



THE REPORTER

“... they reported everything God had done through them.” Acts 15:4

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Six new staff members join PC this semester

Four new teachers and two study hall monitors joined the ranks of PC staff this fall. All bring unique gifts and perspectives.

Industrial Arts teacher Robert Scandridge hopes to pass along to students valuable trade skills many businesses are seeking, like learning new tools and managing space. He was raised in the small town of North English in SE Iowa and graduated from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University). Scandridge taught industrial arts and coached sports at Sentral of Fenton for a few years before moving on to teach industrial arts, coach multiple sports and eventually become the athletic director at Lynnville-Sully High School.

Band director Autumn Bennett hopes to use her students' unique musical talents to bring glory to God and to minister God's love to their world by performing, creating and interpreting music.

Born and raised in Moline, Illinois, Bennett taught in Southwest Missouri for 10 years after graduating from Evangel Missouri and William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri.

Art teacher Tessa Crist brings the deep hope that her students recognize themselves as image bearers of God in Art History, Intro to Art, and Drawing and Painting. "He is the ultimate Creator. I hope that we be likewise to bring the bright and beautiful into this dark world," she said.

Crist was born in Galena, Illinois. She went to Clarke University to study Art, and then went to grad school at Northern Illinois University, where she got a masters degree in Art History. Crist feels art is important for the students at PC. "It helps give a well-rounded education, and God created us to be creators and be a good steward of our community" she said.

Moving, getting a new job, getting married, and going to Puerto Rico took up a lot of PC's new Spanish teacher Marcus Zevenbergen's time during the three weeks before school started.

Zevenbergen was a student at Dordt College up until a few months ago. In his time as a student there, he traveled all over the world. From Canada to Italy, Zevenbergen was almost constantly on the go. He enjoyed spending a full semester in Spain. "I learned the most about the world and



Bob Scandridge, Autumn Bennett, Tessa Crist, Marcus Zevenbergen, Amy Branderhorst and Kim Hoekstra joined the PC staff this fall. Branderhorst and Hoekstra have taken on the new role of study hall monitor.

myself there, and it played a very significant role in my life," said Zevenbergen.

Two study hall monitors have also joined the PC staff: Amy Branderhorst and Kim Hoekstra.

Branderhorst grew up in Pella, attended PCGS and PCHS before attending Professional Cosmetology Institute in Ames. She opened her own salon in 2014 and recently decided to switch careers and come to PC as a study hall monitor, working three days a week at PC.

Hoekstra covers study hall the other two days per week. She had been praying for God's guidance when she saw the ad for a study hall monitor at PC. She was surprised when the schedule fit perfectly, and she could still help in the kitchen at PCGS.

Hoekstra grew up on a farm 13 miles north of Pella. She also attended PCGS and PCHS before going to Dordt College, where she majored in Accounting and Business Administration. She worked in that field for 16 years before becoming a stay at home mom.

The mission of Pella Christian High School is to educate and nurture each student to serve in God's world.

Pella Christian High School



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From the Principal's Pen: Walking the story of Christian education



By the time you read this, my wife Andi and I will have traveled to Spain and back. A few years ago we learned about a set of friends who traveled a pilgrimage path together. They completed the entire 500 miles in less than 40 days. Many people accomplish that feat, but the unique part of Justin and Patrick's story is that Justin is wheelchair-bound and unable to move on his own. His lifelong friend Patrick said, "I'll Push You" when the two talked about traveling the Camino. As I write, Andi and I are down to 36 hours to make final preparations.

So why are we going? Well, Justin and Patrick invited us to go, along with ten other people with disabilities - and many other able-bodied folks. We've been

in physical training for the last several months, culminating in a 13-mile hike together this past Saturday. We'll do 70 miles of the Camino ("way" in Spanish) in six days over both rough and smooth terrain. We are praying that God will give us opportunities to see Him and listen to Him more clearly on this trip. We'll have lots of time to talk to Him as we walk 12-13 miles each day.

We plan to listen to other people's stories while we walk each day. Thousands of people walk this path in northern Spain's province of Galicia, even in the fall, so there will be no shortage of people and stories. Part of our unique story is that Andi is wheelchair-bound, as well, after a rare health issue in Nigeria when we were

missionaries in that country. "Story" is part of our theme at Pella Christian High this year. "Living God's Story" and an oak sapling, along with I Timothy 4:12 are on posters in every space in the building.

In a frantic, entertainment and work-saturated world, we want our students to walk on the "Camino" called Christian education. We want their education at Pella Christian to point them to God's unfolding story of redemption for His people - to see His plan for the world, to recognize His redeeming call on their lives, and to join in His story of restoring His kingdom even now. May God continue to fold us into His story- and may our students see and respond to His call to step into the story!

