

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

VIEW

A Place
of Light

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VIEW

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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 welcomed Dr. Chris Robinson, Dr. Karen Nelson, and Prof. Christiana Fitzpatrick to the Covenant College faculty during the 2015 convocation ceremony.

CovenantNews

New Faculty Appointments

Covenant College appointed three new faculty members at its sixty-first convocation ceremony this fall: Christiana Fitzpatrick, director of global education; Dr. Karen Nelson, director of institutional research; and Dr. Chris Robinson, assistant professor of sociology.

“The new faculty appointments this year have already been members of the Covenant community,” says Dr. Jeff Hall, vice president for academic affairs, “and we are delighted to add them to the ranks of our current faculty members.

“Prof. Christiana Fitzpatrick will continue to shape our relationships beyond the mountain, and Dr. Karen Nelson will continue to help us steward data and analytics strategically to advance the mission of the College. Dr. Chris

Robinson is already a well-respected professor and will help to connect theory and practice with his experience as a leader of a non-profit organization.”

In addition, Dr. Jeff Humphries has been promoted from associate professor to professor of computer science. Dr. Humphries has used his background in cyber security to develop a cyber-security concentration for the computer science major.

Global Gospel Advancement Week

After beginning the week with a campus-wide hymn sing, Covenant welcomed Dr. Lloyd Kim as guest speaker for Global Gospel Advancement Week. Kim is the coordinator of Mission to the World (MTW). Before his recent appointment to



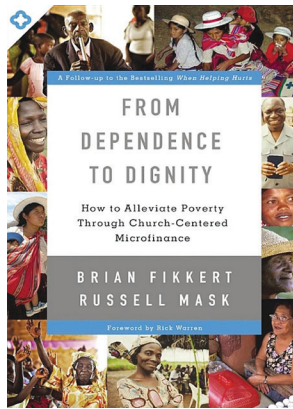
coordinator, Kim served as a missionary in the Philippines, in Cambodia, and most recently as the international director of Asia-Pacific for MTW.

In addition to Kim’s lectures, students had the opportunity to attend a missions fair and an international dinner hosted on campus. You can listen to Dr. Kim’s Global Gospel Advancement Week lectures at covenant.edu/GGAW15.

Drs. Fikkert & Mask Publish Book on Microfinance

In May 2015, Drs. Brian Fikkert and Russell Mask released the book *From Dependence to Dignity: How to Alleviate Poverty through Church-Centered Microfinance*. *From Dependence to Dignity* seeks to answer the questions: how can Christians in the Majority World take on poverty in their own churches and neighborhoods and how can churches located in economically prosperous countries partner with Global South churches to confront poverty?

“Since its inception, the Chalmers Center has been developing models to enable churches in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to use microfinance as a tool for ministry to the poor,” says Fikkert. “We wrote this book to share some of what we have learned on a larger scale, hoping to help churches, missionaries, and church-equipping organizations that want to pursue this type of ministry.”



Prof. George “Tad” Mindeman (1954-2015)

Prof. Tad Mindeman, director of library services, passed away as the result of an apparent heart attack on October 20, 2015.

Mindeman joined the Covenant community in 2002, and under his guidance, Covenant’s Kresge Memorial Library became the eleventh library in the world to go live with the Online Computer Library Center’s cloud-based integrated operating system, WorldShare Management Services, in the spring of 2011. The new operating system and subsequent new discovery tool search engine provided Covenant’s community with the very best library resource available.

The Covenant community will miss his leadership of the library and his advocacy for excellence at the College.

“Under the leadership of Tad Mindeman, Covenant College’s library has been transformed into a vibrant hub on our campus,” says Dr. Jeff Hall, vice president for academic affairs. “His ability to cast a vision and attend to details simultaneously resulted in a library with practices that faithfully serve the College mission and the larger community of higher education. The fruits of his labor will be enjoyed for years to come.”



Washington Monthly Ranks Covenant among Top Ten Baccalaureate Colleges in the Nation

Washington Monthly has ranked Covenant among the top baccalaureate colleges in the nation, ranking the College #10, up from #13 in last year’s



onCourse Contract Negotiation

Faculty:

Tim Sceggel, adjunct professor of physical & sport education

Class:

Sport Law & Ethics

Assignment:

To demonstrate the complex nature of contract negotiation, this assignment asks students to act as negotiating parties in a simulated contract negotiating situation.

Students are divided into teams and each team is provided with separate confidential instructions. One team is tasked to role-play a successful basketball coach who would like to move to a power conference school. The other team is to take on the role of an administrator at a big state university that recently fired a popular head basketball coach.

The coach team’s instructions let them know that the coach wants and feels deserving of a six-year contract with a \$2.1 million base salary per year, at least ten incentives, and a \$500,000 buyout clause. The administrator team’s instructions explain that their school just fired their successful head basketball coach for egregious NCAA violations, so it’s important to make a good hire. They are also told that the state is sensitive to high coach salaries and the budget for this hire only allows the administrator to offer a four-year contract for a \$1.8 million salary, limited incentives, and a \$1 million buyout clause.

The two teams then meet in class, without knowing each other’s instructions and agendas, and have 75 minutes to negotiate a contract that is agreeable to both parties.

Says Professor Tim Sceggel:

“What we want to do in sport management at Covenant is keep our students grounded in the liberal arts and engage them in critical thinking through case studies. We want to give students as much real-world experience as possible. Rather than simply lecture about contract law and negotiation practice, I supplemented our lecture time with an exercise that gave students the chance to experience a contract negotiation firsthand. In the future, when they’re in the situation to negotiate a real contract for the first time, they won’t be surprised.”

goFigure

5

Covenant's national ranking for the number of alumni, relative to school size, who go on to earn PhDs

37

Countries visited by students during 2015

105

Varsity student-athletes who earned USA South All-Academic last year

7,500

Square feet in the new visual art facility

407

Record number of alumni who registered for Homecoming

1,448

Views of the most-watched chapel talk on YouTube

255

Gallons of milk students drink in one week

4

Concerts in the inaugural John Hamm Performing Arts Series

87

Age of Carter Hall

CovenantNews

ranking. The rankings highlight how many students receive financial assistance in the form of Pell grants, graduation rates, alumni PhDs, community service efforts of students, faculty, and staff, and other ways the College contributes to public welfare.

