

C O V E N A N T C O L L E G E

# VIEW

Celebrating the  
BUILD Campaign

Memory Keeping | An Unexpected Friendship | Grateful Learning

AUTUMN 2013  
COVENANT.EDU



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COVENANT COLLEGE  
**VIEW**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*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





President Halvorson installs new faculty members.

## CovenantNews

### New Faculty Appointments & Promotion

This fall, Covenant welcomed back two alumni—Drs. Scott Finch and Elissa Yukiko Weichbrodt—as music and art professors, and installed resource sharing and preservation librarian Tom Horner '99 as a new faculty member.

Dr. Weichbrodt '04 joined the art department after completing her MA and PhD at Washington University in St. Louis. Modern and contemporary art are Weichbrodt's principal fields of research, but she has a particular interest in art that explores identity and corporeality.

Dr. Finch '96 earned his MM from Temple University and his DMA in musical arts from the University of Arizona. Dr. Finch came to Covenant from Briercrest College & Seminary, where he served as an assistant professor of music and worship. Finch has a particular passion for equipping students to serve the Church with music.

Tom Horner '99 joined Covenant's faculty as the resource sharing and preservation librarian. He earned his MA in library and information science from Trevecca Nazarene.

Dr. Lance Wescher was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of economics. Dr. Wescher joined the faculty in 2006 and has since helped develop and grow the economics major at Covenant.

### Convocation

Covenant held its fifty-ninth annual convocation ceremony on August 29, 2013. President Derek Halvorson led the ceremony and Prof. Kelly Kopic delivered the convocation address titled "On the Flesh of Christ."

The ceremony included a warm welcome to the class of 2017. For the first time in Covenant's history, the number of qualified applicants to Covenant required a waiting list for the incoming class. We welcomed

325 new students to Covenant, including 41 children of alumni.

Visit [covenant.edu/convocation2013](http://covenant.edu/convocation2013) to listen to the full convocation ceremony.

### Washington Monthly Ranks Covenant #15 in Nation

In August 2013, *Washington Monthly* placed Covenant at #15 in its list of top baccalaureate colleges that influence the public good, up from #48 in last year's ranking. The *Washington Monthly* rankings "aim to identify institutions that are acting on behalf of the true public interest."

"One of our institutional purposes is to develop a Christ-like spirit in students," says Dr. Jeff Hall, vice president for academic affairs. "Although the standards and indicators used by the *Washington Monthly* do not align perfectly with those of the College, it is nice to be recognized as an



institution that serves the public good. As our students and alumni respond to extraordinary callings in ordinary places, we are eager to have the name of Jesus be honored above all.”



### Remembering David Taaffe

Following his sophomore year and a summer internship in Spain, David Taaffe passed away on July 22, 2013, as a result of injuries sustained due to a fall while hiking in Switzerland.

David, 20, was a Maclellan Scholar from Brentwood, TN, majoring in Spanish with minors in community development and education. He was a midfielder on the varsity soccer team and was set to return for a second year as the resident assistant for the men’s hall 2nd Central in Carter Hall. He was a graduate of Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville.

“As children of God and joint heirs with Christ, we cling to the promise of the hope of glory,” says President Derek Halvorson. “We take great comfort in knowing that our brother, David, is with his Lord and Savior already. This is a wonderful truth to ponder even as we grieve an extremely painful loss.”

The Covenant community held a memorial service for David when students returned in the fall.

### Covenant Now Full-Fledged Member of NCAA Division III

Covenant’s four-year transitional period in the NCAA came to a close this summer when the College was officially accepted as a full-fledged member of NCAA Division III. Academic excellence is of chief concern for student-athletes in Division III. With fewer games per season, student-athletes will miss fewer classes and have more time to focus on academics.

Former Director of Athletics Tami Smialek and former Compliance Coordinator Laura Peterson Mlynski were both influential in the transition process, which began in 2009. As the standard in college athletics, the NCAA requires a four-year provisional membership.



## onCourse Marketing Competition

### Faculty:

Prof. Ron Jones

### Method:

Marketing concepts are applied in a class-wide competition for students in Principles of Marketing. The class is divided into groups and tasked to market a product or service. After developing an idea on paper, the groups present their marketing plan to a panel of judges from the business community in Chattanooga, TN. The judges ask pointed questions and judge projects based on a variety of criteria including feasibility and creativity. The competition brings students face-to-face with business leaders from Chattanooga and provides a hands-on approach to learning the principles of marketing.

### For Example:

Project options are endless for the marketing teams. One team developed the idea for a service that integrates Brow Wood, a planned community for active adults, with the Covenant community to form mutually beneficial relationships. They saw older adults on Lookout Mountain who had a desire to interact with younger people as well as an immense opportunity for Covenant students to learn about business, marriage, and more from experienced adults. The service focused on organizing these connections. Other student teams developed plans for a variety of products and services including a wireless earbud system.

### Says Prof. Jones:

“Teaching innovation is one of my deepest passions. Such a process, for me, involves inspiring undergraduate students to take some risk in connecting their inner passions with opportunities in the business classroom, where failure is not so costly. While some might say that entrepreneurs are born not made, I say—along with compelling research—that creative thinking can be learned. Integrating the liberal arts with business enhances this marketable skill-set.”

### Competition Used In:

Principles of Marketing

### ScotsCast:

Listen to students discuss the marketing competition at [covenant.edu/MarketingScotsCast](http://covenant.edu/MarketingScotsCast)



## 720

Baseballs  
used in a season

## 325

New students

## 18

Percentage of 2002 alumni  
who live in Chattanooga

## 43

Percentage of 2012 alumni  
who live in Chattanooga

## 91

Classes in Brock Hall  
this semester

## 44

Percentage of faculty & staff  
who are Covenant alumni

## 2,140

Buffalo chicken wraps  
sold per semester in the Blink

## 918

Archived issues of the  
Bagpipe available online

## 1

New chaplain

## 14

Percentage of students  
from the Northeast

"NCAA Division III is the ideal athletic affiliation for Covenant College and our athletic department," says Director of Athletics Kyle Taylor. "Division III's core values align very well with our philosophy of athletics."



## Rev. Grant Lowe Appointed Chaplain

On August 1, 2013, Rev. Grant Lowe assumed the position of chaplain at Covenant College.

Rev. Lowe earned his MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He has served in full-time ministry for the past 13 years, most recently as the coordinator of campus ministries at Providence Christian College in Pasadena, where he oversaw the Providence chapel program.

"I am thrilled that, out of a large and very strong pool of applicants, God has brought someone of Rev. Lowe's unique pastoral gifts to the chaplaincy at Covenant College," says President Derek Halvorson. "We are blessed to have him and his family join our community."

Audio recordings of chapel are available at [itunes.covenant.edu](http://itunes.covenant.edu) and [soundcloud.covenant.edu](http://soundcloud.covenant.edu).

## Six New Tennis Courts Under Construction

This year, Scots tennis teams will play home games on campus for the first time in College history. Construction of six new tennis courts is underway, and is scheduled for completion in December 2013. The project includes the relocation of Covenant's intramural fields and installation of lights on the new courts. The courts will allow for flexible practice and game times and provide a place for the Scots to host NCAA games at home.

## U.S. News Ranks Covenant #11 in the South

The 2014 edition of Best Colleges again ranked Covenant among the top regional colleges in the South. At #11, Covenant holds the second-highest freshman retention rate and is ranked #9 among Best Value Schools in the South.

"This ranking recognizes that the profile of our students is well-rounded and robust—representing not only strong academic competencies but also showing ownership and enthusiasm for the type of community we aim to be," says Matthew Bryant, chief enrollment officer at Covenant.

While the metrics of *U.S. News* rankings change from year to year, Covenant has consistently maintained its place as a top college of the South.

## Tom Okie '02 Awarded Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize

In May, the Society of American Historians awarded Covenant alumnus Tom Okie '02 the 53rd annual Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize for his dissertation, "Everything is Peaches Down in Georgia: Culture and Agriculture in the American South."

The Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize is named after the society's founder and is annually awarded "for the best-written doctoral dissertation on an American subject."





Construction teams lay the foundation for six new tennis courts.



The view of tennis court construction from Scotland Yard.



"Tom was a bright student and wrote well. He was always imaginative and thoughtful in his approach to asking questions and in his papers," says Prof. Paul Morton. "Tom is clearly a very good historian, and it's impressive for his work to be recognized in this way."



## Dan Wykoff '01 Appointed Vice President for Business & Finance, CFO

Alumnus Dan Wykoff joined Covenant's administrative team as VP for business & finance and CFO. After studying business at Covenant, Wykoff went on to earn CPA and CGMA certifications as well as a master of professional accountancy from the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University.

