

The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy

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Achievements and Awards

As another school year drew to a close, Washington Christian Academy's Middle and Upper School Awards Night and our Lower School Honor Assembly provided opportunities to recognize our students' wide range of achievements and to thank God for His rich bestowal of gifts on our school community.

Awards Night, held on Wednesday, May 31, celebrated a number of student accomplishments in a variety of areas. Seniors were recognized for their strong academic work over their Upper School career. Accompanying this was the naming of our salutatorian (Alanna Ahlers) and valedictorian (Elizabeth Kenyon). The culminating activity of Senior Thesis and Internship was displayed through a presentation by one of our seniors, Lewis Hudson, who shared his thinking on a contemporary issue and his subsequent exploration of that issue in the workplace where he interned.

Special awards acknowledged student achievements in drama and writing, demonstrating our students' ability to compete with the larger metropolitan school community in these areas. Especially noteworthy was military academy admission representative Beryl Love formally awarding admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point to senior Lewis Hudson.

Subsequent awards recognized perfect attendance and Honor Roll attainment, the latter in categories of honor, distinction, and great distinction. The evening ended with the awarding of the Upper and Middle School Daniel and Good Samaritan Awards, unique to our school. The former marks excellence in academics, leadership, and service, while the latter recognizes students who are noteworthy for their servant spirit around the school. Our Upper School Daniel Award winner was Zachary LaButta; his Middle School counterpart was Caleb Breunner. The Good Samaritan Awards went to Brooke Morgereth (Upper School) and Brianna Larson-Jackson (Middle School). We are blessed by the presence of these students in our midst.

Our Lower School Honor Assembly the following week acknowledged the achievements of our younger students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. As on Awards Night, students were recognized for their

—Continued on page 6

Graduation 2006

On a lovely June evening, Washington Christian Academy's school community gathered at Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, Maryland, to celebrate graduation. The fields and woods surrounding the church provided a beautiful bucolic setting for the more than three hundred family members and friends attending the celebration.

This year, Headmaster Larry Danner and Board President Andy Warren presented diplomas to seventeen graduating seniors. During the course of the evening, the graduates and their families heard addresses from Salutatorian Alanna Ahlers and Valedictorian Elizabeth Kenyon, while classmate Lorenzo Llerena shared a Scripture reading from the book of Proverbs.

This year's commencement speaker was Michael Cromartie, presidential appointee to and chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and Vice President at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. A gifted speaker, teacher, and writer who has dealt extensively with the role of Christians in public life, Mr. Cromartie challenged the graduates to live out their Christian lives with integrity and compassion in the vocation to which God was calling them.

Following the awarding of the diplomas, a reception was held at the church for the graduates—now officially alumni and alumnae of our school—and their guests. Having ended their careers at Washington Christian Academy, these young men and

—Continued on page 3



Our graduates' cherished moment of hat-tossing after the graduation ceremony.

Greece and Italy in Nine Days



In the Forum of Pompeii at the base of Mt. Vesuvius.

On April 7, a group of fourteen WCA students, parents, and even one grandparent, headed to Dulles Airport bound for Milan, Italy. Our travels for the next nine days would take us to three out of four of the world's largest cathedrals, through the ruins of the marketplaces and homes of ancient Rome, and across the Aegean to the famed Parthenon.

After our flight, we enthusiastically, although a bit sleepily, began our tour of Milan, one of the great cosmopolitan centers of Italy. Our guide briskly led us through the Saturday afternoon Milan crowds to the ornate Gothic duomo, or cathedral, the church and crypt of St. Ambrose of Milan, and the medieval Sforza castle, now housing art galleries and a center for social gatherings in the city.

After a relaxing busride through the Tuscan countryside, we arrived in Florence in the evening and began a walking tour of the city, the center of the Italian Renaissance, the birthplace of more artistic, literary, and scientific genius than is possible to mention. Designed by Brunelleschi, the duomo of Florence is the world's fourth largest, and the first since Rome's Pantheon to use a dome structure. We made stops at Dante's house and at the Church of Sante Croce, burial place of Galileo, Michelangelo, and Machiavelli.

