

# The Treader

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## Farewell to Mrs. Hanson

For the past fourteen years, Debra Hanson graced the halls of Cair Paravel – Latin School. Literally hundreds of alumni and current students were led through *The Scarlet Letter* and taught to refrain from using split infinitives under her tutelage. Among them a significant number of rhetoricians and thespians benefited from her guidance and direction in everything from dramatic readings to stage productions of Shakespearean plays.



Deb Hanson- 1995

The Hanson's were introduced to CPLS by friends, and Deb and Bob elected to enroll their daughters at Cair Paravel while the girls were bright-eyed middle schoolers. The mid-year departure of an English teacher in 1993-94 left CPLS in need of a replacement, and Deb was hired to stand in the gap and finish the second semester. It did not take long for administration to realize that she was a high caliber and dependable member of the faculty family, and the "interim" label was quickly removed from her job title.



Deb Hanson- 2006

Debra served faithfully and diligently for more than a decade: co-directing and producing plays, sponsoring activities that enriched her students' experiences, serving on committees and tutoring students for countless hours far above the call of duty.

As the de facto English department head for over a decade, Deb was instrumental in developing the curricular "canon" of great literature to which all high school students are exposed in their four years. She became a champion of classical education and ardent defender against pressures for constant change and fluidity in the literature offerings of the school.

It was with a degree of excitement and melancholy that Deb and her husband, Bob, informed administration in November that they felt led by the Lord to answer the call to become Mission Strategists for the Black Hills Association of the Southern Baptist Convention. While excited about their new prospects, the melancholy was unavoidable as Deb expressed great regret about leaving a place and people she had grown to know and love so dearly.

In a farewell convocation held upon the students' return to CPLS after Christmas break Mrs. Hanson was awarded the "Heart of a Lion" plaque for her years of faithful service and the students gathered around her to pray God's blessing upon her new adventures.

Please feel free to express your appreciation and promise your prayers to Mrs. Hanson. She can be reached via e-mail at bhanson31@cox.net or bhansbhills@gmail.com.

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# To the Far Land of Spare Oom

*"Daughter of Eve, from the far land of Spare Oom, where eternal summer reigns around the bright city of War Drobe, how would it be if you came and had tea with me?" - The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, C. S. Lewis*



These words, spoken by Mr. Tumnus to Lucy Pevensie upon her arrival in Narnia have humored readers for generations. They also served as inspiration for several students who proposed "Spare Oom" as the name for the building at the corner of 6th and Clay that was once a bar and has served CPLS over the past several years as a storage facility. During the summer of 2006, "the Getaway" was transformed into a school annex that houses a large high school room and an art studio. Mr. Williams and Mr. Henry spend the lion's share of their time out in the "far land" across the street, and are more than happy to do so.

After wandering for over a decade from room to room and through theater and cafeteria to teach his art classes, Mr. Henry finally has a classroom that he can call his own. Complete with high ceilings, fully functional art desks and ample wall space for displaying students' works, the new studio is an excellent venue for learning and practicing art.

With the need for classroom space an ever present concern, Mr. Williams was happy to take his work station and Great Ideas, English, Writing and Bible classes to "Spare Oom" so that he too could have a space to call his own. As a deep thinker and one who is meticulous in his preparations, the relative lack of distraction has been a welcome contrast to the absence of personal space afforded in the previous year.

As of this writing, it is a shame that our Spare Oom is not actually a place "where eternal summer reigns". While the accommodations have been wonderful, trekking back on forth in sub-freezing weather is not the highlight of most students' day - though there are benefits to the stimulation of a icy cold slap in the face as one seeks to maintain alertness throughout a school day. "Just wait 'til you get to college," is the reply offered to those who complain about the idea of going outdoors to move from one class to another.

As for the name, it was the clear winner in a vote of the upper school student body from among such choices as "Narnia East", "Henry's Hangout", "William's World", "Archenland", and, of course, "the Getaway". Most students and faculty still refer to the building as "the annex", but all are happy to have a little more Spare Oom in which to have classes.



**Left:** Mrs. Conroy's 4th grade class presented their annual Christmas musical, "It's A Charlie Brown Christmas" on December 5th.

