

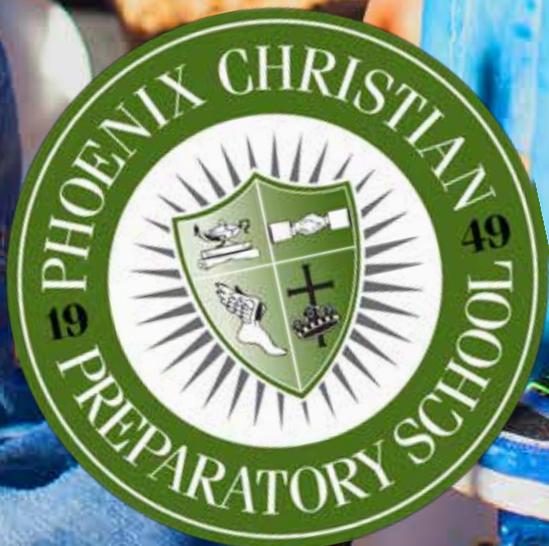
# CougarNow

Volume 5  
October 2017

AND THEN  
AND NEXT

superheroes  
in training

CRASH!



# Greetings

From the Vice Principals

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**T**oday in our society superheroes are all the rage. We have black superheroes and white superheroes. We have men and women superheroes. We even have green superheroes! To balance the arc of the storyline, we also have villains unfortunately. Both the heroes and villains have great power. The difference is how they choose to use their powers. The heroes use them to help others while the villains use them for their own gain.

We'd all agree Superman and Wonder Woman are great, but ultimately our greatest example of a superhero is Jesus. Even Hollywood cannot replicate or exceed His example of supreme power used not for His own gain, but for the gain of humanity!

As educators, we try to emulate Jesus ourselves while motivating the students to choose to be heroes and use their growing powers for good and not evil. It is so humbling that we, as Assistant Principals, get to work closely with such great teachers as well as a great admin team. We are literally surrounded by superheroes. Every day we get to work with great people who choose to use their God-given gifts for the good of others! Just like Jesus came to serve rather than to be served, our teachers and staff here at PC serve and serve and serve; we are immeasurably thankful for that.

We don't get to pick our gifts, but we get to pick how we use them. We are thankful to work with people who choose to be heroes, and we are thankful for the opportunity to help our students grow into the superheroes God created each of them to be!



**Tene Burrow & Mykael Wright**  
Elementary Vice Principal \* Middle/High School Vice Principal



On the Cover \* Preschoolers at Play

**W**e had two superheroes come home for Homecoming this year! Victor Kelly and Anne Ortman, both former teachers and highly revered, joined us for Homecoming chapel. Mr. Blake interviewed Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Ortman and shared so many wonderful memories. As they wrapped up the interview, they were asked one last question. What thoughts would you like to offer current teachers at Phoenix Christian? As they shared, most of us in the room were moved to tears and filled with true admiration and inspiration.

### I believe...

There is no greater calling and/or profession, as it relates to "eternal values in mind", than teaching and also parenting. I taught five years in public schools and twenty in Christian schools. My most challenging and yet rewarding grade level was junior high!! As a Believer teaching in a Christian School, one is free to use the Bible, speak the name of Jesus Christ and to not only provide an education with knowledge, instruction and valuable information to succeed in higher learning but one is also able to, as I Peter 3:15 admonishes us to: "give a reason for the Hope that lies within you with gentleness and respect." For that freedom, I celebrate the value of Christian schools.

- Anne Ortman

### To choose teaching

as a profession in today's cultural climate calls for far more courage, endurance and well-established skill sets than that which I faced over fifty years ago. But one thing remained constant: Teaching is a profession in which one must be right the first time. There is little opportunity to "reset", and, in my case, sadly, there are some who, throughout the remainder of their lives, will still carry the bitter fruit of my thoughtless actions, stupid mistakes and wounding words.

If I were to have the opportunity to start again at the beginning, I believe there are three things I should do differently.

- I would encourage far more and correct far less.
- I would be far more concerned with what a student will become and much less concerned with the anomalies evident in that process of becoming.
- I would be far more concerned that compassion and kindness would drive my actions far more than cultural mores, expediency and urgency.

My encouragement to teachers? Balance that which is urgent against that which is important. Guard against transforming personal preference into Biblical principles. Drive firmness and discipline with kindness and compassion. Fiercely protect personal integrity.

In future years, few students will remember how to diagram a sentence. They will always remember the teacher who treated them with kindness and respect.

- Victor Kelly

There is no greater calling and/or profession, as it relates to "eternal values in mind", than teaching and also parenting.

They will always remember the teacher who treated them with kindness and respect.



Cougar  
Cubs

Superhero  
3rd class

Judy  
Jones

*I come from a family  
of teachers so my earliest  
inspirational teachers were  
actually in my very own  
family.*

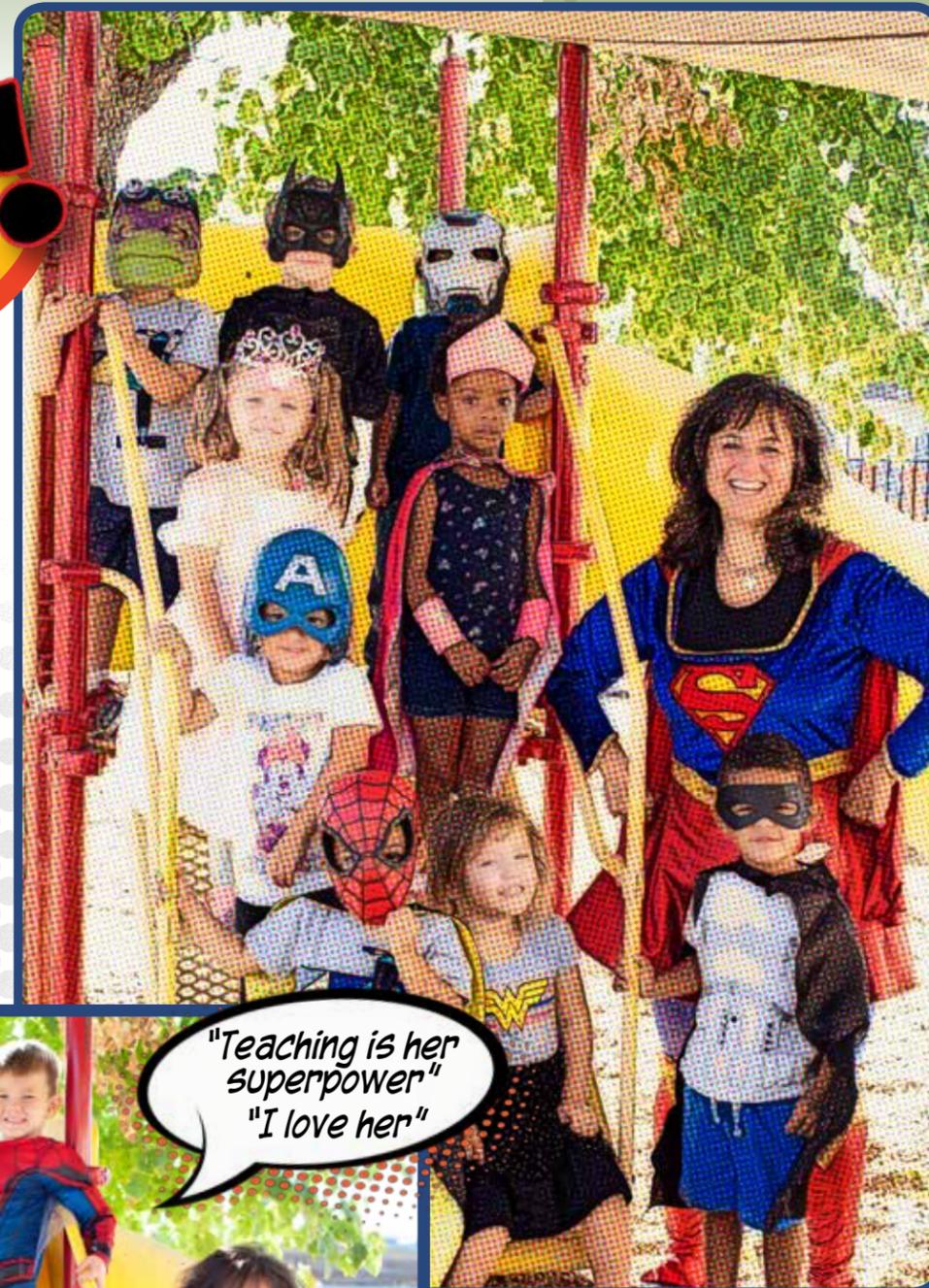
**M**y father, Bernon Benson, lived and breathed teaching and always taught me that it is an honorable career along with my Aunt Odella. As a very young teacher entering the teaching profession, I would say that Pat Hubbler, Cynthia Wahl and Reverend Carol Wood would be at the top of my list as teachers that inspired me the most. These three women were instrumental in fueling my passion for early education and helped me become the teacher I am today! Today some of the best teachers that inspire me are the little faces that sit in front of me every day!

