



# Bethany Academy



## A Note from Our Head Administrator

*Hello Everyone!*

Summer vacation has arrived and with it some warm weather, finally! It's hard to believe that the school year is over, another senior class has graduated, and new routines and vacation plans are upon us.

What a great year it was! Lots of new friends were made, more knowledge and wisdom gained, and we learned a lot about ourselves and our God through it all.

As we finished the year, AJ Hoffstader from Rivendell Sanctuary spoke at our last chapel service. He told a story of when he was in New York City for the Y2K celebration. He noticed a woman who was so interested in looking at the things around her and above her

that she walked right into a sign that was directly in front of her. He used this story to challenge the students to keep Christ right in front of them. This way they can receive who they are to be from Him rather than measuring their success as compared to others or what they can or can't do. When we let our identity get wrapped up on things, people, and events rather than in Christ, they steal the identity Christ has for us. The only way to really know who we are in Christ is to be exactly where we are meant to be, with Christ in front of us.

This was a great challenge for not only the seniors but for the students and everyone else who was there that day to listen. This year's graduating class was and continues to be well recognized for their efforts both

in and out of the classroom. My prayer for them is that they won't allow others to define them by what they do and don't receive but rather understand who they are in Christ, as He remains right in front of them, telling them who they are.

Have a safe and restful summer!

*Robin Sovine*

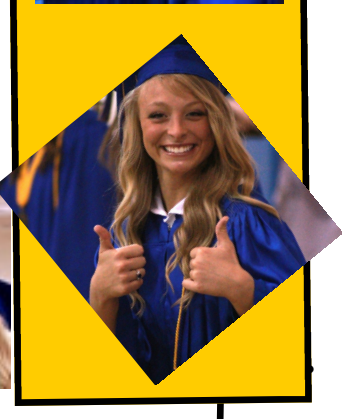
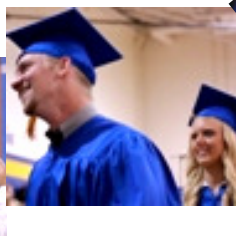


### Inside this issue: Graduation Edition

Our Identity In Christ	1
Grad Photos	1
Kdgn Grads 2011 Sr. Grads	2
Class Rep. Address to Classmates	3
Aug/Sep Calendar	4
A Senior's Personal Story	4



**Graduation on June 3, 2011** was an evening filled with excitement and anticipation for the graduates as they filed into the gym for the last time as a student of Bethany Academy. The ceremony was filled with prayers, music, remembrances, a few laughs and charges. The Class Representative urged his classmates to "Take Time," (see pg 3 to read his address), while Mr. Patrick LeVoiur reminded and challenged the seniors to put on the whole armor of God as they enter this new leg of life's journey. Mr. Mike Noethe shared a word of appreciation as he spoke about the difficulties the Lionsgate seniors faced as they made the transition from the familiar to the unfamiliar, but how welcoming Bethany Academy was to them and how we did our best to be all inclusive. The speakers were followed by the presentation of diplomas and prayers of the parents over their graduate. It was a festive and eventful experience.



## Introducing the Graduating Class of 2023

"Let's start at the very beginning"... These eighteen little cherubs seemed like they might be quite a challenge at the beginning of the year but Miss Wilson managed all of them just fine and fell in love with each one as she discovered their special personalities shining through.

On graduation day they recited scripture and made declarations of what they wanted to be when they grew up.



This adorable, energetic, and creative bunch wants to be everything from a paleontologist, a teacher, a football player, veterinarian, a music teacher, kindergarten teacher, to a salad dressing maker. How imaginative is that? After their declarations, the parents were treated to a slide show of their little darlings interacting throughout the year, the handing out of diplomas with a photo op for each one, and then cookies and lemonade after the ceremony. It was a proud and sweet moment for the children and parents alike. Wouldn't it be great to have all eighteen be "BA originals" in 2023?!!

