



# Alumni Newsletter

by Dave Burdett, Director of Alumni Relations

September, 2017

www.wcss.org

Volume 21, Number 1

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## Campus News

This year's graduates were the 40<sup>th</sup> class to receive diplomas from Woodcrest Christian High School! A total of seventy-six seniors crossed the stage at The Grove to swell the ranks of WCHS alumni to nearly 2,400. Of these 76, five were second generation: one or both of their parents were also graduates. We are really encouraged by that because it indicates that former students have valued their experience enough that they want to share it with their children. Although the venue was different this time, the ceremony was much like others of recent years: students shared memories and music, received awards, and had their tassels turned. The keynote address came from **Mr.**



Graduates from 2017 get their "Kodak Moment" on the stage at The Grove Community Church.

**Alfredo Ramos** ('04) who directed the graduates' attention to "The Good Shepherd." His thoughts amounted to his swan song at WCHS, however, as he leaves his position as Vice-Principal of Discipleship to join the staff at Sandals Church in Riverside.

That change won't be the only one on campus, though. After doing double duty this year as both Superintendent and High School Principal, Mr. Sullivan will pass over the Principal's role to **Mr. Nathan Lambert**, who has served as Middle School Principal for the past several years. Taking his place will be **Mrs. Mindy Orr**; she moves from the classroom where she taught ancient history and geography to seventh graders. Then, **Mrs. Jamie Firetag**, who had previous experience teaching middle school social science will leave her role as Administrative Assistant to Mr. Sullivan and fill Mrs. Orr's spot. Taking Mr. Ramos' leadership over chapel, missions, and discipleship will be **Mr. Brandon Imbriale**, a newcomer to the Woodcrest Christian scene. Several faculty departures are being filled as this is being written. **Mrs. Rhonda**

**Key Dates**  
Oct. 30 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament  
Nov. 30-Dec. 3 - 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lady Royals Invitational  
Dec. 7-9 - 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Woodcrest Christian Invitational  
Jan. 20 - Homecoming

**Tilton** (high school English) left to return to the elementary level while **Mrs. Audrey Berniklau** (seventh grade math) is moving to Ontario Christian where she will become the Math Department leader there. **Mr. Austin Wright** was hired to take the English, and **Mrs. Kim Holliday** has taken over



Keep up on campus happenings with the Woodcrest Christian phone app!



*Katie [Bolling] & Daniel were married in the chapel at the Grove, but Citrus Heritage Park proved to be a beautiful venue for the wedding photos.*

the math classes. We also needed to replace **Mrs. Liz Shin** (high school Spanish) as family needs led her to take a position elsewhere, and **Mrs. Raquel San Martin** has filled that gap.

One more bit of faculty news is that **Miss Katie Bolling**, who joined the staff in 2010 as our Counselor, is now Mrs. Funderburk after her marriage to Daniel on July 14, 2017. They had met at a church conference in Texas and had dated long-distance until Daniel took a position locally with SSD Alarms last March.

The **accreditation** process demands continuing attention, especially at the renewal time which just happened to be this past year. The Steering Committee took the lead and used a new format that was done entirely through an online portal, and in some ways, it really did simplify the process. Then during the first week of March, the seven-member Visiting Committee spent several days observing, asking questions, and interviewing staff members, board members, students and parents seeking to verify the accuracy of our self-evaluation. In the end, the result proved very encouraging. They left us with eight major commendations and three major recommendations. Based on their report, the accrediting commissions (WASC and ACSI) granted us a six-year term of accreditation with a mid-term report on progress, what used to be called a “six clear.” This result was clearly the best that we have received since we began the

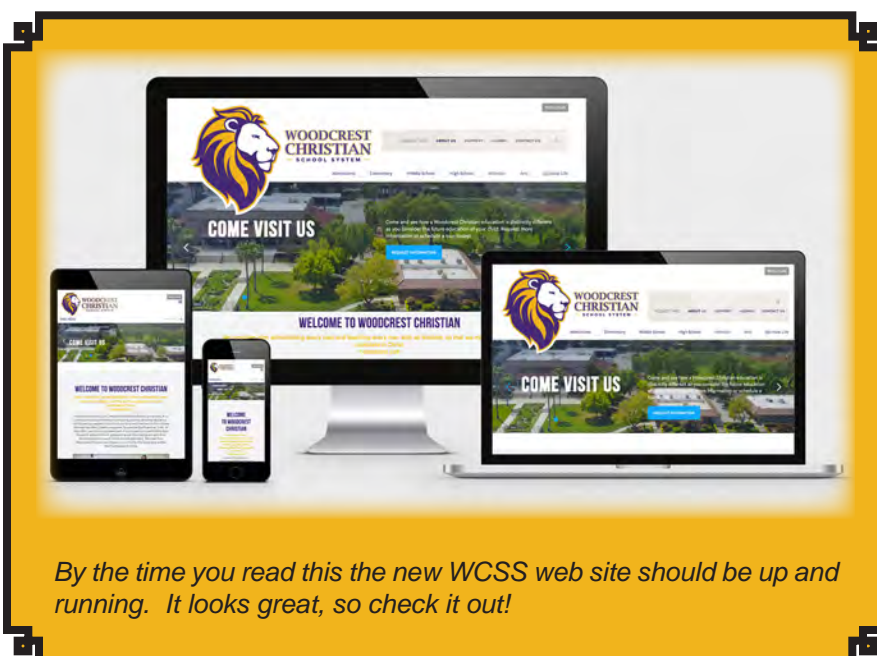
process in 1999, and we praise God for His blessing in this.

A major change that took place this fall was the date for the beginning of school. For as long as anyone can remember, classes have always started on the day after Labor Day. Several factors, however, combined to lead the administration to opt for an earlier beginning. One of these is the difficulty of coming back after Christmas break to try and complete a semester in just a couple weeks. Then, CIF is starting fall sports earlier; in fact, in recent years there have been league contests before classes actually began! All in all, it seemed best to shift the school year back a couple weeks, so students began their studies on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and graduation will take place on May 31, 2018. In preparation for that, the 2016-17 school concluded a week early, making this summer a little shorter than normal.

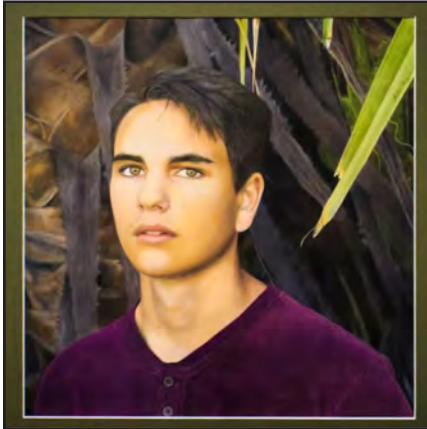
Another major change for the school system came with the renaming of the elementary campus at the end of the school year. For nearly 70 years, it has been “Riverside Christian Day School,” but the Board felt the need to make its connection to the Woodcrest Christian School System more explicit, so the Arlington Ave. campus was renamed Woodcrest Christian Day School.

