



# Pray for NC

Building Lives for Eternity

## Campus Improvements Update



by Josh Cumpston, Administrator

I want to use my column in this Advance to let you know what God has been doing on campus. I hope that you will join me in praising Him for the wondrous things He has done.

*Psalm 127:1*

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.”*

In November 2015, our girls moved into Elliot Hall. Since then, we’ve had a dedication ceremony and a grand opening. Last summer, Elliot Hall housed an International Camp and an FCA event. It has already been a huge blessing and will be a very important tool in the Lord’s work on campus. It is also completely paid for. Phase 1 of the building project is complete!

Thank you to all of you who were able to give financially or who prayed for this part of “The Next 50 Years” capital campaign.

### Other Changes in the Past Year

- We have been hooked up to city water.
- We have updated electricity and technology infrastructure across campus.
- We have been able to update lighting across campus, including security lights.
- Our greenhouse is completed, and our students are using it as part of our science curriculum.
- We have added new computers and copiers/printers for staff.

Amid all of this, we have been able to meet our general budget the last four years in a row.

One more thing: This year, we have the highest 7-12 enrollment in the history of Nebraska Christian!

We are awed, we are humbled, and we are thankful.

### Some of our Next Steps

I want to let you know what is going on with Phase 2 of the “Next 50 Years” capital campaign. Our team, led by the Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation, wrapped up Phase 1 late this past summer, which included a \$1.4 million dorm (Elliot Hall) and another \$0.3 million in water infrastructure, lighting, sidewalks, and tree removal.

*continued on pg. 3*



G. Nguyen (right) grills hamburgers with his host, NC custodian Curtis Cooper

## Adopt a Dorm Student Program a Success

by Brad Hilderbrand, sophomore

The dorms at Nebraska Christian are trying a new program this year called Adopt a Dorm Student. As the name implies, students in the dorm can go stay with a family in the Central City area one Sunday per month. Host families are current NC families and staff members, parents of alumni, and others who want to build relationships with our international students. This program allows students to get outside the dorm and get to know families in the area, and it also allows families to get to know the dorm students. Eric Zanger, Director of the International Program, said, “I think for many of our kids, these Sundays are the highlights of their experience. This program been very successful, and I would love to see it continue in the future.”



**Students:** Pray for seniors who are making decisions regarding college and career.

Pray for safety as our students travel to and from school.

**Events:** Pray that God would bring the right items and people to the Dinner & Benefit Auction (3/24-25), and pray for Kristy and Deana as they organize it.

Pray for the elementary musical (3/3) and campus preview day (4/1).

**School:** Pray for recruitment for the next school year, that God would bring the right families to NC.

— Philippians 4:6 —

**The NC Elementary proudly presents**

## Operation Arctic

a Patch the Pirate Musical

Friday, March 3, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Central City

Free Admission

# nc advance

volume 47 • number 1

Josh Cumpston, *Administrator*

Becky Ritta ('99), *Editor*

Beth (Ritta '98) Keim, *Layout & Design*

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Editorial Submissions: All news or information from NC Alumni, students and teachers is welcome. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

## NC Board of Directors:

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Mission: The mission of Nebraska Christian Schools is to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education, equipping students with a biblical worldview and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.



Row 1: Melinda Kim, Cream Masatit, Marilla Flynn, Hailee Broman. Row 2: Juan Lasso, Jeremiah Ebel, Ben Janssen, Wendy Bornmann, Gladys Choi, Danae Burdett. Row 3: Bekah Feddersen, Andrew Feely, Luke Swanson, Cole Ruybalid, Chase Tate. Not Pictured: Daniel Myers.

## Students Selected to UNK Honor Choir

Sixteen Nebraska Christian students were selected to one of three choirs at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Honor Band & Choral Clinic. The clinic was held on January 23, 2017, and the day culminated in a concert at the UNK Health & Sports Center.

## Wiebe Receives Hall of Faith Award



Gladys Wiebe holds her Hall of Faith Award.

Each year, the NC board chooses one or two couples or individuals to honor with the Hall of Faith Award, given for service at Nebraska Christian. Be it through teaching, giving of time and finances, promoting the school, or being involved in other ways on campus, these individuals have made an impact on Nebraska Christian and its students.

This year, the board selected Gladys Wiebe to receive the honor. Wiebe, who lives in Kansas, was unable to be at the Harvest Festival, where the award is presented. Board secretary Lester Unruh and his wife, Twyla, later visited Wiebe and presented her with the plaque. The following tribute was written by Susan (Roth) Ritta, who worked in the NC office with Wiebe.

