



nc advance

nebraska christian schools

building lives for eternity

Blessings in the Pandemic

by Tim Hekrdle, Superintendent



The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted us all in large and small ways, and if you're questioning what God is doing in all this, you're not alone. At Nebraska Christian, we experienced a 4th quarter like no other in the school's history. Our seniors had to forgo many of their "lasts," our teachers and families went through great sacrifice to educate kids for the last eight weeks of the school year, our auction was 100% online, there were no spring sports, and the list goes on and on and on. While the combination of these things has taken a toll on many of us at the school, we can also see signs that God is at work at Nebraska Christian, and He is strengthening the school through this:

Our teachers were stretched by teaching in this format, *but they are now stronger, have broadened their abilities to teach in new ways, and appreciate the gift of face-to-face teaching.*

Our families were taxed in helping to teach their own students, *but countless families received the blessing of time with one another and understand more fully the gift that the Lord has given to our teachers and why they are partnered with our school to help equip their children.*

Our school faced many challenges and daily changes in direction over the course of these last few months, *but our faculty, staff, and administration collaborated across the state, nation, and even world at times to solve the complexities of Covid-19 and forge ahead with high levels of learning and accountability for our students.*

Because our students were not able to be in the classroom, *they were stretched to take responsibility for and demonstrate their learning in ways that they had never been exposed to previously. While remote learning*

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Left: Seth Hower delivers his commencement address. Hower was one of two seniors selected to address the crowd during the ceremony. **Center:** Jordan Schnell delivers her speech in the rain. While Schnell was speaking, the mist turned to a steady rain that continued through the rest of the ceremony. **Right:** Talia Parlane receives her diploma from NC Board of Education Chairman Paul McHargue ('88).

Graduating Covid-19 Style

On May 16, Nebraska Christian held the most unique commencement service of its 61-year history. After the coronavirus pandemic caused Nebraska schools to close mid-March, it became apparent that graduation would look different this year. Area schools chose a variety of approaches to graduation, with some schools choosing to postpone the ceremony until mid-summer, others holding a solely virtual event, and still others organizing a drive-in ceremony. NC's administration decided to go with a hybrid drive-in/virtual ceremony, with graduates, their families, and staff members allowed to attend and everyone else invited to participate via Facebook live.

Though rain made the event a damp affair, and a few technical difficulties kept the ceremony from going off without a hitch, the end result was a day no one will ever forget, and, ultimately, Nebraska Christian Schools gained 20 more alumni!

Class speakers Seth Hower and Jordan Schnell gave their addresses live, followed by commencement speaker Dr. John Mark Yeats' pre-recorded address, which played over the jumbotron. Though the ceremony lacked live music, NC Music Director Mike Flynn spent countless hours putting together two songs comprised of performances submitted by choir members, who sang in their own homes. These songs were accompanied by a

slideshow full of photos from the school year.

As the rain picked up, NC's seniors took to the stage one at a time to receive their diplomas from Board of Education Chairman Paul McHargue. And once the ceremony reached its conclusion, the seniors and their parents embarked on a parade route through Central City, saluted with water by the Central City Volunteer Fire Department and led on the route by a Central City police officer. Many community members came out to cheer on the new alumni!

Videos of the ceremony and parade are available on our Facebook page (facebook.com/nebraskachristian). Also, the graduation page of our website remains live at nebraskachristian.org/graduation, where visitors can meet the class members, view the commencement program, and send congratulations to the new graduates.

Class Verse: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Class Motto: "If you are more fortunate than others, it is better to build a longer table than a taller fence." — Anonymous

Class Flower: Yellow Tulip

Class Colors: Crystal Blue, Canary Yellow, Silver

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Tim Hekrdle, *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.

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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.

Keep up with NC

Website:
www.nebraskachristian.org

Facebook:
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Calendar:
nebraskachristian.org/calendar

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Front: Adam Carlson, Caitlin Chiles, Rachel Hale, Isabelle Brumbaugh, Richie Musgrave. Back: Kylie Merchant, Evelyn Poland, Grace Musgrave, Ah-Rim Lee, Amanda Needham, Emily Johansen.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

12 School Begins

SEPTEMBER

18 Homecoming

For additional events visit
nebraskachristian.org/calendar

Quiz Bowl Champs!

The NC junior high quiz bowl team won its division of the Goldenrod Conference Quiz Bowl in late February.

Hekrdle, *continued from pg. 1*

humbled some, it gave wings to others. All of our students learned much about themselves and the way they learn best.

Our international students were unable to depart from the school, as flights were canceled all around the country and world, *but instead of bemoaning their circumstances, they bonded as they got to hang out as a family of 20 while the rest of us were stuck in our own homes. One of the graduating seniors actually stated that this time was the highlight of his tenure at Nebraska Christian.*

Our seniors were unable to take the traditional group cap-throwing photo, sit on the stage together, or greet friends and family in the receiving line following the ceremony, *but they were given what one of them referred to as the "best graduation ever" as we did a drive-in graduation followed by a parade through Central City. Graduation 2020 was one for the books and will not be quickly forgotten.*

Our facilities were empty much earlier than the norm, *allowing us to spend more time praying and considering the many things that need to be addressed on our campus. If you were to drive on campus right now, you would find it to be in the best shape it has been in several decades. The Ad Building continues to have work done to the*



Dollars & Sense

by Tom Dockweiler ('79), *Business Manager*

As we wrap up this school year, I come to you humbled by God's provision. When the winter issue of the Advance went to print, giving was significantly down, and we stood at \$153,595 of the \$572,550 needed to meet the budget we set for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which ends June 30. Three months later, we have \$408,528. A large portion of this comes from our Auction,

exterior to solidify the functional structure and seal of the building, and we hope to complete some aesthetic components as well. The gymnasium building is in the midst of receiving a long-overdue face lift to improve the safety, functionality, and aesthetics of the hallways and gymnasium. The campus green space was much further along in May than it has been in recent years because of preparations for the outdoor graduation.