"I cannot tell you how pleased I am that Dan is joining the administration at Covenant College," says President Derek Halvorson. "He brings a rich depth of business experience and a high level of integrity to this role. It's a delight to think of how Dan's willingness to serve as our CFO will make Covenant a stronger and healthier institution and community in the years to come."



## Covenant Debaters Recognized at National Tournament

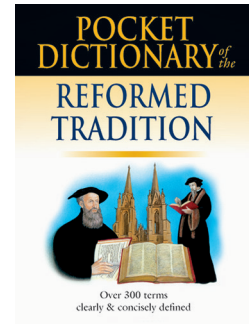
In the spring of 2013, Covenant's Speech & Debate Society successfully competed in the National Christian College Forensics Invitational (NCCFI) at John Brown University. Harris Stevens '15 placed fourth in open extemporaneous speaking and Kevin Hughes '15 won third place novice speaker.

"The success of the team is a testament to how Covenant prepares thoughtful Christians wanting to engage culture," says debate coach Sarah Swygard '13.

To hear students discuss the society visit [covenant.edu/DebateScotsCast](http://covenant.edu/DebateScotsCast).

## Drs. Kelly Kaptic and Wesley Vander Lugt '04 Co-Author *Pocket Dictionary of the Reformed Tradition*

Published by InterVarsity Press in May, *Pocket Dictionary* offers a helpful overview of the Reformed tradition through brief dictionary entries covering theological terms, Latin phrases, important figures, historical events, and more. With over 300 entries, the *Pocket Dictionary* is a valuable reference for all



students—formal and informal—of the Reformed tradition.

"The Reformed tradition is much larger than we often imagine," says Dr. Kaptic. "We were committed to showing the breadth of the tradition."



## Alumna Returns as Nick Barker Writer in Residence

During her time at Covenant, Anne Doe was a poetry student of the late Dr. Nicholas Barker. More than two decades later, Anne Doe-Overstreet '88 and her husband, Jeffrey Overstreet, headed back to Covenant to teach a creative writing class in Dr. Barker's honor, as Nick Barker Writers in Residence.



*"Music is very much like a loafah. It exfoliates our soul. It enables our soul to speak about its pain, its joy."*

Prof. Scott Finch '97  
*God's Gift of Music*



*"I really think we could support every student who wanted to come here. I really believe that."*

Collyn Schmidt  
Covenant & Sacrificial Living



*"While I can't choose not to be shot, I can choose not to be terrorized."*

Andrew Strickenburg '07  
*My Experience at Kenya's Westgate Mall*





Student performers brought *Pride and Prejudice* to life on stage.

“Dr. Barker’s class came at the right time for me,” says Anne. “It was invaluable for me and so I’m thrilled to participate in something in his name.”

### Pro Football Spot Wins at Seed Project Pitch Event

Jacob Hutcherson '13 and Jonathan Spencer '12 competed for \$10,000 in seed capital at the third annual Seed Project pitch event. The \$10,000 prize went to Jacob’s business, Pro Football Spot. Pro Football Spot is an online forum for NFL fans.

“The Seed Project helped me narrow down all my thoughts into a distinct plan,” says Jacob. “I tend to have a lot



of big ideas, but this process helped add structure and clarity to those ideas.”

### Foreign Language Conference Hosted at Covenant

Covenant hosted the 2013 North American Christian Foreign Language Association



tion (NACFLA) Conference in March 2013. NACFLA promotes Christian scholarship in the area of language education. The theme for the conference was “Constructing Identity: Faith and World Languages.” Fifty-five world language professionals attended the spring conference at Covenant.

## SoundCloud

[covenant.edu/soundcloud](http://covenant.edu/soundcloud)



*“Fairy tales don’t pull us away from the real world; they actually give more depth to this world.”*

Dr. Jim Belcher  
Neal Conference:  
C.S. Lewis & the  
Power of Stories



*“Only Christ gives us eyes to see the dignity of His beloved, broken people.”*

Kate Harrison Belz '11  
Darkness, Dignity, &  
Defensive Driving School



*“When God wants to save the world, He does not send in the Avengers.”*

Jeffrey Overstreet  
Christian Storytelling &  
a Failure of the Imagination







Since the early days of Covenant College, graduates have received not only a diploma, but a unique, handcrafted mug commemorating the completion of their Covenant education. Marking each class year, graduation mugs are a prized tradition among alumni and students.

Current students are excited to see what their particular mugs will look like, and alumni treasure their own graduation mugs as practical and beautiful reminders of their time at Covenant.

Throughout the years, local potters have crafted Covenant's graduation mugs, including Jeff Rogers '85 and Sue Cannon. Alumnus John-Michael Forman '10 will serve as the potter for the class of 2014 mugs.

"It's always interesting to see the different shapes and sizes," says alumna and Covenant professor Becky Emmons Pennington '82. "I have a mug from 1982, my husband has his from '84, my daughter has one from '11, and I have a mug from '02 when I graduated from the MEd program. It's an unusual tradition that Covenant graduates look forward to."





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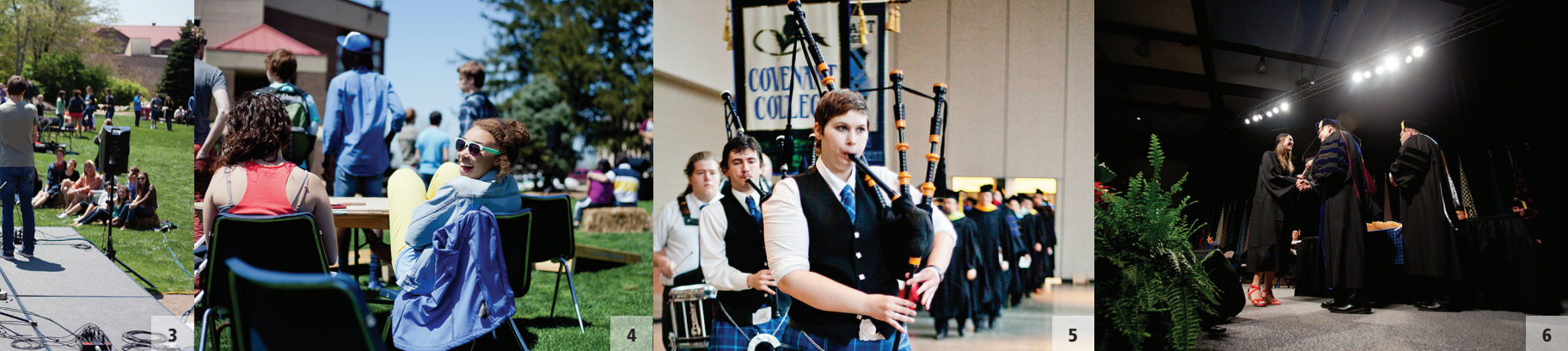


25



26





## CampusCollage

### 1-2 Musical Theatre: Into the Woods

The classic musical weaves fairy-tale characters into the story of a baker and his wife.

### 3-4 Bakertree

Student bands, vendors, and artisans filled the chapel lawn with fun festivities.

### 5-6 Commencement

The class of 2013 celebrated with family and friends as they joined the ranks of Covenant College alumni.

### 7-9 Move-In Day

Parents said their goodbyes and we welcomed 325 Scots to their new home on Lookout Mountain.

### 10-12 Convocation

Faculty donned regalia, the campus sang "All for Jesus," and the school year began with the sound of bagpipes.

### 13-14 Community Picnic

Students, faculty, and staff gathered to enjoy good food, a new school year, and live bluegrass music.

### 15-17 Karibbean Kilter

In Caribbean-style costumes, students gathered at the Tennessee Aquarium for the annual Sadie Hawkins dance.

### 18-19 Neal Conference

Dr. Jim Belcher and Drew & Ellie Holcomb brought thoughtful stories and music to Covenant's campus.

### 20 Around Founders

Residents of Founders transformed their halls into living and breathing stories.

### 21 Day of Prayer

Students braved rain and cold to pray and fellowship at Rock City.

### 22-23 Mountain Affair

Students gladly waited in line for more than four hours for prime seats at Covenant's annual talent show.

### 24-25 Sophomore Class Retreat

Sophomores took the weekend to hear from thoughtful speakers, hang out, and get covered in color.

### 26-27 Highland Games

Students embraced their inner Scot at Covenant's annual Highland Games.

