

TRUMPETER

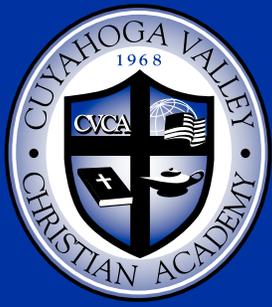
A PUBLICATION OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS



50 Years of Christ-Honoring Excellence

**CVCA Welcomes the Class of 2025 –
Our First 6th Grade Class!**





CVCA
TRUMPETER
FALL 2018

President:
Jason Spodnik '88

**Director of Communications
and Marketing:**
Jessica (Muehleisen) Cooley '97

Director of Development:
Ryan Crocker '05

Alumni Relations Coordinator:
Rachel Criswell '13

Designer:
Anna (Jones) Lile '84

Photography:
Rachel Criswell '13
Lifetouch Photography
Julia Lyda '19
Megan Warner

CVCA Board of Trustees:
Paul Moncrief '80, President
Eric Bosshard '88
Brad Deetscreek
Paul Eck
Roger Emerson
Craig Keslar '75
Rich Millisor
Dave Petno '84
Tom Piazza
Don Richards
Kerry Sullivan
David Wright

The Trumpeter is published three times a year for friends of CVCA. If you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please phone 330-929-0575, ext. 331, or e-mail pzaubi@cvcaroyals.org.



On the Cover:

Adding a new grade means many exciting changes for CVCA this year, such as...

- 61 new sixth graders in the building
- Along with four new teachers
- Remodeling of seven classrooms, additional lockers, new carpet, new lunch room, and many exciting building changes – even a Gaga Pit and outdoor basketball court
- Expanded service opportunities
- Sixth grade sports teams
- The addition of the fall middle school play, *The Pirate Princess*

Read more about our new comprehensive middle school on pages 8 and 9!

In This Issue:

- 3 President's Message
- 4 Celebrating 50 Years: Christ-Honoring Excellence
- 5 Friends of CVCA
- 6 Grandparents Day
- 7 Campus News
- 8 Middle School
- 9 Middle School Theatre Production
- 10 Resonate
- 11 Schools of Distinction: Engineering Canoe Contest
- 12 Fine Arts: Royal Theatre Fall Play
- 14 Athletics
- 18 Homecoming
- 19 Echoes

“To me, CVCA is so much more than a school. It is a family, a Christ-centered community that daily supports, encourages, and spurs one another on in love and truth.”

– Jessie Gayer '18

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. **Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we spend the year celebrating God’s faithfulness over 50 years here at CVCA, the former Social Studies teacher in me has enjoyed looking back to the beginning years of the school and ask “WHAT” and “WHY.”

I have been blessed with the chance to know and love some of the early CVCA families and hear their stories. In hearing them describe WHY they took a leap of faith and mortgaged their homes, I hear phrases like “we were just being obedient to His call to impact families for Christ in Northeast Ohio” and “we wanted our kids to have the best education with a biblical worldview.” With tears in their eyes, they can’t really believe what God has done with their step of faith. “That God would use us... imperfect, broken people... to impact generations of families for Christ is a testimony to the grace and strength of our Lord.”

Whoa! That statement floored me a bit to know we are very much a part of that legacy of God’s faithfulness that started so many years ago here on Wyoga Lake Road. So now 50 years later I ask, “What’s different?”

Well, the last few months have been a reminder that this wonderful, imperfect, God-led biblical community is made up of broken vessels that are still being used by Him to impact generations for Christ. That WHY seems to be the same as it was 50 years ago.

But what seems to have changed is the WHAT and a little of the HOW. Sure, the size has changed, but it’s not the numbers as much as the size of the opportunities for students to grow and be challenged to multiply their talents and know Christ more intimately!



Beyond Schools of Distinction, Jterm, sixth to eighth grade middle school, Chromebooks, 16 AP and six dual credit course that allow a student to graduate from CVCA with 30 college credits in hand... Beyond more missions trips, service hours, Resonate, Connections, deeper biblical integration across all subjects... Beyond new science labs, new fields, new stadium, new classrooms, new Commons... The list of changes over the years could fill up a book (And did! Request a copy of *Miracle of Grace* if you don’t have a copy and I will send you one.). This list just reminds me of what hasn’t changed. It reminds me how God has moved and blessed CVCA throughout the years to be more equipped to do His work in a changing and challenging culture.

While we celebrate how God has grown, changed, and matured His school over the years, what we celebrate the most is what hasn’t changed: that same WHY as 50 years ago and the hearts of those He has called to fulfill it.

All to Him I owe,

Jason Spodnik '88

What is “Christ-Honoring Excellence”?

In reflection of CVCA’s fifty years, we have been considering what makes our school stand out. “Christ-Honoring Excellence” sums up well what we hope to be CVCA’s legacy. We asked our students, faculty, friends, and alumni what they thought “Christ-Honoring Excellence” meant in relation to CVCA and how it has impacted their life...

“I see Christ-Honoring Excellence in our teachers and how they truly care about us. I also see it in how some of the older students treat the middle schoolers the way Christ would.” – **Paige Armstrong ’23**

“Christ-Honoring Excellence means joining Him where He is already at work, giving what I have to be used for His glory. When I see how CVCA is teaching God’s Truth and preparing the next generation to be disciples, I know God is at work and I want to be a part of it!” – **Megan Barker, Ministry Partner**

“I think of Genesis 2:28 where God says it’s not good for man to be alone. We are designed for community, family, and to be integrated into the body of Christ. My time at CVCA and the relationships I developed there had a huge impact on the man I became and am still becoming. I am so thankful for CVCA and the ways it continues to help guide me in life.” – **Nick Finelli ’10**

“There is more to “excellence” than just academics, which is the easiest facet to measure. Test scores and achievement awards, scholarships and GPAs prove Royals rule academically. The true test of excellence is in our community, in the challenges that students and faculty face together, the constant growth and change, and the accompanying bruises. “Easy” is never really appreciated. Royals are pushed to do and be and dream better, and the results speak for themselves.” – **Michelle Levigne ’79**

“CVCA nurtured and challenged me intellectually as well as spiritually. The school’s commitment to academic rigor rests firmly upon the sure foundation of orthodox Christian belief and practice, which teachers and staff model and instill every day in students. The school has cultivated what I believe is the rare understanding that honoring Christ with excellence naturally leads to a love of academic excellence. This understanding provides the invaluable spiritual context for the school’s pursuit of academic excellence in its actual nature. As a result of this training, I graduated from CVCA more than prepared to succeed in the university, in my career, and in life.” – **Mark Rankin, Ph.D. ’95, Professor of English, James Madison University**

“To me, CVCA is so much more than a school. It is a family, a Christ-centered community that daily supports, encourages, and spurs one another on in love and truth.” – **Jessie Gayer ’18**

“I have seen Christ-Honoring Excellence through the spiritual, social, and academic growth of my peers over the years, and through the usage of our talents as a student body to bring glory to God in various ways.” – **McKenna Miller ’19**

“CVCA has meant so much to me over the years. As a student I was challenged intellectually and spiritually by teachers who truly cared about me. With my own children at CVCA now, I am truly thankful to see the school blessing them in the same way it blessed me!” – **Julie (Vogel) Petschke ’89**

“Our pursuit of Christ-Honoring Excellence is rooted in the belief that God deserves our best. Mediocrity does not honor Him. Rather, we strive to give our best in order to help the world see God as He really is. We aim to represent Him well and point others to Christ.” – **Zach Churchill, CVCA 7th Grade Bible Teacher**

“I think of the final twenty minutes of our girls soccer regional semifinal last season. In a sudden death situation, our girls were down, but played like never before, attacking the other goal over and over. They honored Christ by leaving their best for each other on the field. My fellow teachers and coaches consistently show me what excellence is truly about. On a daily basis I hear the ‘why’ behind a lesson plan or a game decision. There is intentionality in everything, which comes through consistent reflection, collaboration, and organization. Their example reminds me to not just survive, but thrive.” – **Kate Flenniken ’12, CVCA Language Teacher**

“Having consistency in academic excellence and a commitment to Christ over a 50-year period is a remarkable feat. It is an honor to be part of that CVCA tradition.” – **Nathan Hudson ’01**

“One of the the most impactful ways I have noticed Christ-Honoring Excellence at CVCA is through our students. After spending six years with my peers, I have seen so much growth and watched each person rise up and lead in different ways.” – **Emma Petno ’19**

A Friend Goes Home

MR. WAYNE HERBRUCK went home to be with the Lord on May 22, 2018 at the age of 87. Wayne was a longtime friend of CVCA who believed deeply (and invested much) in the work and mission of the school. While Wayne served formally on the CVCA Board of Trustees from 1973 to 1986, his commitment to the school continued for many years thereafter. Of his many contributions, perhaps none is more noteworthy than the countless hours he spent on his bulldozer completing numerous excavating projects on CVCA's developing campus. Wayne and Betty (his wife of 58 years) are the parents of CVCA alumni Gary Herbruck '73, Darryl Herbruck '77, and Kathy (Herbruck) Andrews '78.



“EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT.” PSALM 127:1



Friends of CVCA honor Founding Board Chairman by establishing the Fred Jennings Founders Scholarship

The man the Lord chose to lead CVCA's governing board through the crises of the early years was Fred Jennings. Fred described those crises in the Introduction to the first edition of *Miracle of Grace*, and we want to honor him here by sharing Fred's own words:

The greatest time of Christian growth is normally experienced in times of crisis, and that was true during the early years of CVCA... Each crisis seemed to bring greater pressure until we agreed among ourselves to go to the Academy every morning at 6:00 a.m. to pray. We met every morning for six months until we sensed that our prayers were being answered.

As CVCA celebrates its 50th year, and as we see abundant evidence of God's blessing upon His school, it is good to remind ourselves that CVCA is a "Deuteronomy 6" community – indeed, we "drink from wells [we] did not dig, and [we eat from] vineyards and olive groves we did not plant" (Deuteronomy 6:11).

Anyone who has the opportunity to peruse the first chapters of *Miracle of Grace** can catch a glimpse of those who dug the wells and planted the vineyards in the early days of the school. From one perspective, the founders were a remarkably accomplished and confident group of men. But the challenges and crises of founding and sustaining a Christian school – a school which, once established, was going to advance the Kingdom of Christ – proved overwhelming and drove them to their knees.

We can all be thankful for those who have perpetuated the Academy, but the spiritual strength of CVCA established its roots when the Lord drove a small group of men to their knees. As a result of intense crisis, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy was established as a testimony not to the "wisdom of men, but to the power of God."

Although Fred would be the first to insist that no man should receive credit for

what was clearly a work of the Lord, we believe it is entirely fitting, in CVCA's 50th anniversary year, that friends of CVCA would come together to establish an endowed scholarship to honor his innumerable contributions. The first Fred Jennings Founders Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Free copies of Miracle of Grace (a written chronicle of CVCA's history) are available upon request. Contact the CVCA Development Office if you would like to receive a copy, or stop by CVCA's Welcome Center (just inside the school's main entrance) any time to obtain your copy.*

Establishing an endowed scholarship is a meaningful way to honor a loved one and at the same time impact the life of a CVCA student. These scholarships are awarded to students who have demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, service, leadership, and Christ-like character. To make an eternal investment in the life of a student and to learn more about CVCA's endowed scholarship program, contact Ryan Crocker at rcrocker@cvcaroyals.org.

Grandparents Play an Important Role in our CVCA Family

On the morning of September 14, 2018, close to 500 grandparents joined the masses of CVCA students walking into school. After enjoying a light breakfast and social time, they had the opportunity to attend three classes with their grandchild(ren) and get an up-close look at life at CVCA. It was such a joy to have our treasured grandparents on campus, and we greatly appreciate the impact they have on their families.

“Through Grandparents Day and Grandparents Club, CVCA lets you know that grandparents are important. We have a part to play in their education at CVCA,” shared Grandma Denise Garrett-Brown.



“Grandparents Day deepened my sense of what CVCA is about – that it is very holistic: putting the Lord first with an emphasis on developing the whole child with love. The atmosphere felt like family and was very meaningful.” – *Grandma Denise Garrett-Brown with twin grandsons Malcolm and Donovan in Grade 7*



“I really enjoyed Grandparents Day at CVCA. I enjoyed sitting in on the classes, and it was great to see the camaraderie amongst the boys!” – *Grandpa Du (Robert Brookbank) with Michael Keres, Grade 7 and Josh Brookbank, Grade 10*



“I always enjoy attending Grandparents Day at CVCA to see teachers and administrators that really care about our grandchildren. Spending a little time in the classroom with Jono and Grace helps me better understand their life today.” – *Grandpa John Sommer with Jonathan, Grade 12 and Grace Sommer, Grade 10*

It's not too late to join Grandparents Club for this school year. A gift of any amount will not only strengthen the student experience at CVCA, but will also provide you with special opportunities to connect to the school as a grandparent. Please contact Jennifer Meybaum at 330-929-0575, ext. 207 for more information.

Grandparents can make a big difference in the ministry of CVCA.



Bruce and Linda Cooley joined CVCA's Grandparents Club this fall when one of their grandchildren

arrived at CVCA as a sixth grader. We recently spoke with Bruce and Linda to learn a little bit more about their heart for giving and the way they gave to the ministry of CVCA through Grandparents Club.

Q: Why did you give to CVCA?

A: Proverbs 22:6 declares the importance of training up our children in

God's Word. As America's acceptable cultural standards continue to turn away from God's laws and values, we believe it is more important than ever to financially support independent Christian education at CVCA which incorporates Bible teaching, develops a thorough understanding of the Gospel, and teaches the application of Biblical principles to everyday life. Financially supporting CVCA is the surest way we know to help our grandchildren establish foundational Christian values and virtues that will prepare them for adulthood and the rest of the challenges they will face throughout their lives.

Q: You gave to CVCA through an IRA distribution.* How easy was it to do this?

A: 2018 brought both federal tax reform and our 70 ½ birthdays. With the change to a Standard IRS Deduction and the start of our IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), choosing a Quali-

fied Charitable Distribution (QCD) was the obvious choice for us. The process was simply completing a QCD application, which in our case took less than five minutes, and directing our IRA custodian to write and send a check to CVCA.

Quick Facts about Giving with an IRA distribution*:

- You must be 70 ½ to qualify for a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
- Giving directly to CVCA from your IRA can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- When given directly, the gift can be tax-free as it is not included in your adjusted gross income (AGI).
- Be sure to discuss your specific situation with your financial planner or tax advisor.

Contact Ryan Crocker in the Development Office for a private conversation or more information at 330-929-0575, ext. 205.

What's Happening on Campus



The New SMO

– Lindsey Curcio '19 & Bethany McDougald '19

One of the additions we are most proud of at CVCA is the new Student Ministry Office or “SMO.” With its new location in the top floor of the Learning Commons, the SMO is centrally located and easily accessible to all students. This is a place where students can go to seek wise counsel from their Bible teachers, get spiritual advice, or just hang out. In a short time it has become a valuable tool in bringing students together and allowing teachers to pour into the lives of those who desire a higher level of mentorship. We know the SMO will continue to grow and have a positive impact on student life.

#GIVINGTUESDAY Excitement at CVCA

CVCA was bursting with activity on-line and in the school as our school community rallied together on #GivingTuesday (November 27, 2018) to give to the ministry of CVCA so more students can have the CVCA experience. The #AlumniGive50 Challenge, matching gifts, students writing thank you notes, and parents sharing the message with peers led to social media excitement that spilled over inside the school as people joyfully gave hour after hour throughout the day on-line and in person.



Together, the CVCA community gave \$115,000, helping provide financial assistance for 35 students. Your generous gifts mean the world to so many families. Thank you! It is wonderful to see our community come together in an outpouring of heartfelt giving.



Future Engineers Build Pumpkin Launchers

The annual Pumpkin Launch is the first major project for School of Engineering juniors. Students work in teams to design, build, and test machines that can launch a pumpkin, within a set of design constraints. Students learn to analyze stress and tension and calculate theoretical distance. They follow up a distance competition with an analysis of what went well and what didn't in their design and implementation. It's a great learning experience and a lot of fun! This year's winning team consisted of **Jack Perrotta, Ethan Wedo, Tyler Stoltz, and Jimmy Musgrave.**



Robotics Team Success

Royal Technic recently competed in the BEST Robotics competition. The team designed and built a robot that removed plastic trash from large bodies of water. They also created a team exhibit, marketing presentation, and engineering notebook. Their efforts earned them third place for the BEST Award and qualified them for the Regional Championships. They also received the esteemed Founder Award for creative robot design and second place for the most Robust Robot.

