

CACHS Connection

Connecting CACHS with over 900 alumni

GRAD 2020

A FINAL YEAR LIKE NO OTHER BY ALYSSA VAN'TKLOOSTER

March 13, 2020, seemed like a normal Friday. We had normal classes, a normal assembly, and normal socializing with our friends. We went home on a normal afternoon expecting to come back on a normal Monday, not knowing our definition of normal would change drastically in the coming weeks and months.

March 15, 2020, everything changed. The Alberta government declared a province wide school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My first thought was pure joy! "No school for the next few weeks! I can hang out with my friends all the time!". The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the normal events I was looking forward to weren't going to happen as planned, like sports events, grad trip, and graduation itself. Disappointment soon overtook the joy and any other emotions I had.

March 18, 2020, was the day that the new 'normal' started. We started online education. Only seeing our teachers and classmates through a computer screen caused learning to become more difficult as teachers were less accessible and the ability to focus was decreasing by the day. Normal became sitting in front of the computer for the majority of the time, staying inside and not seeing the people you saw everyday for the past six months. Loneliness and frustration became the new pandemic among high school students, especially the Class of 2020. Talking with some of my fellow peers many of them were frustrated with online courses and being unable to have graduation the way we had planned. All we wanted was to be done with online school and to have some sort of graduation ceremony.

June 19, 2020, was the last day of the 2019-2020 school year. Again our normal was changed. We finished our 13 years of schooling with a very anticlimactic end. No Grad ceremony, no

2020 GRADS
HAD A YEAR TO
REMEMBER!

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last hurrah, no celebration. A very uneventful finish to one of the biggest accomplishments of our lives. Now discovering our new normal as high school graduates looked different for each student.

September 19, 2020, Graduation Day. As the government's COVID-19 restrictions loosened we were able to have a graduation ceremony. We adjusted to the regulations which cause us to have a limited number of guests and to have

an outdoor ceremony. It wasn't the big ceremony and banquet that we all wanted but it was something to give us a little closure to our high school careers. The class was able to see each other and make a few last memories before we moved onto different parts of our lives. Our senior year was far from the normal we expected, even though there were a few rough spots we still were able to graduate and make good memories along the way.



2020 Graduates

Back Row (L-R): John van Iperen, Justin Vanderlinde, Braeden Postmus, Jaxon Talsma, Noah Van Berkel, Lucas Tenbrinke, Lance Goedhart, Adam Vander Meulen, Aiden Heidelberg, Paul Hoogenboom, Nathan Baong

Front Row (L-R): Rachel Devet, Raya Tenbrinke, Allissa Tenbrinke, Emily Folkerts, Taya Folkerts, Alyssa van't Klooster, Kristy van de Brake, Courtney Dalhuisen, Cassidi Haagsma, Simonne Abe

(missing Paul Hendriks)

Congrats to our grads and we welcome them as CACHS' newest alumni!

ALUMNI STORIES

Marieta Van Iperen

It's a typical rainy, autumn afternoon here in the Netherlands. A short two months ago I moved back here, a second time. Looking back on life since graduating in 2009 there have been so many things that I could tell you about. After High School, I attended RDC and worked at Lacombe Christian School as Educational Assistant. During that year I found that learning is a passion of mine and getting to share that with children was something I could see myself doing in the future. At a crossroads in the Spring of 2011, I decided to attend Redeemer University in Hamilton, Ontario. Graduating

"THERE I WAS, A CACHS GRAD AT CACHS AGAIN, AND IT WAS GOOD."

with a B.A. in English and a B.Ed in 4 years finally led me to a classroom in Cambridge in the Fall of 2015. I loved teaching grade 5 but my position was only part-time. Another crossroads presented

itself - choosing between teaching Kindergarten or a possible move to a new school was not easy. It wasn't easy to say no to the kindergarten position without knowing where I'd be working next. I ended up making a dream a reality by moving back to the Netherlands - where I was born and emigrated from in 2004 - and teaching English there. I taught there for two years. In my second year, my sister Lianne (graduating class of 2011) got diagnosed with a rare cancer and went to be with Jesus ten weeks later. Her and I are the youngest in our family and my 'we'll be the last ones standing' picture got ripped to shreds. That school year was very difficult, I ended up burning out completely and going into terrible depression. It led me to decide it would be better to be in Central Alberta with my family, so I moved back in the summer of 2019. I moved away from Lacombe in 2011 and moving back was not at all the plan. But there I was, a



