

Collegiate Life

Fall 2006

Topeka Collegiate School Alumni Newsletter

Topeka Collegiate: An independent School Grades Pre-Kindergarten Through Eighth

DAVID HUDSPETH TAKES OVER AS HEAD OF SCHOOL



A veteran independent school administrator is the new Head of School at Topeka Collegiate. A native of South Carolina, David Hudspeth comes to Topeka from North Carolina, where he served most recently as Interim Head of School at the Children's School. Before that, he was Head of School at Dore Academy, a K-12 school for students with learning differences in Charlotte. Under his leadership, Dore earned two separate accreditations in a single year.

Before taking the helm at Dore, Mr. Hudspeth gained strong administrative experience as Assistant Headmaster and Head of Middle School at Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock, Arkansas and as Assistant Headmaster and Head of Lower School at Lowcountry Day School in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

Mr. Hudspeth is the fifth person to be named Head of School at Topeka Collegiate, the fourth to serve. (*See box on page 2*) He was the enthusiastic choice of the Search Committee to take over following Dr. Michael Roberts' long tenure as Head of School and Kevin Freed's year of service as Interim Head.

One on one with David Hudspeth

Why did you choose education as a career?

I was a competitive swimmer for 12 years. One of the things we were required to do as swim team members was teach the younger kids. I found a lot of joy in seeing kids perfecting

Topeka Collegiate Heads of School

1982	R. Mac Rives was named the school's first Head of School, but was killed in an accident on his way to Topeka.
1982 – 1985	William Rollings
1985 – 1989	James A. Wright
1989 – 2005	Dr. Michael B. Roberts
2005 – 2006	Kevin Freed, Interim Head of School
2006 –	David K. Hudspeth, Jr.

their strokes; the whole synchronization of a stroke like the butterfly, for example. I don't think that necessarily set the path for me, but I knew very early on that I enjoyed helping other people.

I actually thought I was going into art. I was always doodling, and I took private art lessons from the guy who invented Snap, Crackle, Pop (the Rice Krispies characters), so I always felt as if I wanted to go into commercial art. In college I took some art classes and found that wasn't what I wanted, so I went 180 degrees - to science. I took a microbiology class from the most amazing guy, a professor named Ralph Gustavson. He really understood education at its foundation. I remember sitting in his office one day, still as an undergraduate, and he said, "You really need to go into education because we need good teachers."

I went through teacher education, started teaching, went to graduate school, and eventually took a position teaching high school AP biology and AP chemistry in Charlotte. That was probably one of the most fulfilling educational experiences I ever had. It was the first time a kid

ever wrote me a letter saying she was applying to the University of North Carolina and wanted to go into biology or chemistry because of the impact I'd had on her. It was during those years that I saw what an impact you have on those children – formally or informally – even at an age when you don't think they'd still be influenced.

Who were some of your role models?

In fifth grade, I had my first male teacher – Mr. Sullivan. Being a young man with no father figure (my parents divorced when I was three), I really appreciated how much fun we had as a class with him. It wasn't until much later that I realized how he built us up and what a passion he had for what he did. He was deployed to Vietnam and it really destroyed all the boys. I don't know whether he ever came back.

My sixth grade teacher was an African-American woman, a real task master. She used to walk by and lean over and say to me, "You're not living up to your potential and there's no reason you shouldn't be." Years later, that message came back and resonated with me.

If ever there was a teacher who really inspired my teaching style, even though I didn't know it at the time, it was Mr. McConnell, my eighth grade history teacher. He

would come in, put his hands behind his head, stare at the ceiling, and say, “It was December 7, 1941, early in the morning, at Pearl Harbor...” He would just tell stories. As kids, we sat on the edge of our seats. Later in life, I remembered how compelling that was and so even though I was teaching AP biology, chemistry and physics, I would tell stories. Mr. McConnell really defined me as an educator even though I didn’t know what my life would be.

How did you make the transition to administration?

While I was teaching high school, I was elected head of the faculty advisory council and given leadership opportunities. I met regularly with the principal and the district superintendent and began mentoring younger teachers. Then I got a call to be on a re-accreditation team at Charlotte Latin. After that, they created the position of science coordinator and offered it to me. The goal was to look at the science curriculum and make sure there were common threads from lower school through middle school, and to help the classroom teachers teach science better. The Head of School at Latin became my friend and mentor and gave me lots of opportunities to lead. I told him, “I’m ready to take the next step, I’m going to have to leave to do it,” and he said, “I’ll help you find something.”

Next I went to Cannon School in Concord, North Carolina, as science coordinator and became Middle School Head. From there, it was on to Pawleys Island, South Carolina, to Lowcountry Day School to become Lower School Head and Assistant to the Head of School.

Then my mentor from Charlotte Latin, Ned Fox, called to say he was going to Little Rock, to head up Episcopal Cathedral School and would I come with him. He is like the elder statesman of independent school leaders, so I couldn’t say no. I became Assistant Head and Head of Middle School. Being in Little Rock as an administrator was incredible. We came

in after a very divisive, ineffective leader and said, “Let’s build a team.” People welcomed the style, the low-key approach, the open and honest dialogue. It changed the face of that school. It was an absolute joy, and it was difficult to leave, but the position at Dore Academy opened back in Charlotte, and I went there to be Head of School.

Why did you choose to come to Topeka Collegiate?

After seeing this school, I realized it really was a jewel. And I’ve worked in or visited many schools that were not, by any standard. For a head to have an opportunity to be in a school that has so much going for it in every way, that’s what you’re looking for. For example, 22% racial diversity is incredibly strong in an independent school. Then to have a committee (the Multi-Cultural Education Committee) whose mission is to help the parents, the students and all the constituencies understand diversity – because that’s the world we live in – is absolutely incredible. I’ve never seen it before, never seen a diversity committee as defined and passionate about their mission as this one.

It was clear to me through the interview process that there was a strong faculty here. The more I talked to them the more I saw that it was really an incredible faculty. Then as I walked into some of the classrooms and saw them teaching and how engaging they were, it really solidified what I had assumed as I talked with them during the interview process.

Another strong incentive was the board. They understood what an independent school board of trustees is; what trustees’ roles are in schools. I saw that they were truly dedicated to ensuring quality education not only now but for generations to come.

What really excited me about the opportunity here at Collegiate was further developing the partnership between the faculty, the board, and the parents, and the synergy that would come from that partnership as we grow the school together.



What has been the biggest surprise so far?

That we have to work as hard as we do to sell this school. Why is that? I'm working to try to answer that question and to ensure that we don't have to work as hard in the future. We offer a once-in-a-lifetime education every day! This school should be full with a waiting list.

You've said you need a periodic "kid fix". What do you mean by that?

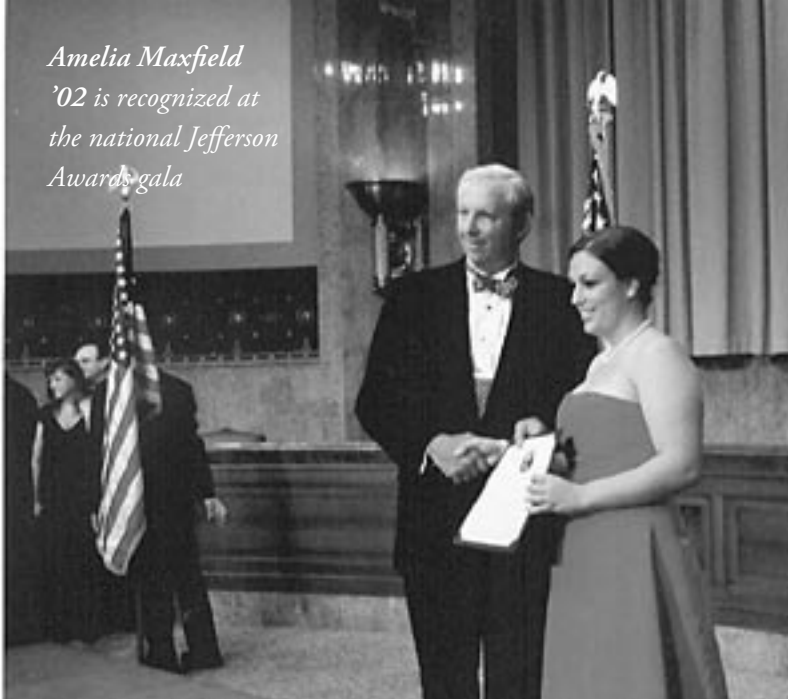
I can only take so much sitting in the office. Meetings are important, but as Head of School, it's more important for me to get out and develop relationships with kids, faculty and parents. I didn't make any appointments the first week of school because I felt I needed to be in the classrooms. There will come a day when I speak the words, "I'm very disappointed in you and the choices you've made" to a child, but I need them to know me as a person who cares about them first and foremost, so they know the discipline, if it does come, comes from the heart.

What is your vision for the future of TCS?

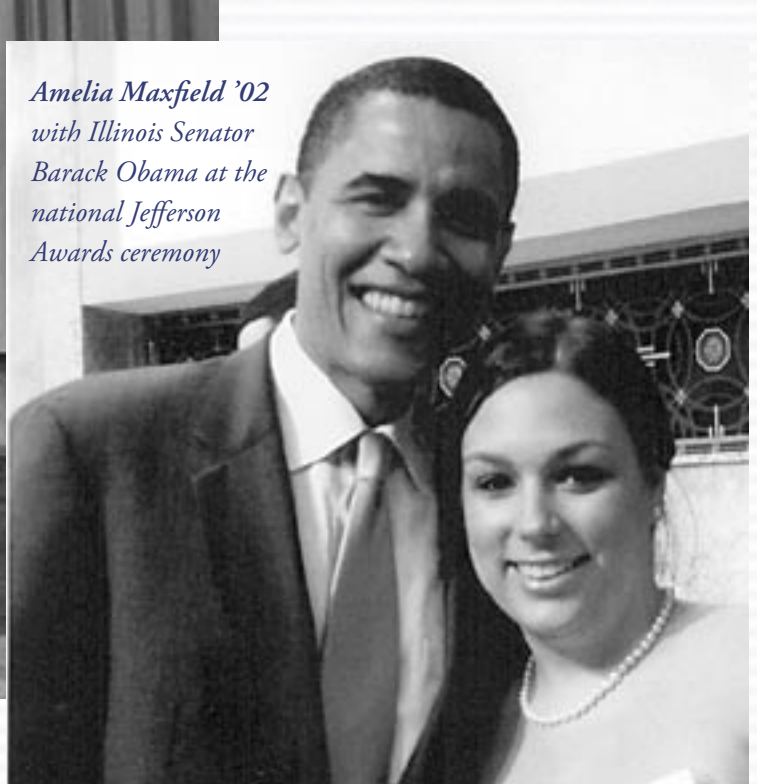
In many ways, education hasn't changed much since the days when we were letting kids out of school to work in the fields in a largely agrarian society. Kids in 2006 live in a much different world. I can guarantee you that in the schools Bill Gates is developing, they're approaching education in a vastly different way because they have a different model. If we are going to prepare these kids for their future, we have to teach them in ways that embrace their technology so we can equip them with skills for the situations they are going to face.

As good as this place is, we can be so much better. We have the opportunity to partner with so many people in this area and there are so many who are eager to partner with us. We will all benefit.

Amelia Maxfield '02 is recognized at the national Jefferson Awards gala



Amelia Maxfield '02 with Illinois Senator Barack Obama at the national Jefferson Awards ceremony



WORK WITH ABUSE

*D*ressed in a strapless red gown, Amelia Maxfield '02 was one of the guests of honor at a gala Washington, D.C. banquet in June honoring winners of the Jefferson Award for outstanding public service. She was singled out for praise by influential people, celebrated as the youngest of the award winners, even photographed with her political hero, Illinois Senator Barack Obama. All in marked contrast to the gritty, difficult work that earned her the award.

Amelia was honored as a volunteer advocate for child victims of sexual abuse, someone who comforts, supports and looks out for the best interests of children as they take the witness stand to tell the intimate and embarrassing details of how they were molested. "At first, I was really scared," remembers Amelia. "It's so hard to come face-to-face with these evils. I would go home and cry with my mom, just thinking about the horrible world we live in." But then Amelia began to take inspiration from the children. "I thought, 'If a four-year-old can walk into a courtroom full of strangers and point out the man who almost kidnapped her, then I can do a lot of things, too!'"

VICTIMS LEADS TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION

There's plenty of bravery to go around. Amelia herself fought a long battle with a rare neurological disorder called Chiari malformation that causes headaches, numbness and excruciating back pain. Twice since September, 2004, she underwent brain surgery, the second operation lasting nine-and-a-half hours.

By spring of her senior year, though still experiencing pain and not in shape, Amelia dove back into competitive swimming, something she'd had to give up after being an All-City pick as a sophomore. She was terrified. "I was really scared I might not be able to finish the race." She did finish, and within a few days of that first swim meet in a year and a half, Amelia was named the Outstanding Youth Jefferson Award winner in northeast Kansas and chosen to represent this area at the national Jefferson Awards competition in Washington. Oh yes, she was also accepted into her dream college – Vassar, in Poughkeepsie, New York, where she is now a freshman. "It was a good week!" she grins.

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

By Stacie Kossoy '97

How did I get to be a first grade teacher in the most dangerous city in the country? The first time I heard of Teach For America, an organization that chooses the nation's best and brightest college graduates to teach in low-income schools in attempts to close the astounding education gap that exists in America, was when I was sophomore in college. I was almost immediately hooked on the idea of spending two years teaching in the inner-city. For me, it was an ideal choice. I could spend two years in a classroom making a big difference in the lives of needy children. From there, TFA is a perfect launching point into any career in or out of education.

