

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

VIEW

From Campus to Court

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commencement speech, which he delivered
shortly before his passing.





Even in the midst of turbulent times, the sun continues to rise. While campus became eerily quiet after moving to online education due to COVID-19, peaceful views from the Overlook remind us of God's enduring faithfulness to his people.

A new day is coming. We are moving forward.

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



Covenant held our first-ever virtual commencement ceremony on May 9, 2020. While we enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the Class of 2020, we look forward to our planned in-person commencement celebration during Homecoming 2020.

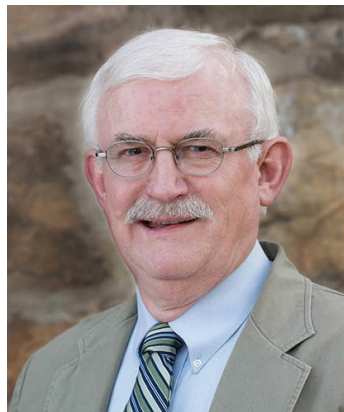
CovenantNews



New Leadership Hire

Brad Tomas was appointed assistant vice president for enrollment management in the spring of 2019. Prior to joining Covenant, Brad served his alma mater, Samford University, for over 11 years in various roles within the Admission Office. In his role as assistant vice president for enrollment management, he oversees the office of Admission and the office of Financial Aid.

Ken Stewart



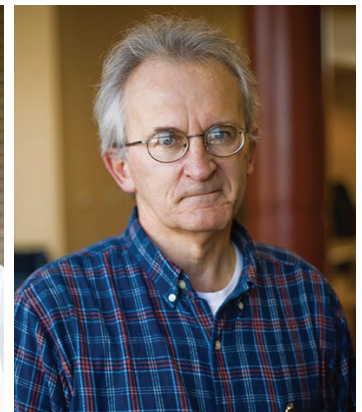
Faculty Retirements

Three professors recently announced their retirement after more than 80 years of combined service. Ken Stewart retired as Professor of Theological Studies having served on faculty since 1997. Brian Crossman retired as Professor of Physical Education having served on faculty since 1984. Cliff Foreman retired as Professor of English having served on faculty since 1986. We are grateful for each of these men

Brian Crossman



Cliff Foreman



and their years of service.

Psychology Student Wins Research Award

Psychology major Maddie Sparks '20 won a Psi Chi Regional Research Award for her research "Effect of Teleological Bias on the Seductive Allure of Neuroscience" at the 2019 annual Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) conference.

Sparks conducted this research at

Covenant College as an independent study under the supervision of Dr. Carole Yue, and she presented her research at the SEPA conference, which took place in Jacksonville, FL.

Sparks said, “This award was a huge confidence booster and encouragement. I’m not sure exactly what I want to do after Covenant, but winning a research award helped show me that I’m on the right track.” She plans to continue her research this semester by replicating the study online with the addition of speed as an independent variable.

Student Awarded Prestigious Scholarship from U.S. Department of State

International Studies major Liam Ohrvall '21 has been awarded the prestigious Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) from the U.S. Department of State. The CLS Program is designed to expand the number of Americans with language skills critical for national security and economic prosperity and is a key conduit for recruiting talent into the U.S. Foreign Service. The program receives approximately 5,500 applications a year for about 550 available scholarships.

“I honestly couldn’t believe it,” Liam said in response to the news. “This is a very unique program because of the heavy emphasis on cultural and language fluidity.” To become competitive for the CLS Program, Liam has spent the past two years studying Arabic at Covenant, has worked with Arabic-speaking refugees in Clarkston, Georgia, and founded Covenant’s Arabic Club.

Covenant Students Excel at Philosophy Conference

On Friday, February 7th, Dr. Bill Davis traveled with nine Covenant students to the University of North Carolina-Asheville for the 21st Annual Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. After a blind reading and thorough vetting process, the conference heard papers



from twelve undergraduates representing seven schools. Five Covenant students submitted papers, and all five were awarded spots in the program. Josiah Taylor '20, Henri Lowe '21, David Kraus '20, Noah McKay '21, and Alec Gonzalez Whitsell '20 read their essays before professional philosophers and fellow academics and fielded questions from all sides. Covenant philosophy majors earned the top prize (David Kraus - New Jersey) and third prize (Noah McKay - North Carolina). When McKay was asked why he thought his paper on soul-body dualism had practical value, he responded by boldly proclaiming the gospel. Although the conference did not aim to encourage Christian philosophers and both judges who determined prizes were clear about their non-Christian convictions, Covenant’s group was pleased to discover many followers of Jesus among the other philosophers.

New Political Science Major Introduced

In the fall of 2019, a new major, political science, was introduced for incoming and residing students of Covenant College. This major specifically fills a gap in providing necessary requisites for pre-law students. In addition to the new major, the current political studies minor will be rebranded as a political science minor and will reside with the major in the Department of History and Politics.

In addition to Covenant’s current political studies professor Dr. Cale Horne, two professors will also be a part of the new

major. Dr. Anna Rannou will be the lecturer for a freshman requisite class, Political Research Methods, while Peter Hill will be a visiting professor of political science. The major expects to bring in a number of students that will make hiring an additional full-time faculty member necessary in the future.

