

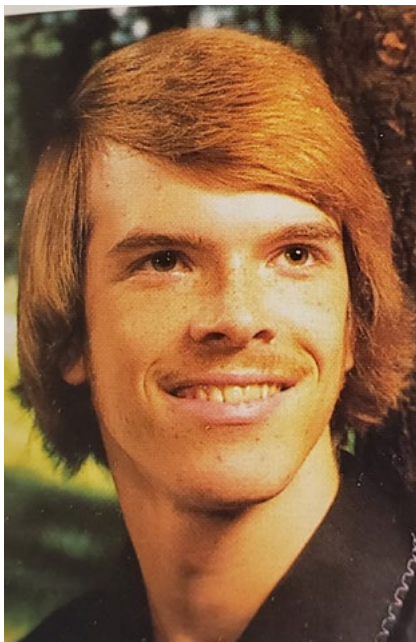


The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

July 2019

Special Spotlight on Alumni



David Partlow
1981 Alum

Began at Columbia in 1974

After graduating from Columbia Christian, David Partlow completed a degree in Computer Science at Harding University. He said his excellent high school experience prepared him for college. While at Columbia, he was a top student – graduating 3rd out of a class of 22 students. David currently works as an SQL Server Database Administrator for XPO Logistics, and worships with the Washougal Church of Christ. Mr. Partlow considers his greatest accomplishment to be his 34-year marriage to his wife, Jeanie. David’s connection to Columbia continued into his adult life as their son attended Columbia as well.

"I enjoyed my years at Columbia. I believe in Columbia. The teachers knew how to help my son negotiate life and the difficult transition of adolescence. The support was uncanny."

David participated in band for 8 years – playing the trombone, and he has led singing at church services since 7th grade. He gives credit to Keith Farris for giving him the music discipline, and he acknowledges that his time at Columbia gave him the ability to share music. David commented, "I was able to excel in band, and although not a great athlete, I was still able to be a part of the sports experience by playing a 'little diddy' on my trombone for each player while they came out: Doug Hanna, Mike Cash, Mark Reddington, Dan Dalzell, Paul Faulson, Alan Hinds, and Kelly Seal, to name a few."

In reflecting on the school, Mr. Partlow concluded, "I believe in Columbia. I know that Columbia is the better choice for education."

Fun Fact: David is the son of Dean and Ida Partlow – in whose honor the Columbia library is named.

Caden Dukes, class of 2015, shown with parents Eli and Tracey Dukes and siblings Saylor & Connor, graduated from Oklahoma Christian University in April with a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Caden was offered a job as applications engineer on the F35 program with Lockheed Martin about a month before graduation. He started with them on July 8th in Fort Worth, TX.

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See more featured alumni
inside this issue >>>

Sojourners Volunteer on Campus

While students are on summer break and regular school activities await the coming fall semester, many projects and events are still occurring on Columbia's campus. This summer, the Sojourners, retired men and women who travel in RV's to help small Church of Christ congregations and ministries, blessed Columbia with two intensive weeks of maintenance work. The Sojourners, who now consists of more than 500 members nationally, began as a calling heard by Paul and Peggie Scott. This couple saw the struggles and needs of small congregations, and felt moved to offer their skills in service. Paul and Peggie attended Sunset School of Preaching to equip themselves to be the hands and feet that congregations needed. Marvin and Linda Hall, who shared the same dream and spirited desire, soon joined forces with the Scotts to initiate an RV ministry. As the idea and mission spread, numbers grew. In 1979, the name "Sojourners" was given to the group, explaining their way of service. They hear of a need, answer the call, leave a blessing, and head out to bless more. The Sojourners estimate that they have touched over 5,000 lives through their work.

On the Columbia's campus, the team worked for two weeks June 14-28 completing tasks that helped prepare Columbia for the busy year ahead, including: cleaning the elementary and middle school lockers, installing new siding on the middle school building, painting the second floor hallway of Sanders Hall, preparing library materials, various office tasks, and assembling treats and invitations for local church VBS programs – to inform parents and families of Columbia. Their biggest project was helping with the demo and remodeling of the lower JC offices. Every member of the group helped in this area, and the space is now being rented out to generate revenue for the school.

Eli Dukes, Columbia's Facilities Director, and facilities team members Tracey Dukes and BJ San Nicolas, met the Sojourners on campus and worked alongside them. They spoke highly of the Sojourners and their service, emphasizing what a joy they were. "Through their work and ministry, the Sojourners brought so much light to campus," Eli said.