## Time Really Does Fly By The Graduating Class of 2011



Front row, left: Justin Jelinski, Tony Ervin, Matt Keegan, Pat Anderson, Silas Doten, Derek Geggelman, Keith Brubaker, Row 2, left: Lindie Scallenkamp, Victoria Frein, Heidi Hrbek, Lydia Lee, Rachel Nungesser, Jade Kolbo, Kyle Lohman, Kelsey Hogan, Aubrey Elstad, Hannah Johnson, Nicole Heintz, Paige Stanton, Laura Myers, Mary LeVoir, Shaelyn Bogren, Margaret Wenniferlynn, Amber Crothers, Kendra O'Sullivan, Back row, left: Shanita Sinkfield, Philip Nomura, Jim Freitag, Jeremiah Vetsch, Drew Sandvig, Blake Kirchner, Nick Noethe, Joey Byron, Caleb Rollins, Adam Chant, Tyler Zabel, Eric Clay, David Roetman, Cory Lapham, Chris Smith, Gunnar Hassing, Emily Saatela. This class of 42 will go on to study Engineering, Finance, Communications, Nursing, Dentistry, Evangelism and Bible, Journalism, Cinema, Computer Science, Music, Law Enforcement, Veterinary, Business, Education, Military, trades such as Ventilation, Electrician, and Culinary. They will be attending schools such as U of M, Concordia, Northwestern (St. Paul), Bethel, Valparaiso, ORU, North Central, Liberty, Dordt, Drake, Carthage, and various community and technical colleges. At the time of graduation, 21 of our grads had earned over \$731,850 in scholarships and grants over the next 4 years. Some are still awaiting confirmation of scholarships while others are attending schools that do not offer scholarships. Yes, you can say it—"WOW!!" Parents, you can be proud of your grads as is Bethany Academy proud of its graduating class of 2011.

## Bethany's Valedictorian and Class Representative, Caleb Rollins

### Caleb's charge to his peers

On behalf of the Bethany Academy Class of 2011, I would like to welcome all of you here tonight. To parents, family, friends, teachers, staff, board members and other esteemed guests: Thank you for joining us to celebrate this milestone in our lives.

April 25, 2007. October 8, 2008. August 5, 2010, and August 30, 2010. These may seem like obscure dates to many of you but to me and many of my classmates these days have had a profound effect on our lives. On April 25, 2007 my family made the decision to leave the arid deserts of Nevada and move to the frigid winters of Minnesota. On October 8, 2008 members of the community of Concordia Academy Bloomington learned the news that their beloved institution would be forced to close its doors after nearly 50 years of service. On August 5, 2010 many of my fellow classmates and I were informed that Lion's Gate Christian Academy would be closing its doors soon after they had opened. And finally on August 30, 2010 the group of 41 soon to be graduates sitting in front of me and I began the final step of our careers in secondary education.

Since the beginning of this school year many people in this Godly community have hoped that I would consider this place my home. However, I am not sure that I do. I honestly am not sure which school I think of as my home. It could be a building in East Bloomington with a beautiful backyard or an Elementary School in Richfield with a scenic view of a Super Target or it could even be a school in Woodbury that I never even attended. While some of my classmates may feel like I do, this is not the case for everyone in this class of 2011.

One of us has called Bethany Academy home since kindergarten. For others blue and gold became the colors of home in fifth grade, seventh grade, ninth grade or even 12<sup>th</sup> grade. And yet next year many of us will have a new place to call home. We will be starting anew in places like Oklahoma, Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Others of us will not be traveling quite as far as we stay in the Twin Cities or even continue their education right down the street. And after we are finished in those places I have no doubt that certain people in the sea of blue in front of me will become doctors, nurses, engineers, musicians, cinematographers, teachers, and construction workers.

The point is that all of us will be leaving homes and finding new ones. We will not always want to leave our homes. In some cases we will have no control over what will happen to us in the next years, months, or even minutes. I suppose that this fluidity in places we call home is one of the reasons why Paul in Second Corinthians speaks of "the earthly tent that we live in." This place called Earth is not permanent and neither are the places we call home. Sometime in

the last four years, my grandfather told me something that helped me to understand this earthly phenomenon. "Life is a journey, not a destination." Now I know that David Schultz was not the first man to utter these words, but they definitely guided me through the trying circumstances that I have faced in recent years. However, all journeys must come to an end. So where will we go at the end of our journeys here in this world?

