

# GRACE

— S T O R Y —

VOL.40, ISSUE 2 / SUMMER 2020

## A Brilliant Brand

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace continues to spearhead initiatives that inform, unite and uplift the community. Its latest contribution is just two words.

## Grief + Hope

Cokiesha Bailey Robinson, Grace's new associate dean of diversity and inclusion, talks about the historic civil rights uprising that's happening in the middle of a global pandemic and economic recession.

## \$50 Million in Gifts

In its 20-year history, K21 Health Foundation has given away millions of dollars to support the health and wellness of Grace's Kosciusko County, and at its helm is alumnus Rich Haddad (BS '87, MSNM '16).





# GRACE TOWN



Hello, friends. I hope this finds you and your family healthy and hopeful in our Lord Jesus Christ. Words are insufficient to convey all that has happened in our world in recent months. It's a new kind of world: a world of heightened awareness to our frailty and to one another. Praise be to the almighty God we serve, Who is surprised by nothing, Who is always firmly in control and Who redeems all things.

I know you haven't heard from us in a while; we tabled the last issue of *Grace Story* so that we could focus our energies on the urgencies of the pandemic as related to higher education, the safety of our students and the continuity of their coursework. Part of these efforts included posting chapel messages online, providing virtual streaming events and being one of the first schools to move campus visits online.

I talk a lot about this amazing place I call home. Not just our campus, but also our greater community. Winona Lake was recently listed in the top 20 small towns in Indiana, and The Village at Winona has become a northern Indiana destination of distinction. Additionally, many local companies in Warsaw and throughout Kosciusko County, including Fortune 500 companies, work hard to attract and retain our talented graduates every year.

But the best way to convey how remarkable this place is, is to reveal the character of its people during a crisis.

Thank you so much to all who rolled up their sleeves during this time. In the pages that follow, you'll hear about some amazing ways our faculty, staff and students have made a difference in our community: engineering students who made ear guards for face masks for coronavirus front-line workers; Dr. Ryan Johnson, associate professor of mathematics, who has been graphing COVID-19 data to make it easier for the community and businesses to respond effectively; the men's soccer team that raised over \$20,000 for organizations responding to COVID-19 through a seven-day marathon; the Day of Giving event that raised \$120,000 for students with the campaign #bringthemback. You'll also find stories of our alumni and community members who are investing in our community in remarkable ways.

In the wake of the coronavirus and ensuing economic recession, we've also reduced online education tuition by nearly 20% beginning this fall. Plus, students in Indiana who meet the "zero through \$1,500 expected family contribution" as calculated by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can attend Grace tuition-free. Grace has also permanently moved to a test-optional admission policy, which allows prospective students to choose whether or not to submit test scores.

Still, in the midst of these efforts, we are deeply grieving over how COVID-19 has disrupted and created significant challenges for our Grace community, the country and the world. Moreover, our grief is greatly compounded as we are also facing the epidemic of racial injustice that has not only been magnified

by COVID-19's disproportionate impact on people of color but by the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and other Black lives.

Right now, I find I am often without words. However, these words never fail me: "but God." They so often change things in Scripture and are the pivot point when hope comes rushing back. Working together as a campus on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion has been one of my top four goals for the past several years. By His grace, I am asking the Lord that we are not complicit or complacent. I am calling the Grace community to come together to pray for and act in justice, mercy and humility and to face the realities of systemic racism, choosing to intentionally embrace the biblical principles of justice and truth.

We have a long road ahead of us, but the Grace community is committed to listening and learning, to acting humbly in justice and mercy and to becoming allies in the fight for racial equality. We recently joined together with five other Christ-centered colleges and universities for a summit with our local government and law enforcement officials. Another specific step we took this spring to help us grow and move forward in meaningful ways was the hiring of Cokiesha Bailey Robinson as our associate dean of diversity and inclusion. Look for her profile piece in the coming pages to find out more. And our actions will not rest there.

I am so thankful that we will be able to face these challenges together. We've made plans to reopen campus this fall with a revised fall semester calendar and guidelines in place to keep our campus healthy. You can find updates on our COVID-19 plans at [www.grace.edu/covid-19](http://www.grace.edu/covid-19).

I am also grateful that our community is so much larger than our campus. It's a flourishing ecology of growing diversity, global business, philanthropy, professional opportunity, family life, education, the arts, and faith.

You can see why, with such confidence, I continue to invite people "home" to Indiana. Home to Warsaw and Winona Lake. To take a chance on a place they might call home for four years ... or maybe, just maybe, for the rest of their lives.

It's a place we can affectionately call "Gracetown" — not just because of this college I love and believe in, but because the evidence of God's pleasure, protection and people is everywhere.

His grace abounds.



*Bill Katip*

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

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## Two Great Foundations

K21 Health Foundation is a multimillion-dollar granting foundation that seeks to support the health and wellness of Kosciusko County (including Grace). Not only will it shortly be moving down the hill from Grace's campus, but it's led by CEO Rich Haddad (BS '87, MSNM '16), who has found fulfillment in exercising his faith through the foundation's good work.

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## Clearly Compelling

In an effort to raise awareness in the community about the value of Kosciusko County's waterways, the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace College created a simple slogan: "Clearly Kosciusko." It turned some heads, and now it's becoming the platform to showcase the county's larger, unique story.

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## A Series of Sovereign Shifts

Meet Cokiesha Bailey Robinson, Grace's new associate dean of diversity and inclusion. She shares how to be an ally in the anti-racist movement, why conversations matter and the power of cultural humility.

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## Dr. Jim Swanson's Legacy

While leading the Office of Student Affairs at Grace for 22 years, Dr. Jim Swanson wove into the fabric of Grace's culture the priceless worth of every student. He championed students with a fierce passion, and although he's moved from a college administrator to a nonprofit CEO, you can still find him supporting the community and cheering on the Lancers, including his three kids.

**K21**  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION





# CLEARLY COMPELLING

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Photo courtesy of Sanford University's Beeson Divinity School



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*Dr. Jim Swanson's*  
**Legacy**

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## GRACE STORY

### Institutional Mission

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

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### On The Cover

The island at Winona Lake, Indiana

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# *Two* Great Foundations

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

Rich Haddad (BS '87, MSNM '16), president  
and CEO of K21 Health Foundation



It's rare for a multimillion-dollar granting foundation to establish its home in a small-sized town of 20,000 people. But that's exactly what K21 Health Foundation did when it chose to locate in Winona Lake-Warsaw, Indiana, and serve Kosciusko County. In 1999, the Kosciusko Community Hospital (Indiana) sold its assets and used the \$63 million in sales proceeds to create the permanent endowment foundation, K21. Since its inception, K21 has given away over \$50 million dollars in grants to Kosciusko County nonprofits, municipalities and schools, while growing its initial endowment to \$78 million.



At the helm of the organization is Rich Haddad (BS 87, MSNM 16), who became the foundation's second president in 2006. He spends his days doing everything he can to ensure that the foundation's money is invested responsibly and given away well so that, he says, "it can do the most good." But although much of his life's work has been spent maximizing returns on investments, Haddad's spent just as much time learning to steward his own gifts and resources for eternal impact.

From a very early age, Haddad recognized the power and importance of the Gospel. When he entered the world, his dad was already a raging alcoholic and his addiction was so debilitating that Haddad's mom left his dad when Haddad was just two years old. But shortly after his mom left, Haddad recounts God doing the impossible: "It was a miracle conversion. The day he turned his life to the Lord was also the day he was healed from alcoholism." The miracles kept coming. Within six months, his dad led his mom to the Lord, and they reconciled their marriage.

Haddad grew up hearing his father-turned-pastor tell the story of his healing and redemption. He was anxious to grow in his own faith, and after graduating from high school, he chose Grace College & Seminary where he could be mentored and continue to play sports (golf, tennis and basketball). He majored in business and accounting, and upon graduation, he secured a position with KPMG, one of the top CPA firms in the world.

Eventually, Haddad accepted an offer with SYM Financial Advisors and returned to Warsaw where he amassed more experience in managing investments and ultimately served as SYM's chief operating officer and chief financial officer. In 1996, during his tenure there, Haddad's father died from cancer at the young age of 58. It caused Haddad to consider whether the impact he was having in his career was as significant as the impact he witnessed his father have for the Kingdom.



“God wanted to show me that I could minister anywhere, but I had to walk through it to believe it,” says Haddad.

He got his chance to work directly in ministry when the church he and his wife Kathy (McGee BS 86) were attending, Warsaw Community Church (WCC), was experiencing a surge in growth. WCC approached Haddad about becoming its executive pastor to oversee finances, management, property acquisition and a new building.

It was clear that God had prepared Haddad for this role, and it was his opportunity to pour into the Kingdom through the Church. By 2006, WCC had opened its new building and settled into its new home. Haddad was approached again with another potentially divine appointment. K21, the Kosciusko County foundation that provides grants for health improvement, was looking for a new president and believed Haddad had all the skills needed to lead the foundation.

“I felt like God was calling me back out into the community,” says Haddad. He was confident that it didn’t matter where he was, inside or outside the church, he could make an eternal impact. “It’s amazing to reflect on how God has led me on this journey.”

The late Dr. Mike Grill (BA 67), professor of psychology, and Bill Gordon, professor of business, first exposed Haddad to this thinking. “It’s one of the unique things about Grace,” says Haddad. “My knowledge stacked up against the education of anyone else from any other university, but what I got uniquely at Grace was learning that faith isn’t isolated from work. And the world needs that integration.”

As the president of K21, Haddad and his colleagues, who are also Grace graduates, Holly Swoverland (BSW 08) and Jennifer (Lewis BS 89) Stewart, work to accomplish two things: “We invest the money, and we give it away,” says Haddad simply. “As stewards, we seek to do this well so we can produce as much change and have the largest impact possible in our community.”

Be sure to look for Haddad’s Grace Story Podcast episode available at the end of July.

Since Haddad has been with the foundation, it has helped fund many Greenway projects, the new YMCA in Warsaw and the Health Services Pavilion. When the coronavirus began to spread quickly in the U.S., K21’s board of directors approved an immediate \$100,000 for Haddad to utilize as he and the staff began working with other community leaders and organizations to see where the needs were arising in the county. In addition to supporting basic services within the county, K21 helped relocate the local homeless shelter to a campground, providing masks and supporting lost program and fundraising revenue for many nonprofits.

Over the years, K21’s efforts to advocate for and support the county’s health and wellness have also extended to Grace’s campus, where it has granted funds towards the nursing program, the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center, fitness equipment and the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams’ ongoing environmental research.

“Grace is such a valuable asset in our community,” says Haddad. “It attracts hundreds of young people to our community who bring a vibrancy, energy and engagement to our area that is transformative. Additionally, Grace is providing us with a competent and compassionate workforce, graduating students prepared to serve in the healthcare fields in our county.”

Soon, K21 will be just down the hill from the college at the original Billy Sunday Museum — just a few blocks from the campus. Winona Lake and Grace epitomize what K21 desires for the entire county: an active, growing and connected community. “Winona Lake really represents the culture we’re trying to inspire throughout the county and the momentum we’re trying to build,” says Haddad.

Haddad knows that many people are skeptical about the benefits of working and living in a small town in rural Indiana. But Kosciusko County doesn’t fit the stereotype. Its economic engine is robust, its educational opportunities are rich, its outdoor activities are numerous, and it’s just a train ride away from Chicago. “It’s the best of all worlds,” says Haddad.



Gordon Health and Wellness Center



Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center



Nursing Program



## K21 Grants to Grace

- 2003-2017:** **\$75,000** for the Gordon Health and Wellness Center, training and equipment
- 2004-2018:** **\$295,147** for the Nursing Program, equipment
- 2005:** **\$350,000** for the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center, construction
- 2010-2018:** **\$880,000** for the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, research
- 2014-2019:** **\$185,000** for the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, operational assistance
- 2016:** **\$1,000,000** for the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex, ASPIRE Campaign

# GraceWire

NEWS AROUND CAMPUS

## CPA Pass Rate Ranks High Again



Dr. Roger Stichter (right), professor of accounting

Grace College's CPA pass rate was recently ranked in the top 7% in the country by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). The Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination (CPA Exam) is administered to individuals who wish to become U.S. Certified Public Accountants. The report evaluated 2018 pass rates of 242 "first-time, small program" institutions. Grace placed 17th and was the highest-ranked Hoosier institution in the category.

