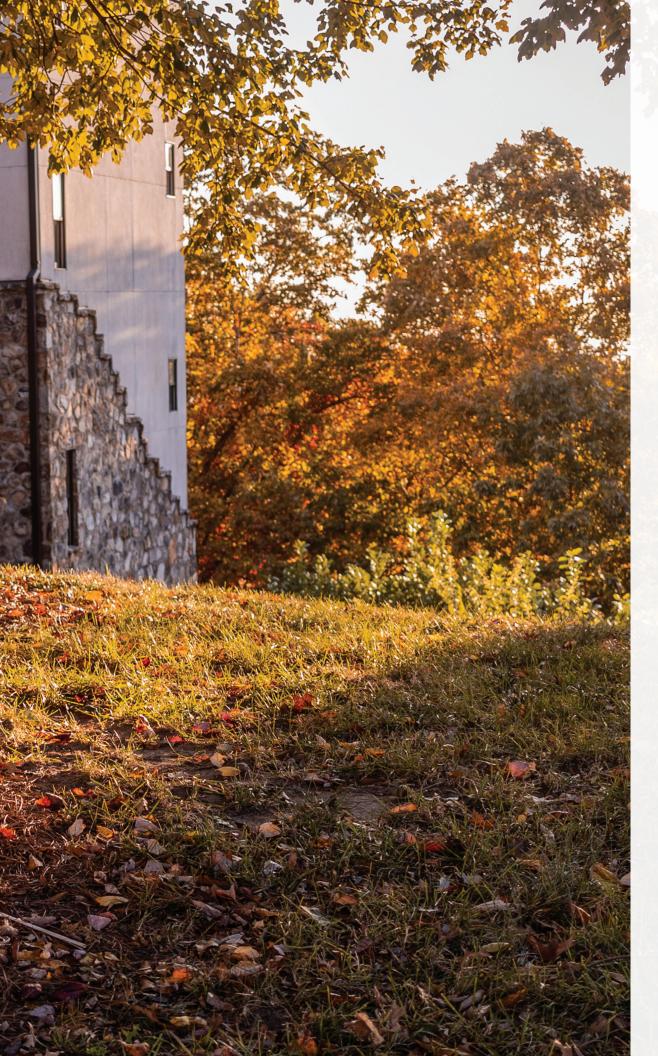


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View's purpose is to:

- Encourage alumni, parents, and friends to keep Christ preeminent in all areas of their lives.
- Offer alumni, parents, and friends our most important ambassadors – stories and information about the college and its students, alumni, faculty, and staff.
- Foster in alumni a sense of pride in Covenant College and connection to the Scots community.

COVENANT

CovenantNews



Students, faculty, and staff showed up in their best Covenant attire for our annual Blue & White Day 2022 celebration.

Blue & White Day

Blue & White Day (Covenant's first day of class) marks the beginning of each academic year. Scots around the world are invited to wear blue and white to celebrate the beginning of a year of learning, growth, and life together on Lookout Mountain. Be sure to join the fun and tag @covenantcollege and @covenantcollegealumni next year!

Faculty Announcements

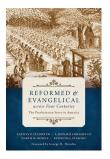
Covenant is extending a bittersweet farewell to Heath Garris. While incredibly grateful for his contributions to our biology department, we are also excited for the work he will do as



director of college programs at Au Sable Institute, with whom we have partnered for over 30 years.



We are thrilled that Dr. H. Collin Messer officially joined the college this summer as our new vice president of academic affairs. (See *VIEW* Spring 2022 for his full introduction.) Additionally, Todd Bridges joined us as the coordinator of intercultural engagement. He co-coordinates the efforts of the Intercultural Program, chairs the ICC (Intercultural Competency Committee), and serves as an adjunct professor for the Intercultural Learning Experience.



Professor, Alumnus, and Friends Publish Theological History

Dr. Ken Stewart of Covenant's Department of Biblical

& Theological Studies collaborated with alumnus **S. Donald Fortson III '78** as well as Nathan P. Feldmeth and Garth M. Rosell on their book, *Reformed and Evangelical across Four Centuries*, which tells the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, beginning with its British foundations.

Faculty Accomplishments

At the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in August 2022, **Dr. David Washburn '84** was named a fellow of the Society for the History of Psychology. It is a particular honor that four former presidents of the society wrote letters of nomination and support. Congratulations to Dr. Washburn for this special recognition.

Dr. Kelly Kapic is a member of a group of six scholars from the disciplines of psychology, theology, and philosophy. The group has received a major grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation to research "The Christian Practice of Lament: Mechanisms of Change, Moderators, and Flourishing Outcomes." We look forward to the work they will accomplish together.

2022 Nicholas Barker Short Fiction Prize

Congratulations to **Jackson Lyda '23**, winner of this year's Nicholas Barker Short Fiction Prize. Named for Dr. Nick Barker, a former English professor at Covenant, the contest featured entries from students whose fiction opens up fresh windows into the theocentric and spiritual world of Scripture. Jackson won for his story "Nothing Much." This redemptive tale depicted spiritual realities and common grace in a fiercely creative way, and it reminded readers that this world is a theater of God's glory.

In Memoriam: Dwight Allen

Former Covenant College board member Dwight Allen passed away at the age of 90 on January 23, 2022.



Dwight is preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Mary Ann Allen. He is survived by his sons Anthony and Robert Allen, grandchildren Philip Allen and Katie Hutchison, and six great grandchildren. Dwight served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1951-1953. He graduated from Georgia Tech in 1959, and then worked for General Electric and Lockheed Martin before returning to his alma mater to serve with the office of contract administration and then the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Dwight was a devout Christian, attending Grace Presbyterian Church in Douglassville, GA, where he served as an elder. He was the originating chairman of the governing body of Harvester Christian Academy, serving until 1998. Dwight served on Covenant College's board from 1991-1999 and 2000-2004.