Rome was not built in a day, they say, but we sure saw a lot of it in a day. The Vatican museums full of ancient sculptures, tapestries and maps, tombs of Popes of centuries past, the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica—it was almost more than a mind could absorb. Then we moved on to Ancient Rome: the ruins of the Forum, the Coliseum, and the Pantheon. We were also able to see the jail where, according to tradition, the Apostle Paul was imprisoned.

A more restful stop at the island retreat of Capri followed our Rome and Florence whirlwind. The ruins of Pompeii were next on the itinerary. Against the backdrop of the infamous Mt. Vesuvius, we saw brick ovens, painted advertisements preserved on the walls, beautiful mosaics in

the floors of entryways to homes, political graffiti carved into buildings on the streets, and even plaster casts of people as they tried to escape the deluge of ash, their bodies instead preserved by it.

Then, we ferried across the Aegean overnight, and spent the next day climbing the hills of Greece to Delphi. Situated just below Mount Parnassus, the sacred place of Apollo and the Muses, the Temple of Apollo is one of the most thoroughly excavated sites in Greece, and provides a vantage point of breathtaking mountain scenery.

Our last stop was Athens, a juxtaposition of the most modern and the most ancient of civilization. It was a profound moment to stand at the steps of the majestic Parthenon, looking up at the magnificent edifice that represents the culmination of Greek civilization, and look down at the rock formation known as Mars Hill, or the Aeropagus, the seat of the Supreme Court of Athens and the spot from which Paul spoke to the men of Athens about their "unknown god," as recorded for us in Acts 17. In a palpable way, we sensed that we are all—individuals, societies, and civilizations—actors in history governed by a powerful and gracious God.

—Lisa McGovern
Teacher

Future Writers in the Making

From the MS/US Award Ceremony speech of Christy Danner, MS English Teacher:

"This September, I gave the 8th grade English class a short story composition assignment based on the idea of 'What if My Neighbors Were...' I had absolutely no idea that I would receive such inventive and exciting stories covering everything from Roman gladiator adventures, to mysterious magicians, to NBA stars. Thrilled by my student's creativity, I eagerly read through each story when I stumbled upon something a bit unique: a ten-page short story by [Ethan Kreimeyer](#)...an emotional tale of a father and son angered by the Nazi occupation of World War II France, and the son's secret Jewish friend he wishes desperately to help. The beauty and sophistication of the language told me that this student had a particular gift, a gift that should be recognized, encouraged, and developed.

...Ethan's desire for constructive criticism, and his willingness to write and rewrite all for the sheer love of writing and the pursuit of excellence, motivated me to find an outside opportunity for him to develop his talent for God's glory. Each year, the National Council of Teachers of English hosts a program...to seek out and reward 8th graders both for their efforts and talents in writing. Students are nominated by their teacher, submit what they believe is the best sample of their work (in Ethan's case, his short story), and complete a 75-minute impromptu writing sample...

There were 221 winners out of 656 participants, and [Ethan](#) with two other students were chosen by the state

—Continued on page 5

Alumni Corner



An Iraqi child in Fallujah makes friends with 1st Lt. Agur Adams, USMC, WCA '99, after receiving from him a Beanie Baby sent by WCA students.

In his current letter to friends and family, 1st Lt. Agur Adams, USMC, wrote, "The days are usually filled with patrolling the streets...we are starting to understand the culture and interact with the local population on a more personal level...a large part of this is due to the contributions of toys and small gifts you all have made for the children. I cannot emphasize enough how important your efforts are in winning the support of the population and enabling the Army to do its job... The day after I received 15 boxes of Beanie Babies from the students at Washington Christian Academy, over 75% of the toys were passed out to the kids on a mission we had that same day."

Agur graduated from WCA in 1999. He was our first graduate to attend the US Naval Academy and to compete as a NCAA Division One athlete. Among many distinguished accomplishments at the Naval Academy, Agur was Commander of the First Regiment and a Brigade Boxing Champion (ranked College All-American). In 2003, Agur graduated from USNA near the top of his class with a double major in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Today, Agur honors God with his service as a Marine intelligence officer in Fallujah, Iraq. Pray for Agur as he occupies his place worthily in society, church, and state. Semper Fi.

