

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

VIEW

Passing *the* Mace

Making Covenant a Home | Passing the Mace | Boldly Moving Forward in Faith

SPRING 2023
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VIEW

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View's purpose is to:

- Encourage alumni, parents, and friends to keep Christ preeminent in all areas of their lives.
- 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
COLLEGE

IN ALL THINGS CHRIST PREEMINENT



Pictured: Isabelle Torokwa '24 portrays the lead role of "Dolly" in Covenant College's annual spring musical theatre production.

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Brad Voyles Named Interim President

On March 31, the Board of Trustees named Dr. Brad Voyles, vice president for student development and dean of students, as the interim president, beginning July 1, 2023. In a statement sent to the Covenant community, Chairman Craig Wood said "I am delighted with this decision. Brad's contributions and service to the college over the past 18 years have prepared him well to bridge the gap as interim president and to begin immediate work on the college's short-term and longer term strategic planning with the gifted cabinet that is already in place and approved by the board."



Hamlet & Ophelia: A One-Woman Show

Anya Klumpenhower '24 performed a one-woman show in November entitled *Hamlet & Ophelia*. She adapted the classic Shakespeare play, taking what she saw as the best parts and condensing them into 45 minutes of "greatest hits." Playing all of the different characters herself, she invited the audience to revel in the humor of Hamlet and ensured that no one left thinking Shakespeare to be boring. The show was directed by Professor Camille Hallstrom.

Hello, Dolly! and The Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival

Covenant College's recent production of *Hello, Dolly!* was attended and celebrated by a representative of The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued and recognized. The Friday night production of *Hello, Dolly!* was adjudicated, and the cast received very positive feedback. The following students were selected for special recognition:

- › **Isabelle Torokwa '24** ("Dolly"), nominated for the Irene Ryan Scholarship competition*
- › **Ray Lantrip '23** ("Cornelius"), nominated for the Irene Ryan Scholarship competition*
- › **Acacia Buschbach '26**, recognized for outstanding stage management
- › **Elena Haynes '23**, recognized for outstanding stage management

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Faculty members recognized with Certificates of Merit included:

- › **Courtney McKenzie**, for outstanding costume design and construction
- › **Prof. Claire Slavovsky**, director, for outstanding directing and vision
- › **Prof. David Tahere**, music director, for outstanding vocal coaching and preparation

**The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarships provide recognition, honor, and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to pursue further education. Sixteen regional and two national scholarships are given annually.*



68th Commencement Celebration

Congratulations to the class of 2023 who celebrated with family and friends on May 6! We're proud of their hard work and accomplishments and pray a blessing on them as they go forth from the mountain.

Third Highest Retention Rate in Nine Years

Covenant celebrated high retention numbers this spring with the third highest retention rate over the last nine years. Retention for every single class was up from last year's fall-to-spring number.

Research Project Funded for Professor Forteza

World Languages professor Dr. Deborah Forteza has recently participated in a research project studying Irish Catholics in Spain. The project is being funded by the Spanish government and is based at the University of Salamanca. She made a presentation about the project to U.S. scholars at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America held in Puerto Rico on March 9-11.



onCourse

Department: Chemistry

Faculty: Dr. Dan Zuidema, Professor of Chemistry and Department Chair

The Course: Organic Chemistry

The Covenant College chemistry department recently acquired an \$85,000 gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer (GC-MS) that will greatly enhance students' learning experiences. Students were trained to use the GC-MS this year, and organic chemistry and research students will frequently utilize the GC-MS on nearly a weekly basis.

In Organic Chemistry, students take a detailed look at the science of carbon-based compounds. An understanding of carbon chemistry is important, as carbon makes up over 15 million compounds. The medicines we take, the sunscreen we apply at the beach, the type of rubber in the soles of our shoes—and millions of other compounds—can be understood, designed, and produced thanks to the discipline of organic chemistry. Organic Chemistry students study the structures and properties of these compounds; they also explore how to prepare and analyze carbon-containing compounds in the laboratory.

The Assignments: Students use diverse types of chemical instrumentation in order to perform chemical analyses that are typically done in industry, forensic science, and medical testing. Our Organic Chemistry students use the GC-MS to determine the extent to which their reactions have made products and to determine what exactly those products are. This can be especially helpful to our research students as they analyze reactions that generate unexpected products.

Says the Professor: "Familiarity with modern instrumentation is a key component of college-level chemistry instruction in the 21st century. It is not enough for students to merely be familiar with the theory behind how these instruments work. Our aim is to give students an abundance of experience with various types of instrumentation so that they will have confidence when joining the workforce or pursuing graduate studies in chemistry."

- Dr. Dan Zuidema, Professor of Chemistry

Says a Student: "One of the most exciting parts about being a STEM major at Covenant is the opportunities we constantly have to learn more about God and the structure He has embedded in the universe alongside students and professors who are just as excited as us. There is always something that feels a little bit magical about turning one chemical into something else, and the GC-MS has enhanced our ability to know what exactly has been produced! With this new instrument, by-products become clear, and unexpected results can often be explained. While experience using this machine as well as the NMR and IR is nice to put on a resume, it has also given me confidence in both my skills as a chemist and my potential to succeed in the workplace. These instruments offer the ability to peek behind the curtain of mystery surrounding chemical reactions in order to develop a deeper appreciation and love for God and His handiwork." - **Hannah Bagby, '23**



Lloyd Promoted to Director of Marketing and Communications

After two years as Covenant's assistant director of digital marketing, **Brittany (Luther) Lloyd '10** was promoted to director of marketing and communications in December 2022. Her work at Covenant has helped to significantly increase the number of inquiries from prospective students and raised the level of awareness of Covenant in the broader marketplace. She is honored to lead a gifted team and loves using her marketing experience to serve Covenant's mission. Brittany, her husband, **Joe Lloyd '12**, and two children (Swenson and Perri) live in Lookout Mountain, GA, and are members at Rock Creek Fellowship.

M.Ed. Program to Be Discontinued

In February of this year, Dr. Collin Messer, vice president for academic affairs, announced that the long-standing Masters of Education (M.Ed.) degree would be discontinued. The missional purpose and value of the M.Ed. has been excellent for many decades and the program's quality has remained consistently strong. However, in a market now dominated by low cost online instruction, the competition is steep, and the administration decided not to invest in building an online degree. Messer expressed deep appreciation for

the many faculty who have served the program for decades as faithful teachers and administrators: "We are deeply grateful for their Christ-honoring service to generations of students, teachers, and school leaders."

Admissions Updates

Know a high school student who would make a great Scot? Encourage them to schedule a visit to Covenant! This spring, the admissions office launched a new visit grant of \$1,200 for any prospective student who visits Covenant in person. In addition, Lisa Vander Maas was hired as a new admissions representative to be regionally based out of Michigan as part of our efforts to continue to spread the word about Covenant. Lisa attends Christ Church in Grand Rapids, where her husband Andrew is lead pastor. Two of their eight children have attended Covenant.



Business Alumni Networking Event

At a business alumni networking event in September, **Jake Johnson '20** and **Nicholas Sneller '20** gave current students the opportunity to learn more about the world of accounting. They relayed their own experiences working for Elliot Davis, a large regional accounting firm in Chattanooga. They also offered advice on achieving CPA certification and answered students' questions. This event is one of several provided by Covenant professors with the goal of connecting students with professionals in their potential career paths.



Sport Management Students Work at Premier Sporting Events

Students majoring in sport management have had the opportunity to work at two major sporting events this year: the LVII Super Bowl in February and the NCAA Final Four Men's Basketball Championship in March. Three students traveled with Professor Michaela Kourmoulis to work several of the events leading up to the Super Bowl, including the Super Bowl Experience, an interactive theme park where fans can compete in the 40-yard dash, football throw, and field goal kicks. They also served as guides for workers checking in on the day of the game. At the Men's Final Four, two students along with Professor Kourmoulis worked on the "street team," acting as guest services representatives. At both events, students also had the opportunity to meet with Christians working in the sports industry.

Professor Washburn Recognized with Fellow Status

The Society for the Teaching of Psychology (Division Two of the American Psychological Association) recently honored Professor **David Washburn '84** with fellow status. According to the STP, fellow status is bestowed on a teacher of psychology who is "recognized as an outstanding teacher, as documented by evaluations by colleagues, students, and administrators" and who has "contributed to the development of innovative curricula,

courses, and teaching methods and materials” and “conducted research on the scholarship of teaching.” Congratulations to Dr. Washburn on this significant achievement!

