



WESTMINSTER ACADEMY
DEVOTED TO CHRIST • DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PAWPRINT

JUNE 2022



WESTMINSTER ACADEMY
DEVOTED TO CHRIST • DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

the PAWprint

50th Anniversary
Commemorative Edition

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Note to reader:

This special commemorative edition of *The PawPrint* is published to highlight the distinguished legacy of Westminster Academy over the past five decades to parents, alumni, donors, and interested families. While we have been diligent in our research, please understand that there are not enough pages to recount all the people who have made priceless contributions to WA through their time, talent, and treasure. Nor could we even begin to recognize all of the accomplishments of individuals or programs. But God, who deserves all the glory, noticed every detail and *“He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them”* Hebrews 6:10.

Westminster Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Christian Schools of Florida, and The National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA). Westminster Academy is also a member of council with the Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA).

If you would like additional information or to schedule a visit, please call the Admissions Office at 954.815.0131, or email admissions@wa.edu.

Special thanks to our 50th Anniversary Steering Committee:

Wanda Alday <i>Alumni Parent and Current Parent</i>	Vicki McKay <i>Alumni Parent and Retired Teacher</i>
Julie Carlson '80 <i>Alumna</i>	Carol Neal <i>Retired Teacher</i>
Jen Whiting '92 Casey <i>Alumna, Alumni Parent, and Current Parent</i>	Philip Piedt '07 <i>School Board Member and Alumnus</i>
Cindy Perkins '79 Coningsby <i>Alumna and Alumni Parent</i>	Elizabeth Taylor <i>Alumni Parent and Retired Teacher</i>
Sam Freas '94 <i>Alumnus, Current Parent, and Aquatics Program Director</i>	Paul Wackes '79 <i>Alumnus and Alumni Parent</i>
Laura Smeryage '96 Harms <i>Alumna, Alumni Parent, and Current Parent</i>	Sarah Hajduk <i>Director of Development and Current Parent</i>
Christy LaCaria <i>Current Parent</i>	Sandy Smith '95 Hall <i>Alumni Relations, Alumna, and Alumni Parent</i>

Headmaster	Joel Satterly
Director of Communications	Blake Matthews
Director of Development	Sarah Hajduk
Director of Admissions	Austin Elmer
Writing and Research	Sarah Hajduk, Sandy Hall, Casey Jarvis, Blake Matthews, Amy McKinnon '95 Wright
Graphic Design and Layout	Holly Carroll of Carroll Graphics
Photographers	Bjarne Bjorsvik, Blake Matthews, Little's Photography, and Optime Yearbook Staff throughout the history of the school.

We would like to especially recognize Carol Neal, who spent 43 years documenting our story through award-winning yearbooks that were used to capture our story in preparation for this publication.

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 @wacad and @wa.alumni

A Word from Dr. Satterly

Over 50 years ago, Westminster Academy was an idea born around a dining room table, drawn on a paper napkin by Dr. D. James Kennedy, and supported by several families at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. God has indeed been faithful in transforming this vision into an established and nationally recognized academic institution. As we celebrated our Golden Anniversary throughout the 2021–22 school year, our theme for the year was *Rooted*. Based on Jeremiah 17:8, *Rooted* captures the commitment of Westminster Academy to be “like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream...” The key to this verse lies with the tree’s roots and the stream. Jesus is the stream; He is the living water. It is when our roots are anchored in the living water that we keep green leaves and bear fruit. Westminster Academy was planted by the water and its roots run down deep to the stream. Our school has faced heat and drought and has also been cultivated and cared for, and because of God’s faithfulness, it has not failed to bear fruit, as evidenced by over 4,000 alumni impacting our communities, our nation, and our world, in every sphere of society.

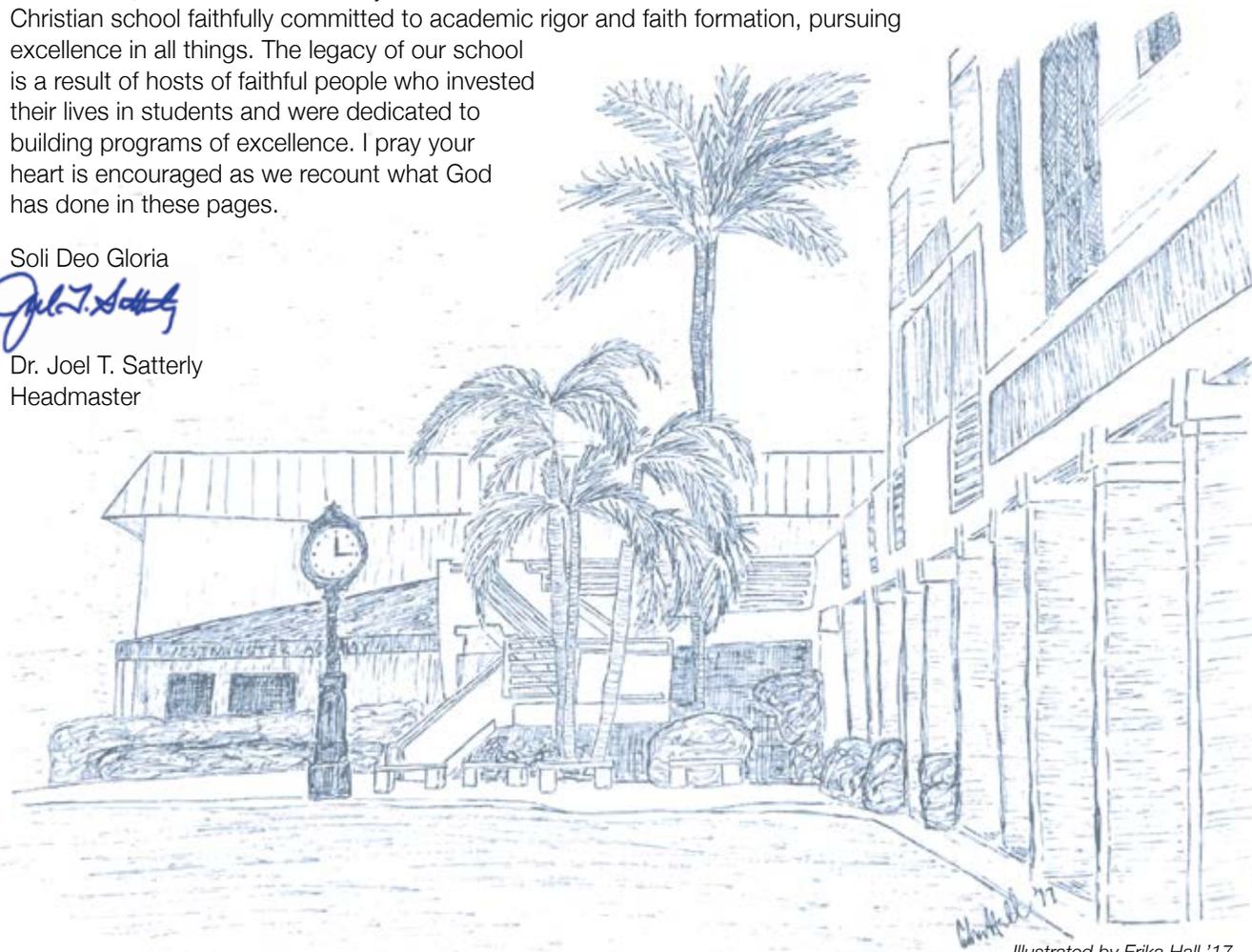
In Numbers 33, Moses chronicled the journey of Israel, stage by stage, as a reminder of the faithfulness of God. Likewise, this commemorative edition of the *PawPrint* will share the various stages of our history and serve as a keepsake, lest we forget. This edition celebrates five decades of God’s faithfulness to Westminster Academy, honoring the past and celebrating the present, as we move towards the future.

Since 1971, Westminster Academy has served South Florida’s families and students as a Christian school faithfully committed to academic rigor and faith formation, pursuing excellence in all things. The legacy of our school is a result of hosts of faithful people who invested their lives in students and were dedicated to building programs of excellence. I pray your heart is encouraged as we recount what God has done in these pages.

Soli Deo Gloria



Dr. Joel T. Satterly
Headmaster



Illustrated by Erika Hall '17

“The Depth Of The Foundation Determines The Strength Of The Structure”

“Train up a child in the way he shall go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6

In kindergarten the roots of God-oriented character and life purposes are planted.

At Westminster Academy the environment provides the opportunity for each child to progress spiritually as well as academically. Graduates from the twelfth grade acquire the culture of Christian ladies and gentlemen along with



“The depth of the foundation determines the strength of the structure.” These words were the headline of one of Westminster Academy’s very first publications back in 1971. From the earliest conversations regarding the school’s conception, the firm foundation has been devotion to Christ and dedication to excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. Westminster Academy has remained steadfast to the mission of being a Christ-centered, biblically-based college preparatory school dedicated to equipping covenant students to excel by using their gifts and talents for God’s glory.

Our Core Values

Mission Driven

An intentional focus on mission priorities determines action

Christian Scholarship

A challenging academic program in a learning community

Kingdom Impact

Our aim is for preparation to serve

Mission & Legacy

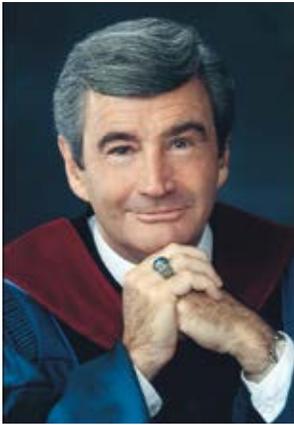
Throughout our Golden Anniversary year, we have referenced the fact that the vision for Westminster Academy began around a dining room table. That history-shaping moment occurred in the home of Jim and Kaye Carlson.

Julie Carlson '80 shares, “As children, we had no idea what our parents were planning, nor did we realize the significance of the work done behind the scenes to create a school in a span of months. We didn’t see the sacrifice and late nights spent planning and orchestrating the inception of Westminster Academy—from assembling the administrative staff and teachers, securing a location, constructing the facilities, and overseeing the curriculum. How could we have

fathomed the foundation that was laid would enable us to receive an excellent education with spiritual depth and moral integrity, preparing us for Godly participation in American society and loyalty to God and our country?”

The Carlson family has been honored to be part of Westminster Academy since its inception, with three generations attending. Even though Steve and I were too young to understand the significance of the founders’ efforts in the early years, we were so fortunate to be part of the adventure as it unfolded and to benefit from all of their efforts. We were able to take part in a beautiful legacy that will continue to be passed down from generation to generation. For that, we are eternally grateful!”

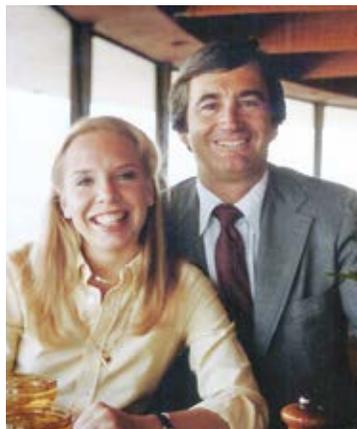




Our founder, Dr. D. James Kennedy, sketched our school crest on a napkin that day in the Carlson home. The late Dr. Kennedy was blessed to see the fulfillment of that vision for over 30 years before he passed away in 2007. “Every Christian parent wants the best Christian education for his child. I founded Westminster Academy in order that

Jennifer and many other children could receive an education that not only gave them the best academic training but also gave them a Christian and spiritual education as well. I have been more than pleased with the way that Westminster Academy has over the years fulfilled these two goals.”

Jennifer Kennedy ’80 Cassidy is grateful that Westminster Academy has remained faithful to our mission. She shares, “My dad’s vision for Westminster Academy was to provide a Christian education and to support the efforts of parents to raise godly children. He believed that children were educated



in the home, the church, and the school, and these three institutions needed to be in sync to ensure the youth would remain true to their faith. Unfortunately, the statistics show that a majority of kids turn their back on their faith during their first year in college. Thankfully, I had the benefit of attending Westminster Academy from the fourth grade until I graduated. While there, I learned what it meant to have a biblical worldview and I understood what I believed and why I believed it, and thankfully, I have remained true to my faith all these years. I am extremely excited about the future of Westminster Academy—it is what we need in this day and age and it can provide students all that they need to be strong leaders and strong Christians. As a young person, you have to be able to defend your faith and WA prepares their students to do this. WA is the best of both worlds—they provide excellent academics, athletics, fine arts and also, outstanding biblical worldview development. A student needs all of these things to truly be successful in life and I’m so happy WA has remained true to my dad’s motto, ‘excellence in all things and all things to God’s glory.’”

Community

The heart of the WA experience has always been community. The size of Westminster Academy is conducive to building community through lifelong relationships between students and teachers—relationships that not only result in a transfer of knowledge but also foster the formation of a biblical worldview. That biblical worldview provides the foundation to develop leaders who will change the community, nation, and world for Christ! While much of a student’s life happens within the school community, we exist inside a larger community—one to which God has called us to be salt and light. South Florida is a better place to live and raise a family because of the contributions of Westminster Academy students and alumni. This legacy in our community was recognized by a proclamation from the City of Fort Lauderdale as well as by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.



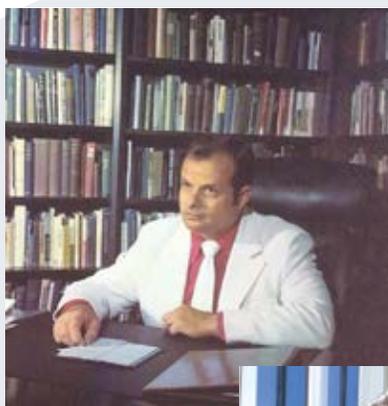
Pictured from left: Former State Representative George Moraitis, Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis, Westminster Academy Headmaster Joel Satterly, and Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Rob Pacienza

Mission & Legacy Leadership

Westminster Academy has had only five headmasters in our five decades and we honor them for their sacrificial service that has shaped our school.

Harry Miller 1971–1973

Reverend Harry Miller was serving as the Minister of Evangelism at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church when he was appointed by Dr. Kennedy to become the first headmaster. He was a pioneer in Christian education and instrumental in laying the foundation for our school in our first few years. In one of WA's earliest publications, Harry wrote, "In a disciplined, orderly environment, concerned teachers endeavor to prepare our children for a satisfying and God-honoring life now and for the glorious life of the eternity! When pupils know the Lord Jesus Christ personally, they know the One who brings them into harmony with God, with themselves, and with their fellow men, and with creation itself."



class their senior year, went to him for premarital counseling, asked him to officiate their wedding, and baptize their children. Dr. Wackes truly made an eternal investment in countless lives and was bestowed the honor of Headmaster Emeritus in 2019.