BJ commented, "It is always a blessing working with God's people, especially when they bring a great sense of humor and interesting stories."

At the end of the mission, the Facilities Department hosted an island-themed BBQ for the Sojourners, ending an effective and influential mission with one last time of togetherness.

-Saylor Dukes
Class of 2019

Columbia thanks:

Pete and Pat Rawlins

Bill and Ellen Brooks

Bob and Wilma Farley

Ed and Louise Bailey

Rex and Pat Farnsworth

Don and Robin Hindsley

Martin and Debra Buchanan

Larry and Barbara Crone



COLUMBIA ARTS CAMP

August 12-16

8:30 AM-3:30 PM

\$250

Non-refundable app. fee: \$50
(applied to cost of camp)

Ages 6-16

Under the guidance of teaching artists, participants explore a variety of mediums in the visual and performing arts while developing long lasting friendships and having fun.

Our Arts Camp includes drawing, painting, pottery, photography, theater, music and more.

Each week of camp ends with our "Friday Fun Finale" where parents, friends, and family members are invited to join us for exhibitions and student performances.

What to bring:

Lunch - water bottle - backpack - artist clothes (that can get messy)

How to register:

[Download and print the full brochure.](#) Bring in the completed form to the school office.

THEATER
MUSIC
PHOTOGRAPHY
PAINTING
POTTERY

Athletics

Fall Sports Info from Bart Valentine, Director of Athletics

With summer upon us, fall sports are just around the corner. This fall Columbia will offer three high school varsity sports programs: volleyball (girls), soccer (boys and girls coed), and cross country (boys and girls coed). At the middle school level we offer coed soccer for grades 6-8 and volleyball for girls in grades 5-8. Here are some important details as we look toward the fall:

High school fall sports practices start on August 19. It is very important that families plan for that date. Student athletes need to be back from vacations and prepared to go at that first practice. Middle school practices will start on August 26.

Sport physicals are good for two years. State regulations require all HS athletes to have an updated physical before practicing. Please check to make sure your son's or daughter's sports physical is updated.

We want to remind you about our sports/activities fees. HS students who participate in sports, drama, or other school-sponsored extracurricular activities will be assessed a \$50 fee per activity, with a \$100 cap for each student per year. The fee for MS students is \$25 per activity. This fee helps cover the costs of coaching salaries, referees, transportation, etc.

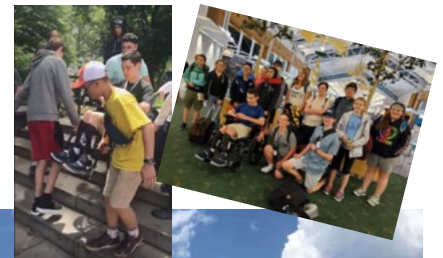
Students must register for each sport on FamilyID before participation. Registration for fall sports will be opening soon.

We look forward to your son or daughter participating in a fall sport. Questions can be directed to me at bvalentine@columbiachristian.com.

Washington D.C. Trip

Columbia teacher Natalie Bishop led a group of 25 8th/9th grade students and chaperones on a 6-day trip to the East Coast last month. Their travels included stops in Washington DC, Pennsylvania, and New York. Notable sites along the way were: talking with Senator Jeff Merkley and touring the capital, touring Independence Hall where the Declaration was signed, traveling all over Manhattan in the subway, and seeing *Aladdin* on Broadway.

One experience on day three of the trip was especially memorable for Mrs. Bishop. "We saw many heroes today, but these boys were my heroes. They not only volunteered to push a fellow classmate around Arlington National Cemetery – up hills and down, but when we hit a spot with some stairs, they carried the whole chair up the stairs."





Lois (Maxwell)
Owen
1980 Alum

Began at Columbia in 1968

Lois (Maxwell) Owen attended Columbia Christian for all of her elementary, middle, and high school years. After graduating, she continued her studies at Columbia Christian College – earning a degree in Education. Following that, she taught for 30 years at Boring Middle School, and married “the man of my dreams!”

About her time at Columbia, Lois recalls, “A wonderful experience, I loved the class sizes being small, and I was able to know the teachers really well and see them at church. Enabled me to grow more, because it was more intimate. I didn’t have to be the greatest to be involved... in band for example, I didn’t have to be the best to make music with a group. I know where to find scripture. I learned the basics from Columbia. At Columbia I learned that my faith was my faith and not my parent’s faith. I realized that the decisions I make are mine, and I chose to be faithful on my own. It was a positive experience to learn to find my own path.”