Covenant ranked first in the number of graduates who go on to serve in the Peace Corps and fifth in the number of alumni who go on to receive PhDs, relative to school size.



Dr. Steven Garber & Propaganda at Neal Conference

Covenant's 2015 Neal Conference on True Spirituality brought rapper and spoken-word artist Propaganda to campus. Dr. Steven Garber, principal of the Washington Institute for Faith, Vocation & Culture, was the main speaker for the conference. Garber's lectures centered on the question of how people can know the world and still love the world. Recordings of this year's Neal Conference lectures are available at covenant.edu/nealconference15.

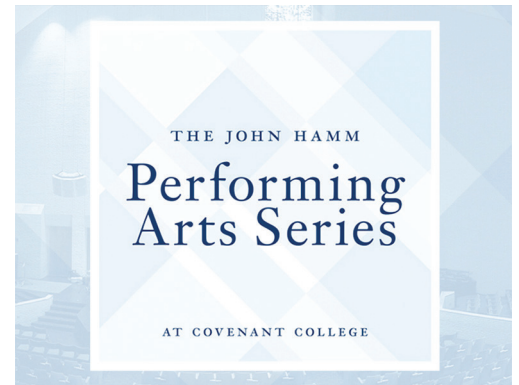
Taproot Wins Seed Project

Taproot, a landscaping business owned by Jacob Snuggs '14, won the fifth annual Seed Project pitch event, hosted by the Center for Calling & Career. The Seed Project competition provides students and recent alumni with the opportunity to win seed capital for their business. Leading up to the event, a number of alumni helped the competitors prepare for their business pitches. Those alumni included Fredrick



Doe, Ian Goodman '96, and John Huisman '98. Will Dyer '11, Rebekah Marr '04, and Rodger Piersant '86 served on the Seed Project judging committee at the pitch event, and Enoch Elwell '10 was a guest speaker for the evening.

"I'm very hopeful and confident that God is at work in Taproot," says Snuggs. "Through the Seed Project work He really showed up and proved that He had His hand in this business."



John Hamm Performing Arts Series Launched

This fall, Covenant announced the formation of the John Hamm Performing Arts Series. The series brings world-renowned musical artists to the College's campus to offer recitals and educational opportunities that serve students as well as the greater Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain communities. Both recitals and master classes are free and open to the public, thanks to the partnership of generous donors.

Alumni, friends, and guests from the 43rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America enjoyed a complimentary picnic and Andrew Peterson concert on Covenant's campus.



The series is named in honor of former Covenant professor Dr. John Hamm and coordinated by David Tahere, assistant professor of music.

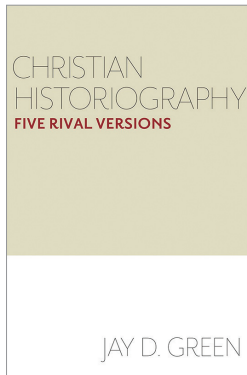
“Dr. Hamm was a really involved musician,” says Tahere. “Not only was he very dedicated to his students, he was also very involved in music in Chattanooga. We named the series after Dr. Hamm because we wanted to speak to those ties, and to signal to the community that we are looking for opportunities where we can serve the greater area of Chattanooga.”

Reserve tickets and listen to Prof. Tahere describe the new series at covenant.edu/JHPAS.

Dr. Jay Green Authors Book on Historiography

This September, Baylor University Press released *Christian Historiography: Five Rival Versions*, authored by Dr. Jay Green, professor of history. Green teaches Historiography at Covenant and says that *Christian Historiography* emerged out of his many years teaching the course.

“When I had an opportunity to take my last sabbatical, I decided that it might be a good idea to try and develop my work in the historiography



class into a book that explores this topic,” says Green. “While there are many, many people to thank for helping me think more carefully about this subject, I am especially grateful to the many students I have had the opportunity to engage with this material over the past seventeen years.”



Dr. Doug Sweeney Speaker for Reformation Day Lectures

Dr. Doug Sweeney was the guest speaker for the Reformation Day Lectures at Covenant. Sweeney is the chair of the Church History and History of Christian Thought Department at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, where he also serves as director of the Jonathan Edwards Center.

Sweeney is the author of several books on religious history and on Jonathan Edwards, including *Nathaniel Taylor, New Haven Theology, and the Legacy of Jonathan Edwards*; *The American Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement*; and *Jonathan Edwards and the Ministry of the Word*.

You can listen to Sweeney’s Reformation Day lectures at covenant.edu/reformation15.

U.S. News Ranks Covenant #9 in South

U.S. News & World Report continues to rank Covenant College as one of the top regional colleges in the South. In its 2016 edition of Best Colleges, *U.S. News* ranked Covenant #9 among regional colleges in the South, noting Covenant’s freshman retention rate, low class size, and student-to-faculty ratio.

“We are delighted once again to be ranked in the top ten in the South among regional colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*,” says Dr. Jeff Hall, vice president for academic affairs. “It is worth noting that there is nothing in these rankings that rates the missional faithfulness of colleges. Our commitment to the preeminence of Christ in all things is the starting point and goal for all of our endeavors. We hope that faithfulness to this mission is our most notable feature.”

Chemistry Department Receives \$10,000 Grant

Covenant’s chemistry department received a Pittsburgh Conference Memorial National College Grant of \$10,000 to fund the purchase of workstations that include several pieces of equipment, allowing for faster data acquisition and analysis.

“We’re excited to see the Lord’s provision for our department,” says Dr. Dan Zuidema, professor of chemistry. “We want to use technology as a tool to do better and more faithful analysis in the lab.”

SoundCloud
covenant.edu/soundcloud



“Peace on earth is a byproduct of the application of wisdom.”
Karen Angela Ellis
Embracing Wisdom: Proverbs 8-9 or “Mama Ain’t Raise No Fools”



“Whether we run, walk, or crawl, we move together towards the cross.”
Roy Anderson ’15
Senior Testimony



“It’s been really reassuring to me to see a God...who is holding this very chaotic and messed-up world together.”
Liz Simakoff ’15
Shaped through Brokenness



Students performed Evan Smith's one-act play *The Savannah Disputation*, telling the comical story of how a door-to-door Protestant evangelist changed the lives of two Catholic sisters.

