nc advance

nebraska christian schools — building lives for eternity

He Doesn't Change

by Josh Cumpston, Administrator



Summers are usually one of the busiest times of the year at Nebraska Christian. Preparing classrooms,

waxing hallways, repairing equipment, writing curriculum and assessments, ordering books, and reviewing policies and procedures are just some of the activities taking place during summer "break."

This summer, the physical appearance of the campus has been altered. The wrestling room has been completely remodeled. Padded walls, a wall that separates the mat from the weight room, and an underlying mat give the boys more protection as they work out. A new heater, lights, and carpeted steps for spectators were also added. The wrestling room wall and the weight room walls have a new school-themed paint job.

The press box and bleachers at the football field have also seen changes. The press box has new windows, siding, and stairs leading from the first level to the second. The bleachers have been painted a dark blue, and we have added a few additional steps to make getting into and out of them easier. The changes look nice, and they also make things safer.

The Music and Worship room and the cafeteria have new lighting. The Music and Worship room, the computer rooms in both dorms,

continued on pg. 2



2013 Graduation

summer 2013

by Tori Swanson ('13)

If there was one word to describe the class of 2013's graduation ceremony, it would be "memorable." The main reason for this was that the speaker, Dave Kauk, administrator of Sutton Christian School and father of three NC alums, delivered a commencement address that would be difficult to forget.

In his speech, he used several visual examples and props to deliver his message. The main theme of his message was integrity: who you are when no one else is around. When you go to college, you are basically freed from your parents' guidance and discipline, and you have to make decisions for yourself. Some keep the faith after high school, while many others fall away from Christianity. Kauk illustrated this using duct tape...yes, duct tape. He chose three "volunteers" from the class—Alex Frederick ('13), Katie



Above: Sophia Zhang ('13) delivers her commencement address.

Griess ('13), and Curtis Heuermann ('13)—and proceeded to tape up one part of their bodies. Kauk bound Frederick's feet, taped Griess's hands together, and covered Heuermann's eyes. This object lesson showed that when we live with our parents, it's like we are duct taped. Their rules and guidelines cause us to avoid certain sins. Kauk then, one by one, stripped off the duct tape. This represents the removed restrictions when we go to college. Some people go wild and crazy without these restrictions, and this shows the true

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State Track Qualifiers Topple School Records

Nebraska Christian took eight boys and seven girls to the state track meet on May 17 and 18. Over the course of the two-day event, the team won four medals and broke four school records. Junior Hans Epp won the 800 meter dash and broke the NC record in the event with a time of 1:57.80. Epp also placed third in the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:35.57. Other medal winners were senior Jahn Landrigan, who placed third in the 3200 meter run and broke the school record (10:01.937), and sophomore Carson Huenefeld, who placed sixth in the 200 meter dash and set a new school record (23.06). Rounding out the new school record holders were sophomore Amber Mazankowski, freshman Rubi McHargue, junior Cailyn Ostrand, and freshman Cassidy Ostrand, who ran the 1600 meter relay in 4:16.73.

Other state track qualifiers were freshman Logan Faeh, sophomore Warren Dexter, sophomore Matt Swanson, senior Tanner Cooper, senior Derek Rose, freshman Katie Cumpston, freshman Tara Murphy, and senior Bekah Mead.

Top: State Track Qualifiers.

Row 1: Amber Mazankowski, Cailyn Ostrand, Cassidy Ostrand, Rubi McHargue. Row 2: Katie Cumpston, Bekah Mead, Tara Murphy. Row 3: Tanner Cooper, Carson Huenefeld, Matthew Swanson. Row 4: Logan Faeh, Warren Dexter, Jahn Landrigan, Hans Epp.

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nc advance

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Josh Cumpston, Administrator Becky Ritta ('99), Editor Beth Ritta ('98), Layout & Design

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NC Advance

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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.

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



Tune in to AM-750 KMMJ

Saturday at 1:04 p.m. Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

to hear Josh Cumpston and Gordon Thiessen.

Dollars & Sense by Tom Dockweiler ('79), Business Manager



Summer is over, and we are ready for another school year. This will be the 55th school year

in Nebraska Christian's history, and I am optimistic for a number of reasons.

The most obvious reason for a business manager to be optimistic would be the financial situation the school is in. As I mentioned in my last article, we had a chance at the end of 2012-2013 to finish the fiscal year without borrowing any of the money collected for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. We did end up borrowing about \$20,000 from this year's funds to finish up last year's expenses, but that is significantly less than the \$260,000 that was needed the previous year. Many of you contributed financially to make this happen. Thank you so much for that.

