

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

VIEW

Serving the
Great Physician

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COVENANT COLLEGE

VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF COVENANT COLLEGE
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Editor-in-Chief
Dr. John Horton

Editor
Lydia Berglar '18

Creative Director
Tad Ewearitt '98

Contributing Writers
Lydia Berglar '18, John Horton, Camille Hallstrom,
J. Derek Halvorson '93

Contributing Photographers
Tad Ewearitt '98, Hannah Rodehaver '22, Josiah Martin,
Cameron Dennis, Erin Lynch '98

Proofreader
Jenny Gienapp '92

Contact the editor at:
Editor, *View*
Covenant College
14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750
view@covenant.edu

Letters to the editor are welcome.

**Send alumni news & photos
for consideration to:**
Office of Alumni Relations
Covenant College
14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750
alumni@covenant.edu

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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
- Foster in alumni a sense of pride in Covenant College
and connection to the Scots community.

COVENANT
COLLEGE

IN ALL THINGS CHRIST PREEMINENT



From left to right: Sport management students Lydia Radmacher '23, William Wallace '21, and Olivia Sanders '22 had the opportunity to work the Daytona 500, getting an inside perspective on what it takes to put on a major sporting event.

CovenantNews



Sport Management Students Work the Daytona 500

Three students in the sport management program (a recently added major and minor housed in the business department) got a behind-the-scenes look at a major sporting event when they volunteered at the Daytona 500. Experiential learning opportunities like this supplement classroom learning and help prepare students for their future careers. Originally, they planned to work

the College Football Playoff National Championship, but plans changed due to COVID-19 regulations.

William Wallace '21, Olivia Sanders '22, and Lydia Radmacher '23 worked the race. Kaylie Burrell '21 was originally selected to work the college football game, but she was unable to attend the Daytona 500 due to the schedule change.

Professor Michaela Kourmoulis, (who joined Covenant in 2020 as assistant professor of sport management), interviewed twelve applicants and selected three for this opportunity. Having worked with NASCAR at Talladega Superspeedway, Kourmoulis asked her connections if she could bring students to the race. She plans to organize more experiential learning opportunities for her students. Some future options include working the NCAA Men's Final Four and the Super Bowl.

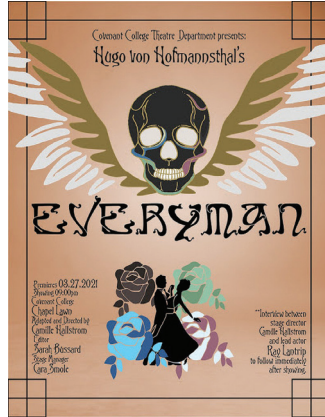


Kat Kimball Mizelle '09 Confirmed as Federal Judge

Kat Kimball Mizelle '09 was nominated and confirmed as the federal judge for the Middle District of Florida. At 33, Mizelle is one of the youngest federal judges ever appointed, and she has already gained an impressive amount of experience and proven her dedication and character. Her accomplishments include prosecuting one of the largest human trafficking cases in the Eastern District of Virginia; clerking for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; and representing companies in

high-stakes civil litigations and criminal defense cases as an attorney with Jones Day law firm.

While working in political and legal spheres where many are seeking glory, Mizelle holds to biblical principles and seeks to bring glory to Christ, even by simply treating those around her with respect. She says, “In these high pressure environments, I notice Christians like Justice Thomas who treat everyone with grace, humility, and patience.” Read more about her story in *View Spring 2020*.



Theatre Department Gets Creative

Faced with the unique challenges that COVID-19 presented, Covenant’s theatre department members showed gusto and ingenuity in their creative response. On April 9, 2021, they premiered two film projects, *Our Unfinished Music* and *Everyman*, on the chapel lawn for the campus community and live streamed the shows.

Unable to perform *The Sound of Music* last spring due to the pandemic, they filmed *Our Unfinished Music*, a documentary detailing the work and rehearsals that went into preparing for the production. In lieu of an in-person performance, they also filmed this year’s production of *Everyman*, a 15th-century morality play.

Both productions can be viewed at www.covenant.edu/theatre.

Students Show Appreciation

Students across campus came together to thank Covenant faculty, staff, and leadership in the form of a unique card, presented to President J. Derek Halvorson '93 by Avery Radmacher '21. The card was filled with signatures and notes from many students who appreciated all employees' persistence through several unusual semesters and Covenant's dedication to on-campus, community-focused education.



Covenant's First #GivingTuesday

On December 1, 2020, Covenant participated in our first-ever Giving Tuesday. Occurring five days after Thanksgiving and kicking off



onCourse Sportography

Faculty:

Dr. Matt Vos, Professor of Sociology & Chair of Sociology Department

Class:

Sociology of Sport

The Course:

Sports are ubiquitous in American society. They reflect our values and manifest our deepest tensions. Sitcoms such as *Everybody Loves Raymond* commonly point out marital tensions between the sports-watching, disengaged, husband and his more responsible spouse. Workplace productivity drops and web use increases during college basketball's March Madness. Parents live vicariously (and sometimes erupt into violent behavior) while watching their children play little league baseball. Special Olympics raise awareness of and appreciation for athletes with disabilities. Churches attempt to get people to attend evening services on Super Bowl Sunday. Superstar athletes often function as messianic figures in the culture, and when they fall, their descent dominates our national discourse.

Our multi-tiered involvement with sports constitutes an important narrative about our collective identity. Accordingly, this course develops the various ways in which sports both create and reflect who we are. For Christians, understanding how sports influence and envelop us is an important part of the ongoing task of living in, but not of, the world.

The Assignment:

Students wrote their personal account - an autobiography - of their experiences with sports. Whether they played organized sports, informal games, or never played sports, they detailed their experiences - both positive and negative - from a sociological perspective. How did their experiences with sports affect family dynamics, relationships with friends, school life, and relationships with coaches and teachers? Students included at least one positive and one negative key moment. They also explained their current perspective and their anticipated future with the world of sports.

The goal of this assignment was to engage students in critical self-reflection as they recalled, described, and analyzed sport experiences, the contexts in which they occurred, and the impact they had on everyone involved.

Says Dr. Vos:

“The first Q & A of the Heidelberg catechism asks and answers: ‘What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I am not my own, but belong body and soul to my faithful savior Jesus Christ.’ Accordingly, we are not free to think about or do with our own bodies and the bodies of others as we like. Does a theology of the body make any difference when it comes to sports? Do the sports consumption choices we make as people of faith differ markedly from those made by secular sports fans?”



