

# CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2013

## 4 SONS AT SAM

Three brothers attend Sam Houston State University's Chi Alpha and impact lives.

## 4 FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

A mother helps connect her son to the Central Washington University Chi Alpha and sees his relationship with the Lord grow deeper.

## 5 WHAT SHOULD JESUS WEAR TO CHI ALPHA

A dance-loving daughter doesn't get into her dream school, but when she attends Stanford, she discovers Chi Alpha and a new identity.

# Chi Alpha: A Family Affair

BY LENNON NOLAND  
DUKE UNIVERSITY

RACHEL KING  
HOLDS HER  
DAUGHTERS AND  
FUTURE CHI ALPHANS.  
SHE GOT INVOLVED IN  
CHI ALPHA HER  
FRESHMAN YEAR OF  
COLLEGE BECAUSE OF  
A CHI ALPHA ICE  
CREAM SOCIAL.

Rachel King arrived at Georgia University in the fall of 2006 as Rachel Arnold, a freshman looking and hoping to find a Christian community. Rachel's parents, Doug and Jeanie Arnold, had raised their three children in a non-denominational church setting.

Having never heard of Chi Alpha, she couldn't have anticipated that an invitation to a welcome week event would be a turning point for her life and the lives of her little brothers, still years away from attending Auburn University.

"I had never heard of Chi Alpha or the Assemblies of God until the first week of my freshman year at the University of Georgia," Rachel says. "My roommate and I were invited to a Chi Alpha ice cream social, and the rest is history. We found a group of caring individu-

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## WHY REACH STATISTICS

In the United States there are:

**20,425,000**  
students studying on college and  
university campuses.

**2,304**  
four-year campuses.

**1,668**  
two-year campuses.

**3,972**  
total colleges not  
including religious.

\* U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of U.S. 2012  
(based on 2009 numbers)

\*\* 2012 Higher Education Directory Publications  
(based on 2009 numbers)



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## GUEST EDITORIAL BY CURTIS COLE



Last May, our oldest son graduated from high school. In the days leading up to his Pomp and Circumstance moment, our lives were packed with award ceremonies, final concerts, shopping for Prom tuxedos and corsages, speech writing, hosting out of town family members, celebratory parties and more than a few tears. In the end, his commencement was a high point of both relief and joy.

High school graduation also serves as a benchmark moment to survey both the road recently traveled and the post high school road ahead, which for our 18-year-old includes college. This coming fall, he will begin classes at the University of Central Arkansas where he plans (at least right now) to major in secondary education and teach history.

Now as first time parents of a college student, Delyn (my wife) and I face a whole new set of opportunities. Opportunities like saying goodbye, letting go and entrusting him to himself and others. We realize “the others” includes friends we haven’t met, professors we’ve never heard and influences we don’t control. In truth, it is not without some fear and trembling. And yet on the flip side, we can’t wait to watch and support him as he embraces these new and exciting opportunities; opportunities like spreading his wings, exploring the world beyond our home, defining his unique personal values and authoring a future that is bright and hope-filled.

In the face of these dynamic opportunities, we are so grateful he knows Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior and is making Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship a priority. In fact, he made the presence of a discipleship-based Chi Alpha group his number one criterion for college selection. If a college didn’t have a thriving Chi Alpha campus ministry, it didn’t even make his long or short list of potential schools.

We wish every future college student would be so discerning (and not just for our personal job survival). Chi Alpha is a place where students will encounter a living God, grow as a disciple of Jesus, immerse themselves in a missional lifestyle and make amazing life-long friends along the way. It is indeed a place where a bright and hope-filled future can be authored.

This issue’s theme is “Letters from Home” because it highlights actual letters our office has received from parents of college students who have participated in Chi Alpha Campus Ministries across the country. Inside you will read from parents firsthand about not just one child, but entire families who have been impacted by Chi Alpha’s commitment to “reconcile students to Christ.” These parents are just like Delyn and I, who are grateful that more than 300 Chi Alpha ministries exist on campuses across America.

**Curtis Cole** has served as the Administrative/Operations Director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, USA since 2008. From 1988-1990, he and his wife, Delyn, launched the Chi Alpha ministry at the University of Oregon and later, pioneered and led Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at the University of Montana-Western in Dillon, Mont. between 1991-2004.