—Jan Adams
Director, Admission and College Placement
(aka Agur's Mom)

Into the Future

Many wonderful and exciting things have been happening as we advance the planning for our new campus. In April, we settled on our 60-acre parcel of land, confident after two years of hard work that we had secured all the necessary entitlements and approvals from Montgomery County to move forward with both our initial phase and eventually our long-term master plan. At settlement, the land was appraised for \$4.9 million, almost twice our \$2.5 million purchase price!

We still need to receive site development and building permits, which require completed site engineering and building architectural plans. Work on both fronts has been progressing on schedule, and we should be in a position to receive all necessary permits to begin construction at about the time school opens in the fall.

We are now at the most crucial and critical phase of the project: securing the necessary financing so we can begin the project on schedule. We are working with the financial firm of Ferris, Baker, Watts, Inc., as the underwriter of our Maryland tax-exempt bond financing. Over the summer, we will be doing all of the advance planning and work required to have a bond offering by the fall.

A bond offering is the key to launching the construction of the new campus, and a successful Capital Campaign is our key to a successful bond offering. So far, we have received pledges for over 2/3 of our targeted \$3 million capital campaign, and campaign volunteers will continue to work through the summer to continue our momentum.

How can you help?

1. If you have already pledged to the campaign, please be sure to make payments on schedule, and perhaps even consider advancing the timing of your gifts. Both pledges and payments received to date will be scrutinized by potential bond investing institutions.

2. If you have not yet been contacted by someone to discuss your desire to support our campaign, please contact us right away. You can call Wendy Meadows at the school office to arrange a meeting (or to directly discuss your gift).

3. Of course, and most importantly, lift up your prayers of thanksgiving that the Lord has so mightily blessed our institution in this endeavor, and for His continued providence as we move forward through the next several critical months.

—Andy Warren
WCA Board President

GRADUATION

—Continued from page 1

women now embark on the next stage of their journey, one that will offer new and greater challenges but also new and greater opportunities to advance the kingdom. Please pray that they will continue to stand for Christ wherever He will take them in the coming years, and that they will "occupy their places worthily" as they find their calling and engage the culture for His glory.

—Bill Zimmerman
Principal

Prom 2006



Walking the red carpet...

Upper School students will be remembering in vivid detail their 2006 Prom, “A Black Tie Affair,” at the lovely Historic Glenview Mansion and Garden in Rockville, Maryland, this past May.

The success of this year’s prom can be attributed to four energetic, creative, passionate, and thoughtful 9th graders, Adrienne DiPiazza, Laurie Van Dyk, Paige Prestipino and Katharine Minite. After gathering ideas of what the seniors wished for their prom, they set off to give them the best prom ever. And they succeeded.

The selection of the Glenview Mansion, with its beautiful neoclassical design and formal gardens, was a fabulous setting. Its stately, two-story white columns overlook a behemoth lawn adorned with lovely plantings. The girls also arranged for each prom-goer to enter the gala event walking a red-carpet aisle adorned with chrome stanchions with red velvet ribbons. It looked just like the Oscars!

As the students entered, they were awash in the elegance of the interior of the mansion with its vintage antiques, grand staircase, stately fireplaces, and classical music filling the air. Tasteful balloons, fresh bouquets of flowers, and sparking gold tablecloths adorned the tables in the grand buffet room. For a quiet prom moment, students could enjoy the formal gardens, rose garden, and a fountain.

As if all this were not elegant enough, there was the food. David Calkins of Urban BBQ’s fame served up some of the most delectable gourmet hors d’ oeuvres and confectionary delights ever enjoyed by the students. Prom-goers dined on his famous beef and chicken skewers, an original pineapple fruit tree creation, fancy veggie platters, mango/citrus punch, his famous crab cakes with sauce, fantastic sushi, crab dip with bread, cheese platters and confection perfections. But the penultimate was the

chocolate fondue fountain! Thanks, Dave, for helping to make the evening a great success.

I can’t forget to mention the labor of love done by Samantha Calkins, who pitched in and helped set up, serve, bus tables, and assist her dad with a great servant’s heart. A big thanks also goes out to all the parents who helped make this event possible. The girls arranged to have parents help set up before the prom and tidy up afterward so that the students could enjoy the prom. It couldn’t have been pulled off without their help.

