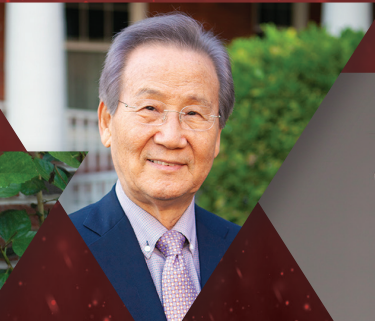


GRACE

— S T O R Y —

VOL. 39, ISSUE 3 / FALL 2019



2019

Alumni Award

Winners

ISSUE




WWW.GRACE.EDU

Vanguard.

The curious. The optimists. The perseverant.

The 1943-44 faculty and student body of Grace Theological Seminary gather in an upper floor classroom of the Free Methodist Publishing House, which is now Mount Memorial. Pictured in the front row (left to right) are administrators and faculty members Mabel Crawford Hamilton (BCE 45, MRE 52), French and Sango instructor; Paul Dowdy, Spanish instructor; Herman Hoyt (ThM 39, ThD 46, BDiv 50), secretary of the faculty and professor of New Testament and Greek; and Alva J. McClain, president and professor of Christian theology and apologetics.



Since the day in 1937 when Alva J. McClain opened a new theological school in Akron, Ohio, to more recent days when Grace has worked in tandem with the orthopaedic community and longtime benefactors of this school like the late Dr. Dane A. Miller and his wife, Mary Louise, in advancing our science program, to our groundbreaking work in the environmental sciences through the leadership of Dr. Nate Bosch and his team at the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, Grace College & Seminary has always been among the vanguard: a group of people leading the way in the development of new ideas.

The curious. The optimists. The perseverant.

This issue of *Grace Story* pays honor to the forerunners and the faithful who are part of our vanguard. The majority of the magazine is a panoramic gallery of some of our best and brightest.

This year at Homecoming 2019, we expanded our alumni awards to capture the stories of so many individuals who fit this mantle. They have all led from the front and served from their knees. The list includes former presidents of Grace, CEOs of global organizations, pastors of innovative ministries, philanthropists, entrepreneurs and one who is serving Christ in one of the most dangerous places in the known world. You will marvel at what even just a small snapshot of their lives contains.

It is our joy to honor them because as we do, we honor our Lord, Jesus Christ, for going before each of them and using them in such profound ways that have affected us all.

You'll also find a financial year-end report which shows both evidence of the ongoing fluctuation and fight to keep Christian education like ours available and affordable to as many families as possible. At the same time, you will rejoice with us, as it also reminds us of the incredible favor God has shown in helping us exceed our capital campaign goals through the generosity of so many people.

Honor these folks by taking the time to read their stories. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for their lifework and their leadership. And run your race in such a way as to enter the stadium to a great cloud of witnesses who will recognize you in the vanguard for Christ.



Bill Katip

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

inside

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Annual Report

Discover what programs are growing at Grace, meet the newest Grace Board of Trustees members and don't miss a special note about Grace's financial activities from Vice President of Financial Affairs Paul Blair.

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Alumni Award Winners

Celebrate Grace's alumni award winners (we've added seminary specific awards for the first time) who exemplify everything we hope our graduates will be: compassionate, confident, skilled people who lead lives of purpose.

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Grace Story Podcast

We started a podcast in March 2019, and we have over a dozen episodes available, including some of the alumni featured in the magazine, plus faculty, staff and students who are making a difference on campus, in their community and in their field of study. We interview new guests every month, so listen in and subscribe.

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Homecoming 2019

From celebrating Jim "Coach K" Kessler (BS 70), to Morgan Library's 50th Anniversary to honoring alumni from Grace Theological Seminary, Homecoming 2019 was filled with moments of connection and celebration, and we created a whole lot of new memories along the way.



GRACE
COLLEGE &
SEMINARY

Alumni Awards



35

Enrollment Statistics

New Residential Undergraduate Students

419 FALL 2017 361 FALL 2018 **400 FALL 2019**

Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rate

79.6% 2017 84.2% 2018 **84.3% 2019**

4-Year Endowment

\$12.3M 2015-16 \$17.5M 2016-17 \$18.9M 2017-18 **\$18.9M 2018-19**

PROGRAM INCREASES: FALL 2019

5

COLLEGE LAUNCH
175%

NURSING
37%

MBA
15%

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
8.5%



32

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.

Grace College & Seminary Administration

President: Dr. Bill Katip BA 74

Vice President of Advancement & Marketing: Dr. Drew Flamm

Director of Alumni & Community Engagement: Denny Duncan BS 80

Grace Story Creative Team

Creative Director / Editor-in-Chief: Kevin Sterner C 94

Managing Editor: Kerith Ackley-Jelinek

Art Director / Designer: Scott Kramer

Contributing Writer: Josh Neuhart BS 11

Photographers: Christian Cardoza, Trista Davis, Jeff Nycz, Andrew Palladino, Laura Rothhaar

Alum Notes Editor: Collette (Lehman BS 90) Olson

Copy Editors: Mary (McNally BS 78) Polston, Sarah Prater BS 10, Dr. Paulette (Macon BA 64, CERT 77) Sauders

On The Cover

2019 College and Seminary Alumni Award Winners

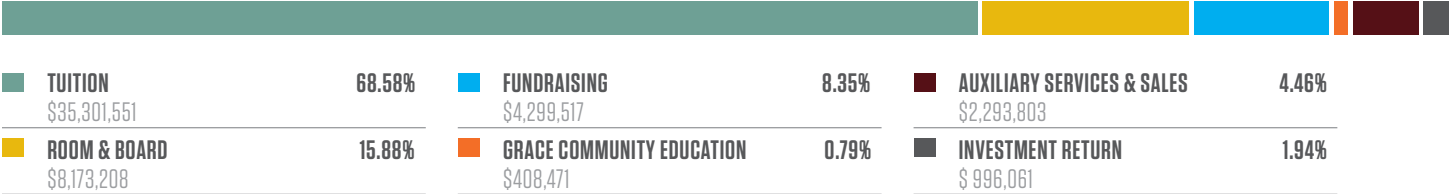
Comments may be sent to gracestory@grace.edu.
Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Grace College & Seminary.
Grace College & Seminary reserves the right to edit alum note submissions.

GRACE
COLLEGE &
SEMINARY

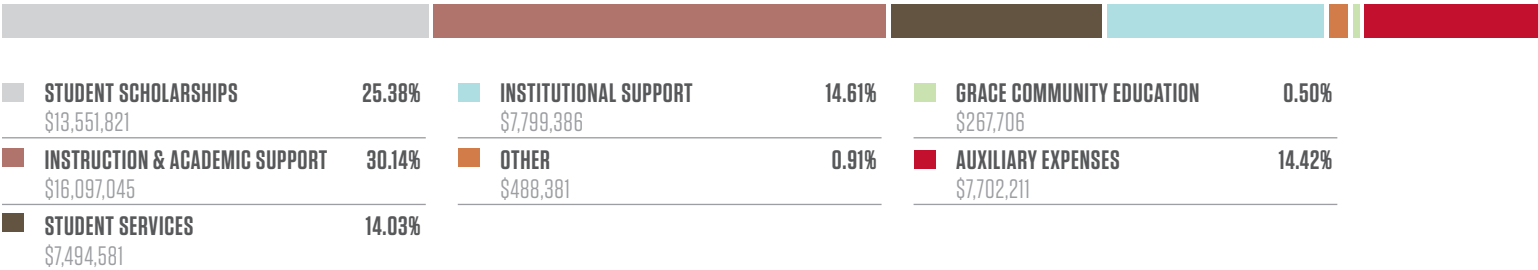
200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590
800-544-7223, www.grace.edu, gracestory@grace.edu

Financial Activities 2018-19

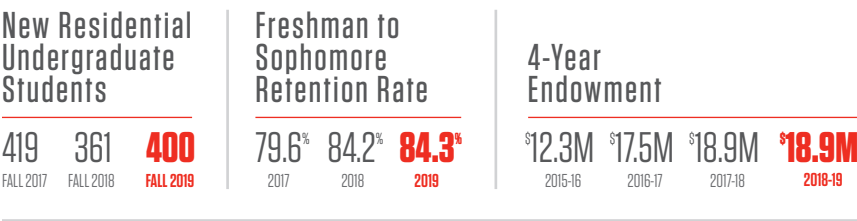
\$51,472,611 TOTAL REVENUE



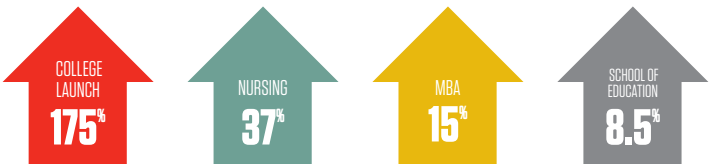
\$53,401,031 TOTAL EXPENSES



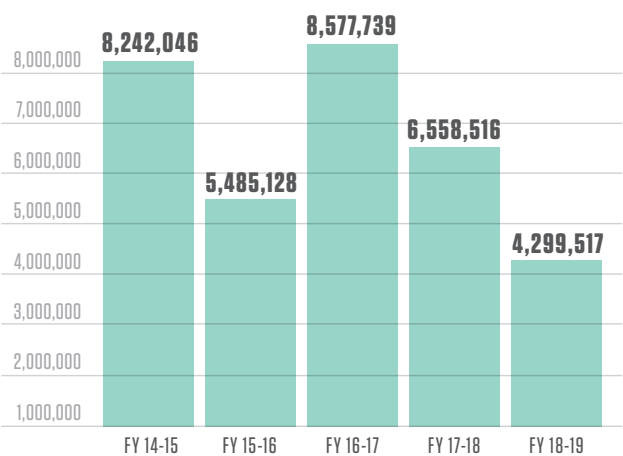
Enrollment Statistics



PROGRAM INCREASES: FALL 2019



5-Year Giving History



A NOTE ABOUT THE NUMBERS



Grace's financial performance during the past fiscal year depicts the ongoing challenges of a small, private Christian college to balance its operational budget. In both 2017 and 2018 our traditional, freshman class counts were below expectations, which put pressure on revenue. Non-traditional student enrollment also declined as a result of a strong economy where jobs are plentiful and returning to school is less appealing.

Although we just successfully completed our ASPIRE Campaign (exceeding our goal!), the focuses of the campaign were primarily for facilities and endowment. During the campaign, we nearly doubled our endowment (from \$11.5M in 2014 to \$18.9M in 2019) and purchased or built multiple facilities without needing any additional long-term financing. And we will continue to see the fruit of this campaign as we invest in updating our dining commons, developing new third spaces and growing our School of Business.

This is all great news, but the majority of the campaign gifts did not go towards our ongoing operational expenses.

Because our operational costs are met through tuition revenues, we continue to focus on recruiting and retaining students. Over the summer months, members of the Grace faculty and staff identified a host of revenue enhancement and cost-cutting measures that will help balance the budget in future years.

We are encouraged to report that the most recent freshman class count was up 11% over last year, which will help operations in the new fiscal year. Our blended degree program, which allows students to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees in four years, has record enrollment, and enrollment in College Launch, a program that allows high school juniors to earn an associate degree, more than doubled. Deploy, our competency-based seminary program, also grew as did our BSN program in partnership with Bethel University (Indiana). Additionally, our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is the highest it's been in the last four years (84.3%).

Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity. We're resolute in our commitment to fulfilling the call God has given us as an institution. We will continue to respond prayerfully and strategically to the evolving higher education landscape so that we can offer students the character and career preparation they need to lead lives of purpose.

Forward in Grace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Blair".