We all have been cooped up in our homes craving more authentic human interaction throughout, *and the community found creative ways to get people safely out of their homes to rally around the Central City Public and Nebraska Christian seniors through several avenues, including a senior-honoring cruise night, an adopt-a-senior Facebook initiative, and lots of encouragement for the Class of 2020.*

which had to switch to an online event due to Covid-19. We saw God provide above and beyond what we'd imagined for the event (see p. 8), and we've seen Him carry us through years that have been much leaner than this one. While I am unsure if we will meet our budgeted amount, I am confident that God will provide what we need, just as He always has before. Until next time, may God bless you and yours.

I have no doubt that God will take this pandemic and turn it for our good, both personally and as an institution. While we faced many challenges, we are also blessed beyond measure. I am so proud of our students, families, and staff and the way they persevered and made the best of unwanted circumstances. We made it through one of the strangest endings to a school year in the history of modern education, and I believe the Lord will bless our efforts. We will start the 2020-2021 school year stronger and more capable than we were before the pandemic. We will continue to improve our instruction and our campus, and, ultimately, we will continue to fulfill our mission of partnering with families and the church to provide students with a Christ-centered education that equips them to go out into a world of crumbling foundations and make a difference. Thank you for standing with us.

New \$50,000 Match for the Preservation Project!



by Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director

Over the past year, we have seen so much progress on our building campaigns!

One year ago, we were just gearing up to begin work on the Ad Building Preservation Project, and now, the beloved Administration Building has new windows, a new roof, and new metal work, and the revamped building was able to make a beautiful backdrop for our outdoor graduation ceremony (see p. 1)! Work on the exterior of the building will continue this summer through funds already donated to the project.

We now are moving the focus of our preservation efforts to our gym building. You may have seen updates of work being done in the gym and hallways; that work is possible because of an insurance settlement due to flooding. But there is additional, critical work that remains to be done in the gym building, and that is where your gift to the Gym Building Preservation Project comes in. We would like to do some remodeling work in both the east and west hallways,

and we're also looking at important sound and lighting updates for the gym. And I am excited to announce that we have secured a matching grant for the Preservation Project in the amount of \$50,000! If you give to the Preservation Project now, you can see your gift double as we move toward our goal of raising an additional \$125,000 for the Preservation Project!

Last September, we launched the first part of Phase 2A of our Next 50 Years Capital Campaign. The new entryway, ADA restrooms, and commons area with concessions were completed in time for the 2019 Festival of Lessons and Carols and were utilized throughout our basketball season. This addition has truly benefited our students and staff, as well as the many visitors we have on campus. Our goal is to raise a total of \$1.9 million to



The Ad Building provided a beautiful backdrop for Graduation 2020.

complete Phase 2A; we currently have received \$456,510 toward the project. Please consider what your part may be in helping us raise additional funds so we can move forward with the rest of Phase 2A, the construction of a new kitchen and dining area.

If you would like more information about Phase 2A of The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign or the Gym Building Preservation Project,

visit nebraskachristian.org/foundation or contact Jody Heuermann at jheuermann@nebraskachristian.org. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the NCS Foundation and designate Phase 2A or Preservation Project in the memo line. We are so grateful for all that God continues to do here at Nebraska Christian Schools, and we thank you for partnering with us in this great ministry!

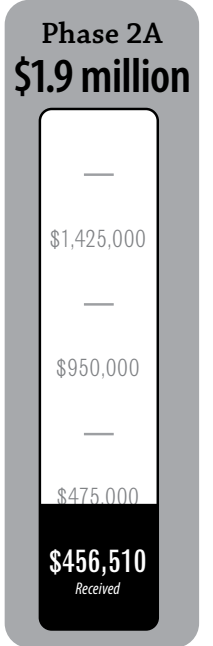
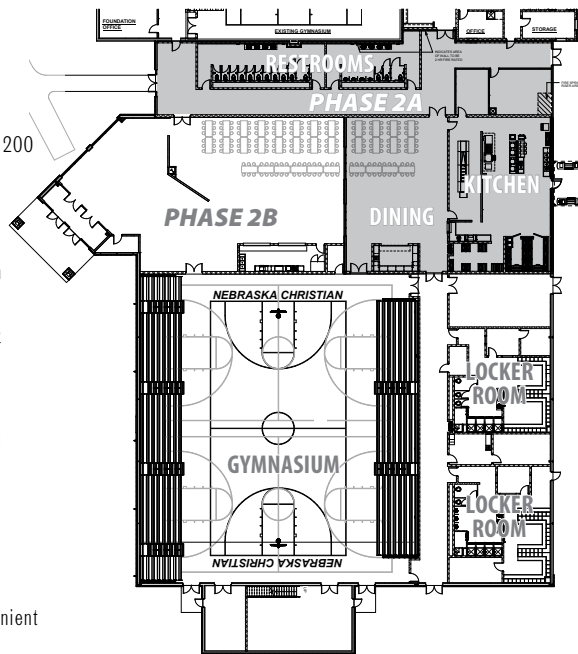
The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign Phase 2: New Kitchen, Commons Area & Gymnasium

