

COVENANT COLLEGE ■ SPRING 2012

THE VIEW



THE NIELSON LEGACY

Reflecting & Looking Ahead

Covenant Selects Sixth President | The Thirty-Nine-Year Book | Studying Abroad at Covenant

FROM THE PRESIDENT

These are exciting days at Covenant College, with the prospect of a new president—Covenant's sixth—who brings remarkable gifts and experience and love for the College to his new calling. You'll read in these pages about Dr. Derek Halvorson, and you'll agree with me, I'm sure, that God has marvelously equipped and prepared him to lead Covenant in this next phase of fulfilling its mission.



You'll also read about God's blessing in these last ten years, during which we've had, by God's grace, a pretty good run! As Kathleen and I prepare to leave the College, we are so very grateful for the evidences of God's provision in virtually every area: expanded academic and co-curricular programs, a growing faculty of outstanding scholars and teachers, strong enrollment, healthy finances and financial support, broader and deeper connections with external constituencies—all the signs of a vibrant, thriving college under the mighty and merciful hand of God.

This is the final introductory column I will write for *The View*. So it's appropriate for me to take the opportunity to say a huge "thank you" to so many who have contributed to making these ten years a true treasure for Kathleen and me.

- > We are so grateful to you parents, whom we've had the privilege of welcoming to Covenant and getting to know throughout your sons' and daughters' college years. Thank you for giving us the joy of partnering with you in our shared intergenerational covenant calling.
- > We are grateful to Covenant alumni, who enthusiastically participate in many ways in the College's life and mission. Thanks so much for promoting the College in your churches and communities and networks, thanks for your financial support, and thanks for your prayers.
- > We are grateful to the churches whose families we have been able to serve. Many thanks for the blessing of our common gospel calling to explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things.
- > And we are grateful to so many donors who have honored the Lord and blessed Covenant through their financial stewardship, enabling the College not only to survive these recent years of economic challenge, but in fact to grow and extend the program and ministry to which we are called.

So we leave with much gratitude to the Lord and to all of you, and with much hope-filled prayer for what lies ahead for the College and for us. May God be pleased to provide every good and needful blessing for us all, and may you find continuing joy in supporting the wonderful ministry of Covenant College!

In the grace and service of Jesus Christ –

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Niel Nielson".

Niel Nielson, Ph.D.
President

THE VIEW

SPRING 2012

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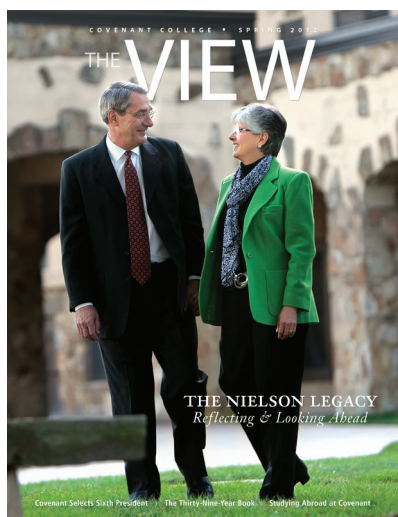
MISSION STATEMENT

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



ON THE COVER

With Dr. Niel Nielson stepping down in June, and Dr. Derek Halvorson '93 preparing to begin his tenure as the College's sixth president, the Covenant community remembers God's blessings over the past decade, finds renewed determination to remain faithful to who we are, and continues striving to explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things.

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A roundup of recent Covenant news and events, including the appointment of the College's sixth president and the addition of two new multi-disciplinary majors.

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20 A Broader Perspective

As a student, Mark Fields '00 traveled to Uganda with Dr. Henry Krabbendam and classmates. Now an assistant professor of ophthalmology and principal investigator at the Medical University of South Carolina, Mark hopes to use his research to help underserved communities across the globe.

22 Past, Present, & Future

George '72 and Sheryl Cross Farquhar '72 support and enjoy their alma mater because of what Covenant taught them, what it taught their children, and what they hope it will teach their grandchildren.

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When Jane Tjahjono '15 felt God calling her to the United States, she left her home in Tangerang, Indonesia, to study abroad at Covenant.

26 Faculty View: Today's Calvinist Resurgence

Prof. Kenneth Stewart takes a look—with affirmation and caution—at the fresh attention being paid to Calvinism.

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Updates and pictures contributed by alumni.



Covenant College Selects Dr. J. Derek Halvorson

On behalf of the Covenant College Board of Trustees, Chairman Martin A. Moore announced the selection of Dr. J. Derek Halvorson as the sixth president of Covenant College. Dr. Halvorson's tenure will begin on July 1, 2012.

"The unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees evidences our strongly-held belief that Dr. Halvorson will provide the godly leadership needed to further advance the College's

mission of exploring and expressing the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things," stated Mr. Moore.

Dr. Halvorson is the president of Providence Christian College in Pasadena, California. In addition to his current executive position, he brings experience in fundraising and constituent relations from his previous roles at Covenant, and experience in teaching at the university level

and in the financial markets. He has been ordained as a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), and he must pass a theological exam administered by the PCA prior to his inauguration.

After graduating *cum laude* from Covenant in 1993 with a bachelor of arts in history, Dr. Halvorson earned a master of arts from the University of Arizona and a doctorate of

Top - Martin A. Moore, chairman of Covenant's Board of Trustees, welcomes the Halvorsons to the chapel stage as the audience applauds the president-elect and his family.

Left - Dr. Frank Brock, Covenant's fourth president, congratulates Dr. Halvorson.

Center - Nearly twenty years after his graduation from the College, Dr. Derek Halvorson '93 greets the Covenant community as president-elect.

