

ALLIANCE

WINTER 2014-2015



ADOPTED ALUMNI

BY: FCS SUPERINTENDENT JEREMY BROWN

I remember the day that I was announced as the new Superintendent of Fresno Christian Schools. That was the same day that I also had to announce to my Silas Bartsch School staff that I was leaving. It was an emotional day for me, I opened Silas Bartsch School six years earlier. I had hired every employee there, ran every staff meeting, met every parent, attended every parent teacher committee meeting and helped shape the community of Silas

He has been a teacher, librarian and principal at my former schools. While I never knew that these people who loved me for no reason were doing it for Jesus, I knew a good thing when I saw it. That was my inspiration to become an educator, the chance to make a difference. Knowing my upbringing you can imagine my journey to understand and accept Jesus was not conventional.



FC elementary students enjoy recess with Campus Safety Officer Daniel Jessing and Superintendent Jeremy Brown.

Bartsch School. That Wednesday I left 2025 East North Avenue, Reedley, California and arrived at 7280 North Cedar Avenue, Fresno California into a community that was new to me.

A strange thing happened after I was introduced by the Fresno Christian School Board, I started to get emails from alumni, current parents, former parents, current staff and former staff letting me know that they were praying for me. My email address was not public, they had to seek me out to send me an email. The emails were encouraging in nature and were offering prayer for me. A few even let me know that they were praying for the Silas Bartsch community as well.

The emails were to first sign to me that I am entering something bigger, something deeper. I am entering a great community that is centered on Christ.

My journey is greater than the 40 miles difference between Reedley and Fresno. I grew up under challenging family circumstances. It was at school that Jesus placed himself so that we would meet.

Fresno Christian Schools is another good thing, I feel honored to be a part of a community where the focus is equipping young people to love the world as Jesus loves me. I look forward to this journey of making Fresno Christian Schools a place where young people meet Jesus.



"My journey to becoming Fresno Christian Schools Superintendent and being part of the FCS community has left me feeling like adopted alumni."

FAITH

ACADEMICS

ATHLETICS

ARTS

SAVE THE DATE

32ND
ANNUAL AUCTION

MARCH 15, 2014
5:30 PM

Fresno Christian Schools
Gymnasium

Reserve your table now!

CONTACT

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MEMORIALS/TRIBUTES

~IN MEMORIUM~

Gena M. Rice
Judy Silva

Frances Henry
Charles Henry

Madison Alberta
Von Garabedian

Ericlee Gilmore
Jerry and Martha Lange

Pam Powell
Rae Biehler

Dan and Susan Chapman
Barbara Ayoob

Bev and Lee Daher
Kornig Torosian and Family
Eugene and Olivia Biehler

Antonia Helzer
Harvey and Beverly Hartman

Craig and Michelle Duerr
G.W. and S.D. Frey

Scott and Julie Rurik
Sharon Scharf

Paul and Jane Mooradian
Joseph and Rosalie Garabedian

Buss and Kathy Helm

Jackie Manoogian

Earl and June Tuckness

Richard and Marcelyn Coffman
Craig Elkins

Kenneth Basso

Alrene Adams

Richard and Gina Wathan

Robert and Rhonda Christopher
Joyce Paul

Wayne and Vanessa Furlano

Jerry and Martha Lange

Ryan and Courtney Inman

Wallace and Janice Yoshimoto

Marlon and Hannah Serimian

Stan Powell

Thomas and Lois Powell

Nancy Critchfield Guthrie

T.W. & Marti Eichman

Timothy & Deborah Riordan

Donald and Dorothy Patton

Mary Jane, Jeff, and Deanna Covey

Gina Mazzeo

Martha Jameson

Vernon Chapman

Jeffrey Seib

Patricia Keithley

Juanita Guthrie

Judy Oles

George & Terry Fetters

Richard & Jannetta McClurg

~IN HONOR OF~

Anthony & Rachel Pellouso

John & Debra Pellouso

Aaron DeWolf

Donna Rogers

Jesus

Von Garabedian

STEPPING BACK INTO THE HALLS

BY: DEAN OF STUDENTS AMY DEFFENBACHER



FC Dean of Students Amy Deffenbacher and FC Superintendent Jeremy Brown assist in Elementary classrooms during the Fall of the 2014-2015 school year.

