



Classical Conversations Homeschool Class of 2019

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, May 4th, 2019

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

PROCESSIONAL	<i>Pomp and Circumstance (Elgar)</i>
OPENING PRAYER.....	<i>Jack Westmoreland</i>
WELCOME	<i>Leigh Anne Hale</i>
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Joy Wells</i>
THANK YOU TO PARENTS	<i>Grace Hale</i>
CONGRESSIONAL HYMN	<i>Will Lawrence, Mr. Tilton</i>
GRADUATE REFLECTIONS	<i>Brita Stone, Rachel Shockey, Emma Tilton</i>
GRADUATE VIDEOS	
CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS	<i>Parents of Graduates</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE GRADUATES	<i>Leigh Anne Hale</i>
RECESSIONAL	<i>Brand New (Rector)</i>



GRACELYN HALE

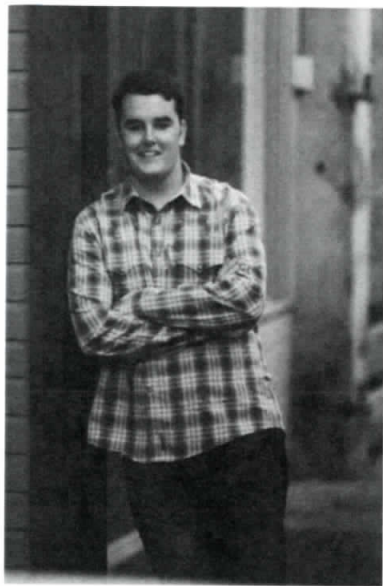
As a born and raised Texan, I am the third of six children. I am so thankful I was homeschooled my whole life. My journey through Classical Conversations began when I was in 3rd grade. I have immensely enjoyed the sciences throughout my education and particularly biblical studies my senior year.

With my free time, I enjoy baking an assortment of treats for anyone who will eat them! Through my church youth group, I have been privileged to disciple a group of girls for the last 2 years and have grown tremendously in my faith through it. For the past eight years, I have had the opportunity to be a big sister to multiple young foster children my family has welcomed into our home. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, whether it's coffee date or a game of cards.

In the fall, I plan on pursuing a nursing degree at Texas Woman's University in Denton. In the future, I would love to work in pediatrics in a hospital as well as use my medical skills on mission trips.

*"The Lord is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;
This is my God, and I will praise Him;
My father's God, and I will extol Him"*

- EXODUS 15:2



"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

- 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

WILLIAM LAWRENCE

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Only four months old when the twin towers fell, I spent the next 8 years growing up on a farm near Sunset, Texas. As the youngest of four home schooled boys, the majority of my free time was spent chasing said brothers through barns, woods or ponds in camo. I'm grateful for my family and their godly examples and also for the closeness we enjoy.

I started Classical Conversations my freshman year as a Challenge B student. I've had the honor of being taught by Mrs. Babb, Mrs. Neymeyer and Mrs. McKee who have all selflessly poured their knowledge and wisdom into our class discussions and into me personally. Best wishes to all my classmates and CC friends. It has been a great four years!!!

Apart from school, music has always been a BIG part of my life. After enjoying piano for several years, I learned guitar and have participated in our church worship team and have been honored to lead the youth worship band for several years now.

Last year I enjoyed completing the Cowtown half marathon.

Looking to the future, I plan to attend TCC to pursue a Criminal Justice degree, transfer to Tarleton to complete my Bachelor's and then go through the Police Academy.



"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

- EPHESIANS 2:8-10

RACHEL SHOCKEY

I have been homeschooled my entire academic career, and I would not have had it any other way. Being homeschooled has given me the freedom to do things I would not have otherwise been able to do, whether that be making a plethora of memories while camping with my family or cruising the Caribbean while caring for a sweet toddler. My education has also led me to discover my love and passion for literature and my desire to cultivate this same love in others. Even though my many childhood adventures and educational endeavors have shaped me, it is the people who have been in my life that I will remember the most.

The people the Lord has placed in my life, in my Classical Conversations circle specifically, have helped raise me in ways I shall never truly comprehend. My directors and tutors have become second mothers, and my peers have become brothers, sisters, and best friends. It is these people who have helped me embrace the things that make me unique, whether that be my strange love for school supplies and peanut butter or my nerdy obsession with literature and schoolwork.

My education thus far has been a journey, yet I know this journey is far from over. In the fall, I will be attending Criswell College where I will be pursuing a Philosophy, Politics, and Economics degree. After the completion of my undergraduate studies, I hope to pursue a master's degree in English while completing alternative certification to teach at the secondary education level. It is my desire to teach high school English in order to help students fall in love with literature and learning as I have.



"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end."

- PSALM 102:25-27

BRITA STONE

In 2001, I was born in this great city of Fort Worth. Since then I've moved to many places around the United States, including the Midwest, the deep south, and a border town, but I moved back to Fort Worth three years ago. I am very grateful to my parents, Brian and Leah Stone, for putting up with me and homeschooling me my whole life. I'm also grateful to my four younger siblings for making my life more... interesting.