Greg Beaupied 2005–2008

"What amazes me is how the Lord provided a wonderful school with superior Christian values when our children needed to be in such a loving and Spirit-led community. Godly men and women dreamed big dreams. The vision was cast, land was purchased, buildings were constructed, staff was hired, and hundreds of students enrolled right from the beginning. We must think of Westminster Academy in two important ways before we recount its many excellencies. First, God was up to something extraordinary for Fort Lauderdale and the Christian



Ken Wackes 1973–2005

Dr. Ken Wackes took a job teaching Bible at Westminster Academy while he was waiting for a pastorate position, after receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree. He only intended to be at WA one year, but after a couple of months, Ken was asked to fill the position of headmaster and he replied, "No thanks, but I will take over until you find someone else." However, after serving in the position for several months Ken realized that all his gifts were being fully used, so he accepted the headmaster position in 1973 and faithfully served for thirty-two years as Headmaster at Westminster Academy and Associate Minister at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. He also served as Executive Director of Christian Schools of Florida and in several other leadership roles. He once wrote, "The full impact of Christian schools, like Westminster, will not be felt in our society until our sons and daughters take their positions as leaders in the various areas of society. They will have been nurtured in a philosophical and emotional framework that stands in direct opposition to the prevailing humanism of the secular school." A legion of successful WA alumni provides testimony to that vision. Many of our alumni were in his "Marriage and Family"



community. How could so many factors come together so quickly with such a sanctified result? It is a difficult thing to start and establish a new Christian academy. But, Westminster seemingly burst into reality with such vigor and promise. One moment it was not there, the next moment it was a dream, and then almost overnight, there it was. Truly remarkable! Second, God used dedicated people to sacrifice, dig deep into their faith, and persevere throughout the process. People cared so much and gave so much to make our beloved school all it continues to be. Over the years, others have stepped up to nurture this school along. Many have made enormous contributions, allowing WA to grow and flourish, and hundreds more have dedicated their time and treasure to keep the dream moving forward. The grace of God has made all of this possible. So when I think of Westminster Academy, I am thankful to God and all of His saints who made it all come true. My vision when I served as headmaster was to carry on the Westminster Academy legacy, training young men and women academically and spiritually so that they could succeed in college, in their chosen careers and in life. As I look to the future, I believe we will continue to see Westminster Academy students and graduates making a difference in their communities, in their own homes, and in the furthering of the Kingdom of God."

“Those that want to make the greatest impact on an organization do so by staying around the longest.” – Dr. Wackes

Leo Orsino 2009–2015

“I was blessed to be called by God to join the Westminster Academy community in the summer of 2009. It was a special opportunity and privilege to serve God and His people at an exemplary Christ-centered, Bible-based, college-preparatory Christian school. Westminster Academy’s devotion to Christ and dedication to excellence was conspicuous and contagious from preschool through 12th grade. I was extremely impressed by the students and their parents as well as the faculty and staff. My tenure at WA was a joyful and rewarding experience. I was truly blessed to serve at WA. It was an honor to be a WA Lion.

Unfortunately, during my seventh year of service, I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. By God’s grace and the steadfast prayers of my family and the WA community, I experienced a miracle. I received a heart transplant in May 2016. Praise God for His providential intervention and the uplifting prayers and encouragement from the WA community. During my health journey, I was overwhelmed and humbled by God’s love, grace, and mercy as well as the prayers, encouragement, and support I received from the WA community. WA’s prayers, videos, phone calls, visits, and cards brought me overwhelming comfort and confidence that I was in God’s hands. My family and I will be forever grateful to the WA school board, faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni for their love and prayers. May God continue to inspire WA to encourage, educate and empower their students to impact the culture for His Truth and Jesus Christ.”



Joel Satterly 2016 to present

“It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as Westminster Academy’s fifth headmaster. God appointed each of us for a particular season. Each tenure has included leadership opportunities and challenges. While many of those historical events are captured in the pages of this special edition of the *PawPrint*,

mine includes navigating a global pandemic and the blessing of leading through our golden anniversary and developing a strategic plan for re-envisioning our campus.

There is much to consider when reviewing the first 50 years of our school but three big trends stand out to me.

The first is God’s faithfulness. While it is true that WA has been blessed with outstanding faculty and staff who have impacted over 4,000 alumni; an institution doesn’t see 50 years on its own merit. Westminster Academy’s legacy and story is a tapestry of God’s faithfulness. In good times and lean ones, God has been, and is, at work.

Another theme that characterizes Westminster Academy is vision. What started as an idea sketched out on a paper napkin at a kitchen table is now the school we enjoy today. In 1971, we held classes over at the Pompano Beach racetrack. Now our program requires two campuses. From those humble beginnings, our founders saw a great institution and that vision has been in our DNA ever since.

The third feature that stands out is a commitment to mission fidelity. School matters because it is the place where students spend over 16,000 hours of programmed training. Westminster Academy was, is, and will always be devoted to Christ and dedicated to excellence. We have a long track record demonstrating that commitment and also have a unique opportunity to prepare for the future.”



Dr. Leo Orsino (left) and Rev. Greg Beauplied (right), pictured with our current Headmaster, Dr. Joel Satterly (center), at the Golden Gala. We were honored to have all three living headmasters join us for the occasion.

Mission & Legacy



Scan to view a video of the opening of the 1996 time capsule led by Jim Brown. Jim, now in the Lord's presence, faithfully served as Director of Development for 30 years. Upon his retirement in 2001, he shared, "It has been extremely satisfying and inspiring to see how the Lord has worked in the lives of young students since 1971. The evidence of Christian leadership and character in many of our alumni gives up hope for the future. To God be the glory!"

"It was quite memorable to be a part of the 25th year time capsule as a student, and then to be involved again for the 50th year as faculty. Reading my second-grade essay from 1996, then standing with my son as he placed items in the trunk to be opened in the future was such a unique experience to share with him."
Allison Alexander '06 Shapansky

Time Capsule—Then and Now

We launched our 50th Anniversary with our Celebration Weekend in the fall, which included opening the time capsule from 1996 during a special chapel when alumni joined us. This spring, during our National Day of Prayer Chapel in May, we prayed for the future students, for our current student body, and for those who will follow. As part of this special chapel, students filled a new time capsule which will be opened in 2031 with new memorabilia.

The Pacienza family placed the final item, the *50 Stories of 50 Years* devotional, in the time capsule. Pastor Rob shared, "The Westminster education has the living God at its center.' This was the vision of Dr. D. James Kennedy and the founding families of Westminster Academy. Five decades later we now have



alumni represented in every cultural sphere of influence, equipped with a biblical worldview. I am personally grateful for Westminster's influence. God used this school to forever change the trajectory of my life. I praise God for what He has done and now look forward to the future with great anticipation. This is an incredibly exciting time to be a part of Westminster Academy; the possibilities are endless. But we must dare to dream again, to believe that God will do something great in the life of our school. The mission of Westminster is critical in this post-Christian society marked by secularism. May this be a defining moment as we recommit ourselves to raising up the next generation of Kingdom citizens for the glory of God!"



FAMILY NEVER GRADUATES



Second and even third-generation alumni and their children were in attendance at the National Day of Prayer Chapel when we filled in the new time capsule.



Third-generation family: Bruce Bromley '73, Madeline Bromley '11 Lee, and Joshua Bromley-Sanches (current student).



Third-generation family: Christy Carlson '05, Lori Carlson, Julie Carlson '80, Steve Carlson '79, Lynlee (PK2 in the fall), Cason and Thomas (current students), Emily Carlson '09 and Andy Scheimann.



Did you know WA has over 60 couples that first met during their time at Westminster Academy? #FamilyNeverGraduates Scan here to view an alumni couples video from Valentine's Day.



70S

First Decade

“Excellence in All Things and All Things for God’s Glory.”

Dr. D. James Kennedy, Westminster Academy Founder

On September 4, 1971, 340 students and 21 teachers gathered in four locations—including the Pompano Race Track—for the first day of classes at Westminster Academy. The lifelong relationships formed in those first days marked the beginning of the Westminster Academy experience. Our committed parents partnered to form the Parent Teacher





Fellowship and Booster Club, and by the end of the 70s, WA was home to ten fiercely competitive athletic teams with two state titles and an outstanding Fine Arts program featuring visual arts, band, orchestra, and drama.

In 1978, Headmaster Dr. Ken Wackes, whose “Marriage and Family” course helped countless alumni families begin with a solid

godly foundation, announced Westminster Academy’s accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Florida Council of Independent Schools. That same year the new Arts and Science wing was added, and in 1979, the James F. Lindsay Gymnasium was completed. Alumni grew from the first eight graduates in 1973

to 63 in 1979 and the Alumni Association began.

Each piece of our unique culture was created with a commitment to excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. From weekly chapels to school plays to homecoming games, many of our long-standing and cherished traditions and programs began in the 1970s.

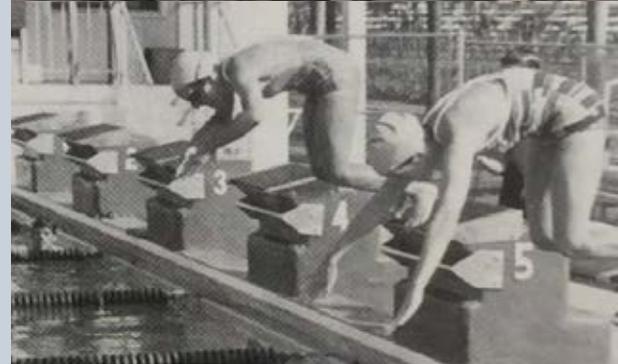


Second
Decade

The 1980s brought
many additional firsts...

...National Honor Society, Advanced Placement courses, the Science Fair, Headmaster's Council, Grandparents Day, senior jerseys, and an overseas band trip to Ecuador. Athletics received the first of numerous Most Outstanding Athletic Program Awards from the Florida Athletic Coaches Association. The All-Sports Award was presented by the conference for the best win-loss record of the year and two more state championships were claimed by Ladies' Track and Field and five by Men's Cross Country.

OPTIME yearbook did a remarkable job capturing the essence of WA and was selected as a Columbia Scholastic Press Association Medalist, the first of many accolades to come. WAFG radio (Westminster Academy for God) launched and gave students the opportunity to explore their gifts and talents in communications. Westminster Academy received additional accreditation from Christian Schools of Florida.





The WESTMINSTER ACADEMY
ACTIVITIES CENTER
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Your Help is Needed! 771-4600





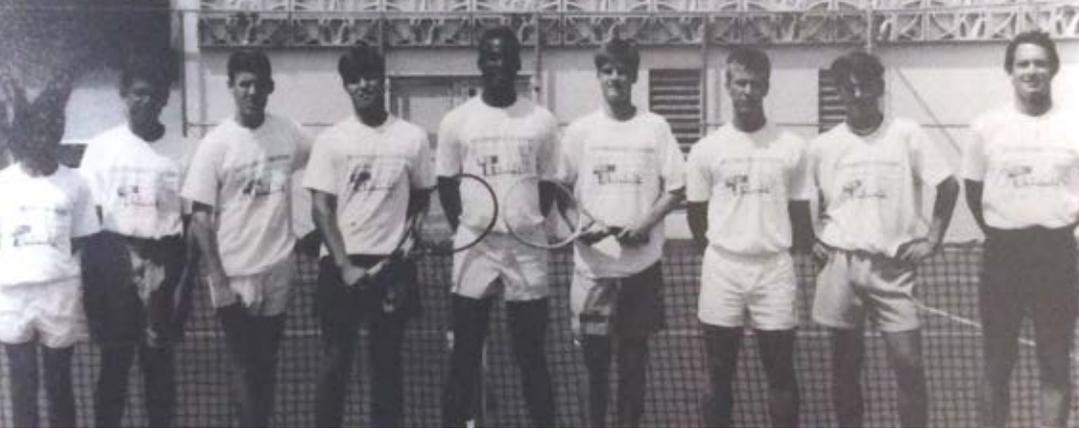
**Third
Decade**

90s

The 1990s were a time of expansion and technological advancements.

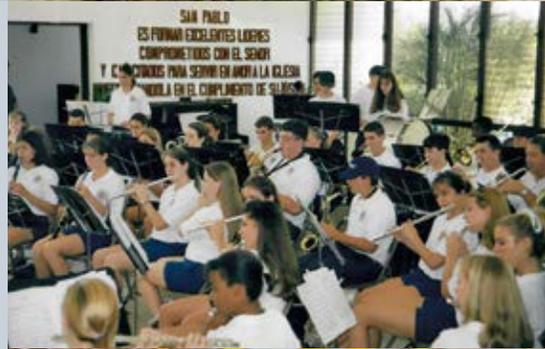
In 1994, the Media and Fine Arts building was dedicated, housing two libraries, computer labs, orchestra, band, and administrative offices. This expansion was made possible through the generosity of the Hamilton M. and Blanche C. Forman Christian Foundation, and the campus was named the Blanche Collins Forman Campus.





College credit courses and a community service program were launched for high school students, and the Fine Arts Department produced the first Madrigal Dinner. Football and baseball won their first state championships, Ladies' Basketball earned two state titles, while Softball added four state titles to their stellar record. The Alumni Tailgate tradition began and school spirit soared.

In 1997, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and WA announced the purchase of 34 acres of land near West Commercial Boulevard and ground was broken for a swimming complex at the east campus. The O'Brien Family Swimming Complex was completed in 1999. By the end of the decade, Westminster Academy had 1,700 alumni.



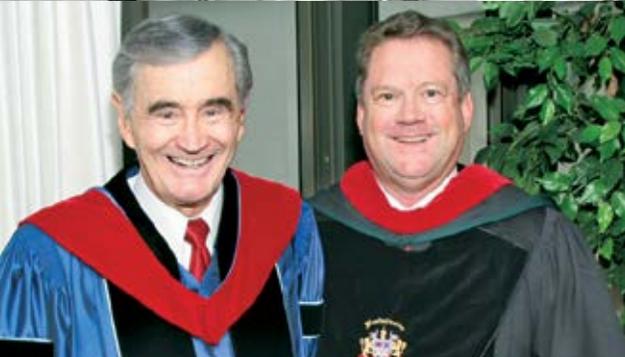
Fourth
Decade

A major milestone
marked the 2000s...

...as the development of the west campus Athletic Complex accelerated the growth and strength of the athletics program. The DeVos Family Baseball Field was ranked the #1 high school baseball facility in the nation by *USA Today* and hosted the first nationally televised tournament in the country. The H.W. Huizenga Family Football Field, Hill Family Track & Field Complex, and Zachariah Family Tennis Complex were state-of-the-art facilities. Baseball won another state championship, along with Men's Basketball and Men's Track.

Highlights of the decade include the beginning of the Robotics program, the choir's first performance at Carnegie Hall and an overseas trip to Italy, and the first 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. The retirement of Headmaster, Dr. Ken Wackes, marked the end of an era. He often said, "Begin with the End in Mind" and he was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Westminster Academy experience.







10

Fifth Decade

In our fifth decade, Westminster Academy's ongoing commitment to *excellence in all things* was rewarded across all of our programs.

The Lower School received recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2014, and in 2020, WA became a full member of council with the Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA), a mark of distinction among Christian schools. Our Fine Arts Program earned WA the Enrollment Award by the Florida Music Educators Association for surpassing 35% of





our student population participating in the Fine Arts, and our students continued to be invited to perform in noted festivals and locations overseas. By 2022, our athletic teams earned an astounding 267 district, 92 regional, and 28 state championships, including a Three-peat Basketball State Championship, the second in Broward County history. The Robotics team won several awards

earning state, national, and even world recognition, continuing WA's commitment to leading the way in technological advancements. To that end, our campus updates included the IQ Lab, a STEAM-focused, 21st-century innovation lab, and the renovation of the Dr. Kenneth P. Wackes Media Center, named for our Headmaster Emeritus. Technology became a critical component of remote

learning at the end of this decade, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While methods changed, our mission remained the same. Westminster Academy now boasts over 4,000 alumni impacting our communities, our nation, and our world in every sphere of society. We are proud of our alumni—their character, accomplishments, and impact for the Kingdom of God.



Celebrating Generosity

A tradition of generosity prevails at Westminster Academy. So much of what we enjoy today is a result of the sacrifices of those who came before us. Combined with tuition, the generosity of our donors supports every student, every teacher, every day. Our Annual Fund supports our operating budget and serves to invest in people, strengthen programs, and enhance places on our campuses. Designated gifts have directly supported various programs and projects as well. Every gift, regardless of the amount, enhances the WA experience and is an investment in the mission of our school.

Sarah Hajduk
Director of Development

History of Giving

\$15,000,000

Largest Single Gift

\$50,549,269

Total Gifts Received

7,408

Total Number of Donors

1,363

Total Number of Headmaster's Council Members

Why We Support WA...

We are so grateful that we have a school board, faculty, and staff that leads the way with 100% participation. We also ask current families, alumni, alumni families, grandparents and other friends of the school to make an investment in Christ-centered education.