To learn more about the grant and its impact, listen to a podcast with Zuidema at covenant.edu/chemistrygrant.

Covenant to Add Track & Field in 2016

Covenant's athletic offerings will expand next fall with the addition of men's and women's intercollegiate track and field teams. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the added programs will bring the total number of intercollegiate sports offered at Covenant to fifteen. Covenant's track and field teams will be led by current head cross-country coach Katie Stanford and will compete in the NCAA Division III.

"I am very excited about this addition to Covenant athletics," Stanford says. "This

is a sport I love and have been involved with for more than twenty years, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to build a new program here at Covenant."

Theatre: *Waiting for Godot*

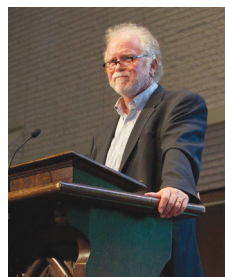
The Covenant College drama association presented *Waiting for Godot*, under the direction of senior Cacey Williams '16. The play by Samuel Beckett features two men who are perpetually waiting for someone named Godot. Full of conversations about everything and nothing, the play wrestles with depression, existential emptiness, and the purpose of life.

"Beckett wrote about the frustrating, comedic, playful, angry, and empty effects of man's waiting while he himself was living



through World War II," says Williams. "It's a simple truth: while man lives, he waits. So what is it that we do while we wait? And what exactly are we waiting for?"

The student-led drama association at Covenant produced the show and Williams directed the play as part of her senior integration project.



"Can you know the world and still love the world?"

Dr. Steve Garber
A Place to Begin



"God's doing something with His story, and He will move us where He needs us to be."

Jerilyn Sanders
How Did I Get Here?



"Just as essays get somewhere through occasional, apparent aimlessness, so too our lives have direction."

Prof. Sarah Huffines
I Believe I Am an Essay



Originally weapons of steel or brass, maces have evolved from instruments of battle to symbols of authority that are often used in convocation and commencement exercises at educational institutions around the United States.

Covenant College commissioned artist and visiting professor Ray Padrón to create the Covenant College mace. Padrón hand turned the walnut handle and sculpted the thistle blossom and leaves out of clay. After making a mold of the thistle and leaves, they were sent to a foundry and finally cast in aluminum.

Dr. Jerry Wenger, professor of biology, was honored as the inaugural mace bearer at Covenant's sixtieth annual commencement ceremony. Dr. Wenger retired after the 2014-2015 academic year, concluding forty-two years of faithful service to the College.





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18



22



27

CampusCollage

1-2 Castle in the Clouds

Students dressed in '20s garb and danced to big band music.

3-4 Folk Fest & Toga Party

Catacombs residence hall hosted a music festival and toga-themed dance party.

5 Comic Relief

Students put on an SNL-inspired sketch comedy show.

6 Chamber Orchestra Concert

The chamber orchestra presented a spring concert in collaboration with the brass ensemble.

7 Seed Project

The Center for Calling & Career hosted the fifth annual Seed Project entrepreneurship competition.

8-9 Scots Trot 5K

The Covenant community invited runners from the surrounding area to participate in a 5K on campus.

10 Exam Cram

Faculty and staff members served snacks at a finals study break.

11-12 Commencement

The Class of 2015 officially became Covenant College alumni.

13-14 Picnic & Andrew Peterson Concert

Covenant hosted a picnic and concert for alumni and friends during the PCA General Assembly.

15-16 Move-In Day

Faculty, staff, and returning students welcomed a new group of Covenant Scots to campus.

17-18 Convocation

The school year began with Covenant's sixty-first annual convocation ceremony.

19-20 Day of Prayer

The Covenant community took the day off to pray and fellowship.

21-22 Kilter

Covenant students dressed up in pajamas for the annual Sadie Hawkins costume dance.

23-24 Neal Conference on True Spirituality

Dr. Steven Garber and spoken word artist Propaganda were guests at the 2015 Neal Conference.

25-26 Mountain Affair

Covenant students shared their gifts at the annual campus-wide talent show.

27 John Hamm Performing Arts Series Concert

Baritone Todd Thomas performed in the inaugural John Hamm Performing Arts Series concert.

See more at covenant.edu/facebook.

The SIP

At Covenant, students in every discipline dedicate a portion of their education to integrating their faith and scholarship in a senior project or thesis focused on an area, idea, or venture they are passionate about. Every year, we highlight senior integration projects (SIPs) that have been recommended by faculty and that provide a cross section of work being done in the arts, sciences, and humanities.

Weeping Humanity: A Psychological Examination of Tears

Cameron C. Anderson '16 | Psychology

Tears are profound. They pervade our most intimate moments and are present amongst our strongest expressions. All of humanity shares in this unique expression of emotion. For my SIP I examined tears and weeping from a psychological standpoint. I explored the physical process and role of tears in our bodies as well as the theorized benefits tears have for humans. Psychological studies have provided insightful theories and empirically supported data concerning what role tears seem to serve humanity.

Stepping back from current psychological research, I then

looked into what the Word of God has to say concerning tears and what purpose they serve. Solving the mystery of tears inevitably will produce profound insight into humanity and Jesus Christ's humanity (and divinity) as well. I was led to the conclusion that tears are representational of our humanity and point to our seemingly hopeless condition. I learned that tears are beautiful—they are given by God to point us to Him amidst our happiest moments and our saddest. I have found tears to be the most powerful and beautiful expression of our humanity and most hopeful symbol of our eternity.

Producing Covenant College's New Play Festival

Nina Brock '15 | Theatre

For every theatrical production, there is a vision, and for every vision, there is a producer. The producer takes on the responsibility of finding the script to begin the process, deciding the director fit for the script, balancing and coordinating meetings and rehearsals, managing auditions and casting approval, fundraising, and so on. For this project in particular, there were ten different scripts, which meant ten different directors.

As the producer of Covenant College's first-ever New Play Festival,

I was given a role as a leader. I had the opportunity to use my creative ability to produce something beautiful and worthwhile. By stepping into this role, I got to uncover the importance of leading my fellow students with purpose, value, and integrity. Embracing leadership was an act of grace, a truly humbling experience that allowed me to see the value in simply serving through empowering others. Together, we got to glorify God through illuminating the truth of the Gospel through the act of storytelling, and it was awesome!