Paul Blair,
Vice President of Financial Affairs

Recent Grace Board of Trustees Election

The Grace Board of Trustees exists to define the mission, and to influence, support and nurture the development and accomplishment of the institution's vision by the administration, faculty and staff. In September, the corporation members of Grace College & Seminary voted for trustees to serve on the Grace Board for a three-year term (2019-22), and three new members were elected: Dr. Kelly (Manahan BA 90) Geisler, Seth Nash (BA 04) and Andrew Serafini.



Dr. Kelly (Manahan BA 90) Geisler is a gynecologic oncologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating women with cancer. Geisler recently left Cancer Treatment Centers of America (Georgia) to join the Lutheran Health Physicians network where she works at the Dupont Hospital campus (Indiana).

Geisler has over 20 years of experience providing surgery and chemotherapy for gynecologic malignancies, has held numerous professorships and has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications. After completing her undergraduate studies at Grace, Geisler earned her medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine, completed her residency at Medical College of Ohio and was awarded a gynecologic oncology fellowship at the University of Michigan. Geisler recently completed her MBA at the University of Georgia. Geisler serves on the board of directors for 1040i (Oklahoma) and also served on the Grace ASPIRE Campaign Cabinet. She is married to her husband, John, and they have three children and one grandchild.



Seth Nash (BA 04) is the vice president of business development & marketing for Mend Medical (Indiana), a startup equity firm and technology incubator focused on solving systemic problems in health care. Nash sources acquisitions or investments for the firm, negotiates deals and oversees the public positioning

of the company. Previously, Nash spent 13 years working for Zimmer Biomet (Indiana), most recently as director of product management for the global hip business. Nash is currently on the board of directors for The Center of Whitley County Youth (Indiana) and sits on the advisory council for Grace's School of Business. Nash is married to his wife, Erin (BA 04), and they have two children.



Andrew Serafini is a member of the Maryland State Senate from District 2 in Washington County. Serafini is a graduate of Shippensburg University (Pennsylvania) and was a pricing analyst and financial adviser before founding and serving as president of Serafini Financial Group in 1990. In 2008, Serafini was appointed

to the Maryland House of Delegates. In 2015 he was appointed to the Senate and is currently serving on several committees including Budget and Taxation and the Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration. Serafini formerly served on the Board of Trustees for Grace Academy (Maryland), was the district chair of the Christian Business Men's Committee and was the moderator of Maranatha Grace Brethren Church (Maryland). Serafini is married to his wife, Diana, and they have four children and two grandchildren.

Grace Schools Board of Trustees

Mr. Matt Abernethy (BS 03)
Rev. Daniel Allan (BA 80, Cert 81, MAMin 16)
Mr. Robert Bishop (BS 69)
Mr. William Burke (MAMin 07)
Dr. Kip Cone (BA 90, MDiv 96, DMin 18)
Mr. Gregory Dosmann (BS 86)
Dr. Kelly (Manahan BA 90) Geisler
Mr. James Grady
Mrs. Jennifer Hollar
Dr. Gregory Howell (BA 76, MDiv 79, DMin 07)

Mr. Randy Lake (BS 88)
Mr. Lamarr Lark, Sr. (BS 87)
Ms. Phyllis Marwah (BS 69)
Rev. John McIntosh (BA 71, MDiv 87)
Mr. Mark A. Miller (BS 89)
Mr. Seth Nash (BA 04)
Mr. Loren Neuenschwander (BS 87)
Mr. Daniel W. Renner
Mr. Daniel Sandoval

Mr. Andrew Serafini
Mr. Ray "Butch" Shook (BS 72)
Mr. Scott Silveus
Dr. John F. Smith (DMin 03)
Mr. Robert Vitoux
Mrs. Letitia Williams (MAMin 10)
Rev. Michael Yoder (BA 93, MDiv 96)
Ms. Janine Zeltwanger (BS 85)
Dr. William J. Katip (BA 74)

INVEST IN GRACE



BY GIVING TO GRACE, YOU HELP STUDENTS FIND THEIR WAY.

Christ modeled a life of radical generosity, making a way for all to find life in Him. Likewise, your gift to Grace College & Seminary will make a way for students to thrive in Christ-centered academics while being prepared to lead lives of purpose.

Radical generosity is more than offering financial support; it is the offering of time, talent, promotion and prayer. Ask God how He might be leading you to give with grace. Your generosity paves a path for students and the kingdom.

Partner with us today at grace.edu/give.

Dec. 15 - initiate year-end stock gifts

Dec. 31 - postmark cash/checks to Grace College & Seminary, Advancement Office, 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, IN 46590

Dec. 31 at 11:59 p.m. - deadline to make online gifts for 2019



COLLEGE & SEMINARY

Alumni Award Winners

It is with great pride and esteem that we introduce you to the 2019 Grace College & Seminary alumni award winners. The list is quite a bit longer than usual. Historically, Grace has given out alumni awards without distinguishing them specifically as “college” or “seminary” awards.

But we’ve begun a new tradition this year. The rich history and longevity of Grace Theological Seminary merits its own awards, and we found it impossible to award just one winner in each category when reviewing the processional of graduates from nearly 80 years — so we’re playing a bit of catch-up.

We officially recognized these winners, many of whom traveled to campus for the celebration, over this year’s Homecoming Weekend. Although we asked the audience to hold their applause until the end, feel free to cheer loudly as you turn each page.

These brief snapshots do not do justice to the breadth of the work, influence and heart these winners have for Jesus, but may they inspire you to persevere in the calling God has given you.

CATEGORIES OF AWARDS

College Alumni of the Year Award Seminary Alumni of the Year Award

This award recognizes college alumni who have enhanced Grace’s mission, reputation or campus morale, and who represent the school with professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication, and seminary alumni whose significant contributions in ministry have enhanced the seminary’s mission, reputation and legacy.

College Young Alumni of the Year Award Seminary Young Alumni of the Year Award

This award recognizes college alumni who have made significant contributions to society and/or have made significant professional advancements in their career less than 10 years since their graduation and seminary alumni who have made significant contributions in ministry and/or have made significant professional advancements in their career and are under 40 years of age.

College Alumni Distinguished Service Award Seminary Alumni Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes college and seminary alumni who have exhibited leadership displayed through extraordinary service to the increased welfare of Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary.

College Honorary Alumni of the Year Award Seminary Honorary Alumni of the Year Award

This award recognizes non-alumni who have demonstrated a genuine interest in the cause of Christian higher education as represented by and through Grace College and who have exhibited Christian leadership and have displayed extraordinary service to the increased welfare of Grace Theological Seminary.

College Parent Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes parents of a Grace student who have exhibited extraordinary service to the increased welfare of Grace.

*We invite you to submit nominees for the 2020
Alumni Awards at www.grace.edu/alumni/awards.*

College Alumni Award Winners

College Alumni of the Year

JIM KESSLER | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

Former Men's Basketball Coach, Current Special Assistant to the A.D., Grace College & Seminary



After his team won the NAIA National Championship in 1992, Jim “Coach K” Kessler (BS 70) remembers holding the trophy on the plane ride home, thinking, “Is this all there is? What’s next? To win again?” That’s when I realized that life is about the struggle and battle to overcome,” remembers Kessler. “Life is really more about the journey than the inn.”

Kessler’s 44-year coaching career at Grace is a testament to his commitment to be faithful in the journey, although he’s had countless successes along the way. Under his leadership, the men’s

basketball team made appearances in a national tournament for 11 consecutive seasons and overall, made nine appearances in the NAIA Nationals, including the 1987 Sweet 16 finish and the 1992 squad, who won the NAIA Division II National Championship.

Kessler accumulated 788 wins during his coaching career, ranking him number 28 in the all-time men’s college basketball coaches in America. He was inducted into Grace’s inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. He has also been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame (2016), NCCAA Hall of Fame (1994) and has been both the NAIA National Coach of the Year (1992) and NCCAA National Coach of the Year (1983, 1992) as well as receiving multiple Mid-Central and Crossroads League Coach of the Year awards.

Kessler led the Lancers on multiple international basketball mission trips over the years and directed Lancer Basketball Camp on Grace’s campus for more than four decades. He saw over 20,000 campers attend, including two Mr. Basketball winners (the top high school basketball player in the state of Indiana), multiple Indiana All-Stars and campers who went on to coach teams to the State Championship. One of Kessler’s greatest memories is when one of his former campers approached him, now grown and with his family, to thank Kessler for influencing him to decide to follow Christ. “He introduced me to his son and daughter and said they were believers as well,” beams Kessler.

Now that he’s retired from coaching, Kessler still has the same goal, “to press on toward the upward call of Christ Jesus,” he says, referring to his life verses from Philippians 2:7-14. “As a member of His team, I want to be known as a faithful servant of Christ to the end – that’s it.”

Word to the wise: *“Our goal shouldn’t be to leave a legacy of winning or to be remembered by name. It should be that people remember Jesus. Even our earthly best is but rubbish when compared to serving our Savior.”*

College Young Alumni of the Year

LEANNE LAVENDER | INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Co-Owner, LoveWell Fundraising + Content Strategist, Water for Good

Since graduating from Grace in 2010, LeAnne (Bundenthal BS 10, MBA 15) Lavender has been remarkably industrious. Right after earning her bachelor's degree, Lavender served as an admissions counselor at Grace where she achieved record-breaking numbers in both her territory and for the institution and eventually became the director of admissions at Grace College Indianapolis — while earning her MBA.

But in 2016, her husband, Derek, was in a serious motorcycle accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Lavender resigned from Grace to help him recover and figure out a new way forward. In 2017, MudLOVE asked



her to come on as a director to help with its fundraising efforts. Lavender eagerly accepted, helping to develop what is now known as LoveWell Fundraising, which has

“YOUR STORY WILL NOT BE THE SAME AS THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE MISSING OUT.” ▼

raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for organizations and people who need encouragement in their lives. Meanwhile,

Lavender founded Lavender Accessible Design where she helps others design and create accessible

spaces for their home or business. Her work has been featured on platforms including Dwell and Design Sponge. Additionally, she's become an advocate of the spinal cord community through her social media presence, Lavenders Longshot, educating others about accessibility but also spreading hope about life after loss. She's also managed to become a content strategist at Water for Good in 2017, where she helps raise awareness about ongoing water poverty in the Central African Republic.

In the midst of tragedy, Lavender has been catapulted into influential roles she never could have imagined. “Your story will not be the same as the person next to you, but that doesn't mean you're missing out,” she says. “You are where you need to be.”

.....
Comfort in crisis: *“Others want to help. Let them.”*

College Alumni Distinguished Service Award

LAMARR LARK SR. | LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Founder and Pastor, Connection Church + Owner/Operator, Chick-fil-A



When Lamarr Lark Sr. (BS 87) showed up at Grace as a freshman, he'd only been a Christian for two months. Providentially, he found himself sitting in Dr. Ron Manahan's Old Testament class, and Manahan began to disciple Lark. “It's my fondest memory of Grace because he laid a foundation for me that has enabled me to be where I am today.” Their relationship continues to this day. In fact, laughs, Lark, “I often tell my wife of 35 years that I've been in a relationship with him longer than her!”

After graduating from Grace, Lark went on to spend 24 years at Abbott, a leading global health care company, where he retired as divisional vice president of human resources at the laudable age of — 50. While at Abbott, Lark pursued any opportunity to pursue his passion to pastor, serving as an assistant pastor and executive pastor at various churches as he and his family moved around the country for his job. Lark knew when he retired, he wanted to pastor full time. In 2014, the Lord gave him an opportunity to plant a church in Libertyville, Illinois, and Connection Church — a culturally, generationally, economically diverse church — was born. Lark bought and converted an old barn built in the late 1800s into Connection's worship center, and now you can find him preaching most Sundays to around 50 to 75 people.

In addition to pastoring full time, Lark became an owner/operator of a Chick-fil-A (Gurnee, Illinois) in 2017, which gives him more financial freedom to invest in his young church.

