



# nc advance

nebraska christian schools

building lives for eternity

## Things to Come



by Josh Cumpston,  
Administrator

As I have now had a month to think about 2015, I am incredibly amazed and thankful for the many wonderful things that God has been doing at Nebraska Christian. I want to use this column to let you know what has been happening to the physical campus and what will be happening this upcoming year.

In November, our girls moved into our new girls' dorm. This was an amazing answer to prayer, and we are praying this building will help to continue the mission of the school for years to come. We currently have students from all over the world living in our dorm. We are in the initial stages of developing summer academic and Bible camp opportunities for American and international students. One of the wonderful things about this is that we don't owe any money on this new building!

We also completed many updates in the boys' dorm. New electrical and a new laundry room, kitchenette, and bathroom have made it an even better facility for students who stay on campus with us.

Our dorms are truly exciting places to be! Our American dorm students spend four days a week in our dorms, and our international students stay on campus throughout the school year. American dorm students have had an amazing impact on our international

*continued on pg. 4*

## Edgrens Receive Hall of Faith Award

Each year, the board chooses one or two individuals or couples to receive the Hall of Faith Award. This award is presented for years of service at Nebraska Christian—be it through teaching, giving of time and finances, promoting the school, or being involved in other ways on campus, these individuals have made an impact on Nebraska Christian and its students.

This year, the board selected Dr. David & Kathy Edgren to receive this award. Advisory Council member Dave Ferris presented the award at the Harvest Festival on November 13. Below is some of what he had to say:

When the 2000-2001 school year began, the Nebraska Christian school board was still searching for a new K-12 superintendent. That search came to a close in late September, when Dr. David Edgren was hired. Dave and his wife Kathy arrived at a critical time in

Nebraska Christian's history, and he instituted many changes that have helped Nebraska Christian become the school it is today.

Under Dave's leadership, the international program was vastly expanded, Encouragement Groups for students began, a new class called Cultural Literacy was start-

*continued on pg. 2*



Dr. Dave & Kathy Edgren

## Ostrand Plays in Prep Volleyball Showcase

Senior Cassidy Ostrand was one of 47 Nebraska high school seniors selected to play in the 1st Annual Senior Showcase on Sunday, December 20, at Omaha Concordia High School.



Tonya Ostrand, Nebraska Christian's head volleyball coach, said, "We are so proud of Cassidy and very excited for the opportunity she has been presented with. Cassidy has worked very hard, and she views this as a huge honor."

Cassidy was one of just 12 seniors on the Class C/D team. She said, "I feel honored to have been selected to participate in this event. I am thankful to my coaches and teammates for their continued support and help in pushing me to work as hard as I can for the Lord. I am excited for the opportunity to play and meet new people, as well!"

Ostrand plans to continue her volleyball career next year at Hastings College.



## NC Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the Festival of Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Lessons & Carols returned to Nebraska Christian for the 10th year on Friday, December 11, 2015. Students from NC, Central City, Palmer, High Plains, and area home schools participated in an all-day workshop that culminated in the evening's Festival of

Lessons & Carols. The event was led by internationally known conductor Maestro Eric Dale Knapp and featured keyboard artist Linda Sweetman-Waters and American Soprano artist Megan M. Knapp.

Approximately 300 musicians in the Festival Choir, Orchestra, and

Children's Choir helped make the 10th Anniversary Festival a success, and more than 500 people attended the event. The Festival can be heard in its entirety on Nebraska Christian's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/user/NebraskaChristian](http://youtube.com/user/NebraskaChristian).

## nc advance

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Josh Cumpston, *Administrator*Becky Ritta '99), *Editor*Beth (Ritta '98) Keim, *Layout & Design*

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## NC Advance

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**Editorial Submissions:** All news or information from NC Alumni, students and teachers is welcome. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

## NC Board of Directors:

Paul McHargue ('88), Central City  
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**Mission:** The mission of Nebraska Christian Schools is to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education, equipping students with a biblical worldview and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.



