



# the **Mane** Edition

August/September 2009

McKinney Christian Academy

Volume 8 Issue 1

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# Annual retreat kicks off the high school year

## Top 10 things students say Pine Cove is all about



One of the most popular activities was the intense game of Pillow-Fight Basketball. Here, junior Jake Gattuso goes up strong to the basket to get a point for his team.



Junior Maggie Marshall enjoys gliding down the zipline during her free time. The zipline was a popular attraction for students who had the options of swimming or horseback riding along with careening through the pine trees of Tyler, Texas.

BY JESSICA WINDSOR

- Get Your Head in the Games:** The MCA high school students enjoyed putting their “game faces” on while getting into the spirit of competition in events such as Rope-a-Dope, Mrs. Hlavaty’s Revenge, and Pillow-Fight Basketball. “My favorite part about the retreat was Ultimate Keep-Away and I liked running around yelling ‘chaos,’” said sophomore Natalie Lemieux.
- Build Friendships:** Freshman Rebekah Parker said, “My favorite part about the retreat was becoming closer with everybody and hanging out with the whole high school.”
- Go Somewhere Different:** The MCA high schoolers journeyed to Pine Cove this year, a departure from the usual trek to Glen Rose. With this new location came more space, better food, and tons of fun free-time activities.
- Eat Well:** The food was “yummy”, said junior Bekah Holle. Pine Cove cooks took great care to provide campers with a variety of delicious cuisine such as chocolate cake and spaghetti.
- Meet the New Students:** Sophomore Sarah Hamilton said, “I liked getting to know everyone and meeting the new people.” MCA started the school year with a record-breaking two hundred students enrolled in the Upper School and that’s due to the many new students in each grade. The high

schoolers got a chance to meet them early on and get to know them while on the retreat.

- Fellowship in Worship:** The worship services at Pine Cove gave the students a chance to prepare their hearts and focus their minds for the year ahead. “I liked the worship services because they were a great way to worship with our friends and get to know each other better,” freshman Mandy Moore said.
- Go Horseback Riding:** In the backwoods of the campgrounds, students got a chance to saddle up during free-time and hit the trails. “I loved horseback riding because of the beautiful scenery,” said freshman Sarah Beach.
- Ride the Zipline:** Teens took a leap of faith in this free-time activity while jumping off a platform high above the ground. “I loved the zipline because it gave me such a rush,” said sophomore Monica Fischer.
- Cool Down in the Pool:** Students had many options to choose from in the pool, such as jumping off the high dive or playing water basketball. The Harrell twins, freshmen Zack and Andy, both said they enjoyed doing flips off the high dive because “it was fun.”
- Spiritually Grow:** Although the games, the activities and the new friendships were all an exciting part of the retreat, it’s main purpose was to refocus the students and remind them to walk in His steps while beginning another school year.



Sophomores Monica Fischer and Nicki Noruk and senior Carlee Smith spend time bonding as they discuss their strategy to beat the boys in Pillow-Fight Basketball game.



Juniors Anna McWilliams and Andrea Bruno enjoy laughing and getting to know Allie Hale who is a new addition to their junior class



Senior Aly Collins and sophomore Haley Yates are among a group of girls who competed in the Chubby Bunny game. Attempting to fit more marshmallows in their mouths than the other contestants, Aly and Haley rapidly shove the handfuls of marshmallows with the help of their team leaders.



New student activities coordinator, Mr. Keyes, explains one of his games to the high school students as they eagerly listen to see what he has up his sleeve.

All photos courtesy of MCA Journalism staff.

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August/September 2009

## “It’s my favorite place to be when I’m at school!”

### The new SLC is a hit for the Lower School

BY EMILY WARREN

Building the Student Life Center means different things to different people, but what does it mean to Lower School specifically? The first thing it means is a new gym. The gym provides Lower School with the ability to utilize the space to have a cooler P.E. class, which fifth grader Hayden Foot said, “P.E is much more fun in the SLC and is not as hot.”

Lower School’s new and larger lunchroom is also located in the gym of the SLC. The lunchroom features a new catering company and, like everything else in the SLC, space. Lower School principal Ms. Sass observed, “The biggest thing is lunch; it’s all about the lunch.” In addition to lunch, Lower School chapels and other school events are held in this area as well.

