a part of Team Bright House, which worked with Voorhees Elementary School's after-school program to teach the children about eating healthy and staying active.

Senior Cory Camp will participate in the Dream Builders leadership program this year.

The Jim Burke Education Foundation teams students with corporate partners to teach civic responsibility and community involvement through programs like Dream Builders.

Mathematics

The math team had strong finishes in their competitions this year. The team received first place in both Team Medley, Div. B, and Math Bowl at California State University, Bakersfield's Lee Webb Math Field Day.

BCHS also had teams place in the Bakersfield Math Council competitions. Chrisay Zhang, Del Zhou, Greg Merrill and Chad Spalinger placed third in AP Calculus. Brian Ritzi, Carolyn Stevens, Bryce Howes and Tolu Adeoye placed fifth in AP Statistics. Chrisay Zhang placed third individually for AP Calculus, and Ritzi placed second individually for AP Statistics.

Senior Phoebe Lou achieved a high score on her AMC12 test, which placed her in the top 5 percent of test takers in the nation and advanced her to the next level of the American Mathematics Competition.



Left to right: The Math Team — Chrisay Zhang, Tamara Cecala, Phoebe Lou, Peter Zhang and Michael Li — holds their trophies from CSUB's Lee Webb Math Field Day. Also pictured in back is math teacher Paul Sadowsky.

Christian setting feels like home for new academics, arts dean

Dr. Emmanuel (Manny) Mourtzanos is excited about getting back to his roots: working with young people and returning to a Christian institution.

This Toronto native is BCHS' new dean of academics and arts.

Mourtzanos received his undergraduate degree in Christian education with an emphasis in youth ministry from Tyndale College in Toronto. Since then, he's earned a master's degree from Providence Theological Seminary in Winnipeg and a doctorate degree from Seattle Pacific University.

"As I reflect on my formative years I think of key individuals and mentors who contributed to my growth as an individual," Mourtzanos said. "It was this experience that helped me realize what I was passionate about ... helping others to learn, grow and develop."

Mourtzanos, who has most recently served as director of education at the University of Washington School of Medicine, has returned to Bakersfield with his wife Laurel and their two sons, Sam, 7, and Andrew, 5. He previously worked at California State University, Bakersfield as dean of students and adjunct faculty member in CSUB's School of Business.

As he transitions to BCHS, Mourtzanos said he looks forward to building relationships with students and their families.

"One of my key educational philosophies is that learning happens best within the context of relationships," Mourtzanos said. "It's not simply an impartation and transfer of knowledge

from one holder to another. It's much more than that. I firmly believe that forming those relationships is a critical element of effective learning."

Mourtzanos wants BCHS teachers to not only grade their students, but their instructional material and methods as well.

"As educators, we need to ensure that the content we are teaching and the methods of our instruction are relevant and life-changing; I hope that is an issue that keeps us awake at night," he explained. "I want us to evaluate whether we are expanding the Kingdom of Heaven through our ministry of teaching. In addition, we need to ensure that young men and women are equipped to advance God's Kingdom on earth. At BCHS, we have the simultaneous responsibilities of ministering to students (and their families), while preparing students as ministers to others."

Dr. Emmanuel (Manny) Mourtzanos



RECENT GRAD'S BOOK COULD PAY WAY THROUGH COLLEGE



What started as a short story written during free time may soon pay college tuition for Emily Cardé, who recently graduated from BCHS.

With the guidance and encouragement of her mother Mischelle Sandowich, Cardé penned the 160 pages of the recently published book "ICU," which tells the story of a Christian girl who flees to Los Angeles to escape her past.

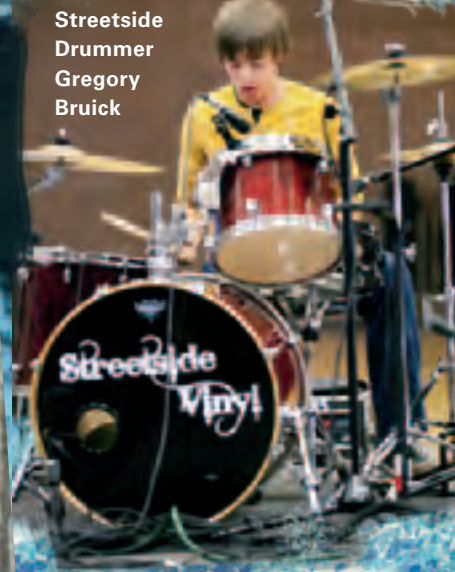
Cardé's family published the book and is selling it to raise money for her tuition and other college expenses as she heads to Patrick Henry College in Virginia. Cardé will major in English in hopes of continuing her profession as a writer.

Books are \$12.50 each and are available for purchase at <http://icubook.wordpress.com>.



Streetside Vinyl is an alternative rock band including, left to right, Matt Mizell and '11 BCHS graduates Gregory Bruick, Shawn Gough and Justus Dixon.

PHOTO CREDIT: HAILEY ARCHER/ARCHER PHOTOGRAPHY



Streetside Drummer Gregory Bruick



Shawn Gough and Mariah Bathe perform a number in the spring musical "Cotton Patch Gospel."



Streetside lead singer Shawn Gough, left, leads worship at the BCHS annual Hume Lake retreat. Also pictured is Streetside former bass player Isaac Chancey.

Streetside leads music for a Leaders in Life workshop.

Recent grads in tune with their passion. Chosen path

High school is a time where students learn what they excel at and how to pursue it into college and, eventually, the workplace.

For 2011 graduate Shawn Gough, music sparked his interest. Gough's melodic love grew considerably after attending a band camp called Youth Music Outreach the summer before his sophomore year.

"It taught me what it meant to play with passion and put passion into your music," Gough said. "(The camp) solidified what I wanted to do with my life."

Gough continued to develop his musical talents. He played in the BCHS wind ensemble and jazz bands and expanded his repertoire by mastering the saxophone family and learning guitar, percussion instruments and piano.

Gough, who's heading for California State University, Bakersfield this fall, also worked hard to tune his singing voice, stepping on stage for a lead role in BCHS' spring musical.

"The band program has definitely encouraged my growth as a musician," Gough said.

Gough became a familiar face during worship at school and church. He led worship during BCHS chapel, and he led the youth service at St. John's Lutheran Church on Buena Vista Road in southwest Bakersfield.

"I love leading worship, because it's just a really deep connection to God," Gough said. "You can worship in a show, definitely, by expressing

your creativity and giving back the gifts He's given you, but in a corporate worship setting where everyone's in the same mindset, the Spirit can move through music."

Gough is continuing on with his band Streetside Vinyl, which led worship at the BCHS Hume Lake retreat. Bandmate and friend Gregory Bruick, also a recent BCHS graduate, has found that music is his passion, too.

Bruick, a drummer since age 5, became a stronger musician through a variety of efforts, including a mission trip to Guatemala, where he used music to serve the Lord.

He's also led BCHS chapels as part of the leadership class.

"That's been a really cool experience, as well, because I've been able to put together chapels ... and just be able to work with other musicians at the school," Bruick said.

Both men plan to pursue music as a major in college. After a year at CSUB, they're considering transferring to a prestigious music school, such as Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

For now, the two are committed to growing Streetside Vinyl, a four-member alternative rock band that includes BCHS class-

mate Justus Dixon. Streetside Vinyl has already performed at the Rockin' Roots Festival; led worship for Leaders in Life, an annual gathering of 1,800 local students held at Rabobank Arena; and opened for Christian rock band Kutless last June. The band is currently working on their second recording project slated to be available in the fall.

Both Bruick and Gough say they look forward to what God has in store for them as they transition from high school to playing music full time.

Shawn Gough plays saxophone at BCHS' annual Big Nite O' Jazz.