Phase 1: *Girls' Dorm, \$1.4 million*

Phase 1.5: *City Water Project, \$240,000*

\$125,000 received

\$115,000 remaining

## Next 50 Years Campaign Update



by Mark McHargue ('85),  
Campaign Chairman

We are very excited about the progress the Next 50 Years Capital Campaign is making. Praise the Lord that Phase 1 is complete! A key component to the campaign being successful is providing campaign information to as many people as possible. If you are reminded of someone who has roots here but has moved away and might have an interest in our school, please forward their name to the foundation at [foundation@nebraskachristian.org](mailto:foundation@nebraskachristian.org). A campaign like this is successful by people reaching people and having the opportunity to share the great things happening here at Nebraska Christian Schools. Thanks in advance for helping in finishing the Next 50 Year vision.

**Hall of Faith**, *continued from pg. 1*

ed to help our students fill in the gaps that might exist in their education, and the board instituted its current Policy-Governance board model. Dave also believed in the power of prayer, and he began the prayer meetings that were held at the beginning of each semester. During the summer months, he frequently gathered the summer staff together for prayer meetings.

More memorable than any institutional changes, though, was Dave's heart for people. He wanted

## Dollars & Sense

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



Gift Income for this fiscal year had been running behind, but as of January 21st, gift income is back on track. If giving continues to keep pace in the remaining five months of the fiscal year, we will meet our budget again in 2015-2016. Thanks so much for your support of Nebraska Christian Schools.

keep up  
with  
NC

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YouTube: [youtube.com/user/NebraskaChristian](https://youtube.com/user/NebraskaChristian)  
Twitter: @nebr\_christian, #NCEagles  
Instagram: @ne\_christian

## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY

- 13 Pancake Feed, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
28 Choir Tour, 3:00 p.m.  
*Ainsworth High School Learning Center*

### MARCH

- 4 Elementary Musical  
7:00 p.m., PAC in Central City  
19 Dinner & Benefit Auction  
5:00 p.m.

### APRIL

- 6 Campus Preview & Kindergarten Roundup,  
8:00 a.m.

### MAY

- 14 Graduation, 10:30 a.m.  
19 Last Day of School

For additional events visit  
[nebraskachristian.org/calendar](http://nebraskachristian.org/calendar)

TRUTH IN FOCUS

Tune in to  
AM-750 KMMJ  
**Saturday at 6:30 a.m.**  
to hear Josh Cumpston  
and Gordon Thiessen.

to make sure that everyone associated with the school—students, parents, faculty & staff, board members, donors, and even former staff—knew that he appreciated them. He did this by sending cards to students on their birthdays, giving each staff member a copy of one of his favorite CDs, mailing Christmas gifts to donors, and giving lamps and rocking chairs to people who served at NC for many years.

The Edgrens together have a

heart for international students, which was readily apparent to any student who attended NC during Dave's tenure. Kathy spent many hours tutoring international students, and Dave made sure to help the students assimilate to life in America while still affirming their individual cultures.

For their years of service to the Lord at Nebraska Christian, we are pleased to present the 2015 Hall of Faith Award to Dr. David & Kathy Edgren.

# Dinner & Benefit Auction March 18-19, 2016

by Kristy Langemeier & Deana Leonard, Special Events Office



You are invited to attend this very important dinner and auction! You are preparing for our 14th auction, we can see God's hand all over this event. He has chosen to bless us not only financially, but also through the community exposure it gives us and the opportunity to invite people to our campus that might not come for any other reason. It is also a time for the entire NC family to work together and give back to the school we all appreciate so much.

By God's grace, this event has raised over \$1.4 million during the past 13 years and has afforded NC the ability to supplement teacher salaries and provide scholarships for those students who may not otherwise have been able to attend. As we

You can partner with Nebraska Christian by:



- **Providing items, gift certificates, and/or services.** We will be accepting items for our Silent and Live Auctions until February 19th. Feel free to call with your creative ideas. We may be able to network some items to create a total package, or you may be able to give us a lead to something we haven't thought of. Unique experiences have brought thousands of dollars to this fundraiser.
- **Donating cash to underwrite the expenses of the event.**

The more of our expenses that are underwritten by your donations, the greater the profit the school realizes from the sale of tickets and items.

- **Sponsoring a table.** Corporate Level: \$1000 Table Sponsor/8 guests & prominent recognition in the

catalog at the event and in our publications. Standard Level: \$400.00 Table Sponsor/8 guests Individual Level: \$50.00 per Dinner Reservation

- **Donating money to go directly to the scholarship fund.**

We have found our donors to be very enthusiastic about giving to scholarship, thus making a Christian education available to students who might otherwise not be able to attend NC.