Since occupying a seat in Manahan's class, Lark's relationship with Grace has expanded to reach the whole institution. He's served on the Grace Board of Trustees since 2005. His lengthy experience in human resources has benefited Grace greatly, and he was instrumental in the design of Deploy, Grace's competency-based seminary program, and in connecting Grace with other key pastors in the Midwest.

Whether Lark is walking the floor of his restaurant or preaching in a renovated barn, and working for a Fortune 500 company, his goal is to keep his eyes fixed on Jesus. “God has blessed us with material things, but that's not where I get my joy,” he says. “My satisfaction is in Him and the work He does through me.”

.....
Word to the wise: *“Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A, asked the question, ‘How do you know that a person needs encouragement?’ His answer was, ‘They are breathing.’ I've held onto that. I want to encourage every person I come into contact with.”*

College Honorary Alumni of the Year

MARY LOUISE MILLER | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

President, Dr. Dane and Mary Louise Miller Foundation



Mary Louise Miller and her late husband Dr. Dane Miller are nothing short of legends in the Winona Lake and Warsaw community, let alone the state of Indiana — and across the globe. The worldwide orthopaedic company, Biomet (now Zimmer Biomet), was founded in the Millers' converted barn in Warsaw in 1977 and under Dane's leadership, grew from eight people

"I FEEL BLESSED TO HAVE SHARED IN HIS DREAMS, AND I AM COMMITTED TO SEEING EACH ONE COME TRUE." ▼

to more than 10,000 globally with annual sales exceeding \$2.7 billion. But the company's heartbeat was always to better people's lives and to invest in communities.

Within the first 15 years of their company's success, the Millers created the Dr. Dane and Mary Louise Miller Foundation to support leadership in philanthropy, public service and the advancement of the sciences. For the past 35 years, the foundation has supported numerous nonprofits and thousands of families. One of the Millers' chief benefactors has been Grace. Dane was intimately involved in the development of the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center and most recently, the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex, which stands as a tribute to Dane's vision and life of generosity.

Since Dane's death in 2015, Mary Louise has continued to support their passions. Out of all of her awards and achievements, she's most proud of her 53-year marriage to Dane and the work they accomplished together. "I feel blessed to have shared in his dreams, and I am committed to seeing each one come true." Mary Louise served as the honorary chair of the ASPIRE Campaign and continues to use her foundation and leadership to advance the endeavors of Grace. "Grace is a college devoted to making God-led decisions; that's worth supporting."

Word to the wise: "Pray — a whole lot. And always be positive and thankful for what you have."

College Parent Distinguished Service

DAN AND DEBI RENNER | PICKERINGTON, OHIO

Entrepreneurs + Philanthropists

If Dan and Debi Renner have a superpower, they'd say it's "picking the right partners." It wasn't until their first year of marriage that they formed their most important one: "We quickly discovered that without Jesus, it's a formula for being unhappy," says Dan. "Relationships are what life is all about: first with God and then with others." That philosophy set them up for success.

Dan was part of the founding team at CoverMyMeds (Ohio), a health care software startup established in 2008. Blessed with wise leadership, a talented team and an industry model that found unusual traction, the business grew at a rapid



pace. CoverMyMeds was sold in 2017, and the Renners now enjoy the freedom to invest in the people and organizations God calls them to, one of them being Grace.

"RELATIONSHIPS ARE WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT: FIRST WITH GOD AND THEN WITH OTHERS." ▼

Dan has served on Grace's Board of Trustees since 2014 and is currently the vice

chair. They've spent countless hours on various committees at Grace, been integral in developing Grace's new brand platform, "Ways of Grace" and consulted on enrollment and financial aid interests. The Renners have also contributed significantly to support scholarship funds and the launch of Deploy, Grace's competency-based seminary program.

Additionally, the Renners wanted their two children, Sarah (BS 16) and Daniel (BS 19), to benefit from a college experience that sharpened them spiritually while giving them the tools they needed for a future career. "We couldn't be more thankful for the way Grace invested in our kids," says Debi, "striking the perfect balance of giving them both the structure and freedom to grow in their faith."

Word to the wise: "Character wins in the end. You can be successful and powerful and wealthy, but without character you'll ultimately fall on your own sword. People with character succeed in extraordinary ways and always bless those around them."

Seminary Alumni Award Winners

Seminary Alumni of the Year

DR. JIM CUSTER | POWELL, OHIO

Pastor Emeritus, Grace Polaris Church



If you live in the Midwest, it's possible you're familiar with the deep, rich, ready-to-laugh voice of Dr. Jim Custer (BA 60, BDiv 63, ThM 77), who's been the host behind the "Right Start" daily radio broadcast over the past 50 years. It's one of the many things Custer still does today, while also coaching and shepherding the pastors and attendees at Grace Polaris Church (Ohio) where he pastored since 1968.

Under his leadership at Polaris, the church's community and global impact flourished. Grace Early Childhood Center

and Worthington Christian High School were launched along with the Theological Practicum, Worthington Bible Institute and two missions boards, which plant and equip new churches.

Custer takes zero credit for the church's impact: "I learned a whole new way of shepherding God's flock by letting God build His church through His gifted ministers," he says. "The people at our church led, fed and fueled the ministry." Some of the best counsel he received in ministry was to keep himself low, and Jesus high. "It is amazing what can be accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit," he says.

Throughout his 50 years of ministry, Custer has provided leadership to countless organizations, including the Brethren Board of Evangelism, the National Youth Board, the Board of Christian Education and the Board of Trustees for Grace. (In 2017, Custer stepped down from Grace's board after serving on it for 17 years.) Custer has also received numerous awards for his ministry work, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grace Brethren Ministers and the Milestone Award from the National Religious Broadcasters.

Custer's love for helping others understand the Bible has propelled him to lead 34 tours to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Greece and Rome. Twice, the Israel Ministry of Tourism has honored him with a Distinguished Service Award. After half a century in ministry, Custer still is astounded by how alive the Bible is. "God still breathes His will in the pages, and I can never exhaust the riches He has woven into the Text. When I discover such insights, my mind is thrilled — when I find a way to share that with others, my soul is filled."

.....

Word to the wise: *"Model your ministry after the pattern of Barnabas, and take those stresses to your knees before Daniel's Jehovah. Remember that God has chosen to live in you, and He will complete the job of perfecting the Temple to His delight."*

Seminary Alumni of the Year

BARB WOOLER | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

Director of Crisis Response,
Encompass World Partners



Barb Wooler's (BS 82, MA 96) decades-long career with Encompass began in 1985 when she moved to the forests of the Central African Republic (CAR) to share the Gospel with the Bayaka Pygmy people. For the next 20 years, Wooler developed an oral Bible in Sango, started a literacy program, opened orphan schools

in villages and facilitated income-producing work for widows. Wooler witnessed 20 Bayaka men learn to read, enroll in and graduate from Bible institutes and return to their villages to serve as pastors and missionaries.

In 2014, in response to the horrific CAR war and its resulting food instability, Encompass asked Wooler to mobilize its fellowship of churches to meet the needs in the CAR. After raising \$700,000 to purchase food and farming equipment for CAR communities, Encompass invited Wooler to develop a crisis response ministry arm that would enable Encompass to be strategically proactive in future crises. Since then, Wooler has been serving as the director of crisis response, and in 2016, co-authored the book "30 Days to a More Resilient Faith" with Wayne Hannah (BA 72, CERT 77), which presents a biblical theology of suffering in 30 daily devotionals.

Through all the seasons of her work at Encompass, Wooler has lived by the words of Elisabeth Elliot [Christian author and writer], "Do the next thing," and Dr. Bob Jones Sr. [founder of Bob Jones University] who said, "Do right till the stars fall." "These two simple adages have pulled the 'cart' of my life through the mountains, valleys and plateaus," says Wooler.

Although Wooler has often felt ill-equipped for the ministries God calls her to, she says it's stunning to watch God work through her. "Only I know what God has done and how often it has been in spite of and not because of who I am that efforts have been fruitful for His glory," says Wooler. "The experience is deeply and sweetly humbling."

Word to the wise: "I've often described life as a backward swan dive (a completely blind dive). Offer yourself fully to the Lord, thrusting yourself with abandon into Him and His provision."

Seminary Alumni of the Year

JIM HOCKING | WARSAW, INDIANA

Founder, Water for Good

In 2004, at the age of 50, Jim Hocking (BA 77, MDiv 84) founded Water for Good, which tackles water poverty in the Central African Republic (CAR). Before Water for Good, he began numerous ministries for Encompass World Partners, including starting literacy schools across the CAR and building a maintenance garage. His mechanical skills reflect his general gift for figuring out a way to get things done when the normal way isn't possible. Which is exactly what he's been doing through Water for Good.

The nonprofit not only drills wells, but does so relying on all local staff that

provide regular well maintenance. The local staff build relationships with communities and work with them to start projects that will prosper and empower the

community long term. "When people have power over their well and begin to assert that same

power in their life choices, it's transformative for a community," says Hocking. In partnership with Central Africans, the organization has drilled nearly 900 wells,



Photo courtesy of Luke Wright

restored an additional 900 wells and provides water for over 600,000 people every day through its well maintenance program. Additionally, Water for Good shares the Gospel through a shortwave radio; it's amassed over one million listeners in villages across the country.

Hocking visits the CAR four times a year, and after 15 years of operating Water for Good, he delights in seeing the pride and integrity of Central Africans who join in the work of establishing and maintaining wells. "It's not always the way Americans would do it, but often times, it is a much better and much less expensive way." He's also quick to point out that the organization's growth and efficacy has been buoyed by others' expertise and leadership. "I continue to realize that this is God's work and not my work," he says, "and I need a lot of help doing it. Stepping aside to let others run the organization I founded was not an easy move, but I realized that it was the only way to actually survive. And honestly, those who run it now do it much better than I ever did."

Word to the wise: "Always help a widow. Always help an orphan."

Seminary Alumni of the Year

DR. RICK BLACKWOOD | PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA

Former Lead Pastor, Christ Fellowship; Visionary, Leading From the Pulpit



Photo courtesy of Christ Fellowship.

In September 2019, after 23 years leading Christ Fellowship church (Florida) and 44 years of pastoral ministry, Dr. Rick Blackwood (DMin 97) announced his retirement. When Blackwood took on the role of lead pastor in 1996, he moved the church to become a diverse, multicultural community comprised of more than 80 nationalities worshipping together in six local campuses and 10 global

“LONGEVITY IS ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING STRONG CHURCHES. GO SOMEWHERE, AND STAY THERE.” ▼

campuses, with a thriving online community. Christ Fellowship has been listed among the fastest growing and largest churches in America, and Blackwood attributes it to the work of the Word. He is well-known for teaching verse by verse through the books of the Bible.

After such a lengthy tenure at Christ Fellowship, Blackwood has modeled the advice he gives to the next generation of leaders and pastors: “Longevity is essential to building strong churches. Go somewhere, and stay there.”

In the midst of his ministry at Christ Fellowship, Blackwood was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. He says the secret to persevering through difficult times is an old prayer that has “always kept me anchored: ‘God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.’ I try to live one day at a time and enjoy one moment at a time.”

Blackwood will continue to serve the church as a member of the teaching team while also launching Leading From the Pulpit, a ministry to train pastors to lead church growth both spiritually and numerically through high impact expository preaching. His book, “The Power of Multisensory Preaching and Teaching,” is a Preaching Magazine Book of the Year winner.

Among all of his accomplishments, including surviving cancer and a heart attack, he’s most proud of this: “That I was counted worthy to serve Christ as a pastor.”