As Dr. Horne said, “The purpose of a political science major at Covenant College is to provide students with an understanding of the actors and institutions that generate cooperation and conflict in society and among states, and to equip students for related vocations.” The political science major and requirements will aim to develop civic thinking in students and provide an opportunity to work in vocations related to that major outside of Covenant.



Nicholas Barker Short Fiction Competition: 2019 and 2020 Winners

Covenant celebrated the winners of the inaugural Nicholas Barker Short Fiction competition in March 2019. The first place prize was awarded to Aline Sluis '20 for her story “Staggersville,” and runner up was awarded to Katherine Scott '19 for her story “Travis.” During a virtual event in April 2020, Covenant celebrated the second Nicholas Barker Short Fiction first place winner Kara Start '23 for her story “The Risk of Life.”

Named after former Covenant English professor Dr. Nicholas Barker, the contest

Top 10 Moments

FROM THE 2010'S

1

J. Derek Halvorson
Appointed President

2

Carter Hall
Renovated

3

Athletics
Joins NCAA

4

Lucas Art
Workshop Opens

5

Lighting
Scotland Yard

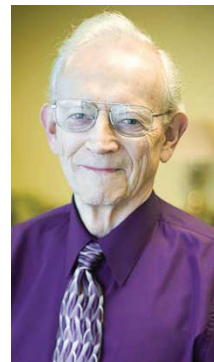
calls for stories by Covenant students that open fresh windows into the theocentric, spiritual world of Scripture. "The best stories have the power to thrust us into the strange supernaturalism of the biblical world, the very world in which we live and move and have our being," said Dr. Hans Madueme. "Christian storytelling at its best transfigures the imagination; it jolts us out of our spiritual slumber and reminds us that this world is a theater of God's glory."

The 2019 and 2020 ceremonies honored the winners who read excerpts from their stories. "I found that this blend of the western with the supernatural almost knit itself together before my fingertips, and it was an absolute blast to write," Sluis '20 said about her story, "Staggersville," a supernatural western. "No amount of words can express how floored I am to be up here and how grateful I am that we were given an opportunity to share work in the first place." Kara Start '23, a history major, is fascinated by her family's Dutch history and the nature of everyday life during wartime. Her pieces of historical fiction, like her story "The Risk of Life," often center around themes of home, identity, and family against the backdrop of significant historical events.

A bound edition featuring all the entries and the winners is available in Kresge Memorial Library.

In Memory: Dr. Robert B. Ashlock

Dr. Robert B. Ashlock, emeritus professor of education, passed away on March 28, 2019. An Indiana native, Dr. Ashlock was a graduate of Butler College and Indiana University. He started his teaching career in Indiana public schools, and went on to



serve in teaching roles at the University of Maryland, Reformed Theological Seminary, Belhaven College, and Covenant College.

He began teaching at Covenant in 1988 and officially retired in 2010. In his time as a faculty member, he helped to establish the school's first graduate program, the Master of Education (M. Ed.) program, a remarkable contribution to Covenant's success as an institution.

Dr. Ashlock's book, *Error Patterns in Computation*, is yet another testament to his love for teaching. The book is a guide to teaching math, written for fellow educators. Originally published in 1972, it is now in its 10th edition and has also been published in Korean.

In Memory: Mr. Charles Cox '64

Longtime board member Charlie Cox passed away on December 25, 2019. Charlie earned his B.A. in behavioral science from Covenant College where he met Myrna Kaufmann. They were married the summer of 1964 after Charlie's graduation.



After working for several years at IBM in Alabama, and then Exxon in New Jersey, Charlie managed a variety of companies in different industries before taking a primary leadership role with the Furmanite Corporation. He was deeply passionate about Christian education, serving on the boards of both Shannon Forrest Christian School in Greenville, SC and Covenant College on Lookout Mountain, GA. His life reflected the motto of his alma mater, "In all things Christ Preeminent."

Top 10 Moments FROM THE 2010'S

6

New Tennis Courts Finished

7

Alum appointed as Supreme Court Clerk

8

Faculty Publications Honored by *Christianity Today*

9

Campus Expands with Addition of the Kirk

10

Teams Win Conference Championships

Athletics Earns Sixth Consecutive Sportsmanship Award

Covenant College claimed the USA South Sportsmanship Trophy in May 2019 for a sixth consecutive year. Covenant has won at least a share of the Sportsmanship Trophy in all six years it has been a member of the USA South. Covenant men's tennis, men's basketball, baseball, and volleyball won team sportsmanship awards this year.

For each USA South sport (except golf, men's and women's cross country, and men's and women's track and field), all team members at each USA South institution vote for the team he/she deemed to have demonstrated the best overall sportsmanship throughout the season. The team garnering the most votes receives that sports' Sportsmanship Award. The institution which wins the most individual sport awards is presented with the overall USA South Sportsmanship Trophy.



