



WILMINGTON  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2021 Volume 1

# PATHFINDER







Zoe Abe  
Immaculata University

## CLASS OF 2021



Gabriella Armesto  
Sacred Heart University



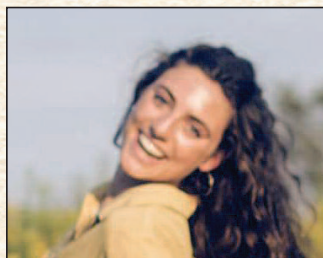
Kyasia Barrineau  
West Chester University



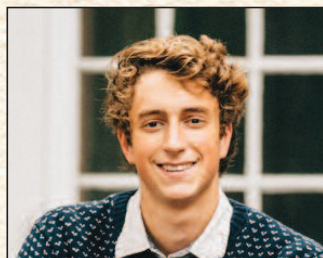
Rachel Bonney  
University of Delaware



Jaden Boothe  
Delaware Skills Center



Michaela Elliott  
Messiah University



Andrew Erdvig  
Liberty University



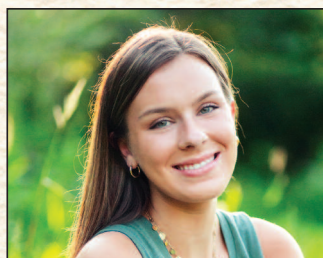
Andrew Gallagher  
University of Delaware



Isabella Grasso  
Employment



Jaclynn Johnson  
Penn State University



Jillian Kater  
Liberty University



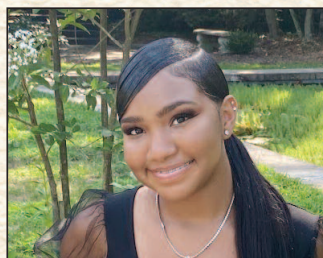
Andrew Kelley  
University of Delaware



Jalen Killing  
Liberty University



Anna Mercer  
University of Delaware



Ta'maja Opher  
Xavier University of Louisiana



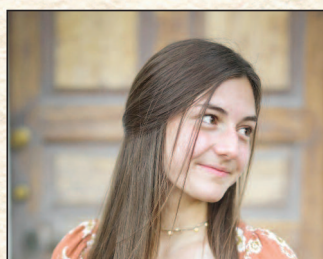
Andrew Overman  
Messiah University



Hoyun Park  
University of Detroit Mercy



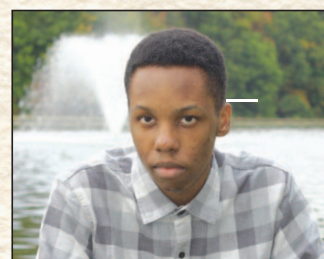
Kye Rodriguez-Bryant  
Liberty University



Elisabeth Saylor  
Cedarville University



Chude Uzoka-Anofienem  
La Salle University



André Walley  
University of Delaware



*And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more,  
with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent,  
and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,  
filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Philippians 1:9-11



Rebekah Anderson  
Cairn University



Dante Brinkley  
Lancaster Bible College



Giovanni Casagrande  
University of Delaware



Luke Danner  
Liberty University



Trevor DeHart  
Employment



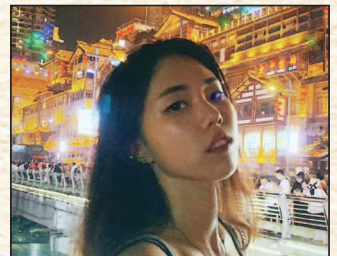
Joy Harrison  
University of Delaware



Emily Hildick  
University of Delaware



Brianna Hopkins  
Howard University



Xinyu Hu  
Rhode Island School of Design



Juntao Li  
University of California, Irvine



Xi Li  
Goldey-Beacom College



Timothy Masters  
Delaware County Community College



Samiyah McFarlane  
Wilmington University



Victoria Picarro  
University of Delaware



Joshua Pierce  
Undecided



Daniel Rettig  
University of Delaware



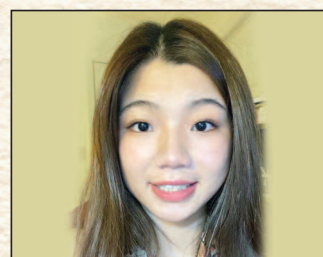
Mary Rettig  
University of Delaware,



Jie Wang  
Undecided



Pei Wang  
University of California,  
Santa Barbara



Ziqi Yan  
Babson College



Jingqiao Zhang  
University of California, Davis





On Saturday, June 5th, 38 in-person and four online seniors were honored in the Fine Arts Auditorium as the 43rd graduating class of Wilmington Christian School. With the women wearing white and the men wearing red, this year's graduation had a strong sense of tradition with some added nontraditional flare. Board Chairman Mr. Mike McCudden gave the invocation and welcoming remarks. Following the welcome, senior parent, Mrs. Suzanne Johnson, read the senior class scripture, Philippians 1:9-11.