See more at [covenant.edu/facebook](http://covenant.edu/facebook)



# BUILD:

*{ A Covenant Campaign }*







I REMEMBER, ABOUT NINE YEARS AGO, PRAYING THAT GOD WOULD USE THE BUILD CAMPAIGN TO CARE FOR AND UPHOLD COVENANT'S MISSION AND PURPOSE. I was worried that we wouldn't succeed, and I prayed that God would glorify Himself through our efforts. Well, God had a plan that we didn't expect, and He answered our prayers in ways we couldn't have imagined.

As you know, the last eight years have been eventful. In the middle of the campaign, economic instability and instability at the College meant that some families had an especially difficult time affording Covenant and that we had to let go of some faculty and staff. Had we known all of this, we might have decided that 2005 was not the best time to start a campaign. But in God's sovereign plan, the \$31 million we started to raise turned into \$53 million, and the campaign ended with more than \$58 million in gifts. So let's be clear—to God be all the glory. It is only through His perfect plan that the campaign succeeded and continues to serve the mission and purpose of Covenant.

As He so often does, God used His people to bless the College through this campaign. I'm thankful for the friends of Covenant who gave faithfully over the past eight years—who lived in the same economic times, who reduced their own labor forces, who had reductions in their own financial situations. Thank you for demonstrating perseverance, which Eugene Peterson describes as "a long obedience in the same direction." I'm grateful for the sacrifice of alumni who gave more than \$4 million, and for their undying support of Covenant's mission. I'm thankful for the leadership of the Board of Trustees, and specifically Joel Belz, our campaign chairman. Finally, I'm thankful for the bold guidance of Niel and Kathleen Nielson, and for the way they steered the College during those troubling times.

As I look back on the campaign, it is amazing to see God's provision come through in ways that exceeded all expectations. In spite of challenging years and difficult circumstances, God blessed us with people who are excited to give through Covenant to His kingdom work. The BUILD campaign is not primarily about bricks and mortar. It is one part of the larger work God is doing through Covenant to build up future generations of young men and women—your children, my children, our children's children—to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth and live out extraordinary callings in ordinary places.

Troy Duble  
*Vice President for Advancement*





by Grace Mullaney Humbles '13

Every good story begins with a need, confronts a great obstacle, and ends with an extraordinary victory. In 2005, Covenant College encountered a tremendous need. The College has always worked to build up students who embrace their identity in Christ and their calling as His children, but a growing student body revealed the need for new housing and classrooms for those students. Onto this stage entered BUILD: A Covenant Campaign—the largest campaign in College history. In the summer of 2005, the College set a goal of raising \$31 million in five years to support the College's growing needs through capital projects, the Covenant Fund, and the growth of Covenant's endowment. But like any good story, the BUILD campaign was full of surprises.





### *A Board of Examples*

The BUILD campaign highlighted the dedication of Covenant's board of trustees. Board members generously gave during the BUILD campaign with their resources and their networks, totaling \$9,506,894 in gifts to campaign efforts. Their generosity acted as a powerful example and testimony to the work God was doing through Covenant and the BUILD campaign.

"The older we get, the more thankful we are for what Covenant has given us. Every week we think: we have to pray for the College and give to the College. It's a desire, not an obligation."  
Hunt Davidson '11

### **BUILDING A FOUNDATION: THE COVENANT FUND**

Covenant College has always championed the importance of everyday people living out extraordinary callings in ordinary places. In many ways, the Covenant Fund reflects this conviction. Supporting the everyday needs of the College, the Covenant Fund provides for student scholarships, faculty and staff salaries, art and athletic programs, and much more. In fact, 12 percent of a Covenant education is provided for by the Covenant Fund.

### *Families-Helping-Families Scholarship Fund*

In 2009, an anonymous grandmother made a \$250,000 matching grant directed toward scholarships for students who couldn't afford a Covenant education. This generous investment, along with the gifts it matched, provided opportunities for students who otherwise could not afford to attend Covenant. This scholarship fund continues to offer students the financial resources they need to make Covenant their home.

"The scholarship was the tipping point that made coming to Covenant a reality."

Tim Ahrenholz '14  
*Families-Helping-Families scholar*



In 2008, the Great Recession hit. Many Americans lost jobs, resources, and any sense of security. In the midst of this nationwide struggle, Covenant alumni, friends, family, and foundations faithfully contributed to BUILD, and campaign goals were met—two years early. Rather than rest in that astonishing success, the decision was made to expand the campaign to \$53 million in eight years. Once again, God was faithful, and in June of 2013, the BUILD campaign came to a triumphant close.



*Center for Calling & Career*

Largely due to the success of the BUILD campaign, the Center for Calling & Career has equipped students to take the education they receive in the classroom and apply it to their future careers. From resume-building to networking functions to personal connections made over lunch, the Center for Calling & Career prepares students to enter the workforce with confidence.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:  
CAPITAL PROJECTS**

*Brock Hall & the Dottie Brock Gardens*

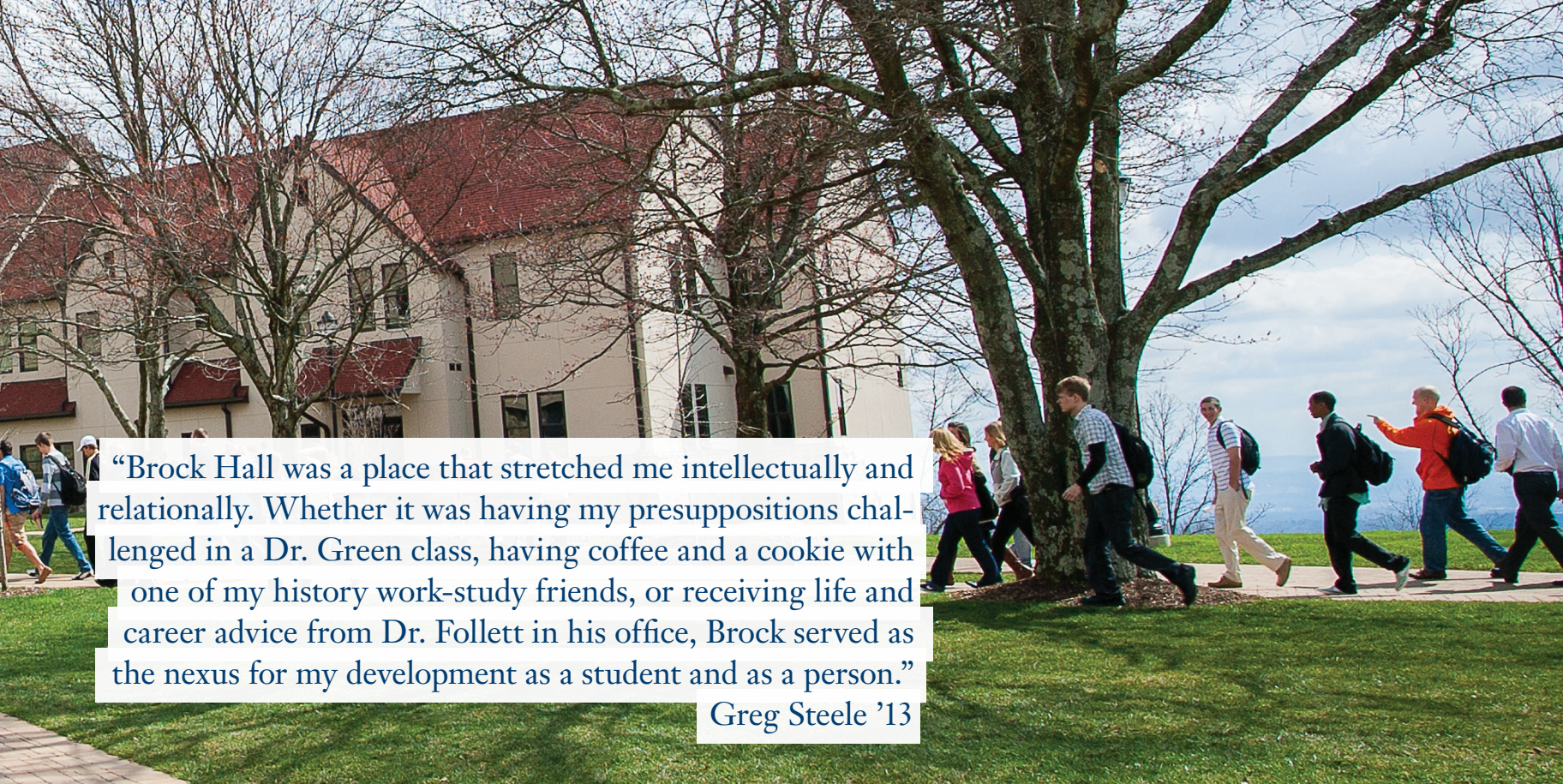
The walls of Brock Hall are saturated with histories, foreign languages, economic equations, and sociological theories. A language lab fully equipped with computers, interactive headsets, foreign TV, and tutors gives Covenant students the keys to mastering a foreign language. Named in honor of former president Frank Brock, Covenant’s commitment to academic excellence is inescapable in the offices and classrooms of Brock Hall.