Theatre: Tartuffe

In November, the Theatre Department presented *Tartuffe*, French playwright Molière's famous comedy, translated by Donald M. Frame. *Tartuffe* debuted on May 12, 1664 at the Palace of Versailles before French King Louis XIV. Later adaptations of *Tartuffe* were banned, as the court accused Molière of heresy due to the play's content. While Molière worked diligently for his play to be published under a new name, the original ban was lifted two years later, and

Tartuffe has been a wild success ever since.



Dr. Elissa Weichbrodt '04 Contributes to New Book

Dr. Elissa Weichbrodt contributed to *His Testimonies, My Heritage*, an "inspiring collection of devotions by a diverse group of women of color—African-Americans, Hispanic, Caribbean and Asian women. It is a faithful exposition of Psalm 119 and incorporates each contributor's cultural expression both within the teaching and as they bring the word of God to bear on their lives." The book was honored with an Award of Merit by *Christianity Today* as part of its 2020 Book Awards.





Students, alumni, and friends of the college filled the Barnes gymnasium for MAX OUT BARNES as the Scots hosted rival Maryville College on February 5, 2020. Down by 14 in the second half, the Covenant men's basketball team mounted a rally to force overtime and then made key plays down the stretch to earn a 72-70 win over Maryville. This season sweep of Maryville also defended the Scots' first place ranking in the USA South basketball rankings.

This night offered a glimpse of Covenant's community as Scots of all ages rejoiced together.

Side-by-side in packed bleachers, faculty, staff, students, and alumni all cheered their fellow Scots — and in this moment, all had their eyes fixed on the same goal.



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CampusCollage

1-2 0 Week

New students got to enjoy the amazing view that only Carter Tower can offer.

3-5 Convocation

With bagpipes, silly hats, and a charge to wonder, new and returning students were welcomed to campus.

6-7 Homecoming Picnic

Covenant welcomed its alum with music, games, and a picnic on the Dottie Brock Gardens.

8 September 11 Prayer

Students took time to remember the 9/11 victims and their families with a time of prayer.

9-10 Student Appreciation Day

Covenant showed some love for the student body with a pop-up petting zoo on the chapel lawn.

11 Heritage Society Tea

Covenant honored members of the Heritage Society.

12-13 Mountain Affair

Covenant's talent was on full display with a variety of amazing, original performances.

14-15 Carter Christmas

The residents of Carter transformed their hallways and dorm rooms into winter wonderlands.

16 Mistletoe Mingle

Students took a break from cramming for finals to live it up at a silent disco.

17-19 Culture Fest

Students celebrated the many cultures at Covenant through dancing, music, and food

20-22 Sk80s

Neon, mullets, and roller skates were in fashion as students roller skated back to the future.

23 Imago Dei Lectures

Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin, author of *Christianity Today's* Book of the Year, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*, spoke at this annual lecture series.

24-26 MLK Day

The Covenant Community observed MLK Day with service projects, followed by a panel discussion with Pastor Howard Brown and a live concert from The Porter's Gate.

See more at covenant.edu/facebook.

P R E - L A W *and the*
P R E E M I N E N C E
O F C H R I S T



by Dr. Richard Follett, Professor of History

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

ROMANS 13:1-7

IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE

Greg Steele graduated from Covenant with a History degree. Greg stopped by my office recently while visiting the area. I'm always pleased when former students update me on their life and adventures in the practice of law. When Greg graduated from Covenant, he ultimately wanted to practice law somewhere in the southeast. He has since graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law and is now a family law attorney in his hometown in the Upcountry of South Carolina.

Two of Greg's classmates who graduated with him in 2013 are now practicing law in New York and France. These three illustrate the range of where our legal

alumni serve: small towns, big cities, and even internationally. All three decided to enter law after considerable reflection and conversations with brothers and sisters in Christ who practiced law. While each practice in different areas, they all entered law school with a sense of calling and a commitment to service grounded in their deeper calling as followers of Jesus Christ.

I've been advising Covenant students interested in legal careers since 2003. Since then, each year we have seen at least one and as many as nine graduates enter law school. Some students entered Covenant as freshmen with a strong sense

"In any case, law is a very serious calling and one we want students to think about, both for themselves and their futures, and because it can have a tremendous impact in the lives of many other people."

that God was calling them into legal practice. Others developed an interest as they came to understand their gifts and the range of careers a law degree can lead to, as well as a better sense of how they might serve others and support their families through the profession.

Why Pre-Law?

We have a series of popular and sometimes contradictory images of lawyers in America. We have television dramas that portray an exciting profession where people have to argue and debate.

But there are also jokes about attorneys making things more complicated just for the sake of gaining more money. And there is some truth to both images, though a lot of legal actions are fairly mundane and routine. In any case, law is a very serious calling and one we want students to think about, both for themselves and their futures, and because it can have a tremendous impact in the lives of many other people.

At Covenant, pre-law advising focuses on preparing Christians to work in legal practice. It's really about equipping God's people to serve one another, to

seek the good of the larger community in which they live, and to provide the kind of salt and light that are needed in a world of conflicting demands. It's more than simply equipping one with academic credentials. It's about shaping how students see things and how they work.

Getting into law school, succeeding there, and then practicing law effectively requires a varying range of skills, many of which are based on the liberal arts' concern for careful reading, reasoning, and writing.

