

# GRACE

## — S T O R Y —

VOL. 39, ISSUE 2 / SUMMER 2019

### GIFT GIVERS

## Making Waves

Splendor Boats owners Darren (BS 01) and Amy (Heckaman BS 01) Parker donated a brand new custom catamaran deck boat to Grace, and we're using it to welcome and woo students to campus.

### COVER STORY

## ASPIRE Celebration

Through your generosity, we exceeded our \$37M goal in record time. See the impact the funds are already having around campus and in students' lives.

### HOMECOMING 2019

## October 4-5

Come home to Grace. Relive some of your favorite memories and make some new ones. Find a detailed schedule inside along with information on how to register.

[WWW.GRACE.EDU](http://WWW.GRACE.EDU)





# *Ripple Effects*

Culture of Innovation

Sustainable Affordability





## Educational Excellence

We are so blessed at Grace College & Seminary to live, work and play in an idyllic lakeside village. Sometimes we forget how much the proximity of water impacts our lives. It's a continual reminder of God's presence, nature and activity — from our picture-postcard sunsets over Winona Lake to prayerful walks by the park and creekside; from the deep appreciation we have for the efforts our Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams has made to protect this precious resource, to the new recreational boat given to Grace students by Splendor Boats. (Open the foldout in the back to find out more!)

We realize all the time how blessed we are by *where* we are.

Whether it's watching rain strike the lake or a young child cannonballing into a pool, water also reminds me of how influence, generosity and the Gospel flow out from points of impact in ripple effects and roll into eternity.

The original impact of a decision, a choice, a gift, a gesture, even time spent, affects a multitude of people and lives beyond what we will ever see. How gracious of God to offer us a visible reminder of this invisible reality.

This issue of *Grace Story* provides an update on our ASPIRE Campaign. It recounts the influence and generosity of thousands of people who have impacted the early completion of the campaign and a few of the personal ripple effects as captured in the stories you are about to read.

We marvel at the dollars generated, which certainly have exceeded our expectations, but even more, we hope you are humbled, as we are, by how these resources, environments, amenities and programs are enriching

student experiences. They are framing and supporting relationships where the power of the Gospel, the life of Christ and the truths of Scripture can roll through lives and into generations to come.

I am once again reminded of ripple effects when I see Grace alumni encourage their own students to come here. I reflect often on how we can continue crafting an education and a place where it is second nature to choose Grace generation after generation. Our vision is for Grace to be a place of educational excellence, to foster a culture of innovation, to nurture a connected community and ensure that it is always sustainably affordable.

We're just getting started. It is amazing what God has done through you. I am humbled to lead and excited for the future. Allow me to share this verse we've used to express our gratitude to God as we've closed this campaign: "... Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name." (1 Chronicles 29:10-13, NIV) ▼



*Bill Katip*

William J. Katip,  
Ph.D. (BA 74)  
*President*



# inside

VOLUME 39 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2019

5

## Surpassing Our Aspirations

Grace's largest campaign in history has ended a full year ahead of schedule, and we are celebrating God's provision! Don't miss hearing about the many ways the funds have already furthered the mission of Grace to develop compassionate, confident and skilled graduates who lead lives of purpose for Jesus.

15

## Faithful to the Finish

Jim Kessler (BS '70), better known as "Coach K," began his Grace coaching debut in 1977 — predating the 3-point line. He's retiring after 44 years, during which he's racked up more awards than there's room to list, including leading Grace to its first NAIA national championship in 1992. But what Kessler is best known for is his commitment to discipling his players to be faithful followers of Christ.

19

## The Teacher, the Passing and the Baton

It's been five years since Noah Guntle's (BS '19) life changed forever. In the midst of unexpected heartbreak, God revealed Guntle's calling and equipped him with the skills and compassion to be an anchor for the next generation.

23

## Ways of Grace

Grace has refreshed its brand. We've fine-tuned our messaging, voice and tone, and updated our look and feel, all in an effort to attract prospective students who desire a Christ-centered community engaged in thoughtful scholarship and career preparation. Sneak a peek!

AS P  R E  
CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION







15



19



23

# GRACE STORY

## Institutional Mission

Grace is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence and preparing for service.

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## On The Cover

The McClain Hall spire that symbolized the ASPIRE Campaign

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Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Grace College & Seminary.

Grace College & Seminary reserves the right to edit alum note submissions.



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# Surpassing Our Aspirations

\$37M

GOAL

\$39.8M

RAISED

7,339 DONORS • 95% GROWTH IN ENDOWMENT • 7 NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS • 13,000 SQUARE FEET ADDED TO THE DR. DANE A. MILLER SCIENCE COMPLEX • NEW SPACE FOR THE LILLY CENTER FOR LAKES & STREAMS • 5 NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS LAUNCHED: DEPLOY, AGRIBUSINESS, ENGINEERING, DIGITAL MARKETING, WORSHIP ARTS • 95% FACULTY AND STAFF GIVING PARTICIPATION • 3 NEW ATHLETIC FACILITIES • 113 MONTHLY PRAYER WARRIORS • 4,500 STUDENTS IMPACTED • LARGEST CAMPAIGN IN GRACE'S HISTORY



In March 2017, President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74), the board of directors and members of the campaign cabinet publicly announced the launch of the \$37 million ASPIRE Campaign for Grace College & Seminary. Just two years later, on April 25, 2019, Grace hosted a celebration dinner to mark the completion of its five-year comprehensive campaign — the largest campaign in the history of the institution.

When the board first began thinking about a campaign, they anticipated a goal of around \$21 million. After a feasibility study in June 2014, the goal stretched to \$22 million. But by March 2017, Katip explains, “The Lord provided abundantly, and we were able to publicly launch with the goal of \$37 million!”

Over the next two years, because of the leadership of volunteer Campaign Chair Greg Dosmann (BS 86), the campaign cabinet and the generosity of so many alumni, community members and friends of Grace, the ASPIRE Campaign exceeded its goal, raising \$39.8 million eight months ahead of expectations.

With the funds raised, Grace has launched several new, high-demand academic programs including agribusiness, mechanical engineering, digital marketing and worship arts, while making significant investments in other programs such as exercise science, chemistry and nursing. Grace also commenced its modern seminary program, Deploy, the first competency-based seminary program of its kind in the country.

Further, the ASPIRE Campaign enabled Grace to make long-awaited investments in its athletic facilities including its first-ever track and field complex, a new competition-level soccer stadium and a rebuilt softball diamond. In addition, the school has reshaped campus traffic flow and added new green space to beautify and enhance its outdoor space.

The new \$8 million Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex is in full swing and is home to the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, which utilizes the facility for additional research capabilities and education opportunities for area students.

The ASPIRE Campaign has assisted Grace in reaching for its vision to be an exemplary, Christ-centered educational community characterized by innovation, affordability and real-world preparation. “But that vision is never complete,” says Katip. “The campaign aligned with our strategic plan goals of educational excellence, culture of innovation, connected community and sustainable affordability, but there is more work to be done in accomplishing this plan, and we will continue aspiring.”

Katip says future plans include an updated dining hall, new “third spaces” that allow students to gather, connect and experience life together, and investments in the growing School of Business and Grace Athletics.

While \$39.8 million is an astounding figure and has fueled so many new projects and programs, the individuals it has influenced is far greater. “This unbelievable dollar figure represents changed lives,” says Katip.

The ASPIRE Campaign has already touched thousands of students. In the following pages, you’ll get to read about just a few students who have benefited from your generosity.

“The ASPIRE Campaign is just the beginning,” says Katip. “We have more aspirations and know God has great things in store for Grace College & Seminary.” ▼

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**For more information on ASPIRE Campaign accomplishments, visit [www.grace.edu/aspire](http://www.grace.edu/aspire).**

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## Campaign Priorities



**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
PROJECTS: DR. DANE A. MILLER SCIENCE COMPLEX, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



*ASPIRE Campaign story: Hannah Deblois / Pages 9-10*



**CULTURE OF INNOVATION**  
PROJECTS: DEPLOY, LILLY CENTER FOR LAKES & STREAMS



*ASPIRE Campaign story: Meredith (Hollar BS 17) Smith / Pages 11-12*



**CONNECTED COMMUNITY**  
PROJECTS: THIRD SPACES, ATHLETIC FACILITIES



*ASPIRE Campaign story: Martin Schiele / Pages 7-8*



**SUSTAINABLE AFFORDABILITY**  
PROJECTS: GRACE FUND, MCCLAIN HERITAGE & ENDOWMENT



*ASPIRE Campaign story: Hannah Deblois / Pages 9-10*



BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK





When Martin Schiele crawled out of the emergency door of his overturned school bus, he had no idea his prospects for playing Division I basketball had ended. Schiele and his Griffith High School (Indiana) teammates were headed to compete in a semifinal state basketball game on March 19, 2016, when another driver accidentally sideswiped the bus causing it to roll over twice into a ditch on I-65.