Gregory Bruick plays drums at the BCHS annual Hume Lake retreat.

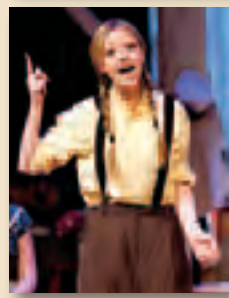
Students showcase talent



"Cotton Patch Gospel" combined the musical and acting talents of its 16-member cast while presenting the gospel message. Last year's spring musical was held at St. John's Lutheran Church.



Pep Band brought fun music and school spirit to home football games last fall.



Pops Concert depicted the theme, dances through time from around the world, through music from the bands and choirs.



Band Tour sent 28 musicians on the road to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and other Central Coast destinations.



Animation allowed students an opportunity to work on artistic projects using mediums such as Claymation.



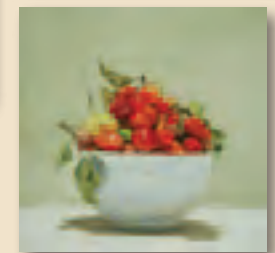
The Colors of Christmas depicted the spirit of Christmas through the collaborative performances of the 180 students in fine arts classes at BCHS.



Big Nite O'Jazz continued the tradition of the annual performance featuring jazz music for audience members to dance to. The event also showcased the artwork of the honors art students.



Art students produced works for two on-campus shows, as well as exhibiting pieces at Rabobank Arena during the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra performance last spring and at Dream Center and Coffee House downtown last summer.



Photography students in three levels of classes shot and edited their own projects.

"Hamlet" brought the challenge of mastering Shakespearean dialogue and learning fencing choreography to the student actors, while transcending into a memorable fall play for the audience.



Cycle of Inspiration

Students, staff find strength in mentorship

A mentor can be a mentee at the same time. Mentorship is a cycle. Grace George knows all about that cycle.

A senior at the time, George felt God's push to start a Bible study for underclassmen. She and fellow seniors Kirsten Albers and Carolyn Stevens held the session for 15 dedicated sophomores each Tuesday during lunch. They studied the Book of James.

"The Lord put it on my heart that I needed to make an impact at BCHS," said George, who is attending Joshua Wilderness Camp, a 12-month discipleship program at Hume Lake, this fall. "I realized I needed to do something."

Brooke Staley, one of the sophomores in the Bible study, said she values the mentorship offered by those senior women.

"You can relate, because they're still in your age range, but they've been through more experiences," Staley said. "They want to encourage you, and there's a group of them that have such a passion for the Lord. It's really inspiring. It's something that I want to do. It makes me want to be like them."

Meanwhile, George was soaking up the sage advice of Julie Martin, a school volunteer and the wife of Bible teacher Randy Martin.

"Julie Martin ... has impacted me in so many ways, but most importantly, she lives out James 2 for me – that godly woman that every girl should want to look up to and be like," George said. "She's been an incredible influence in my life."

Martin has been a volunteer for the Bible and English departments for the past three years while working on her bachelor's degree in biblical counseling from The Master's College in Santa Clarita. Though Martin spends roughly four hours a day grading, filing or supervising advanced-placement tests, her underlying reason for being on campus is more eternal.

"My main hope and goal is to build relationships with the female students and to be here and be available to them," Martin said. She said the trials she went through growing up sparked her desire to help today's youth.

"I didn't have a safe older person to go to that was going to be able to support me and love me and be available," Martin recalled.

It's Martin's love of mentorship – answering questions about Scripture, boys or just life in general – that has inspired George to become a mentor herself. Martin said it was a joy watching George grow into a strong Christian leader on campus.

"What I've seen is her desire to reach out to the other girls on campus, especially the younger girls," Martin said of George. "That's been pretty exciting to watch her grow that way."

Staley, or one of the other underclassmen in George's Bible study, may take up the mentorship mantle one day. If they do, they'll likely pull inspiration from Martin, George or one of the other mentors who came before them.

Mentorship, after all, is a cycle.

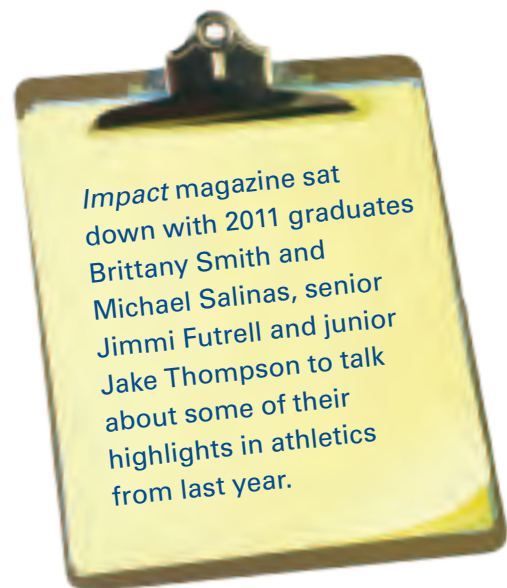


LEFT: Back row, left to right: Grace George, Julie Martin and Carolyn Stevens. Front row: Brooke Staley, Kirsten Albers and Carlyn Gonzales.



Athletics Q & A:

Sports more than just a side dish on these students' full plates



What sports did you participate in at BCHS last year?

Brittany: Volleyball and basketball.

Michael: Football, soccer, track and field, and tennis.

Jimmi: Tennis and swimming.

Jake: Football and baseball.

What was your season highlight?

Brittany: When we played (volleyball against) Tehachapi, it was the greatest game we'd ever played. We played as a team, and we played as one, which was a big accomplishment. We defeated Tehachapi in three matches, which is really good.

Michael: Playing goalie in our soccer playoff game, because we

played Avenal, the No. 2 seed, and they only scored one point on me.

Jimmi: I would say my season highlight for tennis was just bonding with my team, because I feel like we're really close. For swimming I think it would be our practices, because we're so laid back.

Jake: Being in the position I was in for football, being a captain and the quarterback for our team. I also did get hurt, and I missed a couple of games, and it was kind of neat to be able to help a freshman with learning everything and stuff on the side. And winning Valley for baseball.

What accomplishments did you achieve last year?

Brittany: I really learned how to be a leader. I received many awards. Recently, I got one for The Bakersfield Californian Second-Team for basketball, which is a big accomplishment.

Michael: We got to playoffs in soccer for the second year, so that was good. As an individual, for tennis I moved up. I played fifth singles, so that was a big accomplishment.

Jimmi: I started the Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at our school, which is growing. The tennis team won league and Valley. And the girls' swim team finished second in league and so did the boys.

Jake: For baseball, winning the Valley title. Individually, it was just making the varsity teams.

What other activities do you sacrifice to play sports?

Brittany: Hanging out with my friends and close family times, like going on vacation, but it was worth it.

Michael: During the summer I've missed going to the beach, birthday parties, dodgeball tournaments and softball games. Recreational sports I would miss for fear of injury.

Jimmi: Definitely my social life. I can't hang out with friends near as much as I would like to.

Jake: You just have less time to do stuff you want to do or your homework.

What sport do you wish you could play?

Brittany: Swimming. Looking back at the four years, I really wish I would have done swimming because I've done it before and it's really fun.

Michael: Lacrosse. I started watching it, and it's a real tough sport to play, and it looks mentally and physically challenging, and I like a challenge, so I would love to try lacrosse.

Jimmi: Softball. I played for about six years, but I had to choose when I came to BCHS whether I wanted to swim or play softball.

Jake: Golf. I wish I could golf, because if I got to play golf more, I think I could be pretty good, but I don't really have time for it.

How has being a part of athletics impacted you as a Christian?

Brittany: It expresses my character, and it helped me grow as a Christian, because you learn how to control your behavior.

Michael: It's helped me a lot in keeping my anger under control.