"I was thrilled to see how well Grace students performed on the exam. It truly is a testament to our accounting program and the way Grace prepares students to be competent and confident in their careers after college," said Dr. Jeff Fawcett, dean of the School of Business.

The NASBA Report offers the best overview of CPA Examination trends around the world and at the university level and has published reports on performance and selected characteristics since 1985.

This is not the only year Grace's accounting program has seen great success on the CPA Exam. "In 2011, Grace ranked 10th in the overall first-time CPA Exam pass rate out of nearly 800 schools," stated Dr. Roger Stichter, professor of accounting.

For more information about Grace's accounting program, contact Stichter at [stichtrl@grace.edu](mailto:stichtrl@grace.edu), or visit [www.grace.edu/major/accounting](http://www.grace.edu/major/accounting).

## Day of Giving Raises Record \$120,000

BRING THEM BACK

In early 2020, Grace was planning its annual Day of Giving fundraiser for April 22. The campaign's focus was "pave their path," inviting alumni, friends of the college and the greater community to raise funds to support the Grace Fund. "We wanted to share ways our alumni were impacting the world and to encourage our Grace community to continue to pave the way for our current students," says Kelsi Griffith (BS 11, MSNM 16), executive director of advancement operations.

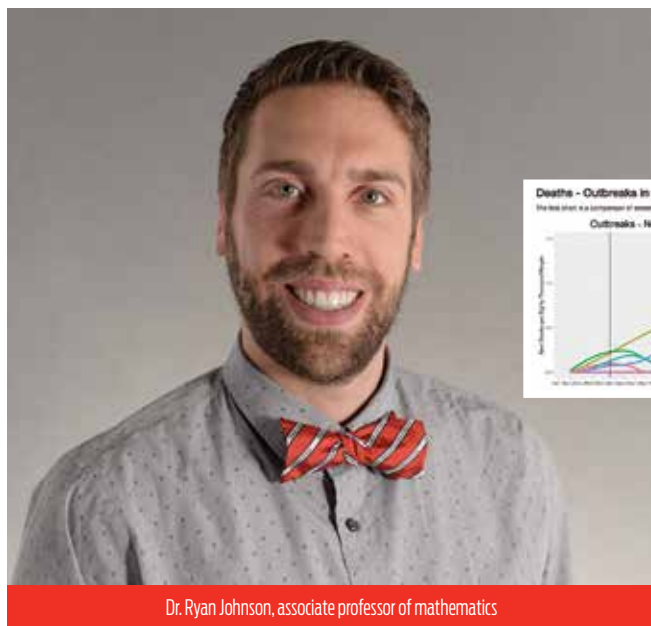
But when the new coronavirus began to spread in March and Grace made the difficult decision to close campus, a group of generous donors came forward with a lead gift to establish the Bring Them Back fund. "These donors believe in our Grace community and wanted to encourage others to give so that our students would be able to come back to campus," says Griffith.

The Day of Giving fundraiser exceeded the campaign's \$80,000 goal, raising over \$120,000 — a new Day of Giving record. Bring Them Back funds will help current students who are facing additional financial strains come back to campus this fall; they will assist graduating seniors' return to campus to celebrate their accomplishments; and they will benefit incoming students who need additional scholarships to join us on campus this fall.

"Thank you for showing up for our students, especially in these times of uncertainty, in such big ways," says Griffith. "We're humbled and grateful by the continued support of the Grace family."



# Math Professor Creates COVID-19 Data Visualizations



Dr. Ryan Johnson, associate professor of mathematics



In April, Dr. Ryan Johnson, associate professor of mathematics, began creating data visualizations of COVID-19 cases in Kosciusko County and other Midwestern localities. Johnson collects data daily from state and county governments and illustrates it in easily digestible charts online at [mathatgrace.github.io/COVID-Data-Kosciusko/](https://mathatgrace.github.io/COVID-Data-Kosciusko/).

"I started generating data visualizations because news about the pandemic

sometimes felt too anecdotal or even partisan, and I wanted to view the actual data," says Johnson. "I have found that keeping myself aware of the numbers has helped me keep a balanced perspective, and I hope it helps others do the same," he adds.

Johnson anticipates growing the project with the help of a small group of students. "In the math program, we seek to use our skills and knowledge to humbly serve

others as Jesus did," says Johnson. "My hope is that this webpage serves those in our community who might need assistance making the best decisions for their health and safety."

For more information about the Grace math program, visit

[www.grace.edu/major/mathematics](http://www.grace.edu/major/mathematics).

## Grace Announces Affordability and Safety Measures for Fall Opening

In June, Grace announced new affordability measures for students and a revised fall semester calendar in order to care for its students, their families and the faculty and staff during the current COVID-19 health and economic crisis.

"Lower-income students from Indiana can attend Grace tuition-free through a combination of federal, state and institutional aid," says Dr. Mark Pohl (BS 04, MAMin 07), associate vice president of enrollment management and financial aid.

This aid is given to those with a "zero through \$1,500 expected family contribution" as calculated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which takes into account family income, the number of children in a household and other factors. This tuition-free offer is valid for residential and commuter students. "We have many students who fit the criteria and live locally," says Pohl. "Hundreds of admitted students qualify, and many have already made plans to attend Grace this fall," he says.

Grace is removing other financial barriers for students as well, including adopting permanently a test-optional admission policy. The decision, effective

immediately for incoming 2020 students, allows applicants to choose whether or not they believe test scores best represent their academic ability and provides fair admissions criteria to all students who want to pursue higher education.

Additionally, Grace reduced the price for most of its online degrees by nearly 20% for new students. Grace is now among the most affordable faith-based online colleges. Its online programs include associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

Grace also published a revised fall semester calendar. The college will begin classes one week early on August 19, forgo a fall break and conclude the semester before students leave for Thanksgiving. This is being done to mitigate the risk of student exposure to illness and to keep campus healthy.

Grace is welcoming prospective students and summer visitors to campus with safety guidelines in place. To schedule a visit, go to [www.grace.edu/visit](http://www.grace.edu/visit).

You can also find our COVID-19 updates and plans at [www.grace.edu/covid-19](http://www.grace.edu/covid-19).



# LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

[www.grace.edu/visit-us](http://www.grace.edu/visit-us)



Winona Lake was named one of the top 20 small towns of Indiana in January by the Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD). The top 20 towns and cities are a “must-visit for anyone interested in experiencing the hospitality and charm of Indiana ...,” wrote the IOTD. Just two blocks from campus, 30 seconds by car or two minutes by longboard, The Village at Winona offers artisan shops and cozy cafes, plus renowned fine dining.

The IOTD also listed Cerulean, a restaurant located in The Village, in its top 20 “true destination dining” restaurants in Indiana. Grace students will be pleased to learn that this fall, those with Meal Plan 1 will receive \$200 to eat at a number of

The Village’s prized restaurants and cafes, including Cerulean.

Additionally, College Consensus ranked Grace one of the best colleges in the country near a river or lake. Not only can students paddleboard, kayak and tube on Winona Lake, but they also have access to over five miles of greenway trails and nearly 10 miles of mountain biking trails. Winona Lake is also home to the Winona History Center and the Billy Sunday Home and was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Moreover, Grace is in the neighborhood of Warsaw, Indiana, the “Orthopaedic Capital of the World.” Home to several Fortune 500 companies, students have access to hands-on experience

through internships and applied learning experiences.

“We’re so proud of the community we’re a part of,” says Dr. Mark Pohl (BS 04, MAMin 07), associate vice president of enrollment management and financial aid. “We have all the advantages of a tight-knit community plus a thriving network with global companies.”

Interested students can schedule a visit at [www.grace.edu/visit-us](http://www.grace.edu/visit-us). “To my fellow alumni, I hope you’ll come back to visit too,” says Pohl. “Drop by anytime; the Office of Alumni and Community Engagement is ready to host you.”



# Engineering Students Donate Ear Guards to Front Lines

Grace engineering students Erin Lawhon and Abbott Joy have donated more than 700 3D-printed ear guards to local organizations on the front lines of COVID-19.

Lawhon, a senior at Grace from Mt. Vernon, Ohio, came up with the idea when her roommate sent her an article about a boy scout printing ear guards in Canada. "I immediately had the idea that Grace should use their 3D printers to get involved in the effort," says Lawhon. "But then I thought, I'm in Ohio. I can't do anything to help. When I remembered that Abbott was still in Winona Lake, I knew that he would spearhead the initiative," she says.

Lawhon was right. Junior engineering student Abbott Joy was in full support of the idea. "Given the number of people we can help and the amount of time this takes, there's no justifiable reason not to help!" Joy says. The pair contacted Dr. Fred Wentorf, chair of the Department of Engineering, who quickly approved funding for the project. In April, the operation was underway.

The students' self-initiated project mirrors what their course instruction is all about. "Our engineering program really pushes the motto 'engineered to serve,'" says Lawhon. "This means we serve the community in any way we can. This project is a great example of how we are using the talents and resources to do just that."

The ear guards have been distributed to Fellowship Missions, Grace Village, Miller's at Oak Pointe, Acorn Academy, Pill Box Pharmacy, Cardinal Services and Miller's Merry Manor at no charge. "Although a seemingly small product, we've heard that these ear guards have made a huge difference for these organizations," says Lawhon. The ear guards help alleviate rubbing and headaches caused by face masks.

"We are thrilled that we can continue to meet needs in our community," adds Joy. "It's pretty cool to see people benefiting so much from a project I'm involved with."

Learn more about Grace's Engineering Department at [www.grace.edu/major/mechanical-engineering](http://www.grace.edu/major/mechanical-engineering).



(Top) Engineering student Abbott Joy displays one of the 3D-printed ear guards. (Middle) Paul Derenzo (MAMin 94), a sales representative for Pill Box Pharmacy and whose company has received donated ear guards, models how the ear guard is worn with a face mask. (Bottom) Engineering student Erin Lawhon works with the 3D printer to create the ear guards.

# Grace Names New VP of Financial Affairs and CFO



Doug Baumgardner (BS 03),  
new VP of financial affairs and CFO

In June, Grace named Doug Baumgardner (BS 03) its vice president of financial affairs and chief financial officer. Baumgardner brings 17 years of finance experience to the role. He most recently served as president of Network Partners Financial Services (Warsaw, Indiana) and prior to that as city president at 1st Source Bank (Warsaw, Indiana). He earned his bachelor's degree from Grace, his MBA from Indiana University and his Executive Leadership Certificate from the University of Wisconsin.

"I have full confidence in Doug as he steps into this vital role," said Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74), president of Grace College & Seminary. "His vast financial background is an ideal fit to serve Grace well as our new chief financial officer,"

said Katip. Baumgardner will be responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the institution, managing the budget and reporting finances to the board.

"I am extremely excited to be taking on this important role at Grace. As an alumnus, I care deeply about the mission of Grace and look forward to being an integral part of advancing its mission," said Baumgardner.

Baumgardner replaces Paul Blair who served as Grace's CFO for seven years. "I am excited to welcome Doug to the Grace team. Doug has been involved with Grace for years — as a student, as a banking partner and as a community partner. His love for and commitment to Grace is longstanding," said Blair.

Blair will transition to a part-time role as chief operating officer. He will focus on physical plant operations and maintenance, food service, information technology, contracts, insurance and large capital projects.

"I couldn't be more thankful for Paul's strategic vision and faithful service on our senior leadership team," said Katip. "I look forward to continuing to serve with Paul in a new capacity and to welcoming Doug to the team and benefiting from his expertise," said Katip.

# Grace Expands Licensure Program for Special Education Majors



Chair of the Special Education Department  
Dr. Cheryl (Bartel BS 92) Bremer instructs her students.

The Grace College School of Education is working to meet the increasing demands of special education majors. Grace is expanding its elementary education and mild intervention dual licensure program to enable all special education majors to teach preschool through 12th grade

starting with its incoming 2020 class.

"This license has been an option in the past, but this year we are making the changes necessary to require it of all our special education majors," said Dr. Cheryl (Bartel BS 92) Bremer, chair of the Special Education Department.