Robert "Bob" Monroe

Retired Covenant faculty member, Bob Monroe, passed away on September 3, 2022. Dr. Monroe served as professor of music from 1981-1997 and continued to teach as an adjunct following his retirement. Bob's wife, Pat, served as the president's administrative assistant for many years and their daughter, Sheri (Monroe) Bouvier '87 is a Covenant graduate.

International May Term Trips

May Term international trips are back! Daphne Haddad and Richard Follett taught Global Trends and History of an International City in London; Elissa Weichbrodt '04 led Art in the Church: Catacombs to Counter-Reformation in Rome; and Heath Garris led a group to Ecuador for Ecological Diversity of South America.





Top Photo: Students in front of the entry to St. Bartholomew the Great Priory Church, a monastic church in London, England. Bottom: Students in Ecuador learning about Ecological Diversity.



onCourse

Addressing Real World Problems

Department: Business-Entrepreneurship

Faculty: Leda Goodman '90, Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator, and Dr. Scott Quatro, Professor of Management and Department Chair of Business

The Course: The Entrepreneurship Course focuses on both the theoretical and the practical aspects of starting a business, through interviews, exercises, instruction, and collaboration with fellow students in the class. Topics that the students cover include the following: determining one's motivations and objectives in starting a business; selecting promising ideas; obtaining initial financing; recognizing the resources one needs for start-ups; and beginning one's venture. Key skills developed during the course include conducting interviews and research, producing a strategic business plan, developing and giving presentations, and refining problem solving skills from a biblical perspective.

The Assignments: Initially, as part of Customer Discovery, students interview members of their communities to identify problems their potential "customers" may have experienced, allowing them to better understand customer experiences, as they imagine and design viable business solutions. They interview business owners and alumni entrepreneurs, and challenge each other through a flipped classroom model. As they navigate partnerships and failures, students are expected to collaborate with each other, a crucial aspect of entrepreneurship. It isn't expected that students will launch the businesses they have planned, but some students consider that course of action, while others find ways to contribute to meaningful work and collaborative teams using their gifts and callings.

Says a Professor: "Ambition is not at odds with our faith; faith shapes our ambition and encourages us to serve others well. As we use our Godgiven gifts and interests, we find ourselves actively making a difference in the world and the lives of those around us. For over 30 years, Covenant College alumni have been organically innovating solutions and launching businesses that address real world problems, to restore that which is broken and celebrate the many facets of God's creation. They use their gifts to make a difference in communities and industries." - Leda Goodman '90

Says a Student: "Professor Goodman challenges our understanding of business by teaching us the ins and outs of what goes into having a business. She helps us in our understanding of the concepts discussed in the class as well as how to apply them in our business plans. Besides that, she helps us navigate through obstacles that challenge us in our assignments and identifies the most efficient and creative ways to solve our problems. With years of business experience, she is able to give us good advice on things we should work on to build a strong business plan." - Glad Wong '24

goFigure

Launched in 2020-21

Academic Certificate Programs

Certificate Options

Certificate Program
Coordinators

Students
Currently Earning
Certificates

Alumni Who Have Earned Certificates

Average Number of Courses per Certificate

40

Hours of public service by each student earning a Certificate in Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability 10

Competitions
and conferences
available to
students
earning
a Certificate in
Entrepreneurship





Pictured from left to right: Avery Patz '22, Beni Kiss '22, Cade Horton '22, and Maggie Henry '22.

Class of 2022 Senior Testimonies

The Class of 2022 voted to hear from Avery Patz '22, Beni Kiss '22, Cade Horton '22, and Maggie Henry '22.

Avery and Beni both shared about growth from spiritual apathy to a deep desire to know the Lord. "We're not called to greatness," Avery said. "We're called to faithfulness... Rather than be caught up in my own inadequacy, I can be caught up in His overabundance."

Beni testified, "God delivered me from my apathy and numbness... If you recognize that you have already drifted away and become numb, do not lose hope. Know that God has you and His grip is strong."

Cade recalled a season when he doubted his salvation and felt overwhelmed by his sin. "I was angry because Jesus was letting me flounder... The sorrow was so great. But how amazing is Jesus' compassion for those in despair, for the doubters. Jesus is so patient with the doubters."

Maggie reflected on several questions: Will Satan and the power of death win? Is God good, and does He care enough to keep His promises? "We feel the suffering, we feel the death," she said, "but it's not our whole story... The story of the people of God is, yes, one of suffering, but is one of suffering and lament that moves toward glory and praise."

The senior testimonial videos can be found on Covenant's YouTube channel.

Philosophy Students Hold Their Own at Conference

In March, six Covenant College philosophy majors traveled with **Dr. Bill Davis '82** to the joint meeting of the North and South Carolina Philosophical Societies. **Alayna Bradberry '23** and **Nathan Fredere '23** presented their papers, and **Kristy Stapleton '23** and **Sloane Hopkins '23** chaired sessions. **Nathan Barnard '23** and **Jesse Newman '25** attended paper sessions and supported their peers.

At a conference that featured almost entirely graduate students and faculty members with PhDs, our undergraduates held their own. Aside from the Covenant crew, only about five other undergraduates were present, but our students discovered that the essays for their upper-division philosophy classes are fit for discussion at the graduate and professional level. Other schools represented included the



Pictured from left to right: Kristy Stapleton '23, Nathan Barnard '23, Nathan Fredere '23, Jesse Newman '25, Alayna Bradberry '23, and Sloane Hopkins '23.

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University of Edinburgh, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Rutgers University, Yale University, and San Diego State University.

Music Department Showcase: "Beautiful Ballads"

In April 2022, the Chamber Orchestra, Brass Choir, Chorale, and Chambers Singers presented "Beautiful Ballads," a showcase of works by Haydn and Mozart and other pieces. The performance featured instruments ranging from banjos to bagpipes. More than 100 Covenant musicians joined for a music-filled evening.