Brokenness and Respectability within the Body of Christ: A Theology of Oppression as Reformatory to the Western Church's Paltry Action on behalf of Sex Trafficking Victims

Bethany Davis Stout '15 | Biblical & Theological Studies

As a biblical & theological studies major, I have been very interested in the role of women in the church. It soon became apparent that there was a plethora of literature written on this "hot topic," but far less focus given to the Church's role in the global oppression of women. The connection: if the Western church is solely concerned with the issue of women's ordination and similar controversies, she is consequently turning a blind eye to the needs of most women around the world. The solution is not to dismiss the question of ordination, but to broaden our perspective.

Beginning with current statistics of the oppression of women, specifically surrounding sex trafficking victims, as well as Elizabeth Bernstein's critique of the "New Abolitionism" movement, I outlined a theology of oppression based upon Genesis 1 and various teachings of Jesus from the Gospels on His concern for the oppressed. A subsequent study of Luther and Bonhoeffer developed my conclusion of the necessity of the Church's active participation in fighting against the spiritual and physical oppression of women.

Food Pantry Manager

Scott Hoelsema '15 | Computer Science

My SIP grew out of a project I worked on for a food pantry back home following my freshman year of college. This food pantry is closely tied with my church, and was having some software issues. Working with the people who operated the food pantry, I developed a desktop application for recording and managing information about clients, their households, and their appointments. The program also provides aggregate data such as the number of clients served and pounds of food distributed. Throughout my college years, I continued to fix bugs and add features, including encrypted DropBox backup.

My SIP consisted of polishing this program and making it available to other food pantries. To accomplish this, I released it as an open source project on GitHub. As an open source project, Food Pantry Manager is freely available to and modifiable by anyone. In many cases, however, pantries may want to try Food Pantry Manager out of the box. Accordingly, I provided detailed instructions for installation and configuration of the program in the form of a basic website. The work of my SIP was to make this tool accessible and understandable to technical and non-technical users alike. As such, it is my hope that this program will be helpful to food pantries in their service.

Evil and the Limits of Thought: Paul Ricoeur's Critique of Theodicy

Brian Van Dyke '15 | Philosophy

Christian philosophers are well known for coming up with theodicy arguments, which attempt to demonstrate how God could allow evil while still being perfectly good and all-powerful. Working from an essay by the French philosopher Paul Ricoeur, I argue that traditional theodicy arguments are inherently limited because they cannot adequately address the experiential aspect of evil—human suffering. While there is an appropriate place for abstract treatment of evil, we must be aware of its limitations and never allow it to come at the cost of tending to the needs of the people suffering from evil.

Ultimately, I recommend a broader notion of theodicy centered on the self-revelation of God in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Crucial to this biblical theodicy is reclaiming the importance of lament in holistic Christian worship. Particularly in the affluent American church where suffering may not be an everyday reality, it seems that we have forgotten the integral role that lament plays in faithful worship. As the body of Christ, we must learn to faithfully lament the brokenness of this fallen world, not just in a general and abstract sense, but in the very particular pains of our lived experience this side of the eschaton.

Les Femmes Maghrébines et la Loi Charia: une Perspective Chrétienne (Maghrébine Women and Sharia Law: a Christian Perspective)

Lauren Butler '15 | French

In the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia), women are gaining many rights, but much remains to be done in both law and practice. Women in Morocco and Algeria are ruled by the *sharia*, a set of laws based on Islamic religious texts. Tunisia alone is ruled only by civil law. In all three countries, however, shocking laws remain. In Algeria and Tunisia, a rapist may avoid prosecution by marrying his victim, even if she is a minor, and victims of domestic violence are not protected by the police, who consider it to be a family matter. In all three countries, women face discrimination at the workplace and in politics.

The Maghreb was not always misogynistic. Before the rise of Islam, Bedouin women had significant social power and could even practice polyandry. Muhammad originally instituted the practices of veiling and seclusion for his own wives only, and it was not until the Middle Ages that androcentric doctrines became prevalent. Hence, misogyny has not always existed in the maghrébine culture, nor is it necessarily a part of Islam. It is a product of an interpretation of the Qur'an that became a tradition. Although many consider the Bible to be similarly, if not equally, oppressive towards women, it is actually revolutionarily pro-women. The Christian church should be leading the charge to ensure that all of God's children are treated with respect and dignity.

A Place of Light

by Grace Mullaney Humbles '13

In just one year,
the beloved, but
brand-new, 7,500



Covenant College art students left behind dilapidated Art Barn and embraced a 10,000-square-foot visual art facility.

“THE ART BARN IS WHERE I FOUND PEACE.”
“The Art Barn is where there is oil paint everywhere.” “The Art Barn is where I messed up but learned that it was OK.” “The Art Barn is where I found passion and started to learn and think.”

There is no question that Covenant’s Art Barn, as the building became known, held an important place in the hearts of students throughout the years. So completely other from the stucco exterior of the rest of campus, it stood apart as a place where students could throw clay on the floor, stick tacks in walls, spill paint, and create things without fear. At the same time, the building had lived past its prime.

Following investigations by facilities management and a structural engineer in the spring of 2014, the Art Barn was closed, and the College began to pursue the construction of a new visual art facility. Although past and present students had embraced the old equestrian-stable-turned-art-building, there was agreement that it was time to invest in a usable, safe, and inspiring space for the growing art program.

Before a demolition team began work on the Art Barn, faculty from the art program, students, and alumni gathered in the barn to discuss what made the building a special making-place, and to imagine a new place to create things.

“You don’t need great spaces to make art—you just need the space and the freedom to create,” says Jeff Morton, professor of art. “While we were planning the new building, we gathered students together in the barn and asked them: What inspired you here? What inspired you to make art?”

Students pointed to the barn as the place where they found their callings, found confidence in their abilities, found friendships, failure, success, and peace. The Art Barn facilitated these discoveries as a place where there was no fear of making a mess, no fear of destroying anything, and where there was a rich history that allowed for experimentation and freedom.