Right - The Halvorsons (from left to right): Derek, Banks (10), Wendy, and Whitman (7).

To see video and photographs of this event, visit covenant.edu/6thpresident.



onCourse | Leadership & Travel

Faculty:

Dr. Jim Drexler (education), Professor Sarah Huffines (English), President Niel Nielson, Dr. Kathleen Nielson, Dr. William Tate (English)

Method:

Each year, about a dozen incoming freshmen are awarded Maclellan scholarships, based on Christian commitment, scholastic achievement, demonstration of leadership ability, and extracurricular activities. In their first year at Covenant, these students take "The Character of Leadership," the first in a series of courses specifically designed for Maclellan scholars to study the characteristics of effective leaders—both through theory and through the lives of great leaders. Then, at the end of their freshman year, the scholars travel to observe and serve churches and communities overseas.

For Example:

The Class of 2014 Maclellan scholars traveled to Cambodia, working at a children's center in the small village of Kracheh. Led by Drs. Niel and Kathleen Nielson, they taught music, art, English, and reading, and joined in laying a cement pad underneath a pastor's house. The trip was the culmination of "The Character of Leadership," taught by Drs. Drexler and Tate, launching the scholars' four-year exploration of what it means to be a Christian leader. Previous destinations include Romania, South Africa, and India.

Says Maclellan Scholar Matt Gorter '14:

"Our time in Cambodia was a tremendous learning and growing experience, as our eyes were opened more than ever to the transforming and healing work of the Holy Spirit throughout the world. We had the blessing and privilege to learn from wonderful Christian mentors, including the missionaries serving there, the local Cambodian Christians, and the Nielsons."

Says Maclellan Scholar Wilson Ricketts '14:

"The trip reinforced a lot of what we spent time talking about in 'The Character of Leadership,' mainly through putting us in a situation where we could learn from the missionaries we were with and see how they served others in the Gospel. Service is a huge part of leadership and their selflessness and love is something I won't ever forget."

Onward:

Dr. Drexler and Professor Huffines will lead the Class of 2015 Maclellan scholars on their summer 2012 trip.

'93 as Sixth President

philosophy from Loyola University Chicago—both in history. He and his wife, Wendy, are the parents of a son and a daughter.

"We are thankful for God's faithful and generous blessings upon Covenant College since its founding in 1955 in Pasadena, California," said Mr. Moore, "and we look forward to continuing to advance Covenant's founding mission under Dr. Halvorson's leadership in this new chapter in the life of the College."



In March, Covenant's music department and theatre & film studies department presented five performances of the Broadway musical *Aida*. See more performance photos at covenant.edu/aida.

Two New Majors Prepare Students for Global Service

Covenant students now can major in German studies and in international studies. These new majors follow the recent additions of a theatre major, a political studies minor and concentration, and the master of arts in teaching program.

The international studies program is multi-disciplinary, with strong foreign language and research methods components. Professor Cale Horne, advisor for the international studies program, notes that the program is a strong fit for students who want to pursue careers in government, law, international organizations, the military, and academia, among others.

The German studies program is not strictly a foreign language major,

but includes courses in continental philosophy, European history, and political science. Professor Tom Neiles is the advisor for the German studies program, and he points out that cross-cultural competence and multilingual skills are highly valued in potential employees.

"The academic program at Covenant College continues to develop in line with the strategic plan initiative of making connections beyond the campus," says Dr. Jeff Hall, vice president for academic affairs. "These two programs will strengthen our offerings as we more directly engage a global perspective."

Visit covenant.edu/ispodcast and covenant.edu/gspodcast to hear these faculty members describe the new programs in more detail.



Professor Crossman Inducted into NAIA Hall of Fame

Dr. Brian Crossman, professor of physical education who coached the Scots soccer team for 21 years, was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame at the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship in November of 2011.

Crossman's first year coaching at Covenant was also the sophomore year for Warren Smith '87, a former Scots

soccer team member. "While the team was young and inexperienced," says Warren, "we were all immediately impressed with Brian's knowledge of soccer and the passion he had in training us. His fiery confidence instilled in us a desire to work hard. By his third season at Covenant, he had us playing in the NAIA national soccer tournament."

"I'm still thankful to Coach Crossman," says Troy Duple '93, vice president for advancement at Covenant, "for the training that ingrained into me a strong consistent work ethic and prepared my teammates and me, both physically and mentally, for whatever task God places in front of us."

Crossman currently chairs the ethics committee for the National Soccer Coaches Association.

Covenant transitioned from the NAIA to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III in 2009.

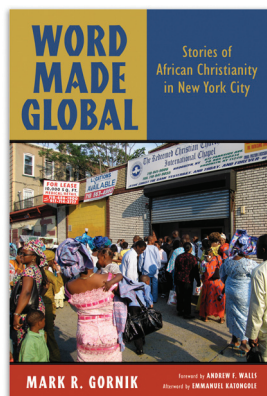
Listen to former soccer player Dr. John Barber '93 talk about the impact Dr. Crossman had on him at covenant.edu/crossmanpodcast.

Mark Gornik '84 Wins *Christianity Today* 2012 Book Award

Christianity Today's 2012 Book Award in the missions & global affairs category has gone to *Word Made Global: Stories of African Christianity in New York City*, by Dr. Mark Gornik '84.

Mark is the director of City Seminary of New York in Harlem. By focusing on three distinct immigrant churches, his new book examines the pastoral, spiritual, and missional dynamics of African Christianity in New York City. "Through African churches in New York City," he writes in the book's prologue, "we can see the power of religion in our world, the future of ministry in an urban age, and something of the meaning of world Christianity for our moment."

