

I wish you could see

I wish you could see the depth of love for and from alumni who return to visit. Jae Hoon Maeng will be leaving for the Korean military in January after a year in college. He is unable to stay in college due to the financial hardship with the economy. Watching Jae Hoon tell the younger students (7-year-old Sabrina too) he will be leaving and tears streaming down their face. We have become more than an outreach to teens—we have become a family and we will spend



Labor Day fun

eternity together. I wish parents could see the work God does in and through us at Cono.

— Sharon Underwood, principal

part of her work crew. She is always eager to help me, but I know she also wants to be studying. Early one Friday morning we drive to Iowa City for her test. She is nervous, but doesn't talk about it. Three long weeks later she tells me her TOEFL score with a huge smile on her face, jumping up and down as excited as a child at Christmas. Her score is more than adequate. Now a junior, she can begin in earnest to look at colleges.

— Lisa Bingham, guidance counselor

– the team reinforcing roof trusses to support the action of this year's musical

– Mr. Cid Irvine building the Lost Boys' mushroom cap chimney

– Mrs. Laurie Lempia taking a break from the accounts to examine a skinned knee

– Mrs. Lynn Jahl at Mercy Hospital with Julieth's broken leg

– Pippy, the three-legged dog, with the rest of "her girls" at Dupee

– Marie cantering Merritt (but not on purpose) for the first time...

— Tom Jahl, business manager

Our Mission: In Christ Jesus' name we offer hope through relationship and structure in an international boarding and day school environment.

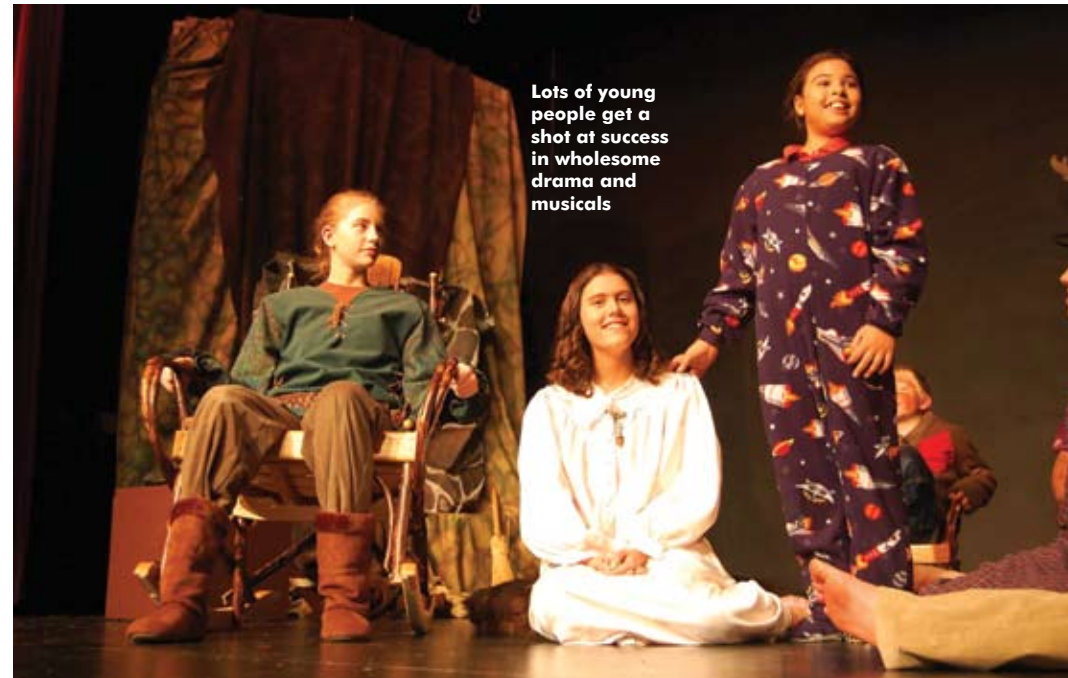
I wish you could see

I wish you could see... Maedot, an Ethiopian girl who wants to be a doctor. She registers for the English language proficiency test (TOEFL) soon after arriving this semester. She is studious and hard working. Every Tuesday and Thursday she comes after school to help me in the guidance office as

I wish you could see



Yoo Jin and Ha Eun clown in their dorm parents' kitchen



Lots of young people get a shot at success in wholesome drama and musicals

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Cono is accredited by Christian Schools International and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students, and accepts students of all races and church affiliations. Bible Presbyterian Church, which operates Cono Christian School, is a member church of the Presbyterian Church in America. Tel. (319) 448-4395. FAX (319) 448-4397. Website: cono.org VISIT US, in person, or at our website.