My inspiration first and foremost comes from my faith in God and every little sweet child He places in my classroom in any given year! I am driven to defend the right to play and my little learners inspire me to keep exploring ways to bring play and exploration into the classroom setting. So, in short, I strive to be a facilitator of play. My passion for learning through play inspires me to create a space where my little learners can explore, wonder, create and engage through multiple mediums, using many gross and fine motor skills. I create spaces where age appropriate social skills are practiced daily as we learn to be a good friend. I also provide an environment that has safe boundaries and age appropriate responsibilities to grow in independence while encouraging forgiveness and grace while we are learning kindness and love for one another. I also love having a classroom filled with lots of singing and praising God!! Whether it be Bible stories, Bible verses and teaching them how much Jesus loves them, we are singing it!!!

I am inspired to do my best to meet the needs of the children God has place in my care, to love and encourage the parents who entrust their most precious child to me and to our school. I am constantly reminded of a three-year old's perspective, "We are three and we are God's perfect creation. We make mistakes socially, lots and lots of them because we are just learning to be a friend! Our little bodies are not made to sit for long, we need to play, explore, jump, run, wonder, dig in the dirt and have FUN! We need to sing, paint, dance and create. We need love, forgiveness, grace, gentleness, patience and most importantly Jesus!" Yes, God's little sweet lambs are my inspiration; I love my job and feel blessed that God has given me the gifts to share my passion in life!

Real life Judy Jones - I am married with two adult sons, ages 32 and 29. I love dance fitness and attend Zumba classes 4-5 days a week. My favorite vacation is sitting on the beach! Many years ago I played basketball for SCA and Phoenix College. (Haha) I can actually sing but I'm hard of hearing and I wear dual aides. I have lost 130 lbs and kept it off for 13 years!

**YAY!**



*"She buys  
us lots of  
stuff"*

*"Teaching is her  
superpower"  
"I love her"*

*"She's  
most like  
Spiderman"*

*"She's most  
like Spiderman  
because she  
speaks Spanish"*



Tristen, London, Michelle and Mrs. Jones

# Little Cougars

## Mrs. Fitzmaurice

First of all, I just want to say I am humbled and extremely grateful to the Lord for allowing me to be at Phoenix Christian. It is an amazing school and I am SO thankful for everyone - staff, students, parents and admin. Huge THANK YOU.

**B**oth of my parents were educators, one at Gilbert Christian and the other at Chandler Prep, so I grew up here in the Valley. I attended Williams Field High School and completed my Bachelors in Education at Grand Canyon University here in Phoenix. I chose education because I wanted to serve the Lord in a practical way. And, with my energy level it just seemed fitting!

I taught at a school for refugee children in urban Phoenix last year. It was such a dramatically eye-opening year for me. Throughout the year, I wanted to desperately share the gospel and bring Jesus into every grim situation they were facing. My heart yearned for a classroom where I could freely share the Gospel. I prayed into where I could teach which would allow me that opportunity. God led me to Phoenix Christian where Mrs. Bookhout and Mrs. Calderon were key in communicating the firm Gospel foundation on which Phoenix Christian was built. The rest is history!



Zion, Cydnee and Icess

"Ms. Fitz is like Wonder Woman except she can't destroy a building and she doesn't have a lasso."

"Math Power"

"She has the teaching superpower."

"One day the lights turned out in the classroom by itself and then turned back on suddenly. Ms. Fitz said, I told you God has the power!"

# Ms. Nelson

**A**s a young girl I lived in metro Detroit and spent a lot of time with my grandmother, mom/dad, sisters and brothers. I went to college at Michigan State University and graduated in 2008 with a Bachelors of Arts degree. I completed a year of student teaching and obtained a dual certification in both Special Education and Elementary Education. I began teaching in 2009 serving in the area of Special Education. Within two years I began serving as a special education building coordinator while I continued to teach. Outside of the school environment I've been a campus ministry facilitator, a Cells (Church Bible study) group host, served as a treasurer for my Family's Committee Team, and am a mother of two wonderful children. Here I am 8 years later in sun-shiny Arizona, teaching 3rd grade to some pretty awesome students. When I look back over my life, I can truly say God has blessed me beyond what I could ever imagine or think.

He knows just what you need and when you need it. I'm so thankful. Blessings to our PC Family.

From left to right: Magdalena (Maggie), Alitzel (Ali) & Ms. Nelson



"She has the superpower of telling Bible stories."



"She's most like Super Girl."

"Her superpower is being kind."

"She's really good at helping us learn our Math Facts."

**BAM!**

# Cougars in the Middle

Mr. de Laet, Jr.  
Class of 2000

I started attending PC in 7th grade, and I graduated in 2010.



Mr. de Laet, Sr.

I joined the Faculty at Phoenix Christian in January of 2002 after 15 years in pastoral ministry.

ZAP!

**D**uring those 6 school years I was heavily influenced by some of PC's great superhero teachers. I still remember learning and applying Biblical truth with Mr. Stephens, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. de Laet, having an awesome Friday lab every Friday with Mrs. Leader, and the indefatigable sassiness of Mr. Hendricks. What I remember most though was history, government, and the gospel coming alive in Mr. Blake's class. Each day we talked about the past, applied the information to the present, and discussed God's future for our lives. We talked of a world where the Kingdom of God broke through into the present age, and God was on the move.

In 2014 I returned to PC to teach middle and high school drama and social studies courses. It has been an enriching experience to get to work alongside many of the superheroes of my past! First, they helped me grow as a student and as a person; now they help me develop further as a teacher. It has also been an incredible gift to be two doors down from my father. I am still growing as a teacher, but his insight and experiences have taught me innumerable lessons for how to live both inside and outside the classroom. I hope to one day be a superhero like him.

"He has the power to connect information."

"Mr. de Laet is most like Iron Man."

**A**s it became clear to me that God was moving me in a new direction, I enrolled in a Master of Education program through Chapman University in Orange, CA to complete the requirements for teacher certification. The teaching aspect of pastoral ministry has always been the most exciting to me and my wife, also a teacher, providing an opportunity for us to have similar schedules. I had a fondness for teaching as my high school band teacher was instrumental (pun intended) in helping me find a relationship with Jesus and a home church. I can remember being devastated when he moved to Australia to accept a teaching position there, as Mr. Kirby is truly one of my heroes of the faith! After completing the requirements for certification, God opened the door at PC and I remember praying that God would provide a mentor who would assist in my transition from pastoral ministry to Christian education. God blessed me with a wonderful relationship with Mr. Wickersham who was the head of the Bible department and a great man of faith and wisdom.