Another reason for my optimism comes from the tour I took recently with the rest of the staff to review improvement projects completed this summer. Many of you had a part in the completion of those projects. Please know that you have been an encouragement. Thanks so much for all your work.

The most important reason for my optimism, however, is not the financial position we are in, or the facilities we have. It is the mission we are on and the God we serve.

I had several opportunities to interact with alumni this summer. Allow me to share just a couple of those interactions. At one of our summer workdays, a graduate from the 1980's stopped by to tour the campus with her daughter. She spoke at length about how God used the year she was here to change the trajectory of her life. Another time, a graduate from the early 1960's stopped by with his son and recalled how God had used his

two years at Nebraska Christian to lead him into a lifetime of missions and pastoral work.

I was not here when either of these graduates were students. I know some of the staff they spoke about so fondly only by reputation. I do know that the financial position of the school was tighter in those years than it is now and that the facilities available to the staff and students were more limited. I also know, partly from the testimonies these graduates shared with me, that they served a God who blessed the mission of Nebraska Christian Schools, worked in the lives of the staff and students then, and continues to do so to this very

I am optimistic because I serve the same God on the same mission. May God bless the mission of Nebraska Christian Schools and work in the lives of our students today. And may His work today be a source of encouragement to those who serve Him on this mission in the future.

Until next time, May God bless you and yours.

Cumpston, continued from pg. 1

and the TV lounge in the girls' dorm received new carpet. New safety mats were added on each end of the gymnasium.

I hope that many of you will be able to get to campus sometime during the year to see the changes. Since 1959, Nebraska Christian's physical appearance has changed dramatically. Buildings have come and gone, and gym floors, paint, and carpet have been replaced and redone countless times. An alumnus or staff member from the early days of NC might not recognize much about the physical appearance of campus.

The physical appearance is not the only aspect of NC that has changed over the years. Literally hundreds

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 14 School begins, 8 a.m.
- 17 NC Family Prayer Time *Music & Worship, 9 a.m.*
- 23 Carnival Football Scrimmage Cross Country Run
- 24 Golf Marathon
- 29 Volleyball Scrimmage

SEPTEMBER

25 Spiritual Emphasis Day

OCTOBER

- 4 Homecoming
- 18 Grandparents' Day
- 25 State Cross Country Kearney
- 28 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 2-8 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 1 Harvest Festival, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Thanksgiving Break Begins school dismisses at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER

- 3 Festival of Lessons & Carols
- 20 End of First Semester
- 21 Christmas Break Begins

*For additional events, visit nebraskachristian.org

of individuals have helped form Nebraska Christian into the place it is today. In most years, at least one new person joins the NC staff. Even with all of these changes, the reason that Nebraska Christian Schools was founded hasn't changed. We serve a risen Savior who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. In our society, there isn't much that doesn't seem to be changing. But our hope is in the Lord, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End. When I worry about change or hear about unsettling events in the world, I have to remember that nothing catches our heavenly Father off guard. He does not change, and that gives me great peace, hope, and joy.

summer 2013 3

Alumni Spotlight: Rob ('01) & Christina Johnson

by Stephani (Deichmann '03) Francl, Development Director



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. — Acts 1:8

Jesus' last words on this earth have echoed through the centuries, giving Christians a job to do—be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth.

Nebraska Christian was not founded to be a missionary training school, but when people united by Christ come together for education and fellowship, mission work is a natural outcome. NC families and alumni are spread throughout Central City and Nebraska, in 40 of the 50 United States, and all over the world—quite a reach for a small school in the nation's heartland! Among these, there are a number of alumni who work in full time ministry as pastors or missionaries. I recently had the opportunity to meet with one such alum, Rob Johnson, class of 2001.

Rob and his wife Christina have two young boys, Clay and Zeke, and they are headed to Thailand this fall to work with Wycliffe Associates. Join me as I talk with them:

SF: It's so good to talk with you before you leave the country! A quick Google search told me that Thailand is more than 8,000 miles from Nebraska. Rob, did you ever imagine when you were at NC that you would one day be boarding a plane for Thailand?

RJ: Not really. I always hoped that I would one day be in a plane heading somewhere, but Thailand was never on the radar.

SF: When did God start to grow your desire to do overseas mission

work?

RJ: It all began when I was seven years old. My dad, Scott Johnson [former NC teacher, principal, and cross country coach], whom many of you might know, accepted a teaching job in Senegal, Africa. My family spent one year there, and I would say ever since then I have had a heart and passion for overseas work.