### The Arts

The work of two Woodcrest Christian students won awards at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Press-Enterprise Riverside County High School Art Show. The top example in



*By the time you read this the new WCSS web site should be up and running. It looks great, so check it out!*



Audrey Alexander's drawing of classmate Carl Pongs is amazingly life-like.

the photography category was by **Jacob Carlson** ('18), while the drawing in color winner was **Audrey Alexander** ('18) who drew a photographic quality portrait of one of her classmates. You can watch a time lapse video of Audrey drawing her award-winner on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVmr248YPdA>).

The **Choir** program this past year looked very much like previous years: October heard music from Broadway shows, Calvary Presbyterian Church was the scenic venue for Christmas, and the year ended with the outdoor Concert in the Park. The major change was **Ben Halsne** ('07) taking over the reins of the program from long time director Mrs. Candy Fodera who departed at the end of the previous year. A graduate of CBU, Mr.



Director Ben Halsne ('07) leads the Chamber Choir as they perform Christmas music at the Festival of Lights in the downtown mall.

Halsne brought his own personal style not only to the choral program but to the chapel worship team as well. The instrumental program at WCHS continued to expand almost explosively under the enthusiastic leadership of **Mr. Ken Rasner**. The band had begun the previous year at the middle school level with about forty instrumentalists. In its second year, the roster had swelled to over a hundred in three different bands serving both middle school and high school. And Mr. Rasner held band camp on campus during the summer for increasing numbers of young musicians.

During the fall, the **Drama** department staged the farcical mystery entitled "Murder at Rundown Abbey." As bodies mount up on an English estate, the only apparent heir, Lord Percival Crumbledown, played by **Max Cliff** ('17), cluelessly can't cope after being kicked in the head by a horse. So American detective Sam Splayed (**Dallis Green**, '18) goes undercover as the butler to unmask the murderer. Then on the big stage in the Pavilion in the spring, Director Teresa Bickett got to do one of her favorite musicals, "Cinderella" by Rodger & Hammerstein. **Haley Peery** ('17) performed marvelously as the title character, and her costume changes between mistreated servant girl and unforgettable princess were remarkable. Playing opposite her as Prince Topher, **Greyson Berzansky** ('19) shone in his first major role in a drama at WCHS. Finally, wrapping up a distinguished career on the Woodcrest stage, **Isabella Mangione** ('17) gave a

delightful performance as the Fairy Godmother.

## Sports

The 2016-17 athletic year proved very successful for the Royals. For the third year in a row, we took home the Ambassador Cup, symbolic of the best combined finishes of all teams in the Ambassador League. Combine that with the fact that six varsity teams were voted to receive the Sportsmanship Award by their league competitors. Our athletes seem to be living out the school's mission of Glorifying God with Christ-centered Excellence. Much of our success this year came from the performances of two exceptional athletes. **Tesa Oaks** ('17 - volleyball and swimming) and **Alex Wright** ('17 - basketball and volleyball) were named the Press Enterprise Small School Female and Male Athletes of the Year and were also the Farmers Insurance scholar-athletes of the year, an amazing accomplishment.

## Fall

The opening sport season for the past academic year looked radically different than previous years. Instead of playing in the fall, it was decided that boys' volleyball should compete during the normal volleyball season in the spring. To replace it, WCHS created a **flag football** team competing in a local league of Adventist schools. At the beginning, there was a whole lot of learning that had to take place, both for coaches and players: this six-man sport was a game of speed and quickness. But the Royals learned quickly and were able to defeat two

teams in the second round who had beaten them in the first round, and the final result was a good one with the Royals capturing second place in the league. The girls continued to play *volleyball*, however, and played it very impressively. Behind the cannon shots from the arm of All-CIF outside hitter **Tesa Oaks** ('17), they rallied from a tough pre-season tournament schedule and captured the Ambassador League. Then in CIF, they advanced all the way to the finals, earning runner-up honors. Their success also qualified them to play at the state level and they went three rounds deep before their extended season came to a close. Joining Tesa as All-CIF was **Bre Hood** ('17) who, as setter, fed Tesa's powerful arm. Our *cross country* teams also had victorious seasons. Led by a focused **Marissa Thompson** ('17), the girls won the Billy York Invitational, went on to dominate the Ambassador League, and made it all the way to the CIF Southern Section finals. In that race, Marissa finished in eleventh place and the team in fourteenth. The boys had to work a little harder. Tied in league standings going into the league championship race, the Woodcrest Christian runners

raced to a big-time win which also won them a share of the all-time CIF record for consecutive league championships. Led by **Bryson Bradford** ('17) with strong support from **JP Reynolds** ('17), the boys finished tied for seventh in the CIF finals, narrowly missing a berth in the state meet. Finishing seventh individually, Bryson moved on to the annual Clovis event. Finally in the fall, the girls' *tennis* team made a strong showing. Led by the doubles team of **Lauren Showalter** ('19) and **Erica Danfifer** ('19), who earned All-league honors, the girls improved throughout the season. For example, after losing to Notre Dame in the first round, they turned the tables on them in the second. The team's strong play won them the right to compete in CIF playoffs for the first time in many years.

#### Winter

As the temperatures dropped, winter sports jumped into action. In *soccer*, the girls finished fourth in Ambassador League play and a spot in the playoffs. Offensive standout **Ariana Flores** ('19) provided the scoring punch for the Royals, while **Katie Greer** ('19) anchored the defense. On the boys' side, **Garrett Perry** ('17) sparkled as a scorer and earned League MVP on Offense, in one game scoring four goals himself! After finishing second in the Linfield Tournament, a couple tough 1-goal losses to Aquinas brought them only a tie for a third place in league, but seven players made the All-league squad. Moving indoors to the *basketball* court, the Lady Royals worked hard and

were a good testimony, but couldn't seem to end up on the right side of the win-loss column. Point guard **Taylor Olsen** ('18) led the way, but seniors **Cassie Swanson** and **Allie Busbee** also made contributions in this rebuilding year. When the boys took the floor, they continued the strong play we've seen for several years. A victory in the Hillcrest Tournament and the runner-up spot in both the Woodcrest Christian Tournament and the Ambassador League led up to a strong showing in CIF playoff action where they made it to the semi-finals and Blair High School to overtime before falling just short. After a decade of faithful service as assistant coach, **Eric Strano** took over the reins and led the squad not only to a very successful season, but also the league's sportsmanship award. **Alex Wright** ('17) had a banner year, breaking the career scoring record and coming just shy to shattering the single season mark as well. Joining him on the All-CIF team was **Darin Reynolds** ('19).