The graduating class was challenged this year with the word "skilled." Headmaster and senior parent Dr. Roger Erdvig shared that he had no clue that someday he would serve as a Christian school headmaster upon his graduation from high school. While he thought about the future, he didn't look at the present or the past, now mentioning that "the past can provide keys to God's future purposes for us, and we should not ignore who we are as we seek His will for our lives." He added, "Where you are uniquely skilled may very well open the doors to the opportunities that God has for you." He listed that he is a leader, educator, and writer and has a skill unrelated to his primary calling—carpentry—as the

descendant of several generations of carpenters. Dr. Erdvig then spoke of the rise of David in the Bible and how he eventually became a king, noting that in 1 Samuel 16, David plays the harp—a skill unrelated to his primary calling—but one that helped open the door to other opportunities. Dr. Erdvig challenged the class to use the gifts that God has given them to bless others with their skills so that they may fulfill the primary calling that God has on their lives.

Immediately after the challenge, Joy Harrison, Microcosm editor, presented the yearbook dedication to Mrs. Celinda Conteh. Mr. Douglas Haas then presented the student awards. Receiving the Valedictorian and Visual Arts awards was Xinyu "Sara" Hu. Jillian Kater was honored with the Salutatorian, Science, and World Language awards. Receiving the English and Social Studies awards was Rebecca Anderson. Pei "Gina" Wang earned the Mathematics award. The Bible department award went to Elizabeth Sayler. The final academic award was for the Music department, and the recipient was Jaclynn Johnson. The Female Christian Character award and Outstanding Senior Female Athlete awards were presented to Michaela





Elliott. The male recipient for the Christian Character and the Chris Landa Memorial awards was Daniel Rettig. The Outstanding Senior Male Athlete was Andrew Overman. There were countless other awards, too. At the conclusion of the awards, six students were recognized for having been enrolled at WCS since kindergarten. Faculty and staff were also recognized for their years of service at WCS.

Senior advisor Mrs. Nancy Cowchok recognized the senior class officers: Victoria Picarro (president), Jillian Kater (vice president), Michaela Elliott (treasurer), Zoe Abe (secretary), and Andrew Kelley (sergeant at arms). Victoria Picarro then presented the senior class gift of new red benches to be used outside by future generations.

Valedictorian Xinyu "Sara" Hu delivered a video message from China, mentioning some of the class's obstacles throughout the years, including those brought on by the pandemic. Sara enthused that "no matter what, we made it!" Sara alluded to the unity felt during Spirit Week and sporting events as cherished but emphasized that the class's ultimate unity is their unity in Christ. She challenged them that now they have the responsibility

to share what the WCS family has taught them. Sara continued with the statement, "When our physical unity is broken, be brave; life is short, and don't waste time on things you don't love." She concluded by thanking teachers and classmates for the love they have shown throughout the years.

Salutatorian Jillian Kater challenged the class first to choose their friends who share their core beliefs. Secondly, she reminded them that disappointments would happen, referencing Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord..." Thirdly, she said, "prepare diligently and know that you are ready." Her last thoughts for the class were to draw upon the truth by pursuing Christ before anything else.

Victoria Picarro, Andrew Erdvig, and Michaela Elliott gave the final student addresses. Tori said she had been looking forward to providing a speech at graduation since she can remember, and that one word came to mind: time. She mentioned the value of time, something that can never be regained, referencing senior chapel, where

many cried because it was then that they realized that was the last time they would be sitting in the chapel seats. "Time has a wonderful way of showing us what matters." She read Ecclesiastes 3, which begins with, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..." She said she hopes they remember the value of time, and they should make the most of their time wherever they end up.

Andrew Erdvig spoke on the word "truth." He said that people claim that truth is whatever is convenient for the individual in today's society. He challenged the class to remember the truths that they have learned at WCS. He continued with further challenges of telling the class to immerse themselves in Scripture and then read Psalm 119:60. He concluded by saying, "Connect with friends and family who pursue truth and also choose courage."

Lastly, Michaela Elliott smiled brightly and thanked all who have poured their hearts and lives into the class. She said ultimately, all honor belongs to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Michaela asked the audience to close their eyes and visualize standing in a field of sunflowers. With this, she painted a picture of the beauty of sunflowers. Next, she challenged the class to water the roots that have been planted from their years at WCS. She paralleled their lives to sunflowers' lives and told them to water their roots, bloom wherever they are planted, and stay fixed on God's light. Once the students' speeches concluded, seniors received their diplomas, turned their tassels, and became the 43rd graduating class of Wilmington Christian School.