The girls also planned an excellent itinerary. It has been a desire of students over the past years to have a bigger dance floor and an evening that was truly theirs. The DJ, dressed in an all-white tux, played their requests and brought an awesome light show with him. For the first time, there was also a King and Queen of the prom: AJ Rosetta and Kristin Kenlaw. Oscar-like trophies for best-dressed and best dancer were also given out.

The evening ended on a high note when each student received a parting gift. The girls had designed a T-shirt that read, “I walked the Red Carpet....” on the front of the shirt, and on the back, “...at WCA’s prom 2006.” Out of a desire to make this truly an evening about honoring the seniors, the girls also conspired with several seniors to have “hoodies” made especially for each senior with their names/nickname on the back along with the year of graduation. These were presented to each senior at the end of the prom in gift bags.

Several parents and seniors have commented to me that they thought it was the best prom ever. Thanks for a great prom, ladies, and all those who helped.

—Bryan Austin
Student Council Advisor



***Dream Fairy*, oil paint on canvas, by Kayte Dzime-Assison,
11th grade**

WCA Sports

The WCA spring teams once again did a remarkable job not only of competing, but more so of honoring the Lord Jesus Christ.

The very young but eager MS girls' softball team showed great improvement under our parent-coach, Mrs. Sabre Workman, and her assistants. Another parent, Mr. Zack Koutsandreas, coached the varsity team that finished the season with a four-game winning streak.

The boys' baseball team had their streak of MISAL championships snapped, but this young team did defeat a number of strong teams they had not beaten before, like Woodlawn and DeMatha's freshman team. Coach Mike Taney taught these young men not only the skills of the game, but also how to conduct themselves as Christian young men regardless of the outcome of the game.

Our senior-led tennis team was again the third best in the MISAL. Their highlight was a dual-match defeat of Barrie School, the first WCA defeat of Barrie in tennis.

Our track teams had the largest number of participants in the last five years. The MS group racked up the most team points ever at both the MACSA meet in Pennsylvania and the MJAC Championships at Maryland School for the Deaf. The HS team earned their first ever trophy at the MACSA meet, taking home second place out of nearly thirty B Division schools. The boys broke a 24-year-old meet record in the 4x200 meter relay. The girls also had their best finish ever, coming in third place. Then, the two combined for a runner-up finish at the first ever MISAL championship, just getting nudged out by Hyde 114 to 110. However, the boys took first place in every single event they

were in, and the girls also took many firsts.

All in all, it was another successful season not only as the world determines success, but also as the teams of WCA truly compete for the pleasure of their Heavenly Father.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the athletes and parents for their support of the athletic program in the years I have been here at WCA. Truly it is people who make a program, and that is very evident at WCA. My memories of this place will go very deep and last a long time because of the relationships developed with so many of you. I am trusting God that as He has moved me to another ministry, He is going to bless WCA in an even greater way through the coming years.

—Paul Tarry
Athletic Director



The WCA cheerleaders, currently coached by Amanda Atkinson. The team, organized in 1995, supports our basketball teams at all the home games and some away games.



5th and 1st graders, paired up for the year as “buddies,” regularly spend time with each other. Here, 5th graders Abigail Kreimeyer, Rebekah Hoffman, Cocoa Olopade, and Erica Prestipino help 1st graders Taylor Dill, Abigail Leon, and Providence Hawes with their “erupting volcano” project.

WRITERS

—Continued from page 2

judges to be the Maryland winners and receive Certificates of Recognition. We congratulate Ethan, and praise the Lord for blessing him with such a gift.”

The faithful work of teachers and students from the start leads to such beautiful accomplishments. Here are some excerpts from a 2nd grader’s “persuasive letter” (they tried to convince their teacher why she should give them extra recess time), and a “descriptive paragraph” from a 4th grader:

“I think we should have extra recess because we could get more exercise. Also, we’ll use more teamwork. We’ll have more time to make friends and use energy. The best thing is, we would spend more time in God’s creation...”
—Michael Steimer, 2nd grade

“When I got to the beach, I felt the warm sand run through my toes like grain...The calm flowing sea was a blue ribbon and the sunset a circular piece of bright yellow cloth...The blue sky was a blueberry smoothie blend, and the clouds were the cream...”
—Kendall Steele, 4th grade

From Here and There

1st graders performed an “opera,” **Three Piggy**.