"This is another way Grace will be part of the solution to the significant and widespread shortage of teachers prepared to meet the complex needs of students with disabilities," she explained.

Additionally, for those who want to work with students with significant disabilities, Grace recently launched its intense intervention graduate licensure online. This 15-hour program is designed for undergraduate students pursuing mild intervention licensure as well as current educators looking to add to their range of skills and experiences. It can be completed in one year.

Grace is the 11th school in the state to offer this graduate program. With the addition of this licensure, Grace gives students the option to complete three teaching licenses in as few as four years.

For more information about Grace's special education programs, contact Bremer at 574-372-5100, ext. 6146 or [bremercl@grace.edu](mailto:bremercl@grace.edu).



# CLEARLY COMPELLING

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK



The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams recently introduced "Clearly Kosciusko," a brand the entire county can use to showcase the community's unique character. You can find two of its billboards along U.S. 30.

Two years ago, the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace College was busy brainstorming ways to inspire residents of Kosciusko County to participate in the health and enjoyment of its lakes and streams.

"We wanted to increase awareness in our community of these incredible and valuable natural resources," says Alex Hall (MSNM 18), the Lilly Center's associate director. The center conducts research, provides resources and engages, educates and collaborates with residents and local organizations to make the lakes and streams of Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe and beautiful.

In an effort to communicate what makes the county so distinct, their brainstorming session birthed a simple megaphone slogan: "Clearly Kosciusko."

"Clearly Kosciusko communicates several things," says Abby Phinney (BA 17), public relations specialist for the Lilly Center. "We're saying that our community is clearly, or obviously, the place to live. It's clearly fun, relaxing and entertaining. It also communicates we want to be transparent about the heart of our county. We're not just trying to sell you something. This is the story of who we really are."

In 2018, the Lilly Center applied for and was awarded its first grant to fund a billboard campaign to introduce the Clearly Kosciusko brand, erecting signage along U.S. 30 and at the four borders of the county.

But what began as an initiative to inform the region about the county's prized lakes became a rallying cry for more than just the waterways; it became a unifying mantra that the entire county could use to tell its story.

Alan Tio, the CEO of Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO), remembers driving down U.S. 30, seeing one of Clearly

Kosciusko's billboards for the first time. Its name and imagery intrigued him so much that he called the Lilly Center to find out what Clearly Kosciusko was all about.

"At KEDCO, our mission is to convene, build and show the area's economic growth resources. We bring people together, we start things, we solve problems, we promote all that this area has to offer to grow businesses, communities and our population," explains Tio. In just the last year, under Tio's leadership, KEDCO has relaunched the Stonehenge Golf Course, hosted the first-ever Ag + Innovation Youth Agribusiness Challenge and developed a talent initiative to promote talent attraction and retention in the community.

Tio believes that the more community members work together, the more likely it is for their ideas, talent and capital to produce the best that Kosciusko County has to offer. "And that means we're going to attract and retain more talent to the region," he says.

Working in a county of nearly 80,000 people, Tio's organization is challenging business and community leaders to grow the population by 20,000 people in the next 10 years. It's part of a larger regional plan to grow 11 counties in Northeast Indiana from 800,000 to 1 million.

"The Clearly Kosciusko brand helps us better tell our story in Indiana and beyond. It helps us stand out among the 92 counties in Indiana that are all trying to recruit people to live and work there," says Tio. "With this brand, we can communicate what makes our community special and unique. In our community, you can start and build your business, you can pursue lifelong education, you can retire here, own a lake house or work for a global company. No matter where you are on your life journey, you can find a place here."

In 2019, the Lilly Center saw how useful the brand would be if it wasn't just representing

**CLEARLY  
KOSCIUSKO™**



the county's lakes and streams, but the entire story that makes the county so attractive. So the center extended the brand to incorporate not only Tio's organization, KEDCO, but two more pillars in the county: Kosciusko County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce.

"We knew expanding the vision of the brand would only benefit the county," says Hall. "When businesses and nonprofits in the county win, we all win. Every positive story that comes out of our county better defines and magnifies the unique and special place this county is to live and work."

Now, Clearly Kosciusko serves as a countywide voice that pulls all corners of the county together and encourages residents and visitors to contribute their stories too. Whether a lifelong homeowner or overnight guest, Clearly Kosciusko invites people to "learn, play and grow" in the county, through its vibrant outdoor activities, restaurants, shopping niches, educational opportunities and business ventures.

"It's so special that the Lilly Center took on this initiative," says Tio. "They are such a unique establishment in our county, offering education and research and protection to one of our county's most valuable resources and economic engines. I applaud their entire team. They had the foresight to recognize the opportunity, follow through to execute it and invite the rest of us to participate in it."

"The Lilly Center is also such a great example of Grace College's leadership in our community," says Tio. He's been really impressed with the investments Grace has made that not only provide students with a meaningful education, but also to support and sustain the community's arts, businesses and natural resources.

Currently, the Lilly Center writes grants annually to fund the awareness campaigns to promote the Clearly Kosciusko brand so its impact can grow. They started with just four billboards in 2018, and now have a social media presence, a website, a blog and numerous print materials.

The focus this year is to increase Clearly Kosciusko's membership base. Businesses and organizations can apply (for free) to join the campaign and use Clearly Kosciusko's brand elements to promote their businesses.

One of Clearly Kosciusko's first members was Kevin Hamstra, owner of Warsaw-based 1Eighty Digital, a web design and digital marketing company. Not only did he design Clearly Kosciusko's website, but after becoming a member, has integrated the brand on his business's website in hopes of associating himself and his work with the greater story of Kosciusko County.

"It gives everyone in the community a simple message to rally around," says Hamstra. "I appreciate that Clearly Kosciusko is celebrating the good things that happen. You can go to their website or find them on social media and see the positive stories happening in Kosciusko."

Hamstra loves the centralized location and voice that Clearly Kosciusko provides, making it easy for people to find out all the good that is happening and to be inspired to join in.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, Clearly Kosciusko has been using its blog to feature local services and resources available to the community. It has also used social media to highlight activities that can still be enjoyed while social distancing and ways the community can get involved in local relief efforts.

Phinney, the Lilly Center's PR specialist, believes the pandemic has underscored the important role Clearly Kosciusko can play in the community. "We want to use the brand to celebrate community-based triumphs, highlight helpful resources and showcase the unique ways people can enjoy the county," says Phinney. "We're proud of this place, and we want everyone to know why."

To find out more, celebrate what's happening in the county and/or become a Clearly Kosciusko member, visit [www.clearlykc.com](http://www.clearlykc.com).



LILLY CENTER FOR  
**LAKES  
& STREAMS**



**GRACE**  
— LANCERS —

ATHLETICS NEWS ON AND OFF THE COURT



Esports coach  
**Andrew Palladino**

## GRACE TO OFFER ESPORTS THIS FALL

Grace is expanding its athletic programs to include esports — aka competitive multi-player video gaming.

The Lancers are the third Crossroads League school to announce an esports team and join a number of schools in the area fielding a competitive esports squad. Coach Andrew Palladino will lead the team in its inaugural season and is already recruiting potential students to participate this fall in the school's first scholarship team.

The addition of esports is one of many new Grace athletic offerings. The Lancers have already established club sports such as women's rugby, Ultimate Frisbee and shooting sports with plans to add bass fishing and others in the immediate future.

"We are excited for the addition of esports at Grace," said Director of Athletics Chad Briscoe. "I appreciate the support of Dr. Katip (BA 74) and the senior administration to continue building excellence through athletics. This program allows us to stay on the cutting edge of collegiate athletic opportunities for our students. We are confident that esports will give our student-athletes a new platform to live out the Christian mission of our institution, and we look forward to Coach Palladino leading the program with his extensive background in gaming."

Grace will seek to join a national association this fall and has already secured a sponsorship with MSI, who is a leading developer of computer hardware for the esports

industry. Grace's student-athletes will wear custom MSI jerseys and play on powerful MSI gaming computers.

Grace will practice at its own new facility on campus at the Gordon Health and Wellness Center, which will be equipped with 11 gaming computers with RTX 2060 Super graphics cards and the brand-new Intel i7 10700F processors (released April 30). The gaming stations will include a keyboard, mouse, mouse pad, gaming chair and headsets. A large TV screen will also be incorporated to review gameplay and discuss strategies among the team.

"Esports has exploded in popularity over the past several years," said Palladino, "and I am honored to lay the foundation for a competitive program that shows Christ through our attitudes and gameplay. This will include structured practices and tournaments for games that focus on teamwork and strategy. I look forward to developing relationships with our players, the community and competing schools as we begin this program."

As a faith-based institution, Grace will focus on competitive gaming experiences that do not feature first-person shooting. Grace will initially compete in League of Legends with an eye to add more games in the near future.

Esports will provide team members with scholarships. Students interested in joining Grace's esports program should contact Coach Palladino at [esports@grace.edu](mailto:esports@grace.edu).





Marcus Moore (BS 08), athletics admissions coordinator, takes the very first steps to start Grace's marathon, which began from the 1st Source Bank Field.

"WE INITIALLY THOUGHT IF WE RAISED \$1,000 IT WOULD BE INCREDIBLE," PATRICK SAID. "IT'S BEEN REALLY UNIQUE TO SEE HOW GOD BLESSED US THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE."

## SOCCKER TEAM RACES TO RAISE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS

The men's soccer team ran an epic seven-day marathon from April 1 through April 8 to raise money for COVID-19 relief. The Lancers took turns running in shifts for seven consecutive days, raising over \$12,000 through its GoFundMe page. Ultimately the team raised more than \$20,000 after the Dane and Mary Louise Miller Foundation donated \$8,000.

All of the money went to support several organizations who are serving those impacted by the coronavirus, including Salvation Army (Warsaw, Indiana), IMA World Health (Washington D.C.) and Elkhart's COVID-19 Community Response Fund (Indiana).

While the event was originally scheduled to last for two days, the outpouring of donations and community response was too good to cut short. Grace extended the 48-hour run to a full week, resulting in 168 consecutive hours of remote running. Other members of the Grace community, notably the Lancers' cross-country team, joined in the combined herculean effort.

"I'm very proud of the guys," said Grace head coach Arron Patrick. "To go from a few days of running to a week is a huge feat. We wanted this event to be hard and physically challenging, but we also hope it inspired others to give back and make



Sophomore Cole Voss is interviewed by a Fort Wayne TV station after running the final leg of Grace's weeklong run.

a difference in their communities."

The seven-day marathon was worldwide; Lancers from four continents joined the event, running their shift from countries like Portugal, Brazil, Germany, New Zealand and England.

Over the course of the run, the race garnered national attention, picking up reports and tweets

from several TV stations, as well as regional and national media members, including the Chicago Tribune, ESPN and Runners World.