#### Spring

Athletics is a frenzy of activity in the spring. In *track & field*, **Marissa Thompson** ('17) again set the pace, and the team captured second place in Ambassador League action. She also ran in the CIF finals where she placed fifth in the 1600. Beside the distance strength of **Bryson Bradford** ('17) and **JP Reynolds** ('17), **Walker Welch** ('17) earned points in sprints and even the 300 hurdles. A total of 14 Royals athletes (both boys and girls) got to compete at CIF prelims and the boys 4x400 relay finished sixth at



the finals. The boys were another WCHS team to bring home the league sportsmanship award. The *swim* team for the 2017 season lacked numbers, but they still performed well in Ambassador League meets with the boys taking fourth and the girls third. Five swimmers made it to CIF finals, where **Mathias Scarano** ('18) placed fourth in the 200 freestyle, an event for which he had set a new school record of 1:52.05 earlier in the season. For the girls, the real surprise was **Tesa Oaks** ('17). Tesa joined the team to rehab a volleyball injury, but drew a lot of attention when she took second in the 50 freestyle at CIF finals, setting a new school record in the process, and then capped that off with a third place finish in the 100 free! Not many fans get to watch our *mountain bikers* compete because their races are often far from campus, but that didn't seem to slow them down any. Though the margin was very slim, the Royals took the Division 2 crown in this combined-coed sport for the second year in a row. **Sam Ferris** ('18) stood out for the boys, while **Emily Gable** ('20) was the rider to watch for the girls. In *golf*, it looked to be a rebuilding year as the team lost four of its six starters from the previous season, but the Royals continued to improve through the season, finishing in fifth place. In a sport where the small numbers win, **Nathan Thornton** ('18) and **Eli Brown** ('20) were often at the bottom of the heap, but low medalist honors got passed around between a number of the team-members. The *softball* season marked a major

turn-around from last year. Under new head coach **Ryan Anderson** ('95) [who was named Coach of the Year], and with key contributions from **Taylor Olsen** ('18) and catcher **Riley Carricaburu** ('20), the team climbed to a fourth place finish in league. Returning to CIF playoff action, they won a wild card game against Rio Hondo before St. Anthony's ended their season. Hopes were riding high for the *baseball* season at WCHS after last year's CIF championship, but they were shipwrecked on the rocks on injuries. When **Brandon Cody** ('17), **Branden Boissiere** ('18), **Evan Castillo** ('18), and **Justin Cross** ('18) all went down, the season became much more of a challenge. Yet **Shaun Hernandez** ('18) and sophomores **Jordan Keller** and **Wesley Scott** helped the team earn yet another league title. Because of success in recent years, the Royals were bumped up three (!) divisions in the playoffs and, with all the injuries, couldn't advance beyond the first round. The big change this spring was the addition of boys' *volleyball* to the schedule. Coached by **Mr. Laird Musich** ('01), this senior-laden squad really made an impression in the Ambassador League. Following success in the Indian Springs Tournament (third), and the Orangewood Academy Tournament (first), the Royals went on to finish second in league play. Behind the hitting of seniors **Alex Wright** and **Cameron Albee**, the boys then played into the quarter finals of their first-ever appearance in CIF playoffs.

## Alumni News

1984

**Paul Hildebrandt** continues to work for Disney (it's been two decades!) and was the senior software engineer on last year's film *Zootopia* which won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.



Paul Hildebrandt holds the Oscar for "Zootopia" with the film's director Bryon Howard.

1986

The senior pastor at Zion Lutheran church in Anaheim, **Robb Ring** is also an adjunct professor at both Hope International University and Concordia University. This spring he was awarded his D.Min. degree from Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Robb Ring waits patiently for his hood to be positioned; the red signifies a degree in divinity.

1990

I'm saddened to report that **Jason Koppenheffer** went home to be with the Lord on September 25, 2016.

1994

I received an update from **Danielle [Trujillo] Graham**. She's still in Las Vegas, but is now working for the duck (Aflac). Her sixteen year old daughter is a member of the Nevada Thespians, and the troupe was invited to perform *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at the International Thespians Festival in Nebraska as well as Shakespeare's *Twelfth* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in the fall.

1995

Last August 20<sup>th</sup>, **Elizabeth Nash** was awarded a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies University of Texas at Arlington. • **Michelle [Figueroa] Cardenas** has had an up and down year so far. After battling health issues, her father, Luis (husband of former seventh grade teacher Mrs. Faith Figueroa), went home to the Lord in late January. Exactly one week later, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Michelle gave birth to a

little boy, a lad she named Owen Hobson.

1996

Michael Keith doubled his pleasure when his wife gave birth to identical twins on June 5, 2017. Olivene Jane can claim to be a minute older than Carol Karen.



New dad, Michael Keith, has his hands full with twins Carol and Olivene.



Luke and Jen Wallace's first anniversary is coming up soon.

1997

September 24, 2016 marked the wedding of **Luke Wallace** to Jen Kosmatka.

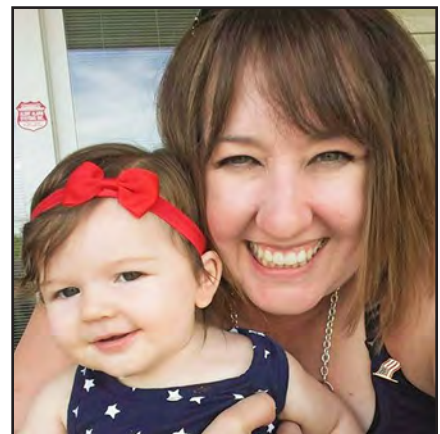
1998

**Wes Morrison** welcomed Macy Taya Morrison into his growing family on June 6, 2017. "This brings our total to one boy and



Wes Morrison has his hands full. You have to look carefully to see newborn Macy.

four girls," he wrote. "She's been to Arkansas, Missouri, the zoo, and a three-day camping trip—all in her first 4 weeks since birth!" • Travis and **Jennifer [Villarreal] Collier** also have a new little one: Elizabeth Jo Michelle, born November 2, 2016. The Colliers live in southern Illinois, where Jennifer works as a therapist doing crisis work. Since she can use video services from home, she gets to be with her baby all the time! • Please be in prayer for **Angela [Peters] Bonnell's** daughter Sierra. Her body just seems to create tumors for no reason.



Since Jennifer works at home, she's able to be with Elizabeth all day!



Michelle's selfie movie of her singing to "Give Me Jesus" gathered almost 200,000 views!

1999

**Sharyea Mahan** filled me in on all that's happened since her graduation. After graduating summa cum laude from Howard University with a BBA in International Business and minor in Spanish, she studied in the Dominican Republic, Oaxaca, Mexico, and Madrid, Spain. She later returned to the U.S. to earn a Master's degree in interior architecture from the Corcoran College of Art + Design (now part of George Washington University). A three-year stint at Gensler (the world's largest architecture firm) allowed her to work on projects throughout the country and around the world. Returning to SoCal, Sharyea continued working for residential architectural firms before becoming reacquainted with David Obayuwana, a former classmate from Howard who made and produced films. That relationship developed until they were married. Then on May 16, 2014 they were blessed by the birth of a son named Hudson. Two years ago, they decided to stop working for other people and walk in faith and start their



Sharyea and David Obayuwana are living their dream: part of that includes son, Hudson.

own companies. Sharyea's take on all this: "We are so blessed to explore our passions and do the things we love and raise our son together." • **Miranda [Johnson] O'Dell** gave birth to a boy, Hunter Dean, last November 29<sup>th</sup>. How many grandkids is that now for her mom, **Karen [Siedschlag] Johnson** ('79)?



Everyone's sporting smiles in the O'Dell family; even little Hunter is on board with that!

2000

It's official, **Jeffrey Boyd** has now been sworn in as a prosecutor!