“I got my job because I met my boss at Mountaintop Mingle, a networking event put on by the Center for Calling & Career. If I hadn’t gone, I don’t think I would be working where I am now. It would have taken me so much longer to make that connection. I’m so grateful.”

Ashley Baldwin ’12  
*Executive director of Choices Pregnancy Resource Center*

|                  | <i>Original Goal</i> | <i>Expanded Goal</i> | <i>Gifts</i> | <i>Donors</i> |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Covenant Fund    | \$11,000,000         | \$17,600,000         | \$19,376,099 | 4,357         |
| Capital Projects | \$15,000,000         | \$28,900,000         | \$28,908,384 | 464           |
| Endowment        | \$5,000,000          | \$6,500,000          | \$7,000,948  | 349           |
| Restricted Funds | -                    | -                    | \$3,421,622  | 975           |
| Total            | \$31,000,000         | \$53,000,000         | \$58,707,053 | 6,145         |





“Brock Hall was a place that stretched me intellectually and relationally. Whether it was having my presuppositions challenged in a Dr. Green class, having coffee and a cookie with one of my history work-study friends, or receiving life and career advice from Dr. Follett in his office, Brock served as the nexus for my development as a student and as a person.”

Greg Steele '13



Dottie Brock is known for her love of beauty and her sacrificial care for Covenant's grounds throughout her time as first lady of Covenant. Dottie poured herself into Covenant's campus, tending to the lawns, growing flowers, and cultivating the natural beauty of the College. The gardens are dedicated to her consistent stewardship of Covenant's campus. A dedication plaque at the entrance to the Dottie Brock Gardens reminds passersby of the large influence Dottie's small acts of faithful generosity have on our campus.

#### *Kresge Memorial Library Renovation*

Over the past eight years, Covenant's library has increasingly become a more inviting, thriving hub of student activity. Classes formerly housed in the library were moved to Brock Hall, allowing the library to open up group study rooms and individual study spaces for students.

“Semester after semester the library has become a sort of home base for me. Whether I'm working on a large research paper or finishing up some economics homework, the library is always the place on campus that I find myself walking to after dinner in order to get my work done. During my time at Covenant, the library has made steps to become an even more welcoming and productive place to study.”

Kendi Anderson '14





“Playing soccer at Covenant made me feel like part of the community in a way that nothing else really did. I felt like I was contributing something of value to the school by playing. Now as an alumnus, it just made sense to give back to continue to make the soccer program even better by putting lights over Scotland Yard.”  
Chris Cushenbery '04

“I can’t say enough about how nice our baseball field is. In my time playing at Covenant I have yet to see a field with a playing surface as nice as ours—that includes playing at the Lookouts’ stadium downtown.”

James Rollins '13  
*Alumnus baseball player*



### *Athletics*

The construction of a baseball and softball complex, cross-country trails, and new lights over Scotland Yard are expressions of Covenant’s commitment to the preeminence of Christ in all things.

The Scots soccer teams can now play nighttime soccer games at home, thanks to the newly-installed lights over Scotland Yard. This enables academic programs to function with less co-curricular interruption during the day and allows the student body and local community to participate more actively in game-time activities.

Covenant’s newly completed cross-country trails are an invaluable asset to our cross-country teams, and are well-loved by the rest of the Covenant community.



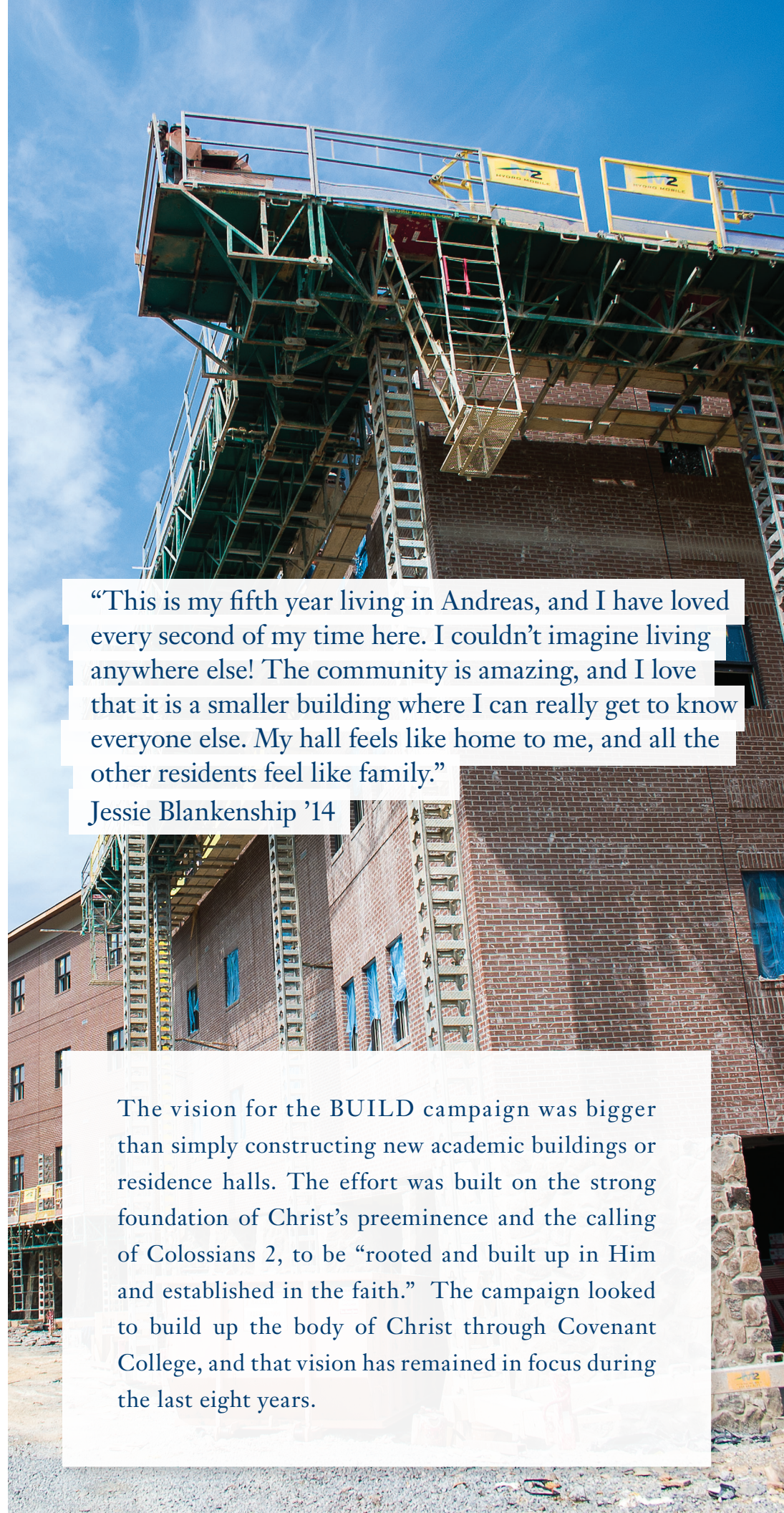


### *Residence Halls: Andreas & Carter*

From the newest to the oldest hall, BUILD campaign efforts have helped steward current buildings while laying the foundation for new homes for Covenant students.

The generosity of Lowell Andreas helped make Covenant's newest residence hall a reality. Having never set foot onto Covenant's campus, Mr. Andreas was a picture of a generous life lived by faith, not by sight. Today, more than 100 Covenant students call Andreas Hall their home.

The BUILD campaign included a strong commitment to steward one of Covenant's most treasured buildings—Carter Hall. Few students look back on their time at Covenant without memories of Carter. From eating in the Great Hall and studying in Carter lobby, to finding a way up into "the tower," Carter will remain a fixed point on Covenant's campus for years to come.