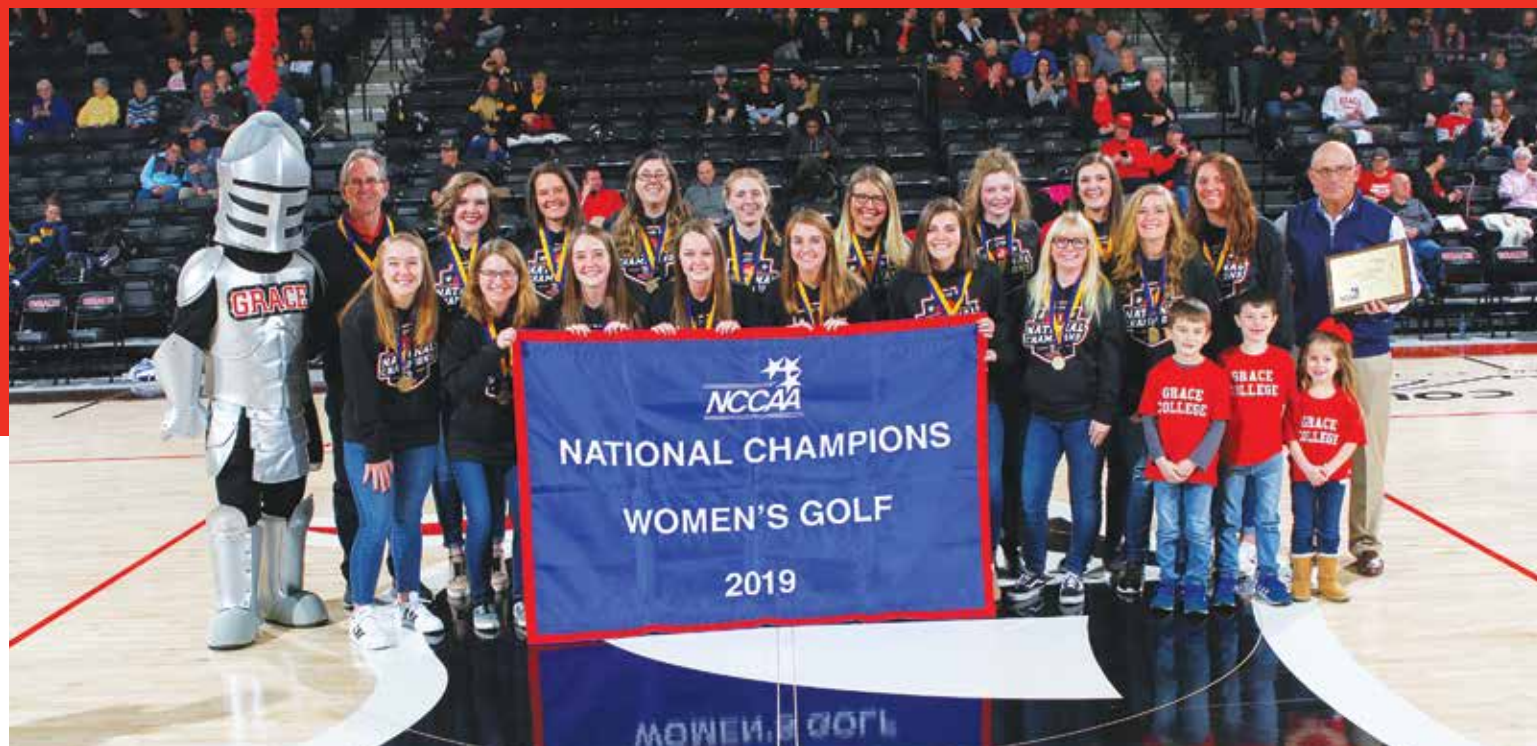
"We initially thought if we raised \$1,000 it would be incredible," Patrick said. "It's been really unique to see how God blessed us through this experience, and now these people we can pass these funds over to."

The race symbolically began and ended at 1st Source Bank Field, Grace's soccer stadium. Marcus Moore (BS 08), Grace's athletics recruiting coordinator, started the seven-day run from the stadium, and sophomore Cole Voss completed the final leg in the center of the soccer field on Wednesday at 12 p.m.

"It's amazing to be on a team that inspires each other like this to help the community," Voss said. "We wouldn't have been able to do this without the community support, without the team support," Voss said. "[Coach] AP is a coach who's always pushing, and that really got us to where we are at."

# ***WOMEN'S GOLF WINS FIRST NCCAA CHAMPIONSHIP***

A sweeter script could not have been written: Grace women's golf team wins national championship.



The women's golf team won its first national championship in the program's short five-year history during the fall. The Lady Lancers were honored in front of a packed crowd during halftime of a basketball game in January.

The Lady Lancers claimed their first national championship on Oct. 23, winning the 2019 NCCAA National Championship by two strokes at Hammock Beach Resort's Ocean Course (Palm Coast, Florida).

In just its fifth season of existence, Grace head coach Denny Duncan (BS 80) led the Lady Lancers to the third national title in Grace College's history. (Grace also won the men's basketball 1992 NAIA championship and the volleyball 1995 NCCAA crown.)

Grace entered the final round tied atop the leaderboard with NCAA Div. II Erskine. Erskine gave Grace an early edge but fought back, eventually erasing Grace's lead and even pulling ahead as the tournament wound down to the

final three holes. Freshman Lucy Young produced three clutch holes to give Grace the title. Young finished the tournament third on the individual leaderboard to earn All-American status.

Additionally, Duncan was honored as the NCCAA National Coach of the Year after leading the Lady Lancers to the championship.

On Jan. 25, Grace celebrated the team's historic win during the halftime of the men's basketball game. The ceremony included the unveiling of the official championship banner, the presentation of the championship medals to each player and coach as well as an opportunity for remarks from a few members of the Lady Lancers.





# A SERIES OF SOVEREIGN SHIFTS

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

Cokiesha Bailey Robinson, new associate dean of diversity and inclusion, speaks at her alma mater, Beeson Divinity School (Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama), at its inaugural African American preaching series in March 2019.



Cokiesha Bailey Robinson's southern charm is magnetic.

She grew up in Dallas, Texas, with parents who valued tradition, good manners, family and above all else — Jesus. Without fail, she and her siblings arrived promptly at the breakfast table with beds made and teeth brushed for daily devotions.

But although Robinson inherited her social graces and a hospitality that knows no boundaries (and a devotion to sweet tea), she also gained a fierce love and respect for her Afrocentric heritage, which God nurtured into a passion for diversity, justice and equality.

Growing up, Robinson was the shyest of the bunch, but at a young age she discovered her voice through writing. As a teenager she wrote for local newspapers and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English. She advanced quickly in the mass media industry, working in radio and co-authoring numerous books.

Even though her parents had founded a church and were prominent ministers in her community, Robinson never imagined working in full-time ministry. "My parents are my hero and shero," she says, rattling off their achievements. "Ministry was part of our family DNA."

So when God began to stir Robinson's heart towards ministry work, she was startled. "I always thought I'd cheer my parents on from the sidelines," she says. But she couldn't ignore the incessant call. She took a job as the church receptionist at her parents' church, to the horror of many in her community. "No one could understand why I'd leave what they saw as a prestigious, influential job to answer phones." Frankly, in some ways, neither could Robinson, but by faith she obeyed the call and would later look back on it as the first big "sovereign shift" God made in her life.

It was at the receptionist desk, doing small tasks of service, that God equipped Robinson for future shifts. "We are not our title," says Robinson. "People will lift us up or put us down depending on it, but we are who God says we are."

Robinson worked for eight years at her family's church, Concord Church (Dallas, Texas), ultimately serving on the ministry staff, when God shifted her again. She moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to attend Beeson Divinity School (Samford University), to pursue a master's degree in divinity. Forty days into the semester, her father died. It was the hardest

season of her life, wading through her grief, being so far from her family. But as she says repeatedly: "There are always rainbows in the storm." During her time at Beeson, she met her husband, Tim, and after graduating, accepted a job offer to join the ministry staff at a church in Harlem, New York.

Dallas and Alabama gave her the gift of theology, she says, but Harlem gave her a social consciousness. It's where she saw the gaping disparities created by racism and sexism and classism, and she grew a social voice. "My daddy used to say, 'A Bible in one hand and newspaper in another; we need them both to make a difference,'" remembers Robinson. "For me, that's exactly right. It's biblical reconciliation and biblical justice. We can't have one without the other."

After serving on the ministry staff in Harlem, Robinson returned to Concord Church and served as the director of growth for several years. In 2015 she founded Cross Spring Ministries, began her doctoral work at Truett Seminary (Baylor University) and served as a ministry consultant and national conference speaker. It's how Grace College & Seminary first met Robinson. Dean of Chapel Brent Mencarelli (MDiv 13) invited Robinson to speak at chapel, and the truth and grace and love she displayed for students was so transformative that she's been invited back every year following.



"About two years ago, I remember returning home from speaking at Grace and telling my husband that if Grace ever was interested in hiring me, I'd want to go. I never imagined in my wildest dreams it would happen. And at such a time as this." Just before the COVID-19 lockdown, the closing of campus and the murder of George Floyd, President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) offered and Robinson accepted the new full-time position of associate dean of diversity and inclusion.

Since beginning the job in March, Robinson has been in countless (Zoom) conversations and meetings with Grace students, faculty and staff about how to allow this season to bear great fruit. As she talks with Black students, she's helping them navigate their grief and find ways to heal from their trauma.

She plans to move to Winona Lake by the end of September, where she'll continue her work to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in programming and student care on campus. She will also advise the administration on issues related to diversity and underrepresented student populations and serve as the adviser to the Black Student Association. "I want to be clear that I'm coming on board to advocate for all students," Robinson says. "We can't move forward in Jesus without one another."



# Q&A w/ COKIESHA BAILEY ROBINSON



**Grace Story.** How have the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Botham Jean, Sandra Bland, Atatiana Jefferson, Rayshard Brooks and countless others, recorded and unrecorded, impacted you?

**Robinson.** I'm devastated, outraged, hurt, angered. As we continue to grieve, we also must commit to turning our anger into action. I'm more passionate now than ever about speaking on social justice and the actions we're going to take to establish it. Growing up in the South, in a pastor's home, sometimes we can be taught to be polite more than honest. We don't say things if we think they might offend. But I realize more fully now that staying silent only causes more trauma. I'm still going to be polite, but not at the expense of telling the truth. Sometimes we have to tell the truth at different volumes; sometimes it's like crushing up aspirin in orange juice, but we must share it. When we don't tell our stories, people don't think racism is systemic. We have to participate in conversations that are uncomfortable and commit to that tension because it will produce change. I cannot be a voice that unifies and reconciles without being honest.

**Grace Story.** What kinds of questions should we be asking ourselves and others to effect real change?

**Robinson.** Are Black Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians and Latinx Americans in your inner circle? Are they on your board and a part of your staff? Are they in your church, school, club or organization invited and free to initiate change? Are they part of your policy making? Do they show up on your speaker lists? Do you support their charities, nonprofits and ministries? Posts are nice. Power moves are better.

**Grace Story.** How can white people become allies in the fight for equality?

**Robinson.**

- **Pray for a soft heart** to see our brothers and sisters, to be willing to listen and understand.
- **Be open to tough conversations.** Don't make an idol out of your offended feelings. Spend time talking to people who don't look like you. Get in their skin.
- **Self-educate, self-educate, self-educate.** Read, follow Black writers and theologians and scholars, research and support Black-owned businesses and organizations that are furthering racial equality. Get fluent with the terminology.

- **Change the narrative.** This fight for equality, to recognize that Black lives matter, should not be political. It's a stewarding of human lives. Keep talking about biases and discrimination even when it's not trending. If you're tired of hearing about racism, imagine how exhausting it is to live it every day.

**Grace Story.** Why are having conversations so important?

**Robinson.** Conversations reveal disparities. Right now we're in the middle of a three-pronged pandemic: health, racial and economic. Ask yourself, who do I know that has died from COVID-19? Who do I know who has been laid off or furloughed? When we have these conversations with people who are different than us, we realize our realities are different. Black and brown communities don't have access to the resources that so many white communities have and that has consequences. It's critical that we understand *why* those communities don't have resources, to get to the root of the disparity, before we can dismantle the systems and structures and policies that led to them.

**Grace Story.** What is giving you hope in the midst of collective and personal grief?

**Robinson.** In this season like never before, people are open. This is not a moment. This is a movement. That word, "movement," can make people nervous, but what it means is, this fight can't end when the news stories fizzle from headlines. This commitment to one another, to our worth is a lifetime commitment. We are living in the midst of a historic civil rights movement. White and Black and brown people are uniting for Black lives right now.

**Grace Story.** Why come to Grace?

**Robinson.** We are seeing cultural humility. White people are calling and texting and asking, "How can we support you?" And this generation is not just about lip service; they're about a movement. And Grace is a place that is walking in cultural humility. That is working on not just talking about racial equality but taking action now and making plans for the short term and long term. Grace is a place that wants to be a community of cultural competence. They are for a greater future. I can't bring that about, but God can, and I'm thrilled to be a part.

You can follow Robinson on Instagram @cokieshabaileyrobinson.



# GRAND CANYON RIVER TRIP

JULY 5-12, 2021

—  
We have postponed our "Best of Rome-Athens-Jerusalem" trip to the summer of 2022. We'll keep you posted as those plans are solidified.

## GRACE INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON A RIVER EXPEDITION EXPLORING THE GRAND CANYON NEXT SUMMER.

The Arizona River Runners company along with Dr. Don DeYoung (MDiv 83) will be guiding us through the canyon's famous rapids, taking us to waterfalls deep within the canyon and delighting us with their backcountry camping and culinary skills.