During my first week as a first grade teacher in Camden, New Jersey, I pulled aside Jacqueline Torruellas, an extremely shy first grader who lived four blocks from my school, for a literacy test. At the beginning of the year, first graders should know all their letters and letter sounds, about 100 words, and should be able to read basic books with short sentences. Jacqueline knew 11 letters and 2 words – “I” and “a”. At the age of six years, she was already more than a year and a half behind the “proficient” first grader and much farther behind a first grader you might see at a school like Topeka Collegiate.

Over the course of my year working with Jacqueline I was honored to see her grow and flourish as a student. By the end of the year, Jacqueline had achieved over a year and half of growth in literacy. She knew all of her letters and over 200 words and was reading at the proficiency level of a November first grader. That sort of growth was not by accident nor was it easy. Not only did Jackie work hard all day in school; she read daily at home. Her mother was so invested in catching Jackie up to grade level; she placed flashcards

with sight words on them all around their house and would put smiley faces on each word when Jackie could read it.

For Jackie it was a huge triumph and although she will be repeating first grade, I believe she will leave first grade next year ready to excel in second grade.

It would be deceitful of me not to share all the toils and troubles that Jackie, myself, and my other students went through this year. It was most definitely one of the most difficult years of my life; a statement you would find comes from the lips of most first year Teach For America teachers. I would arrive at school an hour early to prepare for the day's lessons and would stay after an hour or two tutoring or working with my school's after school program. Evenings and weekends were spent preparing for the hours I spent at school so



Stacie Kossoy '97 with her first graders



Stacie Kossoy '97 helped Jacqueline Torruellas (left) make progress in reading

that every moment of instruction was geared towards catching my students up to grade level. My school was disorganized and illogical. Not a day went by when I wasn't frustrated with administrative decisions that were counter effective to teaching my kids. The district was poorly run evidenced by recent scandals of both district principals and the superintendent stepping down because of accusations of cheating on standardized tests and stealing money.

Last year was exhausting and all-encompassing, but I do not regret my commitment. As this past summer wound down I was excited and ready for a new class and a new school year. And so the challenge begins anew this year with a different set of students who are on all different levels and with a different set of administrative challenges as well. But I enjoy the small victories with my kids every day, and I know that I will look back on this experience as time well spent making the world a better place.

If you would like to help provide books for Stacie's students, you may send donations to her at:

Stacie Kossoy

*317 Dayton Avenue, Apartment B
Collingwood, New Jersey 08108*

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PROMOTING THE WEB - TOPEKA NATIVE NAMED A VICE PRESIDENT WITH YAHOO!*

Brad Garlinghouse '85 - one of 25 top executives at Internet powerhouse Yahoo! - attributes much of his success to his roots in Kansas. Garlinghouse, 35, son of (Topeka Collegiate founders) Kent and Susan Garlinghouse, earned a bachelor's degree in economics at The University of Kansas and a master's of business administration from Harvard University.

Garlinghouse recently was promoted to senior vice president of communications, communities and front doors at Yahoo! With the promotion, he joined Yahoo!'s executive team and is responsible for overseeing the company's communications and communities products, as well as the primary starting points to the Yahoo! network. He is in charge of 550 employees and oversees Yahoo! Mail; Yahoo.com, the world's most heavily trafficked Web page; My Yahoo!, the most popular personalized start page on the Web; and a number of other services, including Yahoo! Messenger with Voice, Yahoo! Groups, Yahoo! Photos, Yahoo! Avatars and Yahoo! 360, the company's social publishing tool.

** This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the Topeka Capital-Journal on June 6, 2006.*



Garlinghouse said he learned business skills from his father, who is chairman of M-C Industries, a Topeka-based company. Brad Garlinghouse is a member of the board of directors of M-C Industries. “My dad had a dramatic influence on me, in giving me personal confidence and teaching us business at an early age,” Garlinghouse said. “We learned about the stock market, we would create imaginary portfolios. He taught us financial awareness.” For example, to get the house deck waterproofed, his father took silent bids from his five children. The lowest bidder won the contract. One year, he won the bid but outsourced the job to his brother Matt and collected the difference.

His mother said Garlinghouse, who once wrote a history of telephones, (for History Day at Topeka Collegiate) always had an interest in communications. His grandfather, Mark Garlinghouse, was head legal counsel for AT&T in New York. “He has a very analytical mind. He’s quick to analyze a situation and respond,” Susan Garlinghouse said.

Garlinghouse, who was president of the student bodies at Topeka High School and KU, worked for SBC as manager of a Wichita call center in 1993. He was only 22 at the time, and some of the employees under him had worked for SBC for more years than he had been alive. At Yahoo! he travels the world. He was in Asia for a week in May.

Garlinghouse said Yahoo! touches half a billion people every month around the world. More than 200,000 people sign up for Yahoo! Mail every day. Since many of the Web site’s services, such as Yahoo! Mail, are free, Yahoo! makes most of its money from advertising. Engineers have created huge databases that store and process billions of pieces of infor-

mation daily. “We want to get a little bit of wow from every user every day,” Garlinghouse said.

Yet the Internet is still in its infancy at 10 to 15 years old. “I see how it is becoming a more social and engaging experience,” he said. “Web 1.0 was pretty static. Now there is a new world of content, it’s very vast. Now it’s becoming more personalized, we want to make Yahoo! Home Page more relevant to you.” At Yahoo!, he said, employees have the technology and resources to create “an immense amount of user value.” User value creates shareholder value.

Garlinghouse and his wife, Kristen, live in Menlo Park, California and have two children, Will, 3, and Kate, 1.

CLASS NOTES

(T) INDICATES STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED BEFORE GRADUATION.

1985

JENNIFER COWAN CHASE and her family bought a house in the country with a creek and woods - a great place to raise children. "We may live in New York State," says Jennifer, "but this Kansas girl still has a lot of country in her! Our oldest daughter, Madeline, began kindergarten this fall. We chose a private school 15 minutes away. I am so excited about her education and small classroom size! Blessings to all at TCS."

BRAD GARLINGHOUSE (T) is one of the top 25 executives at Yahoo! following his promotion to senior vice-president in June. (*see p 7*) This summer Brad, his brother **Matt '90** and his dad Kent shaved their heads in a show of solidarity with their sister and daughter Kim Garlinghouse-Jones, who is battling breast cancer.



Matt '90, Brad '85 and Kent Garlinghouse (one of Topeka Collegiate's founders) shave their heads to show solidarity with their sister and daughter, Kim Garlinghouse-Jones as she fights breast cancer

1986

ALISON HILL TANNER recently returned to Kansas to handle her parents' affairs following their untimely deaths within a year of one another. (*see p 13*) Friends began a memorial fund in Alan Hill's honor following his death. Shortly before she died, Norma made a very generous gift to what is now called the Norma and Alan Hill Memorial Fund. She asked that awards be made that would "make a significant difference" in the lives of deserving students. Alison not only helped frame the guidelines for awards from the memorial fund, she has graciously offered her time and expertise to Topeka Collegiate School as it conducts its re-accreditation self-study this year. She has a Ph.D. in educational psychology, measurement, and evaluation from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

1991

MICHAEL HAZLETT is a daddy again! Michael and his wife Stephanie welcomed Kalen James Hazlett into their family on December 21. Big sister Gillian is now two-and-a-half. As



Mike Hazlett '91 sent this photo of his wife Stephanie and their son, Kalen James, born in December

you might expect, Michael says he's not getting a lot of sleep with two children under three but he loves being a dad. When he's not playing with the kids, Michael sells real estate in Fort Collins, Colorado.

BROOKE TOURTELLOT GOC (T) was married to Rob Goc two days before Christmas in Lawrence, and is going by Brooke K.T. Goc ("I kept my full name and added Rob's, she says.") Among the wedding guests were TCS alums **Bridget Elmer '91**, **Karin Graves (T) '92**, and, of course, Brooke's brother **George Tourtellot (T) '94**. Brooke is working for Kansas Action for Children and enjoying it so much "it barely feels like work." She spends half of her time working with the Kansas Enrichment Network, KAC's state network of

after-school programs. She serves as the network's advocacy coordinator, as well as KAC's outreach specialist, and is providing advocacy training this fall in several communities throughout Kansas.

1993

MICHAEL BONEBRAKE is in his fourth year of medical school at Creighton in Omaha, Nebraska. As a junior, he was given the OAO (similar to Phi Beta Kappa) high honor award, bestowed on the top 1% of students, and rarely given before the final year.

KATIE FREEMAN still loves living in Chicago. Her boutique gifting company is growing and has become a recognized brand in the Chicago real estate market. As a result of working with the city's top-producing agents on their marketing initiatives, Katie now also has her real estate license and is working with @properties, the fastest growing real estate firm in the city. She's really looking forward to her brother's move to Chicago upon his graduation from KU in May!

EMMA KUNTZ has been working as an attorney at Baker Botts in Washington DC for a year and really enjoying it. She has also just purchased and moved into her first home in the nation's capitol.

KEITH ULMER was married to Allison Eberhard in Boulder on New Year's Eve. It was quite a TCS affair, with Keith's brother **Alex Thurber '01** serving as best man and fellow alum **Parkin Kent '94** as a groomsman. After what's described as an



Keith Ulmer '93 and his bride Allison Eberhard celebrate with Keith's brother Alex Thurber '01 and fellow TCS alum Parkin Kent '94

“outdoorsy, adventurous” three-week honeymoon to Australia, the couple is at home in a downtown Denver loft with their dog Cougar. Allison graduated from Denver University Law School, passed the bar, and is working for a law firm in the city. Keith is finishing his dissertation in high energy physics at the University of Colorado-Boulder, and hopes to have it completed by May. As if that weren't enough, Keith made a breakthrough at the Department of Energy's Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) that, while it is difficult for non-scientists to understand, is significant enough that the center issued a press release about it: “SLAC's BaBar collaboration has discovered that CP violation—an asymmetry between the behavior of matter and antimatter—exists even in a very rare class of particle decays. This result offers the most sensitive avenue yet for exploring matter-antimatter asymmetries, with implications for the future understanding of physics beyond the Standard Model.” Keith was invited to fly to Honolulu to present his discovery at a conference.



Allison Brooks Ekren '94 shares middle school math memories with Mrs. Hoyt as she prepares to launch her teaching career

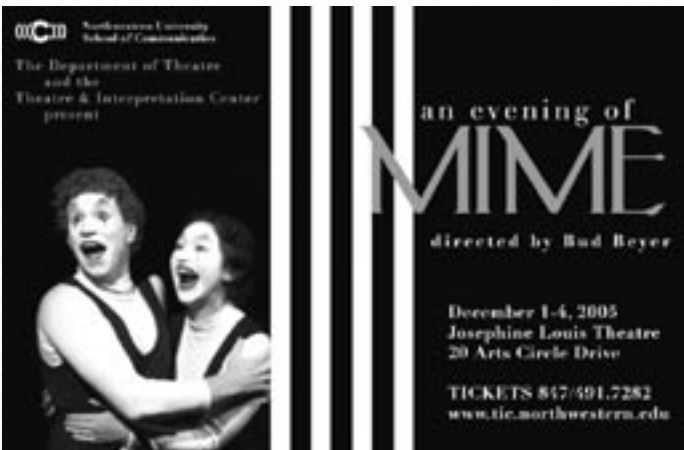
1994

ALLISON BROOKS EKREN is teaching middle school math and science at an independent school in Wichita – the Annoor School, which means “The Light” in Arabic. Allison says when she visited, she thought, “This place feels like TCS. I want to work here.” Allison came to Collegiate to observe some middle school classes as she was completing her master's degree and

teaching certification. She reconnected with Mrs. Hoyt, who taught her in middle school and coached her on the Mathcounts team back in 1993-94. Allison has converted to Islam and has four children – two boys and two girls, ranging in age from two to nine.

ELIOT MONACO lives in Chicago with his significant other, Amanda. They stay busy teaching, acting, writing, and running the Mime Company, with all its related business. Eliot continues to co-teach an acting class at Northwestern one quarter a year.

Eliot Monaco '94 (left) runs The Mime Company in Evanston, Illinois



WALKER WAUGH went to a friend's wedding in Brazil this summer and never came back! Enchanted with the country, he stayed on in Sao Paulo and secured a job with a Brazilian independent film producer. Last year, Walker taught and coached soccer at a high school in Massachusetts. Early this summer, he was selected to represent the U.S. on a soccer team that played

in the Amateur World Cup tournament during the actual World Cup in Berlin.

1995

SAMANTHA CROW is living in Palo Alto, California and working at Google in product marketing. In March the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library invited her to speak on "Google 101: What Makes Google Tick?" In April she used her Spanish skills to demo Google products at a computing fair at the University of Mexico in Mexico City. She took advantage of being in Mexico to spend a few days on the beach. After being in

Topeka for the 4th of July, Samantha developed "such enthusiasm for outdoor games that I get friends together almost every week to play bocce ball and badminton." Samantha did several things this year that she's never done before: "I went sailing on the ocean (and survived, even!), went to Las Vegas three times (but don't worry I only spent \$12 since gambling isn't really that much fun for me), and entered a talent show dancing hip hop (I do not know how to dance hip hop at all by the way)."