Medical Students Take a Closer Look at Animal Research

On November 12, 2018, our School of Medical Professions seniors heard from Dr. Durfee, the director of the Animal Resource Center on the campus of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Dr. Durfee presented why he became a veterinarian and a brief history on animal care and the reasons for and ethics of animal research in medicine. The students then went on a tour of the facility that includes animals currently being used in research such as clawed frogs, mice, and pigs. The students' “outfits” were worn so the research animals would not contract pathogens the students may have brought in with them that could affect the populations in the facility and the school's research.





“I think it is really cool to be the first sixth grade class at CVCA because that means the journey is a surprise every single day. The teachers and students who started off being strangers have now become some of my best friends in and out of school.” – Sophie Roush

Beginning our next 50 Years with a New Middle School

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the school year, and what a wonderful first half it has been! We started this year with so many new and exciting additions in our middle school. Whether we are talking about our new dedicated and beautiful middle school space, our outdoor basketball court and Gaga Pit for recess, our new faculty members, or our 160 new students in sixth and seventh grades, we have been blessed abundantly with the opportunity to educate and cultivate these students into servants of Christ. In addition to all the new here at CVCA, some things have not changed. More than ever, we are focused on providing a safe place for young people to develop academically, spiritually, socially, and physically in an environment that gives them opportunity to succeed and challenges them beyond what they thought was possible.

In addition to the numerous opportunities we have offered middle school students in the past, this year we have added an outstanding middle school theatre production of *The Pirate Princess*; several sixth grade sports including golf, cross-country, and basketball; and the same high quality academics we have had in seventh and eighth grade are now being taught to sixth graders by our new, highly qualified sixth grade faculty.

I am humbled to be a part of what God has chosen to do here in our now comprehensive middle school and could not be more proud of how things have started in the sixth grade to continue on in the tradition of Christ-Honoring Excellence here at CVCA.

Scott Iannetta, Middle School Principal

“I am really enjoying sixth grade here. It was kind of hard transferring schools, but I am really glad I got the opportunity to go here. I feel really at home and hope that the next sixth graders do as much as I did.” – Owen Ferdig

“Sixth grade so far has been the best time ever, and being around CVCA students is awesome! We can all relate to one thing, GOD. I have always wanted to be a part of a community and family at school. At CVCA you are in both. Being in CVCA as the first generation of sixth graders is a giant privilege. For me, the sixth graders at CVCA are the missing piece that makes up a whole. The whole it makes up is CVCA.”

– Lauren Gerber



“Being a part of the first sixth grade class at CVCA has been an amazing experience for us. The way the year has gone, it feels as though sixth grade at CVCA has been around forever. From the start we felt right at home and know this is where God wants us. It has been an amazing experience for both us as parents and for our sixth grade son!”

– Jim and Stephanie Linaburg



THE PIRATE PRINCESS

It is with great excitement and pleasure that The Royal Theatre offered a stand alone middle school show this year, *The Pirate Princess*. Although we are starting small, our desire is to grow the middle school program and thereby create a place to cultivate our younger students and allow them to experience the joy of theatre. The whole rehearsal process was a whirlwind from start to finish with over fifty middle schoolers who auditioned, and lots of laughs at after-school rehearsals full of sword fighting and singing pirates. Thanks for all who made this show so special.



A Family's Sixth Grade Experience

Every parent wants to make the "right" decision for their kids, and making the "right" choice for education is at the top of this list. Deciding to entrust our daughter to a newly created sixth grade venture at CVCA brought up many discussions and concerns. However, after completing the first grading period, our expectations have not only been met, but have been surpassed on numerous levels.

First, our daughter has shown growth academically through the implementation of current technology and the increased academic demand. By utilizing the Google forum and Chromebooks, she can stay updated on assignments,

study and submit work in a timely and efficient manner, and receive "real time" feedback on questions and problems while learning the correct methods for utilizing technology.

While the academics are challenging and pushed at a higher level, it has been met with great results, in her case, creating better study habits and a quick realization that time management must be learned and put into practice to achieve success. We have recognized areas where attention must be given and improvements need to be made in order to continue academic growth.

Secondly, the area which we were most concerned with has become one of our greatest joys at CVCA. When considering the sixth grade program, the great variance in ages of students within the school was a concern in our minds. Now, not a week goes by when our daughter

comes home, with a smile on her face, telling us story after story of how an upperclassman spoke to her in the hallway, gymnasium, or after school in an encouraging manner that has positively impacted her day. These encounters directly affect her interactions with her own classmates, challenges her to grow, and will resonate inside her for years to come when she becomes the upperclassman interacting with a new sixth grader.

Understandably, this process is still a new adventure for us as a family. We have been encouraged to see physical, mental, and spiritual growth in our daughter these past months. At the end of the day, having all three of these areas focused around Jesus Christ makes us feel confident that we have made the best choice for our daughter and her education.

Chip and Melanie Bittencuffer



Resonate

By Anthony Pietrocini '19

How do we, as Christians, interact with a world where we are seen as judgmental, hypocritical, and anti-gay? Furthermore, how do we show Christ's love and truth to those who base their identity on their sexuality? Through his testimony, practical tips, and biblical principles, Dr. Christopher Yuan answered the aforementioned questions, and more, during CVCA's fall Resonate week. Dr. Yuan shared his incredible faith journey from a time he was identifying himself as a homosexual man, never wanting anything to do with Christianity, let alone Christ himself. He pursued ideals instilled into him by our society as he chased money, sex, and power. This pursuit led him to find prestige in the selling of illegal drugs and living a sexually impure lifestyle. However, as a consequence of getting caught by the DEA, and the steadfast prayer of his mother, Dr. Yuan was sentenced to ten years to life in a federal prison. There, he met Christ in the bottom of a trash can when he found a Gideon's New Testament lying inside. From prisoner to professor, Dr. Yuan had his sentence reduced to three years, applied to Moody Bible Institute, and would eventually go on to teach there as well. Today Dr. Yuan identifies himself as a Christ follower. Christ is his pursuit, and in this pursuit, he is called to singleness and to a ministry of helping our culture understand what God intended for human sexuality. Additionally, while executing his responsibilities as a Moody professor, he travels the globe speaking about topics relating to sexuality and the Gospel. By God's providence, CVCA was truly fortunate to hear him speak during the three days of Resonate.

As I reflect on Dr. Yuan's messages, I am reminded of him saying, "Following Jesus should cost us everything." Whether it be greed, pride, lust, or any sinful tendency, we all must surrender something to pursue holiness and to pursue Christ. For Jesus Himself says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). He doesn't say that some people will carry a heavier cross than others, nor that some people won't have a cross to carry at all. Instead, Christ says that anyone who wishes to follow Him will have to deny his entire self and take up some sort of cross. This should, and must, remove that judgmental and holier-than-thou persona many Christians fall into, including towards the homosexual community. Overall, this idea creates an even playing field for anyone genuine in their pursuit of holiness. Meaning that, since "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), there should be no difference in our approach to a heterosexual sinner as our approach to a homosexual sinner. One should not be deemed worse than the other, for both profane a holy and perfect God. Through Dr. Yuan's few days during Resonate, this message was clearly and strongly expressed, with thoughtful reasoning and biblical veracity. Dr. Yuan concluded the week reminding us that as followers of Christ we must keep our eyes focused on the joy set before us in Christ (Hebrews 12:2), and work towards bringing about His Kingdom with truth and love.

"It was really helpful to get a Godly perspective on a controversial issue that is really common. What was really helpful for me was to see that holy sexuality is what is most important."

– Kenzie Spodnik '19

"Dr. Yuan's testimony was so powerful! It really proves no matter how far away you run, through the power of prayer, God will still pursue you!"

– Jasmine Mathews '20

"It was super eye opening. It gave me a perspective on sin that I hadn't thought about before. Even when someone is completely consumed by the world, through the grace of God they can still be saved."

– Cole Farren '19

"It was really convicting when he talked about time. We have no promise of how much time we have, no one is guaranteed tomorrow. It gave me a restless urgency to live out my Christian life."

– Jacob Brookbank '19

"Resonate" is a CVCA tradition where students are challenged to grow spiritually and pursue a closer relationship with God. We take time out of our normal schedule to grow deeper spiritually with the help of a guest speaker and dedicated worship time. Students experience three days of meaningful worship, in-depth sermons, and time to strengthen their community.

Will it Float?

By Claudia Insalaco '19



One of the biggest projects for a senior in the School of Engineering is the **Cardboard Canoe Race**. Each group of at least two students designs and builds a canoe, but the only materials we're allowed to use are untreated cardboard, duct tape, a few glues, and some polyurethane to seal it. We each get two 4' by 6' pieces of cardboard and a roll of Gorilla tape, and then we have about four weeks to complete our canoes. We can buy more materials to build, but we can't have certain things like Flex Seal or waxed cardboard. There are other limits like the boats can't be bigger than 12' and can't be completely covered in duct tape.

