



# Columbia Christian

FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS

## News and Updates – Winter 2018

### Bible Day at Columbia Christian



To celebrate Bible Day on February 2, Columbia Christian elementary teachers and students dressed up as Bible characters and traveled from classroom to classroom on a journey through the Bible. Students learned about both Old and New Testament stories, including such favorites as David and Goliath, Ruth, and the travels of Paul. Bible Day is one example of the *Columbia Difference* advertised on the radio and touted on the Columbia website. Columbia teachers are driven by a passion for providing a Christ-centered education for each student who embarks with them on the journey toward excellence in faith, character, and academics.

### Principal Ami Vensel Appointed ACSI District Representative

Association of Christian Schools International regional director Dr. Deborah Miller announced the appointment of Columbia principal Ami Vensel as the new District 2B representative for ACSI.

“In my short tenure as Regional Director and previously when I had student teachers in my Multnomah program in her building and then as a fellow administrator while at WCHS, I have found Ami to be energetic, optimistic, service-oriented, collaborative, honest, visionary, and godly,” Dr. Miller said in announcing her appointment. “I am thankful to have her leadership in our region.”

ACSI is the largest private school accreditation body in the world. Columbia Christian is accredited by ACSI and AdvancED.

Columbia president Marquita Moss commended Mrs. Vensel on her appointment, noting that she has served on accreditation teams at other schools and has demonstrated her commitment to high accreditation standards and excellence in education.



## Homecoming 2017

Queen Delilah Carter  
with parents Tom and Anna Carter



As the lights went dark in the gym, seven spiffily dressed fathers stepped into the spotlight to escort their beautiful young princesses onto the center of the Jim Flint basketball court at Columbia Christian. Spiritual Life Director Troy Wagner read a special note from the girl's parents as the princesses took their places on the floor. Each letter confirmed all the reasons why each girl deserved to be in the Homecoming spotlight.

Principal Ami Vensel and Assistant Principal Joel Davis greeted each princess individually, then took a step back to honor the seven young ladies selected by classmates to represent Columbia Christian High School. In the end, only one princess could be crowned queen. Mrs. Vensel crowned Delilah Carter as the 2017 Homecoming Queen. Delilah said she thanks her mom for "teaching [her] how to grow in God's sight" and her dad for teaching her how "to serve as God has served."

**The 2017 Court from Left to Right:**

Junior Brooklyn Davis,  
Senior Abigail Heiner,  
Senior Delilah Carter,  
Senior Grace Canfield,  
Junior Isabella Banducci,  
Senior Hannah Bergdolt



## 2017-2018 Knights Basketball

The boys' basketball team returns to Pendleton for the second year in a row. The Knights enter the state championship tournament as the number 2 seed with a 27-1 record.

On Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, the Knights were featured in the Portland Tribune, predicting that "with five freshmen on the varsity roster, this season for the Columbia Christian High [School] boys' basketball team should be about gaining experience. But Valentine — along with longtime Columbia Christian coach Jim Flint, who assists him — have plenty of raw talent to work with this season."

## In Memory of Michael Lawrence, Board member and 1966 Alumni



Mike Lawrence and family, Summer 2017

Columbia Christian board member Michael D. (Mike) Lawrence, passed away on January 18, 2018 in Mount Dora, FL, after an 8-month battle with esophageal cancer.

Born in Paris, Texas, to W.T. and Mona Lawrence, Mike and his family moved to Oregon where he spent the majority of his life.

A 1966 graduate of Columbia Christian High School, Mike attended college for a year before signing up for a four-year tour in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed in the Mediterranean and on the island of Crete during most of his Navy duty. During his last year in the Navy, he came home on leave and began dating Raynette Wray, who also graduated from Columbia Christian High School. They married in 1971.

Mike received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oregon. While working as an accountant for Oregon Health Sciences University, he

was asked to teach his first accounting class at Columbia Christian College. Discovering a love of teaching, he spent his career as a college accounting/finance instructor and authored numerous college accounting textbooks. In 2013, he retired from Portland Community College.

It was one of his great pleasures to be able to serve on the Columbia Christian School Board for the past several years. His grandfather, Harold Hamstreet was on the first board of the Columbia Christian Bible School. All three of Mike's children attended Columbia from kindergarten through high school.

Mike was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in April last year while he was in the process of moving from Portland to Florida. Mike is survived by his wife Raynette, and three children; Ryan Lawrence, Nicole Warren, and Kevin Lawrence, their spouses, seven granddaughters and one grandson.

***The mission of Columbia Christian is to provide a Christ-centered education  
focused on excellence in faith, character and academics.***

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