Alumni Parent and Grandparent

Carol Eldridge

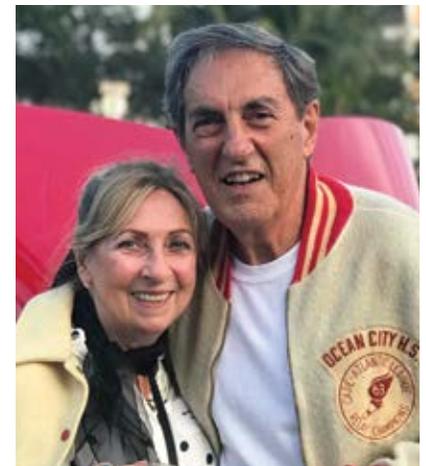
"Westminster Academy was a lifesaver for us with our four girls. WA was just starting and we enrolled the first year. We were so appreciative of the teaching, the headmaster, and support from the school, that we knew we had to help keep this wonderful covenant ministry alive for generations to come. We were so happy our children that lived here all sent their children to WA and that some of their children sent our great-grandchildren as well. What a blessing WA was and still is! We will continue to support WA as we can."

Larry Eldridge, Carol's dear husband, passed away in 2019. He gave countless hours serving Dr. Wackes with development projects and fundraising for the gym and the west campus Athletic Complex. Larry personified giving of time, talent and treasure.

Grandparents

Nick and Becky Alise

"Becky and I love everything about Westminster Academy. Most of all, we love that Jesus Christ is King at WA, and everyone from the facilities department to the Headmaster treats our grandkids with His love! That love is especially shown by their teachers, coaches, and fine arts personnel."



Carol Eldridge's great-grandchildren who attended WA in 2019, Wyatt and Channing Masterson, and Shane and Sarah Preston.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Alumnus and Current Parents

Brian '92 and Stacey Kovack

"Having moved to Fort Lauderdale at an early age, I was so very fortunate to attend Westminster Academy from K through 12th grade. My parents, Dr. Ronald and Priscilla Kovack, being members and active supporters of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, have always known that having a Christian education at WA would set the foundation for strong academics, athletics, and spiritual strength. My wife Stacey and I are now the proud parents of our daughter, Harbor Kovack, who attends kindergarten and we are so blessed to have her at WA. Thank you to all of the faculty, leadership team, and school board for all that you do! It is our privilege to continue to support the mission of Westminster Academy!"



Current Parents

Ollie and Jessica Ayers

"Prior to our oldest starting kindergarten, I learned of WA from an alumnus by chance during a business meeting. After meeting several teachers and staff, there is no question that WA is the best place for our children. Their academic, moral, and spiritual growth has been well beyond our expectations. The experience has been transformational for us as parents too, not only as part of the WA family but also in becoming part of the Coral Ridge family. We support WA so that they can continue to positively impact students and their families like we have experienced."



Retired Faculty

Wini Wilkinson Smith

"I believe WA has been a 'lighted beacon on a hill' in a darkening world! It was in 1970 that Dr. Kennedy and Jim Carlson reached out to me as a new member of the small, new Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. I had just graduated from Belhaven College when Jim Carlson introduced me to a small singles group, and Dr. Kennedy encouraged me to apply for a teaching position at WA, the school that was just about to be built! Only the Lord could have known what He had in store with the 'vision' that these two men had back then! I believe that everyone who has attended WA since then has had a special calling and a purpose for their lives."

Wini now lives in California and was unable to attend our Golden Anniversary Weekend, but she made a special \$50,000 donation in honor of our 50th Anniversary in hopes that others might be inspired to support the mission of WA.

The Stories Behind the Names

East Campus

Blanche Collins Forman Campus

The Media and Fine Arts Center was dedicated on October 22, 1994. The Hamilton M. and Blanche C. Forman Christian Foundation was the primary benefactor for the project, along with parents and members of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. Our east campus is named in honor of Mrs. Blanche Collins Forman, in recognition of her generosity and strong support of education. Blanche was a godly mother, pioneer, educator, principal, and businesswoman. She held deep-seated convictions firmly rooted in the teachings of the Bible and spent her lifetime enabling others to succeed. Blanche and Hamilton M. Forman were also instrumental in founding First Christian Church Fort Lauderdale. Three of their great-grandchildren attended Westminster Academy and two great-great-grandchildren are current students.



Hamilton McClure Forman and Blanche Collins Forman were pioneers from Illinois who arrived here in 1910 aboard Henry Flagler's railroad. They pitched a tent in the Everglades on land they bought sight unseen. When growing potatoes proved difficult, they started South Florida's first dairy farm in 1914 in what is now Davie and were the first tenders of the Sewell Lock on the New River Canal at Davie Road. Their sons, Hamilton C. Forman and Charles R. Forman, together with their wives, influenced the development of and operation of the North Broward Hospital District for 28 years, as well as the water management district and the route of Florida's Turnpike.

The Forman family legacy spans over 100 years in Florida and their work continues through the Hamilton M. and Blanche C. Forman Christian Foundation, managed by M. Austin Forman, H. Collins Forman, Jr., and Walter Forman, the grandsons of Hamilton M. and Blanche Collins Forman.



James F. Lindsay Gymnasium

The dedication of the James F. Lindsay Gymnasium took place on November 10, 1979. Three years prior, construction had come to a halt due to a lack of sufficient funding. Though parents made contributions and students held fundraisers, it was a final gift from James F. Lindsay that made the dream a reality. Lindsay gave \$200,000, one-third of the auctioned price of his coin collection, to the campaign. He shared at the dedication that he had no children of his own but that he would consider all who used the new facility as his grandchildren. Dr. Ron Kovack, an alumni parent and dedicated supporter of WA, wrote a book on the topic of charitable giving and stewardship, *A Gift That Changed the World*, which includes the story of the coin collection sold that completed the gymnasium capital campaign.

Laboratory Namings

The following labs are named in honor of generous donors:

- Onley and May Arnold Computer Science Lab
- Walter and Emily Eppley Chemistry Lab
- John and Lorraine Morris Mac Lab
- iQ Lab: This 21st-century STEAM-focused, innovation lab was funded through an anonymous donor who named the space and additional donations received during the heart raise of our 2019 auction.

Kenneth P. Wackes Media Center

Our newly renovated Dr. Kenneth P. Wackes Media Center was re-dedicated at a ceremony in the spring of 2019. We celebrated the completion of the project, but above all, we honored the life of our Headmaster Emeritus, Dr. Ken Wackes. Virtually everyone in the room was directly impacted by the life and work of Dr. Wackes—both as a leader and shepherd. We also heard from Ken’s lovely wife, Ruth, who joined us with her children and grandchildren. Technology and advancement were always at the forefront of Dr. Wackes’ vision for WA. Ruth felt it was quite fitting that this space bears his name, honoring his commitment to growth and learning.

The new design efficiently utilizes the current space while taking into consideration changes in instructional methods, technology, and the need for both individual and group study areas.

Two trees stand tall in the Lower School Media Center honoring the lives of Laurie Meacham '04 King, and Lilianne Lier Pacienza. A plaque on Laurie’s tree includes Jeremiah 17:8 and the words *‘What’s my legacy?’* also appear in her handwriting. While Laurie was hospitalized, the family read from her WA senior Bible where she had written the words “What is my legacy?” Since going to be with the Lord, Laurie’s legacy has been revealed in the lives of so many whom she touched in her 31 years this side of Heaven.

Lily’s plaque includes Psalm 46:10—it was her Psalm—*her* song of trust. Before Lily went to live with the Lord she would recite this verse, “Be still and know that I am God.” One of her favorite books was *Be Still*, a meditation on Psalm 46:10. Lily would add her own personal touch to a quote from the book, “God is mighty and strong, gentle and kind, like a kitty, (Lily’s addition) He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God.” Only God could arrange for a three-year-old to recite this comforting passage that would minister to her family while she lives in heaven.



Festus & Helen Stacy Foundation Lending Library

The Festus & Helen Stacy Foundation, the Stepelton family’s private foundation, was founded in 1980. Located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, they partner with Christian organizations worldwide that have demonstrated the ability to make a lasting impact benefiting mankind by helping others and extending the love, mercy, and teachings of Jesus Christ. Westminster Academy has been blessed by the generosity of the Festus & Helen Stacy Foundation in multiple endeavors, including the renovation of our west campus Athletic Complex turf field and the Dr. Kenneth P. Wackes Media Center renovation. In recognition of their generosity, the lending library of the Upper School Media Center bears their name. The Stepeltons are also a proud alumni family.



Lou Church Educational Foundation Board Room

The Lou Church Educational Foundation is named after Lou Church, an entrepreneur who was a shining example of the ability to prosper if you’re willing to work hard, take risks, innovate, and make use of your talents for the benefit of others. From humble beginnings, he developed a successful swimming pool construction company. Next, he created both a thriving restaurant business and travel agency. Through the Lou Church Educational Foundation, he hoped to preserve and perpetuate the values of a free enterprise system, of which education is a central component.

When Lou Church passed away in 1995, he bequeathed the foundation to his dear friend, Dr. Robert Helmholdt, to carry out his mission and values. Today, Mrs. Margie Helmholdt serves as Chair of the Foundation and continues to fulfill the mission, with a focus on organizations impacting our culture for Christ. The late Dr. Helmholdt, WA alumni parent and former President of the Lou Church Educational Foundation, said, “Lou Church was a dear friend of mine who loved children and had a profound appreciation for education. I’m sure that he’d be pleased to know that his foundation is helping to further education at a great school like Westminster Academy.” The foundation has graciously gifted over \$400,000 since 2002, for financial assistance and several east campus capital projects. Both a multi-purpose room and the executive board room located in the Dr. Kenneth P. Wackes Media Center, bear the name of the Lou Church Educational Foundation.



O'Brien Family Swimming Complex

The O'Brien Family Swimming Complex opened in June of 1999, just in time for summer camp and swim lessons. Bob and Marguerite O'Brien were instrumental in funding the Olympic-size pool. Their daughter, Cassandra Lee, tragically passed away in a car accident. Through trials, their faith triumphed. They understood Christ to be the Living Water, refreshing their souls which in part led to their desire to donate towards the pool as well as the fountain at the entrance of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. In addition to these capital projects, they provided a scholarship in their daughter's memory. For 23 years, thousands of students, community residents, and visitors have benefited from the swimming facilities at Westminster Academy—swimming, diving, and water polo competitions; safety training and swim lessons; summer camp, and just plain having fun in the water!



The Coningsby Family Training Pool

The Coningsby Family Training Pool is named in honor of the entire Coningsby Family: Parents, Bob and Bette (who went to be with the Lord in 2020), and their children and spouses: Bob and Diane, Todd and Joy, Gregg '81 and Susie, Russ and Cindy Perkins '79, and Kristi '88 and Bob Haley. Nine of Bob and Bette's grandchildren attended WA and one is a current student. The Coningsby family shares a legacy of generosity and has invested heavily in the robotics and tennis programs as well. We are grateful for their generosity from generation to generation.



West Campus

On Sunday, February 2, 1997, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and Westminster Academy announced the purchase of 34 acres of land near West Commercial Boulevard. Through the Project '97 Campaign, many generous donors helped develop the land into a state-of-the-art athletic complex.

Zachariah Family Tennis Complex

Dr. Mammen Zachariah and Dr. Molly Zachariah have been members of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church for 32 years. In 1998, during a Sunday morning sermon, Dr. Kennedy preached about the importance of investing in the next generation. He then made an appeal for the congregation to support Westminster Academy's capital campaign for the west campus Athletic Complex. The Zachariahs responded to the invitation to support the endeavor and the Zachariah Family Tennis Complex was named in their honor. The tennis complex was dedicated on June 26, 2001, and Dr. Mammen Zachariah, Dr. Molly Zachariah, and their son, Roy, were present for the occasion.



Hill Family Track & Field Complex

The Hill Family Track & Field Complex was dedicated on March 20, 1999. Jim Hill attended Miami Jackson High School where he ran track and in his senior year, set the school record in the quarter-mile relay team. Jim recognized track as a sport requiring individual talents as well as teamwork, and one where both girls and boys can participate. *"That and the discipline involved in the sport makes it very appealing for my wife, Ginger, and me to support. Ginger and I feel strongly about Westminster Academy and the great environment it provides for young people. The education they receive, the moral upbringing with the teaching based in the scriptures, and the love of Jesus so evident for the little ones through the high school is why we want to support this ministry,"* Jim shared. They were also proud WA grandparents. Thanks to generous gifts from Jim and Ginger Hill, along with gifts from alumni, alumni parents, friends, and two grants from the Broward County Waste Tire Agency, the track was completed and was ready for its first season on the west campus.

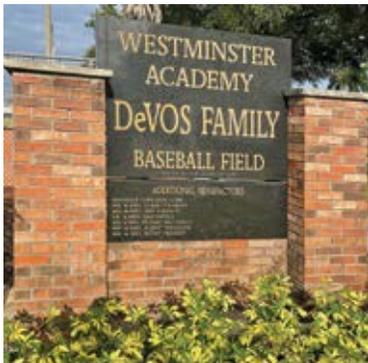




H.W. Huizenga Family Football Field

The late Wayne Huizenga was a businessman and entrepreneur. He founded AutoNation and Waste Management Inc. and was the owner or co-owner

of Blockbuster Video, the Miami Dolphins, the Florida Panthers, and the Florida Marlins (now Miami Marlins). Wayne Huizenga and his family had a long history of assisting Christian schools and Westminster Academy was blessed to be the recipient of a generous gift from the Huizenga Family Foundation in 1998 and 1999 that largely funded the field at the west campus Athletic Complex. Wayne and his wife Marti also donated to our 1978 capital campaign toward the gymnasium. Their daughter, Pamela Huizenga, attended WA in the 6th and 7th-grade.



DeVos Family Baseball Field

Richard and Helen DeVos had a long history of generosity towards Westminster Academy and Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. In 1996, they provided the start-up donation of \$1.2 million for the procurement of

the land for the west campus. The DeVos Family Baseball Field is named for them in honor of their generosity. Richard was the co-founder of Amway and owner of the Orlando Magic basketball team. He also authored several books including, *Hope From My Heart: Ten Lessons For Life*. The latter reflects his feelings after successfully undergoing a heart transplant operation in the United Kingdom in 1997 after being turned down for a transplant in the United States because of his age and diabetes. The Class of 2001 was blessed to have Mr. DeVos as their commencement speaker and he shared from his book, *“Do not let fear control you, do not let what others may think you can or cannot do determine what you can do if you want to do it. And so fear, we can overcome by faith.”* We were honored to have their daughter, Betsy DeVos, Former Secretary of Education, provide a special message for the Class of 2020.

The DeVos Family Baseball Complex was recognized by *USA Today* in 2000 as the top high school baseball facility in the nation and hosted the first nationally televised high school baseball tournament in the country.



Scan to hear Betsy DeVos Speech

Donor Funded Scholarships

Lorie Hayes Scholarship

WA Alumni mother, Lorie Hayes, was only 21 when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Throughout her battle with MS, Lorie was known to cultivate joy in those around her and exemplified a character of hope in trials, pointing others to Christ. Lorie's children created this scholarship to honor their mother's legacy and recognize students and teachers who have demonstrated Christian character in the midst of adversity. Each year students and teachers are nominated by faculty and staff, and Lorie's daughters, Christy Hayes '00 Richardson and Dawn Hayes '02 Scharer, determine recipients.

Laurie Meacham '04 King Scholarship

Laurie Meacham '04 King had a zest for life and service to others that were unparalleled and contagious. Her devotion to family and her faith in the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, was the foundation that allowed her to shine in the lives of so many. Though her impact was wide-reaching, Laurie loved to minister to others one on one, meeting them at the very point of their need. Despite her daily health challenges, she used every opportunity to support others in times of need with prayer, encouragement, and action. Laurie's family created this scholarship to provide financial assistance for students who experience hardship and to honor Laurie's legacy of encouraging others in their time of need.