*Celinda Conteh*  
HS English Teacher



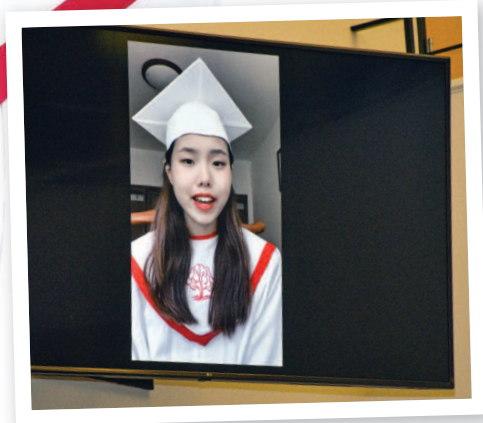


# Sara Hu VALEDICTORIAN



Good morning, families, friends, faculty, and my lovely Wilmington Christian School class of 2021. Today, I am honored to stand here, delivering this speech to conclude our high school journey. Four years ago, We were once all frightened teenagers who stepped into the freshmen hall nervously. Everything in our eyes was new and complicated: maze-like school layout, confusing homework projects, even the high school lockers were a bit...no, A LOT more complex than the middle school ones. To be honest, even now, sometimes I still have trouble with that locker passcode. But no matter what, Class of 2021, we made it! We made our way through overwhelming high school assignments, pressured college applications, and innumerable obstacles brought on by the pandemic. When our senior year was about to end, I could not help looking back on our four years of high school.

What did Wilmington Christian School teach us over these years? It prepared us with comprehensive knowledge like math and history, but it also taught us how to become thoughtful individuals, bringing food for Thanksgiving food drives and delivering our love to families in need every year. We have learned to become empathetic individuals, sharing our valuable advice and solving friends' anxiety during WCS influence groups. Mark chapter 12 verse 31 says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." This Bible verse perfectly demonstrates our warm actions.



Wilmington Christian School also reminds us of unity. We feel unity on the sports field. We shouted, screamed, and cheered every time our team scored a goal. We were tired but satisfied because we enjoyed that flaming unity of team pride. We also feel that unity during spirit week. Competing against other classes, we collaborate, exert talents, and capture every opportunity to present the best posters and skits to the whole school. Our burning morale was what led us to the final victory. However, the ultimate unity we've learned at WCS would be our unity in Christ. We have grown spiritually through our time here, and now we have the opportunity to impact others for Christ in our future endeavors.

When this unity is going to be broken up into many outstanding individuals, I want to remind my classmates of something. Firstly, be brave in pursuing what you love. Life is short, and we shouldn't waste time on things we don't like. Secondly, be determined to pursue what you love. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "keep your eyes on the stars and feet on the ground." My advice is to do everything step by step, break your ambitious dreams into small short-term goals, and complete them in perseverance. I am sure one day you will catch the stars you've dreamt of. Also, as we step into colleges, please don't forget to make people around you feel the warmth and love we learned about at WCS.

Thank you, Wilmington Christian School, teachers, families, and friends, for years of teaching and company. We, the class of 2021, are ready to begin a new chapter of our lives and conquer the next mountain that is college. We are prepared to embrace the bright futures before us. Thank you, Class of 2021. I wish you all the best and Congratulations.





# Jillian Kater SALUTATORIAN

The day is finally here; today we celebrate all our hard work and achievements of the last four years. To start, I would like to thank my family for their unconditional love and unwavering support. I would not be standing here today without you. This past week as I switched from the joy of finishing high school to coming to terms with the impending doom of giving this speech, I began to look back and remember a few of the truths I've learned at Wilmington Christian these past 13 years.

First, choose friends who share your core beliefs; those are the friends you will hold on to and weather out the years with. I'm blessed to have met my two best friends in kindergarten here at WCS. Through the years, we have grown up together and challenged each other to be the best versions of ourselves; I know that these friendships will last a lifetime. Uplifting friends that encourage you to be your authentic self and don't force you to compromise or change are worth more than gold in life.

The second truth is disappointments will happen. While I had many exciting experiences and wins with my teammates, the biggest life lesson I learned from WCS athletics was how to deal with disappointment. Whether I was let down because of my performance in a game or what the scoreboard showed at the end of a match, I felt an overwhelming sense of personal disappointment. But those feelings of regret and let down over time led me to develop perseverance. This lesson has impacted my life in innumerable ways off the court as well. Disappointment is inevitable in life, but we keep persevering because of the firm belief we have in God's perfect plan for our lives. And even when we can't seem to understand how things can work for good, Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that, "I know the plans I have for

you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Thirdly, Prepare diligently, then trust in that preparation. I had a habit in high school of spending the morning of a test anxiously worrying about how I would do, even though I had thoroughly prepared for it. And then when the test was handed back, being fearful of turning that page over and confronting a possibly poor result. Slowly I began to see that I needed to trust in my preparation. I realized that I had studied enough and needed to trust that I was ready. These past four years of high school were our preparation for our next stage of life. Be confident that you have been thoroughly prepared both academically and spiritually to face any challenge that is thrown your way. Draw upon the truths that have been instilled in us by our parents and teachers, and know that you are ready.

And finally, but most importantly, pursue Christ before anything else. As we enter this next phase of our lives, we need to always remember what is truly important. We have been blessed these past four years to have God's word shared with us daily. But we will soon be out in the world, so graduates, I urge you to continue to seek his presence and rely on his unfailing love and know that more important than any worldly accomplishment is your personal relationship with him.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 states, This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me."