In the second year of Nebraska Christian's existence, a young woman from Kansas joined the staff. She was the office secretary, as well as the sponsor for the school newspaper. Her work in the office and around the campus was meticulous, and she expected the same from other staff and students. Her giftedness in many areas was put

## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY

11 Pancake Feed, 5-7:30 p.m.  
Adults \$5, K-6 \$3

### MARCH

3 Elementary Musical, 7 p.m.  
PAC in Central City

7 Speech Showcase, 6:30 p.m.

12 Choir Tour, TBA

24-25 Dinner & Benefit Auction  
(see pgs. 5 & 7)

### APRIL

1 Campus Preview, 8:45 a.m.

2 Choir Tour, TBA

9 Choir Tour, TBA

### MAY

13 Graduation, 10:30 a.m.

18 Last Day of School

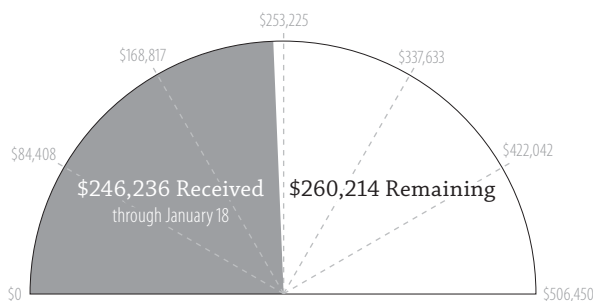
For additional events visit  
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to good use in her years at NC. A talented musician, she taught piano lessons and accompanied musical groups and individuals on campus. When there was a need for a girls' dorm mom, she filled that position in Whittier Hall. Other positions she held over the years were secretary to the Superintendent and bookkeeper. She also made sure the campus bookstore was stocked with necessities for the students.

Her involvement in the local Berean Church in the areas of Christian Education and music was much appreciated. One year, unable to find a Christmas program suitable for the children of the church to perform, she and a small committee wrote one themselves!

She left the school to return to Kansas after 15 years, but her faithfulness in praying for and giving to NC over the years has been a blessing. We are honored to present the Hall of Faith Award for 2016 to Gladys Wiebe.

## 2016-2017 Gift Income: \$246,236 Received through January 18



Total Budgeted: \$506,450

Fiscal year runs July-June

We are nearly halfway there! God continues to provide for the needs of Nebraska Christian Schools through the gifts of people like you. Thanks so much for your faithfulness. Your support makes our mission possible.

### Have you seen our new video?

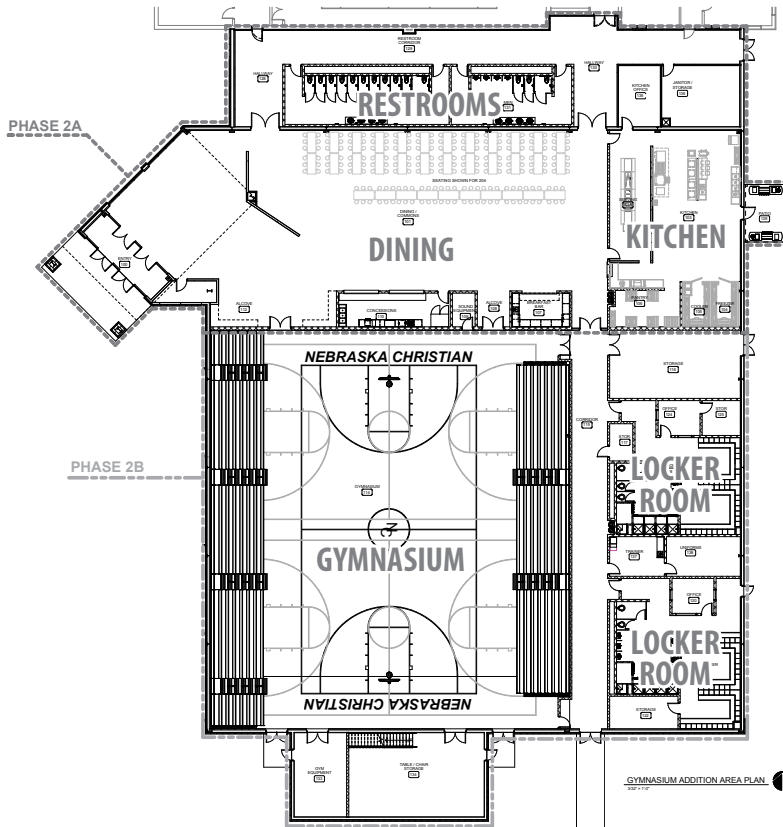
It gives a glimpse at what a Nebraska Christian education looks like today. Watch it on the homepage of our website ([nebraskachristian.org](http://nebraskachristian.org)).

