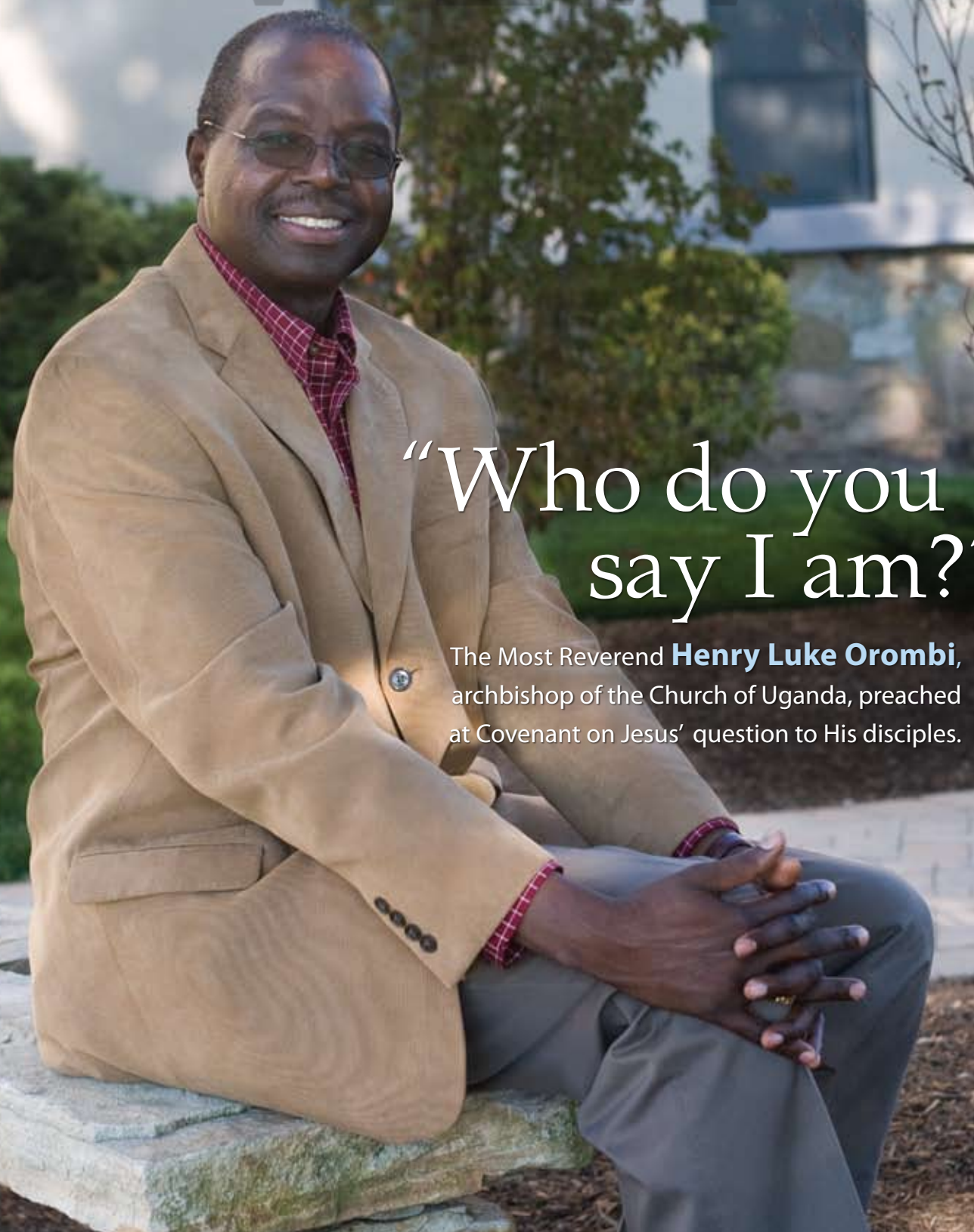


THE VIEW



“Who do you
say I am?”

The Most Reverend **Henry Luke Orombi**,
archbishop of the Church of Uganda, preached
at Covenant on Jesus' question to His disciples.

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

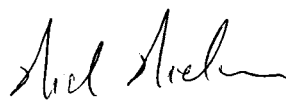
This issue of *The View* provides another set of remarkable glimpses into the life and impact of Covenant College, both off campus and on.

Alex '06 and RiLee Robeson '06 are researching new treatments for cancer and Alzheimer's disease, respectively, in their roles at a not-for-profit institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Their important work reminds us of the crucial value of bringing aspiration, learning, and compassion together, an integration that has been the hallmark of a Covenant education from the very beginning. Alex and RiLee represent many Covenant alumni who are putting their education to use in the field of scientific and other technical research, for the good of millions.

You'll also get a glimpse into Covenant's connections with the world of business. Business education at Covenant is grounded in our convictions about God's calling to steward and develop his creation gifts to us: human talents, creativity, the people around us, opportunities to serve and bless. The remarkable record of how Christian businessmen and businesswomen have created economic value and wealth is a clear testimony to the order and potentialities of God's magnificent creation. The fruit of their labors shows up in the creation of jobs, the ability of families and communities to sustain themselves economically, the support of churches and schools and ministries around the world – treasures mined through effective and profitable business, to the glory of God.

Connecting our students' discovery of their callings to the wider realities of God's purposes is fueled often on campus by invited speakers who raise our awareness, fire our imaginations, and inspire us to gospel action around the world. Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi, head of the Anglican Communion of Uganda, was with us for five days this past fall and we are pleased to present here excerpts from his first message to us on September 19, 2007.

In the grace and service of Jesus Christ,



Niel Nielson, Ph.D.
President



THE VIEW

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MISSION STATEMENT

The View's purpose is to: Encourage alumni, parents and friends to keep Christ preeminent in all areas of their lives • Give alumni, parents and friends—our most important ambassadors—stories and information about the College, its students, alumni, faculty, and staff • Provide alumni with an ongoing connection to the Covenant community • Give God's people news about Covenant that will encourage them to praise, thank, and petition our Heavenly Father.

COVENANT
COLLEGE

IN ALL THINGS CHRIST PREEMINENT



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BUILD CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

The BUILD campaign is Covenant's current five-year, \$31 million effort to advance the College's mission. Read about our recent Chattanooga event in the enclosed newsletter.



ON THE COVER

The Most Reverend Henry Luke Orombi was the distinguished speaker for our annual Neal Conference on True Spirituality.

Read about his rescue from demonic forces and his ministry in Uganda on pp. 7-10.

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The Anglican archbishop of the Church of Uganda paid a visit to Covenant last fall for our annual Neal Conference on True Spirituality. Read excerpts from one of his moving sermons here, and listen to the full conference on iTunes U.

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Two years after graduation this young alumni couple is researching new treatments for cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

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Faces of Business

Hundreds of Covenant alumni make a living in the dynamic environment of the business world, and an increasing number of students are taking that path. Read interviews with a few of them, and find out why they are drawn to business.

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Faculty View

Do you view employees as image bearers and wise investments? Dr. Scott Quatro discusses the theology and business of investing in employees.

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Alumni of the Year Awards

Meet the three alumni we presented with awards at our annual Homecoming chapel.

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Alumni News

Updates and pictures contributed by alumni.

Covenant on iTunes U

Is Covenant on your iPod yet?