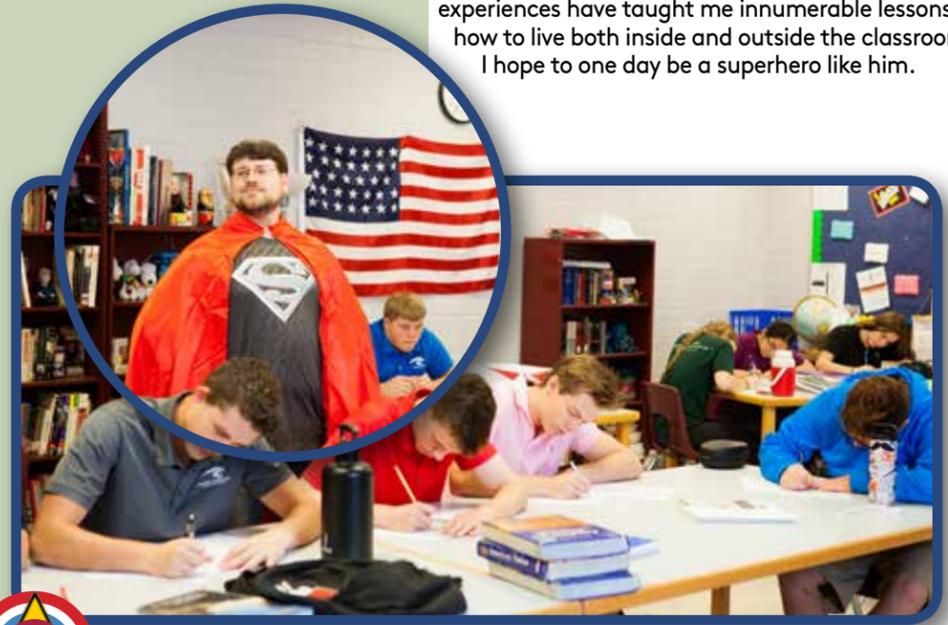
So, I began this new adventure with God in 2002 because I love Jesus, love teaching, and want to play a part in equipping the younger generation with a love for Jesus, respect for the Bible, and a desire to live out the Christian life to a watching world. I want to play a role in developing students who one day would return to Phoenix Christian as fully equipped teachers, taking their place in the line of those who serve God here and ultimately taking the baton as I took it from Mr. Wickersham. I never imagined that one of those young teachers would be my own son.

It is truly a joy to come to work every day and serve alongside my son in Christian service. It is also a tribute to our board, administration, and families that everyone is comfortable with a father and son on the faculty. I personally believe, through my experiences here at Phoenix Christian, that God calls some families into Christian education and I am blessed to say that my son, Mr. de Laet (Jr.) is my hero for accepting the call.



Glenn & Mr. de Laet

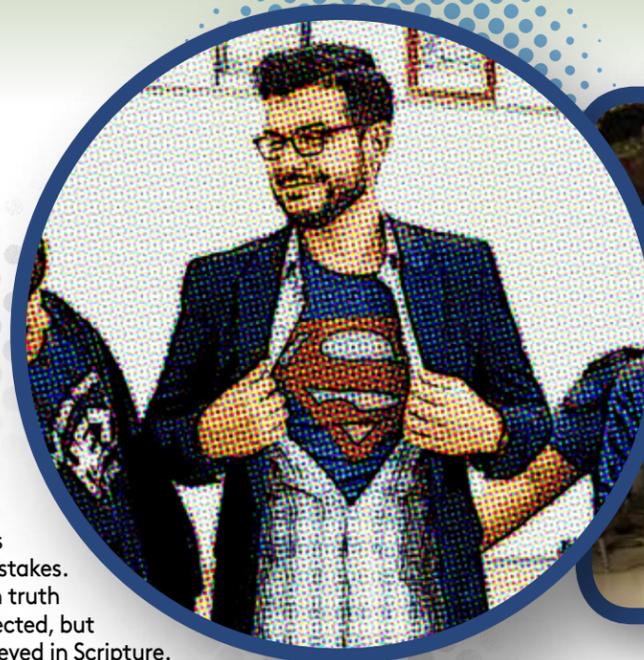
So, thanks to my heroes: Mr. Kirby, Mr. Wickersham, and Mr. de Laet (Jr.) for all you have done in my life! Blessings!



From left to right: Mr. de Laet Sr., Tregan, Mia, Brooklynne, Daniel, Mr. de Laet Jr.

# Cougars

## EOS Chaydez



Bri – "He's most like Batman because he's super strict but super Punny! When you're not on his bad side, you're his friend. His superpower – he makes people's heads hurt, but it works."

Jerry – "He's most like Spiderman. He's my favorite teacher. It's Punny, when I first saw him, I wasn't sure I was going to like him. But now that I'm in his class, he's my favorite teacher. Kind-of like Spiderman, you have no idea what's under his normal clothes – but he's a superhero!! He's also so caring and loving."

Christian – "His superpower – he's able to keep the class' attention and we have fun! He always says, "let's get it!"

I graduated from Cesar Chavez High School near South Phoenix after moving in with my father for my last two years of high school. I distinctly remember how much the Lord taught me in this season. It was difficult to live for Christ and try to find my way and be accepted in the midst of lost and wandering peers. There were pulls and pushes into all sorts of tempting behaviors and attitudes. The Lord, in His wisdom, was patient and disciplined me and taught me through my mistakes. I remember the challenge of trying to distinguish between truth and error in the public school system from teachers I respected, but who didn't hold to the fundamental tenants of what I believed in Scripture. This was a good shadow of what I was going to encounter in my next educational phase at Arizona State University. With the Lord directing my path, I was able to graduate with honors and received a full ride to ASU. There, I would encounter an antagonism to the Christian faith that would be as much painful as it would become useful in my classroom today. I remember distinctly feeling so alone and alienated from my peers and professors because I believed in Christ so much that it impacted the way I understood history, anthropology, English, science, and law. Those times were trying: intellectually, spiritually, and morally. Again, there were even greater pulls and pushes into all sorts of tempting behaviors and attitudes. The Lord, in His wisdom, was patient and disciplined me and taught me through my mistakes. He is faithful and watches over His flock. He equips them for His purposes, not for their own. Little did I know for what He was preparing me. I graduated with a degree in English Literature and Business with an emphasis in Interdisciplinary Studies. I wasn't sure if I was called to teach, but I knew that I absolutely loved to learn and to think about issues that everyone wrestles through: who am I, why am I here, what is wrong with the world, and how do we fix it? Scripture tells us!

I decided to teach, but I found it very trying in the public setting to do what I was so passionate about. I didn't realize it at the time, but I wanted to teach students

to think through really big questions about life and to think for themselves. I wanted to help make serious thinkers! We need more of those. People who wrestle with the difficult questions, who are willing to cry through them and beg God for greater light and help, who need to throw themselves fully in His arms and to not lean on their own understanding but in all things, acknowledge Him so that He directs their paths. We need more of those.

Well, I found it extremely difficult to create those type of thinkers in a public school (directly), but I was trying to push them as far as I could (indirectly).

But by the grace of God, I found Phoenix Christian and the Lord opened doors! His plans are sure. Now I have the undeserved pleasure and beautiful opportunity to share God's impact in the realms of English, jurisprudence, theology, hermeneutics, logic, philosophy, etc. And to think of it, who am I? Such things are too wonderful for me, but God, in His grace, has granted me my heart's desire. I teach to His audience. I teach because I love my students more than they could ever imagine. Oh how I desire that they know and trust the intimate and caring God of Scripture with all their hearts, soul, and mind. I discipline them because I love them. I hold them accountable because I love them. That they would understand that I love them because He first loved me is my mission. He teaches us how to love. He pursues His children and that is why I pursue them, every one of them. Maybe this is a little more intimate than what was asked of me to share, but I wanted to take the opportunity to let you better understand me. I love Phoenix Christian and am so honored to be a part of a school whose mission it is to teach any and everybody the love of Christ. I am still learning it with them.

Soli Deo Gloria



From left to right:  
Bri, Mr. Chaydez,  
Christian and Jerry



# Cougar Athletics

## Football Coach Brian Cole

I was born and raised in Phoenix. My dad was a PE teacher and coach, so I became interested in sports at an early age. I started playing tackle football in 3rd grade and continued through high school and into college. I had dreams of playing in the NFL, but obviously I was not good enough.

A few years after my playing days were over, I was asked if I would be interested in coaching at a local high school. I figured coaching would be the next best thing to playing, and 25 years later here I am still coaching high school football.

I continue to coach for many reasons, but the one thing that always brings me back is the kids. I really enjoy helping, mentoring, and just watching the kids as they grow from "kids" to young men. I love the game of football, my assistant coaches, and other people who help with the program. Most of all, I love the players!

They are why I coach.

"He has super strength and the ability to be bald but have a perfect mustache! He's most like Dr. Egman. He was definitely a superhero when he led us to state play-offs!"

"His superpower is hanging up the phone. He's most like the Hulk. He was most like a superhero when his knee gave out when he was spotting and he acted like nothing happened."