2001

Only one wedding for the class of 2001: **Jackie Watt** married Steve Labarber on May 21, 2016. • **Michelle [Baggett] McPhee** just upped her total to four with the birth of a baby boy named Cayden, born last December 11<sup>th</sup>. She's amazed at how curious he has been at just half a year. Next up the line is Sophia, who is "full of life" and will be starting Kindergarten this year. Then comes a girl

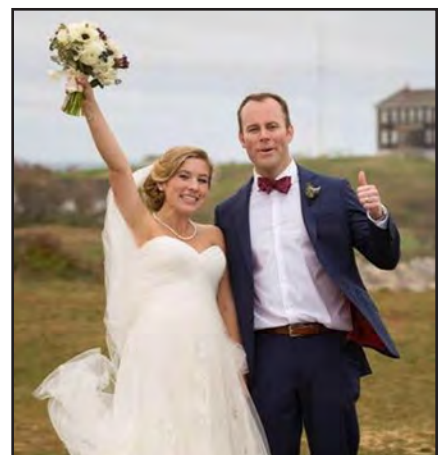


Michelle [Baggett] McPhee's little one, Cayden, makes four for her with TJ, Shelby, and Sophia.

named Shelby, a real reader who starts middle school in September. The oldest is TJ who is looking forward to playing baseball in high school. Besides looking after the kids, Michelle cares for her grandfather, handles finances for her dad's company and works "in the IVF field as a coordinator helping couples grow their families."

2002

An earlier wedding that snuck by me was that of **Stephanie Davis** to Steven Benemie back on Sept. 27,



Brian and Caitlyn O'Keefe celebrate their nuptials back on the east coast,

2013. • New York resident **Brian O’Keefe** met Caitlyn Clark in 2001, and the couple was married in Montauk, NY on Oct. 1, 2016. Brian is working as an Area Sales Manager for a statistical software company called Minitab while his wife is at Bank of America where she works in Learning and Leadership Development. • **Jennifer [Schulz] Perez** and her husband Andrew are the proud parents of Zachary Walker Perez, born last October 13. • **Sarah [Motte] Brockhorst** (’06) wrote saying, “Another Motte boy!!” Cute little Charlie was born to her brother **Scott Motte** and his wife Sandee on September 23,



Jeremiah and Laura added a third girl to the family with the birth of Naomi.



Allen Rivera’s daughter gets her first look at her new-born brother, Aaron.



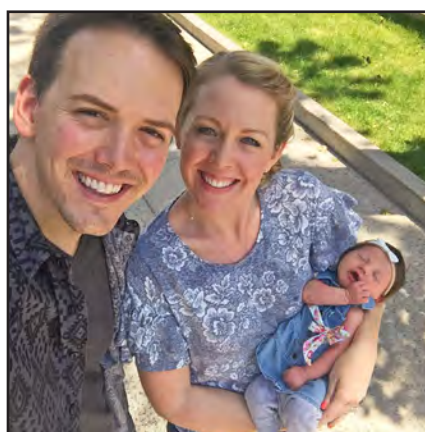
Zachary seems to be a bit hesitant to share the joy reflected in his parents’ faces.

2016. A preemie, Charlie had to stay in the NICU until late October, but is home doing fine now. • It’s three girls now for **Jeremiah and Laura [Barkley] Lee** after the birth of Naomi last December 4<sup>th</sup>. She joins older sisters Grace (4 1/2 years) and Eden (2 1/2 years). • A baby girl was born on May 15, 2017, and this little lass became part of **Zane Gerson’s** family by adoption. They are calling her Quinn Ivy. Zane works with iPad POS systems for a tech company and leads worship at his church, while his wife Stephanie is cur-

rently balancing being a mom with performing in *Sister Act*. When they get the chance, the couple performs with the USO, lifting the spirits of our men in uniform. • Then **Allen Rivera** and his wife added to their family with the birth of boy named Aaron Dean who made his arrival on June 6, 2017. • A more recent addition for this class is that of Oliver Holden Plaster. His parents, **Elizabeth [Clark] & Jerrod Plaster** had to wait a little extra, as he was born on July 21<sup>st</sup>, two weeks past his due date. He was a big one at nearly nine pounds. • Rather than being



Charlie had to spend some extra time in the hospital before Scott & Sandee could take him home.



It was a long wait, but Zane and his wife finally have their daughter, Quinn.



A big baby at birth, the Plasters son Oliver is still their “little boy.”





*It won't be long before Kendra Stewart's baby Ellis can be a playmate for older brother Everett.*

late, Ellis Harvey Stewart joined the family of Nicholas and **Kendra [Petersen] Stewart** five weeks early. Born on August 15<sup>th</sup>, Ellis was almost seven pounds and seems to be doing well.



*With the family in the Houston area, little Cort looks like he going to be a real cowboy.*

2003

On September 24, 2016 **Alyssa [Ayotte] McDaniel** gave birth to her first, a boy named William Cortland whom she calls Cort. Her mom, Kathy Ayotte, who works in the high school office, was able to start school late so that she could be with Alyssa for the birth. • After receiving a Bachelor's at Pepperdine, **Debra [Johnson] Minnich** reported that she and her husband Matt provided

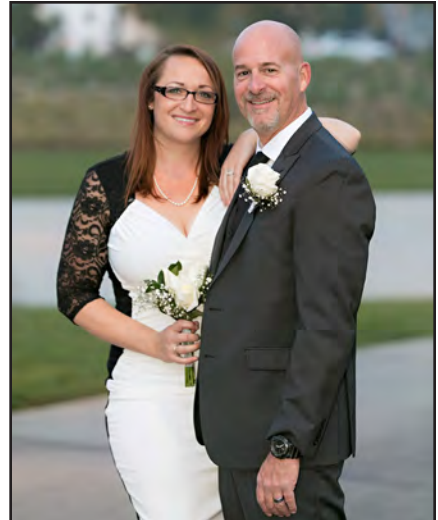


*With the birth of Alexander, Debra Minnich is outnumbered 3 to 1 by the boys.*

a little brother for their son Jason (4). Alexander was born on June 13, 2016. Now a foursome, the Minnichs still live in the Kansas City area. • Eleanor made her appearance rather early, nine weeks in fact, but **Adam Jacobs** and his wife Carrie were still excited about her arrival. She tipped the scales at just a little over 3 pounds. Adam is still teaching band in elementary schools for the Jurupa Unified School District.

2004

Meryl [Grandia] Gasser ('05) let me know that her brother **Willem Grandia** had gotten married. Like Meryl, he and his new wife Amy live in Portland. • Similarly, **Amanda Adams'** mom passed along the news that Amanda had married Art Newman on December 13, 2016. • **Ashley Deutsche** and Brent Clark were married back on July 25, 2015, and then just this summer (June 24) they had a baby girl they named Emma Rose. • Also in baby news, **Cory Freberg** became a dad when Harper June



*Not long before Christmas, Amanda Adams and Art Newman said their vows to each other.*



*Ashley chose a hat with a cute bow for her baby girl Emma.*



*Cory and Amy are clearly proud of their little sweetheart, Harper.*

was born on November 19, 2016. Cory is a senior associate attorney at the Callas & Heise law offices.



Danny and Rebecca are now Mr. & Mrs. Uribe. I wonder if she likes to fish?