Miraculously, everyone survived, and the game was rescheduled for four days later. As the star guard, Schiele led his team to a near victory — they lost by just two points — but the worst of the pain was just starting. Schiele had unknowingly torn his ACL in the bus accident, and after playing on his injured knee, he required surgery.

As Schiele's Division I recruiters got word of his injury, all but one of his offers evaporated. The night before Schiele's surgery, Jim Kessler (BS 70), Grace Men's Basketball head coach, called Schiele. "He called me at 11 p.m., and we talked for like an hour and 45 minutes," remembers Schiele. "He just wanted to talk to me about life and care for my well being. A lot of schools look at you as a price tag or a ticket to success, but not Coach K. He believed I could make his team better by being me." Grace offered Schiele an athletic scholarship a week *after* the accident. "In fact, it was the day after my surgery," marvels Schiele.

Schiele will enter his senior year at Grace this fall as a two-sport athlete in basketball and track and field, where he earned 2019 NCCAA All-American honors and currently holds two school records in the 4x100m relay and the 4x400m relay.

There's not a hint of disappointment in Schiele's voice as he recounts the impact of the bus accident on his future. "I'm at Grace because of that accident," he says.

One of the reasons Schiele is so confident in trusting God with his journey is because he saw his grandmother do it. "She was a Christ-advocate," enthuses Schiele. Because his parents worked a lot, Schiele and his sister were often at their grandmother's house, who lived next door to them. "Granny was my best friend. I told her everything." She taught Schiele how to cook and clean and how to bowl and to pray.

Even though Schiele idolized his grandmother and knew Christ was the

the wrong things if I had gone to a public university." Schiele says at Grace, where he's in the Blended Program, pursuing his bachelor's in management and his MBA, he's been able to develop personal relationships with all of his professors, and through the sports program, he's had life-changing service trips to Florida and California.

"I'd never had an education where faith was at the center. It's changed my view of the Bible." When Schiele couldn't find the space in his schedule to include a Biblical Studies minor, Schiele says Dr. Tiberius Rata, professor of Old Testament studies, mentored him outside of the classroom, providing him resources and tools to learn how to study God's Word. "He's really helped me a lot. He showed me God's Word is a love story over a historical book."

Now Schiele is vigilant about making the most of every day God gives him. "I ask God daily to help me make an impact on those around me. A lot of

people want to see the world around them change, but they never do anything to create that change. Whether I'm on the court or track or in the classroom, I want people to know me for my faith," says Schiele.

Without the death of his grandmother and his near-death bus accident, Schiele isn't sure where he'd be — definitely not at Grace, he muses. "Where I'm from, if you make it to 18, you're lucky. I've lost a lot of friends to gun violence. So every day I ask myself before I go to bed, 'Did I make an impact on someone's life?' And every morning I wake up, I'm blessed to see another day." ▼



reason for it, it wasn't until his grandmother died unexpectedly, that he made the decision to surrender his whole life to Jesus. "Her death was the lowest point in my life," says Schiele, who was a sophomore in high school at the time, but it motivated him to make the most of every day. Two years later, when he survived the bus accident, he never doubted that God would use it for his good and God's glory.

Although acclimating to Grace's culture was difficult at first, he's convinced it's been the best place for him. "I came from an all-black, public school. Although I was born and raised in the church, I know I would have filled the voids in my life with

## Campaign Priority



### CONNECTED COMMUNITY (ATHLETIC FACILITIES)

The Bernard & Linnie Key Track & Field Complex has made a world of difference to Martin Schiele who remembers when Grace athletes had to drive to another track for practice and complete their workouts on inferior surfaces. "Having the new track is a big deal," says Schiele. "It saves a lot of travel time, accommodates a wide variety of events and allows us to host meets."





Wanting

&

Wanting

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK



## Campaign Priorities



**EDUCATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE**  
(ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS:  
DIGITAL  
MARKETING)



**SUSTAINABLE  
AFFORDABILITY**  
(GRACE FUND)

# ing

Through the donations given to support the Grace Fund, students like Hannah Deblois (left) are able to earn a biblical education that develops compassion, confidence and competence to lead lives of purpose. "The business program at Grace has developed a culture that's evident throughout all of its coursework. It's about using our gifts and talents to glorify God and serve others," says Deblois. "It's all about making an impact."

Hannah Deblois' parents, Michael (BA 89) and Sue (Herbert BS 88) Deblois, have been ministers most of her life, pastoring a small church in Michigan while also holding down part-time jobs in the school district. "We didn't always know where the money was going to come from," remembers Deblois, "but the Lord has always been faithful to provide."

Attending Grace College like her parents did had always seemed like an improbable pipe dream. But in 2016, Deblois applied to Grace just to see if the financial aid package she received might tell a different story. "I was accepted, but the aid package wasn't enough. Even though I knew I could go, I didn't see how," says Deblois.

Instead, she made plans to attend community college, where she received a small scholarship to play volleyball. However, during her first year of play, Deblois experienced a career-ending injury, tearing a muscle in her back. "I had to take a year off of everything for reconstructive surgery and physical therapy. I couldn't even carry a backpack."

Recovery didn't come quickly, but it allowed Deblois space and time to revisit her options for the future. A job at a local school district allowed Deblois to start saving some money. "My parents encouraged me to go back to college," she says. "They knew I loved learning, and they were confident the Lord would provide." Although Deblois had always wanted a Christian education, she believed going to a state school and commuting would be much more affordable. "I told my mom that I felt so torn on what to do, but thought I needed to settle for the financially viable option."

However, not even two weeks after that pivotal decision, Deblois and her parents were invited to a group conference call with President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) and other prospective students. "I didn't want to do it," says Deblois. "It seemed ridiculous since I knew I wasn't able to go." But her parents convinced her it would be

a good experience, so they curiously called in to the conference. "When we joined, I heard Dr. Katip ask us to introduce ourselves, and I was waiting for other students to speak up, but no one did, so I introduced myself," recalls Deblois. Very quickly, the Deblois family realized they were the only family on the call, and Dr. Katip revealed that this little ruse was set up to surprise her with a scholarship. "He said he called to tell me we are making a way for you to come to Grace."

Deblois still can't tell the story without crying. "I was over the moon. I could not believe it. Every time I think of it — it's such a blessing. I was ready to accept plan B, but the Lord made a way."

Deblois began attending Grace in the fall of 2017 and is pursuing her undergraduate degree in digital marketing and her MBA through the Grace Blended Program.

She raves about the biblical training she's received, even as a pastor's kid. "I've been challenged to make my faith my own. I've had to develop a personal doctrinal statement, and now I know what I believe and why I believe it."

She's also benefited from personal relationships with her business professors. "Not only do they teach their craft from a biblical perspective — being profitable for the purpose of benefiting your community and glorifying God — but they want to help you find success." Deblois has secured two internships over the past two summers through the networking support of her professors: one with Maple Leaf Farms focusing on consumer marketing and this summer with DePuy Synthes Joint Reconstruction working on the outpatient marketing team.

Deblois isn't sure where God will lead her after graduation, but she's convinced her Grace education is an immeasurable gift that she intends to use to impact countless others. ▼

*"When people give to Grace, they don't know the breadth of what they're giving. They made a dream come true for me to receive a biblical education that wouldn't have been possible for me otherwise. They'll never know the extent of the lives they've impacted until eternity. I'm so thankful to have been one of those lives."*



## "SOCCER WAS MY IDOL."

Meredith (Hollar BS 17) Smith (pictured) remembers the old soccer field before the ASPIRE Campaign funded the renovations to the new 1st Source Bank Field. The new stadium holds a bigger crowd and provides stadium lighting so games can be played at night. "This was a huge deal to have more fans be able to attend our games," says Smith. "When our team made it to the NAIA championship for the first time in the school's history, we were able to host that first game on the new field, and that meant so much to us."



BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

Meredith (Hollar BS 17) Smith set her sights on playing professional soccer since she could lace up her cleats. “It was all that mattered to me,” says Smith. She spent every spare moment developing her skills and attended every camp she could to improve her performance. When she reached high school, Smith stood out playing for the Fort Wayne Fever club team and earned a spot in the Olympic Development Program (ODP). ODP identifies and develops high level players to compete at a national level — 17 out of the 18 women soccer players who won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics played in the program — and Smith secured a spot on the team twice during her high school career.

But during her junior year, an unexpected injury sent Smith into a tailspin. She vividly remembers the night Bruce Barlow (BA 78, MA 86), her pastor from Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church, arrived at her home just hours after she tore her ACL and meniscus during a club soccer game. “You can choose to allow this situation to make you better or bitter,” Barlow told Smith.