Hirte Promoted to Director of Athletics

After five years as Covenant's assistant athletic director and ten years leading the men's and women's



tennis programs, **John Hirte '12** was promoted to director of athletics. As a coach, he won Coach of the Year in the conference four times. He will continue to lead the tennis program while bringing in an assistant coach to help with the day-to-day coaching duties. John is married to **Claire (Settle) '16** (our associate director of admissions) and they have two children. The Hirtes are members of North Shore Fellowship.

2022 Psychology Awards

The following psychology majors from the Class of 2022 were recognized with annual awards from the Department of Psychology. Gracya Rudiman '22 received the Michael J. Rulon Outstanding Psychology Student Award; Savannah Savage '22 received the Kevin J. Eames Memorial Christian Service Award; Sarah Agee '22 received the Douglas R. Sizemore Memorial Statistics





Pictured from left to right: Brooklyn Donatone '26 as Abigail Williams, Ray Lantrip '23 as Reverend Hale, Judah Dorsey '23 as Giles Corey, Alumni Chris Horton '16 as Judge Danforth, Micah Cochran '24 as John Proctor, and alumni Josh Grossi '20 as Judge Hathorne.

Award; and **Ian Sneller '22** received the Psychology Diversity Award.

The annual Psychology Awards are fully funded through designated gifts from college alumni and other faithful contributors who seek to honor former faculty members whose devotion to Covenant still impacts our students' education, research, and outreach.

The Crucible: A Classic American Drama

This fall, Covenant presented Arthur Miller's classic play The Crucible.

The play starred **Micah Cochran '24**, **Brooklyn Donatone '26**, **Kara Start '23**,

and **Ray Lantrip '23** as well as several alumni. **Courtney McKenzie '18**, our theatre costume supervisor, directed this production of the 1953 dramatization of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692–93.

World Languages Students Enter Photo Contest

In the winter of 2022, Covenant's Spanish students had the opportunity to enter a photo contest, and all entries are now hanging in the second floor of Brock Hall near the World Languages Office. The two winners' photos were then submitted to a national contest sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and both won honorable mention. Henry Hooks '22 won honorable mention in the "People" category, and Jake Sonke '23 won honorable mention in the "Places" category.

Fall Sports Highlights



It was another successful year for our fall sports, with both our volleyball and men's soccer teams winning the inaugural Collegiate

Conference of the South championships in their respective sports. Volleyball also received a bid into the NCAA Tournament, their first since 2017. Men's soccer had a second consecutive conference championship. Women's soccer had a run to the conference semifinals, and Coach Duble gained his 300th win on October 19th. Both men and women's cross country teams, under first year Coach Eli Kaczinski, finished third in the conference.





































CampusCollage

1 Fun in the Sun

Students showed off their handcrafted kite made during Spring Fling.

2 Lined Up

Scots camped out on the Chapel Lawn in anticipation for Mountain Affair.

3 A Selfie Affair

President Halvorson took a selfie with the winning performers of Mountain Affair.

4 A Night to Remember

Students danced the night away at the beautiful Hunter Art Museum for Spring Formal.

5 Culture Celebrated

Campus community shared cultural songs, dances, poetry, and artifacts for Culture Fest.

6 Let the Games Begin... Again

The Highland Games made their triumphant return after a brief hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7 Snow Cones and Llamas

As part of Student Appreciation Day (SAD), Student Development organized an on campus petting zoo, complete with snow cones.

8 Join the Club

CovCon is the best way for new and returning students to learn about the many student-led clubs on campus.

9 Summer Camp Sojourn

Faculty, Staff, and Students gathered in the Great Hall turned summer camp, for a late night respite from exam studies.

10 Ready, Set, Engage

As part of New Scots Orientation (NSO), soon-to-be Scots went white water rafting on the nearby Ocoee River.

11 Welcome to the Mountain

Returning students showed their excitement as they welcomed freshman to their new dorms on Move-In Day

12-14 Go. Scots. Go. Scots!

The campus was filled with thrills and celebration as we welcomed alumni and students for a memorable homecoming weekend.

15 Sunrise Worship

Students worshiped together and watched the sunrise during the fall Day of Prayer service.



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ommunity and a sense of belonging were some of the areas most heavily impacted by COVID in the last several years. As we return to a sense of normalcy, the Student Development office has focused on what it means for students to feel supported and a part of our community. Associate Dean of Students for Student Life, Nesha Evans, and Associate Dean of Students for Residence Life, Dr. Jon Wylie, share how their two offices are working to nurture the rich community that is distinctive to Covenant.

Student Life creates not only an engaging environment but also a sense of belonging for students here at Covenant. This is accomplished through programs such as New Scots Orientation, CC Lead, Student Senate, O-Team, Campus Activities Board (CAB), and Core Team. Programs like CC Lead and Senate provide leadership growth opportunities. CAB plans fun events throughout the year, such as Kilter, SK80s, and Exam Cram. These organizations create a healthy environment for students to enjoy their experiences as students.

The most rewarding part of working with students is "to be hospitable, providing an open door and inviting new students into what we do," says Dean Evans. That hospitality is showcased through the Intercultural Program. Dean Evans explains that "The Intercultural Program provides the opportunity for students to learn more about one another's cultures and creates affinity groups and spaces for students in cultural and ethnic minorities." From Culture Fest, Conversations about Culture and Race, and a weekly global prayer watch email, they lend resources to learn about and opportunities to celebrate our differences.

Dean Wylie says that when it comes to supporting students well, "I think that it begins with the vision of the college being a residential college. We strive to give students a safe and well-maintained living environment. If basic needs are met, students will connect better with other students, and



do better in school." This emphasis on being a residential college allows students to plant roots on campus. Students live on campus freshman through junior year, with many staying on campus for their senior year. This leads to the college not only being a community oriented around academics, but a living community, where a vast majority of the student body are more than classmates-they're neighbors.