2005

**Andrienne [Wantulok] Birkes** ('09) shared that her brother **Blair Wantulok** had graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in welding technology. • It was wedding bells for Danny Uribe as he married Rebecca last month • It's been several years, but **John Butler** married Maggie SiempreLuna on October 26, 2013. • Also getting married was **David Askander** who



David and Heidi Askander chose a scenic venue for their wedding.



It won't be long until Eleanor Gasser gets to celebrate her first birthday.

took Heidi Ibrahim as his bride. David is an attorney at Watkins & Letofsky. • In the note from **Meryl [Grandia] Gasser** she also mentioned that she's now a mom. Little Eleanor was born on November 19<sup>th</sup> of last year. • Also adding to the family were **David** and Sarah **Smith**. Daniel Ryan was born on January 3, 2017. After two girls,



Newborn Daniel looks to be thinking that his older sisters are just overwhelming!



Older sister Madison helps welcome her new brother Ryan to the Branson family.

David wrote, "Finally a boy to carry on the Smith family name." • Another birth in this class was that of Ryan James to **Ashley [Tucker] Branson** and her husband, Chris. Almost an Independence Day baby Ryan was born on July 6<sup>th</sup>. • Earlier this year, we got word at WCS that **Steven Rojas** suffered a major heart attack and had to have open heart surgery, but from everything I've heard recently he has recovered and is doing well.

2006

Sorry to start with the sad news, but Justin Hernandez posted the following item: "It is with an extremely heavy heart to make the announcement that **Nick Aragon** passed away last week. [March 28, 2017] I urge all to remember Nick as he lived, his smile and laughter." Like Justin, I remember his smile, though sometimes it was rather impish. Please pray for his family as they cope with his passing. • On a more joyous note, back on September 26, 2015, **Brittany Barreto** married Jason Miller. • Then last October 28, **Katie**



Brittany and Jason assume a striking wedding pose with the sun setting in the background.

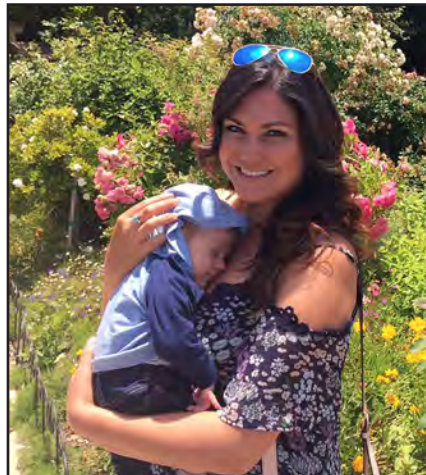


*Pumpkins were an appropriate decoration for a wedding held just three days before Halloween.*

**Koontz** and Paul Soria celebrated their wedding. • Likewise, there are several births to note. Jase Leo was born to **Jake Schutte** and his wife Joi on Sept. 15, 2016. • Then, **Tim Burdett** and his wife Kristi got an early Christmas present with the birth of their first, a girl named Rose Evelyn, born on Dec. 8, 2016. • Finally on March 29<sup>th</sup> of this year, **Tanya [Quinones] Vodila** and her husband Nate became the parents of Derek Joshua. Tanya reports, “I gave up my full-



*Rose may have made her appearance a little early, but nothing like her father.*



*Safe in the arms of his mom, Tanya, Derek catches up on his sleep.*

time job as a corporate recruiter to be a stay-at-home mommy. Now I work part time from home as a personal stylist for Stitch Fix.” • Just recently, on July 31, Aaron Ortiz and his wife were blessed with a boy they named Aaron Conrad. • Unfortunately, **Malorie [Macias] Stevens** announced “my beautiful son Owen Christopher Alan went to be with the Lord” due to trauma from the birth that almost took Malorie too. Though Malorie praises the Lord for his faithfulness to them through this difficult process, continue to uphold her and



*Malorie and Eric hold a plaque in memory of the baby they lost back in September.*

her husband in prayer. • In other news, **Michael Martinez** is now in LA where he is the 4DX Editor at CJ 4Dplex in Hollywood. • Also moving was David Waltemeyer, who, since September, has called Beaumont home. • **Mallory Clark** let me know that she will be graduating in December 2017 with a Juris Doctorate from the Ventura Colleges of Law. Currently, she is working full time at a family law firm in Camarillo, CA, and will be sitting for the February bar exam.



*Sound engineer, Michael Martinez, has taken a position as editor at 4DX which seeks to enhance the experience of movie-goers.*

### 2007

It’s been ten years since the class of 2007 walked across the stage at Harvest, and they got together to celebrate that milestone early in June. On June third, they met on campus, a place where three of their members are presently employed. • I could have mentioned this in faculty news, but rookie choral music instructor **Ben Halsne** and Kathleen Koptizke exchanged their vows on August 4, 2017. The couple met in the mu-



Alumni from 2007 (and family members) gathered on campus for their tenth reunion the first weekend in June. Can you identify which members of this class are now on staff at WCS?

sic program at CBU and dated for four years before tying the knot at East Hills Community Church. Work issues for Ben's wife made it a short honeymoon in San Diego, but they hope to rectify that at Christmas • In another recent marriage, **Mitch Phillips** married Marissa on June 24, 2017. • Then, **Tawney [Kulpa] Markham** gave birth to a baby boy she named Ethan in October of last year. • The Sullivan family on campus was



Mitch & Marissa Phillips were married in a beautiful outdoor ceremony. And, yes, that's Scott Schutte officiating the service.



Both Ben and his wife Katie teach music in the Riverside area.

excited to announce that they were grandparents! **Jamie [Sullivan] Staten** gave birth to a boy named Johnathan Earl on September 9, 2016. Jamie's mom, the chemistry teacher at WCS, thinks he's "the cutest grandson on the planet." • Another addition to the baby list for this class is Audrey Jae Lillestol, born on December 5, 2016 to **Tyler Lillestol** and his wife Sara. The Lillestols live in Midland, Texas



A newborn in this picture, Johnathan is on the verge of walking by this time.



Tyler Lillestol is starting his daughter early in the art of handling a golf cart.

where Tyler continues to serve as Assistant Superintendent of Golf Course Maintenance at a local country club and Sara is working as an Office Manager for a financial planner.

### 2008

After **Janelle Tweed** graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a degree in Psychology and a French minor in 2013, she traveled and worked in Southeast Asia and Europe for a year. She's currently in her second year of school to become a PA (Physician Assistant). • Lots of news from **Lance**



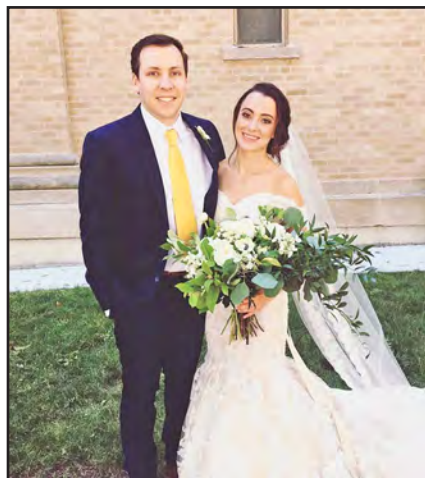
Janelle Tweed just got her "white coat" in the Physician's Assistant program at CBU.

