

Collegiate *Life*

Alumni NEWSLETTER



FALL 09



Topeka Collegiate is Topeka's pre-kindergarten through eighth grade college preparatory school.



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SAVE THE DATES

Annual Auction

A Starry Night

Saturday, March 6, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Topeka Collegiate School

Graduation

Thursday, May 27, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Topeka Collegiate School

LEADING THE WAY 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

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CREDITS

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Design and production by: **Stacey Ink Marketing**

Class of 2009 cover photo by: **Nathan Ham**

Dear Friends of Topeka Collegiate School,

We are happy to collaborate on this letter, just as we have been collaborating since summer on stewarding Topeka Collegiate into the future. As our school approaches its fourth decade, we acknowledge our fine tradition of excellence, but we realize that we cannot simply rest on our laurels. We are partners in helping move our school forward as we recommit ourselves to our mission of preparing students for advanced education, successful careers and responsible citizenship through a commitment to academic excellence and humanitarian ideals.

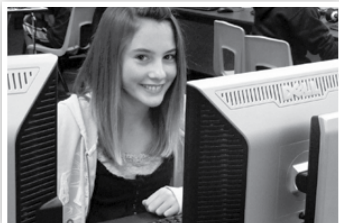
Our teachers are among the best anywhere. This school year, we have put in place a new faculty mentoring program to support new teachers. Collaboration among faculty members is flourishing as they continue their commitment to meet children's individual learning needs.

We have aligned the math and guided reading curricula in lower school. Our teachers are engaged in a new staff development program focused on peer observations, self-reflection and ongoing professional growth.

As part of the Board of Trustees' and administration's commitment to continued positive growth, we are researching best practices at other schools to make sure we deliver our curriculum in the most effective way, always with students at the center of the learning experience.

Topeka Collegiate School cultivates the next generation of leaders through a rigorous academic curriculum, character development, and a commitment to equity and justice. This year's middle school students are reaching out to the broader community with a caring spirit and an active willingness to serve. Students are volunteering throughout the year, at charities serving homeless families, the aged, sick children, needy Topekans and animals in need of care. Underpinning this outreach, we have instituted a new leadership curriculum in the middle school this year.

Topeka Collegiate alumni continue to make us proud in a remarkable variety of pursuits. You will see in the pages of this newsletter, they are leaders in their high schools, colleges and beyond. Our graduates are known for their broad and varied interests and deep knowledge base. They are successful entrepreneurs, physicians, teachers, parents, medical researchers, musicians, government workers, business people and artists. They are proof that our students develop competencies not just for their next educational step, but for life.



Eighth grader Alexandra Millhuff enjoys computer lab improvements

Recognizing that to be competitive in a global society, students today need the skills for tomorrow, we thank the *Building Futures One Child at a Time* capital campaign and the Parent Council for making possible crucial advances in technology. We replaced antiquated equipment in the computer lab with flat screen monitors and faster, more powerful computers. Teachers have new laptop or tablet computers and new LCD projectors. We are also piloting interactive white board technology, and teachers are excited about the new possibilities for engaging students.

Thank you for the many ways you support our school and our students. Please stop by any time.

Educationally yours,



Photograph: Nathan Ham

Dick Patterson

Dick Patterson
Head of School



Photograph: Nathan Ham

Sonja Czarnecki

Sonja Czarnecki
Director of Staff Development

Alumna Achieves Dream AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY



Sjobor Hammer '06 wins prestigious History Day award and scholarship

When **Sjobor Hammer** '06 reached the stage at the National History Day awards ceremony in College Park, Maryland in

June, tears were streaming down her face. Tears of joy, relief, disbelief and elation. A short time before, Sjobor had been dejected when she learned she took eighth place in her senior individual documentary category. Then her name was called as the winner of the David Van Tassel Founder's Award, National History Day's most prestigious award. "It was really emotional," she remembers. "It took a few seconds to register because we (Sjobor and her mom) weren't even going to hope. So we tried to walk down the stairs, and we were shaking, and I had tears running down my face."

Most History Day competitors would be delighted with an eighth place finish, but Sjobor worried it might knock her out of

contention for the Founder's Award, which is not only the top award at National History Day, but includes a full-tuition scholarship to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Sjobor has had her eye on that scholarship "ever since I heard about History Day." Fortunately, the judges took into consideration Sjobor's remarkable History Day record, which includes five years of participation, four at nationals.

With partner **Anna Hamilton** '06, Sjobor finished second and first, respectively, as a TCS seventh and eighth grader in the junior group documentary category. Going solo in high school, Sjobor finished first in the nation in the senior documentary category in 2008. This year, her senior individual documentary was titled "*With Dignity and Purpose*": Ron Walters and the Dockum Drug Store Sit-In.

Sjobor is not the first Topeka Collegiate alum to win the Founder's Award and Case Western Reserve University scholarship. **John Freeman** '98 won the top prize in 2001.

Winning Exhibit

ON PERMANENT DISPLAY



Cooper Self '09 donates museum quality exhibit to American Legion

Recent Topeka Collegiate graduate **Cooper Self** '09 took second place in the nation in the individual exhibit category at June's National History Day contest with his exhaustively-researched project *Harry Colmery Writes the First G.I. Bill: The Making of the American Middle Class*. Cooper estimates he spent 150-200 hours doing primary source research at the Kansas State Historical Society Library, poring over Harry Colmery's personal papers, including drafts of the G.I. Bill.

Cooper says the moments before the winners were announced were nerve-racking. He recalls hearing the words, "In second place, from Topeka, Kansas..." and thinking, "Oh my gosh, I think that's me!" By the time they announced his name, Cooper says, "I was halfway down there."

Shortly after the National History Day competition, Cooper made good on a promise that will ensure many more people learn about Harry Colmery's role in the landmark G.I. Bill. He donated his award-winning exhibit to the Kansas headquarters of the American Legion where it is now on permanent display after a trip to the National American Legion Convention.

Congratulations to seventh grader **Ella Brown Richards** who competed at National History Day in the individual performance category.

This year's History Day theme was "The Individual in History." TCS students spend months researching and completing their projects. In the process, they develop the deep knowledge base and research skills that help equip them for success when they advance to high school, college and beyond.

MEMBERS OF TCS CLASS OF 2005 DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES



Ali Dattilo '05

Two of the three student speakers at Topeka High School's 2009 graduation ceremony were Topeka Collegiate alumni. **Ali Dattilo '05** was class valedictorian. Ali described Topeka High as a microcosm of the world: "Topeka High, with its various races, cultures, religions and broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds, while not entirely without its conflicts, seems to rise above the divisive biases that afflict the world at large. So what is responsible for this difference? The answer is knowledge, the kind which breeds understanding. The difference is a mindset with the willingness to learn about, and embrace, the unknown."

"So as we leave here today a few years older and already a great deal wiser, I would encourage each and every one of my fellow students to bring with them into the world the lessons that diversity and tolerance have taught us."

"Remember, each of you has the power to affect not only your own lives, but also the lives of those around you. Embrace diversity, commit yourselves to the principle of tolerance, and finally, know that in doing so, each of you will contribute to a more harmonious humankind."



Michael Myers '05

Topeka High Senior Class President **Michael Myers '05** urged his fellow graduates to take the lessons they learned in high school with them wherever they go. "Our class is one of great potential and the microcosm

that is Topeka High has prepared us well for the real world. I look forward to reading the newspaper or watching TV and witnessing the future accomplishments of this remarkable group of people. I believe the great Rat Pack singer Frank Sinatra had the Class of 2009 in mind when he sang, 'You ain't seen nothing yet, the best is yet to come.'"

Ali is a freshman at the University of Chicago. Michael, who was honored as a National Merit Commended Scholar and a National Hispanic Scholar, is a freshman in the Kansas University Honors Program.

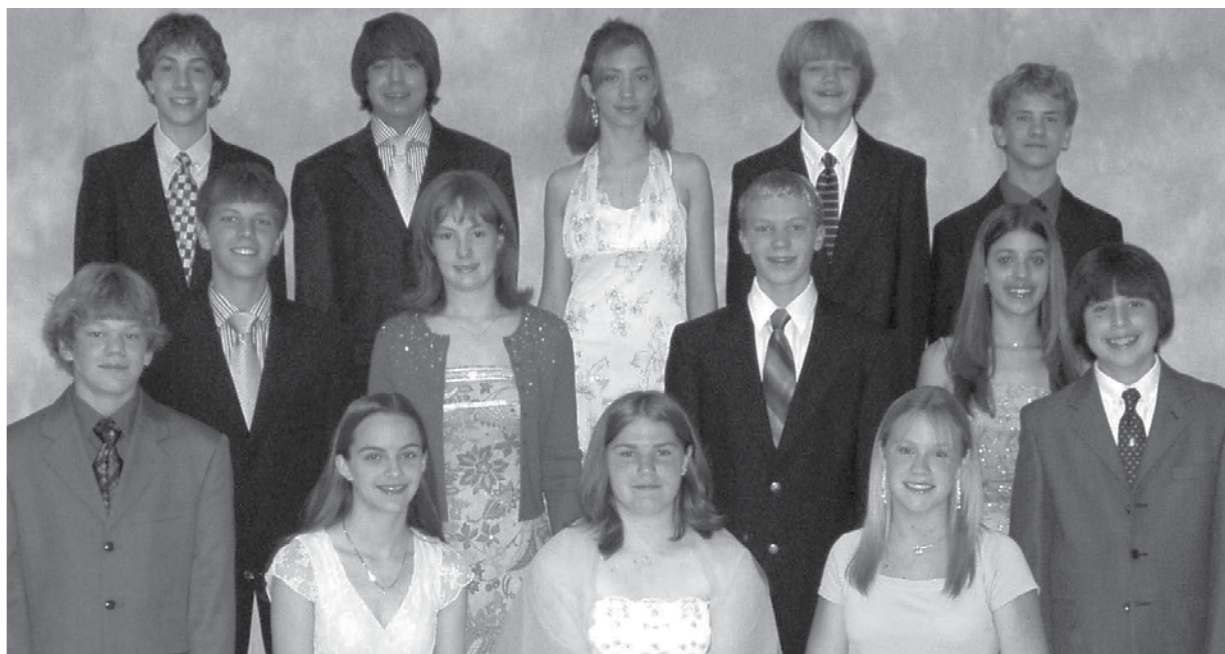


Hunter Ellsworth '05 (T) with Mrs. Hoyt

Hunter Ellsworth '05 (T) graduated from Topeka West in three years, and went on to Kansas State University a year ahead of his classmates. At the end of his freshman year, he was honored as a National Merit Scholar and awarded scholarship money. Hunter has excelled in math and science since seventh grade. He credits Topeka Collegiate math teacher Phyllis Hoyt and his AP classes with his success. Hunter plans to major in math, physics and nuclear engineering.