Mr. Van Kooten

We are praying that God would give us opportunities to see Him and listen to Him more clearly on this trip.

Class of '69 celebrates 50th reunion with scholarships

This past July 6, the PCHS Class of 1969 joined for a 50th reunion in Pella. The members of the class enjoyed talking, laughing, and of course eating! Out of the 79 that graduated back in May of 1969, 47 class members were present.

Ron Groenenboom helped lead a sharing time that was low key but very meaningful given the experiences and growth that class members shared. "In 1969, our class motto was 'One Step Ahead with God,'" said Groenenboom. "Fifty years later, we have over 3,500 years of combined experience. That's a lot of steps! It was a blessing to read what others wrote for the booklet, and it was great to spend time together during the reunion."

Over a year ago, a committee met with school administration to discuss creating a scholarship fund to benefit current students at the school. Class member Eileen Burns was a key player in this effort, and had regular contact with Principal Dan Van Kooten over the ensuing months. The committee created a scholarship application which was completed by several students. The class set up a Facebook page and also sent out letters advertising their reunion and the scholarship effort.

The scholarship application included



PCHS class of 1969 met for their fiftieth reunion in July. Part of their reunion planning included creating a scholarship fund to help with PCHS tuition for four students.

typical questions found on scholarship applications regarding activities while in high school and future plans, but also included more unusual questions such as "Name one problem or issue where you hope to make a difference." As the 18-19 school year progressed, gifts for the fund continued to come in. By the time of the class reunion in July, the fund had reached over \$4,500.

Several students applied for the scholarship, and four were chosen by committee. "The class of 1969 is to be commended," said Van Kooten, "for their vision to support families who desire a Christian education for their children. This unique gift is a living legacy to their class and to the grand vision for Christian education in South Central Iowa."

Enrollment in Spanish classes rises

Interest in Spanish has increased in recent years, with over 170 PC students enrolled in the four levels of Spanish taught by Joni Van Der Pol and Marcus Zevenbergen.

In Spanish I, students are learning to “Bridge the Gap” by acquiring fundamental language skills to move towards another culture to show the love of Jesus. In Spanish II, III, and IV, that theme is further developed as students explore the Spanish world through use of “authentic resources,” or resources that were created for native Spanish speakers that tell about real-world events and culture.

Spanish I teacher Joni Van Der Pol enjoys seeing the growth of students from learning basic vocabulary like numbers and colors, to expressing themselves in conversations by the end of the year. “We are busy every single day practicing the skills we are learning,” she said.

Upper level Spanish teacher Marcus Zevenbergen has enjoyed building on the skills learned in previous years and seeing his students engage with the language through the study of cultural and historical

learning. “This year, I’m shifting the focus of my Spanish classes to be less about grammar and vocabulary, and more about using the language in context to learn about the world,” he said.

The World Languages Department also includes the ESL or English as a Second Language class for first-year international students. The class helps students prepare for the rigors of the regular English classes offered at PC and focuses on writing academically, improving pronunciation and listening skills, as well as learning about US traditions.

All PC students have two additional opportunities to appreciate God’s love for His people all around the world. International Club (IClub) seeks to connect domestic and international students through fun activities and guest speakers. Model UN, newly formed this year, seeks to explore international relations within God’s world. Its goal is to spark interest in global issues and address those issues within a biblical framework. The club will attend a state wide Model UN symposium at UNI in April.



Chaos Day 2019

Superheroes and silly games were the afternoon features of Chaos Day on Thursday, Oct. 10. Rain kept students inside for the Raft Races, Boggle Challenge and Tug-of-War, but a short dry spell brought them out to the football field for the Can Can challenge, Cow Tongue relay, and Gauntlet. Discipleship groups paired up to create co-ed teams. “My favorite part of Chaos Day was just the unity when the whole school came together and did something fun and exciting that everyone could do,” said freshman Avery Verhoef.

CACE affirms, recommends in strategic planning

Last semester, PC embarked on a strategic planning journey with the help of the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education (CACE). We gathered data and assembled a group of people to assist in thinking deeply about PCHS’s future. The CACE fellows visited our school four times between late February and late June, each time meeting with stakeholders and administrators, and also the Strategic Roadmapping Team (SRT), a group made up of eleven PC staff, board members, parents and supporters.

By the end of June, CACE presented a set of affirmations and recommendations to the PCHS Board of Trustees in five areas:

- Marketing & Enrollment
- Governance & Leadership
- Teaching & Learning
- Culture & Climate
- Financial Sustainability

Their recommendations and affirmations came out of hours of conversation and brainstorming with the SRT.