2nd grade visited **Rose Hill Manor** to observe life in early America: gardening, gathering ice, cooking food over a fire, taking care of the carriages, playing with old fashioned toys, etc.

3rd graders had a **Color, Line, and Shape tour** at the National Gallery of Art; visited the **U.S.S. Constellation** in Baltimore to experience what children’s lives were like while serving on a ship at such a young age; and heard a lecture from **Dr. Moller** to enrich their studies of the human brain.

3rd graders have so far collected **110,322 pennies**. They continue their quest for 1,000,000 pennies toward the expenses of our future school building. All our readers are **invited to help** them reach their noble goal.

4th graders enriched their **astronomy studies** with NASA-generated materials featuring the flight of the Cassini-Huygens satellite, and made posters comparing the relative sizes of our sun, the Earth, and Saturn. (Did you know that, if you reduced the size of the Sun to an 8-inch diameter circle, Saturn would have a ¾ inch diameter and the Earth less than a sharpened pencil dot?)

4th grade teacher **Peppy Brown** was again honored by invitations to graduations of her previous students, this time Karen Blackistone, from Georgetown Law School, and Ryan McGoff, from UVA. Ryan was the first of the six McGoff children taught by our beloved Mrs. Brown.

As a part of our **Upper School service project** requirement, 10th grader Elizabeth Bushouse and Becca Wahler, and 11th grader Matthew Hardiman and Matthew Mallory visited the 3rd graders, served ice cream sundaes to them, played with them, helped them find clues in the Bible for their *Crucifixion Characters* activity, and helped them create Easter cards for *Meals on Wheels* recipients.

A **Band Concert** was held at Global Mission Church on May 25.

Scott Low, 8th grade, competed in the **National Junior High Chess Championship**, in Louisville, Kentucky, in early April. From the over 100 students in various events, he placed 2nd, 4th, and 13th places. May it be for God’s glory!

Our 3rd grade teacher, **Cindy Danner**, graduated on May 6 from the University of Memphis with an MAT degree (Master of Arts in Teaching), with specialization in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership and Elementary Education.

On April 27, the Lower School started a new yearly tradition of **Muffins for Mom**, a Chapel and fellowship time of mothers (or grandmothers or aunts or friends) with their students.

WCA honored the many volunteers for their faithful

service at the traditional **Volunteer Appreciation Tea** on June 2, and we express our gratitude for them here, also.

We share in the joy of the arrival of Brennan Danner Eyrich, the **first grandchild in the Danner family** (Mr. Danner is our Headmaster, Mrs. Danner our 3rd grade teacher, “Aunt” Christy our Middle School English teacher, and “Aunt” Cherith, WCA ’04, provides secretarial help). May God’s blessings continue on them!



Fish by Justin Hoobler, 3rd grade, India Ink on scratchboard.

AWARDS

—Continued from page 1

academic achievement, reflected in their selection to the Honor Roll, for perfect attendance, and for their participation in this year’s school play. In addition, certificates were given to members of Miss Langelaar’s student patrol and to students who excelled in the Presidential physical fitness program. Our Lower School Daniel Award winners were Arlene Leon (Grades 1-3) and Abigail Kreimeyer (Grades 4-5), while our Good Samaritan recipients were Abigail Leon (Grades 1-3) and Mackenzie Schutt (Grades 4-5). It is a blessing to see our younger students already beginning to assume the qualities recognized by these awards.

“All good gifts come from above,” we are told in Scripture, and in the multitude of good gifts commemorated at Awards Night and our Honors Assembly, we have abundant reason to give thanks to our Lord for His graciousness to us.

—Bill Zimmerman
Principal

To Ponder

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

—C.S. Lewis, “Is Theology Poetry?”
The Weight of Glory and other Addresses

Coram Deo

What is your only comfort in life, and in death?

That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

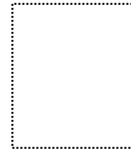
Heidelberg Catechism, First Question and Answer

The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy

PO Box 9847

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WASHINGTON

reverent, adventurous

CHRISTIAN

academically serious

ACADEMY

in the historic Reformed tradition