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real grace cono.org bulletin

2008 REPORT

I wish you could see

...things that we see...students we see...changes we see...support we see...

Not everyone can visit Cono Christian School, in rural Walker, Iowa, midwestern United States. I've taken hundreds of people on tours in recent years. One was a representative of the North Central Association accrediting body. After nearly

two hours on campus, he conceded "This is ten times more than I thought it would be." (Wonder what he thought it would be?)

Eight of us offer perspective, a virtual tour of Cono's program and emotion. I'll go first. I wish you could see the support that students give each other. Has something to do with being a boarding school and living together all the time. Last year some board members attended a student recital on campus. They were amazed at the way the students supported their peers after each piece, clapping and yelling. Same with the soccer team, having completed a perfect season in October.

—Andrew Belz, chancellor



Victory line clapping for the soccer team

I wish you could see

Teachers and students on their way together to class bent forward shoulder-first into November's icy wind.

Junior high boys rapidly spreading tablecloths, plates, and silver—one-half step ahead of Mrs. Jones and the dinner hour.

Another generation of elementary children finding the Christmas tune and story for Mary Anna Belz.

Cornstark yellow against still green soccer fields.

Serious Korean clarinetists holding the middle

against the less accomplished rooters and tooters of Cono's small orchestra.

Andrew praise-prostrate on the Business Office floor after opening an envelope with a larger than anticipated check inside.

Returning graduates taking a Thanksgiving break in every spare corner and closet of Cono housing.

New Headmaster Tom Bingham waving into the hallway from behind his flashing big-screen Mac.

Adopted Anna from Xian almost able to circumvent Pastor Duple's middle age girth with a belonging hug.

—*Dave Toerper, director of admissions*



The team gets support from the non-team

I wish you could see

I wish you could see "Epiphany!" written on the faces and pages of my students. My senior-level courses are full of them. The faces have bright eyes and hinted at smiles which betray new found knowledge. The pages of essays likewise hold revelations of knowing and exclamations of understanding. Together, these looks and words are evidence of years of work. For some students, they are the spoils of emotional battles. For others, they are the reward for winning out over apathy, addiction and abuse. In every case, they are the surprise that comes from the Holy Spirit. These

gifts, these "Eureka!" moments for both me and them, are given by God. I wish you could see them, His Light in their lives.

—*Josh Haveman, English teacher*



Jae Eun and Soliyana

I wish you could see

I wish you could see students wrestling with the concept of a world view. To see the light dawn in their eyes as they realize that their actions reflect what they truly believe is a marvel. Students start to see that they need the complete transformation that Christ effects if their lives are truly to be changed. Cono provides the opportunity to see such light dawning every day. —*Tom Bingham, headmaster*

I wish you could see

As I have the blessed, fully fortunate opportunity to visit our classrooms, I wish you could experience what I see on an almost daily basis at Cono—teachers effectively instructing students using their unique methods and strategies to promote learning. I wish you could see an enthusiastic Pete Baron (science) helping students build a human DNA helix, or Michelle Haveman taking advantage of visitors bearing gifts to turn it into a Spanish lesson in vocabulary. I wish you could hear Dave Wilson with his wit, humor, and intellect instructing students class after class (Latin, algebra, American literature) in apparent ease



Grant and his dad, teacher Pete Baron

with relish for the subject at hand. I wish you could come with me to visit Debbie Duple in her primary classroom as her well-designed lesson about nutrition unfolds and she marches around the room and gleefully sings with her children, "We love our vegetables, yes we do!" Or even come with me to the gym to marvel at young athletes straining to meet the challenges that Nathaniel Underwood has prepared distinctly for them on the basketball court. I praise God for providing these teachers for these students. He is in charge of all of our accomplishments, and so I thank Him for all that we have been able to accomplish here within these Cono walls.