**If you like it, please share it!**



## Phase 2

Kitchen, Dining Hall, Commons Area, Restrooms, Concessions Stand, Gymnasium, Locker Rooms, Storage Rooms, Expanded Parking Lot, Chapel/Lecture Hall and Exterior Remodel of Existing Gymnasium Building.



### Phase 2A

- \$3.2 million
- State of the Art Kitchen
  - Dining Hall with seating for over 200
  - Concession Stand for Activities & Fundraising
  - ADA Restrooms
  - Entrance & Commons Area
  - Exterior remodel of existing Gymnasium Building
  - Expanded Parking Lot with convenient drop off and pickup

### Phase 2B

- \$2.8 million
- Collegiate sized 94' Competition Gymnasium & Activity Center, with seating for over 900
  - Boys & Girls Locker Rooms
  - Athletic Training Room & Uniform Storage
  - Athletic Storage Space
  - Fine Arts/Programming Storage

## Make checks payable to Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation

Mail to:  
 Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation  
 PO Box 222, Central City, NE 68826  
 EIN: 45-1300291  
 Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director

Contact us:  
 308.946.3836  
[foundation@nebraskachristian.org](mailto:foundation@nebraskachristian.org)  
[nebraskachristian.org/foundation](http://nebraskachristian.org/foundation)

### Cumpston, continued from pg. 1

The fundraising shifted earlier this fall to Phase 2. So far, \$158,000 has been given toward Phase 2. I hear a lot of people refer to this as a gym project, so I want to explain what this will allow for our students and guests and show you how this is much more than just a gym project.

Our current facilities don't always take very good care of our guests. Our bathrooms don't handle many people, and the individual stalls are very small. This is one of the first things that would be taken care of as part of Phase 2.

Our dining room drives the school

schedule because we can't all fit in at one time, causing us to operate on three lunch shifts. Also, when we have events, there isn't a place for students, parents, and guests to fellowship. This next phase would answer both of these problems with a new and larger dining room that would double as a commons area when we are hosting events.

We'd also like to be able to expand the kitchen and its storage. Meals for events and school lunches would be easier with more space and more storage, enabling our kitchen staff to be more efficient.

Moving out of our current dining room, bathrooms, and kitchen

would open up more room for our music program and could provide additional classroom space. We'd be able to have more storage, practice rooms, and space for the music department to grow. Today, the music room gets used for many activities that could be hosted in the new cafeteria/commons. This project would allow our music program to have a dedicated space, rather than often sharing with other events and activities.

Our current gym/music/dining building's exterior would be redone, including a new roof, siding, windows, and doors. This would give it an extended life of service

on campus.

All of these things would happen in the first part of Phase 2 (Phase 2A). To learn more about Phase 2, please see the Foundation's plans at the top of this page.

If God allows this project to proceed, it would be huge for NC. Phase 2A would allow us to expand our summer programming and host more school events and other Christian events. It would give us more flexible class scheduling, improve our fine arts program because of more dedicated space, and allow us to be better hosts.

Phase 2B would add a gym, locker

*continued on pg. 6*

## Alumni Spotlight: Michelle Toukan ('11)



by Stephani (Deichmann '03) Francl, Development Director

When Michelle Toukan graduated from Nebraska Christian in 2011, she had no idea of the adventure God would send her on a mere five years later. Toukan is currently training as a rookie developmental skeleton athlete at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, New York. I recently spoke with her about her journey.

**SF: Thanks for taking a few minutes to fill me in on your Olympic dreams. And why don't we start there. When did you first dream of being on the USA Olympic team?**

**MT:** When I was 6 years old and in competitive gymnastics, we watched the Olympics. I remember thinking to myself that I wanted to compete on that level someday. It was the ultimate goal, and I was always a dreamer.