STACY ELMER is one of those people whose lives were changed by Hurricane Katrina. As she tells the story, "My boyfriend Bert and I departed New York in a rental car with the intention of making a short stop in Topeka to say hello to my folks before continuing on to start the next stage of our lives together in New Orleans, Louisiana. Two days into our drive, Hurricane Katrina devastated the site of our future home." Faced with an extended stay in Topeka, Stacy came to work at Topeka Collegiate. "I found myself in every nook and cranny of the school," she



Samantha Crow '95 makes a presentation about Google at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library

says, “copying, filing, laminating, cataloging books, invoicing, designing bulletin boards, photographing, organizing Day of the Child, helping with class plays, making collages, creating Power Point presentations, chaperoning at Hidden Pond, walking the pre-kindergarten to classes, and the most personally gratifying, substitute teaching.” After spending some time in Memphis this summer, Stacy is back in Kansas this fall, living in Lawrence, and working on a graduate degree in philosophy at KU.

ADAM OBLEY is a second year medical student at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He is active in the student-run free clinic and spent last year’s spring break in Belize with the Med Center’s Outreach Team. (see p 24) Adam served on the Search Committee that selected Topeka Collegiate’s new Head of School and continues as the first alumni member of the Board of Trustees. This summer he interned at the Kansas Health Institute in Topeka.

BEN STRAUS and his wife Emily Rice became parents for the second time on June 12 when they welcomed Elijah (he goes by Eli, mostly) Neal Rice-Straus into the family. Eli joins big sister Sophia. Ben is still at U.S. Energy Systems in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is enjoying his work there. Emily is in her third year of law school at William Mitchell School of Law, and has already been hired (once she graduates) as a law clerk for one of the Minnesota state court of ap-

peals justices. She’s also writing for her college law review.



Ben Straus '95, his wife Emily Rice and their daughter Sophia (left) welcome baby Eli (right) into their family

ZACHARY YORKE (T) has won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. He plans to use it to travel in South Africa, writing profiles of ordinary people that he hopes will become part of a book. Zach is going into his Fulbright year with his bachelor’s degree from Amherst College in Massachusetts and his master’s degree in fine arts from the University of Pennsylvania. After traveling in China this summer, he heads off to South Africa hoping to marry his love of writing with helping people better understand each other. “I see it as a very hopeful place that has a lot of problems but that has a lot to teach us, too - has a lot to teach the world.” In South Africa, Yorke plans to work on a long essay and write a series of profiles about South Africans who people don’t know but he says should know. “I hope that I can walk away with a book,” he says.

“I hope I walk away with a book that matters, profiles of South Africans that allow them to speak for themselves or through me. If I can accomplish that, I’ll leave satisfied.”

1996

DAVID BIRETA graduated from Iowa State University with a computer science degree and moved to Pierre, South Dakota to work for a computer software company.

MASTIN KIPP (T) has started a record production and party promotion company in Los Angeles called Love Yourself. Their first artist is Emma Burgess.

PHOENIX MARTIN (T) graduated from The New School - a division of the Parsons School of Design - in printmaking and mixed media, and is living in New York City.

1997

BEN BAMMES graduated from the University of Kansas in May with degrees in physics, math and computer engineering. He and his wife Stephanie moved to Houston, where she is teaching and he is pursuing a Ph.D. in biophysics at the Baylor School of Medicine. Ben wants to work in the field of biomedical research, seeking cures for diseases like Alzheimer’s and cystic fibrosis.

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ENDOWMENT FUND REACHES LANDMARK THANKS TO GENEROSITY OF TWO FAMILIES

The TCS Endowment Fund now exceeds six figures - a landmark in our school's relatively short history. The recent accelerated growth of the fund is due to the generosity of two Topeka Collegiate families - one we've known for many years, the other just a few.



The Norma and Alan Hill Memorial Fund

Alan Hill served on the Shawnee Country Day/Topeka Collegiate School Board from 1984 to 1987. He believed in the mission of the newly-established school and worked diligently to help make the school successful. He supported the school generously with both his time and financial contributions.

Tragically, Alan Hill was killed in a car accident on October 30, 2004. Those who attended Alan's funeral heard him described as an "uncommon common man." Despite his learning disabilities, he was committed to educational excellence. He understood the importance of quality education.

After visiting with Alan's widow Norma, and his daughters Kathleen and Alison, Topeka Collegiate school founders Susan and Kent Garlinghouse realized that an idea had emerged for a memorial fund to help deserving students attend Topeka Collegiate School. "To recognize Alan's role in the early development of the school," said the Garlinghouses, "we think it would be appropriate to establish this memorial in his name."

The memorial fund was begun. Less than a year later came the sad news that Norma Hill, Alan's widow, was terminally ill. Before she died, she performed an act of great generosity for young people she didn't know and would never meet. Daughter *Alison Hill Tanner '86* explains: "One of the last acts of charitable giving my mom did before

she died was to donate enough money to what's now called the Norma and Alan Hill Memorial Fund to support a student each year at Topeka Collegiate."

We are happy to report that the first award from the Norma and Alan Hill Memorial Fund was made for the 2006-2007 school year.

Alison helped craft the guidelines for awarding the funds, keeping in mind her mother's words that she wanted them to make "a significant difference" in the life of a child.

The Norma and Alan Hill Memorial Fund is an endowed fund. Gifts intended for financial aid for deserving students are welcomed



The Valley Family Fund

The Valley Family - John, Stephanie, second grader Bryce and kindergartner Baker - made an initial gift of more than \$7,000 to the Topeka Collegiate Endowment Fund. The money stems from a commitment the Valleys have made to donate a percentage of John's real estate commissions from Valley, Inc. Realtors to what will be called The Valley Fund within the endowment.

Specifically, 10% of his commission on each sale of a home involving a Topeka Collegiate School family (on either end of the transaction) will go into The Valley Fund; 20% of his commission for sales involving TCS faculty or staff.

"We've made this commitment because this is our kids' school," says John. The idea of endowment appeals to the Valleys because of its permanence. "We don't just want the school to be there for our children, but for other families in the future. This helps ensure TCS will be there long after our kids are gone."

CLASS NOTES

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KATHERINE GARLINGHOUSE is living in San Francisco and working for Chevron in the Global Brand group. Her group is responsible for setting brand strategy for Chevron's three major retail fuel brands (Chevron, Texaco and Caltex). "It's definitely an interesting challenge these days!" she says. Katherine recently organized her team to teach Junior Achievement classes at an area elementary school. This summer, Katherine traveled with TCS classmate **Rohini Thukral '97** to West Africa to visit a friend serving in the Peace Corps.

JENNY HOYT (T) graduated from KU in May with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She is working with the graduate Department of School Psychology at KU helping with research as well as serving and managing at Teller's restaurant in Lawrence. Her plan is to take a year off, then return to school for a master's degree next fall. Jenny and her boyfriend Spencer traveled in Europe this fall, visiting Spain, France and Italy.

BETH JAKLE MCMAHAN and her husband Ben moved into their first home, in Denver, in August and celebrated their first wedding anniversary in September. She says they felt like an official family when they adopted their Boxer puppy, Daisy. Beth works at The Integer Group, an advertising and promotional agency.

STACIE KOSOY is in her second year of teaching first graders in an economically depressed area

of Camden, New Jersey, as part of Teach for America. (see p. 6) Year two, she says, is “infinitely better than year one.”

NIKHIL PARULKAR (T) graduated from college with a degree in cultural anthropology, then made a radical decision: to take a year off and volunteer at the Sambhavna Clinic in India helping victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas leak. People near Bhopal are still suffering the aftereffects of the chemical disaster at the Union Carbide pesticide plant. Nikhil was motivated by an interest in alternative medicine and the desire to help others. At the clinic he created a database

that helped chart the progress of patients treated with ayurvedic medicine - a form of indigenous healing. Nikhil says the patients taught him a great deal. “For people who cannot walk more than ten minutes without resting for ten minutes, for people who have problems breathing, for people who have mental disabilities due to the disaster,” he says, “they have an incredibly positive and jovial outlook on life. The people are so grateful for the free treatment that they would often bring gifts for the doctor and me.” Nikhil is back in the U.S. now, at Syracuse University, researching the paper

about his experiences that he will present at the American Anthropological Association’s National Conference in November. After that? Perhaps graduate school.

ZACHARY STRAUS graduated from KU in May, with degrees in art history, English, and geology. He’s working a couple of part-time jobs and is also going through training to be an emergency medical technician. He’s still living in Lawrence, but looking forward to branching out some place new, some time this year.

SARAH TEMPLE used her summer break from Johns Hopkins Medical School to get married. She became the bride of Angus Mugford on August 5, then it was off to Mexico for a relax-

Sarah Temple '97 married Angus Mugford in Lawrence this summer, then honeymooned in Mexico



ing honeymoon. After that, the newlyweds got a taste of the long separations they’ll face in the next few years, as Sarah headed back to Baltimore and her second year of med school, while Angus returned to Florida where he’s the mental conditioning coach at the Nick Bollitieri Tennis Camp.

1998

ANNE MARIE BIRETA graduated from Truman State University in the spring with a degree in French. She spent a semester abroad during her senior year. This fall Anne Marie moved to a small town outside of Marseilles where she’s teaching conversational English to elementary school children as part of a government-sponsored program. She will return to the U.S. in a year and plans to enter medical school.

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Nikhil Parulkar (T) '97 (left) carries a banner in a parade to mark the 21st anniversary of the clinic in India where he volunteered to help victims of the Bhopal chemical disaster

FILM- MAKING THROUGH ASONA'S EYES

Asona Lui '01, now 19 years old and a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, landed the lead role in a movie shot in Kansas this summer as a direct result of her History Day experience at Topeka Collegiate. When Asona was an eighth grader, she and three classmates (*Sarah Bellows-Blakely '01*, *Rachel Buck '01* and *Shruti Challa '01*) asked nationally-known Kansas playwright Marcia Cebulka to critique their History Day performance. They went on to win first place at nationals.

Years later, Cebulka remembered Asona as she wrote the screenplay for "Through Martha's Eyes," a 45-minute coming of age docudrama about a young slave owned by the Reverend Thomas Johnson in 1830s territorial Kansas. The film is a work of fiction about real events. Johnson was a Methodist minister who ran the Shawnee Mission School, one of several set up by the federal government to teach Native American children a new way of life. In the movie, Martha is forced to take part in the "Christianization" of the Indian children. Both Martha and Rev. Johnson were real people - Johnson Country, Kansas is named for Rev. Johnson.

Portraying Martha, who is the main character and the narrator of the story, was a huge responsibility. Asona was nervous about it until she arrived at the set in Council Grove, and realized "how little actors have



to do with movies." She was the last one to get to the set and the first one to leave. "They (the production crew) did hours and hours of work, and I would come in for ten minutes," she remembers. The long hours were a surprise. "I got the most sleep of anyone," says Asona. "I probably slept five hours a night. The people who were setting things up got maybe two hours a night. Everything just took so long. A half page of dialogue would take all day."

It was an adjustment for Asona to switch from stage, where she had experience, to on-camera work. "I was used to doing everything big," she says. "I had never done a movie before. The director explained that it's all about the emotion in your face and particularly in your eyes." One of Asona's pivotal scenes comes when the slave girl Martha defies her mistress and refuses to cut the Indian children's hair because she doesn't want to continue to strip them of their culture. She is beaten as a result. Asona decided that Martha would be defiant and try to maintain a brave face, but tears

*Asona Lui '01 (right) portrays the title character in the film *Through Martha's Eyes*.*



would well up in her eyes. “My eyes would be the only thing that would give me away,” she says. To shoot the beating scene, Asona’s costume was padded. The beating was real and she felt the impact of the blows, so her flinches were natural, but it didn’t hurt - except when the actor beating her accidentally hit her on the leg with a willow switch, leaving a welt. “It was very painful,” she says. “My eyes began to sting. I cannot imagine what it would have been like to experience the real beating.”

Asona laughs about the romantic scenes in the movie. Martha’s love interest is a former slave who helps her to see the Native Americans as people rather than savages. “You have to look like you love the person even when you’re exhausted, there’s a microphone stuck up your dress and there’s a bug crawling up your leg. You have

to pretend you’re walking through the woods having a private conversation when there are 30 people standing around watching.”

Now that the movie is finished, Asona finds it very uncomfortable to watch. At the first screening, she says, “I wasn’t experiencing it as a movie. I was just watching myself and critiquing myself.” Screenwriter Cebulski thinks Asona was perfect for the role of Martha. “I love Asona,” she says, “She really immersed herself in the role.”

With all its challenges, Asona feels the experience was worthwhile (“I had a ton of fun”). She says she would do it again without hesitating, if given the opportunity.

“Through Martha’s Eyes” will be shown at Topeka Collegiate School at 6:30 pm on January 9, 2007.

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

*The new playground is
a big hit with the children*

18



Children love the new playground

Thank you to all those who contributed to the new playground, dedicated in September of 2005. The children love it! Special thanks to Julie and Jeff Unruh for spearheading the fundraising effort to replace the aging “big toy” and make our new, colorful, safe, fun playground a reality.



*Thank you to the Unruh
family (Jeff, Julie, Haley
and Grant) for lead-
ing the charge for a new
playground*



Treasured memories...an unforgettable journey

Kudos to co-chairs Mary Hamilton and Sandy Memmo for the wonderful auction on February 25, which set a new attendance record. Thanks to the generosity of many, the 2006 auction exceeded its budgeted goal and raised just under \$30,000 for faculty and staff education! Thank you to all who raised your auction number or wrote your number on a bid sheet. *You* helped raise money that directly benefits our students.