**What:** Grand Canyon River Trip

**When:** July 5-12, 2021

**Who:** Grace alumni, students and friends (limited spaces available)

**Leaders:** Dr. Don DeYoung (MDiv 83), professor emeritus of physics, with Arizona River Runners

Experience 187 miles of the Colorado River on motorized rafts, camp along the river and discover towering waterfalls and clear blue creeks.

If you're interested in joining us or receiving more details about the trip, contact Denny Duncan, director of alumni and community engagement, at 574-372-5100, ext. 6129 or at [duncanl@grace.edu](mailto:duncanl@grace.edu).



# ALUM

CONNECTING WITH OUR FAMILY OF FRIENDS

# NOTES

## CLASS NOTES

### 1968

The Labbee family was highlighted in the October 2019 issue of Yakima Magazine in an article titled, "The Quiet Kings of Mint — Labbeemint," which chronicles the family mint oil business founded by patriarch **Jack Labbee** (C 69). At one point, Labbeemint was the largest mint grower in the United States. Since Jack's death in 2017, family members have continued the ever-expanding Yakima Valley business. Family members include **Patricia "Patty" (Labbee C 68) Cottrell** and **Pam (Green C 76) Labbee**.

### 1970

**Dr. Ed Hindson** (ThM 70) has been appointed dean emeritus of the Rawlings School of Divinity at Liberty University (Lynchburg VA). He was previously appointed distinguished professor of religion (2005) and will continue teaching at Liberty and writing. He currently has 40 publications, including five study Bibles. A leader in Liberty's online education initiatives, Ed has taught over 50,000 residential students and over 100,000 online students in the past 40 years. He also serves as the Bible teacher on "The King is Coming" telecast. He has lectured at the Harvard Divinity School, Oxford University and several evangelical seminaries including: Dallas, Denver, Grace, Westminster and Veritas.

### 1971

**Dr. George Zemek** (BA 71, MDiv 75, ThM 77, ThD 82) has served in church leadership positions since 1968. He was a teaching fellow at Grace College & Seminary from 1975 to 1978 where he became a professor in the seminary from 1977 to 1988. In 1988 George went to The Master's Seminary (Los Angeles CA) where he remained as a theology professor until 1994. That summer he planted a church and seminary-level training center in Brandon FL and afterwards, George went to Little Rock Bible Church (AR) to start another church-based training center which, in 2007, became The Expositors Seminary. The seminary has 11 campuses, and George works at its administrative hub in Jupiter FL. George has authored several books and numerous exegetical and theological articles. He and his wife Judy have been married for 53 years. George says none of those ministries would have been possible apart from the Grace Theological Seminary professor-mentors who dedicated themselves to the ministry of the Word. [gizjupiter@att.net](mailto:gizjupiter@att.net)

### 1973

In December 2018, **Dr. Paul Wang** (MDiv 73) authored the translated Chinese version of Volume I, Book 1 ("The Word of God as the Criterion of Dogmatics") of Karl Barth's multi-volume "Church Dogmatics," published by Tien Dao Publishing House (Hong Kong), with the translation rights granted by Theologischer Verlag Zürich and the Karl Barth Foundation. In God's special



01



02



03



04

timing, this was in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Barth's death.

## 1976

**01 Dr. Larry McCall** (BA 76, MDiv 79) has recently authored a book, "Grandparenting with Grace," published by New Growth Press. Larry and wife **Gladine (Rupp C 77)** have enjoyed the transition from their roles as parents (to **David** (BS 13) and **Keri (Spurlock BA 02, MACMHC 15)** **McCall**; **Josh** (BA 04, MATS 08, MAIR 08) and **Janelle (McCall BA 04)** **Armstrong**; and **Jacob** (BS 02) and **Laura (McCall BS 07)** **Barros**) to grandparents. They do not take this responsibility lightly and count it a privilege (and adventure) to play an active part in the lives of their seven grandchildren.

## 1980

**02 In** December 2019, **Dana Seiler** (BS 80), founder, principal and chief executive officer of Vantage Point Solutions Group LLC, completed Leadership Maryland, a professional development program, and was honored along with the entire Class of 2019 at its 27th annual graduation ceremony. Dana was one of 50 applicants of senior-level executives with significant achievements in their careers and/or their communities, chosen by committee to complete the eight-month, hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. Dana and wife Wendy live in Salisbury MD. [dseiler@vpbg.net](mailto:dseiler@vpbg.net)

## 1982

**Debra Robertson** (C 82) earned an Associate in Nursing from New Mexico Junior College and Bachelor of General Studies from Indiana University. She has served as a charge nurse at CDI Health since May 2012 and is charge nurse in dialysis at Plainfield Correctional Facility and Marion County Jail (Indianapolis IN). [debsigs@yahoo.com](mailto:debsigs@yahoo.com)

## 1984

In March 2020, **Lynn (Gibbons BA 84)** **Seeden** was named an associate photographer with The Portrait Masters, having qualified for the accreditation after earning 75 awards in portraiture through the international photography organization. The most recent awards competition saw 11,015 portrait entries of which Lynn entered 35 portraits; all 35 portraits earned awards. Lynn recently placed in the top three in a Southern California photography competition through the Council on Aging, with a theme of "Aging as Art." Her next quest is to reach the level of Master Photographer, which she hopes to earn by September 2020. Lynn was an art major at Grace College and today has her own photography company. She and her husband Curt work together at their studio in Fountain Valley CA where they specialize in business portraits. Lynn also teaches workshops on photography and the business of studios. [lynnseeden@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnseeden@hotmail.com)

## 1985

**03 Officer Ken Lawson** (BS 85, S 07) was honored with the Ohio Attorney General's 2019 Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award in October 2019. Ken spent 16 years investigating sexual assaults and kidnappings, laying the groundwork of Ohio's anti-human trafficking efforts. "Without him, we would not have the robust laws that enable law enforcement to go after some of our most predatory individuals," said state Senator Teresa Fedor of Toledo. Ken was instrumental in the establishment of Franklin County Municipal Court's specialized court for human trafficking victims. As a result of Ken's work to establish a coalition in Ohio, nearly 75% of Ohio's 88 counties have coalitions. Ken has presented over 300 human trafficking trainings to police officers, foster children, educators, case workers and others.

**Jacqueline "Jackie" (Trapp BA 85)** **Price** and her husband Reverend Garrie Price have served as full-time church planting missionaries with Calvary Chapel since 1999, spending their first three years in Budapest, Hungary, learning the language and serving under a mentor. They then moved north of Budapest to Vac on the Danube where they successfully planted a local church. In 2006, they turned that church over to a Hungarian pastor and then moved to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where Garrie and Jackie currently live and serve, to plant another church.

## 1987

**04 Dr. Howard D. Houtz** (MDiv 87) retired from Calvary Bible Church (Lewistown PA) in August 2019 after 30 years of ministry. He is enjoying retirement, seeking ways to serve the Lord and spending more time with his three children and seven grandchildren. Howard and wife Mary reside in Lewistown PA. [howardhoutz124@gmail.com](mailto:howardhoutz124@gmail.com)

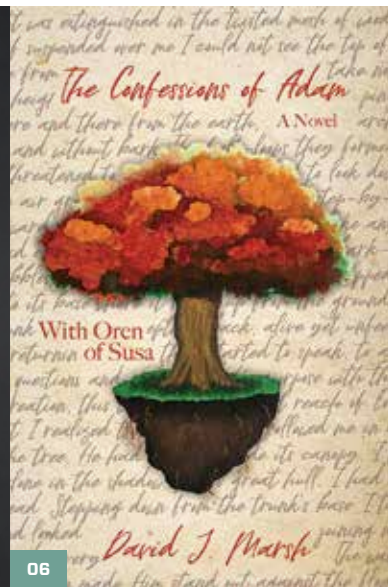
## 1991

**05 Paul Daniel Margraff** (C 91) and wife Amy live in Ostrander OH with children Austin (22), Aidan (22), Alexandra (19), Andrew (18), Abigail (14) and Adam (5).

## 1992

**06 David Marsh** (BS 92) authored his debut novel, "The Confessions of Adam," published by Bold Vision Books LLC and released in Sept. 2019. This biblical fiction is a dramatization of Genesis 2-4, taking place when Eve has just died and Adam hires a scribe to write his memoir. Dave and wife **Cyndi (Boswell BS 90)** reside in Danville IN. [www.davidjmarsh.com](http://www.davidjmarsh.com), [davidjmarsh@gmail.com](mailto:davidjmarsh@gmail.com)

**Shelley (McDowell BS 92)** **Johnson** has published her book "My Secret Escape: Restore Your Dignity, Transform Your Body," which shares her seven-step process to weight loss mastery that she created to lose 90 pounds. [www.LosingCoach.com/book](http://www.LosingCoach.com/book), [shelley@thelosingcoach.com](mailto:shelley@thelosingcoach.com)





**1997**

**07 Dr. Don W. Julian** (MDiv 97) (pictured right) received his DMin from Knox Theological Seminary (Fort Lauderdale FL) in May 2019 for which his doctoral thesis, "The Vital Correlation Between Pastoral Care and Effective Preaching," was written. Don and wife Barbara reside in Lancaster PA. don.andbarb.julian@gmail.com

**1999**

**08 Chad** (BS 99) and **Karen (Burns BS 99) Newhard** have each been serving in the field of higher education. After serving on the baseball coaching staff at Taylor University (IN) for three years, Chad has been named the head coach for the Trojans' lacrosse team. Utilizing her Master of Science in organizational leadership, Karen serves as adjunct faculty for the Life Calling and Student Development programs as well as director of TRIO Student Support Services at Indiana Wesleyan University where she has served since 2008. Chad, Karen and their children Nicholas (10) and Selah Grace (7) reside in Marion IN.

**2003**

**09 Courtney (Carroll BS 03) Robinson** worked in the customer service industry for 17 years, utilizing her Grace education in communication and business administration, before joining the sales team at Rainmaker Polymers LLC (Warsaw IN) in 2012, where

she is senior account manager. According to Courtney's supervisor and company president, John Urschaltz, "Courtney excels in all she does and is a great example of a woman who has successfully merged home, family, community and career ... I wish I had several more like her because she's a winner!" Courtney enjoys serving her customers by giving them surprises like homemade sugar cookies from her mom, **Pamela (Teeple BS 73) Carroll**, or taking them to lunch. Courtney continues to take the opportunity to share the Gospel as she interacts with each person throughout her work. She is amazed how people open up to her and has prayed with them on the job and cried with them over their struggles. Courtney is married to **Brandon Robinson** (AS 03, BS 04), who works for his family business, Robinson Construction. They live in Winona Lake IN with their twin son and daughter, Jude Daniel and Bexley Grace, born on Jan. 12, 2017 (eight hours apart — a hospital record!). courtney.blarneystone@gmail.com

**2007**

**10 Eric** (BA 07) and **Deborah (Burkett BME 10) Bradley**: Luke Azariah, Aug. 7, 2019. Luke joins big brother Neil (10) at their home in Goshen IN.

**2008**

**11 Matt** (BA 08, S 08) and **Danielle (Day BA 09) Simms**: Charlotte Grace,

Aug. 23, 2019. The Simms call Simi Valley CA home. simmsms@gmail.com

**2010**

**12 Kyle and Cassie (Patterson BS 10) McNulty**: Mia and Maverick, fostered for two years and adopted on May 17, 2019. The family resides in Henderson NV. cassiemcnulty@gmail.com

**2011**

**13 Kurtis and Lauren (Key ASN 11) Carman**: Ellis Wayne, April 26, 2019. Ellis joins the couple at their home in Avon OH. Lauren is a registered nurse at the Cleveland Clinic.