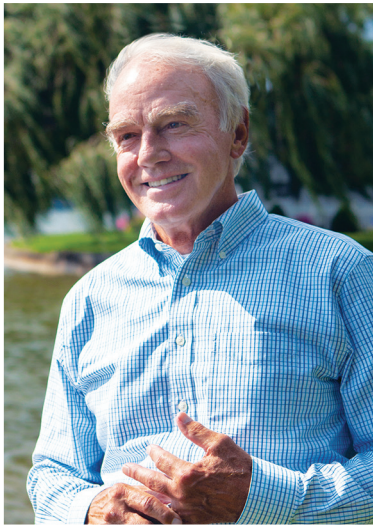
Word to the wise: “‘Touch not the glory.’ (It’s an old Wesleyan saying.)”

Seminary Alumni of the Year

KNUTE LARSON | SAWYER, MICHIGAN

Coach of Pastors, Multi-Pulpit Preacher, Director of Pastorpedia

When Knute Larson (BA 62, BDiv 66) became The Chapel’s (Ohio) third senior pastor in 1983, the thriving church had grown to nearly 4,000 members in its 50-year history. Nobody could imagine that its growth and impact would increase so dramatically over the next 25 years. Over Larson’s 26-year-“beyond-my-dreams” tenure, The Chapel directed over 40% of its offerings to “outside the walls” — local and global evangelism and benevolence — and grew to over 10,000 in two campuses and three new Chapels in nearby towns. Additionally, The Chapel’s Sunday and home adult Bible fellowships (ABFs) flourished and



became a national small group model now used in over 4,000 churches.

Larson’s reputation grew around town too; he was

recognized for his 30- and 60-second TV and radio spots about faith, his activity on local boards and his intentional partnership with Pastor Ron Fowler of the Arlington Church of God to lead a racial reconciliation movement.

“WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU DID NOT RECEIVE? IF THEN YOU RECEIVED IT, WHY DO YOU BOAST?” (I COR. 4:7) ▼

Out of that partnership sprang “Love Akron,” a fraternity of many churches with a full-time director, to serve the city. Then President Bill Clinton brought the first national town hall on race to Akron, at which Larson spoke. Larson’s leadership was so influential that Akron’s mayor called Larson “minister for the city.”

Fortunately, the apostle Paul’s counsel has been defining in Larson’s life, “What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast?” (I Cor. 4:7).

Since retiring in 2009, Larson coaches pastors and churches, teaches courses at Grace Theological Seminary and Trinity International and hosts Pastorpedia, a free, monthly resource for pastors and church leaders. He’s authored three books and two commentaries.

Comfort in crisis: Larson’s compassion and understanding of people’s pain grew out of a childhood that brought his parents’ divorce, the tragic death of his 14-year-old sister and his mother’s painful death from cancer. “I still convey the only answer that helped me: ‘Creation groans’ big time, life is not often fair and Jesus will clearly and eternally rebuild this place with His perfection.”



Seminary Alumni Distinguished Service Award

DR. HOMER KENT JR | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

Former President (and so much more),
Grace College & Seminary

At the age of 14, Dr. Homer Kent Jr. (M.Div. 50, Th.M. 52, Th.D. 56) moved from Washington D.C. to Winona Lake, Indiana, where his father, Homer Kent Sr., was joining the faculty of the newly formed Grace Theological Seminary. It was in those same teen years that Kent Jr. determined to read through the Bible every year of his life. He has kept that commitment ever since, and his life and work have been transformed by it — as has Grace and its students who have benefited from his faithfulness tenfold.

After earning his M.Div., Kent began teaching at Grace and went on to spend 50 years teaching, 14 of which he served as the dean of the seminary before being appointed as president in 1975. Kent served as president for the next 10 years, and under his leadership new graduate programs in missions began, a nursing program was launched and regional accreditation was achieved for the seminary.

Kent announced his resignation as president in 1985, but continued to teach at Grace until he retired in 1999 as president emeritus and professor emeritus of New Testament and Greek. That same year, Grace named its newly built residence hall, Kent Hall, in his honor.

During his tenure at Grace, Kent was a prolific writer and a respected New Testament theologian and scholar. From 1967 to 1973, Kent served as a translator for the New International Version, and he has authored 21 books, many of them in-depth, exhaustive commentaries on New Testament books.

Over the course of many years, Kent translated the New Testament from Greek into his own translation. It was part of his discipline to translate one or two verses a day.

Kent celebrated his 93rd birthday this fall and spends his days at Grace Village (Winona Lake, Indiana) where he still recounts the honor it was for him to teach thousands of students to cherish and exegete the Word of God.

Word to the wise: “For Paul, Philippians 4:13

[I can do all things through Him who strengthens me] was no excuse for diminished effort. It was not an escape from his own responsibilities. It was a simple, unashamed and powerful statement of his faith, that God always enables His servant to do what He wants done.”

Seminary Alumni Distinguished Service Award

DR. JOHN DAVIS | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

Former President (and so much more),
Grace College & Seminary

When Dr. John Davis (M.Div. 62, Th.M. 64, Th.D. 68) was appointed president of Grace in 1986, he was already a renowned Old Testament scholar and an esteemed archeologist and a prolific writer and a recording musician.

He began teaching at Grace in 1965 and would go on to serve as executive vice president for six years and president for seven years (1986 -1993). After his presidency, he continued teaching courses at Grace in Old Testament, Hebrew and archaeology and retired in 2004, after 39 years of service.

Over his career, Davis contributed to numerous articles, dictionaries and journals, including Harper's Bible Dictionary, The Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia, and Hermeneutics, Inerrancy & The Bible. He also contributed to the study editions of multiple Bible translations, including the New American Standard Bible and the New King James Version.

Davis also participated in 13 archaeological expeditions as a senior staff member to Jordan and Israel (from 1963 to 2003) and worked in field excavations in the Midwest and survey work on Temple Mount sites in San Salvador, Central America. He's taught in 45 different countries, recorded 15 Gospel and Hawaiian music CDs and authored 19 books.

Since retiring, Davis is still preaching, often at Grace Village (Winona Lake, Indiana) where he resides, putting on concerts and writing. He's currently working on a commentary on Jonah — which he says will be his final book. “This one is special because I taught the book of Jonah from Hebrew for 39 years to my students, so I should have something to say,” he laughs. He plans to finish the manuscript later this year.

Word to the wise: “Define what God is calling you to do and do it in a way that is sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the principles of God's Word.”

Seminary Alumni Distinguished Service Award

DR. RON MANAHAN | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

Former President (and so much more),
Grace College & Seminary

After earning his M.Div. from Grace in 1970, Dr. Ron Manahan (M.Div. 70, Th.M. 77, Th.D. 82) pastored his first church in a tiny town of about 40 people in Orland, Indiana. In his 13 months there, the congregation grew to 200, but he knew teaching was his calling. After joining the faculty at Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music, Manahan was invited to come back to Grace, this time as a professor of biblical studies in 1977. He eventually became vice president of academics and then provost, finally becoming president in 1994.

Under his leadership, enrollment more than doubled, and seven buildings were renovated or constructed, including Westminster Hall, Indiana Hall, Gordon Health and Wellness Center and the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center. He also established partnerships with CE National, Bethel University for nursing, Encompass World Partners and Trine University for Engineering. Manahan retired 20 years later, in 2013, acting as senior adviser to the president several years following.

Because of Manahan's leadership, Grace was one of the first colleges nationally to develop and offer a three-year degree program for nearly all its majors. Grace's program innovation attracted the attention of Congress, state legislators and national media. In 2011 Manahan championed higher education affordability and transparency to the Congressional Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training in Washington D.C.

Now you can find Manahan back where he first started — pastoring at a small church in Oswego, Indiana, where he preaches every Sunday and stays busy making plenty of house calls. He's also committed to spending as much time with his seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild as he can, “while they still sometimes think of a grandparent as a good thing,” he laughs.

Word to the wise: “Don't hold a personal opinion so strongly that you can't lay it aside to connect with another person.”

Seminary Alumni of the Year

DR. TOM JULIEN | WARSAW, INDIANA

*A Coordinator of the Equipping Network,
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches*



In 1958, after Dr. Tom Julien (MDiv 57, DDiv 96) graduated from Grace Theological Seminary, he and his wife, Doris, knew God was calling them to the mission field. “We had planned to go to Africa,” says Julien, “but when we learned of the tremendous spiritual need in France, we felt sure that God was calling us there.”

The Juliens sailed to France under Grace Brethren Foreign Missions where they discovered that traditional evangelistic activities were ineffective and employed a relational approach instead. They acquired the Chateau of Saint Albain, a medieval castle, which became a renowned center serving as a bridge between believers and nonbelievers and giving identity to a church planting movement in southern Burgundy. Nearly 30 years later, Julien was asked to become the executive director of Grace Brethren Foreign Missions (now Encompass World Partners).

In the years that followed, Julien oversaw the expansion of church planting ministries into a dozen new countries and the launch of several new ministries including The World Mission Church, The ACT Strategy, Charis International Alliance, and the Strategic Alliance for Leadership Training. Julien retired from Encompass in 2000 and now serves as a coordinator of the Equipping Network for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. His philosophy of focusing on people rather than projects continues to define his ministry work.

With more than 60 years of ministry experience and his exceptional undertakings, including authoring six books, Julien has accrued numerous accolades throughout his career. Most recently, Julien was selected by Marquis Who's Who to receive the Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award (2018), which recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to their profession. Julien is also a pastor emeritus of the Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church.

Word to the wise: “Ministry is not measured by what I do for the Lord, but by what He does through me, and everything we do has eternal value if we offer it to the Lord.”

Seminary Alumni of the Year

DR. DAVID S. DOCKERY | LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS (SOON-TO-BE FORT WORTH, TEXAS)

*Theologian-in-Residence,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary*

In August 2019, Dr. David S. Dockery (MDiv 79) joined the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Texas) as its theologian-in-residence and special consultant to the president. Previously, Dockery served as the president of Union University (Tennessee) for nearly 20 years where, under his leadership, enrollment more than doubled and net assets tripled. Dockery also helped guide Union's response and recovery in 2008 to one of the largest natural disasters ever to hit an American university campus. Following his years of service at Union as president and professor of Christian thought and tradition, Dockery was named president emeritus.



Over the past five years, Dockery has served as president and chancellor of Trinity International University (Illinois) where he introduced new academic programs and established four new academic centers. In addition, Dockery led processes to strengthen the Trinity Board, enhance denominational relationships, upgrade the look of the campus and reshape the University Leadership Team.

Dockery is a sought-after speaker and lecturer, a consulting editor for Christianity Today and has authored, edited or contributed to nearly 100 books. He's received numerous awards, including the Holman Christian Standard Service Award from LifeWay Christian Resources, the Land Distinguished Service Award from the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and the John R. Dellenback Global Leadership Award from the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

Dockery served as chair of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, the Consortium for Global Education and, more recently, as chair of the Christian College Consortium. Dockery has spoken on more than 70 campuses and served churches across the country.

Considered one of the premier Southern Baptist scholars of this century, what's kept Dockery grounded in it all is his wife, Lanese, to whom he's been married for four decades, and his three sons, three daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren — the gifts for whom he is most grateful.

Shout-out: “I regularly offer thanks for the influence of professors like Dr. Chuck Smith (ThD 70), Dr. Homer Kent (MDiv 50, ThM 52, ThD 56), Dr. Don Fowler (MDiv 71, ThM 73, ThD 81) and Dr. John Sproule (ThD 81) who taught me to think carefully and wisely about theology, church, ministry and life.”

Seminary Alumni of the Year

ED LEWIS | WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

President, CE National



Photo courtesy of CE National.

Ed Lewis (BME 69, MDiv 73) began working for CE National (Indiana) right after graduating from Grace with his M.Div. He was just 23. In 1985, while still in his 30s, Lewis became president of the organization where he continues

“YOU DON’T RETIRE FROM YOUR CALLING IN LIFE.” ▼ to serve, 34 years later. “CE National shares my heartbeat,” Lewis says, explaining his longevity at the organization. “They want to see people live ON MISSION — to follow and share Jesus.”