# Chi Alpha: A Family Affair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 >



als that were passionate about Jesus, discipleship, and having fun! I had come to UGA afraid that I would fall away from the Lord as so many others I knew, but through the ministry of Chi Alpha, I found myself growing more in my faith than ever before.

Campus pastors Michael and Elizabeth Miller, along with her peer student leaders had a tremendous impact on Rachel. During her years at Georgia she was trained to be a leader herself, developing a passion for one-on-one and small group discipleship that she continued to use after graduating from Georgia with her Master's in Speech Pathology.

"Perhaps the greatest influence of Chi Alpha in my life was to put me on a path that caused me to meet and marry my sweetheart, a full time pastor in the Assemblies of God! The investment of my campus pastors, Michael and Elizabeth Miller, and other student leaders into my life has permanently impacted me for

Christ and given me the practical tools to continue growing and reaching out to others in my secular job as a speech language pathologist and within the local church," Rachel says. "I am forever indebted to them!"

Rachel's said "sweetheart" is Cameron King, whom she married in 2002. They soon moved to Cairo, Georgia where they have served as the pastors of First Assembly of God for more than a decade.

As Rachel's career as an undergrad began to wind down the oldest of her two younger brothers, Will Arnold enrolled at Auburn. With Rachel's encouragement, Will became involved in the local chapter of Chi Alpha, then led by campus minister J.B. Stephens. Will credits the group with giving him a big picture understanding of God's heart and work in the world.

"Chi Alpha was a group of people who opened my eyes to the personal/social needs of other students from so many differ-

ent backgrounds, from football to the arts to inter-faith, international students," Will says. "The friends I have from Chi Alpha have become my lifelong fast friends and I still visit them over ten years later. We have friendships from East Asia to the East Coast and at least four continents between."

As with his sister Rachel, Will credits says his years with Chi Alpha have prepared him to lead a Spirit-filled life in the marketplace. "Perhaps most importantly, Chi Alpha instilled a sense of purpose in being about the Father's business in all employment situations even when it just means being aware and opening my ears in the innerman to discern the moment," he says.

The youngest of the Arnold siblings, John, began his freshman year at Auburn in 2002. Like Rachel and Will before him, John jumped into Chi Alpha with both feet. He said the ministry, by then under the current leadership of Josh and Ginger Hallmark, taught him a paradigm of living that "trusts, relies upon the grace, strength and activity of the Living God."

As John's undergraduate time at Auburn concluded, he answered Chi Alpha's call to "Give a year and pray about a lifetime," serving as an intern at Auburn during the 2005-2006 term. His experience led him go onto seminary to pursue a lifetime call to ministry, and he graduated from Asbury Theological seminary in 2010.

Today, John is in charge of Partner Relations with a ministry called Wellspring that teaches Christian leaders how to bring about sustained change in their own lives and domains of ministry and the marketplace.

The fruit of investments that Chi Alpha missionaries make in the lives of students are never fully realized during their time on campus. By design our corporate vision of changing the university, the marketplace, and the world extends well beyond the time and geographical boundaries of a single student's college experience.

But stories like these of the Arnold siblings underscore that we never know what God could be doing through the lives of the young men and women who walk on campus every fall. Proud father Doug Arnold says, "I believe that Chi Alpha provided for my kids during their college days a level of intimate fellowship and accountability with people who wanted to live their faith. Chi Alpha inspired them and trained them to walk out their faith."

Never underestimate the power of ice cream socials and Jesus-centered community.



**Lennon Noland** is a Chi Alpha Campus Missionary at Duke University,

where he serves with his wife, Christal.

# SONS AT SAM

BY DOUG YOUNG

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:9, “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus.” These words of Paul have been my prayer for our sons as they have grown in that knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Our family started growing in 1982 with the birth of our first son. Our hearts were overflowing with pride and joy as we dedicated him to the Lord with grandparents proudly watching. Two and a half years later, our second son was dedicated to the Lord as well, followed by yet another son after another two and a half years. Our hearts knew that we had to give them back to the LORD. We proudly watched them grow closer to God as they attended youth camps, Bible studies and mission trips, after which they counseled students at youth camps, taught Bible studies and led mission trips. We are so thankful for the many Godly men and women that served as youth pastors, Bible study teachers and Christian grandparents the Lord had put in their lives to influence them and guide them as they grew up.