**2012**

**14 Steven** (C 13) and **Kate (Jongsma BA 12) Bergsma**: Married on Sept. 22, 2019. Kate earned her Master of Science in Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Addictions from Purdue University (2018) and has served as a therapist at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center (Elkhart IN) since May 2018. Kate uses eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) to treat clients with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She is grateful to **Drs. Tom Edgington** (BA 79, MABC 83, MDiv 85) and **Kevin Roberts** (BS 93, MAIR 96) for their wisdom, care and encouragement during her years at Grace. The couple calls Elkhart IN home. kate.jongsma@gmail.com

**15 Luke and Heather (Mitchell BS 12) Burton**: Joshua, Sept. 18, 2019. Joshua joins siblings Ethan (6) and Oliver (3) at their home in Delaware OH. burton62312@gmail.com

**16 Ben** (BS 12) and **Hannah (Alcorn BA 14) Euler**: Evia Grace, Aug. 31, 2019. The Eulers reside in Murrieta CA. b.euler@gmail.com

**2013**

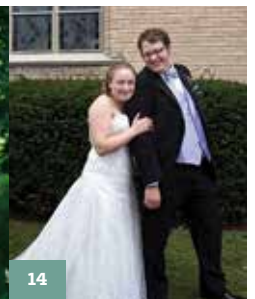
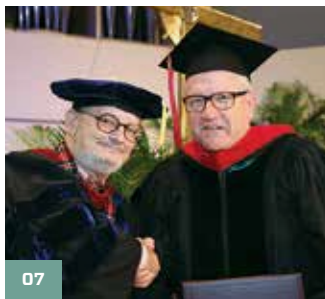
**17 Vincent** (BS 13) and **Andrea (Tucker ASN 15) Sell**: Cecilia Esme, Feb. 27, 2020. Cecilia joins big brother Theodore (2) at their home in Warsaw IN.

**2016**

**18 Benjamin and Anna (White BA 15) Burris**: Elizabeth Layne, Aug. 3, 2019. College Place WA is home for the Burris family.

**19 Derek and Teresa (Pohlman BS 16) Gephart**: Grace Katherine, April 12, 2020. Teresa will be serving as a pre-K special education paraprofessional at North Adams Community Schools (Decatur IN) in November 2020. The family resides in Decatur IN.

**Josiah Hartman** (BS 16) has been serving as environmental health specialist at Saint Joseph County Department of Health (South Bend IN) since December 2018. Josiah and wife **Abigail (Jodlowski BS 16)** reside in Bremen IN.



Nathan and **Sarah** (Hill BS 16) **Johns**: Evelyn, Aug. 27, 2019. The family is home in Pittsboro IN. sarah.johns1018@gmail.com

## 2017

**20 Joseph Anderson** (BA 17) has just completed a service year with AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps Class 25A. He has been deployed to Puerto Rico, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Alabama and Washington DC where he has assisted with logistics, community relations, public assistance and historic preservation. Joseph calls Highland IN home.

**21 Jacob and Gabrielle** (Lawrence BS 17, MBA 17) **Newton**: Married on April 27, 2019. The newlyweds reside in Columbus OH.

## 2019

**Reverend Richard J. Lee** (MAMS 19) recently began teaching undergraduate Bible and theology courses for pastoral ministry (IL). He will soon begin his Doctor of Education in organizational leadership for Christian ministry from Grand Canyon University (AZ). Richard is passionate about leadership in changing or struggling congregations. leerj@grace.edu

## 2020

**22 Lucas** (BA 20) and **Elizabeth "Liz"** (Brown BS 20) **Cone**: Married on Jan. 4, 2020. Liz majored in elementary education and special education (mild intervention) with a minor in intercultural studies and

will be teaching second grade at Jefferson Elementary School (Winona Lake IN) this fall. Lucas studied Bible translation with a minor in French. He plans to complete his Master of Divinity at Grace in 2021. The couple resides in Winona Lake IN.

## IN MEMORIAM

**23 Dr. John C. Whitcomb** (BDiv 51, ThM 53, ThD 57) passed away on Feb 5, 2020. He was accepted to Princeton University and during his freshman year, he met Dr. Donald Fullerton of Princeton Evangelical Fellowship, who led him to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. In 1942, John was drafted into the U.S. Army where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge (Marche, Belgium). He returned to Princeton and graduated with honors (1948) and then attended Grace Theological Seminary (GTS) from 1948 to 1951 with plans to return to China, his childhood home, as a missionary. However, Dr. Alva J. McClain, the president of GTS, offered him a faculty position. Two years later, he met his first wife, Edisene Hanson, at a Bible conference, and they married in 1953. Edisene died in 1970 at the young age of 40. He later married widow Norma Pritchett in 1971. John was a professor of Old Testament at GTS for nearly 40 years and served as the director of postgraduate studies. He and Norma founded Whitcomb

Ministries in 1990 where he held the title of President Emeritus from 2016 until his death. John authored over 20 books on the Bible and science; commentaries on multiple books of the Bible, eschatology and other topics; and numerous technical articles. Throughout his entire life, John was heavily involved in foreign missions, including serving as chairman of the board for both the Spanish World Gospel Mission and Grace Brethren Missions. John's life-guiding Bible verse was, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2) John is survived by his wife Norma and children: Don (Kim) Whitcomb, **Connie** (Whitcomb BSN 82) (**Mark** (S 88)) **Rosendahl**, Bob Whitcomb, **Dan** (BA 76, MDiv 81) (**Pam** (Stoneback C 77)) **Pritchett**, David (Chris) Whitcomb and **Tim Pritchett** (C 78); 17 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Gail L. Jones** (BCE 52) went home to her Lord and Savior on March 17, 2020. She graduated in 1950 from the Women's Homeopathic Hospital of Philadelphia and in that same year, received her registered nursing license from both Pennsylvania and Indiana. She graduated from Grace Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Christian Education in 1952. Gail also received a post-graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Operating

Room Technic and Management in 1957. Gail worked at multiple health care facilities. She served her Lord in the Central African Republic as a missionary for over 20 years and was blessed to serve with her close missionary friend, Janet Varner, who predeceased her in 2015. Gail was a member of the Conemaugh Grace Brethren Church (PA). Gail is survived by a niece, cousins and special friends.

**24 Reverend R. Wayne Snider** (BDiv 53, ThM 55) met his Savior on Jan. 28, 2020. He attended Bryan College (Dayton TN) where he met a professor who ignited his passion for history. He began to see the hand of God in historical events, and it was there that he knew history was "His-story." Wayne graduated from Bryan College in 1950 and moved to Winona Lake IN where he entered Grace Theological Seminary. He completed the two-year program and received his Bachelor of Divinity. In 1954 Wayne became the first dean of men at Grace College, serving in this position from 1954 to 1959, while teaching both history and physical education. While teaching at Grace College during its early years, Wayne also earned a Master of Arts in History at Indiana University. He met his future wife, **Hyla Palmer** (BS 59), who was a student in one of his history classes. After dating for a few years, Wayne proposed to her on the night before a big exam for Hyla, which she promptly failed! After Hyla graduated, they





were married at Grace Chapel, on the Grace College campus on Aug. 15, 1959. Wayne and Hyla shared 55 years of marriage together before she passed away on Sept. 7, 2014. During his more than 50 years of teaching history, thousands of students passed through his classroom doors, including each of his daughters, and his now son-in-law. Wayne was a longtime member of Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church and of the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club. Wayne retired in 2004 after more than 50 years of teaching, during which he received many honors, including being named Professor Emeritus of Grace College in 2005. Wayne was a resident of Winona Lake for nearly 70 years, and he loved his community very much. He will be lovingly remembered by three daughters: **Lisa (Snider C 84)** (**David** (BS 84, S 84)) **Floyd** (Kiawah Island SC), **Jackie Snider** (BSN 07) (Warsaw IN) and **Jennifer "Jen" Snider** (BS 96) (Pierceton IN); two grandchildren; four nieces; six nephews; sister **Alice (Snider MRE 56)** (**Charles** (C 50, BDiv 56)) **Koontz** (Winona Lake IN); and two sisters-in-law.

**25 Norbert "Bert" H. Darr** (BA 55, MDiv 58) met his Savior on Oct. 7, 2019. Since his youth, Bert enjoyed listening to Notre Dame football, Chicago Cubs baseball and Indiana Hoosier basketball games. Bert was an accomplished pianist and won numerous state band competition awards. He also earned a Nationwide Gardening Contest Award. He worked at the local Chevrolet dealership and

faithfully taught a married couples' class at First Baptist Church (Mentone IN). While attending Grace Theological Seminary, he met the love of his life, **Sonya Diane (Saufley BA 57)**; they were married June 2, 1957. Bert excelled at everything he tried and was a true learner with an innovative and statistical mind. He had four separate careers in ministry: pastor of two churches in Chatsworth (IL) and Plainfield (IL), corporate management, banking, and then, after retirement, went back to something he always dreamed of as a youth. At age 69, he began a 10-year career operating trains for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Bert enjoyed sports, music, art, carpentry, miniature N-gauge train collections, model building and collecting and a variety of other interests. Bert is survived by wife of 62 years Sonya; sons: Douglas (Gloria) Darr, Steven Darr and David (Karen) Darr; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Reverend Richard Placeway** (BDiv 56) was ushered peacefully into the presence of his Savior and Lord on Feb. 23, 2020. He was married to the late **Nancy V. (Bry BA 55) Placeway** in 1954. Richard earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary. He served faithfully as a lifelong pastor in the Grace Brethren (now Charis) Fellowship, pastoring and volunteering in churches in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan. He was a wise and loving husband, father

and grandfather. His passion was to see people come to know his Lord, Jesus Christ. He is survived by two sons: **Timothy (BME 77)** (Jill) (Elizabethtown PA) and **Stephen (BS 82)** (Lyn) (Libertyville IL), as well as five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**James "Jim" D. Hawkins** (C 57) passed away on June 12, 2019. Jim was born March 5, 1935 in Covington VA to Irvin B. and Sue Sally (Saunders) Hawkins. He attended Grace College and the Medical College of Virginia. He married **Margaret (Martin BS 75)** on Dec. 22, 1956, in First Brethren Church (Wooster OH) with Pastor Kenneth Ashman officiating. Jim owned the Shreve Pizza Parlor and also worked for Wooster Community Hospital and TRW in Minerva. He was a member of Grace Church and the Gideons. Jim will be deeply missed by his wife; children: Stephen (Christine) Hawkins and Rebecca (Russell) Yoder (both of Wooster); four grandchildren including **Margot (Yoder BA 10)** (Arlin) **Steiner** (Orville OH); 12 great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

**26 Dr. Alberta (Bertie) M. Hanson** (MARE 61) went to be with her Savior on March 26, 2020, at the age of 92. She was a lifelong educator, having received her Christian education diploma from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA) (1950), a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education from BIOLA College (1952), a Master of Arts in Religious Education from Grace Theological Seminary (1961) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Christian School Administration from Grace Graduate School (Long Beach CA) (1981). Bertie served as the director of Christian education in Southern California and as board member of both the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association (GLASS) and the San Bernardino-Riverside Association of Sunday Schools (BRASS) for 30 years. She supported foreign missions with extended trips through Central and South America and by developing educational material for

these missionary efforts. She published a number of articles and a book, "Abundant Adventures with Alberta ... Across America and Around the World." As a life learner she took advantage of her move to Indiana in the fall of 2012 to audit 24 courses in a variety of disciplines at Grace College. She was loved by her fellow students and would frequent the alumni engagement "Coffee Thursdays" to mingle with her classmates. Her three sisters, Winifred, Willetta and Edisene preceded her in death. Bertie loved her Winona Lake Grace Brethren church family and Grace Village Retirement Community residents. She is survived by six nephews and four nieces and will be dearly missed by her family and Grace community.

**Lawrence "Larry" Dale DePue** (BS 64) went to be with his Lord and Savior on Nov. 15, 2019, following a massive stroke. On July 8, 1962, he married Iva Jean Smith; together they served the Lord for 57 years. Larry graduated from Grace with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. In 1968 he earned a master's degree in elementary education from St. Francis College (Ft. Wayne IN). He taught five years in Indiana public schools and served two years as assistant administrator of a nursing home (Shepherd's Inn, Knox IN). The DePues moved to Winona Lake where they served as full-time missionaries with Chapel Crusaders Mission. For six years, Larry served as office manager and deputation secretary while Jean served as office secretary. For 40 years they have served the Lord, reaching children for Christ and teaching children and adults to love and live for Christ, through Child Evangelism Fellowship of Southwest Michigan where Larry served as director and Jean as secretary. They were members of Berrien Center Bible Church where Larry served as Christian education director for over 10 years. Larry is survived by wife Jean (Buchanan MI); son Matt (Graceanna) DePue (Edwardsburg MI); daughter Laura (Mark) Herne (Waterford MI); four grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one sister.