Kole

Joe



Coach Cole and seniors

He was the PE Teacher and the coach of all the school teams. He also ran summer recreation and after school recreation and I was there all the time. He was a great role model for me. I am still in touch with him and just recently took him to lunch. Max Rhoads was the coach of the Redmen and the Eagles in the Montebello Little League and he had a significant influence on my life as well. In High School, Marv Nevins was my role model. He was one of the PE Teachers and one of the baseball coaches. He continues to be a role model for me as I have stayed in touch with him also through the years and just recently went to visit him at his home. Coach Nevins was a strong Godly man, a fierce competitor, with a gentle, kind spirit.

Over the years at PC we have had some really talented and competitive teams. In the 14 years that are in the books we have been to the Final Four in the State Play-offs 4 times. We have been in the State Championship game 3 times and finally walked away with the State Championship in 2017.

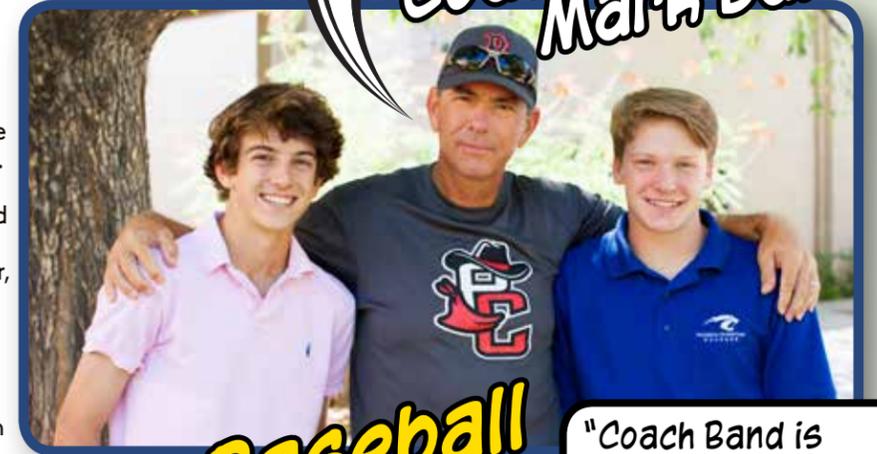
Honestly, the 2017 team was amazing but I wasn't sure we could get to the title game and then win it. Don't get me wrong, I knew our team was good, as good as anybody out there and they were well prepared, but the road to the final was going to be tough. Beating SCA in the semi-final game, a very good SCA team, a team with an outstanding pitcher, and having to beat them for the 3rd time in one year was a tall order and one that the percentages did not favor. But we did it and we got to the Title game expecting to see Joy Christian who had already beaten us twice that year. But Wilcox defeated Joy and we defeated Wilcox for the Title. I was so excited for the boys, but was a little subdued myself. As we celebrated I couldn't help but to notice the heartbreak and disappointment of the players and coaches of Wilcox. As a coach and a player, I have been so close so many times but didn't walk away with the trophy. I knew what the Wilcox team was going through and I felt bad for them. At the same time I was so thankful that God would finally allow me to enjoy this moment. It was difficult to take it all in that night, but as the weeks followed and I was able to process what we accomplished it made me more and more thankful to have experienced that moment.

I hope I am teaching these young men how to play baseball the right way. I hope even more that I am influencing them to live out their lives the right way. I hope I am making a difference in the lives of these young men. That is what motivates me and keeps me going. We hope to win the Title again sometime, maybe even this year, but that isn't always in our control. Our goal every year is to be the best that we can be. Nobody can prevent us from doing that, and if we do that, we should be able to walk off the field at the end of every season knowing we did our best and feeling accomplished. That is what I strive to do each year, give my best and know at the end of the season that is exactly what I did.

I loved my teachers in grade school and can name them all but by far the one who had the most impact on my life was Mr. Willet.

Left to right: Jordan, Coach Band & Nate

## Coach Mark Band



## Baseball

"Coach Band is able to throw Batting Practice all day with his bionic arm and hit bullets in-field like the Hulk. He's most like Iron Man. The whole 2017 year, Coach Band helped the team with Fall/winter/summer baseball, day in and day out, and is never sore or tired."

Jordan Joselit

"His superpower is reading minds. He's most like Charles Xavier. He always says, 'I know what you're thinking.'"

Nate Tarver



From left to right: Steven, Tyler, Coach Band, Adrian and Kyle

Some of Our Very Own **Superheroes**



**Andres MarruPo**  
Music - Student Teacher



**Carol VanderNaalt**  
Registrar and Attendance Secretary



**Cassie Ronda**  
Communications Coord. & Volleyball Coach



**Cathy Birdsong**  
Math Teacher



**Jason Sicliano**  
Math Teacher



**Jay Hendricks**  
English Teacher



**Jay Leary**  
Physical Education, Technology Teacher & Coach



**Jeanne Bookout**  
Director of Early Education



**Chelsea Palmer**  
School Nurse



**David Burchi**  
Music Teacher



**Dawn Nelson**  
3rd Grade Teacher



**Dayna Tierney**  
Sports Med Teacher and Trainer



**Jeff Blake**  
Vice President, Middle School & High School Principal



**Jim Callahan**  
Bible Teacher



**Jim Wolfe**  
Science Teacher



**Joe Bradley**  
President



**Doris Hocking**  
26 Preschool Teacher



**Ginger Brown**  
Student Aid



**Grace Hunt**  
English - Student Teacher



**Gus Chaydez**  
English and Social Studies Teacher



**Judy Jones**  
Preschool Teacher



**Karla Mungillo**  
5th Grade Teacher



**Kaylee Fitzmaurice**  
2nd Grade Teacher



**Keith de Laet**  
Middle School Teacher & Director of Curriculum



**Irma Flores**  
2nd Grade Teacher



**James Voges**  
Director of Technology



**Jamie Ross**  
Kindergarten Teacher



**Jan Wolfe**  
Art Teacher



Even more of Our Very Own **Superheroes**



**Lois Leader**  
Math Teacher

**Lori Miller**  
4<sup>th</sup> Preschool Teacher

**Margarita Llanes**  
Spanish Teacher

**Marty McIntire**  
International Director & Bible Teacher



**Ryan Gallipant**  
Middle School Teacher

**Ryan Stephens**  
Bible Teacher

**Shane Sluga**  
Athletic Director and Basketball Coach

**Tara Draper & Sylvia Prado**  
Teacher/Student Aids



**Mary Hendricks**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

**Michael Eriquez**  
Student Life Coord. & Middle Sch. Soccer Coach

**Mimi Jordan**  
Assistant Preschool Teacher

**Mykael Wright**  
Asst. Principal, Math Teacher & Basketball Coach



**Kelby Milgrim**  
Science Teacher and STEM Director

**Kim Guldborg**  
Assistant Preschool Teacher

**Lisa Blake**  
School Counselor & Psychology Teacher

**Liz Gill**  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher



**Katrina Wilhoite**  
Preschool Teacher

**Nathan de Laet**  
Middle & High School Teacher - Social Studies & Theatre

**Rachel Nowakowski**  
Student Aid

**Nadia Simon**  
Preschool Assistant Director



**Ashley Brown-Hutchings**  
Middle & High School Teacher

**Tene Burrow**  
Elementary Assistant Principal

**Yvonne Calderon**  
Dir. of Strategically Enhancing Education



From left to right:  
Alumni Brian Wickersham,  
Carrie (Wickersham) Ackerman,  
Jim & Donna Wickersham  
and Jason Wickersham



# Alumni Teachers

We are pleased to celebrate and highlight some of our Superheroes in this issue. Many are alumni who once attended Phoenix Christian and have gone on to have a far reaching impact in the various schools where they teach and/or coach today. Others reflect a sampling of the rich heritage of teachers and coaches who have invested much of themselves in many students at Phoenix Christian throughout the years.

His field on the corner of 18th Avenue and Indian School where Phoenix Christian stands.

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to minister with young people over 35 years. My time in retirement has involved the joy and blessing of becoming Grandpa to eight grandsons, four of whom live less than a mile from our home in Greenville, IL. This wonderful experience would take much time to describe and the creation of a whole new group of adjectives.