#GivingSeason, this day uses social media to raise funds for non-profits and causes around the world. In an impressive show of generosity, the Scots community raised \$105,000 on Giving Tuesday, with a Giving Season grand total of \$178,000. Thank you to everyone who gave and to those who shared our posts on social media!



Third Annual Nicholas Barker Prize

Mary Cait Thomas '21 was awarded the 2021 Nicholas Barker Short Fiction Prize for her story, "Seasons," with Lilly Rogers '21 earning honorable mention for "Penance for a Vigilante." Both seniors read sections of their stories at the award ceremony on April 23, 2021.

Thomas' poetic story about the seasons in a year brought readers into the mind of a character who wrestles through mental illness and questions of faith. In her words, "It's about finding God in the midst of pain and anxiety." Rogers' tale delved into themes of retribution, justice, and forgiveness. Both writers were influenced and inspired by their Christian worldview and their desire to create thought-provoking, well-crafted pieces.

Originating in conversations between Dr. Hans Madueme, associate professor of theological studies, and Dr. Robert Barham, associate professor of English, this award encourages Christians to "invigorate the world of fiction by opening up fresh windows into the theocentric and spiritual world of scripture." Each year, students across campus enter the contest with the submission of their short stories, thus encouraging all contestants to practice their craft and consider a theology of fiction. Covenant thanks Dr. Lawrence Stanley '70 for supporting this prize through his generosity.

In Memoriam: Robert "Bob" Avis

Longtime board member and friend of the college Bob Avis passed away on July 6, 2020. He leaves behind Ann, his wife of sixty-six years, three children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Bob graduated from St. Louis County Day School in 1949 and Washington University in 1954. He joined the U.S. Navy Flight Training program and served as a command pilot before beginning his career as a civil engineer.

Bob served on Covenant's Board of Trustees for sixteen years, serving as chairman for part of that time. According to his family and friends, "Bob lived his life to the fullest and with gusto, loved his wife and family deeply, and was used by the Lord to accomplish much. He was a good and faithful servant of the living God, in whom he trusted."

U.S. News Ranks Covenant College

U.S. News & World Report once again included Covenant in its annual nationwide rankings. Covenant is one of only five CCCU schools (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) to be ranked by U.S. News as a top liberal arts college.



Scots Compete Again After COVID-19

After a fall semester without matches, meets, games, or tournaments, all of our athletics team were thankful to compete once again this spring. Due to COVID-19 regulations, fall sports were postponed to the spring season. Teams practiced in the fall semester, building camaraderie with students new to the teams and maintaining the special unity found in Covenant Athletics, but students were eager to return to the fields and courts to compete against our fellow NCAA Division III schools.

New Certificate Programs

Students now have the option to complete certificates that supplement their major programs with specific training in areas of interest. Our current certificates are Arts Administration, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability, Journalism & Society, Medical Ethics Consultation, Neuroscience, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. With a combination of academic work, internships, volunteer work, and various other components, these certificates help students gain hands-on experience in their fields of interest, preparing them for the professional world.



Kevin J. Eames Award 2020

Will Bryan '20 and Esther Pruitt '20 received the Kevin J. Eames Memorial Christian Service Award on October 5, 2020. Awarded by Covenant's psychology department, this award remembers the life and service of Dr. Eames (1960-2019).

Three other psychology students were recognized with awards:

Maddie Sparks '20
Douglas R. Sizemore Memorial Psychology Statistics Award

Maggie Chiang '20
Psychology Diversity Award

Abigail "Abbs" Kern '20
Michael J. Rulon Honorary Award for the Outstanding Psychology Student



Acceptance Packet

Before attending Scholarship Weekend, making their deposit, and eventually joining campus on Move-In Day, all Scots first receive their letter of acceptance. This year, the Office of Marketing & Communications was pleased to revamp the acceptance packet, collaborating with the Admissions Office to design a celebratory and engaging

piece that welcomes our future Scots. When accepting future students, we get to recognize their diligent work throughout high school while also anticipating the impact they will have on Covenant's campus and all that they will learn and accomplish in their college careers.

Covenant Selected for Mayo Clinic Research

Covenant College was one of two schools selected by the Mayo Clinic for a research study on the transmission of COVID-19. Along with Geneva College, we were honored to play a part in helping the clinic better understand this disease. This opportunity came about through President Halvorson's connection with Dr. Greg Poland, director of the Mayo Vaccine Research Group and member of the Presbyterian Church in America who served on our COVID-19 Advisory Board.

Participation was voluntary for all on-campus students, faculty, and staff. Those who participated were tested during the first week of classes and again after the first month of classes.

COVID-19 Response Team & Advisory Group

The entire campus community is thankful for our COVID-19 Response Team who ensured that students could return this year for the in-person educational experience that we deeply value. Employees from multiple departments across campus worked tirelessly to keep our community as safe as possible while also maintaining the special community found at Covenant.

Additionally, Covenant benefitted from the input of our COVID-19 Advisory Group. This highly qualified group offered professional insight and advice as Covenant worked to reopen for on-campus classes in the fall. The group consisted of John Drake '99 Ph.D., Gill Jeong M.D., Grey May D.O., David Morton '75 M.D., Greg Poland M.D., Gordon Sluis '75 M.D., and David Wharton M.D.

goFigure



3.35

Average student-athlete GPA during the spring 2020 semester, setting a department record

117

Student-athletes named to the Athletic Honor Roll (semester GPA of 3.5) during the Fall 2020 semester

93

Number of USA South All-Academic honorees in the 2019-20 academic year

26

Number of USA South All-Conference selections during the 2019-20 academic year

2

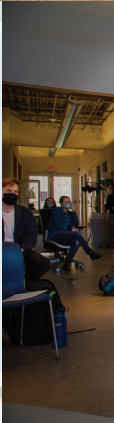
Overall standing in the USA South President's Cup Standings through the winter sports season of 2020

1642

Career points for men's basketball senior Will Crumly '21 - eighth player in program history to achieve the feat

247.9

Average likes per post on Covenant athletics Instagram (@covenantscots) during 2020, which led all USA South institutions





CampusCollage



1 Another Year at Covenant

What's a year at Covenant without a little fun and celebration?