Furthermore, the SLC gives Lower School the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the fine arts. They get to use the new and improved choir room which includes an adjoining stage. Kindergartener Sutton Mayberry was especially excited about the art room, “It is really cool and I like it.” Mayberry said. The art room houses a lot of art material and more space for the children of Lower School to express their creativity.

So all in all, the Student Life Center provides the Lower School students with a place to learn, grow and have fun. I think Ms. Sass pretty much wrapped up what the SLC means to Lower School when she said, “The SLC is just the best.”



photo by amanda kidwell

First grade students Nathan Woolverton and Leighton Ingalls enjoy coloring in art class in the new art room in the SLC. The art room is just one of the new rooms that gives more space for elective classes.

## Same song, new mix

### The new year brings new faculty, students, and positions to MCA

BY KELLY SIMS

This new year is full of new changes and transitions. We have new faculty members, new students and most importantly a new Head of School and Upper School principal. “This year I have a lot more responsibility,” said Mrs. Smith,



photo by amanda kidwell

Kindergarteners Seteye Akpabio, Ethan Horton and Katie Haeussler, a new student in the MCA family, smile for the camera as they wait their turn to throw the teddy bear into the hula hoop during a fun class game.

Upper School principal. Mr. Bollinger and Mrs. Smith have transitioned into their jobs with enthusiasm. They both have a positive attitude about this school year and are looking forward to moving the school forward in a positive direction.

Part of what makes this year so special are the newest members of our school. The faculty plays a huge role in our school and this year we have many new on staff. “The faculty has great enthusiasm that trickles down to our students and parents,” Mr. Bollinger, Head of School said. The teachers are passionate about the effort the students put toward the school. Health teacher and curriculum coordinator Mr. Etheredge, is most excited to witness the efforts of great students at MCA through academics. We have a total of 65 new students in Upper School and Lower School this year that have added a lot to our school already. “The students at MCA bring joy and happiness to the school and show what real friends do for each other,” sophomore Jossie Ho said.

“This year is special because we have expanded the athletic fields and use of the SLC,” Mrs. Smith said. The athletic department is growing with the Student Life Center and Noah Field, the future baseball field. “I think the SLC has been a great resource for everyone at the school. It’s a lot easier to practice for sports and after school activities,” said freshman Mandy Moore. We will also have a new technology lab which the Jog-A-Thon/5K proceeds will go toward. This is also the first year to have a nurse’s station. Lower School has also had many changes with 2 new teachers and 27 new students. “We have the dream team down here,” said Ms. Sass, Lower School principal.

“I am super excited to get into the hardest school year I have ever had, with the coolest uniform I have ever had,” junior Ben Casey said. This year we should be enthusiastic about all of the recent changes that have taken place that will make this school year unforgettable.

## First ever pep rally in the new SLC!

### The rally gets students ready for the Jog-A-Thon and 5K Challenge on October 14th and 15th

“It really generated school spirit. The Lower School’s excitement was contagious!” - Sandy Sims, Spanish teacher

“I really enjoyed it being in the gym because being outside, like in the past, was way too hot!” - Ellie Kimball, 11th

“I think it was cool how they said all the names on the teams. Not all schools do that!” - Austin Maddox, 9th

“I’m in shape, so I think I am ready for the 5K challenge!” - Taylor Tidwell, 11th



photo by rebekah johnson

In attempts to catch some candy at the first MCA pep rally, the second and third grade bunch of students raise their hands and cheer.

### ... Are you ready for the challenge?



photo by rebekah johnson

First grader Nathan Gwynn sprints to pass the beach ball to his friends in the bleachers.

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## Varsity football team going strong '09-'10 theme proves to be meaningful

BY SHAWN JOHNSON

From lightning storms to triple overtime, the McKinney Christian Academy varsity football team has had an exciting and remarkable season so far. Head coach Kevin Sutton and assistant coaches Bryan Brock, Jeff Anderson, Tommy Brookens, Justin Falcone, and Mike Tucker have led this season's team so far. The coaches enforce the theme, "Eleven = One", which means that the team is dependent on every member's skill and each member is required to do their job perfectly. This theme was enforced at the University of Oklahoma at the two-a-day practices. Through grueling heat and humidity, the team grew physically in body and spiritually in Christ. The coaches led daily devotionals for the players as they prepared their hearts for the season. "We've worked hard and it's been beneficial," said freshman James Steenburg.