If these Halls could Talk

My time at PC began in August of 1974. Unfortunately, I needed to stop in December of 2006 for medical reasons. I taught Senior Bible, Junior Bible, Freshmen Bible, French and one semester of Spanish. My coaching career was from 1974 to 1985 and included football, wrestling, boys' and girls' track, in addition to one season of helping with girls' softball. There were many joys and sorrows of these athletic endeavors, and they were great experiences I would not trade for anything. Coaching made it possible to get to know those young people and help them on a deeper level than in the classroom at times. I experienced seeing some with great promise and talent fall short of reaching their potential while some went beyond their ability. On the other hand, I remember with fondness some team members who possessed little natural ability work very hard as if they were expecting their drive and energy to land them in the Olympics. These young people taught me many things—maybe even more than I taught them.

My classroom experience was tremendously enjoyable, yet humbling and difficult at times. There were a few who had severe handicaps and even a handful who needed wheelchairs. One student was so affected with arthritis that he could hardly open the classroom door yet he had a big smile every day and taught me courage and persistence. I suffered with trying to help those whose parents

expected far more of them than those students could deliver. Other parents taught me so many things about rearing children which helped me when my children got older.

My favorite administrator was Robert Byrd who was also my last one. His demeanor and ability to lead were very helpful. He knew when to lead, when to follow and be there to pick up the pieces and when to get out of the way. Many of the staff people were precious people and followers of the Lord whose lives showed daily how much they knew about taking what they knew about the Bible and translating it into understanding and wisdom. I cherish the relationships and friendships of many co-workers. My first few years included teachers like Gene Hovda, one of the sweetest people I have ever known; Dale Leander who was a great friend and showed me how to live through very difficult times; Kay Miner who was a precious woman of God who always had a kind word for all. One of the men whose willingness to serve or help others was my neighbor and co-worker, Howard Billings. He helped so many with so much.

My thanks and praise go to the Lord of Hosts, the Great I Am of the Word who will continue to grow the seeds that all workers past, present and future have, are, or will sew used by the laborers in



James Wickersham

# If these Halls could Talk



Jon Callahan -assistant head coach for the Georgia Revolution



## Jon Callahan - Class of 2004

### Where do you currently coach?

Point University Assistant Men's Soccer Coach (NAIA)  
Auburn Thunder (youth club) 2001 U17 Boys Head Coach  
Georgia Revolution FC (NPSL) Assistant Head Coach/  
Goalkeepers Coach

### What teachers had the greatest impact on you during your time at PC?

Jim Callahan, my father as well as Junior Bible teacher and Head Soccer Coach. Jeff Blake, my AP US History teacher. His passion inspired me to major in History in college.

## Barbara Sasso

- PC Teacher, 1987-1992

**I** taught sophomore English, speech, and directed the plays. Those were great memories. There is no way I could pick out just one person who impacted my life. It was ALL the dear students the Lord brought into my life and entrusted me with. Each one taught me something and my greatest joy was seeing them succeed and grow. I so loved seeing their pride in a curtain call, or the joy in a good grade in a subject they didn't like, but had mastered. My students were my greatest joy, encouragement and source of pride.

## Jay Murphy

- Class of 1997

### What years did you teach/coach at PC?

I taught at PC from '01-'06

### Where do you coach or teach now?

I'm now a full-time worship pastor in Phoenix.

### What PC teacher most impacted your life and inspired you to teach?

The teachers that had the most impact on me were Sue VanderPloeg, Jeff Blake and Mike Syrkel.



## Bri (Asolas) Bruneel

- Class of 2002

**G**raduating in 2002 from PC, it was definitely the best class ever. I coached there from 2002-2004 but I choreographed for the cheer squad for many years after that.

### Where do you currently teach or coach?

I taught and coached at Desert Ridge High School for 5 years. I quit teaching when I moved to Vegas and I currently work for the PGA Tour at TPC Summerlin.

### What teachers had the greatest impact on you during your time at PC?

The teacher that had the greatest impact on my life and really inspired me to teach was actually Mr. Blake. He was always so passionate about the subjects that he taught which was an inspiration to his students. His love of teaching was also one of the reasons I got into education. I always hoped I would make the same difference in a student's life that he made in mine. He is the reason I majored in Political Science and secondary education.

Bri and the PC Cheer Team



## Melody (Shaeffer) Milgrim

- Class of 1988

**I** became a teacher in 1993 and just started my 25th year as an educator. I'm now an academic coach. It's hard to pick just one teacher that most impacted my life and inspired me to teach because all of my PC teachers had a hand in it. Mr. Howard Billings had the most overall impact on my life as my choir and chorale director. He had the most impact on my first college major choice. He gave the chorale members freedom to contribute to our repertoire. He allowed us to sing all kinds of music from worship songs, to hymns, to spirituals, to the modern Christian music of that time. We were allowed to experiment and try different combinations and rhythms. He gave us confidence and taught us how to perform, while at the same time, leading a congregation to worship and adore God. I wanted to continue that, and be able to do the same. I entered college as a music major on a music scholarship and although I didn't finish my degree in music, I did direct choirs and ensembles and lead worship in various churches. These are fabulous memories I've been able to keep throughout my life.

Thank you, Mr. Billings!



## Andi O'Dell - PC Teacher, 1990-2013

**M**y first memory of PC is the group of girls in my first hour science class that sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" every morning when the school played the recording over the loud speakers. Loved it! I also taught many different subjects during those 23 years. I coached JH Softball for 13 years, SH JV Softball for 11 years, and Varsity Softball for 3 years. I also coached JH Volleyball for 11 years. I organized, or helped organize and attended 8th grade camp for 21 years.

I am retired and enjoy doing crafts and remodeling projects. My husband and I spend 6 months in Glendale and 6 months in Heber/Overgaard. Camping and fishing keep us busy too.

There were so many students, teachers and administrators that influenced my years at PC. (I'm really having a difficult time picking just one). I guess I would have to say Scott Bostick. He taught me to do my best, in all things, for the Lord first. Scott was such an encourager and seemed to sense when someone needed to hear a positive comment. The students loved him for his honesty, friendship, and "craziness". These, and many others, are embedded in my heart forever!



Andi and Janice Koivisto former PC teachers

# If these Halls could Talk



**David Callahan** – Class of 2006

**W**hat PC teachers most impacted your life and inspired you to teach? I loved playing soccer while at PC, but the teachers and friends I made there changed my life! I still call the friends I made at PC my closest friends today, even 10 years after graduation. Hands down the teacher who made the greatest impact on me was Mr. Blake. Although I followed in his footsteps as a history teacher, it was not his class which so greatly impacted me, it was his leadership and mentoring. My greatest memory at PC was serving in Student Council. I was a part of Student Council three of my four years in high school and Mr. Blake led by example and taught us that Leadership is defined as SOS - Service over Self. He believed in me as a freshman and gave me the opportunity to run for student council even though I didn't have a great 8th grade year. He gave me a second chance and a fresh start in High School. Mr. Blake instilled in me that a leader must always put others first and be humble to do the dirty work if necessary. You will always see Mr. Blake cleaning up after events and doing the jobs others in leadership may see as beneath them. He inspired me to want to become a teacher in order to impact young people the way he impacted me.

**What students, teachers or administrators impacted you during your time as a teacher at PC?** I was so blessed to learn under Mr. Blake as a student teacher and then as a History and Government Teacher at PC from 2011-2014. While a teacher at PC, I had the pleasure of being the student council advisor and soccer coach. JT Timmerman was a student who impacted me most. He was a critical thinking student who attended PC from Preschool to 12th grade, but he made me a better teacher because he asked hard questions and contributed to class discussions about what it means to see history and

culture from a Christian worldview. God called me to be the Principal at Payson Christian School 2 years ago and I know I would not be in the leadership position I am now without God blessing me with a mentor like Jeff Blake. His Christlike servant leadership was powerful, effective and contagious. I hope I can impact as many young people in my career as Mr. Blake has in his career.

Hands down the teacher who made the greatest impact on me was Mr. Blake.



**Shawn Kohner** – Class of 1992

**W**hat years did you teach/coach at PC? I coached football at PC from the fall of '93 to '99.

**Where do you coach or teach now?** I teach and coach football at Northwest Christian School.

**What PC teacher most impacted your life and inspired you to teach?**

It is so tough to pick JUST one - every teacher and coach has had an impact on me personally, professionally and spiritually. But Coach Roth is up there!



Alumni Tim Kohner - '95, Shawn Kohner - '92 and son Tyler and Patty Kohner - mom & former cafeteria mom and maker of all things delicious (famous chocolate chip cookies)!



