

## Fun, Fellowship and Some Good Old-Fashioned Competition

*Sixty alumni participate in 2010 Volleyball Tournament*

On December 18, 2010, the CACHS gymnasium was filled with nostalgia, sweat and heat ointment. Ten teams were entered in the second annual alumni volleyball tournament, and the competition was fierce. The day was filled with renewing friendships and meeting fellow athletes from different years who have represented CACHS so well. Players from as early as 1992 through 2010 participated. Of the approximately 60 players competing, almost all were alumni. This tournament will be an annual event held just prior to Christmas break. This year's tournament is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of December 16. Be sure to check the fall issue of this newsletter for more details.



The winning women's team included (back, l-r) Stacey Brandsma, Kiera Brandsma, Samantha Eggink, Tashelle VanderSchee, and (front) Dani van Alstyne, Carlie Mulder and Cassidy VanderSchee.



Luymes brothers Rob (orange shirt), Mike (centre) and Dan (right) sported matching Mohawks during the 2010 alumni volleyball tournament.



The winning men's team included (back, l-r) Kurtis Dykstra, Eric Doef, Brian Oudman, Jason Siebenga, and (front) Matt Keller, Keith Prins and Paul Doef.

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never have a chance to experience. Each new building phase emphasized God's blessing to this community and to me. This year is a highlight because it is my last and I can remember it better than the other years!

### What will you miss most?

I suspect that after a little while of rest, it will be the interaction with staff and students that has been part of my life for so

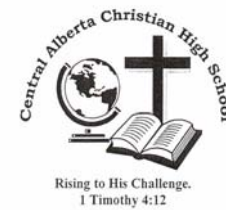
long and as such will also be the part I will miss the most.

### What's next for you?

I have no firm plans for the immediate future. I do know that I will be finding other work, as sitting in a rocking chair waiting to die is not something I'm looking to do. I'm sure that opportunities will present themselves in due time and will be such that I will be able to serve God and others in a different way.

On Thursday, May 19, all alumni, students, parents and supporters are invited to an afternoon of thanksgiving and celebration for Jack's years of service. At 2:00 pm, there will be an assembly in the CACHS gym, followed by an open house until 4:30 p.m. Those not able to arrive in time for the assembly are asked to join us in the gym once it is over (around 2:45 pm). Everyone is encouraged to come show their appreciation to Jack and to wish him well in his future endeavours.

What would you like to see in future issues of *CACHS Alumni Connection*?  
Drop us a line with your ideas to [cachsalumni@hotmail.com](mailto:cachsalumni@hotmail.com).



# CACHS CONNECTION

Connecting CACHS with our 700+ alumni

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2011

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## Farewell to Our Principal

*After more than two decades of leadership as principal and a teacher at Central Alberta Christian High School, Jack Vanden Pol will retire at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. He came to CACHS in 1989 from Edmonton Christian High School, where he'd begun his career. As he looks ahead to retirement, he shares some reflections on his 22 years at CACHS.*



Jack Vanden Pol  
in 1992

### How did you first find your way to CACHS?

When CACHS began looking for a principal/teacher, someone from the society approached me and asked me to consider applying for the job. I felt that this was a challenge that I would like to try. So I applied and the rest is history.

### Describe your roles at CACHS over the years.

I have always been principal while at CACHS, which means involvement in many school-related committees. As a principal I've also served as board member and chair of AISCA, Principal rep to the Prairie Association for Christian Schools and as a trustee to the Canadian Christian School Pension and Benefits Program. Over the years, I've taught lots of CTS subjects and every core subject except for French and English. The last new CTS course for me has been Food Studies.

### How have you seen the school change?

CACHS has grown so that now we have space for 200+ students. The staff has grown significantly and the students seem to grow younger looking every year. I wonder why?

### What would you say are CACHS' strengths?

CACHS has a great support base. It has a community that cares for the school in prayer and with its finances. CACHS has a stable and good teaching and support staff. Our parents are involved and many are part of committees and the board. We have great young people that go to school here. We are starting to see former students get involved in committee and board work. As staff and students we feel supported and appreciated, and that is a significant blessing.

### Describe some highlights of your time here.

The first year was a major highlight for me because school was so much different than my teaching time until then. Starting a new school was a challenge but something most people

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# CACHS ... Then & Now



The school building today



The portable building, in 1989

*It's been nearly 22 years since Central Alberta Christian High School first opened its doors. How did it all begin, and what changes has CACHS seen over the years?*

Over 50 years ago, our parents and grandparents had a vision to provide education for their children in an environment that confesses our Lord is sovereign over all of life – our work, our worship, our play, our learning. This vision started a small rural school which, over time, became Lacombe Christian School (LCS) as we see it today. During the same period, other groups began Christian schools in Red Deer, Ponoka, Rocky Mountain House and Rimbey. In the early 1980s, local supporters of

Christian education began to explore the idea of establishing a Christian high school. Initially, there was discussion around beginning classes at LCS. However, it soon became evident that a regional high school would be better, since it would include the support of parents in the Lacombe district as well as those in surrounding areas. On a summer evening in 1988, a group of interested people met to discuss the concept. They included Nick & Myrna Langelaar, Rick & Minny VanderVelde, Mike Sandstra,