As Dean Wylie explains, "Another part of residence life is cultivating learning, relationship, and discipleship through the hall community. We have prayer and praise every Sunday, but I work with the Resident Assistant (RA) staff and Resident Directors (RD's) to expand the discipleship to every day of the week, with the RA's being the lead relationship developers. They are the ones bringing people into the fold yet also giving space to students when they need it." RA's help balance the fun with school work by looking at the needs of their halls and getting students involved and connected.

This focus on discipleship is uncommon at most schools but is an integral part of the Covenant experience. Having a range of ages within the halls provides a unique experience of mentorship from older students to younger students.

Freshmen have close friends next door who are older than them, who they can go to with questions because those older students know what it is like to be in their shoes.

One important yet difficult element of student development is the disciplinary aspect. When students join the community, they agree to a standard of behavior and expectations. Dean Wylie says, "We don't want discipline to be a punitive environment but a learning experience for students involved. I love the opportunity to be able to speak into students' lives, and want to provide them the opportunity for repentance and healthy accountability because I never got that in college." This intentionality creates a space for growth, not just as students but as people, leaders and followers of Christ.



Woven throughout all of these support systems and programs is the life-on-life discipleship, "giving students the opportunity to grow in chapel, reading the word and discussing relationships with

others and with Jesus," shared Dean Evans. The intentional investment in students' lives is what makes Covenant unique, creating a defining experience for many students. It's not just the academic growth of a student that they seek to impact, but the emotional, relational, and spiritual growth, all equally important to a student's success. At its core, the student development team strives to create a sense of belonging with space for failure and success, joy and sorrow, fun and focus, as they come alongside each student in the way that serves them best.









Using the resources offered by the Center for Calling and Career to make connections and find opportunities, each summer Covenant students participate in internships, jobs, travels, and activities across the United States and overseas as part of their professional development experience.

Quinn Arnold '24

One Hope Tulsa | Tulsa, OK College Intern

"It is hard to sum up my primary responsibilities throughout the summer because every day my job looked different, and the programs that we ran changed almost every week.

"In short, I was mainly in charge of entering into relationships with people in the neighborhood, whether they were the kids in our programs, the families living in the neighborhood surrounding the Rose Bowl (the facility that One Hope is in), the members of the neighborhood experiencing homelessness, the middle and highschoolers that came around, the parents of the kids that came to our camps, or the members of the church that I was working with. I was also working the camps and programs that we ran, so some weeks I was in charge of a group of kids, other weeks I was a gymnastics coach, other times I was working one-on-one with specific kids to develop their skills in classroom engagement, and other times I was helping give music lessons. I helped with their homeless ministry, I completed various projects for the neighborhood, I helped run a middle school girls club, and I was part of planning an event for the whole community. I would also canvas different neighborhoods and apartment complexes. I did a one-on-one Bible study with a member of the community, helped lead worship at the church that planted One Hope, and did block ministry which meant going to the same few houses every week and asking to pray with the families that lived there.

"I think that the most rewarding part of my work is the way that it shaped and informed how I read the Bible. I learned more about justice, trauma responsive care, and how our God has a special interest in the poor and marginalized of our communities. I feel like in a lot of ways this internship restored my hope in the local church, and in some ways my passion for living the Christian life.

"My favorite part of my work is the lessons that I learned from it. I got to learn about trauma, resilience, homelessness, housing, neuroscience, justice, the foster care system, ACEs, para-church ministry, missions in a



Quinn Arnold '24 coaches gymnastics during a camp with local kids.

local context, mourning and lamenting but also praise and worship, and ultimately I just got to learn more about Jesus. I came out of this experience thinking differently and caring differently. It changed me a lot."



Griffin Felton '22, Keegan Weekley '22, Cale McLarnon '22, and athletic trainer Ryan Clark pose with Costa Rican Soccer players after a match.

Men's Soccer Varsity Team

Costa Rica | Central America Soccer Clinic Team Trip

While helping teach soccer to children and scrimmaging other soccer teams, Covenant's team got to experience Costa Rican culture through activities like tours around the city where they stayed. Captain Jay Patterson '23 explains, "We primarily facilitated soccer clinics for elementary and middle schools around the area, as well as scrimmaging semi-professional and professional teams. We were also able to help distribute food to those in need."

Aaron Riggs '23 adds, "My favorite part was the soccer clinics. We were able to hang out with the kids and play games, and although there were language barriers, we were able to communicate through soccer." Anderson Ivey '25 comments, "I loved our game against 'Sporting.' We got to play them on a professional field which was a cool experience and we even pulled out a 5-3

After every clinic and game, one of the Covenant players shared his testimony of how Christ has worked in his life, and someone would translate that testimony into Spanish for the listeners. Jay sums up the experience, "It truly was special to be in a different culture and context than we are used to and walk through that with my brothers. I will treasure these memories."

All of these Scots had incredible summer experiences, as did many more. These experiences prepared them not only for their professional lives, but they also helped them grow as people who are pursuing the Lord's "little c" calling for their lives.



The men's soccer team poses in front of a scenic overlook in Costa Rica.

Wesley Dusek '23

University of Georgia | Athens, GA Football Operations Intern

"The operations interns were on call for whatever was needed. I was one of eight interns who did a lot of setting up and facilitating events. During the week, we helped out with camps and high school seven-onseven tournaments hosted by UGA. On the weekends, we helped out with official recruiting visits, making sure meals, transportation, and tours all went smoothly for the recruits.

"My favorite part of the job was having access to the team. I got to work in the brand new football facility every day as well as have free access to the stadium. Getting to throw around a football on Dooley Field with the guys I worked with was pretty amazing. Another great part was being around all the UGA players and coaching staff on a daily basis, especially Kirby Smart.