Jimmi: It's impacted me as a Christian, because I think that it's developed the state of mind that you're striving for a goal. As an athlete, you're striving to win, and as a Christian we should be striving to do our hardest and do everything to the glory of God.

Jake: It's only done good things for me. I've never worried about myself doing drugs or alcohol or that sort of stuff because I'm always involved in athletics, and I'm always influenced by the right people.

How has being a part of athletics impacted you as a student?

Brittany: As a student, it challenges you, because you have to make sure you maintain your grades, and it really gave me a reason to raise my grades and keep them where they need to be.

Michael: Being a student comes first, and in order to be privileged to play sports you have to be a good student.

Jimmi: Because it consumes so much of my time, I could probably get better grades. I'm not saying I'm a bad student, but my GPA could probably be higher than it is because of the time consumption sports takes.

Back row: Jimmi Futrell and Jake Thompson. Front row: Michael Salinas and Brittany Smith.

Jake: You know, athletics makes everything harder and easier at the same time. You don't have much time to do most of your stuff, and you miss a lot of class time. But sometimes there's benefits from it, like being in magazines, like this, and having more stuff in common with your teachers. You can have a better relationship with people, because they can talk about the game or whatever else is going on.

What part of the CHRIST (Character, Heart, Respect, Integrity, Sacrifice, Team) acronym resonates the most with you?

Brittany: Character. Sports challenge your character so much.

Michael: Respect. Because a lot of people don't have respect for the other coaches, their other teammates or the other players, and a lot of positions in some sports are looked down upon.

Jimmi: I would have to say the "S" for sacrifice. Sacrificing my time is a huge deal.

Jake: I think it's character. All of them kind of play into your character.



ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division Titles

Baseball (Div. IV)
Boys' Tennis (Div. IV)
Girls' Tennis (Div. IV)

South Sequoia League Titles

Boys' Basketball (at all three levels – Frosh/Soph, Junior Varsity, Varsity)
Boys' Tennis
Girls' Tennis
Volleyball

CIF Central Section Academic Tennis Team of the Year

Girls' Tennis

The Bakersfield Californian Player of the Year

Chelby Cooke, girls' tennis (singles)
Lily Schuler and Carolyn Stevens, girls' tennis (doubles)

Individual Valley Titles

Girls' Tennis
Chelby Cooke, girls' tennis (singles)

Individual League Titles

Boys' Tennis
Sullivan Roche, boys' tennis (singles)

Girls' Tennis

Chelby Cooke, girls' tennis (singles)
Lily Schuler and Carolyn Stevens, girls' tennis (doubles)

Swimming & Diving

Delaney Goltry (500 freestyle)
Jimmi Futrell (100 breaststroke)
Claryce Lazerson (100 backstroke)
Brandon Parks (diving)
Elizabeth Vigstrom (diving)

Track and Field

Sarah Hill (high jump, triple jump and long jump)

SSL First Team Selections

* = All-Area First Team
+ = National Christian Athletic Association All-American First Team

Baseball

Casey Bloomquist*+
Jake Hansen
Andrew Heideman

Matt Huckaby
A.J. Ramirez
Hunter Witcher

Boys' Basketball

Tyler Harris*
Bryce Howes
Jordan Kinglee

Boys' Golf (All-League)

Ryan Roodzant
Owen Schoneveld
Chad Spalinger
Greyson Stewart
Jake Taber

Boys' Tennis

Jared Kaing
Austin Lee

Greg Merrill
Sullivan Roche*
Nolan Schuler

Football

Alex DeHoog
John Schoneveld
Jess Visser

Girls' Basketball

Brittany Smith+

Girls' Golf

Megan Cho
Julia Stewart

Girls' Soccer

Ashley Cattani
Chelby Cooke
Tabatha Dickson*+

Girls' Tennis

Kim Butler
Chelby Cooke*
Jimmi Futrell
Lily Schuler*
Carolyn Stevens*

Volleyball

Callie Gonzales
Andrea Bauer
Brittany Smith+

All-Area Girls' Tennis Coach of the Year

Frank Thiessen

ATHLETICS SUMMARY

19 Sports Teams

10 Boys Teams
9 Girls Teams

31 Total Teams

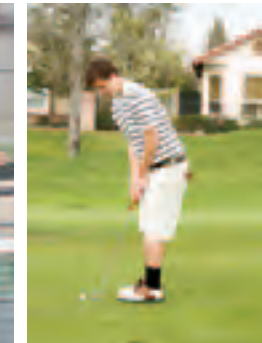
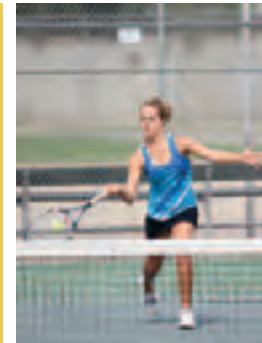
19 Varsity Teams
12 Junior Varsity or Frosh/Soph Teams



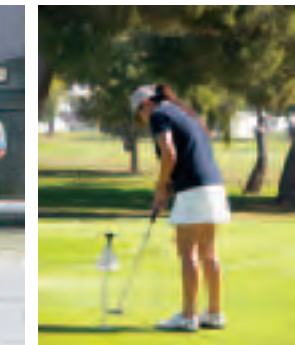
PHOTO CREDIT: THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN



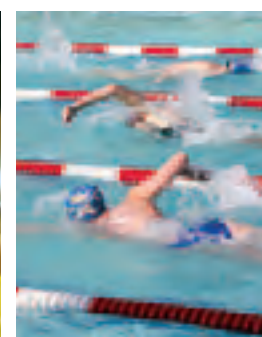
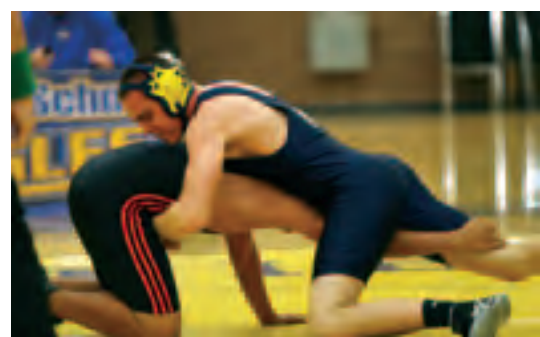
36
First Team League Selections



4
League Titles



13
Individual Titles



7
First Team All-Area Selections



Even Eagles need a boost; club to support athletics

With nearly 70 percent of students participating in sports last year, the athletics program at BCHS is continuing to gain momentum. But it is not only the students who love athletics.

"The athletics department at BCHS is what originally attracted my family to the school. We love the fact that we can send our kids to a school that will contribute to a well-rounded education which, to us, includes the opportunity to participate in competitive sports programs," said parent Carrie Balfanz. "BCHS has done a wonderful job of including athletics as a part of the whole picture and, for that, we are very thankful."

Balfanz is not alone in her desire to support BCHS athletics. In fact, several parents have been working with athletic director Doug Barnett, as well as other school administrators, to develop a booster club at BCHS.

The Eagles Club will be a great addition for the BCHS community and add excitement to the athletic program, according to Barnett.

The primary function of the club is to create community involvement and spirit while raising funds for athletics. Funds raised through Eagles Club memberships, sponsorships and concessions will cover the cost of uniforms and spirit kits for all the teams, as well as assist in special projects to enhance the teams and their facilities.

Barnett said the goal of the club is not to just enhance the athletic program but to create a greater sense of community and spirit for the entire school.

Still in its beginning stages, the Eagles Club has already elected officers including Balfanz, president; Kate Bos, vice president; Todd Crabtree, secretary and John Duffield, treasurer.