Covenant's core curriculum provides the most basic foundation for students. In addition to that, we introduce ideas and questions that help students think more fully about their faith and what they might be doing in the practice of law. Covenant infuses education with a keen sense of our calling to follow Christ and to be equipped to glorify Him and to serve His kingdom.

Our efforts to combine faith and learning amplify the need for polished skills not only to work in this world, but to work in such a way that eternity will also be reflected in our day to day efforts. And that's what we are trying to do with

“Getting into law school, succeeding there, and then practicing law effectively requires a varying range of skills, many of which are based on the liberal arts’ concern for careful reading, reasoning, and writing.”

pre-law students at Covenant. As Rachel George, one of our legal alumna, told me early in my advising efforts,

“One of the primary purposes of lawyers is to help maintain civility in a fallen and broken world (i.e., to restrain sinners as they duke it out over this or that trespass or potential trespass). Although the nature of the sin might vary by practice, lawyers have to work with folks and advise them in the midst of greed and selfishness every day. It isn’t always pretty, but it’s hard to think of a better place for a Christian with a heart and mind for redeeming the day to day workings of our culture.”

Covenant students graduate well equipped to succeed in law school and the legal profession. But more importantly, they are equipped for life as Christians, to be good and faithful servants, who seek to display that Christ is preeminent in all things.

Advising Pre-Law Students

When I came to Covenant College to take up a position teaching European History, I did not expect to serve as a pre-law advisor. But it was clear that the person doing it was overloaded and needed some relief. It

has been a wonderful and rewarding duty because we have such eager students, and we have the freedom to be blunt about the challenges of law. We can openly discuss both the everyday challenges of time and resources and also the long term and more important challenges that deal with spiritual commitments and one’s family life, which should be priorities for any Christian.

“Covenant students graduate well equipped to succeed in law school and the legal profession. But more importantly, they are equipped for life as Christians, to be good and faithful servants, who seek to display that Christ is preeminent in all things.”

Students at Covenant learn to work hard. Consequently, we have had a very high success rate among those applying to law schools. I’ve watched students develop and expand their understanding of the world through their core and major classes, the study of Scripture, and reflection on the priorities of Christ and His kingdom. This integration provides the basis for frank

discussions about different kinds of law practice, what kind of life students want to lead when they practice, and how these sometimes come into conflict.

Several years ago, a Covenant graduate contacted me because he had the opportunity to go to a top ten ranked law school, but he also had an offer of a half-tuition scholarship from another school

that was high quality but not quite as prestigious. His question was: do you go to the best one and take the hit on the loans you have to take out, or do you go to the more economical school? We were able to talk about the challenges and opportunities that each involved and the impact these might have on his family and church life along with the economic question. In the end, he chose the more prestigious law school but did so with the full knowledge about the impact of his decision. I’ve had the freedom to talk about

these things openly and boldly, based on a mutual understanding of our calling in Christ, which I could not have done in the same way in many other places.

Being a pre-law advisor at Covenant is an ongoing process. Once students graduate, it doesn’t necessarily end. Some of our graduates do not decide on law school

until a few years after they've graduated. And even once they are in law school, or have completed it, we've tried to build connections between legal alumni and help connect alumni to current students. Several of our alumni have expressed their willingness to aid and support current students, and they are as eager as I am to see students do wonderfully and get into good law schools.

The Pre-Law Program

For our students, a pre-law focus helps them think through the practical applications of a biblical call to justice and righteousness. And our students come to understand this in a big way. It's about law and order, yes, but not as a simplistic application of laws. They understand that there are also issues of social opportunity and social abuse that sometimes have to be addressed and worked through to help their clients or the larger society in which they live.

Pre-law is not a major but an advising track. And unlike medical schools, law schools do not have a set of prerequisite courses you must have before you get there. A student can major in almost anything and still get into law school if he or she has a solid GPA, strong scores on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), and a strong personal statement. Success in law school is really based on skills a student has acquired throughout all of his or her education. These can be refined or expanded in college, and that is what we seek to do at Covenant.

Our approach to pre-law is based on interviews and surveys with lawyers, judges, and alumni of the college who are practicing law. Our course recommendations for pre-law students reflect their input. Consistently, practicing judges and lawyers, as well as most law school admissions representatives I've talked to over the years, have emphasized that students should study what they love at the undergraduate level. Then they should

add courses outside their major that help them gain other background knowledge and skills necessary to be a good lawyer. Many Covenant alumni do take traditional pre-law majors such as, history, philosophy, business, and English. But we also have legal alumni who have studied psychology, sociology, chemistry, and even art.

Because our economy involves many different specializations, the modern practice of law involves complex connections which need lawyers who understand the different specialties. Law schools look for a diversity of majors among their incoming students. Certainly, any student will want some skills often acquired through those traditional majors. For instance, a student must be able to write and do research, because law schools require these. If one's major discipline doesn't emphasize such skills, we advise a student to take courses that will help develop and practice them.