**Morgan.** While he was at CSU Fullerton, Lance attended a Harvard Model UN Conference and met Priscila Castillo-Hernandez from the Universidad de Monterrey (Mexico). The relationship blossomed and they were married in December of 2012. Then, in March, 2015 a daughter was born and they named her Isabelle Marie. Most recently, in May of this year, Lance earned his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center, and he plans to pursue a career in education law as



Wife, baby, degree: everything seems to be coming together for Lance Morgan.

well as labor and employment law. • After finishing his Masters in Folkloistics at Cal Berkeley this spring, **Sam Puliafico** married Caitlin Sheehan on July 7<sup>th</sup>. • "We welcomed Joanna Elizabeth to our family on November 13, 2016 and she is a delight. She is so sweet and a perfect addition to our family," reported **Sarah [Sonke] Cooley**. She also mentioned that she works for Young Living as an essential oil distributor and educator and had begun leading worship at her church on a regular basis. Sarah's husband is an account manager for Prosum in the IT Recruiting industry. Their home in Westmin-



It's been just over a month that Sam and Caitlyn Puliafico have been married.



The score is now 1 to 1 in Sarah Cooley's family with the birth of Joanna.



Austin's girl Zakiyah is nearly a year old and her older sister Shoshy is three.

ster has a good back yard for her older son to run around. • Another September baby, arriving on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, was Zakiyah, born to **Austin Cords** and his wife Loni. • **Kaleen [Musich] Musser** finished assisting her brother Laird ('05) coach this year's varsity girls basketball team before giving birth to her baby on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. She and husband **Andy** ('09) named the little one Ronan Andrew. • **Josh Christiansen** and his wife Jenni had a little girl on May 19, 2017 whom they named Jordyn Felicity. She was a tiny one at only 4 lbs. 15 oz., but seems to be doing great. • After



It looks like Kaleen and Andy are getting Ronan into the outdoors as early as possible.



Jordyn Christiansen might be a tiny one, but I'll bet she has a good set of lungs.

meeting Erin on Facebook in 2010 while he was deployed in Afghanistan, **Evan Illsley** married her in April of 2015. Last May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the couple had a baby girl they named Adla Rose. • The most recent birth for this class came with the arrival Zoey Gram to **Taylor [Rusich]** and Vincent **Lomuscio**. After becoming a mommy on August 4<sup>th</sup>, Taylor said that words could not express how much love she has for her little girl.



It won't be long until Evan's girl Adla will be too big to be carried this way.



One of the newest members of the extended Woodcrest Christian family is Zoey Lomuscio.

### 2009

In ninth grade, **Sarah Logsdon** got to visit the Kennedy Space Center. That birthed a desire in her to study space. After receiving a degree in Physics from UC San Diego, Sarah



Sarah helped the development of FLITECAM, a near-infrared camera and spectrometer. Inset: Sarah and her mom at her UCLA graduation.



The letters "DDS" look pretty good on Christina Cao's white coat.

went on to earn a doctorate in Astronomy from UCLA. This fall she will begin a NASA Postdoctoral Program to study brown dwarfs. • After graduating from Loma Linda University's dental school in 2016, **Christina Cao** now works alongside her father at his practice. • In a wedding I apparently missed last year, **Alison Ogilvie** married Daniel Grant on March 12 of 2016. • Also married in that year was **Jaeson Robinson** who was united in marriage to Allison Ludwig on June 25. They met via WCS alum Caitlin Hutchinson, and



It looks like it was all fun and games at the wedding of Allison Ogilvie and Daniel Grant.



Joyously returning from the altar are Mr. and Mrs. Jaeson Robinson.



Adrienne is now Mrs. Birkes after marrying Jake almost a year ago.

now have a home (complete with 2 dogs) near the Riverside Plaza. • Then in September, there were two weddings. First, on the eighteenth, **Adrienne Wantulok** and Jake Birkes were wed. The couple now call Seattle home. • Then, on the twenty-fifth, **Crystal Johnston** married Pierce York. In the new year, the weddings kept on com-



The elegance of the newlyweds, Pierce and Crystal, is highlighted by contrast to the rustic setting.

ing. • **Candace Carpenter** and Joseph Hunt were pronounced man and wife on April 29, 2017 and on June 10, 2017 **Josh Dirks** took Lindsay as his bride. • There were also a couple of births for this class. **Jessica [Miller] Wright** and her husband welcomed a boy named Boone Allen, born March 1, 2017. • Two months later, Aiden Graham joined the **Mat Longinow's** family on May 27. • After five years of marriage, **Brandon Ward** and his wife Danielle are the proud parents of Zoë Aunalyne Ward who made her appearance on July 14, 2017. Brandon finished his Masters in Public Administration at CBU in 2016 and is a Human Resources



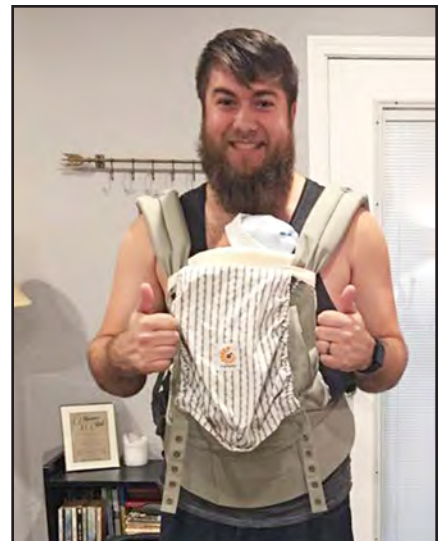
Candace Carpenter's brother Kevin ('01) and his family get in a picture with the newlyweds.



At their wedding, the tenderness flows from Josh & Lindsay's pose.



Jessica's baby, Boone, didn't seem eager to pose so soon after he was born.



I'm willing to bet that baby Aiden will have great fun pulling on his dad's beard.



When Zoe Ward arrived, she could boast of having a full head of hair.



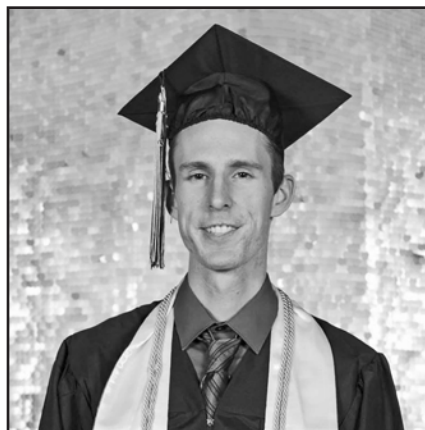
Oh! Isn't Mrs. Pounders proud of her first grandchild: Tracy's little lad Dante.