We're pleased to announce that we have partnered with Apple to launch Covenant College on iTunes U. Apple's iTunes U program allows colleges and universities to make resources available free of charge to a worldwide audience. Users simply need an Internet connection and Apple's free iTunes software.

Visitors to itunes.covenant.edu will find free audio resources such as lectures by Covenant's own faculty and invited speakers, as well as sermons by President Nielson, Chaplain Messner, and The Most Reverend Henry Luke Orombi. Dr. Don Petcher's convocation address is available for download, as are several conferences.



You have the option of listening to tracks online or downloading files to your computer or MP3 player. And you can subscribe to the podcasts of your favorite albums.

Brock Lectures Series Features Former PepsiCo CEO

On the occasion of the second annual Brock Lecture Series on Authentic Christian Leadership, guest speaker Steve Reinemund addressed the Covenant community in chapel and spoke at other focused events for alumni, students, faculty, and the Chattanooga business community.

A 23-year PepsiCo veteran, Reinemund was the company's CEO from 2001-2006 and chairman of the board

until his retirement in 2007. He serves on the boards of directors of American Express, Exxon, Johnson & Johnson, Marriott, and the United States Naval Academy Foundation.

The Brock Lecture Series, named in honor of former Covenant College president Dr. Frank Brock, was established to provide the opportunity to focus on biblical perspectives and applications in business and commerce.

Parents Weekend

Thanks to all the parents who joined us for a wonderful Parents Weekend 2008 in early February. We enjoyed fellowship with you, and we know your students were grateful for the chance to show you around campus.

We look forward to seeing you again for Parents Weekend 2009! Stay tuned for details.

We would also like to remind you that if you have not already subscribed to the Parents eNewsletter you may do so at covenant.edu/parents. After subscribing, you will receive regular e-mail updates with information we think you would find helpful.



Mr. Steve Reinemund (right) was the invited speaker for Covenant's second annual Brock Lecture Series on Authentic Christian Leadership, named in honor of former Covenant president Dr. Frank Brock.

New Academic Building Opening This Spring

Covenant's newest academic building opens this spring. Located across from Carter Hall, between Probasco Alumni/Visitor Center and the Dora Maclellan Brown Memorial Chapel, the academic building is a welcome addition.

It will be the new home of the education, foreign language, interdisciplinary studies, and sociology departments, as well as the Chalmers Center. Boasting a prime view of Chattanooga, this new building features classrooms, a lecture hall, faculty offices, a faculty lounge, and both indoor and outdoor common space. See the BUILD campaign newsletter inside this issue of *The View* for more news on campus developments.



A new academic building on the north end of campus opens this spring.

Anne Caudle Rymer, 1920-2007

On December 30, 2007, Anne Caudle Rymer died in a way that reflected how she had lived, with great faith, calm, and love. Her family was with her as she departed after a sudden onset of pneumonia.

Anne Rymer and her late husband Skeet were loyal and generous friends of Covenant College. Rymer Hall, where approximately 100 students live, bears testimony to their heart for students.

"When Mrs. Rymer was here in the fall," said Vice President Troy Duble, "it was wonderful to see her face light up when she met the students who live in Rymer Hall—students we're preparing at Covenant for their roles in Christ's kingdom."

We mourn her death, yet give thanks to God for the life and witness of Anne Rymer who today is with her Lord.



Chemistry Department Receives Donation of Two GC-Mass Spectrometers

A California laboratory was closing and wanted to find a new home for its two GC-mass spectrometers. Dr. Dan Zuidema, assistant professor of chemistry, was instrumental in procuring this equipment for Covenant—from an owner who offered to donate the spectrometers when he learned that they would be used for educational and research purposes.

GC-mass spectrometers are tools for determining the identity of organic compounds, and are useful in medicine, law enforcement, and research. A single new spectrometer system retails for upwards of \$50,000.

The instruments arrived on campus in late January.

Scots Soccer Wins Regional Title

The men's soccer team defeated Milligan College on November 3, claiming the NAIA Region XII championship and earning a bid to the national tournament, eventually falling to MidAmerica Nazarene. The Scots' squad was ranked 25th in the country.

Student-athletes from both the men's and women's teams earned post-season honors, including four First Team All-Conference players: Kalie Estrada '09, Lydia Jones '09, Rebecca Sasscer '08, and Jake Warren '09. Warren was also

tapped as an Honorable Mention All-American.

Men's soccer head coach John Miglarese was named 2007 AAC Coach of the Year following a 12-3-1 regular season record.



Commencement Speaker Rep. Pete Hoekstra

Congressman Pete Hoekstra of Michigan is the speaker for Covenant's 53rd annual commencement exercises on May 3.

Rep. Hoekstra was named chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and he is a senior member of the House Committee on Education and Labor. He is a member of several task forces and cau-

Financial Highlights

Year Ended June 30, 2007

Covenant has been prudent in its financial management since its founding over fifty years ago and fully discloses its financial statements to maintain accountability. Below is an overview of finances for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. If you would like a copy of the most recent President's Report or audited financial statement, you may contact Jen Allen at jen.allen@covenant.edu with your request.

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	\$32,417,592	\$31,917,359	\$29,154,724
Temporarily Restricted	17,971,615	11,451,032	4,721,146
Permanently Restricted	15,923,475	13,465,930	11,222,131
Total Net Assets	\$66,312,682	\$56,834,321	\$45,098,001
Tuition and Fees	\$22,271,867	\$20,538,520	\$22,257,014
Less Student Assistance	(8,104,953)	(7,597,899)	(9,402,652)
Net Tuition and Fees	\$14,166,914	\$12,940,621	\$12,854,362
Gifts	\$9,708,780	\$7,640,847	\$4,711,585
Auxiliary Income	4,674,647	4,123,012	3,921,699
Independent Operations	1,240,689	1,065,172	1,037,088
Investment Gains (Losses)	3,248,191	1,221,715	1,149,990
Government and Private Grants	833,085	944,339	848,003
Total Expenses	\$25,727,421	\$23,636,324	\$23,143,585

goFigure

1578

Year of publication of the oldest book in Kresge Memorial Library

411

New donors still needed during the BUILD campaign to meet goal

26

Percentage of student body that participated in an intercultural trip or off-campus experience last year

11.536

Tons of yogurt consumed in the Great Hall during the academic year

41

Rats trained in the fall semester by General Psychology students

85

Percentage of students who play intramural sports

27

Current students named David

27

Current students named Sarah

cuses, including the Immigration Reform Caucus and the Congressional Manufacturing Caucus. He is the founding chair of the Education Freedom Caucus and the Congressional Caucus on the Netherlands.

We are pleased to have Rep. Hoekstra join us as our commencement speaker.



Rep. Pete Hoekstra

American Premiere of *A Bright Particular Star*

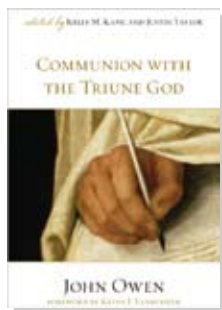
Under the direction of Associate Professor of Communication Camille Hallstrom, the communication department staged the American premiere of award-winning Canadian playwright Ron Reed's *A Bright Particular Star* in February.

The story is of George MacDonald, famous 19th century novelist and theologian, and his daughter Lilia, a young girl with a passion for the stage. The drama follows Lilia's journey, urged by admirers such as Mark Twain, Lewis Carroll, and Kate Terry, as she attempts to pursue her love of theatre in a society that believes the stage is not the place for a Christian. Lilia responds insightfully: "Simply because the battle is difficult, do we hand it over to the enemy?"