No matter the major, we encourage students to take courses on U.S. History and the Constitution to understand the context of American law. We encourage students to learn and practice public speaking, because even if their legal focus is writing and proofing contracts, they will need to speak in front of peers in law school and legal practice, as well as their clients. We strongly encourage students to take our business law course, which introduces students to both general principles of law and the practice and particulars of what most American attorneys are involved with directly or indirectly. Our business law course is taught by an experienced attorney, so students learn from someone who has been thinking about the profession as a Christian for many years.

Finally, we encourage students to get involved with the student-led Pre-Law Society, which organizes events, brings in speakers addressing legal topics, and makes students aware of opportunities for internships, LSAT study groups, and law school events. The Pre-Law Society also helps to promote Constitution Day

in September every year, which includes speakers and discussions on topics related to the U.S. Constitution.

Between recommended courses and participation in the Pre-Law Society, students graduate from Covenant with a strong understanding of what law school requires, a realistic view of what practicing law actually entails, and the skills needed to succeed in both. Our graduates have attended a broad range of law schools, from nationally recognized institutions like Harvard, Columbia, or the University of Virginia, to regionally respected schools like Georgia State, Wake Forest, or Mercer. Some have practiced law in national venues, and others have focused on local concerns.

What I have heard most often from alumni is the positive impact Covenant had on preparing them for the demands of law school and on their view of the law as a calling, giving them not only a way to make a living, but also to make a difference. They see the people they advocate for not merely as clients, but as creatures created in the image of God, with concerns and priorities well beyond the particular needs of the legal dilemma they might be facing at a particular time. Their Covenant education equipped them to serve in multiple ways and to understand that part of their calling is to serve people, to be Christ to people. 🙏



Dr. Richard Follett

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

FROM
CAMPUS

TO
COURT



Kathryn 'Kat' Kimball Mizelle '09
ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY FOR JONES DAY



As Covenant College alumni seek to have an impact through their careers and in their communities, a number of graduates move from Lookout Mountain to the halls of prestigious law schools, becoming advocates for a variety of clients in courtrooms around the world. In this article, Kat Mizelle '09 tells about her experience and how Covenant prepared her to succeed in the legal profession.

What has your career path looked like since leaving Covenant?

After Covenant, I returned to Florida and attended the University of Florida law school. After graduation, I clerked on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida for Judge James Moody and then on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit for Judge William Pryor. I then joined the U.S. Department of Justice where I spent the next several years prosecuting white-collar offenses as a trial attorney in the Tax Division. I also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Virginia. In my last year at the Department of Justice, I served as counsel to the Associate Attorney General where I worked on regulatory reform matters, helped defend free speech on college campuses, and oversaw the Tax Division.

I left the Department of Justice to serve as one of Judge Gregory Katsas's first law clerks on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 2018, and then as a law clerk to Associate Justice Clarence Thomas on the U.S. Supreme Court for the 2018-2019 Term. This past fall, I joined Jones Day and am now also serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where I recently taught a course about religious liberty with Justice Thomas.

As a member of the Issues and Appeals practice group at Jones Day, my role is to provide strategic legal advice to clients in a variety of matters, ranging from constitutional challenges in civil and administrative cases to dispositive motions in white-collar defense cases. I love the challenge of solving hard legal problems, and I enjoy the variety of legal issues that I encounter.

What are some of your fondest memories of your time at Covenant?

Too many to recount! I loved the many runs through the woods along the bluff trail, hours spent talking with good friends in the Great Hall, worshipping together in chapel, and attending classes where the professors were truly concerned about the development of each of their students.

Joshua Reif '08

Atlanta, Georgia

Partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Cumberland School of Law, Samford University ('11)

I knew that being a lawyer would be hard work, but I didn't know that it would be more than just a job to do during business hours. Lawyers can have slow business days that turn into emergency all-nighters without warning. I also honestly thought that practicing law would be more boring than it is. I didn't know how triumphantly rewarding practicing law can be. Achieving results for clients is thrilling.

The law is a hard profession. Its demands on one's time, energy, and intellect are hard to overstate. Anyone who thinks they are interested in taking on the challenge should be sure to talk through the realities of practicing law with someone who has been there to make sure they understand what they are committing to.

Prospective law students should take courses that encourage the development of critical thinking and analytical skills. Many history courses require students to see things from multiple points of view, develop a thesis, and support a thesis with deep analysis. Taking courses that teach those skills will benefit students both in law school and in practice.

Karissa Taylor '96

Seattle, Washington

Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

King County Prosecutor's Office

University of Washington Law School ('01)

At Covenant, I learned to think and write. I primarily studied philosophy, so I did a lot of reading, writing, and thinking. I read very broadly in English, history, and philosophy, and was well-prepared to do all of those same things in law school. The Socratic nature of most of my Covenant classes was mirrored in law school as well.

Understanding that we are all created in the image of God gives me empathy for others. We are all broken, and our brokenness impacts us in all sorts of ways. No one sets out to commit a violent crime; there are almost always a series of decisions or events, many out of control of the perpetrator, that lead to that point, including a history of trauma, abuse, poverty, neglect, homelessness, etc.

Looking back, how did Covenant prepare you for your career?

Covenant provided me with a strong liberal arts education. I learned how to read critically, analyze, and write well. In other words, Covenant taught me how to think and communicate ideas clearly, which are skills I use every day to be an effective lawyer.