**Don Thorp** – PC Coach & Teacher, 1974-1992

**S**ubjects taught: American Government, American Free Enterprise, U.S. History, World History, World Geography. Coaching Assignments: Junior Varsity Football, Junior Varsity Basketball (6 years), Varsity Basketball (10 years), Track Official at PC Track Meets (Running Events).

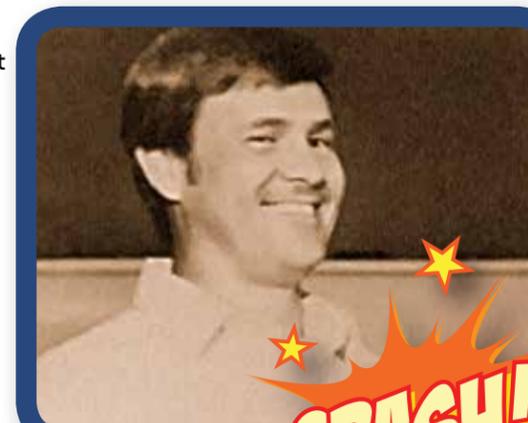
**Since leaving PC, where have you taught and/or coached?** After moving from Phoenix to Texas, I taught and coached at Florence, TX High School & Junior High School- October, 1992 - May, 2001. After resigning at Florence, I worked at Legacy Hills Golf Course in Sun City, TX from 2001-2002.

Since September, 2003, I've been working at Don Hewlett Chevrolet/Buick - Courtesy Shuttle Driver part-time. My daughter (Lori Thorp De Jong), son-in-law (Eric De Jong) both graduates of PC, and granddaughter (Michaela De Jong) moved to Georgetown, TX in 2004 and have been

living in this city to this day. I still coach but it's at the TV. My wife says, "I've had to put up with this our whole married life. If you continue this, I'm going into another room so I don't have to listen"!!!!

**During your time at PC, what student, administrator or teacher impacted you?**

They were Sam Williams (board member), Loye Crenshaw (Superintendent at PC), Harold Buckner (Assistant Superintendent), and teachers Eugene Hovda, Jim Wickersham, Jim and Jan Wolfe, Howard Billings, and PC Accountant, Bill (Dad) Gumm. There are too many students to name that I appreciated very much. I wouldn't want to leave any of them out!



# If these Halls Could Talk

## Howard Billings

- PC Coach & Teacher, 1969-2012

**I** taught Reading, English, and music! Special to my life as co-workers were Jim Wickersham, Gene Hovda, and Stan Morgan! Families and students of the George Richardson clan had a tremendous influence on my life. As to administration, Bob Byrd was very special. In retirement I volunteer at Light and Life and continue to buy some for PC.



God still is blessing the school!!!

Where do you teach or coach?

I teach at Savannah Classical Academy...

## Paige Westberg - Class of 2009

...which is a public charter school in Savannah, GA. I teach high school art.

**What PC teacher most impacted your life and inspired you to teach?** While so many of the teachers at Phoenix Christian really helped shape me in to the person I've become, the most impactful teacher I had was Ms. De Arcos. I took classes from her starting my freshman year and through yearly schedule changes ended up taking her for 6 different classes throughout my time at PC. She challenged my pride, forced me to work harder and to be my best. She helped me to feel comfortable being myself and embracing who God made me to be. She's an amazing educator who not only cares about her students understanding English, but truly desires that they would learn how to be who God has made them to be.

## Megan Burbank - Class of 2005

**I** teach junior high special education at Legacy Traditional School Glendale. Mr. Blake was hugely influential in my decision to teach. He spent so much time and energy making sure that all his students were successful even when we weren't trying as hard as he was. He challenged us academically and spiritually. He taught with such a passion that you couldn't help but to become excited about APUSH! Mr. Blake's love for his students and his dedication to teacher/education made me want to do something to make a difference in someone else's life the way he impacted mine.

## Kelby Milgrim

- Class of 1988 & current PC Teacher since 2015

**I** am currently teaching at Phoenix Christian Preparatory School. I teach the following high school courses: chemistry, physics, MESA STEM classes, and middle school MESA advisory class. I taught 22 years in middle school science and math in the Alhambra School District at the following schools (Montebello -12 years, Catalina -4 years, Barcelona -4 years, and Westwood 2 years).

When I was attending Phoenix Christian High School, the teachers that had the greatest impact on my life were Mr. Wickersham (Bible), Mr. Nelson (English and Speech), and Mr. Wolfe (basketball and track). I still remember and have the award Mr. Wolfe gave out in track for the "Total Release" Award, which was 100% for Christ. Of all the awards I have received over the years, this one means the most.

Three teachers who impacted me the most were in grade school at John F. Long Elementary School. Mrs. Blake (yes, that is Mr. Blake's mother) in kindergarten,

Ms. Runyon (5th Grade Teacher) and Ms. Mullins (6th Grade Teacher). I remember Mrs. Blake selecting me to be the "teacher for the day" at my school, so I was able to go into the teacher's lounge and get a soda while at school! Later on, I realized I have dyslexia, which was never diagnosed until 4th grade. I had to take summer school in 5th and 6th grade just to keep up with my reading. Both of these teachers worked with me beyond what any other teachers in the past did and created a hunger to learn. Before these two teachers, I thought I was dumb and would never be able to accomplish much of anything due to my disability. God blessed me through these teachers and created opportunities I would have never tried before I met them. I was in school plays, acted out scenes from books I read instead of writing the normal book report, join chess club and took 2nd place in my whole school. Most of all, they challenged me to believe. Even though I had a learning disability, it did not prevent me from success.

## Lois Leader - Class of 1972, Current PC Teacher since 1999

**T**he PC teacher that most impacted my life was my English teacher, Mr. Kelly. He was a character! And he made his subject so interesting to me, even though I was a math person. He encouraged shy little me to try out for school plays and I found I could play a part on a stage and not die from stage fright. I met my future husband, Eric Leader, through his sailing club. (Yes, there was a sailing club at PC back in the day!) One of the events I've most enjoyed as a faculty member at PC is our yearly retreat at Lost Canyon. It's an excellent example of organized joy. However, I've yet to meet my goal of hiking to the top of Wounded Ranger Ridge. Here is a picture of Susan Lueders and me on one of our failed attempts.

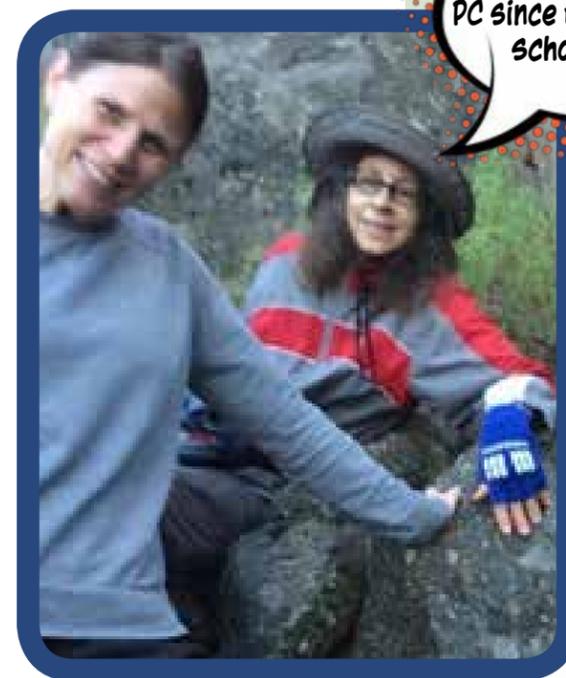


I got the "Total Release" Award

I have taught at PC since the 1999-2000 school year. ...

Mr. Blake... Made Me want to make a difference

"I was named Teacher of the Week from a local radio station. This student nominated me."



# IF these Halls Could Talk

**Laura Huizenga** – Class of 1984 Taught at PC 2012-2016  
 Now teaching at Joy Christian School: high school music (choir, piano, music appreciation), middle school touring choir and Senior class advisor.

**A**s a student at PC, I was most impacted by Victor Kelly, who was my teacher for Junior and Senior English. The world-view reading and writing that we did in Jr. Honors English, as well as the gut-level sharing and honesty of that small group of students, have created a life-long impact on how I think about the world, truth, beauty, and faith. During our senior year, Mr. Kelly made us memorize and repeat daily the following mantra: "Belief, by definition, must dominate the choices I make and the priorities I establish, or what I say I believe is a lie." This saying may have literally saved my life, and it certainly saved my faith.