Phase 2A \$1.9 million

- ADA Restrooms
- State of the Art Kitchen
- Dining Hall with Seating for Over 200

Phase 2B \$4.1 million

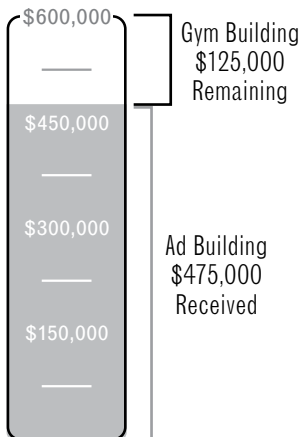
- Collegiate Sized 94' Competition Gymnasium & Activity Center with Seating for Over 900
- Concession Stand for Activities & Fundraising
- Boys & Girls Locker Rooms
- Athletic Training Room & Uniform Storage
- Athletic Storage Space
- Fine Arts/Programming Storage
- Entrance & Commons Area
- Expanded Parking Lot with Convenient Drop Off & Pick Up



Preservation Project

We have received a **\$50,000 matching gift** for the Preservation Project.

This is a great opportunity to turn \$50,000 into \$100,000!



Make checks payable to Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation
Memo line: Phase 2A or Preservation Project

Mail to:
NCS Foundation
PO Box 222, Central City, NE 68826

EIN: 45-1300291
foundation@nebraskachristian.org
nebraskachristian.org/foundation

Contact
Jody: 308.940.0249 / NC: 308.946.3836
Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director



The Class of 2020. Front: Clay Purkerson, Kalob Green, Hunter Dixon, Stephanie Strobel, Jamie Myers, Talia Parlane, Emily Meng, Grace Langemeier, Kendyl Jividen. Back: Keith Wasomi, Christopher Needham, Garrett Nokolby, Garrett Swantek, Bryce Krieger, Seth Hower, Moses Lu, Sam Qu, Johnny Wu, Jordan Schnell, Amy Hilderbrand.

Hunter Jonathan Dixon of Clarks is the son of Rhett & Sheila (Adams '82) Dixon. He has attended NC for five years. Hunter says he has grown spiritually and learned self-control and patience while attending NC. Following graduation, he plans to move to Grand Island and join the workforce.

Kalob James Green is the son of Matthew & Mindi Green of Marquette. He has attended NC for five years. His favorite NC memory is the 2018 football season, and he is grateful for the examples set by his coaches and teachers. Kalob plans to join the United States Marine Corps following graduation.

Amanda Jo Hilderbrand of Central City, the daughter of Roy & Cheryl (Dockweiler '90) Hilderbrand, has attended NC for 8-½ years. Amy's siblings are also NC graduates: Jeff ('13), Chris ('15), Jessica ('18) and

Brad ('19). Amy plans to attend Fort Hays State University, where she will study graphic design and animation.

Seth Gideon John Hower of Grand Island is the son of Daurice (Pizzolato '87) Hower & the late Jeff Hower ('88). His sister Alexis (Hower '16) Rose and brother-in-law Dillon Rose ('16) are also NC alumni. Seth has attended NC since preschool, and his favorite memory of his time at NC is playing football with Husker Football Coach Ron Brown once during elementary. Seth says that his time at NC has helped him grow in his faith and helped him make his faith his own. He plans to attend Calvary University, where he will study pastoral ministry and play on the men's basketball team.

Kendyl Mae Jividen of Hordville is the daughter of Chad ('90) & Ronda Jividen. She has attended NC for eight years, and her sister

Jamie ('08) is also an NC graduate. Kendyl especially appreciates the friends she's made at NC, saying, "I have spent my time at school with the most loving, genuine people I will ever meet. What a blessing it is to call them my best friends." She plans to take online classes in social work from Central Community College while working as a nanny.

Bryce Henry Krieger is from O'Neill and currently lives in Central City. He is the son of Lorin ('88) & Kathy (Hoyt '88) Krieger and has attended NC for four years. He plans to attend Northeast Community College in Norfolk and become a utility line worker. Bryce values the time he has had with friends at NC, and he says he has grown in his faith while in the NC community.

Grace Susannah Langemeier, daughter of Douglas & Kristy Langemeier of Marquette, has

attended NC for 7-½ years. Her older siblings Cameron ('16) and Lydia ('18) are also NC graduates. Grace especially enjoyed playing on a variety of sports teams and going on the junior trip to Minneapolis while at NC. Grace plans to major in Elementary Education and play volleyball at Dordt University.

Pengcheng (Moses) Lu of Taiyuan, Shanxi, China, is the son of Wenqiang Lu & Huiling Cheng. He has attended NC for three years. Moses is grateful that he was able to learn about Jesus and make great friends while at NC. Moses plans to continue his education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Yihang (Emily) Meng, daughter of Kai Meng & Ruiling Hu of Taiyuan, Shanxi, China, has attended NC for three years. Her favorite NC memory is meeting

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Class of 2020, continued from pg. 4

with her E-Group (small groups that meet each week after chapel). She plans to attend college.