Sarah Hamilton '08 (left) and Hannah Smith '08 starred in *A Bright Particular Star*.

Professors Kapic and Allen Publish Books



Dr. Kelly Kapic, associate professor of theological studies, has edited, with Justin Taylor, the book *Communion with the Triune God*, published by Crossway Books.

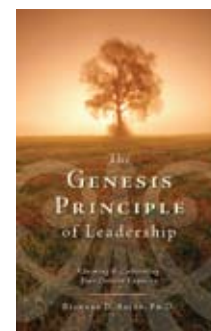
"A modern reader's edition of a classic Puritan work by a classic Puritan author," says J. I. Packer, *Communion with the Triune God* "is a powerful Trinitarian profiling from Scripture of the truth that fellowship with God is and must ever be the inside story of the real Christian's life.

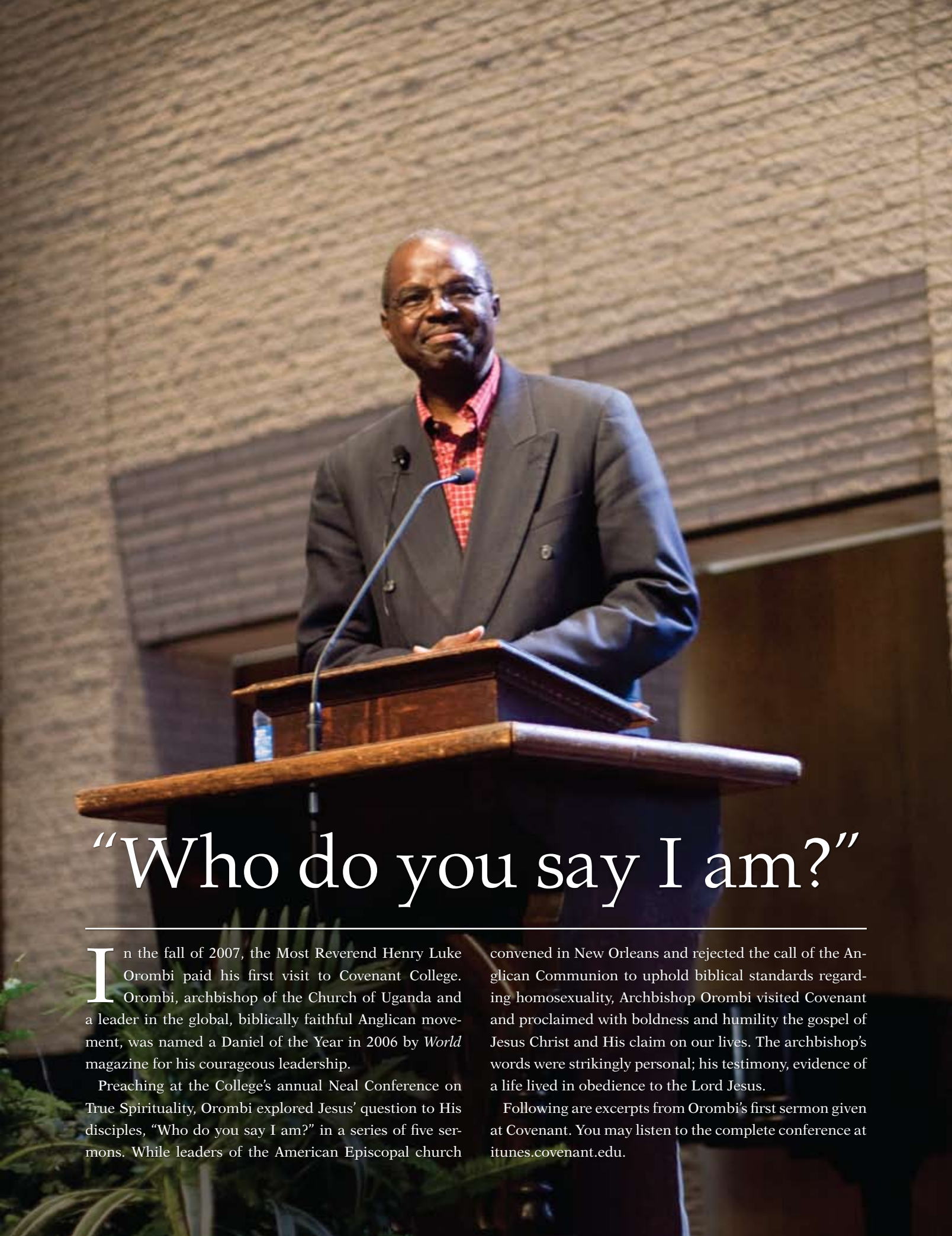
The editing is excellent, and the twenty-seven page introduction and the twenty-five page analytical outline make the treatise accessible, even inviting, to any who, with Richard Baxter, see 'heart-work' as the essence of Christianity."

Dr. Richard Allen, professor of organizational management for Covenant's Quest program, has authored his first book, *The Genesis Principle of Leadership: Claiming & Cultivating Your Created Capacity*.

"Dick Allen lifts out of the Bible those traits that we can all learn, traits that make us leaders in the best sense of the word," says Dr. Frank Brock. In his book, Allen relates that the capacity for great leadership is an inherent, created aptitude within each of us; and God not only equips us to lead, Allen says, He commands us to lead.

Communion with the Triune God and *The Genesis Principle of Leadership* are available in Covenant's bookstore, the Tuck Shoppe, and online at covenant.edu/tuckshoppe.





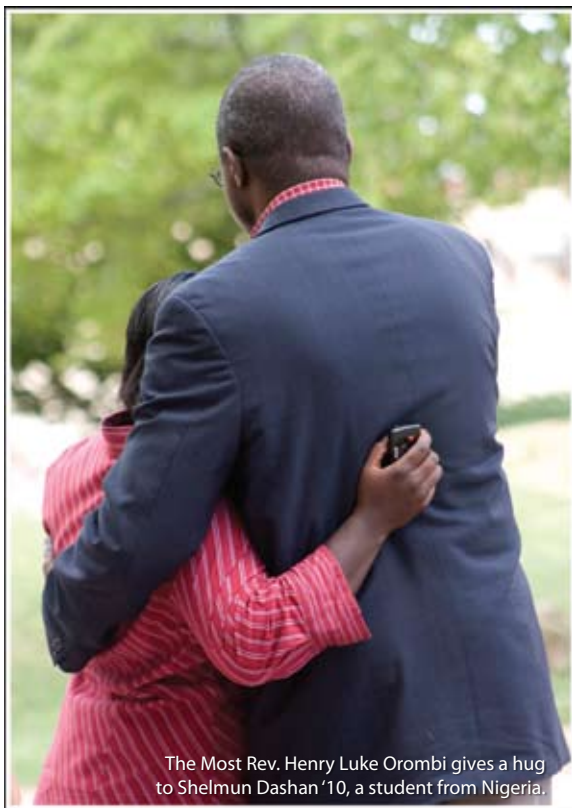
“Who do you say I am?”

In the fall of 2007, the Most Reverend Henry Luke Orombi paid his first visit to Covenant College. Orombi, archbishop of the Church of Uganda and a leader in the global, biblically faithful Anglican movement, was named a Daniel of the Year in 2006 by *World* magazine for his courageous leadership.