SF: Rob, did your time at NC help prepare you for full time ministry work?

RJ: Yes! NC is a place where everything is looked at through the lens of what Scripture teaches. It helped me develop a Biblical worldview at a young age that I have carried with me throughout my life. NC helped me learn to love God and His Word which has led me to desire to see people not only here but in other parts of the world also come to know and love God and His Word.

NC also helped develop and strengthen my heart and passion for missions. I remember a few Friday morning chapel speakers who were missionaries. They spoke to us about the need for missions and their individual roles in that. I always left those chapels with a longing to one day also be a part of God was doing around the world.

SF: Thailand is such a long way from Nebraska! Can you summarize how you went from being a student at NC twelve years ago to being a missionary to Thailand now?

RJ: Well, it's kind of a long story, but... I grew up in Nebraska and my dad was the principal at NC while I was in high school. Even back then I felt called to full time ministry, though I didn't know what that would look like. I attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois,



where I met Christina. We married in July 2005. The next month, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Louisiana, Christina's hometown. Much of her family, including both of her parents, lost their homes. Soon after, we moved to New Orleans where we worked for a construction company to help rebuild the city. In 2007 we spent a year in Davao, Philippines, where we taught at an international school. This was monumental for us in confirming the Lord's call on our lives to full time ministry. After a year there, we moved back to New Orleans, where we started our family. I worked for a local construction company, and we became part of a core group of individuals who helped plant a church. Last May we received an email from Wycliffe Associates about the need for a Site Volunteer Coordinator for Southeast Asia, and after emails, interviews, and a trip to Thailand last fall, here we are!

SF: Christina, the job title Rob mentioned was "Site Volunteer Coordinator." What, exactly does an SVC do? And why are you excited about this job in particular?

CJ: Wycliffe Associates' mission is to see every person in the world have access to a Bible in their lan-

guage. There are still about 2,000 languages spoken by people who don't have any of the Scriptures in their language. The Site Volunteer Coordinator is a position that helps accelerate Bible translation by finding out the needs of the missionaries and local people groups and working to bring volunteers from the States over to meet those needs. This includes coordinating teams or individuals doing things like construction, teaching English, IT work, etc. Wycliffe Associates has found that this position is extremely important because it advances Bible translation by taking the burden of coordinating teams and other logistics off of the translator's shoulders. We focus on coordination and meeting their needs so they can focus on translating the Bible. We are excited to be fulfilling such an effective and strategic role!

SF: Can you tell a quick story about how you have seen God work as you have prepared to move to Thailand?

CJ: Absolutely! We had to sell our house and a piece of property we owned in New Orleans before we could leave. We put our house and property on the market, and in less

continued on pg. 6

summer 2013

NCS Foundation

by Jody Heuermann NCS Foundation Executive Director



The NCS Foundation's motto is "Leaving a Legacy that Builds Lives for Eternity." There

are several ways you can help us "Leave a Legacy":

Gifts of Cash: cash gifts are a convenient and popular means of support.

Gifts of Long-Term Appreciated Property: a gift of property can increase your tax benefits.

Gifts of Real Estate: capital gains tax savings can result from this gift.

Gifts of Life Insurance: simply name the Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation as policy owner and beneficiary.

Please join us in our mission to glorify God by providing a means through which gifts can be received and invested in order to build a solid financial base for Nebraska Christian Schools.



Kendyl Olivia Gustafson daughter of Mark & Angela (Russell, '97) Gustafson

Mark and Angela welcomed home a baby girl, Kendyl Olivia, born July 25, 2013, at St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island. She weighed 7 lbs, 11 oz and was 21 & 1/2 inches long. She has a big brother, Jaxson, who is 5 years old. Grandparents are Donn & Carolyn Russell of Palmer, Tom Gustafson of Clarks and Janna Gustafson of Central City. Great Grandparents are Lois Russell of Fullerton and Charles and Nena Marsh of El Cajon, CA.

In late May, several NC students and alumni embarked on a mission trip to Berkeley, California. They joined others from the Heartland Evangelical Free Church in Central City for a week of intense study, evangelism, and real-world experience. To read more about the trip, please see the article Shanna Bailey ('13) wrote for our blog at nebraskachristian.org/blog.

