



WILMINGTON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2018 Volume 2

PATHFINDER





PATHFINDER

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Lesley Aulick
- Shannon Bullock
- Robalee Deike
- Brett Dorsch
- Michael McCudden
- Linda Schwind
- Lynn Simpson
- Rene Solis
- Champ Thornton
- Kevin Wargo

ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Roger Erdvig
Headmaster
- Gwen Campbell
Elementary/Middle School Principal
- Melonie Fetterman
Associate Headmaster
- Douglas Haas
High School Principal

2018-2019 School Verse

"...That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."
Philippians 2:15 ESV

WCS Mission Statement

Wilmington Christian School provides a distinctively Christian, innovative education that effectively develops Godly influencers who are well prepared for life after high school and who impact the culture for Christ.

Building on the foundation of Scriptural truth, we teach students to grow in Christian character, to excel in academic proficiency, and to value mentoring relationships.

DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILIES OF WCS,



I believe you'll be encouraged with all that God is doing in and through WCS.

This is a great time to be connected to the mission of WCS! Over the 2017-18 school year, we embarked on a process to refresh our vision/mission statement, our core values, and our portrait of a WCS graduate. By concentrating our thinking on why we exist and what we aim to accomplish in the lives of our students, we have renewed clarity and excitement surrounding the great work that the WCS team does every day.

As you read this edition of the Pathfinder, I trust that you'll be strongly reminded of why we exist and catch some of our excitement. From Commencement 2018, where we celebrated the lives and accomplishments of the class of 2018, to our new course offerings and our growing homeschool program, I believe you'll be encouraged with all that God is doing in and through WCS.

Our theme verse for this year comes from Philippians 2:15, where, in speaking of how a disciple of Christ should be different from the surrounding culture, Paul says, "so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." In line with Paul's vision for the Philippians, we're challenging and equipping WCS students with the skills, mindset, and desire to stand out from among their peers as different, for the Glory of the Lord. Whether it's in our new advisory/mentor groups for middle and high schoolers, our character special in elementary, or our school-wide emphasis on great teaching and learning, everything we do is geared towards helping our students shine brightly. And as they do, we trust that God's work will continue to advance through new generations of WCS graduates, wherever He leads them.

Be blessed as you read and reflect on all that God is doing at your beloved Wilmington Christian School.