She took her pastor’s advice and used her recovery time to pursue a different kind of goal. “I dug into Scripture and learned how to rely on God. When I would sit on the bus on the way to a game, unable to play, surrounded by everyone else’s excitement, He was all I had. No one understood what the loss meant to me except Him.”

Even though Smith grew up in a Christian home understanding the Gospel, it wasn’t until her injury that she fully found her purpose in Jesus. “Soccer was my idol,” confesses Smith. “All that mattered was being good at soccer and having what mattered most to me taken away changed my life.”

During Smith’s junior year, Michael Voss, Grace’s women’s soccer coach, approached her about playing soccer at Grace. When she heard his passion for developing his athletes’ faith, she knew God was leading her to enroll.

Smith had an all-star career at Grace, earning NAIA and NCCAA All-American awards, being named the NCCAA

Game Plan 4 Life honoree and earning a spot in the top five all-time scorers at Grace. But what she boasts about most is the way her coach and teammates led her into a deeper relationship with Christ. “We were equipped and encouraged to disciple others and share our faith. I would have never learned to do that without Voss’ guidance and the team’s encouragement.”

Not only did Smith gain confidence in sharing her faith while at Grace, she also clarified a calling to teach. Smith planned on becoming a dental hygienist and working in her dad’s practice, but after taking an education course with Dr. Laurie Owen, dean of the School of Education, she was hooked and never looked back. “After sitting in that class, I knew it. This is me!” she remembers.

Smith added a science concentration to her major, and an ecology class proved to be her all-time favorite course at Grace. Her enthusiasm for the class and her education background made her the perfect candidate when the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams was looking to hire an intern to overhaul its K-12 education program.

Smith interned for them during her final years at Grace, and after graduating, incorporated much of what she’d learned at the Lilly Center into her science curriculum for her first-grade students at Madison Elementary School (Warsaw, Indiana). In fact, Smith’s students were the first class to take a field trip to the Lilly Center at its new home in the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex.

Smith also found an opportunity to support and encourage other young soccer players as an assistant coach for the Warsaw Community High School’s girls soccer team this year. “Now I can inspire and love on these girls who have the same passion I did, and I can offer them a different perspective when they face injuries or disappointment.”

“I’m reminded daily that my mission field is in the classroom and on the field, loving my students with God’s love,” says Smith. “You don’t have to be a full-time missionary to have a mission field.” Sometimes you just need the right soccer field. ▼

## Campaign Priorities



**CULTURE OF INNOVATION**  
(LILLY CENTER FOR LAKES & STREAMS)



**CONNECTED COMMUNITY**  
(ATHLETIC FACILITIES)



# GraceWire

NEWS AROUND CAMPUS



Verneda Blair (BS 17, MBA 18) (center) celebrates earning her master's degree at the age of 78 with her family.

## A Walk to Remember

### Graduation 2019

Verneda Blair (BS 17, MBA 18) earned her undergraduate degree at the age of 75 — after 40 years of chipping away at it. But she didn't stop there. Within six months of tossing up her cap, she decided to pursue her MBA, and on May 11, 2019, Verneda Blair received her diploma from Grace at the age of 78 — or as Blair describes herself — as a “chronologically advanced woman.”

When she told her daughters that she planned on earning her master's degree, they were astonished, but Blair says she's a life-long learner. She cites Philipians 2:13 (ESV): “... for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” “He gives me the will and the work,” says Blair. “I can't sit down on the Lord. There's work to be done for Him, and I'm going to keep doing it until He calls me home.”

Her 17 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two

great-great-grandchildren have witnessed her relentless commitment to be a part of the world and to serve it in the name of Jesus. What's next? “My doctorate, probably. But keep it quiet.”

Grace also honored retiring men's basketball coach Jim Kessler (BS 70). Kessler carried the ceremonial mace and he received a special recognition for his 44 years of service to Grace (42 years as head coach) by Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74).

Additionally, Grace celebrated its first graduates from a number of new degree programs including: agribusiness, worship arts, liberal arts (associate degree), and biblical studies at the Akron, Ohio location. The 2019 Commencement honored a total of 485 students, including 287 bachelor's degree graduates, 100 master's degree graduates, 15 doctoral degree graduates, and eight associate degree graduates. ▼



Jim Kessler (BS 70) was gifted a rocking chair at graduation in honor of his retirement.



Bradley Palinca (BS 19) (left) and Bradley Christenberry (BA 19) were the first graduates from the new Worship Arts program.



# Thousands Attend the Lakes Festival

The annual Northern Indiana Lakes Festival, hosted by the Lilly Center for Lake & Streams, welcomed more than 6,400 community members and visitors to celebrate the start of summer and honor fallen veterans over Memorial Day Weekend.

The three-day celebration began with a live concert by The Indigos and ended with a performance by the Lake City Skiers. Throughout the weekend, visitors competed in the Lake Games Spikeball tournament and Beat the Sun 5K; learned about lake and land ecology from six education booths, including the Lilly Center, Hoosier Environmental Council and ACRES Land Trust; enjoyed kids' crafts and activities, like bouncy houses, the Aquaglide, face painting and two animal shows from Silly Safari; and honored fallen veterans with a ceremony and special WWII-era plane fly-over by the Hooligan Flight Team. ▼



For more information on this year's event and the ongoing working of the Lilly Center, visit [www.lakes.grace.edu](http://www.lakes.grace.edu).

## 2019-20 CAMPUSWIDE THEME



Grace is eagerly anticipating the 2019-20 academic year. Its campus theme will be "together," and the Grace community will be studying the book of Ephesians and Paul's challenge to be unified with Jesus and one another. "First and foremost, our unity is with the Lord," says Brent Mencarelli, dean of the chapel and community life. "There is nothing we can do to separate ourselves from Jesus; in Him we live and move and have our being." Mencarelli explains that this unity with Jesus has implications for our community. "It's not uniformity, but it means that we love each other, trust each other, work together and remember our common bond found in Jesus."

Students will unpack this theme through growth groups and at chapel, which will host a number of speakers this fall including: Kevin Hines, an author, speaker and filmmaker who survived after attempting to take his life; Carlos Tellez, Grace's former chaplain and current pastor at Grace Church (Akron, Ohio) who oversees a church planting initiative in Atlanta, Georgia; Josh Garrels, a musician who explores themes of compassion, hope and freedom; and Laurie Krieg, the founder and executive director of Hole in my Heart Ministries, a compassionate teaching, writing and podcasting ministry focused on equipping Jesus-followers with a Gospel-centered approach to sexuality. ▼

For more information, visit [www.grace.edu/chapel](http://www.grace.edu/chapel).



# FAITHFUL

BY JOSH NEUHART (BS 11)

# TO THE



# FINISH

GRACE MEN'S  
BASKETBALL COACH  
**JIM KESSLER**

42 YEARS OF COACHING EXCELLENCE

**1** NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP **10** CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS **18** SEASONS WITH 20 WINS **5** 'COACH OF THE YEAR' AWARDS **19** NATIONAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES







Once a year, he sits down. All alone. In the middle of an empty basketball arena.

Arenas are synonymous with noise, adrenaline and emotion. But in this moment there is none of that. There is quiet; and there is clarity.

In that solitude, he asks himself: “Do I want to keep doing this?”

The answer this year for Grace men’s basketball head coach Jim Kessler (BS 70) was clear. As he sat alone on Kessler Court in late December 2018, Kessler decided this season would be the last in his legendary 42-year career as head coach. The time had come.

“There comes a moment when it’s time,” he said simply. “For me, it’s time.”

Kessler has seen the basketball world transform countless times over the past four decades. His Grace coaching debut in 1977 predates the 3-point line.

He began coaching when players with the last names of Maravich, Malone, Gervin and Walton dominated the landscape. He outlasted players like Magic, Bird, Jordan and Bryant. And he will end his career in the midst of LeBron, Durant and Curry.

One of the main reasons Kessler realized it was time was simply age. He recalled, whether in jest or not, watching film of his team and wondering who the old man near Grace’s bench was. “Coaching is so demanding physically. It’s easy to coach too long without realizing it,” Kessler said.

## LEAVING A LEGACY

Kessler ended his career with 788 victories after his team competed in the NCCAA Championship tournament in March 2019. Kessler has led the Lancers to 10 conference championships and has directed the Lancers for the entirety of his collegiate coaching career. Kessler began in 1977, and his run of five decades coaching Grace were rewarded with Hall of Fame inductions by the NAIA and NCCAA. His teams qualified for 19 national tournaments, and in 1992 Kessler guided Grace to the

NAIA national championship, the lone NAIA title in school history. Capping off his career awards, Kessler received the Northeast Indiana FCA’s first Coach’s Impact Award, which is given to a coach who engages in “three-dimensional coaching” to impact the mind, body and spirit.

But lining the walls of Kessler’s office aren’t his Coach of the Year awards or NAIA national championship memorabilia. Rather, they display every one of Kessler’s team photos, making blank wall space in his office a rare commodity.