2-4 Orientation Week

Student leaders participated in training, new students arrived on Move-In Day, and we kicked off the school year with O-Week.

5-7 Day of Prayer

Covenant's campus started this day of prayer, worship, reflection, and rest with a sunrise service.

8 Student Appreciation Day

Covenant showed students how much we love them.

9-10 Fall Festival

Students enjoyed a hayride in the beautiful autumn weather and an outdoor concert with Micah Iverson.

11 Exam Cram

A finals week tradition, Exam Cram offered students a break from their studies as the semester drew to a close.

12 Scots Volleyball

While teams were unable to compete this fall due to COVID-19, they practiced hard so they were ready to play this spring.

13 Laugh Track

With uplifting humor and a talent for entertainment, Covenant's improv team loves to make people laugh.

14 We Are One

This call for unity became one theme of this school year.

15 sneakPEAK

Through sneakPEAK campus visit days, prospective Scots caught a glimpse of all things Covenant.

16 CovCon

Students learned about the 30+ student-led clubs on campus.

17 The Covenant Ascent

Banners on campus promote the new narrative that helps us share Covenant's story.

18 Admitted Students Day

Admitted students visited campus for an in-depth look before making a final college decision.

19 Culture Fest

With dancing, music, and food, students celebrated the many cultures represented at Covenant.

20-21 Bakertree

Undeterred by rain, the annual Bakertree Festival featured student artisans, local vendors, and musicians.

22-23 Senior Art Presentations

Art seniors presented the rationale and inspiration for their Capstone Projects in the unique format of a PechaKucha.



THE COVENANT ASCENT

Sharing Our Story

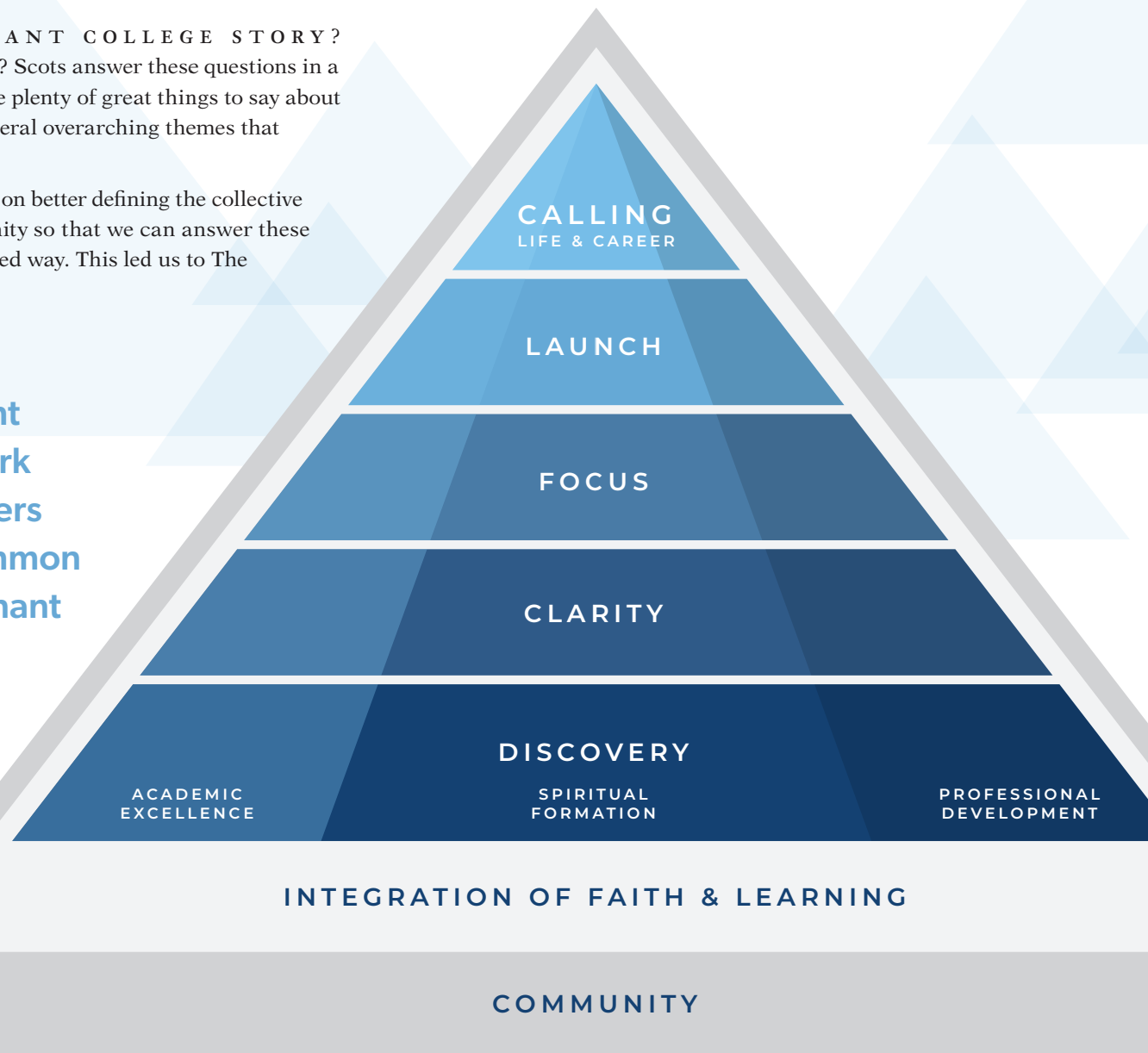
WHAT IS THE COVENANT COLLEGE STORY?

What makes this place so special? Scots answer these questions in a variety of ways, because there are plenty of great things to say about Covenant. However, there are several overarching themes that unify our community.

Recently, Covenant has focused on better defining the collective experience of our entire community so that we can answer these questions in a unified, streamlined way. This led us to The Covenant Ascent.

“The Covenant Ascent provides a framework for sharing with others what makes the common experience at Covenant both distinctive and valuable.”

J. Derek Halvorson '93,
President



"We prepare students for their callings in the world – from the classroom to the boardroom and everything in between."

John Horton, Director of Marketing & Communications

Community, Our Cornerstone

Community is the cornerstone of The Covenant Ascent. Including not only students, faculty, and staff, but also alumni, parents, donors, and all of the faithful men and women who came before us, the Covenant community extends beyond here on Lookout Mountain and now in 2021.