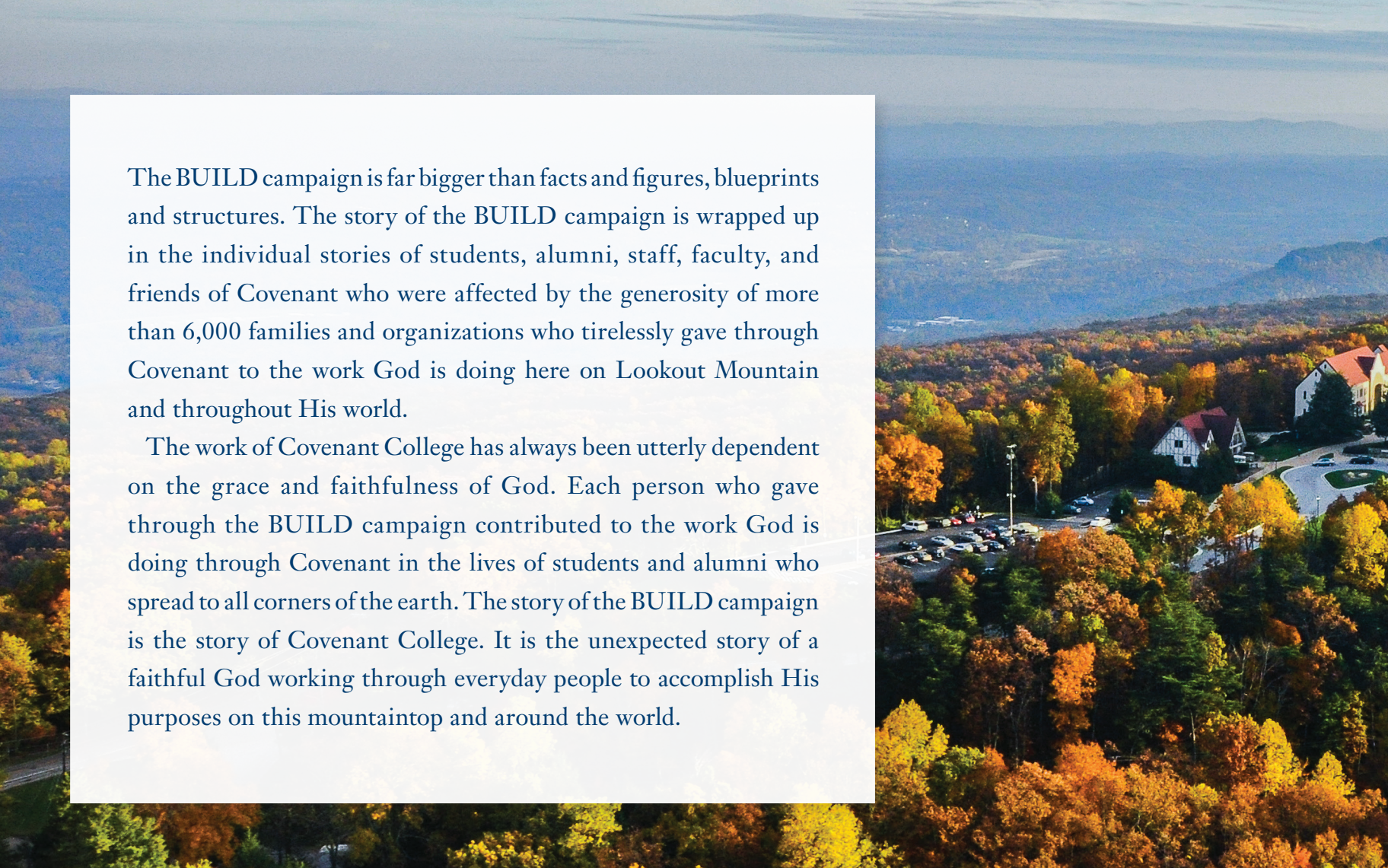


"This is my fifth year living in Andreas, and I have loved every second of my time here. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else! The community is amazing, and I love that it is a smaller building where I can really get to know everyone else. My hall feels like home to me, and all the other residents feel like family."

Jessie Blankenship '14

The vision for the BUILD campaign was bigger than simply constructing new academic buildings or residence halls. The effort was built on the strong foundation of Christ's preeminence and the calling of Colossians 2, to be "rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith." The campaign looked to build up the body of Christ through Covenant College, and that vision has remained in focus during the last eight years.





The BUILD campaign is far bigger than facts and figures, blueprints and structures. The story of the BUILD campaign is wrapped up in the individual stories of students, alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of Covenant who were affected by the generosity of more than 6,000 families and organizations who tirelessly gave through Covenant to the work God is doing here on Lookout Mountain and throughout His world.

The work of Covenant College has always been utterly dependent on the grace and faithfulness of God. Each person who gave through the BUILD campaign contributed to the work God is doing through Covenant in the lives of students and alumni who spread to all corners of the earth. The story of the BUILD campaign is the story of Covenant College. It is the unexpected story of a faithful God working through everyday people to accomplish His purposes on this mountaintop and around the world.

## BUILDING THE FUTURE: ENDOWMENT

Every student who makes Covenant their home has enjoyed the benefits of Covenant's endowment. From scholarships that meet financial needs, to faculty salaries and sabbaticals, the endowment is part of the fundamental financial structure of any college.

Because the endowment continually yields interest income, an investment in Covenant's endowment is, in a real sense, a gift that keeps on giving, and can help provide a Covenant education for students for years to come. Gifts to the endowment are often made with vision, creativity, and thoughtful planning. The Norris & Billie Little Faculty Endowment and the Wilberforce Scholarship are just two examples of what the endowment accomplishes in the Covenant community.

“Endowment is key, because you want to be able to attract and retain the best teachers, and keep tuition as low as possible. We don't want to deny anybody the ability to get a Christian education at Covenant College because of money, if we can possibly help it.”

Sam Smartt  
*Donor*

- › 3,169 alumni gave \$4,878,288.
- › 46 trustees gave \$6,143,782.
- › 20 trustee advisors gave \$332,115.
- › 875 churches gave \$8,443,839.
- › 1,092 parents of students and alumni gave.
- › 204 faculty and staff members gave.
- › 3,325 donors were first-time donors.

- › 3,249 students have received grants and scholarships as a result of the BUILD campaign.
- › 113 students live in Andreas Hall.
- › 167 classes are held in Brock Hall per year.
- › 30 faculty offices are located in Brock Hall.
- › 68 games have been played under the lights on Scotland Yard.





### *Norris & Billie Little Faculty Endowment*

Norris and Billie Little chose to make a generous gift to the Covenant endowment to allow Covenant professors to take frequent sabbaticals—to study, and refresh themselves. Their gift enables professors such as Drs. Richard Follett and Don Petcher to spend time on concentrated research in their fields of history and physics.

“It seemed to us that if we could provide some means by which they could take some time and do sabbaticals and do some writing or refresh and reenergize themselves...it would be beneficial, and would serve the Lord.”

Norris Little  
*Donor*

### *Wilberforce Scholarship*

Named in honor of William Wilberforce, the Wilberforce Scholarship is a regional scholarship awarded based on character. The scholarship not only provides funds for students, helping them to pay for their Covenant education, but also provides them with internship opportunities and a local mentor.

“Our Wilberforce meetings consistently focused on studying Christians who faithfully followed Christ and fought for righteousness and the kingdom, sometimes in the face of tremendous opposition. We were poured into by mentors and faculty advisors.”

Rachel Carleton '13  
*Alumna Wilberforce scholar*



# MEMORY KEEPING

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW GREAT BIRTHDAYS HAVE BECOME SINCE WE STARTED CELEBRATING THEM ON FACEBOOK? There's nothing like getting up on your birthday morning, logging onto Facebook, and reading the lengthy scroll of well-wishers who thought of YOU on your special day. *"Happy birthday!!"* *"I hope you have a great day and a terrific year!!!"* *"Have a wonderful day!!"* The annual birthday-greeting barrage may be the single greatest reason for having Facebook, and the thing I miss most since I abandoned it. After years of wondering if anyone was going to remember it's my birthday, or trying ever-so-subtly to drop a hint a day or a week before the actual day (by the way it is December 4)—relying on only my wife or mother to know it's my birthday—now, a reminder would magically appear on my friends' Facebook accounts, and dozens of them would dutifully send me kind, affirming greetings.

A couple of years ago, journalist David Plotz became curious about this little Facebook birthday ritual. He was skeptical of these birthday messages; something wasn't quite right. Although getting several dozen little notes on your birthday feels pretty good, Plotz became dubious about the sincerity of it all—the same way all of us should be dubious about the way “friend” and “like” are used in the land of Facebook. Are all these people sincerely thinking about me and my birthday?

Plotz decided to hatch an ingenious little experiment. His real birthday is January 31.