Michael Grimmé Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Donald and Pamela Grimmé, Michael's grandparents. Michael was a junior at WA when he tragically passed away in 2006. Their desire is to honor Michael and recognize a student, nominated by a faculty member, who demonstrated the most improvement at the end of his/her sophomore year. Michael's parents also donated the Grimmé clock which has become a landmark on our campus, reminding students to deeply appreciate the time they have together and encouraging students to live every moment to the fullest.

Foundation for Christian Living

This scholarship is awarded annually to a rising freshman who has been identified for demonstrating Christian character by members of the Westminster Academy community. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage Christian parents to provide a Christ-centered education for their children and to encourage Christian students in being the light of the world by letting their light so shine that others may see their good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. The scholarship is renewed annually as long as the student remains enrolled and continues to set an example of Christian character. The Foundation for Christian Living was established by an alumni family who wishes to remain anonymous.

Endowment

Irv and Joan Zylstra Endowment

Serving at a Christian school is a calling. It is a way of life that incorporates the entire family. While this important work often brings great joy, it also includes sacrifice. Often that sacrifice includes family finances. Irv and Joan Zylstra embodied the very best of Christian education as they were involved in school leadership across South Florida, including Irv's tenure as principal at Westminster Academy. Joel '83 and Linda Zylstra have honored that legacy by establishing an endowment with an initial \$300,000 gift benefiting tuition costs for current WA faculty and staff.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Fine Arts

Alumni Testimonials

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens...Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. – Psalm 150

Our award-winning program consists of numerous class offerings in art, band, chorus, dance, drama, music, orchestra, and broadcasting. Our upper school music program has been awarded a Music Enrollment Award by the Florida Music Educators Association for surpassing 35% of our student population participating in the Fine Arts multiple times. In 2016 the music department received the Support Music Merit Award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for our school's outstanding commitment to music education. WA was one of ninety-two schools nationally and one of only three schools in Florida to receive this distinct honor.

Choir

Ashley Briggs '15 Horvath
Singer, Songwriter, Member of
Journey Worship Co., Lebanon, TN

With a performance talent "discovered" in 4th grade by elementary choir teacher Mrs. Loomis and developed throughout high school by Mr. Briggs, Ashley is a member of Journey Worship Co. The group recently released a full-length live album and she loves being on the road, playing camps, churches, and gatherings.

"I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to graduate from WA, something I realize more and more as I get older. Growing up in a Christian school prepared me not just in an educational way, but more importantly in a faith-based way. Having that biblical foundation to stand on in a world that is telling you that truth is whatever you want it to be, is something I will never take for granted."



From virtual, computer-based instrumentation to world-class session players to full ensembles and orchestras, such as the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and members of the Nashville String Machine, John has worked with many different musical talents throughout his career. His work has been featured on The Discovery Channel, History Channel, PBS, ABC Nightline, A&E Biography, BBC, FOX Network, Netflix, Focus on the Family, Answers in Genesis Creation Museum, Compassion International, and been included in many independent feature films.

"The years I spent at WA not only allowed me to find and pursue my passions in areas such as music and the sciences but also firmly grounded me in the word of God, thereby allowing me to continue these pursuits in college and beyond with clear worldview and perspective that continued to allow me to grow academically and spiritually throughout my life."

Orchestra

John William Doryk '81
Award-Winning Television/
Film Composer
Colorado Springs, CO

John has been creating original music and sound design for film and television for over 25 years. Classically trained in operatic voice, violin, viola, and guitar, he started playing music at the age of five. Through his high school and college years, he went on to learn and play in symphonic ensembles, folk and bluegrass bands, played and toured with progressive rock bands, and eventually studied the craft of film composing under one of Hollywood's top orchestrators, Steven Scott Smalley.



Band

MaryGrace Adamson '18
Strategic Planning and Integration Intern at
The Walt Disney World Company, Orlando, FL

"Westminster Academy's Band program has left a profound and indefinite impact on me. Each student, regardless of skill level, was challenged to achieve beyond expectation. Mr. Carroll, specifically, took a chance on me as a new student in the program and encouraged me to pursue All-County Band. The literature we performed as an ensemble at WA was interesting, sometimes unconventional, but was seemingly always the perfect fit for our band and our collective skill set. Not a class went by that we did not pray or give thanks to God for the gift of music. I am so thankful, almost five years later, to have been taught by Mr. Carroll and been a part of such a wonderful group of students."



Drama

Luci Seims '84 Higgins,
Ed.D.

**Superintendent,
Cornerstone Christian Schools,
San Antonio, TX**



Great-Granddaughter of Hamilton M. and Blanche C. Forman (Please see page 22)

"Auditions for the spring musical, *Oliver*, were held shortly after I arrived at Westminster Academy midway through my sophomore year. My favorite song in the musical was and remains to this day to be "Consider Yourself." Although everyone was welcoming and kind, becoming a member of the cast made me feel just as the lyrics from the song stated, I became "one of the family." I fell in love with the theatre. I learned to keep my composure and to continue performing when things did not go as planned. Other key skills I began to develop included active listening, reading the room, rapidly identifying problems, and finding creative solutions in real-time while an audience watched. There is not a day that goes by that I have not applied the skills initially developed during my time learning and growing in the classrooms, gym, and theatre at Westminster Academy.

The prayerful dedication of Mr. Briggs to develop and train me in theatre with a biblical worldview has continued to the next generation. In my first year as a teacher, I initiated a theatre program at a middle school. Now my oldest daughter is a middle school theatre director. She recently directed *Peter Pan, Jr.* with a cast of over 100 students. The WA lion legacy continues to roar!"

Drama

Daniel Schwab '07

**Casting Associate at Ulrich/Dawson/Kritzer Casting
Los Angeles, CA**



"Westminster Academy was pivotal in forming the foundation upon which my entire career is built. Not only was I challenged academically by so many wonderful teachers, but I was also artistically mentored and encouraged by teachers like Lisa and John Wilson, David Schwartz, Laura Groves, and Richard Briggs. Mr. Briggs was the first person who told me he believed I could pursue a career in the arts, and he was right! I was given an opportunity at a young age to explore my passions without fear of failure. And I was sent off into the world with a greater sense of artistic integrity and spiritual dedication that will stay with me throughout my life."

Broadcasting

Javier Pena '10

**Senior Bilingual Content Strategy Specialist,
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital,
Memphis, TN**



Javier's daily work includes storytelling, fundraising, and raising awareness for the lifesaving mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Javier and his wife are both active in their church community as worship leaders and representatives for MICAH—a group of community and faith-based organizations focused on equity and justice in the city of Memphis.

"When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that I'm a storyteller and that passion was born on the stage at Westminster Academy. I'm eternally grateful to Mr. Briggs, Mrs. Wilson, and Dr. Groves for instilling in me a love for theatre that led to me acting alongside both my sister and my wife, and becoming the passionate storyteller I am today."

Visual Arts

Marcy Lowe '90 Beaupied

Art Educator and Artist, Fort Lauderdale, FL



"My time at WA prepared me for what I'm doing now through the encouragement and attentiveness of the teachers I had. When I became an art teacher, Peg Madonna took me under her wing and mentored me. Not only did these educators show me how to be a good teacher, but they also instilled confidence and wisdom in me that helped me find my calling as an artist. I received my degree in education with a specialization in art. It has been a thrill to be able to give back to the WA community through the elementary after-school art program I ran for many years, helping with sets for various musicals, and teaching high school and AP Art for the 2014–15 school year. Most importantly, my three decades of involvement with the school, as a student, faculty member, and parent have fostered my love for the Lord and total reliance on Him for everything!"

Mr. Jeff Carroll

WA Band Director, Retired



"It was a true privilege to have served the Lord for 41 years at WA. During my career, the band trips, concerts, and musicals were always the highlights. I was truly blessed to have worked with so many incredible fine art students."

Upon Jeff's retirement in 2021, the band room was named the Jeff Carroll Band Room in his honor.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Fine Arts

Performances



"We are called to 'Come into His presence with music and to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.' This is what we strive to do every day and to point our young people to paint, film, and create works of art, and sing, and make music with instruments, and to perform on stage and to do everything for His glory. From our first overseas fine arts trip to Quito, Ecuador, in 1984, to our recent international appearance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest arts festival, Westminster Academy students have traveled across the United States and around the globe to use their gifts and talents for God's glory."

- Lisa Wilson, Director of Fine Arts



The WA Drama department has a legacy of creating high quality productions. From humble beginnings of a makeshift stage in the school gym to full-blown productions on the fellowship hall stage, the shows are a step above others through showcasing a live professional orchestra, renting flying machines, and designing beautiful sets, costumes and more.

High School Productions

- 1976 *Firebugs*
- 1980 *Miracle Worker*
- 1981 *Peter Pan*
- 1982 *Oliver*
- 1983 *Bye Bye Birdie*
- 1984 *Annie*
- 1985 *Arsenic and Old Lace*
- 1986 *Wizard of Oz*
- 1987 *Godspell*
- 1988 *Comedy Tonight*
- 1989 *The Music Man*
- 1990 *Oklahoma*
- 1991 *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*
- 1992 *Cinderella*
- 1993 *The Boyfriend*
- 1994 *The Sound of Music*
- 1995 *Annie Warbucks (the sequel to Annie)*
- 1996 *The Apple Tree*
- 1997 *L'il Abner*
- 1998 *Princess and the Pea*
- 1999 *Annie Get Your Gun*
- 2000 *Bye Bye Birdie*
- 2001 *West Side Story*
- 2002 *No, No Nanette*
- 2003 *Hello, Dolly!*
- 2004 *Me and My Girl*
- 2005 *Anne of Green Gables*
- 2006 *State Fair*
- 2007 *Jane Eyre*
- 2008 *Annie*
- 2009 *Little Women*
- 2010 *The King and I*
- 2011 *Peter Pan*
- 2012 *Godspell*
- 2013 *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- 2014 *Oklahoma*
- 2015 *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
- 2016 *Wizard of Oz*
- 2017 *Into the Woods*
- 2018 *You Can't Take It With You*
- 2019 *Once Upon a Mattress*
- 2020 *Sound of Music (rehearsed but not performed due to COVID-19)*
- 2021 *Little Women*
- 2022 *Shrek*

Lower School and Middle School Productions

- 2019 *Peter Pan*
- 2021 *Give My Regards to Broadway*
- 2022 *Cinderella*



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Fine Arts

A world-wide reach

Band

WA bands have appeared on the national TV program *The Coral Ridge Hour*, performed at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and on a worldwide broadcast on HCJB radio in Quito, Ecuador, the earliest major religious shortwave station in the world. The bands have also played for former President Ronald Reagan and Vice President Dan Quayle.

The band has performed at Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, Busch Gardens, and the Hard Rock Café, Orlando, Six Flags Georgia, and Maryland, and Stone Mountain Georgia.

National

Colorado Springs, Colorado
Atlanta, Georgia
Washington, D.C.
Orlando, Florida
San Juan, Puerto Rico

International

Carnival Cruise Lines
Free Port, Bahamas
La Fortuna and Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Merida, Mexico
Quito, Ecuador

Choir

Westminster Academy choir students have participated in the All-National Choirs, the Southern Division of the United States Choirs, All-State Choirs, and the Broward County Choirs. They have received Superior awards at district and state level adjudications and competitions.

National

Boston, Massachusetts
New York City, New York
Orlando, Florida

International

Rome, Florence, and Venice, Italy
Katterbach Air Force Base, Germany
St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna, Austria
Salzburg Cathedral, Salzburg, Austria

Drama

In 2019, the drama department was chosen by the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) to be one of the high school performance groups representing the United States at the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland—the largest arts festival in the entire world! Seventeen students spent two weeks in the United Kingdom.

Orchestra

The Westminster Academy orchestra has participated in both All-County and All-State events, as well as district and state competitions where they have won superiors. The orchestra program is also involved in outreach and has performed for students in a facility for children in hospice in Dublin, Ireland, for adults with disabilities in Broward County, for elderly residents at a nursing home in Boston, Massachusetts, and for a group of scientists at the MIT Haystack radio telescope.

National

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Chicago, Illinois
San Francisco, California
Boston, Massachusetts
Tampa and Orlando, Florida
Nashville, Tennessee
Washington, D.C.
New York City, New York

International

Dublin, Ireland
Montreal, Canada



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST Robotics Competition
Team 744—Shark Attack



The story of the Westminster Academy High School Robotics Team begins in the year 2000 when Fred and Karen Hord of HPE Automation Corporation, Motorola Inc., and FRC Team 267—Demolition Squad planted the idea for a new robotics team with the owners of APEX Machine Company, a physics teacher, and a small group of students at Pine Crest School. Within the same year, APEX Machine Company invited Dr. Wackes to explore high school robotics and he tasked a new science teacher and engineer, Kent Stolley, to lead this endeavor. Within a few short weeks, WA students were working on building their first robot as part of an alliance with Pine Crest School, Westminster Academy, and a

In 2021, the Founder's Award was presented to APEX Machine Company, owned by the Coningsby Family for their company's steadfast and extraordinary support of our robotics team for two decades. Gregg Coningsby has been a mentor on our team for over 16 years.

local industrial plant! The team became known as FRC Team 710 PAW and we worked so well together that we earned a Johnson & Johnson Sportsmanship Award. Judges loved the tale of two fierce rival schools building and competing so well together. In 2008, we became a one-school team, FRC Team 744—Shark Attack, and since that time, we have won 26 major awards, and also gained a reputation as “the team that prays!” Recent years required flexibility due to the pandemic canceling in-person competitions, but our team competed on the world stage using videos of our robot performing several assigned tasks in the WA gymnasium. When the results were analyzed and confirmed by the judges, our team had outscored all others in Florida. This year our team earned its way to the quarter-finals as an alliance captain in each of two regional competitions!



Top Honors

- Finalist** World Championship Galileo Division 9—2012
- Winners** Orlando Regional—2013
- Finalist** Woody Flowers Award (Kent Stolley)—2013
- Winners** Orlando Regional—2015
- Judges' Award** Orlando Regional (for securing STEM/robotics funds in Tallahassee)—2017
- Winners** Smoky Mountains Regional—2017
- Engineering Inspiration Award**—2018 and 2019
- FIRST Dean's List Finalist Award** (Jennae Katic)—2019
- Innovation in Control Award** sponsored by Rockwell Automation World Championship—Hopper Division—2019
- Three consecutive World Championships** 2017, 2018, and 2019



By the numbers

22 robots
22 seasons

Competed in

13 world championships

Won

3 regional championships

100+ demonstrations

Our lobbying in Tallahassee resulted in **\$1,200,000.00** in state funding for robotics

“ I am a Team Leader for a group called Modeling, Simulation, and Training Tools for the Walt Disney Company. We focus on aiding the design of new and existing rides, shows, and attractions through computer simulation to help ensure they will work before they are built. In particular, I get to work in the areas of animatronics and robotics in which my learning and interest began on the robotics team at WA. I knew out of high school what I wanted to do, which is rare.” When asked how WA helped him discover his gifts and talents, Dan shared, “the robotics side of this is obvious through the club, team, and support. I think the other side is leadership. The foundation and worldview I developed at WA helped me transition into leadership roles in college and eventually the workplace.”



Dan Richardson '04

Athletics

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8



Athletic Hall of Honor

The Westminster Academy Athletic Hall of Honor was established in 2014 to honor the men and women who have made outstanding contributions to the WA Athletic program since 1971. The mighty Lions have been blessed by a distinguished athletic legacy, and we recognize and honor our exceptional alumni, coaches, and contributors who were instrumental in the success of our athletic program. As a way to continue to promote the mission of WA and to inspire excellence in athletics and the overall educational journey of our students, we celebrate our recipients for their demonstration of discipline, sacrifice, perseverance, cooperation, and commitment to athletics for God's glory at WA.