Analyst for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He also returned to WCS to help coach our varsity boys team last year. Danielle is an online English teacher for at-risk youth at Insight Schools of California. • The most recent addition to a 2009 family seems to be Dante Alistair Glasper born to **Tracy [Pounders] Glasper** and her husband Jourdon on July 20, 2017. • URGENT: Near the end of June, **Gabriela Jimenez** was out on a bicycle ride with her dad when she was hit by a car (that apparently didn't bother to stop). She sustained life-threatening injuries which have already required numerous surgeries. Her mom put a list of her injuries on Facebook, and the tally was staggering: broken bones and organ damage (which included the removal of a kidney). Apparently, the CT scan on her head was normal. Gabriela has a long road of recovery ahead of her, so please keep her in your prayers. UPDATE: Gabriela has been moved from ICU to PCU

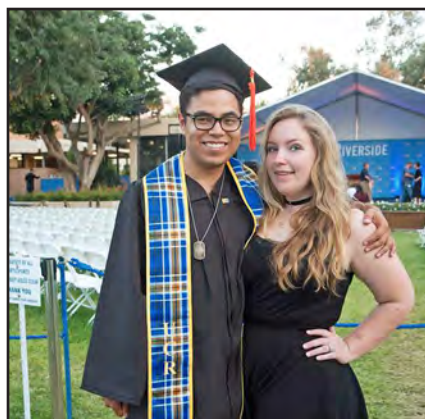
(Progressive Care Unit) and continues to improve, but it's going to be a long road to complete recovery.

2010

The following notice appeared on Facebook last fall: "On Thanksgiving 2016, **Simon Kim** passed away at the age of 24. He left behind his beautiful daughter, adoring girlfriend, and a loving family." Keep in prayer for those just mentioned. • After graduating from CBU in December, **Adam Clark** has done several stints as a sub for us on campus. • Two weddings took place for alumni from 2010. First **George Flores** mar-



Adam didn't wear his cap and gown when he helped by subbing in some high school classes.



Mr. & Mrs. George Flores celebrate his graduation from UCR this spring.

ried Shannon Michelle Todd on October 13, 2016. He also received his degree from UCR in June. • More recently, **Ryan Welsh** and Abigail were married on May 30, 2017 and then honeymooned in Iceland. • No longer newlyweds, **Kellie [Vander Schaaf] and Kyle Trujillo** welcomed little Emma Lilia into their family on November 14th last fall. • Last year, **Jesse Brooks** started working as a documentation specialist at Augmedix in San Francisco. The company



Ryan and Abigail share a dance at their wedding..



Kyle and Kellie are ecstatic. Wee Emma has yet to get on board with their joy.



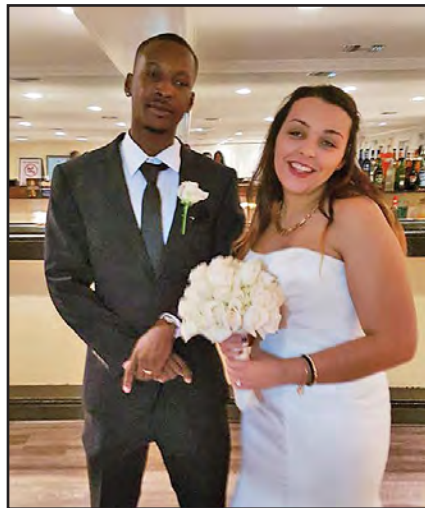
offers electronic health record services to health care providers.

2011

After leaving college after his junior year to pursue a career in baseball, **Trevor Oaks** returned to CBU in the off-season to complete his education, earning his degree from CBU last December. After spending spring training with the big squad, Trevor pitches for the Dodgers' triple A team in Oklahoma City. • Also graduating was **Katie Corbin** who earned her Master of Education degree from Cal Baptist. Katie is now working as second grade teacher for RUSD. • Another graduate was **Taylor [Wells] Maberry** who received her MBA this past June. • Since the last newsletter a number of weddings for this class have taken place. • Last September 17, **Jaelen Davenport** married Erin. • The next month, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, **Kaitlyn Valenzuela** married Willie Purmort. • A month later, **Myosha Creekbaum** and Kalechie Thompson were married on November



Jaelen and Erin have made Seattle their home since their wedding.



It won't be long until Myosha and Kalechie can celebrate their first anniversary.



The chill of the snow didn't dampen the spirits at Cameron and Jessica's wedding.



Joi [Sullivan] & Jake Rogers use his Marine sword to cut the ceremonial piece of wedding cake.

16. • Finally, late this spring, another couple of weddings took place. • **Jessica Bills** and Cameron Lawson said their vows to each other on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and finally, in a scenic, ranch-setting up north in Arroyo Grande, former political competitors **Joi Sullivan** and Jake Rogers were married on June third. • Since July 17, 2016 **Michelle Gibson** has been Mrs. Hunt, but now she's "mommy" after the birth of Jackson James.



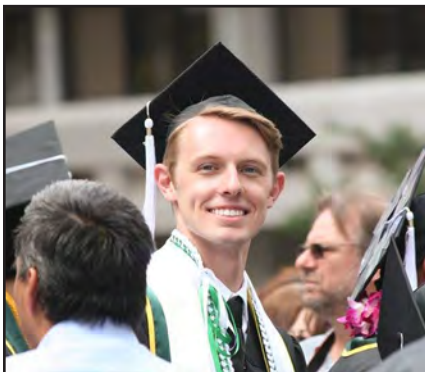
Jillian's light blue hood indicates a degree in education. She'll stand in front of a class this fall.

2012

A number from this class earned their degrees this spring. At Loma Linda University, **Madie Barrett** received her Doctor of Physical Therapy. • It was an English Literature degree for **Tim Courtney** at Cal Poly Pomona, and then **Michelle DePorto** graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in philosophy; she's preparing to continue her education at law school. Nor was there a



Clad in doctoral garb, Madie proudly holds her degree in physical therapy.



Standing out in the middle of the commencement crowd was graduate Tim Courtney.

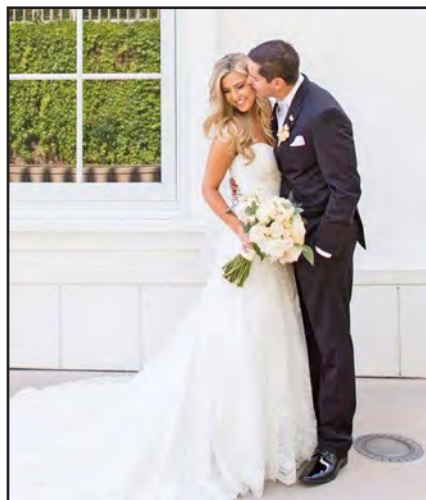
shortage of weddings for the class of 2012. The earliest seems to be that of **Blake Burns** who married Krissy on November 13, 2016. • Just after the beginning of the new year, **Amber White** and Tanner Collison celebrated their nuptials on January sixth. Tanner actually did a chapel for us in the spring. • Then on March 25<sup>th</sup>, **Garrett Gottlob** made Christina Hollar his wife. Garrett is now studying at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas and working as the youth director at his church. • After getting her degree from CBU last year, **Jillian Corbin** married Jake Thomas on April 4<sup>th</sup> this past



Amber & Tanner work with "The Traveling Team" encouraging collegians to mobilize for outreach.



Garrett and Christina got beautiful weather for their wedding.



