



nc advance

nebraska christian schools

building lives for eternity

Pfew! What a Summer by Josh Cumpston, Administrator



Summer break for most begins once the final bell rings in May and lasts until the first bell rings in August. As students leave the campus, they and most of their families don't think about what happens at school during their time away from teachers and textbooks. What many might think is a slow time of year is actually one of the busiest for those left working on campus.

If there had been a record for the amount of work done on NC's campus during a single summer, we had to come close to breaking it this year. Bob Ritta, Tom Dockweiler, and Gib Killion led a small army of "vacationing" teachers and other staff to accomplish some major repairs and upgrades across campus. They were joined by many other friends of the school who lent their expertise and their backs to help complete these projects; some were completed just days before kids arrived.

Still other projects were done by professionals. These projects were often outside the scope of our staff because of the specialized equipment and knowledge that was required. There were many great friendships and relationships forged between our staff and the people who were on campus helping us to build infrastructure for the next 50 years.

As most of you know, we are building a new girls' dorm. What you might not know is that we updated the boys' dorm this summer. A new laundry room was built that

now houses four washers and dryers, and the water doesn't back up in the floor when more than one washer drains at a time. A new kitchenette was built—the boys had always had to wash dishes in the bathroom or go to the kitchen at night. They now have a sink, dishwasher, cabinets, and a lot of counter space to enjoy. One of the bathrooms was redone, tile was replaced, and many areas were repainted. We also added a wireless network. A new electrical panel and more power were added to the dorm. This will hopefully eliminate blown breakers and provide enough energy into the building that someday we may be able to add air conditioning.

Some of the work that you won't see is underground. Conduit was trenched in between buildings, so hopefully in the future, if we need to run more cable or wire, we won't have to tear the grass up again. We have already used it to pull phone lines and Internet fiber between buildings. We have added more underground sprinklers to the areas around the Administration building and the new girls' dorm. A lot of electrical work was done around campus besides bringing more power to the boys' dorm. We now have transformers in the ground, and a lot of our wires are buried instead of overhead. Our insurance provider and the city electrical department are very happy that there are no longer wires running across the top to buildings. Many of the poles behind the Administration

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Juniors Katie Entz and Janie Mousel enjoy the football scrimmage.

New School Year Brings Excitement, Changes

The 2015-2016 school year kicked off August 18 with 201 students enrolled in preschool through 12th grade. As is usually the case, the year started off at full speed. In the first week of school alone, the seniors went to Covenant Cedars for the annual senior retreat, student council elections were held, and NC families swarmed the campus for the annual NC Family Carnival, football soap scrimmage, and cross country fun run.

Also in the first month of school, the elementary and international students spent time at the Nebraska State Fair, the yearbook class attended a workshop in Columbus, and the junior and senior high students were able to hear two nationally-known speakers. The first, Mike Gendron, a Christian apologist, spoke to students at Spiritual Emphasis Day. A week later, students attended an assembly in Central City, where they heard youth motivational speaker Scott Backovich. This assembly was sponsored by the Merrick County Youth Council, a group of which

several NC students are members.

In addition to busyness, the new school year ushered in some changes. Longtime staff members Barb Hoff and Cheryl Smith retired at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, leaving openings in the English department and the elementary. Rachel Hicks was brought in to teach English and ESL classes, and Amy Fetterley became an elementary aide and took over the Columbus bus route. Eric Zanger joined the staff as the new co-director of the international program, and he also teaches a Bible class. Donna Janssen has joined the NC staff as another elementary aide, Chris Broman is a new cook, Ronda Jividen is a high school aide and study hall monitor, and Curtis Cooper joined the custodial staff. You can read about some of these new staff members on page 3, and the rest will be profiled in the November-December issue.

Other changes have been made to the campus infrastructure, as the campus is now hooked into city wa-

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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.

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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.