**27 Jan Reuel Gilbert** (BS 65) passed away on Feb. 28, 2020, following a short illness. On June 18, 1966, he married his college sweetheart, **Evelyn "Evie" (Lehman BS 65)**, and they were married for 53 years. Jan and Evie were members of the Grace Golden Graduate Class of 1965. Following several years of teaching in East Gary IN and the American School in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa), they moved to Orville OH, then Mansfield OH, where Jan



worked for Investors Diversified Services. After working for Sun Life of Canada (Columbus OH), Jan was transferred to Irvine CA and sold computers. In November 2011, the Gilberts moved to Frederick MD to be closer to their children and grandchildren and Jan drove as a DX driver for Ford Motor Company and Ideal Motors. Jan attended Mountain View Community Church, where he was an active member of the men's Bible study. Jan will lovingly be remembered by Evie; children: Terri (Dax) Jordan (Aldie VA), Randy (Karen) Gilbert (Rock Hall MD) and Rhonda (William III) Connor (Eldersburg MD); and seven grandchildren.

**Barbara Jean (Reed BS 65) Rosser** passed into the Lord's care on Feb. 10, 2020. Barb earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and was a member of her Golden Graduate Class of 1965. For several years she taught fourth grade at Mansfield Christian School. In the 1970s, she and husband **Jim Rosser** (S 65) moved to Aiken SC for his work, and together they helped plant Grace Church of Aiken. Barb taught classes on calligraphy and was constantly showing mercy through a ministry of cards and notes. Barb was humble, trusting in God and His power and promises. She formerly was a member of Berean Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband James; daughter Bethany (Philip) Calendine (Mansfield OH); five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; sisters-in-law; and nieces and nephews and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

**28 Ned Curtis Weirich** (BS 66) went to be with his Lord and Savior on Dec. 20, 2019. While at Grace, Ned played basketball, tennis and threw the javelin in track and field for the Lancers. He earned his master's degree at the University of St. Francis (Fort Wayne IN). Ned was a physical education teacher in the Rome City (IN) school system for five years prior to going to Hagerstown MD in 1971, where he coached football and baseball at North Hagerstown High School. He was the head coach for the South Hagerstown High School tennis and basketball teams and an assistant coach for soccer and football, retiring in 2006. He spent a total of 35 years working for the Washington County Board of Education. Ned was a member of the National Christian Choir (Washington DC) for five years, a member of Gideon's International local and national chapters, and he was a United States Tennis Association certified coach. He was a member, deacon and choir director at Paramount

Baptist Church and a former member, deacon, choir director, worship leader and Sunday school teacher at Hagerstown Grace Brethren Church. He was recently attending Antrim Brethren in Christ (Chambersburg PA). Ned is survived by wife Lois Mummert; sons **Jeffrey** (C 93) (Danielle) **Weirich** and **Nathan** (C 95) (Elissa) **Weirich**; brother **Rex** (Cheryl) **Weirich** (BA 67, S 68); five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Ned was preceded in death by his first wife, **Nancy Jo** (Nye BS 68) **Weirich**, and half-brother Pastor Raymond Johnson.

**29 Terry Alan Howie** (BA 68, S 72) passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 2, 2019. He was born on Oct. 18, 1946, in Johnstown PA to Mary Louise (Roberts) Howie and Gail Von Howie. Terry married **Lynn Suzanne (Paige BS 71) Howie** on Nov. 16, 1997. Terry moved to Winona Lake as a college student from Johnstown PA. He began working for Grace in 1964 in the custodial department. He then left the college's employment and worked at Robinson's Supermarket, the Warsaw Locker Plant, Ditto's Supermarket as meat department manager and Duane Gable's housing construction; he was never afraid of a hard day's work. Terry returned to Grace Schools as the supervisor of approximately 75 student workers in the housing department. He transferred to the maintenance department in 1972, working there continuously until 1984. Terry was also employed as full-time chief of security for Grace for nine of those 12 years. While working at Grace, Terry became a Winona Lake Volunteer Fire Fighter, achieving Firefighter Second Class status. Since 1972, Terry owned and operated his own business, Howie Heating & Cooling, installing and servicing furnaces and air conditioning systems in the Kosciusko County area. His business was given the Outstanding Dealer award of Tempstar Heating and Cooling Products for 12 years. He also began as a part-time paid officer for the Winona Lake Police Department on April 30, 1982, and as a full-time officer on June 30, 1984. He graduated fifth in the 85-80 class of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy also having earned the expert marksman award and certification as an Indiana EMS First Responder. He served as Town Marshal from 1990 to 1995. One of his greatest honors was to see his son Jeffrey become a Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department jailer, then a deputy and to be able to serve alongside him in local law enforcement for several years. Terry volunteered with the American Cancer Society as well as the March of Dimes

"Jail and Bail" program. He had served as a trustee for the Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church and on the Kosciusko County Local Coordinating Council of the Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana. Terry always kept busy, even during his "retirement years." He continued to operate his business, Howie Heating & Cooling, as well as being active in his service involvements in the Warsaw-Winona Lake community. Terry had a passion for working on and driving his Model-T and Model-A cars. Most of all, he always enjoyed spending time with his family and will be dearly missed by all. He will be lovingly remembered by wife of 22 years Lynn (Winona Lake IN); daughter Cari (Robert) Konold (Mattawan MI); and son Jeffrey "Jeff" (Jennifer) Howie (Noblesville IN). Terry was the proud grandfather of five grandchildren: David, Anna, Sarah, Emmaline and Aliza. He also very much enjoyed being the grafted-in-grandfather to two special kids: Caleb and Isaac Beam, sons of **Joel** (BS 96) and **Shelby** (Gleason BS 96) **Beam**. Also surviving are two sisters: Donna Marhefka (Johnstown PA) and Gwen (Larry) Hunt (Jackson NJ). He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Douglas Howie and beloved daughter Patti Tucker in 2000. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Right to Life of North Central Indiana, P.O. Box 1162, Warsaw, Indiana 46581-1162; or to the Grace College Patti Howie Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund, 200 Seminary Drive, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590 and would be appreciated by the family.

**30 Neil Stanford Allison** (C 69) entered his eternal home on Oct. 19, 2019. Neil's family moved to Winona Lake IN in 1948 so his father, **Roy** (AA 50, S 53), could attend Grace Theological Seminary. On Jan. 9, 1971, Neil was married to Leana Faith (Lauster) Allison. Neil graduated from Warsaw High School in 1965 and attended Grace for one year before volunteering for the United States Army. Neil received an Honorable Discharge after having served three years with nearly two years being in Vietnam. Upon his return to Winona Lake, Neil began his printing career at Free Methodist Publishing House that spanned 19 years, beginning as press operator and finishing as pressroom supervisor. Neil also worked at two printing companies in Fort Wayne for 12 years before accepting a management position at the Grace Print Shop. After 10 years in that role, he retired in 2011. Neil enjoyed participating in a wide range of sports and activities. Softball was his favorite, and

he played for 25 years as pitcher on several city league teams and his church league team. Neil also enjoyed singing in a variety of musical groups. Neil's faith was evident in how he lived his life, and he was very active in his church. He was a member of Warsaw Community Grace Brethren Church (IN), having served as a financial officer. In his later years, Neil was a regular attendee at Pleasant View Bible Church (Warsaw IN). Ministry was always important to him and upon his retirement, he became a volunteer driver for Fellowship Missions (Warsaw IN). He enjoyed being a friend to those in need and being a testimony to the men he would transport. He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends. He will be lovingly remembered by wife of 49 years Leana (Warsaw IN); son Scott (Amy) Allison (Columbia City IN); daughter Heidi (Brian) Barrick (Whitmore Lake MI); three granddaughters; and his sister **Patricia (Allison C 74) (Dave) Mikel** (Nappanee IN). He was preceded in death by his parents and sister **Kathleen "Kathy" Allison** (BS 86).

**Mark Thomas Laurenson** (BA 69, S 71) passed away on Oct. 3, 2019. On July 3, 2010, he was married to **Robin Lee (Jenkins BS 69)**, who survives. After Mark earned his degree from Grace, he attended Wheaton College (Wheaton IL) where he studied journalism and print. He worked in magazine design in Annapolis MD and worked in publishing college textbooks. Mark was a member of Christ's Covenant Church (Winona Lake IN) and will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He will be lovingly remembered by wife of nine years Robin (Warsaw IN); sons Bryan (Hannah) Laurenson and Stephen Laurenson (both of Nashville TN); stepdaughter Lisa Stoll (New Jersey); stepson Jonathan Stoll (Madison WI); and his three grandchildren.

**31 Former Yakima County Sheriff Brian Mark Winter** (C 82) passed into the hands of the Lord on Jan. 25, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/Lou Gehrig's disease) in the fall of 2017, against which he fought a courageous God-honoring battle. His confidence in his Lord and Savior was evident to all. Brian's family moved from Pasadena CA to Harrah WA where he graduated from White Swan High School and Central Washington University, earning his degree in law and justice. Brian had always known that he wanted to have a career in law enforcement. A good friend encouraged him to join the United States Marines in



which he had a 30-year career with Bravo Company 4th Tank Battalion, serving as executive officer, commanding officer and battalion commander of the largest tank company in the United States. He fought in the Gulf War and then returned to Iraq to fight in the Battle of Fallujah, retiring in 2011 as lieutenant colonel. Brian's dream to become a police officer came true when he was hired by the Union Gap Police Department in the early 1980s, serving for three years. After returning from Desert Storm, he was hired by the Yakima County Sheriff's Office and served as sergeant for several years and was then promoted to lieutenant. In 2014, he was elected sheriff and served out his four-year term despite having been diagnosed with ALS. Brian had a passion for helping people. Most dear to his heart was keeping kids safe in school by developing the Active Shooter Response Plan. He worked tirelessly to improve the relationships among law enforcement agencies including the Yakama Nation Tribal Police. Brian had many unknown accomplishments in his 60 years including having been a Hotshot firefighter for the Entiat Hotshot Bushmen. Soon after his diagnosis, he received an encouraging word from a pastor friend in California. Pastor McIntosh said, "Brian is a man on a mission, given by a sovereign God, to be played out on a public platform." Brian is survived by loving wife of 30 years Tammy; daughter Makayla; sons Tyler and Andrew; brother **Steve Winter** (C 84); grandson Gunner; father **Reverend Charles Winter** (BA 57, S 59); mother-in-law Darlene; and brother-in-law Bill. He was preceded in death by his mother **Marilyn (Shoemaker BS 58) Winter**.

**David Eugene Feller** (MACSA 91) went to be with the Lord on July 4, 2019. He was married to Laura Lou Bartholomew on June 14, 1969. They had just celebrated 50 years of marriage. He graduated from Kansas City College and Bible School (Overland Park KS) and Grace Theological Seminary's Master of Arts in Christian School Administration, spending the largest part of his life serving God teaching in Christian schools, with his last 20 years at Penn View Bible Institute, retiring in 2013. David was a beloved husband, father, father-in-law, uncle, brother-in-law, grandfather "Pappy" and great-grandfather and a much-loved teacher, church and school chapel organist, bus driver and caregiver. After retiring, he continued to work as a van driver transporting preschool children and for Shared Support as a weekend caregiver. He was a member of

and played the organ at Mountain Road God's Missionary Church for 26 years and at St. Paul's and Zion United Methodist churches on alternate Sundays for more than a decade. He is survived by wife Laura; their children: Timothy Owen (Beverly Hills FL), Mary Lorraine (Ash) Ehmahdi (Orlando FL), Elizabeth Joy Maust (Watson town) and Abigail Susanne Feller (Sunbury); four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter (all of Orlando FL).

**Benjamin Franklin Lepore III** (BA 00) died on Feb. 4, 2020, as a result of injuries sustained from a work-related accident. He was the husband of Stephanie M. (Foulks) Lepore; they celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary on June 28, 2019. Ben was the manager of Ben Franklin Park (York PA). He was a 1996 graduate of West York Area High School and a very active member of York Grace Brethren Church, serving as an elder and helping lead the Grace Kids program. Ben was also a member of the P.C.O.A. and was an accomplished pianist. In addition to his wife and his parents, Ben is survived by his four children: Elijah, Ezra, Ezekiel and Elizabeth; brother Thomas R. (Michelle) Lepore; and sister **Jennifer M. (Lepore BA 08) (Cory) Knepp**.

