

Investment of Eternal Value by Alumnus Allie Borkovich, Class of '08



“When I was given the opportunity to share with you tonight, I was immediately both excited and nervous. It is an honor to speak on behalf of Cypress Christian graduates and share a bit of my testimony of this school with you. As I was praying about where to begin, through conversations I’ve had lately, the Lord gave me one word in

particular. I was talking with one of my roommates about high school, as we often do, and she asked, “Was it expensive for your parents to send you to private school?” To which I replied, “Yeah...it was definitely a sacrifice that they made...but more than that it was an investment.” And she said, “Yeah...I wish my mom had been able to make that kind of investment.”

So...my word for you tonight, as a 20-year old science person who knows nothing about the corporate world speaking to a room full of adult professionals, is investment...God has a sense of humor. And while this type of education comes at a cost...while this is a financial banquet...I’m suggesting that this is an investment of eternal value. I looked up the definition of investment. An investment is a ‘devoting, using, or giving of time, talent, emotional energy as for a purpose or to achieve something.’ I think sometimes we need to be reminded of that purpose...and some of you may need to hear of what graduates of CCS are achieving. You may be asking...is my child being prepared for life after high school?...for college?...for the real world? I, too, wondered about these things.

I began college fearful of failure and unexposed to the real world. I went from a class of 30 to one of 8,000 at Texas A&M. Since that first day, I have never once felt ill-prepared or behind. I have had no reason to question my education here - quite the contrary. I began college with 26 credit hours...4 hours short of sophomore status and most of those due to the dual credit opportunities that were available here. In my college-level English class, I read works of C.S. Lewis and Pilgrim’s Progress by John Bunyan as I learned to analyze literature and explore the undeniable Biblical symbolism alongside Scripture. I had the blessing of small classroom sizes and personal relationships with teachers, staff, and coaches who truly cared about my success not only academically, but spiritually and socially. I was under the influence of godly men and women who loved their subject matter, their Lord, and their students. I was equipped with a biblical worldview and learned to defend my faith with and without the Bible, so that when I was faced with evolution on day 1, I knew both scientifically and theologically where I stood. This kind of foundation proved to be extremely stabilizing as I entered college. At that point, I was confident of my identity in Christ, and was truly ready to take a stand at a public institution.

Now, two years later, I am in my third year at Texas A&M and am applying to medical school in the spring. The Lord has been so faithful to reveal Himself to me and guide my every step. I am one of many who would stand up here and say that I am a product of CCS, and I am where I am because of an investment that was made several years ago. I want to share with you where some of my very best friends from high school are now and what they’re accomplishing. This list is in no way exhaustive, but maybe it will give you an idea of the different giftings and passions the Lord has given fellow CCS graduates and how the Lord is continuing to shape and mold us into men and women of God.” (Allie’s speech continued after fellow alumni update....)

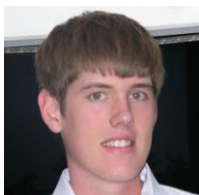
Class of '08 Fellow Alumni Update by Allie Borkovich



Rachel Wrobleske

Rachel Wrobleske (at left) spent a semester at the National Theatre Institute located at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut, where several Broadway shows were workshopped. Her studies with NTI included time in Russia, where she wrote a musical under the direction of a graduate professor at NYU. She has since returned to Baylor University where she has written three plays and directed scripts and musicals.

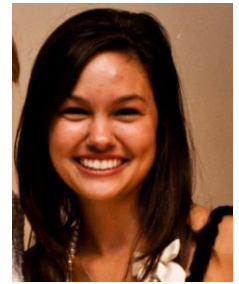
Ryan Vento (at right) is studying Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston. He is employed at The Hilton where he waits tables and works in the kitchen, and has done so well that he’s been named ‘Banquet Captain’ for the largest event Hilton puts on annually. Ryan also leads a small group of freshmen at the Baptist Student Ministry on campus and is helping start a Men’s Ministry there as well.



