

# the Warrior Bulletin

A Newsletter for Parents, Alumni, Friends and Family

Grace Christian School • Fall 2014

## From Grace Warriors to Collegiate Athletes

At Grace Christian School, we strive to educate the whole individual, focusing not only on excellent academics and a strong Christian worldview emphasis, but also in providing a wide variety of athletic opportunities. Grace offers middle and high school students the chance to participate in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, volleyball and wrestling. On average, 75% of Grace students play a school sport at some point during their high school careers and of those, 10% of Grace alumni have continued to play at the collegiate level. Meet two of our graduate athletes ....



**Holly Wenger as goalkeeper for Marymount University.**

**Holly Wenger** (Class of 2012) is a senior at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, and is the starting goalkeeper for the women's soccer team. "I've enjoyed my time on the Marymount soccer team," said Holly. "As an incoming freshman athlete, I was at school early for pre-season training, and it was great having the older students help me figure out classes, professors and college in general."

"Being a student athlete at a Division III school isn't much different than being a student athlete at Grace," Holly added. "Grace prepared me for the demands of playing soccer while maintaining a rigorous academic schedule."

Holly is studying criminal justice and minoring in Spanish. She received Marymount's Presidential Scholarship, their highest academic award, and is in the Honors Program. After graduation, she plans to work for local law enforcement in the Washington, D.C. area, and hopes to work for a federal agency such as the ATF in the future.

**Michael Gilbert** (Class of 1999) was a forward for the men's basketball team at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, from 1999-2002. He played with and against many talented individuals including the nation's leading scorer in NCAA Division I (2001-2002) and a number of players who are now in the NBA. "Participating in athletics at Grace exposed me to true Christian conduct, even in adversity," said Michael. "And the groundwork was laid for handling success and failure in a Christ-like manner."

Michael received his degree in Biology and had planned to enter the medical field. Now working in the commercial construction industry as a project manager for Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc., he noted, "It's interesting to see how the Lord directs our path - *A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.* (Proverbs 16:9)." Michael, his wife, Brae, and their four children - Charis (5), Hannah (3), Bethany (2) and Nathanael (6 mos.) - live in Mechanicsville, Virginia.



**Michael Gilbert as a GCS Warrior in 1999.**

Additionally, these Grace alumni have participated or are participating in the following college varsity sports: Women's Volleyball - **Joy Knopp Greer** (Eastern College), **Janla Hinkle Whitecotton** (Ashbury College), **Krista Summers Singleton** (Grove City College), **Kelly McNair Bierman** (Grove City College), **Katie Summers Crews** (Grove City College), **Kathryn Rawley** (Bryan College), **Mary Helen Clemmer Thorne** (Bridgewater College), **Jessie Mims DeLeon** (Mary Washington University), **Kari Martin Hollinger** (Eastern Mennonite University), **Sara Quillen** (Grove City College), **Ashley Sours Hogsett** (Bryan College), **Mary Masincup** (Grove City College), **Karla Martin** (Eastern Mennonite University) and **Katie Martin White** (Eastern Mennonite University). Men's Basketball - **Joel Knopp** (Eastern College) and **Bill Sterrett** (Asbury College). Women's Basketball - **Grace Morrison Guedet** (Taylor University), **Priscilla Lloyd** (Eastern Mennonite University), **Krista Summers Singleton** (Grove City College), **Sara Quillen** (Grove City College) and **Sheridan Lawrence** (Mary Baldwin College). Men's Soccer - **Brian Fitzgerald** (Bryan College), **Nathaniel Knopp** (Bridgewater College), **Jesse Ingram** (Grove City College), **Alex Moore** (Grove City College) and **Frankie Leo** (Montreat College). Women's Soccer - **Jody Bailey Ledezma** (Southern Wesleyan University & Geneva College), **Danila Kennedy Woolley** (Geneva College) and **Lauren Hostetler Gardner** (Bryan College & Bridgewater College). Men's Baseball - **Michael Hogsett** (Bryan College). Women's Cross Country - **Katie Harper Hall** (Lee University). Women's Track and Field - **Joscelyn Seaton** (Grove City College).