“I DON’T CARE HOW GOOD YOU ARE AS A PLAYER OR COACH, YOU’LL BE FORGOTTEN OVER TIME,” KESSLER SAID. “YOUR TRUE LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH THE PEOPLE YOU’VE IMPACTED. THAT’S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.”

For Kessler, developing his players into young men of character and faith has always been central. He is quick to diminish any awards or accomplishments he has received — and there are plenty of them.

Instead, he wants his legacy to reflect his eternal goals. Through tear-filled eyes he remembered a saying his father kept written on a piece of paper: “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

“I don’t care how good you are as a player or coach, you’ll be forgotten over time,” Kessler said. “Your true legacy lives on through the people you’ve impacted. That’s good enough for me.”

## PASSING THE BATON

Over the years, Kessler has not shied away from sharing duties with his assistants. But no assistant was ever given what Kessler referred to as the “final test.”

Scott Moore (BS 08), a former Lancer and longtime assistant coach under Kessler, was given that final test last summer. Moore took Grace’s team by himself on an overseas mission trip to France. When the trip went well, according to Kessler, Moore passed his test. Moore was named Kessler’s replacement on Feb. 18, a fitting handoff to the helm of the Lancers.

“I’ve often thought that if you do your job well, you should be able to slip out the door and nobody knows you’re gone,” Kessler said. “In a relay race, you run your part and then pass the baton. It’s Scott’s turn now, and I know he will do a great job.”

As part of the transition, Kessler will move to a new role on campus. He will serve as the special assistant to the athletic director, aiding the athletic department and the alumni office with campus relations.

“I have run hard and done my best to finish strong, and I am so thankful that Grace College has supported me in this decision,” Kessler said. “I cannot thank my Lord enough for allowing Susanne (BS 92) and me the joy of pursuing a career of coaching and teaching. Few men are so blessed to get paid to do what they thoroughly enjoy. I pray that my career can best be summed up with my life verse in Philip-  
pians 3:14 (ESV). ‘I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.’” ▼

Don’t miss Coach K’s interview with the Grace Story Podcast. Find it at [www.grace.edu/podcast](http://www.grace.edu/podcast).

**Save The Date**  
On Saturday, Oct. 5, over Homecoming Weekend, Grace Athletics will host a special event to honor Coach K. Find more details at [www.grace.edu/homecoming](http://www.grace.edu/homecoming).





ATHLETICS NEWS ON AND OFF THE COURT

# LANCER NATION WELCOMES NEW COACHES



SOCCER

Grace welcomes **Arron Patrick** as its next head coach for the men's soccer team. He comes to the Lancers from Goshen College, where he coached for five seasons.

The Grimsby, England, native helped the Maple Leafs reach the Crossroads League semifinals in 2017 with a 12-6-2 record. Before coaching, Patrick excelled as a student-athlete in the Crossroads League. While playing at Bethel, Patrick won multiple All-Conference accolades and was the league's Offensive Player of the Year in 2008 and the overall League Player of the Year in 2009.

Patrick grew up in the Grimsby Town F.C. system (English 2nd Division) before playing semi-professionally with Spalding United F.C. and in the United States with the Cascade Surge of Portland, Oregon.

Upon graduating with a degree in sports studies, Patrick returned to Europe to continue his soccer career. He played against teams from the Russian Premier Division, Turkish First Division and Romanian Premier Division.

Patrick takes the helm of one of the most successful programs in NAIA history. Grace has racked up 502 all-time wins, seventh-most among NAIA institutions. The Lancers won 15 games in 2018, the most in program history since 1983.

"I look forward to building on the culture that Matt Hotchkin (S11) has created in the program. Grace has a great tradition and soccer history, and I look forward to being a part of that history moving forward," Patrick said.



CROSS COUNTRY

Local running standout **Jake Poyner** has accepted the position of head coach for Grace's cross country teams. Poyner served as a graduate assistant coach for Grace's cross country and track and field teams this past year under head coach Jeff Raymond.

Raymond is shifting into a new position, serving as the director of Cross Country as well as continuing on as the track and field head coach.

"It is both humbling and extremely exciting for me to be entrusted with writing a new chapter in the Lancer distance running tradition," said Poyner.

Poyner is a former NCAA Division I runner who graduated from Warsaw Community High School (Indiana). He led the Tigers to a pair of top-five finishes at the cross country state finals as a junior and senior. Poyner was also a two-time All-State honoree for Warsaw's track and field team.

Upon graduation, Poyner signed to run at Wake Forest University from 2013-15 and then transferred to Lipscomb University where he concluded his collegiate running career from 2015-18. He won numerous accolades at Lipscomb and was the ASUN Conference Runner of the Year and the ASUN Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2017.

Poyner also earned a spot on the prestigious CoSIDA Google Cloud Academic All-America Team. He compiled a perfect 4.0 GPA while majoring in exercise science and minoring in coaching and biology.

Poyner will continue as an assistant track and field coach in addition to leading the cross country program.





CHEER

**Tim Williams** comes to Grace as its next cheer head coach. Williams has an impressive coaching resume that he brings to the Lancers' sidelines. He helped Carroll High School (Fort Wayne, Indiana) win its first state championship in program history as an assistant coach in 2018.

"Tim brings an extensive background in coaching cheer. He has a passion to impact lives for Christ through the cheer platform," said Grace Director of Athletics Chad Briscoe. "His local cheer connections will serve him well as he takes over the program. We look forward to his joining our family here at Grace College."

Prior to Carroll, Williams served as the head coach at East Noble High School (Kendallville, Indiana) from 2013-18. He has also coached the Noble County Special Olympics cheer team for the past year.

"I look forward to taking this program to the next level by building on the skills the team already has and developing the program to its highest potential," Williams said. "I am also excited to work with our fantastic student section (The Red Zone) and build relationships with the rest of the Winona Lake community."



BASKETBALL

**Jordan Weidner** joins the men's basketball team as its next assistant coach. He will serve as the lead assistant under head coach Scott Moore (BS 08), and Weidner will also be the director of the Gordon Health and Wellness Center.

Weidner is no stranger to the Crossroads League. He excelled as a guard for Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) from 2010-14. He finished his career ranked third on the all-time scoring list with 2,224 points and was named Most Outstanding Player after winning the NAIA national championship as a senior in 2014.

Weidner continued his basketball career after IWU at the professional level. He was drafted No. 1 overall in the NBL Canada draft in 2014 by the Mississauga Power; he made the All-Rookie Team after his first season with the Power.

Weidner joined IWU's coaching staff as a graduate assistant in 2017 where he helped the Wildcats to two seasons with at least 30 wins, aiding IWU to an NAIA title in 2018.

"Grace College is a special place, and I am eager to see what God is going to do through the men's basketball program," Weidner said. "I can't wait to build on the tradition and culture of this program with Coach Moore."



BASEBALL

After a nation-wide search, Grace named interim baseball coach **Ryan Roth** the next head coach in the 60-year history of Grace's baseball program. Roth has been with the Lancers for two seasons, serving as an assistant in 2018 and the interim coach alongside Tom Roy (BS 74) in 2019.

Roth led the Lancers to a storybook season this spring. Grace qualified for the Crossroads League Tournament for the first time since 2014 and quickly made an impact. The Lancers upset top-seed Huntington in the opening round of the tournament and continued its run, taking down the host Taylor and Marian to land in the championship game for the first time in program history.

The Lancers won the third-most games (17) this spring in its history and also had four players earn honors on the postseason All-Crossroads League Team.

"I'm thrilled for the opportunity to grow the program spiritually and competitively. I'm also honored to serve at a school that I believe in very deeply and that aligns with my spiritual values and worldview," Roth said.

Roth was an All-County player at Manchester High School, helping the Squires to the 2A state championship in 2002. He batted .403 in 2003 while adding a .969 fielding percentage. Roth went on to pitch collegiately at Huntington University before joining the US Navy where he served from 2010-13.





# THE TEACHER



Noah Guntle (BS 19) stands in a classroom at Smith Academy for Excellence where he graduated from high school and returned as a student teacher this spring.

# THE TEACHER, THE PASSING AND THE BATON

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

Noah Guntle (BS 19) remembers his parents soberly calling him and his six siblings into their living room. It was a familiar room where it was common to gather — his mom had spent the last two decades diligently and enthusiastically home schooling all of them there. But this day evidenced a different tone.

“We have something to tell you,” Guntle’s parents said.

Guntle’s mom, Cathy, had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Guntle was just 16.

They all picked up extra chores, but Cathy continued to run the household as best as she was able. “She did everything she could to keep things normal,” Guntle says with clear adoration. “She never complained and was so selfless no matter what she was going through.” But with Guntle and his two younger siblings still at home, Cathy eventually became too sick to home-school, unaware that the answer to their dilemma was moving in down the street.