—*Linda Toerper, academic assistant*



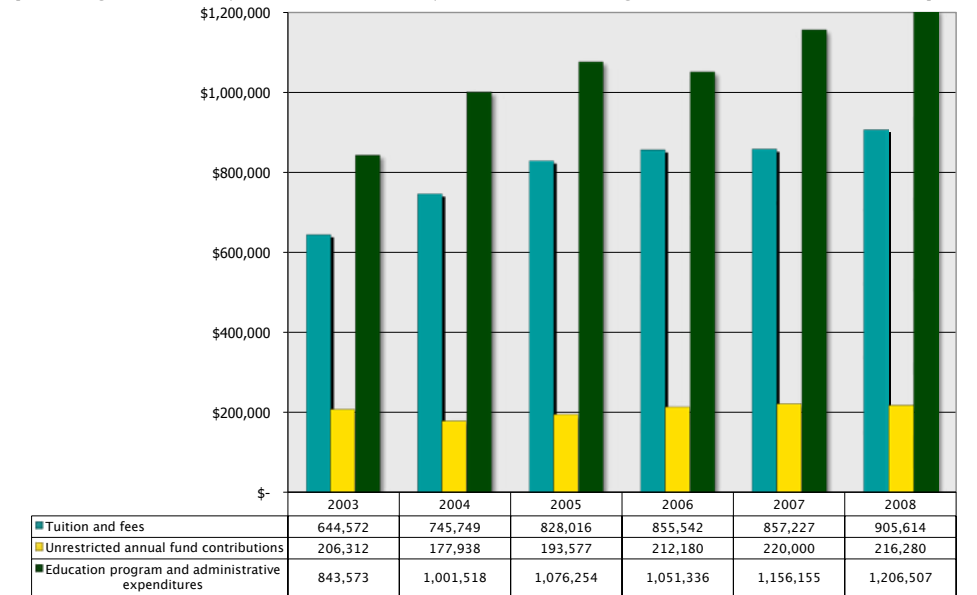
PHOTOS BY JOSH HAVEMAN



Student Center

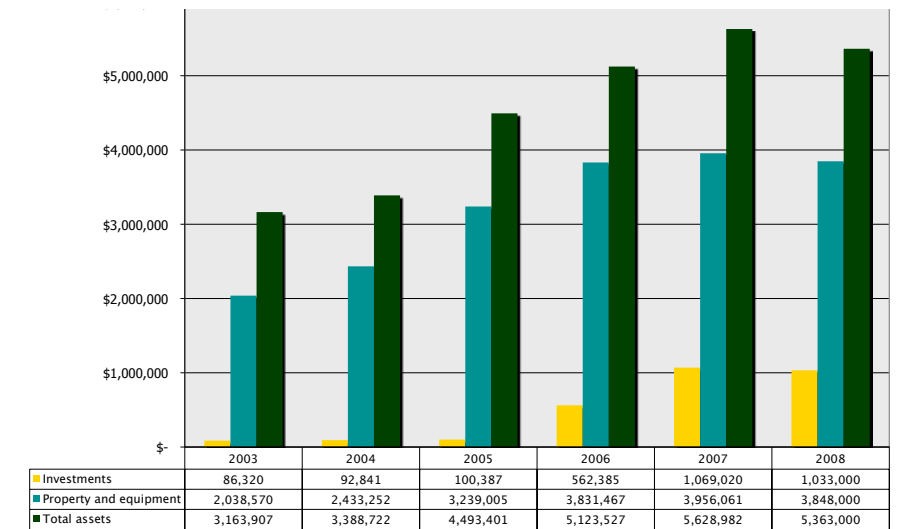
Facts and Figures

Operating Revenues (Tuition, Fees, Gifts) v. Education Program and Administrative Expenses



The gap between tuition and fees (light green) and expenses (dark green) is largely made up by gifts from friends, parents and alumni of Cono in the Annual Fund (yellow). Thank you for helping us end the last six years "in the black" (cash in, cash out). Sustaining physical assets against depreciation is a separate additional need which we must begin to address each year.

Assets and Investments



Investments are also known as "Endowment" (for improved salaries, campus upkeep, and student scholarships). Both campus facilities and the endowment have been increased over the last years as a result of the Campaign for Cono and by bequests, but our total assets decline as three factors combine: depreciation, funds applied to the repayment of campaign projects previously completed, and the decline in the value of the investments portfolios.