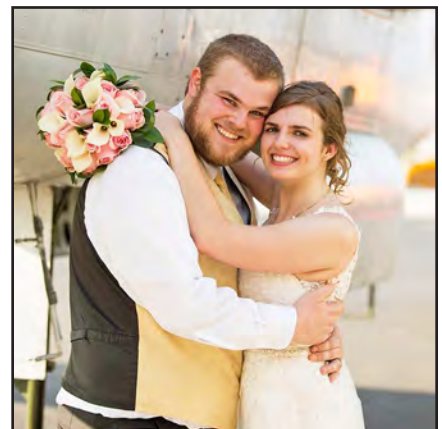
Jillian posted a beautiful video of her wedding on her Facebook page.

spring. • In a beautiful outdoor ceremony at the Handlery Hotel in San Diego, **Aimee Gauss** wed Robert Wagner on Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>. • Following that **Lisa Scholl**, mar-



It was all smiles as Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wagner were introduced for the first time.

ried Robert Mayhew just this past June 24<sup>th</sup>. • The most recent wedding was that of **Bethany Doerksen** who married Joshua Jenkins on August 19, 2017. WCS middle



It just had to be that Lisa and Robert would pose in front of a vintage aircraft.



The Doerksens welcome Bethany's husband Joshua into the family.

school history teacher, Mr. Doerksen and his wife flew to Texas for the celebration • I also saw a note that **Vinnie Castelluccio** started working at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona last October.

2013

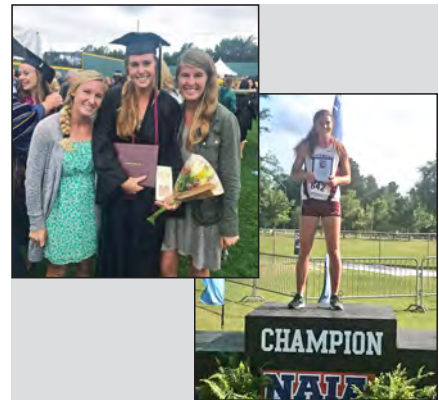
With about twenty percent of recent graduating classes going to CBU, many members of this class graduated from there this past year. **Josh Beevor** earned his degree in Criminal Justice and is now preparing to take the LSAT. During his time at CBU, Josh has helped coach baseball at several levels at WCS. • Building upon his time at CBU, **Nathan Busbee** has applied to the Loma Linda Occupational Therapy program. • **Devon Gonzales** earned her degree in Exercise Science. • Another Exercise Science grad is **Jon Robbins** who is seeking to advance to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. • **Daley Thomale's** degree was in mathematics, and she's looking to continue in that field in grad school. • Also earning degrees from CBU were **Ethan Anderson, Michaela Helinski, Cayla Lowe, Austin Rice, and Matt Wurm**, who got

his degree in Political Science with a minor in Psychology. • Back in December, **Sarah Koes** and **Morgan Zurborg** received their degrees from Biola. Morgan is working as an EMT in Orange County while she applies to Physician's Assistant school. • Then in the spring, **Brian Messner** and **Josh Murdaugh** successfully wrapped up their time at Biola. • Still in the SoCal area, **Jordan Silveira** graduated from Loyola Marymount University. • A little further north, **Hannah Seabert** wrapped up her education and stellar soccer career at Pepperdine University, where

she won WCC Goalkeeper of the Year honors. She is now playing for the Orlando Pride or the National Women's Soccer League. Further up the coast, **Becky Collier** earned her degree in Social Entrepreneurship from Westmont College early in May. Later that month, she captured the NAIA heptathlon title, winning the high jump competition en route. Also in Santa Barbara, **Brittany Walker** majored in linguistics at UCSB. Brittany also competed on the UCSB rowing squad while she



Although she finished in December, Morgan Zurborg celebrates with fellow Biola graduates Brian Messner and Josh Murdaugh in May.



Becky's twin sisters Amber and Bredann celebrate her graduation with her!



Will Daley maintain her carefree graduation spirit as she begins doctoral studies in math at UCR?



Goalie Hannah Seabert will compete on the USA team at the World University Games this month.

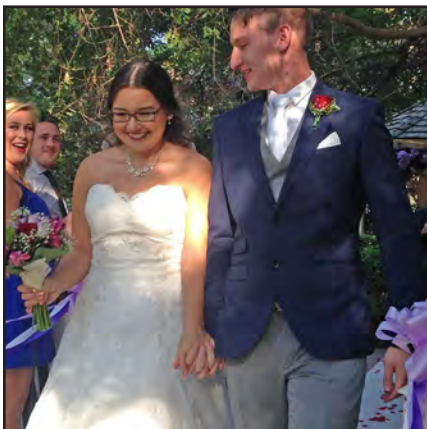


Brittany should return from Santa Barbara soon to begin her EMT studies.



Jolyn Green graduated with a degree in Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management.

was there. Her immediate goals seem to include getting trained as an EMT. • Finally, **Jolyn Green** completed her studies at the US Merchant Marine Academy. She received the the Captain Donald J. Ferguson Award for reflecting pride and service to the Regiment, and was the female winner of the annual USMMA Scholar-Athlete Award. Jolyn is now serving in the US Navy reserves. • Three weddings took place for members of this class. Last October 4, **Ashlei Bacca** and Timothy Webb were married at Edwards Mansion in Redlands. Then, Navy man **Chris Alamo** took Kayla as his wife on February 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. Then, after school let out for the sum-



Ashlei and her husband Timothy currently reside in New South Wales, Australia.



New Navy wife, Kayla Alamo, is getting used to life in the military.

mer, **Rachel Rogers** married Jack Stotts on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Shortly after her wedding, however, Rachel lost her mom to cancer. • **Christian Contreras** continues to excel in the military: besides being one of the 195 survivors of Class 003-17 which started with 329, he was the 12 mile foot march champion.



The new Mrs. Stotts, is currently working at Teen Challenge in Riverside.

2014

After graduating from CBU, **Mackenzie Hammar** has taken a position as a substitute teacher for the Rialto Unified School District. Then just this past weekend (Aug. 20), Mackenzie married Omar Torres.



Fresh from the altar, Omar and Mackenzie Torres share a dance together.



At UCR, WCS alum Matt Vitale has taken a leadership role in the California College Republicans.

Odds and Ends!  
Pictures just for fun.



Randy Navarro (1988) and his family. His son is almost as tall as he is!



Optometrist Caroline [Oliver] Robison ('89) gets to play with fun toys.



Lara Packard Schriver ('96) and her family.



Natasha [Billeb] Ver Wayne ('98) and her family.



Kris Gerke ('98) and kids.



The family of Danny Roberts ('98).



Matt Alberre's ('09) family's store also benefited when a customer bought a winning lottery ticket there.



Friends from 2007 get together for a celebration.



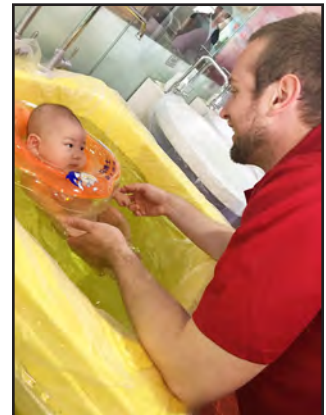
Mrs. Sullivan, our chemistry & anatomy teacher at WCS, thinks Johnathan is just "the cutest grandson on the planet."



Bethany [Johnson] Kritzer's ('06) little one seems to be doing well after her early struggles.



Joey Garcia's ('09) Cambodian students made a cake in his honor..



Nathan Busbee ('13) was able to minister with a CBU mission team in China.