**SF: What was the first sport or competition that you were involved in that you hoped could lead to the Olympics?**

**MT:** I competed in gymnastics growing up and always dreamed of being on the Husker gymnastics team. But when I started my 7th grade year, things started changing. I remember not loving gymnastics as much as I always had. I wanted more time to spend with my older brother, Chris. We loved snowboarding and riding our

motorcycles together. That, along with having to leave school early to go to gymnastics practice, was tough for a young girl.

I made one of the hardest decisions of my life, thinking I was giving up my dream of college athletics. I quit right before competition season, and three months later my brother passed away. It was the best three months that I spent with him. I know God was leading me to that decision, even though I still miss gymnastics.

**SF: So how did you get from there, to now being a rookie developmental skeleton athlete for this season?**

**MT:** As a high school student, I sprinted and pole vaulted in track. My junior year I won the 100 meter dash at the state track meet and tied the state record. I also competed in pole vault at state each year. It was such an amazing experience, and colleges started recruiting me to run. My dream of college athletics was coming back.

I had a meeting my senior year with the track coaches at Nebraska. In our conversation, the pole vault coach said I was not good enough to jump, but they really wanted me to sprint. Instead, I decided to pursue my dream at Hastings College, where I received a full-tuition scholarship and became an All-American Pole Vault.

When I was running one of my

last track meets in college, I asked my sprint coach what I could do with my life, since I knew I was not good enough to be an Olympic pole vaulter. He suggested the bobsled team because I am fast and very strong for my size. I kept that in mind as I graduated and started a marketing job at a local non-profit in Kearney, Nebr. I loved my job, but after only six months I was depressed. I have so much drive and passion, and though I was still running and lifting, it wasn't enough.

I remembered what my coach had said about the bobsled team, so I googled bobsledding and found out that there were tryouts being hosted around the country in the spring. I immediately sent in my "resume" and was accepted to go to a tryout. I started training with my pole vault coach from college. I flew to tryouts in Ohio in July 2016, where we had to sprint, jump, and throw a shotput. It was basically a "fitness" test. They take the athletes who make 500 points to the next round. I made 478 points. The coach said he could see I was very fast, and they might take me to the next round, anyway. On August 1, I got a call: the coach said to buy a plane ticket; I was in the top 10 of 100 females who tried out, and they would like to see me back!

I went to the Olympic training center in Lake Placid, New York, the last weekend of August for "push championships." We learned to push the bobsled/skeleton on a track with rails and wheels, like a rail car. The first day we were pushing, the bobsled coach said that I



Michelle Toukan with her Skeleton sled

was too small to bobsled. The other women I was competing against had about 30 pounds on me. But he said I would be perfect for the skeleton. I was in last place at the beginning of the week, but at the end of the week we had a competition to see how fast we could push the skeleton/bobsled. I ended up second place in the skeleton push and got invited to be a developmental athlete for the season, so basically I'll be training this season.

**SF: OK, now you'll have to explain skeleton to me. What exactly is it? What skills are required? How do you train to develop and hone them?**

**MT:** The skeleton is a one-person sled that you ride head first down the bobsled track. You sprint to start pushing the sled in front of

*continued on pg. 6*

All elementary students are invited to

**Digging Deeper at NC:  
Football, Fossils & Fractions  
March 14 at 9 a.m.**

Featuring Coach Ron Brown, Brian Young of Creation Instruction, and Math Games with Andy Falk.

Lunch will be provided.

*All students must be accompanied by a teacher or parent.*

RSVP to 308.946.3836 by March 10

keep up with **NC**

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**FA-LA-LA-LA-LA**  
The elementary spent an afternoon Christmas caroling at several places around town. Their stops included Dairy Queen, Waffles-n-More, the gazebo, and Cottonwood Estates.



## 2017 Dinner & Benefit Auction March 24-25

by Kristy Langemeier & Deana Leonard, Special Events Office



You are invited to attend this very important dinner

and auction! By God's grace, this event has raised over \$1.7 million during the past 14 years and has afforded NC the ability to supplement teacher salaries and provide scholarships for those students who may not otherwise have been able to attend. As we are preparing for our 15th auction, we can see God's hand all over this event. He has chosen to bless us not only financially, but also through the community exposure it gives us and the opportunity to invite people to our campus that might not come for any other reason. It is also a time for the entire NC family to work together and give back to the school we all appreciate so much.

You can partner with Nebraska Christian by:

- Providing items, gift certificates, and/or services. We will be accepting items for our Silent and Live Auctions until February 10th. Feel free to call with your creative ideas. We may be able to network some items to create a total package, or you may be able to give us a

lead to something we haven't thought of. Unique experiences have brought thousands of dollars to this fundraiser.