Providentially, one of the co-founders of a new all-boys charter school, Smith Academy for Excellence, had recently become a neighbor.

As soon as Cathy learned of the school, she enrolled Guntle and his younger brother. It was 2012, and Smith Academy was opening its doors for the first time. Guntle began his freshman year there. “She wanted us to go, so we did, and it altered the course of my life.”



## AN UNEXPECTED CHANGE

Smith Academy for Excellence was co-founded by Corey Smith (BS 04), his brother, Cameron, and his father, Thomas. Not only did Corey earn his elementary education degree from Grace, but Grace is the Academy's authorizer — approved by the state legislature to bring a charter school into existence and provide accountability for the school's meeting of state and federal requirements.

Corey and his family established the all-boys charter school in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to strategically develop elite scholars of responsibility, dignity, character and service. Since its opening in 2012, the school has grown to serve grades 4 through 12, and its enrollment is up 37%.

When Guntle joined the inaugural freshman class at the Academy, he saw it as an opportunity to honor his mom's desire for him to be there. Though stretched socially and academically, he rose to the challenges, says Corey. "When he entered school, Noah expressed a desire to graduate early if possible. We put a plan together, and he worked at it. Noah graduated in three and a half years, a semester earlier than the rest of his classmates." Since Guntle was in the Academy's first graduating class, that also made him the first graduate of the Academy; plus, Guntle was named the valedictorian with a 4.117 GPA.

Guntle became known as a trusted and loyal friend at the Academy, and his classmates knew he would befriend anyone who needed help. The student body was racially and economically diverse, and Guntle began to understand the value of a strong and compassionate education early in children's lives. For the first time, Guntle also saw a future for himself in teaching. "I loved my math teacher. He loved soccer and math like I did. He was fun and engaging and was a mentor to me. I saw myself in him."

## A PEACEFUL DEPARTURE

Just after finishing his sophomore year at the Academy, on June 13, 2014, Cathy Guntle passed away. "She left in peace," he says, "and the translation in that was now for us to be at peace with it."



## THE PASSING

Guntle flips through a family album near the portrait of his mom, Cathy, which hangs in his childhood home.

Cathy's death only intensified Guntle's efforts to do well in school. "I was devastated, but I wanted to use my life to be her legacy," says Guntle. His desire to make the kind of impact on others that his mom made on him as a teacher was growing. "Once Mom was gone, it was a quick transition into maturity. I realized our time is limited. What am I going to do with my life that is meaningful now?"

*"She never complained and was so selfless no matter what she was going through."*

## A CALLING UNCOVERED

During Guntle's final years at the Academy, he went on several college visits and learned about Grace College. It was close enough to his home that he could commute, and Dr. Laurie Owen, dean of the School of Education, built on his desire to major in elementary education.

"I wanted to be an anchor to students who might be struggling or going through a difficult time," says Guntle, who appreciated how pivotal that could be during his years at the Academy. While at Grace, Dr. Owen became like a surrogate mom

to him. "I've had several women step into that role of encouragement that I was missing when my mom died. Dr. Owen did that for me." She also embodied the teacher Guntle wanted to be. "Dr. Owen — the energy she emits — it's contagious. It's who she is. She's so authentic in her expression. No matter how bad the day is, she can make you smile."

When it came time for Guntle to begin his student teaching, he contacted Smith Academy to see if they'd be interested. "I wanted to give something back ... to serve in the ways the teachers had served me."

Administrators jumped at the chance to welcome Guntle back as the Academy's first student teacher. "It was a phenomenal experience having a Smith Academy alumnus return to student teach," says Corey. "He did a fabulous job. He was as conscientious a teacher as he was a student. He really cared for his class and invested in their lives." Ms. Carrie Drudge, Noah's supervising teacher at the Academy, says Guntle is "a man of many talents. When the class needed to refocus or get back to work, Mr. Guntle would break into one of his many accents, which would get lots of smiles. His magic tricks, sleight of hand and never-ending 'dad' jokes were also a big hit."

This spring, Guntle completed his student teaching at the Academy, graduated in May and



## THE BATON

Corey Smith (BS 04) (left), co-founder of Smith Academy for Excellence, proudly stands with Guntle, the Academy's first student teacher and a member of its first graduating class.

married his high school sweetheart and fellow teacher, Abbey Ramsour (BS 18). Armed with his teaching degree, Guntle is walking in his mother's footsteps, preparing to shepherd students academically and spiritually. "She had a really giving heart. I felt like she had passed the baton, and I wanted to carry that baton — the attitude she had towards her faith, her enthusiasm, her bright character, her journey with God."

### A QUESTION ANSWERED

It's been five years since Guntle's mom's death, but the grief is never far from him. "People say it gets easier, but it hasn't. It doesn't go away. It kind of hides as we get distracted." But Guntle doesn't just hold the grief; he also holds the precious memories that remind him to prioritize his relationship with God and to love people first.

"I've decided to let it affect me in a positive way, to not be angry with God. It may seem heartbreaking, what happened. It was. But there was an impact because of it, not just on who I am but it was a turning point in my circumstances. It opened up another path for me."

Guntle recalls how his mom would take each of her seven kids out for lunch on their birthdays. "Every year she'd ask me, 'What do you want to do with your life?' And every birthday, I'd say, 'I don't know.'"

Now, when Guntle thinks about what he'd say to his mom if she were still here, he chokes up.

"Mom, I finally figured it out. All those times you took me out. I have an answer for you now." ▼

*"She had a really giving heart. I felt like she had passed the baton, and I wanted to carry that baton — the attitude she had towards her faith, her enthusiasm, her bright character, her journey with God."*



WALK IN

# WAYS OF GRACE

We're launching our new brand platform this summer to better articulate the attributes and benefits of a Grace College & Seminary education.



# Grace's New BRAND CAMPAIGN

Over the last year, Grace has undertaken the process of refreshing its brand. In our desire to effectively draw prospective students who desire a Christ-centered community that's engaged in thoughtful scholarship and career preparation, we've conducted research, facilitated focus groups and consulted with a marketing agency to accurately tell our story. This summer we'll be implementing the new look and feel in our promotional materials and using strategic language that communicates Grace's genuine, curious, knowledgeable and dynamic personality. We wanted you to get a glimpse of the new look and feel, and we hope you like it — actually, we really hope your kids and your grandkids love it.



Examples shown are for illustrative purposes only.



# ALUM NOTES

CONNECTING WITH OUR FAMILY OF FRIENDS

## CLASS NOTES

### CORRECTION:

In the spring issue of *Grace Story*, the graduate information for **Serena Nelson**, daughter of the late **Karen Lee (Grove BS 70) Bowling**, was inadvertently omitted. Serena received a bachelor of science degree in 2000. We deeply apologize for this oversight.

### 1981

**Tonja (Eaton BS 81) DeHaven** earned her MS in elementary education from Butler University after earning her BS in elementary education at Grace. She taught in the Carmel Clay (IN) Schools for 35 years and retired in May 2019. Tonja says that getting her degree at Grace was such a blessing and direct guidance from the Lord.

### 1982

**Kevin (BS 82) and Sharon (Shaffer BA 83) Konyha** have relocated to southwest Missouri to be closer to their adult children and new grandson Layton. Kevin is an academic adviser at Mercy College of Nursing (Southwest Baptist University—Springfield). Sharon continues to deal in antiques and repurposing vintage items. They also enjoy fixing up their 1930s stone cottage and acreage surrounded by the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. [saturdaysvintagefinds.blogspot.com](http://saturdaysvintagefinds.blogspot.com), [konyha@hotmail.com](mailto:konyha@hotmail.com)

### 1987

**Reverend David Jennys (BA 87)** was awarded a Doctor of Ministry from Sioux Falls Seminary in May 2019. His dissertation was on spurring church revitalization through acts of decolonization. David is currently interim pastor at Mitchell Congregational United Church in Christ. He and wife **Susan (Sheetz BS 84)** reside in Colton SD. [djennys@live.com](mailto:djennys@live.com)

### 1989

**Larry Calabrese (MA 89)** is teaching physiology at Los Angeles Harbor College (Wilmington CA) and serves on his local church board for Turkish Connections International, a missionary outreach to the country of Turkey. Two years ago, he published a Christian novel, "Legacy," based on a true story. It involves two athletes competing for a national championship — one being a Christian and the other a street fighter who is searching for meaning in life. Larry and wife Sheri live in San Pedro CA. [scalifap@aol.com](mailto:scalifap@aol.com)