The biggest challenges were timing ourselves so the polyurethane would dry before the race, and building our boat big enough to hold our weight, but not so big that it would be hard to maneuver. My partner **Maya Krieger** and I decided to build our boat in as few pieces as possible so it would be really strong, so most of our pieces of cardboard were folded instead of cut. Basically, we built a box with a bow and stern on the ends.



We calculated how tall and long we needed to make it, and by the time we were finished our boat theoretically could hold around 700 lbs. before it sank. This was super important because we had to carefully calculate the sides of the boat to be tall enough not to sink under water when we get in, but short enough for us to be able to row, so we made them 12" tall. We also took longer than expected, so we didn't seal our boat until the night before, and even then just used one coat, and prayed that we wouldn't sink as soon as we hit the water. This proved to work really well, because our boat was the only one standing by the end of race day!

When race day finally arrived, the first important thing was not if our boats could float, but how they looked. Each year there's a contest for the best decorated canoe and the best dressed. We had a lot of variety this year, including a Jaws themed boat, lifeguard theme, and our personal theme was Spongebob. There was also no shortage of costumes as we had a tropical theme, Titanic theme, and military theme. After we deciphered who won each contest and who was the most fashionable, it was finally time to race.

The race took place at Wyoga Lake, just a few minutes away from CVCA. There's a little dock and a few buoys out in the lake where the water gets above head level. There are two different races: the timed race, in which everyone has to compete to get the shortest time, and the head-to-head races, which is basically

for any boats that survived the timed races. Originally we were supposed to make a full circle to race, but because it was so windy, we ended up racing straight alongside the buoys, around the dock, and then towards the shore. Each boat was carried into the water and weight-tested before the races began. Some boats nearly crumpled the moment they hit the water; others were very promising. We all went one by one for the timed races. Nearly all the boats either crumpled in the race, caught a leak, or capsized by the end of the timed race. When we finally got through all of them, a few were in good enough condition to go a second round to try and improve their time. By the end of the second round, all but two boats had sunk. My boat, the Flying Dutchman, placed second in the timed races, with a time of 1 minute 19 seconds, just six seconds behind the lead!

With the last two boats remaining, we had a head-to-head race with the lead, a group of boys including **Nathanael Matthews, Aaron Hobart, and Nathan Kreider**. Maya and I won that race easily, because by the time we finished rowing and turned around to look who won, the competitors had sunk just a few feet past the starting line. Our boat was actually in good enough shape that we could have kept going all day, and we actually took ours home to save it for later. The canoe race was an absolute blast, and I think the bystanders had a lot of fun too, because they cheered us on the whole time.



This fall, The Royal Theatre seniors showed off their acting expertise in *The Best Laid Plans*.



“ I think the fact it worked out to be an all-senior cast is truly special and I’m glad to be a part of it. Because the cast is so small I was able to grow closer to everyone involved. I’m blessed to be in a cast and crew that share an equal desirability to perform not only for a human audience, but for the audience of One. ” – Anthony Damcott ’19

“ This show has become such a huge blessing in my life. Our all-senior cast is so close-knit and loving towards one another, so coming to rehearsal from a long school day was such a relief. We experienced pure joy and unity as we delved deeper into our characters and put the show together. I have never once left rehearsal without belly laughing at the ridiculous stunts we pulled and hilarious characters we played. I am incredibly thankful that God allowed me to be a part of this show with such a Godly loving cast and such hard-working and caring directors. ” – Maggie Roberts ’19

A Royal Mystery By Simon Meyer ’19, Stage Manager

A comedic play with an air of mystery to it, *The Best Laid Plans* tells the story of author Ada Westbrook and her secretary Francis Daniels. Both love to write books about spies which sell very well. However, it is not until an actual U.S. spy puts them up to the task of retrieving a special document for the American government that they find out that the spy business isn’t quite everything they have been writing about.

The cast for this show was rather small, consisting of ten actors and two stage managers. Coincidentally, all ten actors turned out to be seniors. This being their last year, in combination with the small cast size, a great bond was formed, and they became closer than ever. That mixture made for a truly amazing performance with many a laugh to be had!

“ It’s a very unique experience to do the show as a senior, with only seniors. This has been a fabulous bonding experience with my peers and with my God. I have never been in such a close-knit cast in all my life. Final thoughts... Jeremiah 29:11: *‘For I know the (Best Laid) plans I have for you...’* ” – Justin Folger ’19



Pursuing Competitive Excellence

We recently caught up with Athletic Director Jon Young to hear about the Royals' exciting fall season...

Q: How have you seen Christ-Honoring Excellence on or off the courts, fields, and courses this fall? Anything stand out?

A: There are so many examples of things I have seen this fall that exemplify Christ-Honoring Excellence. In fact, part of our mission statement in CVCA Athletics charges us to strive for competitive excellence, so I am constantly on the lookout for this amongst our teams and coaches. We believe that God's great love compels us to compete with integrity and discipline within the context of athletics.

There have been many successes this fall and I won't have room to highlight all of them, but three stand out the most. Our boys' golf team finished first place in the league and qualified for the state golf tournament. In Columbus, the team played well and finished in ninth place in the state.

The football team qualified for the state playoffs for the first time in nine years after an exciting upset of our rivals, Manchester High School.

Lastly, the girls cross country team won the league for an unbelievable 18th straight time. That means that nearly all of our students at CVCA were not born the last time our girls cross country team was not champions of the league. What an accomplishment!

On top of these "visible" successes this fall, I also have the privilege of witnessing Christ-Honoring Excellence nearly every day after school as I witness our student-athletes display tremendous grit and perseverance as they practice each day. This is the "behind the scenes" part of athletics that many parents and fans do not get to see but is so valuable to the development of the athlete.

Q: What has God been teaching or showing you this past season?

A: This fall, God has been showing me the value of relationships. A friend of mine recently reminded me that coaches are some of the last people who get to interact with teenagers in a technology-free environment. This unique opportunity gives coaches the chance to capture the hearts and minds of their players in a way that most other adults can't. As John Wooden once said, "A good coach can change a game... a great coach can change a life."

Q: What's changed or stayed the same (in your mind) the past 50 years?

A: While many things have changed over the past 50 years, one of the things I believe has not changed is the value of sports to our students and their families. Student athletes put in untold hours to hone their skills and abilities in order to perform at a high level and to honor the Lord who has given them those gifts. Coaches sacrifice their time and energy

to willingly invest in the lives of their players because they understand the significant role that athletics can play in the life of a young person. This has been consistent at CVCA over the years.

This may sound cliché, but I feel like it is the absolute truth: God's faithfulness has been on display at CVCA over the past 50 years. He has been faithful to provide quality coaches, quality students, and quality facilities. The school is highly respected in the area, as well as the state, for what it stands for both spiritually and academically. We have so much to be thankful for here.

Q: What highlights or athletes stand out to you from this past season?

A: We are very proud of all of our athletes and how they represented their school and their Savior this fall. Among them, congratulations goes to the following Royals for their outstanding accomplishments:

- **Tre Tucker** – PAC Player of the Year for Football
- **Kenzie Spodnik** – PAC Player of the Year for Girls Soccer
- **Caden Scarbrough** – PAC Player of the Year for Boys Golf
- **George Hallis** – PAC Coach of the Year for Girls Cross Country
- **Jon Bucciarelli** – PAC Coach of the Year for Boys Golf
- **Dan Larlham** – PAC Coach of the Year for Football

Fall Senior Athletes

Cheer

Zoe Curtis
Nick Ferda
Mikaela Fridline
Myrrha Louscher
Madison Moore

Boys Cross Country

Aaron Glasgow
Jake Malovasic
Michael Williams

Girls Cross Country

Julianna Bailey
Taliyah Hicks
Julia Lyda
Bethany McDougald
Joie Woodlee

Boys Golf

Christian Beckett
Andrew Golembiewski

Girls Golf

Kally Ashton
Ariana Deiulis

Football

Brennan Abramson
Noah Bishop
Jacob Brighton
Jacob Decatur
Jordan Decatur
Chris Decipeda
Luke Eybers
Josh Junko
Zach Miller
Brock Simmons
Tre Tucker

Boys Soccer

Jacob Brookbank
David Hedrick
Noah Irwin
Koushin Jacquet
Tommy Lile
Caleb Marchand
Zach Mathoslah
Robert Orihel
Jay Patsch
Noah Rios
Isaiah Slabaugh
Zack Venus

Girls Soccer

Gia Gerzeny
McKenna Miller
Amber Robinson
Kenzie Spodnik
Becca Teodosiu

Girls Tennis

Miriam Cook
Rachel Johnson
Emma O'Keefe
Lexi Polidoro
Alana Reske
Gracie Seiple

Volleyball

Autumn Foguth
Alisa Kever
Kallie Peak
Saylor Rogers
Leah Stull



◀◀ The Royals Football Team was led by a group of seniors that never quit and worked hard for every bit of success they achieved. **Tre Tucker '19** earned conference Player of the Year.