- Donating cash to underwrite the expenses of the event. The more of our expenses that are underwritten by your donations, the greater the profit the school realizes from the sale of tickets and items.

- Sponsoring a table:

**Corporate Level**

\$1000 Table Sponsor – 8 guests  
Prominent recognition in the catalog at the event and in our publications

**Standard Level**

\$400.00 Table Sponsor – 8 guests

**Individual Level**

\$50.00 per Dinner Reservation

- Donating money to go directly to the scholarship fund. We have found our donors to be very enthusiastic about giving to scholarship, thus making a Christian education available to students who might otherwise not be able to attend NC.

Reservations and donations can be made by stopping by the Special Events Office, calling the office at 308-946-3836, calling Kristy's cell at 402-209-3282, or emailing [klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org](mailto:klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org).

NC Flashback



(Left) As our elementary students prepare for this year's Patch the Pirate musical (details on pg. 1), we're flashing back to NC elementary's very first Patch the Pirate musical, *The Misterslippi River Race*, during the 1989-1990 school year. If you can identify any of the students pictured, you could win a prize. Send your guesses to [advance@nebraskachristian.org](mailto:advance@nebraskachristian.org).

From the last issue (right):

The teacher pictured is Mr. Bob McGrew. Thanks to everyone who sent in their guesses—this was by far our most popular flashback yet! Congratulations to Dan Schmidt ('79), whose name was drawn from all of the correct entries.



# Exploring the Bill of Rights

by Hailee Broman, senior

The Bill of Rights display in the high school building is more than words on cardboard. It is a symbol of America's freedom, liberty, and rights. It is a commemoration of how the Bill of Rights came to be and all that it has done for the U.S. The display signifies the Bill of Rights' 225th anniversary, and, as Mrs. Ruth Ferris said, "It reminds citizens that we the people have an important part in making our government and electing representatives."



## Alumni Spotlight, continued from pg. 6

you, then jump on your stomach and steer with pressure from your shoulders. In 1926 the Olympic Committee declared bobsled/skeleton a sport, but not until 2002 did skeleton stand on its own in the Olympics.

Developing as an athlete for this sport is similar to track and field. We do sprinting workouts and weight room development. But it is also important to be aware of your body and aerodynamic. You must be very powerful, almost like a football player, but you have to have body awareness to be able to steer the sled.

**SF: Nebraska doesn't exactly have lots of hills/mountains. (Do we even have a track in the state?) Where do you go to train?**

**MT:** There are only two ice tracks in the U.S.: Park City, Utah, and

Librarians received emails from the National Archives Foundation Traveling Exhibits Services (NA-TES) about this pop-up display, inviting them to use it for their hallways and even in the curriculum. NC applied for the grant by filling out some questions about how it would be used at the school. It would be used in Government, U.S. History and Junior High History classes, and the teachers gladly agreed to these along with other minor guidelines from the National



Seniors Corina Ge and Cole Ruybalid examine the pop-up Bill of Rights exhibit in the high school hallway.

Archives. Within a week, Ferris received word that NC had been chosen to have the exhibit. This is all thanks to the National Archives, along with help from The History Channel.

The exhibit greeted students when they returned from Christmas vacation, and it will remain on display through Presidents' Day.

## A Trip to the Capitol

The senior class spent several days in Washington, D.C. in early November. They visited many monuments, the US Capitol Building and Library of Congress, and several of the Smithsonian museums.

goal is to make the national team in three years. I want to have a chance at making it to the 2022 Olympics.

Skeleton is mostly a self-funded venture, which means you do not get a lot of money unless you are on the national team. I have to have a job to support myself. While I'm in Lake Placid to train, they pay for my stay and food, which is really nice. Right now, I am still working part time for my job in Kearney while I am away training. I am hoping that if I make a world team in October, I'll quit my job, travel for the season, and then try to get a part time job near a training center. But I will have to see what October brings!

**SF: Thanks again for sharing your journey with us! We'll be praying that you stay healthy, injury free, and that you reach your full potential for His glory!**

## Cumpston, continued from pg. 3

rooms, and storage. The obvious beneficiary would be our sports programs for more and safer practice space. Last year, 25 boys and 25 girls shared our gym during basketball. In order for the teams to practice, they have to divide the gym down the middle with a curtain, each side has only three baskets to shoot on (which limits certain drills), and they aren't able to practice full court situations. The teams often utilize the music room for certain drills, giving the other team access to the full court for a limited time.