Preaching at the College's annual Neal Conference on True Spirituality, Orombi explored Jesus' question to His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" in a series of five sermons. While leaders of the American Episcopal church

convened in New Orleans and rejected the call of the Anglican Communion to uphold biblical standards regarding homosexuality, Archbishop Orombi visited Covenant and proclaimed with boldness and humility the gospel of Jesus Christ and His claim on our lives. The archbishop's words were strikingly personal; his testimony, evidence of a life lived in obedience to the Lord Jesus.

Following are excerpts from Orombi's first sermon given at Covenant. You may listen to the complete conference at itunes.covenant.edu.



The Most Rev. Henry Luke Orombi gives a hug to Shelmun Dashan '10, a student from Nigeria.

Rescued from Demons

Let me take you back a little bit from my own background. My father was a medium, meaning he had demonic forces—twelve of them—in my own village. My grandfather worshiped these demons, and all of us did; we had shrines in our village. These demonic forces were so demanding. . . .

I remember one day I went into the shrine, and I sat on the stool in that shrine. I called the demonic forces. I said, “My grandfather’s spirits, if you are there, come to me.” I think they did, because I remember that it wasn’t easy for me to come to Jesus Christ. I had a battle with God for three solid nights. I could not sleep. I did not know what was happening. My heart was pumping. I was sweating. I just didn’t understand myself.

For three nights at conviction I had a battle going on inside. The Lord is calling me and I’m saying “No way. I need my freedom. I want to be myself.” Friends, after three nights I was tired. I was fed up. And then the Holy Spirit began to speak to me. Now I know it was the Holy Spirit. He said, “Why

don’t you try Jesus?” So I got out of bed, knelt by my bed, and I said a very ugly but desperate short prayer. I said, “Lord, I’m a sinner. I ask you to forgive me. But may you please give me some sleep as well.” I hadn’t slept for three nights.

This good God came into my life, gave me sleep, forgave my life and forgave my sin, and gave me new life. The morning I woke up, I told my dorm-mates: “I met Jesus Christ; I made a decision.” They just laughed at me. . . .

Jesus came into my life. Jesus opened my eyes. Jesus showed me the way. Jesus gave me confidence, and He gave me identity. Jesus gave me new passion and new desire. Jesus gave me a destiny, and Jesus helped me to walk His way.

My dear friends, I stand to proclaim the living Jesus with whom I’ve walked for forty years, from the age of eighteen. I am now fifty-eight. The Lord Jesus Christ has been so dependable. He has been so reliable, that if I’m going to market anybody or anything, the best I can market is the Lord Jesus Christ to you young people.

Ministry Beginnings and Spiritual Battles

He called me to be a youth pastor, and I began a youth pastor ministry in the year 1979. I met many young people in that part of Uganda where I was a youth pastor. . . . My bishop told me, “You are a teacher. You know young people. I give you the young people, but I don’t have transport for you.”

I started walking. And where I could find young people, I met young people. I shared my heart out with young people, and they came to Jesus Christ.

I saw the Lord do things in the lives of young people. This is the reason I believe I need to empty myself into young people, because I do know that the future of our nations and the future of our church depend on young people. And I admit to you, I really honor you, beloved. When I meet you, I am really filled with great admiration for you, because I do believe that among you the Lord is raising men and women of tomorrow, men and women who are going to be leaders of our nations and also great people in our church. And I do know that God has a plan and a purpose for your life.

I poured my life into the young people. I brought them in to Jesus Christ. I taught them what it means to walk in the Lord. I taught them what it means to be a prayerful man or woman, and I taught them what it means to witness. And as the young people grew up in their faith, then the Lord said to me, “Move on.” And I moved on to become an archdeacon. You see [to be] an archdeacon in my church, you must be a bald-headed man, or a grey-haired person. And I was a very young man, a guitar-flinging young man. I arrived in this place and everybody looked at me and said, “He’s too young to be the archdeacon.” But the Jesus I believe in is very old and very understanding.

For six years I battled with a few things. Number one, I battled in that area with demonic forces. Now I am not sure whether you follow me when I talk about demonic forces. I used to think that demons were in Africa, until I came to England and I found them there too. We did a ministry of exorcism in England with people who were under the oppression of the power of darkness. The thing about Africa is that our situation is black and white – you can tell. . . . The enemy works in the Western world in a very subtle manner. He is hidden somewhere and, until God gives you discernment, you can never tell.



Assisted by Kat Konieczny '09 and David Scott '08 and in gratitude for his visit to Covenant, President Nielson presented Archbishop Orombi with a banner created by Doreen Kellogg.

In this area I found the devil at work. There was occult, there was wizardry, there were all kinds of funny things. . . . Friends, the very month I got there, there were not only occult forces, but there were also robbers who came and attacked a visiting medical team and killed somebody. His body fell next to our church, and I was frightened.

I said to God, "I'm in the wrong place. Will you help me?" The Holy Spirit said, "Pray." And we began praying. My wife, myself, two ordained people, a layman—we covenanted, "We'll pray." On Fridays from 9:00 to 6:00 the following day—every Friday we would fall on our faces and ask God for intervention, for a breakthrough. We cried, and I cried desperately, more or less out of fear. I am so happy that when fear drove me to God, that was the right place.

After six months, things began to happen. As I preached the gospel in the area, people began to receive the Lord.

Hearts began to open up. It was like the darkness over the area began to roll away. Friends, in America, a hundred or so years ago, did you not used to call Africa "the dark continent"? That is a continent where the sun shines twelve hours a day, three-hundred and sixty-five days a year. Why were we dark? Because we did not know God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to thank you because your ancestors brought the gospel to us.

I am sorry to say: the darkness over Africa has rolled and has come over America and over Europe. I was flying last night all the way from Jacksonville to this place. Your country is well lit by electricity. But the gospel of Christ is at stake in this nation. I call upon you young people to take the challenge of yet lighting again America with the gospel of Jesus Christ. That the passion your ancestors had—and they came to us and braved every kind of calamity and danger and wild tribe and animal

and disease, a hundred years ago—that passion come back to you, that you may rise up again, like the great America politically and militarily, but also in the gospel of Christ. That among you will be counted men and women who will lay down their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ. This gospel rolled away the darkness over my area and people's eyes lit up. People began to be happy, and we began to again come back. I can tell you: within six years, that little place exploded with salvation, and we were given a daughter-son status. I was asked to be the first bishop.

A Daughter Dies

I remember the day that I was in the UK—after three years I had finished my degree and I was packing to go home. . . . I gave lunch to my three-year-old daughter, Deborah. I put her to rest and to have a little nap. She never woke up. She died. I was in the house. This little girl, when her mother wanted her for

tea at four o'clock, she picked up a dead child.

For the first time death entered our family, and death entered our family when I was in the house. My wife put down the baby and came to me and said, "Deborah is dead." I went upstairs and I picked up the body of my dear daughter, and I looked at her dead face, and I said to God, "Thank you for giving us Deborah for three years. Thank you for allowing her to be with us, as our daughter, for three years. Thank you for taking her away."

It took them a week before the body of that little girl was put to rest. God gave me such an energy to preach at the funeral of my own daughter. The reason was simple: death is not the final stop. Death is a passage. I came to understand we don't lose our loved ones at all to death. No, we don't. We went home and left the body of our daughter in England, but we knew where she was.

Friends, I came to understand that there is something of Christian hope that other religions don't have. I will want to proclaim that as an answer to their dilemma and the fear that mankind has against death.