The team's confidence played out through their first shutout victory against Dallas A+ Academy. In the 49-0 victory, senior Thomas LeBlanc displayed his astounding talents with 5 touchdowns. His skill and willingness to work make him a great addition to the team and he has displayed it in his three years of playing. This determination is what has made him the Player of the Month for the varsity football team. He led the team into the next three games, which resulted in close losses. Each loss was less than eight points against Ponder High

School, Lake Country Christian, and Watauga Harvest. The Watauga game went into an amazing triple overtime until a blocked extra point and a score on the next drive caused the team to lose in the end. "This season has been amazing, but we need a lot of work," said junior Ethan Kovatch.

With upcoming games against district rivals, the football team hopes to get some victories so they can enter the playoffs for a second year. The team's hard work, sweat and tears will be shown throughout the rest of the season as they will thrive on their theme, "Eleven = One." Every member has a place on the team. Without any one player doing their job the team would fail, and without the team any one player would fail. This relationship is what keeps the team going. With this theme and hope, the MCA student body will be there at the state championship on December 5, cheering on the varsity football team in which we have ultimate faith.

*Senior Alex Farley plows through a hole created by his blockers in a successful play against Garland Christian. The team was victorious in achieving a 77-66 victory.*



photo by rebekah johnson

## Volleyball stomps the opposition once again Junior Varsity goes for the undefeated district season

BY JESSICA WINDSOR

Last year's MCA volleyball teams set a high standard for this season's girls to follow. The varsity squad of 2008 bumped, set, and spiked their way into the Regional Finals, leaving big shoes to fill. But, so far this year's teams are definitely living up to high expectations with a record of 4-1 for varsity and 5-0 for junior varsity.

"I'm really proud of our varsity team this year because we're unified and we're improving a lot," said senior Emily Crombar. Warming up to a new team can be difficult, but the girls on varsity this year work together with positive attitudes and good motives, excelling in this year's season so far.

The junior varsity team does not disappoint either. "I love being undefeated because we work really hard to be," said sophomore Haley Yates. Haley, along with sophomores Sarah Hamilton and Chloe Geoghegan, have led the JV to be undefeated in district play so far.

An added bonus this year for both teams is a secret gift exchange every Friday. Each girl receives a present from her "Secret Mustang" to encourage and support her after a long week. "I enjoy our Secret Mustangs because they bring our team closer together and I love giving gifts," said freshman Kelly Sims.

But the Secret Mustangs gift exchange is just one of this season's new additions. A major addition to MCA is the Student Life Center, which holds three volleyball courts and the girls' locker room. "I like having the SLC because it's right on campus and there is tons of space. It's fun to finally have our own gym," said freshman Haley Rogers.

The volleyball girls have worked hard so far this season, as proven in their records. The teams last year set the bar high for the following season and neither the varsity nor the junior varsity have failed to meet their standards. The volleyball players of 2009 hope to leave big shoes to fill for next year's girls as they continue on this season in excellence.



photo by brittani knam

Senior Emily Crombar spikes the ball for a point against Rockwall Heritage Christian Academy. Emily is one of four seniors returning as starters from last year's state playoff contending team. They are backed up by two juniors and two sophomores.

### Varsity Football

Dallas A+ 49-0

Ponder 26-33

Lake Country 14-6

Watauga 40-46

Garland 77-66

### Varsity Volleyball

Fairhill 3-1

Covenant 3-0

Home School 1-3

Shelton 3-0, 3-0

CCA Tournament 5-6

Yavneh 3-0, 3-0

Cambridge 3-0

Blueridge 2-3

First Baptist 0-3

Heritage Christian 3-1, 3-0

Canterbury 3-2

Rockwall Christian 3-0

Texoma Christian 3-2

Greenville Christian 3-1

### Junior Varsity Volleyball

Fairhill 2-0

Covenant 2-0

Home School 0-2

Yavneh 2-0, 2-0

Cambridge 2-0

First Baptist 2-1

Advantage Tournament 5-2

Heritage Christian 2-0, 2-0

Rockwall Christian 2-0

Texoma Christian 2-1

Greenville Christian 2-1

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## Winning tradition continues