Our theological tradition, a historically vetted foundation, traces back to Scotland and through the history of the Reformation. This ties us to a community greater than those immediately around us. This is our heritage, our foundational bedrock.

Our culture, ever chasing the hottest trends, may wonder why a school's heritage matters, but we realize that to endure faithfully for many generations, we need a solid foundation. Rather than following the culture's flavor of the week or consumer-driven philosophies, we rely upon Scripture and time-tested theology to keep us grounded.

Building The Covenant Ascent

In recent years, Covenant's need to expand our marketing initiatives (including clarifying our story) became increasingly clear. With many voices from across campus offering insight, a collaborative effort helped us define the overall Covenant experience.

Two faculty committees played an integral part in developing The Covenant Ascent; several student focus groups provided insight; many hallway

conversations with professors inspired us; and progress updates with the President's Cabinet pushed us onward. Both formally and informally, multiple perspectives and lots of creativity merged to hone our narrative.

"We've never fully known how to tell our story. Now we do."

Jeff Hall, Vice President of Academic Affairs

We landed on the word "ascent" because it conveys an upward journey. All Scots begin their Covenant journeys with a literal move up the mountain. The educational and worldview-shaping experience at Covenant is also an ascent, culminating in life and career, not simply graduation.

From Students to Alumni

So, what is The Covenant Ascent? Simply stated, it's an integrated faith and learning journey that prepares graduates for successful lives and careers. Students Discover their place in the Covenant community, find Clarity in their choice of major, Focus on internships and career, and Launch into their calling after college. They continue their journey after Covenant ready to think deeply, create innovatively, and proactively engage today's world.

The Covenant Ascent was loosely inspired by The Songs of Ascent, a series

of Psalms from Psalm 120-134. These were sung by worshippers as they made their annual pilgrimage up to Jerusalem, uniting them in a common experience. In much the same way, The Covenant Ascent unites all Scots in a common purpose. This is a way to help us know our story and share it with pride, no matter which part of the journey we are on. We are all Scots, and we all share in The Covenant Ascent. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

To further explore The Covenant Ascent, visit ascent.covenant.edu.



by
Dr. John Horton
Director of Marketing
& Communications

After eighteen years in marketing and business development with the Walt Disney Company, John Horton took early retirement in 2019 and accepted the role of director of marketing and communications at Covenant College. He and his wife, Leia, now live on Lookout Mountain across from the college. What began as a dream job quickly turned into a dream location, as they love living on the mountain. Leia is currently enrolled in the M.Ed. graduate program at Covenant. They have three children and recently became grandparents with the birth of their first grandson.

John attended Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, graduating with an M.A. in 1998. He subsequently earned his D.Min. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, S. Hamilton, MA, with a thesis-project entitled "Organizational Leadership for a Postmodern World: Inspiring Creative Expression." John pursued both degrees for the pure pleasure of academic theological study.

John and Leia are members of Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church.





Timeless

Bringing the early 1980s into modern-day 2021, this captures the enduring experience of fellowship shared in the Great Hall throughout the decades.



Allison (Harbert) Smith '01 interacts with a young patient at her family practice in Soldotna, AK.



serving the Great Physician

by Lydia Berglar '18

While we live between Jesus' first and second coming - awaiting the day when He will eliminate broken bones, deadly diseases, chronic pain, and death forever - doctors fight the effects of the Fall through medicine. Covenant College's pre-med advising track trains students to do more than memorize bones, identify organs, and diagnose diseases. We equip them to minister to people through care for the physical body. Covenant alumni who enter medical fields bring a valuable perspective to their work as they look toward the consummation and view all patients as *imago dei* - created in the image of God.

“Practicing
medicine is part
of the creation
mandate - to
subdue the earth
- by undoing
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curse and serving
people who are
scared to death.”
— Pris Strom '72

SOME PEOPLE MIGHT NOT ASSOCIATE SMALL CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOLS with pre-med programs and prestigious medical schools, but numerous Covenant College alumni have gone from our mountaintop campus to well-respected medical schools and into fulfilling careers. Through the faithful work of several professors in the biology department and the brave steps of early Covenant Scots, the pre-med advising program has grown and flourished throughout the decades.

The program began in the 1970s when Dr. Jack Lothers and Dr. Jerry Wenger established the biology department. With a Ph.D. in ornithology, Wenger led the environmental side of the department. Lothers' cellular and molecular focus lent itself to the medical side of biology.

Covenant first established a two-year, associate degree, pre-nursing program (which has since become a pre-nursing advising track, along with the pre-physical therapy advising track). Then, Lothers shifted his focus to pre-med studies and began advising students who hoped to pursue medical school. He tracked which students attended med school after Covenant (a practice the department still maintains), and he kept meticulous notes about the department - notes that Dr. Tim Morris '83, current pre-med advisor, keeps to this day.

Covenant's First Doctor

Priscilla “Pris” Strom '72 is the first Covenant College graduate to attend med school. Pris entered Covenant planning to become a nurse through the nursing program. She had no intention of attending med school, but three professors identified talents and passions in her that they thought would be valuable in a doctor. As they encouraged her to pursue med school, Pris begrudgingly listened to their advice.

Covenant had not yet reached accreditation, so choosing the pre-med route was a risk. In Pris' words, “I figured God was telling me to pursue med school, but I wasn't going to make it easy on him. Covenant wasn't accredited, and I only applied to two schools, so I figured if He didn't get me in, I was going to go be a nurse like I had planned.”

Her MCAT scores were impressive enough that Emory University, one of the two schools she applied to, took notice and invited her to interview even though they had never heard of Covenant College. When Pris was accepted to Emory and offered substantial financial aid, she could not deny God's direction for her life.

At Emory, Pris soon realized her passion for medical studies and she found her path as a surgeon. “A week into med school, I thought, ‘This

“Healing physical ailments points to the ultimate Healer; it points to what God will one day do for all creation. What a rich mindset to bring to medicine - that pain and sickness don’t have the final say.” — Tim Morris ’83

is the most interesting stuff ever!’ Learning about the human body and how God put everything together is just great fun. I now see that I wouldn’t be where I am if three Covenant faculty members hadn’t poked their noses into my business.”