Rejoicing and a Commission

I want to rejoice, finally, friends, that in Jesus Christ, God has given me brothers and sisters globally. . . . My coming here really is because [retired Covenant College professor] Dr. Krabbendam, a great friend of mine, a man of God, a very determined teacher of the Word of God, has given his life for the people of Uganda, my country. May I also thank Covenant College for sending students to come to my country? Many have come to my country. Many have shared the gospel with my country, with my country people, and we have built a relationship.

The reason I'm here, too, is that I'm coming to build a bridge between Anglicans and Presbyterians, because I believe that when we come on the other side of eternity, our denominational levels will remain here. There we are only those who are cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ and have the identity from heaven. I come here so that we can begin to work together under the Great Commission that God has called us to be a witnessing community to a world that is so desperate. I come here, friends, to allow you to know that the seed of the gospel planted by your ancestor has grown up and has born fruit now. That now, in Africa, we are reaping the fruits that your ancestors planted there, and I come to provoke you to jealousy, so that you too may get up and go out again.

I am so sad that once upon a time a church here that was so passionate about mission is no longer the kind of church that I knew. . . . What has

I am banking on you, that God will stir your heart yet again—that God will let you go out and make a sacrifice for the Kingdom purpose. The Lord bless you.

A Prayer

Father, I thank you. I thank you for your church here in the chapel today. I thank you for the faculty of Covenant College, the leadership of Covenant College. Master, you have raised men and women here like potters to mold the next generation. Father, I pray for wisdom. I pray for discernment. I ask you, Lord, to teach them in order to teach the next generation. . . .

I pray for the young men and young women that you have called to come and pass through this institution. Father, I ask that your glory may be revealed upon them, that your power may rest upon each person, that hearts will turn to you, that people will know what you want them to be tomorrow. And prepare them now for what you have for them for tomorrow.

Lord, I ask, too, that the Holy Spirit will speak clearly to many, many people about the commission that you have on their lives—that they will know for certain, "The Lord has claim on my life and I want to give my life to Jesus Christ, that He may use me to bring transformation to this world." I ask for your blessings, Lord, on this college.

Father, as we stay here for the next two days, I pray that the mighty presence of God will settle upon this hill. I pray that

the peace of the Lord will settle on this hill. I also pray that the release of God will bring abundant joy and love here on this hill. And what you purposed this hill to be, this college to be, will honor the name of the only Son of God, the Jesus of Nazareth. And in His mighty name I pray, amen. 🙏



Dr. Henry Krabbendam, retired professor of biblical studies, was instrumental in arranging the archbishop's visit to Covenant. Krabbendam, his daughter, and two grandchildren talk with Orombi following chapel.

happened to the passion? What has happened to the great desire that the Dr. David Livingstone had to come to the middle of Africa and die in Africa and have his heart buried in Africa? What happened? I believe the season is come for the church of Christ to rise up again. Now let me just say this: I am banking on you, friends, young people,



Diligence & Genomics

Young Alumni Research Cures for Cancer and Alzheimer's

When Alex '06 and RiLee Herbert Robeson '06 were born in the same hospital in Bethesda twelve days apart, they couldn't have known their paths would cross again. Yet not only did they meet again in college, but both decided to pursue medical research instead of medical practice during their years at Covenant as pre-med majors. And they got married to boot.

If you talked to RiLee and Alex, you wouldn't guess by their down-to-earth tone that they are involved

in advanced medical research using highly sophisticated technology. They are the couple next door who just happen to be researching the development of new treatments for Alzheimer's and cancer as their day jobs.

Working in Phoenix, Arizona, for a non-profit research organization called the Translational Genomics Research Institute ("TGen"), Alex and RiLee find themselves fulfilling their callings in ways they had not quite imagined a

They are the couple next door who just happen to be researching the development of new treatments for Alzheimer's and cancer as their day jobs.

few short years before. TGen's mission is to "develop earlier diagnostics and smarter treatments" by "employing innovative advances arising from the Human Genome Project and applying them to the development of diagnostics, prognostics and therapies for cancer, neurological disorders, diabetes and other complex diseases." The institute focuses on identifying the genetic causes of diseases rather than on

treating the symptoms.

Alex, working in the pharmaceutical genomics division, sees great po-

tential in this type of research. "I think that we are making some amazing strides," he says. "The work that I do is made possible by the fact that researchers identified these different genes.

"There are going to be better surgeries for people in the future because of the work that all these people are doing."

RiLee, who works in Alzheimer's research, agrees. "There are people devoting a ton of time to [this research]," she

says. "What we're trying to do is find something we can treat with a drug to hopefully slow [the disease] down or stop it dead in its tracks."

The two took somewhat different journeys to get here. The first improbable step was their meeting at Covenant. RiLee had spent her freshman year at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and then decided to transfer to Covenant her sophomore year. Meanwhile, Alex was a freshman at Covenant and was planning to transfer to Princeton University the next fall to study architecture.

"At the last minute, he decided to stay, and that was the year we met," RiLee says.

They had just started dating their junior year at Covenant when RiLee got a phone call from Alex's mom asking kindly what she planned to do that summer.

"I panicked," RiLee says. Then she heard about Covenant's internship placement program and contacted then-coordinator Marla Randolph: "I said, 'I'm here, I'm interested in biology.'"

They found out about TGen's internship program, but were told that the internships were all full for the

"What we're trying to do is find something we can treat with a drug to slow the disease down or stop it dead in its tracks."

summer of 2005. RiLee walked into Target the next day to pick up an application, and while she was in Target, TGen called and informed her that a position had opened up. RiLee called Randolph immediately, and soon the whole internship was arranged. From there, RiLee fell in love with research and decided to forego the medical school route that she had planned on.

"I paid my dues doing the grunt work that interns always do," RiLee says. "But we wouldn't be where we are right now if it wasn't for the internship program."

Alex applied to medical schools his junior year of college, but he did not get in. "That had me in a bit of a pickle, so to speak," Alex says. "And my senior year I did a bit of soul-searching, wondering what I should pursue."

They got engaged three days before graduation in May of 2006. Alex took a job at an engineering company in Greenville, South Carolina, while RiLee went back to Phoenix to do another

internship at TGen that summer. It transitioned into a full-time job in the fall. They waited until May of 2007 to get married so that Alex's brother, who was on a tour of duty in Iraq, could be at the wedding.

"Right around January I began to feel the heat of needing to get a job," Alex says. "I had a job at the engineering company, but it wasn't going anywhere. I started exploring in the biology field. It turns out that Phoenix has a lot more biology research work than Greenville."

A research associate position opened up at TGen, and Alex started the job a week before he and RiLee got married.

"Through the whole thing, from the very beginning, we can see God's hand," says RiLee. "His timing was everything."

The supervisors in the lab think highly of RiLee and Alex. Dr. Michael Barrett, Alex's supervisor, says "the work that Alex is directly doing is applying very cutting edge genomic profiling of patient samples, including pancreatic tumors, to identify in very sophisticated ways what genes and cellular processes are aberrant in each patient and how to target them effectively with therapy."

TGen researchers use the latest technologies to analyze DNA to identify genes that may cause disease.

"Research is different from what some people think," RiLee says. "It's not as if you're in the lab and every five minutes someone is shouting 'Eureka!' It really challenges your thinking, just to be innovative and say, 'Let's look at it from this perspective and move forward.'"