**Right:** Mrs. Hass' 3rd grade class built their own Trojan Horse during their study of the the Trojan War.



# 2006-2007 Highlights

Anna Waldy (12th) was recognized as a 2006 National Merit finalist and Ryan Hood (12th) was recognized as a National Merit commended scholar. CPLS has had at least one student recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program every year since 1993.

The CPLS girls varsity volleyball team took 2nd place in the KCAA (Kansas Christian Athletic Association) State Championship in October 2006. They ended their season with a 20-9 record.

The CPLS boys varsity 8-man football team completed their first season with a winning record (7-3). Capping the season was a trip to the KCAA state championship game where they were defeated by St. Mary's Academy.



Anna Waldy (12th)



Ryan Hood (12th)



KCAA State Soccer Champions

The CPLS boys varsity soccer team won their 6th KCAA state championship in the last seven years, defeating Olathe Christian in the finals. They finished the season with a record of 11-3.

The 8th annual Aslan Lecture was held January 15, 2007. Mr. Andrew Pudewa, founder and director of the Excellence in Writing Institute discussed "Nurturing Confident Communicators."

CPLS hosted a High School Essay Seminar by Mr. Andrew Pudewa and the Excellence in Writing institute.

The seminar was for high school students preparing for college entrance exams and the college application process.

29 students were initiated into the Junior Classical League on Saturday, January 27th. The academic youth organization encourages an interest in and an appreciation of the language, literature and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity.

A new athletic practice field was completed on the property located across Clay Street and will be ready for use this fall. The entire project was funded by donations from CPLS friends and families.

The CPLS Development Committee hosted their first "Benefit for Benefits" fund raiser. The proceeds from this event will support the CPLS Faculty Endowment Fund.

Brianne Clark (12th) won 2nd place in the local Voice of Democracy essay contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post #1650. She received a \$125 award.

T.J. Waldy (8th) won 1st Place and a \$125 award for his essay on "Citizenship in America" which was submitted as part of the Patriot's Pen Essay contest, sponsored by the VFW. This is the 4th year CPLS students have participated and in all four years CPLS students have been recognized.



SPQR - Junior Classical League Initiates

# Narnian News

## 1989

Mark and Wendy (Brosius) Leenerts moved to Georgetown, Texas in November for Mark to take on the role of Family Pastor at Hill Country Bible Church.

## 1993

Eric and Terah (Cavell) Buresh welcomed their fourth child, Hudson, into the world on January 18, 2007. The Buresh's reside in Overland Park.

Peter and Heather (Ensz) Marra welcomed Peter Jacob on November 2, 2006.

Adam and Zahra Iliff welcomed their first child, a daughter, Navarre Iyana, on May 2, 2006. They also have a son, Jyhad who is 12 years old. The Iliff's reside in Dillon, Colorado, where Adam is designing and building homes for Azlan Construction Company.

## 1995

Ian and Jill (Niver) Rosbrugh are expecting their first child, a son, in March. Jill is finishing her fellowship in Child Psychiatry at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.

## 1997

Rebekah Iliff works in a public relations position for XA, The Experiential Agency in Los Angeles, a provider of event marketing programs and experiential environments.

Kodie (Randel) Timberlake and husband Adam announce the arrival of their daughter, Haven Paris Lisette on May 18, 2006. The Timberlakes live in Kansas City, Missouri.

## 1998

Daniel & Adriel (Congdon) Driver currently live in St. Andrews, Scotland, where Daniel is a seminary student at St. Andrews College. Adriel works for an organization called, "Families First".

Jared and Bree (Larsen) Brown gave birth to their second son, Owen Jay on December 23rd, 2006. He was welcomed home by his two year-old brother, Ethan, on Christmas Eve. What a beautiful Christmas present!

Aaron and Shayla Miller Belland are expecting their second child this summer. Their first child, Ashton, will turn 2 in February.

## 1999

Chris and Amy (Brown) Rooks welcomed their second son, Caleb Lawrence on April 26, 2006.

Josh Gilliland and his wife Julie live in Lees Summit, MO and are expecting their first baby in August. Josh works as a Network Technician for KVC Behavioral Healthcare in Olathe.