### 1998

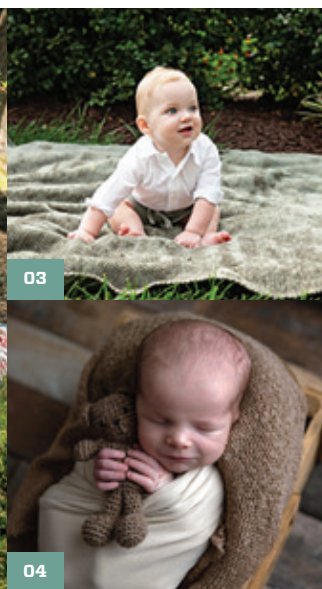
In 2007, **Boyd Smith (BS 98)** started TechKnowledge, Inc., providing managed IT services for businesses in the Midwest and surrounding states. Boyd's firm brings people, technology and solutions into balance through successful hybrid cloud solutions, integrated IT services and managed print services. He also launched Dental Forms, which puts paper forms onto iPads, eliminating busywork for patients, staff and dentists. Boyd is an advocate for children's causes



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such as Asia's Hope, which provides care for orphaned children at high risk of sexual and economic exploitation in Cambodia, Thailand and India. He is a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, volunteering his tech and piloting skills in service to his country. Boyd and wife **Krista (Lantz BS 99)** live in Goshen IN with children Jacob (16), Kaitlyn (12) and Emily (10).  
www.techknowledgeinc.com,  
www.dentalforms.com

## 2001

**01** Jeff and **Andrea (Bentz BS 01)**

**Henry:** Married May 6, 2018.

The newlyweds call Kansas City KS home.

ajhenry2018@outlook.com

**02** Matt and **Pauline (Polly) (Cary BS 01)**

**Teevan:** John Matthew, Oct. 13, 2018. The

Teevans call Winona Lake IN home.

## 2008

**Heidi (Biehler BA 08, MSHE**

17) **Kantenwein** has shared her life and talents at Grace College & Seminary for many years, beginning in 2005 as student secretary in Student Affairs until she graduated. She served in leadership roles as growth group leader, serve team leader, serve cabinet member and student mentor. From March 2015 to March 2017, she worked in Grace's admissions department as transcript coordinator doing data entry, transcript processing and preparing transcript evaluations. During that time she pursued and

completed the MS in Higher Education from Grace in August 2017. After serving in admissions, Heidi worked as an academic support coordinator for the School of Professional & Online Education (SPOE), guiding students from admission through graduation by processing applications, registration and providing academic/peer support. She also did many special projects to grow and develop programs offered by SPOE. Effective November 2018, Heidi began serving as registrar at Grace, which has been a great culmination of her previous jobs. She clearly sees how God has woven together all of these experiences to prepare her for this job.

## 2009

**03** John and **Emily (Zimmerman BA 09)**

**Bryan:** Everett Thomas, Jan. 21, 2018. The

family resides in Carmel IN.

**04** David and **Jenny (Potts BS 09)**

**Thanepohn:** Joshua Liam, Nov. 4, 2018.

Joshua joins his parents at their home in

Guyton GA. jennypotts@gmail.com

**05** Benjamin and **Megan (Stanton BS**

09) **Wetzel:** Married on Oct. 20, 2018. The

couple resides near Taylor University (IN)

where Ben is assistant professor of history.

megan.e.stanton@gmail.com

## 2011

**06** Kyle and **Erin (Prinsen BS 11) Warner:**

Maxwell Thomas, Nov. 15, 2018. Maxwell

joins brother Bennett (3) at their home in

Fort Wayne IN. prinsen.erin@gmail.com

## 2012

**Matt DeRenzo (BS 12)** graduated from

Army Ranger School at Fort Benning GA in

April 2019. His parents, **Vic DeRenzo (BS**

78) and **Becky DeRenzo**, along with two of

his three siblings attended the ceremony.

Matt's cousin, **Michah Horney (BS 06, MAIR**

07), son of **Sandy (BA 76)** and **Debbie**

**(DeRenzo BA 76) Horney**, is a Navy SEAL.

**07** Raffi and **Katie (Fillman BS 12)**

**Keradman:** Evelyn Marie and Madison

Davie, Nov. 22, 2018. Their home is in

Lynchburg VA.

**08** **Octavia (Lehman BA 12) Yoder**

has been named by the Board of the

LaGrange County Community Foundation

as executive director and will assume the

role later this year. Octavia will become the

fourth executive director of the community

foundation since its creation in 1991. She

was immediately promoted to associate

director and continues to work with Interim

Executive Director David Bennett. The board

will promote her to executive director before

the end of 2019. Octavia previously worked

for KPC Media Group before her appointment

as program officer of the community

foundation in 2016. "We are so pleased to be

able to name Octavia as our new executive

director," said Neal Wolhuter, board presi-

dent. "Not only has she proven herself as an

effective staff member of the foundation,

but she was born and raised in this area and

knows the community very well."

## 2013

**09** **Matthew (C 13)** and **Lindsay (Garigen**

BA 13) **Lott:** Evangeline Ripley, Jan. 10, 2019.

The Lott family resides in Fort Wayne IN.

## 2015

**10** **Robert (BS 15)** and **Mary (Mix BA 15)**

**Gongwer:** Rowan Phillip, Feb. 9, 2019. The

Gongwers resides in South Bend IN.

**Whitney Worthen (BS 15)** is a freelance

sound mixer. She recently mixed and

recorded sound for a Pureflix series called

"The Third Act." On "The Third Act," Becky

Sattero interviews Christians around the

entertainment industry about their third

act and how it applies to discussions about

faith, trust, forgiveness and other topics.

worthews@gmail.com

# IN MEMORIAMs

**11** **Dr. John H. Stoll (BDiv 49, ThM 60)**

passed away on Jan. 17, 2019. He was mar-

ried in 1946 to his first wife, Irene (Parsons)

Stoll, who passed away in 2010. John

married Irma Ilsa (Dreipelcher) Stoll on Oct.

26, 1977, with whom he shared 34 years of

marriage together before she passed away

in July 2011. John graduated from Wheaton

College (Wheaton IL) after which he was

professor of chemistry and cross-country

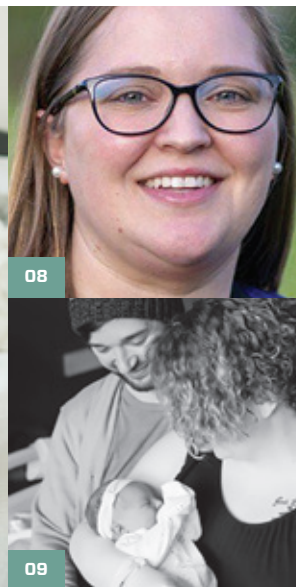
coach for Wheaton Academy (IL).



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11



He received his Bachelor of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary while serving as pastor at the Church of the Brethren (North Webster IN). John went on to teach at Bible Baptist Institute (Cleveland OH), which later became Cedarville College (Cedarville OH), serving as professor of Bible and registrar. He completed his Master of Theology at Grace Seminary and was assistant director of the Winona Lake Christian Assembly. He founded and pastored Grace Chapel (West Liberty OH) and then became vice president and Bible department chair at Calvary Bible College (Kansas City MO). John also served as Bible department chair at Grace College and spent 14 summers as director of counselor training at Camp Forest Springs (Westboro WI). Additionally, he founded A.S.K. Counseling Clinic (Minneapolis MN), serving 25 years as executive director. John received his PhD from Notre Dame and never tired of learning, studying and teaching others. He retired to Arizona and then finally moved to Grace Village Retirement Community (Winona Lake IN). John was ordained in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference and was a member of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies. When he came to Warsaw to teach at Grace College, he founded the Christian Businessmen's Committee. John was a published author of two books, "The Book of Habakkuk: A Study Manual" and "Biblical Principles for Living" as well as several professional articles in Christianity Today, Journal of Biblical Studies and Moody Monthly. He also wrote Bible studies for Christian Businessmen's Committee International. He was an intelligent and well-educated man and a beloved teacher but first and foremost, John was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be lovingly remembered by sons: **Dr. Kenneth**

**John** (BA 69, MDiv 74) (Dawn) **Stoll** (Sheridan MI) and Kevin Stoll (Warsaw IN); daughters: **Jane** (BS 76) (Roger) **Smoker** (Warsaw IN) and **Carolyn** (BS 84) (Gary) **Shanklin** (Winona Lake IN); 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

**12 Pastor Harold L. Fuller** (S 56) met his Savior on April 14, 2019. Harold attended Eastern Illinois University (Charleston IL) where he met Moira Stevens, whom he later married Aug. 31, 1952. After graduating, Harold continued his education at Grace Theological Seminary (1954-1956) and then attended seminary at Western Baptist University (Portland OR) until 1957. Harold began his pastoral journey serving at Valley Chapel Emmanuel (Clackamas OR) (1956-1961), Sandy Baptist Church (1961-1967) and Immanuel Baptist (Eugene OR) (1967-1979). Harold then served as hospital chaplain with Hospital Chaplains' Ministry of America. Harold served at Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center from 1982 through 2011 when he retired. Harold enjoyed his grandchildren, singing, furniture refinishing and was a masterful baker who loved to share his pies. Harold was honored as a lifetime member of the Gresham Chamber of Commerce and Pleasant Home Community Church. He spent his entire life serving others and loving the Lord. Harold was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth "Moira" Fuller and by brother Charles. He is survived by daughters: Kimberly (Gehren) Stearns and Caryn (Myles) Stenberg; sister Donna Wilson; brothers Kenneth, Robert and Leon Fuller; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Harold leaves behind his friend and companion Jennifer Dormandy.