The people at TGen make time for fun, however. Sometimes they play



RiLee Robeson '06 focuses her research on finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. She works for TGen, a non-profit research institute in Phoenix where she interned during her years as a Covenant student.



In the pharmaceutical genomics division of TGen, Alex Robeson '06 works with other researchers to develop new treatments for cancer.

pranks. They can wear jeans and t-shirts to work every day, and instead of casual Fridays they have “dress-up Fridays” when they go out together at the end of the day. Overall, the hours are flexible and the atmosphere is energetic.

“TGen will open up tours for people,” Alex says. “There have been times when I’m sitting at my desk and my boss comes in and he’s kind of excited. He’ll say, ‘Did you see who came in here?’ . . . One time a Nobel Prize winner came through.”

Alex and RiLee make room for other activities in their lives as well. They have found a good church in Phoenix and have gotten involved with the youth group there. Youth retreats, sporting events, and plays are keeping them busy and connected with the community. They plan to join a softball league soon.

Not only are they connected with a church, but with other Covenant alumni in the area. Both Alex and RiLee look back fondly on their experience at Covenant. They were both resident

assistants and were active members of the college community. They name professors Tim Morris, Jerry Wenger, Phillip Broussard, and Jack Lothers as having the biggest influence on them at Covenant. Dr. Morris especially encouraged them to pursue research.

“Neither were ‘science nerds,’” Morris says. “Their interests were broad and they were fully engaged in campus

jobs, particularly when those jobs are working on ridding the world of cancer and Alzheimer’s,” he says.

As Christians, Alex and RiLee have a firm ground from which to approach their work.

“I’ve been hoping to allow the non-science community to realize that science isn’t evil,” RiLee says. “It’s a wonderful thing and it’s created by

God. When it’s abused it can turn into something bad. The past year and a half has been a

year of observation. Not all scientists are atheists.”

For Alex and RiLee, scientific research is about working diligently and trusting God at the same time.

“You can approach [research] by saying whether we figure it out in this lifetime or not, our lives aren’t defined by the findings we make,” says Alex.

“We don’t know how exactly God is working, but we know God is working. We are called to work to the best of our abilities.” 

— by Heidi Kaufmann '05

Research is different from what some people think.
It’s not as if you’re in the lab and every five minutes someone is shouting ‘Eureka!’ It really challenges your thinking.

life. They enthusiastically sought to engage in Christian thinking and analysis across a whole range of topics and issues.”

RiLee values the friendships she made with professors and people in authority on campus. “Dr. Broussard ‘Facebooked’ me today, wanting to know how I was doing,” she says. “It was just priceless.”

Marshall Rowe, Covenant’s director of alumni relations, is excited by the work Alex and RiLee are doing so soon out of college. “It’s so great to see two alumni who are so excited about their



Philip Vierling '78



Megan Toms '99



Andrew Lee '09



Sarina den Dulk '08

FACES OF BUSINESS

■ interviews by Jen Allen

If asked about businesspeople we know, most of us could rattle off a dozen or more names. Business is the backbone of our economy, even in trying times. It's also one of the more popular majors at Covenant—evidence that a growing lot of students see a future for themselves in the business world. And,

as you will see in the following interviews, graduates from other majors pursue business careers as well—and testify that the liberal arts education they received at Covenant prepared them well for the challenges they face day to day.

Two of these Covenant alumni—Philip Vierling '78 and Megan Toms '99—and two Covenant students—Sarina den Dulk '08 and Andrew Lee '09—reflect on their business careers, or aspirations to careers in business.

A seasoned executive, Philip Vierling '78 is **CEO of Kalypto Medical**, a company in the medical device industry. When he is not in the office, Philip resides with his wife in Minnesota on a hobby farm that includes goats, llamas, and chickens.

Megan Toms '99 lives in Chattanooga and is a **manager at Chattem, Inc.**, a publicly-traded corporation that saw its revenues rise over 40% in 2007 to a record \$423 million.

Describe your experience in business.

VIERLING: My 29 years in the medical device industry provided me the opportunity for business roles in sales management, international sales, business development, marketing, and senior management. Eighteen of these years were with Empi, a Minnesota-based manufacturer of orthopedic rehabilitation devices, in which my last position was president and CEO. Currently I am the CEO of Kalypto Medical, a new venture developing a medical device to treat wounds associated with diabetic leg ulcers.

TOMS: My title is Wal-Mart Business Manager, and I work in the sales department at Chattem, Inc., on the Wal-Mart account. There are five of us that work as a team to sell Chattem's products to Wal-Mart, manage our inventory in Wal-Mart's stores around the country, and provide overall service to the Wal-Mart account. . . Wal-Mart is a very challenging customer to work with and there is always a new project on my list that pushes me a step further. This has provided a challenging work environment over the last eight years as my job has continued to evolve as our business has changed.

What led you to enter the business world?

VIERLING: After graduating from Covenant with a BA in biblical studies and a minor in Greek, I began seminary,

"The workplace is full of competing motives and interests, and resolving conflict becomes essential for a healthy business."

-Philip Vierling '78

but soon realized that I did not have what I felt was the "pastor's heart" for ministry. So I took a leave from seminary and moved back to Florida to work in the family business. I pursued my MBA through the University of South Florida, and discovered that my giftedness was a better match in the business world. After a few years in the family business, I was offered an opportunity with Empi, which later resulted in moving from Florida to Minnesota.

TOMS: I have always loved learning how businesses work and enjoy understanding the behind-the-scenes processes that make it all come together. When I was at Covenant, I started out as a business major with an accounting concentration, but ended up studying economics with an accounting concentration. I did not know what this would lead to, but I knew that I wanted to be involved in some sort of analysis or research field.

How has a career in business met or not met your expectations?

TOMS: My position at Chattem has

consistently changed over the years which has helped me continue to feel challenged and interested in what I am doing each day. This job has far exceeded my expectations from when I was first hired. When I started working at Chattem, I thought it would be for a short time period and then I would go on to graduate school. Instead, I found a job where I enjoy what I do, work with great people, and feel that I am able to contribute to the company as a whole.

What have you learned in your career?

TOMS: This is a hard question to answer since I feel that I have learned so much in my career at Chattem and that I am continuing to learn each day. One thing that comes to mind is the realization that knowledge will come from surprising places. There can be something to learn from even the most frustrating situations, and I often will come away from what can seem the most mundane task with greater knowledge that I will use in the future. The times when I enjoy my job the most are when all the pieces come to-

“Being able to step back from a situation, analyze the possibilities, and work with what you have to create a solution is an invaluable and necessary resource in the business world.” - Megan Toms '99

gether and you see the result that you have been working toward for months.

VIERLING: Grace. The opportunities that have been given me are really not because I trained for them. Okay, my Greek minor did assist me in finding the name Kalypto for my new company, but I have a tremendous appreciation for seeing how God's plan unfolded in my career. My mentor told me 25 years ago two things about business and the advancements I was making with my career. First, he reminded me that I was accountable to God in all the decisions I make. Second, he challenged me to ask myself each week how I was furthering the kingdom of God with my career. The wisdom gained from the simplicity of these two questions covers the full range of business ethics, stewardship, leadership, and goal setting.

How does your faith come into play in your work?