BY ROBERT KELLEY

It was a very moist day on September 11, when the junior high football team took on the Lake Country Eagles. Led by 8th grader Connor Doyle, who had six touchdowns, the Mustangs went on to win 35 – 6. “We fought hard in the mud,” said Connor Doyle. Connor is new to the junior high football program, but is exceeding expectations so far this season. He used to go to school here, left, and then returned. Connor plays quarterback in the spread and running back in the I formation on the offense and plays safety, but will come up for run support on the defense.

The Mustangs are now 5 – 0 for the start of the season. They have definitely started off strong. “I am pleased with our effort

so far, however we need to clean up a few things, such as penalties,” said Coach Scott Zanetell. Let us hope that our junior high can continue the tradition of excellence with yet another winning season this year. The Mustangs coaching staff consists of Scott Zanetell, Rodney Doyle and Bill Burch, and PC Christopher. Everybody is looking forward to a great season from the junior high Mustangs. With so many injuries already, we pray no one else gets hurt this season.

*8th graders Connor Doyle, Ben Bajema and Hayden Wyatt plow through the Watauga defense. (Right)*



*photo by laura smith*

## Cheerleaders impact school spirit in many ways

BY ROBERT KELLEY



*courtesy photo  
Rebekah Parker helps participants in the cheer clinic.*

On game days when the weather is horrible, and you look out on the field, you see the football teams, and the McKinney Christian Academy cheerleaders cheering on the football team. The cheerleaders started off their season by going to a cheer camp. The cheer squad brought home many awards including a bid to nationals. There were nine girls nominated for All-American. They also won six blue ribbons, two for each day of evaluations, motion technique award, and spot award for safety stunting, which was given to only one squad. The squad also won their game day division, and received a spirit stick every night. On the individual side of awards Alec Overn and Bekah Parker got awards in jumps, Kaitlyn Sparks, Mandy Moore, Amanda Kidwell won in tight motions, Nicki Noruk and Caleigh Franzmeier won in stunts, Carlee Smith won in cheer, and Avery Jones won in dance. Alec Overn made the NCA All-American team. At the beginning of the year they made three goals; to represent our school in a positive way, become unified as a squad, and last but not least improve. Their cheer spirit verse for the year is Philippians 2:2-5.

Leading the Minis and Ponies with a version of cheer camp was another event in which they took part. The varsity and junior high cheerleaders taught the Minis and Ponies some cheers and helped them with dance skills. “We’ve had a lot of fun, and a special thing about our group is that we were very unified and getting along, while doing our best in every practice and every game,” said captain Alec Overn.

Even though the football team may not win every game, the varsity cheer squad never stops cheering and always has a smile on their face. The girls always try to keep the crowd into the game and help the players keep their spirits up. The cheer squad is also there to help the players celebrate after a win.

“Our squad is amazing this year, we’ve worked really hard,” said co-captain Carlee Smith. All the girls enjoy being around each other during the practices and the games. From cheer camp to homecoming, the varsity cheerleaders have done a great job cheering on the football team to victories this season. They do this with a lot of spirit and pep. This varsity squad is very dedicated and will succeed in the future.



*courtesy photo  
Varsity cheerleaders lift student in a simple stunt during the cheer clinic.*



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### Junior High Football

- Dallas Lutheran 44-14
- Lake Country 35-6
- Watauga Harvest 36-0
- Dallas A+ 33-6
- Garland 36-0

### Junior High Volleyball A Team

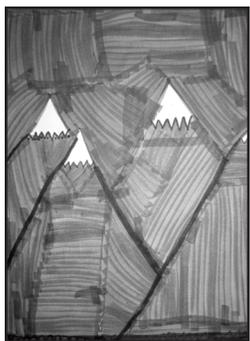
- Home School 0-2
- Faith Lutheran 2-0, 2-0
- Cambridge 2-0
- First Baptist 2-0
- Garland Christian 2-0
- Rockwall Christian 2-0
- Greenville Christian 0-2
- Heritage Christian 2-0