In addition to teaching me how to think and write clearly, Covenant taught me how to think holistically about problems. Our faith was never relegated to theology or biblical studies courses; instead, Covenant approached academics as part of a unified life, one where intellectual pursuits are joined with spiritual ones. This way of thinking is often referred to as having a "worldview." I'm not sure that term captures the depth of this approach though, as it is not about a political mindset or cultural perspective. It is about understanding humans and our problems as Christ sees us and this world. It is about understanding what it means that humans are made in God's image. We can be agents of God's will or choose to follow only our own. For Christians, our eternal home, the ultimate place of rest and satisfaction, is with Christ after death. That is a radical approach to life, but it prepared me to enter a profession that is often obsessed with prestige, power, and wealth.

What would you say to current students who are considering applying to law school or pursuing a legal career?

The average day of a lawyer looks different than what people see portrayed on television. Being a lawyer, especially an appellate one, consists mostly of reading, writing, and editing. And even when I was a trial attorney at the Department of Justice, most of my time was spent reviewing documents and preparing for witness interviews or grand jury.

If you are planning on applying to law school, take courses that teach you how to think critically and write clearly. For me, I found philosophy courses to be particularly useful at learning how to read dense materials and distill the primary points that held the author's argument together.

You should also pray about your vocation every day while at Covenant. Ask trusted advisors, including lawyers you know, if they think your skill set matches well with those of the profession. Sit quietly to listen to the Holy Spirit when you pray about what the Lord is calling you to do. And be honest with yourself about the reasons you want to pursue this profession. If you feel confident that the Lord is leading you to this decision, acknowledge before going to law school that this career will demand much of your time and energy and be prepared to sacrifice to do it with a joyful spirit .



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas with Law Clerk Kat Mizelle '09 in the Supreme Court Conference Room, 2019.

In what ways does your faith inform your career?

My faith informs my career in how I do my work and how I treat others in the workplace. We are commanded to work unto the Lord, which means being principled, honest, and hardworking. We are also commanded to do the often demanding job of being a lawyer with a cheerful spirit, being thankful for the opportunities to serve and being kind and generous with our time and energy towards others. 🙏

Conrad Meek '15

Arlington, Virginia

Antonin Scalia Law School

George Mason University ('20)

My Covenant education equipped me to think critically, and it also trained me to clearly articulate arguments and the reasons supporting those arguments. When I began law school, I was surprised at how many of my peers struggled with writing assignments. I felt that I had an enormous advantage in that regard, because of my education at Covenant. In my history classes, I had more than enough writing assignments to keep me busy, and my writing improved as a result. Work on improving your writing while you can. It's the best thing you can do right now to prepare for law.

At times it can feel like the legal profession is hostile to my Christian faith, but it does not have to be. There are many wonderful lawyers and law students who I have met who are Christians. They've all been an incredible encouragement to me, and I hope that I have been the same for them.

Shelmun Dashan '10

Chicago, Illinois

AIDS Legal Council Staff Attorney

Legal Council for Health Justice

Harvard Law School ('13)

If you're in college and want to become a lawyer, it doesn't really matter what classes you take as long as you learn how to think and write well. You could be a music major and make a great lawyer. I recommend classes where you have to read and make arguments (history, philosophy, English). Taking microeconomics with Dr. Wescher was pivotal for me. Economic reasoning will likely help you no matter what you do. Understanding cognition and behavior make me much more empathetic than I am inclined to be, which is helpful when your job is persuading people.

From taking psychology, economics, and history classes, I learned at Covenant about how and why people reason and behave the way they do, what economic and political values are important to me, how the economic system works (or doesn't), and how to treat other people's arguments seriously and write persuasively. These have all been quite useful.



onLine

Transitioning to Online Classes

Faculty:

Dr. Bill Davis, Professor of Philosophy

Class:

PHI 171: Bioethics

The Assignment:

This semester, my Bioethics students have worked patiently and diligently to help me maximize the effectiveness of the online classroom. They show up in the virtual space every bit as eager to talk about hard things (and push for biblically sound answers) as they did in the physical classroom.

One positive outcome of transitioning to an online classroom is that additional voices can join in. For one of the class discussions on physician assisted suicide, I invited the head of the Ethics Consult Service at a large Catholic hospital in Chattanooga to call in and share his perspective.

The most daunting part of moving the class online was continuing our four “standing committees” made up of students. Each of the six topical units for the semester began with these committees receiving and making recommendations on an ethical case that no one on the committee had seen before the class period started. By the end of the class period, students make reasoned recommendations regarding five or six pressing questions. These cases were drawn from my twenty-five years of experience on hospital ethics committees. Having the four committees deliberate simultaneously with some oversight was easy in a physical classroom, but then we found a way to make it work well virtually.

We overcame the virtual complications by having the four students who volunteered to chair the meetings invite other members to a Google Meet event during the class period. Each chair also invited me to be a participant. I could drop in—muted—to the meetings as they progressed. Often my presence was not even noted by the committee because they were caught up in the complexity of the problems they had to resolve. Better yet, the online committee meeting could involve non-class members who wanted to join in more easily than in our normal classroom.