"The most rewarding part of the internship was getting to meet and work with the people at UGA. Developing those relationships and gaining the experience of working at a storied program such as Georgia is going to help me so much in the future." 🚯



Wesley Dusek '24 poses with the 2021 College Football Playoff National Championship Trophy.





BY MAGGIE LUKE '20

nce

f music is so vital to our lives both in and out of an explicitly Christian setting, what does it mean to approach music in everyday and worship settings with a biblical mindset? To help answer this question, Professors Scott Finch, Brandon Kreuze, and Scott Jones were brought together to share their insights from their professional viewpoints.

SCOTT FINCH '97 IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AT Covenant. He has taught at Covenant for nine years and teaches music as well as music history, and he serves on the worship team at his church. One of his classes focuses on thinking pastorally and theologically about music. Professor Kreuze came to Covenant in 2004 and serves as the department chair. His primary professional interest is composition, and he teaches music theory, research methods, and composition classes. Professor Scott Jones serves as a professor of biblical studies and has been at Covenant since 2005. His primary fields are Old Testament, songs, and wisdom literature. He describes his relationship to music as "completely non-professional," picking up the guitar in high school and college before eventually building his own instruments. The conversation started with a question that isn't often asked: why do we worship God with music? Why not something else?

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP

Jones and Kreuze both point out that worshiping God with music is an active practice that roots us in our family history. Ancient Israel was, explains Jones, an oral culture where Scripture was meant to be memorized and performed, most often with music. He points out that most American Christians are used to reading the Bible silently, to ourselves, or at best hearing it out loud. Jones believes that it would be "rather arresting" for us if we were placed suddenly back into ancient Israel or ancient Jewish culture, and to realize that "in fact, no one is doing any of that." They would sing not only in places designated for worship, but as they traveled through dangerous places to reach Jerusalem. Since, as Finch points out, worship music often encapsulates the theology of the church, engaging with Scripture and theology through music allows us to engage



66 **Engaging with** Scripture and theology through music allows us to engage in a story of worship that has been going on with God's people for a very long time."

in a story of worship that has been going on with God's people for a very long time. "Worship is not just a collection of ornaments on a Christmas tree that make it look special," Finch says. "This is actually the theology of the church, and that's why Luther would say, 'Show me the songs of the church, and I'll tell you the layman's theology...'." Our beliefs are passed down through the music of the church. The way we relate to God or understand complex theological issues can often be traced back to the songs that have become part of us.

In similar fashion Kreuze reflects back to Biblical times, saying that the Western idea of going somewhere to listen to other people perform music is relatively new. He speaks of the power and active nature of singing and making music. "When you think about Biblical times," he says, "singing is something you're doing." It's not, as Kreuze describes it,

> like prayer. Prayer can often feel passive, like speaking words into emptiness. However, in

a spectator sport; it is an active thing,

both song and prayer, something mysterious does happen. Singing, playing music, and praying are active things that actually make a difference. They are places to engage with God as his people. In prayer and songs we communicate with Him about our inner selves, we give thanks, praise him, and remember through songs, but we also ask for things to be different. We know and hope that song and prayer can actually change things.

IS MUSIC "GOOD" OR "BAD"?

Most Christians today agree that worshiping God with music is appropriate and important; it clearly says to praise Him with instruments in the Psalms. But if one has attended different services from different denominations, one quickly sees that the way Christians worship with music vastly differs from place to place, tradition to tradition. So how should Covenant students think about and engage in conversation about different kinds of music without entering "worship wars?"

To this question, Jones, Finch, and Kreuze agreed that the most common pattern they see their students (and many adults) fall into is labeling genres of music into categories of "good" or "bad." Kreuze says that one of the first things he does in his classes is confront students with music that is very different from what most of them have known. He describes himself as a

"closet headbanger," and plays for his students a song by Demon Hunter, a Christian heavy metal band. He says that students' initial

reaction is "this sounds evil," due to the associations many of them have with slash metal. Then he pulls up the lyrics, which are a paraphrase of a Psalm. "You can just see their brains having a hard time reconciling that," he says.

Finch sees this disconnect as embedded in people's personal experiences with music. "Drums are satanic," say students, running to their backgrounds. Some generations may have a hard time divorcing electric guitar from memories of Jimi Hendrix's "Star Spangled Banner" at Woodstock. Importantly, Finch says that it is not wrong for people to have preferences about their worship music. What the music department at Covenant wants to challenge is the idea that there is a "right" way to do music in the church. Finch believes the demographic of the congregation should be taken into account: "At my church, we don't need to be doing exactly the same music that Lookout Presbyterian or Cornerstone or Rock Creek should be doing. There is a sense of that local culture that has a goodness to it. If you have eighty-year-old people in your service and you're plowing them down with sound, their hearing aids won't work right. You have to think about those things. I usually simply give students lots of questions and ask what they think. They want to run to, 'Is it good or bad? Is it morally upright or sinful?"

"There are so many people in the room," agrees Jones. "I have the privilege of playing together with Matt Brown '09 at our church. He's so mature and so thoughtful about how he goes about these things. He works hard to include songs that are important for various types of people in our congregation from the oldest to the youngest, from the most charismatic to the most buttoned up. Sometimes when we're discussing songs to play, I'll say, 'Most of this

is not fun for me to play, but that's not the



Prayer can often feel passive, like speaking words into emptiness. However, in both song and prayer, something mysterious does happen."





for me to play, I probably wouldn't be playing at church." Across this conversation, awareness of others is paramount. The important thing is not to create a hierarchy of some music being "better." Leaders should be asking, "what can we do to allow members of the congregation to enter into

important, but he says that we shouldn't see our role as exclusively making moral judgments on artwork. "Music," he says, "can be compelling and right on target, whether it's classical or heavy metal."