Memorial Gifts

Cereta Filikin From: Mary Reisinger For: Dale Friedrichsen From: Mary Reisinger For: Gary Gustafson From: Gil & Dorothy Glad For: Danise Nelson From: Linda Peterson

For: Derek Rodine

From: Gil & Dorothy Glad Linda Peterson

For: Dean Sandhal From: Mary Ann Barnes

> Glenn & Dorothy Jares Les McHargue

Leon Nelson Linda Peterson

For: Gary Woodring From: Ben & Donna Barker In Honor of: Gary & Lorrie

Berck's 50th Anniversary From: Mildred Root

In Honor of: Bernice Grantham

From: Dave & Ruth Ferris

Berkeley NC Almanac

10 years ago ('03)

- Seniors Shelby McPeak ('04) and Kayla Johnson ('04) and alumni Jessica Zaruba ('99) and Rachel Cooper ('03) go to Taiyuan, China, to teach English.
- 57 students are enrolled in grades K-6 and 143 students in grades 7-12.

20 years ago ('93)

- 42 boys and 37 girls attend NC's first-ever basketball camps.
- Karen Callahan, Karen Kurzenberger, Tim Norris, and Bill Uhler join the staff, and Judy Garwood returns after a year away.

30 years ago ('83)

- 40 students are enrolled in grades K-6 and 127 in grades 7-12.
- NC begins its 25th year of "Building Lives for Eternity."

40 years ago ('73)

- The board votes to raise staff salaries by 15%
- 17 new staff members join the NC family.

50 years ago ('63)

- Construction begins on a 3-classroom addition on the west side of the gym building.
- A cement floor is poured for the Home Economics room in the Ad Building.

NC Flashback



Throughout the years, many students have had work jobs to help pay their tuition. Can you identify this student from the mid-60's



who is doing her work job? How about her friend? If you can identify one or both of these girls, you could win our prize. Send your guesses to advance@nebraskachristian.org.

From the last issue (left): Congratulations to Cindy (Graber '74) Anderson! Her name was drawn from those who correctly identified the volleyball players, so she wins our prize! Front: Emilie Ignacio ('74), Barb Puckett ('75), Darla Hermsmeyer ('74), Diana Brush ('74). Back: Patty Peaslee ('74), Penne Poppe ('76), Mary Sawyer ('76)

MEEMEEMEEMEEMEEMEEMEEMEEMEEMEEM Save the Date

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Friday, December 13, 2013

Watch our website and Facebook page for details. nebraskachristian.org | facebook.com/nebraskachristian

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2013 Auction Donors

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Be assured that if your name was misspelled or omitted, it was not intentional. We are very sorry and would like to know, so we can correct it in the future.

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Commit to safe driving once a day between October 18 & 26 and NC could win a \$25,000 grant. For information, visit **nebraskachristian.org 2013/08/celebrate-my-drive-info/**Commit to safe driving on **celebratemydrive.com**. Every commitment counts.





Nebraska Christian

SCHOOLS

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Graduation, continued from pg. 1

heart of an individual.

During the ceremony, Kauk provided a way to test the integrity of the graduates. He explained that at the bottom of every graduate's chair was an envelope filled with money from an anonymous donor. These envelopes were filled randomly with varying amounts of cash. The envelopes were to remain sealed until the next day. Kauk's challenge to

the students was to wait to open the envelope and to have a pure heart when they opened the envelope, not one of envy or pride. Only the graduates know what was in the envelopes, and hopefully they had pure hearts when opening them.

The entire graduation ceremony was an unforgettable experience that many will look back on in years to come.



Above: James Royle ('13) receives his diploma from Board Chairman Mark McHargue ('85).

Right: Heidi Hofmann ('13) and Kemery Myers ('13).



You're invited to Homecoming 2013 and the 1st Annual S'mores Fest

Friday, October 4

6 PM Grill Out Fundraisier

7 PM NC Football vs East Butler

9 PM 1st Annual S'mores Fest

Saturday, October 5

8 AM Alumni Breakfast

9 AM Campus Tours

After the football game, join old friends by the bonfire. Bring something to sit on—we'll provide the S'mores.



Alumni Spotlight, continued from pg. 3

than 48 hours we sold *both* properties, *both* for more than our asking price! We truly believe that this was so much more than just selling property, that this was God confirming to us that we are doing what He has called us to do! Amazing!

SF: Are there ways that the people reading this can get involved and help you?

RJ: Yes! People can partner with us through prayer and also financially. If you are interested in hearing more about what we are doing, we

would love to connect with you and share more about what God is doing through Wycliffe Associates in Southeast Asia.

Also, if anyone is interested in a short term missions trip, our role there is to facilitate such trips and we would love to have NC alumni, teachers, staff, or students come and serve in whatever ways they are gifted! Email: randcjohnson@hotmail.com

Blog: christinajohnson.blogspot.com Friend us on Facebook, and we'll add you to our Thailand Facebook page.