In the Fall of 2013 I stepped back into the halls of Fresno Christian after 19 years, this time as a staff member. It was a bit surreal. The halls looked the same, smelled the same, some of the teachers were even the same!

But, there were many things that were different as well. Technology had invaded, there was a new gym and athletic facilities, the music classes no longer met in a trailer. My first year as a teacher at FC found me wrestling with memories of my own time as a student here, all the while figuring out what it means to work here.

Having spent the better part of my teaching career in the public schools it was a huge adjustment.

The integration of Christ into the curriculum is a wonderful privilege, but also places a greater burden on the staff as they draw from a multitude of resources to create something that is not only academically excellent but spiritually edifying at the same time. I realized, over the course of the year that I sorely underappreciated what my own FC teachers had done for me so many years before.

Now that I am in an administrative role as the Dean of Students, I find myself answering many varieties of the following question; "What am I getting at Fresno Christian that is different?" Here is my answer: At Fresno Christian, we face every issue that other schools face... we are not a bubble. But, when we address those things we get to talk about more than what the school handbook says or the district policy says. We get to talk about every issue in the context of what CHRIST says about it. We are sending our kids out into the same world as all of the other schools.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to help our students understand that world in the context of their faith. My own two children attend here and would not want to be anywhere else. Such an interesting, full circle, experience it has been and I am blessed to serve where God has placed me for this season.

FOCUS ON ALUMNI: ERICLEE GILMORE

BY: ALUMNI CHRIS SCHULTZ

On Tuesday, September 9, 2014 Ericlee Russell Gilmore crossed the finish line of life and entered into the arms of his Heavenly Father. Ericlee, a 1992 graduate of Fresno Christian High School, died after a battle with melanoma cancer.

Always a natural athlete and leader, Ericlee thrived in sports and school. He earned letters in football, basketball and track & field at Fresno Christian. He was a part of the 1992 Valley Championship basketball team as team captain. But his real passion was track; he was a long jump specialist who still holds a school record even today.

Upon graduation from FC, Ericlee earned his bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Linfield College. Impacted by his experience at FC and influenced by teachers and coaches, Ericlee would embark on an educational journey that would see him earn a teaching credential and enter

into the teaching profession.

Ericlee began teaching at Fresno Christian in 2000, where he would spend nine years investing in the lives of young people. During his time at FC, Ericlee taught Math, Physical Education, Student Leadership, and Video Production. He would also coach cross-country, basketball and track & field. His influence on students and players was obvious by the outpouring of love and support during his illness.

In 2000, Ericlee met Dorina Lazo. A friendship grew into romance, and after a courtship they married in April of 2003. Their love of Jesus Christ, one another, and people would lead them on many amazing and wonderful adventures together. Their union would also produce three beautiful daughters, Meilani (8), Giada (5), and Zayla (3).

Jay Felkins, Lonnie Godfrey, Ginger Niemeyer, Allen Tong, Eunie McEntee to name a few. Teachers who all made a lasting impact on my life. Teachers who devoted their lives to Fresno Christian because of a calling. I remember the moment the thought entered my mind. Fall of 1996, Mr. Felkins and I were having a conversation about my future and he joked with me saying, "You'll be back here someday." Never did I think that would ever come true.

After graduating in 1996, my journey lead me to become an educator and later a professional photographer that allowed me to stay home with my children. As the kindergarten year for my son approached, the decision of where I wanted my children to go was a hard one. I sought advice from FC "lifer" and friend, Renee Venegas (Shelly 1996). "You can't put a price on the Fresno Christian Community," she explained. Community is what I desired for my children.

My heart began re-investing in Fresno Christian quickly. I began subbing in the Fall of 2012 hoping to contribute to positive change. That spring I subbed high school history and had a blast. At the end of the day I told my husband that was the class I would consider going back full time for. However that position was not available and was occupied by a young teacher loved by many. Be careful what you whisper to the Lord, He hears you.

Fall of 2013, after subbing the first three days of school, I was offered a position out of the blue. The high school history position. Immediately I knew what the Lord was offering. Mr.

Right: Kori Friesen & Greg Stobbe enjoy their new collaboration as *The Feather* staff advisors.
Left: *The Feather's* Photojournalism students.



"I wanna take *The Feather* to the next level beyond anywhere we've been. Stobbe and I make a good team. I balance his 'crazy.' It's a blast!" says Friesen

BEHIND THE LENS

BY: ALUMNI & STAFF KORI FRIESEN

Felkin's words rang loud and clear in my head, I was back.