Jamie Elisabeth Myers of Central City is the daughter of Larry & Tracy Myers. She has attended NC for 11 years, and her siblings Hannah ('14), Matthew ('16), and Daniel ('18) also graduated from NC. Jamie's favorite NC memory is from the Anatomy & Physiology field trip to the UNL cadaver lab. Of her NC experience, Jamie says, "Because of NC, I have many life-long friends, a strong, Biblical education, and personal relationships with teachers that most students don't get a chance to have." She plans to attend Nebraska Methodist College, studying Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Christopher Ryan Needham, son of Gary & Angela Needham of Grand Island, has attended NC for four years. Christopher's favorite NC memory is from the senior trip: "Going on the senior trip and seeing Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a memory that will last the rest of my life." He says he's learned a lot in his classes, but he's also learned a lot about sharing his faith and encouraging others. Christopher plans to attend Cedarville University, where he will study computer or electrical engineering.

Garrett Ray Nokelby of Marquette is the son of Bryan & Christina Nokelby. Garrett's brother Brennan ('18) is also an NC graduate. Garrett has attended NC for five years, and his favorite memories of his time at NC are from junior and senior trip and athletics. Garrett says he has matured in his faith while at NC, and he has appreciated the focus on God's word in providing answers to his questions. He plans to major in pre-med at Concordia University.

Talia Parlane, daughter of Jonathan ('95) & Quynh Parlane of Central City, has attended NC for four years. She has especially enjoyed playing soccer with friends after school. Of her time at NC, she says, "I've made lifelong friends, received good advice from teachers, and grown mentally." She plans to study communications and sociology at Seattle Pacific University.

Clay William Purkerson of Central City is the son of Travis & Ruth Purkerson. Clay has attended NC for three years. He has enjoyed his time at NC, saying, "It has caused me to grow in my faith and learn more of the God I serve." Clay plans to attend Wayne State College, studying construction management.

Xinpeng (Sam) Qu of Jinzhong, China, son of Lu Qu & Ling Han, has attended NC for four years. He is grateful for his time at NC because it helped him learn to think independently. Sam plans to continue his education in the United States, possibly at the University of California San Diego.

Jordan Elizabeth Schnell lives in Central City and has attended NC for four years. Her parents are Roy & Vonda Schnell. Jordan especially enjoyed the senior trip to Washington, D.C., and she is grateful for the relationships she formed while at Nebraska Christian. Jordan plans to study cyber security operations at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Stephanie Elizabeth Strobel of Marquette is the daughter of Steve & Belinda (Berck '86) Strobel. Stephanie attended NC from preschool through 12th grade. Her favorite NC memory is making it to State Volleyball her sophomore

year after sweeping Burwell in the district finals. Of NC, Stephanie says, "It has given me the most amazing friends that I could ever ask for and provided me with people who are always there to give me wise counsel when I have gone through the toughest times in my life." She plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she will study international business and play on the volleyball team.

Garrett Jae Swantek, son of Jason & Kelly Swantek of Genoa, is the third child in his family to graduate from Nebraska Christian. His sister Taylor graduated in 2015, and his sister Skylar graduated in 2019. Garrett has attended NC for four years, and he says memories of his four years of football will be what sticks with him. While at NC, Garrett came to realize how much he has to be grateful for. He plans to study criminal justice at Chadron State College.

Keith Cussias Wasomi of Nairobi, Kenya, is the son of Maurice Wasomi & Jacinta Nato. He has attended NC for four years. He counts watching the girls' volleyball team go to state among his favorite memories of his time at NC, and he says that being at NC has shown him what biblical growth looks like. Keith plans to attend Central Community College in Grand Island and then transfer to Wayne State.

Zihui (Johnny) Wu, son of Jinliang Wu & Na Li, is from Taiyuan, China. He has attended NC for three years. Johnny says that while at NC, he learned what it means to be a man and how to be responsible, and his favorite memory is of the homecoming football game his senior year. He plans study business in college.

NC Almanac

10 years ago (Spring '10)

- The elementary presents "Patch the Pirate Goes to Space" in the school gymnasium with Dillon Rose ('16) playing Patch.
- 23 seniors graduate. Class speakers are Janelle Bailey ('10), Abbie Krug ('10) and Janae Landrigan ('10).
- Junior Michelle Toukan ('11) wins the 100 meter run at state track and sets a new school record with a time of 12.36 seconds.

20 years ago (Spring '00)

- 18 seniors graduate. Kate Ritta ('00) is valedictorian, and Carisa Bergen ('00) is salutatorian.
- Junior Jamie Senkbile ('01) wins the state championship in shot put for the second straight year.

30 years ago (Spring '90)

- 24 seniors graduate. Brian Poland ('90) is valedictorian, and Jason Beck ('90) is salutatorian.
- The Junior-Senior Banquet features a "Fabulous Fifties" theme with the Music & Worship Room transformed into an A&W Root Beer Drive-in. Staff members Larry Schreiber and Jacky Uhler provide musical entertainment.

40 years ago (Spring '80)

- 24 seniors graduate. Julie Creutzberg ('80) is valedictorian, and Faith McGrew ('80) is salutatorian.
- Outgoing Superintendent Don Olson reflects on his time at NC in a farewell note published in the Advance.

50 years ago (Spring '70)

- 22 seniors graduate. Margaret Root ('70) is valedictorian, and Lynn Ballagh ('70) is salutatorian.

60 years ago (Spring '60)

- 7 students comprise the first graduating class of Nebraska Christian Schools: Dorothy Kasten, Norma Keller, Charlene Rogers, Jack Schroeder, Carolyn Smith, Twila Stutzman, Carole Stone.

Seniors Travel to D.C.

During the first week of March, NC's 20 seniors, along with four sponsors, visited Washington, D.C. for the annual senior trip. The travelers visited several national monuments and government buildings, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, several Smithsonian Museums, and the Family



The seniors pose with Representative Adrian Smith outside the U.S. Capitol.