CACHS grad at CACHS again, and it was good. I had a great year working with and learning from my students and my own high school teachers, who were now my co-workers. I enjoyed living near my family and getting to know many people. It was a year of healing and grief and walking alongside others in their grief. In the first month of the 19/20 school year, Nathan Linker, a grade 12 student, passed away, and I was angry with God that he'd make me face death so soon and right here. I was sad that students and staff had to deal with the grief of losing a friend, classmate, or student because I knew how they felt. More and more deaths came, family and friends of staff and students. In June one of my high school classmates, Travis (TJ) Tenhove), passed away in a

climbing accident. We graduated in 2009; he was a young dad and married to Megan. You never expect things to change like that. Life leads you to all kinds of places but the last thing you expect is that you lose young people. This school year I am working with Dutch students who are learning English. It's a foreign language for them but they all think it's pretty cool I actually lived in Canada. Staff and students are always full of questions about life in North-America and many think I'm pretty crazy choosing rain over snow. I haven't decided yet. I teach about 155 English students and see them four times a week. One of the eight second-year classes is my homeroom class which is a lot of fun! I love that I also get to work with small groups of students on reading strategies and conversational English.



All 375 students from second to fourth year (age 13-16) will come for the small group sessions. Knowing students by first name is one of my priorities, it shows them that they're seen, valued, and known. Mostly, we try to have fun and make sure that kids aren't scared to speak English in front of others, it's a huge barrier for many!

Starting a new chapter in the Netherlands has been quite fun. I am exploring a lot of new places to visit and meeting many new people. I miss Alberta skies and wide roads but love going to the Dutch coast or seeing all the green! Friends change over the years, people move away (like me), and do their own thing. Family grows and times will be different. One thing has always been constant. All the changes that happened, moving and losing people, relationships and resumes, God remains the same. He is stable, steadfast, never changing and we can anchor our wobbly selves in Him. We can be rooted in Him and hold fast to His promises. I cling to Him in all things, through the joys and sorrows, the sunshine and the rain. It's the best place to be, in His presence here and now and one day with Him in heaven.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Christine Baltzer This year CACHS implemented a new Special Education program, and with that came the hiring of a new teacher, Christine Baltzer. Christine grew up on Vancouver Island near the community of Nanaimo. She attended Malaspina University-College (now Vancouver Island University) and received her Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and History in 2002. The following year Christine moved to Vancouver and attended The University of British Columbia where she received her Bachelor of Education. After working and living in Nanaimo for a number years, she returned to University and completed a Master of Education in Special Education at Vancouver Island University in 2013. That same year, Christine and her husband (who is originally from Lacombe) decided to move their young family to the Central Alberta area where they now live on an acreage west of Lacombe. After taking some time off to be at home with her family, Christine knew the timing was right to go back to teaching. The CACHS community is blessed to have Christine and we wish her a warm welcome.

Shelby Devet

While writing this summary it has given me time to reflect upon my time I spent at CACHS. Most notably I remember the support from my teachers as I prepared myself for post-secondary education. Upon graduating in 2014 my life has taken quite a journey and I am excited to share with you!

In September of 2014 I began my studies at Red Deer College. My original plan was to complete a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Animal Science. While I couldn't complete my full degree at Red Deer College my plan was to transfer to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. However, what no one told me is that not all schools accept credit transfers from any school. So if you take anything away from this write up – always check if your classes will transfer where you want before taking them! In September of 2015 I began the second year of my degree at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. It was also this year that I changed my major to a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Agribusiness and this was the best decision I made! The classes I took were all



right up my alley! I cannot say enough good things about my time at the U of S. During my time I served as a Chairperson for the Stockman's Club for 2 years, Chairperson and Trip Co-Ordinator for our Dairy Team and organized very many university events! One of

the most memorable memories was organizing a trip to World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. During this trip we were able to take traditional events that go hand in

hand with World Dairy Expo, tour world class dairy farms and see iconic cows in person. I was also a member of the U of S "Ag Bizz Club" where we immersed ourselves in every Agribusiness! Through this I was chosen to be part of a team of 4 to attend Agribusiness Case Competitions and represent the University of Saskatchewan. One notable

memory was winning the "Cor Van Raay Agribusiness Case Competition" at the University of Lethbridge! While these are challenging they are also super