Next 50 Years Campaign Update



by Mark McHargue ('85), Campaign Chairman

As I sit down to write this, all of the funds required to finish paying the final expenses of the new girls' dorm have been raised. Nearly half of the funds required to pay for the water project are also ready to cover those costs when the bills arrive. And as soon as the water project is fully funded, we will be able to move on to the next project—Phase 2: the Gym/Dining/Music building. All this while the general budget continues to stay fully-funded. Praise the Lord!

As we have watched the Lord supply the workers, the equipment, and the funds in His time for the girls' dorm, we have been reminded that this project is all about bringing Him glory. Our staff have had opportunities to witness and minister to contractors; some frustrating delays resulted in opportunities to head off potential problems later in the build; and often just the right question was asked on just the right day to just the right person to produce the best possible end product.

Lord willing, a dedication and move in day for the girls' dorm will happen later this semester. We are looking forward to celebrating God's provisions for this new facility with all of you, so please watch NC's Facebook page or your mailbox for more information about the celebration and dedication.

The water project, a \$240,000 project, successfully connected our campus to city water just after the start of school. This was not without its own delays and hiccoughs, but the water is running clear and clean now. Water has been on the mind of NC's leadership for many years, and we are thankful this project has been completed.

With Phase 1 of our campus renovation plan nearly completed,

the Nebraska Christian School Board voted this summer to move forward with Phase 2: the Gym/Dining/Music addition. A contractor has been hired, and NC's building sub-committee is busy working on plans that include a new dining facility and kitchen as well as a new gym, locker rooms, and storage areas. More information on these exciting Phase 2 plans will be coming in the days ahead.

In the midst of the fundraising, planning, and building, I am reminded that this campaign is not really about fundraising or planning or buildings. Instead, The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign



Staff members Gib Killion, Tim Jewell, and Clay Mankin pour a sidewalk to the new girls' dorm.

is about what NC has always been about, the mission of partnering with the family and church to provide a Christ-centered education and encourage each student to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We pray that the facilities God provides for us will be a tool in carrying out this mission.

It's humbling to be a part of God's continued work here at NC. So many of you have stood by our side and prayed earnestly for the school and have given of your time and resources over the years. Here are a few ways you can continue to pray for and support NC.

2015-2016 Gift Income

Budgeted: \$498,000

Through September 15: \$33,017

Fiscal year runs July-June

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

16 Grandparents' Day

26 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 2-8 p.m.

NOVEMBER

13 Harvest Festival, 6:30 p.m.
(note the date change)

DECEMBER

11 Festival of Lessons & Carols, 6:15 p.m.

For additional events visit
nebraskachristian.org/calendar

Pray:

- Pray for the girls' dorm to be completed in the Lord's time in a way that is honoring to Him.
- Pray that all that goes on in the facility will point our dorm students to Christ's love for them.
- Pray that the funds will come in to finish paying off the water project.
- Pray that the sub-committee will have wisdom as they continue to plan for Phase 2: the Gym/Dining/Music Building.

Support Financially:

- Support the Next 50 Years Capital Campaign with a gift of money, grain, livestock, or another unique gift idea you may have. Each gift is a testimony to God's provision and an opportunity for you to help meet a need here at NC.
- Give toward the \$140,000 still needed to finish paying off the city water project.
- Consider how you might be able to partner financially with NC as we prepare for Phase 2.

Donations should be made payable to **Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation** and sent to PO Box 222, Central City, NE 68826. Please contact Jody Heuermann at jheuermann@nebraskachristian.org with any questions.



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

New Teachers & Staff Join NC Family



Rachel Hicks

by Isabella Yang,
senior

Being an English teacher and ESL teacher takes solid knowledge and hard work. Fortunately, Nebraska Christian hired Rachel Hicks, who had taught 5-8th grade Language Arts for six years at Wilcox-Hildreth School, as its new English I, III, IV, and ESL I teacher this fall.