Graduates and others here, it is my prayer that all of you will join me in the only place I know to be my true home, heaven. It is that home that we are all living for. It is that home that we are all striving to reach. Our Lord tells us in John 15:19 that we are not of this world. Does this mean that we should fall into a state of apathy towards the matters of this world? No, we should in fact do the opposite. The title of one of my favorite songs by a band called Fun. is "Take Your Time Coming Home." While I believe that the lyrics are speaking of driving to an earthly place of living, I think that this phrase can apply to our heavenly homes as well. Thus, to the class of 2011, during the remainder of your lives **I challenge you to take your time coming home.**

**Take your time** when you are driving home from school, or work or wherever you are coming from or going to. Enjoy the ride and remember to wear a seatbelt, just kidding but seriously you should.

**Take the time to get to know people** you come into contact with whether it's the kid you sit next to in College Composition with the long hair, handkerchief and unique sense of humor or that unusually loud teen who has a locker right next to yours. Ask that girl in your class why she has been wearing the same shirt for the past month and actually listen to the answer that she gives you. Remember we are all travelers on the road of life and we all deserve acknowledgement.

**Take the time to say I love you** to those that you hold truly close to your hearts, to forgive those that you still hold grudges against, and to pray to God for your enemies and that you will love them as He does.

**Take the time to give glory and thanksgiving** to God for the accomplishments that you have achieved. Whether it is reaching the section finals in girls' basketball, persevering through a horrific car accident and the invasive surgeries that followed to graduate with your class, or finally being accepted into National Honor Society (Here's looking at you Kyle). Your creator deserves praise in all circumstances.

**Take the time to thank** those who you know have helped you and guided you down the correct path. Parents, teachers, friends, family, coaches, counselors, mentors, and countless others: without you we just might not be here tonight. Thank you.

**Take the time to listen** and to learn from what others have to say. Hear the words of an old football coach whose sayings you still do not understand, a computer teacher who seems to know something about everything or an English teacher who insists on having her seniors write in cursive. Listen, you may be surprised by what you hear.

#### **Take the time to pray.**

Do what you have to do to maintain and grow your relationship with our heavenly Father. Kneel, hold hands, place your hands on someone else, or get away from everyone else. It does no matter how you do it. Just do it. (This portion of the message brought you by Nike.)

**Take the time to be respectful** of everyone that you come into contact with. It does not matter if this person is an elder, a stranger, or even a dear friend. Say please, say thank you, and know that you are not the only person on this earth.

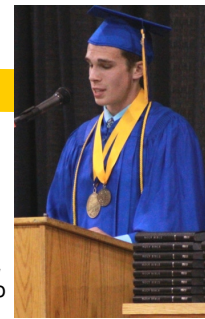
**Take the time to laugh** at the funny things in life, whether it's goldfish swimming in toilets, trying to chop an apple in half with a katana and almost killing your friend when the blade separates from the handle, or getting left at Crown College. I am certain that God has a sense of humor and we all know how laughter can lift the soul.

**Take the time to serve others.** Help someone with their homework, volunteer at a homeless shelter, or simply hold the door open for someone. The King of Kings came onto this Earth and humbled Himself to serve others. We must do the same.

And finally, **take the time to live.** Our Lord has blessed us with a beautiful world. If you choose to live in the same place your whole life, embrace all the nuances of that place. If you choose to travel the world, enjoy the varied cultures that you will undoubtedly encounter. We are most certainly here on this earth; therefore, make certain that you live this life that you have been given.

I can promise you that in the years after you leave this place you will succeed in many ways, but you will also be met with several challenges. The recent tornado outbreaks and flooding across this nation remind us that sometimes our homes will suddenly be taken from us and that sometimes trouble will find us. In a song recorded shortly before his death, the Christian musician Rich Mullins wrote lyrics based on our Lord's words of John 16 that capture the essence of the hope that we have. "*In the world you will have trouble, but I'm leaving you my peace that where I am, there you may also be.*" We will finally be at home when we are with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in heaven. Though we still must live our lives that the Lord has blessed us with, it is this day that we look forward to as we keep our eyes on the ultimate prize.