Research Council. They also met with Nebraska's 3rd District Representative Adrian Smith, who took them on a tour of the US Capitol. Senior Jamie Myers says her favorite place to visit was the Library of Congress. "There was so much symbolism throughout the building; I could've spent hours there just taking it all in. Plus, now I can say I have a library card to the Library of Congress," she says.

The seniors made time for some relaxation on the trip, as well, attending a Washington Capitals hockey game, eating at Fogo de Chao, and shopping at a large mall.

The trip always serves as a capstone experience for the senior class; due to the timing of the pandemic, this year's trip also gave the seniors one final opportunity to make memories as a class before going their separate ways.



Seniors Moses Lu, Sam Qu, and Johnny Wu take a picture at the Air & Space Museum.



Xavier Herman, Olivia Janssen, Chaeyeong Lee.

Three Receive Medals at Conference Speech

Though the speech season was cut short before districts and state, our team was able to complete the regular season and compete in the Goldenrod Conference Meet. At the conference meet, Chaeyeong Lee placed 5th in Informative Speaking, Xavier Herman placed 4th in Extemporaneous Speaking, and Olivia Janssen was the conference champion in Poetry!



Hananiah Peters (Herberta), Alyssa Paul (Sissy), Matthew Needham (Bootstrap), and Julia Merchant (Alberta) sail the Jolly Roger around the world during the race to see who will take Patch's place as captain.

Elementary Students Present Musical

On March 9, at what turned out to be one of the final gatherings of the school year, the NC elementary presented the Patch the Pirate musical "The Final Voyage?" at the Performing Arts Center in Central City. Students in grades 4-6 had speaking roles, while the rest of the elementary made up the choir. The preschoolers sang "Jesus Loves Me" and recited Proverbs 3:5 prior to the play.

Students Recognized During Academic Excellence

Each year during graduation week, NC holds an Academic Excellence Celebration, which highlights scholarships earned by seniors and recognizes students for high academic achievement. This year, due to Covid-19, the Academic Excellence Celebration took place over Zoom.

During the program, senior scholarships were highlighted, including the Cornerstone Bank Scholarship, which is given to one graduating senior each year. This year's recipient was Seth Hower.

Each year, the Goldenrod Conference names seniors who received a 26 or higher on the ACT (1760 or higher on the SAT) to the Academic All Conference Team, and these students were recognized during the program. Those receiving medals for scoring a 30 or higher (1980 or higher SAT) were Jamie Myers, Christopher Needham, and Jordan Schnell. Those receiving

certificates for scoring a 26 or higher (1760 or higher SAT) were Seth Hower and Talia Parlane.

Other highlights included the recognition of several different groups: the junior high quiz bowl team on winning conference; the junior high students who competed in a scholastic competition at Palmer; the 14 junior and senior student athletes named to the Lincoln Journal Star's Academic All-State Team; the students who received academic letters or certificates for high academic achievement; and the two 3-sport/4-year athletes, Garrett Nokelby and Seth Hower.

The Academic Excellence Celebration concluded with the presentation of the Shield Award, given to the top male and female athletes for excellence in athletics and high Christian character. The 2020 recipients were seniors Seth Hower and Kendyl Jividen.

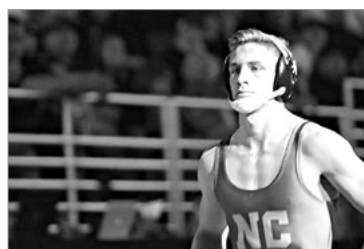


Mundt Wins State Wrestling; Green Takes Second

Carl Mundt stands atop the podium after being awarded his first place medal at state wrestling. *Photo: Mindi Green*



NC's state wrestling qualifiers Carl Mundt and Elijah Green. *Photo: Mindi Green*



Elijah Green enters the arena as he is announced prior to the championship match. *Photos: Mindi Green*

Nebraska Christian's two state-qualifying wrestlers found themselves in the same position on the final day of state wrestling: undefeated in the tournament and competing for a championship. Both three-time state qualifiers, juniors Elijah Green and Carl Mundt had experienced the podium in the past (Green placed 6th as a freshman and 3rd as a sophomore, while Mundt placed 3rd as a sophomore), but neither had wrestled for a championship before.

Wrestling in the 195-pound

weight class, Mundt defeated Kaleb Pofahl of Neligh-Oakdale in a 7-4 decision to become the fourth state wrestling champion in Nebraska Christian history, following Mike Swanson ('08) in 2008, Isaac Elge ('12) in 2011, and Jaydon Elge ('17) in 2015 and 2017.

In his championship match, Green, who wrestled at 152, was defeated by Colby Coons of Twin Loup to place second. Mundt and Green combined to earn a total of 49 points, which placed them 11th in the Class D team standings.



Grace Langemeier and Stephanie Strobel with their high school volleyball coaches (left to right) Britta Landrigan, Tonya Ostrand, Kate (Ritta '00) Perry, and Amy Schreiber ('02).



Seth Hower with his mother Daurice (Pizzolato '87) Hower and his basketball coaches (left to right) Drew Schreiber ('04) and Andy Perdw.

Seniors Sign with Colleges

Three Nebraska Christian seniors have signed letters of intent to play college sports. On February 26, Grace Langemeier and Stephanie Strobel had a joint signing in the NC gym. Langemeier plans to play volleyball at Dorndt University in Iowa, while Strobel will play volleyball at Nebraska Wesleyan University. On April 28, in a socially distanced/virtual ceremony, Seth Hower signed to play basketball at Calvary University in Kansas City. Congratulations to these athletes!