What would happen, he wondered, if he reset his Facebook birthday to July 11? And then after July 11, what if he reset it again for July 25? And, after that, again on July 28? (There are, by the way, no rules on Facebook against changing or repeatedly commemorating your own birthday). What do you suppose happened? Well, you probably guessed it: dozens of “friends” obediently chimed in on July 11 with birthday wishes, 119 in all. And then on July 25, he received 105 greetings (45 of them repeat birthday wishers). And then on July 28, Plotz received 71 jubilant birthday notices. Sixteen poor souls had wished Plotz a happy birthday *on three different dates*, in a span of 17 days!

The great Facebook birthday experiment probably tells us many things; but among them, it illustrates a firm and enduring truth: we humans are notoriously bad rememberers. Our capacity to remember

“We’ve outsourced our already feeble memories to electronic technologies to which we submit and slavishly rely on for doing work once accomplished solely by our brains.”

is fragile and weak, making it very hard to maintain anything like a firm grip on the ways our experiences in the present are linked to what happened in the past. And we’ve outsourced our already feeble memories to electronic technologies to which we submit and slavishly rely on for doing work once accomplished solely by our brains. Can’t remember those song lyrics? Google it. Can’t recall who won last year’s

Super Bowl? Wikipedia. What time does Amber’s party start? Search your email inbox. Can’t recollect the name of China’s president? Ask Siri. Afraid you might forget your best friend’s birthday? Facebook has you covered.

I make my living teaching history, and was trained in the methods of critical historical study. History is little more than an enterprise of systematic, organized remembering. Historians are engaged in the practice of preserving, selecting, categorizing, analyzing, and writing about the past so that features of it that we deem significant won’t fade into oblivion. It’s an important kind of work because, as I have noted, in case you’ve forgotten, we humans are notoriously bad rememberers. And this isn’t by any means a new digital-age problem: The writer of Ecclesiastes summed it up nicely: “There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to

come will not be remembered by those who follow” (Eccles. 1:11). We’re bad rememberers, plain and simple—always have been, always will be.

Not long ago I discovered, embedded elsewhere in the book of Ecclesiastes, an exhilarating, yet heartbreaking little illustration of our woeful condition. This little

story, I submit to you, is perhaps the shortest, most distressing tale in all of Scripture. Ecclesiastes 9:14-15: It’s all of two verses in length (a mere four sentences), but I swear to you, it’s got it all! Intrigue. An epic clash of wills. Good vs. evil. The triumph of resilience and quiet nobility over avarice, greed, and naked power. If you read between the lines, you may even find a little romance! I’m convinced that these four



brief sentences have the makings of an epic blockbuster movie that could easily demand a multi-million-dollar budget and a cast of thousands! I'm picturing a Russell Crowe, maybe Liam Neeson. And I've taken the liberty of casting Ryan Gosling as our hero. Here's the story:

There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siegeworks against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man.

The story has a seemingly glorious, happy ending: this dude saved the city *with his wisdom*! However, the money line, for me, is that hopelessly tragic last sentence, which should make our collective hearts ache: *But nobody remembered that poor man*. "There is

coffee). But each time we do, we're engaging in the most elemental form of remembrance.

Imagine the terror and confusion that would undoubtedly ensue if you awoke one morning to find yourself suddenly without the capacity for this basic kind of remembrance. Everything else necessary for the day would come unhinged; you'd become entirely paralyzed. (This, by the way, is the premise for a lot of really good thrillers in literature and film). So memory is more than a way to retrieve information from the past; memory is what holds our identities together. Many of us have watched loved ones descend into the darkness of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. We tend to think in immediate ways of these as diseases of forgetting, and they are. But the real tragedy that ultimately consumes those who suffer from such diseases is the

as Christian believers, when we gather at the Lord's Table, supping together with believers of every time and place, receiving the bread and the wine, as Christ commanded, we do so "in remembrance of" Jesus.

And just as we forget as individuals, we also too easily develop amnesia as communities. And such cultural forgetting can weaken or destroy our shared identities as groups of people, just as thoroughly as Alzheimer's can send an elderly woman into complete oblivion. This is why I teach history. Historical learning exists, at least in part, to aid communities in the critical task of remembering—recovering a sense of identity by keeping both the triumphant and tragic memories of such communities alive and vibrant.

So memory is a vital concern for all of us. And, as I think I have mentioned, *we are notoriously bad at it!* But this isn't even the

## "We long to be known, to be recognized, to be deemed significant enough to be remembered."

no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow" (Eccles. 1:11).

Our status as bad rememberers is, as it turns out, a fairly big problem because memory is one of the basic elements of the human condition that make us, in fact, human. To be human is to remember. To have a human identity—one that remains intact, moment-to-moment, day-to-day, year-to-year—requires a remarkable God-given capacity to recollect who we are, and to unite our sense of ourselves as we were yesterday to our sense of ourselves today.

Part of the process of "waking up" each morning involves reconnecting to the self we were when we went to bed the night before. We probably don't give it much thought; it happens almost instantaneously (or, for some of us, after a strong cup of black

severing of the self from those relationships, places, and communities that had always otherwise given their lives grounding, meaning, and direction.

Of course remembering isn't only something we do individually; we also remember collectively; we share social memories with communities to which we belong. It's interesting that, as communities, we invoke memories of things that we ourselves weren't present or even alive to witness, allowing us to speak of such events in the first-person plural. As Americans, we somewhat easily recall that, "We defeated the British in our War of Independence," "We were the first on the Moon," and "We were attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001." As a Cleveland Indians fan, I'm proud to say that "*we* won the World Series in 1948" (and as a statement of pure faith, I affirm that we will do so again one day). And

most troubling news. I would argue that the poor quality of our memories is only matched by our desperate, even obsessive desire to *be remembered*.

Pastor Tim Keller suggests that our greatest human fear is not that we will become hated or scorned, but that we will be forgotten altogether. Although we legitimately worry about the status of our reputations, we carry an even greater anxiety about whether or not others even take note of our existence. Think back to those Facebook birthday greetings. "Someone remembered me. I matter. I am validated." There is great power in someone remembering and speaking your name. We long to be known, to be recognized, to be deemed significant enough to be remembered. I'm convinced that much of our striving and struggling in this life stems from a deep-seated longing to do something magnificent enough to make



# “Our deep longing to be remembered finds its true and final answer in our faithful God who has written our names on the palms of His hands.”

us worthy of remembrance after we're dead. God created us for eternity, as beings that will live forever. And, because of this, we carry within us an indescribable hunger to have our names spoken after we are dead and gone.

We know in our heart of hearts that the only true answer to this hunger—this longing—to be remembered is surrendering ourselves, body and soul, to the God who knows us by name who has promised to *remember us* long after we've lost *the capacity to even remember ourselves*. It's why we should take enormous comfort from the words that begin the eighth chapter of Genesis. After 150 days of torrential rain, producing floods that covered all habitable lands, wiping out every living thing on the face of the earth in Genesis chapter 7, four words of comfort and hope begin chapter 8: “But God remembered Noah.” In the final analysis, these are the only words that will matter to us. Our deep longing to be remembered finds its true and final answer in our faithful God who has written our names on the palms of His hands.

But in the meantime, for reasons known only to Him, God has chosen to use a very human strategy to preserve our relationships with one another and our relationship to Him. The glue that binds these relationships together is our very fragile practices of remembrance. While undoubtedly guided by the Holy Spirit, the survival of our faith depends upon the aptitude of God's people to remember and to faithfully extend the stories of God's grace from one generation to another; in other words God continues to sustain us by imploring us to exercise our very crumbly memories. You might say that God has deposited this very precious treasure within brittle jars made of clay. God continues to call us to remember, even as He knows that we are lousy rememberers.

Our longing to *be remembered* is fulfilled, at least in the short term, by entrusting our names and all that our names signify to the memories of those we leave behind.

In 1942, amid the Second World War, when most of the Holocaust's victims had not yet been murdered, a Jewish resident of Palestine, Mordecai Shenhavi, proposed the first ever memorial to the victims of Nazi violence. He named it Yad Vashem, and it is today the largest Holocaust memorial in the world, spanning 45 acres at the foot of Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. The name Yad Vashem is taken from Isaiah 56:5, where God promises “a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters,” and Yahweh here promises this memorial to, of all people, eunuchs—men with no chance of bearing children to carry on their names. Like eunuchs in danger of having their names forever wiped away, the victims of the Holocaust might now in this new memorial receive, in the words of the prophet, Yad Vashem, “an everlasting name that will not be cut off.”