Political Science Guest Speaker

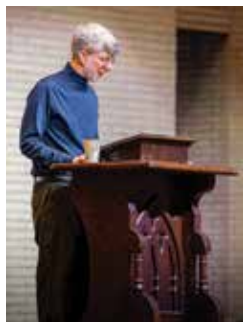
Also in September, Brett Schaefer came to campus to teach “POL 390: The United Nations Challenge,” focusing on issues of UN reform and its meaning for U.S. national interests. Schaefer is the Jay Kingham Senior Research Fellow in International Regulatory Affairs at The Heritage Foundation’s Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom. This condensed course was made possible through the Honaker Family Public Service Endowment, an alumni endowment for the Department of History, Politics, and International Studies intended to cultivate Covenant students’ commitment to public service in politics, police work, and international affairs.

Marvin Olasky Speaks at Res Publica Series

The guest speaker for this year’s Res Publica series was Marvin Olasky, the former editor in chief of WORLD magazine and a senior fellow of the Discovery Institute and its

Center for Science and Culture. The author of multiple books including *Lament for a Father* and the recently published *The Story of Abortion in America: A Street-Level History*,

Olasky not only delivered two lectures during chapel, he also taught a condensed journalism course for a select group of students. His lectures drew on his extensive research on the history of abortion in the United States and aimed to help students learn how to thoughtfully engage in the ongoing debate over abortion.



Faculty Book Publications

Redeeming Vision: A Christian Guide to Looking at and Learning from Art - **Dr. Elissa Yukiko Weichbrodt '04** (Baker Academic: March 2023)



The English Reformation in the Spanish Imagination: Rewriting Nero, Jezebel, and the Dragon (U of Toronto Press: March 2022)



Dr. Deborah R. Forteza. Dr. Forteza’s work was nominated for the 2023 South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) Studies Book Award.



Spring Sports Highlights

- › Men’s Soccer: Men’s soccer won the inaugural Collegiate Conference of the South (CCS) conference tournament. They also went on to win the NCCAA Mid-east Region and advance to the NCCAA National tournament.
- › Volleyball: Under first-year coach **Stephanie (Phillips) Wharton '06**, volleyball won the inaugural CCS regular season and conference tournament. This led to an NCAA

tournament berth, the first for the program since 2017. Wharton was awarded Coach of the Year Honors, and Junior **Emma Kalbfleisch '24** was selected as CCS Co-Player of the Year.

- › Women’s Soccer: Coach **Mark Duble '92** earned win number 300 against Agnes Scott College on October 19. Women’s soccer finished 4th in their first season of CCS competition, advancing to the semifinals of the conference tournament.
- › Men’s Basketball: **Malcolm Noel '26** was awarded CCS Rookie of the Year honors.
- › Cross Country: Under first-year coach Eli Kaczinski, our men’s and women’s cross country teams both placed 3rd at the conference meet, with a total of 6 runners earning all-conference honors. **Daniel Bowles '26** earned Men’s Cross Country Rookie of the Year honors.



Students Attend Southeastern Psychological Association Meeting

Twenty-eight Covenant College students traveled to New Orleans on April 5-8 to attend and participate in the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) meeting, thus fulfilling a key requirement in one of Covenant’s psychology’s signature courses: PSY310 (Psychology Field Trip). A total of 19 Covenant College students were co-authors on undergraduate research posters (10 posters presented in total!) at the meeting.

President Halvorson's Numbers Over the Years

1

Academic Building
Lucas Art Workshop

2,636

Student Graduates
During His Tenure

2

New
Majors

7

New
Certificate
Programs

1

New
Intercollegiate
Sport

11

Convocation &
Commencement
Ceremonies

80

Selfies
on Stage

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Faculty Member and Alum Receive Gospel Coalition Book Awards

Reformed and Evangelical across Four Centuries, a book authored by four historians including **Dr. Don Fortson '78** and **Dr. Ken Stewart**, received second place (Award of Distinction) in the History and Biography section of The Gospel Coalition 2022 Book Awards in December. Don Fortson, professor of church history and pastoral theology at RTS-Charlotte and Dr. Ken Stewart, professor emeritus of biblical and theological studies at Covenant, emeritus, joined two other historians (each from a different branch of the Presbyterian family) to tell the wide-ranging story of the Presbyterian church in the United States from its foundation in the British reformation to its present-day expression in multiple American Presbyterian denominations. The book was also recognized by Reformed Theological Seminary, receiving the MacLeod Award at the Presbyterian Scholars Conference in October.



Being Human Conference

Covenant hosted the second annual *Being Human Conference* on March 20-22. The conference exists to provide an interdisciplinary experience for faculty, students, and visitors to engage with topics that promote an understanding of biblical anthropology as the basis of a liberal arts education. This year's theme explored what "Imagining Our Neighbor" means, pursuing the development of empathy

through the arts, literature, theology, and other disciplines. Daniel Nayeri, author of *Everything Sad is Untrue*, and **Dr. Mary McCampbell '94**, author of *Imagining Our Neighbors as Ourselves: How Art Shapes Empathy*, served as the guest speakers. As part of the conference, students and faculty were invited to submit works of art that explored "Imagining Our Neighbor" through various artistic formats including visual art, creative essays or written art, and academic essays. The conference included lectures, classroom visits, a panel discussion, and an evening of student presentations.



35th Anniversary of Psi Chi

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of Covenant's chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. In April, nine psychology majors were inducted as new members, bringing the total number of Covenant student inductees to 306. The newest members who met the academic criteria for this honor are:

- › **Avery Broyles '23**
- › **D'anerys Doe '23**
- › **Noémie Haberey '25**
- › **Melvin Hamdani '25**
- › **Mason Harmon '23**
- › **Lexi Markham '25**
- › **Elissa Moore '23**
- › **Ruthie Moore '23**
- › **Tucker Russel '25**



Covenant Students Write and Illustrate Bilingual Books

Students in Dr. Brianne Stambaugh's Hispanic Communities in the US class wrote, illustrated, and hand-crafted Spanish and bilingual children's books for and about the experiences of Hispanic children in the US. These creative books are currently on display for the public to read in the Kresge Memorial Library.



Students Attend the 2023 Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Thirteen philosophy students along with philosophy professor **Dr. Bill Davis '82** attended the 2023 Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference on February 10-11 at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. Five students read papers at the event: **Alayna Bradberry '23**, **Nathan Fredere '23**, **Jesse Newman '25**, **Kristy Stapleton '23**, and **Shawn Yang '25**, with Alayna Bradberry's paper winning second prize and Shawn Yang's paper winning third prize. It was a memorable

experience for everyone not only because Covenant was so well-represented and students' papers recognized, but also because the students had the opportunity to encourage a philosophy student from another university who (as far as she knows) is the only Christian in the philosophy department at her school. They also had the chance to share the gospel with a participant from another school who continued to text them questions for days after the trip.

In Memoriam:

Dean Cleavenger

Former assistant professor of business administration (1997-2000) Dean Cleavenger passed away on December 10, 2022.

David C. Friberg

Former associate professor of music David Friberg passed away on February 10, 2023. He was an integral part of the music program alongside Dr. John Hamm from 1987-2002 and chair of the department after Dr. Hamm's departure. While on the faculty, he played the organ at every major Covenant event including convocation and commencement each year, delighting those gathered with his exuberant and joyful music.



Myrenna Kickasola

A beloved mother and mother-in-law to six Covenant alums, Myrenna Kickasola entered into the eternal joy of her Savior on February 5 after a long battle with scleroderma. All three of her children, **Joe '94**, **Martha '96**, and **Matt '00**, graduated from Covenant, as did Joe's wife, **Linnea (Leonard) '94**, the granddaughter of Covenant's first president, Robert G.

Rayburn; Martha's husband, **Mark Rusten '96**; and Matt's wife, **Erin (Farquhar) '00**, the daughter of two Covenant alums. Granddaughter Bronwyn Kickasola will be a freshman at Covenant this fall. Myrenna was a gifted pianist and music teacher.

Pat Monroe

Janet Patricia Burgett Monroe, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and child of the Almighty God, passed away on April 2, 2023, at the age of 90. Pat Monroe began her tenure at Covenant College in 1977 as the secretary in the student development office. In 1978 she became secretary to the president and remained in that position until 1996. She was married to Dr. Robert Monroe, former professor of music at the college, who passed away in September 2022. She is survived by her daughters **Tami (Monroe) Lower '81**, **Lori (Monroe) Krabbendam '85 (married to Richard Krabbendam '85)**, and **Sheri (Monroe) Bouvier '87 (married to Craig Bouvier MEd '02)**.



Homecoming

Save the date for this year's homecoming, Sept 29-30! Watch last year's video for a taste of the fun in store.