"Mark Gornik's fascinating, in-depth look at African Christianity in New York City should be read by anyone concerned to understand the future of the new, global Christianity, and especially by those doing urban ministry," says Tim Keller, pastor of New York's Redeemer Presbyterian Church. "This is the kind of analysis sorely needed today."



1955

*In the future there will be
two types of private institutions:*

FORMER & ENDOWED

By including Covenant in your estate planning, you can help ensure that future generations of students will be able to receive the thoughtfully Christian education that Covenant provides.

Your contribution to the endowment supports student scholarships, academic and co-curricular programs, faculty and staff salaries, campus development, and much more.

If you would like assistance with your estate planning, please contact Marc Erickson, executive director of the Covenant College Foundation, at marc.erickson@covenant.edu or 706.419.1645.

COVENANT COLLEGE FOUNDATION
COVENANT.EDU/FOUNDATION

goFigure

208

Full-time employees

424,032.23

Dollars paid by the College to purchase Carter Hall in 1964

16

Faculty members who teach in the international studies program

25

Ranking of Chattanooga in the New York Times' international list of "The 45 Places to Go in 2012"

9

Majors & degree programs added during President Nielson's tenure

400

Acres of land owned by Covenant

10,000

Dollars awarded to the Seed Project winner

146

Heritage Society members

75

Percentage of faculty with a doctorate or terminal degree at the beginning of President Nielson's tenure

92

Percentage of faculty with a doctorate or terminal degree at the end of President Nielson's tenure



***New York Times* Names Chattanooga One of "The 45 Places to Go in 2012"**

Chattanooga has been named one of "The 45 Places to Go in 2012" by *The New York Times*, placing twenty-fifth on a list that also includes Tokyo, Wales, and outer space.

The New York Times' list is one of a growing number of recent accolades for the city. In late 2011, readers of *Outside Magazine* overwhelmingly voted Chattanooga the "Best Town Ever."

In early January, *PC World* praised "Chattanooga's Innovation Culture," citing, among other things, the fact that Chattanooga has the fastest Internet connection in the United States.

With media across the country recommending Chattanooga, it should come as no surprise that some Covenant alumni choose to begin their careers just miles from their alma mater.

Covenant College named eCampus of the Month

eCampus News named Covenant the February "eCampus of the Month" for "leveraging the power of technology to deliver exceptional services to its students and faculty."

In the summer of 2011, Covenant's Kresge Memorial Library became the eleventh library in the world to go live with the Online Computer Library Center's new cloud-based integrated operating system, Web-Scale Management Service. The library also replaced its old online catalog with WorldCat Local, a new discovery tool search engine. Tad Mindeman, director of library services, notes that the new ease of access to worldwide library resources has improved the overall quality of students' bibliographies and citations.



Students take a break from studying for final exams on a sunny reading day at the end of the spring semester.

Chemistry Research by Prof. Mehne and Student Published

The peer-reviewed research journal *Polyhedron* has published a paper co-authored by Professor of Chemistry Larry Mehne and Thomas Holcombe '12, in partnership with fellow chemists at Clemson University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The article's title: "Heteroleptic Platinum(II) and Palladium(II) Complexes with Thiocrown and Diimine Ligands."

"The research, as a whole, looked at building molecular triangles, squares, and boxes," says Thomas. "One potential use for these would be a delivery system for cancer treatment drugs that would not be as toxic to the human body as current methods."

"For many, participation in



undergraduate research is the first opportunity to become a practitioner rather than a student of their chosen profession," says Dr. Mehne. "Contributing something new to what we know of God's providential care of the physical creation is very different than being told what others have

learned. And back in the classroom this creates a new appreciation for the investigations which have led to what we teach."

Listen to Dr. Mehne and Thomas Holcombe discuss their research further at covenant.edu/chemistryresearchpodcast.



THE NIELSON LEGACY

Reflecting & Looking Ahead

by Brian Beise



In 2002, Dr. Niel Nielson chose 1 Peter 1:5-7 as the theme of his inauguration as Covenant College's fifth president. These verses speak to the steady process by which he moved the College forward in his ten years of service: "Add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love."

The title of his inaugural address, "The Only Way Forward," pointed to the commitment which he would demonstrate to move the College forward only while holding fast to the faith of our fathers.

“Dr. Nielson’s presidency can be characterized as grounding us deeply in our founding faith and encouraging growth of campus, programs, and student body to serve more broadly and more effectively.”

—Dr. Jeff Hall



ON JUNE 30, 2012, DR. NIEL NIELSON STEPS DOWN AS COVENANT COLLEGE’S FIFTH PRESIDENT. After ten years of service, he leaves the school with expanded academic programs, strong enrollment, a greatly improved campus, financial stability, and a continuing tradition of moving forward while remaining firmly rooted in Scripture and the Reformed tradition.

As we move into a season of new leadership, we remember a blessed decade in which Dr. Nielson demonstrated that for Covenant the only way forward is keeping rooted.

Preparation

Born and raised in a pastor’s home, Dr. Nielson met his wife, Kathleen Buswell, while both were attending Wheaton College. They were married, and each went on to earn

an M.A. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University: hers in literature, his in philosophy. Today they have three sons, two daughters-in-law, and one granddaughter.