John and Melissa (Haberhorn) McConeghy welcomed Isaac Paul into their family on March 16, 2006. They live in Andover where John is finishing his last year of medical school at the University of Kansas in Wichita.

Laura Niver is a Research Assistant for Professor Michael Novak at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

## 2001

Seth Iliff is engaged to Stephanie Zeller of Topeka. They will wed on May 26, 2007 in Savannah, GA. Seth will graduate in March from the

Savannah College of Art and Design.

Greg Niver is employed as the Marketing Director for Optic Nerve, a sunglass company in Denver.

Junius Penny is employed at Garmin International, a GPS Manufacturer, in Olathe. He drives around with at least three different GPS systems in his car. As their slogan goes "Get Garmin or Get Lost"!

## 2002

Samuel Lang is in Toronto Canada to pursuing his M.A in political science at the University of Toronto.

Jarrold Luttjohann was engaged to Alyssa Haupt of Peoria, Illinois on October 5, 2006. They plan to be married in Peoria on June 23, 2007 and will then be living in Washington, D.C.

Isaac Penny is at Stanford working on a Masters Degree. He has received two fellowships, one from the National Science Foundation and the other through the Military that will extend through his receiving a Ph.D.

Jessica Pingleton was in the chorus of Washburn University operatic production of *The Marriage of Figaro* during the spring of 2006.

## 2003

Jacqueline Pingleton spent the fall semester of the 2006-7 school year as a student intern at the United States Embassy in London, England for the Department of Commerce.

Seth Simmons was married to Krista Sizemore on January 20, 2007. They met at John Brown University and are now living in Olathe.

## 2004

Nick and Morgan (Grau) Brown are the proud parents of a son, Jordan Michael, born December 15, 2006.

Lauren Hermesch is currently attending Indiana State University with a major in Criminology. Lauren also joined the United States Army last year will be heading off to serve in Iraq within the year.

Allie (Nelson) Arias was married to Allen Arias on March 18, 2006. They met in Costa Rica where Allie was studying. Allan and Allie currently serve as missionaries at Mission Adelante in Kansas City, Missouri where they serve the Hispanic community teaching English classes, Bible studies and life skills.

Melissa Orr is engaged to be married to Ethan Dexter on June 16, 2007.

Mike Patton is engaged to be married to Elizabeth Siltman on May 26, 2007. Mike and Elizabeth met at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City where they are both students.

Michael Wieser recently returned from studying a semester in Germany. He is a student at Kansas State University.

## 2005

Ansen Bayer is engaged to be married on July 28, 2007. His fiancée is Amandria Warren, of Haysville, Kansas, whom he met while attending John Brown University.

Andrew Bernard is currently the starting hooker and game warden of the John Brown University rugby team.

Craig Congdon is currently studying a semester in Seville, Spain. Craig attends John Brown University.

Joel and Anna (Conroy, fs) Keller welcomed Emma Nicole to their family on May 13, 2006.

*(fs-former student)*

## *Fun Facts about Cair Paravel:*

17% of all Cair Paravel graduates have been recognized by the National Merit Scholar Program as either Commended Scholars, Semi-Finalists, or Finalists.

Over the past five years, Cair Paravel's collective ACT scores have averaged five points higher than the public schools in Topeka. CPLS' average is 26 and the national average is 21.

CPLS students have participated in National Spelling Bees, won first place in the National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C., won National Poetry Competitions and State Poetry and Spelling Contests. Several CPLS students have been recognized as Topeka Young Artist Award Winners.

Cair Paravel's alumni include the astronaut trainer for environmental controls in NASA's space shuttle program, a published author, missionaries, teachers, coaches, lawyers, physicians, accountants, physical therapists, FBI agents and policemen.

Cair Paravel graduates have attended Columbia, Harvard, Wheaton, William and Mary, Georgia Tech, Pepperdine, Washburn, Thomas Aquinas College, Kansas State University, John Brown University, Southwest Baptist University, Baylor University, Grove City College and more.

When you spin your globe you will find CPLS alumni who are living or have lived or served in Scotland, France, China, Germany, Guatemala, Russia, Ukraine, England, Africa, Spain and Belgium.