Emily Belz, a reporter for World Magazine working on a story about the allocation of scarce ventilators in a pandemic, sat in on one of the committees as they worked through the issue of assigning too many people to too few ICU beds.

“Despite the difficult transition, Bioethics has become interesting because of how applicable our class is to the current situation.”

-Phil Pennington '22, Biology

“Class shifted over well, since the committee meetings are still productive and informative.”

-Alex Wilson '21, Interdisciplinary Studies



Although separated by distance, Dr. Davis' PHI 171 Bioethics class successfully engaged in discussion and issues from a biblical and philosophical perspective.

ALL THE
TREASURES
OF WISDOM
AND KNOWLEDGE
ARE HIDDEN IN

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IN MEMORIAM:

Dr. Kevin Eames



On the morning of Thursday, June 6, 2019, Dr. Kevin J. Eames, professor of psychology at Covenant College, died following complications from open-heart surgery. In his announcement to the Covenant community, President J. Derek Halvorson said, “Dr. Eames was cherished by students, faculty, and staff alike for his outstanding teaching, his facility with assessment, his unwavering commitment to the college’s mission, his courageous and thoughtful engagement with challenging topics, his constant good cheer, and his faithful friendship and support.”

Kevin Eames was 58 years old and is survived by his wife, Lisa, and his two daughters, Hillary '15 and Hannah '21. He was preceded in death by his father, James Eames, and his son, Daniel on May 30, 2013.

Professor Eames was selected by the graduating class of 2019 to deliver the commencement address on May 4, 2019. The following is an excerpt from his commencement speech.

“AT THIS TRANSITIONAL MOMENT in your life, as you look ahead, you will see two very different things. Usually, the things we see in the near distance are clearer than the things that are further away, but not today. The future you think you see is actually mist and fog. Eternity, however, seems to be on the distant horizon but is, in fact, right before you, illuminating all that you do in the present-day.

It is the present-day where we are called to love one another, build up one another, accept one another, bear one another’s burdens, and show kindness to one another. When you think about your life, what should bring you the greatest satisfaction is not the number of Instagram followers that you have or the material possessions you’ve accumulated, but the people that you’ve authentically loved and the relationships in which you have invested, and those who have invested in you.

As you leave the auditorium today, remember that those that you encounter are all immortal, eternal creatures with whom you will either share everlasting splendor or who will be separated forever from the one for whom they were made. Remember this moment, this very moment, with its applause, elation, and airhorns is radiant with the light of eternity. Amen.” 🙏

You can read or watch Dr. Eames’ full speech at covenant.edu/eames.



Ah, The Good Life!

EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS, the silly season of political campaigns chokes out competing narratives on airwaves, paper, and screens. I am both amused and bemused by what the candidates say. All of them present a vision, often utopian, of the good life. They offer an attractive picture of how wonderful life would be if only we granted them power for a while. It is a two-year-long commercial. Some of us have little buyer resistance while others have a good deal of buyer remorse.

Slogans are a staple of political campaigns and movements. A slogan articulates a vision of the good life. The Bolsheviks coined the slogan “Bread, Land, and Peace!,” the French used “Liberty, Fraternity, Égalité!” to inspire revolution, and Abraham Lincoln ran on the promise “Vote Yourself A Farm and Horses.” The Old Testament has its own aspirational slogans and its own visions of the good life. If we compare Jehovah’s kingship to a political campaign, He ran on the platform of “Justice, Peace, and Righteousness!”

Justice and peace are a common part of revolutionary rhetoric. Both of those are good objects, of course, which Christians ought to work toward in whatever sphere of activity God has placed them, whether an employer, teacher, prosecutor, mother, soldier, or deacon. We work to restore and renew what was damaged and lost in the Fall, witness to those who are not reconciled to or redeemed by God, and repair injuries to people and things. That is our job until Jesus returns and makes everything new. But the Bible adds a third element which we usually do not think of in the public sphere of government. It adds “Righteousness” to the mixture. How is that for a campaign slogan! “Peace!” (Roar of approval.) “Justice!” (Cacophony of enthusiasm.) “Righteousness! (Puzzled murmurs.)

Kings have more than slogans. They have thrones. Mad King Ludwig had a beautiful throne room in Neuschwanstein Castle. Louis XIV had a magnificent throne at Versailles. The Qing emperors had several different thrones in the Forbidden City. But God’s throne is the most impressive.

*“The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
Let the many coastlands be glad!
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”*
PSALM 97:1-2

God’s throne rests upon the
beautiful, unshakable foundation
of righteousness and justice.



by Peter Hill, Visiting Professor of Political Science

God’s throne rests upon the beautiful, unshakable foundation of righteousness and justice. God’s vision of the good life is one where people are right and do what is right. We even have glimpses of the good life during Israel’s history. I Kings 4:25 says, “During Solomon’s lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.” The picture is pastoral, peaceful, idyllic, and safe, with external security provided by the king, and income security provided by the man’s labor, farm, and vineyard. No one invaded to cut his trees. No one stole the literal fruit of his labor. He worked in peace and enjoyed his work products in quiet.