Mrs. Huizenga and After Hours, the extracurricular a cappella group at Joy Christian High School



As a teacher at PC, I was most impacted by the group of students who sang in my high school Chorale. Only a few of them had prior experience and training as singers; most of them had never sung before. They showed up every day and dug in to learning to read music, listening to all kinds of music they'd never heard before, and learning to sing properly, in tune, with multiple lines of harmony. They were gutsy and fun, and they loved each other well. They made it worth coming in to work!

**Melissa (Agazzi) Van Hofwegen** – Class of 2000

**I**went on to earn a BA from Trinity Christian College and then an MA from Grand Canyon University. I currently teach at Paseo Pointe Elementary in the Laveen school district. I teach 7th grade language arts. I have coached, tutored and led student council at various points in my career. In high school, the teacher who impacted my future the most was Ms. Sue VanderPloeg. She showed grace and compassion to many and that had a lasting impact and helped me realize my dream of doing the same for my students. She is now the principal of the school where my children attend and I couldn't be more thrilled that her influence has reached them as well. The most important things I learned at PC were: 1) relationships matter above all. The old saying, "... people remember how you made them feel" is absolutely true. 2) To have grace (because kids are kids and they make mistakes!) while upholding the highest expectations for students and supporting them to reach their goals...regardless of what those goals are. Essentially, I learned to implement biblical principles into my interactions with every person in my life, most importantly, the precious children whose lives I am blessed to touch.



Melissa painting a student's fingernails



**John Harris** – Class of 1987

**W**here do you coach or teach now? I coach middle school football and basketball at Pikes Peak Christian School in Colorado Springs, CO. Like most Christian schools, Pikes Peak Christian depends a lot on unpaid volunteers, so I'm grateful to donate my time to coach these great kids. I also teach business strategies in a number of places, including the Business as Ministry program at the Colorado Springs missions base for Youth with a Mission.

**What PC teacher most impacted your life and inspired you to teach?** The teacher and coach that had the biggest impact was and still is Don Thorp. He was the first teacher and coach I met when I stepped on campus as a freshman on the football team, and he was the last teacher I saw when I drove out of the parking lot after graduation. His influence on my life, during my time at PC and even to this day, has been very profound. He taught us how to communicate with students and players and to be honest and sincere with them. He taught us how to be dedicated to our wives and families by his sacrificial example to his wife and daughter. He demanded our best, regardless of the opponent or the conditions. He never graded on the scoreboard, but on our effort in the classroom and on the field or court. He could be tough, but he was always fair and always committed to finding and developing our best effort. He never asked more than what he would do himself. That dedication was proven by his time in the weight room lifting with us players, helping out at track meets for hours, coaching football, basketball, and baseball, and then making a point to be on campus early in the morning and late after school to be available for us to talk or to seek help. Don always maintained a sense of humor and could laugh at himself, especially when his temper got the best of him. Most of all, he has maintained his love for Jesus and for others. Don always talks about Jesus in a real way because Don clearly knows Him and loves Him. He still bows his head in prayer when he sees or hears an ambulance speed by with its lights and siren on – which all of his former students know why he does it. The kids I coach have no idea why I say and do certain things, but I know it's because "Coach" Thorp and his "Thorpisms" will never go away in my mind and in my heart. After 35 years, I am still his student and he is still my teacher – and that will never change.



John Harris with the basketball team



**Carrie (Wickersham) Ackerman** – Class of 1994

**I** graduated in 1994 from Phoenix Christian. I am now a professor at Greenville University in the Social Work department. I had a lot of amazing teachers during my time at PC, but Mr. Wickersham outshined them all because he began educating me long before I arrived at PC and continued to shape me long after I had gone. His love for students, passion and knowledge of his subject, and desire to work with each student as a unique person made a deep impact on me.

I realize I may be cheating when answering this question by saying, "It was my dad", but it truly was "my dad."

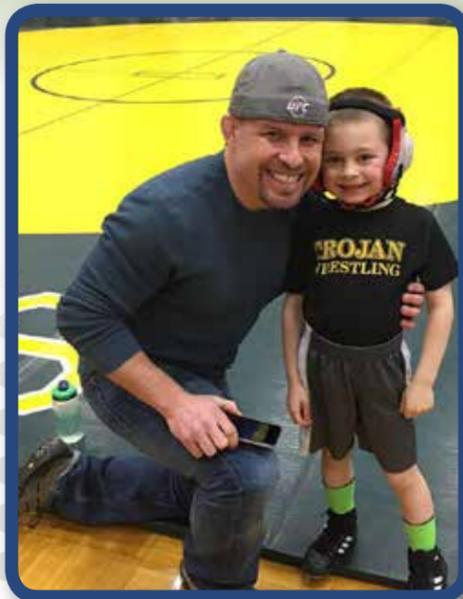


# If these Halls could Talk

**Sean Eicher** - Class of 2010

**I** started at PC in 2015 when I needed an internship and I ended up teaching a 6th grade P.E. class and this is when it all began. I now am the head coach for cross country and assist with the distance runners for track. I am teaching here still, at my home high school, and have been teaching a variety of P.E. classes and Athletics for all ages.

I had many great teachers at PC, but I didn't really figure out that teaching was going to be my calling until later in college. I ended up switching majors a couple times and health and fitness was becoming a passion of mine. This is when I noticed and decided that my love for fitness and the youth is where I will build my future. I remember all the P.E. teachers I had and the impact they made. The two I can remember from PC are Mr. Stephens and Mr. Cram. These two men did their best to bring enjoyment and fun into this place and I have many memories from it.



**Jason Abajian**  
- PC Teacher & Coach, 2002-2007

**S**ome of the best years of my life! I taught AP Government, Economics, US History and American Literature and coached wrestling at PC from '02 to '07. Since my time at PC, I coached high school wrestling at Denver Lutheran (closed) and Faith Christian (Arvada, CO). We just moved to Traverse City, MI 8 months ago and hope to find a new coaching ministry to serve. I've been with Honeywell since leaving PC and now I am the Sales Manager for the North America Water Business (peddling water heater mixing valves, boiler controls, etc). Hence, I'm sitting on a plane in Detroit waiting to take off for Seattle typing this out and already missing my wife, Amanda, and boys, Zeke and Titus.

**Bruce Consier**  
- PC Teacher, Counselor, School Pastor, Coach & AD, 1995-2015

**I** began my career at PC as JH Principal, served as School Pastor, Counselor and finished as AD and girls' basketball coach. I am currently AD and girls' basketball coach at Hyde Park Schools in TX. So many students impacted my life throughout the years. Tara (Vandermate) Poovey is one of the special ones. She played for me and became my assistant. During that time, we took the State Championship Title (2015).



**Jason Siciliano**  
- Class of 2000

**I** started teaching at Phoenix Christian in 2017. I also teach at Phoenix College, which I started at in 2013. The teachers that impacted me the most were Mr. Bostick and Mr. Wickersham - both set great examples of walking with Jesus and serving the students.



**Mrs. Anne (Vanderpool) Ortman**  
- Class of 1969

*"Sometimes you never know the true value of a MOMENT until it becomes a MEMORY."*

**Timeline**  
1965-Freshman - Mr. Jerry Bolt, you expanded my world in music and theater!  
1985-Parent of two PC students- Stephanie and Mark  
1989-Jr. High Teacher - Mr. Jim Wright- A precious mentor and Godly leader  
1995-Left "formal" teaching to pursue MA in counseling  
2017-Married 45 years to "Monty" Ortman, Class of '67

**R**emembering each of my PC "roles" over those past years is with great fondness. Today when someone asks me, after my third or fourth writing edit, "Are you STILL writing that email?" I tell them, "Blame Mr. Kelly!" I utilize what he taught me in his classroom and in journalism nearly every single day!! These days with Monty's return to the PC Board, I find myself on campus more often. I am so pleased and rejoice to see the cultural diversity in the student body which truly reflects Jesus Christ's commission to ALL believers.