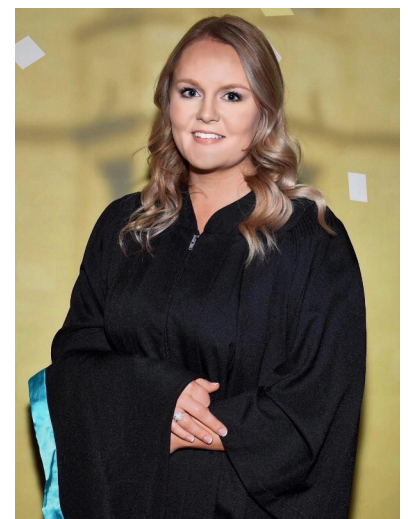
rewarding and you learn so

much! During my time in university I was also selected as the Saskatchewan Delegate for the Young Leaders program for Holstein Canada. Through this program I was able to attend the National Holstein Convention and was able to partake in seminars and all of the convention had to offer!

I completed my degree in April of 2018 and convoked in June! I was lucky to be hired straight out of



I REMEMBER
THE SUPPORT
FROM MY
TEACHERS



university with the Bank of Montreal. They chose to take a chance on me and I jumped into commercial banking with both feet! I took on the role of Relationship Manager for Agricultural & Commercial Banking and have served in many areas of Alberta. Currently I am now out of the

Vegas, Nevada, Here I achieved two 4th place finishes and a 5th place finish against some of the toughest competition I had ever gone up against. This just lit a bigger fire under me to continue training and working harder towards my goals!

I am also lucky to get to show my horses alongside my sisters. Once I had become hooked on the sport and I had to get my sisters to join me. It has now become a family affair that we get to enjoy all year

long! talked about I enjoy spending the rest of my spare time enjoying time with friends & family, volunteering for local 4-H clubs, showing cows, traveling the world, and trying new things that come my way. I just ticked off skydiving off my bucket list just a year ago!

In just 6 short years after graduating CACHS my life has been blessed so richly and I can't wait to see what is coming my way! I have so many to thank for supporting me in achieving my goals by ultimately I have to thank my parents and my family for standing behind me and watching me spread my wings!



Lacombe office and work all over Central Alberta. So I guess you can say I've come full circle!

Upon completing my degree I also chose to focus on training with my horses. I show Quarter Horses competitively in the breed circuit within North America. One of my bigger goals is to compete at the world level and to be training with some of the best in the industry! I have been putting all of my spare time into this and in 2019 I was able to compete at one of the Championship Shows in Las

long!

In 2019 I was also lucky to be able to purchase my first home! This was such a learning experience that has taught me so much and I was especially grateful for my banking background to have as knowledge to help me through such a big transaction. Being a homeowner has come with its own set of challenges but just taking everything in stride is what has helped me from becoming overwhelmed.

Aside from everything I just

2020 FALL DRIVE

November marks the start of CACHS' annual Fall Drive. Our goal this year is \$175,000 with funds going towards running, building, and sustaining the new Special Education Program. This program ensures that students of all abilities can be supported in their learning here at CACHS. Contributions can be made by cash, cheque or etransfer. Donations may also be accepted by clicking the 'Donate' button on our website. Please prayerfully consider how you can financially support our school and help us to continue providing Christ centered education to all our students.

CACHS CATERING

CACHS Catering is a group of dedicated volunteers who offer catering services to raise funds to purchase items for the school. CACHS catering has helped the school purchase computers, SMART boards, sports uniforms, window blinds and more. By having CACHS Catering provide the funds to purchase these necessary items they are helping to keep the cost of tuition lower. Please consider using this awesome group to cater your next event, big or small. For booking and for more information please contact Emma Den Oudsten at 403-782-2657.



ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The 11th Annual CACHS Alumni Volleyball Tournament was held right before Christmas on Dec 20 and 21. The games were intense and the excitement was high. With both players and spectators in attendance this annual tournament often draws together over 70 alumni! The tournament has become a Christmas tradition for many alumni with it being a great way to reconnect with the different generations of athletes each year.

Unfortunately there will be no reconnecting this year and this annual tradition will have to wait till next year. As with many other activities and events this year, the 2020 Alumni tournament will not go ahead in December due to the Covid 19 safety restrictions. We look forward to the next time we can host this awesome tournament.



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Pictured right: Last year's tournament winning men's and women's teams.