3



4



5



9



10



15



CampusCollage



1-2 Mountain Affair

The contest show returned in the fall for an epic night of skill and talent.

3-4 Petting Zoo

For a fun break from studies, the chapel lawn was transformed into a giant petting zoo, bringing smiles to students' faces.

5 "Be Not Afraid"

Covenant's music ensembles performed for the annual Christmas celebration, with the theme "Be Not Afraid." The night concluded in the Great Hall featuring more music, costumes, dancing, and Wassail.

6 Forget the Oscars!

Students from Maclellan/Rymer Hall gathered for a night to celebrate and nominate this year's best student-created short film.

7 The Lion, The Witch and the Great Hall

Scots were transported to Narnia when they entered the Great Hall for Exam Cram (evil White Witch not included).

8 Day Of Prayer

Another beautiful day to worship and pray on the mountain.

9-10 Takin' Things to the Max

Barnes Gymnasium was bursting at the seams for Max Out Barnes. One student said, "The gym was so loud that none of the players could hear their names being announced."

11-12 A Day to Serve

For Covenant's 6th annual MLK Day ON, students served the facilities management department, spent time in reflection, and ended the day with a jazz concert.

13 PRS (Public Reading of Scripture)

This year started a new tradition on campus where students gather once a week to share a meal and hear Scripture read aloud.

14 Pecha-what?

Senior art students gave Pecha Kucha presentations where the presenter shows 20 slides with 20 seconds of commentary on each.

15 Bringing Families to the Mountain

It was great getting to see our Scots and their families together on the mountain for the first Family Weekend in years!

MAKING COVENANT A Home

By Jennifer West

The much-quoted saying attributed to Napoleon (the general, not the awkward teen in “Napoleon Dynamite”) could be applied to college students. The question was asked, “What does a soldier [student] need?” To which Napoleon answered, “A full belly and a good pair of socks.” Parents these days can be relied on for the socks, but as any parent will tell you, they can’t nurture a student who is away from home the way that they did when their child slept under their roof. **Thankfully, a host of people at Covenant step in daily to ensure that students get three square meals a day, a comfortable place to rest their heads at night, and plenty of spaces in which to study, learn, and cultivate friendships.** And the people who provide all of this? Well, they are the ones who work tirelessly and selflessly behind the scenes to keep Covenant running.

COVENANT DINING

UNLIKE MANY COLLEGES, Covenant doesn’t sit near a busy street with fast-food restaurants a few blocks away in either direction. As any student will tell you, a craving for chicken nuggets or ice cream takes time, planning, and gas money to satisfy if you’re going to head off campus. Better than easy access to fast food, however, is the Great Hall: the grand dining hall in Carter in which students, faculty, and staff can gather for breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day that students are on campus.

To keep the Great Hall running smoothly is no easy feat for an institution that can only be reached by driving up one of the long, winding roads coming up either the Tennessee or Georgia side of Lookout Mountain. There have been some dicey moments when trucks delivering food and supplies got stuck because of snow and ice.

Sometimes, truck drivers knew better than to attempt the ascent up the mountain. Dining services employees have gone all the way to the mountain’s base in their own cars to bring everything up, and they have slipped and slid down the hill behind Carter to do the same. Because of this dedication, they’ve never had to cancel a meal.

On regular days with no wintry weather, the Great Hall hosts about 300 people at breakfast, 650 at lunch, and 650 at dinner. That means that every day there are over 13,000 customer-used pieces of dishes and cutlery to wash. And every week a fairly staggering amount of food is consumed: 500 cookies are baked each day, 1,000 bagels are eaten every week, 700 burgers can disappear at a single meal, and the salad bar is replenished eight times every lunch and dinner. Favorite dressing? Ranch. The dining hall goes through 25 gallons of it in a week!

At breakfast and lunch each weekday, diners are greeted by the same smiling face: that of Sheila Blalock who presides over the swipe machine and cash register. Now in her sixth year at Covenant, she makes a point of welcoming people by name as they come in. Not long ago, a mother stopped by to thank her, saying her daughter told her, “I knew I was going to make it [at Covenant] when Miss Sheila knew my name.”

FACILITIES

While dining services is washing thousands of dishes and baking hundreds of cookies, the facilities staff is ensuring that there’s heat and air conditioning, electricity, and working plumbing in every building on campus—the things that most people don’t think about until they break down. At Covenant, there are over 500,000 square feet of building



“
I knew I was going to
make it [at Covenant] when
Miss Sheila knew my name.”

spaces to maintain, plus athletic fields, rolling (and sometimes steep!) green lawns, flower beds, parking lots, and walking paths. It takes 27 full-time employees plus anywhere from 90 to 120 work-study students to get the work done; and sometimes, Corey Dupree, director of facilities management, says “We’re pulling off miracles,” especially when there are multiple events to set up in a row. The busiest time of year? Mid-August to mid-October and every holiday break. Both routine and major renovation work is easiest to accomplish when students are back home, so the facilities staff shifts into high gear when everyone else is getting a break.

This year, some facilities staff members sacrificed part of their Christmas Day holiday to attend to urgent campus needs when, as temperatures hovered around zero, a pipe burst in the attic of the Maclellan residence hall. Water began seeping through each floor all the way to the ground level, and the clean-up needed was significant. Staff members left holiday dinners and gift-opening to travel back to campus and get to work. Staff also spring into action, no matter the day or time, when any number of other small “disasters” occur, such as when playful roughhousing in a residence hall accidentally hits a sprinkler and starts an indoor rain shower or a tiny

fire is ignited in a microwave set with too long a cooking time.

Ask a facilities staff member how they feel about their work, and they’ll tell you that they are glad to be serving the campus community. Founders Hall building services coordinator Lily Payne says she thinks about the dorm she’s in charge of the way that she thinks about her home. The dorm is bigger, to be sure. Every day she has to make certain that 14 communal bathrooms are cleaned, floors are vacuumed, and furniture in the lounge areas restored to their proper places after study breaks or hall events. But, she tells herself as she goes about her work, “I’m serving students,” and she wants their home to be a healthy and comfortable environment with germs scrubbed away and everything tidy and in order.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

When students think of the safety and security team, they probably think of parking tickets. But the eight-member team does far more than patrol the campus and see whether parked cars have the correct permit. Working eight to twelve hour shifts, team members routinely jump car batteries, help change tires, and even drive students to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions. They shuttle students each night of the week from remote parking areas back to campus and host a women’s self-

defense class each semester. During the pandemic, they took on the responsibility of delivering meals three times a day to quarantined students.

They also take their job of watching over the entire campus very seriously. Each team member walks about six to seven miles per shift—no small feat considering that one foot patrol through and around the buildings at Covenant is the equivalent of climbing a 15-story building due to the change in elevation from the lowest to the highest point on campus. They also check hundreds of doors nightly and facilitate a few thousand electronic door entries and exits each day. About 300 miles are added to the safety and security vehicle each week as it circles regularly around the campus, and two members of the team are trained paramedics. They do their utmost, in other words, to be ready for any safety or security need at Covenant.

HERE’S TO THE KEEPERS OF THE CAMPUS HOME

As any homemaker can attest, making a house into a warm and welcoming shelter takes time, devotion, and a generous amount of elbow grease. One of the great blessings that the Covenant community enjoys is having so many servant-hearted people working diligently behind the scenes. They do more than keep Covenant running—they make the school a home. 🏡





Students enjoy a challenging workout using new, custom, Scots-branded gym equipment. At the beginning of the spring semester, the athletics department revealed new and improved weight room facilities, complete with new athletic rubber flooring, multiple sets of custom rubber dumbbells, rubber plates, and six new power racks. Thanks to donor contributions, the renovations to the weight room are part of ongoing concerted efforts to improve the shared living spaces on campus, enhancing the daily experience of students, faculty, and staff alike. A resource for improving physical and mental health, the new weight room serves those on campus as well as our local community.



Passing

“

Dr. Halvorson’s credentials as a scholar, president, leader, fundraiser, and a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ make him the ideal candidate to be the first Director of the Brock-Barnes Center for Leadership.”

Craig Wood

Chairman of the Covenant College Board of Trustees

the Mace

By Jennifer West

SOMETIMES WHAT WE LOVE at 17 we later grow less fond of. Tastes change, or new loves supplant the old. For President Derek Halvorson, what he cherished at 17 about the college when he was a freshman has remained in his heart and only grown larger in his estimation. As he steps down from his position as Covenant’s president after 11 years, he makes clear that his love for the college has only deepened. “Serving Covenant College as its president is one of the greatest honors and privileges of my life,” he wrote when he announced his resignation. “After Jesus Christ and His church, my family, and my closest friends (whom I met at Covenant), I could not love any person or institution more.”