◀ **Kenzie Spodnik '19**, PAC Co-Player of the Year, led a great group of seniors and a talented roster to the conference title.

▼ Eighteen straight conference championships – that's what the CVCA **Girls Cross Country Team** secured this season. **George Hallis**, PAC Coach of the Year, guided the Royals to a truly outstanding accomplishment.



◀ The **Boys Soccer Team** finished 2018 with an impressive record of 12-5. That record included an eight-game winning streak and a perfect 8-0 record at Royals Stadium. The Royals made multiple appearances in the state rankings this season for Division II.

2018 Fall Sports Awards

Boys Cross Country:

1st Team All-PAC: Drennan Akins

Girls Cross Country:

- PAC Coach of the Year: George Hallis
- 1st Team All-PAC: Isabella Payne, Julia Lyda
- Honorable Mention All-PAC: Anna Ripple

Football:

- PAC Player of the Year: Tre Tucker
- PAC Coach of the Year: Dan Larlham
- 1st Team All-PAC: Noah Bishop, Jacob Decatur, Josh Junko, Brock Simmons
- Honorable Mention All-PAC: Jordan Decatur, David DiBlasi
- 1st Team All-District: Tre Tucker
- 2nd Team All-District: Noah Bishop, Brock Simmons

- Honorable Mention All-District: Jack Bova, Jacob Decatur, Jordan Decatur, Josh Junko, Breslin Walker

Boys Golf:

- PAC Golfer of the Year: Caden Scarbrough
- PAC Coach of the Year: Jon Bucciarelli
- 1st Team All-PAC: Christian Beckett, Blake Bolinski, Andrew Golembiewski, Andrew Hendrickx
- 1st Team All-District: Caden Scarbrough
- 2nd Team All-District: Andrew Golembiewski
- Honorable Mention All-District: Christian Beckett, Blake Bolinski

Boys Soccer

- 1st Team All-PAC: David Hedrick, Koushin Jacquet, Carson Young
- Honorable Mention All-PAC: Aidan Eck, Shahriar Ronami

- 1st Team All-District: Zack Venus, Chris DeLucia

- 2nd Team All-District: Isaiah Slabaugh

- 3rd Team All-District: Justin Luiza

- 1st Team All-State: Zack Venus

Girls Soccer

- 1st Team All-PAC: Emily Hansen, McKenna Miller

- Honorable Mention All-PAC: Erin Venus, Sheila Zimmerer

- PAC Co-Player of the Year: Kenzie Spodnik

- 1st Team All-District: Kenzie Spodnik

- 2nd Team All-District: Emily Hansen

- 2nd Team All-State: Kenzie Spodnik

Volleyball

- 1st Team All-PAC: Riley Nickol

- Honorable Mention All-PAC: Kallie Peak

► The CVCA Girls Tennis Team displayed great team culture this season that left coach David Ramey very proud of his group. Co-captains **Lexi Polidoro '19** and **Alana Reske '19** played a large role in creating a great team environment. The Royals will look to build on the hard work that was displayed this season.



▲ Rain or shine, the CVCA **Cheer** program gave its all to support the Royals. The team helped lead the best student section in years with themes and cheers during the football season. Their performance at the homecoming pep rally wowed the crowd.

▼ **Kallie Peak '19** and **Riley Nickol '20** both earned All-Conference honors this season for their volleyball performances.



▲▲ For the second year in a row, the CVCA **Girls Soccer Team** finished the year as PAC Champions.

▲ **Zack Venus '19** was named 1st team All-State by the OSSCA.

◀ **Caden Scarbrough '20**, PAC Golfer of the Year led the Boys Golf Team to a successful season.

▶ **Isabella Payne '20** represented CVCA at the State Meet and finished 31st.



▶ **Boys Football Team 23** is one of the CVCA community won't soon forget. The Royals qualified for the playoffs for just the seventh time in program history and had a huge 42-19 win over rival Manchester in week ten. **Dan Larlham** earned PAC Coach of the Year.



▲ The CVCA **Girls Golf Team** competed hard this season and just missed qualifying for the District Tournament with a 5th place at the Sectional Tournament.

▼ The **Boys Golf Team** had a terrific season. After winning the PAC, they advanced through Sectionals and Districts to compete at the State Tournament. CVCA finished in 9th place led by **Caden Scarbrough '20**, PAC Golfer of the Year and **Jon Bucciarelli**, PAC Coach of the Year.



▲ The Lady Golf Team was led by **Kally Ashton '19** and **Hannah Cochran '20**.



▲ **Drennan Akins '22** represented CVCA at the State Championship, finishing 89th. He is the first freshman boy from CVCA to ever qualify as an individual.



◀ The CVCA **Volleyball Team** battled through a tough conference and schedule to finish the season at 12-12. An experienced group of seniors led the way for the Royals.

Homecoming Excitement



Spirit Week is highly anticipated among the students. As soon as we figure out the themes we start planning our costumes, and the week before Spirit Week is full of trips to Walmart and costume stores. On the first day of Spirit Week it is awesome to see the different colored hallways, as walking through them feels like you are walking through different worlds. It is so fun to see how creative our classmates can be and how willing some of them are to go above and beyond. On the final day you see all of the grades united, wearing their class colors. Spirit Week brings smiles to the faces of all the students and faculty members, and makes students excited to arrive at school. – Sydney Willis '19



It was a great day to be a CVCA alum! Alumni, family, and friends gathered to reconnect, remember, and make new memories as we celebrated fifty years of CVCA at this year's **Homecoming Alumni Tailgate**. Fun was had by all with reunions, tours, carnivals, and Fox 8's Game of the Week! Thanks to Crazy But True Popcorn, Jimmy's Backyard BBQ, and Retro Dog for making our night even more flavorful. Shout out to Michelle Levigne '79, Dante Boccuzzi '89, and Jackie (Conway) Wachter '01 for donating some incredible door prize giveaways. For those alumni unable to join us, check out our recap video on CVCA's YouTube channel and plan to attend next year!

This year's **Homecoming Banquet** was the best one yet! Within the first few minutes of my arrival at the venue, I could feel the excitement in the air. The carnival theme gave the evening a fun and free feel, bringing with it lots of carnival games and food, and even a balloon artist! From the delicious and exotic popcorn choices to the beautifully decorated venue, the evening could not have been any more perfect. My favorite parts of the night were seeing my classmates look absolutely stunning in their gorgeous dresses, taking lots of pictures in the photo booths with my friends, and dancing the night away to our favorite songs. Overall, the banquet was a wonderful experience, and I will never forget the memories I made that evening. – Jasmine Mathews '20



ECHOES

ALUMNI NEWS OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

A Few Words from Alumni Coordinator, Rachel Criswell '13

We are grateful that so many alumni have reconnected with CVCA this fall with The Ebenezer Project and Royals Connect launch. There are many who stepped foot on campus for the first time in a while as School of Distinction mentors, guest speakers, at Homecoming, or at class reunions. In addition, we had a large number of alumni reconnect through giving during the #AlumniGive50 Challenge this November.

If I could ask one thing of you, think of who helped you get to where you are today. I suspect for a lot of you, it's someone from CVCA. If that's the case, I'd encourage you to reconnect. We have many opportunities to give back and pour into the next generation. As alumni who have walked in their shoes, you have the best knowledge of what it takes to become a Royal.

Think about it, who knows whose life you might change?



Reconnect, Network, Mentor...

RoyalsConnect is a social networking platform created to connect alumni to each other and house a robust networking platform where alumni can find mentorship opportunities, job opportunities, and other advice one might need to succeed in the world today. Join your fellow alumni at RoyalsConnect.org.

Congratulations New Parents

To welcome your new bundle of joy, we want to send you a tiny Royals t-shirt. So, between your late nights and early mornings, be sure to send the Office of Alumni Relations your child's name and date of birth!