His Ph.D. in hand, Dr. Nielson taught philosophy at Bethel College before transitioning to the business world of Chicago, where he worked in the financial markets, human resources, venture capital, and mergers and acquisitions. In 1997, he became the associate pastor of outreach at College Church in Wheaton, Illinois, where he was ordained to the gospel ministry. He still is an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

All along the path to Covenant’s presidency, Dr. Nielson gathered experience—in education, business, finance, pastoral ministry—that would serve him as he served the College. He also brought with him

a passion for international ministry and education and a vision for keeping the College anchored to the Reformed faith while striving to reach new levels of excellence.

Presidency

In his inaugural address, titled “The Only Way Forward,” Dr. Nielson expressed his belief that Covenant must move forward while “keeping the faith which has been handed down to us.” The speech was based on 1 Peter 1:2-21 and expressed the philosophy that has defined his presidency. Just as a tree must dig deeper roots to grow higher, so Covenant would deepen its connections with the PCA as it strove to grow and expand.

“He said he would advance Covenant by keeping it exactly where it is,” says Dr. Cliff Foreman, professor of English, “meaning we would con-



tinue to be a liberal arts college with the same vision and the same ethos we've always had. I think he succeeded in doing that."

In the ten years that Dr. Nielson has been in office, Covenant significantly expanded its academic offerings. New majors were created in art, economics, French, German studies, international studies, Spanish, and theatre. The degree-completion program in early childhood education was

added, as was the master of arts in teaching program. Concentrations were developed in design, marketing

and political studies. Dr. Nielson's international experience has been integral to the goal of each Covenant student graduating with true inter-

In his inaugural address, titled
 "The Only Way Forward," Dr. Nielson
 expressed his belief that Covenant must
 move forward while keeping the faith
 which has been handed down to us.

cultural competence, ready to answer God's calling in the States or abroad.

"Niel was very good at taking our ideas, boiling them down and expressing them in a way that was beautiful, sensible, and most impor-

tantly faithful to the tradition of the College," says Dr. Foreman. "He has done a good job of keeping our academic programs on target with those traditional emphases of Covenant College."

Dr. Nielson led the way in initiating the BUILD campaign, through which Covenant's

campus has seen significant improvements. Brock Hall and Andreas Hall were built, Kresge Memorial



Dr. Nielson's presidential portrait

was painted by Jim Pollard, a nationally renowned artist who believes that a successful portrait "is a likeness of studied casualness." Depicting Dr. Nielson before the stained glass of Covenant's chapel not only illustrates Dr. Nielson's connection to the College and the church, it also allowed for a subtle familial reference. J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., Kathleen Nielson's grandfather, who served as dean of Covenant Seminary, can just be seen depicted in the stained glass beside Dr. Nielson's left hand and wedding ring. The painting was presented to the College in April, and now hangs alongside the other four presidential portraits in the Presidents Room.

Library was renovated, and Carter Hall continues to benefit from ongoing renovation projects. The Dottie Brock Gardens and a new front circle provide a beautiful, welcoming entrance to the campus. A new baseball and softball complex, lights over Scotland Yard soccer field, and expanded cross-country trails are new resources for our students and community.

"There's been a significant building effort," says David Northcutt, director of facilities management and planning, "an increase in planning and mapping out the future, all under Dr. Nielson's leadership. He has

an ability to see what we're doing, why we're doing it, and what that means for later. I get bogged down in the details of daily problems, but

"I get bogged down in the details of daily problems, but whenever I'm around him, there's a sense of why we're doing it all."

—David Northcutt

whenever I'm around him, there's a sense of why we're doing it all."

Dr. Nielson—with Chaplain Aaron Messner—brought a greater emphasis on the preaching and teaching of Scripture in chapel, with that primary focus being supplemented

by topical speakers from within the Covenant community and around the globe. Careful to point out that chapel is in no way a substitute for the church, both Nielson and Messner, as well as guest preachers, have continued to communicate to the student body the importance of being an active member of a local church body.

Under Dr. Nielson's leadership, the faculty passed a philosophy of education statement, centering on the College's mission to explore and express Christ's preeminence in all things. The document outlines the College's devotion to the inerrant Scriptures



FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR AT COVENANT

Move-In Day, with wide-eyed freshmen and our wonderful Orientation team.

FAVORITE TIME OF DAY AT COVENANT

Early morning with sunrise on the Overlook, birds singing, and campus waking up.

BEST PRANK DURING YOUR TENURE

The one with a trampoline on the chapel lawn, with students dressed like trustees, and then trustees like Joel Belz '62 joining them in jumping.

FAVORITE CAMPUS EVENT

Convocation. It's always exciting to begin a new year with students' enthusiasm and appreciation for faculty.

BEST SURPRISE DURING YOUR TENURE

Watching our son, Dan '08, fall in love with his future wife, who was also a Covenant student.

GREATEST LESSON YOU LEARNED DURING YOUR TENURE

51% decisions are difficult but right.

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT COVENANT'S FUTURE

The opportunity to pursue an increasingly distinctive mission.

YOUR DEEPEST PRAYER FOR COVENANT

That Covenant would stay true to its mission.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS

Chapel, with students gathered to hear the reading and preaching of God's word.

FAVORITE MEAL IN THE GREAT HALL

Soft serve!