Miss Hicks graduated from Crown College, a Christian and Missionary Alliance school in Minnesota. She earned a Bible certificate, a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary English, a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, and a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Miss Hicks became a Christian when she was 3½ because she knew that she couldn't live a pure life without Christ's help and forgiveness. As time passed, she realized that asking forgiveness was not enough for having a pure life. Being a Christian, she was responsible to work for and glorify God by submitting to the Holy Spirit's prodding. She said, "That's an ongoing task. As soon as I feel I've gotten rid of one sinful habit, the Holy Spirit brings another one (or thousand) to light." Her favorite verse is Proverbs 3:5-6.

Feeling welcomed and loved by the students at NC, Miss Hicks also mentioned that she loves the culture of prayer, outreach, and community in the school. In addition, she is looking forward to teaching her students some new things and helping them review things that they already know. She also is looking forward to experiencing high school life again, as she has been teaching on the middle school level for several years and missed out on high

school activities and events. Most of all, she values the opportunity to pray for and with her students, partnering with the students in their walks with Christ.



Amy Fetterley

by Makenna Loy,
senior

One of the hallmarks of Nebraska Christian Schools is its extremely capable and caring staff. Each year, new staff members join the current staff as they carry out the school's mission. This year, one of those new staff members is Amy Fetterley.

Amy Fetterley is happily married to her husband Bill. Their two children, Marisa (age ten) and Nathan (age eight), both attend the NC elementary. Mrs. Fetterley is a paraprofessional (teacher's aide) in the elementary. She thoroughly enjoys her time helping with the kids in her classroom. Her favorite part of NC is being able to work with children every day and be around the great staff. Besides being a teacher's aide, she also drives the Columbus bus route and does some administrative work for Mr. Cumpston. Before Mrs. Fetterley came to NC, she was the office manager at Columbus Christian School.

When asked why she decided to come to NC, Mrs. Fetterley's first answer was for her kids. She stressed the fact that a lot of praying took place before the decision was made. In my short time speaking to Mrs. Fetterley, it was easy for me to see God's prominence in her and her family's life. She grew up in a very strong Christian family. She further stated that some of the huge factors that helped her become a Christian were the strong examples she had in her life as a young teenager. These examples also helped her grow her in her faith after she became a Child of God.



Donna Janssen

by Cole Ruybalid,
junior

Mrs. Donna Janssen is one of the newest members of the Nebraska Christian staff. She decided to come to Nebraska Christian because the open position in the elementary appealed to her. She wanted to be on the same school schedule with her kids, and just the fact that NC is a Christian school helped pique her interest.

Prior to working at NC, Mrs. Janssen had a job very similar to the one she has now. She worked with Kindergarten teachers at Aurora Elementary. But at NC, she has more responsibilities. She helps elementary teachers Charissa Smith and Denise Schrieber with whatever they need help with: preparations with classwork, monitoring recesses, and helping kids with their work. Her favorite part about her job is just getting to know all the students, teachers, and staff members at Nebraska Christian.

Mrs. Janssen became a Christian when she was seven years old. She went with her family to see Nicky Cruz, a former gang member whose story is told in the best-selling book *The Cross and the Switchblade*. Following Cruz's presentation, Mrs. Janssen received Christ.

Mrs. Janssen lives with her husband Steve and their two children: Benjamin (9th) and Olivia (7th).



Eric Zanger

by Brad Hilderbrand,
freshman

Eric Zanger decided to come to NC in May 2015. Mr. Zanger teaches freshman Bible, is co-director of the international program, and is also the assistant coach for the boys' basket-



Dexter Wins State Track Title

Warren Dexter ('15) capped his high school track career with a state championship in the 1600 meter run. He also placed second in the 800 meters and fourth in the 3200 meter relay with teammates Jerod Prettyman, Nolan Kohmetscher, and Brennan Nokelby. You can read more about the Dexter family's running legacy in our next issue.

ball team. He and his wife Laurie have three kids: Emma, 4 and in NC's preschool; Will, 3; and Kate, 8 months. One of Mr. Zanger's main focuses for the year is seeing international students and American students come together in more intentional ways. He says, "Personally, my family and I will try to have every student over for dinner, and I will be praying for each student." When asked about the school, he said, "I love it here. It is a joy to be back in a classroom opening up the Scripture as well as being a part of the international program. I really like the family feel here as well."