Our PE program, elementary program, and chapel program would also benefit from a new gym. Events like the Benefit Auction, Festival of Lessons & Carols, graduation, and Harvest Festival would all benefit from more space, and our other programs that use this gym would benefit from it not being closed during the preparation for those events. It will also promote other ministry opportunities in the summer and throughout the year.

We are very grateful for what we have, and our facilities have served us well over the past 58 years, but we believe that God is calling us to look to the future to see how our facilities can serve people going forward. Honestly, I can't tell you if we are going to grow, but I can remind you that we are at our highest secondary enrollment in the school's 58-year history. Some in Christian education are predicting that because of how our nation is changing, we may see more Christians looking to schools like ours to educate their kids. We want to be prepared to give all of the students God sends to us the best education possible, and we believe the improvements to our campus that Phase 2 will bring will help us do that.

I hope that you will pray about how in the next year you might be able to help make Phase 2 a reality.



Would you like to have the choir sing at your church?

We're touring on March 12, April 2, & April 9.  
Call Susan at 308.946.3836 for more information.



**Carter Scott Nunnenkamp**  
son of Tyler ('07) & Stacey  
(Krieger '07) Nunnenkamp

Tyler & Stacey Nunnenkamp of Aurora are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Carter Scott Nunnenkamp. He was born on October 13, 2016, at 1:47 a.m., weighing 6 lbs 5.5 oz and was 19 inches long. Grandparents are Lowell ('82) and Vicky (Masters '81) Krieger of O'Neill and Gary & Joyce Nunnenkamp of Henderson. Great Grandparents are Norbert & Sylvia Krieger of O'Neill, Dwight & Alice Masters of Mapleton, Iowa, and Felix & Vivian Fortune of Henderson.

Follow our blog for regular updates about NC:  
[nebraskachristian.org/blog/](http://nebraskachristian.org/blog/)

# NC Almanac

## Winter '06-'07

- Anthony Faeh ('13) wins the Merrick County Spelling Bee, and Scott Smith ('14) places second.
- Harold & Dorothy (Kasten '60) Cook and Lawrence & Angeline Klein receive the Hall of Faith Award.

## Winter '96-'97

- NC hosts two ACSI events: a junior high speech meet and a junior and senior high science fair. Four schools participated in each event.
- Rich & Sara Musgrave receive the Hall of Faith Award.
- Kaelee Stone ('04) wins the Merrick County Spelling Bee.

## Winter '86-'87

- The Lady Eagles' basketball team beats Cedar Rapids 28-23 to record the program's first win. The team is coached by Marilynn Ritta.
- Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Clausen and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gurney receive the Hall of Faith award.

## Winter '76-'77

- Don Olson becomes NC's new superintendent.

## Winter '66-'67

- Jean Kliewer joins the staff as an English teacher.

## 2017 Nebraska Christian Schools Dinner & Benefit Auction

**Saturday evening, March 25th**  
**Nebraska Christian Gymnasium**

5:00 Hors d'oeuvres & Silent Auction bidding

6:30 Dinner • 7:30 Live Auction

Scholarship Auction to follow

Reservations can be obtained by calling the Special Events office at 308-946-3836