Even though I realize that not all of our Phoenix Christian memories are "warm and fuzzy", I encourage former students, parents, faculty and staff to first and foremost, pray for PC, visit the campus or website (phoenixchristian.org), and reconnect in some way so that you may see firsthand "...what God has done and IS doing!" I believe you will be blessed, encouraged and proud to see what Phoenix Christian Preparatory School looks like today!



Ortman generations today

**Paul Hayes** - Class of 1980

**I** have been directing choirs since 1981. I'm extremely thankful for the example of Jerry Giger at PCHS. To God be the glory!



*"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."*

Psalms 100:5

# IF these Halls could Talk

## Katelyn (McNeely) Ceton

- Class of 2009, Teacher from 2014-2016

**I** teach at Gilbert Christian High School, my 2nd year, as a Freshman, Senior, and International (ESL) English teacher. I am an assistant swim coach for their swim team as well.

The PC teachers that most inspired me to teach would be Ms. De Arcos and Mr. Hjort, but I must also mention Mrs. Kelley from 1st grade at the then Light and Life Christian School. Ms. De Arcos made me fall in love with literature and analyzing it on a deeper level. Mr. Hjort was extremely passionate about government and he is the one who inspires me to help my students fall in love with English on a daily basis. Mrs. Kelley must be mentioned because she is the reason why I wanted to teach. She brought about a love for teaching within me that continues to this day.

As a teacher at PC, Mr. Hendricks most impacted my life. He helped me grow as a teacher, giving me feedback, encouragement, and help whenever I needed it. He not only was my co-worker, but also my confidant and friend. I miss working with him dearly.



## Lori Shaeffer Hallock

- Class of 1983

**W**hat years did you teach/coach at PC? I coached the girls' junior varsity basketball team in 86-87 with my brother, Mark Shaeffer and then I coached in 87-88 with Rick Roth.

Where do you coach or teach now? I currently teach at Dayton Christian School in Ohio.

What PC teacher most impacted your life and inspired you to teach? Geri Adkins was my basketball coach in the 79-80 and 80-81 seasons. She believed in my versatility as a player and she stretched me to be flexible in whatever position that she played me in. This has proven to be an invaluable lesson to me as I challenge my teams to also be versatile and flexible. I was also Mrs. Adkins' aide in the PE classes and I have followed her into the field of PE. I have been a PE teacher for 30 years.

If you taught at PC, what student, administrator or teacher most impacted your life? Kristen Niccoll, a 1987 graduate, impacted my life by making me think about how to coach in a way that impacts eternity.

## Julie (Cunningham) Meyer

-Class of 2004

**W**here do you coach or teach now? I taught middle school for nine years at Valley Academy Charter School (my elementary school). This is my first year as a stay at home mom... really weird.

What PC teacher most impacted your life and inspired you to teach?

Mrs. Miner/Slocum. She was so straightforward and honest about how much she loved Jesus and how impactful He was in her life. I loved English like she did and that's what I ended up teaching. She wrote me a letter during my first year and told me about how rewarding investing in the lives of young people is, and I have thought about her advice often over the years. My picture is of me and one of my favorite students, Class of 2017 alum, Emma Lueders, who I taught when she was in 7th and 8th grade.



## Linnea Smith - Class of 1986

**I** graduated from PCHS in 1986. I coached women's basketball from 1990-1995 and track from 1996-1998 and 2010-2017. In those years I coached 4 state champions in the discus.

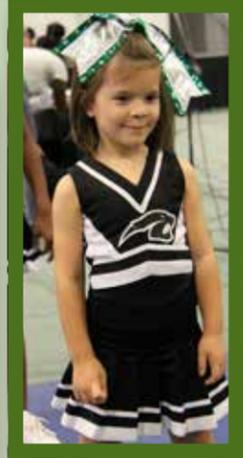
The teacher that most influenced me was Mr. Hovda, my freshmen Bible teacher who retired in 1983. He was a humble and wise man. For years I considered him one of my mentors as we corresponded through the mail off and on. Once I felt old enough to start teaching women's Bible studies at church, he was someone I drew inspiration from as I found my own way to communicate God's truth. Jan Wolfe was my basketball coach who was wise enough not to rush her best players. Since I graduated she has become a friend and a colleague.

I think just about everyone who knew him would say that Rev. Buckner made an impact. I still remember some of the things he said in chapel 30+ years later.

What I learned from my teachers and coaches was that while results are nice, it's the relationships that matter. I've been so honored to have a place in the lives of so many kids through my years as a coach. Many of them still are in touch with me today and that's more how I mark my success than the results of a track meet.



# PC Family Time



**CRUNCH!**



**BLAST!**



**WHOOOSH!**



## What's New with You?

We love hearing from you!  
Please send updates to  
CougarNow@phoenixchristian.org.

## Important Dates:

**Fall Break**  
October 26-27

**PC Serve Day**  
November 8 - 8:00am

**Thanksgiving Break**  
November 20-24

**Fall Play, Scapino**  
December 1 - 3:00pm  
December 2 - 3:00pm & 7:00pm

**MC Cash Christmas Party**  
December 5 - 4:00pm

**MS/HS Christmas Vespers**  
December 7  
at Trinity Bible Church - 6:00pm

**Glendale Christmas Parade**  
December 9 - 10:00am

**Elementary Christmas Concert**  
December 14 at P.C. Gym - 6:00pm

**Elementary Christmas Program**  
December 15 Light & Life chapel  
- 6:00pm

## Letters

What a blessing!  
I just finished reading CougarNow  
and am deeply moved as I recognize what  
our Lord is doing at PC..... not only on campus  
but in the campus of hearts that continue to  
learn and grow beyond the days invested  
at 18th Ave and Indian School.  
Thank you and thanks be to God!

David Tomb,  
Class of 1966

An awesome  
edition!!  
Loved it!!! :)

Sharon Leary,  
Parent & Elementary Sign and  
Worship Director

June 2017  
CougarNOW



## From the Editor

What a journey we've taken this issue! We started back in August and as I dug a little deeper and spent time listening to our students reflect on their teachers, I was reminded of the overwhelming influence teachers have on our students each day. They hold the power to ignite imaginations, elevate abilities, transform ideology, stamp-out racism and societal stigmas, and see each student as uniquely created by God to do His work. And that happens each day at Phoenix Christian and has for over fifty years. I tip my hat to so many superheroes who left their fingerprint on my life; to my first grade teacher, Mrs.

Fridenmaker who cried as she prayed with our class because I was moving to a new school, to Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks for opening the door to wonderful works of literature, to Mrs. Loper, my 3rd grade teacher for inviting us into the adventures of the Hardy Boys and Sugar Creek Gang as we laid our heads down on our desks after recess, to Ms. Miner who expected nothing less than excellence in our writing but who treated us to her delicious homemade cookies, to Mr. Roth who graciously forgave me after he discovered I cheated on a Bible verse, to one of my professors

at Greenville College who marked every single needless "being verb" in red and left a big fat "D" on my first paper, and to John Eldredge, one of my professors at Focus on the Family Institute who reminded me of Christ's endless pursuit of my heart. To these and so many more, I owe so much gratitude. Please join me in fervent prayer for our teachers and coaches around the world. They truly are the superheroes of the day!!

Lisa Blake

# CougarNOW

Volume 5 • October 2017 Phoenix Christian Preparatory School

Produced by the PC Family  
For the PC Family

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>President &amp; CEO</b> | Joe Bradley   |
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| <b>Design</b>              | Michael Swaine  |
| <b>Photographers</b>       | Dusty (Redmond) Perez -Class of 2002<br>www.lilyphotographydp.com<br>Kathy Cole |
| <b>Contributors</b>        | Barbara Tomb<br>Steve Woods   |

CougarNow Online  
Read this and other issues of CougarNow at  
phoenixchristian.org

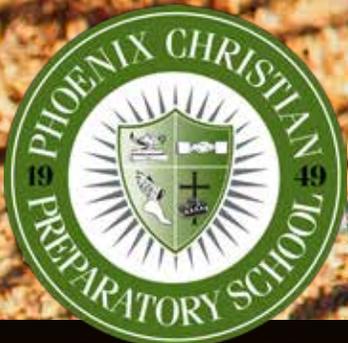
We'd like to hear from you.  
Send your emails to:  
cougarnow@phoenixchristian.org

# SMACK!





**WHOOOSH!!**



*Phoenix Christian Preparatory School*