Before Mr. Zanger came to NC, he taught Bible in Korea at a high school. He then went to the Omaha area to teach Bible in a high school. After this, Mr. Zanger was a corporate trainer at a credit union in Omaha, and then he came to NC to teach, coach, and be a co-director of the international program. Mr. Zanger says, "Echoing James 4:13-15, 'if the Lord wills,' I'd like to be here as long as possible."

Alumnus Pens Novel Set at NC by Stephani (Deichmann '03) Francl, Development Director



The fictional book, *Blemished Heart*, based on the real-life experiences of Nebraska Christian alumnus Fern Bolt ('62), is a story of hurt and darkness turned to truth and light through the redemption of Jesus Christ.

Lizzie grows up on a rustic farm in the 40's and 50's in central Nebraska. Her family's experiences represent the lives of many during that time period who struggled to keep food on the table and warmth in the house. The 3rd of 8 children, Lizzie and her siblings grow up under the authoritative dictatorship of "spare the rod, spoil the child." She experiences many abuses from individuals in her family who ought to have protected her, but instead their actions smudge dark spots on her heart that Lizzie tries in vain to wash away.

Throughout the book, Lizzie questions God's purposes and

struggles to find a safe place to nurse her scarred soul. The story takes a turn when Lizzie finds a way to attend a newly-founded boarding school, Nebraska Christian High School, in 1959. Her determination and hard work along with the Lord's work in her life propel her to find freedom from the pains of her past and move into life after high school with new purpose.

As I read the book, I found myself drawn into Lizzie's world, shocked and saddened by the reality of what she faced as a child. It took time and the love of Christ shown through people outside of her family to break through the walls Lizzie had put up to try to protect herself.

Blemished Heart's real impact comes toward the end where Lizzie finally experiences the love of Christ for herself. But for this, it would simply be another story of pain and suffering. Instead, it is a shining example of how Christ's redeeming love can take any darkness

and turn it around for His glory.

Blemished Heart is not an exact representation of the author's journey (if it had been, then it would be an autobiography). But it is a fictional representation of her life, her experiences, and how she found freedom. That she included Nebraska Christian High School as a major part of experiencing Christ's love is no coincidence.

When Nebraska Christian High School was started in 1959, its founding members could not have known the impact the school would have in the lives of individuals like Lizzie. Their writings tell of the importance of Christian education, and today we talk about the critical nature of the Christian worldview in light of recent national and world events. While these things are all very true, it is the love of Christ and His redemptive power that change lives forever.

Ultimately, reading *Blemished Heart* made me ever more grate-

ful to be part of the ministry of Nebraska Christian Schools. Our mission 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. And we try to do those things to the fullest extents. But even beyond those things, we get to be part of a ministry that changes lives forever through Christ's redeeming power.

You don't have to work here to be part of this. If you attended NC, if you have volunteered here, if you have prayed for the staff and students, if you have contributed financially, then you, too, are part of what God is doing here, and we are so very grateful for your partnership with us.

If you'd like a copy of *Blemished Heart* by Fern Bolt ('62), visit her website at fernbolt.com or get your digital or hard copy on Amazon.com.

Memorial Gifts

For: Doris Bankson	From: B. J. Bauer
From: Linda Peterson	For: Marilyn Lavelle
For: Eleanor Christensen	From: James & Nancy Augustine
From: Harold & Dorothy Cook	Don & Lylus Franzen
For: Cecil Clausen	Ed & Marilyn Ritta
From: David Ficken	For: May Lewis
Gil & Dorothy Glad	From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
Bob & Susan Ritta	For: Kristen McHargue
James & JoAnn Willis	From: Ed & Marilyn Ritta
For: Nancy Cook	For: Laurene McGaughey
From: Linda Peterson	From: Jerry & Connie Johnston
For: Ray Hauser	For: Marilyn Newby
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Gil & Dorothy Glad	For: Margaret Quaring
Keith and Jen Hauser	From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
For: Wil Jacoby	For: Kathy Ritenour
From: Gil & Dorothy Glad	From: Bob & Susan Ritta
For: Janeal Johnson Schroder	For: Ron Rowse
From: Scott & Cindy Guthrie	From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
Duane & Kathryn Sawyer	Ken & Judy Taylor
Doug Wright	For: Wanda Zornes
For: Elsie Kasten	From: Don & Kayleen Riley