## Memorial Gifts

- |                             |                              |                                    |                           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| For: Weston Barthel         | For: Stuart Huber            | David Cunningham                   | Clifford & Kathryn Mesner |
| From: The Barthel Families  | From: Josh & Allene Cumpston | For: Dick Lippincott               | Beverly Muller            |
| Harold & Dorothy Cook       | Lanny & Cheryl Gerdes        | From: Loren Lippincott             | Linda Peterson            |
| Diane Nevins                | Jewel Johnson & Janine Griss | For: Bernard Miles (class of 1975) | Eric & Jennifer Prusa     |
| Tim & Lois Van Boening      | Keith Johnson                | From: Don & Kayleen Riley          | Don & Kayleen Riley       |
| For: Carl Beed              | Brad Kernick                 | Tim & Lois Van Boening             | Bob & Susan Ritta         |
| From: Mary Reisinger        | Alfred & Linda Kuszak        | For: Viola Mae Meyers              | Dorothy Ritta             |
| For: Roy & Viola Birkley    | Joyce & Ron Lieske           | From: Anna Marie Moore             | Ed & Marilynn Ritta       |
| From: Dwight Birkley        | Theresa Mannz                | For: Loyal Necker                  | Eddra Ritta               |
| For: Dennis Eberspacher     | Kathy Ostrand                | From: Linda Peterson               | Steen & Rogene Stone      |
| From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta   | Neil & Julie Ostrand         | For: Bud Salmon                    | Kerry & Janice Stuhmer    |
| For: Robert Erickson        | Danny Covalt & Patricia      | From: Anna Marie Moore             | Ken & Greta Swanson       |
| From: Linda Peterson        | Reyes-Covalt                 | For: Paul Schreiber                | Bill & Jacky Uhler        |
| For: Genie Finlayson        | Perry & Karen Roper          | From: Ron & Marie Adams            | Ron & Annette Ward        |
| From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta   | Bob & Susan Ritta            | Adair Ballagh                      | For: Rogene Shoup         |
| For: Margaret Fischer       | Larry & Denise Schreiber     | Jerry & Linda Beck                 | From: Anonymous           |
| From: Linda Peterson        | Kathryn Sizer                | Mike Brill                         | For: Mildred Stone        |
| For: Karen Imm Grove        | Bill & Jacky Uhler           | Nancy Bryan                        | From: William & Jeanniene |
| From: Sandra Garwood        | For: Alice Jones             | Dave & Kathy Chase                 | Burdett                   |
| Diane Nevins                | From: Gil & Dorothy Glad     | Harold & Dorothy Cook              | Mary Reisinger            |
| Ed & Marilynn Ritta         | For: Tom Jones               | Josh & Allene Cumpston             | Donn & Carolyn Russell    |
| For: Leota Hack             | From: Gil & Dorothy Glad     | Becky Deichmann                    | For: Dr. Roger Thorpe     |
| From: Don & Kayleen Riley   | For: Jerry Larson            | Mark & Joyce Dunham                | From: Anna Marie Moore    |
| For: Julie Halbgewachs      | From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta    | Dave & Ruth Ferris                 | For: Patricia Van Housen  |
| From: Harold & Dorothy Cook | For: Joe Lepant              | Gil & Dorothy Glad                 | From: Anna Marie Moore    |
| For: Harlan Hamer           | From: Bethel Cunningham      | Betty Hartman                      | For: Gerald Weedin        |
| From: Friends               | David Cunningham             | Rick & Bonnie Horne                | From: Mary Reisinger      |
| For: Donald Harney          | For: Phyliss Lepant          | Norm & Sue Krug                    |                           |
| From: Anna Marie Moore      | From: Bethel Cunningham      | Mark & Judi McHargue               |                           |

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# Join us for Campus Preview Day!

Saturday, April 1

Watch our website and Facebook page for more information.



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## Festival Brings Christmas Joy Despite Weather

The 11th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols appeared poised to go off without a hitch. Tickets sold out a few days before the event. The NC choir had spent several class periods working with Maestro Eric Dale Knapp, and the orchestra and small ensemble had put in many hours of practice. On Friday, December 16, students from Nebraska Christian, High Plains, Central City, and area homeschools spent the morning rehearsing choral pieces with Maestro Knapp. After lunch, orchestra members joined the rehearsal in preparation for the evening concert.

By 3:30, everyone had been sent home. An ice storm had moved into the area, making the roads treacherous.

The decision was made to postpone the Festival until Saturday afternoon, pending the weather.

Saturday dawned bitterly cold but with no precipitation in sight, so the organizers decided to go on with the show. While not all of the choir and orchestra members were able to return Saturday, about 75% of the orchestra and 70% of the choir participated.

Approximately 450 people braved the cold to experience the Festival, and it was a joyful, worshipful time. Festival Coordinator Jody Heuermann said, "The Festival of Lessons and Carols went extraordinarily well considering the inclement weather we experienced. Those in attendance were moved and touched by the program." Special Events Assistant Deana Leonard agreed, saying, "I thought things went very well. God provided in little ways to make it a blessing to all those who made the effort to participate in or attend the



Photos: Susanna (Weiss '99) Poeffel, Creative Images

**Above:** NC Octet members Danae Burdett, Juan Lasso, and Marilla Flynn. **Right:** Maestro Eric Dale Knapp conducts the orchestra.

Festival." Heuermann added, "The general consensus of those who attended was that they would never miss it. And we look forward to next year, as preparations are already underway."