“Character can make you see past a lot of flaws, and it was a building with a lot of stories in its walls,” says recent art alumnus Grant Thomas ’15. “That character set it apart from other buildings on campus.”

The Covenant College art faculty—Profs. Kayb Joseph, Jeff Morton, and Elissa Yukiko Weichbrodt—began working with campus architect David Northcutt and dean of academic programs Paul Morton to think through the design of a new visual art facility for Covenant’s lower campus.

“We wanted to create a place that encourages the art and non-art student alike to imagine a place where they can use the world God created to actively create and make art,” says Jeff.







Pulling ideas from their discussions with students and alumni, they wanted to create a place that stood out among the rest of the Covenant campus—a place that looked different and incorporated many of the elements students had enjoyed about the Art Barn, including large open spaces and lots of light.

“The new building itself says, ‘I am other,’” says Elissa Weichbrodt, assistant professor of art. “We wanted to communicate that this is where we make things and this is where things happen.”

The building was designed to reflect this otherness. In contrast to the red roof and mountain stone that are characteristic of the architecture throughout the campus, the new facility features a more modern design that incorporates elements of the Art Barn. Old windows from the barn were built into interior walls, providing a way for light and history to flood through the building.

“We were given the privilege of being part of the design process which allowed the department to design a space specifically for its current and future needs,” says Kayb Joseph, professor of art. “The space says, ‘Your gifts and callings matter.’ Its spaciousness and design create a space for imagining and enjoying, and the students are responding with the work they make.”

The result is a building that is entirely new, while also full of history and old stories. The old Art Barn windows are constant

reminders of the worn-out building where students felt free to make messes and create. North light pours in from walls of windows, illuminating the in-process and completed works of students. At night, these same windows spread light from inside the building throughout the lower campus.

“As an art major at Covenant, I loved how we were encouraged to explore the way God created us to be drawn to the beauty in His creation,” says art alumna Meredith Allison Rector ’08. “The new space facilitates this exploration beautifully through its design, use of light, and glimpses of nature.”

The new building includes major studio spaces for 2D and 3D art, helping students continue to make the art that they are passionate about. While Jeff is clear that you don’t necessarily need great spaces to make art, this great space provides the tools and freedom for creativity and imagination to flourish.

“I’m curious to see what our art students can make in this new space,” says Elissa. “What is possible with all of this space? What things will this space inspire them to make?”

While the facility provides space for students to invent and create, it also provides a space for all students to be. From the student art gallery to the comfortable and colorful furniture, the building is an accessible place for the whole of campus.

“This is an art building, but this is also Covenant’s building—a building that allows imagination on a variety of levels,” says Jeff.

Already, students from different majors have found themselves heading to Covenant’s lower campus to explore the new facility, to engage with the student art gallery, and to enjoy the otherness of the building.

“I’m excited by the building’s ability to attract students of other disciplines to the space,” says Kayb. “I look forward to the dialogue that will be created by this cross pollination.”

Art faculty offices are all housed in the new facility, allowing space for professors to create with their students—modeling the very things they teach every day. The building also features improved lighting and ventilation and adequate space for the thriving art program.

“Whereas the Art Barn was a place of makeshift function, the new building is designed to come alongside art majors in any way they might need: a ventilated spray room, a garage door for moving unwieldy art pieces, windows upon windows for natural light,” says Grant. “It will doubtless attract more students to the campus—and that’s exciting in itself—but it will also strengthen the student artists who are already there.”

The new visual art facility will be named and dedicated at a ceremony in the spring of 2016. The building will be named in honor of David and Linda Lucas. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas’s extraordinary generosity was integral in making the idea of a new visual art facility into a reality.

“We’re exceedingly thankful in unimaginable ways,” says Jeff. 🙏

“This is an art building
Covenant’s building
allows imagination



Ellie Shaughnessy '16 trims a plate for her independent study and internship with potter John-Michael Forman '10.

ding, but this is also
g—a building that
on a variety of levels.”

Carter Hall Restoration

by Grace Mullaney Humbles '13

restore. transform. invest.

The restoration of Covenant's flagship building is underway.
The building will include a return to Carter Hall's original exterior design. The physical transformation will occur in four semester-long phases, with an expected completion date of the summer of 2017.



IN 1928, A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR NAMED PAUL CARTER DREAMED OF BRINGING MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE NATION TO HIS BELOVED HOTEL IN LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA. The luxurious “Castle in the Clouds,” as it became known, seemed to do just that, attracting people from around the country for weekend getaways and lavish vacations.