Reservations and donations can be made by stopping by the Special Events Office, calling the office at 308-946-3836, calling Kristy's cell at 402-209-3282, or emailing [klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org](mailto:klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org).

# Renowned Illustrator Speaks to Art Students

by Hailee Broman, junior

For artists, inspiration and advice from other artists is crucial, especially when those artists are experts. On January 14th, Author/Illustrator Preston McDaniels was invited to share his wisdom and experience in Mrs. Renate Johansen's art classes. Mr. McDaniels has illustrated a vast number of children's books, including *The Princess and the Kiss*, Cynthia Rylant's Newberry Award winner Lighthouse Family series, Francis O'Roark Dowell's *From the Highly Scientific Notebooks of Phineas McGuire*, and many more. Published in 2007 by Simon and Schuster, McDaniels' self-penned work *A Perfect Snowman* has been called

"transcendent" and "a charmer of a tale, worthy of being passed from generation to generation," by the Trades. Born in Story City Iowa, McDaniels grew up struggling with frail health through most of his childhood. However, he was often found drawing and doodling on every surface available throughout the house. Ernest Shepard, Garth Williams, and Maurice Sendak are some of McDaniels' most inspirational figures, and McDaniels also draws from his childhood influences and experiences.

Having McDaniels come to Nebraska Christian was both an honor and a privilege. He, along with many other artists, inspires art students to persevere with pa-



tience and take time to develop God-given gifts and abilities. Art 2 student Gladys Choi (junior) stated, "His art made me feel warm and comfortable. I love his style of art. I've read a lot of fairy tales, and that style of art used in them is my favorite." McDaniels' style of art is definitely one to be remembered.

As he passed his pieces around the classroom, each student developed a new understanding of art and style. Encouraged by his humble talent, students are ready to start incorporating what they've learned into their own works.

## Things to Come, *continued from pg. 1*

students and often form enduring friendships with them. Some of our American students even have traveled overseas to spend time in their friends' countries and experience the sites, history, and culture. Our American dorm students also make life-long friendships with other believers from across the state.

We are currently beginning to take applications for next year. If you know of any students who might like the opportunity to receive a Christ-centered education and get to know students from across Nebraska and countries such as China, Kenya, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, please tell them about us. Have them contact us if they'd like more information or to schedule a visit. A great day to visit will be on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which is our campus preview day.

One area that we haven't finished paying off is the water project. As we look ahead to what buildings and updates might occur on campus in the next 50 years, this project was a critical and efficient way to improve campus infrastructure because it wasn't only for the new dorm; it connected all of our buildings to city water. This was needed due to codes on new or updated buildings, which require fire suppression. Our well couldn't pump enough gallons a minute to provide what we needed, and this, in the long-term, was the cheapest and best solution. We still owe \$115,000 on this project; please prayerfully consider your part to help us close it out.

In 2016, you are going to hear much more about Phase 2 of "The Next 50 Years" Capital Campaign, which involves our current gym, music, kitchen, and dining facility. There are some initial drawings that involve both an upgrade to the current facility—roof, exterior, windows, etc.—and a new build of a kitchen, dining, and multi-purpose gym facility. This would allow for more space for our music program; a dining room/commons area that

# Alumni News

## The Runnin' Dexters

by Larry Hoff, Assistant Cross Country & Track Coach



Zane Dexter ('85)



Rance Dexter ('86)



Warren Dexter ('15)

To followers and fans of the Nebraska Christian cross country and track teams, the Dexter clan gives authentic meaning to the old saying "it runs in the family." Running has been a tradition that has deep roots, beginning with Carolyn and Galynn Dexter's "run for fun" experience, culminating with their competing in the Lincoln marathon. Both continued to run for many years, until runners' knees forced them to the sideline.

NC was blessed by Carolyn's and Galynn's decision to enroll their children in our school. They had become acquainted with NC through visiting with Burwell neighbors and were impressed with what they saw and heard about the school. Carolyn said, "We feel that it was the best decision for our family at that time, and continue to feel that it was a great decision." NC was further blessed when Carolyn agreed to be the girls' track coach in 1989-1991. "Working with Coach

would provide more fellowship and hosting opportunities; and needed gym space for practices, activities, and special events like the Festival of Lessons and Carols, the Harvest Festival, and the Dinner and Benefit Auction. This project will impact all of our students and staff and allow us to expand ministry opportunities in the summer and throughout the school year. This facility will impact not only athletics, but it will also en-

Schreiber was so much fun," declared Carolyn.