Save the Date for Homecoming: September 18, 2020

Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to the event.

Festival of Lessons & Carols Canceled

After careful consideration, we have decided to cancel the 2020 Festival of Lessons & Carols. We look forward to sharing the Festival with our community again in 2021!

Memorial Gifts

- For: Mildred Beck
- From: Bob & Susan Ritta
Ed & Marilynn Ritta
- For: Daniel Buller
- From: Geraldine Ehler
Earl & Heidi Weller
- For: Jim Coleman
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- For: Dorothy Cooper
- From: Jerry & Linda Beck
Cornerstone Bank

- Gordon & Jewell Deichmann
- Nick & Becky Freeland
- Dorothy Glad
- John & Cheryl Ravenscroft
- Bob & Susan Ritta
- Eugene & Elaine Sernin
- Scott & Patty Welk
- For: Don Dockweiler
- From: Elsie Dockweiler
- For: Bob Freeland
- From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta

- For: Monica Harvey
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- For: Howard Lenhardt
- From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta
- For: Marlow Pedersen
- From: Donna Pedersen
- For: Summer Simon
- From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta
- For: Dorothy Sorenson
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- For: Ruth Speicher

- From: Bob & Susan Ritta
Ed & Marilynn Ritta
- For: Annie Wadsworth
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- In Honor of: Norma Colwell
- From: Wallace & Melody Jobman
- In Honor of: Harold Thune's
100th Birthday
- From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta
- In Honor of: Veterans
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley

Online Benefit Auction 2020

by Kristy Langemeier, Special Events Office



We are pleased to report that God has chosen to pour out His blessing on NC once again by moving in the hearts of many very generous donors to give to the Online Benefit Auction. Preliminary figures are showing that this year's auction netted over \$210,000. Over 500 items up for bid from more than 300 donors contributed to the success of this event.

On March 16, 2020, the annual Dinner and Benefit Auction took a turn due to the Covid-19 restrictions. We had to switch our auction to an online event as quickly as possible. The auction company that we work with offered an online version, and the learning curve began. We were blessed with great help through the company, and on April

23, 2020, we were able to begin the online auction event. It was a 3-day bidding event for silent and live auction items. The support of the bidders was truly a gift to NC and amazing to watch throughout the event.

We started out with 25 items to be offered for sale on our Live Auction; however, we had to cancel five of them due to various reasons (mainly related to Covid-19). Items that sparked aggressive bidding were the 10KW Ground Mount Solar Array System donated by Interconnection Systems of Central City, the Exclusive Husker Suite Experience donated by the Ricketts Family, the Governor Dinner for Eight, and the Apple Bundle donated by Cody's Computer Repair of Central City.

The Scholarship Auction continues to be an avenue of giving that

our donors are enthusiastic about. NC has a \$100,000 line item in the budget for student scholarships each year. Prior to the event, \$46,000 of the \$100,000 had been received in response to the mailings. We are pleased and humbled to report that our final scholarship numbers have totaled an amazingly generous amount of \$112,000! All these funds will be used to provide a Christian education for students who might not otherwise have the financial means to attend NC.

We were so blessed by the community, alumni, and other NC supporters who jumped online and joined in the event. The week following the online auction was a time to reconnect with parents, alumni, and the community to thank them personally while they stopped by the campus to safely

pick up their items. Angela Needham and I would like to thank you all for your help in making the pickup time successful and smooth. We were blessed by all the words of encouragement you offered us about the online auction event.

We are grateful to all who were able to donate an item, talent, or treasure in order to make this event successful. Please take a look at our donor list and make sure you thank these generous people and companies when you are doing business with them.

The total profit made for the school through the benefit auction in the last 18 years has now passed \$2.6 million. Please join us in thanking God once again for his amazing faithfulness to NC through the Dinner and Benefit Auction.

Corporate Table Sponsors:

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Langemeier, Doug & Kristy
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Peterson, Linda
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Ricketts, Governor Pete & Susanne Shore
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Bill's Volume Sales, Central City
Cornerstone Bank, Aurora & Central City
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First National Insurance Agency, Fullerton
GVC Cattle, Atkinson
Griess Farms, Grand Island
Haussermann, Gary & Cheryl
Hoff, Larry & Barb

Heuermann, Jody
McHargue Builders, Jordan McHargue, Central City
McHargue Enterprises, Central City
Mundt, Chuck & Tara
Nelson, Leon
Quick, Cliff & Bonnie
Rathman & Manning Construction, Chapman
Palser Service, Inc., Central City
Pinnacle Bank, Central City
Trinity Financial Group, Omaha
Twin Rivers Urgent Care LLC, Grand Island, North Platte, Hastings

Silver — \$500 to \$999

Chase, Dave & Kathy
Citizen's Bank & Trust
Computer Concepts, Grand Island
Dan's Tree Service, Columbus
Downtown Dental, Grand Island
Hans Service, Clarks
Hornady Manufacturing, Grand Island
KBC Enterprises, Joshua Davis
Lauren Krug Photography, Central City
Nebraska Game & Parks
Stuhmer, Travis & Kim
Twogood, Ryan & Rachel
Wagner, Virgil & Dee
Welk, Scott & Patty
Whitetail Weaponry, Central City
Woods & Aiken, LLP, Lincoln