When our oldest son chose Sam Houston State University as his college of choice and became involved in Chi Alpha Student Ministries, we had no idea he was about to embark on a life-changing experience that would impact our whole family. Our second son chose SHSU because he had occasionally attended Chi Alpha meetings and saw a way he could use his musical talents for the Lord. When our youngest son visited Chi Alpha, he knew he had to be a part of this phenomenal student ministry. Now he has made it his focus and is committed to this ministry to impact students in another Texas university. Chi Alpha’s purpose is to show these college students the Lord loves and cares for them and that there is no other way to have a relationship with the Lord other than through Jesus Christ our

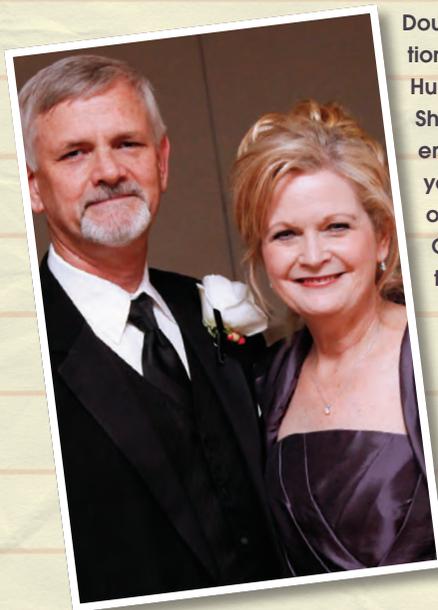
Lord and Savior.

We relate the Chi Alpha ministry to the missionary work of the Apostle Paul as he set an example to others through his life as told in the New Testament. In his missionary journeys, Paul moved in, setup tent and began teaching and preaching about Jesus Christ. The love and devotion Paul showed through his relationships and service to Jesus are also evident in the Chi Alpha missionaries and ministers we have known. This ministry establishes a fellowship of student believers and develops them into individuals who share the truth of the Gospel. This ministry changes lives through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have both seen how this approach to Christian witnessing works. Each time a ministry seeks the will of the Lord in how it ministers to people, it will be a success.

We thank the dedicated Chi Alpha ministers at SHSU for giving our boys a hunger for sharing Christ and making disciples.

Doug and Sheila Young



Doug has been an Applications Engineer with Baker Hughes for 34 years, and Sheila has worked at an elementary school for twelve years. They are members of Champion Forest Baptist Church where Doug is the community leader for GMO, Global Media Outreach, an online ministry that reaches people for Christ from all over the world. Their boys now live in Santa Monica, Calif.; Katy, Texas.; and Huntsville, Texas.



## FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

BY KATHY LINZ

In the spring of 2010, we took my son to Central Washington University (CWU) in Ellensburg, Wash. to check out the campus. I had made some inquiries to New Life Assembly, an Assemblies of God church around 20 minutes outside of Ellensburg. I wanted my son to continue serving

Jesus and to be involved in the music ministry of the church. The secretary from New Life put all my fears to rest by telling me what a great Chi Alpha group they had at CWU. We called Dan Guenther, one of the CWU Chi Alpha pastors, and he met us right away at the Chi Alpha office in Ellensburg and told us all about how Chi Alpha works and what they do at CWU.

When he got to school in the fall, Tim started going to Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and made a lot of friends. He also met Matt Stocker, a second

# WHAT SHOULD JESUS WEAR TO CHI ALPHA?

BY STEVE MITCHELL

“Dad, Jesus in Khakis is fine for the suburbs, but in New York City you need Jesus to show up in camo.” I’ll never forget that expression for two reasons. First, it was the cry of my daughter’s heart, and second, it’s true. Alisha was almost 18 when she moved to New York. She had dreamed for years of a career in professional dance. And she prepared for at least a decade in local Portland-area studios, through the Joffrey Ballet programs, and a Juilliard summer intensive.

And now, all of those plans lie in ruins. After nearly a decade, the company with which she worked to earn a contract told her that it wasn’t going to happen. I could feel the pain from nearly 3,000 miles away as if it was my own. Much of her identity was taken away with a simple word: “No.” To Alisha, it seemed like a robust Jesus was pretty far away.

Even so, I’m convinced God doesn’t waste pain. He didn’t waste His Son’s. It was redemptive, and in a much more personal sense, so was Alisha’s. She decided a change of venue was in order and traded New York for San Francisco. She also moved from classical ballet to contemporary dance. For a season, she felt her passion renewed, and though it was an important time of transition, ultimately it wasn’t enough.