Under Lewis’ leadership, CE’s ministries and impact have multiplied. Its youth conference, Momentum (formerly the Brethren National Youth Conference), has grown from 300 attendees to over 2,000 each summer; Operation Barnabas was launched; The National Institute was founded; and most recently, Urban Hope Training Centers have been established in Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Lewis is particularly excited about the way Urban Hope trains groups of people to start conversations about their faith in their own backyards. In fact, Lewis spends almost 90% of his year living in one of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods in Philadelphia, while working at the center. “Through Urban Hope, visiting groups learn how to seek out those who have been overlooked,” says Lewis. “By our bringing people into an area with the highest concentration of illegal drugs and lots of poverty, people learn to share their faith. Also a church has developed, and through this outreach Jesus is changing lives.”

It’s what makes Lewis most proud to be a part of CE National. “It is seeing what God does in changing the lives of people when they submit to Jesus,” he says.

After 45 years of ministry, Lewis doesn’t have any plans to slow down. “You don’t retire from your calling in life,” he says. “Hebrews says life is a race. I want to run my life in such a way that as I get closer to the finish line, I sprint — because Jesus is worth it.”

Word to the wise: “The greatest joy in life is living for **Him**. 2 Corinthians 5:15 says that we do not live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us! It is **fun** to live for Jesus!”

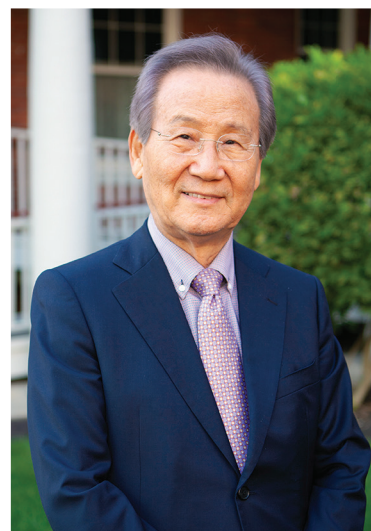
Seminary Alumni of the Year

DR. SANG-BOK DAVID KIM | SEONGNAM, SOUTH KOREA

Pastor Emeritus, Hallelujah Community Church

Dr. Sang-Bok David Kim (ThD 77) was 11 years old when he fled his hometown of Pyong Yang, North Korea, to South Korea during the Korean War in 1950. But by 1960, Kim was president of the New Life Reform Movement, a national student movement in six major cities of Korea that sought to bring about ethical changes and improvement in society and government. Kim escaped death three times during the April 1960 Student Revolution, which brought down the government of president Syngman Rhee.

He went on to earn his undergraduate degree in South Korea (1963) before



coming to the U.S. to earn his Master of Divinity (1968), Master of Sacred Theology (1972) and Doctor of Theology (1977). He is also a recipient of honorary degrees from Washington Bible College and Capital Theological Seminary (Washington, D.C.) and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Illinois).

Over the past 50-plus years, Kim has served as a pastor at Bethel Presbyterian Church (Maryland, 1979-1990), professor at Ashin Theological Seminary and executive director at Torch Center for World Mission (Korea, 1990-1997); senior pastor (now emeritus) at Hallelujah Community Church (Korea, 1990-present), where the congregation grew from 3,800 to 13,000; and president and chancellor of Torch Trinity Graduate University (Korea, 1997-present).

Kim has also served in multiple cooperative ministries including: publisher of Our Daily Bread (Korean-English edition); ambassador at large for Transform World Network; chairman of World Evangelical Alliance; chairman of Presidents and Academic Deans Congress (PAD Congress) in South Africa; chairman of Asia Evangelical Alliance; and chairman of the Asia Theological Association.

Additionally, Kim is the author of 76 books and has edited another 43 books, in addition to writing nearly 1,800 articles.

Comfort in crisis: “Impossible people and circumstances are everywhere. We don’t have the answers. But with God, through prayer, He makes peace possible.”

Seminary Young Alumni of the Year

MARK ARTRIP | HILLIARD, OHIO

Founder and Lead Pastor, Movement Church



Photo courtesy of Movement Church.

Mark Artrip (BS 04, MA 05) was just 12 when he first considered church planting, so perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise that in 2012, at the age of just 29, he founded Movement Church (Ohio). He'd been in ministry at Grace Church in

"OUR GOAL IS TO PLANT 25 CHURCHES THAT WILL PLANT AN ADDITIONAL 25 CHURCHES." ▼

Powell, Ohio, for several years prior, but knew God was calling him to begin a new gathering where "people who didn't

know God could find their way

back to Him," Artrip says simply.

Movement Church started with 21 adults and three kids and now, seven years later, sees around 300 people on a Sunday. The church's goals have been ambitious since the start: to see 10% of attendees come to know Jesus, be baptized and personally discipled; to give away hundreds of thousands of dollars in service to its community; and to plant churches that plant churches. It's all happening.

Movement sets aside 5% of every dollar given to help start other churches. They sent out their first church plant in 2017 and its already a growing, self-supporting church. "Our goal is to plant 25 churches that will plant an additional 25 churches," says Artrip, "for a grand total of 50 life-giving churches." No doubt, planting a church has come with its share of difficulties — it requires relentless work to begin things and build momentum and to choose to try again when failure strikes. Nonetheless, Artrip chose to christen the church "movement" because it means intentional and contagious. "That is what I want my life to be with the Gospel."

Shout-out: "Dr. Dave Plaster (BA 71, MDiv 74, ThM 84), for Theology 1 and 2; Dr. Tammy Schultz, for Counseling the Abused; Ty Propp (MA 87), for his mentorship; and Timothy 'TK' Kurtaneck (C 89), for graciously downloading his ministry wisdom to me. These conversations and classes still echo in my mind and shape my ministry."

Seminary Young Alumni of the Year

ASHLEY | WESTERN ASIA

Refugee Worker

At 33 years old, small-town Hoosier Ashley (BA 08, MA 13) has traveled to learn from and minister to people in 11 countries: Argentina, Thailand, Cambodia, Peru, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Brazil, Indonesia, Cyprus, Turkey and Vietnam.

In 2014, after graduating from Grace, Ashley's heart was burning for all nations to know God, and she asked Him to send her anywhere. He took her from Winona Lake, Indiana, (pop: 5,000) to Atlanta, Georgia, (pop: 6M). She lived and worked in the city of Clarkston, a city just outside Atlanta's perimeter



and the most diverse square mile in the U.S., where, at the time, it was recorded as being the home

"I GET TO SERVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH JUST A HANDFUL OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM A PART OF THE WORLD THAT HAS SO FEW BELIEVERS. IT'S SUCH A PRIVILEGE." ▼

to some 90 unreached people groups. While working for a missions organization there, the Lord drew Ashley to pray specifically to see more of the Church serving in some of the places

with the hardest soil. Three months

later, God answered. "He was sending me," says Ashley. In April 2018, Ashley relocated to a city in Western Asia (pop: 20M), where she's been learning a local language and culture with the mission to love and serve Afghan refugees.

"God's called me to live in the unfamiliar and make it home," she says.

And it's happening.

Ashley spends her days meeting with women through intentional outreach programs. "I love sitting with women and making it my aim to demonstrate their worth and His love for them, enjoying meals and endless glasses of hot green tea, loving on their children and listening to their stories."

Ashley's committed to serve Afghan refugees until the spring of 2020 — but she's already eager to return for longer. "I get to serve side by side with just a handful of brothers and sisters from a part of the world that has so few believers. It's such a privilege."

Word to the wise: "Because of Christ, my identity is sealed and secure in Him. I can't do anything to make Him love me more or less. This gives me freedom to succeed and to fail."

Seminary Young Alumni of the Year

ZAC HESS | COLUMBUS, OHIO
Training Pastor, Grace Polaris Church



Zac Hess (BS 10, MDiv 13) became the young adults pastor at Grace Polaris Church (Ohio) right after graduating from Grace Theological Seminary. Since then, he’s become the training pastor (think associate pastor) and teaches people how to effectively study and understand the Bible and share it with others.

He also created and directs the Pastoral Internship Program at

Polaris, which has trained nine men for ministry since he started it four years ago, five of which were Grace students.

Hess is known for his intense passion for the Word, the Gospel and the world, and if you hear him preach, you’ll know how deeply he understands and cherishes the sovereignty of God and the hope and glorious transformation that comes from Jesus.

He’s had to cling to that hope more profoundly than he expected at such a young age. He and his wife, Sarah (BS 11), have endured several difficult seasons through which God has sustained them. “These seasons of pain changed the way we view the brevity of life, the nature of family and God’s sovereignty in suffering,” Hess says. “We trust in the One who knows the worst kind of suffering.”

Although Hess doesn’t think much of his accomplishments, (“Why do I deserve this award?” he asks), he does say this: “I love Jesus, my wife, my kids and my church. Jesus has kept me faithful to Himself.”

Shout-out: “Dr. Matt Harmon, for his mentor group that cultivated lasting friendships (I keep a photo of one of those groups in my office) and for his New Testament Theology course that had the most profound effect on my view of Scripture and raised my affection for Jesus. Also to Dr. Tiberius Rata, for his insights and Genesis class that reminded me of God’s providence and care for His people.”

Seminary Honorary Alumni of the Year

DR. DOUG SCHMIDT | ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN
Former Senior Pastor, Woodside Bible Church;
Executive Director, Barnabas Ministries

When Dr. Doug Schmidt became senior pastor of Woodside Bible Church (Michigan) in 1991, it was one campus of about 600 people. Twenty-eight years later, in January 2019, Schmidt handed the leadership reins to Chris Brooks, who inherited a church of 10,000 people in 14 locations across metro Detroit. “I can’t take any credit for any of it,” says Schmidt, who came to Woodside without any grandiose vision. “Of course, I wanted to see the church do great things for God,” says Schmidt. “I just tried to position the church to say ‘yes’ when God tapped us on the shoulder with an idea or an opportunity.”



Photo courtesy of Woodside Bible Church.

As the church grew, Schmidt saw an increasing need to develop ministry leaders and pastors who could persevere in their callings. “Fifty percent of pastors will leave their ministries before their fifth anniversary,”

he says. So when Schmidt heard about Grace’s desire to create a new competency-based seminary program, he offered input into the development process, and when

Deploy was born, his church was eager to participate.

“It appealed to us so much because of the accessibility to our students, who could go at their own pace and didn’t have to leave our community and the discipleship pathway they were already on,” says Schmidt. “Not only would it give them the knowledge they needed, but it also has an emphasis on mentorship, which is key.” Woodside is one of Deploy’s biggest advocates with about 25 students enrolled in the program.

Schmidt now leads Barnabas Ministries (Michigan), which provides resources and encouragement to pastors and churches to live out their callings. When he isn’t planning retreats and running mentoring and restoration programs “to help pastors lead like Jesus,” you’ll find him fulfilling his other best-loved purpose: investing in his seven grandchildren.

Word to the wise: “Make sure of your calling. Count the cost as much as you can. And always keep your love of Jesus as your primary motivation.”

Seminary Honorary Alumni of the Year

CHRIS BROOKS | ROCHESTER HILLS, MICHIGAN

Former Lead Pastor, Evangel Ministries;
Senior Pastor, Woodside Bible Church



Photo courtesy of Woodside Bible Church.

Chris Brooks led a thriving ministry at Evangel Ministries in Detroit for 20 years, including a biblical training certificate program to equip leaders and ministers in the region. “Educational training is essential in empowering people to flourish and be more effective in their personal mission to advance the Gospel.”

advance the Gospel,” explains Brooks. So when Brooks met Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) at a leadership summit in 2013, Brooks saw an opportunity to form a perfect partnership.