Lois’s work in the public school setting helped her see the stark difference between that program and what she was blessed with grown up. About that dichotomy, she commented, “The instruction in Bible just won’t happen anywhere else. I taught in a public school environment and the pressure of the students and teachers to be of the secular worldview is hard. A Christian education is so much healthier than the non-scriptural things encountered in the public school environment. The environment at Columbia is healthy... compare class size from 43 to 20. How much more enrichment you will get in a smaller class size... morality, spiritual readiness, experience.”

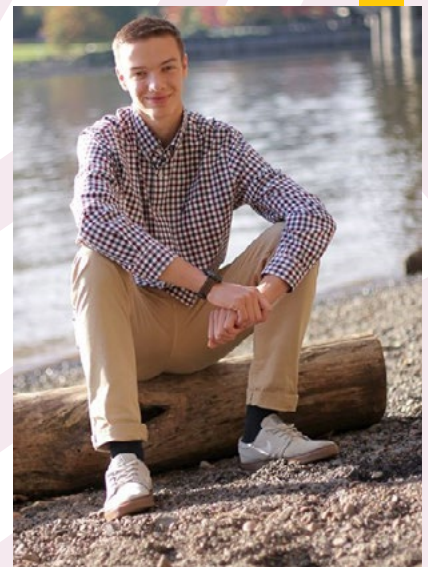
FAITH. CHARACTER. ACADEMICS.

Zach Barbarick, class of 2017, shared about his time at Columbia:

“I started at Columbia as a high school freshman and attended all the way through graduation. Columbia helped prepare me for college by giving me a very supportive community of teachers and coaches who helped push me to do my best, as well as address any doubts I had about college. To date, my proudest accomplishment related to academics would be my acceptance into George Fox and their engineering program and my full scholarship. I plan to work as a Civil Engineer after graduation.”

“I would describe my experience at Columbia as a very fond memory. I formed many lasting relationships. The size of the school allowed me to connect with many people in all different grade levels, and it fosters a sense of community among everyone. The teachers form meaningful relationships with the students and understand individual needs and circumstances because of the small size. At Columbia, I was able to participate in two different varsity sports (basketball and soccer) for all four years of high school. At a different school a lot of students would consider themselves lucky to participate in just one varsity sport, and I think that is something which made high school so special and memorable.”

“In regards to life skills I learned at Columbia, I think a major one would be how to be a leader. In sports I was given many opportunities to be a leader and my coaches encouraged this. In the classroom I think I was able to set an example for others with my focus and success in academics. I would definitely consider enrolling my future kids in school at Columbia because I had a positive experience there.”



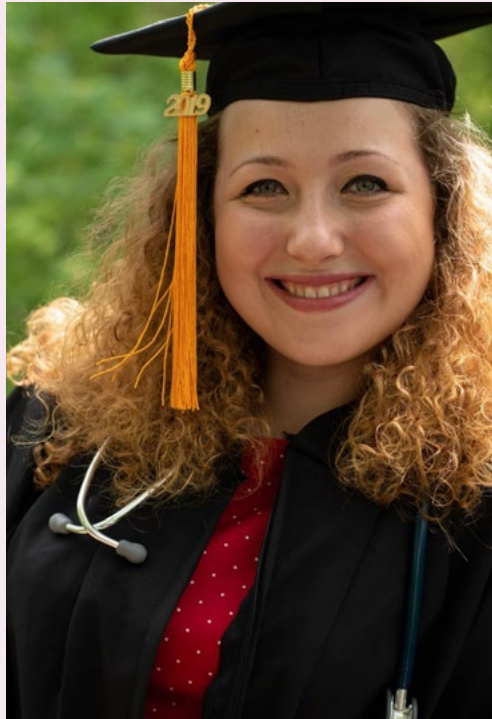
Zach Barbarick
2017 Alum

Began at Columbia in 2013

When asked about her experience at Columbia, Meghan Spencer shared the following:

"I started attending Columbia in the 6th grade. Columbia became a safe place for my two siblings and me after a less than pleasant experience in our previous school district. Generally speaking, kids are the same everywhere, but there was a noticeable difference in the atmosphere at Columbia that I credit to the Christian focus that was intentionally fostered there. Kids were polite to one another and teachers took a personal interest in me as a person, as well as in my spiritual walk. I found the environment uplifting, and I believe this allowed me to thrive in many areas of my life, particularly academics."

"I have to give a shout-out to Jaime Foland and her senior Capstone class. That class, more than any other I had



Meghan Spencer
2015 Alum
Began at Columbia in 2008

at Columbia, prepared me for college and helped me to be successful. The senior project I participated in was also a very eye-opening experience. My group focused on drug use in Montavilla Park, which instilled a passion in me for people that suffered in this way."