*Dr. Roger Erdvig
Headmaster*

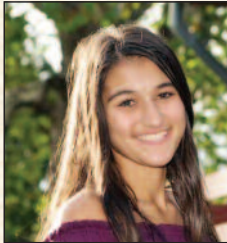


The Class of 2018

WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



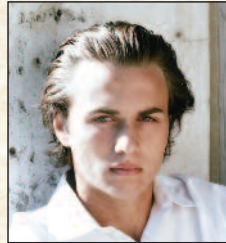
Cyrena Akinyi
Georgia State University



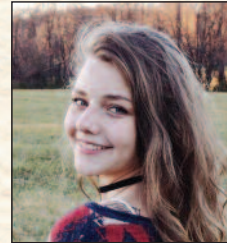
Christina Bourantas
DePauw University



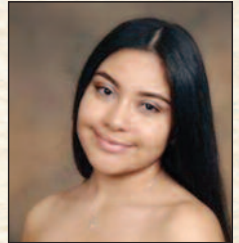
Kyle Bradford
Virginia Tech



Joshua Cairo
Delaware Technical
Community College



Adelene Cavazzini
Cecil County
Community College



Natalya Chamorro
University of Delaware



Timothy Glavin
Undecided



Jessica Grabowski
Delaware Technical
Community College



Aloria Hamm
Johnson & Wales University



Noel Hamm
St. John's University



Gretchen Hoffert
University of Delaware



Zachary Lewis
Pennsylvania State University



Sihui Lu
Boston University



Emma Lutz
Pennsylvania State University -
Schreyer Honors College



Patryk Maczko
University of Delaware



Olivia Marchese
DeSales University



Christian Reilly
University of Delaware -
Honors College



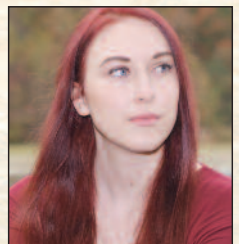
Benjamin Roach
University of the Arts



Evan Roberts
Pennsylvania State University



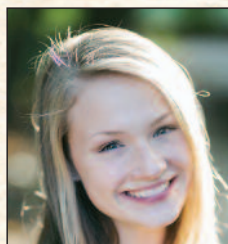
Sarah Rouault
Clarks Summit University



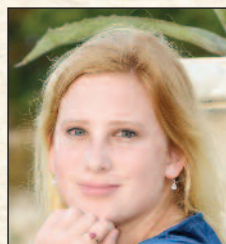
Autumn Rue
University of Delaware



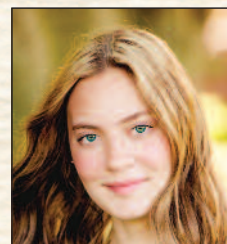
Marshall Smith
University of Delaware



Reagan Stephens
Delaware Technical
Community College



Kate Taylor
West Chester University



Morgan Tomazine
Wilmington University



Samantha Tsiarkezos
Towson University



Ryan Albrecht
Cedarville University



Casey Avello
Eastern University



Greta Baker
College of William and Mary



Faith Boothe
Delaware Technical
Community College



Timothy Boulet
University of Delaware



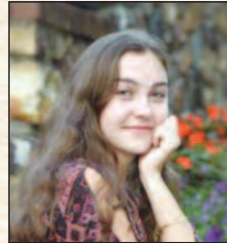
Joshua Chubbs
Ferris State University



Andrew Dingwall
University of St. Andrews,
Scotland



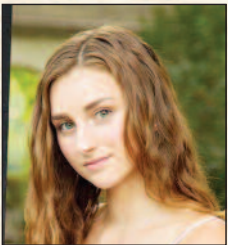
Janelle Esaka
Delaware State University



Meghan Geouque
St. Michael's College



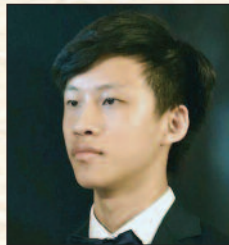
Grace Gizzio
Wilmington University



Grace Howle
University of Delaware -
Honors College



Michael Andrew Hutt
University of Delaware



Tianyu Jin
Rutgers University -
New Brunswick



Nicholas Kater
University of Delaware -
College of Engineering



Margaret Lengkeek
Liberty University



Te'Nayza Minor
Washington College



Cora Mummert
Messiah College



Vy Nguyen
University of Massachusetts -
Boston



Yulin Ou
Fordham University



XingYu Pan
University of California - Davis



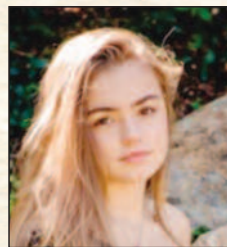
Karen Saylor
Delaware County
Community College



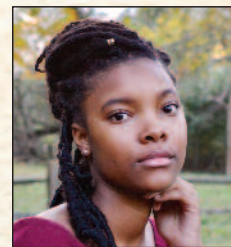
Anna Schumeyer
University of Delaware



Dave Shah
Drexel University



Alisa Shkolna
LaSalle University



Maile Smith
Delaware Technical
Community College



Zhuonan Wang
University of Delaware



LaTanya Winward
Wiley College



Melissa Wood
University of Delaware



Zheng Xu
University of Washington



Zoe Yearwood
Eastern University

CLASS OF 2018
COMMENCEMENT



On Saturday, June 2, 2018, fifty-six Wilmington Christian School graduates, dressed in their glowing white, and red gowns, entered the Fine Arts Auditorium with the classic tune of "Pomp and Circumstance". Once seated, Mr. Mike McCudden, chairman of the board, gave welcoming remarks to the WCS family.

Following the welcome, headmaster Dr. Roger Erdvig, stepped to the podium to give his very first Wilmington Christian School commencement challenge to the senior class.

As in past years, the graduating class was challenged with a word to ponder. This year's word was "Favor". Dr. Erdvig began by mentioning his chapel speech to the seniors and his reference to a quote from J.R.R. Tolkien's famous novel, Lord of the Rings. He was reminded

that the class was only about four years old at the time the movie was released. With a few chuckles from the crowd, Dr. Erdvig shifted to the "secret ingredient" of Christian character which is favor. The timely speech was filled with advice. He spoke of the seniors needing to become influencers by receiving favor.

"It is favor that allows people to have a sense of trust, and eagerness to support you." Dr. Erdvig alluded to Biblical influencers such as Joseph, Esther, Ruth, and Daniel. He admitted that the list could continue, but how each of these people were in the right place at the right time: Daniel with the Babylonian Officials, Joseph and potiphar, Esther and her husband, and Ruth and Boaz. He concluded his speech with two Bible verses:

Psalms 84:11 and Nehemiah 1:11. He advised that the only true source of favor comes from God.