After completing her residency in general surgery at Emory, she worked with Mission to the World as a surgeon in Bangladesh before settling in Gainesville, GA where she practiced general surgery for many years. These days, Pris focuses solely on breast surgeries, both for breast cancer and benign breast disease. She ministers to people by easing the fears of worried patients. “Practicing medicine is part of the creation mandate - to subdue the earth - by undoing a small part of the effect of the curse and serving people who are scared to death. I tell patients, ‘If it’s cancer, we’ll take care of it. If it’s not, go home and relax.’”

In Pris’ experience, the Lord guided her through her professors, through acceptance to Emory, and also through her talents and passions. Her giftedness in science and love of logic puzzles and problem-solving fit together well for her career as a surgeon. “If God calls you to something, most of the time he gifts you the abilities to do it, and He gives you the interests and passions. I think he usually puts talents and passions together to help us find our callings.”

From Dr. Lothers to Dr. Morris

Having established the pre-med program and trained countless future doctors,

Dr. Lothers eventually made plans to retire. Dr. Tim Morris joined the biology department in the fall of 1995. He began taking over from Lothers, who continued teaching as an adjunct professor to facilitate a seamless transition.

When Morris started teaching at Covenant, nearly 50 alumni had gone to medical school. Now, many others have followed that path, and Morris anticipates that Covenant will send students into new and expanding fields as the program continues.

One field where he sees great potential is the public health sector. By looking at health in the context of a community instead of one individual patient, public health focuses on the broader world. “Public health pairs well with Covenant’s care for community flourishing,” says Morris, “and a liberal arts degree really helps in the public health sector, because it teaches you to communicate and relate well to people. Additionally, Covenant teaches a holistic view of persons as image bearers of value who are fallen but redeemable,” a necessary worldview when working with communities affected by the Fall.

A Christian View of Medicine

Christian doctors have a unique example to follow when it comes to caring for people’s bodies - Jesus, the Great Physician, cared about people’s physical needs while he also ministered to their souls. It is natural that Christians see the medical field as a form of ministry.

“Medicine is an obvious area of interest for people who have a redemptive mindset,” says Morris. “Sickness, disease, and pain is not how God’s world is supposed to be. By addressing physical ills, we counter one small piece of the Fall, yet we’re not triumphalists - you can heal a broken arm, but it will decay in the grave when that person passes away. Still, in the now but not yet, healing physical ailments points to the ultimate Healer; it points to what God will one day do for all creation. What a rich mindset to bring to medicine - that pain and sickness don’t have the final say.” 🕊

in their own Words

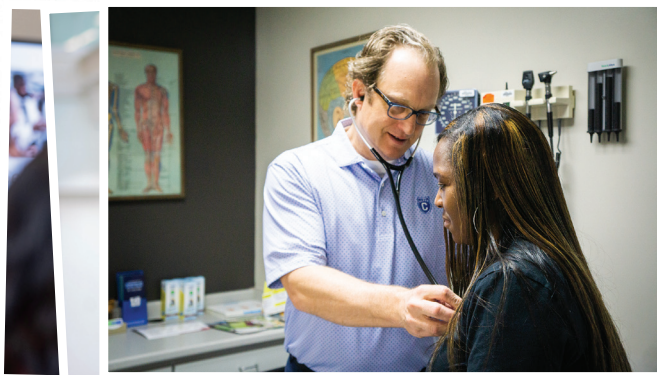


Gordon Sluis '75
Vicksburg, MS

- › Retired General Pediatrician
- › Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine '79
- › Internship & Residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh '82

"During medical school, I completed a one-month rotation serving the poor in rural Cary, MS and eventually moved to the nearby city of Vicksburg. I joined a multispecialty practice, with the goal of receiving all patients, regardless of social status or finances.

"I encourage any Covenant student interested in one of the medical fields to get some exposure to it during your college years, but don't restrict your academic interests to just the sciences. Take advantage of a full-orbed Christian worldview. At Covenant, you don't have to choose between excellent academics and excellent biblical and worldview grounding."



Sean Lynch '93
Augusta, GA

- › Family Physician and Owner of Southern Family Medical Center
- › Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia
- › Medical Director of Augusta University Department of Correctional Health Care
- › Nova Southeastern University '99

"In 2002, I purchased a piece of land and built a clinic in a medically underserved area of South Augusta. My clinic is located in close proximity to the Augusta Youth Detention Center, and shortly after opening, I became a physician within the juvenile justice system.

"Covenant prepared me educationally to do well on the MCAT, matriculate into medical school, and to be a successful student. More importantly, Covenant gave me the framework to see my work as furthering God's kingdom on earth. We are not just bodies but spirits as well. A Christian doctor realizes he must minister to the body and spirit to care for the whole person."



**Allison Joy (Harbert) Smith '01
Soldotna, AK**

- > Family Practice Medical Director for Central Peninsula Hospital
- > Medical College of Georgia (Georgia Health Sciences University) '05

"Covenant was excellent preparation for both graduate school and my calling in the medical field. Being challenged by professors prepared me to speak to the needs of patients and explain things clearly and concisely. Covenant friends keep me grounded and demonstrate the love and grace of God in a way that sustains me while I live in a remote, rural environment. Lastly, the education I received at Covenant taught me to never stop the process of learning, which aids me each day in my work.

"Being a Christian physician means that I am called to love and serve everyone; to be there in some of their most difficult times; to show them the mercy of the cross in my words and actions. In these times, my faith also encourages me and reminds me that this life is not the end. Each patient that I touch is an eternal being, and my hope is that as I care for their physical needs, God will also equip me to help care for their eternal needs."



**Tiffany M. (Chin) Shin '07
Winston-Salem, NC**

- > General Pediatrician
- > Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Wake Forest School of Medicine
- > University of North Carolina School of Medicine '11

"At the age of fifteen, I traveled with a team of nurses to villages in Romania. I realized the opportunity that medicine provided to work for the benefit of society, including caring for the most vulnerable, such as infants and children. I was amazed by the difference we could make through education about health and hygiene. Then, in high school, I discovered that I loved learning about the intricacies of the human body. Deciding to be a doctor involved gradual confirmation that medicine combined my God-given passions with my intellectual interests and skills.

"I love being a pediatrician and a professor - a "teacher-doctor" as one of my four-year-old patients puts it. I consider it a privilege to be entrusted with my patients' care, and it is rewarding to train aspiring young doctors to provide compassionate, quality, medical care and to communicate well with their patients.

"Jesus was no stranger to brokenness and grief. He grieves, but He also heals broken areas. I strive to follow in His steps by caring for others and seeking justice through my work as a physician."