He is stepping down at the end of June not to leave the school, but to transition to a new position as the founding director of Covenant’s new Brock-Barnes Center for Leadership. When the announcement was made in January, Craig Wood, chairman of the Covenant College Board of Trustees, noted that “Dr. Halvorson’s credentials as a scholar, president, leader, fundraiser, and a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ make him the ideal candidate to be the first Director of the Brock-Barnes Center for Leadership.” He is passing the presidential mace to a new leader but continuing to give his whole-hearted support to the ongoing mission of the college.

Covenant’s First Alum President

Dr. Halvorson first visited Covenant as a sixteen-year-old, enrolling a year later. He majored in history, played on the soccer team all four years (two of them with his brother, Hans), and like so many other Covenant students before and since, developed deep friendships with hallmates—friendships that did not diminish after graduation in 1993, but continue to this day.

When interviewed at the beginning of his presidency, Dr. Halvorson was asked how his Covenant education changed him. “My Covenant education changed me in a lot of



This page: Halvorson and Dr. Frank Brock at Halvorson's inauguration

Next page, from top-left clockwise: Halvorson's 1990 yearbook photo; Joel Belz announces Halvorson as next president; Halvorson during the renovation of Carter Hall in 2016; Halvorson at the dedication of Lucas Art Workshop; Halvorson with college friends in 1990

“
The
students know
Dr. Halvorson,
and he knows
them. And they
universally
love him.”

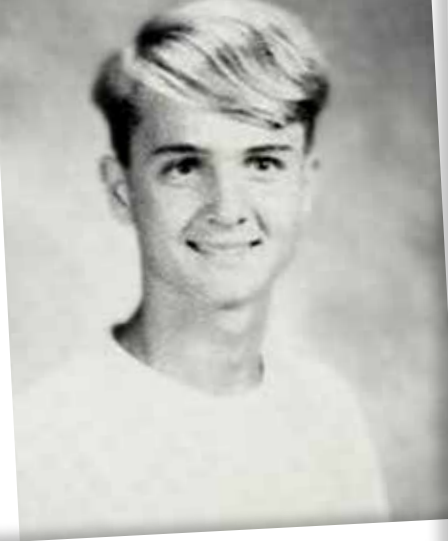
Dr. Scott Quatro
Chair of the Business Department

ways,” he said. “It humbled me. It made me a better thinker and communicator. It taught me to connect my faith with my discipline. It instilled in me an alternative definition of success. It helped me develop a greater appreciation for the body of Christ.”

Dr. Frank Brock, Covenant's fourth president, remembers Derek's time as a student. “He was in the Maclellan Scholar class, The Character of Leadership, that Nick Barker and I taught. Our administration was so grateful for [that] program and so pleased that Derek chose Covenant.”

Reflecting near the end of his tenure on what it was like to serve as Covenant's first alum president, Dr. Halvorson acknowledged the burden he carried throughout his tenure because of the debt of gratitude he felt for Covenant. “I've always felt that I could never give back to Covenant what it gave to me.” As a former student, however, he also relished getting to interact with current students and hearing about what their life at Covenant was like. He has found their joy and curiosity to be infectious and continuously marvels at how much he learns from them about how to live faithfully as followers of Christ.

The students, in turn, have counted it a blessing to have a president with such a great love for the school they call home. Senior



Jon Schimpf, the 2022-2023 student body president, remembers a special moment from his first months at Covenant when Dr. Halvorson sat down at his table to eat with him and other freshmen in the Great Hall. “To me, that demonstrated the reason he chose to stay in this position for so many years: he is truly passionate about college students.” Dr. Scott Quatro, chair of the business department, succinctly describes the warm relationship between President Halvorson and Covenant students: “The students know Dr. Halvorson, and he knows them. And they universally love him.”

Dr. Halvorson’s own experience of the close-knit community at Covenant and, in particular, hall life, also made it possible for him to anticipate—and deeply understand—the impact of one of the toughest decisions of his presidency: having to send everyone home in the early days of the pandemic. He

knew how much he would have grieved as a student if he had suddenly had to part from his best friends and his hall community.

Unwavering Support for the Mission of the College

In his inaugural address, Dr. Halvorson shared the story of when he told his wife, Wendy, that he wanted to quit his job working as a foreign currency trader for one of the nation’s largest banks to go to graduate school to study medieval history. She responded gently, he said, but “with a good degree of concern.” Reassured that he wasn’t about to start dressing up in armor, but instead had in mind a life in a tweed jacket with elbow patches, a pipe, and occasional research trips to London and Paris, she agreed to embark with him on a new life in the world of scholarship.

Dr. Halvorson first earned an M.A. from the University of Arizona, studying under

Reformation historian Heiko A. Oberman, and then completed a Ph.D. in history from Loyola University Chicago. His primary field of study was late medieval and early modern Europe, with a minor concentration in ancient Greece and Rome.

After working at Covenant from 2003-2009 as director of constituent relations and then as a regional director of development, he accepted an offer to serve as president of Providence Christian College, now located in Pasadena, California. After three years there, he and Wendy, along with their children, Banks and Whit, joyfully returned to Lookout Mountain and the community of Covenant College.

Trained as an historian, he stepped into his role as president with a love for “old things,” holding dear a kind of education that these days is often considered old-fashioned or behind the times. He has never wavered in his commitment to the transformational



I don't think I know anyone who has been a bigger fan of Covenant College and its faculty than Derek Halvorson...Not only has he been unwaveringly enthusiastic about the academic project and his support for our part in it, but he understands the nuance of what we do here."

Dr. Sarah Huffines

Associate Professor of English

experience that a Covenant education offers, where students live and work together in community with Christian scholars who welcome questions and are eager to bring a biblical frame of reference to every aspect of life, a place where everyone strives to make known the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things.

Chaplain Grant Lowe has said that, among other things, what he has most appreciated about Dr. Halvorson is his deep conviction about the mission of Covenant and his concerted efforts at every level to maintain missional fidelity. At the March meeting of Covenant's board of trustees, faculty moderator Dr. Sarah Huffines remarked, "I don't think I know anyone who has been a bigger fan of Covenant College and its faculty than Derek Halvorson." She added, "Not only has he been unwaveringly enthusiastic about the academic project and his support for our part in it, but he understands the nuance of what we do here."

Faithfulness

When asked which Bible verses had been especially meaningful to him during his tenure, President Halvorson mentioned both Romans 12:1-2, with its call to sacrificial living and the renewal of the mind, and Philippians 4:6-7, with its reminder to not be anxious about anything. These were some of the verses that guided him in the midst of the work he was called to do. They were also verses that pointed him to the ever-faithful God whose mercies would supply both his and the college's needs.

With God's help, Dr. Halvorson faced all of the normal (and not insignificant) challenges of leading a small Christian college in the 21st century. He supported and oversaw the repairs and renovations needed on a college campus perched on a windy mountaintop blanketed with fog whenever it rains. The single largest capital project in the college's history, the historic renovation of the

exterior of Carter Hall (first built in 1928), took place during his presidency. There was also the day when Dr. Halvorson was told that the Art Barn, which, like Carter Hall, dated back to the 1920s, was "no longer habitable." Millions of dollars had been raised for the Carter Hall renovation; however, no additional funds were waiting to be used for the construction of a completely new building. Thanks to the generosity of Linda and David Lucas and the tireless efforts of a multitude of Covenant staff and faculty, the beautiful Lucas Art Workshop was dedicated on March 17, 2016, a year and a half before Carter Hall was rededicated in October 2017.

Dr. Halvorson also led the school during a time of tremendous upheaval. He has been the president of Covenant during the years of the global pandemic and in the midst of the bitter factionalism that has come to characterize American political and social

Q+A

WITH
PRESIDENT
HALVORSON

We asked President Halvorson for a final roundup before his transition to a new role. Here's what he'll always remember and what he's excited about for the future.

FAVORITE TIME OF DAY AT COVENANT

Sunrise. Like everyone, I've taken countless pictures of the sunrise from the Overlook.

FAVORITE CAMPUS EVENT

Convocation

FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR AT COVENANT

Fall, because it combines the energy of a new semester with the beginning of the soccer season and the change of colors on the mountain.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS

The Great Hall

FAVORITE FOOD IN THE GREAT HALL

Pizza!