Whether or not we are afforded moments like this in our lifetime, God has promised it will be part of our future as His children. Isaiah tells us that when the Spirit has been poured out in His fullness

*“Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field,
And the effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever.”*
ISAIAH 32: 16-17

I am disquieted during political campaigns. I desire to see peace, justice, and righteousness now. As a retired soldier, I seek peace. As a lawyer, I seek justice. As a Christian, I seek righteousness. But in the here and now, I will always be disappointed in the result. That causes me to look forward to the consummation when God ushers in the good life by setting everything right.

But here’s a secret you already know. You don’t have to wait. As citizens, we can affect the public sphere by doing what is right. We can also have an immediate influence in the areas of life where God has called us. We can start pursuing peace, justice, and righteousness right now whether we are an employer, teacher, prosecutor, mother, soldier, or deacon. Carve out an area and reclaim it for the earth’s great King! 🏰

2019 ALUMNI *of the* YEAR



Steve '69 and Mary Kaufmann '68
Alumni of the Year



Megan Hulse '16
Young Alumni of the Year



Thomas '87 and Michael Ann Chapman '87
Volunteers of the Year

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Why Chapel?

“

It is so comforting to know that our rich community which God has scattered around the world can still come together to learn and worship around our individual screens each week.

It has been a reminder that this community rooted in Christ is so much bigger than our corporate gatherings.

”

Marie Bowen '20
on experiencing chapel online

CHAPEL IS ABOUT ENCOUNTERING
JESUS TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY.



Grant Lowe
CHAPLAIN

“We have chapel at Covenant College because we believe that encountering Jesus together is the most exciting, transformative, mind-blowing, worthwhile thing in the whole world.”

COVID-19 and God's Faithfulness

THE SPRING SEMESTER OF 2020 was truly like no other semester in the college's history. We, like most colleges and universities, had to make a dramatic pivot at the midpoint of the semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the span of just a couple weeks, we moved from operating as a tight-knit, residential, academic community to delivering courses remotely while also seeking to maintain our community bonds via all the means available to us in a time of physical distancing. The abrupt end to on-campus education was a crushing blow to our graduating seniors. It was also a crushing blow to students in the midst of lab research, to spring athletes, to musicians preparing for recitals, to artists preparing for gallery shows, to theater performers preparing for *The Sound of Music*, and to every student who didn't get to say a proper goodbye to roommates and friends.

The transition to remote delivery of courses was no small challenge for an academic community deeply committed to face-to-face education and all of the intellectual, social, and spiritual benefits wrapped up in that time-honored approach to the formation of thoughtful and well-prepared followers of Jesus Christ. In spite of the challenges inherent in such a rapid and dramatic transition, our students, faculty, and staff responded with remarkable determination, adaptability, flexibility, tenacity, patience, good humor, humility, and care for one another. It was a truly beautiful thing to witness the manner in which the Covenant community responded to this challenge with the love of Christ and with an unwavering commitment to being equipped to explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things.

As I've had opportunity to witness God's faithfulness to the college firsthand in this crisis, I've found myself having to repent of being surprised by that reality. If one reads the histories, one can't help but be aware of the remarkable ways in which God has provided for the college over its sixty-five years of existence. There have been times when staff and faculty had to go without paychecks. There have been times when the college couldn't have gotten a loan if we'd wanted one. There have been times when accreditation seemed to be at risk, or when enrollment was tanking, or when operating budgets didn't balance, or when capital projects went millions of dollars over budget. In every one of these circumstances, God was faithful to provide for the needs of the Covenant College community. That doesn't mean that there wasn't real suffering and that difficult decisions didn't have to be made. It does mean that God supplied what was needed—the resources, the insights, the people—to ensure that Covenant would continue to be able to pursue its mission. And,

in fact, God used those trying situations to grow the college, to make it a stronger and better institution.

This shouldn't come as a surprise to me. Scripture is replete with stories of God's faithfulness and steadfast love. Like many Christians, I've been reading a lot in the Psalms over the last couple of months. These ancient songs are a gift because of their honest lament and also their hopefulness. The Psalms are realistic about pain and suffering and loss. They also regularly remind us that God is with us, that his steadfast love endures forever. I'm prone to forget that reality in the face of trials, and yet Paul even encourages us to consider it joy when we encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness, or endurance, or perseverance. Those are qualities we need in abundance in the current circumstances. What an encouragement to know that in God's design, these are the very fruits of the experience, the trial, we are now undergoing.

So, as we continue to navigate the fallout of a global pandemic that has seemingly turned the world upside down—at least for a season—I am encouraged. I am encouraged by the remarkable manner in which the Covenant College community has responded; encouraged by the history of a college that has endured and even grown through trials at least as severe as the one we face; and encouraged by the regular reminders found in the Scriptures that our God is faithful—that He is the sovereign Lord of the universe, and that He loves us.

This magazine was largely laid out prior to the coronavirus outbreak. While you may see some references to the outbreak in these pages, for the most part, we've left the magazine as it would have been...in part as a celebration of the rich community life that we enjoy at Covenant College and that we look forward to returning to in the months to come.

Until God brings us together again,

J. Derek Halvorson '93

PRESIDENT





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