“Covenant developed in me the versatile skill of learning. The core classes instilled in me academic confidence and creative thinking.”
— Todd Fleming '12

Todd Fleming '12
Norfolk, VA

- > Ophthalmology Resident at Eastern Virginia Medical School
- > Duke University School of Medicine '21



“I was an art major, and leaving Covenant, I had little direction but an abundance of blind confidence... Eventually, I had a growing thirst to go back to school, a gut feeling that health care was calling me, and faith that God had put it on my heart. Pursuing ophthalmology was motivated by my love for visual art and one of my favorite new testament miracles, Jesus’ healing of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52.

“Covenant developed in me the versatile skill of learning. The core classes instilled in me academic confidence and creative thinking. As an art major, I was not afraid to jump into the hard sciences needed for medical school. I had already brushed shoulders with the material, and I knew I could apply learning principles to any subject matter.

“A middle-aged mother of three children came in for chronic dry eyes after neglecting the trivial issue for years because she was caring for her dying mother. We fitted her for custom scleral contacts that hydrate the cornea. Immediately, she noticed significant improvement in her vision, and within moments, she leaned forward and wept into my shoulder. She had not seen her children clearly for years, and she had been unable to see her mother’s face when she passed away. I learned to never underestimate the impact that simple service and kindness can have on the people we serve.”

OUR GOD UNLOCKS DOORS



While COVID-19 closed some doors for Ian Banks '20, God opened others, leading him to Washington D.C. with a timely job opportunity.

"There are very few colleges where chemistry grads can graduate and feel pretty at home in a congressional office working with public policy."

AT THE START OF HIS SENIOR YEAR AT COVENANT COLLEGE, Ian Banks '20 would never have predicted that his final semester would be cut short by a worldwide pandemic. He also would never have predicted that the pandemic would lead him to Washington D.C. to work for a congressman's office. However, God knew exactly where He wanted Ian, and He was actively preparing Ian for the next step after college.

In early June 2020, Stuart Burns, (the chief of staff for Congressman Bill Posey and father of Covenant alumna Abigail '19), reached out to Dr. John Plating, director of the Center for Calling & Career at Covenant. Stuart was searching for an alumnus with a background in the hard sciences who could examine the scientific literature surrounding COVID-19, field questions from the congressman and his constituents, and ensure the office's awareness of issues surrounding the pandemic and potential effects on legislature.

Ian had been in conversation with Plating about job opportunities, so Plating told Ian about the position. By the end of July, he had relocated to D.C. and began work for the congressman. Graduation is normally a time of uncertainty and adjustment, but COVID-19 added extra uncertainty for the class of 2020. While facing decisions about next steps, Ian found that the Lord guided him by closing some doors and by opening others. "The Lord threw this door wide open. It was about fifteen days from when I first got the email from Dr. Plating to me

formally accepting the offer. It was very clear that the Lord wanted me here."

Having just graduated with a degree in chemistry and a minor in philosophy, Ian's liberal arts education prepared him for this role in unique ways. He not only studied chemistry at Covenant, but he also took bioethics with Davis, a number of philosophy courses, and all of Covenant's core classes. This education holistically prepared him to research, analyze, write, and communicate.

In Ian's words, "I am incredibly indebted to the college for preparing me for this job. There are very few colleges where chemistry grads can graduate and feel pretty at home in a congressional office working with public policy. Covenant prepares its students for just about any calling."

Ian's extracurriculars also played a role in leading him to D.C. From his summer internships at Washington University in St. Louis, MO to his time working with Student Senate as senior class president, he gained practical experience and identified his interest in medical ethics and policy.

This project extended beyond Congressman Posey and Ian Banks. Under the guidance of Dr. Tim Morris (professor of biology) and Dr. Bill Davis (professor of philosophy), three Covenant seniors also researched issues surrounding COVID-19. James Stephenson '21 focused on treatment options; Rebecca Doctor '21 researched bioethics; and David Codington '21 was interested in community and public health.

OORS

by Lydia Berglar '18

Each Monday morning, Morris, Davis, Ian, and the students met virtually. The on-campus team brought up issues that Posey's office ought to be aware of and shared their findings with Ian. Ian (representing the D.C. branch) listed issues and questions that the students could continue researching with the goal of providing helpful information to the congressman and his constituents. Morris set the students' agenda and helped guide the discussion, and Davis, with his experience on the board of ethics at a local Chattanooga hospital, provided insight into medical ethics.

James, Rebecca, and Davy were prepared for this project because of several directly applicable courses they had recently taken, including Davis' bioethics class, an infectious disease ecology course with Dr. Heath Garriss, and Morris' immunology course. They had no idea that these classes and their specific interests would align at just the right time to prepare them for COVID-19 research.

"...work on your gifts and whatever is directly in front of you, trusting the Lord to put it to good use. Then you're ready when He puts an opportunity in your path."

In the words of Dr. Morris, "You don't always know what the Lord has in store for you, so actively work on your gifts and whatever is directly in front of you, trusting the Lord to put it to good use. Then you're ready when He puts an opportunity in your path. That's what I saw with these students and Ian. They weren't sure where they were headed, but they worked faithfully and held their plans loosely, and God gave them good work to do." 🌿



Davy Codington '21
Biology - Biomedical Concentration

"I researched the development of vaccines, ethics of different development pathways, vaccine and therapeutics allocation frameworks, COVID-19 epidemiology (who it affects and how it affects their health), and the public health impact of COVID-19.

"I see public health as a way to engage with diverse groups of people in redemptive and reconciliatory work, and I enjoy that public health is interdisciplinary, combining anthropology, sociology, economics, sociomedical research, and political science. Therefore, I'm pursuing graduate studies in public health.

"The Bible teaches that there is both a spiritual and natural (physical) reality and that God intends for us to work actively in the natural world. As a professor recently told me, we work "to provide respectful, compassionate stewardship for the benefit of creation and humanity." Because I am made in the image of God and given knowledge, skills, and resources by him, I participate in relationship with God, creation, and others. I trust that Christ will work through me to do good."



Rebecca Doctor '21
Biology - Biomedical Concentration

"I was most interested in issues relating to bioethical concerns, so I focused on vaccine safety, concerns, and implementation. It is important for government officials to be well-informed about health-related matters, since their policies affect medical practices and outcomes.