FAVORITE OR MOST MEMORABLE PLAY/MUSICAL/CONCERT DURING YOUR TENURE

Honk! (the musical adaptation of the story of the Ugly Duckling) and The Crucible

MOST MEMORABLE ATHLETIC EVENT

2021 USA South Men's Soccer Championship. Covenant won in penalty kicks against North Carolina Wesleyan (the game was in NC) after losing in penalty kicks the previous two years on our home field. I jumped the fence at the end of the game to run onto the field.

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT COVENANT'S FUTURE

I get excited when I think about our new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Collin Messer, our new faculty who started this year, and our recent faculty hires who will start in August. Covenant is well-equipped to carry on its mission.

GREATEST LESSON YOU LEARNED DURING YOUR TENURE

God is faithful.

YOUR DEEPEST PRAYER FOR COVENANT

That we would be faithful.

THE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE ANY NEW STUDENT AT COVENANT

Get to know the faculty members here and pursue relationships with them. The character and quality of Covenant's faculty is amazing.



life. For the last part of Dr. Halvorson's tenure, little was untouched by one or the other or both. As Dr. Collin Messer, Covenant's vice president for academic affairs, recently noted, the last ten years have been "the most challenging decade in higher education." Dr. Messer was the parent of a Covenant student when he first got to know President Halvorson and was impressed with (and grateful for) how he and his team navigated the pandemic. Now a colleague, he says that he and the rest of the cabinet appreciate how Dr. Halvorson has guarded the college and kept it faithful to its mission "with grace and joy."

Dr. John Wingard, the dean of humanities, is similarly grateful, noting that Dr. Halvorson "has steered the ship with a steady hand and a trust in God's providential care for us that has been stabilizing for our community, in my judgment." He adds that,

"While a number of Christian colleges have shipwrecked in recent years, by God's grace we have not, and Derek's steadfastness at the helm has been a crucial instrument in God's hand to prevent that from happening."

President Halvorson would point not to his own faithfulness but to God's. When asked to name the greatest lesson he learned during his tenure, he immediately said, "God is faithful." He has seen needs met again and again and has had the great joy of traveling the country and hearing how God is using Covenant alumni in every avenue of life to glorify Him and further His kingdom. As his tenure draws to a close, Dr. Halvorson still brims with enthusiasm for Covenant's mission of exploring and expressing the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things. "What we are doing here is amazing," he says. "It is so important for the church and the world." 🙏

Spiritual Formation

Seas & Sorrows

By Josiah Caprine '25

FOUR YEARS BEFORE I arrived at Covenant, I was preparing for my first patrol on a 378-foot Coast Guard cutter in the Bering Sea.

All to say, I am not your typical Covenant student. I did four years in the Coast Guard right out of high school as a kid who barely knew how to shave my peach fuzz. The Coast Guard was where I first heard about the PCA, but more importantly it was where the Lord took my heart from the “do-re-mi” of “Jesus Loves Me” to the “jazz” of Jesus *loves* me. And anyone who has been around Jesus for a while knows the incredible simplicity and vast depth of his love. I entered the Coast Guard as a deeply insecure boy and completed my duty in April 2021 as a man who found great strength in my weakness.

These crucial milestones shaped much of my faith today:

- › Going to bootcamp as a seventeen-year-old kid where I was introduced to a world of chaos and brokenness
- › Getting assigned to a cutter stationed out of Seattle, Washington
- › Coming face to face with the reality of sin and suffering—the darkest season of depression in my life where I became entrenched in pornography, soul-searing doubt about God, and body image issues
- › Becoming a damage controlman in Yorktown, Virginia
- › Meeting believers who showed me the deep correlation between gospel-culture and gospel-doctrine

- › Training in Cape May, New Jersey, to become a firefighter and EMT
- › Grappling for the first time with seeing someone die, and having the opportunity to rub shoulders with unbelievers in a way that deeply shaped my faith
- › Becoming a member of a Baptist church full of honest, steadfast, and repentant believers who created an environment where I was able to be honest and open

“I am not your typical Covenant student. I did four years in the Coast Guard right out of high school...”

Thinking back, what sticks with me most was the experience of the bilge. The bilge on ship was terribly gross and dirty; yet what made life in the Coast Guard harder than ever was the loneliness. There was a “bilge” in my own life which produced much suffering, both physically and spiritually. I was taxed in a way that caused me to *feel* desperate and utterly alone in the universe with no *true* companion to saving grace. But I wouldn’t trade those experiences for anything. I love theology and prayer books, yet nothing has taught me theology or prayer like the bilge. The Lord caused my heart to come alive to Scripture.

I learned that you don’t need to go far to find the bilge of life. It came home with me. I still struggled with a deep sense of feeling lost and lonely. Yet as a believer, I have tasted how death or sin will never have the last word. We live for Christ. And in His resurrection we find resurrection. It is a joy to realize that life is not all about me; it is about Him. It is the most beautiful thing in the world to live in the glorious, magnificent story of the One who has entered the darkest nights of our bilge.

One of the beauties of the Christian life is that the hard times are all redeemable in the hands of the Good Shepherd. I often find myself wrestling with doubt and sin, but I have learned to say sooner: Lord, help! In the last six years, I’ve learned to cultivate an open heart to the Lord, even when that involves doubts. I have been so blessed to be in the Covenant community. I have asked myself many times, who am I to sit one on one with Dr. Wingard for a weekly breakfast? Or sit under Dr. Macallister’s lectures? Who am I to enjoy people who come from so many different backgrounds? My time in the Coast Guard has shaped my approach to learning at Covenant. And Covenant has helped me connect many of the dots between my head and heart. I wouldn’t trade my time in the Coast Guard for anything. It is where the Lord took me out to sea to remind me that I will never be lost in his grip; I will always have a Good Shepherd leading me and guiding me. 🙏

The Art of Looking

AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART in New York, there's one painting where I consistently find myself in danger of stepping a bit too close and setting off the automatic alarm.

The work is *A Vase of Flowers*, painted by the Dutch artist Margareta Haverman in 1716. As the title suggests, the panel depicts a tumbling bouquet of flowers tucked into a stone niche alongside bunches of grapes and a single apple. Everything is rendered with scientific precision, from the ruffled petals of a hollyhock, to the serrated edges of a poppy leaf and the iridescent exoskeleton of a fly perched on a striped tulip. Haverman invites us to pay attention to the minutia, to delight in the tiniest details of the world we inhabit.

But sadly, this act of close looking is a rarity in most of our daily lives.

We live in a culture saturated with images. Every day we are inundated with advertisements, news photographs, memes, cat videos, and social media content. You might think that, given all this practice, we should have a high rate of visual literacy. And yet, numerous studies have shown that even when we go to an art museum, we spend very little time encountering the art itself and far more time reading wall labels or snapping photos.

As an art history professor, I certainly want my students to be able to identify a sculpture from the Italian Baroque era or know why Claude Monet's landscapes are so different from his predecessors. But ultimately, my goal is to equip students with the tools to look faithfully at the world around them. And as beloved children of God who work from His abundance, our viewing can be a redemptive act.

Redeeming vision requires certain commitments. First, it means that we take the material world seriously. Rather than skipping straight to whether or not we like an artwork or image, we choose to look closely. "What do you see?" I ask my students. "How does the artist use line to make a balanced composition? How does she create emphasis through light and dark value? How does the texture of the material coalesce into a visual rhythm?" And then, we can ask questions about the artwork and artist in their own context, learning about cultural limitations, motivations, and desires. Who was the work made for? How was it made? And so on. We give our attention to the object itself, knowing that the God who called the universe "good" has formed us to engage the matter He has made.

Second, we seek to look from a position of love. Images do not only reflect cultural values, they also shape them. Sometimes this can seem innocuous: Margareta Haverman's *A Vase of Flowers* asks me to give my attention to beautiful flowers. But other images—like Paul



By Dr. Elissa Weichbrodt '04, Associate Professor of Art

Revere's engraving of the Boston Massacre—can teach me to draw artificial, dehumanizing boundaries between myself and others. If we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbors as ourselves, then we must be attentive not just to what images look like, but who and what they are teaching us to love.

Finally, our engagement with art and visual culture should be characterized by humility and an openness to transformation. Aware of both our finitude and our ongoing need for sanctification, we can ask the Holy Spirit to use artworks to help us grow in our love for God and our neighbor. Art can direct us to praise God for His goodness, but it can also show us our need for confession, lament, or compassion. Art can help us tell more truthful stories about ourselves and our neighbor. Art can shake us from our stupor and help us imagine new possibilities.