Athletes

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Erin Martin '77 | Shawna Vest '90 | Melissa Cundiff '00 |
| Linda Menees '78 | Kristen Galuppi '91 | Amy Cochran '02 |
| Sheree Kasch '79 | Rachel Jominy '91 | Dana Pounds '02 |
| Richard McArthur '79 | Ehren Wallhoff '91 | Leane Darling '03 |
| James McCann '79 | Danny Kanell '92 | Kevin Chapman '06 |
| Kurt Wade '79 | Brian Kovack '92 | Matthew den Dekker '06 |
| Sally Smith '81 | John Bona '97 | Chris Hall '06 |
| Carri Sipowski '83 | Kevin McKinnon '97 | Michael Taylor '09 |
| Mike Claeys '85 | Graydon Oliver '97 | Steel Lafferty '10 |
| Jennifer Garvin '88 | Devin Pierce '97 | Anthony John Barbar '11 |
| Richard Hanna '88 | Joshua Pressley '98 | Patricia Kranz '11 |
| Thomas Fagley '90 | Jimmy Bishop '00 | Caroline Israels '13 |





Ehren Wallhoff '91
Director of Athletics

Ehren played football and basketball for WA and in his senior year the football team won the State Championship. He also broke the school record at the time by scoring his 2,000th point. Ehren took over the men's basketball program at WA in 2002

and became the Athletic Director in 2020. A career highlight was leading the men's basketball team to victory in the class 4A state championship three years in a row!

"It has been an honor and privilege to be part of the Westminster Academy family of coaches. The opportunity to coach great kids and see them succeed in life is and always will be the greatest achievement. Love being a Lion—Lion pride!"

In Their Own Words

“ The WA basketball athletic program is more about character than competition. I will always be grateful to my coaches for encouraging my relationship with the Lord as the key to excellence in all things.”



Sally Smith '81 Purvis

National Walter Camp All American Basketball team

“ Being a diver on the WA swimming and diving team was a part of high school that I will never forget. I was surrounded by coaches who supported my dreams and helped mold my future as a collegiate athlete. As a WA athlete, I learned the skills and determination to give my best in everything I do while striving to honor God through it all.”



Patti Kranz '11

Four-Time Diving State Champion, 2007–2010

“ This past month, I finished my swimming career at the 2022 NCAA championships where my team and I won our second national title, back to back. I'm so proud of what I was able to accomplish during my swimming career, but I must give credit to the people who raised me, my parents, as well as my coaches and teachers at WA. They taught me that my value is not rooted in my accomplishments, but in the fact that I'm a child of God. Knowing that I'm loved unconditionally by Jesus has given me the ability to compete without the fear of failure, which is why I believe I've been so successful in athletics.”



Jessica Nava '18

Five-Time State Champion, 100 Butterfly 2015–2017, 100 Backstroke 2016–2017

Teams

- 1979 Men's Track & Field Team State Champions
- 1979 Men's Track & Field Team State Champions
- 1983–85, 1987–88 Men's Cross Country State Champion Dynasty
- 1990 Men's Football Team State Champions
- 1990 Softball Team State Champions
- 1990 Women's Basketball Team State Champions
- 1999 Baseball Team State Champions
- 1999 Softball State Champions
- 2002 Basketball Team State Champions

Coaches

Bruce Buit, Tom Fagley, Denise Israels, Ken Key, LeRoy Schwab, Carolyn Steenhoek, Mike McPherson, Bill Murton, Larry Burnsworth, Ehren Wallhoff '92, and Jeff Smith



Athletics

Championship History

28

State Titles

92

Regional Titles

267

District Titles



STATE TITLES

70s

1976 Ladies' Track & Field
1979 Men's Track & Field

80s

1983–85, 1987–88 Men's Cross Country
1987–88 Ladies' Track & Field

90s

1990 Football
1990–91 Ladies' Basketball
1999 Baseball
1990–91, 1993, 1999 Softball

2000s

2000 Baseball
2002 Men's Basketball
2008 Men's Track & Field

2010s

2017–19 Men's Basketball 3-Peat
2016 Men's Cross Country
2014–15, 2017 Men's Track & Field
2022 Ladies' Varsity Basketball



In addition to our outstanding team championships, many individuals have represented WA at the state and national level. Our aquatics program recently created a banner displayed by the pool that recognizes our swim and dive athletes that achieved All-American, recognized as the top 100 in the nation. Scan here to view the banner.





National Male and Female 3-Point Shot Records

Chase Johnston '19 set the all-time national record for career made 3-pointers for a male high school player with a total of 546 made 3-pointers.



Emma Wallhoff '21 broke the national high school record with 581 made 3-pointers for a female athlete. Emma also broke WA's all time female scoring record with a total of 2,557 career points.



Athletics

Excellence at the Next Level

Danny Kanell '92

2014 WA Hall of Honor Inductee

Danny was a gifted all-around athlete who played football, basketball, and baseball. He led WA to one of its first state championships in 1990. Following his high school football career, he played quarterback for the Florida State Seminoles for all four years, where he broke almost all passing records, totaling 6,372 yards and 57 touchdowns.

He won the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in the category of Player of the Year in 1995. In the same year, he also won the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in the category of Offensive Player of the Year. He was drafted by the New York Giants in the fourth round and also played professionally for the Atlanta Falcons and Denver Broncos from 1996 to 2004. He was inducted into the Broward Sports Hall of Fame as the Class of 2008. Danny was the first WA athlete to be honored with the Brian Piccolo Award in 1992. He was the first-ever to have a jersey retired in 2009. Currently, Danny is a CBS sports football analyst.



Matthew den Dekker '06

2016 WA Hall of Honor Inductee

Matt played baseball and golf at Westminster Academy. He led the team his senior year with a batting average of .460 and also had three home runs, 29 hits, 26 runs scored, 13 RBIs, and a pitching record of 4-1. Matt then received an athletic scholarship to play baseball for the University of Florida. The Gators made it to the 2010 College World Series and he made the national spotlight as he was highlighted on *ESPN SportsCenter Top Ten Plays*. He was offered the opportunity to play professionally his junior year but felt he still had room to improve and continued with the Gators his senior season. After graduation, he signed with the New York Mets organization and played for their AA team in Birmingham as well as their AAA team in Buffalo. He then played professionally for the Washington Nationals as an Outfielder. Matt retired in 2019 after ten seasons in Major League Baseball with the Mets, Nationals, and Tigers. He is currently coaching with the New York Mets in player development.



Kevin Chapman '06

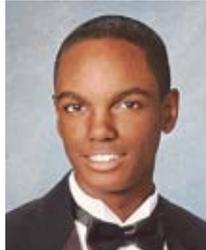
2014 WA Hall of Honor Inductee

Kevin played baseball for Westminster Academy and was a dominate left-handed pitcher. After being named *Sun Sentinel's* Player of the Year his junior year, Kevin played baseball for the University of Florida and then signed with the Kansas City Royals in 2010. He was traded to the Houston Astros in 2012. He was called up to the majors for the first time in August of 2013, and played for the Houston Astros until 2016.

Michael Taylor '09

2015 WA Hall of Honor Inductee

Michael played baseball and basketball for Westminster Academy. He was a three-year letter winner in baseball and was named Offensive Player of the Year. He was also Second Team All-State and First Team All-County in baseball. After graduating from WA, Michael was drafted in the sixth round of the 2009 MLB draft by the Washington Nationals and made his MLB debut with them in 2014. Michael's many honors include Potomac National Player of the Year, 2014 Baseball American AAA All-Star, 2014 Rookie of the Year Eastern League, and 2014 Future Stars Game Selection. In 2019, the season culminated with a Washington Nationals World Series victory over the Houston Astros. In addition, Michael became only the 39th player in Major League history to hit a home run in their first World Series at-bat. His WA jersey was retired in 2020 after this outstanding accomplishment. In 2020, he signed as a free agent with the Kansas City Royals and in 2021, Michael won the Gold Glove Award.



© Getty Images

Anthony John Barbar '11

2016 WA Hall of Honor Inductee

AJ played basketball, water polo, and swam for Westminster Academy. He swam all three relays and the 50 yard freestyle. He received All-American and State Runner-Up in the 200 freestyle relay and was a state finalist in the 50 yard freestyle. He then

went on to swim for Oklahoma Baptist University's swim team. After graduation, AJ joined the Lebanon National Team and competed in the 50 meter butterfly race in the World Championship in Kazan, Russia. He received a best time and set a new Lebanese record for the 50 fly. His time



was 24.88 seconds which ranked him 44th at the World Championships. AJ then broke this record with a time of 24.25. He has also set a new record time of 23.29 in the 50 free style for Lebanon. AJ proudly represented Lebanon in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.



Brian Piccolo Award Recipients

While Westminster Academy has had many nominees over the years, two have been selected to receive the prestigious honor of the Brian Piccolo Award, **Danny Kanell '92** and **Riley Clements '21**. The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Brian Piccolo Chapter honors scholar-athletes who excel both academically in the classroom and athletically on the football field.



Danny Kanell



Riley Clements



Michael Taylor and Danny Kanell are the only two athletes in school history to have their jerseys retired. Danny attended the ceremony held for Michael during Winter Court in 2020.

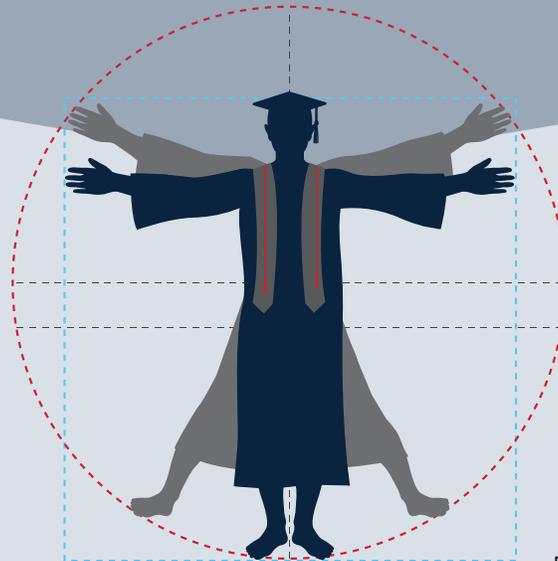
Portrait of a Graduate

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2a

The academic rigor of our program and intentional development of students' character is best displayed in the lives of over 4,000 alumni.

Christian scholarship lies at the very core of Westminster Academy. This distinctive quality has set WA apart from all other educational opportunities in South Florida. It is driven by the deeply-rooted belief that faith and



intellect are gifts from God—our Creator and Redeemer.

Our graduates have received extraordinary amounts of college scholarships. Many go on to attend the top-tier universities in the nation including the United States Military Service Academies, UNC at Chapel Hill, Covenant, Duke, University of Florida, Florida State University, Furman, Georgia Tech, Gordon, Harvard, Holy Cross, MIT, Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Stanford, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Wheaton, and Yale.

Westminster Academy graduates are...

- Christ-Followers** **Community Builders**
- Committed To Excellence**
- Compassionate Contributors**
- Critical Thinkers**

Bruce Bromley, '73

Member of WA's first graduating class



Bruce Bromley currently works at Bromley-Cook Engineering in South Florida. As a part of the WA family from the very beginning—even doing donuts in the Pompano Harness Track parking lot (shhh!)—Bruce shares treasured memories about his days as a WA Lion—particularly of basketball coach LeRoy Schwab. ***“I remember looking at Coach Schwab along the sidelines, there were times he would have the towel in his mouth, times when he would be slapping at the floor with that towel, and times he would flip the towel over his shoulder. These are memories I can never forget and are memories that I chuckle about to this day.”*** Today, Bruce, who attends Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church with his wife of 35 years, Christine, speaks for countless alumni when he shares his gratitude: ***“I am glad Dr. Kennedy had that vision, and that my parents pushed my sister and me to attend WA. The Christian education, the Christian worldview, and the growth of one’s soul, as a young Christian, were irreplaceable. I am very grateful for this school, and am appreciative of all the prayers for my life from the people who cared for me.”***

Fred Roccanti, '77

First alumni couple

Fred Roccanti graduated from WA in 1977 and became a builder—holding positions on crews, and assisting other master builders until he stepped into the role himself. Fred married Dawn Tyson '77 in 1978 and they became the first alumni couple. In 1980, they welcomed their first child, Andrea, who would become the first graduate of WA to have alumni parents. The Roccantis' four children and now six grandchildren have been the focus of decades of teaching, loving, and nurturing them to become unique individuals. While Fred and Dawn built a life together, Fred was also busy building his own business. **“But,”** he says, **“there were other things to build.”** And build, he did. Fred has been building communities, programs, and projects ever since! He was actively involved in projects at St. Coleman's Church, through his Kiwanis Club, and as a parent at WA—where he was active in the creation of the Booster Club, capital campaigns, coaching basketball, and running concession stands. Now a Senior Vice President with Morgan Stanley, Fred and Dawn live in The Villages, Florida.

Fred's encouragement to current WA students is this: **“To be a builder you must have materials, labor, and leadership to accomplish the vision. Use your unique talents and skills to become a builder!”**



Cathie Bocci '79 Fital

What do KC and the Sunshine Band, Mr. Fagley, and dedicated prayer warriors have in common? For Cathie, it's the WA Class of 1979. Like many WA seniors throughout the years, Cathie has fond memories of Grad Nite at Walt Disney World—and hers are tied to the superstar party group known for “Get Down Tonight.” Does KC remind her of her favorite math teacher? Probably not, but she does credit Mr. Fagley with her chosen career path! Learning at WA that she was “pretty good at math,” Cathie pursued an accounting degree from Geneva College and has been a controller for 35 years. She's been married to her husband, David, for 27 years, and together they love their roles as “favorite aunt and uncle.” From Cathie: **“One thing I wanted to share is how the Class of '79 has the best prayer warriors in the world.”** Going through a family member's health crisis, Cathie was able to reach out to her WA classmates for prayer—even 30 years after graduation. **“The outpouring of love and support from the Class of '79 through the next few months was overwhelming...I want to thank WA for literally giving me life-long friends!”**



Jaimie Schwiertert '78 Hebda

There aren't many in the WA community who can claim to be a part of all five decades, but Jaimie proudly does! She enrolled as a seventh-grader in 1972 and graduated with the Class of 1978—returning eight years later to become a beloved kindergarten teacher. In 1997, after being a part of the only (known) marriage proposal to happen in a WA classroom, Jaimie left to spend some time at home with her two boys. She returned in 2005 and has held numerous roles as a member of the WA faculty since then. Even the Hebda boys, Andrew and Bradley, are WA “Lifers,” attending from Pre-K through graduation. As one of our earliest graduates,

Jaimie has some unique memories—especially when it comes to athletics! She shares: **“As a student in the 1970s, football games were on Saturday afternoons on the “east campus” because there was no “west campus.” I enjoyed marching during halftime as a member of the Lion's Pride Drill Team/Flag Corps. Basketball was great too. We didn't have a gym in those days so we played our home games at Cardinal Gibbons. Even though we didn't have our own gym there was a lot of school spirit and the games were well attended. We would end the night by all going out for pizza.”** The WA Community is grateful that Mrs. Hebda has shared so much of her life with us!