When asked about music that clashes with the Apostle Paul's command in

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Professors want students to be able to research, ask questions, and think about things outside of hierarchy or category. They also want them to pursue excellence, rather than an unattainable idea of perfection."

right, Kreuze argues that the music department wouldn't do students any favors by ignoring such music. Finch agrees, saying that students need to encounter this music in a way that doesn't make them afraid of it. Students need to know how they are going to allow it to shape their minds and what they do. Jones tells his students, "I'm not assigning things to indoctrinate you, or tell you that you must believe this reading or subscribe to this thinking. I'm assigning things because this is a place for us to consider these things together." The point in these classes is to engage these ideas and teachings. Additionally, there can be what Jones calls "common grace insights" in this music, moments where God's truth shines through a non-Christian artist. In Jones' words, professors at Covenant delve into

these things "not because we're trying to

ruin your faith, but because we actually love you and we want to think about this with you

Philippians 4:8 to fill our

minds about what is pure and

so that you end up with a firmer knowledge of the truth, of what you believe, and why you believe it. We don't want them to accept something without testing it; we want to be a safe place where they can test it and learn broadly while remaining grounded in the truth of the gospel."

Along these lines, Kreuze hopes that when students leave Covenant that they can both play and execute well, but also "reflect and tell you the why." Professors want students to be able to research, ask questions, and think about things outside of hierarchy or category. They also want them to pursue excellence, rather than an unattainable idea of perfection. "We straight up tell them perfection is not excellence," says Finch. "God calls us to excellence, not perfection. So with the abilities you have on that day, with the rain or the shine or whatever circumstances, you seek to produce the best that you can with your ability."



APPRECIATING MUSIC IN EVERYDAY LIFE

The musical community at Covenant doesn't end in chapel or the classroom. Faculty and staff across campus are musically inclined, singing and playing various instruments. Students, staff, and faculty alike excitedly attend concerts and musical events at the college. Music at Covenant is about appreciation, excellence, image-bearing, and community. The hope of both the music department and Covenant at large is that students will graduate with the ability to think and converse about music in a complex way that avoids reducing it into categories of "good" or "bad," and that they will be equipped to serve and pursue excellence in their churches and communities.

Spiritual Formation

A Part of the Body of Christ

By Grace Elder '23

surrounded by an emphasis on church membership. However, when I came to Covenant, I was unsure if I should become a member of a local church when I might only be in the Chattanooga area for four years. I also didn't know how I was going to incorporate church into a busy student schedule. After visiting a handful of churches my freshman year, I landed at New City East Lake. After the COVID-19 disruption, I knew that I wanted to settle into a church community, so I attended New City East Lake's new members class to learn more about membership.

GROWING UP IN THE PCA. I WAS

The sweetest thing about being a member at East Lake is the joy of meeting with people from all walks of life. I am so thankful to be friends with and learn from people who aren't college students! On campus, I get to hang out with a lot of people who are my age, but I have gained so much wisdom from my local church community, all with different ages and experiences. It truly has been a joy to be a part of the body of Christ.

One of the biggest ways I've been served by the church is through a Wednesday night small group. We gather together and dive into scripture and pray for each other. I am thankful for the time to be still, resting in community and in Christ, while we pour into each other.

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Being a student is busy - we are juggling classes, work, social lives, sports, clubs, and more. Showing up to a small group or even church on Sundays can seem like a big commitment. Some weeks, I have to drag myself to small group, especially if I have a lot of homework or a test the next day, but I have found that I leave so refreshed and encouraged. Even when I try to make excuses about why I shouldn't go, I am always so thankful that I did go!

Now that I'm a senior and thinking about the future, it makes me sad to think of leaving my church community after graduation.

However, I have known the sweetness of being involved in a good church, so I am looking forward to building that community in the future wherever I end up.

FacultyView

It's All in the **Faculty Lounge**

IN HIS BOOK RELATIONAL BEING: BEYOND SELF AND Community, social psychologist Kenneth Gergen laments that many universities have lost their focus, prioritizing individual and departmental needs over collegiality. Most universities have boundaries - boundaries that guard resources, corral rewards, and prevent open, reflective dialogue between colleagues. When doing my graduate work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, I rarely, if ever, had contact with anyone outside of the sociology department. This structure tends to produce disciplinary monologue – a multi rather than university. At Covenant College, thankfully, this is not so.

I've formulated a "faculty lounge theory of colleges," contending that you can determine the character of a college or university by examining what goes on in its faculty lounge. A visiting student should be able to poke his or her head into the lounge and make an informed decision about whether the college is a worthy recipient of tuition dollars. Covenant's lounge is second to none. When not teaching a class, I can most often be found in the Nick Barker Faculty Lounge next to my office in dialogue with biologists, theologians, economists, linguists, and a host of others. My Christian scholarship is inseparable from these valued colleagues.

In the faculty lounge, I have the opportunity to share what I've been teaching, writing, and struggling with. I hope that I've offered colleagues in various departments ideas that have shaped their thinking, and I can't begin to document how they've influenced me. You can determine the character of a

About a decade ago, recently retired Dr. Ken Stewart encouraged us faculty to write more for publication. I took that advice to heart and have published something nearly every year since. In recent years, I've published with Dr. Kapic and Dr. Morris, which provided some of the more enriching experiences of my academic life.

When I write, I almost always share a draft with other professors. I've run theological sections of my articles by Dr. Kapic. I've asked Dr. Green to trouble-shoot book chapters I've penned. I've asked recently retired Dr. Foreman to edit book reviews I'm hoping to submit. I've run teaching strategies by Drs. Pennington and Kaufmann, and, as a result, made significant changes to how I organize my courses and teach in the classroom. I've chatted with Drs. Jackson and Weichbrodt about their book manuscripts. I've



By Dr. Matt Vos '90, Professor of Sociology

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in its faculty lounge."

asked Dr. Davis to help me interpret philosophical texts I'm working to incorporate into my writing. I generally start my day chatting with Dr. Robinson in my own department. Our intra-departmental collegiality and deep respect for one another is important for students to witness as they pass by in the hallway. When I can refer in class to the good work one of my colleagues is doing, it gives students a sense of our collective "in-Christ" identity and common mission.