Bronze — \$250 to \$499

Arby's, Grand Island
Barista's Coffee House, Grand Island
Boutique 29eleven, Tiffany Curry, St. Paul
Catlett Real Estate and Insurance, Central City
Central City Veterinary Clinic, Central City
Central Community College, Grand Island
Central City Family Dental, Central City
Central True Value Hardware, Central City
Central Valley Ag, Aurora
Cook, Harold & Dorothy
Copycat Printing, Grand Island
Covenant Cedars, Hordville
Cunningham, Dora
Deterdings, Grand Island
Dieckmann, Tyler & Traci
Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Grand Island
Grewcock, Berniece
Hesselgesser, Joe
Jorgensen, David & Donna
Ken's Auto, Grand Island
Krug, Nathan & Christi
Maas, Dr. Daniel & Connie
Malaika Foundation, Central City
Maranatha Bible Camp, Maxwell
McHargue, Andrew & Emily
Merrick County Fitness Center, Central City
Merrick Medical Center, Central City
Mundt, Dick & Carla
Murphy, Chuck & Trish

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Donors, continued from pg. 8

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|---|--|--|---|
| Perfect Circle Irrigation, Central City | Embellish Salon, Shelby Everson, Central City | Mentink Family Farms, Stromsburg | Skate Island, Grand Island |
| Primitive Chicks, Stromsburg | Escape Aurora, Aurora | Misty's, Lincoln | Sky Zone, Omaha |
| Prusa, Eric & Jennifer | Essential Personnel, Grand Island | Miotke, Doug | Slumberland, Grand Island |
| Qualset, Orv | Eustis Body Shop, Grand Island | Mom & Paup Family Restaurant, Central City | Smith Welding Shop, St. Paul |
| Ratliff, Tyson & Sarah | Eyecare Associates, Central City | Mr. G's Car Care, Grand Island | Smokin' Dan's BBQ, Central City |
| Redline Pharmacy, Hastings | Family Eye Care Center, Grand Island | Nebraska's Big Rodeo, Burwell | Spring City, Grand Island |
| Runza, Central City | Fat Pants Seasoning, Central City | Nebraska's Raceway Park, Omaha | State Farm Insurance, Central City |
| Strobel, Dwight & Barbara | Firehouse Subs, Grand Island | Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island | Solt-Wagner Funeral Home, Central City |
| Stuhmer, Kerry & Janice | Five Guys, Lincoln | Nelson's Furniture, Grand Island | Sonic, Grand Island |
| Trico Heating & Air, Travis Stuhmer, Polk | Five Points Bank, Grand Island | Noodle House, Grand Island | Stoltenberg Irrigation Inc, Cairo |
| Wheeler & Wheeler, Inc., Osceola | Flesch, Russell & Deb | Norwex, Laurel Toukan | Stuhmer, Grant |
| Friend of NC — \$1 to \$249 | Flynn, Michael & Brandi | Norwex, Susie Evans | Stuhr Museum, Grand Island |
| 4th Street Coffee House, Stromsburg | Freddy's Steakburgers, Grand Island | O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Central City | Subway, Central City |
| Ace Hardware, Grand Island | Full Bloom Floral, Central City | O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Grand Island | Super Saver, Grand Island |
| Agricultural Services Inc., Archer | GI Gun Shop, Grand Island | Omaha Storm Chasers Baseball, Omaha | Susan's Books & Gifts, Aurora |
| Allstar Auto Glass, Grand Island | Garland Acres Coffee Roasters, Central City | P/R Mobile, Kearney | Swanson, John & Sarah |
| Ashley Homestore, Grand Island | Gate 25, Lincoln | Pampered Chef, Kristi Twiss | T.O. Haas Tire, Aurora |
| Aurora Mall, Aurora | Gee, David & Deanna | Perkins, Grand Island | T.O. Haas Tire, Central City |
| Beckenhauer, Phil & Elvira | Gemar, Bob & Joanne | Peters, Doug & Lori | Taco John's, Central City |
| Big Apple Bagels, Grand Island | Giowoyna, Susan | Peterson, Ronald & Becky | Texas Roadhouse, Grand Island |
| Boop's Shooter's Supply, Grand Island | Godfather's Pizza, Grand Island | Pizza Hut, Aurora | Texas T-Bone, Grand Island |
| Brandenburg Tree and Lawn, Central City | Goldenrod Clothing Boutique, Grand Island | Pizza Hut, Central City | The Amazing Pizza Machine, Omaha |
| Buckle, Kearney | Graf, Bill & Sandi | Pizza Hut, South Locust Street, Grand Island | The Archway, Kearney |
| Buffalo Wild Wings, Grand Island | Grand Island AMC 7 Theater, Grand Island | Pizza Palace, Burwell | The Chocolate Bar, Grand Island |
| Buffet House, Grand Island | Greenline, Central City | Pizza Ranch, Columbus | The Dance Co. Studio, Grand Island |
| Cabi, Ann Brown, Central City | Green's Floor Care, Central City | Pizza Ranch, Grand Island | The Edgerton Explorit Center, Aurora |
| Carlos O'Kelly's, Grand Island | HP Design, Kearney | Platte Valley Communications, Grand Island | The Farwell Arms Bed & Breakfast, Farwell |
| Casey's General Store, Inc. | Hansen International, Grand Island | Poppen, John & Kris | The Fort, Columbus |
| Central City Sportsman's Club, Central City | Hobby Town USA, Grand Island | Pueblo Viejo, Aurora | The Happy Brush, Grand Island |
| Chances "R" Restaurant, York | Hoegemeyer, Tom Yungdahl, Osceola | Prairie Creek Vineyards, Central City | The Keeping Room, Nebraska City |
| Chief Industries, Grand Island | Home Federal Bank, Grand Island | Preferred Popcorn, Chapman | The Makers — Bakers and Builders, Aurora |
| Chuck's 2.0 Burgers, Shakes, & More, Aurora | Honeysuckle Lane, Aurora | Qdoba, Grand Island | The Medina Street Vault, Cairo |
| City of Central City | Howard's Jewelry, Grand Island | Raising Cane's, Lincoln | The Messy Apron, Osceola |
| Coney Island Café, Grand Island | Hunan's, Grand Island | Ramada, Kearney | The Old Homestead, Aurora |
| Cooper, Curtis & Joyce | HyVee, Grand Island | Rankin, Chris & Melissa | The Wishing Well, Central City |
| Corner Drug, Central City | Jimmy John's, Grand Island | Rath's Café, Aurora | Thirty-One, Vicky Krieger |
| Countryside Flowers, Central City | Jojo's Gelato and Grill, Aurora | Red Lobster, Grand Island | Tokens 'n Treasures, Marilyn Heins |
| Creations by Laurie, Laurie Zanger | Jorgensen, David & Donna | Rodan + Fields, Anita Ruybalid | Tommy's Restaurant, Grand Island |
| Cunningham, Dora | Juice Stop, Grand Island | Rodan + Fields, Lisa Senkbile | Touch of Health Massage, Aurora |
| Dairy Queen, Central City | Kansas City Royals, Kansas City, MO | Rodizio's Grill, Lincoln | Trav's U-Save Pharmacy, Central City |
| Deichmann, Becky | Ken's Appliance & America's Mattress | Ron's Music, Grand Island | TriJuvenate Center for Wellness, Anna McHargue |
| Deras, Keith and Teri | Kermit's Super Wash, Grand Island | Roses for You, Grand Island | Untamed Roan Boutique, Stromsburg |
| Dockweiler, Elsie | Kerry's Restaurant, McCool Junction | Ross Realty, Central City | Urban Creations, Aurora |
| Dockweiler, Thomas and Sherry | Kinkaid Brewing Company, Grand Island | Runza, Grand Island | Vala's Pumpkin Patch, Gretna |
| Domino's Pizza, Grand Island | Kuntz, Gil & Mary | Rustic Lux Designs, Columbus | Valentino's, Grand Island |
| Dr. Daniel J Maas Dental, Fullerton | LaserTec of Nebraska, Shelton | Sack Lumber, Aurora | Vlcek Gardens, Chapman |
| Dry Creek Western Wear, Burwell | Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha | Sack Lumber, Central City | Waffles n More, Central City |
| Eakes Office Supply, Grand Island | Lied Lodge & Conference Center at Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City | Salsarita's, Lincoln | Walmart, Grand Island |
| Economy Hometown Market, Stromsburg | Lincoln's Children's Zoo, Lincoln | Sandstone Grill, Burwell | Wasabi Bistro, Grand Island |
| Eihusen, DJ & Kathy | Lippstreu, Mary | Sapp Bros., Columbus | Wayne's Cyclery, Grand Island |
| Eileen's Cookies, Grand Island | Majestic Treasures, Grand Island | Scarecrow Patch, St. Libory | Wegner Monument, Central City |
| El Agave, Central City | Mankin, Kathryn | Scheels, Lincoln | Widman Cinema, Central City |
| El Toro Mexican Restaurant, Grand Island | Mary & Martha, Lori Perlinger | Schnell, Roy & Vonda | Zabuni Specialty Coffee, Grand Island |
| El Portal, Nebraska City | Massage Central, Central City | Schofield, John & Cindy | Zanger, Larry & Bonnie |
| Embellish Salon, Christi Loy, Central City | McDonald's, Aurora | Side Street Deli, Central City | Zaruba, Leroy & Verna |
| | | Sincerely Nicole, York | |