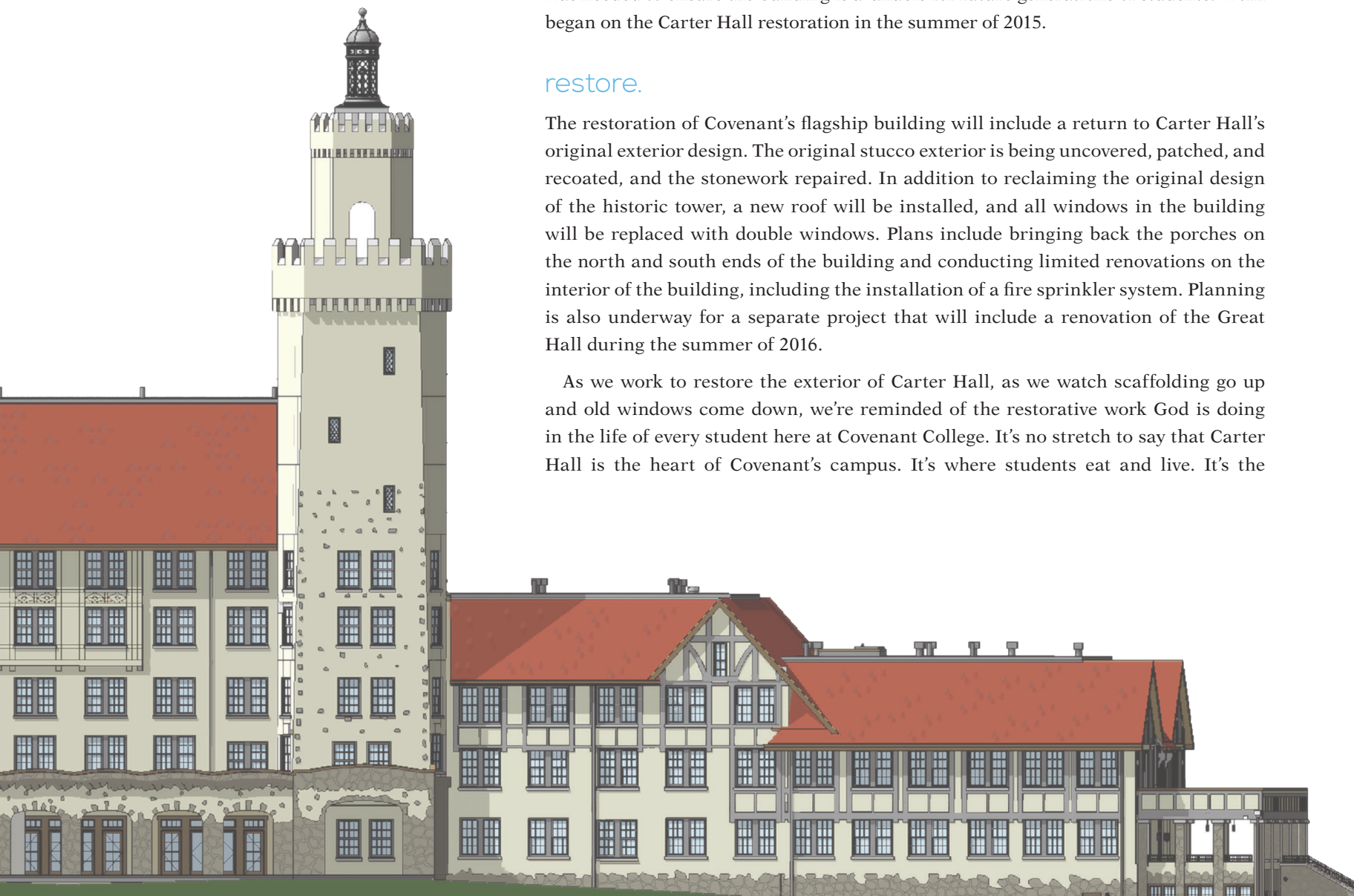
During the Great Depression, Paul Carter’s dream was dashed, along with the hopes of thousands of other Americans, as the bankrupt Lookout Mountain Hotel closed its doors. For years the building sat unused on the top of Lookout Mountain, until 1964, when a few brave men and women helped move a fledgling college from St. Louis into the run-down castle in the clouds.

Half a century later, that hotel, now known as Carter Hall, has been home to thousands of young men and women from all over the world—men and women who have gone on to become doctors, missionaries, business people, pastors, teachers, artists, lawyers. Throughout the past fifty years, Covenant College has grown and changed, but Carter Hall has remained the center of the College’s campus. Although periodic renovations kept the building in operation, it became clear several years ago that a larger restoration was needed to ensure the building is available for future generations of students. Work began on the Carter Hall restoration in the summer of 2015.

restore.

The restoration of Covenant’s flagship building will include a return to Carter Hall’s original exterior design. The original stucco exterior is being uncovered, patched, and recoated, and the stonework repaired. In addition to reclaiming the original design of the historic tower, a new roof will be installed, and all windows in the building will be replaced with double windows. Plans include bringing back the porches on the north and south ends of the building and conducting limited renovations on the interior of the building, including the installation of a fire sprinkler system. Planning is also underway for a separate project that will include a renovation of the Great Hall during the summer of 2016.

As we work to restore the exterior of Carter Hall, as we watch scaffolding go up and old windows come down, we’re reminded of the restorative work God is doing in the life of every student here at Covenant College. It’s no stretch to say that Carter Hall is the heart of Covenant’s campus. It’s where students eat and live. It’s the





home of afternoon study sessions and late-night Blink runs. It's the unmistakable landmark that tells people in the valley, "Something is happening here."

transform.

In the 1970s, the late Allen Duble '58 visited Paul Carter to update him on what was happening at Covenant. Paul asked him why he insisted on visiting, and told Allen that all the visits did was remind him of the failure of his dream. Allen said to him, "I don't know whether you have thought of this or not, but your dream has been fulfilled in far greater measure than you ever could have dreamed it. We've got kids here from 24 states and 17 foreign countries. And they don't come for a weekend—they come for four years. Your dream has been fulfilled."

It comes as no surprise that God would fulfill Paul Carter's dream in such an unexpected and beautiful way. Here at Covenant, the dreams and desires of our students, faculty, and staff are continually transformed by the work God is doing in and through them on this mountain.

The physical transformation of Carter Hall will occur in four semester-long phases, with an expected completion date of the

summer of 2017. During each phase, the campus community will continue to make use of most of the building, while students and staff located in the particular section under renovation will be relocated to other housing and offices around campus.

"This is the culmination of a seven-year planning process," says David Northcutt, campus architect. "We want to invest in and care for Carter to ensure that Covenant students will be able to enjoy the building for generations to come."

With phase one nearing completion, the renovation of Carter Hall has become a large part of the daily lives of the Covenant community. But this exterior transformation is minor in comparison to the great work of transformation God has done and continues to do in the hearts and minds of our students.

**"Your dream
has been fulfilled."**

Allen Duble '58

invest.

The estimated cost of the restoration of Carter Hall is \$19.4 million. To date, the College has \$11.7 million raised or pledged for the renovation, which provided the resources necessary to begin the project. An additional \$7.7 million is needed to complete the restoration of Carter without incurring any long-term debt.

"I am delighted by the support we've already received for this



Fast Facts

- > Carter Hall was originally built as the Lookout Mountain Hotel in 1928
- > Covenant moved from St. Louis to Lookout Mountain in 1964
- > All offices, student rooms, & classrooms were originally housed in Carter Hall
- > After the renovation, all student residence rooms will include two windows
- > 26,000 roof tiles will replace Carter's leaking roof
- > Additional beds will make Carter home to 315 students
- > Total cost: \$19.4 million
- > Total raised toward the project: \$11.7 million
- > Remaining need: \$7.7 million



project,” says Dr. Derek Halvorson, president, “and pray that God would continue to guide us and to provide for this project as we seek to steward well a resource that has played—and continues to play—a central role in the life of the College and of each Covenant student.”