VIERLING: I can be a “nice” guy for the two hours each Sunday morning in church, but during the 60 hours in the workplace, the real me is seen. The workplace is full of competing motives and interests, and resolving conflict becomes essential for a healthy business. So often the tension that develops in the workplace has nothing to do with the actual project; the other person is struggling with severe family issues or has a major health concern or a personal addiction which is creating anxiety or depression. My relationship in the workplace provides me with more opportunity to walk alongside this person and talk about my faith. A person will share his story in the workplace before he ever goes into a church, and

I find it is at these moments that I can share my faith.

TOMS: My faith comes into play in my work constantly. Trying to glorify God through my attitude and in my work each day is a constant challenge for me. Whether it is keeping my temper in a time-sensitive situation, remembering to treat the worker on the other end of an e-mail as a real person, or making ethical business decisions, I feel that I am challenged each day to make better decisions than I often do.

What about your Covenant experience prepared you for a career in business?

TOMS: So much of what you need to know in business, or at least in my area of experience, you learn on the job; but one thing that I learned at Covenant that prepared me the most for my career was developing an ability to think. Being able to step back from a situation, analyze the possibilities, and work with what you have to create a solution is an invaluable and necessary resource in the business world. My experience at Covenant, specifically in my economics courses, helped me learn to step back from an idea or a situation and analyze it more fully from all sides. Covenant's core curriculum combined with my business classes helped me have a knowledge base to build from as I started my career.

VIERLING: Several years ago I was deposed as CEO and asked by the plaintiff's attorney how a Bible major from a small Christian college could be qualified to lead a \$165 million company. I remember my attorney cringing when I responded by thanking him for

asking a theological question and then explained the sovereignty of God as my response.

But on the serious side, Covenant provided me with the opportunity to think critically, to understand different worldviews, and to begin to grasp the nature of man which defines human relationships and conflicts. The size of the school enabled tremendous interaction between students and professors, which helped me refine and defend my positions versus just reciting facts. Business is looking for folks who can lead by understanding someone else's position, thinking through the options, and then providing clarity. Yes, my biblical studies major equipped me for this.

Do you have any advice for students interested in pursuing a business career?

TOMS: I think the tendency when you are in college is to ask how all of these courses will really help you in the future and how they will apply to your future job. My advice for students pursuing a business career is to understand that you will need to know everything you are studying now and so much more. . . Take advantage of the opportunity you have at Covenant to learn more about the world and how it works.

VIERLING: Take some additional courses outside the business offering that will enable you to understand relationships. Understand that your business career will be more than just your workplace, that this will become the place where God will use your gifts to get involved in other people's lives – people who need to hear the gospel.



She grew up on a dairy farm in Michigan and was an Academic All-American volleyball player the past two years. Sarina den Dulk '08 is graduating with a major in business, concentrations in accounting and finance, and a job with the world's largest investment firm.

Describe your thoughts on the role of Christians in business.

LEE: The role of Christians in business is extremely important! It is a creation mandate for mankind to work, and

an audience with unbelievers is to first demonstrate in your actions that something is drastically different about you – in essence, that you are not your own, but belong to Christ. The business world allows for just that daily

“It is a creation mandate for mankind to work, and businesses are a tangible result of living out that aspect of the created order.”

-Andrew Lee '09

Why did you choose to major in business?

DEN DULK: I've grown up watching my dad run his business, and it has always fascinated me. I love that people in business have the opportunity to produce something great or provide a service to others, that they are challenged with decision-making in a dynamic environment, and that they can work with people and organizations to accomplish their goals on a larger scale.

LEE: Picking business was the result of several factors falling into place. First, from a practical standpoint, it is a great choice because having a general knowledge of a business environment is so versatile. Everyone interacts with businesses, and most people eventually work in one. Second, a lot of business relies on solid numerical data for decision making, and I love to work with numbers while knowing the work I do is tied to practical importance. Third, the element of business professionalism suits my personality and ambitions well – I always strive to do the best I can at the tasks assigned to me.

businesses are a tangible result of living out that aspect of the created order.

Also, I have appreciated the emphasis at Covenant of being missions-oriented wherever our “little c” calling takes us, and I think there is hardly a more needy and influential mission field than the business world, especially in Western society. Most people will spend the majority of their waking hours at their job, so could there be a better place to exhibit a Christ-like life?

What's more, a great way to gain

living out of a Christ-like existence. Then the world cannot help but stand up and take notice.

DEN DULK: God calls us all to devote our gifts and our time to Him. Simply being a respected and outstanding member of the business community is an opportunity to witness practical Christianity. Businessmen and -women are leaders by necessity, and ideally by character as well. They should guide

Completing his junior year, Andrew Lee '09 is majoring in business, with concentrations in finance and accounting. He already has a wealth of internship experience under his belt and plans to become a CPA after he graduates.



“Working in financial markets has been a goal of mine because the idea that one can prosper through hard work, an informed understanding and vision of world events, and a willingness to take risks has always intrigued me.” - Sarina den Dulk '08

their employees and their organizations in a loving and Christian manner, exemplifying faultless integrity and work ethic. There are countless possibilities for service in business that will facilitate a Christian calling.

What are your career goals?

LEE: In the summer of 2008 I plan on completing a third summer for Weyerhaeuser Company, interning in their corporate-region Enterprise Accounting Center. Then after graduation from Covenant in the spring of 2009 I am seriously considering enrolling in either a master of accountancy program or an MBA program. This extra schooling will complete my prerequisites for being able to take the CPA exam. With a CPA certification I have numerous options, such as working for a professional services firm, in private industry, in government, or for a not-for-profit organization. So I will have to see where the Lord leads me from there.

DEN DULK: I have always loved financial markets and agriculture. Working in financial markets has been a goal of mine because the idea that one can prosper through hard work, an informed understanding and vision of world events, and a willingness to take risks has always intrigued me.

I was born with a love of agriculture. I grew up on a large dairy farm and cultivated a deeply ingrained relationship with animals and the land through seemingly endless chores that became an irreplaceable part of life.

I have recently been hired as the grain analyst for Mann Financial Global, the world's largest investment firm. I start work the Monday after graduation. Eventually, I am expected to be an expert on the grain commodities

market, which trades in Chicago on the Board of Trade. I have a lot of learning ahead of me, and I look forward to the challenges that this job will offer. Basically, my job entails knowing all the factors that will contribute to the world supply and demand of grains, and how they will affect the market. I'll have to project where I think the markets are going and why, and I will have a lot of very wise and informed investors critically evaluating my advice. Eventually, I would be happy to work in large-scale agriculture in a more grass-roots way, but I'm sure I will never get away from the business side of farming, and I'm perfectly happy being trapped there.

How is Covenant preparing you for a career in the business world?

DEN DULK: My business education at Covenant has been more than adequate at preparing me to understand the way a business works, how to think strategically, and how to evaluate financial information. It has been exceptional at teaching me how to think critically, to realize the big picture behind the small details, and to communicate my thoughts in a meaningful way. These last skills will be critically important in my job, and I'm sure they will serve me well in all my endeavors, both in and out of the workplace.

LEE: Covenant is doing a great job at providing a solid liberal arts foundation that will help me in whatever business path I choose. There is a great balance of technical skills training and the “softer” side of business that deals with human interaction, critical thinking skills, and overall the necessity for an intentional devotion to work excellence for the sake of our Master in heaven.

Have you been surprised by anything you've learned in your classes?