Both Carolyn and Galynn are dedicated track fans who attend virtually every meet in which NC competes. They have witnessed some great performances through the years, especially during the time that sons Rance ('86) and Zane ('85) were at school. Records that both set in 1985 are still atop the record board, which is exhibited near the entrance to the gymnasium. Zane continues to hold the 400 meter record, and both Zane and Rance were members of the 1600 meter relay team that was both the state champion and had a school record setting performance in 1985. In the last few years, they have been permanent fixtures in the stands as they have watched Zane's children continue to carry on the family tradition of producing fine runners. Beginning with Jessica, who graduated in 2009, followed by Dillon, who graduated in 2011, and Warren,

hance our fine arts program and our summer camp curriculum opportunities. These summer camps have the potential to provide year-round employment opportunities for our staff and the chance to impact many more kids and support other Christian ministry events. In the near future, we will be getting out more specific details about Phase 2 to keep the NC family well informed.

Would you please pray for us this



**Spencer Lewis Francl**  
son of Chase ('02) & Stephani (Deichmann '03) Francl

Chase and Stephani Francl proudly announce the birth of their son, Spencer Lewis, on October 24, 2015. Spencer weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 21 inches long. He is welcomed by his big sister Lily (age 4) and big brother Connor (age 1).

who graduated last May, they have enjoyed watching each compete with great success. The culmination may have been last spring when Warren became state champion in the 1600 meter run and established a new school record in the process. Having sons and a grandson all possessing school records in a sport that they have a passion for is very gratifying (and probably quite rare).

As for the future, Carolyn and Galynn will hopefully be in their familiar seats, rooting for grandson Ryan, who is a freshman this year. And then—well, it's wait for the next generation of the "runnin' Dexters!"

year as we take this new step at Nebraska Christian? Pray that we will be sensitive to God's leading during this project and for wisdom for the team that will be leading this effort. Pray that our general fund budget will continue to be met during this time of campaign fundraising. Pray for unity among our NC family.

Thank you for your interest in and support of Nebraska Christian Schools. We are grateful for you.

# NC Almanac



**Joshua Ryan Weedin**  
son of Ryan ('06) & Melissa  
(Krieger '05) Weedin

**Emma Grace Keim**  
daughter of Jonathan & Beth  
(Ritta '98) Keim

Ryan ('06) & Melissa (Krieger '05) Weedin of Hampton are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Joshua Ryan Weedin. He was born on December 23, 2015, at 5:02 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs 1 oz and was 19.25 inches long. He joins big sister MaKenna Sue, 19 months, at home. Grandparents are Lowell ('82) and Vicky (Masters '81) Krieger of O'Neill and Don & Kathy Weedin of Hampton. Great Grandparents are Norbert & Sylvia Krieger of O'Neill, Dwight & Alice Masters of Mapleton, Iowa, and Ruben & Lorene Friesen of Henderson.

Jonathan and Beth Keim of Omaha are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace. She was born on November 25, 2015, at 10:43 p.m., weighing 9 lbs 4 oz and was 21 inches long. She is welcomed by grandparents Ed ('73) & Marilyn Ritta of Marquette and Jerry & Jan Keim of Wakefield, Kansas, and great grandmother Dorothy Ritta of Central City.

## NC Flashback



With our current building campaign underway, we decided to flash back to another major building project that took place in 1960. If you can identify which building was being constructed in these photos, you could win our prize! Send your guesses to [advance@nebraskachristian.org](mailto:advance@nebraskachristian.org).



*From the last issue (above):* Congratulations to Stephany (Krieger '11) Jackson! Her name was drawn from those who correctly identified the girls in the photo as Alice Kim ('11) and Jessica Kim ('12), so she wins the prize.

## Jerry Sutton ('61)

Since graduating from Nebraska Christian in 1961, Rev. Jerry Sutton has served the Lord as a missionary, pastor, and teacher. He recently retired from teaching at Caldwell High School in Texas, where he spent 20 years as a Spanish teacher. Jerry currently serves as the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dime Box, Texas. He was married to Maria Isabel Sutton until her death in 2007, and they have two adult sons, Jerard and Michael. Anyone who is interested in contacting Jerry may do so at PO Box 1305, Caldwell, Texas 77836.