Stories of God's Faithfulness

We are excited to announce The Ebenezer Project, a video series telling stories of God's faithfulness through our alumni. We have handpicked a wide range of alumni who are excelling in their fields, have diverse back-



THE EBENEZER PROJECT
CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

grounds and stories, and are still connected to CVCA. We believe one of the best ways to remember

God's faithfulness to this school is through stories of how He has used CVCA to impact alumni, and through them, impact the world. Follow us on Facebook to see the new video released each week! Want to share your story? Contact alumni@cvcaroyals.org.

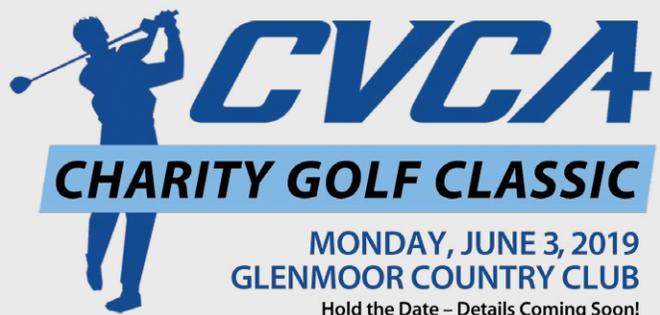
Alumni Mentors

Dave Petno '84 writes, "I love serving as a mentor in the School of Business and Entrepreneurship! I am now mentoring my fourth student over the last eight



years. We meet once per month and discuss business strategies, current events, capitalism, and free-markets all in the context of our Christian worldview. It has been a great pleasure getting to know Mathew, Jake, Hudson, and now Andrew. They all have the potential to be very successful in business."

Join the alumni mentor crew! More information is available on the Schools of Distinction page at cvcaroyals.org.



Reunion Recaps:

Class of 1973

Members of CVCA's Class of 1973 celebrated their 45-year reunion on September 28 and 29, 2018. On Friday the 28th, classmates joined the Homecoming celebration at our class tent along the stadium sidelines. We renewed our great friendships while touring the school, enjoyed the refreshments from a variety of food trucks, and cheered on the Royals football team. It was exciting to see the improvements in facilities and programs at our school. As we walked the halls, we all remarked how much we missed wearing our gray/blue uniforms, mandatory short haircuts on the guys, measuring the girls' skirts, and laughing about the required "6-inch rule" between the sexes. We also reminisced about how the latest technology in our era was a microwave for the lunch menu and a calculator for math classes.

On Saturday, we gathered for brunch at Mike's Place in Kent to hold the first planning meeting for our "Halfway to the 50th Reunion Party" in 2020 and a "Blast from the Past Party" in 2023.

Saturday night, classmates and significant others celebrated with a dinner at Beau's On the River at the Sheraton in Cuyahoga Falls. **Terri (Rolik) Dalsky** coordinated the dinner and **Mark Kirk** was the MC. **Gary Herbruck** led us in prayer. **Cathy (Nofsinger) Shafer** brought the celebration cake. **Caryn (Goodman) Martin** arranged the flower decorations. **Csanad Batizy** served as official photographer, and **Don Zarle** produced our class playlist and nametags. **Bob Hagaman** and Mark Kirk provided the reunion swag gift bag which included school logo items and specially designed commemorative note pads. We were entertained by Gary describing in play-by-play detail several basketball games he single-handedly won for the school back in 1973, Duane's technology tips, and Mark's jokes.

Special thanks go to Csanad Batizy, our reunion committee chair, and all the members for coordinating the weekend events. For those class members who missed the event, check out Spotify for our very own Class of 1973 playlist.

Class of 1978

Dale Moncrief writes: Twenty members of our 55-member class of 1978 enjoyed a wonderful evening at our 40th class reunion on Friday, October 5, 2018. Class members, spouses, and guests (including three other CVCA alumni) spent almost three hours enjoying food from the Waterloo Restaurant (owned by John Bahas '84) and scrumptious desserts. Miss Ethel Mae Haslett, English teacher for most of us, was also present to enjoy catching up. With a PowerPoint of pictures from days of long ago running through the evening, we spent almost three hours reminiscing and exchanging the latest news of our lives. What a blessing to be back together to meet spouses, hear about children, and renew our friendships.

Class of 1988

Patrick Watson writes: It was great to see everyone who came out to the Class of 1988 reunion at this year's CVCA Homecoming. Among the attendees was the president of CVCA himself, **Jason Spodnik**, as well as two of our Royal



couples, **Steve and Mandy (Debevec) Merkle** and **Eric and Darcie (Lieske) Bosshard**. Winning the award for farthest traveled AND most fascinating alumnus was **Dr. Becky Eiwien** back in Akron on sabbatical from Nepal. The highlight for many was the tour of the school by Dr. Roger Taylor. Those with a hall pass went to Wing Warehouse up the street to talk and catch up.

We will plan an event for next summer with plenty of early notice so **Larry Dunlap** can get to work on his “reasons” for not being there. In all seriousness, though, I continue to be in awe of my amazing classmates and the lives they purposefully live. Thank you, CVCA, for putting on a tremendous event.

Class of 1993

For those at the Homecoming Alumni Tailgate, the Class of 1993 had a mini reunion with a few class members. Keep an eye on your email as there may be a 26-year reunion coming your way.

Class of 1998

Alison Knowlton writes: It’s been twenty years since the Class of 1998 walked

the halls of CVCA, and we got together this summer to celebrate and remember! Over the weekend of July 28, old friends reconnected during a series of events around the Akron area. On Friday night, there was a get-together at the HiHo Brewing Company in Cuyahoga Falls. It was a gorgeous space, and it was so fun to meet up again after so long! Saturday morning, the group met at the school to walk the old – and new – hallways. We started in the Learning Commons (which was the library back in the 90s), enjoyed a BBQ, and then a fun walk down memory lane! Dr. Taylor, who was the headmaster in 1998, came and shared some of the antics he remembered (there were plenty to choose from!). He also gave a comprehensive tour of the school and everyone was amazed at not only how much had changed, but how much still seemed so familiar. From there, the group convened in the evening at The Old 97 in Kenmore for a fun night on the town. It was awesome to see classmates and spouses enjoying catching up and remembering the good old days. Tacos, stories, and laughs, oh my! If you missed it, you missed a great time... and we missed you. ‘Til the next one!”

Class of 2003

Kristen (Studebaker) Kacmarcik writes: We had a great evening of catching up at the CVCA Homecoming football game and meeting each other’s significant others and kids. We had the opportunity for more fellowship after the football game at Brubaker’s.

Class of 2008

Austin Hollopeter writes: Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Class of 2008’s ten year reunion! It was a blast seeing everyone at the Homecoming game, picnic, and at Bricco Prime. Special thanks to **Todd Mazzola** for hosting the Friday night celebration at Darby’s on 59. If you weren’t able to make it, we hope you’ll be able to join us for our 15 year reunion. God bless!”

Class of 2013

The Class of 2013 had a quaint gathering in Cleveland. It was nice to see everyone and commiserate the growing pains of adulthood and hopes, dreams, and plans for the future. Hope to see more of the class at our ten year reunion!



Class Notes:

1967

LYNN BELL '76 writes: I recently went on a church missions trip with Victory Life Church to Mexico (cities of Tepic and Xalisco). We helped with Vacation Bible School, handed out clothes, prayed for people in a hospital, helped feed people, and did some painting and construction work. I am the



short redhead in the center. This was my second trip to Mexico, I went in 2016.

1979

JOSEPH MESSNER '79 writes: **Cynthia Seskes '79** returned to the area for a visit with her daughter, Hanna Pritchett, and the Class of 1979 had a small get together to welcome her back." Photo (below) of the Class of '79 members (left to right): **David Kreider, Peggy Dodds Cartwright, Darrell Cartwright, Michelle (Thomas) Carroll, Nancy (Stephenson) Bergman, Julie (Edwards) Hogarth, Cynthia Seskes, Pam Amico, Kathy Dodds, and Joseph Messner.**



1997

ANDREW IVARI '97 writes: On September 22, 2018, I married Olga (Kordonskaya) in Milwaukee



Wisconsin. It was an incredible day enjoyed by all, including many CVCA alumni (Kirsten Ivari '93, Steve Ivari '96, Paul Yu '97, Kirk Robinson '97, Deborah Lile '97, Jessica (Muehleisen) Cooley '97, and Michael Cooley '97. Olga and I live in Chicago where I am an architect and Olga practices law. We are excited for this new chapter of our lives together.