Shortly after the challenge, the faculty and staff were recognized for their years of service: five years: Mrs. Linda Liu, Mr. Rich Liu, Mr. Jerry Polman, Mr. Trey Speers, Miss Allison Takats; ten years: Mrs. Celinda Conteh, fifteen years: Mrs. Heather Alderman, and thirty years: Mrs. Nancy Cowchok, and Mr. Doug Haas. The recognition continued with the yearbook dedication which was given to the mathematics department head, Mr. Rich Liu. It was presented by senior editors Casey Avello and Te'Nayza Minor. The faculty recognition ended with ovation to Mrs. Elle Straley, head of the English department, who is retiring from WCS after 31 years of service.

The student awards were then presented by Mr. Haas. Since many of the seniors graduated with honors, this portion of the program took the longest, but it was well worth it because there were so many recognized. Additionally, receiving the following department awards were: Andrew Dingwall for Bible, English, Foreign Language and Music, Margaret (Meggie) Lengkeek for Visual Arts, and Sihui (Tiffany) Lu for Mathematics, Greta Baker for Science, and Emma Lutz for Social Studies. There were countless other awards, but too many to recognize. Mr. Haas concluded by saying, "Class of 2018, I love you. You know where to find me. You may wander, but I am here."

Before the valedictorian speech, the senior class president, Christina Bourantas rose to the podium to present the senior class gift. She announced that the class is





CLASS VERSE

Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Deuteronomy 31:7-8



giving a gift of funds to create a learning lab.

Immediately following the senior gift, the valedictorian, **Greta Baker**, gave a humorous and thought provoking speech. She joked about her quiet demeanor, and how stressed she was when she knew that she had to give a speech. She shared her thoughts of wanting to run away in the woods in order to avoid the speech. Greta then related that we all worry about experiences, such as a chemistry test, or a sporting event. She challenged the class to not worry, but try to focus on true values set by God. "The class should judge their success by how well they love God, and others." She ended with an encouraging scripture from Psalm 13:5 "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."

Salutatorian, Emma Lutz, began her speech with an anecdote by mentioning commencement speech cliches. She told the class that they are graduates, and will head out to the "real world". She also quoted the mission statement, and reminded the class that they have been blessed because of Wilmington Christian School. Since most of the class is headed to secular colleges, Emma challenged them to hold on to the verse in Matthew 5:13, where Christ tells His disciples to be salt of the earth.

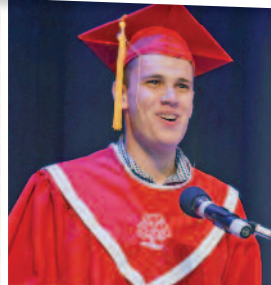
Christian Reilly, Christina Bourantas, and Andrew Dingwall gave the final student addresses. Christian spoke of how he procrastinated before writing his speech, and the brevity of life. He gave insightful statistics on how often we sleep, eat, drink, and spend time on social media. He advised

that the senior class should make the most of their time because it passes by so quickly. His

conclusion was from the Ephesians, where Paul speaks of not wasting time. Christina Bourantas was next to the podium. In her well organized speech, she spoke of a summer camp where she practiced archery lessons. She made the connection of the effort it took in order to hit the target with her arrow. She said that once the arrow was removed from the target, there was a mark. The word "mark" was used several times throughout the speech to reinforce that the class has left a mark at WCS, and they will also leave a mark on the rest of the world. Her scripture reference was Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Last to give a speech was Andrew Dingwall. Enthusiastically, he said the word, "Nebraska". There were several laughs from the audience because this was a reference to a poem he recited in a national poetry contest. Andrew continued by giving facts about the state, while reminiscing on the WCS 4th grade state fair project. He concluded with the story from Luke 24:13, where Jesus is on the road to Emmaus.

At a little past noon, the diplomas were awarded, and the 40th senior class turned their tassels and became graduates of Wilmington Christian School.

*Celinda Conteh
HS English Teacher*





“Trusting in God will help us to put our temporary trials in perspective as we remember that He has a plan for our time here on earth and for eternity.”

Greta Baker VALEDICTORIAN

Good morning parents, family members, friends, faculty, and the class of 2018.

It might come as a shock to some of you, but despite my boisterous personality and outgoing nature, I was actually a little nervous about giving this speech. Earlier this week I imagined myself running away into the woods and waiting until Graduation was over to reappear. I considered writing an “I’m sorry but I really can’t do this after all” email to Mr. Haas. I procrastinated for hours, using everything from watching Youtube videos to working on my college housing application for next year to avoid facing “The Speech”.

For me, the thought of presenting my own piece of writing to my fellow classmates and hundreds of their friends and family members was worrisome and stressful to me. This moment seemed to be the one challenge separating me from a relaxing, enjoyable summer. Yet here I am, in front of you all, minutes away from being rid of graduation speech-induced anxiety forever.