Brooks had hundreds of students enrolling in his certificate program, but he wanted those students to be able to go on to get their undergraduate degrees. In 2014, Evangel partnered with Grace and began offering a degree completion program on-site. Over the course of three years, 45 students graduated from Grace, including Brooks’ wife, Yodit (BS 18). Although Evangel is no longer a site for Grace, students from Evangel’s certificate program are still able to complete their degrees through Grace’s online program.

Now, as the new senior pastor of Woodside Bible Church, a community of 10,000 people in 14 locations across metro Detroit, Brooks is thrilled to continue Woodside’s partnership with Grace through Deploy, Grace’s competency-based seminary program. “Grace’s innovation, their commitment to Christ-centered education, their ability to contextualize their programs to fit our market — to offer quality education at an affordable price in a convenient format — is just awesome to me.”

Besides being one of Grace’s greatest advocates (“I love Bill Katip; he’s a man of great vision and tremendous compassion”), Brooks is the host of the national syndicated radio program, “Equipped with Chris Brooks,” which is heard on over 200 stations throughout North America and is the author of “Kingdom Dreaming and Urban Apologetics.”

Word to the wise: “Pastors are more than Sunday preachers; we’re community leaders. It’s important that we’re thinking about how to impact people beyond Sunday morning.”

Thank You.

We know so many of you are stepping out in faith and walking in obedience in your homes, workplaces, communities and churches. Thank you for carrying the message of Jesus with courage and humility. We are cheering you on.

Four Faculty Members Retire



This year, Grace College & Seminary said farewell to four gifted and faithful faculty members who retired from active service with the schools. You might recognize one of them as a person who nudged you closer to Jesus, inspired you in your studies or cheered you on to the graduation finish line. Join us in celebrating their remarkable service, and if you want to drop them a line of thanks, email us at gracestory@grace.edu.



Dr. Steve Grill

(BA 70) retired in August 2019 after serving Grace for 37 years, although he will continue to direct the Master of Science in Nonprofit

Management program in a part-time capacity. Grill began working at Grace in 1971 as the professor and chairman of the Communication Department while also coaching men's soccer. In 1988, Grill left Grace and served as the director of Ivy Tech State Community College (Warsaw, Indiana) before returning in 1999. Upon his return, Grill served as the dean of the School of Adult and Community Education and was instrumental in the development of the Prison Education Program, the Orthopaedic Scholars Institute, and The Reneker Museum of Winona History (now The Winona History Center). Additionally, Grill was essential in bringing MasterWorks to Winona Lake, obtaining Lilly Grants for Grace's Millennial Scholar programs, launching GOAL (Grace Opportunities for Adult Learners), and the ORCA (Orthopaedic Regulatory and Clinical Affairs) graduate program. He is best known for his understanding of and compassion for students, his ability to navigate difficult circumstances with wisdom, his leadership and impact in the Kosciusko County community and his desire for excellence in all that he does.



Dr. Darrell Johnson

(BS 74) retired in August 2019 after serving Grace for 32 years, although he will continue to teach part time and serve as the director of

the Master of Science in Athletic Administration program. Johnson began at Grace in 1987,

teaching in the Physical Education Department where he revised the curriculum and brought it new levels of credibility. During his tenure, Johnson coached baseball and men's golf, served as the director of the Gordon Health and Wellness Center and founded the Sport Management program, serving as its chair and teaching multiple courses. Under Johnson's leadership, Grace added multiple majors and minors in the sport management program and in the School of Business. His enthusiasm for his work benefited his students through career-building practicums and internships at some of the finest sporting events including the 2012 Super Bowl, the 2013 Presidents Cup and the USGA Senior Open. In 2009, Johnson was inducted in the Lancer Hall of Fame (baseball) and in 2014, he was selected as the "Sport Management Professional of the Year" from the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) for his excellence in sport management education. Johnson is well known for his ability to launch and grow successful programs, his advocacy for his sport management students, his networking and continuing education endeavors and his undying love for — golf.



Dr. Jeff Peck

(BS 78, MA 84) retired in May 2019 after serving Grace for 11 years. He earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in 1995 and was on the faculty at

Gardner-Webb University and Bethel University before coming to Grace in 2008 as an associate professor of education. Peck served on a variety of committees during his tenure, including Academic Affairs, the Committee on Faculty, and the Diversity Committee, and was an integral

part of making major revisions to many internal Grace policies and handbooks. Additionally, he successfully led the School of Education through accreditation visits with NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) and ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). Peck has served on accreditation teams for other institutions, and he is a board member of the International Christian Community for Teacher Education. He worked with male education majors at Grace to create "XMEN" (eXcellent Male Educators Needed), an initiative to support and encourage male education majors. The XMEN have sponsored professional development workshops and provided underserved children with after-school tutoring and mentoring.



Cindy Sisson

(BA 77) retired in December 2018 after serving Grace for 21 years. She began in 1979, working at Grace for six years before taking time off

to stay at home with her family. She returned to Grace in 2002 to direct the recruiting efforts of the master's program in counseling. In 2009, Sisson became dean of admissions and spent the next nine years overseeing the enrollment of the institution, ultimately as the vice president of enrollment management and marketing. Under Sisson's leadership, Grace experienced increasing and record enrollment. She also was an instructor in the Behavioral Sciences Department and in the School of Adult and Community Education for nearly two decades. Sisson is best known for her ability to solve problems, her tireless work ethic, her attention to detail and her eye for presentation and excellence — all for the glory of God.



GRACE
— LANCERS —

ATHLETICS NEWS ON AND OFF THE COURT

SHARP WINS NATIONAL AWARD



Kelly Sharp, Grace Athletics office manager, was given the national Game Plan 4 LIFE Character Award by the NCCAA — the first administrative professional to receive the award.

In May 2019, Kelly Sharp, Grace Athletics office manager, was recognized at the annual NCCAA National Convention in Greenville, South Carolina. Sharp was given the Game Plan 4 LIFE Character Award by the NCCAA, becoming the first administrative professional to receive the national award.

Sharp has been a part of Grace for the past 17 years and the Grace College Athletic Department for the last 12 years. She oversees and directs many of the daily operations for all 17 varsity programs at Grace, serving over 300 student-athletes on a daily basis. Additionally, Sharp has served as a tournament committee member and the banquet director for the NCCAA Division I Basketball Championships.

Sharp's leadership ability and level of professionalism have been significant contributors to the success of the athletic department. She maintains all compliance and insurance functions for the department and is dedicated to impacting both coaches and students through the platform of athletics. She serves both the community and campus in many areas, including mentoring student-athletes and serving as a mission trip leader for women's tennis in the past.

"Kelly has been and continues to be a standard of Christian excellence in the arena of athletics at Grace," says Director of Athletics Chad Briscoe. "Her leadership and servant-like attitude have helped build a strong and unique culture in our athletic department that reflects the NCCAA's Game Plan 4 LIFE."

GRACE CHOSEN TO HOST CHAMPIONSHIPS AGAIN



Pictured left to right are Dan Davis, women's basketball head coach; Chad Briscoe, director of athletics; Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74), president; and Scott Moore (BS 08) men's basketball head coach.

The National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) has announced a contract extension with Grace as the host for the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball National Championships through 2023.

The championships will be held on campus in the beautiful 2,200-seat Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center. Grace has served as a national tournament host since 2009, hosting the NCCAA women's basketball championships for three years before adding the men's tournament in 2012.

"Some traditions simply merit being continued, and Grace College's outstanding hosting of the NCCAA Div. I Men's and Women's National Basketball Championships is just such an event," said NCCAA Executive Director Dan Wood. "For the participants, fans and volunteers, it is just an A+ caliber experience."

The championship will be held each March with 24 basketball games packed into four days. The men's and women's tournaments consist of eight teams in each bracket, featuring top competitors from across the United States. As host, both the men's and women's teams from Grace will earn automatic bids to the NCCAA championships.

"This is an exciting moment for our athletic department, campus and community," said Director of Athletics Chad Briscoe. "We are humbled and thankful to once again be selected by the NCCAA for the opportunity to host both of these national championships. We will work diligently to continue creating a national championship atmosphere that generates great memories for the participants, fans and our community."

The 2020 tournament from March 18-21 will be Grace's ninth consecutive year hosting both the men's and women's championships. The championships will swing into action with a Christian Service Project (CSP) in the Winona Lake and Warsaw community. Prior service projects include trips to local elementary schools, churches and senior citizen homes.

"Our goal is to remind each participant of his/her Christian responsibility prior to competing for a national championship," says Wood. "One men's and one women's team will leave with a banner as champions, but each team and individual will have the opportunity to carry the banner for Jesus Christ while in Winona Lake and throughout their lives."

For further details about Grace's hosting the NCCAA Division I Basketball Championships, visit www.gclancers.com/nccaa.

ALUM

CONNECTING WITH OUR FAMILY OF FRIENDS

NOTES

CLASS NOTES

1972

Ray "Butch" Shook (BS 72) was inducted into the Newton High School (OH) 2020 Athletics Hall of Fame class for having been an outstanding two-sport athlete in basketball and baseball. He still holds the school record for most assists in a game with 17 and was one of the best pitchers in the area during his career at Newton. Butch played basketball all four years while at Grace, serving as captain his junior and senior years.

Dr. Paul Lee Tan (ThD 72) has authored a new book, "Experiencing God's Grace: An 80-Year Journey." Paul was awarded the John F. Walvoord Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Prophetic Studies by The Pre-Trib Research Center (Dallas TX) in 2017 and was previously honored by Grace as 1983 Alumnus of the Year.

1982

01 Former Yakima County (WA) Sheriff **Brian Winter** (C 82) recently had a safety award named after him. The Educational Service District 105 School Safety Operations and Coordination Center created an award to recognize local school employees for exemplifying outstanding work in promoting a safety mindset at his or her school. The Center named the award after Brian to recognize his extensive involvement in helping

initiate and support the area's work in school safety. In June 2018, Brian was present to see the first winner of the newly created Sheriff Brian Winter School Safety Award receive the award. Brian was elected as sheriff in 2014, but in February 2018, Brian announced he had been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and would not seek re-election. Brian now spends as much time as he can with his family and friends, including his father, a retired Grace Brethren pastor, **Chuck Winter** (BA 57, S 59).

1984

02 **Richard "Rick" Stewart** (BS 84) was awarded Certified Church Consultant by the National Association of Church Design Builders. Rick serves as worship and executive pastor at New Hope Community Church (Traverse City MI) and as an independent consultant for churches nationwide with AVL (audio video lighting) technology and acoustics. He and wife Dina reside in Traverse City MI. rstewart@newhope.cc

1995

Angela Albright (BA 95) and her family have relocated to New Jersey where husband Brian is operations director at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference, and Angela serves alongside in marketing and women's ministry leadership, in addition to working as a writer, speaker and photographer. Their two oldest sons recently married and their daughter will be serving in missions in Davao City, Philippines, and studying with New Life International School of Midwifery. The



01



02



03



05



04

Albrights live in Barnegat NJ.
angela@legacysevenstudios.com

2002

03 Amy A. Roe (BA 02) is a candidate for the open District 18 Indiana State Senate seat. Having been born and raised in Fulton County (IN), she participated in a caucus for the open seat vacated by Senator Randy Head. Amy believes she is "born for public service" and looks forward to carrying on Senator Head's legacy, equipped with a strategic mindset, regional connections and passion. Presently, Amy is co-founder and president of Fulton County H.O.P.E. Inc. (Rochester IN) and registrar at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center (Plymouth IN). She has also served in numerous areas of service. Amy is grateful for her experience at Grace and looks forward to representing her community and the Lord to the best of her ability. www.facebook.com/onthetheAteam

2004

04 Corey (BS 04) and Tanna **Smith**: Israel David, May 16, 2019. Israel joined brothers Judah (9) and Zion (8) at their home in Fort Wayne IN.