*Above:
Auction Co-Chairs
Sandy Memmo (left)
and Mary Hamilton
with their spouses,
Frank and Scott*

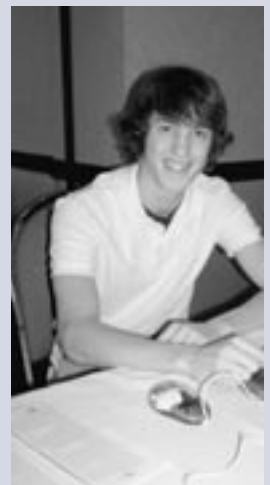


*(back row) Andy Brownback '02 and
J.P. Rankin (T) '02: (front row) Abby
Brownback '01, Allie Atwood '00, Ashley
Giroux '00 and Maria Maldonado '99*

**Alums turn out
to support TCS
by volunteering
at the auction**



*Christal Hannigan '04
and Paige Conlin '04*



Chase Hamilton '03

CLASS NOTES

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ALEXANDRA BIXLER BLASI was first runner-up in this summer's Miss Kansas pageant in Pratt, winning the talent competition with her performance of a Puccini aria. This fall she competed in The Sweetheart Pageant in Hoopeston, Illinois, where the contestants are all first runners-up from state pageants around the country. Alexandra is eligible for one more try at Miss Kansas, but hasn't decided yet whether she'll go for it. She's been busy with her studies at Washburn, where she's in her fifth year of undergraduate work, majoring in business administration and music with a pre-med emphasis. She also found time to serve as president of her Delta Gamma sorority. In December, Alexandra performed her senior vocal recital at White Concert Hall, singing several duets with sister **Laura '00**.

ALEX BLEIBERG will be graduating from Macalester College in December with a major in English. He continues to work at a local seafood restaurant and is also involved in local politics. He plans to stay in St. Paul working after graduation.

NATALIE BONEBRAKE is in the fifth year of her industrial design major at KU. In her spare time she's babysitting and working for a company that sells diet food and exercise programs.

KATHLEEN DAUGHETY graduated from KU in the spring, then traveled the country raising campaign funds for Governor Kathleen Sebelius' re-election campaign.



Alexandra Bixler Blasi '98 and her sister Laura (T) '00 performed several duets as part of Alexandra's senior vocal recital at Washburn.

DAVID DUNIVEN graduated from Notre Dame in the spring and describes the ceremony as amazing. Author Harper Lee, who makes very few public appearances, accepted an honorary degree. When she walked on stage, all of the students and faculty held up copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Says David, "She was caught off guard in a really good way. She was all smiles after that." David has decided against medical school and plans to apply to dental school instead. Meantime, he's working as a phlebotomist at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka. "I just had a lot that I wanted to do that I knew wouldn't be possible during graduate school," says David. "I want to write a novel in the next two years, for instance. I'm really glad that I decided not to go straight to grad school because I was pretty burned out. I do definitely miss school, and I'm glad.

When I go back it will be something I actually want to do, rather than just going through the motions."

JOHN FREEMAN is in his final year at KU, finishing his business degree. This summer he interned at an energy trading company with offices in the Chicago Board of Trade building. Highlights of his summer were biking to work along Lake Michigan,

learning the basics of the energy trading business and, of course, hanging out with his sister!

JULIE FRIESE graduated from college in May and is working in New York City for a literary agency whose clients include humorist David Sedaris.

RACHAEL GREENE graduated in May from Brown University with honors, which she earned for her senior thesis on breast cancer cause-related marketing and its impact on women with breast cancer. Rachael explains, "It (her thesis) discussed how the iconic pink ribbon and the survivor paradigm portrayed in advertisements for cause-related marketing partnerships affect society's perception of cancer victims and how that, in turn, affects the patients' self-perception." After graduation Rachael spent the summer as a law clerk at the Kansas Supreme Court. Now she's working for one of Los Angeles' preeminent strategic communication/marketing/PR

firms which focuses its efforts primarily on nonprofits and foundations. She lives in Santa Monica and is still designing bags for sale in boutiques.

RICHIE KENT (T) served three years in the Army with the 82nd Airborne Division. Now he's a plebe at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In cadet basic training, he was named Best New Cadet in his company.

MATTHEW LEIFER continues work



Matt Leifer '98 meets jazz drumming legend (and his personal hero) Brian Blade

on his music performance degree at K-State, with an emphasis on jazz. In April he gave a recital in partial fulfillment of his performance degree, performing on jazz drumset, timpani, multi-percussion and marimba. Matt is a fixture on the area music scene, appearing on drums with many local groups, including Pineapple Truck, which Matt describes as his college bar/rock band, the Topeka Jazz Workshop Big Band, The Midnight Blue Jazz Quartet and the Kelly McCarty Trio. The Kelly McCarty Trio recorded its latest CD "Common

Anomaly" in December, with Matt on drums. It is now available through Little Apple Records and offered for download at the iTunes Music Store. This summer Matt performed sets with both Midnight Blue and the Kelly McCarty trio at the Coleman Hawkins Legacy Jazz Fest in Topeka and the Little Apple Jazz Festival in Manhattan.

STEPHANIE MEADOR will graduate from KU in May with a double major in geography and Latin American studies, and a concentration in psychology. KU has invited her to stay on for the master's program in geography. Stephanie is sure graduate school is in her future, but she isn't sure whether it will be at KU.

JONATHAN SCHMIDT began his final year of collegiate swimming last September, and was voted captain of the University of Georgia-Athens Swim Team - a huge honor. The season ended well and Jonathan was happy to say goodbye to competitive swimming after a long and successful career. He hung up his goggles as a three-time All American, UGA record holder (100-yard butterfly) and four year letter winner. During the first five weeks of summer, Jonathan was an intern with Senator Pat Roberts in Washington, D.C. He answered constituent phone calls, wrote letters and press releases, attended committee hearings, helped research legislation, and gave tours of the Capitol to Kansas constituents. A great job, Jonathan says, but not

Jonathan Schmidt '98 with a piece of the Berlin Wall on a visit to the Smithsonian during his summer in Washington D.C.



as good as what came next: a job at the Chilean Embassy where he served as the liaison between the Chilean government and Congress. "Any piece of legislation that went through having anything to do with trade, any committee hearing on trade, any debate on the floor about anything pertaining to Chile and/or global economic trade, I was there," Jonathan reports. "Then I wrote the reports that went back to the government in Santiago." Much of that in Spanish, by the way. "About 90% of my days consisted of Spanish," Jonathan says, "And Chileans talk FAST! But it was a great learning experience. I guess I can thank Señora Gorrell (his Spanish teacher at TCS) for that!"

ALLISON VIOLA will graduate from KU in December with degrees in sociology and communication studies. She received a scholarship from her sorority - Pi Beta Phi - for her involvement in the Greek community, mainly for her service on the Panhellenic Council and for organizing a new, all-Greek philanthropy that will continually provide daily newspapers to underprivileged high school students. As she finishes college Allison is doing contract work for Agenda KC, an event-planning company in Kansas City.

WESLEY WEST graduated from MIT in the spring and is working as an analyst for the financial industry's top management consulting firm, First Manhattan Consulting Group, located a block from Grand Central Station in New York City. Wes reports his apartment has become something of a vacation resort for his fraternity brothers and MIT friends. There were ten people sleeping in his tiny New York apartment living room one recent weekend. Before leaving Boston, Wes was a camp counselor for an emotionally intensive orientation program for MIT freshmen, designed to raise awareness about gender, ethnicity, and class differences. He also worked as a non-profit consultant for The New Sector Alliance, a non-profit hoping to reinvigorate the practice of leadership in the public sector through superior training. He continued running MIT's suicide hotline until January, and continued as head trainer

for the service until June. He now has the honor of having trained a greater number of people than anyone else in the history of the service. He was also the pledge trainer for his fraternity.

BLAKE WHITAKER graduated in August as part of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M, with a bachelor's degree in history. This summer he spent six weeks in Poland studying the Holocaust. This fall Blake began work on a master's degree in history with an emphasis on military history at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Before leaving undergraduate school, he performed in a pair of musicals; as Mike in *A Chorus Line* and Bernardo in *West Side Story*.

CHRIS YORKE calls the past year of his life transformative. His senior year at Williams was busy. He studied art, art history, history, architecture and Spanish. During spring break he explored all of those interests on a trip with friends to Spain. Also during spring break, Chis did hurricane relief work in New Orleans with fellow Williams students. Before graduating with honors from Williams, he had his first solo art exhibition and won a Hubbard Hutchinson fellowship for his work. This summer he worked in Boston on a virtual architecture project.

1999

NATHAN BAMMES is a senior in biology and pre-medicine at K-State this fall. Last year Nathan worked in a biology lab in the Veterinary Medicine building studying umbili-

cal cord stem cells and this summer presented an exhibit about his research at a National Institutes of Health symposium in Washington D.C. In May, he began working as a patient care technician at Stormont-Vail Medical Center. Nathan is still involved with his fraternity, Beta Sigma Psi, and recently joined the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. Despite his busy schedule, he still finds time to relax by playing his guitar.

BRANDON BARNETT is in his last semester at KU with a double major in art history and anthropology. He is a volunteer with the Kansas Anthropological Society, helping catalog, wash and preserve Kansas prehistoric finds. This summer he hopes to receive a job as part of a federal grant to pursue anthropological research in Costa Rica where his Spanish language studies will come in handy.

BRIANNE BURNETT is a senior in communication studies and linguistics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She remains active in her sorority and the campus-wide Greek community, serving on several committees. She is serving as a campus tour guide for the undergraduate admissions office. Brianne spent part of the summer in Washington D.C. as an intern in Senator Sam Brownback's office. After that she returned home to East Lansing, Michigan to relax and take several weekend trips. She rounded out her summer with a vacation to the New Jersey shore.

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WHAT MY TOPEKA COLLEGIATE EDUCATION MEANS TO ME

Remarks by Alison Hill Tanner '86 to members of the Ruth Fink Society - Spring, 2006. The Fink Society is made up of donors who gave at the Zap the Gap level or higher to the 2005-06 Annual Fund campaign.



Alison Hill Tanner '86 remembers her days at Topeka Collegiate School

I'd like to talk for just a few minutes about what I consider to be the enduring value of a Topeka Collegiate education. As my dad liked to say, a good education will last you a lifetime. And that's what I received from TCS - a high quality education that has certainly retained its value over my lifetime.

I graduated from Topeka Collegiate 20 years ago this past June. When I started there, it wasn't even called Topeka Collegiate. It was Shawnee Country Day School then, and the school was located in the charming hamlet of Pauline, Kansas, just south of Topeka. I am very proud to say that I was there the first day the school opened in 1982. Yep, just me and the two other boys in the fifth grade. From those humble beginnings, though, the school slowly grew.

Back then, there was a tacit consensus among the students, parents and faculty that this school was a

special place. It was a new, small school with a young, energetic faculty, an idealistic administration, hopeful parents, and engaged students. We were tucked away in that Pauline elementary school building doing our own thing, so to speak. As an adult, I've spoken with former faculty about what they think made that such a magical time in the school's history. Dust from the asbestos ceiling tiles in that old building and fumes from the jets at Forbes Field were common explanations for that sense of "magic" we all felt.

Kidding aside, what Topeka Collegiate did for me 20 years ago was provide a strong foundation on which to build my academic, personal, and professional life. The value of my Topeka Collegiate education endures because those teachers taught me more than algebra and Latin. They taught me how to be a learner - a lifelong learner. That foundation in learning served me well in boarding school, college, graduate school, and in my career. And I continue

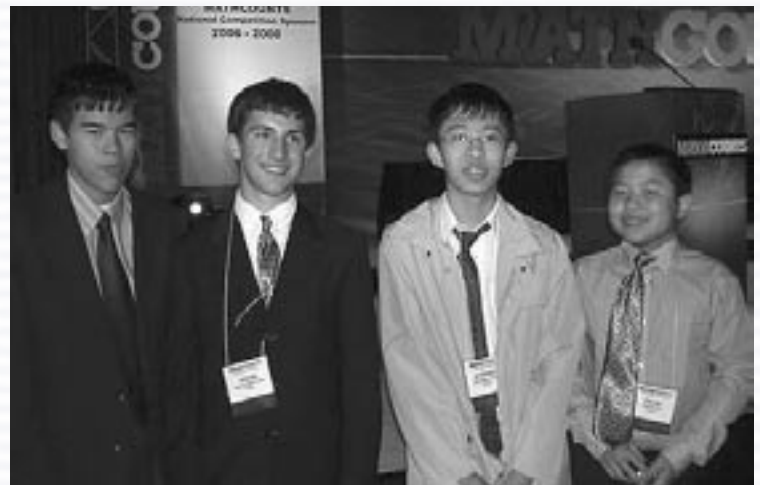
to benefit from my Topeka Collegiate education as I face what I'm calling my current unanticipated reality. I know some of you knew my parents, but for those that didn't, they both recently and suddenly passed away. I've accepted many new responsibilities in this last year and in order to meet them, I've had to be not only a learner, but a fast learner - trying to understand the language and practices of oncologists, pulmonologists, radiologists, pharmacists, palliative care specialists, hospice nurses, estate lawyers, tax lawyers, accountants, appraisers, investment managers, real estate agents, crop insurance agents, USDA farm service agency employees, tenant farmers, and last but not least, the IRS.

My parents couldn't have predicted that I'd have the responsibilities that I do today. And yet, 25 years ago they decided to send me to a fledgling private school where, under the guidance of talented and dedicated teachers, I developed the skills, attitudes, behaviors, and habits that have enabled me to meet the goals I've set for myself in life and meet the responsibilities life has given me.