To date, the CPLS mailbox has held letters which have spelled the name of the school in over 40 different ways.

The average CPLS graduate travels over 16,000 miles from his fifth to twelfth grade years visiting the United States from California to Virginia and New York to Texas on school tours.

## *Contact Us*

To submit information for the Narnian News, e-mail your information to: [Newsletter@cpls.org](mailto:Newsletter@cpls.org). Please include your name (including maiden name if applicable), your year of graduation, and your current address and phone number.

To obtain information about any of our school events call 785-232-3878 or e-mail [info@cpls.org](mailto:info@cpls.org). School calendars, athletic schedules and results may also be found by visiting [www.cpls.org](http://www.cpls.org).

# *We Once Sat Where They Sit*

## *Alumni Who Have Served as CPLS Teachers*

“Excitement about the opportunity to give something back to a school that meant so much to me.” That sentiment appears to be the common thread that runs through the manifold motivations that Cair Paravel alumni have cited for returning to their alma mater as teachers. In our twenty-seven years, CPLS has had no less than six alumni serve in a pedagogical capacity, and we look forward to continued participation from our graduates in the future. “It is a blessing to hire a CP alum,” said James Waldy, Dean of Faculty, “because you know that they are familiar with the “Cair Paravel Way” and understand the principles of a classical Christian education. They have, after all, lived it as students.” Some argue that hiring teachers from the school’s alumni base fosters a certain tunnel vision that can be unhealthy for the institution. However, it is understood that four or more years of college out in the “wider world” does plenty to broaden the horizons of our graduates and give them perspective and understanding that is certainly not limited to their CPLS experiences. Here’s a salute to those who have taught at Cair Paravel, to those who are currently teaching and to those who may find God calling them to join their alma mater at some time in the future.



*Mike Haberkorn, Class of 2002, Middle and High School Sciences and Ancient History and Literature*

Mike joined the Cair Paravel faculty this year to fill a need in our science department. His ambition is to earn and save money to help him pay for his education at Dallas Theological Seminary next year. “Mr. Mike” (so called because his father who teaches eighth grade is “Mr. Haberkorn”) has been a wonderful blessing to the students, parents and faculty this year. Along with his work in the classroom, he also coaches the junior high boys’ basketball team, serves as a youth leader at Topeka Bible Church, and regularly humbles his opponents in games of Settlers of Catan. Mike says, “Cair Paravel has given me a chance to work with high school students, which is a real passion of mine, and to give them a chance to love learning.”

“Mr. Mike is awesome,” proclaims Nathaniel Boggs, “He knows his stuff, he’s fun to be around, and you can tell he loves Jesus.”

*Kristen (Brosius) Cummings, Class of 1993, Third Grade Elementary Teacher*

Kristen has been teaching at CPLS since 2005. She has actually taught at Cair Paravel during two separate tours of duty. Currently she teaches half time to allow for a smaller teacher: pupil ratio in a third grade of 25 students. During the afternoons, Kristen teaches mathematics and other core subjects to half of the third graders while her homeroom counterpart, Darla Hass, manages the other half. As an alumna, teacher, and parent of three current students, Kristen has a unique relationship to and perspective on the school. “I want to make each child a success,” she says. “When I attended



the school I saw the importance of loving the students and teaching them what Christ has done for them. As a teacher, I can do that same thing for my students.” Kristen is married to Scott Cummings, whom she met at Southwest Baptist University. Her twins, Jessica and Jordan are in second grade, and her youngest, Tyler, is in first.

*Mark Congdon, Class of 1999  
Seventh/Eighth Grade Teacher*

This is the second year of Mark’s service on the CPLS faculty, and he has quickly become not only the favorite teacher of many students, but one who will certainly remain a positive part of their memories of Cair Paravel for years to come. Mark’s relationship with his students is matched by his passion for learning and his expertise in the subjects he teaches. Classmates will remember that he was the perennial spelling bee champ and that mathematics was something of a native language. He now brings those aptitudes, along with his love for music and chess, to a seventh grade classroom that is full of enrichment and enjoyment.