2002

JONATHAN WEAVER '02 writes: Judah John Weaver arrived on July 6, 2018 in



Wellington, New Zealand. Mother and baby are healthy and happy. We are very

excited to have Judah join us on our African adventure as we continue to serve God through aviation in Zambia.

2003

On October 21, 2018, **KRISTEN STUDEBAKER '03** married Kevin Kacmarcik. Kristen had lived away



from the local area for 13 years, but met Kevin only one day after she moved back to her hometown of Hudson. They now live in Stow, Ohio. Kristen says, "God has had amazing plans for me; all I had to do was follow His direction!"

2006

ANDREA (TEODOSIU) BUJDEI '06 writes: Oliver, Andrea, and Alexandra welcomed baby brother Jesse to their family in June 2017.



2007

KENZIE (MONTGOMERY) MILLER '07 writes, **BEN '07** and I welcomed our daughter



Ken serves as Police Chief of the City of Akron, Ohio

KEN BALL '84 writes: When I think of Christ-Honoring Excellence, I immediately think of Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men." This command is profound, in that it is so simple yet so complete. If our first desire is to please

the Lord with our effort, then all other parties will profit. In my work there needs to be a commitment to service of others. That includes service to the members of my department. I know that if my first goal is to satisfy Christ with all of my interactions – all others will gain, because His expectations include a selflessness and commitment that is always beneficial to others. I am so thankful that my CVCA experience helped to cement the principles of God's Word in my life. The process for me included Bible class, Chapel, and the influence of Christ-minded peers, teachers, and administrators. This foundational Christian exposure is so important to growing young men and women.

ter, Ruth Mackenzie, on August 22, 2018. She joins big brother, Zeke, 2 ½. We are so thankful to our CVCA family for their love and encouragement during this exciting time. We are praising God for His abundant blessings to our family!

2009

SARAH (FINK) JUDGE '09 writes: My husband Billy and I are very excited to an-



nounce the birth of our son William Eden Judge on May 25, 2018.

2010

CHRISTIAN OHMAN '10 and **SIMINA (TEODOSIU) '10** were married on June 22, 2018 at Parkside



Church in Chagrin Falls. Today they work side by side in their family's business of serving the elderly in healthcare.

ALEX MOSTELLER '10 and Ellen Chapman of Creston, Ohio were married on June 23 at Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church near Wooster. They now live in North Canton where Alex is a third year Ohio University medical student rotating



at Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Ellen is working as an admissions counselor at Malone University. They are very happy and enjoying married life, and recently welcomed a new member to the family, Pepper the Bernedoodle!

2011

KATIE HEGINBOTHAM '11 graduated with honors



from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2015 with a degree in Elementary Education and Exceptional Needs Education. She loves her job as an Intervention Specialist at Discovery Academy, an inner-city charter school in Toledo, Ohio where she was recently honored as "Educator of the Year" after her third year of teaching.

2012

WILL HESS '12 has released a new song, "Never Leave" under the artist name "Will Alpine" on Apple



Music and Spotify. An Audio Engineering graduate from Belmont University, Will has been performing and producing music for many years, including in the Hudson area.

After taking drum, piano, and trumpet lessons in junior high school, Will focused his performance skills on drums during high school and college. His passion for audio engineering and music production flourished as a high school student when he converted his downtown Hudson bedroom into a recording studio, and from there developed his professional studio skills in both Berkeley, California and Nashville, Tennessee. In addition to his own music, Will currently produces music for other artists throughout the United States from his residence in Nashville. Building upon his successful releases as a producer and performer with multiple bands, this is his first release as a solo artist. Enjoy "Never Leave," the first of many releases to come, on Apple Music and Spotify.

When not making music, Will is an iOS developer for a Nashville software company developing applications for Arts and Music festivals.

2013

Josiah and **KRISTEN (SUNDET) VAN DYCK '13** were married May 26, 2018 in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. The wedding party included CVCA faculty member Ami Wagner and alumni **Kimmy Eaton '13** and Kristen's brothers **David '06**, **Stephen '08**, and **Curtis '10 Sundet**. It also included Erik Sundet, former faculty member! Both Kristen and Josiah



graduated from Kent State University in the spring. Kristen received her Bachelor of Science in Education and minor in violin performance and Josiah a Bachelor of Music. In August, Kristen and Josiah moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey to continue Josiah's education in music performance as an oboist at Rutgers University. Their favorite things to do are playing in orchestras, trying new coffee shops, and traveling. Both are incandescently happy together and feel so blessed to live out God's incredible plan for their lives. God is so good!

ISAIAH RIOS '13 and Melissa Basye were married on September 15, 2018 in



Columbus, Ohio. They now live in Dublin, Ohio where Melissa works at a software and technology company called T-Cetra, and Isaiah is working at a retirement investment company called Ohio Deferred Compensation in downtown Columbus. The wedding party was full of CVCA grads and current students including **Austin Foguth '13**, **Josiah '14**, **Elijah '16**, **Noah, '19**, and **Micaiah Rios '21**. That's not all – Melissa's

father, **Dan Basye '74**, was a part of one of the earliest graduating classes at CVCA, and his father, William Basye, served on the Board in the early 1970s.

BENJAMIN PAISLEY '13 and **MOLLY (KING) '15** were married on June 30,



2018. It was a beautiful summer day surrounded by family, friends, and many CVCA alumni. Ben is currently finishing his Masters of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati as Molly finishes her final year at Cedarville University studying Social Work. The wedding party was full of fellow CVCA alumni (photo below): **Denny King '08**, **Millie (King) Talley '10**, **Clara (King) Pykare '12**, **Logan Jones '13**, **Laura (Paisley) DiMirra '11**, **John Paisley '17**, **Elizabeth (Engle) Fleagle '08**, **Danielle (DeIulis) Rosenberger '14**, **Rachel Criswell '13**, **Josh Chung '13**, and **Emerson McSparran '20**. The wedding photography was taken by another CVCA alum, **Ana (Lewison) Baranyk '10**. (See more of Ana's work at anamaria-photography.com.)



2014

On June 2, 2018, **AARON CHIZMAR '14** and **CAILYN (ROWAN) '14** were married. Their bridal party included several alumni: **Micah Matthews '14**, **Malachi Miller '14**, **Corryn Rowan '15**, **Leah Chizmar '16**, and **Alyssa Rowan '17** (photo above). The Chizmars live in Escondido, California. Aaron is earning his M.Div. at Westminster Seminary California and Cailyn teaches sixth grade mathematics.

BRANDON HARTEL '14 and **Samantha Campbell** were married June 20, 2018.



2015

After self-publishing a book while she was a student at CVCA, **HOPE**

BOLINGER '15 has spent her time at Taylor Univer-



sity learning the publishing industry by working directly in it. In addition to having over 200 articles, poems, and other short works published, Hope has co-authored the memoir of a World War II vet (*The Quiet and the Storm*), helped her dad write a daily devotional (*Daily Strength for Men*), and scored a publishing contract for her book *Den* which sets the Biblical story of Daniel in modern times. After interning at a Christian publisher, Hope now works as a literary agent for authors. She will graduate from Taylor in January 2019.

2018

LILY MATHES (former member of the Class of 2018) writes: I am a fresh-

man at Liberty majoring in international relations (strategic intelligence) with minors in linguistics, Chinese, and Army ROTC. One day in



my linguistics class, my professor introduced a guest speaker who was none other than Bill Mounce who wrote the Greek textbook from my class with Mr. Newland. Bill Mounce talked to my class about the difficulties that can arise when translating the Bible and in translation in general. It was the best surprise of all time. I told him about my Greek class that I took in high school and he gave me one of his linguistics books for koine Greek. Of course I had to take this picture to show Mr. Newland.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Contact alumni@cvcaroyals.org with alumni news and suggestions for The Echoes. Please include graduation years and maiden names. Photos should be the highest resolution possible and submitted as email attachments or mailed as hard copies. The Trumpeter reserves the right to edit alumni news for clarity, appropriateness, and space limitations.





Not many people get to live where their friends vacation, but such is life for CVCA alumna **Olivia Strohm '13** who landed a creative design position with Disney right out of college. Strohm, who graduated Ringling College of Art and Design in 2017, phoned in from the Most Magical Place on Earth to share her story on the road to Disney.

Q: I know we all want to jump into the magical world of Disney, but can you tell us a little bit about your CVCA and college experience that got you here?