Ralph Pikkert, Arie de Bruijn, Henry Vandermeer, John & Alie VanderMeulen, Jack & Linda Siebenga, Peter & Barb Vander Leek, Walter & Ella Land, George & Grace Stolte, and John & Wilma Busaan. On Feb. 4, 1989, Christian education supporters from around the region passed a motion to establish a regional Christian high school in Central Alberta, with a Grade 10 class to commence in September 1989. Over the next months, willing board members and parents took on many tasks to make this a reality. Lacombe Christian School generously agreed to lease a portable building on its campus. Jack Vanden Pol was hired as principal/teacher and Lois Clark as part-time teacher. Pastor Cecil VanNiejehuis was a volunteer teacher. Other volunteers took on secretarial and janitorial work, as well as preparing the portable. How thankful everyone was when the first Grade 10 class arrived in September 1989! Over the next two years, under God's guidance and with the financial support of many, the school acquired its current property, and, with the help of many volunteers, Phase 1 of a new campus was built. CACHS has moved a long way from its small beginnings. It has a modern campus, dedicated staff, a strong support community, and students encompassed by the vision that started the school. God has led and blessed this school to be so much more than anyone could have ever imagined that summer evening in 1988.

	THEN (1989)	NOW (2011)
# of students	7	128
# of staff	3 teaching staff = 1 full-time position	9 teaching staff 6 support staff
Graduating class size	7 students in first graduating class (1992)	57 students anticipated to graduate (2011)
Facilities	One-room portable at Lacombe Christian School	9 classrooms, library, computer room, lab, gym, kitchen, library, offices and staffroom

1991 - Current facility constructed. Included 3 classrooms, lab, library and office.

1996 - 3 classrooms & computer lab added    1998 - gym & kitchen added

2006 - 6 classrooms & common area added; library, staff room and administrative areas enlarged

## Alumni Updates

### Michelle (Linker) Bult '92



Michelle (pictured with husband Jon and daughter Karen) was a member of CACHS's first graduating class in 1992.

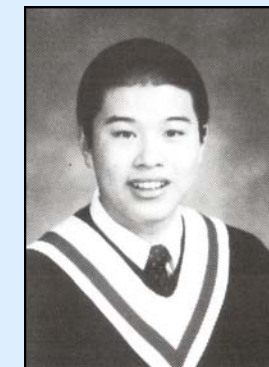
When I was asked to write this blurb, it struck me that it's been almost 19 years since I graduated from CACHS! Wow, the time has flown! After graduating, I attended Reeves Business College in Red Deer and then joined the family business, Parkland Drywalling. In June 2002, I met my husband-to-be, Jon Bult, at a young adults' retreat. We were married on July 19, 2003 and moved to Schaumburg, Illinois, where

Jon lived and worked. Moving from Lacombe's relatively quiet, small town feel to the greater Chicago area and its 10 million inhabitants was quite the adjustment! With Jon growing up on an acreage in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and me from Lacombe, we both longed to have a bit of land. In late 2004, we found an acreage in Dundee, Illinois, a far northwest suburb of Chicago. On December 3, 2005, we were richly blessed with the birth of our daughter, Karen Grace. She is a little sweetheart and brings so much joy to our lives! Jon is employed with Sears Holdings Corporation as a Network Engineer. My days are kept busy as a homemaker, which I enjoy very much. These last 19 years have been full of blessings - thanks be to God for His gracious and loving care.



Michelle in 1992

### Roger Dang '98



Roger in 1998

After graduation from CACHS, I spent two years at Red Deer College in the Bachelor of Commerce transfer program and subsequently moved to Edmonton for two and a half years at University of Alberta in the Bachelor of Commerce Co-operative Education Program with a major in Finance. The program provided me with valuable office experience in investment management and database development and helped land a job with the Big 4 Accounting Firm, Ernst & Young LLP. After graduation in December 2002, I spent a month travelling Western Europe before enrolling in the Chartered Accountant School of Business and started modules in May 2003. I began my five-year career in audit with Ernst & Young in September 2003 as a junior staff accountant and worked my way up through the firm to become an audit manager in September 2007 while obtaining my Chartered Accounting designation in 2006. In January 2009, I decided a career change was needed and left Ernst & Young to travel for five months across Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand while considering my career options. Upon my return from the amazing travels, I accepted my current job with Rexall Sports Corp. (owner and operator of the Edmonton Oilers, Edmonton Oil Kings, Edmonton Capitals, and Oklahoma City Barons [formerly Springfield Falcons]) where I am the Corporate Controller and am responsible for overseeing the finance department.

*Would you like to share what's been happening in your life since you attended CACHS? Send us an update like the ones above (200 words or less) or else share a brief snippet of information about marriages, births, careers, etc. for a future issue. Our e-mail address is [cachsalumni@hotmail.com](mailto:cachsalumni@hotmail.com).*

**Do you know where these alumni are? Please let us know @ [cachsalumni@hotmail.com](mailto:cachsalumni@hotmail.com).**

2008: Sheena Flett

2007: Mitchell Lawton, Michelle Turpin

2003: Tommy Wong

2001: Matthew Hauck, Elias Peter White

1999: Cody Bargholz, Tasha Kamps, Matthew Lang, Luanne MacLennan, Jacob Martin, Bob Sulyak, Tanya Tabler

1998: Melanie Hauck

1996: Terrance Hoffarth

1995: Kimberly Lane

1994: Tod Bowers, Chad Hargreaves, Marie Hoffarth, Keith Molberg

1993: Frank Berg, Heather Blackwood, Kristin De Young, Debbie Elliot, Christy Flug, Joshua Wiebe

*Please contact us if your address changes so we can continue to send you CACHS Connection.*

## U P C O M M O N I T Y E V E N T S

Fashion Show — April 21

Farewell for Jack — May 19

CACHS play - "Cinderella with the Commedia Players" — May 31, June 1, June 2

Graduation — June 28

Harvest Fest — October 28