My parents were so pleased with the education I received at Topeka Collegiate that they continued to support the school long after I graduated. After my dad died, some of his friends established a Topeka Collegiate memorial fund, thus honoring him by supporting an organization he was very proud of. One of the last acts of charitable giving my mom did before she died was to donate enough money to what's now called the Norma and Alan Hill Memorial Fund to fully support a student each year at Topeka Collegiate. I'm happy to report that the first award from that fund will be given to a student this fall.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank you for contributing to the Zap the Gap annual giving campaign. Your donation enables Topeka Collegiate to continue the work it began 25 years ago, the work of teaching students to be lifelong learners.

TCS STUDENT CHOSEN FOR MATHCOUNTS NATIONALS



Math Teacher Phyllis Hoyt accompanied David Wang (left) to the national competition

Then-seventh grader David Wang (left) represented TCS, Topeka, and Kansas at the National MATHCOUNTS competition, held in Arlington, Virginia, in May. The top four individuals at the State MATHCOUNTS competition became the Kansas Team. The other three team members, all from suburban Kansas City, joined David in placing 35th against the 57 other teams. The weekend was a high point for all 228 mathletes. After touring Washington D.C. and meeting other top math students, their parents and coaches from all over the country, exchanging state pins and sharing enthusiasm for mathematics, everyone who competed agreed that in the end, they are all winners!

DIARY OF A FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT

By Adam Obley '95

Where do people earn the Per Capita Income? More than one poor starving soul would like to know. In our countries, numbers live better than people. How many people prosper in times of prosperity? How many people find their lives developed by development?

Eduardo Galeano

Read the above passage in Paul Farmer's book *Pathologies of Power: Health Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* during the brief flight from Houston to Belize City. The passage reminds me that by the numbers, Belize is one of the more developed countries in Central America: high per capita GNP, low infant mortality rates, and fairly long life expectancy. Yet this visit to Belize will take my colleagues on the Kansas University Medical Center International Outreach team and me into some of the most underdeveloped parts of the country. In most of the villages where we will setup daytime clinics the residents have not seen a physician in over a year. As a first-year medical student, my experience is limited. I am able to take a decent history, but my physical exam skills remain untested; in a clinic where we will have no x-rays, no blood tests, nor any of the other technological tests of modern American medicine, I'll be forced to rely on my own untrained senses aided only by a stethoscope, an otoscope (a device for examining the ear), and a reflex hammer.

Our Monday clinic brings trauma. One patient is a 2 year-old boy who stepped on a hot rock several days ago. The burn on his foot is deep and clearly infected.

One of the physicians traveling with us decides that we need to debride the wound using a disinfectant. Unfortunately, we have no local anesthesia, and the procedure is quite painful. As his mother restrains the boy in a firm embrace, the doctor begins scrubbing the foot with the disinfectant. He screams and the tears begin to flow. For ten minutes that seem like an eternity we remove the dead and dying tissue from the wound. Half way through, we try to give the boy a dose of Tylenol to help with the pain, but his unrelenting screams cause him to choke on the liquid medicine; even as he gurgles he screams. Near the end I begin feeling nauseated. It is a reality that many medical interventions are painful in the service of necessity, but there is no way to explain that to this child. When we have finished the debridement we discover that the wound is as deep as the tendons of the boy's foot. With the antibiotics we give him, he may avoid infection, but the ensuing scar tissue will likely cause the tendons to contract rendering his foot useless.

Our Tuesday clinic is set up in a community center near the village school. Throughout the day the schoolchildren visit us; some with medical maladies, some just to play with members of our team. Everyone gets a toothbrush and toothpaste. Most of the illnesses we see today illustrate the interplay of culture, environment, and health. Many of the women have head and neck aches, a result of carrying children in blankets slung around their head. The men, who mostly work in fields during the day, almost all have pterygium, a proliferation of fibrous and vascular tissue in the eyes that may

eventually encroach on their vision. Many children have scabies or head-lice. Nearly everyone can claim a parasite of some variety. One 4-year-old girl that I see has asthma and pneumonia. I think of another passage from Farmer's book where he recites a poem of Bertolt Brecht:

*When we come to you
Our rags are torn off us
And you listen all over our naked body.
As to the cause of our illness
One glance at our rags would
Tell you more. It is the same cause that wears out
Our bodies and our clothes.
The pain in our shoulder comes
You say, from the damp; and this is also the reason
For the stain on the wall of our flat.
So tell us:
Where does the damp come from?*

Friday we venture two hours into a mountain village near the Guatemalan border. As we arrive, the rain begins, bringing relief from the heat. Although the rain continues throughout the day, hundreds of patients visit the clinic. The complaints range from simple colds to a man who has a large melanoma on his ear. After the last patient, some of the women invite us to visit their recently



Adam Obley '95 checks X-Rays at the KU Med Center's student-run free clinic

Adam Obley '95 spends spring break volunteering at a medical clinic in Belize



established arts and crafts shop. I find a woven bracelet that reminds me of the double helix of DNA. That night we have dinner with a village family and spend the night in a traditional thatched-roof hut without electricity or running water. I feel lucky to have a simple foam bed and insect net—most will spend the night in hammocks. The next morning we arise at 4:30 as the ancient school bus rumbles through to pick up the village children for their two hour commute to school in Punta Gorda. As we leave the village, several of my peers comment on how different life in this village is compared to ours in the United States. Perhaps, I think, but only in the details. As John F. Kennedy put it in 1963: “In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.”

My first year in medical school taught me many important lessons. Some lessons came from the classroom, some from my work at the medical student-run free clinic, and some from my all-too-short work in Belize. The lessons that have been most indelibly seared in my mind are those that relate to the nature of suffering. Some suffering is inevitable, the product of time and imperfect evolution. Other suffering is preventable, caused mostly by poverty, inequality, and our collective failure to confront these problems directly. Some of my peers in school would say that medical education, with its long hours, memorization, and continuous testing, is a form of suffering. But just when I’m feeling beaten down by coursework, I put that “suffering” in context. A fellow medical student named Joe Wright once described medicine as “a beautiful human project, an expression of our concern for each other, a culmination of the human impulse to care for our fellow sufferers.” I have, at various times, found medical school frustrating, unstimulating, emotionally and physically taxing, but I have always found it worth the effort.

CLASS NOTES

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LISA GREENE is back at the University of California-Berkeley for the fall semester after a summer of attending classes and working at Raleigh’s Pub and Grill, a popular gathering spot for Berkeley students. Lisa will graduate a semester early, in December, and plans to head to Lake Tahoe for the winter, where she’ll work as a ski instructor or coach. “Following my short time as a ski bum,” Lisa says, “I’m going to return to Newport Beach and get a job!”

MARIA MALDONADO is a senior at KU majoring in English, with a minor in French and a concentration in psychology. She still lives at Sellards Scholarship Hall and is serving as president this year. She was one of nine students selected to travel to China this summer as part of the Kansas-Asia Scholars program. They traveled to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square in Beijing, the Bund and Needle in Shanghai, and saw the terracotta warriors and Uygr district in Xi’an. “We also visited a small rural farming village, where we stayed with a host family, and we visited the village school,” Maria says. “Despite the language barrier, we were able to communicate with the school children through hand signs and facial expressions, organized races, and other games, such as teaching them the “chicken dance” which everyone found very amusing. Though we were halfway around the world, in a country so different from our own, I felt as



Maria Maldonado '99 at the Forbidden City in Beijing during summer travels in China

though the world was made a little smaller by seeing that people are people no matter where you are.”

ANDREW VAN SICKLE (T) graduated in May from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical science.

BETSY WANLESS spent a semester away from the University of Puget Sound studying in New Zealand.

2000

ALLISON ATWOOD is a junior at KU, majoring in accounting and finance. She kept busy last year tutoring at an elementary school, serving as vice-president of finance for her sorority (Kappa Alpha Theta) and working at a boutique in downtown Lawrence. This summer she spent a month in

Italy, then traveled to Spain, Greece, France and Germany for two weeks. After a few weeks at home teaching swimming lessons, Allie returned to school and her officer duties at the Theta house. She was one of 15 business students chosen from a field of 80 to travel to New York in September to visit Wall Street and other financial landmarks.

LAURA BIXLER BLASI (T) is pursuing biology, business management and vocal performance degrees at Washburn University. Her primary focus is science, and she was one of very few students to be accepted into (former TCS parent) Dr. Ronald Ash’s “Development of Medicine”

class. Laura sang the starring role of Susana in last spring’s production of Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* at Washburn and joined her older sister in several duets during **Alexandra’s** ’98 senior recital in December. Laura also teaches at *The Dance Factory*, where she pioneered a ballroom dancing class. Her partner is little brother **Sam** ’05 (T).

ABBY BROWNBACK worked last year as the campus editor and the copy chief for K-State’s student newspaper, *The Collegian* and served as the public relations chairman for her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. This summer she spent five weeks studying in Granada, Spain to complete her Spanish minor. This fall she is a junior, has again taken a job as the newspaper’s

copy chief, and continues working as Kappa’s PR chair.

PERE GARLINGHOUSE is currently a junior at George Washington University’s Elliott School majoring in international affairs. He is also pursuing a second major in history at GW’s Columbian School. Pere has been expanding his international politics and development concentrations with some extensive overseas travel. First, though, he, **Alex Straus** ’00, and a friend did a little domestic touring. They began by driving to Colorado where they hiked to the top of a mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park and went white water rafting. The bulk of the trip was spent doing a tour of Kansas landmarks including: the world’s largest ball of twine, the world’s deepest hand-dug well, the geographical center of the continental U.S. and so much more! A few days later, Pere boarded a plane to go to Argentina where he did some research for a professor and spent the rest of the time touring. Here is Pere’s description: “The nation is wonderful. After the economic crash of 2001, the capitol (and very European city) Buenos Aires became a tourist’s dream. Everything is fairly inexpensive and the food and wine are world class. Here I learned to ride a motorcycle on the world’s widest street (in retrospect probably not the best of ideas), I went skydiving over the city, and learned how to tango dance. From Argentina Pere traveled to South Africa where he’s spending the semester studying at Stellenbosch University, about an

hour outside of Cape Town, in the heart of the famous South African wine country. “So far here I have been able to go bungee jumping at the highest bungee in the world, shark dive during one of the worst shark attack seasons (also probably not a good idea in hindsight), and actually ride an ostrich,” says Pere. “Although I live in one of the nicer areas of South Africa, the immense poverty of the country is shown just one mile from where I live in a local township. I go there to help teach in a local school and play basketball with the kids. I expect the 2010 World Cup to really transform this country and hopefully spur similar development in other African nations.”

ASHLEY GIROUX is a junior at K-State pursuing a degree in interior architecture. When she heard that longtime (18 years!) kindergarten teacher Anita Thiessen was leaving the classroom for part-time duties at TCS, Ashley wrote this lovely tribute: “Mrs. Thiessen was my first teacher at Topeka Collegiate. To this day, my parents remind me of how she was prompt to notice my love of art. She encouraged my involvement in extra-curricular, diverse art classes. Without her guidance, I would not be where I am today. I love what I am doing and a large part is in much gratitude to Mrs. Thiessen. She is an amazing woman whom I admire completely. I wish her the very best.”

WHITNEY HAMILTON is studying art abroad in Florence, Italy. She is a painting/art major and particu-

2000 continued page 31

COLLEGE CHOICES

Following is the list of colleges and universities members of the Class of 2002 have chosen and the scholarships they've been awarded. (T) indicates students who transferred before graduation.

BLAKE BARABAN (T)

Kansas University: Lawrence

ASHLEE BARABAN (T)

Kansas University: Lawrence

AISLYNN BARNETT

St. Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri

Dean's Scholarship – St. Louis University

ASHTON BECKER (T)

University of Nebraska

DANIEL BLEIBERG

Georgetown University: Washington, D.C.

Summerfield Scholarship – University of Kansas

Presidential Academic Scholarship – George

Washington University

ANDY BROWNBACK

Kansas State University: Manhattan

National Merit Scholarship – Kansas State University

Presidential Scholarship – Kansas State

University

Robert C. Byrd Scholarship

Putnam Exam Scholarship

SAMANTHA COPELAND

American Academy of Hair Design: Topeka,

Kansas

ADAM COULON

Purdue University: West Lafayette, Indiana

ERIC GIROUX

Kansas University: Lawrence

Freshman Honors Scholarship – Kansas University

ANDREW HERRERA-THOMAS

Kansas University: Lawrence

CAMERON HOBBS

Washburn University: Topeka, Kansas

ANDI JONES (T)

Colgate University: Hamilton, New York

ANA MALDONADO

Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

Art Scholarship – Kansas City Art Institute

*Art Scholarship – Milwaukee Institute of Art
and Design*

IAN MARPLES

University of Kansas: Lawrence

*Whittaker Leadership Scholarship – Kansas
University*

AMELIA MAXFIELD

Vassar College: Poughkeepsie, New York

Irene Nunemaker Scholarship

Topeka Alumae Panhellenic Scholarship

Most Inspirational Athlete Scholarship

*Presidential Academic Award – Emporia State
University*

Founder's Scholarship – Denison University

*Hermann R. Muelder Scholarship – Knox
College*

Founder's Scholarship – Knox College

Founder's Scholarship – Wheaton College

ELISE MONACO

St. Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri

University Scholarship – St. Louis University

MICHELLE NEIS

Washburn University: Topeka, Kansas

Presidential Scholarship – Washburn University

Garvey Scholarship – Washburn University

Academic Scholarship – Washburn University

Wiseman Scholarship – Washburn University

Leadership Scholarship – Washburn University

Academic Scholarship – Bethany College

NATHAN PETERSON

Washburn University: Topeka, Kansas

Academic Scholarship – Washburn University

Wiseman Scholarship – Washburn University

J.P. RANKIN (T)

Creighton University: Omaha, Nebraska

Theater Scholarship – Creighton University

DREW SAYLOR (T)

Kansas University: Lawrence

PAIGE WHITAKER

University of Nebraska: Lincoln

KELSEY WILLS

University of Colorado: Boulder

Manuel Pusitz Scholarship

Watkins-Berger Scholarship – Kansas University

Presidential Scholarship – University of

Colorado-Boulder

Chancellor's Achievement Scholarship –

University of Colorado-Boulder

National Scholarship – University of Minnesota

Study Abroad Scholarship – University of

Minnesota

GREG WITTENBURG (T)

Creighton University: Omaha, Nebraska

KRISTEN YEE

University of Missouri: Kansas City

THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR SCHOOL

Mr. Freed

In gratitude for his year of service as Interim Head of School last year, the Board of Trustees surprised Kevin Freed with a Judith Mackey landscape called “Red Sky Over the Flint Hills.” Board President Scott Hamilton emphasized how much the board appreciated and valued the job Mr. Freed did as Interim Head.