DEN DULK: I will always learn facts that surprise me simply because I haven't been exposed to them or thought about them enough before. I used to be surprised to hear a professor say, “This is the widely accepted theory, but I don't agree with it because . . .” or, “Here's what I think, but you should evaluate this yourself and decide whether or not you agree.” I am always surprised when I hear people argue that businesspeople aren't serving the Lord in their work, because I so wholeheartedly disagree, but this isn't something I'm taught in my classes.

LEE: Yes. For one, I have become vastly more informed of the challenges that my own and future generations of Americans will face in an increasingly flat world. We will have to be intentional in our pursuit of excellence, cognizant that our membership in a powerful, developed nation brings exciting and sometimes daunting responsibilities.

I also appreciated Dr. Quatro's assertion that our employers do not pay us so we can explicitly evangelize our co-workers during the work day. Rather, Christians ought to strive for excellence in their work, trusting God to use our actions as another means of building relationships which hopefully will bear gospel fruit in the lives of unbelievers. Dr. Quatro would be the first to admit this is not a cop-out on evangelism; rather, it raises the bar, for our deeds must match our words for our words to be most effective. It also reinforces that, for Christian business professionals in particular, the cultural mandate is equal in importance to the Great Commission. 

Profitable Image Bearers

It was late on a Friday afternoon when every employee in my work group at one of my previous employer organizations received a packet. Some received thick packets, others thin. The thick packets included employment contracts, and, in my case, a raise and a promotion offer. Seventeen of my colleagues received thin packets, with letters informing them their jobs had been eliminated. Several of these were highly respected and accomplished colleagues, including “Mack.” He could not access his e-mail. The lock on his office door was changed. He was escorted off the premises. “Mack” and the others were told that their employment status had been terminated in pursuit of increased profitability. My thick packet began to weigh heavily on my heart, mind, and soul.

Unfortunately, scenes like this have become too common in corporate America, where employees are often regarded as expendable resources. Over the past 25 years, much business school content has reinforced this mindset, exhorting executives to maximize shareholder wealth and to view employment relationships as being “at-will.” However, the empirical and theological reality is that there is no resource more precious to business than human beings. And the belief that financial capital is more important than human capital is false, as conveyed by the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Consistent with this parable, emerging management research demonstrates that human capability is the ultimate source of wealth generation. One prominent study found that publicly-traded firms which adopt an investment-orientation toward employees (spending liberally on recruitment, training, and compen-



by Dr. Scott Quatro, Associate Professor of Management

sation) have a higher market value—as much as \$100,000 *per employee*—than do organizations that have maintained a cost-orientation toward employees.

As Christian business practitioners, we celebrate employees as image-bearers, inherently worthy of dignity. But we also must see them as wise investments. Sadly, even many organizations with an explicit Christian mission remain wedded to a cost-orientation toward employees. This is both unfortunate and unacceptable. It is bad theology, and bad business.

Despite the investment my previous employer made in me, I left to work elsewhere. This elucidates two lessons:

1. *Image-bearer investment must be catalyzed by sound motive.* Adopting an investment-orientation toward employees must not be viewed as a means to a more profitable end. Rather, improved profitability becomes an epiphenomenon of first investing in employees with the motive of fully engaging them. There is something

in all of us that resists being “played” as a means to the end of profit.

2. *Image-bearer investment must be consistent.* My previous employer was inconsistent in its operationalization of employee investment. Those thin packets were proof. The end result was further loss of human capital due to cognitive dissonance. Today, less than one-fifth of the employees that received thick packets remain. The rest have voluntarily left.

As Christ’s agents, we have an exciting opportunity to contribute to God’s creative activity in business by heavily investing in employees. Imagine the impact if more organizations adopted a core purpose of holistically engaging God’s image bearers. What if the *literal purpose* of these organizations was to steward the giftedness of their employees? What would be the result? The emerging research suggests that it would be a healthier bottom line. And sound theology suggests it would be a healthier creation. Not a bad combination.



Alumni of the Year Awards

Last fall during Homecoming these three alumni were honored with Covenant's annual alumni awards.



Director of Alumni Relations Marshall Rowe (left) presented the 2007 Alumnus of the Year Award to March Bell '78.

T. March Bell '78, *Alumnus of the Year*

March Bell is an internationally recognized attorney whose expertise in criminal justice and human rights issues has aided efforts to abolish human trafficking in over thirty countries.

March's experience includes serving as vice president of an international non-governmental organization, where he pioneered and designed law enforcement intervention and after-care models for victims of forced prostitution in the developing world, including the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, India, and West Africa. These models emphasize multi-disciplinary task forces, brothel infiltration, and victim rescue and restoration.

March has litigated complex organized crime and financial fraud cases and has conducted investigations for the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism and the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

A graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law, March is a ruling elder at McLean Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Mariam '78, have hosted Covenant students in their home, shown them around Washington, D.C., and informed them of the atrocities of human trafficking and what is being done to counter it. March recently accepted an appointment to Covenant College's board of trustees.

Dan Wykoff '01, *Young Alumnus of the Year*

With six siblings and two parents who have attended Covenant, Dan Wykoff is a part of a Covenant family legacy. Each year the Las Vegas native chauffeurs a vanload of prospective students from the Atlanta area to the College's Lookout Mountain campus, and on Covenant College Sunday he speaks about his alma mater to his church family.



Dan, an alumnus of Covenant's business program and Georgia State's graduate school, is an accountant with Mersereau and Lazenby. He is a deacon at Old Peachtree Presbyterian Church and is also the church's treasurer.

His dedication to Covenant extends to his financial gifts, his boldness in asking others to support Covenant, and his service as an advisor to the board of trustees.

Dan and his wife, Kristin '01, have two children.

Jenny Beall Woodruff '80, *Alumni Volunteer of the Year*

This energetic alumna eagerly took on a challenge and surpassed all expectations: Jenny Beall Woodruff co-hosted a fundraising dinner in Annapolis, Maryland, and introduced dozens of new friends to Covenant. Making over 150 phone calls, she helped recruit 120 attendees from an area where only thirty Covenant alumni live. The event raised over \$60,000 for the College.



Jenny consistently encourages the students in the youth group she helps lead to consider attending Covenant, and she hosted in her home a Covenant student who was interning in Annapolis.

Jenny is the director of women's ministries at Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis. She and her husband, Glenn, have three sons.

THE PLUNGE *by* ROB COLVIN '00



40" x 40" - oil on canvas

Before changing the name of this piece to "The Plunge," Rob Colvin '00 dubbed it "The Baptism."

A viewer's initial read, says Rob, is clownish. The second is despairing. Seeing a redemptive nature behind melancholy and despair, Rob points out that the mannequin is falling into a can of pickles. "One of the earliest known uses of the Greek word *baptisma*, from which we get *baptism*, is in the work of Nicander, a poet, physician, and grammarian who lived around 200 BC. The context of the word is a recipe for making pickles. The connotations of *baptisma* are not only to dip or submerge, but also bring about change or transformation—as in the cucumber to the pickle. The significance of falling into a can of pickles is metaphoric to the transformative

graces of baptism. . . ."

Rob's work is represented by Anne Loucks Gallery in Chicago and George Billis Gallery in New York City. He has taught private lessons in Manhattan and served as an adjunct professor at Covenant College. Rob majored in philosophy and religion at Covenant, while moonlighting in the art department. Deeply influenced by Professor Ed Kellogg, Rob went on to earn a BFA from The School of the Art Institute in Chicago and an MFA from University of New Hampshire. He spent his summers in Italy.

Visit www.robcolvin.com to see more of Rob's work.



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