Scripture bears witness to the tensions between our very fragile memories and our desperate need to be remembered. And this is why God implores us not to take the situation lying down. The Bible radiates with urgent calls to remember. God repeatedly implores His people, Israel, to remember who they are, from what calamities they've been delivered, and by whose power they are sustained. He does so because such memories provide abiding foundations of hope. “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.” Why remember? For what God has done yesterday, He promises to do for you and your children today and forevermore. Remember. Remember. Remember.

We are no different! Like ancient Israel, we are also called to be “keepers of memory.” It's our task in this life to carry on the collective memories that have shaped the communities to which we belong. By helping one another claim these collective memories as our own, we implant ourselves more fully within the stories that root us and give our lives meaning.

Being keepers of memory within a culture that worships at the altars of individualism and technological innovation has its challenges. While these ideals have surely spawned creativity in the marketplace and science, I fear they've likewise resulted in something like social amnesia. Living in a culture that, as the Doobie Brothers put it, “Can't stop thinkin' about tomorrow,” we tie ourselves tightly to an ethic of forgetting. “*Tear down that neighborhood so we can build a new super highway.*” “*Throw out that method of teaching math because we've developed a new and better one.*” “*Abandon those old ways of doing church because we've discovered modern, more effective practices.*” “*Push that old guy with his old ideas into retirement, so we can make room for somebody younger, with his fresh insights and creative energy.*” Such attitudes have encouraged us to liberate ourselves from what sociologist Robert Bellah aptly calls “communities of memory”—those communities that provide our lives with context, a sense of rootedness, and genuine responsibility for the world beyond our immediate needs and limited experiences. By implanting in us a deeper and longer vision of our place in the world, Bellah argues, communities of memory not only “tie us to the past,” but they turn us “toward the future as communities of hope.”

We all need to root ourselves more firmly in such communities of memory; we need to recognize how the inheritance of such



communities enriches our lives and gives us grounding; and we need to embrace the notion that stories from the past don't merely belong to our parents and our elders, but that these stories—the good and the bad—are indeed *our* stories. And we need to tell such stories with vigor and with joy.

One evening years ago, my wife, Beth Ann, and I were in different parts of the house, reading or watching television, while our kids were in bed. Our oldest, Lucy, was about three years old at the time. Suddenly our cat became very agitated outside of Lucy's door. We observed the cat's increasing agitation, and began to realize that something was happening inside her room. When we opened the door, we discovered that a bird had flown down the chimney and out the fireplace into her bedroom, and was flying round and round in a panicked state. I first picked up still-sleeping Lucy, and moved her to another room, and then we managed after some considerable effort to coax the bird out of her room, and, eventually, out of the house. We then put still-sleeping Lucy back to bed. She'd missed the entire episode. The next day, we told her what had happened, and over the next several years, it became her very favorite story to hear and to tell. Even though she'd slept through the entire incident, the story became, very much, Lucy's story. It was part of her memory. Part of her identity. It became an integral part of who she was.

This is sort of the way collective memory works; it's certainly how it's functioned within our family. Stories of how Beth Ann and I met and fell in love; stories of each of our children's births; stories of aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas; stories of wrestling with God to discover His calling for our lives; stories of Ohio farms, long trips to Kansas, and of piano lessons; stories of making huge mistakes, failing exams, surviving cancer, and losing loved ones. But the memories we keep among our children aren't limited to family stories: our family memories have bigger contexts; we also tell stories of our neighborhood, St. Elmo, and of our church, St. Elmo Pres.; of the United States and its cultures; we tell stories of

“We need to root ourselves  
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Western civilization and of the development of scientific inquiry; stories of the church in its triumphs and failures; and we tell stories of God's loving work within our world, His extension to us of His image, His calling on us to subdue and fill the earth, our rebellion against Him, and His redemption of us through the finished work of Jesus Christ. And as we recall these large memories to our children, we hope they will claim these memories as their own.

God has entrusted this task to each of us, as keepers of memory. But God understands who He's dealing with here. He knows that we are notoriously *bad* rememberers! Did you ever tie a piece of string on your finger to help you remember something? Well, God also urges His people to find physical, tangible ways to remember what He deems important—to weave them into the rituals of our lives, to tie them as symbols on our hands, to bind them to our foreheads, and to write them on our doorframes. This is why, in addition to merely telling stories, Scripture gives accounts of erecting physical emblems of commemoration (remember when Samuel set up a memorial stone—a so-called “Ebenezer” to remind God's people of His provision and help)? We name buildings after important people and affix

placards as tributes to them on their walls. We enshrine people of our stories in stained glass so that the power and meaning of their lives are given a greater permanence in our consciousness. We also set aside days of remembrance for others, like those that recall Martin Luther and Martin Luther King, Jr., as markers in time as well as markers in space.

Answering the awesome demands of memory keeping is an enormously weighty task that requires a sober-minded commitment to live our lives with grown-up seriousness, with genuine Christian maturity, and with a keen awareness that God has entrusted the persistence of His church to us and our shaky hands. May we today entrust ourselves and our capacity to fulfill this solemn task to the God who remembers, who has promised us “a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters,” and “an everlasting name that will not be cut off.” 🙏

*Dr. Jay Green has served in Covenant's history department since 1998. He lives in St. Elmo with his family, and is an elder at St. Elmo Presbyterian Church. This article is adapted from a lecture he delivered in chapel at Covenant in the spring of 2013.*





by Grace Mullaney Humbles '13

# An Unexpected Friendship

In the summer of 2012, Emily walked around downtown Chattanooga, searching for a homeless woman to befriend. Instead, she found Walter, and an unexpected friendship.



IN THE SUMMER AFTER HER FRESHMAN YEAR AT COVENANT, Emily felt God calling her to serve a homeless woman in downtown Chattanooga. “I just started walking around the Coolidge Park area,” says Emily. “I was praying, ‘OK, God. Where is this homeless woman you want me to reach out to?’ I didn’t see any.” Emily eventually sat down on a bench beside an older man named Walter.

“Walter is a quiet guy,” says Emily. “And he has this one big dreadlock that hangs over his left shoulder.” She was able to strike up a conversation with the quiet Walter and learned that he was a Vietnam War veteran. When Emily left, she and Walter agreed to meet in the park again the next Sunday. Soon it was a Sunday tradition for the two to meet in Coolidge Park to talk and play gin rummy.

Although Emily faithfully visited Walter in Coolidge Park, it took a few months for her to look forward to their visits. “At first it was something I felt like I should do,” she says. “It was a little out of my comfort zone. But I remember one day a little kid came up and said hi to us, and it was amazing to see Walter light up just from a short interaction with that little kid. I started to really see him as a person and as my friend.” As their friendship grew, Emily started learning more about Walter—he hates bananas, but he’ll eat fried chicken, and he likes basketball and Frisbee.

From time to time, Emily asked Walter if there was anything he needed, and he usually refused. But on a cool day in November, he mentioned that he might need some new boots. The shoes he had were falling apart, and winter was on its way.

Emily made plans with James, the assistant resident director of her residence hall, to take Walter to a shoe store. “I remember the first time I saw his feet,” Emily says. “We had to take off his shoes at the store and I saw how dirty they were. The whole ride back to Coolidge Park I couldn’t stop thinking about his feet. I couldn’t stop thinking about how this man, a veteran, was so forgotten.”

Emily and James brought Walter back downtown with his new boots. “As I took off his old shoes, I couldn’t stop thinking

“It was a vulnerable moment for both of us. It made me think about how our sin is so filthy and so dirty before God, but He washes our feet and cleans us anyway.”

about how dirty his feet were,” Emily says. “So I looked up, and asked him if it would be OK for me to wash his feet.”

Walter slowly agreed, and Emily brought water over to their bench, bent down, and she and James washed Walter’s feet. “It’s a humbling thing for your feet to be dirty, and to need someone to wash your feet,” Emily says. “But it was also humbling for me to have the opportunity to wash his feet. It was a vulnerable moment for both of us.”

After driving back up Lookout Mountain, Emily reflected on what had happened. “It made me think about how our sin is so filthy and so dirty before God,” she says. “But He washes our feet and cleans us anyway.”

In the past year, Emily and Walter have met almost every Sunday and their friendship has continued to grow. “I’ve been able to talk to Walter about the gospel some,” she says. “After we finish a few games of gin rummy, we’ll read the Bible together and talk about what we read.”