Looking redemptively means that Margareta Haverman's *A Vase of Flowers* is neither simply a pretty picture or an illustration of a Dutch Protestant worldview. Instead, we can welcome it as an invitation to slow down and look closely at blossoms, insects, and fruits. We can ask questions about Dutch Golden Age floral paintings and marvel when we learn that Haverman's lifelike bouquet is an impossible fiction of flowers that don't all bloom at the same time. Haverman lets us know that the painting is not merely a copy, but something crafted with imagination and skill. And we, in turn, can respond with fresh praise and eager hands, heartened by this reminder that the God of the universe both meets us in the details and blesses His image bearers with the capacity to be makers ourselves.

When we look in this way, our viewing becomes more than consumption or critique. Instead, we join in growing something new. 🌱

Boldly Moving Forward In Faith

A TIME OF TRANSITION can be viewed as a time to hunker down and maintain the status quo. Particularly for a missional school, the temptation is to enter “preserve and defend” mode and simply care-take until the transition is over. However, with the enthusiastic support of the board, the cabinet has chosen to instead take bold steps to move strategically forward. Throughout the pandemic, we discovered we could innovate as needed while still offering our distinctive education. We now want to take responsible risks to strengthen the foundation so well-laid in the past. In a rapidly changing world, we must continue to explore what will best enable students today and in the future to “engage culture and cultures, to examine and unfold creation, and to pursue biblical justice and mercy in community.” The mission of Covenant College remains unchanged, but mission faithfulness does not have to mean method faithfulness.

To that end, we have created a two-year strategic plan aimed at leaning forward as a college and, with eagerness and hope, taking steps that include:

- › Launching a comprehensive campaign to invest in academic programs that will meet market needs and drive enrollment. Plans are in place to update and modernize some of our academic spaces to support these program offerings. While the underlying goals of our academic program will remain the same, a renewed expression of that program is underway with a comprehensive review and revision of our core curriculum. This review seeks to find the best ways of continuing to provide a durable foundation for all Covenant students as they enter their varied callings upon graduation and live in an increasingly complex and volatile culture.
- › Improving financial sustainability through enrollment by refocusing our emphasis on a relational recruiting model. We will give special attention to populations that will most value our theologically coherent,

academically holistic, and community-driven residential model for education.

- › Remaining steadfastly committed to Covenant’s rich and durable practices of formation that best take place through relationships in shared spaces. We recognize that where students live, work, and recreate is where learning is applied and amplified. We are excited to begin making improvements to existing academic, residential, and recreational spaces as well as creating new spaces that reflect our commitment to an excellent, embodied education.

- › Finally, and as a move that will have immediate impact, purchasing a Coursera license through which all students and alumni will have free unlimited access to



By Brad Voyles, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students, Interim President

career-based certificates in areas such as data science and marketing analytics. These micro-credentials will supplement their Covenant liberal arts education with the new languages of many modern workplaces. These resources will further enhance what Covenant already offers, giving our students and alums new skills to add to their resumes, skills that will enable them to flourish in their callings and make them even more attractive to prospective employers.

What happens atop Lookout Mountain is not just the mere transmitting of information, but a transformation of the whole student. The work done on the campus has far-reaching and eternal

significance. As kingdom outposts in all areas of society, our graduates courageously engage the world as they serve in churches and homes, in schools and neighborhoods, in world and home missions, in leadership and service, in politics and community engagement, and in business, education, industry, and innovation.

Embedded in the mission of Covenant College is the word “offer.” We *offer* the world biblically grounded men and women equipped to live out extraordinary callings in ordinary places. At our very heart, Covenant College is a sending agency. Through our uncompromising commitment to both biblical faithfulness and academic excellence, we send into the world biblically-rooted, vocationally-agile, and expertly-trained Christ-followers who serve the Kingdom in all their callings.

The faithful generosity of our alumni and friends has made it possible for us to remain committed to our mission and responsive to the needs of a rapidly changing world since 1955. We invite you to join us in this ongoing work that we believe will influence not just this generation, but those in the future as well. We welcome your prayers, your ideas, your prospective student referrals, your generous gifts of financial support, and your personal testimony to those unfamiliar with Covenant about its impact on you and your family.

Our students are the future of the Church. Through your faithful support, Covenant College is equipped to continue sending into the world committed believers who have a love for the Church, a bedrock confidence in the truth of Scripture, and academic training that prepares them for excellence in their respective fields. It is through these graduates that we can see Christ’s Kingdom increasingly coming into focus as they continue the lineage of generations of Covenant graduates who have brought the light of the gospel into workplaces, homes, and communities around the world. 🙏

1960s

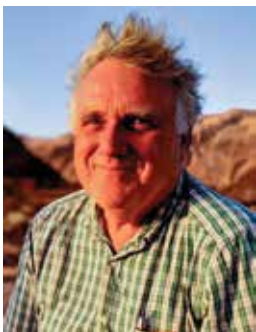


Reverend David Peterson '62, a retired chaplain in the U.S. Army, went to be with the Lord on October 19, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. He had been recently diagnosed

with aggressive bone marrow cancer and passed soon after. His family says, "While David had many significant professional accomplishments, his source of joy was serving God, serving others, and uplifting his family." Please keep in prayers his wife, **Sandra '64**, and his family.

Reverend Dean A. Stortz '66, passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2023. He was the son of the late Lillian C. (Kauffman) and Edward A. Stortz. Dean was the loving husband of Donna L. (Bailey) Stortz, together they shared 52 years of marriage. Dean is survived by his loving wife, Donna, and his sons Stephen E. Stortz (wife Jenny), Andrew L. Stortz, and Eric A. Stortz (wife Lindsay). Also surviving are his eight grandchildren Cynthia, Matthew, Hannah, Sarah, Nathan, Ruth, Barrett, and Rebecca. He is remembered as a faithful and caring husband, father, and pastor.

1970s



Nat Belz '75, departed this life on March 30, 2023 and is now with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Nat was the sixth of Max and Jean Belz's eight children, all of whom attended Covenant. His father,

Max, was one of the founders of the college. As Marvin Olasky wrote on April 4 in *Current* after Nat's death, Nat was "expansive, energetic, and embracing." Nat is survived by his wife of 40 years, journalist Mindy Belz who has spoken on campus several times. Nat and Mindy have 4 children: **Emily '08**, **Drew '10**, **Naomi '14**, and

Sage '17. **Kate (Harrison) Belz '11** is married to Drew, and **Scott Schindler '10** is married to Naomi. Nat and Mindy have three grandchildren.



Current student **MacRae Richardson '26** has a rich Covenant history with both grandparents **Linda (Miller) '71** and **George Hopson '72** and parents **Dana (Hopson)**

'99 and **James Richardson '99** attending and graduating from Covenant College. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness—three generations of Scots!

Jeannette (Shafer)

Brownson '78 went to be with the Lord on October 14, 2022.

She is survived by her husband, Jonathan, her three children, and one grandchild.

She was one of the first four women

to graduate with a business degree from Covenant, and in 2007, founded Brownson Properties, a brokerage and property management company in Holland, Michigan, that supports first time and historically discriminated against home buyers and renters.



Reverend Mark Blair '78 and his wife Dayna have settled into the Hale Kahu (Pastor's House) of Kalahikiola Church in Kapa'au, Hawaii. They have paired with the organization IDEAS (International Development and Educational Associates): Meeting Needs and Transforming Lives. They thank all for the prayers and support.

Dr. Jim Drexler '79

presented several virtual workshops for Christian educators in Asia on the topics of learning theories, framework for biblical education, and curriculum.



1980s



Dr. Rebecca Pennington '82 presented at the Christian Deeper Learning Conference on March 9-10, 2023, in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Her topics were *What's the Big Idea? Teaching*

for Understanding Across the Curriculum and *Grading Games: Which Game? Whose Rules?* Professor Emeritus Donovan Graham also presented.

Terri (Stevens) '82 and **Phillip Ray '80** live in Abbeville, South Carolina, where Phillip has spent the past 42+ years working in the criminal justice field, first as a state probation and parole agent for 25 years, then as a program director in the SC 8th Judicial Circuit Prosecutor's Office for eight years, and, currently, as a summary court judge for the past nine years. Terri has enjoyed a long career as a music and piano teacher and is currently serving as music teacher and choir director in a local Christian school and as a private piano teacher with close to 50 piano students. She has also taught violin, guitar, and ukulele.

Wendell McKinney Jr. '84 passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on September 5, 2022. His family says, "Neal was a child of God. His faith was personal and real, and he had the opportunity to test it in his cancer journey." Please keep in prayers his wife, **Jannice (Brewer) '85** and family.