At some point, we all worry about things that seem so important at the time but are forgotten later. For example, I’m sure none of you are sitting here stressing about that certain chemistry test you took last year or that one game where you didn’t play your best. Those are worries of the past, and now we can look back and realize that those things don’t really matter too much in the long run. In these next few months, we may face new worries, like “Will I get along with my roommate?”, “Will I be able to handle college level

work or a new job?”.

I would like to encourage us all to remember that these concerns will fade away as we move forward in our lives, and new priorities will take their place. Instead of spending so much time worrying about troubles that won’t matter to us in the not too distant future, I believe that we should try to focus on living in a way that reflects the values that will remain important to us throughout our lives. My personal goal is to reach a point where I judge my success not by how well I performed on an exam or what my class thought of my graduation speech, but by how well I showed the love of God to others.

As easy as it is to tell ourselves not to fear, even our relatively small problems can be overwhelming and we can end up feeling like David does in Psalm 13. He asks God, “How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?”. At the end of the psalm, however, David says, “But I trust in your unflinching love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.” Trusting in God will help us to put our temporary trials in perspective as we remember that He has a plan for our time here on earth and for eternity.

Class of 2018, we’ve made it. Through all the tests, activities, friendships, successes, and struggles, the work has been completed, and we are graduates. May God give us the grace and strength we need to go forward with confidence.

I wish you all the best and congratulations!

Emma Lutz SALUTATORIAN

Well this is it! Graduation. Everyone shifting in their seats, ready for these speeches to be over so they can walk across this stage and pick up a diploma on their way out to lunch. Before I get into the typical clichés and inspirational quotes, I have to acknowledge all the people that helped me on this journey. First, thank you to my parents who have always been there for me and been willing to help me with any problem, no matter how big or small. I'd also like to thank all of the teachers, faculty, staff, and board of WCS. As students, we can truly feel how much you all love and care for us. I know none of us would be on stage today if it wasn't for all of you. Lastly, thanks to the Class of 2018 for being such an amazing family to me for these past four years.

Now, if you are anything like me, these past four years have been like a countdown, racing towards graduation. And on that day we would get our diploma and walk off into our future at (insert name of college or job here). It's finally time and we are all dressed up and lined up on stage, ready to leave WCS forever. We're graduating... so now what?

None of us know what life is like outside of high school and our parents' homes. We are about to be thrown into the 'real world' of independence, decision-making, and student loans.

That is where WCS comes into play. No, these past four years have not just been for hanging out. WCS' mission statement is to teach, influence, and encourage each student to effectively integrate Biblical truth into his/her daily life and to impact the

culture for Christ. We have been blessed to have a school that encourages our faith and allows us to have a community in Christ. The true purpose of WCS is to prepare Christian adults to enter into the world strong in their faith and to take the lessons they learned here with them.

Most of us are going off to secular colleges or jobs next year, so we will not have this fundamentally Christian environment. It is now our mission to go out and demonstrate love, acceptance, and hope to the people we encounter. We want to be those people in which others notice a difference and notice something good. As Matthew 5:13 says we are the salt of the earth. It is our job to go into the world and show the message of Jesus. Our future starts now and we are ready to go forward and be ambassadors for Christ.

So, Class of 2018, get excited because this is the first day of the rest of our lives. But I encourage you all to step back and remember the big picture. Graduation is a time where we all tend to focus on ourselves and our future, instead of listening to God's plan. When you head out these doors, instead of merely thinking of your future, think of how you can impact someone else's future.

There is some sadness in leaving WCS, but we are ready. As you leave graduation today and head off to whatever your future brings, remember the lessons you learned at WCS. Remember the friends you met and the memories you made. Remember to keep Christ the center of your life. And remember to have fun.

Thank you.



“As Matthew 5:13 says we are the salt of the earth. It is our job to go into the world and show the message of Jesus.”



EARLY LEARNING CENTER at Wilmington Christian School

Wilmington Christian School's Early Center kicked off its first summer program under the leadership of ELC Director Ms. Alene Heider. Students ages 1-4 now have the option of year-round programs from 7 am until 6 pm, led by experienced early education teachers and staff.



This summer, campers had fun discovering nature, enjoying water play days, learning how much God loves them, and spending time with their friends. In September, WCS opened its first Toddler 1 class in a brand new classroom space. Other campus improvements include a new Toddler playground. We are already receiving applications for the fall of 2019/20, and are excited to see this program continue to grow.



HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Wilmington Christian is proud to offer a growing Homeschool program. In just our second year, we have over 20 students ranging from Kindergarten through 11th grade taking a variety of classes on campus. Art and Spanish are the most popular courses among our Homeschool students followed by Science and Math. For families looking for a great education, a Christian community, and the ability to participate in extra-curricular activities for a well-rounded student experience, Wilmington Christian is a great choice!

PATRIOT ACADEMY

On July 11th Wilmington Christian School students; Olivia Thompson, Joshua Boulet, Andrew Erdvig and alum Daniel Walsh were provided a tremendous opportunity to attend Patriot Academy at the capitol building in Dover, Delaware. In this program, Patriots are trained and mentored by current and former elected officials, as well as experts in the fields of communication and media, history and constitutional law, legislative process, and much more. The participants acted as State Representatives as they proposed and defended their legislative bills at the capitol as well as congress hall in Philadelphia. During their visit to Independence Hall, attendees participated in an emotional ceremony, as they agreed to use their God-given talents to continue to defend America's freedoms for generations to come as they signed the Declaration of Independence along with the founding fathers. Patriot Academy is one way Wilmington Christian School is preparing our students to impact the culture for Christ. To learn more about Patriot Academy or to sponsor a Patriot, you can access their website: www.patriotacademy.com.



*“Principled leaders
are not born.
They are trained.
Patriot Academy exists
to train America's
next generation of
leaders today.”*

*Rick Green
Founder of Patriot Academy*

SPEED NETWORKING

In March, the first Speed Networking event was held between select High School students and participants of the Wilmington Christian School's Board of Trustees and community business leaders. Students had the opportunity to meet with several leaders representing a variety of professions including; Human Resources, Business Owner, Marketing, and Investment Management. During their mini-sessions, they were encouraged to give a summary of themselves, their goals and aspirations and ask questions. This was a great opportunity for the leaders to connect with our students and pass on valuable feedback and insights about what it means to be Christian in today's business world. We look forward to making this a regular event for our high school students going forward.





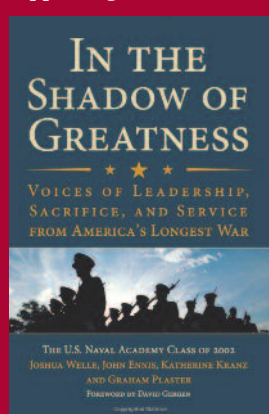
CELEBRATIONS



Graham Plaster '98

Alumni PROFILE

After graduating from WCS in 1998, I attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, where I majored in English. While there, I got involved with the Navigators ministry and was active leading worship for evening Bible studies. It was through the Navigators that I met a friend who would become my brother-in-law. His sister, Esther, was a student at Liberty University, and 2 grades ahead. Esther and I started dating right after she graduated from Liberty and had started interning on the Hill. We got engaged and she moved to Annapolis to pursue a Master's Degree at St. Johns College, next door to the Naval Academy. In May of 2002, she graduated from St. John's, I graduated from the Naval Academy, and we got married. It was a very full month! We drove across the country to attend a number of other weddings and then within the year, moved to Hawaii for my first assignment in the Navy. Our first two children were born in Hawaii - Kyrie and Juliet - and then we moved to San Diego. In San Diego we had our son, Ransom, and then we moved to Rhode Island, where our son Blaise was born. In Rhode Island I served as the Assistant Dean of Students for the Naval War College, and received a Master's in Humanities from Salve Regina University, focusing on Persian blogging movements. My academic work led to an opportunity to study Arabic in California and then a tour at the Pentagon supporting United Nations Peacekeeping missions in the Middle East.



During this time I worked with a team of writers and editors from my Naval Academy class (the first class to graduate after 9-11) to produce the military leadership anthology, "In the Shadow of Greatness". The book was eventually added to the Navy's official reading list and was listed on the LA Times best seller's list. In it I talk about some of my experiences in the wake of 9-11 and how it shaped our class. My Pentagon tour wrapped up in 2013 and I got out of the navy but stayed in the reserves. I was hired back on as a defense contractor, as the Senior Policy Adviser for the Pentagon for cultural training

for the Department of Defense. I have served in that role for the past 5 years while also growing my own small business (www.theintelligencecommunity.com). Esther works at a clothing boutique in Georgetown called Anne Mashburn, and our kids are in public school in Arlington, Virginia. I was recently elected PTA President for Kyrie's high school, Arlington Tech. We attend the Falls Church Anglican. We still take our kids up to Delaware every year to visit Longwood Gardens for the Christmas lights, and Lewes on Memorial Day Weekend (our anniversary). We even took a road trip up to Quebec 20 years after I went there with our senior trip!