These young people demonstrate why Topeka Collegiate graduates are recognized as tomorrow's leaders: skilled, knowledgeable, principled, well-equipped for their next educational step, and ready to be competitive in a global society.

GRADS GOING PLACES CLASS OF 2005 COLLEGE CHOICES



Graduation Day, 2005

Steven Anderson

Missouri University of Science and Technology: Rolla, Missouri

Lindsay Brier-Smith

Washburn University: Topeka

Tyler Chanay

Kansas University: Lawrence

Wiseman Scholarship – Washburn University

Alexandra Dattilo

University of Chicago: Chicago, Illinois

Robert Hamilton

Kansas State University: Manhattan

Bondy Kaye

Kansas State University: Manhattan

Daniel Lessenden

Washburn University: Topeka

Mary Kelly McKenzie

Kansas State University: Manhattan

John A. McKenzie Scholarship – Kansas State University

Evan Mielke

Kansas University: Lawrence

Michael Myers

Kansas University: Lawrence

Kansas National Hispanic Scholarship – University of Kansas

Dean's Scholarship – University of Kansas

Diversity Scholarship – University of Kansas

CSM Merit Scholarship – Colorado School of Mines

National Hispanic Scholarship – University of Arizona

National Hispanic Scholarship – Arizona State University

Recognition Scholarship – Texas A&M University

YEK Business Plan Winner Scholarship

Laura Politi

Kansas University: Lawrence

Manuel Pusitz Scholarship

Corrine Viola (T)

Kansas University: Lawrence

Haydan Vosburgh

Oklahoma State University: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Seth Wiley

Kansas University: Lawrence

TOPEKA COLLEGIATE Goes Global

Two Topeka Collegiate alumni were caught up in recent high-profile international news events of the past six months, a third experienced first-hand the ongoing phenomenon of globalization. Here are their stories.



ON THE GROUND IN HONDURAS

Andy Brownback '02 in Honduras

by **Andy Brownback '02**

Andy Brownback is a senior at Kansas State University. This summer he was part of an exchange program at the Panamerican School of Agriculture at Zamorano, outside Tegucigalpa, Honduras. On June 29, he found himself just a few miles from an unfolding military coup.

Students at the Panamerican School of Agriculture at Zamorano awoke Sunday to little indication of the unrest just 30 kilometers, or 19 miles, to the west.

Slowly news filtered in that the president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, or “Mel,” had been arrested and exiled by the country’s military.

Zelaya’s arrest comes after a week of controversy surrounding a referendum vote proposed by the deposed president. The referendum, critics claim, was an attempt by Zelaya to remove the term limits on his office. Similar moves have been made by the leftist governments of Venezuela and Cuba.

The official university warning said that all security precautions would be taken but classes

would continue as normal. However, since all students reside on campus, the bulletin mandated that students not leave for any reason except medical emergencies.

The response to the news by students at the university was remarkably disinterested. The majority of students come from Latin American countries in the region, all of which are accustomed to varying degrees of civil unrest.

“I guess you’ll just have to stay and help me clean the room a couple more weeks,” said Marcos Guaraca, my Ecuadorian roommate.

Exchange students are understandably slightly more concerned.

Honduras’ larger newspapers reported unconfirmed, dramatic stories of violence around the country. *El Heraldo* published a story of rural farmers struggling against Nicaraguan and Venezuelan troops near the town of El Paraso. These stories further excited the stress on foreigners with little experience in civil unrest.

On campus there were few signs of the strife outside the gates of the university. The only noticeable difference was the newly erected chain-link fences barricading the two main entrances to the school. Outside of these gates the military set up a roadblock on the Pan-American Highway at which it was inspecting all traffic. When I approached to take pictures, I was ushered quickly back to the university property.

Coming from stable, Western societies, many exchange students thought the military's response to the referendum was excessive. The actions, however, appear differently when viewed from a non-Western point of view.

While the situation may be considered dangerously critical by Western standards, the response of traditional students at Zamorano more accurately reveals the perceived severity of the situation.

"No me importa mucho," said one. ("It doesn't matter to me much.")

The coup forced Andy to cancel his plans to scuba dive in the Caribbean and he flew home a bit earlier than originally planned. "Obviously, I made it out of Honduras fine but it was a little sketchy at times," he says. "The ex-president was making more and more noise internationally and that was causing some protests and rioting. On top of that, Zelaya, was talking about flying back into Honduras soon and we knew that if he did they would shut down the airport, making it impossible for him to enter or, consequently, for me to leave. I flew out on July 3, just a couple days before Zelaya did come back and they did shut down the airport, so I felt vindicated for leaving early."



Kaitlin Hannigan '08 quarantined in China

QUARANTINED IN CHINA

by **Kaitlin Hannigan '08**

*Kaitlin Hannigan sat near a man with the H1N1 virus on a 14-hour flight to China this summer. As a result, her 12-day educational tour with fellow TCS alum **Seth Wiley '05** and other high school students turned out nothing like she had planned. Kaitlin communicated with her family and friends on Facebook.*

JUNE 10, 2009

When we landed, a bunch of people in full white body suits, goggles and masks came on the plane and took all of our temperatures. It was really weird.

Kaitlin thought she was in the clear until the following day.

Ms. J. (the trip chaperone) pulled me aside and told me not to be alarmed, but we had some trouble. All I could think was, "uh oh." I started to get a little worried.

Kaitlin was told she would be leaving her group and would be quarantined at another hotel for a week.

I was freaked out and had a million thoughts racing through my head. Mostly I kept thinking this was a joke. I mean how could they send a 15-year-old girl who doesn't speak Chinese by herself to a random hotel in China for a week? I was honestly really scared. When it all hit me I started crying.

Kaitlin called her mother and broke the news, then said goodbye to her group and rode in an ambulance to the quarantine hotel.

I stepped off the elevator and met the first nice people so far. They felt really bad because I was alone. It was pathetic but they said not to worry, they were like that the first day, too. I'm not allowed to leave. They won't run the air conditioning (for fear of spreading contamination) and it's so incredibly hot in the hotel. You have to wear a mask or they yell at you. This whole thing is really sci fi. The only cool thing is that they have Internet, although there are only three computers and the computers are in Chinese and you have to ask every five minutes so they can make it type in English.

JUNE 12, 2009

I made it to day 3! I've definitely had a lot of ups and down. We aren't allowed to get outside food anymore. All I've eaten for the last few days is pretty much rice and bread. (*Kaitlin is vegetarian.*) They don't have any vegetables.

On the bright side, I actually saw people go today! They got released! There was a large crowd gathered in the lobby to watch them go. I'm really happy for them and hope my departure is as smooth as theirs looked.

JUNE 14, 2009

I get out in two days. I'm so excited! I ate a vegetable today for the first time in a week! I could have leaped with joy. I was with a group of high schoolers a few days ago and we went to the front desk and brought up the food situation. Sure enough, today on the menu were sweet beans and pumpkin. The real shocker was the fries. They weren't technically French fries, since they were labeled "baked slices of thin potato with tomato sauce." They were fairly good. Let me just say, this was the best meal I have had yet! Can't wait for freedom!!!

On June 16, Kaitlin was released and rejoined her tour group in Hong Kong, where she enjoyed two days of sightseeing before flying home. She never showed symptoms or tested positive for H1N1.



Dan Thompson '01 in Tiananmen Square

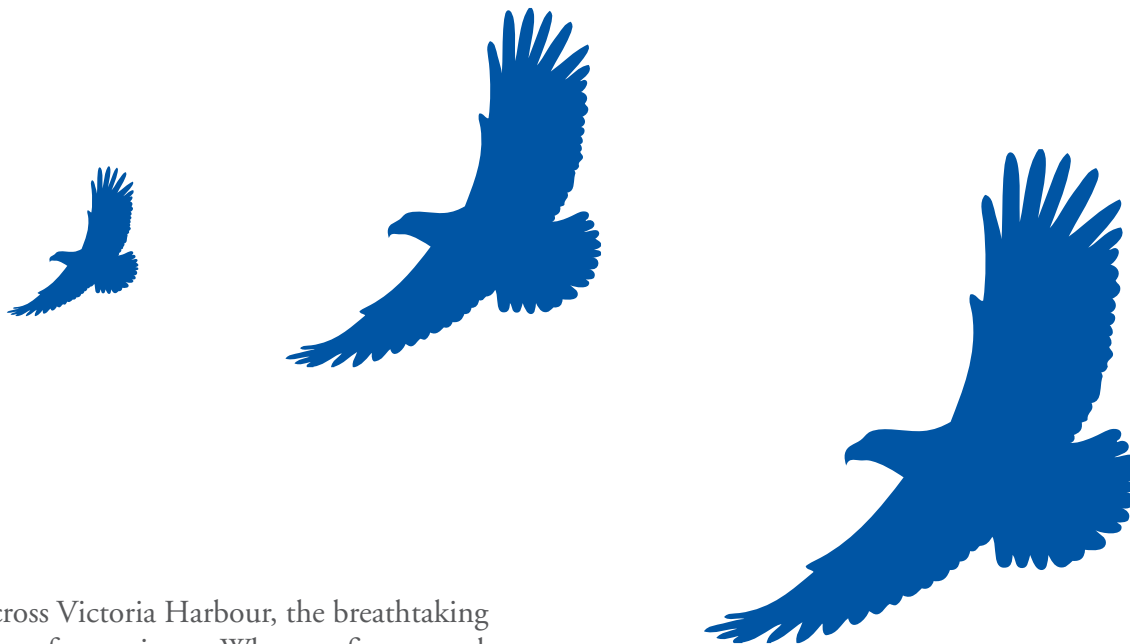
STUDYING ABROAD

by **Dan Thompson '01**

I recall fondly the way Lee Zhaorong and his girlfriend would sit hand in hand at his dorm-room desk watching video lectures of Thomas Friedman. He would explain to me exuberantly how his laptop was designed in Austin by engineers educated in California, financed by a British bank founded in Shanghai, and assembled in a Taiwanese-owned factory in Guangdong with parts manufactured in Singapore. "You see," he exclaimed. "We are all in this together."