When your child is struggling, it’s easy to feel helpless, especially when they’re old enough that specific direction has to give way to persuasion. So, you pray. You pray from 3,000 miles away. You pray from 700 miles away, or from the next room. You ask God to intervene. You ask Him for the right person, a divine appointee, to show up for your child and graciously point him or her to Jesus. You pray hard with your wife for a child you love with all of your heart.

God began to answer our prayers in Alisha’s freshman year at Stanford University.

After meeting a ballet mistress who was an alumna, Alisha decided to apply to the school. She declared confidently God told her she would get

in. As it turns out, she was right. That first fall term, she dutifully joined an inter-denominational Christian Fellowship. Though Alisha’s adult relationship with Christ may have had its ups and downs, it was always passionate, and she had been reared in the Foursquare Church’s Spirit-filled tradition. The disaffected dryness of that first fellowship left her wanting.

Then in her sophomore year, Alisha met a friend from the Stanford chapter of Chi Alpha who invited her to one of their weekly meetings. She began to attend, and as she did, the Lord began the delicate process of healing her from a series of deep-seated wounds. Her mother and I could tell God was up to something.

She found the joy of her salvation again, and for the first time in a long time, her first love was Jesus. The Holy Spirit began to reorder all she was, and all she believed herself to be, so that her identity was truly “in Christ.” She rediscovered a precious childlike trust in Jesus that had become a bit of memory.

Her mother and I are grateful for the deeply affective and faithful ministry of the Stanford Chi Alpha chapter where Alisha now serves. She was an active member of the fellowship throughout her undergraduate years, and is now coming on staff as a full-time missionary to the students at Stanford. Her mother and I couldn’t be more proud of her. She’ll be making an impact on the future leaders of business and politics around the world. It’s hard to overestimate the ripple effect of that mission field. And we have Chi Alpha to thank for both the spiritual investment made in our daughter and the opportunity for her to minister.

She started her journey looking for a Savior who wears camo. Ultimately, she discovered that at Chi Alpha, He also wears Cardinal Red.



**Steven Mitchell is the Creative Director of Steven Mitchell Design. He also serves as a pastor on staff with the Beaverton Foursquare Church. He and his wife Anita have two adult daughters, and an incredible son-in-law, who all live in the San Francisco area.**

year intern, who took him aside and mentored him for the school year. Matt then decided to follow God and move to Seattle, Wash. Tim is now one of the worship leaders for CWU Chi Alpha. He has told me so many times he would not have made it as far as he has in school had it not been for the mentoring, fellowship and friendship he received through Chi Alpha people.

I am so pleased with all of the Chi Alpha volunteers and leaders my son has had all three years at CWU. He told me he has learned how to live a full life and know Jesus not only as a savior, but also to have a meaningful relationship with God every day of your life. I am so happy that my son has experienced this relationship with God and

that he is using his God-given talents for Christ’s Kingdom!

Thank you Central Washington Chi Alpha and New Life Assembly in Kittitas, Wash.! Keep up the good work! You are making a difference in the lives of college men and women!



**Kathy Linz, mother of Tim Linz, resides with her husband Steve in Kenmore, Wash. She loves to read and travel.**



## University of Texas- San Antonio Expedition to Chile

University of Texas- San Antonio Chi Alpha was propelled forward from The World Missions Summit 3, and we were able to send more than 60 of our student leaders as world missionaries in six countries! In Chile, Katelyn met Javi at a booth outreach on a university campus there. She told Katelyn she used to be religious, but had a terrible experience and didn't want anything to do with Christianity. After talking at length, Javi exclaimed, "I think you were sent here for me." She felt the Spirit of God drawing her, and Katelyn connected her with the local missionaries who are now building a relationship with her!

—Johnny Hauck, University of Texas- San Antonio

## University of Virginia Expedition

"Our short term missions trips are some of the most important things we do. Our steady commitment to short term trips are one of the keys to our fellowship embracing God's heart for the inconvenient lost....which has led to many students giving a year after graduation. As our fellowship has embraced God's heart for the nations in increasing measure, it has had huge ripple effects in our fellowship as a whole. We have seen our students grow in their willingness to die to self and in their passion for Jesus."