“Mr. C is the smartest young guy I’ve ever known,” states T.J. Waldy. High praises from a pertish 14-year old. Of his teaching at Cair Paravel, Mark states, “The perspective I am attaining as a teacher has nearly overshadowed the perspective I acquired as a student. What still remains distinctly in my memory, though, is the desire to greatly influence students in the same manner I was influenced by my teachers here years ago.”

Mark married Katy Gonzales (CPLS-1999) in April, 2005 and they make their home on Randolph Avenue. While it is understood that he would one day love to be a teacher or minister of music, Cair Paravel has been wonderfully blessed by the commitment and character that Mark has brought to the faculty family.



*Andrea (Letch) Ellis, Class of 2001, Spanish Teacher*

Andrea joined the CPLS faculty midway through the 2005-6 school year. She teaches Spanish I and II as required courses for freshmen and sophomores, and Spanish III and IV as electives to upper classmen. A graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in Business Marketing and minor in Spanish, Andrea came to really love the Spanish language while studying abroad in Spain. Andrea says, “Teaching at Cair Paravel has been such a blessing to me. I’m glad I have this opportunity to impact the students.”

During the first semester, Andrea gave birth to Piper JoAnn Ellis on September 8, 2006. At that time she took six weeks of maternity leave and then began toting little Piper to school with her as an “adjunct professor”. She has been married to her husband Josh for 3 years and is still settling into a new home on Webster Avenue.

*Shelley Setchell, Class of 1997, Spanish Adjunct*

During Andrea’s leave of absence, Shelley came to the rescue of the Spanish department by teaching all four levels in more than adequate fashion. A graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in Communications and a Minor in Spanish, Shelley found her love for the Spanish language while being taught by Melodee Allen and CPLS. She discovered even greater passion for the language in her first study abroad trip to Mexico. She has made multiple trips south of the border to use her skills in mission projects and academic ventures.

“I enjoyed teaching at CPLS because there appeared to be a genuine desire in the students to learn, especially in the older students.”



## Alumni Faculty (cont.)

Shelley is currently working with the University of Kansas assessing early reading skills in bilingual children.

*Adriel (Congdon) Driver,  
Class of 1998  
Sixth Grade Teacher*



Adriel was the sixth grade teacher at Cair Paravel for two years. She came to the faculty along with her husband, Daniel, who taught high school courses in English, U.S. History and Philosophy. They were married on New Year's Eve, 2001, and both graduated from Wheaton College in 2002 with degrees in English. When asked about her time at Cair Paravel, Adriel said, "The only thing that was more challenging than being a student at Cair Paravel was being a teacher." She went on to state that the amount of planning, preparation, assessment and focus required to have confidence that she was doing right by her students and families was at times overwhelming. "Mrs. Driver changed my life," says Katelyn Cook. "Her love for God and her love for her students was really incredible."

Other alumni have served CPLS as substitute teachers, convocation speakers, mentors of students in local churches and more. "I have no greater joy as a teacher," says Sue Jernigan, "than to see young people go on to walk with the Lord." To that James Waldy adds, "And there are few blessings that compare with seeing alumni return to be a blessing upon the school. It means that they are continuing on with the Lord and are appreciative of the role that the school played in their spiritual and intellectual journey."

## Upcoming Events

Winter/Spring 2007

- February 13-14, 2007  
Singing Valentines
- March 8-9, 2007  
Eighth Grade Play  
"Arthur's Stone, Merlin's Fire"
- March 9, & 10, 2007 -  
Kindergarten Round Up
- March 10, 2007  
CPLS Showcase & Open House
- March 12, 2007  
Grades 5-12 MAACS & Fine Arts Showcase
- April 5, 2007  
Grandparents' Day
- April 20-21 & 27-28, 2007  
High School Drama  
"The Miser"
- April 30-May 4, 2007  
School Tours
- May 14, 2007  
K-4 Spring Music Concert
- May 20, 2007  
Grades 5-12  
Spring Music Concert
- May 24, 2007  
8th Grade Graduation
- May 26, 2007  
Senior Graduation

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Cair Paravel - Latin School  
635 SW Clay Street  
Topeka, KS 66606  
785.232.3878  
www.cpls.org