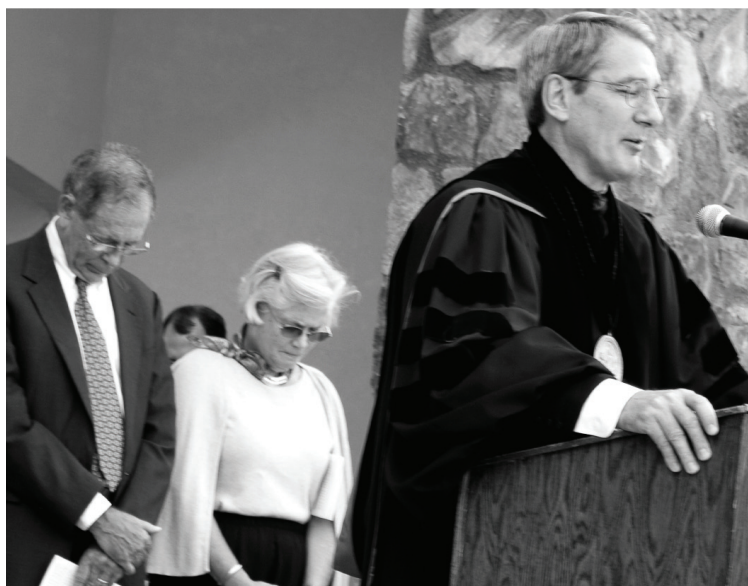
FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Windows looking out on campus life.

WHAT YOU'LL MISS MOST ABOUT BEING PRESIDENT

Connecting with many different constituencies who love and support the College: parents, church leaders, alumni, and donors.





and makes it clear that, “as a collective body of rescued sinners, Covenant College is dedicated to inspiring and to equipping students to become faithful stewards of their academic gifts.”

Dr. Nielson also oversaw the creation of Covenant’s statement of community beliefs, which all faculty members, senior administrators, and trustees are required to sign. The drafting and passage of these defining documents were by no means simple tasks, and it was the

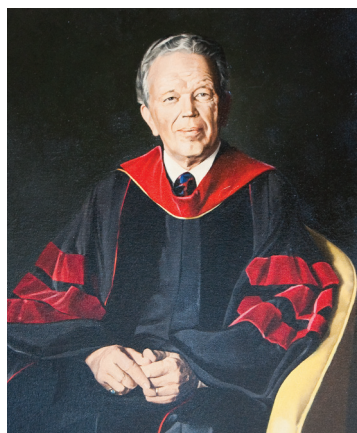
role of the president to see that they represented the true character and goals of the College.

“The faculty hiring process was refined, and Dr. Nielson successfully clarified the way the president, board of trustees, and faculty relate to one another,” says Dr. Jeff Hall, vice president for academic affairs. “His guidance through shared governance was essential to the College’s ongoing cohesion and integrity.”

Other highlights of Dr. Nielson’s

tenure include the creation of the Center for Calling & Career, the Seed Project entrepreneurship initiative, the Nick Barker Writer in Residence program, the Debate Society, Summer Pre-Orientation, the annual student Leadership Summit, increased faculty scholarship, and College-sponsored seminars at the PCA General Assembly.

Four Covenant alumni were awarded Fulbright grants during his presidency, and Covenant has consistently ranked among the top ten colleges in



DR. ROBERT RAYBURN

1955 - 1965



DR. MARION BARNES

1965 - 1978



DR. MARTIN ESSENBURG

1978 - 1987



Among the many ways the Covenant community sought to honor and thank the Nielsons was through a tribute video, capturing the testimonies of Susanna Giffith '13 and Blake Bozarth '10, and thanks from students, faculty, staff, parents and friends of the College. Visit covenant.edu/NielsonTribute to watch.

the South according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

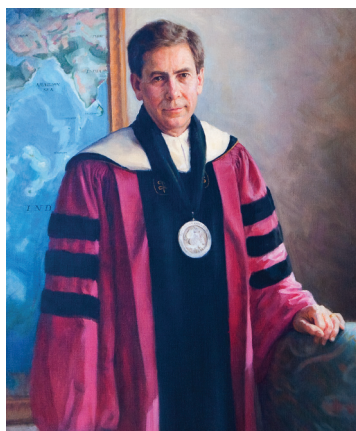
"The theme of President Nielson's inaugural address carried throughout his tenure," says Dr. Hall. "He encouraged us in one sense to 'go nowhere,' remaining faithful to our missional foundations. At the same time, the College should consistently look for ways to improve and expand our service. Dr. Nielson's presidency can be characterized as grounding us deeply in our founding faith and encouraging growth of campus,

programs, and student body to serve more broadly and more effectively."

Forward

With Dr. Nielson moving on and Dr. Derek Halvorson '93 preparing to begin his tenure as the College's sixth president, the Covenant community remembers God's blessings over the past ten years, finds renewed determination to remain faithful to who we are, and continues striving to explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things.

As it was written in 1 Peter 1:5-7, the theme of Dr. Nielson's inauguration: "Add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love."



DR. FRANK BROCK

1987 - 2002



DR. NIEL NIELSON

2002 - 2012



DR. DEREK HALVORSON

2012 -



In 2010, Wycliffe published the first New Testament in Maithili, a South Asian language spoken by more than thirty million people. For Alice Davis '62, one of the linguists who worked on this thirty-nine-year project, it all began in high school.

"There was a series of outreach meetings," says Alice, "and I invited one of my high-school friends, who I figured didn't really know the gospel. So I took her, hoping she would be saved, but I was the one who raised my hand. I realized that I'd never really told the Lord I wanted him to be in charge of my life. It wasn't necessarily to be a missionary; it was just to let him direct."

She soon enrolled at Covenant and, of the two languages offered by the College in those days, she chose Greek.

"I really found that I enjoyed structure and grammar. I guess I knew that from sixth grade when we learned how to diagram sentences. I found that great sport. So I'd been interested in language analysis for a long time. I'm not any great shakes at speaking other languages, but the structure and design of language has always interested me."