As part of the assembly to honor her dad, **Brigid Freed** (*far right*) shared the words she and her classmates came up with to describe him: helpful, generous, joyous, kind, neat, fun, respectful, fair, caring, trustworthy, responsible, nice.

Dr. Roberts

A bronze sculpture by artist Walt Horton was unveiled in October of 2006 in honor of longtime Head of School Dr. Michael Roberts. The sculpture was donated by (*left to right*) Kent and Susan Garlinghouse, Jett and Tim Elmer, and (*not pictured*) Maureen and Bob Ihrie. Dr. Roberts’ own words were used to name the sculpture: *Together, We Reach Higher*. Said Kent Garlinghouse, “In 50 years, I hope people look at this sculpture and say, ‘Who was this Michael Roberts? He seems like a legend!’”



CLASS NOTES

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larly loves oil painting. She was judged first in her spring art show and has a sculpture on display at Truman State University, where she is a junior. Whitney plans to get a second degree in graphic design. She will join the tennis team when she returns from overseas this winter.

BENJAMIN LEIFER is at the University of Missouri-Kansas City majoring in music composition. He's been playing with various bands in Kansas City. In December he and a friend went to New York for three weeks to take part in the music scene there, "going to jam sessions, concerts, meeting and playing with people from another part of the country...very cool," says Ben. "I've also been in and out of the recording studio doing projects for myself and others which has been stressful, but very fun at the same time." This summer, Ben went on a ten-day tour of Europe with Bobby Watson's Big Band and played at well-known jazz festivals like the Montreux in Switzerland and the North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague, Holland. "We played at Champs De Mars in the courtyard right in front of the Tour Eiffel for a crowd of Parisian bystanders. It was an amazing experience that I'll never forget," says Ben, "getting to travel across the ocean and play for people that I can only communicate with through music."

TYLER SCHMIDT is a junior at the University of Minnesota and has



been admitted into the Carlson School of Management. Tyler earned All American honors in three events this year at the NCAA swim meet and is also an Academic All American. He was named to the first team of the Big Ten and also the first team for academics in the Big Ten. He currently ranks fifth all-time at Minnesota in the 200-yard freestyle and tenth in the 100-yard free. This summer Tyler visited Croatia for two weeks. He swims with three students from Croatia and had a terrific time touring their country.

SARAH SELLERS is a junior at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. This fall she is studying abroad in Athens and traveling around Europe to visit friends in various countries. She is an active member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, organizing recruitment of new members. This past year she was on the Merchandise Committee for Northwestern's annual Dance Marathon, which raised money for pediatric HIV/AIDS research. Over spring break Sarah went on an Alternative Spring Break trip through Northwestern to San Juan, Texas to volunteer at LUPE (La Union del Pueblo Entero), an organization to help Mexican immigrants become legal citizens. This summer she lived in Evanston and took summer school classes. She took a side trip to Tokyo to visit friends before leaving for Greece.

ALEX STRAUS is studying for a year in Beijing with a study-abroad group that specializes in

placements in Asia. They have their own school connected to a university in Beijing. Alex has a Chinese roommate, and he had to take a language pledge to speak only Mandarin, all the time. He had a year of Mandarin last year at KU, and is continuing his language studies there, as well as studying Chinese culture and history. He's doing very well and is having a wonderful time, though he gets a little homesick from time to time.

BREANA TUTUSKA is a junior at Emory University in Atlanta where she is majoring in Russian and has been admitted to the business school (ranked fifth in the nation for undergrads) where she plans a second major in international business. Breana spent the summer in Russia studying at St. Petersburg University, polishing her Russian and sightseeing. She visited the Hermitage and Catherine the Great's palace as well as touring the countryside.

2001

GABRIELLE AULT-RICHE (T) spent the summer in Peru teaching English and arts and crafts to children and their mothers. The work fulfilled her longtime dream of doing volunteer work in Latin America or South America. A year ago this summer, Gabrielle had heart surgery, but she's fully recovered and now back at the University of California-Santa Cruz, where she's interested in pursuing a linguistics major.

TOBEY BILLINGER is a sophomore at KU and loves living in Watkins Scholarship Hall, where she's been elected a representative to the Scholarship Hall Council. Last year she volunteered at the paleontology lab helping work on a camarasaurus (a sauropod dinosaur – like a brontosaurus) named "Lyle" and learning the finer points of cleaning bones and making casts. This summer, Tobey traveled to Colorado, Utah and Wyoming on a KU geology trip.

SARAH BELLOWS-BLAKELY is a sophomore at Stanford University. Last year she was involved in student government, dorm government, a mentoring program with local middle school students and with her sorority, Pi Beta Phi. Sarah reports that one of the highlights of her first year at Stanford was skydiving with friends from her dorm. This summer, she interned for Governor Kathleen Sebelius in the Office of Constituent Services and later worked with the governor's re-election campaign.

MATTHEW BONEBRAKE is a sophomore at KU, where he's living in an apartment with older sister Natalie '98 and another roommate. This summer, Matt embarked on a two-month KU study abroad program in Germany.

CAROLYN BRYAN is a majoring in business at Victor Valley Community College in Victorville, California, in the southern part of the state. She's also working fulltime.

SHRUTI CHALLA is back at Stanford University after an exciting

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THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

*A*s seventh graders, Anna Hamilton '06 and Sjobor Hammer '06 took second place at National History Day in College Park, Maryland. One day after returning from that contest, they began work on their eighth grade project. "I think they should call it History Year instead of History Day," says Sjobor. On June 15 of this year, the girls' persistence and hard work paid off. They won first place in the group documentary category. When she heard their names announced at the awards ceremony Anna thought, "There's no higher level. We did it!"

Sjobor and Anna's topic was a little-known Kansas school desegregation case that helped pave the way for the landmark *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* case. "Lighting the Dark Places: Esther Brown and the *Webb v. School District No. 90 Case*" tells the story of a white Jewish woman who led the fight to integrate schools in a Kansas City suburb. This year's History Day theme was "Taking a Stand in History." Esther Brown's courageous stand for equal rights inspired Sjobor and Anna, proving, as Anna says, "that one person can make a difference."

Anna and Sjobor are History Day veterans. These partners have collaborated on documentaries each of their three years in middle school, and believe that this year's success was the culmination of three years of work. Their National History Day judges praised their documentary, describing it as "excellent, enlightening, educational" and "clearly a labor of love for both of you." Their knowledge of their topic is encyclopedic. "That's part of the magic of History Day," says their teacher, Travis Lamb. "The students become junior experts on their topic. That's why we teach – to see kids get excited about a topic."

Topeka Collegiate students **Daniel Mandel '06** and eighth grader **Parker Featherston (T)**



Anna Hamilton '06 and Sjobor Hammer '06 win first place at National History Day in College Park, Maryland.

finished seventh in the group exhibit category at National History Day. Their exhibit, "Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th: Taking a Stand for Racial Equality," was also named the Outstanding State Junior Entry.

Katherine Ebeling '06 also competed at nationals with her historical paper, *Katharine Graham and the Washington Post: Taking a Stand for Freedom of the Press*. Sjobor Hammer and Anna Hamilton's first place documentary is available for checkout in the TCS library.



MRS. THIESSEN RETIRES (SORT OF)

The bad news: After teaching 28 years – 18 of them at Topeka Collegiate – Anita Thiessen is saying goodbye to the kindergarten classroom. The good news: She’s still here, working part-time in the library and tutoring program. Still, it’s the end of an era, marked by tributes from colleagues and former students.

At the end-of-the-year meeting, Mrs. Thiessen’s kindergarten teaching partner Kelley Berryman (left) described her as flexible and creative, and laughed about the little Dr. Suess-inspired verse they composed and shared with one another on particularly trying days:

*They will not listen in the classroom.
They will not listen in the hall.
They will not listen here or there.
They will not listen anywhere!*

As Mrs. Thiessen stood to thank her colleagues, she said, “I don’t like to talk in front of grownups. Can you shrink down?” Then she explained why she wasn’t ready to retire completely. “I love teaching,” she said, “and I enjoy working with all of you. I didn’t want to miss that.”

I marvel at the way she ignites 5-and-6-year-old imaginations! She accepts each child for who he or she is, graciously, and that’s not always easy.

Vicky Gorrell, Lower School Head

Mrs. Thiessen was my first teacher at Topeka Collegiate. To this day, my parents remind me of how she was prompt to notice my love of art. Without her guidance, I would not be where I am today - pursuing an artistic major in the realm of interior architecture. I love what I am doing and I owe much gratitude to Mrs. Thiessen. She is an amazing woman whom I admire completely.

Ashley Giroux ‘00

Mrs. Thiessen says (about performing onstage) if it doesn’t work out, the sun will still come up tomorrow, so why worry?

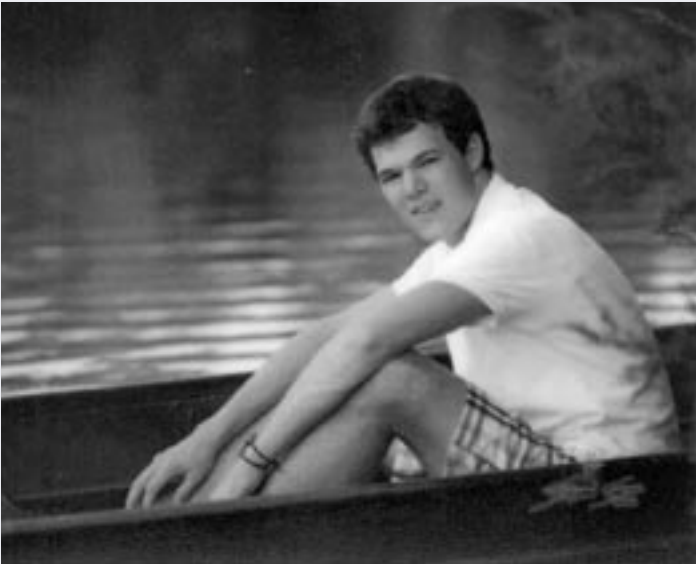
Tessa Duncan, Third Grader

I remember when I was in Mrs. Fisher’s pre-kindergarten class thinking how cool Mrs. Thiessen was and how much I wanted to have her when I graduated to kindergarten. My little five-year-old wish was granted. I remember my favorite parts of Mrs. Thiessen’s class were making castles out of cereal boxes and when she read to us. Mrs. Thiessen is a great teacher and I enjoyed seeing her and knowing her throughout my career at Topeka Collegiate.

Cassidy Carpenter ‘01

Mrs. Thiessen is a pioneer in early literacy of children. Her work with her kindergartners has laid the

TCS ALUMNUS IS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR



Andy Brownback '02, is one of a handful of Topeka students to win a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship through the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. The designation is so elite that it is given to only 8,200 of the 1.3 million students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors. Andy graduated from Washburn Rural High School in the spring.

Ever since he can remember, Andy has loved math. As kindergarteners in Mrs. Thiessen's class, he, **Eric Giroux '02**, and **Adam Coulon '02** created a super-sized math problem using all the new math terms they'd learned, taping sheet after sheet of paper together to accommodate all their figures. "We thought it was pretty cool and we brought it to show (Head of School) Dr. Roberts and (math teacher) Mrs. Hoyt," Andy recalls.

As an eighth grader, Andy was the only student in Kansas to score a perfect 25 on the AMC-8, an internationally administered math exam. "Math has always come easier to me than other things," he says.

Andy is a freshman at K-State this fall, where he's continuing his study of math as well as architectural engineering.

groundwork for hundreds of children to live a life of learning through books. I remember her as ever-patient and resourceful. Although I have not worked with Anita in many years, I still remember as a new teacher the master teacher she was and that she helped me aspire to be. I wish her only the best in her new endeavors, as the best is what she has given so many for so long.

Mrs. O'Shea, Former TCS Third Grade Teacher

I never had her as a teacher, but I do remember her. I remember every time I passed her room, I could see her smiling to her students. She had the amazing ability to relate to children.

Eric Wang '03

CLASS NOTES

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summer in India interning at a telecommunications company in Hyderabad and preparing for her Indian dance debut there in September. Shruti has been studying traditional Indian dance in Houston every summer from the time she was six. This summer's performance was her formal introduction to the international dance community. With her proud family looking on, Shruti performed a two-hour program for an audience that included distinguished guests like a famous Indian movie star, a renowned poet and a former prime minister. She received offers to dance in Africa, Europe and the United Kingdom and even to appear in Indian films, but Shruti decided to return to Stanford to pursue international relations and economics degrees.

KATE LAND continues her studies at the American Academy of Hair Design and has found her calling. She particularly enjoys hair coloring and waxing, and is on track to graduate early in 2007.