"I am so thrilled to have a booster club at BCHS," Balfanz said. "The Eagles Club will be a wonderful avenue for parents to get involved in a very personal and up close way with their kids' athletic activities."

Memberships begin at \$50. The Eagles Club will meet the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the BCHS Sports Center.

More information on sponsorship levels is available at BakersfieldChristian.com under the athletics menu. For other questions, contact Balfanz or Barnett at boosterclub@bakersfieldchristian.com.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

68.3% participated in one or more sports

21.8% participated in two or more sports

3.2% participated in three or more sports

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION BY GRADE LEVEL

61.9% seniors

71.9% juniors

71.4% sophomores

67.7% freshmen

College Acceptances of our 2011 Graduates

* = multiple acceptances



International students built strong relationships and also prepared for college by touring the University of Southern California and University of California, Los Angeles campuses and through taking advanced-placement and other challenging courses.

BCHS just first step in American journey for international students

Students travel from Wasco, Buttonwillow or even Frazier Park to take advantage of the education offered at BCBS.

More than a dozen students travel from even greater distances: China, South Korea and Cameroon, to name a few.

Though these international students are far from home, their goal is the same as that of their Kern County classmates. They aim to get into a top-tier American university.

Recent graduate Lee Juhan (Jason Lee, as he's known in these parts — each foreign student adopts an American name while learning English) has spent the past four years in Bakersfield, living away from his parents in Korea.

"It was a great chance for me to study in America and for me to go to a good college here," said Lee, who has been living with his aunt and uncle. Lee will be attending the University of California, San Diego.

Lee credits BCBS' advanced-placement courses for challenging him and preparing him for the rigors of college. Many international students take on a heavy load of AP classes.

"One of the most challenging classes for me was AP English, because it isn't my native language," Lee said. "Even though I didn't get an A, I felt my English was improved and my essay skills were improved, because we had to write an essay every week."

Senior Zhou Wenhao (Del Zhou) from China has also loaded his schedule with AP classes, such as chemistry and calculus. He said coming to America to

study in high school is preparing his vocabulary in the fields of math and science, which he plans to study more in depth for engineering.

Proximity to American universities is also an advantage of studying at BCBS. Bakersfield is located near a great number of schools, including one just a few miles from campus. California boasts 33 public universities, not to mention a multitude of prestigious private universities, such as Stanford and the California Institute of Technology.

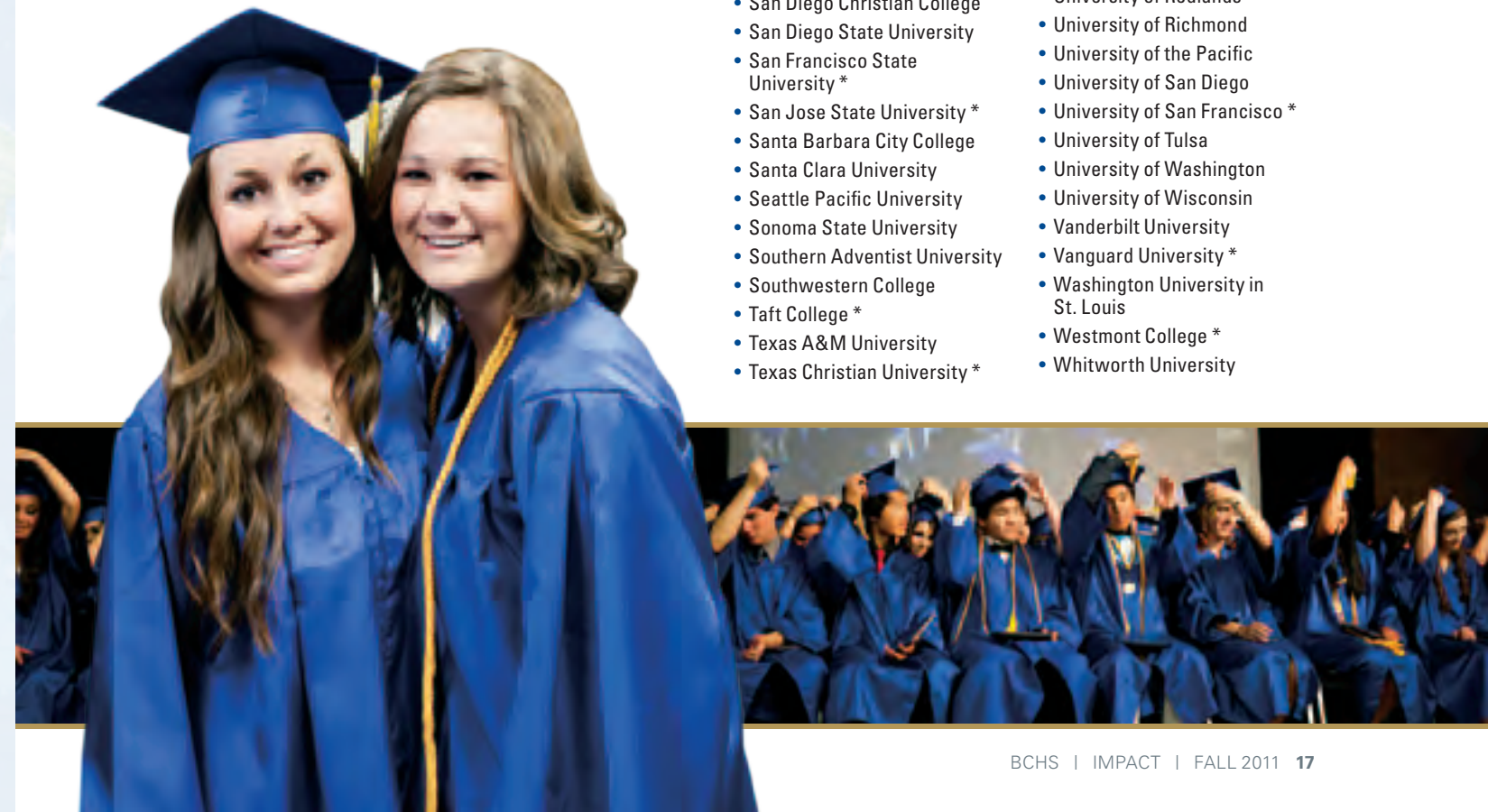
Instead of researching a campus from nearly 10,000 miles away, student Zhang Yating (Chrisay Zhang) was able to step foot on both the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles campuses during a BCBS international student field trip.

"Sometimes when you research, you can't get all the information you really need," said Zhang, also a senior from China. "Though there is a virtual tour on the website, it is different actually going to the campus and seeing the students."

Along with Lee, fellow Korean Yoon Seuk Joon (John Yoon) is also headed to college this fall. Yoon, who will attend University of California, Riverside, said his BCBS teachers were an integral part of why his grades improved. But academic change paled in comparison to a spiritual change for Yoon.

"Not only on my grades, but in my religion I changed, too," Yoon said. "Now, I've taken philosophy class and ethics, and I've learned how to debate things like why you should believe in Christ, why there is a God and why evolution is wrong. That helped me. I became a different person after I finished (high school)."