2009

05 Ben (BS 09, MBA 15) and Laura **Laborde**: Juliet Reese, April 17, 2019. Juliet joined siblings Chloe (5) and Colt (2) at their home in Warsaw IN.

2015

06 Leandro and Sarah Beth (Leichty BA 15) Dos Santos: Stephen Leichty, May 19, 2019. The couple welcomed their first child into their home in Chiang Rai, Thailand, where they serve as missionaries.

2016

07 Caleb (AA 14, BS 16) and Grace (Beight BA 16) Thompson: Clara Rose, April 17, 2019. Clara joins brother Joel (2) at their home in Danville IN. grace.carolynn94@gmail.com

2018

08 Noah (BS 19) and Abigail (Ramsour BS 18) Guntle: Married on May 25, 2019. The newlyweds call Fort Wayne IN home.

IN MEMORIAMs

Reverend J. Lawrence "Larry" Bratton (AA 51, ThB 54) met his Savior Feb. 10, 2019. He married Lois Elizabeth Aurand on Sept. 10, 1950. The Brattons were blessed with three children. Larry graduated from the pastor course at Moody Bible Institute (Chicago IL) in 1949 and graduated from Grace Theological Seminary in 1954. His ordination was in Volinia MI, on Feb. 21, 1955. For 40-plus years, Larry pastored seven churches in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. He spoke at Bible conferences, youth camps, children's meetings and on the radio.

He was past president of Fundamental Ministries Fellowship in Elkhart IN. In his retirement, Larry did a lot of pulpit supply in many churches in several states, including Washington, Wyoming, Minnesota and Arizona. He also wrote several articles for Nostalgia Magazine. He considered it an honor when he preached at the Pacific Garden Mission (Chicago IL), at Shady Rest Bible Conference (New Jersey) and when he provided "Bread of Life" messages over the radio in Cleveland OH. While pastoring in Cleveland, he held outdoor services in the church parking lot. He wanted people to know that his own life was changed when he received Christ at a young age. Larry is survived by his wife of 68 years, Lois (Bristol IN); children: Cynthia Bratton (Bristol IN); Timothy (Veronica) Bratton (Lynchburg VA); and Beth (Mark) Carter (Spokane WA); nine grandchildren; six (and one on the way) great-grandchildren; and two brothers-in-law.

Charles Richard Wroughton (S 59), a longtime resident of Park Forest IL, passed away on July 21, 2019. He was a loving father to five children: **Richard** (BA 79, CERT 87) (**Cindy (Stewart C 78)) Wroughton**; Frank (Sandy) Wroughton; **Jane (Wroughton C 82)** (Kevin) **Pepin**; and Jon (Julie) Wroughton. Charles was also proud of his 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 63 years, Trudy Elaine Wroughton and daughter Susan Howell. Richard was greatly loved by all for his gregarious, witty, caring

and generous spirit. Many lives were greatly influenced by his extraordinary teaching, passionate mentoring/coaching and strong leadership, all flowing from his love and devotion to Jesus Christ.

09 Reverend John "Jack" Allen Cahill (MDiv 62) went to be with His Lord and Savior on March 30, 2019. On Aug. 14, 1948, he married Jean (Valentine) Cahill, who survives. John served in the U.S. Navy during WWII aboard the destroyer USS Strong in the Pacific and was honorably discharged in 1946. He was a 1950 graduate of Wheaton College (Wheaton IL) and a 1962 graduate of Grace Theological Seminary. Early in his career, Jack served as a district manager for Kemper Insurance (Roanoke VA). The Lord called Jack into full-time ministry as a result of his Wheaton classmates being martyred by the Auca Indians in Ecuador in 1956. After seminary, Jack served the Lord in pastorates in Ortonville MN and Indianapolis IN. Later, he was an administrator, teacher and coach at Heritage Christian School (Indianapolis IN) and was in sales for Best Locking Systems (Denver CO). He was a member of Grace Chapel (Denver CO) and attended Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church (IN) after he moved to Winona Lake in 2014. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 70 years, Jean (Winona Lake IN); two daughters: **Debbie (Cahill BA 74) (Dr. Bill (BA 74)) Katip** (Warsaw IN) and **Susie (Cahill BS 87) (Randy) Franklin** (McKinney TX); two sons: **Jeff (BS 77) (Laurie (Jensen BS 78)) Cahill** (Castle Rock CO) and



Tim (**Terri (Brocker BS 83)) Cahill** (Lansing KS); 18 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, two brothers and one great-grandson, Aiden William Katip.

Gene Richard Lambright (BA 62) passed away May 10, 2019. On Aug. 10, 1963, he married **Sylvia (Fink BS 61)** who survives. Gene founded and directed several Spanish Bible Institutes in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Goshen and Elkhart areas. He taught Spanish at Elkhart Christian Academy (formerly Elkhart Baptist Christian School) and was a member of the First Baptist Church (Goshen IN). In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, beekeeping and collecting stamps and coins. Gene will be lovingly remembered by his daughters: Wanda (Brad) Stewart (Elkhart IN) and **Sarah (Lambright C 96) (Douglas) Buckles** (Goshen IN); and son Peter Lambright (Goshen IN). Also surviving are three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Dennis A. Beach (BA 63, MDiv 67) passed away on Jan. 28, 2018. While at Grace, Dennis sang and traveled with the Heralds of Grace quartet, representing the college and seminary. He served as pastor of the Minerva Grace Brethren Church (OH) and on staff at two California Brethren churches in Long Beach and Bellflower. While in California, he received a Doctor of Divinity from Grace Graduate School in Long Beach and an education degree from Biola University. After returning to Ohio, he received a master's degree in counseling from the University of Dayton (OH). He retired from his role as school counselor from Springfield City Schools (OH). He is survived by his wife **Louise (Hancock BS 64)**; daughter Melissa Beach (Dublin OH); son LCDR Matthew Beach (Bre) and granddaughter Abby (Aiea HI); and sister Linda Beach (Miami FL).

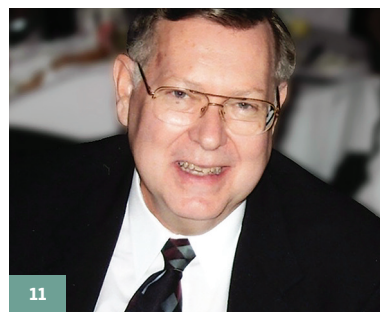
10 Pastor Eloy S. Pacheco (BA 64, MDiv 68) met his Savior on June 6, 2019. He married **Pat (Engle BS 63)** in 1964, and their son Bryan was born in 1969. In 1979, Eloy became the care pastor at The Chapel (Akron OH). For 28 years, he and Pat faithfully served in ministry together, caring for folks as Christ modeled for His church. Eloy devoted himself to teaching the gospel, fellowship, prayer, discipleship and helping those in need. Believing and knowing that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose, Eloy lived his life accordingly.

He placed his trust in the Lord, and he is now reaping the eternal rewards for his faithful life. He is survived by Pat, his beloved wife of 54 years; son Bryan (Tammy); and treasured grandson Matthew. He is also survived by older sister Lucy (Tavo) and younger brother **Dan** (BA 64) (**Miriam (Ashman BS 65, MABC 85)**).

11 Pastor James Poyner (BS 66, MDiv 70) went to be with the Lord on July 9, 2018. He married **Charlotte (Moore BS 67)** on June 12, 1965. After graduating from Grace Theological Seminary, Jim was contacted by the Brethren Home Missions Council to "plant" a church in Dayton OH. He pastored the Grace Brethren Church of Huber Heights 10 years and led the church in two building programs. In 1981, he was called again by Grace Brethren Home Missions Council to start another church in Port Richey FL. Over the next 33 years, Jim led the Gulfview Grace Church in four building programs until he retired in 2014. Jim was active in the Port Richey community and served as a chaplain with Bayonet Point Hospital, the Pasco Ministerial Association, Inspire Charis Pastors Network (formerly Association of Grace Brethren Ministers) and served many years on the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation Board. He was a caring pastor and was loved by his congregations. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Charlotte; daughter Angie (Ken) Burnett (Alabama); son Pastor Paul Poyner (who followed his father as pastor of Gulfview Grace) (Tandy); brother Weston Poyner; and seven grandchildren.



10



11

Grace Hires International Recruiter Ben Miles



Ben Miles (BS 15, MSNM 16) was born in Jerusalem and was raised in the Middle East, living in Israel, Egypt, the Gaza Strip and Jordan as his parents did faith-based medical relief work. His wife, **Asia (Weimer BS 19)**, was born in Iowa, but her family moved to Asia for missions work where they spent time in the Philippines and Thailand, where Asia finished her high school years. Thailand. Ben and Asia met at Grace in 2015 and got married in 2018; you can read about their divine encounter here: www.grace.edu/way-making-circling-taking.

But now Ben and Asia are making their home together abroad. They headed back to Thailand this summer where Ben will serve as Grace College's first-ever international admissions counselor. "We're expanding recruitment efforts to reach potential students in Southeast Asia," explains **Dr. Mark Pohl** (BS 04, MAMin 07), Grace's associate vice president of enrollment management and financial aid. "There's a high concentration of students in that region interested in coming to the U.S. for their college education, and we believe Ben's life experiences abroad and at Grace make him an ideal recruiter for Grace."

Ben will visit nearly 60 schools and college fairs this fall to cultivate relationships for Grace and will serve as a liaison for international students and assist with their application process and financial aid. In preparation for a growing number of interested international students, Grace has established an International Student Scholarship Fund to assist prospective students and will also designate a residence hall for international students and domestic students who wish to be an integral part of international students' U.S. educational experience.

Ben is looking forward to his new role where he will get to usher international students into a Grace experience. "Being able to authentically say that Grace is a good place to come and holistically grow as a person is core to making this whole thing work. It makes this an easy thing to talk to students about," says Ben.

For more information about Grace's international recruitment efforts, contact Dr. Mark Pohl at 574-372-5100, ext. 6001.

Grace Alumna Competes on 'Jeopardy!'



Dr. Susan (Healy BA 85) Waller rarely misses an episode of "Jeopardy!" So when she took the online test in June 2017 and received a call to audition in March 2018, she was elated. A year later, she was invited to the show, and on May 24, 2019, Waller's taping aired.

When Waller arrived on set for the taping of the show, she didn't know anything about James Holzhauer, the second-winningest "Jeopardy!" player in history because his games had yet to air. "He was introduced to us [contestants] as the returning champion — who had won 20 games," exclaims Waller. "My heart sunk a bit!" But Waller set a goal to make it to Final Jeopardy, which she says seemed unlikely after watching Holzhauer play and win four games before it was her turn. Waller reached her goal, the sole surviving contestant to face Holzhauer in Final Jeopardy. It came thanks, in part, to a particular category in Double Jeopardy: "In the King James Bible." "Thankfully, I was able to answer a few clues in that category that got me out of the red," she explains.

Although she came in second place to Holzhauer, who broke the \$2 million mark after his 27th win, Waller is proud to have competed. "It was an honor to be chosen for 'Jeopardy!' since fewer than 1% of the people who take the online test make it to the show," she says.

When Waller isn't tuning into "Jeopardy!" you'll find her at The Christian Academy in Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, where she's been for the past 12 years, most recently serving as the director of curriculum and professional development. "My job is to help teachers be the best they can be in the classroom. I work with them to write and evaluate curriculum and facilitate professional development based on their needs and the needs of our students." Previously, Waller taught English and education classes at several universities in the area.