Scott Warner '82

“To say that Westminster Academy changed my life would be an understatement,” says Scott Warner. **“I came to Westminster in the sixth grade and it was there that I first heard and understood the message of the gospel. I became a Christ-follower at that point and was nurtured by the faculty of WA and disciplined by the staff of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church.”** WA set Scott on a trajectory that would lead him to a life of serving others, both as a doctor and the founder of a Christian school in Cullman, Alabama. Scott graduated from Mercer University and received his M.D. from the University of Florida in 1990. He specializes in Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, Sleep Medicine, and EMS. Scott shares: **“When our oldest child was finishing kindergarten we felt the Lord leading us to establish a Christian school in our community. We joined forces with Andrew and Allison Siegenthaler... Together we founded K-12 Cullman Christian School where our children attended.”** In addition to a passion for Christian education, Scott developed a love for foreign languages at WA which began with Spanish teacher Trish Perkins in 7th grade—with whom he remains close friends today. Scott and his wife, Tina, **“pray that God will bless CCS (Cullman Christian School) and it will have the same impact on our graduates like WA did for me.”**



David Cornell '83

As a mechanical engineer for NASA's Launch Services Program, David Cornell works with the team responsible for all non-human science and robotic missions for earth and planetary science. David makes sure the rocket selected for the mission works with the spacecraft to ensure proper assembly at the launch site, which is an out-of-this-world way to use God's gifts! David feels blessed to participate in the final spacecraft mate and testing through the launch. After earning his degree from the Florida Institute of Technology, David sought work at the Kennedy Space Center. He says, ***"I have worked with submarines, space shuttles, and Mars rovers and all this has helped me to see the caliber of individuals at WA is exceptional. Although I did not fully recognize my blessings of teachers and friends at the time, I am reminded of this regularly. My wife Charlene Walters '83 is one of these exceptional individuals."*** What does this surfing, engineering, rocket-launching grad hope students learn from his experience? ***"Westminster is preparing you for an unknown future. I would encourage you to say something kind to fellow students each opportunity, and enjoy attending one of the finest schools in one of the best cities in the greatest country. Thank your parents and appreciate God's amazing creation every day."***



David Vila '84

David Vila, Distinguished Professor of Religion and Philosophy, has been teaching at John Brown University since 1999 after finishing a Ph.D. in Historical Theology at Saint Louis University. David teaches Biblical Studies and World Religions courses. Much of his research and publications focus on early Christian/Muslim relations and the early development of Arabic Christianity. He shares that when he graduated from high school—where his favorite class was American History with Mr. Joynt—he wanted to be ***"cool, but that never quite worked out."*** But we disagree. As the Director of the Archaeological Excavations at Abila of the Decapolis in Northwest Jordan, David has spent two years living in Amman, Jordan, as a Fulbright Scholar. That's pretty cool, David! He shares: ***"WA had a profound impact on me as a person and grounded me in my Christian faith in ways that I still feel—especially through the faithful work of Ken Key and Dr. Wackes."*** As for his words of wisdom to current WA students, David hopes they'll embrace the perspective that ***"Life is not about accumulating money or things, but about loving God and loving people."***



Kim Sipowski '84 Nava

"WA gave me the security that my identity was in Christ. The idea that I was known by God, that I was important to him and created for a purpose was reinforced daily by even the smallest gestures. I can remember Mrs. Kurtgis worrying that I was tired from my early morning swim practice or the laughter and embarrassment we all experienced from Mr. Fagley's burn machine. No one escaped, and I suspect, no one wanted to. To be included on the burn machine meant you belonged." Kim's feeling of "belonging" led to her and husband Robert's decision to enroll all six of their daughters at WA, where they would all become "lifers." As a school board member and mom of athletes, Kim still spends countless hours at WA events, in addition to being an Agent for State Farm Insurance. Kim shares, ***"Discover for yourself who God is. I mistakenly viewed the Bible as another textbook. I knew how to read it and like everyone at WA, I knew what was in it, but it took me until the age of 32 to open it up and seek to know God. Do not wait that long. It is not another textbook. It is as Dr. Kennedy would say, 'His love letters to us.' When was the last time you opened God's love letters to you?"***



Scott Dillon '85

Scott Dillon just completed his 33rd year working in Christian education, and it all started in Mr. Fagley's Geometry class in 1980. He explains: ***"Mr. Tom Fagley gave an assignment in geometry to guesstimate the volume of Noah's Ark. I had never opened a Bible at school before. It felt strange and wonderful. And that was just the beginning."*** Inspired by his WA teachers Tom Fagley, Loretta Boyett, Tom DeRosa, and the rest, Scott went on to Covenant College, where he studied to become a math/science teacher. ***"I was particularly intrigued to think of math as the language of science and science as a means to learn more about God as we study His general revelation."*** Scott and his wife, Amy, began their careers in South Florida, where he pursued a master's degree in school administration. Scott then served at Covenant Day School near Charlotte, North Carolina, for nineteen years—teaching, coaching, and serving as their founding high school principal, before God called the Dillons to Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he now serves as the head of school at Westminster Catawba Christian School. Scott and Amy have four children and one grandchild scattered throughout the South. ***"I am so very thankful that HE called me/us to Christian education in both passion and occupation,"*** Scott says. ***"Thank you, WESTMINSTER ACADEMY!"***



Angela Lloyd '86

Since graduating Angela Lloyd has held many roles. As an actor and model (***"Thank you Mr. Briggs for the drama and literature classes! I have always appreciated you!"***) you may have seen Angela in commercials for Neutrogena, Sears, Ford, or on TV shows like *Days of Our Lives* and *Star Trek Voyager*. Or maybe you'd recognize her work as a Disney caricature artist or a mural artist (***"Thank you, Mrs. Kraft, who inspired and encouraged me, helping me to realize the gift the Lord had given me!"***). She also served as a houseparent and Executive Director of House of Hope Orlando, a faith-based, residential treatment program for abused, hurting, and rebellious teenagers. But Angela shares that WA helped prepare her for the most important role of her life and her biggest achievement which was ***"raising a child on the Autism spectrum to be a functioning, productive member of society who loves the Lord and is using his gifts for God's glory."*** Diagnosed at two, non-verbal until four, and couldn't put a sentence together until he was seven, Angela's son, Danny, just graduated *magna cum laude* from high school and is preparing for his college auditions with the hope of entering a leading arts college program in 2022. Go change the world, Danny!



Morris Gallion '93

"Don't quit, turk." As a varsity football player, those were words Morris Gallion heard daily from Football Coach Bill Murton—and they've stayed with him. ***"Playing varsity football...taught me discipline, respect for authority, attention to detail, a hard work ethic, a 'team before me' attitude, mental and physical toughness...I still draw strength from my time under his leadership."*** Morris has been able to use the leadership skills he developed as a WA Lion in his career. As Chief Preconstruction Manager for Brasfield & Gorrie General Contractors in the Atlanta area, Morris leads teams to plan, budget, and schedule construction projects all over the southeast. In 2018, his firm presented him with the Brasfield & Gorrie Founders Award for his commitment to excellence and willingness to serve. Morris, his wife Julie, and their three children attend Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia. Morris shares this about how his time at WA prepared him for the future, ***"[The] Marriage & Family class taught by Dr. Wackes painted a detailed portrait of a committed Christian marriage, a discipling parent, and living in authentic Christian community; all according to scripture. This class reinforced what I was blessed to see lived out in my own home—by my parents. Together, they developed the solid foundation I stand on today."***



Jeannie Callahan '93 Cunnion

Jeannie, earned a master's degree in social work from Auburn University, which prepared her to work in the counseling and adoption field for 15 years. Jeannie traveled the country speaking about adoption and parenting before "settling down" to publish three books and two Bible studies. She and her message of hope and freedom in Christ have been featured on several national outlets. Jeannie, who lives in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, with

her husband Mike and their five boys, has fond memories of her days at WA, from the strong athletic program to the sense of community fostered by the study parties Mr. Buit would host in his home. Jeannie's message for today's students is this, ***"Nothing and no one is better than Jesus. The world will tell you to pursue success and significance to find happiness, but if you'll just pursue Jesus, your life will***

be richer and sweeter than you can imagine. He wants to do something amazing through you! Following Him is the greatest adventure and the fullest life. It won't be easy or pain-free. Jesus warned us we will all struggle and suffer and need to daily fall on His grace. You will make mistakes—it's part of being human. But His grace is a bottomless well. So keep your eyes on Jesus and let His Spirit guide your life. He always has been, and always will be, faithful!"



Matt Nelson '94

In freshman science class, Matt Nelson learned how the WA faculty survived the daily antics of rowdy high schoolers. It was a specific prayer of Mr. Proko's that stood out to him: ***"Lord, you love these kids a heck of a lot more than I do."*** Matt is serving as the STO Chief and primary Military Deception Planner for the U.S. Army Central (USARCENT), Army Service Component Command HQ, which has operations at the Main Command Post on Shaw AFB, SC, and the Operational Command Post in Kuwait. One of the characteristics of our Portrait of a Graduate is Critical Thinker. Matt is an example of approaching problems, issues, and challenges using reason and logic to discover answers. His solid faith was formed through not being afraid to ask tough questions. He had these words to pass along to students: ***"I was doubting Thomas (you know the one that wouldn't believe until he put his hand into Jesus' wound on his side) at WA. Skepticism, and critical thought is lacking in today's society. There would be no protestant movement without skeptics (Martin Luther, John Calvin). For all you Thomas's that are at WA now, don't feel bad that you aren't Peter or John. You will play a vital role. Your mind is needed to reach outside of the believer community. You are the bridge. Never forget that."*** Matt, the WA Family is grateful for your service to our country, and for your authentic faith!



Stephanie Leonard '98 Chen



Stephanie serves as Chief Legal and Culture Officer at ChenMed, their family-owned business, which was recently honored as one of *Fortune* magazine's "2020 Change the World" companies, as they provide healthcare to underserved seniors across the United States. Stephanie works with her high school sweetheart and husband, CEO, Dr. Christopher Chen. She graduated *cum laude* from Boston College with a degree in economics and went on to graduate from New York Law School, which she attended on a Harlan Honors Scholarship. She was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2008. Stephanie is exceptionally grateful for the "Marriage and Family" class that Dr. Wackes and Rev. Beaupied offered to seniors. ***"I think so much about all of my courses at Westminster Academy, but the Marriage and Family class has turned out to be one of the most useful. Dr. Wackes taught me about the commitment of marriage, and preparing for marriage has been the most practical and impactful portion of my education. He taught us that premarital counseling is so important because it is the biggest decision you will ever make, so why would you not prepare for that decision with an expert? I'm so thankful WA offered these courses to me."*** Stephanie and Chris have four children—two of whom are current WA Lions. Outside of work, Stephanie is active with organizations including 4Kids and Sheridan House. She adds: ***"WA is an amazing place. We are so blessed by its history and cannot wait to see what it will continue to do in the future."***

John McKay '98

John McKay shares that his most memorable WA school trip was traveling with Tom DeRosa to the Peace River for an archaeological dig. ***"We took an enormous Woolly Mammoth femur bone to Imperial Point Hospital to be x-rayed to the amazement of the orthopedic surgeons!"*** While his time at WA included some incredible and formative moments like that trip, it was a three-month internship abroad that awakened his heart to the poor. After he graduated from the University of Florida, John joined his family's business, Florida Level & Transit Co., representing the fourth generation to do so. John says, ***"The Lord redirected my plans and brought me to a business that offers the flexibility to travel internationally and means to support a street children's ministry in Nairobi, Kenya."*** The ministry rescues and rehabilitates current and former street children by meeting physical needs and sharing the life-changing message of the gospel. John and his wife Kimberly live in South Florida with their three children. He shares, ***"I am deeply thankful for the WA teachers and staff who invested in me, but most importantly laid a foundation for a life found by faith in Jesus alone."***



Liza Smoker '01

Liza Smoker is Managing Director of The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy of St. Thomas University College of Law, which develops educational programs, conducts research, and instructs law and policy to fight human trafficking throughout the world. Prior to joining the Academy, Liza spent ten years in the private practice of law where she became the first woman partner in her firm's 90-year history. She was president of the Broward County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (YLS) and also worked in the Executive Office of the Governor of Florida, prosecuted crimes as a Certified Legal Intern in the Leon County State Attorney's Office, and served as a White House Legal Intern in the Office of the Counsel to the President of the United States. In 2019, Liza was one of 60 scholars chosen nationwide as a Presidential Leadership Scholar (PLS). The PLS program is a partnership among the Presidential Centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and designed for mid-career leaders from diverse backgrounds who share a commitment to helping solve society's greatest challenges.



Many alumni shared moments or words of advice they remember from their time in high school at WA, but Liza takes it all the way back to the training she received on the first floor. ***"My second grade teacher, Mrs. Briggs, used to sing us Bible verses to help us memorize them. All these years later, I can still remember her voice singing certain verses when they apply to a situation at hand. Proverbs 22:6 certainly rings true, and I am thankful for all my wonderful elementary school teachers at WA."*** And while scripture recollection is an invaluable life skill, Liza developed a vital career skill in the upper school classrooms. ***"Over the years, I have done a fair amount of public speaking. Looking back, I can certainly attribute the development of this skill to my high school English and drama teachers,"*** she says. ***"I am indebted to Mrs. Beupied, Mrs. Breslin, Mrs. Fagley, Dr. Groves, and Mr. Briggs, who went above and beyond to help us excel."***

Coby Alexander King '02

Coby Alexander King remembers a moment that introduced him to what it means to be part of the WA community. ***“During Freshman year, Mr. Stolley’s science class took a trip to Cape Canaveral to visit the Kennedy Space Center and Museum. It was a fun experience. What I remembered the most about that trip is after leaving the Kennedy Space Center, the charter bus I was on broke down for what seemed like forever. I didn’t know anyone and it was hot. However, it was the best experience because I was able to step outside my comfort zone and make friends with whom I’m still friends today.”*** Coby’s belief in building strong communities drives what he does today. He serves as a Neighborhood Support Specialist for Broward Sheriff’s Office, a Co-founder/ Director of Sunshine Community Awareness Program, and the founder and Director of the Teen Alliance Project. Coby is also active in the United Central Broward Neighborhood Alliance, the Nonprofit Alliance Group of Oakland Park, the Neighborhood Coalition of Oakland Park, and serves as City of Oakland Park School Advisory Board Vice-Chair. Coby and his wife Stacy-Ann have two children—Alexander and Amelia. Coby’s advice to students, ***“Stay positive. Stay prayed up. Set yourself around positive people doing positive things, you eventually will get positive results. And when those positive pieces of results start to show, thank the Lord and be a blessing to others.”*** Thank you, Coby, for shining your light in our community!



Daniela Matias Feitosa '06 Titchiner

Daniela graduated *summa cum laude* from Gordon College and went on to work as a social worker and family therapist in the underserved communities in Boston. Her path then led to medical school, where she completed her residency in pediatrics and went on to train as a fellow in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Duke University. About her experience at WA, she shares: ***“It was the faith in***

God exhibited by every single teacher, staff, and administrator that truly had a profound impact on my life.” Daniela

tells a powerful story of how sixth-grade teacher Marion Lipp prayed for her family during a challenging time, ***“And I never forgot the faith of Mrs. Lipp and her prayers.”***

Daniela and her husband, Michael, live in

Durham, North Carolina, with their twin

girls. She plans to complete her medical training and pursue a career as a neonatologist. Daniela shares some words of advice to WA students, ***“Take the time to develop your faith, because over the next few years as you continue through life, that faith will be challenged. And it is during those times a lot of the lessons you learn, if you so choose, will help guide and get you through.”***



Andrew Groves '07

“Do your best to soak up all of the wisdom you can from the faculty and staff around you. They are the best in the business, and they care for you more than you will ever know. Develop relationships that will last a lifetime.” Guests at the 50th

Anniversary Golden Gala heard the story of how those community relationships proved invaluable in Andrew’s life. Four years after graduating from WA, Andrew was involved in a serious car accident that resulted in numerous injuries and months of recuperation. ***“Through it all, God proved himself faithful. Several people connected with WA provided my family support during this difficult time, and for that, I am eternally grateful!”*** Andrew is currently teaching math and engineering at Lexington Christian Academy in Lexington, Kentucky, and he also has served as the Minister of Music at Mt. Freedom Baptist Church for the past 10 years. Andrew and his wife Tiffany have two children, Millie and Cooper. Andrew shares, ***“I believe that WA helped to mold and shape me into the man I am today. The faculty and staff took great care to prepare us for the future both academically and spiritually. Attending WA provided a firm foundation that has held firm through many trials. I thank God for WA!”***



Scan to view “When I Grow Up,” current students’ aspirations and alumni who have achieved those goals.