"I find medical issues interesting and very practical. As a physician, I can make Christ preeminent by learning how to care for people's physical needs, as well as seeing them as a whole person. We can glorify God by pursuing excellence in our fields and doing everything to our best ability, and that includes every area of medicine."



James Stephenson '21
Biology - Biomedical Concentration

"My focus was therapeutics. I read clinical trials estimating the effectiveness of drugs, and I researched the mechanisms behind the most effective drugs. This allowed me to understand the common treatments for COVID-19 at the time, understand how they were changing, and get an idea of the mechanism of action of the virus itself.

"Medicine excites me because it is an opportunity to help others. God gave us medicine as grace to help combat evils of the fall, like sickness, pandemics, pain, and death. Antibiotics, surgeries, transplants, vaccines, and all other medical technologies only work because of the sustaining grace of God.

"Medicine and the care of the sick, dying, or needy, is both God's call to all Christians and a way that He manifests Himself through His people. We are representatives of God's love when we love others. I am excited to be able to work in a field that, if properly done, fits so well within the Christian framework."

Spiritual Formation

"I didn't know I needed Covenant until I got there, but God did, and I am constantly amazed by how our God sees my needs and addresses them. Some of the relationships I formed at Covenant will last my entire life, and some will not. Both helped me grow, and God has shown me important things about Himself, myself, and others through the people at Covenant. I had professors who pushed me both academically and spiritually to grow wiser and think harder. God gave me friends who helped me love better and laugh louder."

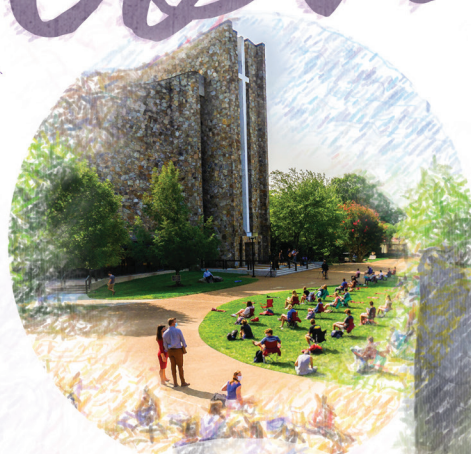
– Aubrey Smith '20

"Our greatest joy and desire is to see our students grow closer to Jesus. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, we gather for chapel services where we encounter Jesus together in community. We also have the privilege of walking alongside students and pointing them to Jesus. Through campus-wide programming, small groups, and individual meetings, we counsel, mentor, and intentionally disciple them."

– The Chapel Department

"Our team realized that our students desire practical discipleship; they want to know how the Word of God impacts and informs their beliefs and practices, especially in areas where the world offers a different narrative. This year, we worked with departments across campus to host weekly conversations about race and culture, sexuality, mental health, and other important topics. The Chapel was full every week, and students reached out to various faculty and staff to share how they were impacted and to ask for further discipleship. Covenant students desire to engage earnestly with difficult topics."

– The Office of Student Development



The Dramatic Exploitation of *Imago Dei*

DRAMA IS AN EMBODIED ART. And since our bodies were created as *imago dei*, meditating on this astonishing design (and ways it's been harmed by the Fall) can spur redemptive thinking about how to engage drama.

When it comes to determining what is “good” (à la Micah 6:8) to put on the stage or screen, we must first answer: What is good – or “just” and “loving” – to ask an actor to do? Different art forms and media impact their audiences and artisans differently. For example, perhaps a novelist believes she's found a Christianly defensible means to write a story containing a scene of violence or intimacy; assuming the novelist is correct, a dramatist would need to think twice about the same scene. Though the thrust of a given *storyline* may be morally defensible, to ask actors to *embody* that story will not necessarily be so.

I've found it helpful to remember that not everything an actor does in performance is just pretend. If I point a gun containing blanks at a fellow actor and pull the trigger, he'll fall to the floor covered in stage blood, yet no real crime has taken place. But what if the script tells me my character kisses another actor's character? When I press my mouth onto his, I can't say that no real kiss occurred. I really kissed that man, and we, the actors, can experience real-life consequences.

Every action onstage falls somewhere on a spectrum from “entirely pretend” to “actually real.” The dramatist must ponder what walking humbly with God and loving others may require for each dramatic project.

Consider the ease with which dramatic artists assume any “serious” actor will be willing to perform nude or in sex scenes. Christians should take up this grievous development as a justice issue, both prayerfully calling the industry to repent of its exploitation of actors in the name of “art” (and profits), as well as reminding actors who have grown inured to the gravity of their own situation that they *are* in fact being exploited.

Suppose an insurance agency advertised for a receptionist and told applicants they would be required to work nude three days a week. “The firm would find itself in court, accused of sexual harassment...” Now alter the scenario to a film audition. Everyone accepts this

“...not everything that an actor does in performance is just pretend.”



by Camille J. Hallstrom, Professor of Theatre

outrage without a murmur...They [claim] ‘artistic justification’ [but that’s] a worthless euphemism for being enslaved to fashion.”

British screenwriter Murray Watts made that observation in 1986. If “enslaved” was an apt word to use thirty years ago, what shall we say of the present where we find not only more frequent and explicit sex on the stage and screen, but more actors – even powerful ones who could turn down any script – being traumatized by their work, yet in spite of that, continuing to do it! (Numerous such examples abound.)

Throughout much of church history, ecclesiastics have disdained the theatre, even refusing actors admission to the sacraments. The implication was that actors were little better than prostitutes.

However, if some actors have prostituted themselves, remember that, just as with the common street walker, this evil is always a communal one. No prostitute ever sinned alone: There are procurers (sometimes kidnappers), johns (even churchmen), and economic pressures which can make her work seem unavoidable. Similarly, no actor ever sinned alone: There are producers (sometimes exploitative deceivers), ticket buyers (often good, Christian folk), and economic pressures which can make the work seem unavoidable. We, the community, bear our guilt as well. May God restore to our eyes the truth of the *imago dei* – so that we may stop prostituting our neighbors and, in so doing, receive restoration for our own hurting and guilty souls. 🙏

Adapted from Professor Hallstrom's chapter “Imago Dei: Dignity” in It Was Good: Performing Arts to the Glory of God, edited by Ned Bustard, published by Square Halo Books, 2018.