Bethany Academy Class of 2011, some of you I may not see after this night and others of you I may see for years to come. However, no matter my relationship with you I hope that you will remember this phrase as you leave these comfortable halls, and couches, of Bethany Academy, for a world teeming with opportunity. **Take your time coming home.** Thank You.



## The BA Bugle

Primary Business Address  
4300 West 98th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
www.bethanyacademy.org

Phone: 952-831-8686 xt 108  
Fax: 952-831-9568  
E-mail:  
jean.figi@bethanyacademy.org

Training, Inspiring,  
Educating Tomorrows  
Godly Leaders

Have a wonderful  
Summer!

## August September



August 24	New Student Registration
August 25	K-6 Ice Cream Social
August 29	First Day of School
Sept. 5	Labor Day-No School
Sept. 7	Sr. Chapel-Parents invited
Sept. 12	Parent Rally Night
Sept. 19-23	Fall Spirit Week
Sept. 26	State of the School Dinner Mtg.
Sept 28	See You at the Pole
Sept. 29	Lifetouch Picture Day

By way of introduction and on a more personal note, Eric Clay, is a 2011 graduate and BA's only K-12 "original" this year. Eric came to me several months ago to ask if he could write articles for the Bugle as part of his Decision Making Applications Class and "Kids Do Hard Things" project. I certainly had no problem accepting Eric's offer because this being my first year of editing the Bugle, I appreciated the assistance. You will find several of his articles in previous issues but the following article is from his heart. When Eric approached me to write for the Bugle, and knowing his story, I thought to myself, "Eric, you are already doing a very hard thing." Please take the time and read on...

## My Story

By Eric Clay

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, I was on my way home from seeing a movie with my dad. I needed to take a left on 185<sup>th</sup> street, in Lakeville, in order to get to my neighborhood. At this left turn, there is a stop-light. I had a solid green light, and there was oncoming traffic, so I came to a stop and waited for all the cars to pass. Once the cars were gone, I started to turn left. In the middle of my turn, I realized that there was a motorcycle that I failed to notice. I already knew that it was too late to do anything, and I must have instinctively froze up and hit the brakes. I closed my eyes and heard the crash. When I opened my eyes, I couldn't see anything, as the windshield had been smashed. I got out of the car, and saw a man and a woman lying on the ground. It took a few seconds for the realization of what had just occurred to actually sink in. I remember crying and trying to prevent myself from going hysterical. I saw that someone in another car was already calling 911, so I called my mom.

We live very close to where the accident occurred, and I needed her there to be with me. The police and ambulance showed up quickly, and both people on the motorcycle were taken to a hospital via a helicopter. The police asked me some general questions about the details of the crash, did a breathalyzer, and said that I could go home. My mom took me back to our house. Later in the afternoon, my mom got a phone call. She told me that the man in the crash had passed away. I still remember the way my soul collapsed when I heard those words.

I soon learned that a family had lost a husband, father, brother, son, and grand-father. That knowledge bit into me deeply, and I almost couldn't handle it. But as bad as my own pain was, I knew that theirs had to be worse. I wanted to apologize. More than that, I wanted to bring him back. But that would be impossible. The only thing I could do is keep his family in my prayers every day, and go to a counselor to deal with my own grief.

Although I feel that I have made emotional progress, I still continue to see my counselor, and need to take my life one day at a time. I don't know how I will do it, but I am determined to use this tragedy for

good one day. I continue to keep the family of the deceased in my thoughts and prayers. To my great relief and catharsis, his wife has been more gracious to me than I ever could have hoped for. For the rest of my days, I will always remember this kindness, and I pray that I will be able to return it one day.

If God had not been with me every step of the way, I wouldn't have been able to come out of this as well as I did. This isn't really my story, it's His.



A BA original, K-12