After college, having majored in history, Alice began teaching in a small farming community in central Illinois. She had a sense this was not her life's work, though, and when a contract came for a third year there she sent it back unsigned. "I felt the Lord saying to keep moving." A friend suggested Alice take a summer course offered by Wycliffe Bible Translators, reminding her how much she had enjoyed studying Greek at Covenant.

"There are no how-to manuals for these minor languages. So you just have to listen and listen and listen, and mimic, and try to internalize as much as you can, and begin analyzing the language."

—Alice Davis '62

Forty-Nine-Year Book

by Brian Beise

She attended the summer course and thoroughly enjoyed it. After another year of working and praying, she took a second course, and by the end of that summer in 1965, she was accepted by Wycliffe and began preparing for work overseas.

After field training in southern Mexico ("jungle training, they called it"), Alice took her first assignment. "I didn't have a particular preference for which field I went to," says Alice, "and India was a new field and they were looking for people to go, so they sent me. As a social studies teacher, I felt at home as soon as I got there. Even though there were so many strange things to learn about the culture, I felt at home."

She was sent to Andhra Pradesh and settled into a small village where she began learning the local dialect and culture in preparation for translation. She became convinced these people were her life's work, but in the spring of 1969, before she had gotten very far in her research, visa issues made it necessary for her and many in her institute to leave the region, likely never to return.

"I had to tell myself: 'Okay, Alice, this is not your project. This is the Lord's project.'" In 1971, though still unable to reenter the region, she then

joined in the new project of linguistic research and translation into Maithili. Though considered a minor language, more than thirty million people speak Maithili as their first language. Maithili presented various problems to the young linguists who hoped to one day complete a New Testament in the language.

"You've got to learn the language and the culture first," says Alice, "and there are no how-to manuals for these minor languages. So you just have to listen and listen and listen, and mimic, and try to internalize as much as you can, and begin analyzing the language." Alice explains that culture is the crucial element of translation. "It's not just the language you translate into; it's the culture you translate into. You want it to be a translation that sounds like it really came from their culture. You can't adjust the gospel to fit their worldview; you've got to explain the gospel in terms that their worldview can understand.

"It's trial and error. Even after all your studying and reading up and memorizing and all the rest of it, you try something out and if it doesn't work, why, you try something else out. You just have to keep trying, testing it out with different people at different times, with different age groups,

checking with men and with women and just see what the reactions are. That was part of the reason for translation work taking a long, long time."

In 1980 Alice left the project but continued to work for Wycliffe stateside, typesetting for other translations ready for print. She never fully lost touch with the Maithili project, though, and in 2004 she moved to Nepal, where she participated in the last six years of the translation process by helping with secretarial assistance for the team.

In April 2010, the Maithili New Testament was completed. The first printing consisted of 15,000 copies. Within a year, a reprint was needed. Looking back at the decades it took to complete this work, Alice has much to say on the subject of her alma mater. "Covenant grounded us in the Word, which was good exposure for translation. I think being part of a small group (there were only about seventy-five students when I enrolled) was very helpful when I got to the field with a very small number of linguists trying to work together to accomplish similar things."

Forty years later, Alice celebrates with the small group that managed to finish a project often hindered by border control, logistics and cultural barriers. "Doors aren't closed until God closes them," she says. 🙏



PE

Mark Fields '00 grew up in Augusta, Georgia. When many of his friends chose Covenant, he considered the possibility for himself. "I played basketball," he says, "and thought Covenant would be a good place to pursue athletics as well as develop close relationships with the friends I had at the school." By the end of his four years here, though, Mark's perspective and way of seeing the world had been altered. Now, as an assistant professor of ophthalmology and principal investigator at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Mark hopes to help bring about socioeconomic change where it is most needed.

In his sophomore year at Covenant, Mark traveled to Uganda with some of his hallmates and Dr. Henry Krabbendam, professor emeritus of biblical studies. Though the trip was only short-term, the example set by Dr. Krabbendam heavily influenced Mark and his plans for the future. "It was certainly a life-changing experience," says Mark. "I think it is important for any westerner to travel to a place such as this to develop a wider perspective of the world and the challenges that these individuals face. I think I can speak for all

the guys in that it opened our eyes to so many things."

After Covenant he went on to complete a Ph.D. in cell biology and anatomy from the Medical College of Georgia. He earned a master's in public health and completed his post-doctoral fellowship in retina degeneration and ophthalmology at Columbia University. Now at MUSC, Mark is leading research in cell transplantation as a possible treatment for patients with degenerated retinal cells. "My main function is as an investigator but I do give seminars and talks on my work and lecture residents on varying aspects of ophthalmology and eye disease."

Mark hopes to address the problem of underserved communities around the world. "These are countries that have been historically marginalized. How do we decrease the cost of drugs and vaccines in order to make them affordable for these countries? How do we find funding for research in areas that many drug companies will not pursue? These are things that MUSC is trying to address and these are areas that I find fascinating. At the end of the day, we are all the same and want the best for our families, whether we live in NYC, Chattanooga or Kampala, Uganda. The challenge is



A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

by Brian Beise

"At the end of the day, we are all the same and want the best for our families, whether we live in NYC, Chattanooga or Kampala, Uganda. The challenge is putting systems in place where this can be accomplished. We need vaccinations and proper training of healthcare professionals. These are the biggest challenges these countries face."

—Mark Fields '00

putting systems in place where this can be accomplished. We need vaccinations and proper training of healthcare professionals. These are the biggest challenges these countries face."