Lee Zhaorong was my roommate at Hong Kong University, where I studied abroad for a semester my junior year of college. I will certainly not be the first college student to extol the life-changing virtues of studying abroad, but, hedging against cliché, permit me to conclude that it did transform my view of the world in a remarkable way, and my friendship with Zhaorong epitomized the value of immersing oneself in a foreign culture on another part of the planet.

We lived in a cramped ninth floor dorm room overlooking the university's campus, and beyond it, the shimmering steel and plate-glass Oz of the financial district, and still farther



out, across Victoria Harbour, the breathtaking presence of a continent. When we first moved in together, it was not immediately clear that we would connect on anything more than a superficial level. We came from starkly different backgrounds. He'd grown up in Hangzhou, a crowded city of six million people two hours southwest of Shanghai. I'd grown up in Topeka, of course, which is no metropolis.

I soon came to respect Zhaorong as a courteous roommate, as a dedicated scholar, and eventually, as a trusted friend. Despite our disparate origins, it became clear that we had much in common. We bonded over Starcraft, a computer strategy game popular among the adolescent males of China as well as the United States. We found common ground on more substantive issues, too. We maintained an ongoing dialogue about economics, international relations and Chinese politics.

When I would criticize the authoritarian rule of the Communist Party, he would respond with well-reasoned explanations of the regime's actions. Memories of the brutal civil war and social upheaval were still fresh in the country's psyche. This regime had restored stability and lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty, but this progress was still precarious. For now, they could not afford the luxury of personal freedoms. I was compelled to scrutinize my

own civic piety and, for the first time in my life, to truly stand up for the democratic values that I have inherited as an American.

One thing we could agree on was the value of globalization, but also the daunting challenges facing our generation in our increasingly interconnected world – the specter of nuclear proliferation, climate change and financial crisis. We agreed that the international cooperation necessary to overcome these threats must be founded upon mutual interest and respect.

Zhaorong now studies at the London School of Economics, and we exchange letters often. He recently wrote to me, "I enjoy a lot about globalization. This is why I am here in England, and it's why you came to Asia, and I was lucky to know you."

I know that the reality of college is still unfathomably far away for the students of Topeka Collegiate, but it is never too early to consider studying abroad, and with luck, they will establish their own international friendships.

TCS PATHFINDER ADDRESSES

Class of 2009



Photograph: Nathan Ham

Brad Garlinghouse '85 was one of 43 students who walked through the doors when our school opened in 1982. In May he addressed the graduating class just months before being named President of Internet and Mobil Communications at AOL. (see p. 15) Here are excerpts from his commencement remarks:

"There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom. David Foster Wallace - a noteworthy author - gave a commencement address where he told this story: There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way. The older fish nods at them and says, 'Morning, boys. How's the water?' The two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes 'What the heck is water?'

"The point of the fish story is merely that the most obvious, the most important realities are often the ones that are hardest to see. I believe one of the most important things you can take away as you head to high school is to realize that knowledge or information - what we perceive to be facts - what you learn every day - is by itself different than wisdom.

"A friend described to me the following: Wisdom can best be compared to something like frequent flyer miles. If you are lucky enough to accumulate it, it kind of happens by accident - more like a by-

product to something else you are trying to do. You can't go out and say, I want to be wiser, I want to acquire wisdom. It is the accumulation of all of your experiences - that can then be cashed in - not for a free flight to Europe - but for a lifetime of better judgment!

"School for me - in retrospect was at least as much about teaching me how to think, and how to learn, as it was about teaching me things - or accumulating knowledge. Unfortunately, it takes that wiser, and almost always older fish to swim by and ask 'how's the water' before we realize the difference between our knowledge and their wisdom.

"Find the courage to leave the comfortable water you find yourself swimming in throughout your life - the courage to learn from experiences that are not comfortable and to say the things that sometimes are not comfortable to say. I left the waters of Kansas, more recently I left the waters of Yahoo. Each time it has been - and no doubt will continue to be tumultuous - change is hard. But each decision led to new opportunities I could not have seen from the comfort of my previous pond or stream. Today, I remember the challenges as much as I remember the successes. And I'm nostalgic for both.

"As I conclude today - my wish for all of you is just that. A high school experience of challenges and successes. A college experience of challenges and successes. I wish you a life of failure and a life of victories. Make sure you fall down. Make sure you have the courage to break something occasionally - even if, regrettably, hopefully not more than once or twice, it's your heart. As I reflect, I know my mistakes have been necessary. I am a better person and I'm certain have a brighter future ahead because of every mistake I have made. I still regret some - even some I made as far back as eighth grade. But know that your mistakes are as important in choosing your path forward as are your successes. I can promise you this: you'll acquire more than frequent flyer miles along the way."

Congratulations CLASS of 2009

Blair Leslie Armstrong	Washburn Rural High School
Alexandria Laverne Barber	Topeka High School
Megan Renee Beard	Washburn Rural High School
Ryan Edward Brinker	Topeka High School
Christine Noel Ebeling	Topeka High School
Bailey Evans	Topeka High School
Cody Ray James	Shawnee Heights High School
Connor James Kean	Washburn Rural High School
Edwin Ray Linquist III	Washburn Rural High School
Cain Alexander Mathis	McCallie School Chattanooga, Tennessee
Riley Susan Mickelsen	Topeka High School
Luke Christopher Miltz	Washburn Rural High School
Mackenzie Grace Morrison	Topeka High School
Robert Noah Oswald	Washburn Rural High School
Meredith Ricks	Topeka High School
Devin Catherine Rot	Hayden High School
Cooper Lane Self	Topeka High School
Marshall Conor Sheetz	Topeka High School
Christopher James Shields	Barron Collier High School Naples, Florida
Natalie Jane Shinn	Washburn Rural High School
Samuel James Tillona	Frontier Regional High School South Deerfield, Massachusetts
Joseph Christian Vosburgh	Topeka High School
Alix Hannah Welch	Washburn Rural High School
Hannah Logen Wilson	Washburn Rural High School
Anne Elisabeth Wyre	Topeka High School

TOPEKA COLLEGIATE Class of 2009



Photograph: Nathan Ham



Class Notes

(T) indicates students who transferred before graduation.

1985

Brad Garlinghouse (T) was named President of Internet and Mobil Communications at AOL in September. He is spearheading AOL's global efforts to expand the reach of its e-mail and instant messaging, and heading up AOL's Silicon Valley operations while serving as the West Coast lead for the company's venture capital arm. AOL chairman and CEO Tim Armstrong describes Brad as "an all-star in the Internet industry with an unparalleled background and proven track record." As the TCS graduation speaker in May, Brad urged the Class of 2009 to "Find the courage to leave the comfortable water you find yourself swimming in throughout your life – the courage to learn from experiences that are not comfortable and to say the things that sometimes are not comfortable to say." (*more on p. 12*) In his free time, Brad participates in triathlons and is a private pilot. He lives in Menlo Park with his wife and three children.

1988



Michelle Grim Caban '88 (T) and family

Michelle Grim Caban (T) and her husband Aqui welcomed daughter Abigail Rose on April 30. She joins older brothers Decklin and Nolan, seven and four. Aqui is a major in the Air Force and the family is stationed in the United Kingdom. Michelle says, "We are enjoying having a little pink around and the boys are delighted to have a baby sister to look after."

1990



Matt Garlinghouse '90 and his bride Katie Sween

Matt Garlinghouse married **Katie Sween** on August 8 on Gull Lake in Nisswa, Minnesota. Brothers **Brad** '85 and Mark were best men, with Head of School Dick Patterson serving as an usher. Matt's sister Meg introduced him to Katie several years ago and he anticipates "she will forever hold it over my head." Back in San Francisco, after Matt spent 16 months on the effort, the city has approved a contract to buy the power produced from a 5 megawatt solar project developed by Recurrent Energy, the company Matt co-founded in 2006. When operational, in early 2010, it will be the largest solar photovoltaic system in California, covering the size of seven football fields with 25,000 solar modules, and generating the power used by 1,000 San Francisco residences.



Kansas Waugh '90 on Father's Day with daughter Rita

Kansas Waugh is clearly enjoying fatherhood. He reports that one-year-old Rita dressed up as

a Great Grey Owl for Halloween. Her parents accompanied her dressed in full, 3D camo as “the forest habitat.” (Her mama spent all night cutting and sewing the costume.) Rita is a speed walker now and is using sign language to ask for “more” of anything. She is reported to have said the word “airplane,” although her parents can’t verify this, but won’t put it past her.

1991

Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Megan McBride Franz** (T) whose death in January we report with sorrow.

Keith Liesmann is the newest member of the Topeka Collegiate Board of Trustees. Keith is the third alum to be elected a trustee and the second on the



Keith Liesmann '91 joins the Board of Trustees

current board. He and fellow trustee **Alison Hill Langham** '86 have something else in common - both are second generation Topeka Collegiate trustees whose fathers served on the board. Keith is proud to be a member of the first class to go all the way from pre-k through eighth grade at TCS. “I’m looking forward to giving back to a place that’s had such a great impact on my life,” he says. Keith is General Sales Manager at Cumulus Broadcasting in Topeka. He and his wife Monique have one daughter.