## Memorial Gifts

- For: Keith & Dorothy Barthel
- From: K. Allan Barthel
- For: Dick Bauer
- From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
- From: Bob & Susan Ritta
- From: Kerry & Janice Stuhmer
- From: Pearl Wallace Decker
- From: Harold & Dorothy Cook
- For: Lucille Hermsmeyer
- From: Bob & Susan Ritta
- For: Dennis Knee
- From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
- From: Kerry & Janice Stuhmer
- For: Dennis Lenard
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- For: Wesley Luce
- From: Faith Baptist Church of Hollis
- From: Dorothy Ritta
- From: Eddra Ritta
- From: Mildred Root
- From: Mike & Susan Royle
- From: Larry & Denise Schreiber
- From: Don & Dianne Smith
- From: Marilyn Sonderup
- From: Rose & Joseph Spence
- From: Kerry & Janice Stuhmer
- From: Gretchen Treadway
- From: Scott & Patty Welk
- From: Warren & Patricia Whitney
- From: Jim & Eleanor Wright
- From: Gladys Peterson
- From: Gil & Dorothy Glad

### 10 years ago ('06)

- Groundwork begins in preparation for construction of the new high school building.
- 8th grader Abbie Krug ('10) wins the Merrick County Spelling Bee for the second consecutive year.
- Four wrestlers qualify for state. Sophomore Mike Swanson ('08) places 6th.

### 20 years ago ('96)

- The sophomore class attends a career fair in Columbus.
- 8th grader Kate Ritta ('00) wins the Merrick County Spelling Bee and qualifies for the state bee in Omaha.

### 30 years ago ('86)

- Wilmadeen Cramer joins the staff as the 1st-3rd grade teacher.
- \$900 is raised through the elementary pancake feed.

### 40 years ago ('76)

- Alumni gather for a reunion in early January. Newly-elected alumni officers are Lynn Ballagh ('70), president; Doug Clausen ('70), vice president; Marlene Root ('71), secretary; and Darla (Hermsmeyer '74) Rasmussen, treasurer.

### 50 years ago ('66)

- Don Hoover steps in to teach Bible after Ward Smith is injured in a car accident.

- For: Ron Rowse
- From: Larry & Denise Schreiber
- For: Wesley Sell
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- For: Dorothy Troester
- From: Mary Reisinger
- For: Mary Ann Whinfrey
- From: Don & Kayleen Riley
- In Honor of: Keith Heuermann's 90th Birthday
- From: Anna Marie Moore

Follow recent NC activities & events: [nebraskachristian.org/blog](http://nebraskachristian.org/blog)

**See the Choir on Tour!**  
Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 3 p.m.  
Ainsworth High School Learning Center

Sponsored by Ainsworth Church of the Nazarene  
\*watch our website calendar for other choir dates



Campbell's Soup *Labels for Education* and *Box Tops for Education* programs have been a helpful way to get needed items. Bring the marked box tops and UPCs\* to the school office.

\*Remember, we no longer need the front of the soup labels; we need the bar code and the little man on the back of the can. If this is damaged, we cannot use it.



**Nebraska  
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SCHOOLS

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**Honor Choir** | Eleven NC students were selected to one of three choirs at the annual UNK Honor Band & Choral Clinic. They participated in an all-day workshop on January 25, which culminated in an evening concert. Front: Danae Burdett, Wendy Bornmann, Desiree Lutes, Marilla Flynn, Gladys Choi. Back: Makenna Loy, Andrew Feely, Cameron Langemeier, Logan Faeh, Matt Myers, Juan Lasso.

**Join us for the Elementary Musical!**

***Ocean Commotion***

a Patch the Pirate Musical

Friday, March 4, 7 p.m. | Performing Arts Center, Central City  
No admission charge. A freewill offering will be taken.

## Nebraska Christian Schools 2016 Dinner & Benefit Auction

**March 18 & 19, 2016**

**Nebraska Christian Gymnasium**

*Saturday evening, March 19th*

5:00 *Hors d'oeuvres & Silent Auction bidding*

6:30 *Dinner*

7:30 *Live Auction*

*Scholarship Auction to follow*

*Reservations can be obtained by calling the Special Events office at 308-946-3836*