## Grace Goes Google

Grace Christian School has officially joined millions of students, teachers and administrators who have transitioned from using Microsoft Office products to Google Apps for Education. For Grace, the process began last year as students started using Gmail, Google Docs and Google Drive in computer classes at both campuses. This year, they will continue to use these tools (and more!) for homework, papers and projects in the classrooms and at home.



**High school students watch a video on a Chromebook as part of a class lecture.**

The Grace computer labs throughout the school are now outfitted with Chromeboxes. A Chromebox is a small box that runs the Google operating system and is entirely cloud-based, thus eliminating the need for bulky on-site data storage. Also, high school teachers are using newly purchased Google Chromebooks (small laptops equipped with the Google operating system) to prepare lesson plans, tests and homework.

"We decided to make this move to Google to benefit our students," commented high school principal Jason Bailey. "The most attractive benefits were accessibility, collaborative opportunities, cloud-based storage and stronger security against viruses." Mr. Bailey added, "As the technology world moves toward cloud-based storage and usage, this transition puts Grace on the 'front end' of technology."



**Fifth graders work from Chromeboxes in the elementary school computer lab.**

# Bitten by the Acting Bug!

“Lights!...Camera!...Action!” was a major theme this summer for many members of the Grace Christian School community as they joined together in the filming of the upcoming motion picture, *Texas Rein*. This family-friendly, feature-length film is based on the novel of the same name written by Grace parent, **Becky Rodgers Boyette**, who also had a role in the film and is the associate producer. “It was an amazing experience,” commented Mrs. Boyette. “Not many authors get to see their stories and characters come to life. I feel very blessed.”

The faith-based drama, produced by Beautiful Feet Productions and directed by Durrell Nelson, explores the family dynamic of a prodigal’s return, the gift of forgiveness and the hope of second chances. *Texas Rein*, which was filmed in several locations throughout the Shenandoah Valley, is about Cassie Roberts, an ex-rodeo queen turned single mom, who returns to her sleepy Texas hometown to help her ailing father. While not thrilled to be back home, Cassie, played by actress Beth Gouthro, realizes she has the opportunity to steer her life in a different direction and has hopes of attaining gold in the sport of horse reining.

Grace Christian School sixth grader, **Grayson Reed**, landed a lead role in *Texas Rein*, portraying Sam Roberts, Cassie’s son. Despite his youth, Grayson has extensive acting experience with several local theater groups and has also participated in theatrical productions throughout his years at Grace Christian School. “I enjoyed being in front of the camera during the filming as much as when I’m performing live on stage,” said Grayson. “The major difference between



**Grayson Reed (sixth grade) and actress Annika Fisher on the set of *Texas Rein*.**

the two is that on stage I have to memorize all of my lines ahead of time; while with the film, I could just memorize lines the night before. On the movie set, I could use side prompts to help me with my lines,” he added. Grayson has his hopes set on becoming a professional actor when he grows up. According to Mrs. Boyette, Grayson was a true professional during filming. “He was often referred to as ‘The One-Take Wonder’ by the veteran actors on set!” Some of those veteran actors included Erin Bethea, who starred opposite Kirk Cameron in *Fireproof*, and Ben Davies, who played a heroic young policeman in *Courageous*. Both had supporting roles in *Texas Rein*.

Following her graduation from Grace in 2001, **Laura Knopp Avnaim** received her bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education from Lee University. Over the next four years, Laura worked as a substitute teacher. In 2011, she changed career paths and followed her dreams by pursuing a full-time acting career. Laura’s dreams are coming true as she has landed leading roles in nine independent films, as well as multiple supporting roles. “I have done a little theater and commercial work, but my favorite is definitely film and television,” said Laura. In addition to *Texas Rein*, she is appearing in the movie,

*Crossing Streets* (filmed in Roanoke, Virginia), expected to be released this fall.