1994

Brooke Borel is a freelance science writer living in Brooklyn, in a predominantly Polish

neighborhood called Greenpoint. Brooke’s work has appeared in *Popular Science*, *Cosmos* and *G* - the last two Australian magazines. Check out her work at www.brookeborel.com.



Nicole Hoherz Williams '94 flies with the Thunderbirds

Nicole Hoherz Williams and her husband Hart live in Salt Lake City where he is an account executive at a software company and she is a reporter and anchor at the local Fox TV station. A recent highlight: flying with the Thunderbirds in an F-16, experiencing aerial maneuvers and 9.4 Gs.



Haley Roembach-Clark Scharf '95 (T) and family

1995

Haley Roembach-Clark Scharf (T) and her husband Roger welcomed daughter Anna Miriam to the world on March 26.

Samantha Crow spent the last year exploring: reading good books, seeing the world, and thinking about what to do next. She lived all over: in Topeka, then Washington, DC, then on Oahu, in Hawaii. She attended the presidential inauguration and visited ancient Greece. Along the way, she says, “I learned that

I'm not very good at graphic design or stock trading or surfing, and I made career plans only to abandon them and make new ones. Recently I've been working hard to deplete the world's supply of sunscreen while I wait for the travel bug to leave my system." Apparently that hasn't happened yet. Samantha is now living in Japan.



Stacy Elmer '95 with First Lady Michelle Obama and Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Stacy Elmer received her master's degree in philosophy from the University of Kansas in May. She then moved with her dog Sterling and cats Dr. Tom and Louisiana to Washington, where she's working long hours for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Bioterrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response. She is "completely consumed by responding to the H1N1 pandemic."



Patrick Newbery '95 (T) (second from left) on tour with band Cursive

Patrick Newbery (T) has been touring with the band Cursive since the first of the year, and by mid-December will have performed in more

than 85 cities in the US, Canada, the UK and Japan. The tour even included an appearance in Lawrence. The band made its network TV debut on *The Late Show with David Letterman* on March 13 (*Google "Letterman Cursive" to see it.*) Patrick's primary instrument is trumpet but he also plays keyboard. When not on tour, Patrick lives in Chicago where he performs in the jazz quintet Herculaneum and the folk rock group Lacona. He has numerous recording credits with those and other groups.

Adam Obley is serving an internal medicine residency at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. He is considering fellowships in general internal medicine with a focus on health policy, hematology and oncology or infectious disease.

Ben Straus and his wife Emily recently bought a house in the Twin Cities where they live with their two children. The older, Sophia, attends kindergarten at a Spanish immersion school.

1996

Lesley Ash has moved from New York City to Ohio to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting and museum studies at the University of Cincinnati. In New York she worked for an architecture firm and freelanced art projects for musicians and an HIV/AIDS awareness non-profit group in Africa. She even won two silver medals at the New York State Taekwondo Championships.

Kerstin Nordstrom is in graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and plans to graduate in the spring with a Ph.D. in physics. After that, she is considering various post-doctoral studies and plans to travel to New Orleans, Belize and the northwest.

1997

Ben Bammes

and his wife Stephanie are the proud parents of Elliott Nathanael, born February 17 in Houston. He is their first child and the first grandchild for longtime TCS second grade teacher Ruth Bammes. Ben says “Every bit of free time I have is spent playing with him.” Ben is a fourth year graduate student in biophysics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and will earn his Ph.D. in two years. He stays busy as a music leader at church, a director of his neighborhood association, and an IT consultant on the side. His wife Stephanie is a literacy coordinator at an elementary school in Alvin, a Houston suburb.



Ben Bammes '97 with son Elliott



Katherine Garlinghouse '97 with brother Pere '00 after Model UN address

Katherine Garlinghouse lives in San Francisco and has moved into a new position at Chevron – advisor in the Policy, Government and Public Affairs group. Katherine spent a month in Beijing last year as Olympics program manager for Chevron. It was hard work but not without its thrilling moments. “It seems cliché to say that I witnessed history,” Katherine says, “but that is the only way to describe seeing Usain Bolt break a longstanding track and field record and Michael Phelps win one of

his eight gold medals.” Katherine returned to Topeka in March to deliver the keynote address at Model United Nations, and came back in May for her brother **Pere's** '99 graduate school commencement at K-State. She just completed a year as chairman of the San Francisco Junior League's marketing committee.

Stacie Kossoy taught two years at KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) DC: LEAP Academy in Washington and has been awarded a fellowship to open her own KIPP Early Childhood School in DC. KIPP is a national network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public schools serving underserved communities. To prepare to open her own school, Stacie is spending this year in leadership development with 15 colleagues. She is traveling the country visiting excellent elementary schools to help her design her school plan. She'll be back in the nation's capitol in January to prepare to open her school. She says, “I'd love to hear from any TCS graduates who are interested in teaching pre-k in DC!”

Jared Nance is working on his Ph.D. in Experimental Nuclear Physics at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Sarah Temple graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School in May and is serving an Emergency Medicine residency at Tampa General Hospital. Reunited with her husband Angus after spending her medical school years in a different state, Sarah reports the two are living quite happily with their dachshund puppy and two cats in Bradenton, Florida.

1998

Alex Bleiberg is just back from spending a year and a half in London working at a college. He's living in Minneapolis and looking for a new job while doing some contract work for his London employers.

Jacqueline Castel directs music videos and works as a freelance designer for films and TV in New York. She started a film production company, Future Primitive Films, to launch her own projects. Jacqueline also books and promotes bands and film screenings. She recently visited relatives in southern France and traveled to Japan to research her first narrative feature film.



Akhila '98 (T) and Shruti Challa '01 reunite in Topeka for a Diwali celebration

Akhila Challa (T) graduated from medical school in December. Her residency begins in July. In the meantime, she's learning the family businesses (Kansas Medical Clinic, Maximus and Wood Valley fitness centers), and starting a new e-commerce company. Akhila is also considering graduate school and continuing her work as a community volunteer. This year that included a Kansas City psoriasis walk and Topeka's India Fest, which raised money for Florence Crittenton Services.



John Freeman '98 and fiancée Kim Hiller

John Freeman and his bride-to-be seem to have an affinity for "big" days. He proposed to Kimberly Hiller on Christmas Day, 2008, and the two are engaged to be married on her

25th birthday in April. John is working as an account manager at the Chicago IT company CDW. Kim is a registered nurse at Chicago's Resurrection Life Center. John says a highlight of the past year (in addition to his engagement) was being an eyewitness to history as part of the crowd in Grant Park the night Barack Obama won the presidency.



Hannah Gatlin Anthony's '98 daughter Katharine Elizabeth

Hannah Gatlin Anthony married Michael Anthony in 2007 in Louisville where both are employed by the University of Louisville as they work toward completing degrees, hers in workforce leadership, his a Ph.D. in educational leadership. They are the parents of Katharine Elizabeth, born on August 29, who Hannah describes as "the most patient, peaceful baby I've ever encountered." The family lives, with dog Trio, in New Albany, Indiana.



Rachael Greene is now Rachael Sokoloff

Rachael Greene married Gabriel Sokoloff November 21 in Los Angeles. The two met when they were students at Brown University. Rachael is a law student at the University of Southern California. Her husband is a composer.

Dave Kelly (T) is working as an assistant producer at The 7th Floor, a New York film production company. Dave was fortunate enough to attend the premiere of his company's film *The Missing Person* at the Sundance Film Festival this year. Dave urges the TCS community to check out another of his company's films, *The Cake Eaters*, directed by Mary Stuart Masterson. Dave is developing an original Internet series called *What Lurks Beyond*, an anthology of short horror films, which he hopes will go into production before the end of the year.

Derek Moeller founded and runs an IT company in Chicago, and employed fellow TCS alum **Chris Wolfe** '99 for a time before Chris headed overseas to study.



Mack Schroer '98 with self-portrait

Mack Schroer graduated from Washburn University with a fine arts degree last year, then served a three-month internship in digital 3D modeling at Sony Online Entertainment in Seattle. For the past eight months, Mack has been dividing his time between Topeka and Seattle, doing freelance illustration and graphic design. Along the way, he's learned silk screening technique and produced some Harley Davidson t-shirt designs.

Allison Viola accepted Brian Loftus' proposal of marriage during a San Francisco vacation in March. They are planning a summer wedding in Lawrence, Kansas, where they met as KU students. The couple lives in Dallas. Brian works for a major advertising agency and

Allison teaches fifth grade at the Title I public elementary school where she taught sixth grade last year. She says one of her proudest accomplishments is having all her students pass the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills). "If there are any other TCS alums in Texas," she says, "they understand the high stakes of this controversial test in Texas public schools." In her free time, Allison volunteers for a charity called Baal Dan that helps needy children in India. She and Brian adopted a Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog named Tex and enjoy taking him to the dog park. Extra points for anyone who's heard of this breed before, says Allison!

Chris Yorke is in year two of architecture school at Princeton, with one year to go. He characterizes Princeton as "challenging, but also rewarding." Chris visited his family in Topeka this summer and relaxed in Santa Cruz, California with his girlfriend before heading back east to do some independent research before classes began. In the spring, the book to which Chris contributed photos and text appeared in bookstores. "I did a tree house expedition in Brazil, Australia, India and Thailand," he says. The photos and some of Chris' journal entries appear in the book *New Tree Houses of the World* by Pete Nelson.

1999

Neal Cullen lives in Boise, Idaho with his wife Laura and 21-month-old son Kane. They enjoy the outdoors, camping in the summer and the winter snow in the mountains. The couple bought a house and are remodeling. Says Laura, "It's coming along nicely, but boy, has it taken some time!"

Emily Einspahr works for the healthcare IT company Cerner in Kansas City as a delivery consultant and travels to client cities like Miami as part of her job. This summer she vacationed in Greece, visiting Athens and the islands of Naxos, Paros and Santorini.