As friends and alumni choose to invest in the restoration of Carter Hall, it is clear that their investment is not simply in bricks

and mortar, roof tiles, and new windows. It’s an investment in students, in the idea of a liberal education in the arts and sciences, in a place of community and personal growth. The restoration and transformation of Carter Hall is an investment in the place God has called us to steward.

Visit covenant.edu/carter if you would like to see the current progress or give toward the restoration. 🙏



Great Work!

by Grace Mullaney Humbles '13

In the summer of 2015, Covenant College received a \$5,000,000 gift to the College's endowment from the estate of Scott Probasco—the largest planned gift ever given to Covenant College. This great act of generosity is a mere footnote in the extravagantly generous life of Scott Probasco Jr.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, OWES A GREAT DEBT to the work of Scott Livingston Probasco Jr., affectionately known to everyone in town as “Scotty.” Scotty’s influence in Chattanooga and its surrounding area was characterized by his enthusiastic philanthropy and deep care for the city and its people. In his support of Chattanooga’s non-profits and businesses, Scotty was known to offer the enthusiastic and heartfelt comment, “Great work!” That encouraging word was indicative of Scotty’s attitude toward every person he encountered.

“As soon as you walked into a room with Scotty and his wife, Betty, you felt like you were good friends,” says Troy Duble, who developed a relationship with Scotty while serving the College as vice president for advancement.

Scotty’s pastor, Rev. Tim Tinsley of First Presbyterian Church, points to a deep trust in God as the power behind Scotty’s encouraging spirit.

“Scotty’s trust in God’s sovereignty was so strong that he was able

to live his life with a great confidence,” says Rev. Tinsley. “I think his confidence in God’s sovereignty also allowed him to be a very encouraging man. Scotty’s heart was rooted in heaven all the time, so no matter what was going on he always had a positive, encouraging word. And his positivity wasn’t just optimism—it was all rooted in his great faith and trust in God.”

The Covenant community’s first encounter with Scotty Probasco came in 1964, when he officially welcomed the College to Lookout Mountain on behalf of the Chattanooga-local Benwood Foundation. But Covenant’s relationship with Scotty deepened in the 1980s, when former Covenant College president Frank Brock, a Lookout Mountain native himself, began to call on Scotty to tell him more about the work God was doing on Lookout Mountain.

Throughout the years, as Frank and Scotty’s relationship grew, Scotty became a strong supporter of Covenant.

“I remember Scotty telling me, ‘You know what I like about

Scotty's gift to the endowment will help make a Covenant education affordable and accessible for students through scholarships.

Covenant? I get two for the price of one: it's all about education and it's all about the big man up there," says Frank. "Scotty supported so many places, but Covenant was the only place that got at the two main things he really believed in: education and 'the man up there.'"

In conversations with Troy Duble, Scotty called this two-for-one deal a "win-win."

"In every meeting we had, Scotty would say, 'Troy, this for me is a win-win,'" says Troy. "I pointed to the many stories of businesses in Chattanooga started by Covenant students and said that it's a win-win-win: education, the big man upstairs, and the good of the city of Chattanooga."

When Frank looks back on his relationship with Scotty, he's reminded of what an encouragement Scotty was to him and many others like him.

"He was a generous person, business-savvy, and community-minded," says Frank. "For him to say to me, 'You have the two things I care most about,' was such an encouragement."

Scotty truly believed in the importance of quality education, in the city of Chattanooga, and in the Lord Jesus.

"He loved education and he loved making sure people could have access to it," says Troy. "He loved investing in the city and in her people."

On April 18, 2015, Scotty Probasco passed away, leaving a great void in the city of Chattanooga. But Scotty's generosity and philanthropic endeavors were far from over. Even in his death, Scotty ensured that he could still support the many places in the Chattanooga area that he cared for so passionately. Covenant College was one of those places, receiving a \$5,000,000 gift from Scotty's estate to the College's endowment—a final way Scotty could give to support education and "the big man upstairs."

Scotty's gift to the endowment will help make a Covenant education affordable and accessible for students through scholarships. He was excited about the mechanics of the planned gift, which allowed him to give money that would have been spent in taxes to causes he cared deeply about. It was another one of his favorite "win-wins."

"I believe that Scotty gave his gift in large part because of Frank Brock," says Troy. "It was because of a love and care for Frank and the way he was investing in Covenant College and therefore in the Chattanooga community."

It's hard to walk around Chattanooga without encountering the great work of Scotty Probasco. From his love for local schools to the towering presence of SunTrust Bank, Scotty's absence is felt across the city. The College and its students will benefit from Scotty's generous gift for years to come, but Scotty's presence, his advice, and his encouragement will be greatly missed.

"We'll all miss him," says Frank. "Chattanooga will miss him. He encouraged so many people and so many good works."

Listen to Frank Brock reflect on his relationship with Scotty at covenant.edu/greatwork. 🎧



1955

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

FORMER & ENDOWED

Endow Your Gift?

Many of our most consistent donors and friends have chosen to endow their current giving by making a gift to Covenant College in their will, estate plan, or IRA. Including Covenant in your planned giving ensures that future generations of students will be able to receive the thoughtfully Christian education that Covenant provides.

Investing in the endowment enables Covenant to attract and retain the very best faculty and makes Covenant more affordable for students and their families.

*If you would like to know more about
endowing your Covenant giving, please
contact Marc Erickson, executive director
of the Covenant College Foundation,
at marc.erickson@covenant.edu
or 706.419.1645.*

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Homecoming 2015

Alumni and friends made their way back to the mountain for Homecoming. President Halvorson kicked off the weekend in chapel with the presentation of alumni of the year awards. After the presentation, Joel Belz '62 shared reflections from the early years of the College. In spite of heavy rain and fog, alumni and friends were introduced to a number of new Homecoming events, including faculty lectures, tours of Covenant's new visual art facility, a faculty and alumni social, a fireside chat with President Halvorson, and dinner from local food trucks.

Alumni also enjoyed the more traditional Homecoming events, cheering at Homecoming soccer games and attending 50-, 40-, 25-, 10-, and 5-year reunions, along with an inaugural reunion for the Class of 2015.