Timothy K Smith '86 died from colon cancer in November 2022. He graduated from Covenant with a major in history. He leaves behind his wife, Cynthia, his son Jonathan, his daughter Kathryn Altman, and his granddaughter Eloise

Althman. For most of his working life, he was a radiologic technologist at the National Institute of Health and at the VA in St. Louis, Missouri. He was also a military veteran, serving in the Army Reserves for 30 years.

Paul Davis '87 serves as an elder at Grace United Reformed Church in Kennewick, Washington, and continues to enjoy his work as a senior government contracts attorney for the U.S. Department of Energy. He recently took on a side career as a professional actor, playing Captain von Trapp in the Leavenworth Summer Theatre Company's 2022 production of *The Sound of Music*. Paul's wife Tonya is a neonatal intensive care nurse with a side career of her own, growing and marketing flowers. Together, they have four adult daughters.

1990s

Gregory Baus '96 is currently co-hosting a podcast on [ReformedLibertarians.com](https://www.reformedlibertarians.com).

2000s



Karen (Richter) '00 and Albert Leavengood '98 and their kids Kathryn and Andrew live on Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. Karen stays busy at home but also serves her community

by investing her time in her kids' school (Chattanooga Christian School), serving on the Women's Leadership Team at their church (Chattanooga Valley PCA), and was recently elected to serve as commissioner of education for Lookout Mountain. Karen also loves working with the development office of Covenant on a contract basis organizing development events and homecoming.

Jim Knox '01 and his wife Jenny along with their three boys moved back to the States from Uganda in November 2022. They will be living and working in Columbus, Ohio, for the next year as they seek the Lord's direction for what is next for their lives. By God's grace, Jim already has a job working with Central Ohio Primary

closerLook

From Philosophy to Finance

By Jennifer West

Two years into her time at Covenant, **Beth (Anderson) Nedelisky '03** decided to switch majors. She had started out in pre-med; however, after taking bioethics with philosophy professor **Dr. Bill Davis '82**, she immediately called her parents, missionaries in the Czech Republic, to tell them she wanted to major in philosophy. She fell in love with a fellow philosophy major, **Paul Nedelisky '03**, who later became her husband. Marketability was never their rationale for choosing philosophy as their major, and they have no regrets.

Two years after college, the Nedeliskys moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, so that Paul could begin his doctorate in philosophy at UVA. Their first Sunday in Charlottesville, they worshiped at Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA), the church they still call home. After the service, a man introduced himself and Beth mentioned that she was looking for a job.

In God's providence, the man seated in their row needed someone to help him write a weekly column to send to clients of Marotta, a wealth management firm. Beth knew almost nothing about wealth management, but thanks to her education at Covenant, she felt confident that she could think critically and communicate clearly on a subject she could learn.

Today she is a wealth manager and an investment committee member at Marotta. She loves numbers and analysis, and more importantly, has felt 100% certain that God could be glorified through her work. She remembers what she learned at Covenant in Dr. Dan MacDougall's Bible class: that one's value doesn't come from accomplishments.



The Christian's calling is to glorify God, and for her, that calling has been lived out in the financial industry.

Looking back over her life, she is overwhelmed by God's kindness and marvels at how He has orchestrated things for her good. The circumstances in which she has found herself over the years have not seemed random, and this reminds her of something else she learned at Covenant. She says that it took her years to put her finger on what she appreciates most about her education. But she finally realized that the opportunity to study amongst professors who understood the unity of all knowledge taught her that everything is connected, all flowing out of God's magnificent creation. When she was a student, she sensed the wonder of getting to learn from people who explored and highlighted the connections, but now she more fully understands and feels deeply grateful for what she experienced. It's why she has wanted to give back as much as possible to the college, currently serving as a board trustee advisor. She's also eager for the day when her own daughters can have the same incredible opportunity. "They could go to any university and be set up for a career," she says, "but they could go to Covenant and have that and so much more." Going to Covenant, she adds, would prepare them "for a lifetime of loving God and loving neighbor."



Care while Jenny will continue to homeschool the boys. They praise the Lord as they will be able to worship again with their home church, Grace OPC in Columbus.



Jade Alger '02 and his wife Jana, a native of Slovakia, will be working for TWR in Bratislava, Slovakia. Jade will write and edit media publications, and Jana will help coordinate ministry

programs in Central and Eastern Europe. They also plan to open up their home and use Jade's musical talents to connect with locals.



Dr. Lindsey Fain '05 MEd '10, Covenant's associate dean of the Graduate School of Education, successfully defended her dissertation on December 10, 2022, and received her

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. Lindsey earned her BA and MEd from Covenant and has been associate dean since 2018.

Stephanie (White) Seep '08 will be celebrating her tenth wedding anniversary with her husband Jeremy this fall, and they have three-year-old twins. After graduating from Covenant, Stephanie worked for a professional theater company for two years and then worked in youth ministry at a PCA church for six years. She has spent the past seven years ministering to refugees in Austria, where she is currently co-leading her team. They have a ministry center located a five minute walk from the

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largest refugee camp in Austria, and 90% of the refugees they serve come from a Muslim background. Please keep Stephanie and her ministry in your prayers.

2010s



Anna Bacheldor '11 married Dr. Matt Smith (Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte) on February 18, 2023, in Anna's hometown of Winter Haven, Florida. Anna plans on continuing her work as the office

administrator and children's ministry director at her church, Cypress Ridge, while Matt continues his work as a research data scientist for Tabula Rasa Healthcare.



Laurel (Hoffman) '11 and Aaron Janklow welcomed their first child, Lyla Jane Janklow, on October 27, 2022. The family is so thankful for the gift God has given them.

Josh Byerly '13 went to be with the Lord September 14, 2022. His Celebration of Life was held on October 8, 2022. Please keep his family in your prayers. If you feel led, his mother, Linda Byerly, would treasure any cards or expressions of sympathy. Contact the alumni office to get in touch with Linda.

Mary Frances (Roberts) Behrendt '12 and her husband

Ben welcomed their third child, Luke Edmund, on October 25. They will be moving to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and then to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Ben ministers to soldiers in the US Army as a chaplain while Mary Frances volunteers with military families.



Konrad Bennett '12 and his wife Andrea welcomed into the world their first son, Mateo, in September 2022. Konrad was promoted to the rank of captain in the US Air Force in November 2022. He is a security forces officer stationed in San Antonio, where he trains Latin American military and National Police.



Karen (VanderHart) '14 and Tommy McElrath '10

welcomed twin girls, Fern and Tavish, in January 2022. Tommy is the insect collections manager at the Illinois Natural History Survey in

Urbana, Illinois. Karen works remotely as the sales operations manager for Ceretax, Inc.

Shea McLaughlin '15

got married to Raúl Andino in 2018. They recently welcomed their first child, Eleni Faye Andino, on November 29, 2022.



Kayla (Mitchell) '15 and Stephen Dillon '15

returned to campus in Fall 2019. Stephen serves as the RD of Carter Hall, while Kayla serves as a student success coach, working in academic counseling and accommodations. They and their four-year-old son Jay recently welcomed baby girl Ari, born in late September. Her favorite thing is to take lots of naps, so she fits in great with the students on campus! Stephen and Kayla have loved being back at Covenant.



Megan (Tures) '16 and Johnny Codington '16

welcomed their baby girl, Parker Rebecca Codington on October 8, 2022. She was 6 pounds, 2 ounces, and 18.5 inches. All are well!

Thomas Buiter '16 recently moved to Anderson, South Carolina, and is an assistant pastor at New Covenant Church in Anderson. He and his wife, Lindey, welcomed their second child, Jude Evert, in February 2023.

Ellie Groenendyk '16 married Brady Buck on September 3, 2022 at the Country Club of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The wedding party included **Jake Groenendyk '14, Jessan Groenendyk '18, and Hannah Groenendyk '21**. They plan to continue living in Sioux Falls while spending most weekends at their family farm near Bryant, South Dakota. Brady is a South Dakota native and an engineer with a degree from South Dakota State University. Ellie works in HR for Raven Industries, volunteers annually for the Sioux Empire United Way as a part of their campaign, and is an active member in the Sioux Falls Young Professionals Network.

Michael Fuller '17 passed away on January 18, 2023. Please lift up Michael's family and friends in your prayers.



Megan (Gienapp) '17 and Daniel Lloyd '16 welcomed twin girls, Piper Letha and Olivia Collyn, into their family on May 16, 2022. The family is overjoyed to have these two healthy and growing girls in their lives!



Zoë Knight '17 is getting married to **Nick Dabbs '16** on July 1, 2023. They are currently living in Charlotte, North Carolina, and plan to stay there after their wedding. Zoë teaches 8th grade Bible and English

at Westminster Catawba Christian School. Nick works in human resources for a small construction company.