ASONA LUI is a sophomore at Washington University majoring in economics. She made the Dean's List as a freshman, and lived with girls from Kentucky and Texas. After several rounds of interviews, Asona was inducted into the 136th class of Wash U's Lock and Chain Sophomore Honorary Society. She was awakened at 4 a.m. to take part in the secret sunrise induction ceremony! Asona also was inducted into the National



Shruti Challa '01 made her international dance debut in India this summer

Society of Collegiate Scholars as a freshman. She was elected by the faculty to be a Peer Advisor and is in charge of seven freshmen this year, holding advisory meetings once a month, and generally overseeing their campus lives. This summer Asona spent four weeks in Kenya studying Swahili and living with a Muslim family. She volunteered at a homeless shelter for young girls and was caught on a boat in a four-hour tropical rainstorm! The second half of her summer was about as removed from Kenya as you can get. She interned at a capital investment company in New York City, located in Rockefeller Plaza in the same building that houses NBC's Today Show. Asona did market research during her internship and had a wonderful time when friend and fellow TCS alumna **Reed Underwood '01** came to visit. Asona

also starred in a movie this summer, portraying the title character in *Through Martha's Eyes*, an opportunity that came her way as a result of History Day at Topeka Collegiate. (see p. 16)

DALE MEADOR (T) is a sophomore at KU majoring in theater and film.

KELLEY VAN SICKLE (T) is a sophomore majoring in communications at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, which she describes as "awesome." This summer she interned in Governor Sebelius' office.

TYLER WAUGH is a sophomore at KU majoring in film and journalism. He's active in the photography club and plans to focus his studies on photojournalism. He's still singing in the band that includes TCS classmate **Elliot Buck '03** – Fo'estt. This summer Tyler traveled to Spain, spending five weeks in Barcelona and various other cities including Madrid.

2002

AISLYNN BARNETT is attending St. Louis University where she received a Dean's Scholarship and has pledged Sigma Kappa sorority. She plans to major in modern and classic languages and international studies. As a Topeka High School senior, Aislynn was co-director of the student-run fall talent show SRO and a member of National Honor Society.

DANIEL BLEIBERG is a freshman at Georgetown University in the School of Foreign Service. He is working as a DJ for the campus radio station and was a part of the FOCI program, Freshman Orientation to Community Service, this summer. He and a friend were the Sports Guys for Topeka High's local access TV show last year and won first in the state for sports programming. The pair also spent time this summer traveling in Spain. Daniel graduated with superior honors from Topeka High School as a Kansas State Scholar and member of the National Honor Society in the spring and was recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar.

ANDY BROWNBAC is a freshman at Kansas State University where he won a merit scholarship through the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. (see p. 35) He's studying math

and architectural engineering. He graduated from Washburn Rural High School in the spring. As a senior, he and his partner took tenth in the state in doubles tennis. He and former TCS alum **Greg Wittenburg** (T) '02 were co-presidents of the Young Republicans, a club Andy helped start at WRHS. This summer he worked at the country club golf course and tennis shop, babysat and played tennis.

ERIC GIROUX is a freshman at KU. He graduated with superior honors from Topeka High School, where he anchored the THS newscast on channel 14, was a member of the National Honor Society, and played on the tennis team where he took second at city, regionals and league, and sixth at the state tournament. Eric and his partner were one of four policy debate

teams that went undefeated in preliminary rounds of the National Forensics Tournament in Texas this summer, finishing as one of the top 25 teams in the country. He is currently studying business finance with hopes of becoming an Internet entrepreneur. In his free time, he is working toward his career goals by developing his own Web solutions business. Check it out at www.HyperFormMedia.com.

AMELIA MAXFIELD is a freshman at Vassar College this fall. She graduated from Topeka High School in the spring with superior honors, as president of the National Honor Society. She was the Editor-in-Chief of Topeka High's newspaper. Amelia was named Outstanding Youth Philanthropist of Topeka and awarded the Jefferson Award

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TCS classmates Dan Bleiberg, Kristen Yee and Nathan Peterson - all class of '02 - celebrate their graduation from Topeka High School

REMEMBERING CLAIRE FISHER '01

*Right: Claire Elise Fisher
1987 - 2006*



*Far right: Claire Fisher,
Asona Lui and Rachel
Buck - all Class of '01
- perform the Supremes'
Can't Hurry Love in the
1997 Talent Show*



*Below: A crabapple tree
and plaque were dedicated
in Claire's memory at
Knox College*



When you lose somebody you think you've lost the whole world as well, but that's not the way things turn out in the end.

Eventually, you pick yourself up and look out the window and once you do, you see everything that was there before the world ended is out there still.

There are the same apple trees and the same songbirds, and over our heads the very same sky shines like heaven, so far above us we can never hope to reach such heights.

Claire Elise Fisher '01

*W*e were deeply saddened by the tragic death of **Claire Fisher '01**, the daughter of our long-time pre-kindergarten teacher Debra Fisher. Claire was killed in a car accident on January 2, 2006 in central Iowa while on her way back to school at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.

Claire was not only an alumna of Topeka Collegiate, but a frequent and cheerful visitor to the school. Claire helped in her mother's classroom and worked in the after-school child care program. At Knox, Claire was studying Spanish and child psychology, reflecting her twin loves of children and the Spanish culture.

Mrs. Fisher took great comfort from the TCS community in the days and weeks following Claire's death. "I wish to thank so many of you for your shared sorrow and sensitive support and understanding," she says.

In May, on Claire's birthday, her alma mater Topeka West High School presented the *Claire Elise Fisher Inspiration Award* to two students active in theater, another of Claire's passions.

Later in the month, Knox College placed a flowering Prairiefire crabapple tree at the entrance to its campus in memory of Claire. On a plaque are these words that seem to sum up Claire's spirit and her belief that we should celebrate every moment of our lives: *Laugh, Love, Learn, Live.*

Memories of Claire

Claire's kind and caring spirit touched all those who knew her. She had a magic with younger students. She always had a group of happy children under her wings. They all adored her! Claire looked for the best in others and had a way of finding it.

Mrs. Hoyt, Math Teacher

Claire and I were very good friends when we were younger. We actually made up our own secret language. We would write the key to it at recess and speak only secret language to each other. When I left for boarding school after eighth grade, Claire gave me a box and inside was the key from that secret language. It was very sweet. I still have it in my room.

Asona Lui '01

I admired her passion for the Spanish language, for learning and for helping others. Clara, no te olvidaremos! (Claire, we won't forget you!)

Mrs. Collazo, Spanish Teacher

The best memory I have of Claire is when we were sharing a room with Carolyn Bryan '01 on the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. We had had a lot of caffeine and I remember Claire started flailing around like a windmill, laughing and singing songs she made up as she went. The next morning the three of us almost missed the bus because we overslept.

Kate Land '01

I remember when Claire and Debra came out to visit us for New Year's (2002). We went to Disneyland on New Year's Eve and we had so much fun, but we ended up leaving before the big parade and fireworks at midnight because the moms were so tired!

Mrs. Bryan and Carolyn Bryan '01

My memories of her will always be frozen as an image of an impetuous little girl, telling Caitlin (Caitlin Garrett (T) '01), 'You can come over and spend the night' in a voice full of sweetness and hope. Caitlin spent her first night away from home on a sleepover with Claire.

Pat Garrett, Past TCS Parent

She was deeply loved by everyone who knew her and she will be missed terribly. We love you, Claire.

Claire's Suitemates at Knox College



MEMBERS OF
THE CLASS
OF 2006 AND
THE HIGH
SCHOOLS
THEY HAVE
CHOSEN

HADEN ROSS BEARDMORE *Phillips Academy-Andover*

STEVEN LEE BENSON *Washburn Rural*

ABBY CAROLINE BRINKER *Topeka West*

QUENTIN CHEDIAK *Topeka West*

CHARLES FRANKLIN DICK *Topeka High*

KATHERINE ANN EBELING *Topeka High*

DAVID STARK GAST *Topeka West*

NICHOLAS JAMES GITTO *Topeka High*

MARY ELIZABETH GORDON *Topeka West*

ANNA LYN HAMILTON *Topeka High*

BLAKE RICHARD HAMILTON *Topeka West*

SJOBOR ATHON HAMMER *Topeka High*

JACOB GENE HOLLY *Topeka West*

JACQUELINE MARIE HORN *Topeka High*

ELIZABETH LEE KRESIE *Topeka West*

REBECCA ELIZABETH LUTZ *Topeka West*

DANIEL MAER ROE MANDEL *Topeka West*

ELLEN ELIZABETH MCGIVERN *Topeka High*

ALYSSA MARIE MEMMO *Topeka West*

SARAH ELIZABETH BOWEN PADGETT *Topeka West*

EMILY MICHELLE PARK *Topeka West*

MISHA RAYAUN REED *Topeka High*

JENNIFER LYNN ROSACKER *Topeka High*

CAMERON SEALS SCHWANKE *Topeka West*

JULIA VIRGINIA THOMPSON *Topeka High*

ASHLEY LYNN WELCH *Topeka West*

CYRUS NATHANIEL WITTIG *Deerfield Academy*

KATHERINE JOY ZLOTKY *Washburn Rural*

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS NOTES

2002 continued from page 37

for Public Service for her work with the Prairie Advocacy Center as a Kids-in-Court advocate and for starting a fundraising project, Pigs for PAC, for the center. She was the regional winner of the Jefferson Award, and traveled to Washington DC for a national gala celebrating the winners. (*see p. 5*) During her senior year, she began swimming again for THS and was named Most Inspirational Female Athlete by the Topeka and Shawnee County Sports Council. This summer Amelia spent three weeks in Spain doing language training, living with a family, and traveling. She also worked on getting back in shape to swim at Vassar.

ELISE MONACO is a freshman at St. Louis University this fall, majoring in psychology and pursuing a pre-med curriculum. She graduated from Topeka High School with superior honors in May, as a member of the National Honor Society. Elise spent her final year at Topeka High involved in sports, performance, and academic activities. She played varsity volleyball in the fall, managed the women's basketball team in the winter, and sang in the Madrigals elite choir throughout the year. This summer she worked as a Developmental Disabilities Technician at Kansas Neurological Institute.

NATHAN PETERSON is a freshman at Washburn University this fall. Nathan graduated from Topeka High School in the spring. As a senior, he capped off his forensics

career at THS with a trip to the National Forensics Tournament in Texas, competing in dramatic interpretation.

JEFFREY STRYKER (T) is working for his parents' heating, air conditioning and plumbing company as well as serving as a part-time firefighter for the Mission Township Fire Department. Jeff recently completed Emergency Medical Technician training at Washburn, and is a certified EMT. He's now helping Washburn instructors teach EMT classes.

KRISTEN YEE is a freshman at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she has joined the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She thinks dental school may be in her future. Kristen graduated in the spring from Topeka High School with superior honors, as all-school president, a member of the National Honor Society and a state qualifier for FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). Kristen was also nominated for homecoming queen at THS last fall. Last spring, she returned to TCS to help with the middle school production of *Oliver Twist*. "I like to think I was the stage manager or something like that," says Kristen. "I wasn't ever given a title, I was just there for really early morning practices!" Kristen spent spring break and had "so much fun" on a trip to Colorado with 11 friends, four of whom are TCS grads (**Eric Giroux, Nathan Peterson, Daniel Bleiberg and Andrew Herrera-Thomas** – all Class of '02).

2003

JEAN-MARC AULT-RICHE (T) spent this summer at the Boston Ballet, for the second year in a row, and stayed there this fall. He'll graduate from high school in December and hopes to be awarded a ballet scholarship for college. His teachers keep telling Jean-Marc he doesn't have the ideal body for ballet, but his mother says he continues to excel because "he's very committed and because his heart is in it."

BEN BOUTON is a senior at Topeka High School and a features writer for the THS newspaper *The World*. He serves as literary editor of *Mandala*, Topeka High's art and literary magazine.

CATHRYN CURTIS (T) is a senior at Hays High School, busy with Chamber Singers and her school swim team. If you're ever in Hays, look for her buzzing around town in her blue Beetle convertible!

CELINA GARAY is busy visiting colleges in her senior year at Topeka High School. She was inducted into the National Honor Society last spring, and into the National Thespians Society. Celina was named Topeka Performing Arts Center's 2006 Young Artist of the Year for instrumental music (she is a



Celina Garay joins the Mariachi Habenero to play violin and explore her roots: courtesy Topeka Capital-Journal

The Topeka High String quartet (Celina Garay '03 second from left; Ana Maldonado '02 far right) entertains at the Ruth Fink Society Celebration of Education in the spring



violinist) and continues to play in the Topeka Youth Symphony. As a member of Topeka High's orchestra and string quartet, she was selected for district and state honors orchestras. At regional and state music festivals in the spring, she earned superior ratings in both solo and ensemble performance. This summer, she began playing with the Mariachi Habenero and kept very busy during the Mexican Fiesta. Celina really enjoys playing with the mariachi group, "I can get in touch with my roots," she says. Celina's academic performance, as well as her educational experience and social responsibility, earned her a full scholarship to attend the National Hispanic Youth Initiative in Health, Biomedical Research and Policy Development in Washington, D.C. this summer. At Topeka High, Celina is active in AFS (American Field Service), SRO, the student-run talent show, Robed Choir, yearbook staff and Mandala, the literary and art magazine.

CHRISTINA GITTO is a senior at Topeka High School this year, and a member of the Robed Choir. Last year, she was on the literary staff of Mandala, Topeka High's yearly publication of student art and literature. She helped with the Mandala Film Festival, during which student films are shown and awards given. Christina also performed in the women's ensemble of SRO, the fall talent show.