NC Flashback



For this flashback, rather than identify people, we want you to identify an object. There are hundreds of these on NC's campus, and if you've spent any amount of time here, you've seen them—you just may not have noticed! If you can identify this object and tell us where it's located, you could win our prize. Send your guesses to advance@nebraska-christian.org



From the last issue (left): Congratulations to Holly (Murphy '06) Oswald, the winner of last issue's Flashback contest! Pictured in the photo are (clockwise from bottom left): Sarah Kauk ('05), Valerie Ritta ('05), Kristi Johnson ('05), Jessica Zaruba ('99), Troy Thieszen ('05), Will Dobson ('05), Brady Chase ('05), Nic Ryan ('05), Joyful Ruark ('05).

Alumni News



Fern (Brunken '62) Boldt

Fern recently published a young adult novel, *Blemished Heart*. In June, she attended a writers' conference in Toronto. At the closing black tie dinner, The Word Guild announced the winners in more than 30 categories of writing. Out of hundreds of submissions from all over Canada, she won the award for best young adult novel. *Blemished Heart* is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

You can keep up with Fern at her website, fernboldt.com. For more on her book, see our review on page 4.



Thomas Everett Crowther
son of Colt & Amanda (Lieg) '07 Crowther

Thomas Colt & Amanda Crowther of Grand Island, Nebraska, welcomed a son, Thomas Everett Crowther, on June 20, 2015. Thomas was born at 1:02 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs., 3 oz. and was 21 inches long.



Dustin & Stephany (Krieger '11) Jackson

Stephany Krieger & Dustin Jackson were united in marriage March 7th, 2015, at Faith Community Church in O'Neill, Nebraska. Pastor Steve Randolph officiated.

Parents of the couple are Lowell ('82) and Vicky (Masters '81) Krieger of O'Neill and David & Cindy Jackson of O'Neill. Grandparents of the bride are Norbert & Sylvia Krieger of O'Neill and Dwight & Alice Masters of Mapleton, Iowa. Grandparents of the groom are the late Delane & Florence Jackson.

Maid of Honor was Ashley Lilly. Bridesmaids were Stacey (Krieger '07) Nunnenkamp, Melissa (Krieger '05) Weedin, Ashley Shutt, & Katie Uehling. Flower Girls were Kyriana Crist, Ariel Jackson, Delaney Jackson, & MaKenna Weedin.

Best Man was Darik Fox. Groomsmen were David Jackson, Dalton Jackson, Connor Ames, & Jordan Uehling. Ring bearers were Logan Shutt & Gunner Jackson. Ushers were Ryan Weedin ('06), Tyler Nunnenkamp ('07), Ron Sterns, and Jackson Latzel.

After a honeymoon to Florida, the couple resides in O'Neill. Stephany is employed at Anson Insurance Services, Inc. in O'Neill, and Dustin is employed by Alpha Galvanizing in Atkinson.



Danny ('14) & Rachel (McHargue '14) Stevens

Mark ('85) and Judi (Elsberry '85) McHargue of Central City are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Rachel Hannah to Daniel Andrew Stevens, the son of Daniel & Julie Stevens of Ord, Nebraska, on Saturday, June 6, 2015. The couple wed at the Monroe Evangelical Free Church in Phillips, Nebraska.

The bride wore an ivory Vera Wang ball gown. She carried white peonies with lavender pom poms wrapped in gold ribbon. The groom wore a black tuxedo with ivory vest and tie.

The wedding reception was held at the Hordville Event Center in Hordville, Nebraska. The couple left for their honeymoon to Colorado with guests lining the sidewalk with sparklers.