- American University *
- Arizona State University
- Austin College
- Azusa Pacific University *
- Bakersfield College *
- Baylor University
- Belmont University
- Bethany University
- Biola University *
- Boise State University
- California Baptist University *
- California Polytechnic State University, Pomona *
- California Polytechnic State 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, 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, Sacramento
- California State University, San Marcos
- California State University, Stanislaus
- Cedarville University
- Clemson University
- College of the Holy Cross *
- Colorado Christian University *
- Colorado School of Mines
- Concordia University
- Corban University
- Cornell University
- Dominican University of California
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott
- Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Fresno Pacific University *
- George Fox University *
- Georgetown University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gonzaga University
- Grand Canyon University
- Harvey Mudd College
- Houston Baptist University
- Humboldt State University
- Iowa State University
- LeTourneau University *
- Liberty University
- Linfield College
- Mills College
- Montana State University
- Newberry College
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Northern Arizona University
- Oklahoma Christian University
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Patrick Henry College
- Pepperdine University
- Point Loma Nazarene University *
- Portland State University
- Providence Christian College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- San Diego Christian College
- San Diego State University
- San Francisco State University *
- San Jose State University *
- Santa Barbara City College
- Santa Clara University
- Seattle Pacific University
- Sonoma State University
- Southern Adventist University
- Southwestern College
- Taft College *
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Christian University *
- Texas Tech University *
- The Art Institute of California
- The Master's College
- Trinity College
- Tulane University
- University of Arizona
- 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 Colorado, Boulder
- University of Evansville
- University of La Verne
- University of Missouri, Kansas City
- University of Oregon
- University of Redlands
- University of Richmond
- University of the Pacific
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco *
- University of Tulsa
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin
- Vanderbilt University
- Vanguard University *
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Westmont College *
- Whitworth University



Among the 126 graduates from the Class of 2011 are Valedictorian and National Merit Scholar Gregory Merrill, Salutatorian Chad Spalinger, National Merit Scholar Tamara Cecala and Eagle of the Year Carolyn Stevens, who sat down with Impact to share some of their experiences from BCHS.

Carolyn Stevens

College: Westmont College

Intended major: Kinesiology, with an emphasis on nutrition

Career goals: Be a stay-at-home mom and work out of my home counseling people with a variety of health problems

High school achievements: Eagle of the Year, First doubles girls' tennis team to win the league title four consecutive years, All-State honor band on flute

Q: How has BCHS helped you grow academically?

A: In so many ways. I never thought I would love and enjoy French as much as I do now and appreciate learning as much as I do now. I love every single subject, because the teachers actually care, and I want to talk to them about their lives, like why did they major in this and why do they like teaching this. It motivated me through the other students, as well.



Q: How has BCHS helped you grow spiritually?

A: I've been given every opportunity I can imagine here. Whether it's being mentored or mentoring, to be challenged and to be supported in every way, especially in the Bible classes, especially Mr. Sutherland's class. Challenging myself to go out of the box and consider other worldviews and think about them but ultimately understand where they are self-refuting and where they fall apart.



Tamara Cecala

College: Vanderbilt University

Intended major: Elementary education

Career goals: Open a school or help start a school in another country

High school achievements: National Merit Scholar, Presidential Scholar nominee, Congressman Kevin McCarthy Merit Award, various math competition awards

Q: How has BCHS challenged you?

A: BCHS has challenged me to look at things in different ways. A lot of times the Bible classes make you really think about things or examine why you've always just accepted certain things. Also, high school, here, was the first time I actually ran into classes that were challenging, running into classes like calculus, which were not coming easily to me, and to learn through that.

Q: What will you miss most about BCHS?

A: The teachers and the atmosphere of BCHS. A lot of the freedom we have here to be open about our faith may not exist on the college campuses. For the first time in my life, I'm going to a school that's not a Christian school, so I'm going to miss that atmosphere a lot — to be able to talk about God and to be accepted for that. I don't know what it's going to be like at a university. And the teachers, they're amazing, and I'm really going to miss them.



Chad Spalinger

College: Georgia Institute of Technology

Intended major: Mechanical engineering

Career goals: Work for theme parks and design new roller coasters around the country or design new technology for the CIA

High school achievements: Salutatorian, Dream Builders member, 2009 Golf CIF Central Section Div. II championship

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

A: Our class is so unique in that there were a lot of really intelligent students. I could tell it was a really competitive class from the start of freshman year. Our class had so much talent in every area: academics, athletics and fine arts.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories of your class?

A: When junior year started, that was the point where our class spirit just like sprung. During the rallies we were really pumped. I remember during one of the spirit weeks it was twin day and we all worked together to all wear these yellow jumpsuits. We had the majority of the class walking around campus in these yellow jumpsuits and it was really cool.



PHOTO CREDIT: RANDALL PHOTOGRAPHY/MYRANDALL.COM

Gregory Merrill

College: Texas A&M University

Intended major: Mechanical engineering

Career goals: Create a solid work base here, and then long term travel and do something like Engineers Without Borders

High school achievements: Valedictorian, National Merit Scholar, Male Athlete of the Year

Q: How has BCHS impacted you?

A: It's definitely changed my perspective on how I'm going to approach my education. In our philosophy class we learned that education should be centered around something. It's not just specializing in certain areas, it's knowledge coming together. So, how I'm going to be viewing education in college is learning the most I can about God's world. I think that is going to be an exciting journey, just like it was here.

Q: How have you impacted BCHS?

A: I think I left a legacy of pushing yourself to do the best that you can, whether it be sports or academics like it was for me, or for other people it might be music. If you just push yourself, you can do a lot of good things.



Former top Eagles flying high on college campuses



Nicholas Helms

At the top of their classes at BCHS, these former valedictorians have impacted their college campuses and communities through evangelism, volunteer service, drama productions and being active in their local church.



Michael McClain



Melissa Merrill



Chris Underhill
Second from left

Melissa Merrill (2010)

During her first year at the University of California, Los Angeles, Merrill has learned the importance of turning a large school of around 26,000 students into a small environment through becoming involved in clubs and small groups.

Merrill organized both soccer and volleyball intramural teams for her floor in Dykstra Hall and found both a volunteer service group and Christian fellowship organization to join.

Through Circle K International, the Kiwanis affiliate for college students, Merrill volunteered for things like walking abused dogs and helping them become comfortable with people again, playing board games with senior citizens at a local retirement home, and participating in UCLA's Relay for Life.

No stranger to volunteer service, Merrill was involved in the Ford Dimension leadership program and started, or rather restarted, Key Club her senior year at BCHS.

One of the experiences that Merrill says stands out to her from last year was cleaning and redoing houses in the Compton area.

"It was the first volunteer thing that I've done that was so much hard work, yet so much good came out of it," Merrill said.

Apart from college life, Merrill has also had to adapt to the large class sizes at UCLA. She says the key to her adjustment was taking advantage of her professors' office hours and making an effort to get to know her teachers, something that she learned the value of while she was at BCHS.

Chris Underhill (2009)

Halfway through his college years at UCLA, engineering major Underhill has overcome the adjustments of college in both the academic and social spheres.

"The first thing I sought out was a Christian fellowship. I found one connected to a church called Grace on Campus that has strong biblical teaching," Underhill said. "That's probably the most important thing."

He also had to learn to adjust to the increased difficulty of classes.

"BCHS helped prepare me for college ... One way I can think of was Mr. Thiessen's biology class, because he made it like a college class where you had to study on your own to get a good grade," Underhill said. "I

also appreciated the opportunity to take so many AP classes."

Even this former National Merit Scholar had to adjust his study habits to earn an A in his college classes.

He has also enjoyed some of the hands-on learning experiences he's had through the engineering club, where he works with a team on a project to build a car with the highest miles per gallon, part of a nationwide competition amongst engineering students.

Life at UCLA has a lot to offer for students like Underhill, whether it's playing intramural dodgeball or basketball or cheering on the Bruins when the team hits the court. One of the things that has stood out to him the most are the opportunities to go on fun and spontaneous adventures, such as hiking through the mountains at night with friends.

A more planned adventure for Underhill was traveling to Luwero, Uganda, over the summer to help missionaries with evangelism, Vacation Bible School, construction and church training.

Michael McClain (2008)

It could be that the next Steven Spielberg or J.J. Abrams got his start back at BCHS.

McClain headed to Biola University after developing an interest in filmmaking in high school.

"For a Christian college, (Biola) is probably the best film program you can find. It's very connected to LA, they have a lot of equipment and events, so that's why I went there," McClain said.