In *Texas Rein*, Laura plays a supporting role as Shawna Jarvis, a horse trainer. “When I saw the casting call for a movie that was being filmed in my hometown and involved horseback riding, I knew I *must* have the role of Shawna!” Laura reported. “It’s



**Laura Knopp Avnaim (center) and actor Ben Davies filming a scene for *Texas Rein*.**

always wonderful to be able to incorporate life experiences into my acting, and I was able to do that by performing all of my own (stunt) riding for the film, including my competition scenes.”

In addition to Grayson and Laura, several Grace families donned their finest western wear and trekked to nearby locations in the hopes of being extras in the film. The scenes they were involved in ranged from being audience members at a riding competition, to being crowd members at a county fair and guests at a wedding. Several highlights for the “Grace extras” included filming the county fair scene from midnight until 5:00 a.m., learning that movies are not always filmed in the order that the story happens and discovering that a very short clip on screen may take many hours to film. Hoping to be spotted as extras in the final cut of *Texas Rein* are **Arielle Boyette; Porter Delp;**



**Porter Delp (freshman), Genna Kahrs (fifth grade) and Gillian Kahrs (sixth grade) participated in the filming of *Texas Rein* as extras for a wedding scene.**

**Marigrace Grow; Cheri Kahrs** and daughters, **Gillian** and **Genna; Jenny Hockman Shifflett** (GCS Class of 1992) and children, **Kayla, Alyse** and **Peter;** and **Mandy Hockman Wells** (GCS Class of 1993) and children, **Molly, Lucy, Clark** and **Patrick**.

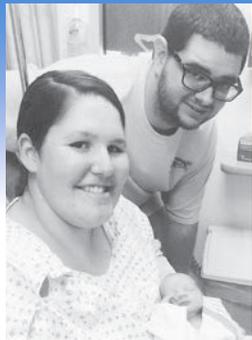
Our congratulations to Becky Rodgers Boyette, Grayson Reed and Laura Knopp Avnaim on the production of *Texas Rein*. The expected release date for this film is sometime in 2015, so keep an eye out and plan on grabbing your popcorn and enjoying the film with your family.

**The Warrior Bulletin is a publication of Grace Christian School.**

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Callie (Middleton) & Matt Love



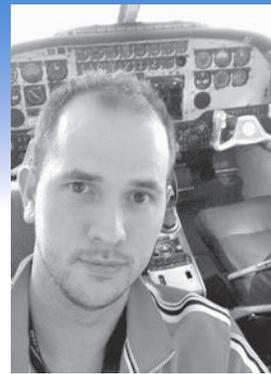
Monica (Fix), Andrew & Charlie Crorken



Albert & Allison Ullrich



Joscelyn Seaton & her father, Scott Seaton



Michael Leo

# Graduates in the News

## 1995

 **Nathan Green** graduated from Liberty University School of Law in May 2014, receiving his Juris Doctor Degree. Nathan will take the MPRE in November, followed by the West Virginia Bar exam. He plans to practice law in eastern West Virginia where he and his wife, Heidi, live.

## 1999

**Katie (Summers) Crews** and her husband, Nathan, are pleased to announce the birth of their third son, Nicolas "Cole" James, who was born in August. He joins brothers, Tyler (4) and Wesley (2). The family lives in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

## 2000

**Ali (Bell) and Jeremy Bailey (GCS Class of 2001)** welcomed Esther Grace on June 10. She joins siblings Charlie (6) and Rosetta (4). Ali is a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling Charlie and Rosetta. Jeremy works at SIOTS and has recently travelled to Japan and England for work. The family resides in Verona, Virginia.

## 2005

**Beth Pelaccio** is a certified alcohol and drug counselor working as a substance abuse counselor for adolescents at AVITA Community Partners, a state agency in Georgia, and she is currently completing her Master of Social Work at the University of Georgia. Beth lives in Clarksville, Georgia, with her two dogs and enjoys traveling in her free time.

**Ryan Plummer** served his country for five years with the US Marines Corps before he was honorably

discharged in May. He is now resuming his education at Virginia Tech as is a member of the Army ROTC program. He plans to commission as an Army officer in the spring of 2016. Ryan and his wife, Mattie, recently enjoyed a cruise to the Bahamas. The couple lives in Christiansburg, Virginia, with their son, Aiden (2).