The couple will make their home in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Changes, continued from pg. 1

ter, new football lights have been installed, and the girls' dorm construction continues. Read about these changes and more in Superintendent Josh Cumpston's article on page 1.

One additional change is to the Advance itself. We recently decided to shift the publication schedule from quarterly to bi-monthly, which will allow us to get information into your hands

NC Almanac

10 years ago ('05)

- Dan Woods is hired to replace Dave Edgren as administrator. He will work in various capacities during the fall semester and transition into the administrator role during the spring semester.
- Former Nebraska Assistant Football Coach Ron Brown and Pastor Eldon Elsberry speak at Spiritual Emphasis Day.

20 years ago ('95)

- Charles Ramsey begins his tenure as NC administrator.
- Romanian students Dehlia Nuta and Andri Cioara-Pandar spend seven weeks studying at Nebraska Christian as part of an exchange program.

30 years ago ('85)

- New staff include Sharon Lipke, Tom Dockweiler ('79), Bruce Boyle, Kelly Elge, Jim Wright, and Eleanor Wright.
- A coach bus, which will be used for many years, is purchased.

40 years ago ('75)

- Construction begins on the addition to the gym building, which includes the Music & Worship and locker rooms.

50 years ago ('65)

- 144 students are enrolled.

in a more timely manner. Some of our regular columns—like Tom Dockweiler's "Dollars & Sense," Jody Heuermann's Foundation update, and Stephani Francil's alumni features—will run in select issues. Others, like Josh Cumpston's superintendent's update, the almanac, and the calendar, will run in each issue. We hope you enjoy the new publication schedule!



Nebraska Christian

SCHOOLS

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What a Summer, *continued from pg. 1*

building and the boys' dorm have been removed. Another ground transformer was placed near the football concession stand.

We were connected with Central City water in August. Although a main pipe coming from the city's well broke recently, the repairs didn't take long, and we are glad to have this service instead of our wells. By being connected with the city, we can have enough water for the water suppression systems that are required when we remodel or build new.

Other work was completed that you wouldn't see was the roof over rooms 2,3, and 4 in the gym building was repaired, as well as parts of the roof above the gyms. We had been having problems with leaks for some time, and the patches we

had made were continuing to leak. We also now have a direct Internet line instead of a dish that shoots to the top of the grain elevator. This will allow our Internet to grow as our needs grow.

In addition to the projects you wouldn't notice, we also worked on some highly visible projects. Work on the new girls' dorm continues, and we are excited to be able to get into it. We think it will provide ministry opportunities during the school year and in the summer for many years. (For more information on the girls' dorm project, see the campaign update on page 2.) There was a lot of cement work—new sidewalks and repairing old sidewalks—that occurred all over campus. We also repainted many classrooms, bath-

A Festival of Lessons & Carols!

Friday, December 11, 2015

Doors open at 5:30 • Prelude begins at 6:15

Tickets will be available for purchase in the NC office in November.

rooms, and hallways.

Additionally, we are in the process of adding new lights to our football field. These are nearly up and operational. The football field lights weren't part of our original plans for this summer, but poles were given to us, we found very inexpensive lights from a recently torn down professional sports stadium (Candlestick Park in San Francisco), and we had the equipment and electricians already on site with all of the other work that was happening. It was fun to watch God put things in place this summer to allow us to replace the lights far more economically than we had thought possible.

With the busyness of the summer, I think many of us are glad that

summer "vacation" ended and that the students are back in the classrooms. We still are finishing things up here and there, but we are off to a great start and have been blessed with great kids and families.

If you haven't been to campus in a while, I invite you to come back and see some of the things that the Lord has provided. If you ever lived in the dorm, we'd be excited to show you some of the changes that have happened. Most importantly, we'd love to fellowship with you and hear your stories of things you did while a student at NC and where the Lord has led you over the years.

I hope you always feel welcome to come back and visit. We'd love to have you.

Harvest Festival Friday, November 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of food, music, & fellowship. A freewill offering will be taken.