"After graduation, I attended Harding University in Searcy, AR to get my Bachelor's degree in Nursing Science. I have scheduled to take my NCLEX and have accepted a position working for Aveanna Healthcare which is a pediatric home health facility."

"Columbia has continued to grow and improve since I graduated. I am always surprised when I hear about the changes that are being made. The integration of more college credit courses is particularly appealing. I would definitely consider Columbia as a viable option for my future children and grandchildren.



Daniel Vensel,
class of 2015,
graduated
Magna Cum
Laude this
year from
Abilene
Christian
University
with a double
major in
Management
and Marketing



2019 Oklahoma Christian
University graduate
Reuben Carter (Columbia
Christian Class of 2015)
with parents, 1986 alumna
Anna (Outlaw) Carter and
1982 alumnus Tom Carter



72 YEARS OF EXCELLENT
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Promoters and Word-of-Mouth



"TRULY AN ANSWERED PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY"

**FREE TUITION
OPEN HOUSE**

**Thursday, August 15 • 7:00pm
Upper Johnson Center**

A winner will be drawn that evening for a FREE semester of tuition for one new student.*

Take a campus tour and visit with administrators, teachers, students, and parents.

***Must be present to win. Chance to win increases with every person you bring.**

Principal Ami Vensel addressed an audience of 50 school supporters this month at the Promoters' Dessert Reception. Guests enjoyed refreshments and fellowship before receiving information related to spreading the word about positive things happening at the school. Following are three highlights from Mrs. Vensel's presentation:

1. Word-of-mouth referrals are the BEST way for new families to hear about Columbia – please keep sharing with your circle of influence.
2. You don't have to know all the answers (or any of the answers) – just share your story.
3. Encourage anyone interested to come visit us. Right now, there are 3 options:
 - a. Educational Success Consultation with Mrs. Vensel (by appointment)
 - b. Walk-In Wednesdays, every week 9:00am-4:00pm (no appointment needed)
 - c. End-of-Summer Open House: Thursday 08/15 at 7:00pm (one new student will receive a semester of FREE tuition!)

At the end of the event, Admissions Director Carrie Rude reminded participants, "It is through your help that we can continue the ministry of Columbia Christian School – to equip children for abundant lives, through a Christ-centered education focused on excellence in faith, character, and academics. Thank you for your support!"

Questions about promotional materials, new family visits, and the application process can be directed to carrierude@columbiachristian.com.

Answers with Ami

Featuring Principal Ami Vensel

1) You have said you believe in shared decision making. What does that mean?

It really is exactly what it says – sharing (involving others) in making decisions! As a school leader, I want to provide opportunity for students, faculty, staff, parents, and members of our school community to collaborate; work together in solving problems; and share in the decisions that shape mission, vision, and school culture.

2) How does this help the campus culture on campus?

How students feel about and view their school is essential to school culture and can influence student behavior as well as teacher motivation. A school culture that is student-centered works to provide opportunities for students to lead, participate, take ownership, collaborate, explore, and share in decision-making. As a result, students feel valued and an integral part of their school environment.

3) What skills are the students learning?

Being able to effectively communicate and actively listen are essential life skills to teach and learn. Providing opportunity for students to participate in shared decision-making develops conversation skills, leadership skills, speaking and listening skills, and fosters respectful vocabulary in a setting that encourages introspection.

Columbia works to empower students to be active listeners and at the center of their learning by inviting them to be partners in decision-making; giving opportunity to experience higher-quality decisions because the viewpoints of many are considered.

4) What is a good example you have seen of shared decision-making

This past school year our administrative team was working with our facilities department on campus development and improvement. We decided to renovate and reallocate a space that was being used for storage by one of our high school programs. This decision created disappointment and frustration

for students in the program. They were hurt. Wow - this was not the intention! While our aim was to improve campus facilities, we left out a very significant piece of the decision-making puzzle – our students!

Our apology was graciously accepted; yet I was determined to rebuild trust by establishing a path of communication and demonstrating my sincere desire to collaborate with students in decisions that affect them. I am reminded of Romans 8:28, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." God took an unfortunate situation (our mistake) and used it for good - to remind me that Columbia Christian is a home for students. It is their school, too, and my role is to support and facilitate a collaborative environment where students lead, participate, take ownership, collaborate, explore, and share in decision-making. We established a weekly lunch meeting and invited all high school students to come and talk about how we can work together to make Columbia a place of excellence through shared decision-making.