**13 Dr. Renald E. Showers** (ThD 75) passed away on April 4, 2019. He was married to Eleanor Eby Showers for 56 years. Choosing to forgo a full-ride scholarship to Cornell University, he attended Philadelphia Bible Institute, Wheaton College, Dallas Theological Seminary and Grace Theological Seminary to prepare for a lifelong ministry of studying. Renald taught at Lancaster Bible College, Philadelphia College of Bible, Moody Bible Institute, Word of Life Bible Institute and the Institute of Jewish Studies, preaching around the world and authoring 15 Christian books. His most popular book, "What on Earth Is God Doing?" has been published in several languages. After 36 years ministering with Friends of Israel, Renald retired. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, colleague, teacher and friend who will be remembered for making complex Bible concepts simple to understand. He is survived by wife Eleanor; daughters: Renee (Fred) Raupp and Marbeth (Paul) Golden; grandchildren; and his brother.

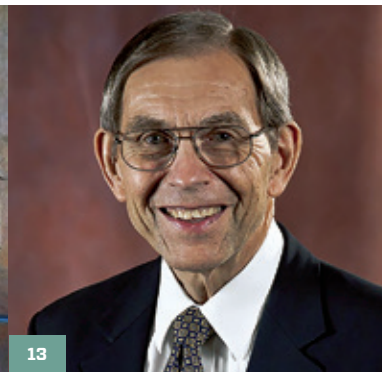
**Stanley (Stan) Leroy Kemery** (MACSA 82) went home to be with his Lord on Feb. 24, 2019. Stan was a United States Marine Corps Veteran and served with units in the 1st Marine Division (Camp Pendleton CA). After receiving a bachelor's degree in teaching from San Diego State and later a master's degree in school administration from Grace Theological Seminary, he went on to teach and administer at schools for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Kotzebue AK), Selma Elementary (Selma OR), Evergreen Jr. High (Cave Junction OR), Lancaster Christian School (PA) and Coatesville Christian School (PA). Later Stan was owner-operator and professional truck driver for North American Van Lines and DART Transit Company. Stan

was an avid hunting and fishing advocate and enjoyed doing both with family. He volunteered as Scout leader and as Little League Baseball coach as well as with various mission trips. Stan will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 60 years D. Lorraine (Ransom) Kemery; remaining brothers: Charles (Dorothy) Kemery (Wagner SD), Russell (Carmen) Kemery (Tucson AZ) and Ted (Donna) Kemery (Pierre SD); sons: Todd (Mya) Kemery (Lakeville MN) and Barry (Heather) Kemery (Taneytown MD); and two grandsons.

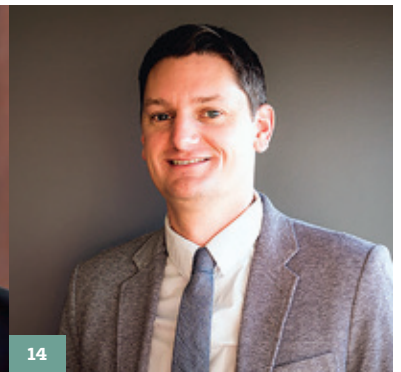
**14 Lucas Huffman** (BS 08) unexpectedly died in a motor vehicle accident on Feb. 13, 2019. Lucas was a talented musician, avid hiker and loving husband. He lived a life of devoted service in helping organizations offering support to children, adolescents and families. He is survived by his loving wife **Erin (Dell BSN 09) Huffman**; beloved dog Lady Rufus Huffman; mother Marie Huffman; father Brent Huffman; brothers: Brent "Andy" and Justin Huffman; sister Amy Huffman; grandmother Marlene Stevens; niece Alyssa; nephew Skyler; brother- and sister-in-law **Adam** (BS 06, MAIR 08) and **Janine (Champoux MA 07) Dell**; and father- and mother-in-law Dave and Cathy Dell. In lieu of gifts, please consider continuing Lucas' legacy by supporting one of his greatest passions — the advancement of music — by donating to the Bricker Elementary School Music Department, assisting students at Erin's school to learn more about and develop their love for music. [www.gofundme.com/lucas-huffman-music-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/lucas-huffman-music-fund)



12



13



14

## ALUM HAPPENINGS

### GOLDEN GRAD REUNION | 1969

Class members pictured are (back row, left to right): **Richard Hammer** (BA 69), **Keith Currie** (BME 69), **Randy Gillenwater** (BA 69), **Ted Vesa** (BA 69), **Brent Sandy** (BA 69, MDiv 73), **Kenneth Stoll** (BA 69, MDiv 74), **Darell Elliott** (BA 69), **Chuck Henry** (BA 60) (class adviser), **Dave Shively** (BS 69), **Barbara (Camp BA 69) McLeary**, **Linda (Leah BA 69) Wickstrom**, **Renita (Ring BS 69) Coonrod**, **Larry Wattenbarger** (BA 69), **Richard Dick** (BME 69) and **Tom Dilling** (BA 69). Front row: **Bob Bishop** (BS 69), **Suzanne (Dilling BA 69) Gray**, **Janet (Bock BA 69) Vesa**, **Mark Laurenson** (BA 69), **Robin (Jenkins BS 69) Laurenson**, **Sue (McCaulley BME 69) Currie**, **Patricia (Burns BS 69) Paitan**, **Carolyn (Fisher BS 69) Darch**, **Carol (Ingalsbe BA 69, CertBS 76) Morrissey**, **Teresa (Cziraki BS 69) Dick**, **John Ritchey** (BA 69) and **Norm Warden** (BS 69).



The Golden Graduate Class of 1969 returned to campus for their 50-year reunion May 9-11 where they enjoyed a variety of planned activities in their honor including a welcome reception, campus bus tour, luncheon and reunion banquet. The celebration was highlighted by their participation in the commencement ceremony where they led the processional for the graduating Class of 2019. The Golden Graduates are planning to continue their 50-year celebration over Homecoming 2019, Oct. 4-5, so we hope those of you who couldn't attend in May will join us then!

### CREATION MUSEUM TRIP | NOVEMBER 2019

We're headed to Petersburg, Kentucky, to see Bible history come to life. The Creation Museum boasts 75,000 square feet and nearly 150 exhibits, including the Garden of Eden, The Flood, Museum of the Bible, Christ and the Cross and more. Watch for more details or contact Olivia Kmiecik, coordinator of alumni engagement, at 574-372-5100, ext. 6127 or [alumni@grace.edu](mailto:alumni@grace.edu).

### WELCOME WEEKEND | AUG. 17, 2019

We invite any alumni who are bringing their first-year student to Welcome Weekend to a special lunch at the Hospitality Suite in the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center. Watch for more details or contact Olivia Kmiecik, coordinator of alumni engagement, at 574-372-5100, ext. 6127 or [alumni@grace.edu](mailto:alumni@grace.edu).

## WHAT'S NEW?

**Submit an Alum Note.** Tell us the latest news in your life at [www.grace.edu/alumnotes](http://www.grace.edu/alumnotes) and choose to publish it as an Alum Note in an upcoming issue of *Grace Story*.

## FACEBOOK

Join us on Facebook to stay connected with former classmates and friends, share your news, find out what's happening at Grace and get the latest on upcoming alumni events.  
[www.facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/GraceAlumniCommunity)

## TELL US YOUR STORY

If you're a Grace graduate, completed a certification or attended classes, we want to hear from you. Tell us about your career history, accomplishments, how Grace influenced you, what you are doing with your college or seminary education today and/or how God is using you for His purposes. If you have a former classmate or alum you know who has a story you think *Grace Story* should feature, go ahead and share his/her story! Visit [www.grace.edu/gracestory](http://www.grace.edu/gracestory).



# OCTOBER 4-5

# HOMECOMING SCHEDULE



## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

### 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Check-In

[Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center, Upper Concourse Entrance](#)

Check in when you arrive to receive your welcome packet and the tickets for the events for which you registered online. It's also not too late to purchase tickets here.

### 9 a.m. Welcome Coffee\*

[Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center, Alumni Office](#)

For those arriving bright and early, join us for some coffee and light breakfast refreshments, and connect with alumni and friends.