—Pete Bullette, University of Virginia



## Virginia Tech Expedition

"Ten days ago I had an encounter with God that broke my addiction to cocaine." Carina shared this with Rachel in the first few minutes of our English Café outreach at the University of Quindio, in Armenia, Colombia. Rachel began asking questions about that encounter and moments later realized Carina did not really know who Jesus was, so she began to share the gospel with her. Carina accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and has continued to grow in her hunger and passion for the Lord. She is the most faithful student in the university ministry that is being started in Colombia through our spring break and summer missions trips.

—Anthony Saladino, Virginia Tech

## Missions Trips Stats

There were 57 spring break missions trips; 21 of those were international, and the remaining 36 took place in the United States.

As for summer missions trips, 64 teams went somewhere outside the U.S. and 12 teams decided to stay in the States.

There is an estimated 1,011 students who applied for international missions trips this year.



## Popular Missions Trips Destinations



## CAMPUS NEWS

### PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS CAN USE SOCIAL VIDEO APPS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE

Students can get a foretaste of their potential colleges with video apps without even leaving their bedrooms. All they have to do is use Instagram or Vine and look for the video clips of their dream schools. On the flip side, they can also impress the admissions counselors by posting a video of themselves online.

Source: usnews.com  
Original author: Delece Smith-Barrow



### DESPITE A RECOVERING ECONOMY, COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STILL FALLS

The number of college students is falling and financially affecting colleges and universities. Students are being sought out to fill empty spots when only a few years ago, admission was high and classes were booked.

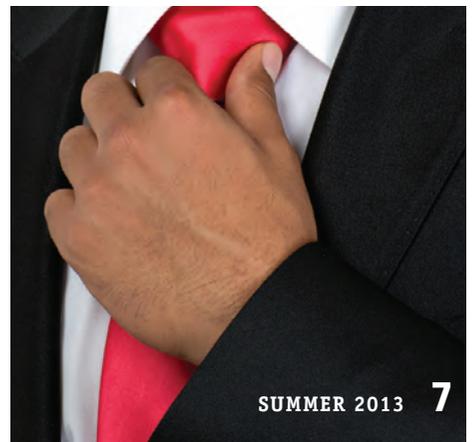
Source: nytimes.com  
Original author: Richard Pérez-Peña



### SUMMER SCHEDULES GROW BUSIER FOR STUDENTS

For many college students, summer does not equal lounging on the beach for three months until school starts up again. Instead, it is a time to get ahead by working jobs and internships, sometimes more than one.

Source: college.usatoday.com  
Original author: Alec Berry

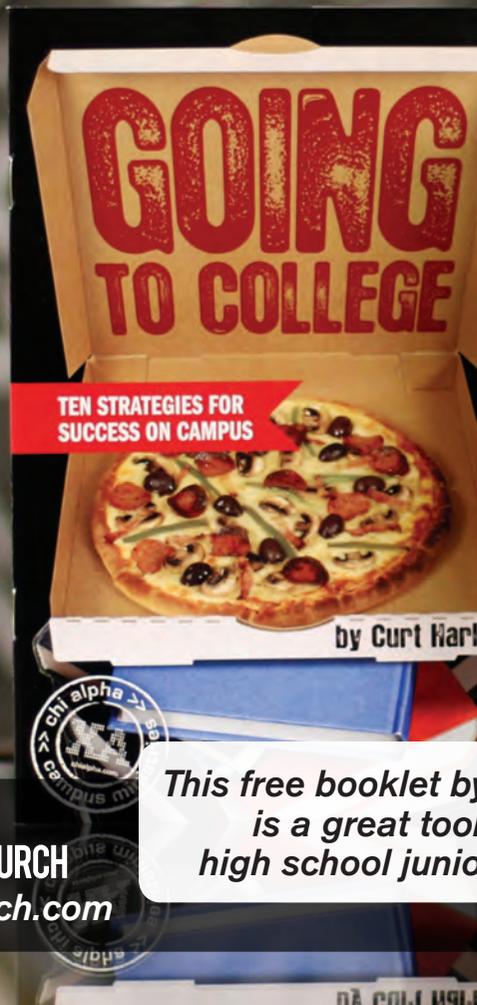




Chi Alpha tees in various styles and colors from \$10 to \$15 each.



MY HEALTHY CHURCH  
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This free booklet by Curt Harlow is a great tool for any high school junior or senior.



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