But he didn't stick to his original plan after getting to Biola. McClain went from film to Bible, to psychology to philosophy, before he circled back around to his current major in cinema and media arts.

In his first year as an official film major, McClain said his work ethic from his high school days kicked in and he was able to load up on classes to stay on target to complete his major in two years.

McClain spent his freshman year focused on his homework and the academic side of college life before getting back into music by playing trombone for the jazz band his sophomore year. Then, last year he became active in the drama department, which led to him landing a role in the spring play "The Odd Couple."

"Acting wasn't something I originally intended to try, but I really enjoyed it," McClain said. "Working on the play was a really great experience. I made a lot of good friendships with the cast and crew."

continued ►

Former top Eagles, continued

Even though Biola is a Christian university, McClain said it is much different from BCHS, because there are more people from different backgrounds and therefore a wider scope of Christian beliefs.

"I think it's helped me to grow a lot and think about what the church is like all over the world and not just in Bakersfield," he said.

Nicholas Helms (2007)

Helms reached the pinnacle of college life last spring as he walked across the stage with approximately 6,000 other students from the business school at California State University, Long Beach for graduation.

According to Helms, the strong academic background he received at BCHS helped him develop good study habits and equipped him for the transition to college, but that wasn't the only way high school prepared him.

"Since I went to a secular (college) it wasn't always easy to find the Lord in certain situations," Helms said. "But I think that BCHS provided a good Christian background to go into college with."

During his four years in college, Helms occasionally went to campus events, such as the Salsa Club, but he said most of his extracurricular activity was through his college group at church. In fact, it was at his church, The Salvation Army in Pasadena, where he met his future wife, Rebecca White.

Though the two met during Helms freshman year, they began dating only a year and a half ago, then became engaged last Valentine's Day.

"The Lord definitely worked in a mighty way through our relationship," Helms said.

An upcoming wedding isn't the only big transition ahead for Helms. He has spent the last year working as a student employee at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, helping a major flight project with its financial operations and administrative functions. The job will conclude at the end of August, at which time the newlyweds will move to Seattle, where Helms will join the staff of The Salvation Army's Northwest Division headquarters as an accountant.

"I love The Salvation Army's mission. I like that it reaches out to those in need who might not see the love of Christ any other way," Helms said. "I want to serve the Lord in this capacity, knowing that Christ served in the same way. He was always reaching out to those who were the most in need."

'86 grad has spun 'Web' of accomplishments

Weekly chapels, Spirit Week dress-up and playing Frisbee in gym class are a few of the strongest memories 1986 alumna Jill Hampton has of her days at BCHS, or Omega High School, as it was called at the time.

The seeds for Hampton's professional life were also planted during those years. What started as an interest in running the audio board for church and school productions led Hampton, whose maiden name is Alexis, to pursue an internship at KBAK-TV shortly after graduation.

"When I started working at the TV station, I originally wanted to get into the technical side, but after my very first day there, I decided I was bitten by the news-adrenaline bug,

and so I wanted to go into the news side of it instead, the journalism side," Hampton explained.

She attended Bakersfield College before transferring to the University of Missouri in Columbia. She said the junior college experience helped her transition from a small high school to a state university with about 28,000 students.

Mizzou was the right fit for the former high school valedictorian, because it was among the top three journalism schools in the country and boasts the oldest journalism school in the world. She worked her way through college with odd jobs, such as typing edits for the law school review.

Hampton earned her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism in 1991 and embarked on her career amid a recession. Journalism jobs were scarce because of cutbacks, much like in today's market.

Hampton enlisted with a temp agency, but leveraged the secretarial positions available to practice her marketing and internal communication skills. Those jobs eventually led to jobs in public relations.

In 1998, she wound up in a marketing position at a local newspaper, conducting public relations work for its website. She then worked as a freelancer until a Web producer position opened up at the NBC affiliate in St. Louis. She worked there four years, before landing in her current job as a Web producer for the St. Louis Fox affiliate.

Every day is different in the world of Web producing, and Hampton said her job depends on strong communication and project management. News is never the same day-to-day, and the Web team must figure out how to relay each bit of information to the community.

"Some of our tools and technology have changed, but overall, I'm still basically doing the same thing I was doing nine years ago," Hampton said. "But it will be fascinating to see what will happen in the next nine years."

Hampton and her husband of 16 years, Todd, pool their talents to create websites and do public relations and marketing work for small businesses. Their top clients own a scuba shop, and the Hamptons have picked up a love for scuba diving.

Most people don't think of the Show-Me State as a scuba-diving hot spot, but the flooded



Jill Hampton, left, and her husband Todd celebrate the milestone of their 200th dive during a scuba diving trip to the Caribbean island of Bonaire last March.

rock quarries in the state prove to be excellent practice for trips to the Caribbean.

"We are now certified PADI divemasters, so we can assist with classes, and we can help people with the Discover Scuba, where you can hop in the pool with all the scuba gear and see if you like it or not and see if you want to take the classes," Hampton said. "We also work with our local dive club."

Hampton keeps in contact with former high school classmates, despite living 1,800 miles from her hometown. She planned her 20th high school reunion with Elise (Leonard) Pizarro and keeps up with other classmates and former teacher Patty (Knight) Barton through Facebook. Hampton also stays connected through her Twitter account @JillISTL.

"Social media has definitely helped reconnect and maintain bonds that we had during high school or have developed now," Hampton said.



Jill (Alexis) Hampton

2011 college graduates

Graduate Degrees

- **Lauren Corbett (2004):** California State University, Fresno; Master of Science in rehabilitation counseling with an emphasis in applied behavior analysis; working for Holdsambeck & Associates Inc. as a team supervisor for in-home program for children with autism in the Fresno area; she will become a board-certified behavior analyst in August.
- **Matt Leonard (2004):** California State University, Los Angeles; Master of Arts in philosophy; Ryan & Jack O'Shaughnessy Scholarship recipient; special recognition in graduate studies; presented papers in the Czech Republic and several American universities; currently pursuing his doctorate degree in philosophy and teaching as an assistant professor at the University of California, Davis.

- **Stacey Butler (2007):** Oral Roberts University; Bachelor of Science in social work; began advanced-standing master's program at the University of Oklahoma in June. After graduating with her master's in May 2012, Butler hopes to travel, then eventually complete requirements to become a licensed clinical social worker.
- **Barnaby O. Butterfield (2007):** California Maritime Academy; Bachelor of Arts in global studies and maritime affairs; named Div. I executive officer; Panetta Institute Lecture Series representative; intern for California state Sen. Noreen Evans; plans to attend graduate school and study international relations.