The aforementioned Kenneth Gergen writes that the antidote to the individualizing "bounded being" that he perceives as colonizing the university and much of our Western lives, is to fundamentally re-

> conceptualize ourselves as a "confluence" - an image of self in relationship. Just as a baseball game is not about a great pitcher, batter, or fielder, Covenant College is about the whole which honors and depends on the parts. The faculty lounge helps us function as a 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (many parts, one body) college. We faculty have markedly different gifts and talents, and when in close

communion with each other, we all - and especially students benefit from the increased coherence that comes from understanding and honoring one another.

In short, Covenant College is not about prima donna professors; our strength doesn't lie in a few outstanding savants. Rather, our strength is that we are a collective. That is why I work here at Covenant College, and that is why students should clamor to attend here. It's all in the faculty lounge. Stop by sometime!

closerLook

Creativity in the Chaos

By Henri Lowe '21

During his senior year at Covenant, Dave Connis '11 was facing a severe bout of "senioritis," and, instead of studying for exams, picked up the Harry Potter books for the first time. He laughingly notes that he would not recommend this method to current students: however, he credits the "book hangover" after finishing the books as instrumental to his decision to pursue writing. The best way to cure the book hangover, he determined, would be to write his own book. From 2011 to 2015, Dave began to consider what it would look like to become an author, and, in 2015, he secured an agent to begin sending his manuscript to publishers. His first two novels, The Temptation of Adam (2017) and Suggested Reading (2019), were poignant and successful young adult novels, and his trajectory as an author seemed clear.

In 2017, though, Dave's writing progress was suspended by the death of his father. He felt like he had lost both his passion for the creative process, as well as his desire to write. By 2021, Dave's creative process began to return, and, with it, a new model and focus for his writing: he wanted to write "stories of wonder, whimsy, and worth."

These three words encapsulated Dave's stories once he began writing again. He would write stories of wonder that inspired readers with their intricate worlds and characters; stories of whimsy, which offered a funny, lighthearted, and unexpected take on the world; and stories of worth, which highlighted the value of every person as an individual made in the image of God. Here his faith intersected joyfully with his authorship.



Dave's passion for stories that reflect his faith is evidenced by his foray into picture books. In 2021, after reading a host of picture books with his three children, Dave started hunting for books that were fun and silly, but also talked about Jesus. He discovered that these books were difficult to find-so he started writing his own. With input from his friends Matt Brown '05, Professor Scott Jones, John-Michael Forman '10, and Andrew Alms '10, Dave wrote a fun, sweet, and theologically accurate picture book. The Inventions of God (and Eva) and The Stories of God (and Kiki) were published in 2021 and 2022, respectively, after Dave found a publisher who was excited about his mission.

Today, Dave splits his time between his work as a remote UX Designer at Out Systems, a web application company, and his current book, a historical fantasy set in 18th-century Italy. Despite the chaos of work, family, and writing, he focuses on writing for an hour daily, and he notes how thankful he is for the flexibility in his job, which allows him time to write and time to balance family life. "The most important thing," he said, "is that you continue to show up - persistence is key." Dave's stories offer a valuable reminder that our creativity and stories matter, and that wonder, whimsy, and worth can describe both the things that we read and the way that we perceive the world.

closerLook

Building Restorative Relationships On and Off the Field



We are setting just as high of character expectations for our kids as we are academic expectations"

— Haile Nottage '17

By Henri Lowe '21

As an Elementary Education major, Haile Nottage '17 had been teaching at East Ridge Elementary, and, for the past two years, was teaching math at Chattanooga Prep School.

She began to feel like there was something missing in the way she was able to connect and develop her students. So earlier this year, Haile sought to combine her passion for teaching with her fondness for fitness and its surrounding community by connecting with the CFC Foundation (CFCF), a non-profit organization that focuses on fostering development and growth in Chattanooga by bringing soccer to underserved communities. Together Haile and CFCF identified an opportunity for her to aid in addressing student character development on and off the field, which culminated in her becoming the CFCF's Director of Leadership and Character Development.

At CFCF, Haile has exercised her skills as a "gap-filler," by identifying ways in which Upper Left: A group of girls from StrongHER practice at Highland Park Commons. Middle Right: Haile '17 and a group of visiting coaches from VFL Wolfsburg, a soccer club from Germany that partners with CFCF. Lower Middle: Haile '17 at Highland Park Commons.

the program could better address students' relational and emotional development, and by strategizing solutions to fill those gaps. For her, it's important that they are "working toward making sure we are setting just as high of character expectations for our kids as we are academic expectations." Haile spent the summer observing opportunities for growth and used her research to create a behavioral program, which seeks to help students identify and progressively improve their behavioral struggles through clear communication and goal-setting with coaches, parents, and students. Her pointbased system allows coaches to easily track players' behavior and support them throughout the program. In the event of a players' suspension from the program, for instance, the player participates in followup meetings to determine why they responded the way that they did and is supported by coaches and instructors, who work together to create a plan on how the student can re-enter the program.

Recently, Haile played a part in pioneering a soccer program for middle school girls called StrongHER, which affords access to soccer training for girls in local communities while building a sisterhood around local soccer and provides mentorship from women in the community. Throughout the program, girls have the opportunity to hear from a variety of women who address different topics including professional growth, body image, and mental health.

The relationships that Haile built at Covenant provided her with a robust foundation to see and understand the world through a variety of different experiences and lenses, while her Elementary Education major opened her eyes to the reality of educational gaps. Since then, Haile has been passionate about fostering communication between students, parents, and coaches while also aiding in athlete's character development, not just athletic improvement. Her work at CFCF has allowed her to holistically support, instruct, and encourage her students towards the kind of flourishing that comes most readily in community.

closerLook



Homecoming 2022 was a delightful time of celebration and connection as alumni from many years returned to the mountain. Highlights included Singing of the Saints, a faculty lecture by Jeff Morton titled "Handwriting," the 50th reunion of the Class of 1972, and of course, the March to Scotland Yard, soccer games, and fireworks.