Emily is far from naïve about her friendship with Walter. Although he rarely asks her for anything, she’s aware of the danger of gullibility. “At some point I just decided to be a little gullible,” Emily says. “I’m safe and careful, but I don’t want to care for people based on how much or how little they deserve it.” 🙏

*The names in this story have been changed to preserve anonymity.*









## Homecoming 2013

More than 300 alumni made their way back to Lookout Mountain this October. This year, Homecoming included the long-awaited celebration of the successful BUILD campaign. A tribute to the well-loved Dr. Hamm, former professor of music, subsequent dessert receptions, and Jazz on the Overlook showcased the tremendous developments of Covenant's campus. Alumni reconnected with classmates, celebrated 10- and 20-year reunions, and resurrected their athletic prowess for alumni soccer and basketball games. The weekend culminated in the annual soccer games and fireworks show.

*Enjoy photos and videos from Homecoming at [covenant.edu/2013homecoming](http://covenant.edu/2013homecoming).*



Jim & Evie Conrad receiving the Alumni of the Year award.





## **Jim '62 & Evie Moore Conrad '68**

### *Alumni of the Year*

Jim and Evie met while Jim was the dean of men at Covenant. Jim has pastored churches in Naples, FL, Murphy, NC, and York, PA. He also served on the board of Covenant College for a number of years. Evie served as a teacher and pre-school administrator for Naples Christian Academy for many years. The Conrads are now retired and attend Spring Run Presbyterian Church in Midlothian, VA, where Jim leads a community group and Evie is the Sunday school ministry team leader. Over their lifetime, Jim and Evie have faithfully served God's kingdom, and a large part of that has been serving through Covenant College. They continually pray for the College and its students, including their grandson James Hanan Conrad '16. The Conrads have represented Covenant throughout the years—hosting students and introducing businessmen to the mission of Covenant as a worthy investment. Again and again the Conrads give financially to the College and have encouraged their friends and congregation to invest in the mission of Covenant as well. Jim and Evie are dedicated to demonstrating the preeminence of Christ in every area of their lives and are passionate about Covenant's mission to instill that dedication into the lives of students.

## **Dave '09 & Heather Nation Hess '09**

### *Young Alumni of the Year*

Dave and Heather have a deep commitment to their local church, North Shore Fellowship in Chattanooga, TN, where Dave served as an assistant worship leader for several years and where they are both regularly involved with music ministry. As Heather pursues her PhD in English and Dave works as an underwriter, they remain committed to their church and community. Over the past four years they have maintained close connections with Covenant—speaking to guidance counselors for the admissions office, helping run Mountain Affair, participating in alumni focus groups, and generously giving of their time and resources to help the College. Dave and Heather live as thoughtful believers and continually give of themselves to help others recognize Christ's preeminence.



## **Scott '89 & Amy Marshall Dillon '89**

### *Alumni Volunteers of the Year*

The Dillons strive to carry out the motto of Covenant College in their work—teaching, administrating, and even recruiting for Covenant. In the last several years, Scott and Amy have brought vans of students to visit Covenant, hosted lunches in their home, served as panel representatives in local recruiting events, recommended countless students for admission, and prayed for students from their hometown of Indian Trail, NC. Scott currently serves as the high school principal at Covenant Day School in Charlotte, NC, where Amy also serves as a teacher in the lower school. Their sons, James '17 and Stephen '15, are students at Covenant—two of the many students who know about Covenant College because of the Dillons' faithful representation of the College.



1955

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

## **FORMER & ENDOWED**

Including Covenant in your will or estate plan ensures that future generations of students will be able to receive the thoughtfully Christian education that Covenant provides.

Investing in 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 will, estate plan, or gifting, please contact Marc Erickson, executive director of the Covenant College Foundation, at [marc.erickson@covenant.edu](mailto:marc.erickson@covenant.edu) or 706.419.1645.



# Grateful Learning

ALL MY LIFE I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT GRATITUDE from a moral perspective, but not until recent years have I begun to recognize gratitude as an attitude or quality of character whose presence or absence significantly affects our thinking and learning. We know from Scripture (Romans 1:21) that ingratitude is at the root of the fallenness of our thinking and affections. If ingratitude is toxic to our thinking, then surely gratitude is crucial to right thinking and productive inquiry. How so? I want to propose as a partial answer that gratitude involves a significant openness of the mind to truth—an openness that would be missing in the absence of gratitude, with the consequence that certain important truths would be missed. Let's consider just one significant way in which gratitude involves opening the mind in ways that are epistemically beneficial.

In a word, being grateful makes you more teachable. There are several facets to this. The most obvious is that gratitude necessarily involves humility and (often) an acknowledgement of your own limitations and dependence. Gratitude also involves some level of cognitive engagement or attention. For example, it necessarily involves significant attention to the past and/or present, and engagement with both a gift or benefit and a giver/benefactor. The humble engagement involved in gratitude puts one in a good position to learn and grow. Ingratitude, on the other hand, generally involves either apathy or a sense of entitlement or desert—both of which are all-too-prevalent in our current educational culture—or, sometimes, a kind of disdain for the benefit and/or the benefactor. In any case, what is encouraged is a kind of epistemically detrimental closed-mindedness that's manifested in intellectual sloth and/or arrogance.

“In a word, being grateful makes you more teachable.”



by Dr. John C. Wingard, Jr., professor of philosophy & dean of humanities

Another facet of gratitude's conduciveness to teachability is related to Aristotle's significant distinction between different approaches to inquiry—the approaches of wonder and doubt. I would maintain that gratitude, with its presupposed acknowledgement, is compatible with and conducive to wonder in a way that ingratitude is not. Ingratitude is much more at home with doubt or skepticism than with wonder. This is important, it seems to me. The way of doubt—one of the trademark characteristics

of modernistic hubris—is, in my judgment, an unfortunate dead end street, for doubt seems inevitably and ultimately to lead to more doubt. An approach

of wonder, involving both awe and curiosity, seems both more fitting to our position as created (hence dependent) knowers and more likely to be productive of knowledge and rational beliefs.

I find this convicting and challenging, but also powerfully encouraging for us Christians. Becoming more disposed to thankfulness is part of God's gracious sanctifying work in us. As it turns out, this is a matter of renewing not only our affections, but also our minds—another blessing for which we can and should be profoundly grateful. 🙏



## On Success

AS YOU CAN SEE IN THIS ISSUE OF *VIEW*, we are currently celebrating the success of the recently completed BUILD Campaign—an 8-year comprehensive campaign that saw Covenant alumni and friends provide over \$58 million in gift support to the College. This total exceeded the overall campaign objective of \$53 million, and we surpassed goals in each of the component parts of the campaign as well.

Exceeding our objectives over the last eight years, in one of the more trying economic climates in our country's history, is testament to God's generosity, channeled through the faithful and often sacrificial giving of those who love and support Covenant College. In times of celebration like this, it can be tempting to think that we have been successful—or rather, that we can measure our success by the number and size of donations that come through our door, or by the number of well-appointed buildings on our campus. When that temptation arises, I am often drawn back to one of my favorite passages of Scripture: Genesis 5.

Genesis 5, in case you do not remember, is a genealogy. More specifically, it is the genealogy of Adam. It is one of those passages that you might be inclined to skip over when reading through the Bible. It seems formulaic, and repetitive ... and it is, with at least one telling exception. In Genesis 5, every person listed lives, fathers children, lives some more, and then dies. The one exception to this pattern is found in verses 21-24, where Enoch lives 65 years, fathers Methuselah, and then “walks with God” for another 300 years. Verse 24 tells us that “Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.” The natural inclination is to think that Enoch must have done something great in order to be taken up by God. But what does the passage suggest?

I spoke on this passage in chapel last April, and asked students the question, What made Enoch “successful” or “notable” in the eyes of God? I think it is telling that Scripture does not tell us that Enoch did anything remarkable in the eyes of the world—like become CEO of a Fortune 500 company, or president of ancient Mesopotamia. Nor does Scripture tell us if Enoch did anything remarkable for the kingdom of God—like pastor a huge, ancient Near Eastern mega-church. What Genesis 5 tells us is that Enoch “walked with God.” That seemingly little thing—walking with God—was what made Enoch notable, was what made him remarkable.

As we consider Covenant's “success” in the BUILD Campaign, it is important for us to remember that, while big fundraising numbers and new buildings and expanded endowments are nice, and are important for our ongoing ability to do the work that God has called us to, they are not the ultimate measure of success for us. If we have those things, but are not faithful—if we have not walked with God—then we have failed. Even as we celebrate God's blessings on our community through the generosity of our supporters, I pray that we will continue to measure our ultimate success not in bricks or dollars or numbers, but in faithfulness to the Christ-honoring, kingdom-minded walk to which He has called us. 🙏



J. Derek Halvorson '93  
President

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