### B Team

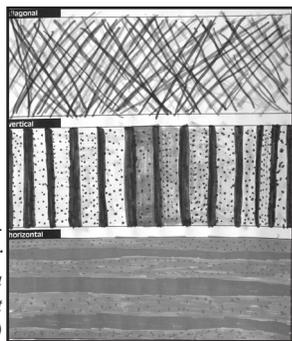
- Home School 1-2
- Faith Lutheran 2-1, 2-0
- First Baptist 2-0
- Garland Christian 2-0
- Rockwall Christian 2-0
- Greenville Christian 2-0

Creative Corner

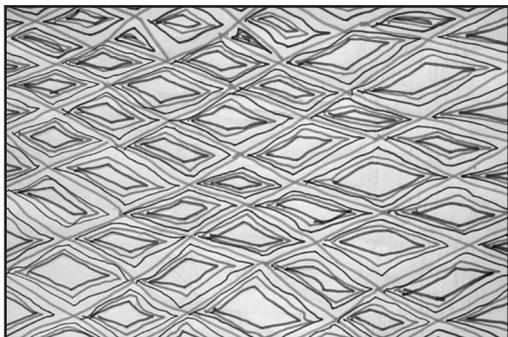
BY KAYLA FARR



Makayla Dahl, third grade, enjoys drawing mountains. (Left)



Lizzy Harper, fifth grade, practices drawing her lines. Lines are a fundamental part of art. (Right)



Blake Wede, fourth grade, draws many diamond patterns in her art class. (Left)

\*\*If you would like to have your art work in the Creative Corner, please speak with your teacher and they will contact the newspaper class.



SNACK TIME

BY ANDREA BRUNO AND MICHAL SMITH

★ ★ ★ ★

- Oreo & Fudge Ice Cream Cake
- ½ cup fudge ice cream topping, warmed
- Milk
- 1 tub (8oz.) Cool Whipped topping, thawed
- 1 pkg. Jell-O Chocolate Flavor Instant Pudding & Pie Filling
- 8 Oreo Chocolate cookies
- 12 vanilla ice cream sandwiches



"It is flavorful, chocolatey and had a contrast of flavors. It was very good." - Colin Full

Pour the fudge topping into a bowl and stir in 1 cup of whipped topping. Add the pudding mix into the bowl and stir until well blended. Add milk until creamy. Chop the Oreos into chunks and add them to the pudding mixture. Arrange 4 ice cream sandwiches side by side on a 24x12" piece of foil. Top with pudding mixture and repeat for a total of three layers. Finish it off with applying the rest of the whipped topping. Bring up the sides of the foil and wrap around the cake. Freeze for at least 4 hours

MAKES: about 12 servings

Star Chart	★	Not very good, not suggested.
	★★	Good, partially suggested.
	★★★	Well done, suggested.
	★★★★	Excellent, highly suggested.

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All About Steve

BY ANDREA BRUNO

The hilarious Sandra Bullock and handsome co-star Bradley Cooper make *All About Steve* a must see for this fall. The on-screen chemistry adds the perfect touch to this zealous comedy.

Bullock plays Mary Horowitz who has the odd job of a cruciverbalist—a crossword puzzle creator. Her mind certainly fits the tasks set before her at work. She can come up with the most creative words, but for the real world, it's not so ideal.

When she is set up on a blind date with Steve, a cable-news cameraman (Cooper), Mary is head over her fire-engine-red go-go boots for this man. She believes that Steve is "the one", and that's only after the first date! Steve, on the other hand, doesn't feel the same way about her. He sees Mary as crazy, espe-

cially after she starts following him on the job. Little does he know how intertwined their fates truly are.

Thomas Church also stars as Hartman Hughs, a news reporter egging Mary on to go after Steve. After Mary becomes involved in the news story of the year, however, both Steve and Hartman begin to see her in a new light and feel guilt for their taunting. Despite all of the media and stress surrounding her, Mary keeps up her attitude and outlook on life and even makes a new group of friends in the process.