When Mark looks back on his time at Covenant, the trip to Uganda still stands out. "Traveling with Dr. Krabbendam was a great experience and one that I will never forget," says Mark. "I think his teaching and the trip helped us all develop a broader perspective of the world and become more sensitive to other cultures. Witnessing his dedication and love for the Ugandan people was an education within itself. Now when I think about how I can help from a broader perspective, I can also think how people will be impacted on a personal level. Micah 6:8 sums up the way that I would like to view my life and my desire to influence people through my work: 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'" 



The 1998 Uganda trip team, from left to right, back row first: Jake Patton '00, Dr. Henry Krabbendam, Stephen Hitchcock '99, Anthony Tucker '99, Kurt Halvorson '99, Josh Hager '99, Jonathan Mullen '99, Scott Oberg '00, Mark Fields '00, Kevin McQuillen '00, Scott Noll '02, and Jarrod Taylor '00.



Sheryl Cross Farquhar '72 grew up hoping to go to Covenant. She grew up Presbyterian, and felt Covenant would be the right extension of her upbringing. At the time, though, Covenant was not accredited, and Sheryl's mother was against the idea. It was Sheryl's father who won the debate, saying that if no one went to Covenant, the school would never get accredited. Sheryl enrolled.

Having always attended public school, and although her father faithfully taught her the gospel, she felt a lack of integration between her education and her faith. That separation came to an end at Covenant, and she found her faith sharpened, and her mind challenged. "It was the first time I really had to study," she says. "I'd always kind of gotten by." By the time she graduated, she had married George Farqu-

har '72, and together they were determined to perpetuate Covenant's integrated, Reformed philosophy of education. "When I came out of Covenant," says Sheryl, "before we even had children, I said: 'when I have children, no matter what, they're going to get a Christian education, even if I have to scrub floors.'"

"What the College taught
us it continues to
teach our children."

—Sheryl Cross Farquhar '72

George grew up Methodist. He met Sheryl in high school through Youth for Christ. By that time he had already been accepted to Penn State and was struggling with the idea of serving Christ outside traditional ministry. "I remember sitting in my dorm room in Pennsylvania think-

ing, 'how am I going to serve if I don't know anything?'" He transferred to Covenant for his sophomore year, majoring in biology. After only one year, though, military obligations took him away from Covenant. He married Sheryl while on

Past, & Present Future

by Brian Beise

"We never really stopped our involvement here . . . as the years rolled on, the things that were important to us became important to our children."

—George Farquhar '72

active duty and then, after two years of military service, returned to finish his time at Covenant.

In his career as a nurse anesthetist, George sees the influence of Covenant's teaching of a Reformed worldview. Rather than seeing his earthly work as separate from his kingdom work, he views his career as ministry. "It's a point of contact with people who are facing, in many cases, life-changing events," he says, "and it's an opportunity to minister with them and pray with them. I don't get to do that often, but I do it when I'm allowed to. And I have to attribute it to Covenant that teaches you that no matter what you do, it can be ministry."

Sheryl dedicated herself to the upbringing and education of their children, which included some home-schooling. "We are stewards, not only of our resources, our money and our time, but also our kids," says George. "They are a gift and we are to do everything that we can to prepare them to be citizens in the kingdom, and workers of the kingdom." George and Sheryl feel that their children are the message they send to a time they will never see. "That's why Covenant is important to us, to our denomination and to our country."

As the decades have passed, the Farquhars have stayed involved with their alma mater. "We never really stopped our involvement here," says George. Even when they lived in South Carolina, they went to great lengths to secure tickets to Covenant's annual Madrigal Dinners, taking their children and church friends along to experience the community and festivities of the College. The three Farquhar children grew up knowing Covenant, and felt the influence of Reformed, integrated thinking and living. The Farquhars are clear that their children were free to choose their own path, but George notes that "as the years rolled on, the things that were important to us became important to them. When they came of age to start choosing a college, the things that were important to them were also the things that Covenant was going to help them with."

All three Farquhar children graduated from Covenant, and two of them married fellow alumni. Sheryl recalls that affording Covenant took sacrifice and hard work, but that she is always thankful that her children chose her alma mater. "What the College taught us it continues to teach our children," she says. "It still is unique and it still

is dedicated to a high academic calling, but most of all it is dedicated to following Jesus and teaching that in all things Christ is preeminent."

The Farquhars have long been supporters and passionate stewards of Covenant College. "The crazy thing about the Farquhars, is that they were already members of the Covenant College Heritage Society when they came up with the idea of gifting a life insurance policy to the Covenant College Foundation," says Marc Erickson, executive director of the Covenant College Foundation and director of planned giving. "The Farquhars are relentless in their support of Covenant College, and their generosity is a great source of encouragement to us."

George currently serves as an advisor to Covenant's board of trustees, and as the College transitions from one president to another, the Farquhars rejoice in the College's unchanging mission. "I'm not saying everything has to be the same," says George, "but the foundation of Christ does not change and it cannot change if Covenant is going to maintain its vision and its goal. That's why we give." 🙏



"The presence of supporting brothers and sisters in Christ here helped me a lot in adjusting to American culture."

—Jane Tjahjono '15

Studying Abroad at Covenant by Brian Beise

Until recently, Jane Tjahjono '15 had no plans to study outside Indonesia. She had never been to the US and was happy in her hometown of Tangerang. Then she and her family felt God's calling and began to consider colleges in the US. She remembers wrestling with the idea of leaving home for a strange place. "However," says Jane, "when we responded to God's call in faith, God gave me the capacity to endure the process. Because we were so sure that it was God's idea, my family was ready to let me go."