Joshua Rhodes (at left) is an International Studies major at Texas A&M and is minoring in Business. His area of focus is Japan with an emphasis on commerce. He teaches an English class to international students at the Baptist Student Ministry and plans to study abroad in Japan in the spring of 2012. Josh is also involved with the Epic Movement Ministry which is the Asian American branch of Campus Crusade for Christ.



Lindsay Adam (at top left) is a nursing student at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor where she has begun clinicals and is in Scott and White Hospital working on the medical surgery floor. Lindsay is at the top of her clinical class. She also leads worship for Gamma Beta Phi which is an honor society.



Michelle Van Rieg (at top right) is an elementary education major at Sam Houston State University and has begun substitute teaching in the area. On the side, Michelle made a 5-tier wedding cake for another CCS graduate, and was hired as head baker of Shepherd Hill in Huntsville.



Aubrey Hill (at bottom left) is a special education major at the University of Houston and a caregiver for a little girl with cerebral palsy and autism. She volunteers once a week in a Life Skills class at Shadow Oaks Elementary where she works with ten kids. Aubrey discovered her passion for these precious children while spending two months in Romania, caring for kids of all ages with severe autism, and her heart has not stopped beating for them since.



Angela Wynans (at bottom right) is a sociology major at Texas A&M and also has a heart for international students. She has been to East Asia twice and plans to go a third time. She has also been involved in Impact, a Christian organization at A&M that serves the incoming freshmen class.

Allie's Speech Continued

To quote one of these dear friends, 'The doors are falling off the hinges with opportunities for us. I know I cannot boast in myself, and I'm seeing that none of y'all can either.'

"What this brief summary does not show you is the incredible heart of each of these people. They are my brothers and sisters, and I plan to know them for a very long time. Our friendships were formed at Cypress Christian. I had the privilege of daily attending class, playing sports, participating in student organizations, with these men and women of God. We have been together through it all. We've grown, invested in one another's lives, and seen God at work. It is because of these relationships that I entered college knowing what true community looks like. I immediately searched for other friends like these because I knew that to love and to be loved by others in such a way was powerful and beneficial...where true growth takes place. I had sisters who intimately knew my heart and brothers who took it upon themselves to protect me. That kind of exposure in high school has shaped my closest circle in college, as well as the kind of guy I have chosen to date. Many of my college friends don't have this to come home to. The treasure of their heart was not valued amongst their closest friends in high school...rarely did relationships get below the surface. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for these lifelong friends and for the degree of sheltering and protection that a Christian environment gave us at such a vulnerable age.

Finally, the Lord has laid on my heart the parent whose child does not yet understand the importance of Christian education. Perhaps they don't see the importance of life with Christ at all. You may be asking...at what point will I see the fruit of my investment? I know that I wasn't at all aware

of the sacrifices my parents were making when I began at CCS in fifth grade. In fact, I cannot truly say I grasped the privilege of private education until college when I learned what the real world is really like. But as I was forming my own identity, as I was asking hard questions, I was in a safe place. I was surrounded by people who were encouraging me to discover what I believe for myself and were ready to answer those questions when I asked them. I am also involved in a freshmen ministry at A&M, and I was talking with a girl who is ready to fully give her life to the Lord for the first time. Growing up, her parents taught her morality without Christ...solely on the basis of consequences and reason. She said to me, 'This whole Christian thing is just so different than the way I've been raised...it's hard because I'm trying to find a way to merge the two.' And I thought to myself, wow, I'm so glad that my parents have taught me truth, and that as I discover it for myself, I see more and more how they were right. So I encourage you...whether your kids are at Cypress or not...whether they get it or not...please teach them truth. One day...maybe in high school...maybe in college...maybe in their thirties...they might come back to you and say, 'Thank you...I finally see that you were right. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.' That day may be far-off, but what kind of investments are you making now?

Some of you are here with your checkbooks ready...the Lord has blessed you financially and has given you a generous spirit. Others of you are still praying...still asking God to provide...still seeking His will. My mom reminded me that she attended three of these banquets before we were able to enroll. The Lord is faithful. I'm praying you will invest in His work...it is purposeful, and His returns are of eternal value. Thank you."

**For more alumni testimonies and news,
please see additional links in the Alumni section at www.CypressChristian.org/AboutCCS.**