Maria Maldonado '99 (second from right) joins fellow Teach for America veteran Abby Brownback '00 (second from left) for TCS presentation

Maria Maldonado taught two years of English in Houston as part of Teach for America – an experience she shared with Topeka Collegiate middle school students this fall. Maria says Teach For America gave her the opportunity to give back to the community in a meaningful way, using her excellent education to give others a chance to have an excellent education. Maria is in Kansas City taking a pre-med course requirement and applying to medical schools.

Chris Wolfe is studying computer programming at the University of Kiel in northern Germany. Before heading abroad, he worked remotely from Lawrence for fellow TCS alumnus **Derek Moeller** '98, who started his own IT company in Chicago.

2000

Allie Atwood graduated from KU in December of 2008 and moved to Dallas to work at Stephens, Inc. as an investment bank analyst. When she isn't working, she enjoys running and tries to take advantage of the great weather. Allie also enjoys checking out the great shopping and restaurants in Dallas. She is looking forward to being a bridesmaid in TCS classmate **Ashley Giroux's** '00 wedding in the spring.

Abby Brownback is pursuing a master's degree in journalism at the University of Maryland after teaching middle school math for two

years in Houston as a Teach for America corps member. In conjunction with her master's degree coursework, Abby is researching and writing as an intern for the Nation desk at USA TODAY in McClean, Virginia. Abby joined fellow TCS alum and Teach for America veteran **Maria Maldonado** '99 to speak with TCS students about her TFA experience. She says one of her proudest teaching moments came when a 7th grade girl who began the year proclaiming "I don't like math" ended the year with the opposite view: "Now I like math. It makes sense."

Pere Garlinghouse graduated from George Washington University in May of 2008, then moved back to Kansas for what he thought would be just enough time to repack before starting his new job. It was not to be. "Not that I don't love my parents," he says, "but I could only handle a couple weeks living on their couch before I decided to pursue the other job I've wanted since playing with Mrs. Young's toy collection back at TCS - firefighter." Pere moved to Manhattan, Kansas and trained to be a firefighter, discovering "there is something infinitely satisfying about driving a big red fire truck." He also enrolled in the master's program in political science at K-State and for the rest of his stay in Kansas, split his time between "the stimulation of class and the reward of helping people in need." Within a year, Pere finished his M.A. just in time to be, finally, called back to D.C. where he now works for the government.

Ashley Giroux graduated from K-State with her master's degree in interior architecture and is engaged to a young man she met at KSU.

Whitney Hamilton Wood is making quite a name for herself on the Kansas City art scene. She was featured in a solo show called Inside-Outside at the Kansas City Art Institute Crossroads Gallery. One of her pieces was

chosen for a show titled *Is What You Know What You See* at Metropolitan Community College. She also has work installed in downtown K.C. at EAG (Entrepreneur Advertising Group). Whitney is interning at The Charlotte Street Foundation, an organization that supports and recognizes artists in Kansas City.



Whitney Hamilton Wood's '00 artwork on display

Kaitlynn Heflin Tate recently celebrated her first wedding anniversary. She and her musician husband live in a cabin “off the grid” near Eugene, Oregon where they grow their own vegetables and fruit. Kaity works a few days a week at a nearby lab.



Lyndsey Kenefick '00 vacationing at the Grand Canyon

Lyndsey Kenefick graduated from Mt. San Antonio College in the spring with a degree in aviation science. She won a scholarship to the Professional Women Controllers' (PWC) Conference and served a paid internship at a Southern California air traffic control facility. This summer, Lyndsey traveled back to Topeka for a friend's wedding, then went on a cross-country vacation to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Florida (where she jumped

out of a plane at 18,000 feet) and California. Lyndsey plans to join the Air Force and eventually wants to work as a commercial air traffic controller. She enjoys traveling, surfing, skateboarding and, no surprise, listening to air traffic control frequencies.

Rebecca Kopp has moved to Los Angeles to pursue a master's degree at the University of Southern California.

Ben Leifer plays bass in Diverse, a Kansas City jazz band recently signed by Origin Records in Seattle. Their self-titled album is getting radio play in cities from Los Angeles to Philadelphia, and is available on iTunes, Amazon and other major sites. Ben says it's “very exciting stuff.” The Kansas City Star calls the band's debut “a good start for five young guys whose playing leaves no doubt about their dedication, determination, skill and soulfulness.” After graduation from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Ben has his sights set on New York.

Tyler Schmidt graduated from the University of Minnesota in May as a ten-time All American (swimming) and a three-time Academic All American. After graduation, he competed in the Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska in the 50 and 100 meter freestyle. He placed 36th out of 120 in the 100 meter freestyle. After traveling to Europe, Tyler began working at Cargill's worldwide headquarters in Wayzata, Minnesota, in the Global Treasury Services Department. In December, he became engaged to Lindsey St. Martin. Lindsey also swam for the University of Minnesota. They are busy planning their September wedding in St. Paul.

Alex Straus graduated from KU in December, but returned in the spring to make the traditional walk down the hill with his parents watching. He's now living and working in Los Angeles.

2001



Sarah Bellows-Blakely '01 (right) with a young cheetah at an animal orphanage outside of Nairobi, Kenya

Sarah Bellows-Blakely graduated with honors from Stanford in June, with a degree in history and a concentration in African history. After seven months at Oxford University in England studying the British Empire in Africa, Sarah decided to write her senior honors thesis on colonial Kenya's Mau Mau war. Stanford gave her a grant to return to the UK last summer to conduct research in London, Edinburgh and Birmingham. Following graduation, Sarah spent ten weeks in Kenya studying Swahili, interning with an NGO (non-governmental organization) that focuses on early childhood education and living with a host family in Nairobi. Memorable travel experiences in Africa include snorkeling off the coast of Mombassa and joining a safari in a game preserve to watch the beginning of the annual wildebeest migration. While she thinks about what to do next, Sarah is living in the Bay Area and "enjoying life as a non-student for once!"

Shruti Challa graduated from Stanford University with a degree in financial economics and a minor in political science. She was vice president of Stanford Finance. After graduation, she worked for two venture capital companies: Founders Fund (the first investors in Facebook) and Siemens Venture Capital. She and three other Stanford alums started a company called Tribal Atmosphere, Inc., set for launch in the fall of 2010. Shruti describes it as "a real-time, dynamic and interactive guide

based on micro-blogging and aggregation technology in the Web 2.0, social media, entertainment space." In her spare time, Shruti dances and enjoys city life.



Asona Lui '01 (left) on the red carpet in Hollywood promoting "Broken Road"

Asona Lui graduated from Washington University in St. Louis last spring with a degree in African and African American studies with a concentration in economics, and is now living in Chicago, pursuing a master's degree in biology and applied physiology at Chicago State University. In between, she acted as a producer and actress on *Broken Road*, a locally-produced teen drama that aired on TV and the Internet. Asona met the producer a year ago in western Kansas while filming *Dogs of Eden*, the sequel to her 2004 movie *Through Martha's Eyes*. She was hired to appear in an episode but while she was waiting to go on, she did some stage managing, which led to producing. Asona even travelled to Hollywood to help promote the show. She continues to sing and act in Chicago.

Ann Moenius graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May with a business administration major and marketing minor. After serving as president of her sorority (Kappa Kappa Gamma), she was hired by the organization's headquarters to be a Leadership Consultant and is now traveling coast-to-coast spending time on college campuses.



Jill Moenius '01 checks skydiving off her "bucket list"

Jill Moenius graduated from the University of Arkansas in May. She celebrated her graduation by checking off an item on her "bucket list" - skydiving. Up next: running a marathon. Jill is a first-year law student at KU.



Asona Lui '01 and Rohit Parulkar graduate from Washington University

Rohit Parulkar graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in the spring, and moved to Washington, D.C. where he's worked for Senator Pat Roberts and Kumon Math.

Dan Thompson is finishing his undergraduate degree in economics at KU and applying to law school. He works as an intern in the Kansas Attorney General's office and as a mediator at Douglas County small claims court. He volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and hosts Jazz in the Morning every Wednesday on KU's student-run radio station, KJHK 90.7 FM. (see p.10 for Dan's account of his study abroad in China.)

2002

Andy Brownback is a senior at Kansas State University majoring in math and economics. As an exchange student at the Panamerican School of Agriculture in Honduras this summer, he had a front row seat to the military coup and more excitement than he had anticipated. (see Andy's account p.8) Following his adventure in Honduras, Andy worked as a summer researcher at American Enterprise Institute, a think tank in Washington, D.C. He wrote several articles about international policy, two of which are posted online. Andy says, "It was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed the atmosphere since I was surrounded by really intelligent and motivated people so I was being constantly challenged."



Eric Giroux's '02 two-year-old son Jackson Perry Giroux

Eric Giroux is a senior at KU majoring in business marketing, president of the Business School honor society, and a teaching assistant. He and a partner in New York started a business called ReallyGood Development, LLC. Eric maintains a blog about streetwear, fashion, sneakers and youth culture and the partners have worked with some big-name companies like Puma and New Balance. Eric's son Jackson Perry Giroux (named after TCS classmate **Perry Williams** '02, who died in a car accident in 2001) is now two. His dad describes him as "the coolest dude on the planet. He loves to read. We have been working on swimming and potty training. He is the light of my life! Looks just like me, poor guy."

2003

Stephanie Atwood was an intern this summer at the Washington, D.C. Public Defender's Service where she investigated crimes by interviewing witnesses, measuring crime scenes, and so forth. She took the LSAT this summer and now is busy applying for law school. She is also working on a research project to learn the effects of text messaging on driving performance, and recently received a grant to further her research.

Jordan Carter spent the first half of summer at home, hanging out with friends and volunteering at Planned Parenthood. Summer got much more exciting in mid-July when she left for Brisbane, Australia for a study abroad program through Washington University. "Australia is such a fun, happy, warm place," says Jordan, "I'm taking a bunch of cool classes, including a marine science course involving two field trips to islands around Australia. Of course I've seen the requisite koalas and kangaroos and now I'm just soaking up the sun and the Australian culture. It's gone by so fast and been so amazing, probably the best experience of my life!"