Waller says her Grace professors modeled the teacher she wanted to become. "My Grace professors, especially **Dr. Edgar 'Rik' Lovelady** (BA 60, MDiv 63, ThM 76), **Dr. Paulette (Macon BA 64, CERT 77) Saunders**, **Dr. James Nesbitt** (BDiv 62, ThD 91) and William "Roland" and Verna Felts provided stellar examples of excellent and caring teaching."

Waller has been married to her husband, John, for 25 years, and they have one grown son, Brady.

Grace Grants Emeritus Status to Manahan and Darr



Dr. Bill Katip (center) congratulates William Darr (left) and Dr. Ron Manahan (right) at Convocation Chapel in August 2019.

During Convocation Chapel in August, Grace College & Seminary honored two of its former faculty and staff members with emeritus status in recognition of their significant contribution to the life of Grace: **Dr. Ron Manahan** (MDiv 70, ThM 77, ThD 82) received professor and president emeritus status and **William Darr** (BA 67) received librarian emeritus status. Combined, they served Grace over 77 years. If you'd like to express your gratitude to them, email us at gracestory@grace.edu, and we'll pass it along to them.

WHAT'S NEW?

Submit an Alum Note. Tell us the latest news in your life at 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

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.

ALUM HAPPENINGS

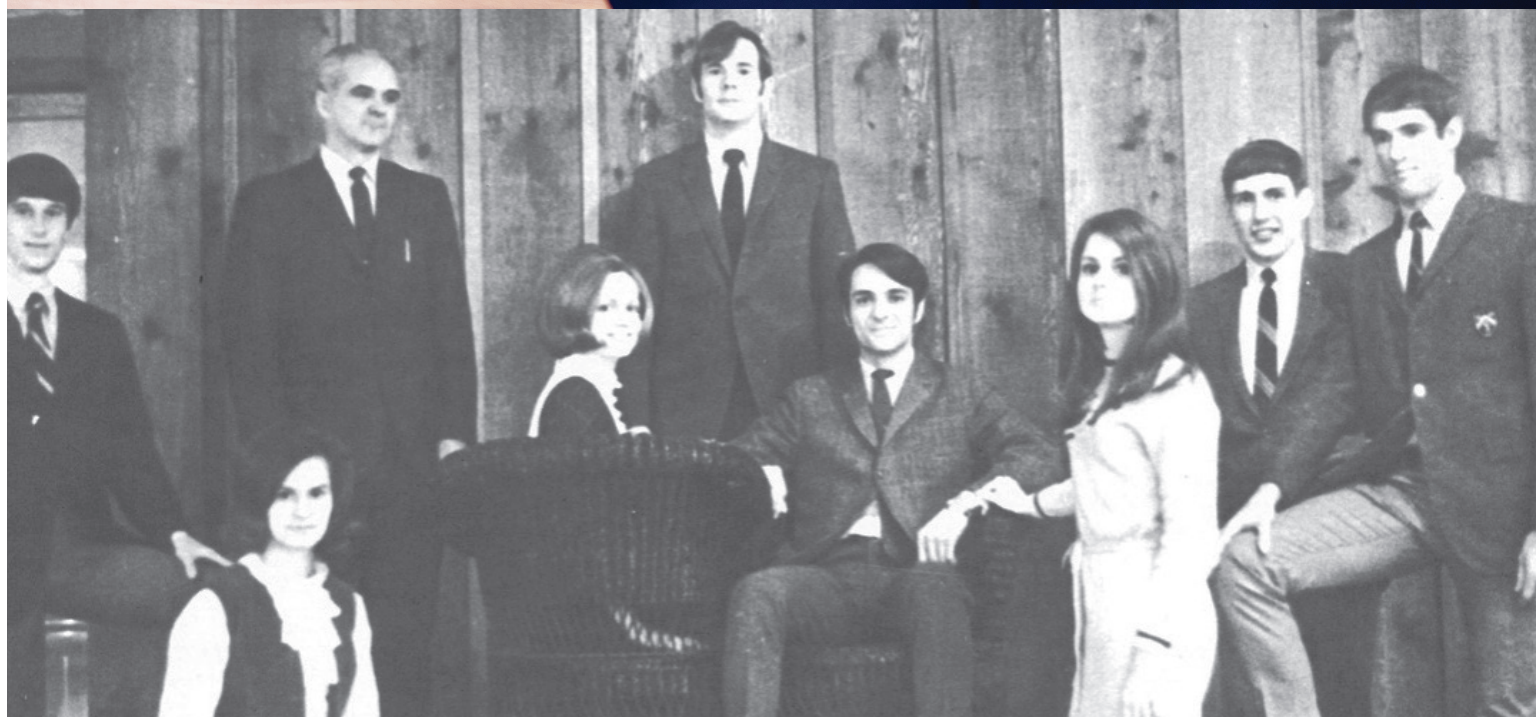
SAVE THE DATE

GOLDEN GRAD REUNION | 1970

If you graduated in 1970, get ready to celebrate your golden graduation reunion – we're rolling out the red carpet! Come back to campus, **May 8-10, 2020**, to tour the campus, share a great dinner together and be a part of Commencement 2020.



GOLDEN GRADUATE



Pictured left to right are **Dave Griffiths** (BA 70), treasurer; **Maxine (Peugh BME 70) Currie**, student council representative; **Dr. Jesse Humbert** (MDiv 54), adviser; **Jerri (Willson BS 70) Mahensmith**, secretary; **John Kuhns** (C 70), social chairman; **Ron Kinley** (BA 70), president; **Jane (Eisenhower BS 70) McCauley**, social chairman; **Dick Angelo** (BS 70), chaplain and **Mike Damer** (BA 70), vice-president.



Hear the rest of the story from many of our alumni featured in *Grace Story*, plus episodes with Grace faculty, like **Dr. Tiberius Rata**, associate

dean of the School of Ministries and professor of Old Testament studies, who recently co-authored and published “Walking the Ancient Paths: A Commentary on Jeremiah.” Hear him talk about the commentary’s practicality, which addresses text-critical issues while also challenging readers to act and follow the God whom Jeremiah loved and served.

Episodes:

- EP9:** **Hannah Deblois**, current student benefiting from the Grace Fund
- EP10:** **Darren** (BS 01) and **Amy** (**Heckaman** BS 01) **Parker**, donors of Grace’s new Splendor boat
- EP11:** **Noah Guntle** (BS 19 and **Corey Smith** (BS 04), former student teacher and co-founder of Smith Academy for Excellence, respectively
- EP12:** **Tom Roy** (BS 74), founder and president of Unlimited Potential Inc., which uses baseball for global ministry
- EP13:** **Josh Garrels**, singer/songwriter whose music explores compassion, hope and freedom
- EP14:** **Knute Larson** (BA 62, BDiv 66), former pastor at The Chapel (Akron, Ohio) and coach and consultant to pastors and churches
- EP15:** **The Lilly Center Team:** Dr. Nate Bosch, Adrienne Funderburg, Megan Harris
- EP16:** **Dr. Tiberius Rata**, associate dean of Grace’s School of Ministries

Coming in November and December are guests and alumni award winners Dr. David Dockery (MDiv 79), LeAnne (Bundenthal BS 10, MBA 15) Lavender and Barb Wooler (BS 82, MA 96).

Listen and subscribe on **iTunes** or **Google Play**, or find us at www.grace.edu/podcast.

The LANCER FAMILY TREE GROWS

Grace welcomes students of alumni over Welcome Weekend 2019



Denny

Dennis Duncan (BS 80)
Director of Alumni & Community Engagement

Over Welcome Weekend in August, our campus joyfully embraced 400 new students. Families enjoyed a picnic-style dinner, got to know the residence life leadership, attended a worship service, met many of our faculty members and so much more.

Pictured right are just a handful of Grace alumni who dropped off their sons and daughters, siblings or grandchildren during Welcome Weekend. There is no greater honor you could bestow upon us than to entrust your family members to us. Thank you!

In fact, one of the best ways you can support Grace is by telling your children or grandchildren or any person contemplating college that Grace is worth a visit. Let your community know that with over 90 undergraduate majors, graduate and adult programs, online options and seminary training, we're committed to engaging every student in thoughtful scholarship and developing compassionate, confident and skilled graduates.

Plus, if an alum's child or grandchild attends Grace, we will guarantee a minimum of \$3,000 in Grace student aid. Additional aid may be available for students who qualify.

It's the season for applying to colleges, so don't hesitate to broadcast our name to as many people as you know.

Many thanks for the ways — whatever they may be — that you support Grace.



- 1 Student Courtney (center) with parents Jim (BS 92) and Julie (Salomon BS 90) Thompson
- 2 Student Monica (center) with parents Bill (BS 09) and Elaine (Alsop BS 16) Avila
- 3 Student Tara (right) with dad Steve Friesen (BS 94)
- 4 Student Lynae (center) with grandfather Jim Kessler (BS 70) and mom Kim (Kessler BS 94) Dawson
- 5 Student Will (left) with sister Olivia Kmiecik (BA 18)
- 6 Student Samuel (right) with dad Edward Erickson (BS 87, MBA 12)
- 7 Student Elijah (left) with mom Amy (Mathewson BS 96) Kearns
- 8 Student Carly (center) with parents Gene (BA 89) and Jenny (DeYoung BA 90) O'Hara

Find more photos of Homecoming 2019 at
www.grace.edu/homecoming2019/photos.

HOMEcoming

We had a marvelous time welcoming so many of you back to campus on Oct. 4-5. The Seminary Alumni Awards Dinner, the College Alumni Awards Chapel, the women's soccer match against Taylor (we won 2-0!), the Morgan Library Reunion, the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams Reunion, the Coach K Banquet, the numerous class reunions, the parade and tailgate — we had a blast. Mark your calendar for next year: **Oct. 2-3, 2020.**

2019

RECAP



Alumni and their families enjoy a tailgate lunch before the women's soccer game.



A



B



C



D



E



F

- A:** The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams hosts a reunion for its past and current staff and environmental science students and alumni at the new Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex.
- B:** Grace Athletics recognizes its new Hall of Fame inductees during halftime at the women's soccer game. Pictured (left to right) are Joe Graham (BA 88), Trent Lehman (BS 94), Janine Zeltwanger (BS 85) and Jon Hueni (BA 77).
- C:** Past players and coaching assistants honor Jim "Coach K" Kessler (BS 70) for the contributions he's made to Grace Athletics at a celebratory banquet.
- D:** The women's soccer team celebrates its win against Taylor University, its eighth consecutive win of the season.
- E:** President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) (right) and Dean of Grace Theological Seminary Dr. Freddy Cardoza (center) honor Zac Hess (BS 10, MDiv 13), a seminary alumni award winner, at the Seminary Reunion and Awards Dinner.
- F:** The No Name Quartet opens for the Wes Hampton and Sherry Anne concert. Pictured (left to right) are Tim Yocum (BS 84), Bob Jackson (BS 91), Jeff Secaur (BS 81, S 84) and Mike Yocum (BS 79).
- G:** Grace students enjoy the Homecoming Parade.



G



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Grace's incoming students
gather at the lakeshore
of Winona Lake.

If you are receiving Grace Story in error or are receiving duplicate copies, please contact Mary Polston, Grace's data manager, at 574-372-5100, ext. 6123 or polstomm@grace.edu. Thank you!

— A Wave of — GROWTH

GRACE WELCOMED 400 NEW STUDENTS to campus this fall, nearly 11% more than last year. A record number of students are enrolled in Grace's blended program this year, which allows students to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees in four years at no additional cost to undergraduate tuition. Additionally, as a result of the ASPIRE Campaign, students have access to new academic

programs, upgraded facilities and additional green spaces. "Many of the programs we've instituted in recent years are experiencing steady growth," said President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74). "We're excited to see students go on to make an impact in the marketplace and society. We've done our job when Grace graduates lead purposeful and impactful lives."