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NC Flashback



Each year's track season (except this one) culminates at State Track in Omaha, where NC students typically do very well. In 1998, our men's 1600 meter relay team won gold in Class D! Can you identify these state champions? Send your guesses to advance@nebraskachristian.org. Each correct guess will earn you an entry into our drawing.

From the last issue:

The pictured cast members of the 2012 elementary play are Jessica Hilderbrand ('18), Halle Strong ('19), Carsyn Ostrand ('19) and Jon Dockweiler ('19). Congratulations to Jon Dockweiler! His name was drawn from the correct entries as our prize winner.



Schreibers, Gee Retire

As the 2019-2020 school year wrapped up, Nebraska Christian said goodbye to three retirees: Larry Schreiber, Denise Schreiber, and David Gee. Larry Schreiber, NC's longest-serving staff member at 41 years, is retiring after filling a variety of roles at the school, including PE and Driver's Ed teacher, junior high and high school coach, school counselor, and Activities Director. Elementary teacher and librarian Denise Schreiber arrived at NC at the same time as her husband Larry. She took some time off from teaching when their children were young and returned when their youngest entered school. All told, Denise spent 30 years teaching at Nebraska Christian. The third retiree is David Gee. He came out of retirement to help revamp the Nebraska Christian Industrial Technology program, and he stayed



Larry Schreiber, Denise Schreiber, David Gee.

nine years. In addition to teaching, he also served as an assistant coach for football and track.

We are grateful for these teachers and their years of service at NC. If you would like to share a memory or send a word of thanks to any or all of them, you can email advance@nebraskachristian.org, and we will pass along your message.