Chase Hamilton '03 spends spring break on a volunteer trip to help migrants (Photograph: The University Daily Kansan)

Chase Hamilton spent his spring break from KU last year volunteering with the group No More Deaths, which provides humanitarian aid to migrants. During a routine water drop in the mountains of southern Arizona, Chase was interviewed by the *University Daily Kansan*: "If

there's someone by the side of the road who needs help getting somewhere, and they're obviously in distress," he said, "you're going to stop and help them if you're the only other person on the highway. Although they are illegal aliens, it's humanitarian. If we don't help them they're going to die. They need someone to help them, and I feel that's our place. Someone's got to do it, and if it has to be me, I'm going to be the one that does it."



Katherine Heflin '03 (center) and teammates receive medals at national rowing championships

Katherine Heflin is a junior at Stanford University majoring in American Studies with a foreign policy focus. This summer, Katherine was awarded the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Lightweight All American award. She is one of ten women chosen to be on the nation's 2009 Pocock Lightweight All-America Team. Katherine rowed varsity women's lightweight crew both her freshman and sophomore years; she helped her team medal both years - for the first and second time in Stanford history - at the Intercollegiate Nationals Regatta. Her coach Al Acosta says of her, "Katherine contributes more to the team than just rowing, via her supportive and energetic attitude. This was especially important her sophomore year, as she was a steady leader for very young but fast varsity eight." Katherine worked with Stanford's world-renowned atomic expert Professor Barton Bernstein this summer, researching the history of policy on the use of the A-bomb. She serves as a Green Campus Program intern, implementing innovative energy-saving

solutions for the university, and works for the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. In her spare time, Katherine volunteers as a counselor for reproductive health.



Megan Reynolds '03 (right) helps tornado victims in Chapman, Kansas

Megan Reynolds is a junior at Kansas State University where she earned two scholarships last spring. She writes for the K-State choir newsletter, has taken up guitar and is studying karate. Megan's campus ministries connections led her to a high-profile volunteer job, working on houses in tornado-ravaged Chapman, Kansas for *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. She says, "Some of us got on TV and we even did a midnight to 4 a.m. shift just for the fun of it!" Megan continued helping others during a spring break trip to San Antonio where she pitched in at a day care center and a homeless shelter. Megan sang in the chorus of KSU's production of the opera *Die Fledermaus* in the spring.



Caitlin Seals Schwanke '03 (right) rappelling down a 320-foot face in Colorado

Caitlin Seals Schwanke received her Associate of Arts degree with honors from Johnson

County Community College in May and is currently pursuing degrees in secondary education and English with a theater minor at Baker University. She spent the summer working in the office of Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Colorado. Caitlin enjoyed hiking and river tubing on her days off, as well as working on her photography portfolio in the beauty of the Rockies, including a senior photo session of her brother, Cameron Seals Schwanke '06. A highlight of the summer was the rappelling expedition down the 320-foot rock face on a mountain near the camp. This fall Caitlin is taking a heavy course load to make up for non-transferrable credits she will take when she studies in England this spring. Caitlin is also working for the English Department at Baker, and is squeezing in time to help with *The Nutcracker* at a budding Kansas City ballet company.



Eric Wang '03 hanging out with TCS and Wash U. classmate Pablo Kennedy '03

Eric Wang is a junior at Washington University in St. Louis majoring in psychology in the pre-med and pre-dental program. He is the program leader of Wash U.'s "Big Brothers Big Sisters," which matches student mentors with children who need positive influences in their lives. Eric is also the campus blood drive team leader and a student associate whose job is to help acclimate freshmen to college life. He reports that he "still hangs out with pretty much all of my buddies from TCS!"

2004

Erin Atwood is rooming with older sister Stephanie '03 at the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at KU this year. She traveled to Costa Rica this summer on a volunteer trip, performing a community outreach project for a small community and living with a host family. Back home in Topeka, she taught swim lessons. Erin volunteers as a Spanish translator at the Jaydoc Free Clinic in Lawrence and is involved with Natural Ties, an organization that pairs students with developmentally disabled adults.

Liz Brownback is working for a film production and distribution company in Los Angeles that purchases and distributes mostly independent films internationally.



Jane Lee '04 (center) with friends at a UCLA football game

Jane Lee is a sophomore at UCLA in Los Angeles. She joined the Delta Gamma sorority and was invited to be a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization. She volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club in L.A. This summer, Jane traveled to South Korea, Hawaii and Boston, and made frequent trips to the Lake of the Ozarks to catch up with fellow TCS alums.



Atima Lui '04 interns at Google

Atima Lui is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis in the Olin School of Business. Last year she was president of her dorm, which won Dorm of the Year for the first time under her leadership. She was inducted into Alpha Kappa Psi, the international business fraternity, and was awarded a sophomore teaching assistant internship as well as the W.E.B. DuBois Prize in English. She is excited to be an officer in the inaugural chapter of Wash. U.'s first National Black MBA Chapter, and was thrilled to attend another historic inauguration - President Barack Obama's - on January 20, 2009 - her 19th birthday! "I was with no one I knew for over 24 hours," Atima says, "and yet I was with people for whom I felt the most moving, profound and earth shattering connection." This summer, Atima landed an internship with Google. As a member of the AdSense team, she researched web sites that work with Google to host ads on their sites, many in languages other than English. Atima says her Spanish (nod to Mr. Martinez) came in handy. This year, Atima is involved in Wash. U.'s Student Entrepreneurial Program. She and two classmates purchased an on-campus business called Salon Four Zero. They completed a business plan, hired employees, and are open six days a week.

2005

Tyler Chanay graduated from Topeka High School and spent a month at KU's Freshman Summer Institute where he took an English class. He is a freshman at KU, majoring in history.



Ali Dattilo, Robert Hamilton, Haydan Vosburgh and Bondy Kaye – all Class of '05 – celebrate Topeka High graduation

Ali Dattilo graduated with superior honors and was valedictorian of her Topeka High School class (*see p. 6*). She is a member of the National Honor Society, National English Honor Society and Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society. Ali was recognized as National Philanthropy Day's Youth Philanthropist of the Year for her work with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She is a freshman at the University of Chicago.

Robert Hamilton graduated from Topeka High School with high honors and closed out his music career by directing the Robed Choir at graduation. Robert was also named Topeka High's Winter Sports Male Athlete of the Year. Robert captained the swim team his junior and senior years, and was all City and all Conference in swimming all four years. He and three teammates currently hold the school record in the 400 freestyle relay. Robert qualified for state all four years, medalled at state his junior year in the 400 freestyle relay, and was a consolation finalist at State in swimming his freshman, sophomore, and junior years. His coach, Gunner Kelly, describes Robert as one of the top five all-

time swimmers at Topeka High. That's great company, considering it includes Topeka Collegiate alums and all-American swimmers **Jonathan '98** and **Tyler Schmidt '00!**

Mary Kelly McKenzie graduated from Topeka High School with high honors and is a freshman at K-State. This summer she worked as assistant swim coach for the Wood Valley swim team and as a cashier at a local retailer. She also traveled to London with her mom and older sister for ten days, which Mary Kelly describes as "an amazing experience. I hope to study abroad sometime."

Michael Myers graduated with superior honors from Topeka High School and, as senior class president, was one of two TCS alums to have the honor of speaking at graduation. (*see p. 6*) Michael is a National Merit Commended Scholar, a National Hispanic Scholar, a Kansas State Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society and National English Honor Society. He is a freshman in the KU Honors Program and pledged the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

2006

David Gast received his Eagle Scout Award in a ceremony this fall, earning 26 merit badges along the way. His Eagle project involved building and installing three large bookshelves for a church library. David is a senior at Topeka West, where he has been active in track, forensics, soccer and football. He is a member of the National Honor Society.



Eagle Scout David Gast '06

Anna Hamilton is a National Merit semifinalist which puts her in an elite group of fewer than one percent of high school seniors. Anna was a triple national qualifier in debate and forensics, qualifying to compete at Nationals in debate, student congress, and domestic extemporaneous speaking. This is a particularly significant honor since it had been at least ten years since any Topeka High student had triple qualified in the District for Nationals. Anna competed at the national tournament this summer in Birmingham, Alabama. Anna was featured in *TK Magazine* as one of Topeka's "Tech and Science Whiz Kids." In the article, Anna credits TCS math teacher Phyllis Hoyt with helping her learn to enjoy math. "She explained it in a way that made it interesting," said Anna. "I knew it was something I could not only do but I could excel in it." Anna continues to excel, taking third place in two events at the regional Science Olympiad.



Anna Hamilton '06 profiled as "whiz kid."



TCS alums (l to r) Joel Billinger '07, Ellen McGivern '06, Grace Naeger '07 (T), Katherine Ebeling '06 and Sjobor Hammer '06 in France this summer

Sjobor Hammer won the top prize at National History Day in College Park, Maryland. The David Van Tassel Founder's Award recognizes the quality of her documentary work and includes a full-tuition scholarship to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. (see p. 4)

Cameron Seals Schwanke is a National Merit semifinalist, which puts him in the top tier of high school students academically. Cameron is also an AP Scholar, meaning he has scored a three or higher on at least three Advanced Placement exams.



Cameron Seals Schwanke in the cockpit of a Cessna 150

Cameron continues to do technical work with Topeka West's theater department and captained the Scholar's Bowl team that took fourth place at state competition. He was inducted into National Honor Society in the spring. Cameron is an officer for Air Explorers Post 8 at Billard Airport, and received his private pilot's license this summer, flying the Post's Cessna 150 and Piper Cherokee 180.

2007

A.J. Alifimoff (T) placed second in the Indiana High School State Speech Tournament in the Discussion event. (see *Class of 2007 photo next page*)

2008

Alex Chanay is enjoying his sophomore year at Topeka High School, where he's singing with The Madrigals and playing bass in Jazz Band 1. As a freshman last year, Alex was onstage in the student-run talent show SRO, and performed the role of LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*. He competed in Forensics and sang in the Robed Choir. Over the summer, Alex performed with his band, The Pudd'n Pops, in Kansas and Colorado. Next year, Alex will sing in The Madrigals and play bass in Jazz Band 1 at THS.