Some of my utterly benign interests include horseback riding, as well as acrylic and oil painting. Since 2017, I have been a member of the Civil Air Patrol, through it, I've been able to learn more about aerospace and train to become a better leader. I've enjoyed my time as a captive student in Classical Conversations, and especially appreciated speech and debate, as well as science. Some of our science coursework and assignments have greatly interested me, resulting in the career field I wish to peruse. I'm grateful for the amazing classmates and tutors I've had that have influenced me and helped me to become a better person. Most importantly, I'm thankful for the foundation I've received in biblical truths, and how I've learned to know God better.

I will begin attending the University of Texas at Arlington this fall where I plan to study Aerospace Engineering. I have received an ROTC scholarship and after I graduate, I will serve in the United States Air Force. Ultimately, I wish to live life with eternity foremost in mind. I want to live with urgency and determination to accomplish what is required of me, and to move forward with the purpose God has given me.



EMMA TILTON

I am 18 and the oldest of three kids. I love drawing, listening to music, poetry, and fried chicken. I was born in Louisiana but have lived most of my life here in Texas. I have been homeschooled for most of my life and have been a part of the Eagle Mountain CC Campus since the second semester of junior year. I spend my days watching movies or wandering the city with friends, just generally looking for things to do other than homework.

Though senior year hasn't been easy, I know I've learned a lot. Starting dual credit courses this year at TCC has made me realize that Classical Conversations really has helped me prepare for college level courses. Because of what I've learned here, I have been writing papers and giving speeches for my TCC classes with relative ease. I am very grateful to Mrs. Hale and my classmates for always pushing me and encouraging me. I know that the long days of discussing and debating all the different ideas we learn about in CC have been instrumental in making me into the student I am today. Thank you to my family for always supporting me, academically and otherwise.

Next year I will enroll as a full-time student at TCC for one year then will transfer to another college in hopes of majoring in nursing. For now, I will stay focused on my school and enjoy my time at home. To all the friends I have made during my time at CC, thank you so much for all the memories. In the words of Winnie the Pooh, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

*"Yet I will exult in the Lord,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
The Lord God is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' feet,
And makes me walk on my high places."*

- HABAKKUK 3:18-19



JOY WELLS

If you were to ask any of my friends who I am, they'd probably groan and say, "She's the one over there quoting references that nobody understands and then laughing at her own jokes. We've asked her to stop, but she keeps doing it." Yep, that's me—dancing down hallways, being sassy, and trying my best not to trip over my own feet.

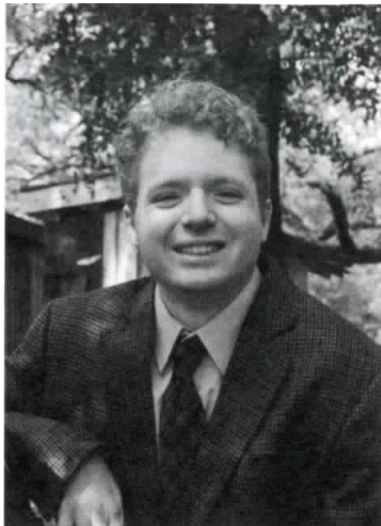
My life began in Dallas, Texas in 2001. I'm the oldest of 4 siblings—our parents homeschooled us our entire lives! I am so blessed to have joined this CC community my junior year. However, two years is too short a time to spend with such wonderful teachers and friends. The trip we took to Washington, D.C. in the fall will always be one of my most cherished memories!

I'd like to thank my parents and family, along with all the teachers I've had throughout my life, for being a huge help and for supporting me along the way, I love you all!

I have been a dancer since my freshman year. In that time, I've developed a passion for dance and plan to continue to study both dance and psychology at Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas. I'd like to work as a special needs dance/art instructor, or possibly a flight attendant, but I am unsure whether this is God's calling for me. I am excited to see what He has in store for me in the next few years!

"There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies. The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:40-41



JACK WESTMORELAND

I was born in 2000 to Steve and Tiffany Westmoreland. The second of five children, I began my journey through Classical Conversations with my family when I was nine years old. I am thankful for my family and especially my mom who supported me through my education.

Over the years, my interests have varied. Firstly, I love volunteering in Troop 514. From age six, I have worked through all of the ranks of Cub and Boy Scouts to the highest level of Eagle Scout and now serve as Assistant Scout Master. As a member of Gateway Church, I spent three of my high school years serving either as a youth intern or greeter. During one spring break, I also went on a week-long missions trip to Guatemala. While juggling all of these activities, I also spent one semester working as a Starbucks barista and another semester as an intern in the district office of my State Representative. In the legacy of my late grandfather, I also participate in my local county government as an active member of Wise County Republicans.

In the fall, I plan to attend Tarleton State University in Stephenville where I have also been accepted into the Honors College. In addition to being a member of the Corps of Cadets, I hope to receive an ROTC scholarship and go on after college to serve as an officer in the United States Army.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- PHILIPPIANS 4:13

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine

Bought with the precious blood of Christ
No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.



Congratulations Class of 2019

Left to Right: Joy Wells, Rachel Shockey, Emma Tilton, Gracelyn Hale, Brita Stone, Will Lawrence, Jack Westmoreland