CHASE HAMILTON is a senior at Topeka High School and was inducted into the National Honor Society last spring, along with several of his TCS classmates. Chase is taking calculus at Washburn and, like virtually all of his fellow seniors, he's looking at colleges, deciding where he'll be heading after graduation in the spring.

JACKIE HOYT is a senior at Topeka High School. As a junior, she

played varsity volleyball, basketball, and soccer, played trumpet in the band, and was on the honor roll. She was selected for Second Team All City and All-League in volleyball, First Team All-City in soccer, and First Team All City and All-League in basketball. This summer she played on two club basketball teams: Team Kansas and Kansas 07's, which placed second in one tournament and had four first place finishes.

PABLO KENNEDY is the all-school president at Topeka High School this year, his senior year – the same year his younger brother Daniel is Student Council President at Topeka Collegiate! Is this the beginning of a new Kennedy dynasty? Pablo is a fixture on the THS drumline, a member of the Heritage Panel, and a varsity soccer



Topeka Collegiate alumni inducted into the Topeka High School chapter of the National Honor Society: (back row) Eric Wang, Chase Hamilton, Charles Lee, Ryne Tutuska, Marc Heronemus, Megan Reynolds; (front row) Elizabeth Coulon, Stephanie Atwood, Jordan Carter, Celina Garay, all Class of 2003; (not pictured: Denny Tsai)

player. This summer he volunteered to work with children at The Capper Foundation.



Pablo Kennedy '03 is all-school president at Topeka High School the same year as younger brother Daniel is Student Council President at TCS

SCOTT KRESIE is a senior at Topeka High working on his Eagle Scout rank. This summer, as his Eagle Scout project, Scott organized a blood drive that drew 39 donors (including staff members from TCS) and logged more than 100 volunteer hours. Scott plans to complete other requirements for Eagle Scout by April.

CHARLES LEE is vice-president of his Topeka High School senior class, and a member of the National Honor Society. This marks Charles' third year as a member of student government at High, where he served

as sophomore and junior class representative. This also marks his third year as a member of the tennis team. This summer he helped with the TCS basketball camp and volunteered at St. Francis Hospital. He's a member of the Youth Court, in which high school students listen to cases involving other high school students – usually traffic offenses – then deliberate and impose sanctions that include community service.

NICOLE MCCLURE (T) is a senior at Topeka High School. As a junior, she was recognized as one of the nation's top youth volunteers in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Nicole is founder and director of the Topeka Young Artists Guild, a group that sponsors public displays of artwork from local high school and university students. She set up the guild, wrote its bylaws, found a place to gather, recruited members and arranged for the group's first exhibit.

MEGAN REYNOLDS is a senior at Topeka High and a member of the National Honor Society.



Scott Kresie '03 organized a community blood drive to help earn his Eagle Scout rank

Megan is very active in music and drama, serving on the properties crew for *The Odd Couple* last year, and playing a wife in *The King and I* in February. She was in one of the one-act plays taken to State Thespian Conference in January by Topeka High's Advanced Theatre Ensemble and performed during a workshop session. Megan came back to Collegiate in April and was the props master for *Oliver Twist*. This summer she worked as an intern at Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy, continued her other job at a local retirement center, and took college algebra at Washburn. Megan made the KMEA (Kansas Music Educators Association) All-District Choir, and in July, the Kansas Choral Directors Association's Women's Honor Choir for the third year in a row. At the regional small ensemble and solo music festival in April, she sang with Topeka High's elite Madrigals, with the Madrigal women, and as a soloist, and scored superior ratings across the board. At the large ensemble festival, THS's Robed Choir received a 1 (superior), as did the Madrigal Woman at the state small ensemble festival. Megan is also on the Presbytery of Northern Kansas Youth Council.

CAITLIN SEALS SCHWANKE is a senior at Topeka West High School where she's active in drama and a member of the National Honor Society. Last year, Caitlin performed in the school musical *Urinetown* and in the plays *The Importance of Being Earnest* and

A Streetcar Named Desire, for which she also served as stage manager. In February she toured area elementary schools with the Topeka West Players in *Sleeping Beauty*.

This summer, she traveled to Colorado for backpacking and whitewater rafting, and also helped with TCS Nature Camp and Holes and Shoals. Because Caitlin hopes to someday teach biology and environmental studies, she is working at TCS with Ms. Baldwin in a career exploration independent study. She continues to dance with Ballet Midwest for another Nutcracker season, and had the opportunity this fall to do choreography for the Pops Concert at West. She performed in West's production of the mystery thriller *Nightmare* this fall.



The Topeka West Players, including alums Caitlin Seals Schwanke '03, Aimee Siebert (whose mom Kay teaches music at Collegiate), Drew Saylor (T) '03 and J.P. Rankin (T) '03 performed Sleeping Beauty for students at TCS

RYNE TUTUSKA is a senior at Topeka High School and a member of the National Honor Society. This summer, he traveled to Germany with his THS German class, and helped with a TCS basketball camp. Ryne was also one of only 50 students from around the state chosen to attend a four-day seminar at the Dole Institute of Politics at KU. Ryne continues to play on the tennis team, is anchor for Topeka High's channel 14 newscast, and editor of the school newspaper *The World's* op-ed page.

ERIC WANG is a senior at Topeka High, where he is serving as treasurer of the National Honor Society and playing varsity soccer. He's "just trying to make my busy life as chill as possible," he says, "I have a really hard schedule this year, so I have to study pretty hard." Eric plans to play tennis this year and help coach TCS's basketball team.

2004

ERIN ATWOOD is president of her junior class at Washburn Rural High School this year, so she has some important responsibilities – like prom! But Erin is used to leadership. Last year, she was sophomore class secretary and on STUCO's community service committee. She also played junior varsity volleyball and softball. In the volunteer arena, Erin still accompanies TCS's Junior Singing Fun choir, and volunteers with children who have Down Syndrome.

ELISE BARNETT (T) is a junior at Topeka High where she finished the fall tennis season with a third place win in the city meet. She also is currently enrolled at Washburn taking cultural anthropology.

CASSIDY CARPENTER is a junior at Phillips Academy-Andover where she made a bit of history when she was elected the first-ever junior captain of the volleyball team. It's quite an honor. Cassidy is the starting setter again this year and her team is currently undefeated. "We plan to stay that way!" resolves Cassidy. This summer Cassidy was accepted to the Brown University volleyball recruit camp but she was unable to go due to an injury. She's better and healthier now. Cassidy says junior year at Andover is incredibly difficult, but she wouldn't change it for the world. "I love it here," she says, "it's really home away from home." Cassidy is involved in two community service projects: She is a pen pal to a third grader in a local community,



Davis Wittig '03 hiked up Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with friends before returning to Deerfield Academy, where he's a junior this fall

whom she helps with English; and she meets with mentally and physically handicapped adults from the Andover community to play games and talk for a couple of hours a week. Cassidy says both projects are very rewarding. She's writing for the school newspaper this year and stays in close contact with her friends from Collegiate. "I recently saw **Caitlin Fitzpatrick '04** when we played volleyball (and won) at Choate," she says.



Cassidy Carpenter '04 is the first junior ever to be elected captain of the Phillips Academy-Andover varsity volleyball team

ELIZABETH BROWNBACK is a junior at Washburn Rural High School. She's been busy with stage work recently, including the kind of dramatic "understudy gets big break" scenario that usually only happens in movies. This summer, when another actress took sick and couldn't complete the role of Babe in Washburn University's production of *Crimes of the Heart*, Liz stepped into the part, learned the lines and blocking in under two weeks, and went on to complete the run in the best theatrical tradition. Liz says it was a very affirming experience, and she received a lot of positive feedback about her acting. She also performed on the Topeka Civic Theatre stage as a fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and was part of a traveling theater troupe that visited schools encouraging young people to express themselves. This summer, Liz took college courses online.

AUSTIN GIDEON is the all-school treasurer for STUCO at Washburn Rural High School and was elected by the junior class as a grade representative. He is co-



Liz Brownback '04 (center) plays a woman who shoots her senator husband in Washburn's production of Crimes of the Heart: courtesy Topeka Capital-Journal

chairing homecoming events for the school, as well as assisting on several other events throughout the year. Austin is president of the Young Republicans Club. Part of his responsibility is to coordinate speakers throughout the year to help guide club members as they focus on setting their goals, mission statement and recruitment of new members. They will participate in the Republican National Convention in the spring. Austin spent his summer working, attending tennis camps and playing tennis. He ended his summer by attending a three-week camp at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. While there he focused on advanced chemistry, calculus, creative writing, tennis and getting to know new friends.

ATIMA LUI is a junior at Phillips Academy-Andover. As a sophomore, she made the honor roll, although "it almost killed me," she says, and



Atima Lui '04 (front row, right) and members of SLAM, her Andover slamdance team, were invited to appear in a video

lettered in three varsity sports: volleyball, SLAM (slam dancing) and outdoor track. She also co-founded a group called CAFÉ or Cultural Awareness for Everyone. CAFÉ invites students of all backgrounds to get together over coffee to discuss issues of social and cultural diversity. The founders thought their first meeting might attract 60 people for an hour. Instead, it drew 120 people for four hours. Atima wrote and received a grant from the Abbott Foundation to study leadership of cultural diversity groups. She is, understandably, very excited about CAFÉ's future possibilities. During her sophomore year, Atima was on the varsity volleyball team's starting lineup. The team made the league finals and took second. This year, with **Cassidy Carpenter '04** as team captain, they're "gunning for first." Atima remembers as one of the highlights of last season the game the coach dedicated to her for helping the team in a come-from-behind win during which she set a

Tess Wilson and Jane Lee, both Class of '04, volunteer at TCS Summer Adventure Camps

new serving record with 32 of 34 serves, seven of them aces. "Many thanks to TCS volleyball coaches Lamb, Tilghman and Morales for helping me find my niche in the wonderful world of volleyball!" says Atima. In track, Atima earned first place on her team in both the triple jump and the high jump. She won a bronze medal in the league for the high jump and was happy to help her team to a first place finish for the first time in eight years. SLAM is an audition-only step dancing group that functions as the cheerleading squad. This year, the group was asked by a pair of New York artists to be part of a video exhibit exploring collaboration. The artists call themselves TYPE A, so it didn't hurt that the Andover

girls had a big "A" on the front of their uniforms. But they were also chosen because of their slam dance skills. The exhibit is on display at galleries in Andover and New York. This summer, Atima attended a four-week Spanish camp and went to a ten-day National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Houston.

KIRSTEN MARPLES is a junior at Topeka High School. Last year, she was on the varsity volleyball team and also lettered in music and academics. She played club





Shannon O'Shea (T) '06 and her sister Erika '04 delight a TCS audience with their bluegrass music

volleyball for the Topeka Elite Ducks in the winter, participated in the regional solo music festival and played the flute and piccolo in band. She also decided to take up the bass guitar. This summer Kirsten went to Germany with her German class.

KANDACE YEE is a junior at Washburn Rural High School and all-school vice-president. She is also a varsity cheerleader. This summer she helped with volleyball camp at TCS.

2005

SAM BIXLER BLASI (T) is a sophomore at Cair Paravel Latin School where he's playing football and playing a featured role in *Little Women* this fall. He also helps older sister **Laura '00** teach ballroom dancing at a local dance studio.

LINDSAY BRIER-SMITH is a sophomore at Topeka West High School. She dances with the Westsiders. Last spring she was a member of

the swim team and lists the 500 freestyle as her favorite event.

TYLER CHANAY is a sophomore at Topeka High School. As a freshman he was a member of the drumline, made the honor roll and performed in his church bell choir. This summer he was a counselor at vacation bible school, spent a week in Mexico and went to a Colorado adventure camp where he had a summer snowball fight and completed a 20-mile hike. He also logged many miles at the local skateboard park.

EVAN MIELKE is a sophomore at Free State High School in Lawrence. This summer he worked on the hike and bike staff at Camp Alexander in Lake George, Colorado.

CORI VIOLA (T) is a sophomore at Washburn Rural High School and very active in debate. She attended a two-week debate camp at KU this summer and is on the tournament circuit this fall. She is also in choir, played softball this summer, was on the Washburn Rural JV softball team last spring and is active in a number of different church activities. She played Lt. Brannigan in her high school production of *Guys and Dolls* last year.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Please send us your news!

If you don't see your news in this edition of *Collegiate Life*, it may mean we don't know how to get in touch with you. Please help us by sending us your current e-mail address, as that is our primary means of gathering alumni information. If you have just begun college, please let us know your school e-mail address. If you've changed your e-mail address in the past year or so, please send the new one. Simply e-mail your address to mloftus@topekacollegiate.org. *Collegiate Life* is published once a year in the fall. We gather alumni news during the summer, but we welcome and invite your news and updated address information any time.

Contributors

Thanks to the alums who contributed to this issue of *Collegiate Life*: **Alison Hill Tanner '86, Stacie Kossoy '97 and Adam Obley '95.** Thanks, too, to all of you who responded to our call for alumni news. If you are willing to help gather alumni news from your classmates, please contact Development Director Mary Loftus (228-0490; mloftus@topekacollegiate.org). Thank you.



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2200 SW Eveningside Drive
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Collegiate Life

Winter 2006

Written by: Mary Loftus

Design and production by: Lawson

Phillips Associates: LP, AM

Photos were submitted or taken by Mary Loftus unless otherwise credited.

Save the date!

Alumni Reunion

Wednesday, May 23

3:00 to 5:00 pm

Play basketball

Try your skill on the climbing wall.

Test your knowledge with alumni trivia!

Reconnect with teachers and old friends.