Adding myself to a long list of educators who have taught at Fresno Christian is a great honor. My hope is that I too can leave a lasting impact on the lives of these students. Helping to continue a heritage that my children and others can be proud of. This year I have the privilege of blending both my loves. Teaching history and a photojournalism class. Working alongside Greg Stobbe as an advisor on *The Feather* feels surreal. From his classroom as a junior to his partner in advising is a constant reminder of the full circle. What a blessing to be back!

Ericlee's legacy extends beyond Fresno Christian and Fresno. He served for five years as the director of a non-profit organization, Christian Friendship Ministries (CFM). The mission of CFM is to partner with leaders in the country of Haiti for the sake of the Gospel. Ericlee put his love of fitness and health to good use. He would design CrossFit competitions, train people to run half marathons, and challenge others to bike a century ride as way to raise support and awareness of CFM.

CFM was a family affair. Ericlee and Dorina partnered together to run CFM and they sacrificed much to serve the Haitian people. Each summer, they would pack up their family and relocated to Haiti and host mission teams from various churches.

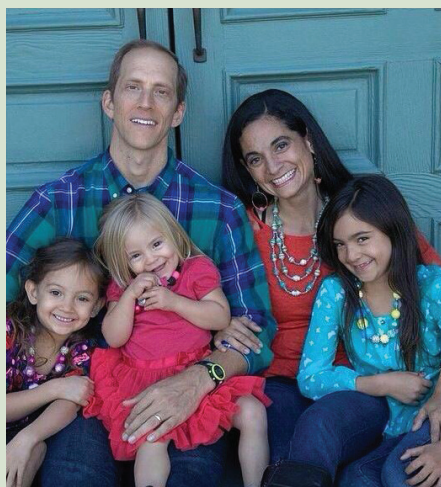


Photo courtesy of the Gilmore family

Fresno Christian Alumni and former staff Ericlee Gilmore, wife Dorina and three daughters Meilani (8), Giada (5), and Zayla (3).

Ericlee Gilmore's tombstone has the dates April 2, 1974 - September 9, 2014 engraved upon it. While the dates are important, it is the dash that separates them that truly matters, for that dash represents one's life. And for Ericlee the dash was something special and unique. His life was a testimonial to Jesus Christ, the power of the Gospel and the faithfulness of a man to his God, family, and community.

When Ericlee passed from this life into the next, there was light shining on his face and at the moment before he died he clapped his hands as if to say "I crossed the finished line and completed the race." We rejoice in the race that Ericlee ran and the impact it had on the Fresno Christian community.



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FOCUS ON DONORS

THE EUNIE MCENTEE SCHOLARSHIP

BY: ALUMNI KATIE MENDENHALL

Cheerleading has been a strong and vital program on the Fresno Christian campus for over 30 years. The woman who started it all was Eunie McEntee. She was a teacher, coach and mentor to many girls throughout her years at FCS. She impressed on so many a love for cheerleading excellence and challenged us to walk close with Christ. It only seems fitting to name the scholarship after the woman who started it all. Her influence has left a lasting impression on all of who came up under her.

This led me to reach out to Fresno Christian Alumni Cheerleaders, both girls who I cheered with and girls who I coached, to support the scholarship financially and with prayer so that that we can give back to a program that has meant so much to us. It is bringing us together, uniting us to keep the tradition of excellent cheerleading alive at FCS. The ultimate goal of the Eunie McEntee Cheerleading Scholarship is

to provide the financial help and support needed for girls to cheer at FC, while honoring a woman who had a vision to use cheerleading as a tool to shine for Christ and keep all those who had their lives touched by this, both past and present, working together to build up the body of Christ through cheerleading.

12 years ago the Lord pressed upon my heart the need and desire to create a cheerleading scholarship for the cheer athletes at FCS. As a K-12 Fresno Christian alumnus, 6 year cheerleader and former cheer coach at FCS, I saw firsthand the expense it takes to be cheerleader.

Through all of this, my heart is that the Lord will be honored and girls can continue "Cheering for Him" with the knowledge of what came before them, a heart to continue what they are doing now and a vision to see what God can do in the future through cheerleading at FCS. Go Eagles!



Photo courtesy of Katie Mendenhall

Fresno Christian's 1993 cheer squad at USA Nationals with Coach Eunie McEntee

**YOUR DONATION CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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