- **Donald "Max" Camp III (2007):** Southern Methodist University; Bachelor of Arts in political science and international studies; on scholarship to study abroad in Russia and serve as assistant to the professor; will be seeking a job in international politics in the Washington D.C. area after he returns.
- **Katie Camp (2007):** San Diego State University; Bachelor of Science in recreation and tourism management, specializing in systems management; working as a travel agent for Kern Travel; hopes to become

- its destination wedding coordinator; also a partner with Lili Marsh for Signature Event group planning events, such as weddings and social or political parties.
- **McKenzie Camp (2007):** Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester; Bachelor of Music in percussion; graduated with high distinction and also with a performer certificate; plans to attend graduate school at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.
- **Emily Campbell (2006):** Whitworth University; Bachelor of Arts in biology;

- working as a seasonally employed biologist at a biological consulting firm in Bakersfield; plans on continuing a career in field biology then attend graduate school for botany or wildlife biology.
- **Anna Czech (2007):** University of California, Los Angeles; Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering; 2010-11 Engineering Achievement Award for Student Welfare; plans to work as a process engineer at Intel.
- **Charlene DeHoog (2007):** University of California, Santa Barbara; bachelor's

- degree in psychology and brain sciences with a minor in education; graduated as a student athlete for playing volleyball on the Div. I team on a full scholarship for all four years.
- **Megan Eastin (2007):** Point Loma Nazarene University; Bachelor of Arts in visual arts; commissioned by PLNU to paint pieces; working for a wedding and event florist, Rae Florae, and a gourmet cookie company, The Cravory,
- **Nicholas Helms (2007):** California State University, Long Beach; Bachelor of Science in business

- administration with an emphasis in management; will work as an accountant with The Salvation Army in Seattle.
- **Danielle Lippert (2007):** Vanguard University; Bachelor of Science in kinesiology with an emphasis in pre-physical therapy and a minor in music; magna cum laude; plans to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.
- **Jordan Mattox (2007):** San Francisco State University; Bachelor of Arts in history; graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa; Distinguished Undergraduate History Award; secretary of Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society; attending Fuller Theological Seminary in the fall.
- **Phil Owens (2007):** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Bachelor of Science in dairy science

- with a minor in agricultural business; working at family's company, Troost Hay Co.
- **Jack Pandol Jr. (2007):** Washington and Lee University; Bachelors of Arts in both politics and Spanish; member of Lambda Chi Alpha; involved in Washington and Lee College Republicans; working for the American Family Business Institute in Washington D.C.
- **Chelsie Slegers (2007):** Point Loma Nazarene University; Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies with a concentration in Spanish.
- **Tiffany Tjaarda (2007):** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Bachelor of Science in nutrition; beginning dietetic internship at California State University, Long Beach in August.
- **Sara R. Whaley (2007):** University of Chicago; Bachelor of Science in public policy with a focus in international business; dean's list honors; played softball all four years; member of Delta Gamma; studied in Paris for a quarter; applying to law school in the fall and will be working in the family businesses as well as forming a nonprofit foundation to provide urban children with sports equipment.



Lauren Corbett



Matt Leonard



Charlene DeHoog



Megan Eastin

Undergraduate Degrees

- **Tyrell Braker (2006):** LeTourneau University; Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.



Tyrell Braker



Stacey Butler



Barnaby Butterfield



Nicholas Helms



Danielle Lippert



Jordan Mattox



Max Camp



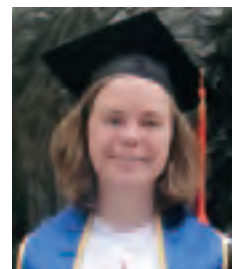
Katie Camp



McKenzie Camp*



Emily Campbell



Anna Czech



Phil Owens



Jack Pandol Jr.



Chelsie Slegers



Tiffany Tjaarda



Sara Whaley

■ **Laura (Hicks) Montgomery (attended 1982–89, elementary to high school)** earned her nursing degree from Bakersfield College and is currently taking care of developmentally disabled adults. She is also a stay-at-home mom. Her daughter **Ashley**, a 2010 alum, married **Matthew Frazer**, a 2007 alum, in July. Montgomery's son Josh is currently a junior at BCHS. She and her husband Craig own Bakersfield Velocity Soccer Club. Montgomery says she is thankful for BCHS.

■ **Steve Davies (1991)** earned his Bachelor of Science in international business from Azusa Pacific University followed by a credential in business from California State University, Bakersfield. He has been married for 14 years and has four children. Davies is moving to Sheridan, Wyo., to teach technology and business, as well as coach football.

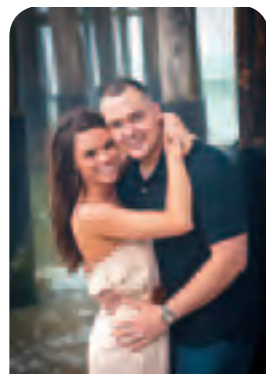
■ **Joel Davies (1997)** graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a degree in business finance and accounting. Davies lives in Bakersfield with his wife Rece and their young children Noah and Caden. He is running a marketing company, Davies Services.

■ **Kari (Richardson) Mathes (2000)** has spent the last nine years living in Savannah, Ga. Her husband recently returned from his third deployment with the Army to Iraq. The family, including daughter Riley, 3, will be moving to Fort Lewis, Wash. Mathes is currently a stay-at-home mom.

■ **Whitney Vaughn Yates (Sandoval) (2003)** graduated from California State University, Bakersfield with a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in communications in 2007. After college, Yates began working as a constituent representative for veteran and military affairs for Congressman Kevin McCarthy's office. Yates is married to local firefighter Joshua. Yates is currently staying at home with their daughter Kennedy, who was born last November.



■ **John Hall Wilson (2004)** has been working for the California Highway Patrol for the past two-and-a-half years. Wilson will be marrying Christine Smiley on Aug. 13. Though the two originally met



at Rio Bravo Greely in the fourth grade, it wasn't until after college that they reconnected. According to the couple, it was love at first reunion. After the wedding, they will make their home in Ventura County.

■ **James Witmyer (2004)** is attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He plans to graduate in December with his Master of Divinity degree. In addition to being a student and husband, Witmyer is also in ministry as associate minister to high school students at Little Flock Baptist Church in Sheperdsville.



■ **Joslynn DeHoog (2005)** graduated from California Baptist University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in management. DeHoog then attended Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Los Angeles, where she acquired an associate degree in baking and pastry last winter. While at Le Cordon Bleu, she received awards for perfect attendance and maintained a GPA of 3.9 and above.



■ **MaryAnne (Leonard) Martinez (2006)** married Ismael last May after completing her bachelors degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix in April. The newlyweds live in Playa Vista. She is working for Chase bank.



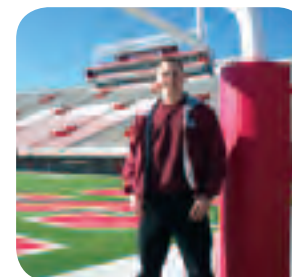
■ **Shana (Wilson) Wagner (2006)** married Mason Wagner, a member of the County Hot Shots Fire Crew, last November. She is currently working in the front office for Dr. Farr Medical Group. The two have recently added a new member to the family – Levi, a 5-month-old golden retriever.



■ **Alexandra Visser (2007)** attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo for two years and then moved to Santa Barbara, where she attended beauty school at Paul Mitchell. Visser is currently working at Simply Salon in Bakersfield. She will marry fellow '07 alum **Phil Owens** on Oct. 15 at the Hyatt Regency in Huntington Beach.

The two have dated for the past four years. Both say they are grateful that they had the opportunity to go to BCHS or they might not have found each other.

■ **Josh Gallington (2008)** earned his associate degree in history from Bakersfield College. This fall, Gallington will be attending Northern Illinois University to play Div. I football on a full scholarship.



■ **Michael White (2008)** is studying theology at California Baptist University. After graduating, White plans to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He recently completed a two-year internship at his church. He is also involved in CBU's overseas program and on-campus discipleship.

■ **Janie Atkinson (2009)** is studying fashion merchandising at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. After graduating, she plans to be a freelance stylist for URBN clothing company or do wardrobe styling for its web studios. She is currently playing volleyball. The Academy of Art is the only art school with an athletic program in the NCAA Div. II.

■ **Clayton Chancey (2009)** is working as a missionary in Kenya, Uganda, Congo and Sudan. Recently, he moved his base from Nairobi to Southern Sudan, where he is working with an unreached village. He is a supply and transport organizer, truck driver and logistics coordinator. He is also the acting site manager for the construction of the new missionary base. After the new year, Chancey will be hiking to 57 villages on foot over four to five months, surveying



a completely unmapped tribal area so that future missionaries can reach the people living there.