**32 Ruth Ann Cone Theobald** went to be with her Savior on March 5, 2020. She attended Bryan College (TN) where she met her first husband of 22 years, **George E. Cone** (BDiv 53, ThM 54). They were married on June 21, 1951, shortly after Ruth Ann graduated from Wheaton College (IL). For 22 years, they served the Lord as missionaries in the Central African Republic with the Grace Brethren Church international missions agency (now Encompass World Partners). She was widowed in 1973 when George died of cancer while teaching Greek at Grace College & Seminary. Ruth Ann completed the raising of their five children on her own, teaching English and French at Lakeland Christian Academy and Grace College. From 1979 to 1981, Ruth Ann took her two youngest children to Germany where she served as a teacher at the Black Forest Academy in Kandern. After her youngest child graduated from high school, Ruth Ann served with the Grace Brethren Church in Lyon, France, for 10 years. She married Sterling Theobald on Jan. 7, 1995, and earlier this year, they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Sterling and Ruth Ann had many adventures together visiting children in Africa and Europe and traveling all over the United States and Canada. Ruth Ann will be remembered as

an irrepressibly positive, adventuresome, joyful follower of Christ and an example of faith and of faithful service. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Sterling Theobald (Winona Lake IN); two sons: **Kim** (BS 74, MDiv 80) (Jan) **Cone** (Plymouth IN) and **Kip** (BA 89, MDiv 96, DMin 18) (**Mary (Hicks BS 88) Cone** (Winona Lake IN); three daughters: **Camille (Cone BA 76) (Larry (BA 77) Robbins** (Dallas TX), **Karisse (Cone BS 79) (Paul (C 80) Moore** (Mt. Vernon WA) and **Calla (Cone BA 88) Marc Andrews** (Warsaw IN); one stepson, one stepson-in-law; two stepdaughters; 18 grandchildren and stepgrandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Former Grace Lancer Women's Basketball Coach, **Lori Wynn**, lost her battle to ovarian cancer in April 2020. A 1992 graduate of Houghton College, Lori spent 26 years as a college basketball coach, having coached at Malone University (OH), Grace College, Nyack College (NY) and most recently, Geneva College (PA). Lori coached the Lancers for two seasons from 1999 to 2001. **Jim Kessler** (BS 70), former Lancer men's basketball coach, recalls Coach Wynn's passion for the spiritual well-being of her players and her love for the game. Lori was first diagnosed with cancer in June 2016 and missed the start of that season at Geneva but was able to return to the bench in January 2017; her players wore "Wynn the Battle" shirts over their uniforms in warm-ups. Wynn returned to coach two more seasons at Geneva from 2017 to 2019, but eventually stepped down from coaching and from her faculty position to return to her parents' home in North Carolina to continue treatment.



## WHAT'S NEW?

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

## FACEBOOK

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## TELL US YOUR STORY

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

# ALUM HAPPENINGS



## Change the Date

# GOLDEN GRAD REUNION | 1970

Thank you for your understanding when we canceled Commencement 2020 and your corresponding 50-year reunion in May due to the coronavirus pandemic. Good news: We've hatched new plans to host your Golden Grad Reunion over Commencement 2021, in conjunction with the Class of 1971. We'll keep you posted as we get closer. In the meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns, contact Olivia Kmiecik, coordinator of alumni and community engagement, at 574-372-5100, ext. 6127 or [alumni@grace.edu](mailto:alumni@grace.edu).

Pictured are senior class officers (clockwise from bottom left): **Jim Kessler** (BS 70), **Dick Angelo** (BS 70), **Ron Kinley** (BA 70), **Terry Eichorst** (BME 70), **Cynthia Jane "Janie" (Eisenhower BS 70) McCaulley**, **Jerri (Willson BS 70) Mahnensmith** and **Nancy (Soule BA 70) Damer**.

Hear the voices of Grace alumni, faculty, staff, students and special guests who are coaching, exhorting and equipping the Grace community.



## Episodes:

- E30:** **Darren (BA 97)** and **Stacey (Jackson BS 98) Gagnon**, alumni, share their story on becoming advocates for orphans, foster care and adoption.
- E31:** **Brent Mencarelli (MDiv 13)**, dean of chapel and community life, imagines how chapel could change in the next five years.
- E32:** **Denise (Stanley BS 88, MABC 89) Terry**, director of the Center for Career Connections, talks about finding a job in the middle of a pandemic.
- E33:** **Dr. Deb Musser (BA 89, MAIR 00)**, director of student health and counseling, gets us feeling our feelings and addresses how to cope in the age of the coronavirus.
- E34:** **Chad Briscoe**, director of athletics, talks about sports leadership and training and the run for COVID-19 relief.
- E35:** **Dr. Cheryl (Bartel BS 92) Bremer**, chair of the Special Education Department and dean of the School of Education, breaks down Grace's new Intense Intervention licensure program.

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**"JIM IS A MAN WHO LOVED OUR STUDENTS WELL AND WHO LIVES A LIFE THAT DEMONSTRATES HIS COMMITMENT TO A LIFESTYLE OF SERVICE," SAYS PRESIDENT DR. BILL KATIP (BA 74).**

# Dr. Jim Swanson's Legacy

BY KERITH ACKLEY-JELINEK

Dr. Jim Swanson came to Grace in 1994, just a decade after graduating from William Tyndale College (Michigan) where his 6'7" height gave him an edge on Tyndale's basketball court and where he met his future wife, Patti. Whether it was Swanson's stature or his melodic voice (he sang for the Tyndale Singers through his college years), he won her heart. When Swanson accepted the job as dean of students (later becoming vice president of student affairs and academic services) at Grace, they moved from Michigan to Indiana, where Jim spent the next 22 years thoughtfully shaping the student life and culture at Grace with compassionate devotion.

Dr. Tom Edgington (BA 79, MA 83, MDiv 85), dean of the School of Behavioral Science, was on the committee that interviewed Swanson and recommended him to be hired as the dean of students. "Jim brought stability to the position which was much needed at the time," says Edgington. "In those early years, I worked closely with Jim on new policies and individual student decisions.

He was an absolute joy to work with. He helped to shape student affairs into what it is today and brought so many positive elements to the culture at Grace."

Right from the start, Swanson's constancy and vision for an attitude of service between students and the faculty and staff proved fruitful. Everybody was glad to have him, but not just because he spearheaded changes in policy regarding social dancing and watching movies on campus, but because seeing students' hearts grow towards Jesus was at the forefront of all of his programmatic decisions. Under his steadfastness, his loyalty, his tenacious attention to student retention and enormous passion for students' spiritual growth, the student life department blossomed.

"Jim brought outstanding leadership to the student affairs team at Grace," says Dr. Roger Peugh (BA 65, BDiv 68, DMin 06), former professor of world missions. "His intimidating height forced



students to look up to him, yet he matched his size with a deeply caring spirit. Students always left encounters with him knowing he was on their side, having their best in mind. He left a deep positive imprint on the campus family.”

Swanson’s own Christian college education was pivotal in his life. Although he was saved as a second-grader, most of his high school years and early college days were spent in rebellion, poor choices and a lack of spiritual commitment. “It was the solid foundation of my family, along with a college professor, basketball coach and dean

undergraduate and graduate courses and managed to earn his doctorate at Western Michigan University along the way.

Swanson’s coordination and oversight of Grace’s campuswide retention efforts led to freshman-to-sophomore retention rates of 80% and higher, and the institution’s enrollment grew significantly, leading to the opening of three new dorms. Additionally, Swanson was a key player in Grace’s efforts to reach out to adult and graduate students. He developed and taught in Grace’s undergraduate degree completion program (GOAL) and successfully developed and launched Grace’s master’s in higher education program.

“I admired all he did,” says former Grace president Dr. Ron Manahan (MDiv 70, ThM 77, ThD 82), who supervised Swanson for much of his tenure. “His care for students, his wanting what was best for them, his willingness to tackle tough issues, his administrative work, his commitment to do what was right when others were not watching. His work was unrelenting, and I marvel at his stamina in doing good work year after year.”

Since leaving Grace in 2016, Swanson has taken up a new mantle of leadership and servanthood as the CEO of the Parkview Warsaw YMCA (Indiana), which allows him to steward his gifts for the benefit of the community. Plus, he’s still close enough to the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center to watch his daughter, Katie, represent the Lancers on the volleyball court.

Swanson’s sons both recently graduated from Grace and were Lancer basketball players during their tenures at Grace. Johnathan (BS 17) is now the marketing and media director of Rohrman Automotive Group (Lafayette, Indiana) and in May 2019, married Taylor (Baird C 17), who also played volleyball while at Grace. Timothy (BS 19) is a clinical research associate at Zimmer Biomet (Warsaw, Indiana).

“Jim is a man who loved our students well and who lives a life that demonstrates his commitment to a lifestyle of service,” says President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74). “His intelligence, energy, creativity and resourcefulness made a lasting mark on our campus, and we’re indebted to him for his faithful, good work.”

of students, who helped me realign myself to Christ in 1981,” recounts Swanson. “The impact of a Christian college education on my life was incredible.” In fact, it’s part of what the Lord used to confirm the Grace job offer. “I felt the Lord leading me to Grace to pay back a debt for how the Lord worked in me,” says Swanson. His understanding of how difficult — and redemptive — the college-aged years can be gave him remarkable empathy and patience with students.

During Swanson’s tenure at Grace, he effectively supervised a multitude of departments, including enrollment, liberal arts core, campus safety, food service, residence life, career services, student government, athletics, the library, student learning center, registrar and the counseling center. He also taught numerous



The Swanson family at Timothy's (BS 19) graduation in May 2019. Pictured (left to right) are Katie, current student and volleyball player at Grace, Johnathan (BS 17), Timothy, Jim and Patti.



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**Stephen Gerber** (M.Div. '97) | MBA, CFRE, ECRF  
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# CHANGE OF PLANS

**HOMECOMING 2020**  
**OCT. 2-3**

## **Dear Alumni and Friends of Grace,**

We had plans to unveil our Homecoming 2020 schedule to you; we were so hopeful and eager to make big and small gatherings on campus a reality – especially since we’ve all been limiting our socializing to those within our COVID-19 social “bubble” or “quaranteam.”

We hoped it would be a really special time – even with social distancing and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols in place.

But as October draws nearer and the pandemic is still proving unpredictable, we have decided that hosting a large gathering on campus would not be in the best interest of our alumni, students and larger community.

Our ultimate goal as an institution, and as brothers and sisters in Christ, is to consider everything we do prayerfully, carefully and with humility. We are doing our best to make wise and fruitful plans while being ready to adapt as new information surfaces.

Thank you for giving us space to do that and to adjust our plans to best serve you and our community.

While we won’t be celebrating Homecoming with you in person this year, we are still planning on multiple ways we can connect virtually with you and as a community over Oct. 2-3. We invite you to join us from your home to celebrate class reunions, connect with former classmates and hear from President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) about what is new at Grace.

One of my favorite parts of Homecoming is the opportunity to honor our Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary Alumni Award winners and Hall of Fame inductees. We will be announcing those special honorees over Homecoming weekend too, while also planning to celebrate those groups in person at a later date. Additionally, we plan to celebrate the Class of 1970 Golden Graduates at Commencement in 2021 in conjunction with the Class of 1971.

Homecoming will look different this year, but there is nothing we want more than to gather with you in any way we can, even if it’s through technology. To register for these virtual events, visit [www.grace.edu/homecoming](http://www.grace.edu/homecoming), and if I can be of any service to you, please contact me at 574-372-5100, ext. 6129 or at [duncandl@grace.edu](mailto:duncandl@grace.edu).

In the meantime, we would love to hear from you. Don’t forget to keep us updated on what’s going in your life by filling out an online alumni update or dropping us an email on how we can be praying for you.

From our family to yours,



*Denny*

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

We invite you to submit nominees for the 2021 Homecoming Alumni Awards, including seminary-specific awards. Visit [www.grace.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.grace.edu/alumni/awards) to propose your nominees. For more information and to register for virtual events, visit [www.grace.edu/homecoming](http://www.grace.edu/homecoming).



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