2022 IronThistle Award

We were delighted to award this year's Iron Thistle to Hattie (Corbett) '15 and Matt Lattner '15. As teachers at Berclair Elementary School in Memphis, TN, the couple seeks to faithfully serve each of their students. They note that they have seen the Lord working in mighty ways in their community, and they praise Him for His work.





2022 Heritage Society Tea

Part of homecoming festivities, the annual Heritage Society Tea reception recognized those friends of the College who have included Covenant in their estate plans. Estate gifts help build the College's endowment, thus strengthening Covenant for years to come and providing valuable resources for student scholarships, faculty, and facilities.

AlumniNews





SHARE YOUR STORY OF KINGDOM IMPACT WITH US

Your fellow alumni want to hear about you: your family, work, education, church, and life. Submit your updates and photos at covenant.edu/AlumniUpdate.

SINSTITUTE In Stitute at Covenant College July 16-21

CITY SEMINARY

The hustle and bustle of summer here on Covenant's campus is something to behold. Middle school campers everywhere! Rambunctious worship in the chapel. Gyms and fields overrun day and night with adolescent energy. As I settled into my first several weeks here as the College's new chief Academic Officer, I thought "Well, this must be the summer vibe."

However, when the Covenant College Summer Institute students showed up in mid-July, I realized that my hasty judgement regarding summer on Lookout Mountain wasn't entirely accurate. Amid all of the eighth-grade hullabaloo, I suddenly observed a new crew on campus. They were fun-loving and energetic, to be sure, but they were also refreshingly studious. And along with these high school scholars suddenly appeared several Covenant faculty members, having returned halfway through their summer break of rest, reading, and study to teach some of the best week-long, for-credit classes that any aspiring college student could hope for. Courses like *The Art of Place* (art), *Does Money Make the World Go 'Round* (economics), *Knowing our Minds* (psychology), and *The History of the Future* (history), just to name a few.

With intensive lively morning lectures, enriching afternoon tutorials, and adventurous evening excursions in Chattanooga, these students experienced the best of Covenant College's mission of providing academically excellent and biblically faithful exploration of creation and culture. Moreover, with the help of current Covenant students, who served as their tutors and RAs, these students got a great preview of all that we have to offer as a caring Christian community.



Dr. H. Collin Massar

Dr. H. Collin Messer Vice President for Academic Affairs

As of July 1, 2022, Collin Messer is Covenant College's new Chief Academic Officer. His daughter Camille ('21) is a recent Covenant graduate and economics major who also served as a teaching assistant during the 2021 Summer Institute.

President's Postscript

A Distinctive Legacy

AS I WRITE THIS COLUMN, WE ARE COMING OFF OF AN ABSOLUTELY GLORIOUS homecoming weekend. In God's kind providence, we enjoyed beautiful fall weather. Alumni came from all over the country to reconnect with one another and with the faculty and staff who played an influential role in their lives during their time on the mountain. Lively events centered around academics, music, sports, and more — a true celebration of all the areas our students enjoy in daily life on this campus. Friday night ended with Jazz on the Overlook, Saturday morning began in wonderful fashion with the Singing of the Saints, and on Saturday night, over 2,000 people gathered at Scotland Yard for men's and women's soccer games, a homecoming festival, and fireworks.

Of all of the events I attended, I think the one that most moved me was the 50th reunion lunch. As I listened to the men and women of that class—many of whom went on from Covenant to play significant roles in their churches, the denomination, world missions, schools, medicine, etc.—I was reminded of what a remarkable legacy we steward here at Covenant College.

These alumni from the Class of 1972 came to the college when it was less than 15 years old—a veritable newborn institution by higher education standards. The college had no fancy facilities and no reputation. What it did have were godly men and women who were deeply committed to Jesus Christ, to the Church, and to the vision of building an outstanding academic institution that would be uncompromising both in its biblical faithfulness and its commitment to academic excellence. It would be a college that sought out God's truth as revealed in Scripture and also as revealed in the insights of the various academic disciplines. It would be a college that equipped students exceedingly well for the callings God would place upon them after graduation. And it would be a college that cultivated in its students a genuine love for their Savior and His body, the Church.

One of the quotes I share with new students every year during orientation comes from the report that our founding president, Dr. Robert Rayburn, gave to the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod in 1965. (You can find the quote on page seven of Will Barker's excellent history of the first 50 years of the college, "In All Things...": The Preeminence of Christ in the History of Covenant College, 1955-2005.) I think it captures well the distinctive academic vision that we steward even to this day:

Covenant is not a Bible college. While the study of Holy Scripture is required of all students, we must know of God's work and understand truth as it is to be discovered in many fields of study... Our academic standards must be second to none.

There are precious few places where a student can receive an education of this character. And as one considers the impact this education has had on the lives of so many—and through them, on the church and the world—one realizes just how valuable this legacy is. It is a great privilege for us both those of us who serve at the college and those of us who support the college in various ways-to see how God continues to use this institution, born of the vision and tenacity of a small group of men and women, to shape and prepare another generation of Scots to go into the world and bear witness—in thought, word, and deed—to the preeminence of Christ in all things. 💠

God continues to use this institution, born of the vision and tenacity of a small group of men and women."



J. Derek Halvorson '93 President



In 1955, a bold group of believers took a risk

to start a Christian, liberal arts college, equipped with little more than a worthy vision, strong work ethic, and sincere trust in the Lord. They firmly believed in the need for a Christ-centered, excellent education.







Read the compelling story of the legacy of The 1955 and Covenant's foundation.