■ **LisaBeth Clanton (2009)** is attending California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo studying animal science. After graduating, Clanton plans to attend veterinary school to become a large-animal veterinarian. Clanton says she misses the Christian atmosphere at BCHS now that she is at a public university but sees her training in Bible-based theology put into action as she shares the gospel with friends.

■ **Cici Pandol (2010)** is a leadership studies major at the University of Richmond. She will be the captain of the club swim team this fall, which she has been very involved in since she moved to Richmond. During the summer, Pandol was an intern for Global Giving, a nonprofit group in Washington D.C. She will travel to Spain during Christmas break to study their government structure and meet with top leaders in conjunction with the Leadership Living and Learning program.



Cici Pandol, left, and friend.

■ **Brad Reeves (2010)** is currently a Bible and Theology major at Simpson University in Redding. He is also minoring in Spanish. After Reeves graduates, he plans to go to graduate school or seminary to obtain a Master of Divinity followed by a doctorate of philosophy. He is currently involved in theater club and an on-campus worship band.

■ **Kaylea Wigley (2010)** studied criminology at Taft College. She was also on the Cougar softball team, both pitching and playing left field. Wigley plans to transfer to a four-year college. After college, she plans on starting her own scrapbooking and bakery business and being a probation officer.

Alumni, what have you been up to?
 We want to know about your adventures, marriages and other accomplishments!
 Share your news and updates at BakersfieldChristian.com or e-mail your updates to alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com.
 Find us on Facebook: [Bakersfield Christian High School Alumni](https://www.facebook.com/Bakersfield-Christian-High-School-Alumni)

YOUR GENEROSITY 'KEY' TO RECORD FUNDRAISER



Victoria Johnson sings "I Could Have Danced All Night," from Broadway's "My Fair Lady" as part of the medley of Broadway hits.

Start spreading the news. Yes, that's the first line from Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York," but it's also apropos for a very newsworthy fundraising event.

Last spring's The Key Event, which took on a Big Apple theme, saw more than \$300,000 raised for need-based financial aid. Every penny came from folks like you: friends and family of BCHS.

It was the third annual The Key Event, and 245 of you came out to Seven Oaks County Club to support our students.

More than one-third of the nearly 500 students enrolled at BCHS receive some help with their annual tuition. Each year, BCHS helps supplement tuition for deserving students.

The Key Event is the school's biggest fundraising effort of the year, and, each year, school donors have been increasingly charitable. The inaugural event brought in \$140,000, and 2010's event brought in \$240,000.

Fitting with last year's theme, the live auction featured a trip to New York City with tickets to Broadway shows. Students also performed "A Night on Broadway," a compilation of Broadway musical numbers.

The fourth annual The Key Event is set for March 24 at Seven Oaks Country Club. Call the Advancement Office to reserve your seats now.



Left to right: Prnay Chopra, Ralph Harris, Justus Dixon, Rudy Villarreal and Aaron Campos combine their voices in a number in the student production "A Night on Broadway" at The Key Event.



New York



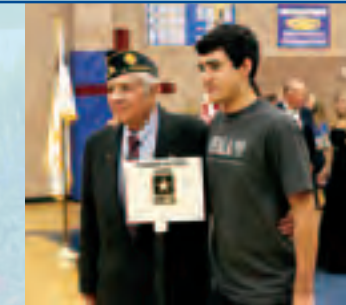
Events connect community to campus

Grandparent's Day welcomed 150 grandparents to campus, including Rayburn and Joan Dezember, seen here with granddaughter Kathleen Ezell.

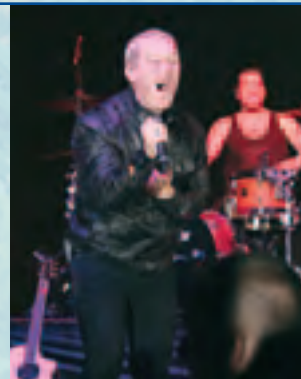


Spiritual Formation Week featured evening seminars by guest speakers Dr. Scott Rae, below top, who addressed moral and social issues and Al Menconi, bottom, who led a parenting seminar.

Veteran's Day honored around 40 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces, including Joel Garcia Sr., seen here with grandson Joel Garcia.



Kutless Concert brought more than 500 fans to the BCHS Sports Center for a night of great music and worship. The July concert was presented by Jesus Shack.



82 percent confirms generosity of school family

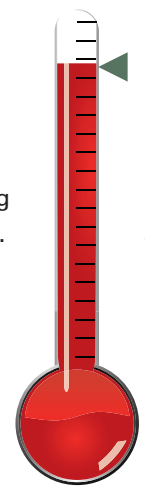
Eighty-two percent is typically something you would hear as the latest test score of a high school student. But this percentage was actually a measure of parents last year at BCHS.

In fact, this percentage was historic for the school, as 82 percent of BCHS families participated in giving to the Eagle Excellence Annual Fund for 2010-11.

The annual fund is vital to the operation and maintenance of our campus, including providing the monetary base for need-based financial aid, teachers' salaries and cutting-edge technology. It also helps the school offer such distinctive opportunities as the Hume Lake retreat.

The annual fund covers the \$1,700 gap between the tuition paid and the actual cost to educate each student.

Thank you to our school family for your generous support of our mission to "challenge students today to make a difference tomorrow." Your gifts made a difference in every area of our students' lives last year.



82% Total School Family Participation

- 86% Seniors
- 77% Juniors
- 88% Sophomores
- 86% Freshmen

Eagle Excellence Annual Fund for 2010-11

Scan this image using your smartphone's barcode app to learn more about BCHS.



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 alumni@bakersfieldchristian.com. We'll be happy to update their addresses.

Calendar: What's coming up in 2011-12

- Aug. 15..... First Day of School - Instruction Begins
- Aug. 17..... Alumni Chapel and Gathering #1
- Aug. 29..... 8th Annual Eagle Golf Classic
- Sept. 13-15..... All-School Hume Lake Retreat
- Sept. 17..... The Fall Milk Bowl
- Sept. 22..... College Fair
- Sept. 28..... Grandparents Day
- Oct. 6..... Admissions Visitation Day
- Oct. 14..... Homecoming, Alumni Gathering #2
- Oct. 21-22..... Fall Play
- Nov. 3..... Admissions Visitation Day
- Nov. 8..... Eagle Excellence Annual Fund Pledge Day
- Nov. 10..... Veteran's Day Chapel
- Dec. 1..... The Colors of Christmas (Fine Arts Festival)
- Dec. 5..... Eagle Excellence Annual Fund Phone-a-thon
- Jan. 26..... Science Fair
- Jan. 30..... Admissions Open House
- March 3..... Big Nite O'Jazz & Honors Art Show
- March 17..... The Spring Milk Bowl
- March 21-24..... All-State Honor Choir
- March 23..... Powder-puff Game, Alumni Gathering #3
- March 24..... 4th Annual The Key Event
- March 31..... Pops Concert
- April 19-22..... Spring Musical
- May 24..... Eagle Awards of Excellence
- May 25..... Last Day of School
- May 26..... Graduation
- June 30..... End of 2011-12 Fiscal Year,
 Last Day to Make 2011-12
 Annual Fund Gifts

Alumni roots deepen through events



Alumni gather for a photo during halftime of the 2010 Homecoming football game. More than 60 alumni came out for the homecoming festivities last October.

Catch up with your classmates at one of the upcoming Alumni events!

Aug. 17, Oct. 14, and March 23



Left to right: Breanna Wind ('09), Justine Schoneveld ('09), Chelsie Slegers ('07), Trevor Slegers ('09) and Janie Atkinson ('09) attend The Winter Milk Bowl to catch up with former classmates and watch the BCHS basketball and soccer teams play Central Valley Christian Schools.



Bret Dixon ('86), left, and Darin Holmes ('86) show their school spirit at last year's Homecoming game.