AFFIRMATIONS:

- strong generational support
- the value of sister Christian schools
- strong enrollment figures
- a broadening base of churches
- the leadership capacity of board and admin
- the quality of instruction
- rapport with students
- overall program rigor
- opportunities for faith development
- collaborative co-branding with PCGS
- new program implementation
- commitment to Christian worldview
- the priority to create accessibility to all families

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- increase storytelling on social media
- increase college credits
- budget for repairs and maintenance
- resolve lingering conflict with sister schools

- consider ways to unify operations and governance with PCGS
- hire personnel to raise funds and manage enrollment and marketing
- build stronger relationships with sister schools and churches
- create a 5-year plan that fixes the unsustainable financial gap between tuition and cost

FIRST STEPS:

One of the first steps we will take is hiring an Admissions Director who will be responsible for representing and marketing the school to parents, prospective parents, and the community to bring in new students and retain current students. The position will require strong communication skills, interpersonal skills, relationship-building skills, and organizational skills, as well as being an independent, motivated self-starter. If you are interested, or know of a good candidate, please contact Dan Van Kooten at vankootend@pceagles.org.

Alumni Reflections**De Young ('72) serves Rehoboth Christian for over 40 years**

Gail (Vander Ploeg) De Young ('72) believes the Christian worldview imparted to her at Pella Christian High School was foundational to her life and to her work at Rehoboth Christian School. Gail and her husband Mike have served at Rehoboth for over 40 years as teachers, principal (Mike), counselor (Gail), and choir co-director (Gail). They retired in May of 2018, but are still involved at Rehoboth, Gail working with the choirs and Mike as an IT consultant. "In an area of the country where poverty, alcoholism, and broken families are so prevalent, day by day, God's faithfulness is evident in big and small ways," said De Young. She learned the absolutes of our faith, such as God's sovereignty, that Jesus is Lord of all, and that he redeems our lives and our world through the power of the Holy Spirit in her Christian education at PCHS. That continues to guide her in a world of relativism and shifting beliefs.

De Young received her BA in secondary education with a concentration in sociology, psychology and history at Calvin College and did her student teaching at Rehoboth.

She then began her teaching career at Rehoboth, earned her MA in counseling, and also taught some courses at both the University of New Mexico and Western New Mexico University.

The De Youngs have three adult children who have all graduated from Rehoboth Christian School. De Young says she would absolutely recommend Christian education to others. "On an academic level, PCHS gave me a solid foundation that more than prepared me for college and beyond. Christian education is one of the biggest investments that a parent can make. The values taught in a Christian environment based on God's word are life changing and life lasting!"

One highlight of De Young's career has been her work with the Rehoboth Christian School choirs as a director and accompanist. It has been a pleasure for her to bring several Rehoboth Christian School choirs to Pella on tours. She not only enjoyed showing her students where she grew up and went to school but also enjoyed sharing the diverse culture of New Mexico with those of us in



Gail ('72) and Mike De Young have served in various roles at Rehoboth Christian School for over 40 years.

the midwest.

She expresses a sincere thank you to all the teachers, administrators, and other school personnel who guided her throughout her early years and planted seeds of faith in her life. Thank you, Gail, for sharing the fruits from those seeds with the students at Rehoboth and also with us when you return with the choirs to this area.

Upcoming Events

October

- 28 1:30 Dismissal PTC 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Financial Aid Night 7-8:30 p.m. in PC Library
- 30 Fall Musical Matinee
- 31 11:30 Dismissal PTC 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Fall Musical *Newsies* 7:00 p.m.

November

- 1-2 Fall Musical *Newsies* 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Blood Drive
- 6 2:30 Dismissal Teacher Professional Development
- 13 2:30 Dismissal Teacher Professional Development
- 18 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 19 LHC Choir Festival at DCG 7:00 p.m.
- 20 2:30 Dismissal Teacher Professional Development
- 21 OPUS Honor Choir Festival at ISU
- 23 All State Music Festival at ISU
- 26 8th Grade Visit Day
- 27 11:30 Dismissal
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Break

Newsies takes PC stage

PCHS Theatre Troupe will open its 70th theatre season with Disney's newest musical, *Newsies*. Having just been released to the general public, PC will be only the 4th high school in Iowa to perform the show! Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, this musical tells the story of rebellious newsboy Jack Kelly, who shares his dream of a life as an artist away from the big city with a fellow newsboy, Crutchie. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, there is nothing left for Jack and their fellow newsies to do but "open the gates and seize the day!"

Newsies will be performed October 31 and November 1 and 2 at 7:00 p.m. Reserved tickets are no longer sold in the school office but are available for purchase on-line beginning October 21 at <https://pchstt.booktix.com/>. This link can also be found on the school website pceagles.org. Advanced tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students. Tickets purchased the night of the performance are \$14 for adults and \$10 for students. All sales will be final.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts were received in honor of **Danelle Rus, Marjorie Stuit and Gary Van Kooten, Ken Fynaardt and June Kramer**. PCHS expresses sympathy to their family and friends and gives thanks for their lives.