Alex Chanay '08 performs with his band in Colorado

Edward Collazo reports that two of the three varsity captains and three of the four JV captains of the Topeka High soccer team this year are TCS alums: **David Wang** '07 and **Nick Gitto** '06 (varsity); **Edward, Madison Myers** '08 and **Nick Palmer** '08 (JV).

Patrick Elisha was highlighted in *TK Magazine* as one of Topeka's outstanding under-20 artists. Patrick's recent classical music awards include the Music Teachers National Association Piano Alternate, and second place overall in the Kansas City Symphony youth talent audition.

Kaitlin Hannigan made international news in June when she was quarantined in Beijing for a week after Chinese authorities determined she was at risk for the H1N1 virus. (*see p. 9*) Kaity eventually was allowed to rejoin her tour group

and spent two days in Hong Kong before returning to the U.S. Her travels didn't end there, however. Kaity began the summer with a trip to Europe with her family. Days after returning from China, she left home again for a two-week visit to New York. After another quick turnaround, she headed north to spend four weeks at summer camp in Minnesota, one of those weeks on a canoe trip in Canada. "She really got around!" says Kaity's mom.

Nick Henriquez earned the second highest score in the state as a Topeka High freshman last year on the Trig Star Test. This year, as a sophomore, he is editing *Mandala*, Topeka High's arts and literature magazine, for a second year. He plays guitar in the advanced Jazz Band, and is a reporter for *The World*. Nick is a member of the Scholar's Bowl team and National English Honor Society.



Class of 2007 reunites to see Joseph Barber '07 (back row, third from left) during a spring visit from New Zealand

MUCH-LOVED KINDERGARTEN TEACHER RETIRES



Lillian Wen and Justin Armbruster sign "I love you" to their former kindergarten teacher Anita Thiessen

We bid farewell to Anita Thiessen this spring as she retired after 21 years of teaching and tutoring at Topeka Collegiate School, 18 of those years in the kindergarten classroom.

At an assembly in May, two fourth grade students surprised Mrs. Thiessen with a duet, signing the lyrics of "Somewhere Out There" for their former kindergarten teacher in honor of her hearing-impaired son. Students presented Mrs. Thiessen with roses and a garden bench with an engraved plaque and the entire school sang "The Parting Song." At a reception later, family members, current and former students and colleagues were on hand to say goodbye and wish her well.

On graduation day, Past Board of Trustees President Dr. Scott Hamilton presented the teaching award named in his honor to Mrs. Thiessen, saying "Colleagues describe Anita Thiessen as 'a pioneer in the early literacy of children,' who 'accepts each child for who he or she is, graciously, and is ever patient, kind and resourceful.' Boy, are we going to miss her!"

MEMORIES OF Mrs. Wilson

We are sorry to report that longtime first grade teacher Susan Wilson died of breast cancer in March at her home in Texas. Mrs. Wilson was a founding teacher at Shawnee Country Day School, which became Topeka Collegiate. She was reunited with former students and colleagues at the 25th Anniversary Reunion celebration less than a year before her death. Mrs. Wilson is remembered fondly by her former students, parents and colleagues.



Susan Wilson with former students and colleagues at the 25th Anniversary Reunion (l to r: former Head of School Jim Wright, Samantha Miller Coulter '90, former teacher Elaine Wright, former board president Bob Ihrle, former teacher Debra Pakaluk, Bridget Elmer '91, Mrs. Wilson)

"A quick refresher for those who don't remember her: Mrs. Wilson was the one who would yell at the top of her lungs, 'Hey, you guys,' when recess was over and punished us by threatening (and occasionally giving) big, sloppy kisses, and yes, they really were very sloppy! Mrs. Wilson was one of my favorite teachers and was a very caring and charismatic person."

- Elizabeth Jackle '97

"Mrs. Wilson remains one of my favorite teachers, including professors from my BS and MA programs. Some of my strongest memories from my early days at SCDS (Shawnee Country Day School) are of her -- in fact, just last week I was telling a friend about the rabbit and canaries (I think they were canaries?) that she had roaming freely in our classroom. She was so good at what she did, and was one of those amazing teachers that you still find yourself thinking of and smiling about 23 years later."

- Brooke Borel '94

"Mrs. Wilson would ask what kind of paper we wanted. I remember one week I was a smart aleck and said 'clear' and she found a piece of clear plastic!"

- Matt Garlinghouse '90

"A memorable teacher with a big personality. She will be missed."

- Brooke Tourtellot Goc '91

"I remember Mrs. Wilson. I loved her classroom! There were lots of animals. We were learning French. I thought that was cool. I talked to other kids and nobody else was learning French."

- Kathleen "Kaki" Williams '89

"They did a unit on Vikings in Mrs. Wilson's class. Years later we were in Norway and took the boys (Brent '90 and Brock '93) to the Viking museum. I stood back in amazement at all the things they remembered."

- Penny (Hilpert) Oslund Alumni Parent

"I never actually had Mrs. Wilson as a teacher, but she was such a presence at Topeka Collegiate. She was a great hands-on teacher. I loved coming to read with her first graders. I distinctly remember the day I made a presentation about the skunk to her class. She was very reassuring as I started, and of course had supplied me with the skunk!"

- Jody Snarr Kauffman '88

"I vividly remember her classroom - from the plants and animals to the seemingly never ending supply of books, there was something in there that would capture the attention of every person in the room. Once you were in, that was it, Mrs. Wilson had an uncanny ability to encourage and cultivate curiosity. She will be truly missed but remembered forever."

- Katherine Garlinghouse '97

"Susan Wilson's classroom was a remarkable place with its menagerie of bunnies hopping about, birds flitting about, and a snake entwined in the ficus tree. Remember when her snake went missing for several weeks? She was such a creative and resourceful teacher. I recall stopping by her third grade class one day and found Javin Martin '96 sitting at a keyboard with rubber gloves on his hands. (I was about to say "disposable," but nothing was disposable for Mrs. Wilson.) The fingertips of the gloves were painted various colors that corresponded to color-coded keys on the keyboard. How clever!"

- Gail Franklin Teacher, Alumni Parent



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

When Dick Patterson was named Head of School last June, he and I made a commitment to you, the Topeka Collegiate community, to hold to a high standard of fiscal transparency and full disclosure. This Annual Report is one of the ways we are following through on that promise. This report includes information for the past fiscal year that began September 1, 2008 and ended August 31, 2009.

Like organizations and families in Topeka and throughout the country, our school experienced a challenging year with respect to finances. Rest assured: Topeka Collegiate is here to stay and we will not compromise our commitment to academic excellence. As you see in the financial summary for the fiscal year that ended August 31, 2009, school revenues totaled \$3,072,017. Total school expenses were \$3,328,467, resulting in a loss of \$256,450. This situation is not unique and is the result of several things, chiefly the economic downturn and a resulting decline in enrollment.

To address the shortfall, the Board made some difficult but prudent decisions, eliminating some non-teaching positions, reducing some compensation, and trimming the operational budget where we felt we could without affecting the quality of education at TCS. Despite those efforts, we continue to face financial challenges in the current fiscal year.

The Board takes its fiduciary responsibilities very seriously and we are taking steps to erase the deficit. We continue to keep a keen eye on expenses. We have formed a Curriculum Committee to research best practices at other independent schools to make sure we deliver our curriculum as efficiently and effectively as possible in the 2010-2011 school year. And, of course, we are always looking for new sources of revenue.

Despite the fiscal setbacks, Topeka Collegiate is weathering the storm. We are grateful for the generosity

of our families and friends, whose names you will see in the pages of this Annual Report. Special thanks to our previous volunteer fundraising leadership: Annual Fund Co-Chairs Kristina Dietrick and Mary Etzel, and Auction Co-Chairs Joe Anderson and Petra Schneider. Thank you, too, to Building Futures One Child at a Time Capital Campaign Chairman Grace Morrison.

As you review the financial report, you should be aware of several things. First, capital campaign income is not included in the revenue chart because capital funds cannot be used for operations. Likewise, capital expenditures are not reflected in expenses because they do not come out of the operating budget.

Second, our Endowment Fund is also listed separately. Topeka Collegiate's endowment, part of which supports financial aid for deserving families, took a hit during the 2009 fiscal year, losing more than \$63,000. It is unfortunate, indeed, but endowments large and small experienced similar losses across the country.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued commitment to Topeka Collegiate School. Our students and alumni continue to achieve and make us proud. We are training them to be tomorrow's leaders; responsible citizens in a global economy, committed to humanitarian ideals. This is important work and we appreciate your help as we move forward together.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions, and thank you for supporting Topeka Collegiate School.