She first learned of Covenant when representatives of the College traveled to Indonesia to visit Sekolah Pelita Harapan, the international Christian school she attended. As she learned more about the College, she felt God's calling and applied. Though she quickly developed a rapport with Amy Smith, her admissions representative, she enrolled at Covenant having never visited the US, much less Lookout Mountain. For her, Covenant's motto, in all things Christ preeminent, was a key factor. "I've never heard such a strong Christian motto for a college," she says.

Every year, Covenant sends students abroad to benefit not only from diverse academic opportunities, but also from living for a while in a different culture. For students like Jane, though, Covenant is not the launching point but the destination of their study-abroad experience.

Now finishing her first year at Covenant, Jane is majoring in economics, with a minor in biblical

studies. She lives on campus and feels at home, even in the winters and summers of Georgia, which she describes as extreme compared to the year-round seventy-degree temperature of Tangerang. "It has been challenging because I have no relatives nearby and Indonesia has a twelve-hour time difference," she says. "However, I manage to talk with my family at least once a week. Also the presence of supporting brothers and sisters in Christ here helped me a lot in adjusting to American culture."

After graduation, Jane intends to pursue a master's degree in economics and then return home and use what she is learning. "I would like to work in economics in Indonesia," she says. "I feel that my country needs more economic development."

So Jane studies to that end. "A unique thing about Covenant," she says, "is that the classes are enriched with biblical insights into the field we're learning. For example, I really want to develop Indonesia because so many people there are living in poverty and underdeveloped societies. I think that, by developing their economy in certain regions, people might have a better living standard. However, at Covenant I have learned that the point is not merely to help them pursue a better life. The main aim of all things is to make Christ preeminent. So even if I successfully make the people have more decent lives, it is useless without them knowing about Christ. In this way, Covenant is preparing me to work back home not only by equipping me with necessary skills, but also with a godly passion and purpose." 

"The new Calvinism should be affirmed by us because it demonstrates that there is a hearing in America for the themes of biblical authority, faith in Christ alone, and the role of electing grace."

Today's Calvinist Resurgence

WHEN *TIME* MAGAZINE trumpeted the resurgence of Calvinism in March 2009, it highlighted something evangelical Protestants had long been observing. This resurgence seems traceable to the 1994 release of Dr. Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*, which relayed the teaching of Grudem—a charismatic, Baptist and Calvinist—to wide segments of evangelical Protestantism not previously oriented to Reformed doctrine. Beyond Grudem (a Phoenix, AZ, professor), pastors such as John Piper of Minneapolis, Mark Driscoll of Seattle, and C.J. Mahaney of Gaithersburg, MD, are regarded as the heralds of "new Calvinism." Meanwhile, Calvinistic doctrines have gained fresh attention within the Southern Baptist Convention, where Calvinism had earlier declined to minority status. Now, from centers such as the Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, come signs that that day is over.

The trend on which *Time* commented is a recent trend. Yet Reformed theology never disappeared in America; there have been regular resurgences of the Reformed faith within America's Presbyterian and Reformed communities. Two now-deceased P.C.A. ministers, James M. Boice and Francis Schaeffer, were figureheads in such an upswing in the 1970s and '80s. Did not this resurgence assist the launch of the PCA? The Banner of Truth movement launched a resurgence in the 1950s; it is ongoing. A resurgence also surfaced in the 1920s and 1930s, a time when, across the Western world, Christians were attempting to replace the hubris that had preceded World War I.

Given this timeline, one might infer—regarding *Time's* story—that we should simply assume that this



by Dr. Kenneth Stewart, professor of theological studies and author of *Ten Myths About Calvinism: Recovering the Breadth of the Reformed Tradition* (IVP, 2011)

momentary fervor will inevitably give way to another, still future resurgence. Yet this is an "armchair view." Instead, I recommend a stance towards the new Calvinism combining affirmation and caution.

The new Calvinism should be affirmed by us because it demonstrates that there is a hearing in America for the themes of biblical authority, faith in Christ alone, and the role of electing grace. Have we assumed that Americans wouldn't listen? Have we become too intent on guarding the faith, and not focused enough on taking the gospel to unbelievers? There are pages in the book of the new Calvinists we should read. It is good to see PCA men and women making common cause with the new Calvinism in conferences and on blogs.

There are also reasons for caution. More than is acceptable, the growth of the new Calvinism is tied to strong personalities: a circle of leaders who preach, blog, and go from conference to conference. Our commitment is not to personalities but to Christ, not to conferences but to the local church, not to best-sellers but to the Scriptures and the Reformed faith summarized in our Westminster Standards. There has also been a rise of rancor. Some Christian friendships have been broken; some congregations have divided. One observes too a jockeying over who occupies the high ground of closest fidelity to the Calvinist heritage.

Taking a broad view, this is an exciting and promising time for friends of the Reformed faith. Let's seize the day! 🙌



IN ALL THINGS CHRIST PREEMINENT

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Completed in 1978, Covenant's Dora Maclellan Brown Memorial Chapel houses three stained glass windows by Henry Willet. The two smaller windows trace church history and the progress of the gospel from Paul's first mission to the trial of J. Gresham Machen in 1936.

Pictured here is the last of six panels. At its center, Benjamin Warfield welcomes Abraham Kuyper to Princeton, where Kuyper delivered his six "stone lectures" in 1898.

Also visible in the top left corner is J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., Kathleen Nielson's grandfather, who served as dean of Covenant Seminary on the same campus as Covenant College when it was located in St. Louis. This image is also just visible in a corner of Dr. Niel Nielson's presidential portrait, currently on display in the Presidents Room on campus.

Flanking the larger Covenant of Life window, this and the other five panels represent the history of the Reformed tradition, in which Covenant College remains firmly rooted.