Ebenezer Glimpses

Markers of God's Faithfulness — 1 Samuel 7:12

EACH TIME I DRIVE EAST ON I-24, I'm reminded of my first distant glimpse of Covenant College. My mother and I rounded the Tennessee curves and passed the North Georgia hills on our way to visit Covenant's campus. Carter Tower stood tall against the cobalt autumn sky, and my 17-year-old self imagined spending the next four years studying on top of Lookout Mountain.

Nearly eight years have passed since that first glimpse. These days, when I drive north from my small Georgia town into Chattanooga or up the southwestern side of Lookout Mountain, I see Carter Hall from a different angle and a new perspective. Now, the distant tower isn't an emblem of what could be; it's a reminder of four years of God's great faithfulness to me.

Alumni come back to Lookout Mountain from all directions, returning for homecoming or dropping their children off for college, and on days when the mountain isn't veiled by fog, they see the chapel in the distance and Carter Hall standing tall. I imagine that, as is true for me, memories flood back to these Scots. They remember singing "All For Jesus" underneath the chapel's stained glass windows. They remember late nights on the second floor of the library, putting final touches on their Senior Integration Papers (now called Capstone Projects). They remember sharing tears of sincere joy and deep sadness with hallmates, roommates, and teammates.

These buildings, physical and temporal places, serve as ebenezers - markers of God's faithfulness. The eternality of God's faithfulness is too large a concept for me to fully grasp, but specific memories offer just a glimpse of it. God led me to Covenant. When I felt stretched too far, He provided the energy needed to complete my schoolwork and to dive deep into the Covenant community. When I worried about the cost of tuition and housing, He met financial needs every semester. Most importantly, He gave me friends and professors who not only

mourned through difficult times but who always reminded me of the goodness of the Lord we serve.

Catching a distant view of Covenant is like a glimpse of an ebenezer, but our typical weeks aren't marked by ebenezer views. Small details dominate our busy lives and cloud our perspectives.

In the four years I lived on Lookout Mountain, I spent many sunny afternoons and starlit evenings on a bluff near campus, delighting in the stunning scenery and the ant-like cars driving west on I-24. One particular afternoon, something much closer caught my eye: A small gray-brown lizard crawled across the rock. Unable to see the

sweeping views that the hawks and hang gliders enjoyed, he focused on the tall grass in front of him and the chinks in the rock. I felt like that lizard.

Like tall grass to the small lizard, term papers, final exams, and summer job applications loomed before me. However, moments of clarity came in the form of Day of Prayer or stargazing from the baseball field on a cold winter's night or singing "Were You There" in the stairwell with all of Andreas Hall. Even though the lizard could not see

past the obstacles in front of him, I could see the entirety of the bluff; and even though I couldn't see past the middle of the semester, the Lord could see the completed picture.

Now, when I look up to the cobalt sky and see Carter Tower, I don't think of what the hazy future might hold. Instead, I remember the Lord's faithfulness to me throughout my college years. My hope for you, fellow Scots, is that you find ebenezer glimpses in the midst of your busy days, and when you next return to the mountain, perhaps Carter Tower will serve as your own ebenezer, a marker of God's faithfulness. 🍀



Lydia Berglar '18

Lydia

An Unexpected Gift

ONE CHALLENGING BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY REASSURING PROMISE in Scripture is that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes (Rom. 8:28). The fact that the sovereign creator and sustainer of the cosmos is orchestrating events for our benefit is a comfort. The difficult aspect of this truth is when Paul writes “all things.” Not only are obviously beneficial things working to our advantage, but painful or hard things are as well.

The last year has been full of challenges for Covenant College and for our society, not least of which was the COVID-19 pandemic. For me, one of the unexpected gifts of the pandemic was that it forced me to be on campus much more than would normally be the case. Representing the college off-campus is a big part of my job, but this past year, I have found myself restricted to Lookout Mountain like never before. While this is unfortunate in some respects—if I am on campus, it means I am probably not recruiting students, raising money, or building relationships that will benefit the college in years to come—it has nevertheless been a blessing.

Being on campus this year was a tremendous encouragement because I experienced multiple firsthand reminders of the important work that goes on here every day. It is a joy to chat with students and hear about the ways their classes push them to develop new skills or to think carefully about their chosen field of study in light of their faith. It is a gift to have impromptu conversations with faculty members and be reminded of the fascinating scholarly work that animates their daily teaching. I am inspired by interactions with the men and women who labor tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to create an environment here at Covenant that is conducive to the transformation of lives.

I have marveled at the manner in which members of our community—from faculty to staff to students—have gone above and beyond normal expectations to care for one another. Brad Voyles (vice president for student development) and our COVID-19 Response Team spent countless hours meeting to formulate and revise (and revise and revise) operating plans. Technology Services staff have come to campus in the wee hours of the morning to prep classrooms. Faculty reconfigured courses, developed new assignments, and even learned how to become self-made video superstars. Our counseling, academic support, and student development staff have labored tirelessly to care for students as they seek to maintain some sense of stability and normalcy in this unusual season. Coaches got creative with practicing in pods. Maintenance staff became pros at sanitizing buildings. Students ... students showed remarkable grace in accepting missed milestones or events—commencement, capstone defenses, athletic seasons, musicals, recitals, gallery shows, etc.—even while offering encouragement to one another and to their faculty.

Because of a difficult circumstance, I have witnessed firsthand the stunning care and unity exhibited by the collection of men and women from a wide array of backgrounds who have been brought together in this place by our sovereign God. It is deeply encouraging to watch these people love one another well (John 13:35). Jesus told us that people would know we are His followers by our love for one another. When the chips were down over this past year—when disappointments were great, or tensions were high, and when all of us were longing for God to make good on His promise to work good from challenging circumstances—certainly one of the ways in which He did this was by revealing in that crucible the gift of the Covenant College community. I have been blessed by the community for over 30 years now, and I thank God for how He continues to use it to shape, sharpen, and encourage me and so many others. 🙏

“Because of an unfortunate circumstance, I have witnessed firsthand the stunning care and unity exhibited by the collection of men and women from a wide array of backgrounds who have been brought together in this place by our sovereign God.”



J. Derek Halvorson '93
President



Covenant College
14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

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HOW WILL YOU DEFINE YOUR LEGACY?

Selfless acts of love inspire people to make endowed gifts to Covenant College through their will, estate plan, or IRA. To ensure a legacy for Covenant Scots, prayerfully consider making a gift so that future generations can receive a thoughtful Christian education that prepares them for life and career.



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covenant.edu/foundation