Caleb Pitcairn '09

"I want to let them know that this is something they can do; scientists are just regular people who get curious about hard problems, and solving those problems involves creativity, detective skill, and being the first to see completely new things."



These words to current students from Caleb Pitcairn reflect his own scientific pursuits. Caleb is nearing completion of a program at Northwestern University that combines medical school with a neuroscience Ph.D., where he aims to research new treatments with what he learns firsthand from neurological patients. He explains: ***"My independent research uses neurons grown in a lab from people with Parkinson's disease to investigate why their cells can't clear out toxic protein and whether we can repurpose safe drugs used in other diseases to fix that."***

Caleb shares his gratitude for the WA science faculty who inspired him. ***"I'd like to thank my core high school science teachers, Mr. Atkinson, Dr. Dicken, and Mr. Stolley for introducing topics that led me to love science and helping me learn how to investigate difficult topics on my own."***

Jennae Katic '20

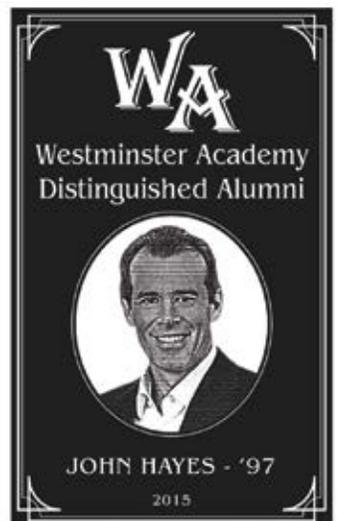
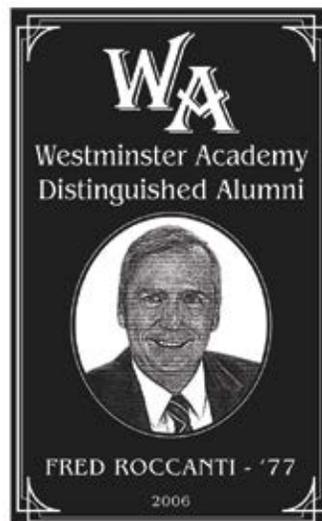
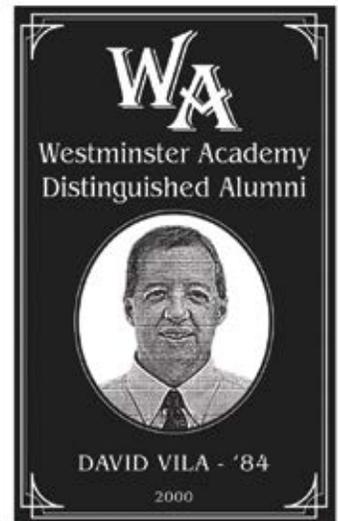
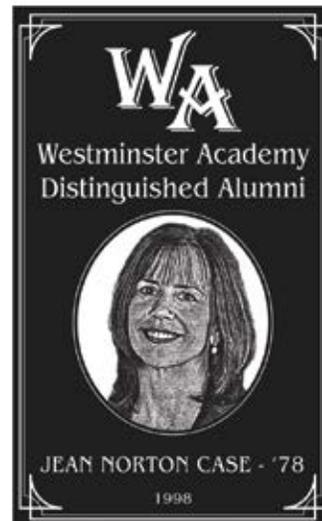
While she was a student at WA, Jennae Katic didn't know what she wanted to do with her life—but she did know where she wanted to be! ***"I knew exactly how to answer when anyone would ask the question 'What do you want to study?' or 'What is the dream job?'"*** she said, ***"I'd simply answer with 'I plan to be in the motorsports industry.'"*** And in spite of graduating so recently, she's already there.



Jennae is attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University studying Mechanical Engineering with a focus in High-Performance Vehicles. She participates in the school's Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Racing team and as a junior engineer with International Motor Sports Association (IMSA)

LMP3 team Performance Tech! She plans to continue her studies at Embry with the goal of a master's degree. Jennae got her start in WA's robotics program on Team Shark Attack, the source of many of her special WA memories. She shares: ***"Mr. Kent Stolley, Mr. Gregg Coningsby, and Mr. Jovan Katic (my father) always had a way of engaging students in the classroom and lab that no other school has to offer. Thanks to them, FIRST Robotics, and Westminster Academy, I've received internship offers beyond my wildest dreams from companies such as Tesla, Haas, Lockheed Martin, and more."*** We can't wait to see where Jennae races off to as she chases her dreams!

Distinguished Alumni Recipients



The Distinguished Alumni Award has been awarded throughout the years to recognize alumni for extraordinary personal and career accomplishments in our culture and communities for God's glory. Our Distinguished Alumni serve as role models to our current students as they clearly demonstrate the application of WA's core values and guiding principles to their lives and exemplify being devoted to Christ and dedicated to excellence.

Each year recipients are nominated by their peers and selected by members of the faculty and alumni board. To make a nomination, please visit wa.edu/alumni.



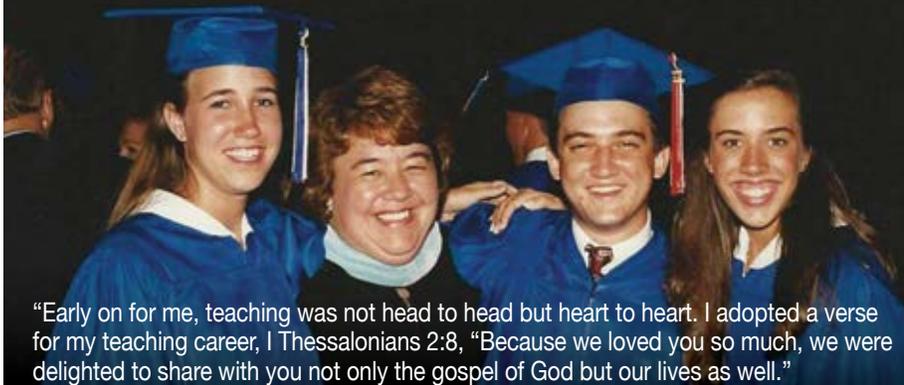
Scan to view acceptance speeches.



Portrait of a Teacher

Our distinguished faculty are the painters of the Portrait of a Graduate.

Carol Neal, Bible and Yearbook Teacher, 43 years



“Early on for me, teaching was not head to head but heart to heart. I adopted a verse for my teaching career, I Thessalonians 2:8, “Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

“There is no greater privilege than to have students come back and you see they are walking with the Lord because of your investment in their life. And when you have one that is looking at Jesus face to face and they tell you before they breathe their last breath that it was in your class that they came to know Christ, there is no greater joy than that!”

Tom DeRosa

Chemistry and Physics Teacher, 25 years



“It was 1978, on August 17, when I walked on the WA campus that my life changed forever. Those around me would be impacted profoundly, including my wife, Linda, and my three daughters, because this is the day I would meet Ken Wackes. I found myself not just applying for a position to teach chemistry and physics, but God would inspire Ken to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to me that day. I would be changed forever. I became a new creation in Christ and was filled with enthusiasm to teach science at WA for 25 years, where the students would come to know me as “the wacky science teacher.”

Christ INVESTED
Followers Dedicated
 Professional Collaborative
Excellence-Driven FLEXIBLE PROACTIVE
Growth-Oriented LOVING

Bob Edwards

Lower School Principal and Teacher, 23 years

Betty Edwards

Lower School Teacher, 23 years

Bob Edwards shares how WA impacted his life, “I am often influenced by the memory of strong Christian witnesses that surrounded me at WA (administration, board, fellow teachers, parents, and students). I was impacted by a letter of encouragement from a dying student to be a positive influence regardless of my present situation.”





Dr. Laura Groves

AP English and AP Capstone Seminar Teacher, and English Department Chair, 28 years and counting

“The COVID-19 season was, undoubtedly, a dark time; there is much to lament about hard times, but my colleagues and I were reminded of Isaiah 45:3, where we’re told that the Lord gives us treasures of darkness; He hides riches in secret places—places we would never expect.

Although our classrooms were dark, we found treasure in seeing familiar faces on the screen. Faculty meetings felt like we were together again...almost. And the joy at seeing students’ faces as they ‘entered’ our digital classrooms! Hearing their voices and seeing their faces took us out of ourselves. The smiles were great, but often we saw sadness or we heard it in their voices and we were reminded once again to pray for them. Seeing your students in a new light is a real treasure—a reminder that they are “fearfully and wonderfully made,” unique, complex, and in need of a Savior and prayer.”

John Baker

Geometry and College Algebra Teacher, 36 years and counting

“Many years ago, a student helped me realize the importance we as teachers have for being a witness for Christ and for modeling God’s love for our students. Toward the end of a study hall, I overheard a student who was a football player being badgered by another student and noticed that he was not getting ruffled at all. So, after class, I told him that I was impressed with his self-control and asked how he could be so even-tempered. This young man responded with conviction, ‘by watching you—my teachers and my coaches.’”



...so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Thessalonians 2:8

Tom Fagley

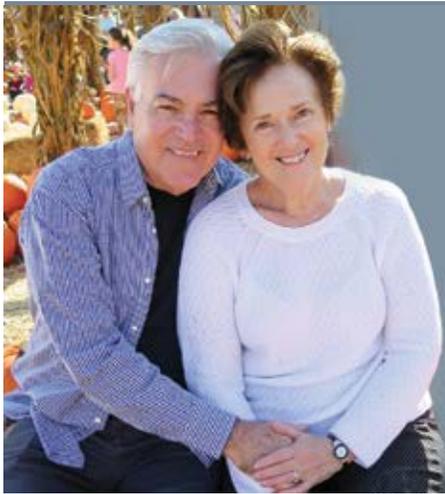
Math Teacher & Aquatics Director, 30 years

Sharon Fagley

English Teacher, 29 years

Sharon Fagley shared her favorite memories as a teacher, “In middle school, we would have to include a seventh period class of mostly boys who were wiggly and squirmy and boisterous, but at Christmas, with Mrs. Candace Rogers’ help, we went to Manor Oaks Nursing Home to sing carols and read Scripture to the people. We also gave little gifts which the students had bought and wrapped. It was a wonderful blessing to watch how the class showed love to each person. However, trips to Washington, D.C., spiritual retreats planned with Carol Neal, insights learned from Meg Beaupied, and the antics of Andy Bobitz were highlights also!”





Richard Briggs English, Speech and Drama Teacher, 37 years
Leslie Briggs Lower School Teacher and Media Specialist, 35 years

“We joined a community that impacted all parts of our lives—our family, our careers, our faith, and our interest in the arts. Our daughters went to WA each day with us and received a quality education that has marked their lives for good. We learned how to view the world from a God-centered perspective and apply this directly to our instruction each day. We grew tremendously in our Christian walk as members of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. We were able to integrate our personal interests and talents into our profession as Christian educators.”

Walt Jominy

Bible and Business Teacher, 27 years

“In the summer of 1988, I visited Westminster Academy with my softball-playing daughter and we met with Coach Bruce Buit. We were so impressed with his Christ-centered philosophy that she enrolled for her freshman year. I volunteered to be his assistant coach to begin a family relationship that has lasted 34 years.

Eventually, my wife Jenny was hired as a kindergarten teacher, and my son enrolled, as did two nieces and nephews. Two of them married classmates.

I left the business world in 1995 and was hired to teach high school Bible and history. I quickly realized that this is what God created me to do. It was so much fun, I would tell people that I can’t believe they pay me to do this job.

What is the job? I get to teach every graduating senior about how to seek God’s sovereign will for their lives: college, career, marriage, family and finances. And they receive three college credits as a bonus. I get to answer questions they have about relationships, investing and how to effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But my ultimate privilege is getting to know each student and their families. Having them come back after graduation to share their stories of God’s goodness and eventually teach their children.”



Bruce Buit

Math Teacher, 44 years and counting

“My journey with WA began in early March 1978 when a single phone call from the Director of Instruction changed my whole life. In a series of events only possible through God, I graduated from college, got married, and moved from Michigan to Fort Lauderdale, or as people in Michigan called it ‘sin city’ all in the matter of a week.

For me, family is a major part of my life. I am so proud of my family and who they are. Westminster Academy and Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church have truly prepared all three of my children, Bobby, Allison, and Katie, both academically and spiritually for college and the rest of their lives. My wife and I are forever grateful to all the people at Westminster Academy and Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church who have played such a gigantic role in my children’s lives! Most of all, I am thankful to God who has ordained all of this.”





Joan DeYoung

Math Teacher, 23 years and counting

“Our three children attended WA from PK4–12th grade. Jason '05, Amanda '09, and Connor '12. Their teachers positively impacted their lives and also strengthened their faith in God. As a faculty member at Westminster Academy, I've had the privilege to teach math and to get to know and love countless students. I teach math to students, but my students daily teach me. My prayer each year is that they've all come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. The WA faculty and staff is a community that prays. They rally around each other through moments of celebration and sadness. When my family has gone through trials, my coworkers have always come alongside me and prayed us through. What a tremendous blessing. I am immeasurably grateful for the students, families, faculty, and staff that God has placed in my life through WA.”

Mindi Riedel

Lower School Teacher, 21 years and counting

“How do I put into words the joy, spiritual growth and beautiful relationships made along the way in my 21 years at WA? My prayer as a teacher has always been for God to put me where He wants me to be and to use me for His glory. How certain I was of that, when I received a call from the principal to interview for a first-grade position. Well, God opened that door and I have never doubted His perfect plan for a second. Watching my own children grow academically, socially, and spiritually has been a blessing I will always cherish. Watching my precious students grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally is an answer to prayer and a gift from God!”



Jean McCants Yilling

Lower School Teacher, 16 years

“When I reflect on the sixteen years I was a part of Westminster Academy, immediately my thoughts go two ways: 1) Florida history: airboat rides, trips to St. Augustine, Spanish explorers, and forts. 2) Children: teaching Bible, scripture memory, and praying with them. Children are so open about sharing what is on their hearts, so their prayers became my prayers for them and their families.”



Ed Hopkins Biology Teacher, 31 years

Ann Hopkins Social Studies Teacher, 1 year

Ed Hopkins looks back: “Ann and I were both on the original faculty at Westminster. This was a remarkable year with Rev. Harry Miller as Headmaster. The school took residence at the Pompano Harness Track. Pompano Harness Track was always my most memorable time. No rooms, just an open pavilion exposed to the elements—wind blowing through, some flies, and a view of the track with an occasional horse making its rounds. We hung sheets over the betting windows to accommodate our overhead projectors. My science desks were converted doors. Students would lie on the floor to use microscopes since the desks wobbled so much. Extension cords running all over the place for electricity. We lived out of boxes, changed classes with the ring of a handbell, and wondered what the future would be like. Everyone pulled together and with the help of God, in my opinion, had one of the best years ever. Let's do it again.”

Guy Metzger Admissions and Guidance Counselor, 39 years
Margie Metzger Preschool Teacher, 41 years

Guy Metzger shares the impact WA has had on his life: “I began working at Westminster when our daughter Cindy was three years old and we enrolled her in the preschool. What a joy it was for her to come home and tell us what she learned about Jesus. We’ve been blessed not only by being on the faculty and being a part of the ministry, but as a mom and dad. Having children at Westminster, we experienced all of the benefits that a family could be a part of this ministry. Working with the faculty and colleagues who were so committed to Christ and longevity at the school had a tremendous impact on my life. And what a blessing it was to work under a headmaster for 31 years. I need to make an analogy—Dr. Wackes is to WA what George Washington was to America.”