Alumni Awards



Todd Erickson '87
Alumnus of the Year

Michael Kendall '11,
Evelyn Petcher '10,
and Libby O'Neil '08
Young Alumni of the Year



Christy Nickisch-Hummel '94
Alumna Volunteer of the Year

Wanted: Harmonic Vigilantes

IT HAS BEEN EXCITING IN MANY WAYS TO SEE ensembles like Straight No Chaser and Petatonix take the stage and remind the world how striking creative sounds and unaccompanied harmonies can be to both the singer and the listener. It has also been a delight to see significant contributions of new, accessible, and memorable songs for the church by folks such as the Getty family that engage many in worship to the honor of Christ. All of these innovative sounds are compelling and very meaningful as we celebrate our God in the midst of His creation.

And yet you may want to listen carefully the next time your congregation sings the traditional “Old Hundredth Doxology.” You will likely hear a good deal of unison singing with very few folks singing in harmony. I think you should find this alarming.

We are descendants of the Reformation, when hymnody developed in the context of the growth of calculated congregational participation. In a short period of time we began hearing the teaching choirs in worship singing with enriched harmony. This continued to be the trend into the Baroque period, even spilling into the hymnody of the congregation into much of the early twentieth century. So why the sudden drop off?

I would suggest that in our efforts to embrace new ways of making music we may have neglected part of our heritage, as if doing new things means throwing out the old. Finding enjoyment in *new* songs is clearly an obedient response to God’s commands in Psalm 96, and yet we as God’s people are constantly called to remember and cherish the *old* expressions of God’s people alongside the new ways, as demonstrated in the form of Psalm 136.

“Nurturing harmony is an audible way of embodying the priesthood of all believers.”



by Dr. Scott M. Finch '96, associate professor of music

The reason for nurturing harmony among the congregation, however, goes beyond historical sensitivity. If you were to have coffee with someone like J.S. Bach, you would find that the myriads of instruments, vocal parts, and harmonic interest were an audible way of embodying the priesthood of all believers. Each musical line offers worship characteristic to the peculiar qualities of the individual instrument and yet is invited into the fabric of a single tapestry. Vocal parts like soprano and bass are often found going different directions, and yet they are marvelously woven together with the tenor and alto lines to create unity through interactive diversity.

This unity amidst diversity reflects how the body of Christ is intended to work. Homogeneity isn’t the point of being in union with Christ. Being mysteriously brought together by one Spirit with all of our differences is the stunning truth of the gospel in Christ.

My hope is that you sing new songs and teach them to your children and in your churches. And that you remember to relish the *old* expressions of faith with all of their harmonic diversity. Take the time to pick up that hymnal and pursue help from your local musicians to learn a specific part. Add your peculiarities to the praise of God in the midst of His people as harmonic vigilantes. 🕯️

ALUMNI NEWS INTENTIONALLY EXCLUDED

ALUMNI NEWS INTENTIONALLY EXCLUDED

Reflections on Choosing

THE TOPIC OF CHOOSING IS PERHAPS AN IRONIC ONE, coming from a Presbyterian. Presbyterians are, after all, Calvinists. But, assuming we can all agree that people do make choices, and that acknowledging that doesn't constitute a breach of Reformed orthodoxy, I want to set aside the theological debate and address a different question: Do you find it hard to choose? Do you find it hard to say no to one opportunity because you might miss out on another? Personally, I want to do it all. I want to work more and harder than anyone else at the College, and always be there for my family, and serve sacrificially in my local church, and . . . the list goes on. I confess that I get sucked into a culture that encourages us not to choose—a culture that celebrates, perhaps even worships, possibility.

Several years ago, I stumbled across an essay in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* by University of Virginia English professor Mark Edmundson entitled, "Dwelling in Possibilities." It was something of a lament over the inability of Edmundson's students to make choices, to narrow their options, to dive deep into a subject, or to be in one place at a time. Does this resonate with you? It does with me. Life can seem the most exhilarating when there are a multitude of possibilities open to us when we haven't had to commit to just one.

I will mention—and this is one of Edmundson's chief concerns—that technology has amplified this problem. Think about the vast potentialities at our fingertips, all hours of the day, every day of the week. The constant allure of other possibilities makes it difficult to be present, to rest where we are.

Whether we're talking about the possibilities presented to us by technology, or options in life, the problem we face is the same: we have to decide. And deciding means killing off possibilities. Literally, to de-cide means to cut off, or to kill off. It derives from the Latin verb *caedo*, which means (according to the Oxford Latin Dictionary) "to strike, smite; to kill, slay, murder." Killing off options is not easy for us. But it's important, because we are finite creatures, and much as we'd like to be able to do everything and to be everywhere, we cannot.

In order to do something, and to do it well, we need to decide not to do some other things. That isn't easy. But, we can practice it, even in seemingly little ways, so that the discipline of choosing becomes a part of our person. I've recently agreed—at the encouragement of a friend—to turn off my phone when I get home at night, and not to turn it on again. That decision kills off opportunities, it limits possibilities. And, in so doing, it allows me to have integrity, in the literal sense of that term—which means (according to the Oxford English Dictionary) "the condition of having no part or element taken away or wanting; undivided or unbroken state."

I want to encourage all of us to choose, to make decisions, to be OK with killing off some possibilities. We will be more whole, and more effective, and happier, and more faithful people if we are present in the here and now, in the path we have chosen. The only way we will have the strength to do this is through the power of a God who chose us, who decided to give His own son for us. His decision was not without cost, but in it, through it, we have life, and we have the power to choose. 🙏



J. Derek Halvorson '93
President

"I want to encourage all of us to choose, to make decisions, to be OK with killing off some possibilities."

[Listen to President Halvorson's chapel address on choosing at covenant.edu/onchoosing.](https://covenant.edu/onchoosing)



Covenant College
14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

As the full-size Carter Hall undergoes a monumental restoration, this miniature Carter Hall is a reminder of the building pre-renovation. The miniature was printed on campus with Covenant's 3D printer, available to students in the computer science commons.

"I'm very excited to be able to offer students access to cutting-edge technology like 3D printing," says Dr. John Hunt, associate professor of computer science. "This technology is in its early days and has the potential to spark a revolution in manufacturing. Our students will be at a great advantage being exposed to it here."