### 10:30 a.m. Homecoming Chapel

[Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center](#)

Join us for the presentation of the Alumni and Parent Awards.

### 2 p.m. Grace Campus Bus Tour\*

[Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center, Lower Concourse Entrance](#)

Come join us for a tour of the Grace College & Seminary campus and Winona Lake with Dr. Terry White (BME 64), author of "Winona at 100: Third Wave Rising."

### 2 p.m. Campus Tours with Ambassadors\*

[Mount Memorial Hall](#)

First time back to campus in awhile? Join Grace College Student Ambassadors on a walking tour of new spots across campus, including Omega Hall, our newest residence hall, and the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex.

### 5:30 p.m. Seminary Reunion and Award Dinner\*\*

[Westminster Banquet Room](#)

All seminary graduates are invited to gather together during our inaugural Seminary Alumni Awards Dinner. Enjoy food and fellowship while we honor our first group of Seminary Alumni Award winners.

### 8 p.m. Wes Hampton & Sherry Anne Concert +

[Winona Heritage Room](#)

Join us for an evening of music with Wes Hampton of the Gaither Vocal Band and inspirational singer Sherry Anne. Purchase your tickets quickly, as we expect to sell out!

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

### 7:30 a.m. President's Breakfast\*+

[Alpha Hall Dining Room](#)

Come join President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74), alumni and friends for breakfast.

### 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Check-In

[Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center, Upper Concourse Entrance](#)

Check in when you arrive to receive your welcome packet and the tickets for the events for which you registered online. It's also not too late to purchase tickets here.

### 9 a.m. Lancer Athletic Hall of Fame Breakfast\*\*

[Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center](#)

All alumni and friends are invited to come celebrate the former athletes and supporters of Grace Athletics who are being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Open seating will be available in the bleachers. Breakfast is by invite only.

### 9 a.m. Morgan Library Workers Reunion\*+

[Morgan Library](#)

Anyone who has worked in the library (full time or student worker) is invited back to reconnect with former library staff and enjoy a light brunch. A short program will begin at 9:45 a.m.

### 10 a.m. Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams Staff and Environmental Science Reunion\*

[Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex](#)

All past and current Lilly Center staff and environmental science majors are invited back for a reunion at the new Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex. Enjoy brunch and fellowship with former coworkers and classmates.

### 11 a.m. Homecoming Parade

[Winona Lake Park](#)

The homecoming court, alumni award winners and various student and community groups will headline this festive event.

### 12 p.m. Seminary 1978-1980 Reunion\*+

[The Hub at Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church](#)

Come and enjoy an afternoon filled with great food and fellowship with former classmates and friends.

### 12 p.m. Reunions for the 2014 Class (5 yrs.), 2009 Class (10 yrs.) and 2004 Class (15 yrs.)\*+

[Miller Athletic Complex](#)

Come and enjoy an afternoon filled with great food and fellowship with former classmates and friends. Families welcome. Activities will be available for kids, weather permitting.

### 12 p.m.–2 p.m. Tailgate+

[Miller Athletic Complex](#)

Come out to enjoy a fall festival designed for the whole family, with food, bounce house (weather permitting), face painting and more.

### 1:30 p.m. Women's Soccer Game (versus Taylor University)

[Miller Athletic Complex](#)

Get ready to cheer on the women's soccer team!

### 3:30 p.m. Campus Tours with Ambassadors\*

[Mount Memorial Hall](#)

First time back to campus in awhile? Join Grace College Student Ambassadors on a walking tour of new spots across campus, including Omega Hall, our newest residence hall, and the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex.

### 4:30 p.m. Grace's Golden Gathering (Reunion for classes 1950-1974)\*+

[Westminster East Banquet Room](#)

For those who graduated 45 years or more ago, we are hosting an event to honor you and your long-standing relationship with Grace. Come and enjoy an evening filled with great food and fellowship with a group of your former classmates and friends.



# 2019

## 5 p.m. 40-Year Class Reunion (1979)\*+

Westminster West Banquet Room

Come and enjoy an evening filled with great food and fellowship with former classmates and friends.

## 5 p.m. 30-Year Class Reunion (1989)\*+

Location TBD

Come and enjoy an evening filled with great food and fellowship with former classmates and friends.

## 5:30 p.m. 25-Year Reunion (1994)\*+

The Hub at Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church

Come and enjoy an evening filled with great food and fellowship with former classmates and friends.

## 6 p.m. Coach Kessler Banquet \*\*

Winona Heritage Room

Join us to celebrate the career and retirement of Coach Jim Kessler (BS 70). The reception will begin at 6 p.m., and dinner and a program will begin at 6:45 p.m.

\* RSVP required

+ Fee to attend

\*\* RSVP according to the invitation

To RSVP and find complete details, including costs, visit:

[www.grace.edu/homecoming](http://www.grace.edu/homecoming)

If you'd like a sneak peek of the latest shops, galleries, studios and museums of the Village at Winona — visit [www.youvisit.com/tour/villageatwinona](http://www.youvisit.com/tour/villageatwinona) for a tour of the thriving arts community, and plan what places you'll pop in on when you come for Homecoming Weekend.

Dear friends,

We are hosting two special first-time events this year over Homecoming 2019 that we're really excited about:

- Morgan Library Reunion: Anyone who has worked in the library is invited back to reconnect with former library staff and enjoy a short presentation and light brunch.
- Seminary Reunion and Award Dinner: All seminary graduates are invited to gather together during our inaugural Seminary Alumni Awards Dinner.

While here, don't miss the chance to celebrate Coach K's 44-year career on Oct. 5 or see firsthand the impact of the ASPIRE Campaign when you visit the new Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex and cheer on our soccer team at the new 1st Source Bank Field. And don't forget the opportunities to reconnect with the staff and faculty who mentored, coached or challenged you during your time at Grace. Come back and relive some of your favorite memories, and create some new ones!

To register for Homecoming 2019 events, visit [www.grace.edu/homecoming](http://www.grace.edu/homecoming), and if I can be of any service to you, please contact me at 574-372-5100, ext. 6129 or [duncandl@grace.edu](mailto:duncandl@grace.edu).

We hope you come home!

Denny



Denny

Dennis Duncan (BS 80)  
Director of Alumni Engagement





# Making Waves

President Dr. Bill Katip helms Grace's new deck boat, a gift from Splendor Boats, out on Winona Lake.

If you're interested in a boat ride, contact Collette (Lehman BS 90) Olson, advancement assistant, at [olsoncj@grace.edu](mailto:olsoncj@grace.edu) or 574-372-5100, ext. 6122 to schedule a time.

# es



Splendor Boats owners Darren and Amy Parker (left) with Dr. Bill Katip

Darren (BS 01) and Amy (Heckaman BS 01) Parker are part owners of Splendor Boats, a family-owned, custom boat building business in Silver Lake, Indiana. This spring, Splendor donated one of its custom catamaran deck boats to Grace.

"We're a small business, and our customers are like family to us," says Amy. "We really wanted to be able to give back to our community." Plus, Darren and Amy were thrilled to support their alma mater. "Grace gave me a lot," enthuses Amy, "and I love that we can give something back in return. We hope it draws more students to Grace and gets people in the water, enjoying the lake and their community."

Grace is already using the boat for community events, student involvement activities and to showcase Winona Lake to prospective students.

"This gift depicts one of Grace's hallmarks — our proximity to a beautiful lake and the support of our small town community," says President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74). "We're astounded by Splendor Boats' generosity and the impact this gift will have in attracting students to Grace and providing memories for our current students, community members and friends of Grace."

Grace's Splendor boat boasts a catamaran hull and a single engine, which provides an unusually smooth ride. Additionally, its pier level entry makes it easy to get into, its roomy deck can seat 12 passengers and it's designed to pull skiers and tubers for maximum lake fun.

"Grace is growing, and we want to be a part of that," says Amy. "If we can help bring more students to Grace who can grow closer to God in the process, what more could we ask for?" ▼



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Listen and subscribe on **iTunes** or **Google Play**, or find us at [www.grace.edu/podcast](http://www.grace.edu/podcast).

The Grace Story Podcast provides a more in-depth look at some of our featured alumni plus faculty, staff and students who are making a difference on campus, in their community and in their field of study.

## Episodes:

- EP1: Dr. Freddy Cardoza**, new dean of the seminary
- EP2: Rev. Lonnie Anderson** (MDiv 12), Midwest multicultural church pastor
- EP3: Jesse Zvers**, student body president
- EP4: Dr. Rick Blackwood** (DMin 97), pastor and cancer survivor
- EP5: Dr. Roger Stichter**, professor of accounting (with a new book out!)
- EP6: Jim "Coach K" Kessler** (BS 70), longtime men's basketball head coach
- EP7: Clint "Clint Dawg" Johnson** (BS 05), renowned Lancer fan
- EP8: Martin Schiele**, two-sport student-athlete