A: Of course! Beginning freshman year at CVCA, I thought I wanted to be a photographer because I didn't really know there could be creative careers in anything else. Through yearbook, graphic design, and art classes, Mrs. Stofsick and Mrs. Oster introduced me to this world of design that I didn't know existed!

Q: Ringling College of Art and Design is in Florida, correct? How was it moving away from home?

A: Well, I'd never been out of Ohio by myself for more than four days and was a little afraid to leave that all behind, but I knew that I had to try it! My parents were actually really supportive, and were always right there cheering me on.

I found a church that my mom's friend knew of and got plugged into that community right from the start! Academically, the first year of college was basically a review of skills I learned in Yearbook and Graphic Design, so I felt totally prepared.

Q: Okay, so working at Disney at 22... how does that even happen?

A Dream Come True – Olivia Strohm '13

A: Two Disney artists visited my school in January of my senior year, and I gave them my portfolio. I talked to a recruiter from Disney HR, but didn't hear anything for like three months. When they eventually called right before graduation, I talked to HR and the Art Team that I was applying to work with. (One of the artists I talked to on the phone call was the one I had met on campus, surprisingly enough). They said they'd get back to me in a week – but they called in less than an hour! I was on the phone with my parents, and I was like, "Guys I gotta go, I think Disney is calling me!" I was very much at ease, I felt such peace and clarity with what God was calling me to do. It was totally a miracle that they even called me, but I am very thankful.

Q: What are you working on now? Wait, can you tell us, or is it top secret stuff?

A: Haha. Well I'm a creative designer for Disney Parks Merchandise. I can't talk about any work in progress, but I was part of the teams that created this year's Disney Parks Christmas Merchandise, The 2018 EPCOT International Food and Wine Festival Merchandise, and a new Cinderella Home Decor line. There is a definite Disney standard, regardless of your own personal creative style. You can't really put your own name to anything you do – if it's Disney, it's made of pixie dust. I have really appreciated that

my team likes what I bring to the table, especially since I'm just out of school! The goal of our team is to elevate the art from the previous year. We want our guests to feel like everything we make is an exclusive item just for them, whether they visit every year or if this is their first Disney experience.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring CVCA artists?

A: Oh yes! I hope CVCA students realize that God gives you different gifts. If yours looks different from your best friend's, that's okay! I didn't really feel like my talent fit in with the rest of CVCA when I was there, but looking back, I see how that was a good thing. Being different allows me to contribute to the community and reach different people in an unexpected way. Being an artsy person and a believer feels totally opposite from our culture, but it's still possible. If you want to work in design, fashion, or art, God can use you even though you're with people that don't believe the same thing you do – that's your opportunity to be the light. I feel like this is where God really wants me. I've already had opportunities to share what I believe in a very chill way and no one freaked out over it or kicked me out of the room. In the end, everyone is weird for different reasons. You have to accept each other and come to the table as you are!



Serving God in Science – Tim Walston '94

Following is an excerpt of a phone interview that CVCA Alumni Coordinator Rachel Criswell was privileged to have with alumnus, Tim Walston '94 (BA, Taylor University; MS, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse; PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Today is my first day as Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at Truman State University in Missouri, where I have worked for the last twelve years after earning my PhD. I'm looking forward to this opportunity, and I know the foundation that CVCA provided me was instrumental in bringing me to this point.

CVCA provided a good education. I really enjoyed my time in the band as well as having great friends. I felt like part of the community and felt prepared after graduation.

While at CVCA I enjoyed science and math. I definitely thought I was going to be a missionary doctor; and after graduating from CVCA started pre-med at Taylor University, which was a great school to continue my Christian education. During my senior year at Taylor I took the MCATS and applied to medical school. I was in the middle of an interview for an Air Force scholarship when it hit me...this was not what I wanted to do with my life.

After that interview I talked with one of the professors for whom I had been a teacher's assistant and remembered enjoying the times I was able to teach. A few days later he told me he had called a school, and they said I was exactly what they were looking for. I started research the week after my final spring semester of undergrad at Taylor. We worked on blood clotting research, and I'm now co-named on a US patent for a protein we researched and published in scientific literature. While working on my masters, I was able to continue teaching and realized that reinforced research and teaching at a small school was what I wanted to do.

My PhD experience was quite extraordinary. Typically I would enter the genetics program at my school, select three individuals I would want to work with, and spend a month with each one in the lab to determine my final choice. However, early on I attended a social and one of my professors walked up to me and said, "I've heard about you! I worked with your master's advisor; he said I should work with you." It was crazy that he picked me since normally it's the other way around. When I met with him, the first thing he said was, "Are you a Christian?" I had been warned to be careful about how open I was with my Christianity. The preference is to be a strong scientist first and then a Christian. But Jeff was also a believer, an elder at a church in town, and the co-author of one of the textbooks I used in undergrad. We totally hit it off. He set such a good example for me of how to see science as a believer and really turned out to be one of the most influential people in my life. We worked on research in cell migration in the embryo using a worm as a model to delve into cancer research.

I knew I wanted to work at a small school, and being married with a baby on the way, had faith the Lord would provide. I was offered a job at Truman in 2006 doing research in math, computerized models of embryos, leading drugs that cause spina bifida, and control cell migration. In hindsight, it's easy to look back and say, "Wow, God was there. He acted there, and He did that." It's a testament to what He can do. I see my time here as a mission field. I don't openly advertise that I'm a believer, but I have so many students walk up to me and say, "Dr. Walston, I hear you're a Christian – can I talk to you?" I still talk to my graduated students and touch base



with them to see how I can encourage them even now.

If I could offer some advice to CVCA students and soon-to-be graduates:

Find good mentors. It is so important to have people in your life who are walking a few steps in front of you, and you never know where solid connections might lead you in the future. It is okay to ask for help before you know you need it – that one step can make a huge difference in your studies or your career.

Be a person of good character, which comes from our Christian foundation. Christian character has given me the opportunity to lead in so many ways, even if people outside of the faith did not realize that it was Christ who gave me my leadership abilities. We should always strive to do our best. I want to be a great scientist, but I do not let my ambition affect the way I behave or think about myself as a Christian. The character traits that others see in me show that I am different and represent a greater hope.

I appreciate the foundation CVCA provided me – the way it shaped my world-view and prepared me for the life ahead of me.

“Christian character has given me the opportunity to lead in so many ways, even if people outside of the faith did not realize that it was Christ who gave me my leadership abilities.”

ADMISSIONS

OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY JANUARY 25 2019

CVCA
MIDDLE



MORE INFORMATION AT CVCAROYALS.ORG.



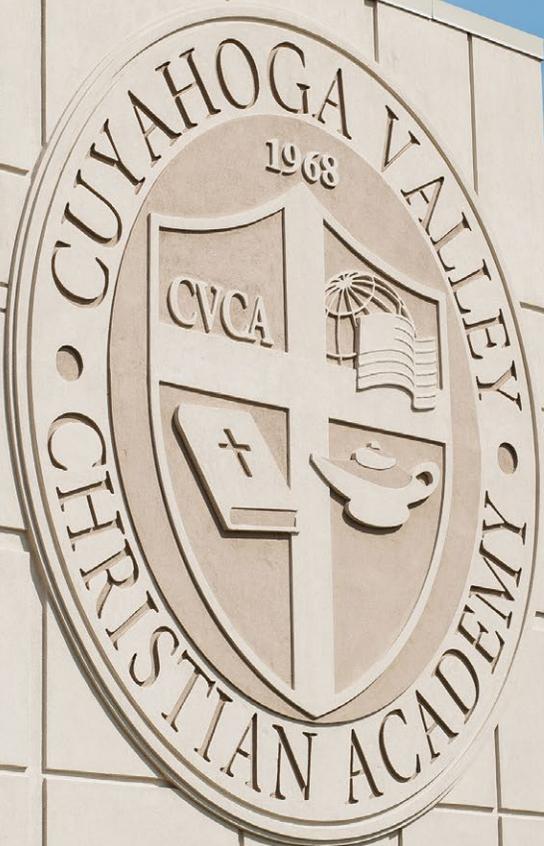
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

4687 Wyoga Lake Road

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44224

330-929-0575

cvcaroyals.org



ROYAL

CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

Evening

MARCH 16, 2019

We would love to have you join us for the continuing celebration of our 50th anniversary year!

- Plan on attending
- Sponsor the event
- Donate an item
- Become a volunteer

For more information, contact Kristin Nichols at knichols@cvcaroyals.org.

CVCAROYALS.ORG/ROYAL-EVENING