Victoria Yang '17 passed away on March 25, 2023. Please lift up Victoria's family and friends in your prayers.

Amaris Capen '18 got married on November 5, 2022, on the East side of Oahu in Kāne'ohe, her home island. Her husband, Andrew, grew up on the island of Kaua'i and graduated from Whitworth University in 2020. The couple lives and works in Eastern Washington, Amaris as a trauma nurse and Andrew as a SDET.



closerLook

Showing Christ-like Compassion as a Physical Therapist

By Jennifer West

Matt Annessi '08 came to Covenant feeling pretty certain he wanted to be a physical therapist. He was interested in healthcare and wanted whatever he did to allow him to spend as much time as possible with patients. He knew that physical therapists usually spend more concentrated time with patients than almost any other kind of healthcare provider, helping people gain as much mobility and independence as possible. He felt drawn to that kind of compassionate and restorative healthcare.

At Covenant, he found encouragement and great preparation. Biology professor Dr. Richard Nelson introduced him to the wealth of information available in major research articles and taught him how to carefully digest what he read. It's a skill he's continued to use. He was also able to do observation hours with a physical therapist and wrote his SIP (Senior Integration Paper, now called Capstone) on the different treatments that physical therapists offer for those with Parkinson's disease. He majored in natural science with a concentration in pre-physical therapy and then headed to Emory University to get his doctor of physical therapy degree.

Having now worked as a physical therapist for twelve years at Siskin Hospital in Chattanooga, he looks back to his time at Covenant as foundational in other ways as well. "There is," he says, "a lot of anxiety in healthcare." He specializes in neurological physical therapy. "It can be really hard," he admits, "helping people cope with hard



Matt Annessi '08, Laura (McCaleb) '08, Catherine, Caleb, and Kinley.

situations." He thinks back to what he learned in his Christian Mind class, about his "big C" calling and his "little c" calling. His "little c" calling is to serve Christ by being a really good physical therapist, helping fellow image bearers who are hurting deeply in various ways. The needs of the patients at Siskin are substantial, and progress is often slow. It could easily be overwhelming to spend so much time with patients who have so many needs. Matt finds strength in remembering that every person has bigger problems that he cannot solve: problems that must be entrusted to the Lord. He remembers the story of the paralyzed man lowered down through the roof to Jesus, the Great Physician. The man's need for a Savior was greater by far than his need for physical healing. Jesus forgave the man's sins first before giving him the ability to walk.

In October 2021, Matt transitioned into a managerial position at Siskin, now supervising about 55 employees in all. It's a different kind of job that, like other experiences he's had, reminds him how much he needs God. "I've wrestled with being weary," he says. The pandemic took its toll on everyone in healthcare. He has learned to focus on submitting to how God is writing his life. He is also trusting that the offer of rest given to those who are weary and heavy-laden is not just a one-time event for those first placing their trust in Jesus, but, as his pastor reminded his congregation this year, an ongoing promise for all who are in Christ.



Lidia Dunayeva '19 married Hayden Hill on August 13, 2022. Included in the wedding party were maid of honor **Marina Dunayeva '15** and bridesmaids **Michaela Arnold '18**, **Mary Allen '19**, **Megan Auffarth '19**, and **Andie**

(Krispin) Perham '20. They were married in their hometown of Pensacola, Florida, but are now living in New York City where Hayden works in financial tech and Lidia is seeking to work in interior design, a field in which she already has experience. They hope to stay in New York for five years before moving back to Florida to start a family or pursuing what God sees fit.



Chickamauga Battlefield Marathon featured some Covenant alums on November 12, 2022. The half marathon winner was **Zach Plating '16** with an overall time of 1:14:09 and a pace of 5:40. The full marathon winner was **Micaiah Allison '22** with an overall time of 2:42:59 and a pace of 6:14. **Margaret Fitch '18** was 1st place in the female marathon and 11th overall in the full marathon with a time of 3:17:21 and a pace of 7:32. Congratulations to all participants and winners!

2020s



Andie Krispin '20 married Andrew Perham on July 23, 2022. Their wedding party included **Emily (Moore) Paris '21** and **Lidia (Dunayeva) Hill '19**. Andrew graduated from Clemson University in 2018 and is now both a

civil engineer and 1st lieutenant in the United States Air Force. They met when they were living in South Korea in the fall of 2021, Andrew stationed at Osan Air Base and Andie teaching English in Seoul. They have just moved to Ramstein, Germany, as Andrew continues to pursue a career in the military. They look forward to living in and traveling around Europe for the next three years.



Emily Moore '21 and **Henry Paris '18** were married on June 11, 2022. Emily said, "Covenant has, and always will, hold such a special place in our hearts and lives. The lasting Covenant community was truly on display at our wedding which made it all the more fun!" Henry said, "So thankful for God's providence and omniscience. Not only did he weave the tapestry for both Emily and I to join together in this covenantal union, but his goodness was on display yet again when we looked over our shoulders at the altar to see about a dozen former roommates and teammates with his beautiful creation in the background. Many hall traditions were carried on, and oh how sweet and oh how blessed it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."



Dustin Hayes '20 married Emma Driver on December 10, 2022, at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church. They are living in St. Elmo as Dustin continues working in the admissions office at Covenant while pursuing his master's in English at UT-C.



Abigail (Gienapp) '20 and **Hunter Christian '23** were married on October 1, 2022, in Cartersville, Georgia. Among their attendants were **Megan (Gienapp) Lloyd '17**, **Lizzy Hightower '20**, **Anna (Robertson) Dillon '20**, **Bethany (Caudal) Edwards '21**, **Dax Edwards '23**, and **Cullen Gienapp '25**. **Danny Lloyd '16** and **Emmett Gienapp '16** carried the bride's nieces, who served as flower girls.



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The Thrill of Continuity

AS I LOOK BACK on my time in the president's office, it strikes me that the world is a different place now than it was when I returned to Covenant in 2012. At that point, the economy was bouncing back from the '08-'09 recession. There was a sense of optimism around the country on a number of fronts. We had only recently embraced smartphones—you could carry a computer in your pocket!—and social media was a relatively new and friendly curiosity.

Since then, a lot has changed. The middle class did not bounce back from the recession as projected. We have been through some tumultuous political campaigns. We have seen streets filled with protests and same-sex marriage legalized, while federal protection of abortion has been lifted. We have endured a global pandemic, and are still experiencing the fallout from that once-in-a-century event.

A lot has changed on Covenant's campus as well. The exterior of Carter Hall has been restored to its original grandeur. No more fog blowing in through cracks in the windows! Where once the beloved Art Barn stood, we now have the (equally beloved) Lucas Art Workshop. The endowment has almost doubled in size. New academic programs have been launched, even as some existing programs have been sunset. The college has been recognized in US News's list of "National Liberal Arts Colleges"—one of only five members of the CCCU to be listed in that category. The college passed its ten-year reaffirmation with its accreditor, SACS-COC, with no recommendations. Some beloved faculty members have retired (there is no longer anyone in the faculty who had me as a student), and some remarkably gifted new faculty members have joined us. The college's athletic programs moved from NAIA to NCAA D-III and have won multiple conference titles and NCAA tournament bids.

When one counts all of the changes that have taken place in the last eleven years, it can make one's head spin. However, as exciting as change might be, what thrills me most about Covenant College are the things that remain the same. Covenant continues to be that rarest sort of educational institution—one that maintains an uncompromising commitment both to biblical faithfulness and to academic excellence, pursued in the context of an intentional, Christ-centered community. We are a place that takes seriously our shared commitment to Jesus Christ, to the authority of Scripture, to the Church, and to its historic creeds and confessions. We are a community of scholars and students who together engage in a relentless pursuit of the truth, assured of the reality that all truth is God's truth, whether discovered in the pages of Scripture, in the lab, or in the common grace insights of non-believing thinkers. We are a place where faculty and staff serve tirelessly, eager to pour themselves into the lives of our students in hopes that those students will go from this place transformed—inspired and equipped to serve as courageous participants in God's reconciliation of all things to Himself.

Covenant truly is a special place, and one that I believe is important for the Church in the world. No other institution is doing the work that Covenant does to prepare students to bear witness in thought, word, and deed—in every aspect of their lives, in whatever God might call them to do—to the preeminence of Christ in all things. It has been a remarkable privilege to play a part in stewarding this college and its legacy of faithful, Christ-centered education over the last eleven years. I pray that God would continue to be glorified in and through this community for generations to come. 🙏

 Covenant truly is a special place, and one that I believe is important for the Church in the world."



J. Derek Halvorson '93
President



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