With best personal regards,

John R. Dietrick, President
Board of Trustees

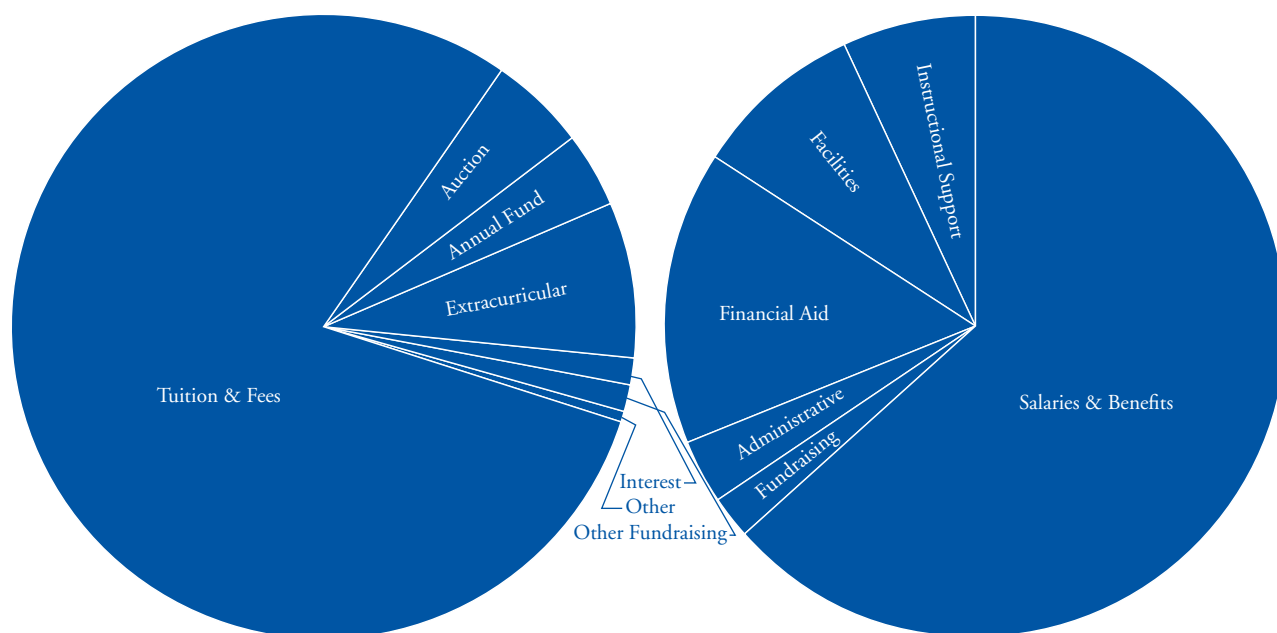
TOPEKA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Revenue

Tuition & Fees	\$2,451,222
Auction	154,516
Annual Fund	122,600
Extracurricular Activities	249,302
Other Fundraising	40,301
Interest	43,136
Other	10,940
Total	\$3,072,017

Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,113,092
Fundraising	72,679
Administrative & Office	115,747
Financial Aid	500,663
Facilities	300,993
Instructional Support	225,294
Total	\$3,328,468



Capital campaign donations and endowment fund donations and earnings are listed separately below.

Capital Campaign	\$390,037
Endowment Contributions	2,985

Capital Campaign expenses and endowment losses are listed separately below.

Capital Campaign	\$79,585
Endowment Loss	63,776

This report includes unaudited figures.

2008-2009 HONOR ROLL OF Annual Fund Contributors

Ruth and Bernerd Fink Society Membership Levels

AMERICAN EAGLE COUNCIL

\$5,000 and above

Susan and Kent Garlinghouse
Elinor and Mike Tourtellot

GOLDEN EAGLE COUNCIL

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Susan and Brian Beard
Lei Andra and Jack Jones
Kathy and Bruce Myers
Laura and Greg Schwerdt
Stephanie and John Valley

ZAP THE GAP

\$1,500 to \$2,499

Anonymous
Sue and Randy Badsky
Michel' and James Cole
Kristina and John Dietrick
Cynthia and David Einspahr
Jett and Tim Elmer
Cheryl and John Fager
Ximena Garcia and Craig Gernon
Charlene and John Gernon
Jane and Russell Greene
Sarah and Donney Kastner
Marta and Brandan Kennedy
Alison Hill Langham '86 and Brian Langham
Diana and Olaf Larson
Dawn and Shawn Magee
Isolde and Stefano Pettinella
Traci and Richard Rabusic
Lori and Kris Robbins

Barbara and Richard Shapiro
Kevin Shepherd
Carolyn and John Vanderstaay
Arwa and Nidal Yunis

Additional Giving Categories

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

\$750 to \$1,499

Anonymous
Deborah and Bradley Aboud
Joe Anderson
Lisa and Dan Anderson
Nikki and Dave Anderson
Kimberly and Richard Baker
Karen and Lee Benson
Yelena Carrington
Beth and Duane Fager
Mary Loftus and Glenn Freeman
Toni Garvin
Yumiko and Alex Glashausser
Cheryl and David Kingfisher
Becky and Ed Linquist
Denise and Charles Smith
Jane and Richard Tilghman

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S COUNCIL

\$500 to \$749

Abeer and Tariq Abu-Salah
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Sue and Larry Zientara

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\$250 to \$499

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Dorthy and Steven Halley
Leslie and Nathan Ham
Phyllis and Brent Hoyt
Amy and Matt Hubbell

John and Suzanne MacDonald
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Sushmita Velloor & Raghunath Malay
Lisa and Shawn Manley
Sally and Michael McEvoy
Stephanie and Scott Mickelsen
Lanny and Bryant Moyer
Elizabeth Page
Linda and Ken Park
Rajni and Madan Rattan
Nancy and Reg Schneider
Sarah and Scott Shipman
Rehana and Imtiazur Syed
Tracy Wickham
Elizabeth and David Zlotky

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\$50 to \$249

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Cindy and Chad Armbruster
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Suzanne and Kevin Beckwith
Kelley and Jason Berryman
Ellen Safier and Efrain Bleiberg
Mindy and Randy Bowman
Rachel Brady
Pauline Hittle and Shawn Burke
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Sabine Schmidt and Alex Cimbali
Ben Coates
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Maura and Lewis Dingman
Diana Doak
Robert Dubois
Kathy and Tuck Duncan
Ryan Duncan

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Liz and Joe Garcia
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Reagan Horton
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Maureen and Robert Ihrle
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Marlene and RL Montgomery
Laura and David Morris
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Melanie and Mary Jane Oberhelman
Jennifer and Jason Odermatt
Jewelina and Bob Oswald
Kelly Magerkurth and Todd Payne
Joan and Greg Pease
Kathy and Dave Petty
David Prager
Kirsten and Ed Prekopy

Kimberly and Eric Reckenbeil
Michelle and Cody Robertson
Maureen Ruh and Tim Rot
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Tammy and Shaun Schmidt
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Jyothi Dodlapati and Gautham Varakantham
Patsy and Royce Walz
Myra and Eddie Warner
Jean and Harry Washington
Judy and Robert Welch
Brandi and Richard Wells
Erin Wen
Brenda Wilch
Ashlie and Kyle Wilk
Blake and Robert Zachritz

ASSOCIATES' COUNCIL

\$1 to \$49

Anonymous (4)
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Mary Kate Baldwin
Amanda and Eric Bare
Kristin Bethea
Mindy Boos
David Butler
Crystal Carson
Sherilyn and Donovan Cook
Lori Desch
Kerri Spielman and David Entgelmeier
Naomi Franklin
John Freeman '98
Katie Freeman '93

Jennie Gifford
 Joni Hamilton
 Larry Hargreaves
 Kelly and Mike Jannelle
 Mindi and Kyle Kessler
 Michael Mayfield
 Brande Simmons
 Barbara Spurgeon
 Angela Swisher
 Annette and Ron Thornburgh
 Lori and Stephen Wyre

Endowment Funds

NORMA AND ALAN HILL MEMORIAL FUND

Richard and Cherie Davis

SUSAN BUDER HORAN MEMORIAL FUND

Victoria and David Console
 Lois and Lawrence Dimmitt
 Linda Lee
 Mary Loftus and Glenn
 Freeman
 Catherine and Ross Ford
 Mark Garlinghouse
 Leah and H.B. Marshall
 M-C Industries
 Lanny and Bryant Moyer
 Martha and Richard Patterson
 Joann Pfuetze
 Gail and Phil Towle
 Patricia Riley and Wesley
 Weathers

BUSINESSES AND FOUNDATIONS

Burlington Northern Santa Fe
 Foundation
 Federal Home Loan Bank
 Hill's Pet Nutrition
 Kokari Foundation
 Oracle Corporation
 Security Benefit
 Target
 Walmart Foundation

AUCTION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT NEEDS FUND

Anonymous
 Dan and Lisa Anderson
 Nikki and Dave Anderson
 Randy and Sue Badsky
 Brian and Susan Beard
 Eva Brown
 Elena Carrington
 Jim and Michel` Cole
 Jamesina Dickson
 John and Kristina Dietrick
 David and Cynthia Einspahr
 Jett and Tim Elmer
 Mary Etzel
 Glenn Freeman and Mary
 Loftus
 David and Linda Fricke
 Ximena Garcia
 Russell and Jane Greene
 Antonio and Veronica
 Gutierrez
 Dorothy Stucky and Steve
 Halley
 Scott and Mary Hamilton
 Marjorye Heeney
 Brandan and Marta Kennedy
 David and Cheryl Kingfisher
 Alison Hill Langham
 Shawn and Dawn Magee
 Dennis Mahan and Tracey
 Goering
 Pat and Raj Malay
 Shane Mathis
 Grace and Michael Morrison
 Kathy and Bruce Myers
 Gary and Dena O'Brien
 Jim and Nancy Parrish
 Pat Purvis
 Kris and Lori Robbins
 Greg and Petra Schneider
 Ed and Loretta Schwerdt
 Mark and Lynn Stillings
 Dick and Jane Tilghman
 Jeff and Julie Unruh
 John and Stephanie Valley

John and Carolyn Vanderstaay
 Yu Welch
 Larry and Sue Zientara

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Kristin and John Bethea
 Aboud's Catering
 Stevenson Company Inc.
 Jane and Russell Greene
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 Allen
 Michelle Graham Martinez and
 David Martinez
 Erin Bess and Joseph
 Pennington
 Art and Craft Printer
 Mainline Printing, Inc
 Josten's Printing and Publishing
 Barbara and Richard Shapiro
 Rehana and Imtiazur Syed
 Debbie Ward
 Liz and Joe Garcia

(Other auction donors included in
 auction catalog)

*This report acknowledges gifts made
 to Topeka Collegiate School between
 September 1, 2008 and August 31,
 2009. Every effort has been made to
 ensure the accuracy of this report. If
 we have made an error or omission,
 please accept our apology and advise
 us of the accurate information.*

STAYING IN TOUCH

If you do not currently receive our twice-a-month Collegiate Connection e-newsletter and would like to, please send your e-mail to mloftus@topekacollegiate.org

Keep up with fellow alums by joining our TCS Alumni Facebook group. Begin by “friending” Development Director Mary Loftus. Then you’ll be invited to join the group, open to all former TCS students.

SAVE THE DATES

Annual Auction

A Starry Night

Saturday, March 6, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.

Topeka Collegiate School

Graduation

Thursday, May 27, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m.

Topeka Collegiate School



2200 SW Eveningside Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66614