This hilarious comedy is about how the people who don't qualify for our standards of 'normal' are often the ones who can make the most impact in our life. This movie kept me laughing and held my attention until the end. This movie is rated PG-13. ★ ★ ★

JukeBox



BY MICHAL SMITH

Genre	Artist	Song
Electronic	Owl City	Fireflies
Rap	Jason Derulo	Whatcha Say
Alternative	Anberlin	Breathe
Christian Rock	Tenth Avenue North	Love Is Here
Acoustic	The Shins	Caring Is Creepy
Folk	Feist	Mushaboom
Rock	Dave Matthews Band	Funny The Way It Is
Techno	Basshunter	Russia Privjet
Indie	Brighten	Carolina
Pop	Lights	Ice
Country	Taylor Swift	Fearless

\*\*For the JukeBox section of our newspaper we would like to inform you that these songs are not necessarily chosen by popularity, rather by top artists.

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BITS N' PIECES

- The lifespan of a taste bud is ten days.
- The word "nerd" was first coined by Dr. Seuss in his book "If I Ran the Zoo."
- In 1963, baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry remarked, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, a few hours after Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, Gaylord Perry hit his first, and only, home run.
- McDonald's is the largest toy distribute in the world.
- A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue.
- The word "lethologica" describes the state of not being able to remember the word you want.
- Mario, of the game Super Mario Bros. Fame, appeared in the 1981 arcade game Donkey Kong. His original name was Jumpman, but it was changed to Mario, to honor the Nintendo of America's landlord, Mario Segali.
- In Florida, It is illegal to sing in a public place while wearing a swimsuit.
- 9 out of 10 lightning strike victims survive
- A toothpick is the object most often choked on by Americans.
- The Yo-Yo originated as a weapon in the Philippine Islands during the sixteenth century.
- The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- If you attempted to count the stars in the galaxy at a rate of one every second, it would take around 3,000 years to count them all.
- On average, there are 178 sesame seeds on each McDonald's Big Mac bun.
- "Goodbye" came from "God bye" which came from "God be with you."

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## Jog-A-Thon/5K Challenge

Proceeds go toward these Top 5 Goals:

- New computer/user-friendly furniture
- New, more powerful computers (25 each lab)
- 2 new projectors for labs (1 each)
- Campus-wide wireless network
- 2 new Table PC's and wireless projectors (1 for LS/1 for US)

## Another "Jump" Juniors adjust to new level

BY REBEKAH JOHNSON

Good ol' junior year. I remember last year listening to the juniors complain about how hard their classes were, how much homework they had, how they were going to die, etc. As a sophomore, I thought they were a bunch of whiners. I was excited for junior year: finally we would be upperclassmen with newfound freedom and responsibility. But they weren't kidding- junior year is the hardest year of high school, as I soon found out.

Junior year is another big jump up, I thought all day. As I was utterly overwhelmed in my first AP classes, I realized that I was going to have to step up my game in order to pass, much less get an A in all of my classes. After the first week of dealing with a huge workload, I had no idea what to do. The late nights, the millions of reading assignments, the massive quizzes and tests just overwhelmed me. I thought I was just simply not going to make it.

Think back to the first day of school this year, first period, Mr. Carlson's Pre-Calculus class. Looking over my schedule this summer, I was less than overjoyed about having math class every morning except for Wednesdays. I'm not really a mathy kind of person, that's probably why I'm on the Journalism staff. Mr. Carlson was explaining to the class where Pre-Calculus stands as far as difficulty. He said in his ever-gracious manner, "You start out here with arithmetic. Then, wow! You learn algebra and it blows your mind. Now, we add another new step, calculus, and it blows your mind all over again! It's another big jump up for you."

And yet here we are, nearly a quarter into the new school year, and I am delighted that I am still alive and well enough to tell you that you will not die. The load spreads out, and you find out little ways to make your time stretch where it needs to. My whole grade has survived, probably because of our study halls and newly developed time-management skills. We will be ready to be seniors, to go off to college, to start a new life. But we just have to make another "jump".

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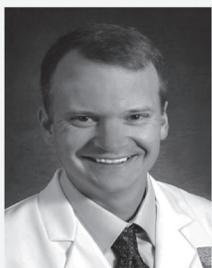
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