Jeff Smith
Bible Teacher and Coach, 44 years and counting

“My wife, Alicia, and I were called fresh out of university in Ohio to come and teach at a school called Westminster Academy in 1978. We thought we would give this opportunity a couple of years and then go home. Little did we know WA and Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church would become our home. The church and school community not only gave us a chance to teach but to experience a warm, Christian environment. Our three sons, Josh '00, Ethan '02, and Micah '15 all graduated from WA with a solid gospel-centered education. This place has taught us much and caused us to grow in our Christian faith. In over 40 years of teaching here, I have had the opportunity to teach and coach over 5,000 students/athletes. They have poured into me as much as I have passed on to them. My prayer is that my words, work, and witness may reflect Jesus in some way. As I near the end of my career, my hope is that WA will continue to be a gospel lighthouse in a fallen world. To God be the glory!”



Holly Wettrich
Math and Bible Teacher,
20 years and counting

“First as a student, then as a teacher... WA and Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church have had a huge impact on my life. God blessed me with lifelong friends whom I still share life with today. I was also grounded in spiritually sound teaching that I took for granted and didn't truly appreciate until I was an adult. Wouldn't trade this WA experience as a student or teacher for anything! One of the coolest things I've experienced is having had Bruce Buit as a teacher for two years in high school, then returning to WA 20 years later to teach math and have him as my Department Head. Mr. Buit is a legend at WA! He's been an enormous blessing to me as a student, mentor, and brother in Christ.”



Teacher Q&A

What was your favorite WA tradition?

“Attending the end of the year Wally Award faculty luncheon led by Guy Metzger.” – **Vicki McKay**

“Homecoming. What a great time for alumni, students, and families to come together and support our school. It was always fun to catch up with former students while watching the football game. At Back-to-School Night, I always encouraged my parents to attend Homecoming so they could experience the WA family experience. One year I had seven of my students attend the game and they all ran over and sat with me. It warmed my teacher heart!”

– **Elizabeth Taylor**

“The PK4 Bike Parade: This is so fun! I loved watching my three children participate when they were little. I take my high school students on a ‘field trip’ to watch it every year.”

– **Joan DeYoung**

What is your advice for Faculty & Staff?

“Your impact on your students will become evident when they come back to see you and tell you how much you and WA meant to them”

– **Tom Fagley**

“My life verse is Proverbs 3:5–6. Never doubt that God knows what is best for you. As we trust him with all our hearts, He promises to lead us on a straight path. However, He never promises that the path will be flat. Don’t give up or lose heart when the path becomes challenging and uphill. It forces us to lean on Him fully and trust that He will guide us along the right path.”

– **Vicki McKay**

“Our mission statement means everything to me and is something I have shared with my students each year that I have been here. “Everything with excellence and everything to God’s glory.”

– **Mindi Riedel**

What is your favorite school memory?

“Wa-Na-Na.” – **Tom Fagley**

“I was able to teach the children how to share their faith on their level and that we were all able to pray together in the classroom.”

– **Wini Wilkinson Smith**

“Coaching cheerleading and our trips to national competitions, once getting stuck in Chicago, during a blizzard.”

– **Judy Zazversky**

Was there a job you turned down to come to WA?

“Principal of a public elementary school.” – **Bob Edwards**

“I had been homeschooling but LeRoy Schwab somehow found my resumé for some other job and decided that I was exactly who he needed to be his new English department head.”

– **Maureen Breslin**



*Vicki McKay with her family,
Lower School Teacher, 23 years*



*Judy Zazversky,
PE and Cheerleading
Coach, 11 years*



*Wini Wilkinson Smith and family,
Lower School Teacher, 2 years*



*Maureen Breslin, English Teacher
and Department Chair, 20 years*

Teacher Q&A

How did WA impact your life?

“WA taught me how important an education based on a Christian worldview is.”

– **Tom Fagley**

“The faculty & staff became a true family to me. We all focused on the same goal of presenting Christ in every subject we taught. Preparing the lessons really grounded me in my growth as a Christian to see the evidence of God’s “handprints” in every lower school subject I taught (Bible, math, science, history, language, reading).”

– **Vicki McKay**

“WA had a huge impact on my life during my 28 years of teaching and coaching. I had many role models, including Ken Wackes, who helped



Jeffe Slocumb (with daughter Jessica Slocumb '08 Wilson), Faculty, PE, and Volleyball Coach, 28 years



Elizabeth Taylor, Lower School Teacher, 20 years

me grow as a believer. I observed and tried to emulate the biblical values that were embodied by the many godly teachers, staff, and leaders that co-labored with me.”

– **Jeffe Slocumb**

“My husband and I will forever be grateful for the teachers who walked alongside us while our girls were in school. They helped nurture them through strong academics and biblical truths. WA is truly a place where students, parents, and teachers become family.”

– **Elizabeth Taylor**

What lesson did you learn from your students?

“A lesson I learned from one of my students was how to approach someone when you have a misunderstanding. This brave high school student came to me and said, “Coach, we need to have a heart-to-heart conversation.” I loved her approach and have used her strategy with many others. She taught me a way to break the ice in a loving, respectful way.”

– **Jeffe Slocumb**

Words of wisdom to current WA families?

“To cherish the fact that your children are in such an amazing school and to back and support the teachers, resting assured that they have your children’s best interests at heart. Know that in WA your children are gaining the building blocks of their future and they are in the best hands!”

– **Wini Wilkinson Smith**

“Commit to investing your life in a gospel-centered church. The most encouraging result I have experienced as a teacher is seeing former students, now adults and parents, actively engaged in the local church. Perhaps in the previous century that would have been almost a certainty, but increasingly this is not the case. Young people, raised in Christian homes and even having attended Christian

schools, are deconstructing their faith in alarming numbers and sliding off into the postmodern world of individualized truth and self-realization. It is at the very least unfashionable to be associated with an institution that asserts universal

truth claims. Yet, seeing former students sitting in the pews, bringing forward their children for baptism, serving as officers and teachers, engaged in home groups, and attending back-to-school nights as parents, fills me with a reassuring

sense of hope and optimism. They are that comforting reminder to me that the Church, standing on God’s Word, will prevail (Matthew 16:18) and the Gospel it proclaims will not return void (Isaiah 55:11).”

– **Eric Matthews**
History Teacher,
35 years and counting





Celebration Weekend

October 7-10

“As we spent the last year preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we went through every yearbook, annual report, and set of pictures in our archives. Each element of our 50th Anniversary plans was shaped by a desire to give God the glory for the stories He has written over the last five decades. The consistent strand through every chapter is God’s faithfulness and transformed lives.”

Sarah Hajduk, Director of Development

Former Board Chair Appreciation Dinner

To kick off the weekend, Headmaster Joel Satterly and George Barbar '98, the first alumnus to serve as School Board Chair, invited all former Board Chairs and their spouses to an appreciation dinner in the Dr. Kenneth P. Wackes Media Center. Joel and George cast a vision for the future and former Board Chairs shared stories of how God’s hand had been on our school through both successes and the difficult seasons. We have a deep appreciation for their leadership through the decades.



We honor these Board Chairs and their families for their leadership and service:

H. Curtis Grothmann 1971–1974 (deceased)
 Jim Brown 1974–76 (deceased)
 Jerry Pullen 1976–78
 Bob Wade 1978–79
 Harvey Martin 1979–81 (deceased)

Bill Dismuke 1981–82
 Ralph Douglas 1982–86
 Bob Huth 1986–87; 1990–92
 Bruce Dando 1987–90
 Brian Phegley 1992–94

Clark Cochran 1994–2002
 Robert Meacham 2002–07
 Brian McClugage 2007–2014
 Mike Pritchard 2014–16
 Geroge Barbar 2016–Present





“It was the greatest family reunion this side of heaven.”

Sandy Smith '85 Hall, Alumni Relations and Advancement Specialist

Swim and Dive Reunion

Aquatics Director, Coach Sam Freas '94, held a swim meet and dinner for alumni and current swimmers on the pool deck of the O'Brien Family Swimming Complex. Coach Tom Fagley, who served 30 years, joined the celebration.



Alumni Chapel

In keeping with tradition, alumni joined the student body for Homecoming Week Chapel. Special thanks to Ryan '00 and Julie Wilson '01 Brasington, Philip Piedt '07, Luke Ferraguti '12, Jeff Jacques '94, and Sarah Abadines '04 Maba for leading



worship. Walt Jominy introduced the homecoming court. The chapel ended with the opening of the time capsule from 1996. A few favorite treasures were one of Dr. Wackes' ties, the original Westy costume, and old WA uniforms!



On Friday, retired faculty and staff gathered for lunch and fellowship.



Homecoming

On Friday evening the west campus Athletic Complex saw the largest turnout in school history, with an estimated 3,500 in attendance! Retired and current faculty and staff, alumni, and current families all gathered for pregame festivities and food. Special thanks to alumni family-owned businesses, Padrinos and Jeannie's Event Trailer, for providing catering in addition to other local businesses. The Athletic Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony was held to honor new inductees for 2020 and 2021. Boosterthon, founded by Chris and Lyndie Hiler '98 Carneal, elevated the energy of the night, as Chris Barbar '14 and his team provided music and sound. The mighty Lions took on the Everglades Prep Academy Panthers and celebrated a big victory of 42 to 0. The night ended with a bang, literally, as fireworks lit up the night sky in honor of our 50th anniversary.



Homecoming Fireworks





Celebrating
50
1971-2021
Years

Golden
Gala

The Golden Gala took place at the Fort Lauderdale Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa on Saturday night. The event reached maximum capacity as guests gathered to reunite with old friends. Among honored guests were former headmasters, Greg Beaupied, and Leo Orsino, and five members of the first graduating class. Reverend

Guy Metzger opened the evening in prayer, Walt Jominy gave an unforgettable speech honoring the past, and Bernie Gonzalez '10 and Julie Forester '96 Mangus, performed. Joel Satterly shared about the present state of the school and School Board Chair, George Barbar, cast a vision for the future, including a sneak peek of a capital project on the horizon.

Each element of the evening was designed to honor the past, celebrate the present, and envision the future.





Scan here to view our 50th Anniversary commemorative video that was shared at our Golden Gala, produced by alumna, Torrey Barnes '97 Roberts and her husband Adam.



Scan to view Walt Jominy's speech



Scan to view Julie Forester '96 Mangus's song





WA Sunday & Alumni Farewell Brunch

A highlight of WA Sunday was a performance by an alumni choir comprised of graduates from multiple decades. Several alumni shared their gifts and talents during an instrumental prelude, followed by a powerful sermon from Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor, Rob Pacienza '99. Following the service, an Alumni Farewell Brunch was held in the James F. Lindsay Gymnasium. Alumni and retired teachers enjoyed fellowship and touring the Blanche Collins Forman Campus, and seeing all the enhancements since their last visit. A highlight of the tour was Carolyn Vanderslice Sanders visiting her former classroom, which bears her name, with her daughter Kelli Vanderslice '86 Kraaz and grandchildren. She left her cane at the door, went straight for the piano and played a song. Instantly former football coach, Joe Senen, and others began singing in harmony! Kelli shared, "My heart was so full at WA's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The planning committee did an exceptional job and I am forever grateful. We witnessed the 'old Carolyn Sanders' resurface; she was exuberant as reflected in the pictures shared. It was so good to see so many familiar faces from near and far."



Scan to enjoy the WA Sunday instrumental prelude and service.



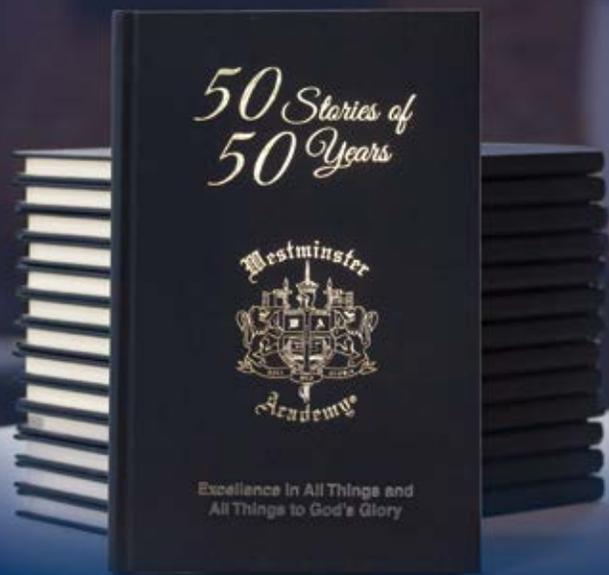
Scan to view Carolyn Sanders' impromptu performance.

50 STORIES OF 50 YEARS

Each guest at the Golden Gala received a copy of *50 Stories of 50 Years* as their favor.

Sandy Smith '85 Hall shared... "It became quite clear that the best way to acknowledge what God has done was to share stories of how God used His people and this place. Alumni pastors, current and retired faculty and staff, and others were asked to share a scripture and story of how WA impacted their lives. Students may have been attending one year or 'Lifers,' who started in kindergarten, but the story was the same of God using coaches, teachers, and His people to mentor the next generation. That is the difference you will still see at WA—students are known and loved, encouraged and prepared to be Christ-confident ambassadors wherever they are called to serve."

These reflections all share the common theme of God's faithfulness to transform lives through the WA experience over the last five decades. When you invest in Christ-centered education with a donation of any amount, we will send you a copy of *50 Stories of 50 Years* as our way of saying thank you. Please visit wa.edu/support to give online or use the enclosed envelope to mail a check to our address. God is still writing the story of Westminister Academy, and we value your partnership with us as we anticipate what God will do in the next 50 years!





WESTMINSTER ACADEMY
DEVOTED TO CHRIST DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

Dear WA Community,

What a privilege it has been to be part of the WA family for most of my life. I'm a 1998 graduate of Westminster Academy and my wife, Leah and I have four children that currently attend WA. In total, we've had 27 members of our extended family attend Westminster Academy. To say WA is important to our family is an understatement.

On behalf of our school board, and as a WA parent and alumnus, I'd like to offer a few thoughts on the legacy and future of our school. On March 23, 1971, the Founding Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Dr. D. James Kennedy wrote a letter to the congregation stating, "We expect Westminster Academy to be distinguished by loyalty to Christ, the highest academic standards, and the same spiritual commitment and Christian love found in our church. The school board has pledged its utmost efforts to the creation, with God's help, of a Christian school where these qualities will prevail." As we look to the next 50 years, there has never been a more important time for Christian education. Westminster Academy has been an institution that is **committed, competitive, and culturally relevant**.

Westminster Academy is **committed** to the founding principles that Dr. Kennedy laid out 50 years ago. We are committed to excellence in all things. High academics, centered around a biblical worldview provide the opportunity for our students to succeed at the college of their choice, compete at the highest level athletically, and perform fine arts on the world's largest stages.

God has placed Westminster Academy in a very **competitive** part of the country, both with Christian and non-Christian private schools. God has clearly shown his favor over WA, and to continue executing our mission over the next five decades, we must remain competitive. This includes the total infrastructure, programming, and facilities we provide for our students and families. We will intentionally honor the legacy of the past with a focus on the future to stay relevant in the present.

For 50 years, Westminster Academy has been a place that produces world-changing leaders. To remain **culturally relevant** and continue growing the next generation, we need to continue to enhance our programming and the flexibility to train up our students to fulfill Westminster Academy's Portrait of a Graduate in today's world wherever God directs them. In today's environment it is more important than ever to understand the difference a Christian worldview can make. WA alumni are expanding the Kingdom of God and succeeding wherever they are planted.

It's vital an institution like Westminster Academy, that is devoted to Christ and dedicated to excellence, remains at the highest level of integrity and competitiveness. As Dr. Wackes always said, "we must begin with the end in mind." It is a privilege to be a part of this institution and I pray God's richest blessings on Westminster Academy for the **next 50 years!**

Sincerely,

George Barbar '98
School Board Chair



George and his wife, Leah, with their children,
Anthony, Victoria '22, Drew, and Grace.

Westminster Academy
5601 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

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*Westminster Academy is a
Christ-centered, biblically-based
college preparatory school
dedicated to equipping covenant
students to excel by using their
gifts and talents for God's glory.*



WESTMINSTER ACADEMY
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