## 2008

 **Monica (Fix) Crorken** and husband, Andrew, welcomed their son, Charlie Bernard, on July 3. Though born six weeks early, little Charlie is doing well. The family has relocated from Washington, D.C. to Harrisonburg, Virginia.

 **Michael Leo** is working as an aircraft mechanic at Hanover Airport near Richmond, Virginia. He also has his private pilot's certificate and enjoys flying as often as he can.

**Danielle (Sprouse) Marshall** has started her own graphic design studio and blog - Lucky Number Seven Studio! With an entrepreneurial spirit, and a natural ability for creating tasteful and thoughtful designs, Danielle helps her clients bring their dreams to life through branding, creative direction and web design. Visit her website at [luckynumbersevenstudio.com](http://luckynumbersevenstudio.com). Danielle and her husband, **Stephen Marshall (also GCS Class of 2008)**, live in Waynesboro, Virginia, where he is working as a mechanical engineer at Virginia Panel Corporation.

 **Callie Middleton** and Matt Love were married on August 9. The couple lives in Alexandria, Virginia, where Callie is a Cardiovascular Interventional

Radiological Technologist at Inova Hospital.

 **Albert Ullrich** and Allison Owens wed in May 2014. They live in Staunton, Virginia, where Albert is a CNC machine operator at Cadence, Inc.

## 2009

**Andrew Williams** and his wife, Anna, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Adelaide, born on July 16. Andrew graduated summa cum laude from King's University with a degree in Theological Studies, and he is continuing his education by pursuing a Master of Theological Studies degree at Regent University. Andrew is also working as the Associate Pastor of Church on the Hill in Fishersville, Virginia.

## 2010

**Molly Law** is a freelance feature writer for the Waynesboro *News Virginian* newspaper.

**Emily Masincup** graduated from Messiah College with a Bachelor of Music in Music Performance in May. In addition to teaching piano lessons at Grace, she is also accompanying the Grace Elementary School choir. Emily plans to pursue her master's degree in musicology and is applying to schools in both Wales and England.

**Baylor Spotts** received her Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from Lee University in May. She is living in Cleveland, Tennessee, and working on her CNA certification in order to meet the 1,000 patient contact hours needed for graduate school. Baylor hopes to attend James Madison University's Physician Assistant Program in 2015.



Heidi & Nathan Green

## 2012

**Sarah Law** is studying Criminal Justice at Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina.

 **Joscelyn Seaton** is a junior biochemistry major at Grove City College. She co-lead a group of Grove City students on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic in May. Her father, Scott Seaton, also joined the group, ministering alongside the team as a doctor. Joscelyn has also worked in the Felder Lab at the University of Virginia for the past two summers. The Felder Lab researches the kidney and its role in hypertension. The lab's paper "Exosomal Transfer from Human Renal Proximal Tubule Cells to Distal Tubule and Collecting Duct Cells" was published in the journal of *Clinical Biochemistry*, making Joscelyn a published researcher while she is still in college!

## 2013

**Grace Masonheimer** recently spent a month traveling through Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Greece, ministering to orphans, children in the hospital and youth groups. During the trip, Grace had her first opportunity to preach in a small village. She attends Regent University, studying Business with a Marketing emphasis.

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**Grace Christian School's mission is to assist Christian parents by providing a sound academic education in a Christ-centered environment, designed to prepare our young people to know God and to live in obedience to His will for their lives.**

## **Thank You, Business Partners in Education!**

The Grace Christian School Business Partners in Education play an important role in our ability to offer tuition assistance to many of our school families. When you frequent these businesses, please take a moment to express your appreciation for their support! To learn more about this program, please contact Liz Middleton in our Development Office at (540) 886-9109.

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On Friday, September 5, the Grace Christian School community came together for an evening of great food (served by the high school students), a Variety Show, games for the elementary school students and most importantly, a chance for parents, students and staff to fellowship as we kicked off the school year. Left: Allie Goodman (sixth grade) performs during the Variety Show. Right: Colton Jennings and big brother Garrett (first grade) play one of the games run by the middle school students.